

1-26-2017

Panther Magazine, January 26, 2017

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_magazine

Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "Panther Magazine, January 26, 2017" (2017). *Beacon Magazine*. 18.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_magazine/18

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Beacon Magazine by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.



Simone Biles
Olympic gold medalist

Charles Frank Bolden, Jr.
Former NASA administrator

Alicia Garza Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi
Founders of *Black Lives Matter* movement

Colin Luther Powell
American statesman
Retired four-star general

Black History is American History

“

There is no German history month, no English history month, no French history month, because the world belongs to the Germans, the English, the French and so on. [Black history Month] is like a special accommodation, and I am not sure that is the best message that one should be sending,

”

Percy C. Hintzen
Director
African and African Diaspora Studies Program

HEROIC HERITAGE

African and African Diaspora Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Center discuss Black History Month

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
News Director

Taking only a month to celebrate black history marks the black human as someone who is different, according to Percy C. Hintzen who feels ambivalent about Black History Month.

“It’s like during the times of slavery, the master would say ‘I am going to give you a special day where you could sort of celebrate yourself and I am going to participate in those celebrations,’” Hintzen said. “[Through this] we are going to ease you from the burden of your enslavements.”

Hintzen says it is like a special accommodation and he is not sure that is the best message that one should be sending.

“There is no German history month, no English history month, no French history month, because the world belongs to the Germans, the English, the French and so on,” Hintzen said.

Hintzen, the director of African and African Diaspora Studies, also understands the cultural significance of Black History Month.

“It allows us as black people to understand our representation. We are able to represent ourselves to the world as human beings deserving of worth, human beings deserving of recognition, human beings deserving of acknowledgement,” Hintzen said.

Through his position as director of African and African Diaspora Studies he supports Black History Month by partnering the African Student Organization, the Caribbean Student Organization and the Black Student Union.

Hintzen thinks the black diaspora is an articulation meaning an expression of the socials of black people, not only to their humanity but to their significant and central contribution to everything that we hold to be modern.

“Our department doesn’t necessarily represent but what the department does is to speak

to the realities, engage, research and teach about the realities of the conditions, places, expressions, understandings and contributions of persons who are of African descent wherever they are, both in Africa and elsewhere,” he said.

The African and African Diaspora studies program offers many graduate degree programs such as a Master of Arts and Ph.D in Global and Sociocultural studies, in AADS and Atlantic history, in AADS and International Relations.

qualifications, someone who speaks creole but not french.” He said “Such person becomes confined to little Haiti and may satisfy a number of black stereotypes such as the inability to speak properly or function in modern society and the restrictive environment in which they can’t move geographically nor socially.”

Hintzen explains that the immigrant Haitian person lives in a fundamentally different world from an African American who has gone

Diaspora Studies. She started working at the University in the fall of 2013 but her teaching career began about 14 years ago.

Jones is currently teaching a course of African Civilizations and another course that she developed with professor Alexandra Cornelius titled “Blacks in Paris: Africa and the black Diaspora in the City of Light.”

“When Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the study of Afro American life and

said

“I think that Black History Month is something that should be respected and also taken seriously by everyone in large part because you can’t understand the history of the US without understanding the African American experience and their roles in it,” Jones said.

Liesl B. Picard is the Associate Director Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC).

“Generally speaking, like Women’s History Month and Hispanic History Month, support for Black History Month seems quite strong across diverse communities, groups and organizations and associated programming is usually varied enough to appeal to people from all walks of life,” Picard said.

Picard believes that dedicating time and effort in support of such initiatives is important and she believes that it can make a difference.

“However, I would also argue that in order to truly transform the general public’s understanding of and respect for different communities and their experiences, education and exposure must extend beyond any one given month,” she said.

According to Picard, in the US, we ‘celebrate diversity’ and like to reflect on how far we have come, but we must also be honest about far we have yet to go. Every single day provides us with opportunities to further educate ourselves and others, demonstrate civility, make positive contributions to better our world, and speak out against hate, discrimination and inequality.

“For me personally, it is about the choices we make, how we treat one another and what we do to support the common good on a daily basis that determine real and meaningful progress for all,” Picard said.

“

“It’s like during the times of slavery, the master would say ‘I am going to give you a special day where you could sort of celebrate yourself and I am going to participate in those celebrations. [Through this] we are going to ease you from the burden of your enslavements.

Percy C. Hintzen
Director
African and African Diaspora Studies Program

”

Hintzen believes that colorism is global issue. There are different manifestations of colorism and there are different explanations for it.

“With respect to persons of African descent, it certainly relates to the hierarchy of color that have emerged out of European thoughts, which allocates the worth and consciousness and rationality and capacity for reason of persons based on their gradation of color,” he said “Where color becomes a signifier of the civilized and human subjects.”

Hintzen believes that persons of African descent are moving from a stage traditional savagery to a stage of civilization. Persons who are black, understood to be black or identify themselves as black are perhaps one of the most diverse group that there is.

“[For instance] Someone who comes here say from Haiti without the necessary skills and

to Yale and Harvard and who is a CEO position in a big company and exercise a phenomenal amount of power.

“Their paths would never cross, they wouldn’t be able to recognize themselves in each other. They would not see or understand the world in the same way,” Hintzen said. “So what would connect these two people together? It’s the sense of whatever you are and whatever you accomplish, it is tinted by the fact that you have emerged from a state of savagery that is associated with blackness.”

Hintzen said that he envisions that in a couple decades, the month of February will no longer be needed to be recognized as Black History Month because the world will recognize black humanities as one of the “creators of the world.”

Hilary Jones is an Associate Professor of History in the department of African and African

history, he did so because he understood that the black American story had merely been a footnote in the telling of the narrative of the United States of America,” Jones said.

“In doing so, it was a way to bring awareness but it was a way to generate research, to encourage others to take seriously the study of African American peoples, their pasts and their accomplishments,” she said. “When we fast forward to today, we are still working on that same mission and aiming to globalize the study of black people in the world.”

Jones believes the situation of colorism creates a rainbow of color types all of whom identify as black Americans. “I think that [colorism] is an issue, I don’t know if it is a sitting issue but I know that it is an issue in part and that each one of those circumstances is particular to the society in which it exist” she

EDITOR’S NOTE

Student Media e-board embodies black history

CAYLA BUSH



EDITOR IN CHIEF

Black history is an everyday part of my life. Here on campus I have made black history by leading Student Media’s first editorial board composed of mostly black women - a stark contrast from the editorial board when I first started that didn’t have any black representation.

I live in the shadow of those who fought for me to even be able to

attend a university, let alone hold a leadership position while here.

I live in blackness everyday.

While planning for this week’s magazine, our editorial board meeting discussed that ties that bound across countries. Each of us have experienced colorism, anti-blackness and understand what we mean when we invite someone to the cookout.

We also know the sting of being told we’re oreos, that we don’t ‘sound black enough.’ We’ve experienced having our blackness questioned based on stereotypes while never being able to avoid the repercussions of those stereotypes.

We understand the pain of seeing someone who looks like us, understands us, has been through so many

of the things we’ve been through, have to relinquish his position to a man that is far removed from our reality.

It makes sense, then, that this magazine would mean so much to us. It’s a celebration of ourselves that we rarely see, let alone take part in creating.

We hope that you appreciate the stories included within as much as we did creating them.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED AT THE 2017 YOUTH FAIR & EXPOSITION

Seasonal positions are available NOW and during The Youth Fair & Exposition! Advance Sales, Ticket Sellers, The Barn, Concessions & Guest Relations. Call now (305) 223-7060 or email careers@fairexpo.com. Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provides a drug-free workplace.

University students discuss influential African Americans in Black history

ARIANA RAMSUNDAR
Contributing Writer

As Black History month comes around some may take the time to look back at history's influential African Americans. Leaders like Frederick Douglass, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, and Martin Luther King are the African Americans that paved the way for the world that we currently live in today.

Most of these individuals mobilized, fought and overcame years of hardship and cruelty in order to gain basic freedoms.

Frederick Douglas was born in the deep-rooted world of slavery in 1818. After many failed attempts at running away from his masters he was finally able to escape at the age of 20 and set up home in New Bedford Massachusetts, where he became a preacher. He found his calling as an anti-slavery lecturer and soon rose to great notoriety as an advisor to Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

"Frederick Douglass has done so much for civil rights and overall human rights and we reap the benefits in American Society today," said senior Priya Mungal, an international relations major.

"I was deeply inspired by his determination during the hardest times and his ability to take the hardships and use that to make progress in society," said Mungal. "I think that his quote 'If there is no struggle there is no progress' expresses his passion and determination which is why I am so moved by his work."

Freshman biology student Alexis Vargas said she believed Rosa Parks was the most influential African American.

"I believe her one small action started a huge movement," said Vargas. "I think what impressed me the most about Parks is her tenacity, she knew the consequences of her actions as a black woman but she still had the courage to say 'no'."

Vargas said her favorite quote by Rosa Parks was when she said, 'I was tired of giving in.'

"This explains the drive and courage that she developed," said Vargas.

Maya Angelou is another influential African American. Born in 1928, she created a large impact on literature.

Anele Vasquez, a sophomore biology major, recounts reading a novel by Angelou.

"My mom gave me a her novel when I was in middle school and I remember reading it and being enthralled by the message of 'girl power'."

Vasquez said it reminded her of having the drive to do something. "I remember encountering the quote 'A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.' This quote spoke to me because it reigns on the idea that when you do something it should be because you want to, not because you have to."

Sophomore biology major Manuel Hervis, on the other hand, explained his belief in why Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most important African Americans.

"He stood for economic and socio

economic freedom, he understood that compromise and moderation were detrimental to the nation as a whole and mainly served hold back minority groups," said Hervis.

Hervis also commented on what he thought was one of the most notable movements by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "I was inspired the most by his movement during Selma (campaign to secure equal voting rights)."

Hervis is not the only one inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's work Senior Speech Pathology major, Kimberleigh Campanice is also energized by his work.

"The fact that he had the courage to stand up for what he thought was right during a time where many would not is what makes him such a historical and notable figure."

As Black History Month approaches it is important to look back at those who have led us to where we are today and reflect on what their causes mean in today's society.

University Celebrates Black History Month

DOUGLASS GAVILAN
Staff Writer

The history and significance of Black History Month can be traced far back to before the University was even imagined.

The holiday was created in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. It was meant to bring awareness to people of the United States by inspiring schools to host celebrations, performances and lectures.

In 1915, he founded the Association for the Study of Negro History along with Jesse E. Moorland. Woodson also created the Journal of Negro History. He prided himself on educating the potential for black Americans that could benefit everyone.

In Woodson's opinion he created the holiday due to the education system at the time and how he believed that most depictions of African Americans were insulting and demeaning.

He wanted the education system to show the accomplishments that black Americans have done.

"I believe that celebrating the holiday is necessary," said Damaris Francis, a sophomore English literature major. "It's not just about our contributions that is featured but also our suffering is also an issue that need to be taught."

Originally, the celebration only took place

for a week in between the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. It wasn't until 1976 (the year before the campus later known as the Biscayne Bay Campus opened) that the concept was expanded to last the entire month of February.

Black History Month is also celebrated in other countries as well. Canada and the United Kingdom both celebrate the month. Canada approved the holiday in 1996 and it takes place during February, meanwhile, the U.K. celebrate it the month of October in order to talk about the issues during an earlier time in the school year.

Woodson's true vision was that one day there would be no need to dedicate a Black History Month. He hoped that black history would soon be considered history and not a separate idea. There are complaints about the holiday and how it is celebrated.

Every year the holiday explores a particular theme. For example: Last year's theme revolved around on special places and locations. This year, the theme will discuss the issues of education in the history of african americans according to the ASALH, the same association that Woodson helped create.

The U.S. Census supports the increase in the black

culture. The black population has reached 46 million and is projected to reach 74 million by 2060. It's also recorded that as of 2015, 2.8 million black students are enrolled in an undergraduate college and that 20 percent of black americans over the age of 25 have attain a bachelor degree or higher.

The University celebrates black americans with clubs that are present in the school. One of these is the Black Student Union. It accepts and invites people of all races to learn about African American culture while also allowing students to participate in events. The BSU offices can be found in both the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"Black History Month is important because it celebrates a culture that has been underrepresented," said Samantha Caballero, the Biscayne Bay Vice President of the Black Student Union. "It's meant to highlight black excellence and provide representation, showing black youth that they can be successful."

Another club at the university that takes part in this is the African Student Organization. This club focuses more on the education of African history and is opened to any student. The club meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in GC 285.

“Black History Month is important because it celebrates a culture that has been underrepresented, It's meant to highlight black excellence and provide representation, showing black youth that they can be successful.”

Samantha Caballero
Vice President
Black Student Union BBC

MODERNIZING THE CURRICULUM

Department adjusts courses to highlight current events

STEPHANIE CASTRO
Assistant News Director

Nearly 1 in 3 black people were killed in 2015 were identified as unarmed, according to mappingpoliceviolence.org.

With highly publicized reports of police brutality, universities are now integrating current day social injustices to their curriculum.

“What typically happens is that there are courses such as race and criminal justice where the professor offering it will change their readings and orientations to make it up to date,” said Dr. Percy C. Hintzen, Director of the African & African Diaspora Studies Program. “The names of the courses will not change, but the issues will be based on new developments.”

In the spring, Danielle Clealand, professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program is teaching a course called “Race and Politics in the Americas,” CPO 4394, which will cover race relations, racial inequalities, activism. It will also follow various movements including the Black Lives Matter Movement, which started in 2013.

The African & African Diaspora Studies Program, located in the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, is dedicated to engaging students in the study of people of continental Africa and the communities of African diaspora throughout the world.

AADS allows students to choose from almost 100 courses ranging from precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial history to African American theory. The courses also span to different sectors such as the Department of English and the Department of History, respectively.

By focusing on one particular group, students are

able to learn more about African American culture and history than what they may have been taught before.

“There is the reality of the legacy of race and racial formation in the United States and what you may call the struggle for rights. A particular understanding and justification for that some come to think of persons from African descent as not quite moral, ethical,

“

In the United States, this [transnational identity] is becoming the reality. Where persons are no longer identifying as American, but may identify with particular global networks,

Percy Hintzen
Director

African and African Diaspora Studies

”

capable, etcetera,” said Hintzen.

The program offers undergraduate certificates in African Studies, Global Black Studies, and Afro-Latin American Studies as well as graduate certificates in African & African Diaspora Studies and Afro-Latin American Studies.

Additionally, AADS offers a one-year, three semester M.A. degree that can be taken either in an on-campus or fully online program and offers three combined M.A./Ph.D. programs in Global & Socio-cultural Studies, AADS and Atlantic History, and

AADS and International Relations.

Students in the M.A./Ph.D. programs must apply to both programs and must meet admissions requirements for each.

According to their website, the program hosts multifaceted conferences, colloquia, roundtables, symposia, and lectures throughout the year where scholars and public figures discuss an array of issues pertaining to continental Africa, the United States, and the African diaspora.

The degree grooms graduate students for supplementary study at the doctoral level along with professional positions in the “public, private, non-profit, and international arenas and for employment in education, public policy, public administration, journalism, international organizations and other fields.”

Customarily defined as a dispersion or scattering, diaspora is now a term used for the self-identification of any people who migrated from their original homeland.

Being an international university, the University’s population consists of about 2,500 international students who many now call Miami home.

Hintzen describes these students as having transnational identities.

“In the United States, this is becoming the reality. Where persons are no longer identifying as American, but may identify with particular global networks,” said Hintzen.

Developing transnational identities is connected with how the globalized world is developing, something the courses offered in the program are now evolving with.

“I think that our program allows you to see that,” said Hintzen.

For more information about the African & African Diaspora Studies Program, visit: <http://africana.fiu.edu>.

Social Justice Series asks: ‘Is institutional racism real?’

JOSHUA CEBALLOS
Contributing Writer

In an effort to provide a safe place and environment for students to discuss social issues, the University’s Office of Multicultural Programs and Services will be hosting a series of talks called the “Social Justice Series,” throughout the semester.

“We host this series... it’s for everyone. It’s not just towards one specific ethnicity or culture. We’ve also done a ‘Chinese Lives Matter’ because that’s not discussed as much,” says Mark Harris, one of the event organizers and graduate assistant for MPAS. “As far as institutional racism, a lot of people may understand it but may not even know that it’s an actual concept... that this is a real thing.”

Harris adds that it’s important to have these conversations as they spread awareness.

“We wanted to allow a safe place and environment, something comfortable for students to come around and talk about some of the things that they may have experienced or they may not know much about, especially around social justice,” said Harris.

The first talk of the series will be titled “Institutional Racism, Is it real?” on Feb. 22.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, institutional racism is “[racial] discrimination that has become established as normal behaviour within a society or organization.” An example of institutional racism would

“

As far as institutional racism, a lot of people may understand it but may not even know that it’s an actual concept ... that this is a real thing,

Mark Harris
Graduate assistant

Office of Multicultural Programs and Services

”

be a police force that is so firmly steeped in racism, that all of its activities were aimed at hindering a group because of their race.

According to Harris, he and Jeffrey McNamee, program director for MPAS, will be facilitating the talk, though the floor is open for students and faculties to share their stories pertaining to this topic.

Although institutional racism is often associated in the media pertaining to the black community, and this is Black History Month, Harris says, the talk will not only focus on the Black community.

In many cases where institutional racism is prevalent, there is no actual level playing field, Harris says. Individuals who believe they have a chance at a job or something of that nature do not actually have any chance because of the discriminatory foundation of the institution.

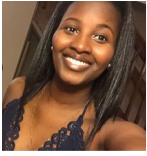
“These are some of the things that students may experience, and this isn’t something that is talked about in a class... We want our students to make sure that once they graduate college that they’re actually aware of this type of action, to make sure that [they’re] being treated equal.”

The discussion will be open to all University students, faculty, and staff. Students interested in the institutional racism talk can attend at the Biscayne Bay Campus, in the Wolfe University Center, room 253 from 3 to 4 p.m.



TV Series ‘normalizes the black experience’

ONE MARTINI, PLEASE



MARTINA BRETOIS

I’m not Olivia Pope. I don’t live a fast glamorous life filled with torrid love affairs, devastating deaths, and a team of gladiators to support me along the way.

I also don’t relate to the struggles of “Basketball Wives,” “Love and Hip Hop,” or any woman from The Bad Girls Club.

I fall somewhere in the middle of these two extremes, in another parallel universe with less dramatic circumstances. Issae Rae, TV writer, producer, and creator of the hit HBO show “Insecure,” accurately described that state as ABG: awkward black girl.

I would say I live my life at an awkward level 5 at all times. 1 being an elevator ride with a stranger, awkward but expected; 10 being Miss Colombia finding out she wasn’t Miss USA, cringey and horrifying.

Most of my friends would find themselves at about the same level. However, that reality is rarely represented on television. Often, black women are represented in extremes on television: elegant and successful or struggling and ratchet.

Rae told The Hollywood Reporter, back in October, that she sets out to “normalize blackness.” Her new HBO comedy is a follow-up series to her popular Youtube series, “Awkward Black Girl,” from 2011.

“Insecure” centers around Issa, a 29-year-old woman living in Los Angeles, and explores the uncertainty and doubts young women feel in their late twenties in dealing with relationships, friendships and career goals.

The main storyline in season one

focuses on Issa’s relationship with her boyfriend, Lawrence, who is unemployed and struggling to jump start his business. Throughout the season, Issa voices her frustration with hilarious raps and quick rants only viewed by the audience.

We also see characters deal with microaggressions in the workplace. Issa, as the only black employee at a non-profit organization dedicated to mentoring inner city youth, is often asked to speak for her entire community.

Issa’s best friend, Molly, played by Yvonne Orji, works at a law firm and early on in the show, it’s noted that Molly has mastered the art of separating “Work Molly,” who avoids using slang or being too loud and “Regular Molly,” who is outspoken and lively.

She even tries to help Rasheeda, or “Da Da,” a new rambunctious black employee who has yet to learn the appropriate work culture at the firm, especially for employees of color. Da Da rejects Molly’s advice and learns the hard way the consequences of being too loud for the corporate world.

While race is highlighted in the show, it doesn’t drive the plot - which is key in normalizing our experiences. It’s important for us to continue speaking about race relations in the United States in life and in television, and how it affects people of color however, it’s equally as important for it not to be our only story.

For the first time in a long time, we are seeing black women lead regular lives while awkwardly stumbling along the way. I’m black, I’m awkward and it’s about time we saw more of that on our TV screens.

One Martini, Please is a column that addresses a range of issues pertaining to students.

Creator of HBO hit ‘Insecure’ guest for series

STEPHANIE FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Samantha Caballero, vice-president of the Black Student Union at The Biscayne Bay Campus says Black History Month is a time of celebration, remembrance and respect to those who have contributed to the success of the Black community.

It’s also an opportunity to honor individuals who are currently creating black history through black excellence.

“It’s vital to have Black History Month because representation matters. Promoting images of accomplishments,

accolades, and milestones Black people have reached is motivation and confirmation that limitation does not exist despite all social boundaries/barriers,” said Caballero.

The opening ceremony at BBC will be taking place on Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Modesto Maidique Campus, Issa Rae, creator, writer and producer of the hit HBO show, “Insecure,” will be the guest for the Black History Month speaker series on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.

During Black History Month, BSU will be having an opening ceremony at both campuses.

Last year, BSU asked members of the FIU

community whom they would want to speak at the series. On Wednesday, Jan. 18, the council announced the majority had chosen Rae.

The event is free for FIU students, while others will have to pay.

“My goal is to educate all members of the FIU community about the beauty of the African Diaspora and how it incorporated into every culture, nationality, and ethnicity,” said Caballero. “Black Student Union is a family [that] encompasses all and represents all.

BSU’s closing ceremony will be on Feb.28 at 6 p.m. at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

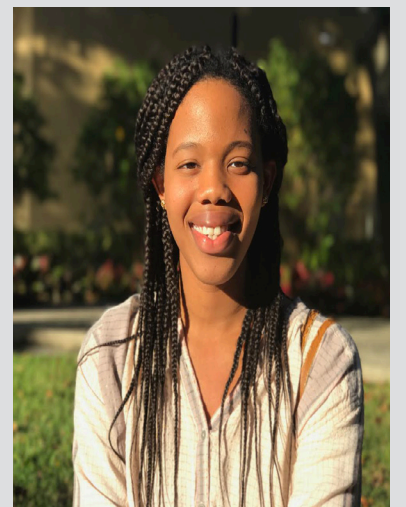
To me, being black is...



A privilege. It’s having a very strong community of people who understand what it is to be oppressed but also understand what it is to rise above that oppression and be anything you want to be, no matter who tells you you can or can’t.

Patrick Wright
Psychology Major

A way that you grew up, a lifestyle. It’s just as much something that you hear in music, how you dress, how you look ... It’s not something you learn how to be, you grow up being it.



Neisha Robert
Psychology Major

Black means beautiful. Black means strong. It means a plethora of things but amongst all, those two.

Heron Elliot, Jr.
Hospitaliy Major



We are all human. That’s all I can say. We are all human.

Tanuya Felici
Employee at Fresh Foods



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Months that recognize ethnicity encourage education

POLITICOBUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

Frederick Douglass. Harriet Tubman. Rosa Parks. Martin Luther King Jr. Malcolm X. These are the figures we revere on Black History Month.

We are taught of their backgrounds—their hopes, dreams, fears and moments of courage. We learn of their histories and how that helped create our present state of union.

These people and so many others helped pave the way to greater opportunities. They have

impacted our country in such great magnitude and redefined what it means to be an African American.

With that being said, how did Black History Month come to be? And why is it in February?

“Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

The event grew out of ‘Negro History Week,’ the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month,” according to history.com.

However, there has been some debate about when the 15-year-old

“Before Rosa Parks was known for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, there was Claudette Colvin.”

certain individuals being recognized and credited for their great achievements. Why?

Because there have been others who have done the same thing as those famous figures and have not been rewarded for it.

Before Rosa Parks was known for refusing to give up her seat on the bus, there was Claudette Colvin.

the education of black figures when this should be something learned about regularly?

Let’s clear the record and find out.

Some people ask why there isn’t a White History Month, and the scathing response would be: “Because every month is White History Month.”

Yikes.

Some might say that this month does not exist because white history is “the dominant narrative,” as stated on the huffingtonpost.com.

However, this should not be said to demonize the Caucasian race or make them feel bad about all the accomplishments they have achieved.

This is what we must understand: these designated months exposing different races

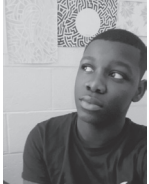
and ethnicities originated “in an effort to create pride of traditions and character in certain groups,” according to Jacksonville.com.

This month and other months that recognize ethnicity are to encourage the education of that culture and race. It is not meant to degrade any achievements set by any other race or ethnicity. It is simply trying to recognize them.

Fabienne Fleurantin is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, PoliticoBuzz, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus.

King’s legacy still has an effect on society today

SOCIAL SCOOP



ALHI LECONTE

during Black History Month.

Martin Luther King Jr. was the most memorable to me. The power of his story and his legacy have always been apparent to me.

As a black man, I never felt that his legendary “I Have a Dream Speech” immensely affected me until I experienced racism because of my skin color.

King grew up in a time when segregation and discrimination were massive daily struggles for black people here in the

United States. What made him so influential and iconic was his dedication and approach to ending segregation and inequality.

King had a part in organizing the Montgomery bus boycott, a movement that was started after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white commuter.

His undeniably effective speeches spoke to so many people, who in turn, nonviolently protested with him.

As a result, he was arrested numerous times throughout the 1960s.

In the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is in honor of King’s devotion to bettering the lives of many, especially African Americans.

The current state of society in

“The Black Lives Matter movement is about the visibility of justice and fairness for black people, and it continues to influence millions.”

regards to African Americans is challenging.

Police brutality towards black people in the United States has been an issue for quite a long time, but in 2010 it has received more media coverage.

People are very passionate

about the Black Lives Matter movement. The Black Lives Matter movement is affiliated with active protests for the wrongful deaths of black people in this country. King’s activism is being used as a blueprint by the people that are approaching the current issue of police brutality.

Most topics that are able to spark a national conversation and bring out positive and negative opinions are thought to be controversial.

Many people who oppose the Black Lives Matter movement do so because they selectively think of the numerous protests that have involved violence and incited riots.

That only comes from a minority group of people who claim to support the movement, but do not accurately represent

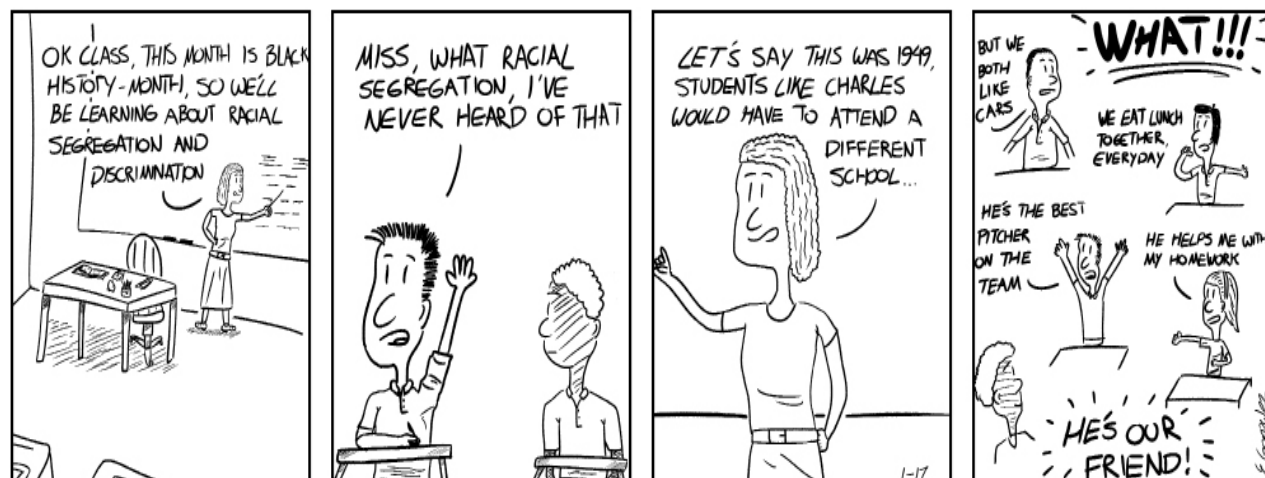
what it stands for.

The Black Lives Matter movement is not anti-white or anti-police. It is not pro-violence either. Much like King’s work, the Black Lives Matter movement is about the visibility of justice and fairness for black people, and it continues to influence millions.

King’s legacy has had an impact on a cause that is very similar to what he fought for and his legacy will continue to affect society. His legacy will never be forgotten.

Alhi Leconte is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. His column, Social Scoop, is a commentary on social issues and pop culture related matters.

TEACHING HISTORY



ERNESTO GONZALEZ/PANTHER PRESS

POOF!

NOW HIRING WRITERS

Apply at GC 210, WUC 124 or PantherNOW.com

PANTHER EDITORIAL

Twenty-eight days is not enough to appreciate the historical black contributions

Since 1976, the month of February has been recognized as Black History Month in the U.S. With this, a celebration of the most well-known accomplishments of black Americans takes place.

Stories of how Martin Luther King, Jr. nonviolently protested are told for the umpteenth time, along with being reminded of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat, Madame CJ Walker's hair care revolution and rise to billionaire status and in the future, our children will hear about Barack Obama endlessly during February.

While we're proud of the work done by these figures, the 28 days which are annually given to the celebration of black struggle and success is not nearly enough to encompass all that we've contributed to society.

In history classes, we are often taught how black people were slaves. But we barely learn about blacks like Lewis Latimer who invented the carbon filament for the light bulb. We are taught that Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb, but no one knows that Latimer is the one who made it possible for the bulb to be featured in households.

Not only is the 28 days too few to illustrate how much more difficult life would be without the accomplishment of American black people (things such as supercharge system for internal combustion engines,

elevator and traffic signal), it leaves absolutely no room for the accomplishments and historical landmarks of black people worldwide.

An international school such as FIU has a duty to its students to provide information about the scope of work performed and revolutionized by black people on a global scale. After Hispanic students, black or African American students are the highest enrolled group at the University.

The celebrations, discussions and workshops that take place all center on the black American, forgetting the Afro-Latinx students, the black Caribbean, the black students from the Middle East and black students from anywhere else in the world.

Our university is unique in that it houses a plethora of students from each corner of the globe. It promises to be World's Ahead, yet falls short of the promise by not acknowledging the black experience that differs from that of an African American.

While we do have experiences that span each culture, being that colorism and anti-blackness is a global issue, the history varies from place to place.

It would be beneficial to open the University community to the contributions that come from black people across the globe, in order to truly be a part of the global community.

It's not enough to just be against racism

THE GROWL



ERICA SANTIAGO

As we enter our first Black History Month under the presidency of a man who hired a white supremacist as his chief strategist, it is important to take a good long look at the racism that exists in the US.

As the Chronicle of Higher Education stated in its January 20 edition, Obama's election caused the nation to think we were in a post-racial era; Trump's election highlighted how wrong that thinking was.

The problem is the confusion between being non-racist and anti racist. It's rare to find someone who will outright say they are a racist, but non-racists proudly proclaim their position.

The non-racist will tell you how much they believe marginalized communities deserve equality and how they think that it's time for a change.

The non-racist will say things like "I work with the inner-city children, and those kids are so bright."

However, the non-racist will not do anything substantial to fight the systemic issues that are in place prohibiting the equality and advancement of marginalized people.

To put it simply, non-racism is lazy and passive. Avoid using racial slurs, be nice to everyone, be neutral - that's non-racist. If one wants real change then they need to be anti-racist.

Anti-racists are about action. Anti-racists hold others, as well as themselves, accountable for the oppression of marginalized communities. Anti-racists don't just "work

who can only imagine black people as poor, uneducated "thugs" into office. They ask us to respect him and support him because "well, he is our president." However, an anti-racist understands that supporting a racist president means supporting racial injustice. They understand that being passive in this situation is its own form of violence against people of

“

Non-racists voted a man who can only imagine black people as poor, uneducated "thugs" into office. They ask us to respect him and support him because "well, he is our president." However, an anti-racist understands that supporting a racist president means supporting racial injustice. They understand that being passive in this situation is its own form of violence against people of color.

”

with the inner-city children," they advocate for their right to quality education resources while simultaneously holding our government accountable for their disenfranchisement.

Anti-racists call out racism at every opportunity, even if the source of said racism is their own peers. Anti-racists use their privilege to create spaces for marginalized people to speak, and then they listen. Instead of saying "Not all white people," they ask "how can I help?"

Non-racists voted a man

color.

Non-racism is the bare minimum and the people of color who have built this country from the ground up deserve more than the bare minimum. Instead, they deserve direct action. Don't be a non-racist who feels good about themselves because they exercise basic human decency. Be the anti-racist who centers their activism around the experiences of marginalized people, and who works hard to create actual tangible change.

PANTHER MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CAYLA BUSH

NEWS DIRECTOR

GUETHSHINA ALTENA

SPORTS DIRECTOR

JAYDA HALL

OPINION DIRECTOR

MICHELLE MARCHANTE

ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR

MARTINA BRETOUTS

MULTIMEDIA DIRECTOR

CORNELL WHITEHEAD

COPY CHIEF

ESH RAT NIKROOE-ASLI

PRODUCTION MANAGER

NIA YOUNG

DIRECTOR

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. DIRECTOR

ALFRED SOTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:

GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 348-2709

Biscayne Bay Campus:

WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 919-4722

Editor-in-Chief:

(305) 348-1580

cayla.bush@fiusm.com

Advertising:

(305) 348-6994

advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. *The Beacon* is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. *The Beacon* is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The FIUSM Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the four sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

Guard believes Black History Month ‘should be every month’

PETER HOLLAND JR.
Staff Writer

Birmingham was the equivalent of the civil rights struggle for African Americans going back to the 1950s and ‘60s, from the injustices of segregation and senseless violence from the city’s authorities to the incarceration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sophomore point guard of the women’s basketball team and Birmingham native Kristian Hudson praised people like Dr. King and others who sacrificed their lives for better opportunities for the future.

“I believe Black History Month should be every month, you probably heard that before,” she said. “I’m thankful for all the things Dr. Martin Luther King did just by his sacrifices and other people that paved the way just so we have equal rights and equal opportunities.”

Despite Hudson, not knowing specifically about her family heritage, she does believe her ancestors were somewhat involved during

the civil rights era in her home town, and this motivates her as a student athlete coming from a historic city.

“I think my people have to have some type of strong roots or something. They are very good people,” she said. “They had to fight and get through something because they’re strong and encouraging all the time.”

On Jan. 21, the Panthers were on the road to face University of Alabama Birmingham, which was a homecoming game for the starting sophomore. She finished the game with 19 points in the their lost to the Trailblazers.

Even though Hudson is enjoying her new life playing for FIU, she recognizes her Alabama bloodline and would never forget where she came from.

“Just being from Birmingham, I just think that I have a sense of pride of in who I am as an African American. And I’m just thankful just because it didn’t have to be that way and it didn’t have to end kind of the way it is now.”

The Panthers, at 4-14 (2-5 C-USA) will end their 3-game road trip at Boca Raton as they face Florida Atlantic University on Jan.26 at 7 p.m.

King a ‘symbol of change’

HEATHER O’DELL
Staff Writer

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a symbol of change. To Oliver Bernard, a sophomore studying business at FIU, MLK reminds him that any black man or woman can change America. With recent elections and changes in the US, Bernard chooses to use Martin Luther King Jr’s memory as a sign of hope.

Both of Bernard’s parents were born in Haiti; His father, Helder Bernard, currently works and is very involved in the relations between the US and Haiti. Despite what other people think, Bernard has dealt with stereotypes his whole life.

“I feel like everyone at

one point has to deal with stereotypes,” Bernard says. “From small harmless stereotypes like my friends assuming I know every other black person to people always watching what you do and everywhere you go.”

Recently, Bernard feels that racism and violence have been at an all-time high with the recent election.

“The country just feels so divided,” the sophomore student says. “I fear racism will get worse not just for black people but for our middle eastern neighbors too.”

From a very young age, Bernard has been taught that “blacks” and “whites” will always be seen differently. He has hopes that one day

this will change.

“Unless you have black skin, then a person will not fully understand what it means to be black,” says Bernard. “I was always taught that from a very young age that you have to be way better than everyone else to even compete with them in the world; There is always a label on you.”

With high tensions, Bernard is reminded of the light MLK shed in America about the disconnect between races. In times like these, it’s important for everyone of all cultures to come together and rise above the hatred.

“Anyone can change the world,” Bernard says. “Just like MLK, I too have a dream.”

Black athletes leading the sport platform

ALEX DEL VALLE
Contributing Writer

Sports now a days are dominated by the black athlete. The argument can be made that in every major U.S. sport a black athlete is the face of it or fairly close.

The argument can be made that every major sport has a black athlete as the face of the game; LeBron James is synonymous with the NBA, P.K Subban represents the NHL and Andrew McCutchen is one of the best in the MLB.

The black athlete has made inroads to become the best athletes in their respective sports, but it wasn’t easy. Much is indebted to the sports pioneers such as Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali and Jesse Owens.

It was not long ago when athletes of color were segregated from white athletes due to Jim Crow laws that were put in place after the Plessy v Ferguson Supreme Court case.

Yet, these competitors were brave enough to fight through adversity in and out of their sport. As a result

the first African-American boxing champ appeared along with the first African-American to win an Olympic gold medal.

According to collegefactual.com, FIU is above average in ethnic diversity with 12.2% of the undergraduate class coming from a black or African American background; the school has stepped up to the plate during the MLK holiday and the upcoming black history month.

The first Martin Luther King Jr. bust in the North Miami area was installed at The Biscayne Bay Campus. A couple of days earlier the men’s basketball team taught blind children the game of basketball to honor the life of MLK.

It didn’t take FIU student Luciano Caminata long to come up with the black athlete that is most important to him.

“Dwyane Wade is my favorite athlete. Around the time Wade started his rookie year for the Miami Heat I reached an age where I finally started appreciating and watching professional sports” said Caminata. “He has always been a joy to watch due to his athleticism and his ability to

create highlights. I am glad to say that my childhood idol is easily one of the top-five shooting guards the NBA has ever seen.”

The recurring theme among FIU students was proclaiming that the black basketball player has impacted their lives the most. In the case of FIU transfer student Diego Restrepo, the easy choice was Kobe Bryant.

“Loyalty, playing for one team for 20 years really stuck out to me,” Restrepo said. “He is the type of person that puts his mind to achieving his goals and completes the objective with hard work. This is something I have implemented in my life and I owe it to him.”

Sports would be unidentifiable without the talent that the black community has provided. However, they are more than just products in a game to entertain us. They are entrepreneurs, fathers and most importantly human beings who reap the same civil liberties as the rest of us.

Black History Month is a time to remind us of the stress and agony it took to achieve freedom and how far we all have come as one.

