

at the center

with **Virgil Jones**

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Black History Month

Black History Month is a special celebration of the legacy of Blacks in America. Its origins are from Professor Carter G. Woodson's "Negro History Week." He was interested in bringing attention to the accomplishments of Black Americans and the Black American experience that had been purposely omitted from history books prior to 1926.



As a scholar, Dr. Woodson was disturbed by the infrequent mention of Black American contributions to American society. He sought to counter the negative information that was used to portray black Americans in poor light with reference to their supposed inferior social position.

I would like to thank Carter G. Woodson for his vision and understanding of how important Black American history would be to American culture.

The month of February has an important place in the history of America.

- Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were both born
- The first Black senator took office in 1870
- The NAACP was founded by Black and white citizens in New York City.
- W.E.B. Dubois, co-founder of the NAACP, was born
- In 1960, the Civil Rights Movement began in Greensboro, N.C. (See the picture below) ■



Feb. 2, 1960 - GREENSBORO, N.C.: A group of Negro students from North Carolina A&T College, who were refused service at a luncheon counter reserved for white customers, staged a sit-down strike at the F.W. Woolworth store in Greensboro, 2/2. Ronald Martin, Robert Patterson, and Mark Martin are shown as they stayed seated throughout the day. The white women at left came to the counter for lunch but decided not to sit down. UPI TELEPHOTO

"A&T Students' 'Sit Down' Demand for Service at Downtown Lunch Counter," *The Greensboro Review*, February 2, 1960.
Source: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/odyssey/archive/09/0909001r.jpg>

Diversity Center

C. Charles Jackson
Campus Center
Phone: 507/933-7449
www.gustavus.edu/diversity/

Virgil Jones

Director
vjones@gustavus.edu

Cheryl Hastings

Administrative Assistant
chasting@gustavus.edu

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Building Bridges Conference

The theme of this 12th annual event is "Find Your Voice: Putting Awareness into Action" featuring Lisa Ling, host of *Explorer* on the National Geographic Channel. The theme focuses on the power we have within our society, culture, and world to provoke and promote change.

Past conferences have introduced issues of awareness, such as being the change we wish to see in the world and recognizing the voices of unsung heroes in everyday life. This year we emphasize the voice that we have as individuals. By altering past perceptions and involving ourselves in the conversation of activism, we hope to demonstrate the importance of making change a reality.

The keynote speaker is Lisa Ling, a Chinese American. Her career in journalism has taken her all over the world to report on the important

issues of the day in a variety of formats and places. From stories about gang rape in the Congo to bride burning in India, *The Oprah Show* sent Ling around the world to cover vitally important stories that much of the world chooses to ignore. Ling joined *The View* television talk show on Aug. 2, 1999, representing the "young voice" on the panel. Since joining National Geographic in December 2002 as the first woman host of *Explorer*, Ling has covered the looting of antiquities in war-torn Iraq, investigated the deadly drug war in Colombia, and examined complex issues surrounding China's one-child policy. Ling's hard work continues off-camera as well: she serves as a contributing editor for *USA Weekend* and recently co-authored a book titled *Mother, Daughter, Sister, Bride: Rituals of Womanhood*. ■



Lisa Ling, featured speaker for the 12th annual Building Bridges Conference.

theatre event

Jackie, Vi, and Lena

A new play by David Barr III
February 17, 7:30 p.m.
Jussi Björling Recital Hall

The history of the Civil Rights Movement includes many memorable names. The play *Jackie, Vi, and Lena* celebrates the accomplishments of three heroes whose stories, fascinating and untold, range from the joys and challenges of everyday life to events so large and shattering, they'll take your breath away. **Jackie Robinson**, whose fierce heart,

sharp mind, and phenomenal physical talents allowed him to be the first black man to play Major League Baseball. Defining his life was a commitment to justice so strong that he fought for it until the last hours of his life. **Viola Liuzzo**, a Detroit housewife, stirred by the brutality in Alabama, drove to join the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the march from Selma. Passionate and ahead of her time, she lost her life in the struggle and earned a place as the only white woman enshrined in the National Civil Rights Monument.

Lena Horne, the brilliant and talented star of stage and screen, fought fiercely for Civil Rights with words, actions, and the full force of her celebrity to gain access for all people to hotels, restaurants, and theatres. *Jackie, Vi, and Lena* gives us the richness of their world, from jazz and bee-bop to baseball hysteria, violent protests in the streets, and the first flickering of the Civil Rights Movement on television. It is from a past time that still echoes in our own.

Tickets are available through the Gustavus Ticket Center (x7590): \$12 adults; \$10 students, senior citizens, and Gustavus employees; \$5 Gustavus students). ■



The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is changing

by Jeff Stocco, Career Center Director

Are you thinking of applying to graduate school? You may need to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), which is required for many graduate programs. The GRE has three parts: Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing.

Currently, the GRE is administered at test centers across the country most days of the week by appointment. The current test is a computer adaptive test, meaning that you get a test that is tailored for you, and that you can't skip items and go back to ones that you didn't answer. You take the test on a computer, the test is scored immediately, and scores are reported within a few weeks.

However, starting in September 2007, the GRE will change significantly. The changes will address some problems with test security and test validity. Here are some of the main modifications:

- The number of test dates will decrease to about 30 per year.
- Everyone will get the same test on each test date.
- The new test will be linear (you can skip items and return to them).
- The number of test centers will increase to about 3,500 worldwide.
- The content of the verbal section will change significantly, with less emphasis on vocabulary.

- The length of the test will increase.
- Scores will not be reported to you immediately, but will take several weeks to process.

What does this all mean to you? If you are familiar with the current format, you might consider taking the GRE sometime this spring or early summer. If you are uncertain about applying to graduate school, you should wait until you are more certain. In any event, the best time to take the GRE is when you are ready to take it. It is critical that you prepare for the exam, as it is an important part of your application.

I will be offering some workshops on the GRE this spring, so check the Career Center website for dates and times. And, the Career Center is a great place to get help with the application process, including directories of graduate programs and books on writing personal statements. Hey, we will even read your essays and give you feedback!

Confused? Come by during Quick Questions (M-F, 2-3:30 p.m.), or call and make an appointment to see me (x7586). I can help you with the process. ■

organization focus

The Womyn's Awareness Center

(WAC) is a group that is devoted to promoting awareness of women's issues. The organization is made up of women and men who are concerned with issues ranging from domestic abuse and sexual assault to gender discrimination, and also with celebrating womanhood and gender.

We have the biggest, most comfortable, relaxing room on campus. It is to the left of the Dive, past the radio station, and our doors are always open.

Every year we put out *Heterodoxy*, a publication that is a creative manifestation of womanhood. We always accept submissions. Send them to heterodoxy@gustavus.edu.

In February, we have one of our biggest events, *The Vagina Monologues*. We will have a showing on Friday, Feb. 16 and two on Sunday, Feb 18. There will be events all week, including a Love Your Body Day, a panel discussion, open mic night, and more. We have the most people we have ever had helping out this year, and they are all working hard, so be sure to check it out—it's going to be huge! Everyone is welcome in the WAC, and there is always a way for you to get involved no matter how much (or how little) time you have. If you are interested or have any questions e-mail Liz Hari at ehari@gustavus.edu. ■

“We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.”

– Carter Woodson,
on founding Negro
History Week, 1926



Diversity Events

February 8
Study Abroad Information Session

Diversity Center
10 a.m. and 3:30

February 10
Diversity Center Student Organization Retreat

February 17
Hip Hop Festival
Alumni Hall

February 22–24
Pan African Conference
MnSU, Mankato

March 9–10
Building Bridges Conference

College Calendar

February 5
Spring Semester Begins

February 12
CF Preview Night

February 15
Student Senate Presidential Debate
Courtyard Café

February 17
Jackie, Vi and Lena
Björling Recital Hall

March 1
Study Abroad Application Deadline

March 23
Mid Terms

March 24
President's Ball

Student Organization Meeting Schedules

Diversity Leadership Council
MONDAY : 9:30 p.m. : Leadholm

Pan Afrikan Student Organization
TUESDAY : 5:30 p.m. : 49er Room

Meditation with Buddhist Monk
TUESDAY : 7 p.m. : St. Peter Room

Crossroads Executive Board
TUESDAY : 8:30 p.m. : Carlson International Center Lounge

Asian Cultures Club
WEDNESDAY : 6 p.m. : Walker House

Queers & Allies
WEDNESDAY : 9:15 p.m. : Womyn's Awareness Center

Orgulla Latino Association
THURSDAY : 7 p.m. : Office by the Dive

Womyn's Awareness
THURSDAY : 8 p.m. : Womyn's Awareness Center

Indigenous Student Association
THURSDAY : 8:30 p.m. : Gustie Den

Students of Fostercare and Adoption
THURSDAY : 9:15 p.m. : Diversity Center

I Am We Are
THURSDAY : 10 p.m. : Black Box

Actions Supporting All People (ASAP)
SUNDAY : 8 p.m. : Diversity Center

World Watch and Cultural Connections are brought to you by *Crossroads*. The members of *Crossroads* share an interest in world cultures, languages, and contemporary global issues. Through their interest, members work to develop a broader understanding of the world in which they live and contribute to the education of the College community as a whole.

World Watch

Darfur: U.N. pleads for fighting to stop—

A wide range of U.N. aid agencies appealed to warring parties to end the violence or risk losing the foreign aid pledged for the 2.5 million refugees & 1 million other civilians. More than 200,000 people have been killed since rebels took up arms against the Sudanese government in 2003.

South America: Leaders head to Rio

summit—Leaders from five nations are meeting in Rio De Janeiro to discuss the future of Mercosur, the South American trading bloc which works for economic integration and free trade in the region. There is growing concern that the organization is moving away from its economic goals to become more political and to some degree anti-American.

India/China: Stars of globalization—China

and India are the headline grabbers of globalization. According to a global CEO survey of 1000 respondents around the world, business optimism about 2007 is at its highest ever in the global business community. A significant majority—52%—selected Asia-Pacific as the region offering greatest opportunities for revenue growth over the next three years, far ahead of North America (13%) and Western Europe (10%).

Cultural Connections

February 14–20—Random Acts of

Kindness Week (International):

Established in 1995, the movement inspires people to share kindness with one another as they discover for themselves what power has to effect positive change as relationships are created and community connections nourished.