CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Jonathan C. Smith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in African American Studies

The Forethought to W.E.B. Du Bois’s The Souls of Black Folk begins with “Herein lie buried many things which if read with patience may show the strange meaning of being black here in the dawn of the Twentieth Century. This meaning is not without interest to you, O Gentle Reader; for the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line.” For many students of African American history and culture, that last clause springs readily to memory; its antecedent, however, likely lives in strange anonymity. In his polite appeal to the Gentle Reader, Du Bois immediately counters the objection that would limit the interest and relevance of being black solely to blacks and reminds us of our common connections. As Black History Month begins, I believe it important to hear Du Bois speaking to us across the years in a way that is at once collective and deeply personal.

For me, Black History Month always calls me to think of both my personal and communal connections to the many people, incidents, movements, and stories commemorated during this month. In this month I reflect on the intersection of the personal and communal for my parents who wed in June of 1956 just outside Montgomery, Alabama in the middle of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In those moments when I encounter my father’s face or upraised hand or his mug shot in Boycott archives, I feel the acute pull of a personal and political entwinement in Black History. I do not believe my story to be either unique or uncommon. I believe instead that to the extent that you, Gentle Reader, and I share community here at SLU, my story is also yours and indicative of why we commemorate Black History Month.

Du Bois’s claim on our individual and collective interests foreshadows a passage in Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter From a Birmingham Jail,” in which he says “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” This statement follows on the heels of King’s oft-quoted “Injustice anywhere...” line. And as with the above passage from of Souls, I think the important call in both instances requires that we see our problems, our stories, our narratives, our encounters—of every kind—through a lens of mutuality, of common interests, of entwined destinies.

Happy Black History Month.
Lent

Wednesday, March 5—April 17, 2014

By: Fr. Paul Stark, SJ, VP-Mission and Ministry

Traditionally, Catholics, and any number of other faith traditions, observe Lent, a period of preparation, reparation and penance, leading to Easter. Also traditionally, the three pillars of individual and communal Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

PRAYER: The more we pray during Lent can draw us closer to God, as we pray for the grace to live more fully our baptismal promises. This could be not only a personal attitude adjustment, but could also have a remarkable effect on those we love, and, probably, those we find difficult to love in our daily lives. This prayer could transform us!

FASTING: More than providing a means or a method, to personal improvement—losing weight, quitting smoking, and on, and on, and on.—fasting is one of the most ancient practices of Lent, and more, even, than a way to develop self-control. Fasting helps us pray, with the hunger of things we’ve given up, and leading us in our hunger for God.

Who in our neighborhood, or city or world, has to fast because of poverty; who suffers from economic or political injustices; who is in need, for whatever reason? Lent is certainly more than a 40-day self-help exercise for them.

Baptism calls us to live God’s love for us in the world, particularly for those who have less and who need more than we...those who suffer and go without, everyday, and Lent can call us back to our Baptism.

ALMSGIVING: Not one of these pillars stands alone; they are all linked to each other; all help us in our journey to God. Through almsgiving, sharing not just from our surplus but also from our own need, we care for those people who really need, and can express our own gratitude to God for all we have and have been given.

Volunteering, works of charity and the promotion of justice are not only tenets of Lent, but also of our Saint Louis University Mission, and fundamental elements of faith, helping us live our lives because of our faith...These three traditional pillars of Lent call and help us not only to profess our faith, but also to practice our faith.

Have a blessed Lent!
Overcoming childhood cancer and amputation

Steve's story supports SLU's strong advocacy for allies for inclusion because Steve never let his disability define him. Older brother James explains, "Anything I am going to run into in life is probably just a speed bump compared to the mountain that he climbed over."


"Having a disability doesn't necessarily make you who you are. It's just something that forces you to live life in a different way."

-- Steve Cash

With Steve Cash between the pipes, Team USA will defend the gold medal at the Sochi Paralympics in March.
Congratulations to Meg Moore, Administrative Assistant, Boeing Institute of International Business on the birth of her first grandchildren, twin girls, Sophia Alaia and Grace Mia. The girls were born Wednesday, November 13, with Sophia weighing in at 6.1 lbs and Grace at 6.8 lbs. Their parents are Alex and Paula Moore. Meg’s son Alex is a SLU graduate. Alex, Paula, Sophia and Grace live in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Congratulations to Dr. Dixie Meyer, Medical Family Therapy Program, Department of Family and Community Medicine, on the birth of her daughter, Zuzana “Zuzu” Penelope Meyer, was born on April 23, 2013 & weighed 6 pounds & 6 ounces.

Congratulations to Paula Wills, Assistant Supervisor, PMO-Registration on the birth of her second grandchild, London Kennedi Washington, born on October 30, 2013, weighing 6lbs 3oz.

Congratulations to Haijun Gong, Assistant Professor in Mathematics & Computer Science on the birth of her daughter, Angela W. Gong, born on January 11, 2014, weighing 8lbs 4oz. And 53.5 cm
Cyn Wise (Biology / CWHM / OEHS) and Gabie Everett welcome granddaughter Violet Camilla Baskett to the family! Born January 14, 2014, Violet weighed 6’4” oz. and was 18” long. She was welcomed by Mom and Dad - Shawnie and Keith Baskett, and big brother Max. The Basketts (Cyn’s son and family) make their home in Pleasant Grove, UT.

Congratulations to Tina Bockelmann, Clinical Trials Coordinator in the Clinical Trials Office, and her husband Chris, on the birth of their son, Dean Joseph Bockelmann.

Dean is also the first grandson for Mary Ann Barrale in the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology.

Dean was born on October 4, 2013 at 3:10am weighing 7lbs 9oz and 21.5 inches long.

Congratulations to Tanya Griffin, Director of Enrollment at SPS, and her husband Drew, on the birth of their daughter Beckett Claire, born November 6 at 2:35 a.m. Beckett’s grandmother, Vickey Goelzhauser, also works at SLU in the Department of Anesthesiology.

They praise God for their little miracle. "For this child I prayed, and the Lord granted me what I asked of Him..." 1 Samuel 1:27

Have a Beary Special Valentine’s Day
Engagement

Sally Bolderson, a medical secretary with Surgery-Vascular, proudly announces the marriage of her daughter Joanne Bolderson to Steven Keiper on October 12, 2014.

Looks like their dog, Daisy, couldn’t be happier.

Anniversary

Darnell Gathings proposed to Chamille Miller, Patient Accounts Representative with PMO-Accounts Receivable, on January 9, 2014 during her birthday dinner among family and friends at The Kitchen restaurant on the Lumiere Place Casino. She was completely shocked and surprised. She didn’t know he was going to be in town. They will be married on April 25, 2015.

Maury Rich from Custodial services is planning to get married August 30, 2014 to Crystal Barbour.

Jim Greathouse, HR Learning & Development, and wife, Dawn, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on December 9, 2013.
Divine Grace
Sherry Wright-Gully of the Physician Assistant Education Department and graduate of the School of Professional Studies accepted her call as an evangelist in February of 2013. She preached her first trial sermon on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 under the leadership of Bishop Gregory Wells, Sr., DD. As part of the journey to becoming ordained she will begin attending Bethesda Temple Bible Institute on Monday, January 27, 2014. Sherry is currently recognized as a Minister by the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World under the Midwestern District Council (12th Episcopal District) where Bishop Larry O. Jones, is Diocesan. Sherry is humbled by the opportunity to serve God and His people and welcomes the prayers of all who know her as she continues this divine journey in God’s grace. She believes that God’s plan for her life is divinely fit between the two ministries that God has given her as an Evangelist and Gospel Playwright.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

Through the coordination of the College Church, the office of Student Financial Services and Human Resources both participated in the “Adopt a Family” program for Christmas 2013 through.

Student Financial Service provided their family of 5 with everything they had requested on their Christmas wish list, as well as clothes and coats for the children. Additionally, Student Financial Services raised over $275 in gift cards for the family to use on groceries and incidentals. It is a blessing to be part of this program and our office looks forward to doing it again next year. (see picture)

HR sponsored a single mother of five through the College Church and Places for People, and provided much needed items for the family, along with a gift card of $105.00 for groceries.

Giving someone a hand up brings a lot of smiles to SLU employees who always come through in a big way to help out our neighbors in need.

From George "The Shoeman" Hutchings Thank You! And on to 2014!

2014 Goal — 1,000,000 pairs of shoes

We want to start our year off with a THANK YOU! 2013 was year that made us take stock in what we have, and the amazing generosity.

In Kenya we built a dam, delivered 1 water-well drilling machine, and drilled a well. In Haiti we installed 5 water purification systems, repaired water systems, and provided water education. Because of your shoe and clothing donations, 140,000 more people have access to water for drinking, cleaning and agriculture necessary to improve the quality of life.

After a successful trip to Kenya this past October, we ventured off to Haiti on January 1. It has been nearly a year since the last time we visited the country.

One of Haiti’s largest crises is cholera, a bacterial disease that causes diarrhea and dehydration and often spreads through the ingestion of contaminated food or drinking water. Since 2010, Haiti has had over 680,000 cases and over 8,300 people deaths that have been reported. This could be stopped with clean water.

Click here to view a 3 min YouTube video.

Thank you to Saint Louis University and to everyone who participated in your friendly challenge with Wash U in the Battle for the Boot.
Toastmasters for SLU Staff and Faculty

Toast of SLU would like to congratulate several of its members on their efforts to gain the skills and confidence to effectively express themselves in any situation.

Members D.C. Cooper, Beth Fluhr, Jeff Kapp, Maria Totoraitis and Emily Seitz have each given speeches that further their communications and leadership goals.

Toast of SLU is a chapter of Toastmasters International, a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations.

Interested in becoming a Toastmaster yourself? Toast of SLU is open to current and retired staff and faculty of Saint Louis University. Members meet weekly from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays in HR training room 128 at the Wool Center.

Prospective members are invited to be a guest at an upcoming meeting. For more information or a list of upcoming meetings, visit the Toast of SLU website (http://3572277.toastmastersclubs.org) or contact Emily Seitz.

Toast of SLU
www.toastmasters.org

The Santa Hat Run 5K

The Santa Hat Run departed from the Simon Rec Center at 11:53 A.M for the 15th annual Santa Run on Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

Over sixty SLU employees joined runners from Wells Fargo in the festive run on a sunny but breezy and 45 degree day. SLU employees earned 250 Vitality Points for finishing the 5K. Most participants wore Santa hats and ran/walked a three mile route through the streets of the Central West End.

SLU is Sweet on You!

The MOVE Committee is sponsoring the third annual SLU is Sweet on You. Employees will have the opportunity to recognize other SLU employees by sending a personalized message and Hershey’s Hug to the recipient of their choice.

More information, including the form to submit your message, will be in Newslink next week.

In past years, more than 525 employees were recognized with personalized valentine messages from colleagues and friends. It brightened the day for many individuals within our University!

Thank you in advance for all who will participate in making someone feel very special for Valentines Day!
Facilities Services Vision Award Winners

This winter the Division of Facilities Services held its annual Christmas Party in conjunction with its semi-annual Vision Awards. The party was held at the College Church on Wednesday, December 18th to honor the dedication and performance of Division employees. Vision Award recipients are presented to Facilities employees at two events held annually.

2013 Winter Award winners include:

- Tim Walker
- Wanda Guyton
- Les DeClue
- Latoya Vanderford

Vision Awards are presented to recognize exemplary employees/efforts based on the exhibition of the Division’s core values: P.R.I.D.E., Passion in our work; Resourceful in how we work; Innovative in bringing about change in our work; Dependable in our work with others; Expertise used and developed in our work. All nominations and letters of support are submitted by a coworker, supervisor, division employee or other internal or external stakeholders who have experienced the employee’s superior performance and/or service.

The Recognition Committee of Facilities Services organized this semi-annual event. To underscore the divisions’ commitment to sustainability a food drive and old Christmas lights were collected during the event. As much as 54 gallons of non-perishable food was donated to SLU’s campus kitchen. 10 bags of old Christmas Lights were also collected/recycled as part of SLU’s e-waste program.

The mission of Facilities Services is to proactively support Saint Louis University’s mission of education, research, and service by anticipating customer needs and working innovatively and collaboratively with stakeholders in order to enhance and sustain the campus environment.