Monitor Newsletter January 28, 2008
Bowling Green State University

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Remember the past, work for the future, says Myrlie Evers-Williams

Perseverance, keeping your “eyes on the prize” and remaining true to the memory and ideals of those who worked so hard to ensure equal rights and justice for all were recurring themes of Myrlie Evers-Williams Jan. 23. As the keynote speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Celebration and in a press conference beforehand, Evers-Williams discussed her life before and after the 1963 assassination of her husband, civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

After his death, she took up the mantle of leadership and worked tirelessly to bring justice to his killer, serve as the first woman head of the NAACP, raise a family and serve her community. She even ran for Congress, in 1969-70, at a time when only three or four other women were running nationally. That brought more criticism, for not staying in what society perceived as a woman’s place, to which she replied, “I have to work and I, too, want to build a better place for my children.”

She was naturally a shy person, she said, “but Medgar pushed me a lot to develop what he saw as my strengths.” That stood her in good stead when she had to go on alone, she said, despite her grief and sometimes near-despair. “My love for him kept me going,” she said. “Also, I felt that as long as I kept his name in front of the public he wouldn’t be forgotten—and maybe I was just ornery enough never to give up.”

Referring to the BGSU Gospel Choir’s rendition of the spiritual “I Can Make It,” Evers-Williams said it is important to keep believing that and to look for inspiration. She would like to see the remembrance of leaders like King and her husband be built into school curricula and community events year-round, both as encouragement and in their honor.

Remembering her reaction the day she saw a department store advertisement in a newspaper for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day sale—after the long struggle to get the states to adopt the holiday—she said wryly, “Well, now we’ve finally made it.”

Through a more intentional focus, “we need to continually link the past to young people so they can see the importance of what went before and where they need to go.

“I truly don’t believe the younger generation understands the sacrifices my generation made, and part of that is my generation’s decision not to put those sacrifices in front of them. We didn’t want them to see what might happen to them. And part of it was probably battle fatigue,” she added, recalling the harrowing events of life in the era of the civil rights struggle. “Now we need to give them a better sense of the history of what took place before Dr. King came into prominence.”

Finding sources of motivation to persevere and using innovation to surmount problems are required if one is to keep up a fight over the long term. There were times following the deaths of her husband, President John F. Kennedy, King and Malcolm X when she felt her hatred for her oppressors was what kept her going, she said, until a word from her young daughter reminded her of her husband’s admonition never to hate.

Then she remembered his words: “Myrlie,” he said, “those you hate don’t know it, and those who do don’t care. You become the victim. Just live the best life you can for all humanity.”

Shared leadership

Evers-Williams cautioned that it is unwise to look to one leader for inspiration or guidance. It is important to find the potential in many leaders, and to support one another in shared quests, she said. While the media seems to always want to identify a leader upon whom to focus, she encouraged her audience to work together for social justice.
Even King said "I can't do this myself; I am not a movement unto myself," she reminded the audience.

Sometimes it is difficult to see what has been achieved, she said. "You don't always win what you think you have to win, but you always have to fight for what you believe in."

Today's problems call for different approaches than the marches and protests of the '60s, she said. "Putting one's body in front of hoses and police trucks—no. I don't see the need for that anymore and I hope never to see that again. Today we're much more sophisticated," she said, mentioning technology and other communication tools as new ways to promote causes.

Today's issues
Evers-Williams said she will not endorse a candidate in the presidential race, but is thrilled to see both a woman and a black man in the running, something that would have been unimaginable even five years ago. "It's so exciting to have a choice. We haven't always had that."

However, she has been "deeply concerned about their safety from day one," she said. "I keep them safely close to my heart and in my prayers."

Another concern she expressed was "how in debt we are and how China owns so much of this nation. And we still say how rich we are and how smart we are. I think Dr. King would say 'Wake up and be aware! Look into the past and learn from those lessons.'"

On an individual level, she said, "I want to see a sense of dignity and respect for oneself. How can you respect yourself when you are allowing yourself to be addressed disrespectfully?"

Never would she allow herself to be called "Ho" or "whore," she said, noting a current trend. "If someone called me that, I would have a hard time stopping my hand from striking them."

Nor does she accept the use of "the N-word," she said, "as affectionate or loving. People who use that don't realize all the people who were beaten and who died because of the disrespect that word embodied." Hearing that word, she said, she had to ask herself, "What was I born? I realized I was born as the N-word." Then came the term Negro, then black (which had once been considered offensive itself), and now African-American. "I can live with any of those so long as it's respectful because I know who I am."

Make legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. a reality: President Ribeau

The meaning of any person's legacy—even someone as famous as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—can only be measured by its lasting effect on others, according to President Sidney Ribeau.

Challenging the audience, and especially students, to examine their commitment to the ideals King lived by, Ribeau spoke about the civil rights leader Jan. 18 at the city of Bowling Green's 19th annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute.

"A legacy is really defined by the impact on others," Ribeau said. "Dr. King left a legacy writ large, but if there's not that internalization of those ideals and principles that make us better people, and if it doesn't govern what we do on a daily basis and inform the ethical decisions we make—then that legacy is nothing more than a written text."

Ribeau's fervor on the topic is deep-rooted: He did his doctoral dissertation on the writings of King, sifting through crates and boxes of material in Atlanta long before they had been organized and catalogued as they are today.

"The idea of community was a concept that was beloved by Dr. King," Ribeau said, and
having absorbed that from his study, he said it was important to him to bring the concept to BGSU. It materialized in the “Building Community” focus groups that were held shortly after Ribeau took office and expressed in the “premier learning community” aspiration in the University vision statement.

“If Dr. King were alive today, he would be getting ready to celebrate his 79th birthday,” Ribeau said. Had King not been so devoted to the cause of freedom and rights for all, he probably would still be alive, but he chose to “live life in the center, and he probably would rather not have lived to be 79 if it meant he could not live the life he felt was important,” the president added.

His absolute commitment and willingness to lay down his life in support of the value of every human being should make us all examine what we would give our lives for, Ribeau said.

King’s legacy did not come only from his brilliance as a scholar, Ribeau said, noting that King had graduated from Morehouse University at 19; nor did it come only from being such an eloquent spokesman and his ability to “conceptualize and articulate and symbolize the country as a better place.” It came, Ribeau said, from his “intrinsic world view that said that poverty and suffering anywhere is a threat to freedom and democracy everywhere, and injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

If King were alive today, Ribeau said, he would be just as concerned about Palestine, Darfur, Kenya and Iraq as Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit. That is the type of concern we should have for students at BGSU, Ribeau said, whether they come from affluent or disadvantaged backgrounds, and “for the ‘C’ student as much as the honor student. They should have the same access to education, academic support and counseling.”

King’s world view shaped his political views, according to Ribeau. “King had a deeply profound belief in democracy,” he said. “He believed that to liberate our potential, we must have democracy. As long as you have the idea, there’s the possibility. He knew that democracy was a work in progress. King was no fool—he knew it had not reached its full potential. But in it is the possibility of a more perfect society and a better place.”

He also deeply believed that the way to achieve improvement and lasting change in society is not through violence and threats—not a popular view with some in the 1960s, Ribeau said. “Anger, hatred and violence only beget more anger, hatred and violence,” he said. “Anger does something to you neurologically and physiologically,” he said. “Anger is stored in your brain and it takes its toll—there’s a price to be paid.”

Though the younger, more militant leaders of the day attempted to persuade him to endorse their methods, King told them he was keeping his sights on the long term. “Dr. King said, ‘The violence might take me out, but it won’t take you where you want to go,’” Ribeau recounted. In order to maintain the integrity of his soul and his dignity, he could not become involved in violence. His was always a message of reconciliation and healing.

But he loved young people and always wanted to have them around him, Ribeau said. And though he disagreed with the young radicals such as Stokely Carmichael, he never rejected them. “Don’t condemn them and don’t give up on them,” but try to give them hope for what can be, Ribeau described King’s philosophy.

Whatever the philosophy, in the ‘60s “student protests were not about ‘Give me more’ but for America to fulfill its promise,” Ribeau said. King was a great believer in collective action, and Ribeau exhorted the audience to follow in his footsteps. “We as citizens can’t allow the government to take away from us that which is important. People have a lot more power than we think we have.” He encouraged students to register to vote and get to know the issues. “That’s the first step,” he said.

In a famous speech, King said he dreamt of the day when “my children will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Ribeau said, “His dream calls on each and every one of us to make that a lived reality. Until we can find a way to bring justice, fairness and equality to daily life, Dr. King’s dream will not be a reality.”
Array of events mark Black History Month

BGSU will celebrate February as Black History Month with events ranging from music and theatre to academic discussions. Following is a sampling of some of them:

The Black Student Union will kick off the month with a free luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday (Feb. 1) in 101A Olscamp Hall.

That evening, from 7-11 p.m., the ninth annual Black Issues Conference gets under way at the 8 o'clock Room in Kreischer Quadrangle, where participants can network with guests from BGSU and other universities while enjoying food, music and entertainment.

The conference, titled "Black Is; Black Ain't," will run from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 2) in 101 Olscamp Hall, and is sponsored by the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives (CMAI).

Guest speaker is Dr. Na'im Akbar, a clinical psychologist who is well known for his Afrocentric approach to scholarship and his research into the cultural basis of personality and mental health issues of African-Americans. Now on the clinical psychology faculty at Florida State University, Akbar received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Michigan.

An open forum on Feb. 7, "Fade to Black," will explore the relationships between black Americans and Africans. Sponsored by the African People's Association and the Black Student Union, the discussion will take place from 7-9 p.m. in 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The Black History Month Quiz Bowl, from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 15 in 201A Union, will give participants a chance to test their knowledge. The bowl is sponsored by the Black Student Union and Students of Color Mentoring, Aiding, Retaining and Teaching (S.M.A.R.T).

Music

There are several music-related events during the month, including "Hip-Hop Music as Black Popular Culture," presented by Dr. Angela Nelson, chair of the popular culture department. Sponsored by the CMAI, her talk will begin at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14 in 201 Union.

On Feb. 27, "Real Hip-Hop/Music," from 7-11 p.m. in the Union's Black Swamp Pub, will feature original poetry, live bands, emcees, neo singers, smooth rock, rap, R & B, jazz and hip-hop. The evening is sponsored by the Black Student Union.

CMAI's popular annual dinner theatre, on Feb. 22 and 23, will feature comedian Jay Lamont. Doors for the Friday night performance of "The Best of Dinner Theatre" will open at 7 p.m., with the show at 8. The $15 cost includes light refreshments. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for the 7 p.m. Saturday performance, a semi-formal event with a cash bar and dinner buffet. Tickets are $20. Call 2-2642 for tickets.

Food

Because food is an integral part of culture and history, University Dining Services will mark the remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month with several special lunches and dinners.

A Southern food buffet will be on the menu at the Bowling Greenery in the Union tomorrow (Jan. 29). On Feb. 12, a cultural themed dinner will be served in Commons Dining Center. Black History Month theme lunches will be offered Feb. 13 in McDonald Dining Center and Feb. 22 in the Union's Falcon's Nest, and a theme dinner will be served in Founders Dining Center Feb. 27.
BGSU students, faculty join local leaders in climate change ‘teach-in’

On Thursday (Jan. 31), BGSU students and faculty will be among those at more than 1,550 institutions across the country participating in Focus The Nation—a teach-in on solutions to global warming. Joining them will be local leaders and University officials for a panel discussion.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., nearly 35 faculty members will lead discussion groups in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union on various aspects of climate change, from polar bears to journalistic responsibility related to climate change to eco-fragile countries in the Horn of Africa. See below for schedule.

From 5-7 p.m. in 308 Union, a panel discussion on climate change will feature BGSU students and CFO Sherri Stoll, Bowling Green Mayor John Quinn and Public Utilities Director John Maynard, County Commissioner James Carter. Kim Peters, an environmental studies major, will moderate. The discussion is free and open to the public.

“We want everyone attending to understand how global warming affects all the aspects of our life and what they can do to help combat it,” said Jazmine Bennett, president of BGSU’s Environmental Action Group and co-organizer of the campus portion of the event.

“The current generation of BGSU students will be affected enormously by global climate change. This ‘teach-in’ will empower our students to be active participants in the critical dialogue about finding solutions,” said Dr. Gary Silverman, director of BGSU’s Environmental Programs. “We are looking for everyone to come not only to listen but to actively discuss these issues throughout the day. It’s a wonderful opportunity.”

A free concert by local musicians will be held from 7-11 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest.

The event will begin with a live Web cast at 8 p.m. on Wednesday (Jan. 30). The “2 Percent Solution” will feature climate scientist Dr. Stephen Schneider of Stanford University and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Natural Capitalism president Hunter Lovins and environmental justice leader Van Jones.

The last component of the event is the online ballot. Participants will vote on top solutions, and the top five will be announced in the beginning of February. Students who vote will be eligible to win a $10,000 leadership scholarship for a project to be completed by the end of August.

Across the nation that day, education and civic engagement will be used to provide a platform for students in elementary and high schools to universities and colleges to engage in the critical societal debate about climate change solutions. Live and videoconference round-table discussions will take place between Congress and campuses.

“For today’s youth are truly the greatest generation,” said Dr. Eban Goodstein, creator of Focus The Nation. “No other generation has had to face this kind of challenge. We would be failing as educators if we did not prepare them with the tools necessary to meet this challenge.”

For more information, visit www.focusthenation.org. Or contact Bennett at jazminb@bgsu.edu or Whitney Krane at wkraner@bgsu.edu.

Documentary film is first topic in Provost Lecture Series

The 2008 Provost Lecture Series gets under way this week with a talk by author and scholar Dr. Paula Rabinowitz. The theme of this year’s series is “Cloning Terror, Telling Tales, and Surveying the Ruins,” examining the dangers of visibility; the ways in which images, texts and
In her talk, “Epidemics of Collapse: Notes on Documentary and the Post-Industrial Sublime,” scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (Jan. 30) in 201 Bowen-Thompson Student Union, Rabinowitz will explore the connections between deindustrialization and documentary film.

Author of Black & White & Noir: America’s Pulp Modernity and They Must Be Represented: The Politics of Documentary, Rabinowitz will explore a transnational poetics of post-industrialism through an analysis of film, photography and poetry, paying special attention to Thomas Lahusen’s “Living Among Ruins: Detroit and Komsomolek,” Mark Nowak’s “Shut Up Shut Down” and Spike Lee’s “When the Levees Broke.” She will examine how the iconic figures of the struggling worker and the devastated agricultural locations of the Depression era are rearticulated to make sense of contemporary post-industrialism. Looking at multiple transnational sites including China, Russia and Detroit, she explores how these images are “remnants” both of abandonment and of progress.

Rabinowitz is a professor and chair of the English department at the University of Minnesota, where she holds the Samuel Russell Chair in the Humanities. Her ongoing book projects include “The Demotic Ulysses: How Pulp Fiction Brought Modernism to America,” which measures the impact of the paperback revolution on censorship, sexuality, audiences and literary taste, and “The End and the Not” which explores recent attempts to reconstitute documentary forms in the era of post-industrialization. She has been a Fulbright Scholar and received a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Her talk is sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS) with support from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate College, the departments of theatre and film and ethnic studies, the School of Art, the American Culture Studies Program and the Office of the Provost.

All presentations are free and open to all. For more information, call ICS at 2-0585 or email mgeisbu@bgsu.edu.

IDEI to co-host Civic Education Conference in Marrakech, Morocco

The International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI) at BGSU, in cooperation with the Moroccan Center for Civic Education, will conduct a two-day conference this week to consider the implications of the recommendations from King Mohammed VI’s School and Civic Conduct Symposium last spring.

“Civic Attitudes in Practice” will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, tomorrow and Wednesday (Jan. 29 and 30), bringing together international experts in civic education to share their experience with about 100 Moroccan policy-makers and educators, as well as kicking off the Civic Education Partnership Initiative (CEPI) program’s materials-development and teacher-education activities. CEPI is a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Middle East Partnership Initiative in cooperation with the Higher Education for Development program office.

BGSU presenters for the conference are IDEI Director Dr. Alden Craddock and Dr. Nancy Patterson, both School of Teaching and Learning, along with Dr. Jane Rosser, director of service-learning at BGSU. Additional presenters will include members of the Moroccan Ministry of Education, the U.S. Embassy in Morocco and educators from six other nations.

The conference will consist of specialized sessions developed to suit the interests and needs of the different Moroccan participant groups. Ultimately, an educational “white paper” on civic education in Morocco will be produced to assist and guide the conduct and develop-
ment of the other components of the CEPI program.

"This conference allows us a unique opportunity to showcase the specific programs and activities of the CEPI program by bringing together students, parents, teachers, university faculty and Ministry of Education officials to discuss civic education," Craddock said. "I believe that the involvement of the various constituent groups will allow for maximum transparency of the goals and objectives set forth by CEPI and greatly assist in the development of curricular materials that will be beneficial to all levels of Moroccan education."

By the end of the two-day conference, cooperating partners in CEPI will have shared international expertise to assist with the implementation of the plans of the Moroccan Ministry of Education and the wishes of the king.

IN BRIEF

Plan to attend State of the University Address Friday

Faculty, staff, students and community members are invited to attend President Sidney Ribeau's annual State of the University Address at 10 a.m. Friday (Feb. 1) in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship.

More help needed with Presidents' Day open house

Volunteers are still needed to help host the upcoming Presidents' Day campus open house on Monday, Feb. 18, according to the Office of Admissions.

Volunteers may greet visitors, provide directions to guests or help with check-in procedures. Last year, more than 7,000 prospective students and their families attended the program, which is one of the University's major recruitment events.

Learn more about Presidents' Day and register to volunteer at http://go2.bgsu.edu/office/volunteer/.

Lecturer to speak on groundbreaking sculptor Lee Bontecou

The School of Art will host Visiting Lecturer Elizabeth Smith at 6:30 p.m. next Monday (Feb. 4) in 204 Fine Arts Center. She will speak on "All Freedom in Every Sense: The Work of Artist Lee Bontecou."

Smith is the James W. Alsdorf Chief Curator and deputy director for programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. She was the curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles from 1983-99. She has curated and co-organized numerous exhibitions, including "Lee Bontecou: A Retrospective," which toured nationally in 2003-04, and has published and lectured widely on topics in modern and contemporary art and architecture.

CALENDAR

Monday, Jan. 28

ARTalk and Reception, with Ethiopian painter Behailu Bezabih, the 2008 Jane Labino-Black Visiting Artist in Residence.
Reception from 6-7 p.m., followed by artist presentation from 7-8:30 p.m., both in 1101 Fine Arts Center. For more information, contact Charles Kanwischer at 2-9395 or ckanwis@bgsu.edu.

**Music at the Forefront Series**, with flutist Harvey Sollberger and guitarist Paul Bowman, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Tuesday, Jan. 29**

**Guest Artists**, violinst Annette-Barbara Vogel, with pianist Edward Turgeon, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Movie**, "Dan in Real Life," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

**Wednesday, Jan. 30**


**Provost Lecture Series**, "Epidemics of Collapse: Notes on Documentary and the Post-Industrial Sublime," presented by Dr. Paula Rabinowitz, University of Minnesota, 6:30 p.m., 201 Union. Hosted by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society.

**Women's Basketball vs. Western Michigan**, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Faculty Artist Series**, featuring pianist Winston Choi, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Thursday, Jan. 31**

**International Film Series**, "Kuuyuu Teien (Hanging Garden)" (2005), Japan, directed by Toyoda Toshiaki, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

**Festival Series**, featuring Naoko Takada, marimba, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are $18, $25 and $30 in advance, and $21, $28 and $33 the day of the concert. For tickets, call the box office at 2-8171.

**Friday, Feb. 1**

**State of the University Address**, by President Sidney Ribeau, 10 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship.

**Women's Professional Development Series**, "Developing Your Digital Identity: Personal and Professional Possibilities," presented by Dr. Kris Blair, English, 1:30-3 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.
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Bowling Green State University

Through Feb. 29
Planetarium Show, "Blown Away! The Wild World of Weather," showings at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. $1 donation suggested. This show will be given again March 11-April 5, including some Saturdays.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY
BGSU Firelands. Two positions: Instructor (economics) and Instructor (respiratory care). Call the dean's office, 2-0623. Deadline: March 1.

Labor Postings
http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED
On-campus classified:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.