

OMSA Newsletter

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

U W · P A R K S I D E

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Learn about Black History Month.
- Important information from a UW-Parkside undergrad.
- Advice from a UW-Parkside alumni.
- Remembering the life of Coretta Scott King.
- Taking a look back at the 7th Annual MLK celebration.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The month of February is Black history month, an annual celebration that has existed since 1926. There are many important events and individuals that play an important role this month. The color of the flag, Red, Black and Green symbolizes; **RED** is the noble blood that unites all people of African ancestry; **BLACK** represents the black people whose dignity is upheld by the existence of the flag; and **GREEN**: the abundant natural wealth of the Motherland, Africa. The **Red, Black and Green** flag was created by the members of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League at their convention held in Madison Square Garden on August 13, 1920. The

flag later became a Black Nationalist symbol for the liberation of African people



everywhere. Its colors can be seen in the flags of a number of African nations. Many people may not be aware that the origins of Black History Month came about because of the dedication and commitment of one individual. Much of the recognition can go to Harvard Scholar Dr.

Carter G. Woodson, who was determined to bring Black History into the public arena. Woodson dedicated his life to making "the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history." In 1926 Woodson planned the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln - two men who had greatly impacted the black population. Over time, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month. Today we know it as a four-week-long celebration of African American History.

-Victoria P. Coleman

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

Coretta Scott King, born in Heiberger, Alabama, was exposed at an early age to a society that was segregated. She may be gone in the physical sense, but her soul still lives on through millions of Americans. The essence of Coretta Scott King was that she had a passion for justice

and reached out to people prior to meeting her husband. Not only was she beautiful on the outside, but on the inside as well. She stood right by her husband's side when their family received death threats and after their home was bombed. Mrs. King's life should serve as an inspiration

for all people. After her husband's assassination, she went on to reach out to the world, especially to children. She also continued to carry on Dr. King's legacy. Coretta Scott King will be incredibly missed and in our hearts forever. **Olivia Lozoya**

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

There are many books and resources on African American history and biographies on African American icons that are very informative from general history, civil war and slavery, to civil rights. I wanted to list some books that I personally read and recommend for everyone to read for Black History Month.

American Patriots: The Story of Blacks in the Military from the Revolution to Desert Storms. By Gail Lumet Buckley

Only the Ball Was White: A History of Legendary Black Players and All-Black Professional Teams. By Robert Peterson

From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans. By John Hope Frank



Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970.

By Lynne Olson

The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organizing for Change. By Aldon Morris

-Victoria P. Coleman



INTERVIEW WITH UW-PARKSIDE UNDERGRAD

As a current student approaching graduation, I have decided to assist my fellow students and pick the mind of a current undergraduate student, Jare' Tate. Jare' is a student graduating in May 2006 and she has useful information about obtaining a job offer from Target Headquarters.

Olivia: Jare' what is your major at UW-Parkside?

Jare': My major is Communication and I have a minor in Ethnic Studies. I also have certificates in Conflict Analysis & Resolutions and Film Studies.

Olivia: What are your plans after graduation?

Jare': My plan after graduation is to pursue my job offer at Target Headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Olivia: How did you acquire that job offer?

Jare': I attended a Diversity Leadership Conference which is held annually. This conference is held in seven locations nationwide There is approxi-

mately 80,000 applicants and only about 8,000 will be accepted. The location I attended was Xavier University in Chicago. It is a networking workshop consisting of multiple sponsors. Target was one of those sponsors. Students were granted the opportunity to network with the sponsors all weekend. Target accepted my resume' for the Business Analysis position in their Marketing department. Representatives called me about two months later for a phone interview. He made me an offer at that time.

Olivia: Tell us, what was it about you that stuck out from the other applicants?

Jare': The representative mentioned that out of all of the applicants that were interested only two students actually gave him a resume', me being one of the two. He also stated, I was one of the few students

that requested his business card. He went on to share that I was very aggressive and made it clear that I was very interested in the position. I accomplished this by asking questions about the company and the position and tried to get to know him on a personal level. He also revealed that he admired my business attire as well, so remember appearance is very important to employers.

Olivia: Well thank you very much Jare' for all of your helpful advise for our fellow students here at UW Parkside. Is there anything else you would like to add before we say our goodbyes?

Jare': Networking is very important as well as being aggressive because there is a lot of competition out there. Sell yourself and be confident.

Olivia: Thank you again.

Jare': You're welcome, bye.

"The recruiter said that what he liked about me compared to others was that I was aggressive and kept coming back to him asking questions about the company and the position."

INTERVIEW WITH AN UW-PARKSIDE ALUMNI

I had the opportunity to interview alumnus, Julian Thomas. He graduated in May of 2004 from UW-Parkside with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a concentration in Information Systems. Julian shared valuable information that will be helpful to UW Parkside students as you begin your job search.

It was January 30th at about 6:30 pm, I was running late as usual. However, Julian was on time and patient as a professional should be. We met downtown Racine at Henry & Wanda's for the interview and a bite to eat. When I arrived I noticed Julian sitting in my favorite section, awaiting my arrival. As he noticed me, he concluded a conversation on his cellular phone and we greeted each other. With the usual, "Hello, I haven't seen you in a while. Have you been to Beloit recently?" Being we are both from Beloit, Wisconsin and attended the same high school.

After a long days work it was clear that Julian was hungry so we ordered immediately. Interesting enough, we both ordered the three cheese pizza. I began the interview as we waited for our meal.

As the conversation proceeded Julian shared by March of his senior year in college he had his first job offer. He began applying for positions in December of the 03-04 academic year and began receiving offers as early

as March.

During his collegiate career Julian enrolled in the "INROADS program" which is a world wide internship program for talented minorities that can be researched through the internet or the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. Through this program, Julian was offered an internship with S.C. Johnson Wax. Throughout his internship Julian received many other offers but decided to stay with SC Johnson.

Upon graduation he was offered a position with the American Management System Consultant Firm; in Fairfax, VA. Julian stated, "I actually accepted this job but due to their acquisition at the time I wasn't comfortable with the job security". Because of this discomfort Julian remained with SC Johnson until he transitioned to his current position with General Electric.

Presently, he is enrolled in a two year leadership program titled the "Information Management Leadership Program". His title is, Sales Workbench Delivery Manager.

After being employed by SCJ for 3 1/2 years, two years as an intern, he received a phone call from a friend inquiring if he would be interested in working for GE in their IMLP. Through networking this opportunity presented itself and after interviewing he accepted the position

and the rest is history.

Julian's advice for students when looking for a career within a company, is to make sure there is job security. This means RESEARCH the company in terms of revenue, career advancement and diversity.

Information you may desire, that may affect your decision include:

- Are there many young people in leadership positions?
- How rapidly are they advancing in their departments?
- What is the company's position on diversity related issues?

While Julian's current position is not his dream position it is definitely a step in the right direction to obtain his ultimate goal.

Julian's final advice to students was to enroll in an internship program, even if it is not within your field of study. Take advantage of leadership opportunities through student organizations and student life. After two years of being out of college, employers still refer to his college academics and leadership experiences. Lastly, but most importantly: **Network!!!**

I informed him it was an extreme pleasure to interview him and that I would be sure to put his advice to the test and to conclude our interview.

-Olivia LoZoya



Internships are crucial even if it is not within your field. Extra curricular activities or any leadership roles are important as well. Last but not least—networking!!!"

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OMSA Mission Statement:

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs promotes a diverse inclusive campus environment and serves as a resource to the campus community as well as the surrounding community, while offering academic and cultural programs. It is our goal to enhance the college experience, so all students achieve academically and compete in a global society.

REMEMBER WHEN ?

The 7th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration took place on Friday, January 20, 2006, at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Many talented K-12 students came out to read their winning essays to the audience. The program opened up with a video clip from "Eyes on the Prize" which was voiced over by Dr. James Kinchen, UWP Faculty in the Music Department. Chancellor John Keating shared a University welcome, as Director of OMSA Damian Evans introduced the emcees for the rest of the evening. Samantha Collier and Tiffany Donald, both UW-Parkside students were the hostess for the evening. The UW-Parkside student essay award winner was freshman Kendra Cogger and the UW-Parkside Community service award went to senior Christopher Semenias. The community service award winner went to Racine native, Sammy Rangel. As the

evening continued, Marcus Reed recited a poem titled, "I Too, Have a Dream". Sasha Brown, a UW-Parkside student shared her poem, "The Second Dream". The Black national anthem was performed by Ayesu Lartey, who later soothed everyone at the reception. The performance by The Potter's Vessels of Praise dance ministry of Mt. Sinai was amazing and they really gave it their all. The K-2nd essay winners were: Jeannie Colister (Kindergarten), Andrew Barajas (1st grade), Jonathan Mills (2nd grade), 3rd-5th Matthew McBride (3rd grade), Annie Fisher (4th grade), Emily Gray (5th grade); middle school, Kyle Welzen (1st place), Nathan Walker (runner up), and high school, Beda Martinez (1st place), Ellen Clickner (runner up), Natashca Rodriguez (1st place), and Brittany Pulda (runner up).

These essay award winners really

expressed how much Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired them and how his "Words That Moved America". UWP students and staff made this event a huge success and if you missed out on this celebration there is always next years.

-Victoria P. Coleman



**The Potter's Vessels of Praise
dance ministry of Mt. Sinai**