

The MICHIGAN BULLETIN.

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The 411

Keeping The Dream Alive

VITA - FREE - Tax Preparation services at BCFI by appointment only Call 211 to register. E filing and paper filing are both available.

Feb. 16 - Public Defense Reform Coffee Hour with the Campaign for Justice at the Foster Community Center, Rm 213, 200 N. Foster St., Lansing, MI 48912. 6pm - 7:30 pm RSVP to 517.372.3050 or kbirrell@mijustice.org

Feb. 18 - Honoring Community Activist the late Erstine McMullen at BCFI (Gym) 6 pm until 8 pm

Feb. 19 - Free Legal Seminar by the Lansing Black Lawyers Assoc. concerning Criminal Law & Consumer Protection at the Black Child & Family Inst., 835 W. Genesee St., 6 pm - 8pm. Come prepared to ask questions.

Feb. 19 - Book signing by Mareitta Weary Scott, author of "I Brought You Into This World 37 Parenting Skills for Raising African American Sons." @ Trinity AME Church, 3500 S. Holmes Rd., Lansing, MI 48911 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Feb. 20 - African American Family History Showcase at the Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Displays and table talks by organizations. Guest speakers: Retired MSU Geography Prof. Morris Thomas 11:30 am - 12:30 pm; Professor Tukufu Zuberi from PBS TV The History Detectives, 1 - 2 pm

Feb. 21 - African American Read-in Day at the Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Award winning writer Betty DeRamus to read from her newest book, Freedom by Any Means, 2 pm - 3:30 pm

Feb. 27 - Pastor's Salute Luncheon at the MSU Kellogg Center, 55 S. Harrison Ave., E. Lansing, MI 48824 at noon. Tickets: \$30. Pastor nomination requires a 60 - 100 word why pastor should be saluted essay. email: pastorsalute@aol.com or call (517) 402-6990.

March 6 - "Chow Time, Come and Get It" Breakfast Fundraiser by the West Junior High School Reunion Committee at the Riverfront Highraise Community Room. Vittles served: 9:00 am - Noon Cost: \$6.00 per person \$4.00 Riverfront seniors.

March 12 - Lansing Black Lawyers Assoc. 13th Annual Otis M. Smith Scholarship Dinner at the Lansing Country Club, 2200 Moores River Dr., 48911 - Call: 517.230.3767 or e-mail: mosss@michigan.gov

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Granville T. Woods

BLACK INVENTOR

Barely acknowledged in their own time, African American inventors have languished in obscurity even as their inventions set the foundations of the 20th century industrial society. Today as yesterday, education, hard work and striving are important, we should seize every opportunity to salute African American inventors and their early engineering achievements. One such

The origin of Black History Month



Carter G. Woodson

Carter Godwin Woodson is considered by many academics to be the father of modern Black History and the foundation of Black History Month.

Woodson (1875-1950), the son of former slaves James and Eliza (Riddle) Woodson, was born on a small farm in New Canton, Virginia. From an early age he possessed an unquenchable thirst for learning. When he could, he attended the local school, and eventually went to Berea College in Kentucky. He earned a B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1907. In 1908 he attended Sorbonne University in Paris where he became fluent in French. He received a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second African-American to earn such a degree.

Dr. Woodson was a member of the Niagara Movement and a regular columnist with

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inventor is Granville T. Woods (1856 - 1910).

Known as the "Black Edison." Woods patented more than 150 electrical and mechanical devices during his life.

The self-taught Columbus, Ohio native left school at the age of 10. After several years of railroad work, the 17-year-old became one of the youngest engineers in the United States.

With a ready desire to learn, Woods studied the new science of electricity in his spare time.

At age 20, he moved to New York to work and attend night school. After finishing course work on electrical and mechanical engineering, Woods took an engineering job on the British steamship Ironside, where he served for two years.

Upon his return to the United States, Woods once again took work on the rails. However, the climate of racial prejudice stifled his advancement in the field and by 1881 he had returned to Ohio and opened his own factory.

It was during his time as a manufacturer of telephone, telegraph and electrical equipment that Woods filed for his first patent. In 1884, he received a patent for an improved steam-boiler furnace. Later that same year, he filed for a second patent for a telephone transmitter. This device could carry the voice over longer distances and with greater clarity than existing transmitters.

In 1885, Woods received a patent for a device combining the telephone and telegraphs. He called this telegraphony, a device that allowed telegraph stations to send oral and signal messages over the same line.

Now, inexperienced operators were able to send messages without the Morse Code. After selling this invention to American Bell Telephone Company, Woods went on to invent a device that revolutionized rail transport safety.

The Synchronous Multiplex Railway Telegraph, patented by Woods in 1887, enabled trains moving on the track to send and receive messages

from railway stations. Conductors were able to report and be notified of track obstructions. Many serious accidents were thus averted, saving lives and money.

Woods became a leader in rail transportation advances. He invented a regulator, increasing the efficiency of electric motors. And his overhead conducting system for electric railways is still used by trains and trolley cars today.

One of his most important inventions, the "third rail" delivered power and kept cars running on the right track. The third rail is a basic component in the subway systems of cities such as New York and Chicago, and others around the world. This invention was sold to General Electric in 1901.

The uncommon example of an early African American inventor who actually achieved financial success and professional recognition for his achievements, Woods struggled for his position. Even though he sold his inventions to such companies as Edison, Bell and



Granville T. Woods

Westinghouse, Woods was forced to bring charges against his imitators.

Two patent cases were brought against Thomas Edison, who claimed credit for devices Woods had originally invented. Edison offers Woods a job. However, Woods refuses. Their well-documented confrontations

offer a vivid history of both the technological development and race relations of that time.

By 1890, long past his humble beginning, Woods was a well-known gentleman. This life of leisure, however, did nothing to dull his cleverness. Having become a patron of the

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Aids in the Black Community

By Jason Honeycutt 2010 ©

As we enter Black History month, it is common for us to reflect and even celebrate the accomplishments of Black people in America and around the world. However, we also need to make the time to address some of the critical issue that still plague and run rampant through the Black community. One of those issues is HIV/Aids.

Recently, here in Michigan according to data was just released, Ingham County has the second most number of cases of HIV/Aids, only Wayne County (Detroit) has more. The Ingham County Health Department is offering free HIV/Aids screenings in February at their facility in South Lansing at 5303 South Cedar Street. Call: (517) 887-4300

Despite, what you know already about HIV/Aids, here is an interesting bit of information. Black men and women get HIV/Aids for different reasons. Black men get HIV from three main sources. The first and overwhelming reason why Black men contract HIV is by having unprotected sex with another man who has HIV. The second source is sharing injection needles with someone who has Aids. The third source is by having unprotected sex with a woman who has HIV.

Black women get HIV/Aids from two main reasons. The first reason and the overwhelming reason why Black women contract HIV/Aids is by having unprotected sex with a man who has HIV. The second reason is by sharing needles with someone who has HIV/Aids.

There are several places to go on the Internet to get statistics about Aids. One great place is the Center for Disease Control (CDC) site. According to the CDC in 2005, over 37,000 people were diagnosed with HIV/Aids and 49% of those were Black. Also in 2005, there were approximately half a million people living with HIV/Aids. 41% of the 341,524 men diagnosed with HIV/Aids were Black and 64% of the 126,964 women diagnosed with HIV/Aids were Black. This comes out to over 220,000 Black people in America living with HIV/Aids.

In 2007, just a little over 40,000 people were diagnosed with HIV/Aids and 21,549 were Black. In comparison, there were 12,556 and 7,484 White and Hispanic cases respectively. In a country, where Blacks make up a smaller percentage than both Whites and Hispanics, it is usual to have more Blacks diagnosed yearly with HIV/Aids.

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South Side Community Coalition senior lunch held



Photo of seniors attending the South Side Community Coalition Senior Luncheon held on January 28, 2010. The Coalition is headquartered at 2101 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing, MI 48910. Call: 517.394.7400 web site: southsidecommunitycoalition.org

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