

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

Celebrating Black History 366 Days a Year

IT'S LEAP YEAR

POOLS APART: SWIMMING IN AMERICA AS BLACK AND WHITE

February 8, 2024 | 3 – 4:30 pm
Philips Autograph Library

Join the discussion about the history of racially segregated swimming and its ongoing consequences with Dr. Kodosky, Victoria Prizzia, Project Creator of POOL: A Social History of Segregation, and members of the historic Nile Swim Club's community. No registration necessary. Hosted by the History Department. Contact Bob Kodosky: rkodosky@wcupa.edu

BLACK LOVE, HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Monday, February 12, 2024 | 7 PM – 8:00 PM
Dowdy Multicultural Center

As a precursor to Valentine's Day, join this presentation and discussion promoting a healthy well-being through positive self-esteem, uplifting relationships, self-care, and more. Sponsored by the Dowdy Multicultural Center, Sisters United, Black Men United and Empowering Communities Around You (ECAY)

GET ON THE BUS- 29TH ANNUAL SANKOFA CONFERENCE AT BLOOMSBURG, UNIVERSITY

Saturday, February 17, 2024 | All Day

The Sankofa Conference is an annual program hosted by the Multicultural Center at Bloomsburg University serving college students. This annual gathering was designed to help students learn, understand, and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of people of African descent. It promotes unity and understanding among students and

is a forum for discussion and learning. A charter bus will leave WCU's campus early morning and return late evening.

This year's Sankofa Conference features a series of workshops, highlighted by a keynote address, **"The Au-dac-i-ty: Moving from Promise to Purpose."** Sankofa is a word from the Akan Tribe of Ghana (West Africa). Translated, it means "it is not taboo to go back and fetch what is a risk of being left behind." Space is limited and **advanced registration is required via RamConnect: <https://cglink.me/2f3/r2259904>**

Did you Know:

WCU offers a minor in African American studies? African American Studies is interdisciplinary as well as comparative and cross-cultural. The curriculum offers a critical perspective of the complex interplay among ethical, social, economic, and political forces that influence struggles of African-descended people. The curriculum also explores how African-descended people shaped global policies. Moreover, the curriculum explores the consequences of racial thinking. The African American studies minor attracts students with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. Students who graduate with a concentration in African American studies have pursued advanced degrees in fields such as history, literature, political science, and sociology. They also go on to work in a wide variety of careers in education, business, medicine, entertainment, law, public policy, and the arts and sciences. For more information about this program visit <https://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/african-american-studies/> or contact Dr. latonyarac thames-taylor (lthames-taylor@wcupa.edu) for more information.

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BANNED BOOKS CONTINUED

Monday, February 19 – Thursday, February 28, 2024

Building upon the fall and spring programming sponsored by WCU's Frederick Douglass Institute, stop by the Dowdy Multicultural Center in February to learn about the censorship of black authors whose works currently appear on the list of banned books. Enter your name in a drawing to win one of the many featured banned books. There will be multiple giveaways. All are welcome to participate! Sponsored by the Dowdy Multicultural Center

THE NILE SWIM CLUB OF YEADON: A HISTORY

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Virtual

When it opened in July of 1959, the Nile Swim Club welcomed over one thousand people to its pool. The only problem that day, remembers Bill Mellix, then 13, "None of us knew how to swim." In the 1930s, an African American middle class began moving into Yeadon, leading to one of the nation's first Black suburban enclaves. By the end of the 1950s, Ebony magazine dubbed Yeadon Philadelphia's "Black Mainline." The town remained majority white however, and strict racial segregation was enforced, including the local pool. Typical for the time, white residents maintained it as a private swim club to avoid public desegregation laws. The response of Yeadon's African Americans proved unique. They built their own pool and opened it to all, regardless of race. It attracted members from the Philadelphia area, including New Jersey and offered a variety of programming. Celebrities such as Harry Belafonte and members of

the Supremes visited. Decades later, hip hop icon D.J. Cash Money and actor Will Smith started out at the Nile as MCs. Join author and WCU history professor Robert Kodosky for this community program as he reveals the incredible history and legacy of the Nile Swim Club and the vibrant landmark it remains today. Sponsored by the Chester County History Center. This presentation is via Zoom and will be recorded and available for 7 days for all registered participants. Visit this link for complete details and to register: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/chestercountyhistorycenter/1116959>

 **SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER: WOMEN & FEMMES OF COLOR PANEL AND NETWORKING**
Thursday, February 22, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Sykes Ballroom

Join us for a panel discussion on navigating the post-graduate world as a woman of color, dinner, and time for networking and connection with other women and femmes of color here at WCU. Come to learn and grow, together. Sponsored by the Center for Women and Gender Equity, the Dowdy Multicultural Center, and others. Registration is not required, but strongly encouraged. Registration is available via RamConnect link: <https://cglink.me/2f3/r2259232> For more information, contact cwge@wcupa.edu



Did you Know:

WCU offers a minor in Ethic Studies with a focus area of African American Studies (and many more)? For more information about this program visit <https://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/ethnicStudies/> or contact Dr. Miguel Ceballos.

 **BROTHERS OF EXCELLENCE (CONFERENCE) PREVIEW AND POWER HOUR**

Friday, February 23, 2024 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Dowdy Multicultural Center (DMC)

Calling all men of color!! Students, faculty, and staff are cordially invited to stop by the DMC to network, mingle, and learn more about the upcoming Brothers of Excellence Conference at WCU, an empowering and enduring campus tradition. Light refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Dowdy Multicultural Center.

 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH JEOPARDY**

Monday, February 26, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Dowdy Multicultural Center

Show your knowledge and learn more! Stop by the Dowdy Multicultural Center located on the ground floor of Sykes Student Union at your convenience throughout the day to participate in trivia. Earn prizes and other giveaways.



WCU AT PEOPLE'S LIGHT THEATRE PERFORMANCE— THE RIPPLE, THE WAVE THAT CARRIED ME HOME

February 21 – March 24, 2024 | 2 PM and 7 PM

Join the community for a performance at the People's Light Theatre in Malvern, by playwright, Christina Anderson. Play synopsis: Despite growing up in landlocked Kansas, Janice Collen's childhood is defined by water—her mother and father are prominent activists in the movement to desegregate local swimming pools. As Janice comes of age and seeks meaning away from her parents' politics, an unspoken distance grows within the family. Decades later, when Janice is asked to speak at a ceremony honoring her father, she must delve into her family's past and reconcile the personal truths and public legacy of her inheritance. This "poignant, transporting, and quietly subversive" (*TheaterMania*) new play takes us on a journey through the decades, from 1930s segregation to Rodney King. Visit the [DMC Events page](#) to learn about how you can get a free student ticket and even transportation to a performance. Complete details about the play and performance can be found [here](#).

Did you Know:

WCU offers a minor in African/ African American Literature? For more information about this program visit: <https://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/english/africanLit.aspx> or contact Dr. Andrew Sargent (asargent@wcupa.edu)