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NEWS

Contact: Vicki Woodard (csvns@eiu.edu)
Melinda Matthews (csmem2@eiu.edu)
217-581-7650
217-581-8444 (fax)

Department of University Communications
600 Lincoln Avenue
Room 2142 Old Main
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099
(www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/index.htm)

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For Immediate Release:

COMMUNITY INVITED TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION EVENTS AT EIU

CHARLESTON – A variety of events are planned throughout February at Eastern Illinois University as part of its African-American Heritage Celebration, held in conjunction with Black History Month.

Families are invited to learn some new dance moves alongside students Feb. 4, during "Steppin' Out: Dance Lessons and Dance," a free event that will begin with instruction at 7 p.m. and conclude with a dance lasting until 12:45 a.m. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom, located in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The annual African-American Heritage Banquet, with a performance of ancient and contemporary African and African-American dance by Chicago-based Monte Dance Theatre, is set for Feb. 5. The evening is to begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by entertainment. To purchase tickets (\$15 for adults, \$7 for students and children 6 and older), call 581-6690 or visit the Minority Affairs Office, 102 Clinical Services Building, by Feb. 1.

Two events are planned in conjunction with the "After Whiteness: Race and the Visual Arts" exhibition at the Tarble Arts Center. Michele Wallace, professor of Africana and visual studies at Cornell University, is to present a lecture, "Olympia's Servants: Whiteness & Black Documentary Photography," at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Tarble.

A symposium with three panelists – Laurie Hogen, associate professor of studio art at the University of Illinois; Suk Ja Kang Engles, artist and curator of the "After Whiteness" exhibition; and Kymberly Pinder, associate professor of art history at the Art Institute of Chicago – is to be moderated by EIU English professor Tim Engles from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 11.

Two authors, including one with EIU ties, are to present readings during a book fair from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in Buzzard Auditorium. EIU graduate Shahari Moore and Tayari Jones are to read from their works and give tips on how to become an author.

-more-

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HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Robert Butts, a retired EIU professor, will present "The Civil Rights Movement: An Insider's Perspective," featuring photographs, audio clips and his personal items to provide an inside look at that time in history. The presentation is set for 7 p.m. Feb. 22 in Klehm Hall.

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Other events in the African-American Heritage Celebration include the following:

Feb. 3: 6 to 9 p.m., Symposium, "Natural Resources in Africa: Curse or Blessing?" Phipps Lecture Hall, Physical Science Building.

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28: 8 p.m., "Know Your Heritage" game, Effingham Room, University Union.

Feb. 13: 6 p.m., Gospel Explosion with performances by choirs, Grand Ballroom, University Union.

Feb. 15: 7 p.m., the Rev. Corey D. Johnson will speak on "Understanding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Beloved Community," Roberson Auditorium, Lumpkin Hall, room 2030.

Feb. 22: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Read-A-Thon, participants will read speeches of African-Americans throughout history, Food Court Lobby, University Union.

Feb. 25: 7 p.m., "Puttin' on the Hits," faculty and staff talent show, Grand Ballroom, University Union.

Feb. 26: 6 p.m., unveiling of the Martin Luther King Jr. Timeline, walkway, University Union.

Feb. 26: 7:15 p.m., Miss Black EIU, Grand Ballroom, University Union. Fee.