



# Center for Multicultural Education

**SPRING 2016 ISSUE**

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## Message from the Coordinator



My name is Latoya Fitzpatrick, and I am the Coordinator in the Center for Multicultural Education here at Missouri Western State University. We are thrilled to have you be a part of our campus & community. I wanted to give you an overview of the Center for Multicultural Education. We are here to serve you by maintaining an open door policy, assisting

you in finding campus resources to help you be successful, supporting and advising student groups, and encouraging student involvement and leadership opportunities. We strive to educate students through programming, community involvement, and educational workshops. We recognize our students come from diverse backgrounds, which help to enhance the educational experience of all students on our campus. We invite all students to connect with our office through an office visit, a phone call, social media interactions, or an email.

For further questions or information, stop by the Center for Multicultural Education on the second floor of the Nelle Blum Union, Room 210. I can be reached by phone at (816) 271-4150 or via email at [cme@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:cme@missouriwestern.edu). Our hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. I have also included a brochure to provide you further information about our department.

Sincerely,

Latoya Fitzpatrick



## Spring 2016 Upcoming Events

- Jan. 19: MLK Information Table, 11am, Blum Union
- Jan. 20: MLK Banquet, 6pm, Enright 214-216
- Jan. 21: "Selma, Lord, Selma" movie, 6pm Spratt 101
- Jan. 22: MLK Week Candlelight Vigil, 7pm, Kelley Commons
- Jan. 26: Meet the World, 4pm, Blum 218-219
- Feb. 1: "Because of Them We Can" Photo Shoot, 5pm, Blum 222-223
- Feb. 3: Comfort Food Wednesday, 11am-1pm, Blum Union Cafeteria
- Feb. 9: Charles Drew Blood Drive, 11am-5pm, Blum 218-219
- Feb. 10: Intercultural Intimate Relationships, 4pm, 218-219
- Feb. 10: Rudy Currence in Concert, 7pm, Spratt 101
- Feb. 18: Global Hot Topic Series, 4pm, Spratt 203
- Feb. 19: Tim Wise at UMKC, 9am-2pm, \*Transportation provided\*
- Feb. 23: Black Heritage Ball, 6pm, Blum 218-219
- Mar. 8: "The Mask You Live In," 6pm, Blum 218-219
- Mar. 9: Stiletto Stomp, 7pm, Blum 218-219
- Mar. 10: Girls Rock, 7pm, Blum 218-219
- Apr. 6: Safe Zone Training, 2pm-5pm, Blum 222-223
- Apr. 12: Confronting Insensitive Language & Comments, 6pm, Blum 222-223
- April 24: Praise Dance Festival, 4:30pm, Spratt 101
- April 26: Stand Against Racism: Charlene Carruthers, 7pm, Spratt 101
- May 3: Multicultural Graduate Dinner, 5:30pm, Enright 214-216

## Black History Month Icon: Ida B. Wells-Barnett

Born a slave in 1862, Ida Bell Wells was the oldest daughter of James and Lizzie Wells. The Wells family, as well as the rest of the slaves of the Confederate states, were decreed free by the Union, about six months after Ida's birth, thanks to the Emancipation Proclamation. However, living in Mississippi as African Americans, they faced racial prejudices and were restricted by discriminatory rules and practices.



Ida B. Wells's parents were active in the Republican Party during Reconstruction. Her father, James, was involved with the Freedman's Aid Society and helped start Shaw University, a school for the newly freed slaves (now Rust College) and served on the first board of trustees. It was there that Ida B. Wells received her early schooling, but she had to drop out at the age of 16, when tragedy struck her family. Both of her parents and one of her siblings died in a yellow fever outbreak, leaving Wells to care for her other siblings. Ever resourceful, she convinced a nearby country school administrator that she was 18, and landed a job as a teacher.

In 1882, Wells moved with her sisters to Memphis, Tennessee, to live with an aunt. On one fateful train ride from Memphis to Nashville, in May 1884, Wells reached a personal turning point. Having bought a first-class train ticket to Nashville, she was outraged when the train crew ordered her to move to the car for African Americans, and refused on principle. As she was forcibly removed from the train, she bit one of the men on the hand. Wells sued the railroad, winning a \$500 settlement in a circuit court case. However, the decision was later overturned by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

This injustice led Ida B. Wells to write about issues of race and politics in the South. Using the moniker "Iola," a number of her articles were published in black newspapers and periodicals. Wells eventually became an owner of the *Memphis Free Speech and Headlight*, and, later, of the *Free Speech*.

In 1892, three African-American men—Tom Moss, Calvin McDowell and Will Stewart—set up a grocery store in Memphis. One night, Moss and the others guarded their store against attack and ended up shooting several of the white vandals. They were arrested and brought to jail, but they didn't have a chance to defend themselves against the charges—a lynch mob took them from their cells and murdered them. These brutal killings incensed Wells, leading to her write articles decrying the lynching of her friend and the wrongful deaths of other African Americans.

Working on behalf of all women, Wells, as part of her work with the National Equal Rights League, called for President Woodrow Wilson to put an end to discriminatory hiring practices for government jobs. She created the first African-American kindergarten in her community and fought for women's suffrage. In 1930, Wells made an unsuccessful bid for the state senate. Health problems plagued her the following year. Ida B. Wells died of kidney disease on March 25, 1931, at the age of 69, in Chicago, Illinois.

*Taken from: <http://www.biography.com/people/ida-b-wells-9527635>*

## 2016 Religious & Cultural Calendar

Jan. 1: Kwanzaa (Cultural Celebration)  
Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Holiday)  
Jan. 5: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)  
Jan. 6: Epiphany (Christian)  
Jan. 7: Feast of Nativity (Christian)  
Jan. 15: Makar Sankranti (Hindu)  
Jan. 16: Religious Freedom Day (Celebration)  
Jan. 17: World Religion Day (Celebration)  
Jan. 18: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Celebration)  
Jan. 24-27: Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)  
Jan. 24-25: Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)  
All February: Black History Month (Cultural Celebration)  
Feb. 2: Candlemas (Christian)  
Feb. 5-10: Carnival (Cultural Celebration)  
Feb. 8: Lunar New Year (Cultural Celebration)  
Feb. 8: Mana Shivaratri (Hindu)  
Feb. 9: Shrove Tuesday (Christian)  
Feb. 10: Ash Wednesday (Christian)  
Feb. 15: Parinirvana/Nirvana Day (Buddhist)  
Feb. 23: Purim Katan (Jewish)  
All March: Women's History Month (Cultural Celebration)  
Mar. 15: Rama Navami (Hindu)  
Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day (Cultural Celebration)  
Mar. 20: Palm Sunday (Christian)  
Mar. 23: Ta'anit Esther/Fast of Esther (Jewish)  
Mar. 23: Holi (Hindu)  
Mar. 23: Magha Puja/Sangha Day (Buddhist)  
Mar. 24: Hola Mohalla (Sikh)  
Mar. 24: Purim (Jewish)  
Mar. 24: Maundy Thursday (Christian)  
Mar. 25: Annunciation (Christian)  
Mar. 25: Shushan Purim (Jewish)  
Mar. 25: Good Friday (Christian)  
Mar. 27: Easter (Christian)  
Apr. 8: Ugadi/Yugadi (Hindu)  
Apr. 8: Hana Matsuri (Buddhist)  
Apr. 8: Hindu New Year (Hindu)  
Apr. 8-15: Ramayana (Hindu)  
Apr. 13: Baisakhi/Vaisakhi (Sikh)  
Apr. 15: Ramanavami (Hindu)  
Apr. 21: Fast of the Firstborn (Jewish)  
Apr. 22-23: Theravada New Year (Buddhist)  
Apr. 22: Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)  
Apr. 23-30: Pesach/Passover (Jewish)  
May 4-5: Yom Hashoah (Jewish)  
May 5: Ascension Day (Christian)  
May 5: Cinco de Mayo (Cultural Celebration)  
May 5: Lailat al Miraj (Muslim)  
May 8: Mother's Day (Cultural Celebration)  
May 11-12: Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Jewish)  
May 15: Visakha Puja (Buddhist)  
May 15: Pentacost (Christian)  
May 21: Lailat al Bara'ah (Muslim)  
May 26: Lag B'Omer (Jewish)

## Women's History Month Icon: Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Gail Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954, in Kosciusko, Mississippi. After a troubled adolescence in a small farming community, where she was sexually abused by a number of male relatives and friends of her mother, Vernita, she moved to Nashville to live with her father, Vernon, a barber and businessman. She entered Tennessee State University in 1971 and began working in radio and television broadcasting.



In 1976, Oprah Winfrey moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where she hosted the TV chat show *People Are Talking*. The show became a hit and Winfrey stayed with it for eight years, after which she was recruited by a Chicago TV station to host her own morning show, *A.M. Chicago*. Within several months, Winfrey's open, warm-hearted personal style had taken her show from last place to first in the ratings. Her success led to nationwide fame and a role in Steven Spielberg's 1985 film *The Color Purple*, for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Winfrey launched the *Oprah Winfrey Show* in 1986 as a nationally syndicated program. With its placement on 120 channels and an audience of 10 million people, the show grossed \$125 million by the end of its first year. She soon gained ownership of the program from ABC, drawing it under the control of her new production company, Harpo Productions ('Oprah' spelled backwards).

Her projects with Harpo have included the highly rated 1989 TV miniseries, *The Women of Brewster Place*, which she also starred in. Winfrey, who became almost as well-known for her weight loss efforts as for her talk show, lost an estimated 90 pounds (dropping to her

ideal weight of around 150 pounds) and competed in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., in 1995.

With the debut in 1999 of Oxygen Media, a company she co-founded that is dedicated to producing cable and Internet programming for women, Winfrey ensured her place in the forefront of the media industry and as one of the most powerful and wealthy people in show business. Her highly successful monthly, *O: The Oprah Magazine* debuted in 2000.

In 2009, Oprah Winfrey announced that she would be ending her program when her contract with ABC ended, in 2011. Soon after, she moved to her own network, the *Oprah Winfrey Network*, a joint venture with Discovery Communications.

In 1994, President Clinton signed a bill into law that Winfrey had proposed to Congress, creating a nationwide database of convicted child abusers. She also founded the Family for Better Lives foundation. In September 2002, Oprah was named the first recipient of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.

Winfrey campaigned for Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama in December 2007, attracting the largest crowds of the primary season to that point. It was the first time Winfrey had ever campaigned for a political candidate.

In November 2013, Winfrey received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. President Barack Obama gave her this award for her contributions to her country.

Taken from: <http://www.biography.com/people/oprah-winfrey-9534419>





## 2016 Campus Dates

- Jan 4: Campus Re-opens
- Jan 12: Walk-In Registration
- Jan 18: Martin Luther King Day (no classes/campus closed)
- Jan 19: Classes Begin
- Jan 20: Federal Work-Study Disbursement
- Jan 29: 1st Financial Aid Disbursement
- Feb 5: 1st Business Office Disbursement (Refund Check)
- Feb 15: President's Day (classes in session/campus open)
- Feb 19: 1st Time Freshman Borrower 30 Day Delay Financial Aid Disbursement
- Feb 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- Feb 26: 1st Time Freshman Borrower 30 Day Delay Business Office Disbursement (Refund Check)
- Mar 13-20: Spring Break (no classes/campus open)
- Mar 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- Mar 23: Mid-Term Grades Due
- Mar 25: 2nd Financial Aid Disbursement
- Apr 1: Last Day to Withdraw
- Apr 1: 2nd Business Office Disbursement (Refund Check)
- Apr 4: Registration Begins for Summer/Fall
- Apr 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- Apr 29: Last Day of Classes
- Apr 30-May 6: Final Exams
- May 7: Commencement
- May 10: Final Grades Due

## Asian/Pacific Islander Icon: Judge Lance Ito

Lance Ito was born in Los Angeles, California, on August 2, 1950. His life and career would be molded by a life-changing experience his parents went through during WWII, when they were among the more than 10,000 Japanese Americans interned at the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in the months following Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ito has said that the unjust experience his parents endured, and the philosophical way they handled it, affected his sense of fairness and ability to cope with adversity, outlooks that steered him through his years as a lawyer and judge.



Ito attended UCLA, where the political science major embraced the late-1960s counterculture that stood against the Vietnam War, growing his hair long and attending protests. He graduated in 1972 and enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, Law School. He left Berkeley three years later, law degree in hand, and entered private practice, where he remained for only a few years.

Ito joined the L.A. district attorney's office in 1977 and worked in some of the toughest areas available: the Hardcore Gang Division, the Organized Crime and Anti-Terrorist Division and a division that focused on serial killers.

His work ethic and skills led him to a promotion, and in 1981 Ito became special assistant to the chief deputy DA.

Another notable experience of this period occurred at a murder scene Ito was studying. He met and started a relationship with Los Angeles homicide detective Margaret York, and the two were married a few months later. (York went on to become the chief of the Los Angeles County Police.)

In 1989, after steadily climbing the legal ladder, Ito was appointed to the L.A. County Superior Court. And then, six years later, came the trial of O.J. Simpson for the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman, a case that would capture the attention of the entire country. With attorneys posturing on both sides, Ito's patience and cool head presided over the events as they became part of a national obsession broadcast live from the courtroom. Ito himself became part of the conversation as he steered the proceedings through a complicated media frenzy that only intensified when Simpson was eventually found not guilty—live in front of 150 million TV viewers—of the murders. After the Simpson trial, Ito went on to oversee nearly 500 others before retiring in 2015. In 2016, Ito will be a featured character in the 2016 miniseries *American Crime Story: The People v O.J. Simpson*.

*Taken from: <http://www.biography.com/people/lance-ito-011216>*