

February is Black History Month

To celebrate African-American heritage, starting in 1926, the second week in February was designated as Black History Week. The commemoration was initiated by distinguished Black scholar and historian, and originator of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, (1875-1950), whose parents were former slaves.

That week was chosen as it corresponded with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. (Coincidentally, history reminds us that Hiram Revels, the first African-American U.S. Senator, took the oath of office in February 1870). Fifty years later, during the United States' Bicentennial celebrations, the week was expanded to establish February as Black History Month.

- Paraphrased from
www.AfroAmericanHeritage.com.

Events at San Antonio College

5th Annual Black History Month Essay Contest
Thanks to the generosity of Tomas Campos and Student Financial Aid, six scholarships will be awarded - one \$400, two \$350 and three \$300. Entries due Friday, Feb. 18, 4 p.m. Contact: Janice Clayton, English, 733-2512

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Opening Ceremonies
Noon - 1 p.m., Loftin Center Fiesta Room
Welcome - SAC President Zeigler
Greetings - SAC Dean of Students Affairs
Dr. Joy Gates-Black
Color Guard - Buffalo Soldiers
Afro-Latin Drum Ensemble - Alice Gomez
SAC Jazz Ensemble - Andrew Gignac
Admission: Free
Contact: Carolyn Foster, 733-2806

Tuesday, Feb. 8 (Fat Tuesday)

A Taste of New Orleans for Mardi Gras
11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Loftin Center Fiesta Room
SAC Jazz Band, Dance Expressions, Jumbalya and Rice, and Mardi Gras beads. Admission: Free. Contact: Judy Clark, 733-2641

Thursday, Feb. 17

Panel Discussion: The Color of Education: Bridging the Gap between K-12 and Higher Education. 10:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m., VATC Room 120. Admission: Free. Contact: Wanda Lee Smith, Government, 733-2550

Tuesday, February 22

African-American Read-In. 10:50 a.m., Loftin Center Fiesta Room. Additionally, winners of the Black History Month Essay Contest will be announced at this event. Admission: Free. Contact: Janice Clayton, 733-2512

Events at other ACCD colleges

Activities scheduled throughout the month at other ACCD colleges also celebrate African-American heritage with art, theatre, guest authors, speakers, poetry readings, panel discussions, food and games. Contact each campus for details.

Northeast Campus

Contact: Dr. Gloria Jones, 590-5425

Northwest Vista College

Contact: NVC Public Relations, 348-2082

Palo Alto College

Contact: PAC Student Activities, 921-5260

St. Philip's College

Contact: SPC Public Relations, 531-3260

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Feb. 2

SAC Spring Service-Learning and Volunteer Fair; 9 a.m. - Noon, Loftin Center Fiesta Room; Admission: Free. Forty agencies will offer information about volunteering and their programs. Contact: Audrey Grams, 785-6044, www.accd.edu/sac/service/events2.htm

Thursday, Feb. 3

Library StarLink Teleconference Series: "Service-Learning Why and How" 1:30 - 3 p.m., MLC 613. Admission: Free. RSVPs requested to ensure sufficient handouts. Contact: Sally Rios, 733-2440 or Rios@accd.edu. "THECB Commissioner's Report" will immediately follow, from 3:05 - 3:30 p.m. with Dr. Raymund Paredes.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

A Night in New Orleans Banquet and Awards Ceremony hosted by Rho Sigma Gamma Mortuary Science Fraternity. 7-10 p.m., Koehler Cultural Center. Admission: \$20 (advance); \$30 at the event. Proceeds benefit SAC's Mortuary Science Department Scholarship Fund. A member of the first graduating class, Nelson Scheler, Vice President of Operations, Porter-Loring Mortuaries, will receive an award at 8 p.m. For tickets and information, contact: SAC Mortuary Science at 733-2905.

Feb. 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27

"Over the River & Through the Woods" 8:00 p.m. (exceptions: 20th and 27th at 2:00 p.m.) McCreless Theatre. Admission: Free to all ACCD staff, faculty, students; others \$12 general admission. Contact: Jim Mammarella, 733-2718 or jmammare@accd.edu

Saturday, Feb. 12

Application due date: Internship opportunities with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the USDA Forest Service. Information at www.eco.org/conservation Contact: Casey Barnard, 617-426-4783 x160, or cbarnard@eco.org OR Jo Chien, 617-426-4783 x166 or jchien@eco.org.

www.accd.edu/sac/pr/calendar.htm



In advance of the ACCD Bond Election, SAC President Robert E. Zeigler and Interim Vice President Thomas C. Hoy stand outside the Early Voting Poll Site at the Library-Moody Learning Center on the SAC campus. Early voting runs through February 1. The Bond Election will be held Saturday, February 5.

For more information, call 208-8040. For a pdf document of Dr. Zeigler's presentation, go to www.accd.edu/sac/sacmain/capital_improvements_project1.pdf.

Tsunami relief

For a partial list of relief agencies helping victims of last month's tsunami disaster, visit www.mysanantonio.com/news/nation/stories/MYSA123004.tsunamiid.5fbc1c0e.html, or www.usafreedomcorps.gov. Also check out www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/asiapcf/12/28/tsunami.aidsites/.

CE trains former workers

One hundred forty-eight former Levi Strauss employees will complete a 10-month training program coordinated by the Continuing Education Training Network at San Antonio College. The graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. in McAllister Auditorium, with as many as 500 students, family and friends expected to attend.

"This program has maintained a 98 percent completion rate, despite the many personal hardships and challenges the students have faced," said Tim Rockey, Continuing Education Information/Advisement Specialist. He added that the students had to work hard, attending classes Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. -4 p.m.

The ceremony will feature comments by Dr. Robert E. Zeigler, President; Dr. Federico Zaragoza, ACCD Vice Chancellor; Linda Rivas, President of SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. of San Antonio; Alan Miller, Executive Director of Alamo Workforce; and Ruben Torres, Dean of Continuing Education & Training Network.

Seventeen students will graduate in General Office, 12 in Microsoft Office Certification, 16 in Pharmacy Technician, and 103 in English as a Second Language.

The students began this 10-month program last April, which included 600 hours of Basic Skills/General Diploma Certification (GED) test preparation plus 600 hours of skills preparation and hands-on training toward certification in one of three "demand occupations" that included Pharmacy Technician, Microsoft Office Specialist, and General Office Clerk.

Students who needed English language skills attended 1200 hours of English as a Second Language training before starting the GED-Career Skills Training program. For information, call 733-2635.

Deadline to submit items is 5 p.m. Monday. Send news to Public Relations, FAC 313, call 733-2147, or e-mail your items to jhammond@accd.edu or dmartin@accd.edu. The Update staff reserves the right to edit items.

The Alamo Community College District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For any special accommodations issues or an alternate format, contact San Antonio College disABILITY Support Services at 733-2347.

9th grade dual credit

In an effort to keep kids in school and encourage them to continue into higher education, San Antonio College is offering its Dual Credit Program to 9th grade gifted and talented students from three San Antonio ISD (SAISD) high schools. SAC's Dual Credit Program has traditionally been offered to 11th and 12th grade students. However, the Dual Credit Coordinators indicated that many students, especially inner-city minorities, were dropping out of school before they got that far. Many of the students are bright but have had little incentive to stay in school. Hence, the 9th grade Weekend College was established.

"Response far surpassed expectations for only two courses," said SAC Dual Credit Coordinator Fabian Cortez III. "A total of 66 students from Fox Tech, Sam Houston and Thomas Jefferson high schools are enrolled in three courses - two sociology and one psychology. And parents are still calling to ask if students can enroll late." There is no late enrollment, but Cortez indicated that plans are in development to expand the program in the Fall semester.

While most dual-credit courses are taught weekdays at the schools or online, courses in the 9th grade program are taught on Saturdays at SAC, lasting the entire semester. Students may take only one three-hour course, and they will receive SAC Student ID cards that enable them to utilize such student services as the on-campus library and computer labs.

Dual Credit allows a student to earn college-level credit, while at the same time fulfilling high school academic requirements. To qualify, each student must first meet the minimum requirements for the prospective course, via a standard placement test. Dual-credit courses are free for high school students - SAC and the other ACCD colleges waive the tuition and fees (contact hours are reported for reimbursement). The dual-credit courses will apply toward an associate's degree at SAC and may transfer to other colleges or universities. As with all transferring courses, it is up to the accepting college or university to honor dual credit course work.

For information contact Dual Credit Coordinators Fabian Cortez III or Alma Nino at 733-2136.



Wind Works: Kites by Stuart Allen & Robert Trépanier. On exhibit Jan. 29-March 24, VATC Gallery: Normal Campus Hours. Feb. 3, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., lecture by Stuart Allen followed by an opening reception. Admission: Free. Contact: Joel Knocke, 733-2898, jknocke@accd.edu, www.stuartallen.info/ Also www.accd.edu/sac/vat/vathome.html



SAC Excellence ★

Bravo to **Charles Falcon** the SAC Theater and Speech Instructor who was recently named Educator of the Year (Community/Junior College level) by the Texas Educational Theatre Association (TETA). Nominated by colleague Jim Mammarella, Falcon has made special contributions to SAC and to educational theatre in Texas.



Kudos to music students **Michael Moore** (trombone), **Jose "N.J."**

Noriega (tuba) and **Nyleen Mungia** (flute), pictured here with SAC Music faculty members **Madalyn Blanchett** and **Peter Kline**. The students were selected for the Texas Community College Band Directors Association 2004-2005 All-State Symphonic Band. Based on audition tapes, Moore made first chair trombone, Noriega made first chair tuba, and Mungia made second chair flute. Final chair placement will be determined following final auditions on February 9.



Congratulations to SAC students **Samuel Peralez** and **Heather Robinson**, each recipi-

ents of a \$300 Dr. Roger Bailey Memorial Scholarship, named for the late and very influential SAC English professor. They are pictured here with Interim Vice President **Thomas C. Hoy**, President **Robert E. Zeigler**, Professor of English **Irma Ned Bailey** and English Department Chair **Alexander V. Bernal**. The scholarship presentation was held on January 26, in honor of Dr. Bailey's birthday.