

UST

MSS FLASH



Meet Dr. William Banfield

By Cathryn Baker

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One of the University of St. Thomas's most prominent African American men is Dr. William Banfield. He has been recognized for his expertise and excellence as a composer, scholar, performer and author.

William Banfield is director and founder of the American Cultural Studies Program at UST where he also teaches music courses. Banfield's education is as diverse as his talents, having acquired degrees from top educational institutions in the Midwest and East Coast areas.

Also known as "Dr. B.," Banfield has served as a guide and inspiration to students like Sharifa Charles of the Black Empowerment Student Alliance (BESA). Sharifa knows Dr. B. best for his interesting and thought-

provoking Black American Music course, as well as his involvement in other events on campus. William Banfield was spotted last November reciting poetry and playing music at the 2004 *Ebony Mic* event lead by BESA.

Recently, Dr. William Banfield made the cover of the December 2004 issue of *Black Issues in Higher Education: With All Strings Attached* by Kendra Hamilton. The wonderful article features the path Banfield traveled to become the brilliant artist that he is today. "He has managed to successfully strike a balance between his many loves, and his music," Hamilton writes, "which sweeps gracefully from jazz to the most romantic European effusions through the avant-garde to spirituals and soul and back again . . ." (Hamilton p27).



Dr. William Banfield of UST

To learn more about Dr. Banfield you can visit the UST website at www.stthomas.edu/acs/banfield.htm. Or visit the Multicultural Student Service Office located in MHC 106 where you can read the full article by Kendra Hamilton.

Celebrating the Legacy of Shirley Chisholm

By Cathryn Baker

On January 3, 2005 Shirley Chisholm passed away at the age of 80. She was the first African American woman to be elected into US Congress, having served over 10 years. Chisholm, an enthusiastic advocate for minorities, worked ardently to help build a stronger foundation for all people of color, but in particular for children of color.

Highly recognized for her political leadership, in 1924 Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm also became the first African American woman to be a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. In response to this tremendous accomplishment, Chisholm stated, "I stand before you today as a candidate for the Democratic

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"I am not the candidate of Black America, although I am Black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that."



80 Years of Black History Month

By Cathryn Baker

While it is the loveliest of holidays, let us not forget that Valentine's Day is not our only reason to celebrate in February. For decades now, Black History Month has been a time to recognize, learn about and honor the influence individuals of African descent have had in shaping and diversifying American culture.

Much hard work planning and organizing can be attributed to the significance and existence of this holiday. It has not al-

ways spanned over the entire month. Black History Month evolved from *Negro History Week in 1926*. It began as seven days in February, and was arranged by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson. Woodson established this landmark of time in which people of African descent could be commemorated for their achievements and tremendous efforts toward shattering various barriers.

Moreover, Carter designated this time period to shed light

on aspects of Black experience that had been abandoned and overlooked. In 1972 Negro History Week was retitled *Black History Week*. In 1976 it became *Black History Month*.

Carter Woodson chose the month of February because it is one of the most historically eventful times, in which people of African descent had made successful strides forward in America. The National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People had been founded in February. The birthdays of influential characters such as Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln are in February. Now 80 years later Black History Month still stands even more momentous as a very outstanding holiday.

Source:

<http://www.chipublib.org/002branches/woodson/woodsonib.html>



US Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

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nomination for the Presidency of the United States.

I am not the candidate of Black America, although I am Black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interests. I am the candidate of the people." (Chisholm)

Shirley Chisholm had entered this political position in America, during a time when both women and Black Americans encountered immense discrimination. She demonstrated her passion to boldly tackle challenges she would face as a woman of African descent, as well as her diligence to resolve the problems of the minority community.

Shirley Chisholm was a strong supporter of repairing the societal ills to create a stronger environment and

more promising future for minority children. She used her passion and bravery to lead us further toward positive change. Let us celebrate Shirley Chisholm's life and legacy during Black History Month!

Sources:

http://ks.essortment.com/shirleychisholm_ruol.htm

Photo provided by:

<http://afgen.com/chisholm.html>

Haile Gerima Presents Sankofa

Submitted by Cathryn Baker

On February 10, 2005 the University of St. Thomas proudly welcomes African native Haile Gerima, who will lead a discussion of *Sankofa* a film which he produced, wrote and directed.

Sankofa (an Akan word meaning, "one must return to the past in order to move forward") is the story about the transformation of a self-possessed

African-American woman, sent on a spiritual journey in time to experience the pain of slavery and the discovery of her African identity.

In recognition of Black History Month, this event will be sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Lectures Committee; UST student organizations: Black Empowerment Student Alliance and African American

Student Association of HANA; the Department of Campus Living; and Multicultural Student Services.

For further information check out the University of St. Thomas Bulletin or the Sankofa Website at::

<http://www.sankofa.com/about.shtml>.



February Events

T.G.I.F. Mentoring Network

Friday February 4/4:00 - 5:30PM
MHC: Fireside Room
Cultural Expression by Sharifa Charles

Multicultural M&M Monday

Monday February 7/12:00-3:00PM
MHC: Commuter Center
Visit with MSS and Commuter Center & enjoy snacks!

Chinese New Year

Tuesday February 8/All Day Event
The Grill, Scooter's, & MHC Dining
Enjoy a day of delicious Chinese food for purchase at these locations!

Mardi Gras Celebration

Tuesday February 8/8:00PM
Common Ground
Celebrate Fat Tuesday with Campus Ministry with fun & games!

Black Eagle by Mixed Blood Theatre

Thursday February 10/12:00PM
O'Shaughnessy Education Center Auditorium
"A triumphant look at the remarkable life of challenger astronaut & scientist Ron McNair." (Free with food and refreshments)



Sankofa

By Writer, Producer & Director Haile Gerima
February 10/Speaker 3:30 & Movie 4:30PM
John Roach Center Auditorium
Film and Discussion by Haile Gerima.

Valentine's Day Party

Thursday February 10/7:00PM
Wellness House 2080 Grand Ave.
Free Food & Valentine's Day celebration!

Student Parent Appreciation Dinner

Friday February 18/6:00PM
MHC: Commuter Center
Visit with other students with children who balance their academics and parental role.
RSVP at (651) 962-6238.

Heiruspecs Music Concert

Saturday February 19/8:00PM
Music by local Hip-Hop group!
UST students \$3 & outside guests \$7

Dr. Banfield Jazz Music and Lecture

Thursday February 24/6:30PM
MHC: Scooter's
Listen to wonderful jazz musician and speaker William Banfield.

BESA: Black Empowerment Student Alliance Events

BESA strives to promote an atmosphere of awareness in which race and diversity can be embraced, celebrated and integrated into each student's collegiate experience here at St. Thomas. BESA works to build upon an exciting and productive home-base for Black students at UST BESA also works as a team to build upon an environment that is inclusive and inviting of all students regardless their background.

The BESA Office is located in the Multicultural Student Services Office, MHC 106B.

Meetings are held bi-monthly on Thursday during convocation hour MHC160.

For more information contact Sharifa Charles.

HANA

The HANA organization is an agent for positive change regarding issues at UST. HANA cultivates awareness, communication, and understanding through activities and community outreach. Meetings are open to all UST students regardless of their background.

The HANA office is located in the Leadership Room, MHC112G

Meetings are held every Tuesday, 12pm in MHC160.

For more information contact Yolanda Pineda Ruiz.

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[http://www.stthomas.edu/
multiculturalservices/](http://www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices/)

Multicultural Student Services would like to encourage you to take full advantage of the many opportunities available to you as a UST student. Our staff members provide personal attention and opportunities for students to foster their personal growth while gaining cultural awareness. We are available to assist with questions or concerns about diversity, personal identity and academic support or provide any other assistance that you may need.

You are encouraged to attend our programs and training events emphasizing multicultural education and awareness. We also serve as a liaison and referral for many community and campus officers. Stop by Multicultural Student Services at 106 Murray-Herrick Campus Center to meet us and see what we have to offer. Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday



Coming Soon:

*Multicultural Student Service's
Scholarship Information!*



You Don't Want to Miss "Hotel Rwanda"

By Cathryn Baker

Already nominated for three Academy Awards, Hotel Rwanda is an emotionally complex film about the genocide of hundreds of thousands of people. The Tutsi people of Rwanda, Africa were under attack by the Hutu rebels. The movie was centered on a heroic Hutu man by the name of Paul Rusesabagina (played by actor Don Cheadle) who diligently managed a very renowned high class hotel. His life turned into a nightmare when the Hutus began to come after his family. Rusesabagina wife and children were Tutsi which further influenced his defensive position. Paul was not only challenged with defending his family, but also hundreds of helplessly petrified Tutsi people who - some his neighbors and friends- took refuge in the hotel.

As I watched this powerful movie, I experienced several different emotional reactions. I felt a combination of hopelessness and terror as I watched the Tutsi people call out overseas for help which fell upon deaf ears. Many were refused, ignored, and

had been left for dead. I shed tears of sorrow mixed with frustration and anger as I watched countless people die over such a short span of time, in such a ferocious and ruthless way. My emotions overwhelmed me as the movie gained immense suspense and horror.

What boggled my mind is that I had absolutely no idea. I had never heard so much as a whisper about this having ever taken place. I - like millions of Americans- was completely unaware of the atrocities faced by these people. It made me wonder about all the other things that have taken place or are taking place as we speak (outside the issues of America). Out of extreme irritation, I kept naively saying in disgust, "I was alive when this took place? Our country, no country did anything? I can't help but feel ashamed!" At that very moment I wanted to protest.

The other day as I watched headlines news, I caught a clip of former Democratic President Clinton who served his term during this tragedy. Clinton commented that one of his deepest regrets as President is

never aiding the victims in Rwanda. I looked on in amazement as Clinton expressed that he knew he could have saved a few hundred thousand lives and shook my head in embarrassment.

I rest assured that I have seen the ultimate of movies! Hotel Rwanda is the best film of 2005 and I encourage you, your family, and friends to see it. It will open your mind and heart as it did mine. If you are not already aware and conscious of the political conflicts that take place outside of the small world of America, this film will definitely give you the itch to explore and educate yourself beyond your own environment and surroundings. There is a very significant value I came away appreciating after seeing this heartrending film that a little consciousness and compassion can go a very long way.

If you would like to preview commentary and get more information about the movie visit:

<http://www.mgm.com/ua/hotelrwanda/main.html>