



MSS Flash

Volume 6, Issue 5

March 2006

Multicultural Student Services

In Honor of Women's History Month

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By: Eileen Ward

When most people think of Women's History Month, they usually only think of women like Susan B. Anthony or Sojourner Truth. These women have made a tremendous impact on today's society and are important to commemorate. However, people often fail to realize that women's history month is not only about admiring women of the past, but also learning to appreciate women of the present. This is why, to celebrate Women's History Month, the MSS Flash will be highlighting two accomplished female faculty members from our very own UST campus.

Dr. Buffy Smith is one of the very extraordinary faculty members at UST. A professor in the Sociology department, Smith is much more than meets the eye. She is also a comedienne (who has won awards for her stand up), a devoted basketball fan, and a fan of old-school videogames.

This Sinbad fan has a very unique past, which that has greatly inspired her career in teaching Sociology.

Smith was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She grew up in public housing and lived in a predominately low-income African American neighborhood. She and her brother were bused over to a predominately white school, where Smith became aware of the existing racial and class tensions.

This awareness continued to Marquette, where Smith encountered a college professor who showed that it was okay to discuss social issues, as well as make a career of talking about these social issues.



Dr. Buffy Smith

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Did You Know?

- The 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote was passed in 1920, only 86 years ago.
- St. Patrick, whom was the inspiration for the Irish holiday, was not born in Ireland, but in Britain.

Dottie Cannon

By: Eileen Ward

As well as graduating with a business degree from University of St. Thomas, becoming an Internal Communications Specialist at Target Corporation, and winning Miss Dakota County USA, Dottie Cannon, 22, can now add winning Miss Minnesota USA 2006 to her impressive

list of accomplishments. Cannon, the 5th African American to win the title of Miss Minnesota, will be competing in the 2006 Miss USA Pageant in Baltimore on April 21.

In past pageants, Cannon received 2nd runner up and the Congeniality award. After these placements, Cannon decided

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Heid Erdrich

By: Eileen Ward

Dr. Heid Erdrich is well known around campus because she is an associate professor of English at UST. However, she is also well-known because she is an accomplished poet and author. She has published two collections of poetry, The Mother Tongue and Fishing For Myth. Through her poetry, audiences gain an insight into her Native roots and her diverse past.

Erdrich grew up in the Turtle Mountain reservation in North Dakota. Her parents taught at the Indian school in the reservation and her grandfather was the chairman of the tribe. She grew up in one of the few biracial families in the reservation, being of both Ojibwe and German-American descent.

Erdrich's experiences in the reservation, as well as her experiences in throughout the rest of her life, have served as inspirations for her poetry. "My poems come out of my life, dreams, and thoughts I can't get rid of- my obsessions," says Erdrich.



Dr. Heid Erdrich

Erdrich also enjoys spending time with her children, painting, and gardening. She also likes to spend time helping other members of her tribe. Erdrich dreams of someday running a low-residency school for Ojibwe scholars and is currently working on a reader of Ojibwe writing from 1826 to present.

Buffy Smith Continued...

With this experience, among others, as well as her desire to teach, Smith was happy to go into the field of Sociology. "Sociology provides the tools to understand group dynamics and how those groups are affected by social institutions," explains Smith about Sociology's importance. "It's a way for people, when passionate about social problems, to work to find solutions to change or better society."

Smith, herself, has one social issue that she would like

to work further with. She'd like to be work with education researchers to reform higher education so that is more accessible for low-income students, regardless of their race or ethnicity, and would create a great emphasis on having academics and diversity go hand in hand.

Smith hopes that current students will work towards creating unity, in which all could work together to better society. Ideally, Smith says, she would like everyone to try to make "each day better than the day before."

Dottie Cannon Continued...



to approach the competitions a little differently. Cannon then decided to approach the pageants with a business plan.

"You have to take it seriously. It is fun, but it is a job. [It's like] going to a job interview- you have to prove you're the best candidate for the position," Cannon says.

As Miss Minnesota and possibly Miss USA, Cannon would like to work on promoting her passion, and pageant platform, of children's literacy.

"I'm here to serve the community, to educate and be a voice," says Cannon in an interview with Thisweek Newspapers.

Cannon hopes that the competition will expose her to new opportunities and allows her to learn more about herself and her own abilities.

Save The Date!

Jane Elliot Lecture

Adapter of the Blue Eye/Brown Eye Exercise

March 2, OEC Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.

"The Anatomy of Prejudice" explores the problems of racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and ethnocentrism, and the responsibility shared by all of us for illuminating them in and eliminating them from ourselves and environment.

Community Dialogues

Topic: Race and Racism

March 2, MHC 304, Noon – 1 p.m.

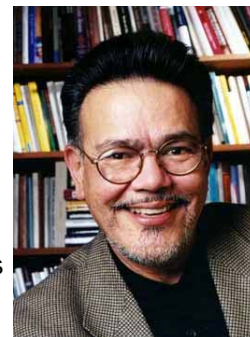
March 6, Koch Fireside, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Issues of Race and Racism present an enormous challenge for achieving this, and we believe that a simple way to address the elephant in the room is to have a honest

dialogue about the issue. Community Dialogues invites you to listen and share your perspectives on race and racism with other UST students in an open and honest forum.

Dr. Carlos Muñoz Speech-

During the 2006 Culture Fest (in April), MSS will be sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Muñoz, a professor of Chicano Studies at Berkeley, as well as author and renowned speaker.



Dr. Carlos Muñoz

Other Events- Coming on April 18-23, UST celebrates its 2006 Culture Fest. Also, Spring Fling Week and the Annual International Dinner on April 24-29.

MSS FLASH CASH

2006 Southern Education Leadership Initiative

The Southern Education Foundation (SEF) is offering a internship for juniors or seniors who have an interest in social justice or education policy and practice. Interns will work for seven weeks with a nonprofit organization in efforts to improve educational quality, broaden access, and reduce education inequality. Interns would receive a stipend of \$3,000 and gain exposure to research in the field, as well as opportunities to meet and work with leaders involved in education policy and practice. For more information, please visit www.southerneducation.org.

UST Admissions Office

Want to meet new people and share your enthusiasm for UST? Apply now to be a Tommie Ambassador, Tour Guide, or Admissions Intern for the Office of Admissions. Applications are available online at www.stthomas.edu/admis/undergraduate/studentPosition/application.pdf or paper applications are available at the Admissions Office at 32 Finn Street. Applications for all positions are due Friday, March 31, 2006.

Admission Possible

Admission Possible is hiring graduating seniors or graduates who would like to teach and mentor students in metro-area high schools or gain experience in nonprofit communications. Employees receive a living allowance, health insurance, and a \$4,725 Education Award. For more information, please visit www.AdmissionPossible.org and click on the Employment tab.

Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation Scholarship

Students must demonstrate a commitment to peace and justice. Applicants will submit an essay describing how they have demonstrated peace and justice or how the use of award money will be used for study, internship, or a special project that will deepen commitment to peace and justice. For more information, contact Pete Wareham at pjwareham@stthomas.edu.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF
CHANGE OUR WORLD



Multicultural Student Services

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Phone: 651-962-6460
Fax: 651-962-6655
Website: <http://www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices/>

March Events

Free Legal Advice
Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15
from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Commuter Center

Jane Elliot Lecture
Thursday, March 2 at 4:30
OEC Auditorium

Multicultural Monday
Monday, March 6 from Noon -2 p.m.
MHC Commuter Center
Visit and enjoy tasty treats from MSS.

Community Dialogues
Topic: Race and Racism
Thursday, March 2 from Noon -1 p.m.
MHC 304

Tuesday, March 6 from 3 4 p.m.
Koch Fireside

Major Field Day
Tuesday, March 7
11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

MHC Campus Center
Come to learn more or explore options
surrounding majors.

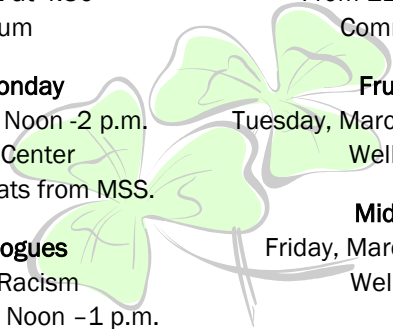
Campus Ministry
Thursday, March 9
From 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.
Commuter Center

Fruity Tuesday
Tuesday, March 14 from 10-11 a.m.
Wellness Center

Midterms Party
Friday, March 17 from 7-9 p.m.
Wellness House

Mentor Network
Tuesday, March 28 from Noon -1 p.m.
MHC Fireside

Bagel Wednesday
Wednesday, March 29 from 8-10 a.m.
Commuter Center



“Seasons of St. Thomas” Heritage Week

The University of St. Thomas will observe its third annual Heritage Week from Friday, March 3 through Friday, March 10, in celebration of St. Thomas history, community, and tradition.

Treasure Hunt/Contest - Friday, March 3 through Friday, March 10 (or until the treasure is found); Clues start March 3 in the *Bulletin Today!*

Faculty-Staff Recognition Ceremony- Friday, March 3, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in OEC Auditorium.

St. Thomas Day Mass and Banquet - Saturday, March 4, Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas and Student Dining Room.

Who Was This Man Thomas Aquinas? Heritage Week Common Text Reading: - Monday, March 6, 304 MHC

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast: "Community Together for Renewal," Room 252, TMH, Mpls., Tuesday, March 7, 8 a.m.

Heritage Week Reception/STAR Event, St. Paul Campus, MHC 1st Floor Student Lounge, Tuesday, March 7, 12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Heritage Week Reception, Minneapolis campus, Schulze Hall Foyer, Wednesday, March 8, 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

Annual ODK Dean's Reception - Sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa, OEC Auditorium, Thursday, March 9, 12:00 Noon- 1:00 p.m.

"Seasons of St. Thomas" Videos - Videos of the University over time (Scooters) - Friday, March 10, 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.

