Black History Month: Film Series

**Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North**

History gets rewritten as this documentary confronts America’s persistent racial chasm. The film chronicles the descendants of the largest slave-trading family in early America as they face their past and explore their violent heritage that helped shape a nation. Katrina Browne uncovers her New England families deep involvement in the Triangle Trade, and reveals the pivotal role slavery played in America’s economic infrastructure. The documentary demonstrates how the New England slave-trade supported not only the primary merchants, but extended to multiple areas of industry, benefitting banks, insurers, and consumers. *Traces of the Trade* also works to refute the widely held assumption that only the South proliferated from America’s ‘peculiar intuition.’ The film decisively asks what is the legacy of slavery for white Americans, and exactly what steps, if any can reconcile America’s shameful past. *Traces of the Trade* will be presented on February 10th at 6:30p.m in the Campus Center, rooms 108.3 and 108.4

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**TULIA, TEXAS**

This thought provoking documentary takes a look into the aftermath and investigation behind the massive 1990 Tulia, Texas drug bust, where 46 people were arrested, and a staggering 39 of which were African Americans. The film documents the subtlest racial prejudice and failures of America’s criminal justice system. Filmmakers chronicle the ransacking of justice in a small town surrounding the Texas panhandle and the chaos that ensued from a rouge undercover task force. Fawned by the “War on Drugs” hysteria of the late 80’s, the documentary makes the connection between the fear of drugs and racial prejudices. Charging that it was only when drug use was perceived to have “crossed the tracks” that such hysteria and swift action began to take place. Through multiple points of view, the film uncovers the deep-rooted assumptions about race and crime that continue to permeate our society. *Tulia, Texas* will be presented on February 12th at 6:30p.m in the Campus Center, rooms 108.3 and 108.4

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The Original Cinderella

Written By: Jane Drammeh ~MAP Intern

Cinderella is one of the most recognized stories around the world and its themes reappear in the folklore of many cultures. According to Hamilton and Mitch, a folk tale is a story which has been handed down from person to person for generations. Therefore, one of the most important identifying features of a folk tale is that it belongs to an entire culture, rather than to an individual. For this reason, folk tales give us many insights into the cultures from which they spring. Traditionally literary fairy tales were not intended for children but created mainly by women who were surreptitiously rebelling against constraints placed on them by a restrictive society. As one of the best-known fairy tales, Cinderella has over 340 variations and can be traced back as far 850-60 CE. The earliest recorded version of the tale comes from China. It was written down by Tuan Ch’eng-shih in the middle of the ninth century C.E. Throughout history fairy tales have been women’s stories, passed down orally by the matriarchs of a culture, with its roots belonging to certain aborigines in the extreme South of China. The heroine of the Chinese tale is Yeh-Shen. There is no fairy godmother in this earliest known version, but instead a magical fish. However, the key ingredient remains, as a golden shoe is used to identify Yeh-shen to the prince who wants to marry her. The idyllic ball takes form through a spring festival where Yeh-Shen leaves behind her golden-slipper. The shoe carried great significance during this time, as shoes were not generally worn by the His-Yuan aborigines expect for sacred occasions. Another cultural marker of the tale appears in the motivating force behind the prince’s quest and captivation of Yen-Shen. Fascinated by the minute size of the golden slipper, the king is committed to finding its owner and marrying her. This fascination with foot size is directly linked to the ancient tradition of foot binding, a custom practiced by young girls and women for approximately one thousand years in China. As the month of February ushers in its annual tribute to love, the country of the original creators of fairy tale romance will celebrate with Qi Qiao Jie, otherwise known as Valentine’s day. On February 7th St. Valentine’s day is celebrated in China with the Seven Sisters Festival or the Festival of the Double Sevens.
Faculty/Staff Spotlight

Ronald King

Ronald King is a Health Educator with Health Services. A graduate of Mississippi State, Mr. King combines his experience as a Minor League baseball player and background in Health Education to spearhead various programs such as the Wolf Athletic Men’s Organization (W.A.M.O), the Women’s Interest Group (W.I.G.), and the 1 in 4 peer educators. These groups provide students with vital information on alcohol awareness and sex education.

Ronald King

As a past Minor League baseball player in Kansas and a high school baseball coach for 12 years, Mr. King is an avid lover of the sport. His vast experience in the athletic arena helps Mr. King make significant contributions to the Choices Committee. As a member of the Choices Committee, a mentoring group that focuses on athletes, he helps to provide essential decision-making skills that help athletes prosper both on and off the field.

Mr. King’s main passion involving Health Education, is the Alcohol Awareness Program on campus. This program expounds upon vital information surrounding blood alcohol content, alcohol poisoning, and safety tips on avoiding and treating alcohol related illnesses. The program also employs innovative teaching tools such as drunk goggles and displays that help students learn about alcohol content in various drink portions.

By the multitude of motivational quotes that cover the walls of Mr. King’s office, and his involvement in the assortment of health programs for students, it is clear that he is intent on sustaining the well-being of the West Georgia community.

Student Spotlight

Shalini Rajasingham

Originally from Sir Lanka, Shalini Rajasingham came to the U.S. in 2006 to pursue a degree in Computer Science and Math. Drawn to West Georgia’s large international community, she “feels at home among the diverse and friendly student body.” Shalini is currently a junior and upon graduation hopes to work for Apple Software as a developer.

Each year Shalini participates in UWG’s annual International Night, where she performs her favorite style of dance, a classical Indian number. She will perform once again at this year’s International Night held Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. in the Food Services Building (Z-6). As a member of the International Club’s cultural panel, Shalini takes part in the educational discourse among international students, presenting Sir Lanka’s various geographical and cultural features. Shalini belongs to the Computer Science Women of West Georgia organization (C.S.W.O.W) where she takes part in creating and running the “Second Life” virtual world. As a math tutor for the EXCEL Center, she helps students by “breaking down each equation into individual steps,” making the challenging subject less intimidating. On her free time Shalini enjoys doing yoga and spending time with friends.

Although living abroad for the past three years, Shalini prides herself on sticking to her cultural values and never losing herself in a foreign land. Her motto in life is to “always stay true to herself” no matter the circumstances.

Upcoming Events

**Latino Cultural Society**

**Noche de Fantasia Masquerade Party**

February 11, 2009

Campus Center Ballroom

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Questions: contact lcs@westga.edu

Attire is semi-formal.

**NAACP Annual Fashion Show**

February 5th Campus Center Ballroom @ 7PM.

**A Reflection of Black History: Film Series**

Campus Center 108.3 & 108.4 6:30pm-8:30pm:

February 10th Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North

February 12th Tulia, Texas

**The Society Presents : Showcase**

February 12th Campus Ballroom @ 6:30 pm.

**Geechee Kunda**

February 16th Campus Ballroom @ 6:30 pm.

**NAACP Unity Week**

February 16th – 20th

**Le Roi D’Afrique - African Night**

February 19th Campus Center Ballroom @ 7 pm.

A night of culture and entertainment.