

Office of Equity & Inclusion

University of Lynchburg

The Voice Newsletter
Black & Women's History Month Edition 2024



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Honoring Legacy and Fostering Unity - MLK Week at University of Lynchburg

Martin Luther King Jr. Week at the University of Lynchburg was a heartfelt tribute to a visionary leader whose ideals continue to guide the quest for civil rights and social justice. The week's events were carefully curated to resonate with Dr. King's message of peace, equality, and nonviolent protest.

A poignant moment of the MLK Jr. week was the annual Unity March, which took place on Friday, January 26. Starting at Snidow Chapel, participants marched to the Garren Victory Bell, symbolizing the unity and progress that are at the heart of Dr. King's message.



Another key event was the Courageous Conversation titled “King Did More Than Dream,” led by Ms. Penny Blue held on January 24. This discussion provided a deeper understanding of Dr. King's activism beyond his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, encouraging the community to engage in meaningful dialogue about the current state of civil rights.

As the echoes of Martin Luther King Jr. Week faded into the busy rhythm of university life, the impact of the events continued to resonate within the hearts and minds of the Lynchburg community. The University of Lynchburg's commitment to diversity and inclusivity was not only spoken but actively demonstrated, ensuring that the legacy of Dr. King remains a living, breathing part of the campus ethos.

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A Month of Reflection and Celebration - Black History Month at University of Lynchburg

The University of Lynchburg's observance of Black History Month was a profound acknowledgment of the struggles, triumphs, and enduring spirit of the African American community. The month-long celebration was a vibrant showcase of cultural pride and historical reflection, encapsulating the theme of "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Inspiring the Future."

The Gospel Concert, a soulful tradition, reverberated through the halls of Sydnor Performance Hall, drawing a diverse crowd that swayed and sang in unison, creating a sense of unity and shared heritage. The Black Student Association's All Black Party transformed the Hall Campus Ballroom into a lively space where students celebrated their identity and culture with music and dance, reinforcing the bonds of community.



The AAAG Minority Business Expo was a testament to the entrepreneurial drive and innovation within the Black community. It provided a platform for business owners to showcase their ventures, network, and share their success stories, inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs.

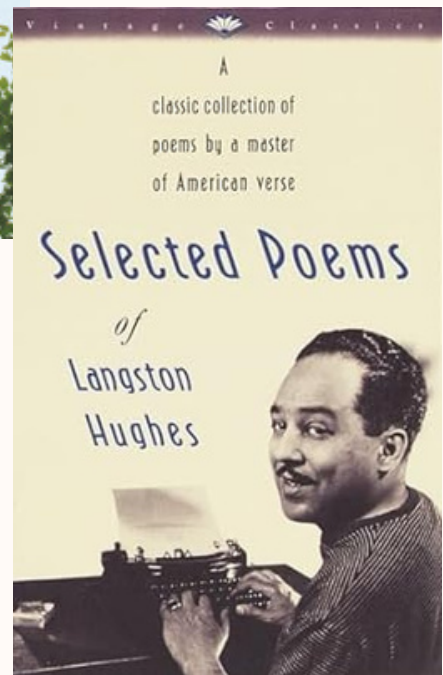
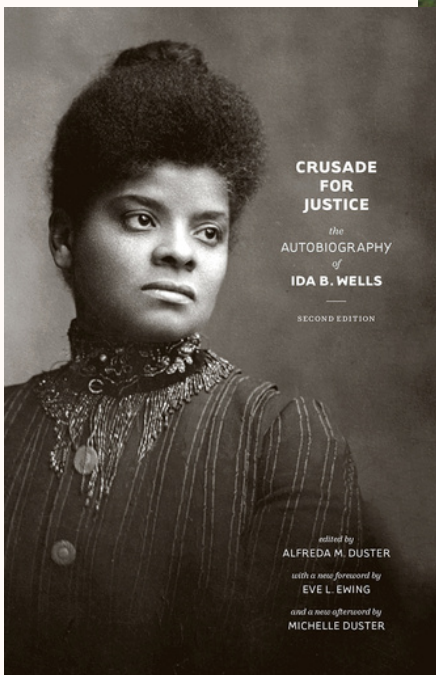
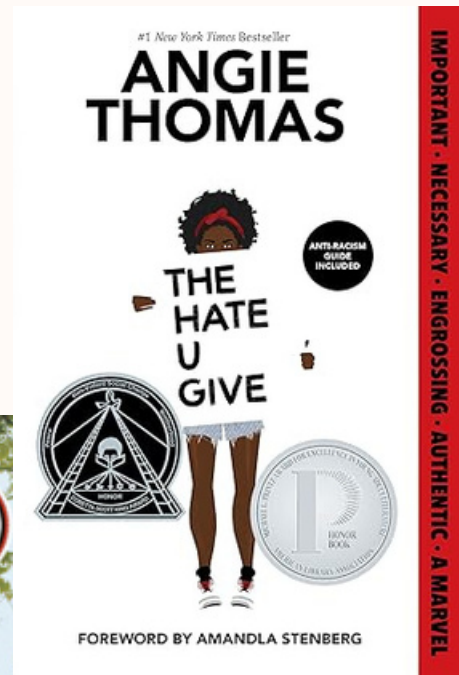
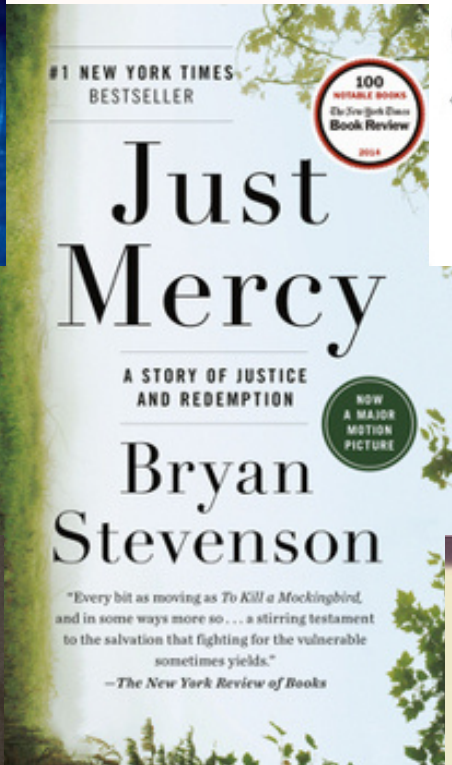
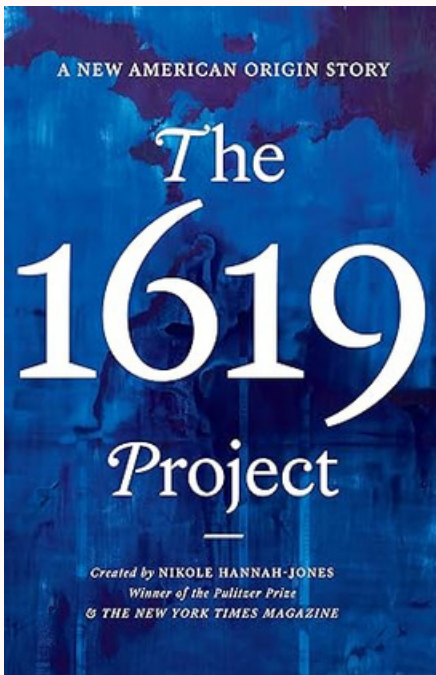
Keynote speeches, including the insightful address by Mr. Ted Delaney, offered thought-provoking perspectives on the current state of racial equality and the ongoing fight for justice. The Honorable Mentions ceremony recognized individuals who have made significant contributions to the African American community, highlighting their achievements and reinforcing the importance of role models.

The Courageous Conversations series, led by Ms. Cecilia Smith, Dr. Mangala Subramaniam, and Dr. Cristina Alcalde, delved into critical topics which thought-provoking discussions challenged attendees to confront and address systemic issues, fostering a deeper understanding of equity and inclusion.

As the month concluded, the University community reflected on the rich tapestry of events that not only commemorated Black history but also ignited a renewed commitment to equity and inclusion.

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Black History Month Goodreads



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Celebrating Women's History Month at University of Lynchburg

March at the University of Lynchburg was a tribute to the remarkable contributions of women throughout history. In collaboration with various campus organizations, University of Lynchburg curated a series of events that not only honored women's achievements but also sparked conversations about the ongoing pursuit of gender equality.

One of the standout events was the Office of Equity and Inclusion presents "A Courageous Conversation: Our Black Sisters!" held virtually on March 25. This event provided a platform for an open and insightful dialogue about the experiences of Black women, their challenges, and their triumphs. It was an opportunity for the university community to engage in meaningful discussions about intersectionality, solidarity, and the importance of supporting Black women's voices in the fight for gender equality.

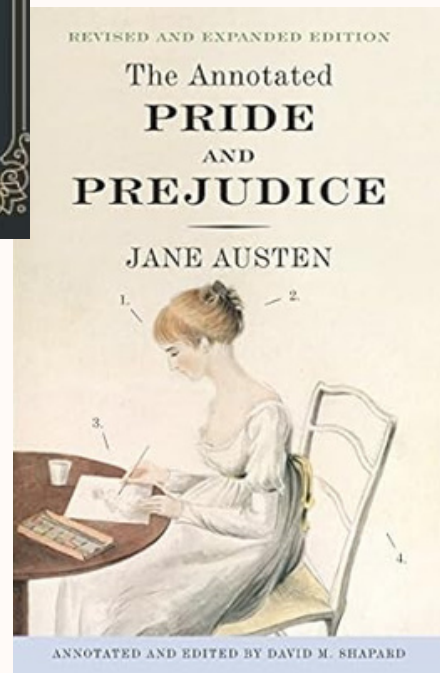
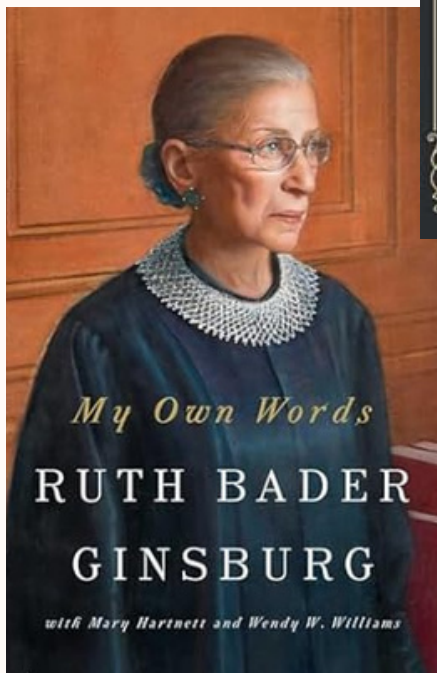
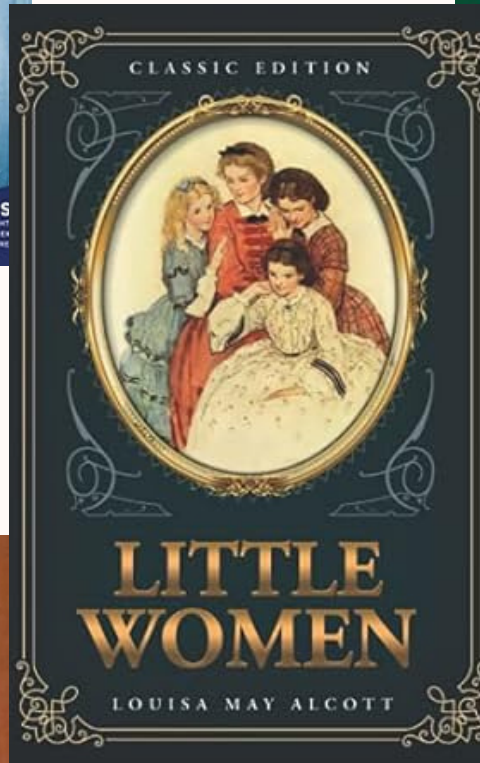
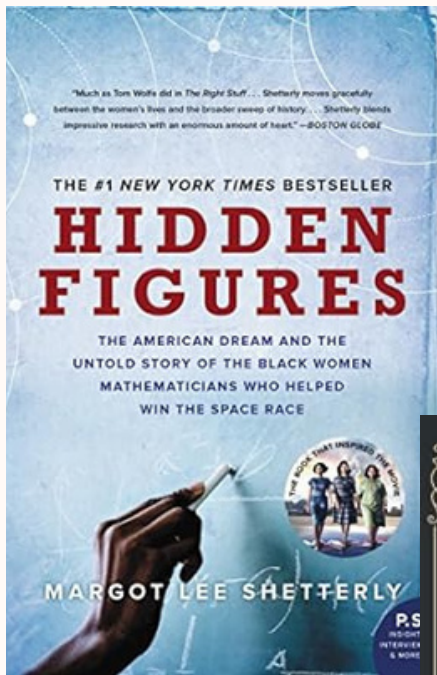


Throughout the month, the university's social media channels actively highlighted quotes, stories, and achievements of historical and contemporary women, engaging the community in a virtual celebration of Women's History Month.

The University of Lynchburg's celebration of Women's History Month 2024 was both a reflection on the progress made and a call to action for continued advocacy for equity, diversity, and inclusion. The events not only commemorated the past but also looked forward to a future where women's contributions are equally valued and celebrated.

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Women's History Month Goodreads



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University of Lynchburg Welcomes New International Students for Spring 2024



The University of Lynchburg's spring semester of 2024 has been marked by an exciting influx of new international students, bringing the total to 119 bright minds from nine different countries. This diverse group has infused the campus with fresh perspectives and cultural richness, enhancing the university's commitment to global inclusivity.

The Admission Office, led by International Student Support Coordinator Danielle Sarchet and her assistant Ngun Sui Zing, along with a team of eleven international student ambassadors, have gone above and beyond to welcome these students. Their efforts began at the airport, where they provided a warm reception and transportation to the campus, ensuring that every student's first impression of Lynchburg was one of hospitality and care.

Upon arrival, the students were guided through a seamless check-in process, helping them find and settle into their dorm rooms. The orientation program was meticulously designed to introduce them to the university's resources, acquaint them with essential information, and facilitate their integration into college life.

As the students began to acclimate, the university organized an International Meet and Greet event. This celebration was a vibrant display of cultural music and dance, where students shared their traditions and delighted in a variety of traditional foods. It was an evening that underscored the university's dedication to fostering a community where every student feels valued and connected.

The University of Lynchburg's spring semester of 2024 stands as a beacon of its global outlook, showcasing the institution's unwavering support for its international student body and its celebration.

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Meet Our Team



Dr. Robert L. Canida II
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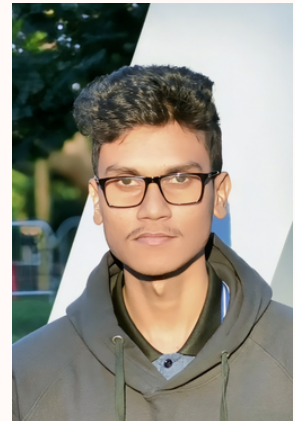
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