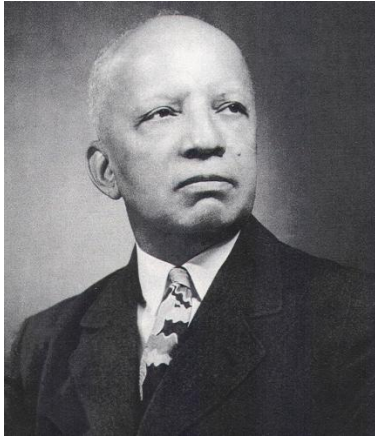


CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

History of Black History Month



Black History Month is an annual observance in February, celebrating the past and present achievements of African Americans. In February 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, proposed the establishment of "Negro History Week" to honor the history and contributions of African Americans to American life. Dr. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History", chose the second week of February because it commemorates the birthdays of two men who greatly affected the African American community: Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). Negro History Week became Black History Week in the early 1970's. In 1976, the week-long observance was expanded to a month in honor of the nation's bicentennial.

Black History Facts... *In Sooner Fashion*

Did You Know?

- The first Black Student admitted and graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry was **Dunn Cumby** in Class of 1976.
- The first Black faculty for the University of Oklahoma was **Marie Mink** from the College of Nursing.
- The first Black students to earn a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from the University of Oklahoma before studying law at the University of Oklahoma was **Clarence E. Wilson, Sr.** On April 19, 1995 he was killed in the Alfred P. Murrah Bombing here in Oklahoma City OK.
- The first Black Dean for the College of Nursing was **Dr. Gloria Smith**. She served the College of Nursing from 1973 to 1983. She pioneered the development of the master's degrees in nursing and continuing education programs. Dr. Smith also oversaw the construction of the nursing building and created a more inclusive environment in nursing education.
- The first Black student elected as the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Student Government President for 2015-2016 is Jevon Oliver, College of Pharmacy student.
- The first Black Student admitted to the OU Law School was **Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher**.
- The first Black couple to purchase a home in Norman, Oklahoma was **Dr. George Henderson** and his wife. Dr. Henderson has been a member of the OU faculty since 1967.
- The first Black Student admitted to the University of Oklahoma was **George McLaurin**.
- The first Black Football Player at the University of Oklahoma was **Prentice Gautt**.