

## What's Inside

*Inauguration 2009 Trip Reflection  
Re-shaping the IUPUI Experience  
Cultural Cafe- Black History Month*

**"Freedom is never given; it is won."**

-- A. Philip Randolph in keynote speech given at the  
Second National Negro Congress in 1937



### The Director's Corner

It is a time of great hope and change for our country. The Multicultural Center recently returned from Washington, DC after witnessing a historic moment in the history of our country. The District reverberated with an unfathomable sense of optimism for the future of this great Nation. We were there to experience what most thought would never happen in their lifetime. I hope that participants will reflect upon their experiences, but more than that reflect upon positive changes that they can make in this world. Change can not happen without persistence, hard work, and a spirit of togetherness.

In last year's presidential campaign between 22 and 24 million young Americans ages 18-29 voted, resulting in an estimated youth voter turnout of between 49.3% and 55.5%, making this the second largest youth voter turnout in American history. Young people are and have been responsible for change and transformation for some time. Using the recent voter turnout as an example; it is time to cross generational lines and bring together faculty, staff and students to truly impact IUPUI. As a community, let's commit to advancing IUPUI's diversity values: accountability, civility, collaboration, engagement, equity, ideas, inclusion, integrity, openness, respect and trust.

Join the Center as we recommit to IUPUI's diversity values and as we reflect upon hope in the unseen history and achievements of African-Americans and what we together can achieve when we catch on to this idea of hope. In light of Black History Month use today to learn a new fact about the rich history and culture of African-Americans, and other ethnic and cultural groups. Heritage is not just a month but 365 days a year.

The Center is optimistic as we move forward with a vision and plans to renovate the Multicultural Center. Look for upcoming opportunities to learn more about the Center's future and current plans for the dynamic new IUPUI Multicultural Center!

In Anticipation,

*Zephia Bryant*

### EXPERIENCE THE



**Multicultural Center**  
Indiana University Purdue University - Indianapolis

**Here's what you may have  
missed...**



**Black Student Union's 40th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration** featuring Keynote Speaker Political Activist and commentator Jeff Johnson



**Asian Students United's Call Out Meeting/ Game Night**



**Men's Awareness Week** featuring **Can We Talk?** and the **"Run The Court"** 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

# INAUGURATION 2009 TRIP REFLECTION

An opinion essay by OurVoice Blogger: Ebony Barney

The Inauguration of Barack H. Obama has been compared to the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day because it has sparked the interest of people everywhere. Even compared to the march on Washington, the Inauguration of the first Black President of the United States of America was a moment that brought joyful tears to the eyes of many.

Immediately before the trip to our nation's capital, I attended the 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner with guest speaker Jeff Johnson. His speech in many ways prepared his audience for the viewing of the inauguration as well as for those who traveled the distance to be a part of history. He urged us to not simply celebrate the fact that he made it into office, but that we recognize the importance of knowing the difference between having already overcome every significant obstacle for Black people and the potential for Obama to make some great changes in our nation. He urged us to understand that King was not the only person who strived for civil rights but that he was essentially the man who was the face of the Civil Rights Movement. Without people to lead, there is no leader.

Many took Johnson's comments to say that he did not respect the struggle that King went through or the obstacles Obama had to overcome to become President. What we must understand on a deeper level, however, is that although we have come a long way, we still have just as far to go. When it comes to our churches, our leaders, and our activists we simply fail to live up to the legacy of the people who went without recognition during the Civil Rights Movement. Those who volunteered to go to jail, put their lives on the line repeatedly, and stood up for us to have the ability to pursue anything we choose. Johnson reminded us that if King were alive today, he would not have wanted a day named after him. He wanted to be remembered as a good man; no more.

Coincidentally, the majority of the trip was centered around the same premise almost everywhere that we travelled. King, therefore Obama. Perhaps they do resemble each other in how the nation recognizes and remembers them. The unfortunate part of the perception that many hold today about Obama and King are similar. I believe it is what Johnson wanted us to understand. They exist independently of one another, at different times and simply cannot continue to lump them together. They are both considered to be some of the greatest of Black men. Obama has the potential to succeed and King made things happen in his time. What we must understand more importantly however is the need for leadership amongst ourselves to be constantly improving ourselves and our people, and not simply rely on the leaders of the past to make things work for us...

(To read more, visit the student blog at <http://mcc.iupui.edu/ourvoice.html>)



## DID YOU KNOW?

*The Multicultural Center frequently hosts excursions to conferences and events of cultural and historical significance? Sign up to our listserv to find out more about these exciting opportunities.*



# Freshmen & Seniors... Your Voice is **NSS**Essary!

**Starting February 2, 5,000 randomly selected freshmen and seniors will receive an e-mail invitation to participate in the brief online survey. The survey takes only about 15 minutes to complete.**

How often have you heard students express frustration with administrative processes, disappointment with academic experiences, less than comfortable interactions with faculty or staff, and the administration's response to these issues? It can seem, at times, that the administration is unresponsive or indifferent to the needs and experiences of students. But more often than not, it may simply be that the administration does not have enough information to make informed decisions on what changes or improvements should be made.

<http://www.nssesurvey.org>

Administrators look to data to guide and direct institutional change initiatives. They rely heavily on data (or information) from students and regularly provide opportunities to hear what students have experienced. However, students often miss the opportunity to provide this much needed information.

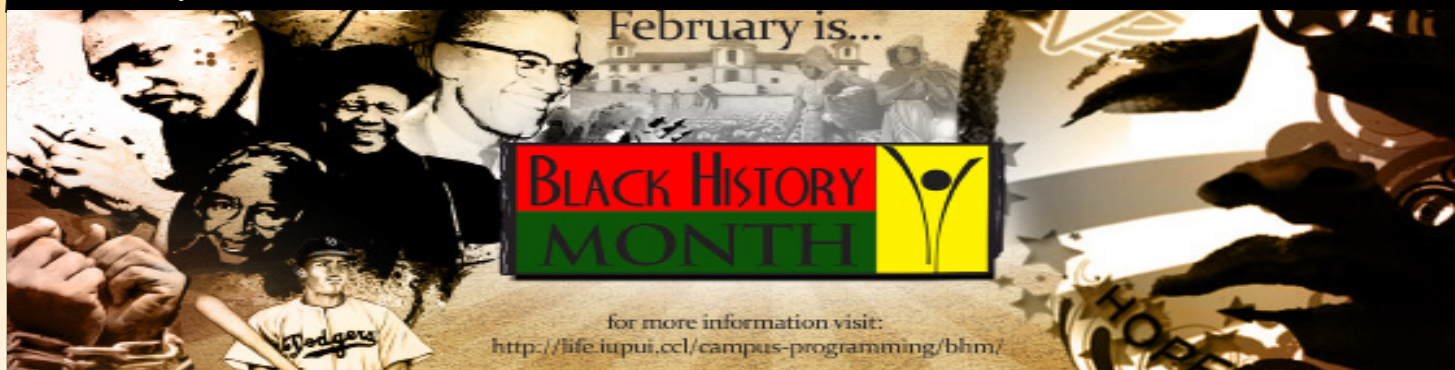
So that change initiatives are based on the needs of the broader population, the information has to be collected in manner that allows for maximum participation. To achieve this, colleges and universities utilize surveys. Surveys allow feedback from thousands of students simultaneously. When the results are in, administrators have a better sense of what is working, not working; what needs tweaking, and what needs to be completely reconstructed.

On Monday, February 2nd, IUPUI will launch the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The brief online survey asks senior and freshmen students about their activities and experiences at IUPUI. The data from this survey will help identify opportunities for improvement and allow IUPUI to gauge its progress in comparison to its peers.

This spring, we urge you to help shape the IUPUI student experience by participating in this important survey. Look for your e-mail invitation to participate in NSSE!

If you'd like to participate as a volunteer and staff an information table, please contact Julie Banks at [jvbanks@indiana.edu](mailto:jvbanks@indiana.edu).

Article by: Julianna Banks, Graduate Assistant for Assessment & Research -IUPUI Multicultural Center



**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Black History Month started out as Negro History Week?*

Our Music  
Our Food  
Our Art...  
Our Culture



### Cultural Café goes Afro-Caribbean by Jocelyn Hurst



When we think of Black History we automatically think of the civil rights movement, slavery, the middle passage. Frequent imagery includes renowned leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, all associated with African American history in the United States. While the aforementioned history is not easily forgotten, it is important to realize that Black History goes well beyond the borders of our country. The commemorative history month of February stretches into Africa and in

several areas of the Caribbean.

The Multicultural Center (MC) will celebrate Black History month in International style. On February 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Taylor Hall, the MC will host the Cultural Café, co-sponsored by African Student Association (ASA) and Caribbean Student Organization (CSO). This time the Café will feature African and Caribbean dance, music, and authentic cuisines which will include curry, plantains and many more cultural dishes. ASA and CSO will also present the history behind the music, dance, and food as well as history on their heroes and contributors to the Black history within their countries.

Don't miss this event. Past Cultural Cafés have included live music from Native American flute player Jason Chaplin during Native American Heritage Month. This time around we will be sure to not disappoint, so make sure you are present to take part in the celebration.



Multicultural Center

**ORGS.**

#### **Asian Students United**

Office Location:  
B02G  
Phone#: 274-5469

#### **Black Student Union**

[www.iupui.edu/~blacksu](http://www.iupui.edu/~blacksu)

[blacksu@iupui.edu](mailto:blacksu@iupui.edu)

Office Location:  
B02B  
Phone#: 278-8331

#### **Gay-Straight Alliance**

Office Location:  
B02H  
Phone#: 278-8336

#### **Latino Student Association**

[www.iupui.edu/~latinosa](http://www.iupui.edu/~latinosa)

[latinosa@iupui.edu](mailto:latinosa@iupui.edu)

Office Location:  
B02D  
Phone#: 278-8334

#### **Native American Student Alliance**

[www.iupui.edu/~nasa](http://www.iupui.edu/~nasa)

[nasa@iupui.edu](mailto:nasa@iupui.edu)

Office Location:  
B02F  
Phone#: 278-8335