

(Statement from the Chair, continued from inside program) "These 400 years have been a Black struggle for full citizenship, offered first by the Constitution as 3/5 a human – later, in the Civil Rights movement, 4/5 citizenship, and now with this current epic struggle Blacks are seeking 5/5 acceptability and full citizenship. Why the Plus after 400 years? Because American public schools have been very unkind in the search for the truth, stating that Blacks arrived in America as slaves. Not so, Blacks arrived in America as Indentured Servants, much as most Europeans did. It is because of the "Black Codes," and because Blacks were easily identified physically that many were later bought, sold, and conscripted for free labor. The truth of the matter is that Blacks were explorers on the North American shores long before Columbus. Blacks traveled alongside many explorers with whom many readers are familiar, as sailors and officers. This is a historical fact, cleverly hidden in much of the history to which most Americans are still exposed.

For me, this series of events is a personal reflection, a recall of the many committed and dedicated Black Comrades who a half century ago were advocates for change and progress. These men and women I stood on the shoulders of who first started the chant on this campus for change, shouting "We demand Black Studies!" These were among the early groups that reflected, "Black is Beautiful." They have successfully pursued varied careers and are now in different places but are still vigilant in their demands for social justice and staunch defense of equality.

I reflect upon the many events of personal courage that have taken place on this campus. Many who today tread these academic halls are completely unaware that their very presence here at Washington University was that of a heroic uplift upon the mighty shoulders of the "pioneers." It was those who boldly put their futures on the line so that any future gathering here would one day be of full ethnic diversity. As evidence of their own scholastic prowess, they solemnly declared that academic honors would hang in halls of every arena of scholastic endeavor undertaken on behalf of African American scholars.

I salute and give thanks to Dr. Robert L. Williams who in 1970 became Director of the Black Studies Program at Washington University and add my appreciation for inviting me to be his Associate Director and Co-founder in this endeavor. A special thanks to Cynthia Cosby who served the administrative role that kept us focused in the midst of this great transformation, in making this great University relevant and ever forward in its commitment to social justice. Almost 50 years ago, after the result of protests and demands made for the Black Studies Program, there have been many similar protests, all building upon the foundation that the history, culture, and heritage of Blacks anywhere are equal to that of other ethnicities everywhere.

To God be the Glory...Stamina and Perseverance." --Jack A. Kirkland

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Save the Date for our next 400 Years events!

June 2, 2019: *Civil Rights – Past and Present*

Aligned with **Juneteenth**, honoring the June 19, 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery & emancipation of African American slaves in former Confederate states.

November 10, 2019: *Four Hundred Years Forward: Freedom in Our Time*

During the month during which **national elections** are held.

Blacks in America: 400 Years Plus

*A Trilogy Commemorating the
400th Anniversary of Blacks in the U.S.*

Black Struggle, Resiliency, and Hope for the Future



Sunday, February 10, 2019

3:00-5:00pm

Graham Chapel

Washington University in St. Louis

Save the dates for two additional **400 Years** events (details to follow):

June 2 & November 10, 2019

Statement from the Chair, Jack A. Kirkland

“How could we not celebrate the year 2019, which marks 400 years of history recorded of Blacks in America since 1619? Not to do so would imply that America evolved independent of the Black understructure in its vast expansion into the regions of agriculture, which became the backbone of the great wealth upon which this great country now stands. It allowed America to expand into rice, tobacco, and cotton international trade. Slave labor gave America the great economic under footing that introduced this nation to the world as an equal, and later, as a leader.”

(Continued on back page)

Prayer & Introductions

Reverend Gary L. Gaston | St. Paul Baptist Church, East St. Louis
Senior Pastor

Jack A. Kirkland | Brown School
Associate Professor

Kirkland is an internationally known scholar who lectures, consults and writes on the African-American family and social and economic development. Kirkland was an activist and strategist in the Civil Rights Movement and has since held a number of roles as a public servant and elected official. In the classroom, Kirkland brings to life issues of community work, international social development, racism, and urban environments. Kirkland has also designed and led workshops in African-American culture for public school teachers across the country, focused on improving multicultural classroom environments.



Music

Missouri African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Conference Choir

The Missouri Conference Choir of the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church comprises AME churches from St. Louis, Columbia, Jefferson City, and Cape Girardeau. There are currently over 100 active singers in the choir under leadership of Vivien Hopper (President) and Daeryl "Scooter" Booker (Musical Director). Today the choir will sing *Tshotsholoz* and *City Called Heaven*.

Remarks

Adrienne D. Davis, JD | Law School

Vice Provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor

Davis coordinates diversity and faculty leadership across the University and organizes initiatives and programs for the Provost's office. Her research and teaching focuses on private law areas such as contracts and trusts & estates, legal theory and history, including slavery, feminist legal theory, and theories of justice and reparations.



Andrew D. Martin, PhD | Washington University in St. Louis
Chancellor-Elect (Begins term June 1, 2019)

Chancellor-elect Martin graduated from and was a member of Washington University's faculty for 14 years. He served as Vice Dean in the School of Law from 2012 - 2014, when he left to be the chief academic, administrative, and financial officer for the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan.



Dancing & Drumming

Kuumba Youth Performance Ensemble (K.Y.P.E.) | Better Family Life, Inc.

The K.Y.P.E. is comprised of youth and young adults from ages of 5-30 who travel throughout the region as Ambassadors of the African American artistic cultural heritage. They exhibit socially relevant entertainment productions through dance, drama, music, and poetry under the creative direction of Vivian Watt. The K.Y.P.E. is the performing component of the Youth Passport to the Future Afterschool Program, where they train in dance, theater, percussion, instrumental/vocal music, and poetry while receiving homework help, healthy meals, drug prevention classes, sports, chess, and more.

Remarks

Lynne Jackson | Dred Scott Heritage Foundation
President and Founder

The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation focuses on the importance of the decision made in 1857 that influenced the trajectory of possible independence and freedom that Black people were able to maintain. Ms. Jackson is the great great granddaughter of Harriet and Dred Scott. She has traveled the country sharing her family's story and has earned several awards for her activism.



Keynote Presentation

The Honorable Wesley Bell | St. Louis County
Prosecutor

In 2018, Wesley Bell became the first African American prosecutor for St. Louis County, ending his predecessor's 28-year run. Bell has been a leader in criminal justice reform, with roles as a public defender, a lawyer in private practice, municipal prosecutor, and municipal judge. In the wake of the Ferguson Uprising, Bell was elected City Councilman, and worked with Obama's Department of Justice to implement the consent decree to reform the City's criminal justice system. Raised in North St. Louis County, Bell is the son of a police officer father and civil servant mother. He advocates that every person should have equal rights and opportunities in the criminal justice system.

(Pictured on cover page)