

**Ball State University
Multicultural Center**



Come Visit Us!

Cultural Times

April 2011

Women 2 Women: Jumping the Hurdles Conference



Inside this issue:



Excel Spotlight	2
Perspectives: Women in Popular Culture	2
Heritage Film Series	2
Calendar of Events	3

Over the last decades women have been fighting to reach equality in the workforce, and it is a battle that still continues. Both women and men gathered to celebrate and support women's efforts and history on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the L.A. Pittenger Students Center from



9:00am-1:30pm.

The goal of the conference was to empower women by addressing prevalent issues amongst American women, spreading awareness about these issues, providing all the participants with opportunities and equipping them with skills that will prepare them for a successful future. There were a total of three sessions and each had different workshops for participants to choose from. Some of the workshops included dressing for success, a career workshop, a health workshop, a budgeting workshop, and many more. The Student Center was filled with over 80 participants who attended the



sessions, enjoyed a delicious lunch, and actively listened to Kemba Smith Pradia, the keynote speaker of the day. Mrs. Pradia shared her heart moving life story and encouraged students to make the right decisions. Mrs. Smith became involved with the wrong people during college and for it she served 6.5 years in federal prison. Her life story has uplifted and inspired thousands of lives across the nation. She is a living testimony of what passion, dedication, and ambition can accomplish.

The Multicultural Center would like to thank Today's Black Women, SGA, and everyone who made this amazing conference possible. We could not have done it without all of your help!

The Multicultural Center

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Celebrating Women in the Arts



This year's Celebrating Women in the Arts performance took place on March 1, 2011 at 7pm in Pruis

Hall. It was a very special moment for Ball State women, since they were able to share their talents with the campus community. Talents ranged from singing, spoken poetry, sculptures, beautiful paintings, to Mexican traditional dancing. Women of all ages participated on this event. Together, we celebrated and appreciated the many talents and gifts women bring to Ball State



University!
"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform."
- Diane Mariechild



Excel Spotlight: LaTonya Looney

Each month a student is highlighted in our cultural newsletter for their leadership skills, exceptional involvement at Ball State University and their contributions to our Excel Mentoring Program. This month we have the pleasure of introducing you to LaTonya M. Looney.

Tonya, as she likes to be called, is from Detroit Michigan and is extremely involved at Ball State. She is a member of the Black Student Association, the Black Media Association, Today's Black Women, the Mixx (a media production program), N.A.A.C.P, and is a member of Alpha Phi



Omega National Service Fraternity.

Her favorite aspect of the Excel program was the trip to Taylor University where they had to complete an obstacle course

together. She stated "It helped me conquer my fears, further develop my communication skills, and gave me time to bond with my fellow Excel mentees". She stated that her greatest difficulty of transitioning to college was leaving her friends and family behind. Although she does become homesick at times, her involvement and the friends she has made make all the difference in her adjustment here. The Excel staff are very proud of Tonya and know her involvements will continue to develop her as a leader and provide her with the skills she needs to be successful.

Perspectives Discussion: Women in Popular Culture

Have you ever thought about the way women are portrayed in the media? Are there comparisons between women's portrayal and men's portrayal on television? The Multicultural Center had the honor of having Dr. Maria Williams-Hawkins on March 16, 2011 at 3pm in the Multicultural Center speak on this topic.

Dr. Maria expressed how women's portrayal on television is a lot like a man. Women are sometimes portrayed as aggressive, confident, loud, engaged, and as willing to take risks. She showed students small clips of



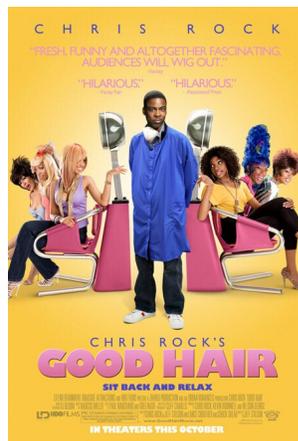
movies and modern shows where women had similar behaviors that are traditionally masculine. She also showed clips from movies in the past, where women were portrayed as submissive. A woman's role then was that of a housewife who cooked and

cared for her children. Now we see women in shows like Sex in the City or Grey's Anatomy where women are professionals and live very independent lives. Women are a lot more confident about themselves and are no longer the submissive housewife from the past. Students were able to share their perspectives about the topic and agreed that the role of women in the media has definitely changed.

Heritage Film Series: Good Hair Documentary

The crowd at Pruis Hall laughed and even applauded the famous *Good Hair* Documentary produced by Chris Rock. This film was shown Wednesday, March 30th, 2011 at 7pm at Pruis Hall. The film was followed by a discussion. There was also a panel that included members of Masters of Divine Beauty, a Ball State student organization.

A wonderful aspect about the film was that it educated people the truths about African American hair. Unlike the majority, African or African American women have a different texture to their hair, making it a lot harder to manage. Many will pay a lot of money to make



their hair look like what society portrays as beautiful. Students talked about the idea of beauty and how women will save a lot of money to later spend on their hair just to fit in today's society. This documentary was extremely educational and it is definitely a must see!



Nelina Span and Jessica Jackson

Ball State University Multicultural Events - April 2011

Date/Time	Event	Location/Sponsor
4/11/2011 4:00pm	Social Media and Activism	Letterman Building 125 <i>Sponsored by the Rinker Center for International Programs & Emerging Media Initiatives</i>
4/11/2011 6:00pm	Beautiful Armor: All Faith Social and Panel	Student Center 301 <i>Sponsored by Spectrum</i>
4/12/2011 7:00pm	Guest Speaker: Jac Stringer, Transgender/Transqueer	Art & Journalism Bldg 225 <i>Sponsored by Spectrum</i>
4/13/2011 12:00pm	Born Bicultural: Mexico and the US by Cecilia Macias	Student Center 102 - Yuhas Room <i>Sponsored by the Rinker Center for International Programs</i>
4/13/2011 7:00pm	Movie & Discussion: "8: The Mormon Proposition"	Art & Journalism Bldg 175 <i>Sponsored by Spectrum</i>
4/15/2011 11:00pm	Day of Silence	Atrium Tables <i>Sponsored by Spectrum</i>
4/15/2011 7:00pm	Prom: Spectrum's Cabaret	Student Center Ballroom <i>Sponsored by Spectrum</i>
4/16/2011 4:00pm	Cultural Picnic	Scheumann Stadium <i>Sponsored by the Multicultural Center, Rinker Center for International Programs, & University Program Board</i>
4/16/2011 8:00pm	Moulin Rouge Drag Show	Student Center Ballroom <i>Sponsored by Spectrum</i>
4/20/2011 12:00pm	Cultural Exchange: Traditional Indian Dance by Sameera Rao	Student Center 102 - Yuhas Room <i>Sponsored by the Rinker Center for International Programs</i>
4/20/2011 3:00pm	Perspectives Discussion: Asian Americans: The Model Minority?	Multicultural Center <i>Sponsored by the Multicultural Center</i>
4/25/2011 5:30pm	Multicultural Awards Ceremony	Student Center Ballroom <i>Sponsored by the Multicultural Center</i>
4/27/2011 12:00pm	An American in Ecuador: Growing up in Two Cultures by Krista Owen	Student Center 102 - Yuhas Room <i>Sponsored by the Rinker Center for International Programs</i>

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