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| Friday, January 15            | **Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Kickoff Events**  
1. 12pm in Benton Chapel - “What does freedom Look like?” This gathering will ring in the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration with a call to action by Rev. Dr. Becca Stevens, founder and president of Thistle Farms and Episcopal Affiliated Chaplain here at Vanderbilt. Grammy Award winning artist Marcus Hummon and the ‘Inversion Choir’ will be performing two songs from ‘Frederick Douglass: The Making Of An American Prophet’. Songs performed will include ‘A More Perfect Union’ and ‘What Does Freedom Look Like?’  
2. 1pm in the BCC - MLK Commemoration Kickoff Reception  
3. 5:30pm Reception/Signing 6:30pm Lecture Langford Auditorium - Chancellor’s Lecture Series - Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and professor of law at New York University School of Law. Author of Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption. [www.vanderbilt.edu/chancellor/lecture-series](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/chancellor/lecture-series) |
| Monday, January 18            | **Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Keynote Address by Reverend James Lawson**  
Winners of the 2015 MLK Essay Contest will be presented.  
See Official Calendar for Complete Schedule of Events: [www.vanderbilt.edu/mlk](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mlk)  
**Art Exhibit - Lovie Olivia**, a native Houstonian and a visual artist who employs painting, printmaking, and installation to create her works. “I am consumed with making things. I make therefore I ART - moving my hands until something appears. I make things that resemble drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, installations and conversational pieces.”  
**Suni Patterson** – “More than a poet, more than a singer, more than an emcee—it’s not just what she says, it’s how she says it. Emerging from the musical womb that is New Orleans, Mother, Wife, Artist and Visionary, Suni Patterson, combines the heritage and tradition of her Native town with an enlightened modern world view to create music and poetry that is timeless in its groove.” Co-sponsored with English, ADDS, and Latino Studies  
**Black Atlantic History Lecture - Emma Christopher (history, University of Technology, Sydney)** will present the Warren Center’s annual Black Atlantic History Lecture with a screening of her acclaimed film They Are We, the story of a remarkable reunion of a family driven apart by the transatlantic slave trade. The Black Atlantic History Lecture is hosted by the Warren Center’s Circum-Atlantic Studies Group, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center in honor of Black History Month. A reception will follow.  
**Islam 101: Dr. Rashed Fakhruddin** - Join Vanderbilt MSA for Islamic Awareness Week and learn about the basics of Islam. For this event, Br. Rashed, a Vanderbilt alum and current president of the Islamic Center of Nashville, will discuss the general beliefs and practices in Islam and help address some common misunderstandings about the religion. Light refreshments will be provided.  
Sponsored by the Muslim Students Association rsvp: [www.facebook.com/VandyMSA](http://www.facebook.com/VandyMSA) or [AnchorLink](http://AnchorLink)
**Wednesday, February 10** 4pm in Sarratt Cinema

Recovering Lost Voices: Robert Penn Warren and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement
A panel discussion in honor of Vanderbilt alumnus Robert Penn Warren’s 1965 publication *Who Speaks for the Negro?* Speakers include two civil rights activists who were interviewed by Warren for the volume, Ruth Turner Perot and Robert Moses, as well as Reverend Kelly Miller Smith, Jr., whose father was interviewed by Warren. A reception will follow. The event is co-sponsored by the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, the Office of Inclusion Initiatives and Cultural Competence, the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, and Warren College.

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**Thursday, February 11** 12pm in the BCC

BCC Book Event - *Simple Justice by Richard Kluger*  
“Simple Justice is the definitive history of the landmark case Brown v. Board of Education and the epic struggle for racial equality in this country.” On the fiftieth anniversary of the unanimous Supreme Court decision that ended legal segregation, Kluger updated his work with a new final chapter covering events and issues that have arisen since the book was first published, including developments in civil rights and recent cases involving affirmative action, which rose directly out of Brown v. Board of Education.”  
David Williams, Vice Chancellor for University Affairs and Athletics, will lead the discussion.

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**Tuesday, February 16** 12pm in the BCC

BCC Book Event - *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual: A Historical Analysis of the Failure of Black Leadership by Harold Cruse*  
“Published in 1967, as the early triumphs of the Civil Rights movement yielded to increasing frustration and violence, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* electrified a generation of activists and intellectuals. Our focus will be on the chapter "Role of the Negro Intellectual—Survey of the Dialogue Deferred" (pages 451-475). Dr. Lucius Outlaw, Professor of Philosophy will lead the discussion.

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**Tuesday, February 23** 12pm in the BCC

Film Clips & Discussion about Civil Rights Activist Diane Nash

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**Thursday, February 25** 7pm in Langford Auditorium

Annual Walter Murray Lecture - Civil Rights Activist Diane Nash will give the 2016 lecture in honor of Walter Murray, Jr. The lecture is held annually in tribute to African American trailblazers, such as Murray, who made a lasting impact on Vanderbilt University. Murray House is named in his honor. Ms. Nash’s involvement in the nonviolent movement began in 1959 while she was a student at Fisk University. In 1960 she became the chairperson of the student sit-in movement in Nashville as well as one of the founding students of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee.

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**Monday, March 14** 12pm in the BCC

Black Women in History Documentary Film Series

**Mavis Staples** - The life and career of Mavis Staples is chronicled in this documentary about the soul and gospel singer and civil-rights icon who helped shape the musical soundtrack that defined the 1960s, ’70s and beyond. The film follows her 60-year career, beginning as the lead singer of the legendary Staple Singers to her recent Grammy®-winning renaissance with help from Jeff Tweedy. Duration: 120 min

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**Tuesday, March 15** 12pm in the BCC

**Beah Richards** - Mostly known for her role as Sidney Portier’s mother in Guess *Who’s Coming to Dinner,* this documentary reveals the extraordinary life of this African-American actress, poet, playwright and author. Duration: 90min

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**Wednesday, March 16** 12pm in the BCC

**Shirley Chisholm** - Shirley Chisholm’s amazing story takes you through the life of an educator and author who in 1968 became the first African-American woman elected to the United States Congress and would eventually run for President of the United States in 1972. Duration: 77min

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**Thursday March 17**  
in Light Hall &  
Friday, March 18  
in the BCC  
Check website for times --->

The Politics of Health in the U.S. South - Speakers include Melissa Harris-Perry (MSNBC Host and Wake Forest Professor), Jesmyn Ward (American novelist and Tulane University Professor, winner of the *National Book Award for Fiction*), Kenneth Robinson (Physician and Pastor of St. Andrew AME Church in Memphis), and Bryant Simon (Professor of History at Temple University)  
Co-Sponsored with the Vanderbilt Trans-Institutional Programs (TIPs) initiative and the Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health, and Society.  
For details regarding schedule: [www.vanderbilt.edu/mbh/the-politics-of-health-in-the-u-s-south](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mbh/the-politics-of-health-in-the-u-s-south)

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**Wednesday, March 23** 7:30pm in Sarratt Cinema

International Lens Film Screening - *Selma*  
Selma chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement.

At the Forefront of Freedom - The Women of Selma  
The Robert Penn Warren Center, the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, and the Ingram Commons will present a panel to discuss the central role women played in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Panelists include civil rights activists Jennifer Lawson, Joann Mants, and Judy Richardson, as well as Emily Crosby (history, SUNY-Geneseseo) and Hasan Kwame Jeffries (history, Ohio State University). In addition to the panel, there will be a screening of the movie Selma on Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema.

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**Thursday, March 24** 4:10pm in the BCC

**The Politics of Health in the U.S. South - Speakers include Melissa Harris-Perry (MSNBC Host and Wake Forest Professor), Jesmyn Ward (American novelist and Tulane University Professor, winner of the *National Book Award for Fiction*), Kenneth Robinson (Physician and Pastor of St. Andrew AME Church in Memphis), and Bryant Simon (Professor of History at Temple University)**

Co-Sponsored with the Vanderbilt Trans-Institutional Programs (TIPs) initiative and the Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health, and Society.

For details regarding schedule: [www.vanderbilt.edu/mbh/the-politics-of-health-in-the-u-s-south](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mbh/the-politics-of-health-in-the-u-s-south)
Monday, March 28 6pm in the BCC
Nashville Reads – The Color of Water: A black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother
A discussion of this year’s “Nashville Reads” book, by James McBride. Facilitated by the Nashville Public Library, Co-Sponsored with The Program in Jewish Studies, and the Nashville Public Library.

Tuesday, March 29 6pm in the BCC
Documentary Film Screening - What Happened Miss Simone? A documentary about the life and legend Nina Simone, an American singer, pianist, and civil rights activist labeled the “High Priestess of Soul.”

Wednesday, March 30 12pm in the BCC
BCC Book Event - I Put A Spell On You: The Autobiography Of Nino Simone “A gorgeous, inimitable singer and songwriter, Nina Simone (1933-2003) changed the face of both music and race relations in America. She struck a chord with bluesy jazz ballads like “Put a Little Sugar in My Bowl” and powerful protest songs such as “Mississippi Goddam” and “To Be Young, Gifted, and Black,” the anthem of the American Civil Rights movement. Coinciding with the re-release of her famous Philips Recordings, here are the reflections of the “High Priestess of Soul” on her own life.”

Thursday, March 31 4pm in the BCC
Quilt Exhibit Opening – The Zuri Quilting Guild, Nashville’s only African American Quilting Guild. The women of Zuri have taken the traditional styles of quilting and added their own unique flair using African textiles, prints, and bold colors that communicate their own unique styles as African American women. (“Zuri” means “beautiful” in Swahili) “Piecing Together Our Past While Keeping Ourselves in Stitches”

Monday, April 4 12pm in the BCC
Documentary Film Screening - Love and Solidarity
What can people do to change a world full of violence and hate? Is nonviolent revolution possible? Love and Solidarity addresses these questions through the life and thought of Reverend James Lawson, an African American Methodist minister who worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., to initiate civil rights struggles in the South in the 1960s, and in recent years taught nonviolence organizing to poor Black and Latino workers in coalitions that have remade the labor movement in Los Angeles. Through interviews with Rev. Lawson and historic film footage, acclaimed labor and civil rights historian Michael Honey and award-winning filmmaker Errol Webber place a needed discourse on nonviolent social change at the forefront of today’s struggles against violence and for human rights, peace, and economic justice. Co-Sponsored with the Department of History.

Thursday, April 7
Students & Director 4pm in the BCC
Screening 5pm in the BCC
Documentary Film Screening – Reflections Unheard: Black Women in Civil Rights
Screening and Q & A with director, Nevline Nnaji. Reflections Unheard is a documentary which focuses on black women’s marginalization between the Black Power and Feminist movements of the 1960s and 70s. It is the first and only film of its kind to focus exclusively on black women’s experiences and contributions during the Civil Rights era Co-Sponsored with Women’s and Gender Studies and Robert Penn Warren Center’s Gender and Sexualities group, WGS.

Wednesday, April 13 12pm in the BCC
Documentary Film Screening - A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde
“Poet, lover, mother, warrior—Audre Lorde was a fiercely passionate American visionary. Her poetry and prose spoke to her deepest convictions—love and anger, civil rights and sexuality, family politics and glories of nature. She gave voice to a political generation and became a role model not only for black women but for everyone who believes, as she did, that “liberation is not the private province of any one particular group.” In 1992 Lorde lost her battle with breast cancer, but she leaves behind a rich and vital legacy.”

BCC Book Event – Sister Outsider Essays & Speeches by Audre Lorde “Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde, SISTER OUTSIDER celebrates an influential voice in twentieth-century literature. In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope.”

Thursday, May 12 7pm in the Student Life Center
The 2016 Black Graduates Recognition Ceremony honoring graduates and recognizing their families as their journey through Vanderbilt University comes to conclusion.

Friday, May 13 12pm in the BCC
Post-Commencement Luncheon for graduates and their families. Come out and fellowship one last time with the graduates of the Class of 2016.

Friday, May 20 through Sunday, May 22 In the BCC, times TBD
boundary 2 Conference
Since its debut in 1972, boundary 2 has sought to recognize and interrogate new flows of literature, criticism, and theory. Originally dedicated exclusively to postmodernism, boundary 2 expanded its focus in the late 1980s to where it remains today, investigating literature and culture in ways important to a transitional era in media, writing, politics, and ideas. Co-sponsored with Vanderbilt’s English Department.

Please check our website for updates and new events: www.vanderbilt.edu/bcc