

PRIMANNUM HONOR SOCIETY: A HISTORY



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THE HISTORY OF PRIMANNUM

BY: SANA HAIDER

The theme of this month's Primannum Newsletter is history, it is important to learn and appreciate the history of Primannum Honor Society and the two societies that it represents: Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded at the University of Illinois on May 31, 1924, as a women-only freshman honor society. Purdue University followed in 1926, and Depaux University in 1927. By 1931, the University of Maryland had adopted its own chapter. The Association of College Honor Societies admitted Alpha Lambda Delta in 1939. Men were admitted to Alpha Lambda Delta 34 years later in 1973, and now there are over 225 chapters in the U.S.

Phi Eta Sigma was founded at the University of Illinois as an honor society for freshman men on March 23, 1923. It became a chapter at the University of Maryland in 1940 as the 48th chapter in the U.S. There are now over 250 chapters. Women were allowed to become members of Phi Eta Sigma in 1974. Phi Eta Sigma was admitted to the Association of College Honor Societies in 1937.

When it comes to our beloved Primannum Honor Society, it was created in November 1999 at the University of Maryland under the leadership of the president of Alpha Lambda Delta, Stephen Murphy. The UMD Phi Eta Sigma chapter had been inactive since 1990. However, The Dean of Undergraduate Education, Robert Hampton, decided to allow the re-activation of Phi Eta Sigma. Thus, Phi Eta Sigma was re-chartered in 1999. Katherine Pedro Beardsley, Chapter Advisor for Alpha Lambda Delta, met with Hampton and they created one organization on campus, which represented both honor societies due to their similarity in purpose.

The Alpha Lambda Delta Student Executive Board agreed to the proposal, and after deliberation they settled on the name Primannum Honor Society. The term "primannum" means "first year" in Latin, and our honor society continues to honor that today.

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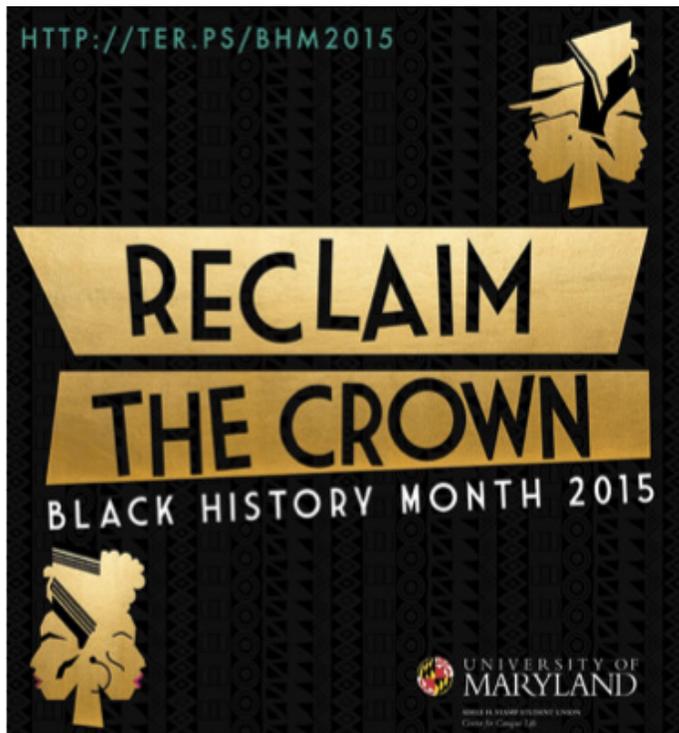


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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BY: LIA COLLEN

The idea of Black History Month started with historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland when they founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The group started a national Negro History Week in 1926 to inspire communities to celebrate black heritage and culture. Negro History Week turned into Black History Month in the 1960s, in part because of the popularity of the Civil Rights Movement. Then in 1976, President Ford officially recognized Black History Month, according to the History network.



The University of Maryland celebrates Black History Month through several events.

Photograph courtesy of University of Maryland Adele H. Stamp Student Union

The University of Maryland has deemed Black History Month 2015 “Reclaim the Crown.” Various student organizations and campus departments are hosting a wide array of events every night this month to celebrate the legacy of Black History Month. Events include a lecture by Rep. Elijah Cummings, an Essence of Black Culture Expo, a lecture titled “Exploring the History of Black Journalism” and a Black History Poetry Club. The month ends with “Night at the Apollo,” where the Black Student Union is showcasing various entertainment acts. Most of these events are taking place in the Stamp Student Union or the Nymburu Cultural Center. For more information, visit Stamp’s website for Black Student Involvement.



The NAACP proudly displays photos of influential black women on its website.

“The Stamp events are a good opportunity for people to connect,” said Katherine Meadows, sophomore biology major and Primannum member. “Everyone knows that it is Black History Month, so we should get together to celebrate and learn about it.” Meadows and other students have been taking advantage of the university’s commitment to honor Black History Month. These events are part of the university’s broader diversity campaign. In addition to the Black History Month programming, the university also offers programs such as Sisterhood of Unity and Love, Black Male Initiative Program, the Maryland Gospel Choir and Dance Afrika.

SPOTLIGHT: JULIA FULLER

BY: MIRISH SHAH

February is Black History Month, a time where we reflect on and celebrate the achievements of black Americans who played a central role in shaping the history of the U.S. Primannum Honor Society has taken its own spin on this idea by focusing on the history of a Primannum member: Julia Fuller.

Julia is a senior at the university and is currently the VP of Volunteerism for Primannum. She is from Howard County, Maryland, and is on track to earn a dual degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Psychology. After she graduates, Julia aspires to either earn a doctorate in Criminology, studying the organizational behavior of extremist and criminal groups or to become an intelligence analyst for the federal government. Apart from this, Julia has been an active member of Primannum in her time at UMD.

During her sophomore year, Julia was a member of the inaugural Membership Committee and helped plan the first Fall Induction Ceremony. Later, from the spring of her sophomore year to the end of her junior year, Julia was Co-VP of the Membership Committee and led the planning of the Induction Ceremony with her Co-VP. Since the fall semester, Julia has been the VP of Volunteerism. With the help of her committee, she has planned and participated in two events per month. She has also helped organize a successful Pen Pal Network with Galway Elementary School. Julia's accomplishments make her a vital member of the Primannum community and rightfully deserving of a spotlight. Keep up the good work Julia!



Do
YOU WANT
TO BE FEATURED AS
THE NEXT PRIMANNUM
SPOTLIGHT?

Email primannumhonorsociety@gmail.com if you want to be featured in the next newsletter. Please include a reason why you think you would be a good addition!

THE HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

BY: ALEXA TSINTOLAS

Believe it or not, Valentine's Day never entailed the buying of chocolate, flowers and cards for much of its history. Valentine's Day evolved from various legends and a Roman holiday that involved rituals such as goat sacrifice.

The holiday name is surrounded by some controversy. There are two saints by the name of Valentine who are considered to have influenced the creation of the holiday. One tale claims that Valentine was a priest who lived during third century Rome under Emperor Claudius II. At the time, Rome's ruler banned his soldiers from marrying because he believed that single soldiers would perform better than soldiers who were married. Valentine found the edict unwarranted, and he illicitly performed marriages for soldiers until he was caught and subsequently killed.

Another man by the name of Valentine is said to have helped free Christians from the brutality they faced in Roman prisons. He eventually was captured, and during his incarceration wrote a letter to a young woman in which he signed, "From your Valentine," beginning the tradition of Valentine's Day greetings and cards.

There is also some contention about why February 14 was selected to be Valentine's Day. Some claim the holiday was chosen to take place in the middle of February to remember the death or burial of St. Valentine. However, it is also believed that the date was chosen to transform the pagan holiday Lupercalia, observed by the Romans on February 15, into a more Christian one.

The Romans celebrated Lupercalia by sacrificing a goat, cutting the goat's hide into strips, dousing the strips in the sacrificed goat's blood, and splattering the blood on women and their farmland. This ritual was done to ensure the fertility of the Roman women and land for the year. Furthermore, according to myth, young women were matched to men by means of a random drawing of names. Often, the pairs married.

At the end of the fifth century, Pope Gelasius barred Lupercalia and chose February 14 to be Valentine's Day. The Middle Ages marked the start of when the holiday began to represent love and romance. Our current tradition of cards and written messages began after 1400, and since then, Valentine's Day has transformed into the holiday that we celebrate today.



St. Valentine is a part of many myths that describe the history of Valentine's Day, but today we celebrate with chocolate and flowers.

<- Photo courtesy of fellowshipoftheminds.com
Photo courtesy of whatsblooming.com ->



THE {SEMI} FAMOUS PRIMANNUM ALUMNI

BY: ADAM HURWITZ

MARY BARRA

The first female CEO of a major global automaker
(General Motors)



ERIKA HAROLD

An attorney at Meyer Capel,
Champaign County Illinois'
largest law firm and a Republican
candidate for the 13th
Congressional District seat in the
state of Illinois



MAYIM BIALIK

Actress best known for her role as
Amy Farrah Fowler in "The Big
Bang Theory"



You!



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The Primannum Honor Society is a University of Maryland Honor Society that represents two national honor societies, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. Both of these national honor societies recognize academic excellence during a student's first year in college.