

Women: Weaving the Future
9th Annual Celebration
March 11 - March 30, 2006

Essay Contest Winners "Excerpts from an Urban America Journal" by Clitha Mason \$100.00
"Unconditional Love" by Victoria Maulsby \$75.00 "A Blessing Called Love" by Sharice K.
Minter \$50.00 "My Mother, My Inspiration" by Luisana Marrero-Flores \$25.00

Women's History Month Planning Committee, 2006 Dr. Blanche Radford Curry, *Committee Chair*
Dr. Trela Anderson Ms. Annie Butler Dr. Dawn Herd-Clark
Ms. Socorro Hernandez-Hinek Dr. Maria Orban Mrs. Kelli Walsh

Acknowledgements

The Office of the Chancellor
Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
The Fayetteville Observer
National Council of Negro Women, Collegiate Section
Hostesses: Sade Barbara, Deresia Croft, Charlene Ricks, Michea Anthony, Davneatra Foster and Tiffany Fogg
President, Fola Kayode Immediate Past President, Tiffany Adams

Women's documented journey for civil rights, on which every step forward was a struggle, has a history of more than 155 years beginning with Susan B. Anthony's activism in 1848 and Sojourner Truth's memorable speech in 1851. Undocumented history is probably as old as the human spirit, and many historical facts of this journey are not well-known. For example, the tragic 1911 fire at the New York Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, killing more than 150 women; or our own Hamlet, NC chicken processing plant fire, killing 25 women in the 1990's. In 1908 International Women's Day was established, and in 1921, March 8th became the official date for celebrating women all over the world. Fifty-seven years later the National Women's History Project, in Santa Rosa, CA, spearheaded Women's History Week, and in 1981 Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Representative Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) co-sponsored a joint congressional resolution declaring National Women's History Week. In 1987 the week was expanded to the entire month of March.

Fayetteville State University's first Annual Women's Week, March 17-22, 1968, focused on "How You Use Today Will Determine How Tomorrow Uses You." It was revitalized March 1-7, 1998 with the program entitled "Celebrating Women: Our Multiple Selves. During our years of "Celebrations," we have seen a heightened awareness of Women's Contributions by both public and private sectors of the Fayetteville Community. Other milestones include two commemorative calendars: one in 2002 focusing on Fayetteville organizations that make a difference in women's lives and another in 2004 focusing on Fayetteville Women Leaders who made a difference. We have also enjoyed and learned significantly about the importance of Women's History Month from insightful and outstanding keynote speakers such as Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Ms. Reanae McNeal, Ms. Marcia Ann Gillespie and Dr. Renita Weems.

Not only is Women's History Month an opportunity to celebrate women's contributions to society, but it is also a reminder of the unfair challenges that women still face today like sexual assault, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and multiple inequities – equal pay, equal representation, career and education opportunities, and so forth. This year the celebration of the lives of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King highlighted the common ground shared by Black History Month and Women's History Month. And the same is also true for the contributions and challenges of Native American, Hispanic, Latina/Chicana, Asian, or Muslim women. Where are you on this journey of celebrating women's contributions and confronting the many challenges women still face? Can you commit to thirty-one projects for the month of March as an individual, or collaboratively with family, friends, an organization, church or school? www.uncfsu.edu/whm www.nwhp.org