

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – REFLECTIONS

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The commemoration of “**Black History Month**” (or “**African American History Month**”) in the US, since the late 20th century, is very significant toward the recognition of the lives, experiences, and contributions of peoples of African origin to humanity. It gives them a recognition of their place in a globalized world where they co-exist with other human races. At the same time, we learn more about their histories, current experiences, and future aspirations.



As a professor of African origin, and whose research mainly focuses on Modern Africa and its relations with the international community, this month provides me with an opportunity to reflect on areas that need further research, on Black peoples, both in Africa and the diaspora.

The History courses I teach at Tarleton, which include the following: World Civilizations I and II; The British Empire; Modern Africa; Decolonization, Development, and the Cold War; among others, all reflect and include elements of peoples of African origin, as they have interacted with other human races, both during times of conflict and cooperation, and times of war and peace. The aim is to produce university graduates who understand the world in which they live and the histories of all the peoples they interact with.

One of my favorite quotes is by **Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)**, who once said: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

I believe we can all use this quote, beyond the designated month of February, as an inspiration to do good things to others, irrespective of their race, gender, nationality, political values, and religion, among other identities.



My name is Daisha Sipho and I am currently a first-year doctoral student, as well as an instructor in the criminal justice department. I am a Fort Worth, TX native graduating high school from Southwest High School in Fort Worth ISD. As a first-generation student, I received my bachelor's and master's degree from Texas Christian University. I have always known furthering my education was a goal of mine. I have a strong passion for criminal justice, specifically juvenile justice and wrongful convictions. I have observed the many roles and opportunities this career field offers from police work to academia. Being an instructor to me means paying it forward and providing students the same academia and support I received, both in undergraduate and graduate school. With the support of my family and friends, I have been able to make it thus far. My great grandfather lived by a quote that I adopted, "May the work I've done speak for me." I hope to leave a great lasting impression here at Tarleton State University.



I am Therese Pennell, a Black-Belizean-American. I am an immigrant, a woman, and Black. I am an assistant professor of English teaching technical writing and am surrounded by great colleagues within and outside my department. I am learning quite a bit from both my students and colleagues. Similarly, to my students and colleagues, I aim to teach, to help them see subjects from different perspectives, and about new subject matters altogether. In a political environment that sometimes feel intolerant, I hope we all learn to move beyond

tolerance and to love and accept, it is much easier on the giver, than it is to hate and reject.