

# National Women's History Month 2014 Calendar

## Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment

### Middle Tennessee State University



## Keynote Speaker Soledad O'Brien

coverage of the BP Gulf Coast oil spill. Her reporting on the Southeast Asia tsunami garnered CNN an Alfred I DuPont award. O'Brien's critically acclaimed documentary series, *Black in America*, and its follow-up, *Latino in America*, are among CNN's most successful domestic and international franchises. In 2013 *Latino in America 2*, the story of a Latina boxer who dreams of Olympic glory, won the celebrated Cine Award for documentaries. Her documentaries *Gay in America: Gary and Tony Have a Baby* and *Unwelcome*, the *Muslims Next Door* also won numerous journalism awards. O'Brien was named journalist of the year by the National Association of Black Journalists and one of *Newsweek* magazine's "10 People Who Make America Great." In 2013 O'Brien joined Harvard University as a Distinguished Fellow and was appointed to the board of directors of the foundation for The National Archives.

O'Brien is also the moderator and executive producer of the National Geographic Bee. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, O'Brien and her husband Brad created a foundation to help disadvantaged young women get to and through college. In 2013 they will award scholarships to 25 deserving young women. O'Brien lives in Manhattan with her husband and four children.

Soledad O'Brien is an award winning journalist, documentarian, news anchor, and producer. O'Brien was the originator of *Black in America* and *Latino in America*. In June 2013 she launched Starfish Media Group, a multiplatform media production and distribution company dedicated to uncovering and producing empowering stories that take a challenging look at the often divisive issues of race, class, wealth, poverty, and opportunity through personal stories. Starfish Media Group continues to produce *Black in America* and *Latino in America* and other programming for CNN. Also in June 2013, O'Brien joined Al Jazeera America and HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* as a correspondent.

O'Brien has reported on breaking news from around the globe. In 2011 she won an Emmy for "Crisis in Haiti Report" on Haitian orphanages following the massive earthquake. Her coverage of Hurricane Katrina earned her and CNN a George Foster Peabody award. She also received another Peabody award for her

### National Women's History Month Button

Sojourner Truth, civil rights and women's rights activist, was born in 1797 in Swartekill, New York. Her given name was Isabella Baumfree, and her nickname was Belle. Almost six feet tall, Truth was a striking woman with a charismatic presence. When she addressed an audience, her low resonant voice, especially when raised in song, could still the most hostile crowd. She often spoke about the demeaning nature of slavery and the redeeming power of faith. She declared that her soul was "beclouded and crushed" while in slavery. "But how good and wise is God, for if slaves knewed what their true condition was, it would be more than the mind could bear. While the race is sold of all their rights—what is there on God's footstool to bring them up?"

"But I believe in the next world. When we get up yonder, we shall have all them rights 'stored to us again." (*Anti-Slavery Bugle*, Oct. 1856)

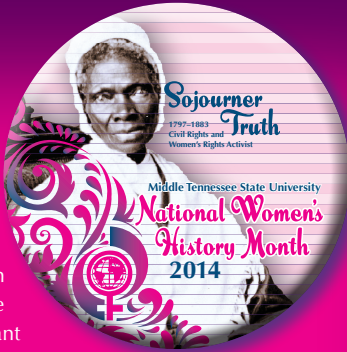
But Truth was unwilling to wait to get to heaven to have her rights—or those of any persecuted person—restored. Preaching for racial equality, she asked, "Does not God love colored children as well as white children? And did not the same Savior die to save the one as well as the other?" (Sabbath School Convention, Battle Creek, June 1863)

Truth was not intimidated by convention or authority. She learned to manipulate establishment institutions to effect reforms. She won three lawsuits, very unusual for a woman of her time, especially for an illiterate ex-slave. She retrieved her son, Peter, who had been sold illegally from New York State into slavery in Alabama. She also won a slander suit in New York City and a personal injury case after she was injured in a streetcar incident in Washington, D.C.

Sojourner Truth was legendary for her sense of humor, which she frequently used to deflate self-righteousness. She ridiculed the contrast between the earnest message of some women social activists and the frivolous clothing they wore. "What kind of reformers be you, with goose-wings on your heads, as if you were going to fly, and dressed in such ridiculous fashion, talking about reform and women's rights?" (*Narrative of Sojourner Truth*)

Her most famous address, "Ain't I A Woman," was delivered at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, on May 28, 1851. Sojourner asserted that women deserved equal rights with men because they were equal in capability to men. "I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that?" She concluded her argument saying, "And how came Jesus into the world? Through God who created him and the woman who bore him. Man, where was your part?" (*Anti-Slavery Bugle*, June 1851)

Although Sojourner Truth was not an active participant in the Underground Railroad, she did assist many blacks who had previously traveled this route to freedom by helping them find new homes. Sojourner Truth died in 1883 in Battle Creek, Michigan.





# National Women's History Month

Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment

## March 2014

### Monday, March 3, 2014

**2014 NWHM Woman in Science Invited Lecture: Aisha Bowe “Pioneering Progress—Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment.”**

7:00 p.m., Business and Aerospace Building, room S305  
For information, contact Judith Iriarte-Gross, (615) 494-7763, Judith.Iriarte-Gross@mtsu.edu, or Andrea Georgiou at (615) 556-1371, Andrea.Georgiou@mtsu.edu.  
Co-sponsored by the MTSU Women in STEM Center and the MTSU Department of Aerospace

### Wednesday, March 19, 2014

**Decision Making Skills**

Time and Location TBD

This presentation will go into detail about why having developed decision making skills are necessary in leadership and how to use them in a team environment.

Sara Croft, (615) 898-5812, sec4e@mtmail.mtsu.edu, June Anderson Center

### Spectrum Lecture: Beyond Phobias

7:00 p.m., Business and Aerospace Building, room 128

Dr Ann Callahan will be discussing what you can do when you encounter homophobia and transphobia, and what to do to break down and move beyond these issues.

### Thursday, March 20, 2014

**“Serving the Local Community: Women in Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County Governments”**

5:00–7:00 p.m., Tom Jackson Building  
The Murfreesboro Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presents a panel discussion among five local public officials who are women.  
Dr. Tanya Peres, (615)904-8590, Tanya.Peres@mtsu.edu, American Association of University Women

### Saturday, March 22, 2014

**The Perfect PROMise: Prom Dress Gifting Boutique Event**

9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Tom Jackson Building  
I AM ME plans to collect and “re-gift” gently used prom and formal gowns and give the gift of prom to girls in need!  
Verinique Bailey, (615)500-0837, vdb2i@mtmail.mtsu.edu

### Tuesday, March 25, 2014

**Religion and Women, sponsored by June Anderson Center**

Time and Location TBD

To register for this event, contact Jarayon Jackson, jarayonj@yahoo.com. For more information, contact June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Student Intern, Jarayon Jackson, jarayonj@yahoo.com

### Wednesday, March 26, 2014

**Coming Out Stories**

7:00 p.m., Business and Aerospace Building, room 328

Members of the LGBT+ community will be presenting their personal coming out stories and reflecting on their journey as a member of the LGBT+ community.

### Friday, March 28, 2014

**Professor Cinzia Arruzza, New School for Social**

**Research: ‘Gender as Social Temporality: Butler and Marx’**

5:00 p.m., College of Education Building, room 164  
Professor Cinzia Arruzza (Ph.D., University of Rome) will present a lecture on construction of gender identities under capitalism. An informal reception will follow the event.  
Michael Principe, (615)898-2907, Philosophy Department

### Saturday, March 29, 2014

**“The Proper Tea: The Many Hats of a Lady”**

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., James Union Building

This event will be an opportunity for girls aged 18–25 to come and learn the responsibilities of being a lady and will include a lesson on proper meal etiquette.

Admission with pre-registration, \$15.

Jonell Hinsey, (615)898-5797, Jonell.Hinsey@mtsu.edu

### Monday, March 31, 2014

**“Tennessee True GRITS” The story of a Tennessee woman who is using her chemistry degree to fulfill her dream.**

6:00–8:00 p.m., Tom Jackson Building

“Tennessee True GRITS” The story of a Tennessee woman who is using her chemistry degree to fulfill her dream. Keynote Speaker Ruth Woodall

Judith Iriarte-Gross, Ph.D., WISTEM Center, (615) 494-7763

## April 2014

### Tuesday, April 1, 2014

**Together We Can! World renowned speaker and advocate, Jeffrey S. Bucholtz**

6:00 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, 2nd floor

Learn about sexual violence and how to prevent it through an examination of the cultural ideologies, attitudes, and behaviors that allow it to flourish. This lecture is easily adaptable for both novice and advanced audiences.

For more information, contact Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, (615) 898-5812

### Wednesday, April 2, 2014

**“Mark Wynn: Stalking and Counter Stalking”**

6:00–8:00 p.m.,

Business and Aerospace Building, State Farm Room, S102

Award winning advocate against domestic violence Mark Wynn will be covering the growing crime of stalking in domestic violence incidents and college campuses.

Sara Croft, (615) 898-5812, sec4e@mtmail.mtsu.edu,

June Anderson Center

### Monday, April 7–Saturday, April 12, 2014

**SpringOut! Pride Week**

### Monday, April 7, 2014

**Second Annual SpringOut! DragOut!**

7:00 p.m., James Union Building, Tennessee Room

Tickets may be bought by contacting mtlambda@mtsu.edu

### Tuesday, April 8, 2014

**\$tart \$mart Workshop**

4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, 2nd floor

The workshop teaches a young woman how to determine what employers are paying for the job she wants when she graduates and how to negotiate to be paid what she is worth for doing that job. Over her working life, a woman will earn \$1 million less than a man simply because she is a woman. Don't let this be you. Learn how to negotiate your salary today. \$tart \$mart! Accepting only the first 40 women.

To register, please call Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (June Anderson Center), (615) 898-5812 today!

**Seats are very limited!**

### Friday, April 11, 2014

**Performance by Jennifer Lanier**

6:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, 2nd floor, Free

### Monday, April 14, 2014

**“I Didn't Think it was Rape”**

6:00–8:00 p.m.,

Business and Aerospace Building, State Farm Room, S102

A detective from the Rutherford County (Sheriff's)

Department will be giving a presentation followed by a question and answer.

### Wednesday, April 16, 2014

**Business and Professional Women Scholarship**

**Application Deadline**

Business and Professional Women Scholarship (provides \$300 toward 2014–2015 tuition). The BPW Scholarship is sponsored by the Heart of Tennessee Business and Professional Women Organization. For more information about BPW, visit www.bpwusa.org. Application forms are available on the bulletin board outside the Speech and Theatre office (BDA 205) or contact Dr. Janet McCormick (Janet.McCormick@mtsu.edu).

### Thursday, April 24, 2014

**“Homophobia in the African American Community”**

6:00–8:00 p.m., BAS State Farm Room, S102

We will hear from people giving testimonies about their experiences with homophobia in the African American community followed by a question and answer session.

Sara Croft, (615) 898-5812, sec4e@mtmail.mtsu.edu,

June Anderson Center and Alpha Kappa Alpha

### Saturday, April 26, 2014

**Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment Gala**

6:00–8:00 p.m., James Union Building, Tennessee Room

This Gala recognizes women and men in the Rutherford County community and MTSU community who have been advocates for Women Rights and have shown great character, courage, and commitment to the cause.

For ticket information, contact the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (June Anderson Center, Valerie Avent), (615) 898-5812.

Form additional information about events go to [www.mtsu.edu/jac/nwhm.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/jac/nwhm.php) or email Barbara Scales at [Barbara.Scales@mtsu.edu](mailto:Barbara.Scales@mtsu.edu). Events on the calendar may have changed, see [www.mtsu.edu/calendar](http://www.mtsu.edu/calendar) for current information.

## Featured Events

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Free

## 2014 Keynote Speaker Soledad O'Brien

*Critically Acclaimed Journalist,  
Educator, and Mentor*

**“Diversity:  
On TV, Behind the Scenes  
and In Our Lives.”**

**7:00 p.m. • Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
Student Union Building Ballroom,  
Second Floor**

**Free Admission • Limited Seating**