

Medical Interpreting Services Newsletter

Black History Facts

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-facts>

Black History Month honors the contributions of African Americans to U.S. history. Did you know that Madam C.J. Walker was America's first woman to become a self-made millionaire, or that George Washington Carver was able to derive nearly 300 products from the peanut?

Black History Month: The celebration of Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

NAACP: On February 12, 2009, the NAACP marked its 100th anniversary. Spurred by growing racial violence in the early twentieth century, and particularly by 1908 race riots in Springfield, Illinois, a group of African-American leaders joined together to form a new permanent civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). February 12, 1909, was chosen because it was the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

First Lawyer: John Mercer Langston was the first black man to become a lawyer when he passed the bar in Ohio in 1854. When he was elected to the post of Town Clerk for Brownhelm, Ohio, in 1855 Langston became one of the first African Americans ever elected to public office in America. John Mercer Langston was also the great-uncle of Langston Hughes, famed poet of the Harlem Renaissance.

Supreme Court Justice: Thurgood Marshall was the first African American ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and served on the court from 1967 to 1991.

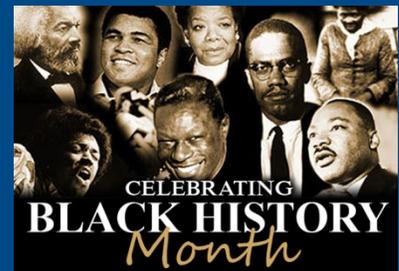
Eminent Scientist: George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.

First Senator: Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first African American ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He represented the state of Mississippi from February 1870 to March 1871.

First Woman Representative: Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of New York. She broke ground again four years later in 1972 when she was the first major party African-American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States.

Into Space: In 1992, Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle Endeavor. During her eight-day mission, she worked with U.S. and Japanese researchers, and was a co-investigator on a bone cell experiment.

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"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles he has overcome while trying to succeed."

- Booker T. Washington

February 2019 Calendar

*National African American History Month
American Heart Month (US)*

- 1-7 – Women's Heart Week (US)
- 1 – National Wear Red Day (US)
- 3-9 – African Heritage & Health Week (US)
- 4-10 – Children's Mental Health Week (US)
- 2 – Groundhog Day (US)
- 4 – Lunar New Year (International)
- 4 – World Cancer Day
- 14 – Valentine's Day (International)
- 15 – Nirvana Day (Buddhism)
- 18 – Presidents' Day (US)
- 21 – World Mother Language Day



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Pre-session: a Medical Interpreter's Best Friend

Why are pre-sessions necessary?

Doctor: "Tell him to hop up on the exam table... Now, has he had these symptoms for a while? Ask him if he's taken anything for it..." (*Wait, why is the doctor talking to me and not the patient? What do I do now?*)

Patient: "Oh dear, that doctor looks too young to be practicing medicine... Wait, did you just interpret this? Why would you do this?" (*Oh no! Now the patient won't trust me!*)

If you are a professional medical interpreter, chances are that you have encountered similar situations. If you are only just starting out in the profession, somebody might have warned you about these things happening. Yes, on an ideal interpreting assignment, the doctor and patient speak in utterances of reasonable length and at a reasonable pace, not saying anything they wouldn't want to be interpreted, all the while making eye contact and speaking directly to each other. In real life, things may not go so perfectly – and not because people involved don't want us to do our jobs, but rather because they might not have worked with interpreters before and therefore might not know the best way to fully utilize the help of a professional interpreter. They might also have concerns about having another person present at a doctor's appointment – one that is not wearing scrubs or a white coat and at first glance does not look like part of a healthcare team. As a result, patients might be reluctant to divulge sensitive information in the presence of an interpreter. The list goes on.

As interpreters going into a healthcare encounter, we can either hope that none of the above happens, or we can help ensure that conditions are created that enable us to interpret to the best of our abilities and allow us to do our job – that is, enable people to communicate as if they were speaking the same language. One way to make this happen is by having a pre-session.

A good way to remember elements of a pre-session is a tool called CIFE, developed by Zarita Araujo-Lane, owner of Cross Cultural Communication Systems. **CIFE** is an acronym which stands for **Confidentiality, I use first person, Flow and Everything will be interpreted**. To find out more, go to source text:

<https://medicalinterpreterblog.wordpress.com/2018/05/01/pre-session-medical-interpreters/>

Staff Interpreter Profile: Sandra Paulino-Valdivia

Sandra Paulino-Valdivia was born and raised in Peru. She attended school there until she was in 6th grade. She immigrated to US with her family and settled in Sacramento. She studied English as a second language, maintained her practice of Spanish at home, then attended Sheldon High School. After graduating from high school, Sandra was interested in science and veterinary medicine. She attended community colleges and took pre-nursing classes. Sandra learned about medical interpreting as a career opportunity and offered her skills to local agencies in Sacramento. After giving it a try, she liked interpreting more than she expected, and decided to stay in this field. In the summer of 2018 Sandra took the 40 hour "Connecting Worlds" healthcare interpreting course at UC Davis Health, and shortly after the training she was hired at UCDH in per diem capacity.

"I get to see a little bit of every specialty here at UC Davis Health. I broaden my knowledge, and every day is different – it brings something new," – says Sandra. In her spare time, Sandra likes to spend time with her daughter, listen to music, and dance.

Welcome onboard, Sandra! We are happy to have you as a part of our MIS Spanish-language team.



This issue was produced by UC Davis Health Medical Interpreting Services Department editorial team. Questions? Comments? Please call Medical Interpreting Services at 916/734-2296 or e-mail hs-medinterpreting@ucdavis.edu