Throughout February and March, scholars from around the United States are sharing their research on Black history with the ISU community. Co-sponsored by the ISU Department of History and the ISU Cultural Events Committee, this spring’s Identity: A Black History Webinar Series features online presentations by historians and archivists from across the country.

“This speaker series is designed to give our campus and community an opportunity to hear from some of the most exciting young scholars in the field,” said Dr. Marie Stango, who organized the series. “Each of the speakers’ workplaces Black activism and agency at the center of their research.”

In February, Dr. Alaina Roberts spoke about the history of Black slave-owning among the Five Tribes (the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole Nations). Dr. Tyler Parry presented on the matrimonial act of “jumping the broom” and the complex, interconnected history that links the cultures of peoples of African and European descent throughout the Atlantic world.

On March 11, Ms. Tarienne Mitchell will speak about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Black pioneers who belonged to the church. On March 25, Dr. Ava Purkiss will discuss how Black women augmented their public health campaigns by integrating physical exercise into their health activism in the early twentieth century.

“I specifically chose scholars who could speak to topics that were relevant to our community, including Dr. Roberts on the intersections of Black and Indigenous History, and Ms. Mitchell on early Black members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” Stango said. “We’ve had an amazing response thus far: over 80 people attended the first talk.”

The webinars are free to attend and are open to everyone. To register online, see the ISU History department website: isu.edu/history
BENGALS MAKE HISTORY

Curiel publishes book review

Dr. Heern contributes to education volume
Dr. Zackery Heern has contributed a chapter to the edited collection Education beyond Europe: Models and Traditions before Modernities, recently published by Brill. This book features the work of international scholars who work on educational traditions in different parts of the world. Dr. Heern's chapter is titled “Shi ‘i Educational Traditions and Systems in Early Modern Iraq and Iran.”

Dr. Black takes part in NEH Institute
Dr. Winston Black was recently accepted as a participant in a competitive NEH Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, “Advanced digital editing: modeling the text and making the edition,” to help him prepare an open-access critical edition of a medieval medical text, the De Viribus Herbarum of Macer Floridus.

Dr. Black has also written a chapter, “Translation, Comparison, and Adaptation: Latin Verse Herbals in the Aaron Danielis,” for the collection Reading Henry Daniel: Contexts, Texts, Legacy, edited by Dr. Sarah Star for the University of Toronto Press.

He also recently published an article about the Black Death in the Spanish magazine Arqueología e Historia no. 35 (Feb 2021), “Entre fe y ciencia. Las interpretaciones de la epidemia” (“Between faith and science: Interpretations of the Epidemic”).
Hunt discusses imposter syndrome
Adjunct instructor Kristine Hunt will be participating in a panel discussion on imposter syndrome at the annual conference of the American Copy Editors Society in April 2021. She will bring her 18 years of experience in editing scholarly books, dissertations, and articles as well as teaching to the discussion of ways to identify imposter syndrome and counteract it with Cognitive Behavior Therapy and other techniques.

Dr. Fardy on Althusser and Art
On March 16, Dr. Jonathan Fardy will be discussing his recently published book, Althusser and Art, in an online symposium hosted by The New Polis. In conversation with the audience and two respondents, Dr. Fardy will discuss Louis Althusser, questions concerning theory in general, and traditional distinctions between theory and praxis. The symposium is free and open to the public. To register online, see The New Polis website: thenewpolis.com

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

March 3, 1887 - Helen Keller meets her "miracle worker" teacher, Anne Sullivan.