


UC Libraries received a grant from the Provost’s Office to promote and celebrate diversity throughout the university community. Entitled “Bridges to Diversity and Inclusion” this initiative will provide a school year filled with events, programs and exhibits designed to celebrate diversity on the UC campus and beyond.

Important inventors in black history also include:

Sarah Boone:
- 1892 obtained states patent for improvements to the ironing board.
- Born Feb. of 1832, Craven County, North Carolina.
- Married a freedman, James Boone. Together, they had eight children.
- Settled in New Haven, Connecticut before outbreak of the Civil War.

William B. Purvis:
- Created and patented improvements to multiple household items still used today. Famously known for developing the fountain pen.
- Between 1884 and 1897, patented bag machines, bag fastener, a hand stamp, an electric railway device and switch and a magnetic car balancing device.
- Also believed to have invented, yet not patented, several other devices such as the edge cutter found on aluminum foil, cling wrap and wax paper boxes.

INVENTORS:
- Bessie Blount Griffin
- Frederick McKinley Jones
- Jan Ernst Matzeliger
- Elijah J. McCoy
- Garrett A. Morgan
- Alice Parker
- Madame C.J Walker

MEDIA:
- Melissa Harris-Perry
- Robert L. Johnson
- Tyler Perry
- Shonda Rhimes
- Oprah Winfrey

CIVIL RIGHTS:
- Fannie Lou Hamer
- Dorothy Height
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Nelson Mandela
- Rosa Parks
- Desmond Tutu

POLITICS:
- Ben Carson
- Barack Obama
- John Robert Lewis
- Condoleezza Rice

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