

# BSC DID YOU KNOW?

SUCCESS IN THE SPRING  
FEBRUARY EDITION

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PUBLISHED BY TWU BLACK STUDENT COUNCIL



## Welcome!

Welcome back and happy Black History Month, Pioneers!

This month, BSC wanted to take the time to highlight and celebrate the creations of lesser-known Black inventors, whose creativity and innovation paved the way for the world's future modernization.



## Patrica Bath

Patrica Bath, born in 1942 in Harlem, New York, developed her passion for science early on and rapidly excelled in her academic pursuits. After earning her Bachelor's at Hunter College and a medical degree in ophthalmology at Howard University, she became aware of the racial disparity in blindness and glaucoma rates. This awareness motivated Bath to want to make a difference, leading to her first-ever invention of the Laserphaco Probe. This groundbreaking new device, which uses laser technology to precisely treat cataracts with less pain, has helped millions of people worldwide and even restored sight to people who had been blind for over 30 years. Patrica Bath would later patent the Laserphaco Probe, and would become the first African American female doctor to receive a medical patent.



## Garrett Morgan



Garrett Morgan, born in 1877 in Paris, Kentucky, began as a sewing machine mechanic and went on to patent improved sewing machine designs that helped him open up his own repair shop. His success gave him the freedom to explore other mechanical designs, which led to him inventing the "safety hood," an early gas mask design that would later influence those used in World War I and earned him national recognition. As an inventor, Garrett looked for problems needing fixing everywhere, and found, after witnessing a carriage accident, that improved traffic signals were needed and invented the design to make the roads safer.

## Alexander Miles

Alexander Miles, born in 1838 in Ohio, started his career in inventing as a barber and entrepreneur by inventing hair products. Eventually settling down in Duluth, Minnesota, with his wife and daughter, Miles would build a successful barbershop business and use the money from this business to purchase a real estate office. This office allowed him to erect a three-story brownstone building and transform the surrounding area into what was known as "Miles Block." This is where he began workshopping the idea of improving the elevator, after noticing how unsafe they were while riding one with his daughter. Alexander Miles went on to invent the automatic elevator door design, which would be a modern standard, and greatly improved the safety of the elevator. His innovation earned him recognition in the Hall of Fame and made him one of the wealthiest African Americans in the Pacific Northwest at the time of his death.



## TWU Perspectives

### 1. What does Black History Month mean to you personally?

Black History Month, to me, is a time to pause and reflect. I think about the obstacles and injustices Black people have endured throughout history, especially here in the United States. It's powerful to consider the strength and resilience it takes to keep pushing forward in the face of so much adversity. Despite everything, Black communities continue to rise, lead, create, and inspire in ways that shape our world every single day.

### 2. Who is a lesser-known Black figure that has inspired you, and why?

This might surprise you, but one of my biggest inspirations is Naptural185 (her YouTube name). During my senior year of high school, I seriously considered cutting my relaxed hair and embracing my natural texture—but the people around me discouraged me from doing it. By my first year of college, I decided to stop relaxing my hair. At first, it was mainly because I didn't have the money to keep it up—but I took that as the push I needed to finally cut it. No one had ever taught me how to care for my natural hair, so I figured it was time to learn the hair God gave me. There were definitely frustrating moments. But finding her YouTube channel changed everything. Through her videos, I learned not only how to care for my natural hair, but how to truly appreciate and love it. That journey shaped more than my hair—it helped shape my confidence and the person I am today.

### 3. What is one innovation from a Black figure that you are thankful for?

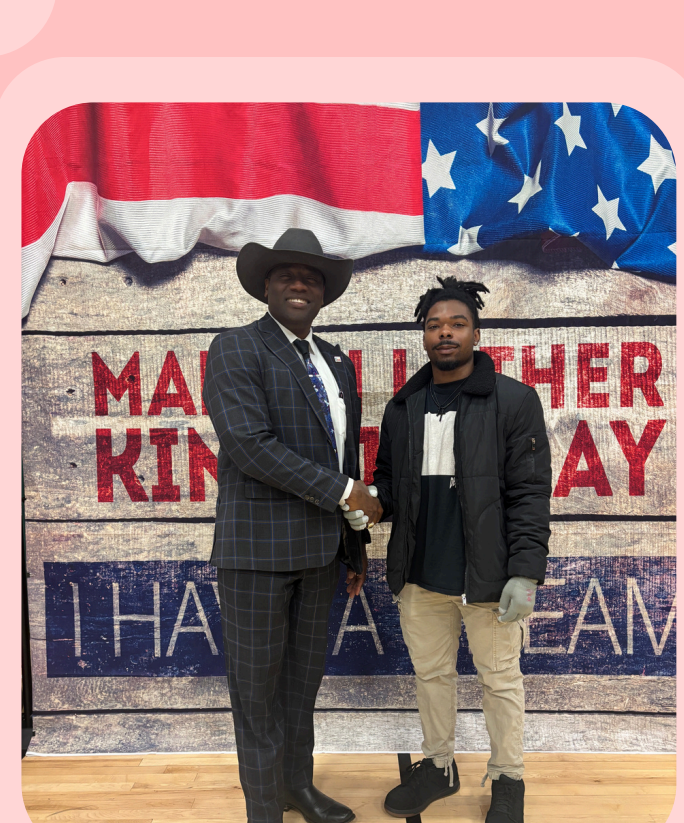
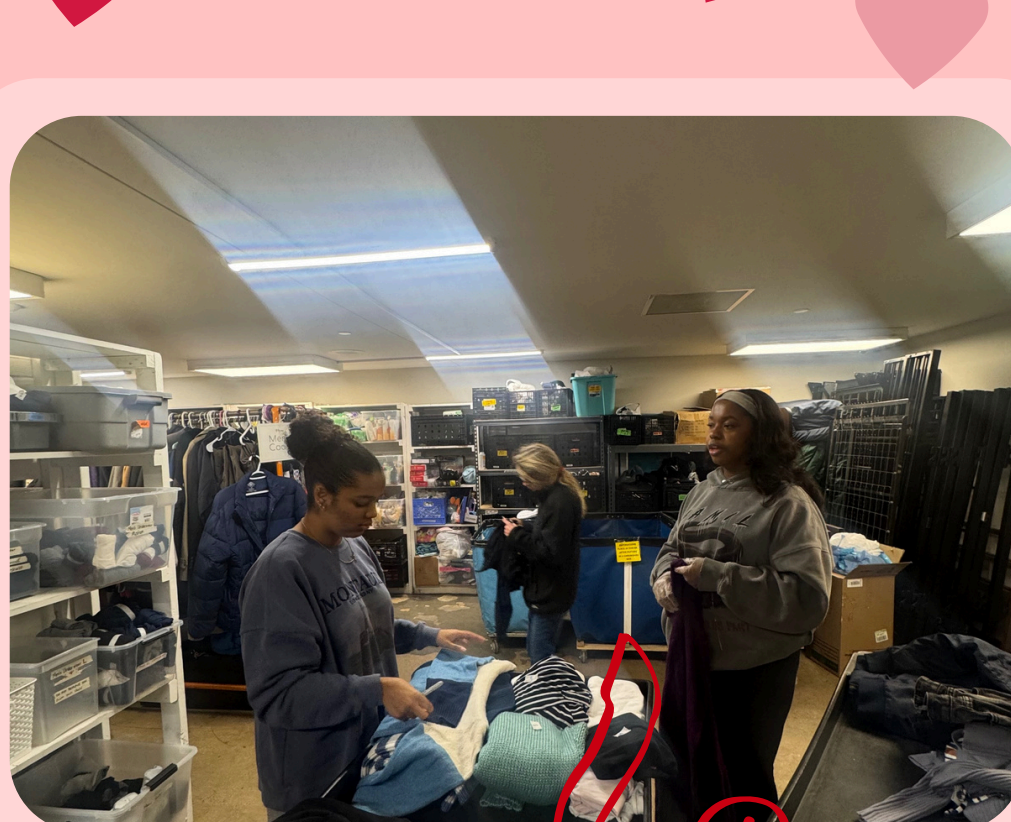
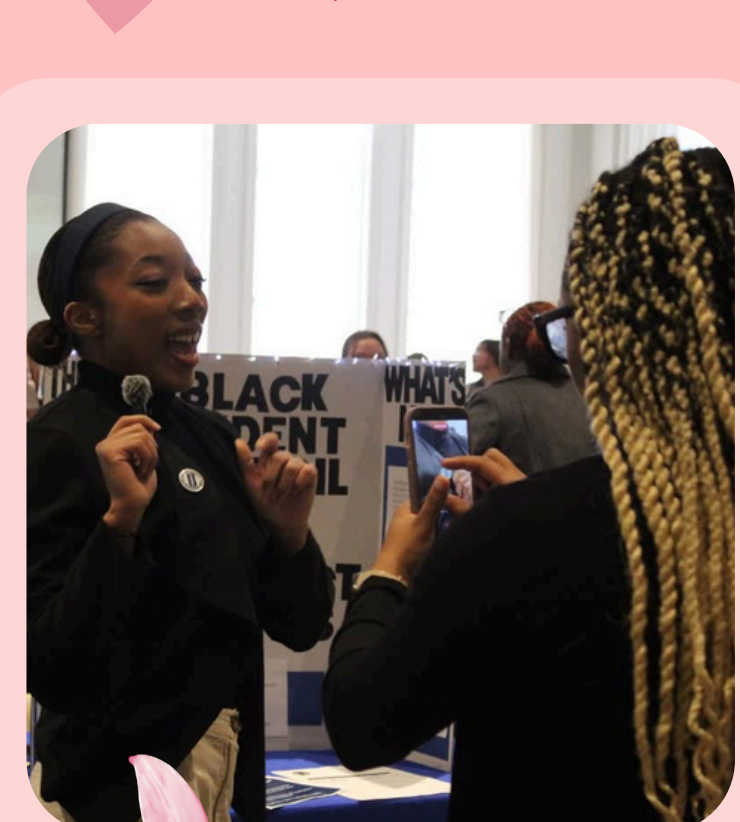
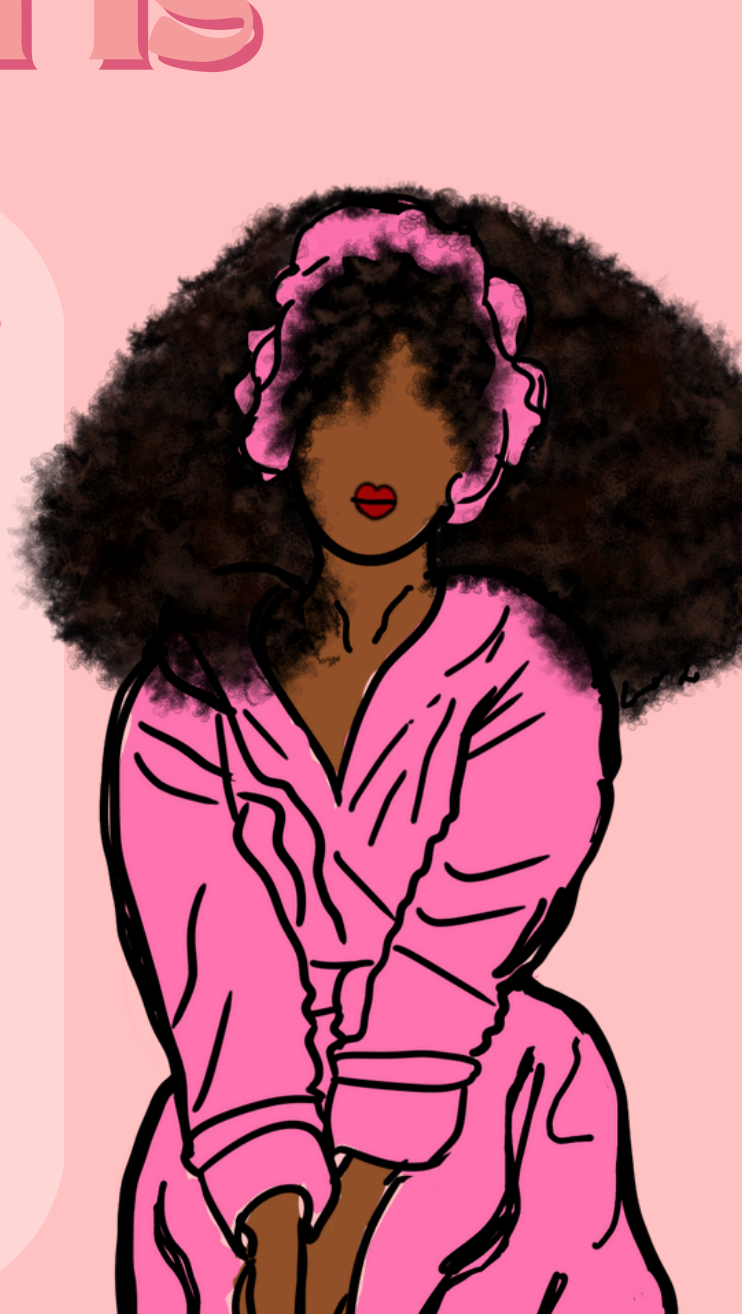
I'm especially thankful for James E. West, the inventor of the foil-electret microphone. His work may not always be in the spotlight, but it has had a huge impact on everyday life. In both my current and previous roles, microphones have been essential. They amplify my voice, so I don't have to strain—or shout—just to be heard. It's something we may take for granted, but innovations like his make communication clearer, easier, and a lot more effective for all of us. And honestly, if I could sing, I'd probably stay on a microphone all day!



Gabby Pringle-Onwunaka  
Assistant Director, Student Money Management Center

## Black Innovation is Everywhere

The names we learn about from school or our peers are only a fraction of the great inventors who have shaped our world today. Whether you're looking at your GPS, reading about a medical breakthrough, or ironing your clothes, the stories of Black innovation are everywhere you look and are all too often overlooked. BSC encourages you to take the time to research and uncover the story of Black history, and its continuing legacy of resiliency, creativity, and imagination.



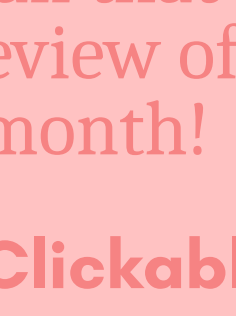
## BSC Last Month



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking forward to all that we have planned! Here is a preview of what's to come next month!

Stay In The Loop - Clickable Links



### DoubleGood Popcorn Fundraiser

Support Black Student Council this month by purchasing popcorn from the link below! All fundraising proceeds go to support BSC programming.

February 16 - 19

Support BSC!



### Membership Outing

- February 23, 2026, 3pm-5pm
- The Brown Thumb

### Climbing the Corporate Ladder Game Show Event

Join BSC for a fun and educational event consisting of a career development workshop turned game show!

- February 24, 2026, 7pm-8:30pm
- ASB 313

