

A COLUMBIA BLACK HISTORY MONTH QUIZ

Did You Know...



Lucy Diggs Slowe (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 1915), one of the original founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, was also a professional tennis player and first African American woman to win a major sports title. She became a vocal advocate for women's rights and academic opportunities.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

While attending law school, **Paul Robeson** (Columbia Law School 1923) was already winning acclaim as a singer and stage actor in New York. A two-time All American football star as a Rutgers undergraduate, Robeson went on to become a beloved concert singer and movie star, whose controversial political beliefs led to the blacklisting that helped end his remarkable career.



Metropolitan Musical Bureau/
Columbia University Archives



Charles Henry Alston (Columbia College 1929, Teachers College 1931) was the first African American to teach at the Museum of Modern Art. Alston also supervised the New Deal's WPA murals created at Harlem Hospital in the first major federal government commissions awarded to African American artists.

Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution

Ben Johnson (Columbia College 1933-38) was once known as the "world's fastest human." After he shattered a number of world records in the 1930s—and upset world champions Ralph Metcalfe and Jesse Owens—newspapers dubbed Johnson the "Columbia Comet."



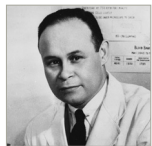
Columbia University Athletics



Kenneth B. Clark (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 1940, Law School 1970) and **Mamie Phipps Clark** (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 1943) conducted pioneering research that challenged the notion of differences in the mental abilities of black and white children, playing an important role in desegregation.

Columbia University Archives

The work of **Charles R. Drew** (College of Physicians and Surgeons 1940) in the field of blood transfusions led to his development of the world's first blood bank. He also improved techniques for blood storage and challenged the scientific fallacy of racial segregation in blood donation.



Scurlock Studio Records,
Archives Center, National
Museum of American History,
Smithsonian Institution



In addition to being the first African American woman to serve as a federal judge, **Constance Baker Motley** (Columbia Law School 1946, 2003) also had a major impact on ending racial discrimination. As the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's associate counsel, she helped draft briefs for the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. From October 1961 to the end of 1964, Motley won 9 of the 10 civil rights cases she argued before

the U.S. Supreme Court, including James Meredith's successful suit to attend the University of Mississippi.

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm (Teachers College 1951) was the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Chisholm earned acclaim as a tireless advocate for the interests of African Americans, women and the urban poor, and as a champion of greater educational opportunity for all.



Rutgers University, Special
Collections and University Archives



Queens College

In 1947, **Marie Maynard Daly** (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 1947) became the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry. Best known for research geared toward practical applications for health and nutrition, she investigated the effects of cholesterol, sugars and other nutrients on the heart. Daly also taught biochemistry at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Zora Neale Hurston (Barnard College 1928, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student 1934-35) combined literature with anthropology, employing indigenous dialects to tell the stories of people in her native rural Florida and in the Caribbean. One of the most widely read authors of the Harlem Renaissance, she is best known for her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.



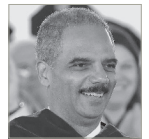
Carl Van Vechten/Van
Vechten Trust



Columbia University Archives

M. Moran Weston II (Columbia College 1930; Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 1940, 1969). The longtime rector of one of Harlem's most prominent churches, Weston co-founded Carver Federal Savings Bank—the largest independent financial institution in the United States owned by African Americans. Weston was also the University's first African American trustee.

Attorney General Eric Holder (Columbia College 1973, Columbia Law School 1976) worked for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund the summer after he graduated from law school. A former University trustee, Holder is the first African American attorney general of the United States and one of the most experienced government lawyers ever named to the position.



Columbia University



Dustin Ross/Columbia
University

Robert L. Carter (Columbia Law School 1941), after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, became chief strategist and lead counsel on the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. He succeeded Thurgood Marshall as general counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in 1956, arguing and winning 21 of 22 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Barack Obama (Columbia College 1983) was inaugurated as the nation's first African American president on Jan. 20, 2009. A gifted orator and writer, he organized his campaign with unparalleled grass roots support and brought out record numbers of voters to the polls across the country.



Eileen Barroso/Columbia
University

To learn more about this key part of our
local and national history, visit
www.columbia.edu/blackhistory



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IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK