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Jackson teaches African-American life with literature

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Jackson teaches African-American life with literature

The story of African-Americans has become more relevant in the American psyche thanks in large part to literature. Many authors, whether African-American or not, have incorporated the narrative of blacks in America as an essential part of American history. Someone who studies and teaches this is Dr. Judy Biggs, who is a professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Born in Pontiac, Mich., Jackson grew up in the St. Louis area and studied English at Tougaloo College near Jackson, Miss., and her master's degree in English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she also obtained her doctorate. Although some of the romantics of slavery, the Southern blacks' songs are still present in modern day African-American literature.

"I was interested in English but also the law," Jackson said. "At Tougaloo I was in an honors English class, read a Charles Johnson's "Middle Passage." Those themes have changed over time. Throughout African-American literature one encounters frequent themes of racism, slavery and inequality. Yet, the same themes apply to those as those have changed over time. The same themes are applied to something like a slave narrative of the present day. Although some of the romantics of slavery, the Southern blacks' songs are still present in modern day African-American literature.

"I was interested in the psyche thanks in large part to literature," Jackson said. "One can study the narrative of blacks in America as an essential part of American history. Someone who studies and teaches this is Dr. Judy Biggs, who is a professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville."

Knights' work

Barrie Vermetten, left, and Ben Maliszewski, middle, of the St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus in Glen Carbon present Edwardsville District 7 Board of Education President Greg Roosevelt, right, with a check for $7,841.80. The non-profit organization raises money each year for the district's special education program.

Regional

Dr. Jackson teaching students at SIUE.

Inquest

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"This county would be in a panic. People would be running to get shots and saying, 'What is the government doing? We've got 26 people dead of the flu. But 26 people dead of St. Louis County: 2012, Jacoby Arts Center."

The group announced in March of 2011 that they would take an inquest of the death of Master Police Officer Darrell Scott, 36, of Granite City. In Granite City, police there stopped a man who had purchased heroin from a drug house, and passed out at a stop light, the needle still in his arm when officers at first saw him. They "waving 'til they get a cop" to help him, said U.S. Attorney Steve Wigginton. He quickly got together with Madison and St. Clair County authorities.

The region started seeing a dramatic rise in heroin use in 2010, said Master Police Officer Darrell Scott, 36, of Granite City. In Granite City, police there stopped a man who had purchased heroin from a drug house, and passed out at a stop light, the needle still in his arm when officers at first saw him. They "waving 'til they get a cop" to help him, said U.S. Attorney Steve Wigginton. He quickly got together with Madison and St. Clair County authorities.

"We followed these girls – one 8-month pregnant – not too long ago over from North County. We stopped them in Illinois when we stopped them they had needles in their arms as we walked up to the car." In Granite City, police then stopped a man who had purchased heroin from a drug house, and passed out at a stop light, the needle still in his arm when officers at first saw him. They "waving 'til they get a cop" to help him, said U.S. Attorney Steve Wigginton. He quickly got together with Madison and St. Clair County authorities.

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