

Fear of a Black Republic

Scholar Explores US - Haiti Relations



Leslie M. Alexander

It's been 10 years since a massive earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti, devastating large portions of the small country and killing nearly 300,000 people. In the quake's immediate aftermath, U.S. media incessantly repeated the

mantra: "Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere."

How did Haiti go from being the "Pearl of the Antilles" and the most profitable New World colony in the 18th century to being the most despised and persecuted nation on

earth?

Celebrating Black History Month, Reed College invites the community to hear from Leslie M. Alexander, associate professor of history at the University of Oregon, when she presents a free public lecture "Fear of a Black Republic in the Aftermath of the Haitian Revolution," on Monday, Feb. 17 at 4:30 p.m. in Psychology, Room 105. Reed is located at 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd.

The presentation will explore how US and western European nations used their economic and diplomatic strength to isolate and impoverish the "Black Republic" from its birth in 1804 through the 20th century.

Professor Alexander is an esteemed scholar and a former professor at Ohio State who relocated to Oregon in 2017. She is also the sister of Michelle Alexander, author of widely acclaimed "The New Jim Crow."

Concordia to Shut Down

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Concordia currently serves about 6,000 students – 1,600 undergraduates and 4,300 graduate students, down from 8,000 students just a few years back. The school's closure will also include its law school in Boise. The school says it will work with students, but just where they will continue their education and where Concordia employees will find jobs is still up in the air. The college had 340 employees, including 200 full-time and part-time faculty.

The Concordia campus on Northeast Holman Street will likely be sold, officials said, but the sale will not impact Faubion Elementary, an adjacent school building facing Northeast Dekum, official said.

Faubion, a newly constructed school that replaced an outdated building, is owned by Portland Public Schools. Concordia students and faculty worked with Faubion teachers in a wrap around program called "3 to Phd," helping low income families and students of color obtain success in life, from age three to advanced college degrees.

The college was known as an important resource for its education and nursing programs, bringing new teachers and nurses of color to local schools and medical facilities. The campus also ex-

panded its footprint in the last decade with new athletic fields and a library.

According to a recent U.S. News & World Report, many small colleges are shutting down because of financial pressure and declining enrollment.

Marylhurst College in Lake Oswego, which awarded its first degree in 1897, closed at the end of 2018, citing declining enrollment as the main reason. Some Marylhurst students went on to study at Concordia University.

Ries came to Portland in January after serving as president of Concordia University in St. Paul, Minn., where he was able to lower tuition and increase enrollment, something he had hoped to do here.

But the financial hurdles were too large to overcome, Ries told KGW New8.

"It has had negative cash flow for quite some time and its assets and its liabilities are out of balance," he said. Ries said enrollment has dropped dramatically in recent years.

Ries said the school will help students transfer to other schools and faculty and staff would be told more about their options in coming weeks.

The last commencement ceremony at the university will be on April 25 and the law school graduation will be on May 2.



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Isham 'Ike' Harris for Portland City Commissioner, Position 1

I am running for Portland City Commissioner because, like the Biblical land of Canaan, America is a good land flowing with milk and honey, but it has giant problems that must be defeated.



Giant Problem #1, Poverty:
 56 years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared an unconditional war on poverty and \$22 trillion was spent on poverty programs, but the war on poverty was a failure. Six types of poverty exist: Situational, generational, absolute, relative, urban and rural poverty. There are also 40.6 million people living in poverty in America.

Giant Problem #2, After School Funds:
 We need sustained funding for after-school programs.

Giant Problem #3, Achieving Clean Air:
 In the age of global warming, we can improve air quality by controlling carbon emissions and adopting a system of cap and trade.

Giant Problem #4, City Government Structure:
 I support a change from the commission/mayor form of city government to one of elected representatives by individual districts and hiring an executive manager who oversees the various city bureaus.

Giant Problem #5, Supporting Neighborhood Associations:
 I encourage the sustainability and longevity of Portland's 95 Neighborhood associations by encouraging participation; by getting to know your neighbors; and by attending community potlucks, block parties and social events, all in the name of promoting safety, livability, the love for neighbors and changing my neighborhood to a brotherhood.

Giant Problem #6, Portland's Racist History
 We need to revisit the historical displacement of families of color from the Albina district. Bring representatives of Legacy Emanuel Hospital, the Rose Quarter's Memorial Coliseum and Moda Center, and the Oregon Department of Transportation together to discuss how to atone for sins of displacement for people of color.