



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Andrew S. Guglielmo, ACCENT Chairman
352-392-1665, ext. 306
accent@sg.ufl.edu

Callie Polk, Director of Press Relations
calliepl@ufl.edu

Tavis Smiley to speak at UF during Black History Month

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Tavis Smiley, host of the late night television talk show, “Tavis Smiley” on PBS and “The Tavis Smiley Show” distributed by Public Radio International will be speaking at the University of Florida on Thursday, Feb. 12. The show will be held in the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m, doors open at 7:15 p.m. This event is free and open to the public with first come first serve seating.

Smiley began his career as an aide for the late Los Angeles Mayor, Tom Bradley. Next, he became the resident social and political commentator on the “Tom Joyner Morning Show” in 1996 for 12 years. In 2007, Smiley was the moderator and executive producer of the “All-American Presidential Forums on PBS.” The show made history by being the first Democratic and Republican presidential debates broadcast by a panel of all journalists of color. His memoir, “What I Know For Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America,” became a New York Times best seller. It is one of the 11 books that Smiley has authored. Smiley also has a passion for philanthropy. The Tavis Smiley Foundation is a non-profit organization. More than 5,000 people have participated in the foundation’s leadership training workshops and conferences. The goal is to enlighten, encourage and empower Black youth.

Black History Month as we know it today did not originate as such. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week with the intent of shedding light on the often untold contributions of Black Americans. In 1976, the week expanded into a month. Today, Black History Month is celebrated nationwide during the month of February. It would use quality programming to educate, empower and entertain by reflecting on history, culture and soul of Black everywhere. Programs touch on every aspect of the human aesthetic--physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, artistic, political, cultural and social. Better yet, almost every program is free and open to the public.

ACCENT Speakers Bureau, the largest student-run speakers bureau in the nation, has been bringing prominent speakers to the University of Florida since 1967. ACCENT strives to bring controversial and influential speakers to the university, with the intent of further educating the student body. ACCENT speeches are not paid with tax or state dollars. ACCENT’s funding comes from activity fees, which students pay specifically to fund out-of-the-classroom experiences. Past ACCENT speakers include presidents, prime ministers, and entertainment, media, business and sports legends.

For more information, call ACCENT at (352) 392-1665 ext. 306 or the information line at ext. 411. Visit our website at www.accentstalkers.com or e-mail ACCENT at accent@sg.ufl.edu.

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