Explore an Author’s Parallels between ‘Jim Crow’ and Today’s U. S. Criminal Justice System

Everyone is invited to discuss “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander.


Alexander’s book sheds light on how scores of incarcerated young African American men in major cities are labeled felons for life, subjecting them to a subordinate social status similar to the one imposed on African Americans under ‘Jim Crow’ in the southern United States over 50 years ago. She explores how this disparity continues during an era punctuated by the financial success of media mogul Oprah Winfrey and the political success of President Barack Obama.

LeMoyne-Owen College alumna Dr. Rosalyn Nichols will lead the discussion where those in attendance will be encouraged to share their views about the book over a complimentary lunch.

This event is free and open to the public. Book club membership is not required.

For more information, contact Dr. Femi Ajanaku at (901) 435-1427.

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The American Missionary Association founded The LeMoyne-Owen College in 1862 to educate freedmen and runaway slaves at the Union Army’s Camp Shiloh in Shiloh, Tennessee. The school relocated to Memphis a year later, but was destroyed during race riots in 1866. Lincoln Chapel, as the school was then known, was rebuilt and reopened in 1867 with 150 students and six teachers. Lincoln Chapel was renamed LeMoyne Normal and Commercial School in honor of benefactor, physician and abolitionist Dr. Francis Julian LeMoyne and was relocated to its current site at 807 Walker Ave. in 1914. After more than 50 years of steady growth, LeMoyne merged with Owen College in 1968. Today, The LeMoyne-Owen College has a student body of more than 1,000 students and offers 4-year degrees in five disciplines: Business and Economic Development; Education; Fine Arts and Humanities; Natural and Mathematical Sciences; and, Social and Behavioral and Sciences.