

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy  
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## Black in STEM: Spotlight on Dr. K. Renee Horton

Today, we're highlighting the work of Doctor K. Renee Horton, an author, speaker and engineer for NASA.

[Renee](#) is known for her work as the Lead Quality Engineer for the NASA Space Launch System (SLS) at the Michoud Assembly Facility, as well as her long history

advocating for [diversity and inclusion within STEM](#).

Studying both Electrical Engineering for her B.S. and for her Ph.D, focusing on Material Science with Physics at Louisiana State University, Renee took up a student post at NASA before being promoted as a [mechanical test engineer](#).



Photo credit: Renee Horton and Alexander Le'Jo

Today's donation link is the [Keash Salon Hardship Fund](#), a fundraiser aiming to provide support for Black-owned hair businesses in the wake of the pandemic. Donate [here!](#)

In 2016, [Renee](#) was elected as the President of the [National Society of Black Physicists](#) (NSBP), where she also worked with physics communities outside of the US, as a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) [Women in Physics Working Group](#). In 2017, she was awarded the [Fellow title from the NSBP](#).

Outside of her work, she has authored the [Dr. H Explores the Universe](#) series and founded the [Unapologetically Being](#) Inc, an advocacy and mentoring organisation. Renee has also given talks at the [Emerging Researchers Network](#) and at [Texas Lutheran University](#) discussing her work, research and advice to fellow researchers.



Photo credit: Throomers

# EVENTS TODAY

## Black Owned Businesses, it's OUR time

The UoL Student Union will be hosting a series of discussions (26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>) with Leicester students who have started businesses. Join live on [Youtube](#) or [Facebook](#).

# RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

### Book for younger readers:

[Little Leaders: Exceptional Men in Black History](#) both written and illustrated by Vashti Harrison. With beautiful illustrations and illuminating writing, children can discover the stories of Black men from all walks of life. Available from the Black owned Bookshops [New Beacon Books](#) and [No Ordinary Bookshop](#).

### Book for older readers: [How](#)

[Europe Underdeveloped Africa](#) by Walter Rodney. This meticulously researched work analyses the repercussions of European colonialism on Africa, remaining a vital study for grasping global inequality today. Available from [New Beacon Books](#).

**Podcast:** [Historically Black](#) hosted by APM reports, this

podcast uses listener-submitted artifacts to map out Black history. Available on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Google Podcasts](#).

**Livestream:** [iamBrandon](#) is a variety [caster](#), [blogger](#), [podcast host](#) and huge horror gaming fan. Creator of the Twitch Chicago support Network and Twitch partner since 2016, check out his [twitter](#).



Photo credit: Eamonn McCabe

Today's key figure from Black British history is [Stuart Hall FBA](#). Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1932, Stuart came to the UK in the 1950's as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University. During this time he became the founding editor for the [New Left Review](#), a journal analysing world politics, state powers and protest movements.

Stuart joined the [Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies](#) at [Birmingham University](#) in 1964, becoming the acting director in 1968 where he heavily developed the [Cultural Studies field](#) (focusing on race and gender) and was responsible for the first ever Cultural Studies course in the UK. [Stuart's legacy](#) of embracing multiculturalism left a profound mark on the UK, helping Britons celebrate the country's diversity.

## Contact us

To recommend scientists, events, donation links, books and podcasts for future editions, please contact the PGR Reps at the emails below:

**Emma Thomas:** [emt18@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:emt18@leicester.ac.uk) **Rosie Tilbrook:** [rht6@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:rht6@leicester.ac.uk)

**Don Bowden:** [dlb28@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:dlb28@leicester.ac.uk)

Special Thanks to [Gillian Butcher](#) for her recommendation!