Come home for Homecoming

The University of Dayton Black Alumni, in conjunction with the University of Dayton Alumni Association and UD's African American student services office, have planned several events for Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 21-23.

Three floors at the Dayton Radisson Hotel have been reserved for the weekend with special rates of $59 per night for returning alumni. For reservations, call (800) 333-3333 or (513) 461-4700.

Events scheduled include:

- Welcome reception for African American Alumni, sponsored by African American Student Services, 7-9 p.m. Friday in Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. R.S.V.P. to Kathleen Henderson at (513) 229-3634 by Oct. 19;
- Oldies but Goodies Party, 9 p.m. Friday at the Radisson;
- Continental breakfast at the alumni welcome suite, 8 a.m. Saturday at the Radisson;
- Oktoberfest/Tailgate, 10 a.m. Saturday in the UD Arena parking lot;
- Jazz and Dance Party, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Saturday at Special Occasions (formerly Suttmiller's Restaurant), 850 N. Main St.; and
- Alumni Farewell Brunch, Sunday morning at the Radisson.

For more information on the events, call the alumni office at (513) 229-3299 or Kathleen Henderson at (513) 229-3634.

A hearty welcome

Things were smoking at the 1993 Homecoming Weekend tailgate party. Above is Gregory Hayes, '72, director of the UD Career Placement Center.

At right, UD President Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M., Associate Dean for Student Development Debra Moore and first-year student Shannon Williams share a laugh at the New Student Welcome Reception Aug. 20.

African American first-year enrollment has increased, with 53 new students being welcomed to campus, up from 40 black first-year students in 1993.
McIntosh scholars past, present

The W.S. McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award, sponsored by the city of Dayton and the University of Dayton, is a combination scholarship and internship which provides talented African American students who are active in their community an educational, professional and leadership opportunity. The award commemorates the values and vision of W.S. McIntosh, a community leader and civil rights activist who lost his life trying to help another human being.

LaShea Smith has a lot to say about what the city of Dayton has to offer to its residents. It’s all good, and she knows what she’s talking about. Since her first year at UD, Smith, a McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award recipient, has been rating the performance of various city projects.

Before she started school at UD, she worked at the Dayton community affairs office, where she "interpreted situations that would affect the city departments," she said, "and lobbied any responses at the state or federal level."

For two years she worked in the city office of management and budget, during which she helped run a marketing survey on developing housing for the poor and homeless in Dayton.

Smith currently works in that same office, but now compares the services that the city of Dayton provides with those of other cities. And Dayton ranks high on the list. "Dayton delivers many free services to residents that most other cities charge for," she says, "and they are of higher quality, too." She also monitors the city departments that use block grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After she graduated from UD with a major in international studies, Smith spent a year teaching French to fourth- and fifth-graders at a private school in Nigeria. "For now I am happy with my work at the city," she says, "but I’d like to go back to the classroom someday, possibly in Africa. Africa had a huge impact on me."

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Air Force veteran takes practical approach to learning

Clyde Brown likes to think of himself as "just another student — who happens to have a lot of age on him." At 52, Brown is nearing completion of a bachelor's degree in human ecology. "I think a little slower," he says, "but I get there."

As a youngster growing up in Mississippi, Brown wasn’t able to put much effort into academics because his family needed his economic support. "But my parents always thought education was important." So Brown stayed in school and was the first in his family of 10 to earn a high school diploma. He continued his education whenever possible during his 26-year military career.

In 1989, Brown retired from the Air Force and he and his wife, Joyce, moved to the Dayton area. Wanting to complete a degree, he looked into dietary programs at several schools before choosing UD.

Brown, who has diabetes, used a practical approach to choosing his major. "I needed to know about nutrition and how the body works, so I can live longer."

Brown says Joyce and their son, DeWayne, who graduated from the University of Maryland, are his biggest supporters. Sometimes when he gets discouraged, Brown calls his son in Naples, Italy, where he serves in the U.S. Navy. "We talk about things like test anxiety and spelling difficulties, and he’ll say, ‘Hey, dad, you can do it.’"

"My goal is to finish my education and then from there I haven’t really thought about a job. There are so many things I’d like to do," Brown says. "But, if I can’t get a job, at my age, I’ll volunteer.

"Learning new information — that’s reward enough for me."

Outstanding Alumnus

Wes Philpot ’77 was named UD’s 1993 Outstanding Alumnus at the African American student services recognition awards banquet in April for his efforts in mentoring current students and spearheading UD’s black alumni in developing a formal mentor program for UD students.

—Larry Burgess
Alumni make their marks

Eddie Becton '85

Eddie Becton's eyes flash with energy and vitality; his smile exudes friendliness. These aren't typical characteristics of a person burning the wick at both ends.

Becton teaches classes and is pursuing his doctorate in African American studies at Temple University in Philadelphia. In his spare time, he can be found doing prison volunteer work or presiding over a meeting of the African American Studies Graduate Student Union, of which he's president.

Becton graduated from UD in 1985 with a degree in psychology. Wanting to get some real-world experience, he took a position with the Boy Scouts of America in his hometown St. Louis as executive of a career education explorer post. In 1987, Becton returned to UD as a member of the residence life staff while pursuing his master's degree in counseling, which he earned in 1990. He then moved on to Temple.

Leaving a paying job to pursue knowledge was not the easiest decision for Becton. "It's a big financial sacrifice," said Becton. "I went from a job to not really knowing how I was going to pay the rent."

He managed to finance his first year on his own and is now receiving financial assistance through his work with the criminal justice department as an adjunct professor.

Not only does Becton miss his paycheck, but he also misses home. "I guess I kind of miss the Midwest — the trees, the grass, the cordiality of the people."

Becton will finish his course work this fall and will spend the next year working on his dissertation. His thesis will chronicle the work of K. Leroy Irvis, who met W.E.B. DuBois, lived with Thurgood Marshall's parents and is the only African American to become Speaker of the House of Representatives for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. "It's just fascinating talking to him (Irvis) because of the people he's met," Becton says.

Becton thinks he has found his niche in education and plans to become a professor full time. "I'd like to teach, to write and to do lectures — the whole bit." Becton thinks that people are very curious about what Afro-centricity is all about.

He says he'll "just wait to see what is happening here (at Temple)," but mentions the possibility of working at any historically black college such as Clark College in Atlanta.

— Adrian L. Morgan '94

John Moore '90

John Moore says he's always enjoyed being on the inside of whatever's going on. Instead of watching high school football games, he was cornerback. Instead of listening to the marching band, he was playing saxophone. And instead of reading the Flyer News, he was writing a column for it.

So it's no surprise he can't simply go to a movie without somehow getting involved behind the scenes.

Moore, a public relations major, works for John Iltis Associates, a Chicago-based public relations and advertising firm that represents Hollywood movie studios and Planet Hollywood restaurants. He promotes movies in the Chicago area and throughout the Midwest for studios such as Disney, Castle Rock and Columbia/Tri-Star by setting up screening sessions for film critics, offering free screening promotions to radio stations and arranging interviews with the stars, producers and directors of films.

"I see almost every movie before it's released, and for free," said Moore, who attends the screenings with critics such as Chicago's Siskel and Ebert. When stars go to Chicago, he sets up their schedules and accompanies them on interviews. But Moore said he's unaffected by people's celebrity status, unless they're people he admires, such as Muhammad Ali or Magic Johnson. "To me it's not the fact that someone's well known by other people, but it's who that person is."

That's why Moore still keeps in touch with two of the people who've had a great impact on his life. Bev Jenkins works in UD's admission office and was Moore's cousin's roommate at UD. Jenkins convinced Moore to attend UD. Kathleen Henderson of UD's office of diverse student populations helped Moore on the right track when his grades started to slip. He regularly sends them free movie tickets and merchandise — from the inside.

— Brian Bisig '96
Rashad Young spent his summer out on the town, but he wasn’t partying. The Meadowdale High School graduate was working with the city of Dayton.

Under the guidance of William Gillespie, director of the city of Dayton community affairs office, Young tackled tasks in the commissioner’s office, public works and the wastewater treatment plant. He rode with the paramedics, fire fighters and police officers. And at Dayton International Airport, he investigated a chemical spill and helped guide airplanes through takeoff and landing.

Young’s summer job is actually an internship that’s part of the W.S. McIntosh Memorial Leadership Award. Young is the 1994 recipient of the award, which is co-sponsored by the University of Dayton and the city of Dayton.

Gillespie says the internship “gives a person a real good idea of what an executive does here (at the city level).” Young agrees. “This internship gives me a feel for what I may be doing for a career.”

Young is majoring in chemical engineering, but is keeping his options open. “I have been exposed to many fields within my major while working here,” says Young, “but I like working in community affairs. I like the community building that goes on here.”

— Monica M. Wirick ’97