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NEWS TIPS

JAN. 31-FEB. 1: UD COMMUNITY WILL KICK OFF BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION WITH CANDLELIGHT MARCH AND MUSIC

They'll come from five symbolic "corners" of campus, representing the rich diversity of heritages around the world. They'll carry candles to light up the night sky. Each group of marchers will wear an assigned color, also symbolically important.

The University of Dayton will begin its observation of Black History Month with a campus candlelight march for students, staff and faculty at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31.** Groups of walkers will depart from Gosiger Hall, the McGinnis Center, Roesch Library, Kennedy Union and 15 Evanston Ave., all heading toward Humanities Plaza.

Each group will wear a different color: green to represent planet Earth, black to represent the people, gold to represent the richness of heritage and tradition, red to represent bloodshed and blue to represent the UD community.

Yet another group of participants, wearing white to represent unity, will wait at the Humanities Plaza to greet the other marchers as they arrive.

The assembled group will sing songs, give readings and offer a prayer for unity.

John Ralph, assistant director of the office of diverse student populations, said about 150 people participated in last year's event, but organizers have planned for more than 500 walkers this year.

On **Thursday, Feb. 1**, the celebration will become festive with live and recorded music and dance from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the lobby and Torch Lounge in Kennedy Union.

Guest artists will include saxophonist Clarence Young of Dayton and dancers from Circle of Light Productions.

The kick-off celebration will close with a discussion by Steve Birdine, president of Affirmation in Action, at **7 p.m. Thursday** in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. Known for his humorous approach to serious issues, Birdine will speak to his campus audience about culture, politics and college life.

For more information, contact **John Ralph** at (937) 229-3686 or via e-mail at John.Ralph@notes.udayton.edu.