

9-3-2008

## Award-Winning CNN Anchor Soledad O'Brien Kicks Off University of Dayton's Diversity Lecture Series

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls)

---

### Recommended Citation

"Award-Winning CNN Anchor Soledad O'Brien Kicks Off University of Dayton's Diversity Lecture Series" (2008). *News Releases*.  
9424.

[https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls/9424](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/9424)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact [frice1@udayton.edu](mailto:frice1@udayton.edu), [mschlangen1@udayton.edu](mailto:mschlangen1@udayton.edu).

7JA(6)



Sept. 3, 2008  
 Contact: Teri Rizvi  
 rizvi@udayton.edu  
 937-229-3241

---

**NEWS RELEASE**

*(Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to cover the talk as well as a 3 p.m. informal conversation between Soledad O'Brien and University of Dayton and Dayton Early College Academy students on the fourth floor of the College Park Center at the corner of Brown and Stewart streets. A headshot is available.)*

**AWARD-WINNING CNN ANCHOR SOLEDAD O'BRIEN  
 KICKS OFF UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON'S DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES**

DAYTON, Ohio — CNN newscaster Soledad O'Brien will address "Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes and in Our Lives" at **7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom** at the University of Dayton.

The talk, free and open to the public, kicks off UD's 2008-2009 Diversity Lecture Series. Guests are requested to arrive early as seating is limited.

O'Brien is an anchor and special correspondent for CNN: Special Investigations Unit and covers political news. Most recently, she reported for "CNN Presents: Black in America," a sweeping landmark series revealing the state of America 40 years after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. It's the highest-rated documentary series in CNN's history.

As a CNN correspondent, she covered President George W. Bush's visit to Mexico, delivering a series of eye-opening reports on conditions south of the border that fuel illegal immigration to the United States. She also anchored and reported a highly acclaimed CNN documentary featuring a never-before-seen look at King's private writings, notes and teachings. In another initiative, "Children of the Storm," she provided video cameras to young Hurricane Katrina survivors so they could tell their stories in their own words and images. She was among a handful of CNN anchors sent to Phuket, Thailand, to cover the disaster and aftermath of the 2004 tsunami.

O'Brien came to CNN from NBC News where she anchored the network's Weekend Today, contributed reports for the weekday Today Show and weekend editions of NBC Nightly News and covered such notable stories as John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane crash and school

-over-

shootings in Colorado and Oregon. Before Weekend Today, O'Brien anchored MSNBC's award-winning technology program The Site and the cable network's weekend morning show. O'Brien joined NBC News in 1991 and was based in New York as a field producer for Nightly News and Today.

O'Brien was part of the coverage teams that earned CNN a George Foster Peabody award for its Hurricane Katrina coverage and an Alfred I. duPont Award for its coverage of the tsunami disaster. She also has received the National Urban League's Women of Power Award and a Gracie Allen Award for her reporting from Cyprus on the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict as well as her post-Hurricane Katrina reports from the Gulf Coast. Among O'Brien's many honors are the NAACP President's Award, which she garnered in recognition of her humanitarian efforts and journalistic excellence, and the inaugural "Soledad O'Brien Freedom's Voice Award," created in her honor by Community Voices at the Morehouse School of Medicine. She won it for professional accomplishments, coverage of stories that others fail to pursue and her willingness to be a voice for those in society who are unable to speak for themselves.

She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She graduated from Harvard University with a degree in English and American literature.

The University of Dayton's Diversity Lecture Series is part of a larger strategic plan to increase inclusion and diversity on campus and prepare students, faculty, staff and the Dayton community for success in a global society. Past speakers have included Andrew Young, Coretta Scott King, Spike Lee, Kirk Franklin, Clarence Page, Nikki Giovanni, Azar Nafisi and Johnnetta B. Cole.

The University of Dayton's commitment to diversity is founded in its Catholic heritage of social justice and the Marianist tradition of equality and being inclusive of people from all segments of society.

The Diversity Lecture Series is co-sponsored by the offices of the president and provost, with the generous support of such community partners as The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ); Dayton Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; United Way of the Greater Dayton Area; YWCA Dayton; Victoria Theatre Association; Markey's Audio Visual; Ross Buick-GMC-Hummer; RTA; *Dayton Daily News*; WDTN-TV; and WDAO-1210 AM.

-30-

For media interviews, contact **Lynnette Heard**, executive director of the office of the president, at 937-229-4122. Photos are available.