Celebrating Black History

University of Dayton
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Three performances, a solidarity march, a celebration dinner and opportunities to meet students, faculty and staff with ties to Africa are among the public events at the University during Black History Month.

The first of the performances features Joe Driscoll, a rapper, beatboxer and singer-songwriter, and Sekou Kouyate, a Guinean kora player who blends hip-hop, funk and soul with Afrobeat, reggae and
African music. They address poverty, immigration and inequality in their music. The performance will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. General admission tickets are $16; $12 for University of Dayton faculty and staff, and seniors; and $8 for University of Dayton students and youth. Tickets are available at the Kennedy Union box office or by calling 937-229-2545. This event is supported by the University of Dayton College of Arts and Sciences and sponsored in part by the Dayton City Paper.

The second performance will be Unnoticed, which University of Dayton student Kwynn Townsend-Riley wrote about issues of race, class and gender, at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, in Sears Recital Hall. It's free and open to the public. The University of Dayton Office of Multicultural Affairs and the University of Dayton Women's Center are sponsoring this event.

One Sunday in Birmingham, written and directed by Joyce A. Barnes with guest performance by local nonprofit Hope Road Youth and Community Theatre is the University of Dayton Black History Month's final performance. One Sunday in Birmingham, at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, and Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre, illustrates two events in the civil rights movement from 1963 — the Children's Campaign and the bombing in the Sixteenth Street Baptist church in Birmingham, Alabama, that killed four girls. General admission tickets are $12; $7 for University of Dayton faculty staff and students. Tickets are available at the Kennedy Union box office or by calling 937-229-2545. The University of Dayton theatre department and the Hope Road Youth and Community Theatre are sponsoring this event.

In addition to the performances, three other public events will focus on the social and family relationships of black culture.

The Black History Month Celebration Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, in the Kennedy Union Dining Room features a home-cooked meal from recipes of University of Dayton employees. The cost is $5 and includes an entrée, two side dishes, a drink and a dessert. University of Dayton Dining Services is sponsoring this event.

From 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, in Kennedy Union Torch Lounge, anyone in the community interested in getting to know more about African cultures and languages can meet University of Dayton students, faculty and staff who are from Africa or have worked in Africa. The University of Dayton Center for International Programs, University of Dayton Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, University of Dayton Student Government Association and the Office of Multicultural Affairs are sponsoring this event.

At the Black History Solidarity March, at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, starting at Kennedy Union, participants will share information about the significant roles blacks have played in shaping U.S. and world history.
The University of Dayton student group Black Action Through Unity and the Office of Multicultural Affairs are sponsoring this event.

The events, organized by the University of Dayton Office of Multicultural Affairs, are designed to recognize the histories, cultures and contributions of diverse populations.

In addition to the public events, several other events are planned for the University community. They are:

* 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, Alumni Hall 101 – Office of Multicultural Affairs Lunch. Free to students, faculty and staff.

* 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, 15 Evanston Ave. – Soul Food Student Potluck. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to try traditional soul food dishes and learn about what soul food represents to the African-American culture. Sponsored by Black Action Through Unity.


* 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, Alumni Hall 101 – Screening of the film *More Than A Month.* American filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman traveled the country to explore whether there should be a Black History Month with people on the street. Both amusing and thought provoking, *More Than a Month* examines what the treatment of history tells us about race and power in contemporary America. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and University Libraries.

* 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, Alumni Hall 101 – Black History Month Trivia. Sponsored by Black Action Through Unity and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

* 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25 - Alumni Hall 101 – Brown bag discussion exploring color in today's society, particularly as it pertains to African-American culture. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

* 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center – A group of students will travel to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Housing and Residence Life.

For more information about Black History Month events call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 937-229-3634. For interviews, contact Shawn Robinson at 937-229-3391.