

1-24-1989

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Recommended Citation

"Dunbar's Poetry will Come Alive at University of Dayton" (1989). *News Releases*. 5171.
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The University of Dayton

News Release

DUNBAR'S POETRY WILL COME ALIVE AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio, January 24, 1989--In conjunction with Black History Month, University of Dayton English professor Herb Martin will present an interpretive reading of poetry by Dayton native Paul Laurence Dunbar on Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus.

The reading will be followed by a reception featuring an array of international desserts and coffees. Both events are free and open to the public.

"I hope this will offer a gateway into just being charmed by his poems and in hearing these poems, I hope the audience will want to search out his work on their own," said Martin, a resident of Dayton View. "He is a seminal and significant literary figure. His work is very valuable and speaks to us on many levels and on many occasions."

Martin plans to focus on the "Miss Lucy" and "Lias" poems in his presentation. "He uses the characters, or the names, over and over again," said Martin. "I want to juxtapose the male 'Lias' poems with the female 'Lucy' poems, arranged in a sequential way that shows how he uses the characters. I would like to allow the audience the chance to become more familiar with the nuances of his work."

For further information on the interpretive reading of Dunbar poetry, contact the UD Office of Minority Student Affairs at (513) 229-3634.