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North Park University students celebrate Black History Month.

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Americans from centuries ago up until the present through lecture series, roundtable discussions, dramatic and musical productions, trips and other educational experiences. The following are just a few examples from across the membership spectrum.

Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas

At Abilene, Essence of Ebony presented ACU's 10th Annual Black History Production. The university hosted an ACU African American Alumni Family Reunion, a weekend to see friends, attend the Black History Production and discuss the area of multicultural enrichment at ACU. Students also collaborated to prepare a meal and will watch the movie *Akeelah and the Bee* on Feb. 22.

Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky.

Asbury College students and faculty have partnered with Bristol Bay Productions, sister company to Walden Media, to produce an educational multimedia experience about abolitionist William Wilberforce's life, in conjunction with the movie *Amazing Grace*. Released Feb. 23, the movie documents the 20-year struggle of Wilberforce to end the slave trade in England, and marks the 200th anniversary of the abolishment of slave trade in Britain.

Eric Metaxas, author of the book *Amazing Grace*, discussed his book and the movie in Chapel Services

on Feb. 14.

The College hosted a dinner and private screening of the movie for area faith leaders on Feb. 13. Asbury also purchased a number of tickets for opening night of the movie Feb. 23, which they are selling at a discounted price. Asbury College students also helped promote Amazing Grace Sunday on Feb. 18 when churches around the globe joined in singing "Amazing Grace" and in praying for the end of slavery once and for all.

The movie and the events, including Amazing Grace Sunday, are part of the Amazing Change campaign to end modern day slavery. <http://www.amazingchange.com/>

Belhaven College, Jackson, Miss.

Belhaven celebrated Black History Month with several events, including an exhibit in the Warren Hood library entitled "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas," an art exhibit that includes carvings, masks and artifacts from Africa and Jamaica.

Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio

The Bluffton University Multicultural Affairs Office and African-American Student Organization hosted a trip for 55 students to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is a collaboration by some of the world's top artists, architects, musicians and historians to create a monument symbolizing freedom. Through interactive exhibits of storytelling, multimedia presentations and abstract art, learners of all ages are invited to reflect on and dialogue about the significance of the Underground Railroad and modern-day freedom struggles and freedom heroes from around the world.

The Multicultural Affairs Office and African American Student Organization also hosted the sixth annual Soul Food Dinner featuring a menu of recipes gathered from across the United States that combine spices from the Caribbean and Africa. The term "soul food" refers to the cuisine developed by African slaves in the American south when they created nutritious meals from inadequate scraps of food. The musical group Chosen Generation provided gospel music and mime dancing during the meal.

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich.

On Feb. 5, the college hosted an "African American Read-In," part of a national program of read-ins across

the country. Nationally the read-ins are sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Calvin's event began with a chapel service featuring a dramatic interpretation of the life and words of Sojourner Truth. After chapel, people were invited to move to the on-campus coffee shop, where students, staff, and faculty read selections from African American literature.

February 5 also began "Five Days in the Black World," a weeklong celebration hosted by the Black Knights, a student group that encourages dialogue between African-American and African students about issues surrounding the African Diaspora. The program included a roundtable discussion on "The Crossings," referring to the many voyages of slave-bearing ships across the Atlantic; a historical timeline of Black history; the chapel message: "Sent to Proclaim Freedom"; a screening of the film *Amistad*, about an 1839 mutiny aboard a slave ship; and a gallery showcase of African American art.

The Multicultural Student Development Office at Calvin sponsored other events, such as: a performance by Christian comedian Chinnitta Morris, formerly known as "Chocolate"; a screening of "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts," Spike Lee's documentary of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; an address by Kevin Bales, president of Free the Slaves, the U.S. Sister Organization of Anti-Slavery International and a professor of sociology at Roehampton University in London.

Among other activities, the Multicultural Student Development office also provided transportation to "An Evening With Nikki Giovanni: Reflections on Race," held at the Grand Rapids Community College Applied Technology Center Banquet Rooms.

Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Ga.

Covenant's activities included a performance and address by Professor Roland Carter, Holmberg Professor of American Music at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and director of The Society for the Preservation of African American Music. Other chapel addresses were given by Ms. Ardena Garth, the Chief Public Defender for Hamilton County, Tenn., and Rev. Phil Edwards, associate pastor of New City Fellowship in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Covenant College Gospel Choir also performed.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisburg, Va.

Eastern Mennonite held its seventh annual "gospel music extravaganza" on Feb. 9. Later in the month, the university hosted "Songs of Solomon," a 40-voice ensemble from New York City, and Joseph Opala, James Madison University history professor, whose address was, "Priscilla's Homecoming: An African American Woman Finds Her Roots in Sierra Leone." Several other activities and performances were held, including "The Holy Hip Hop Jam II: VA 2 NYC!"

Erskine College, Due West, S.C.

The Association of Minority Students (AMS) hosted their second annual candlelight service honoring the contributions and accomplishments of black Americans. This service featured several student presentations, poems, songs, and a slide show all highlighting African Americans and their culture.

Greenville College, Greenville, Ill.

Several students from the varying multicultural student groups went into the elementary school and performed a play. The elementary students participated in the play and supplied a lively discussion afterwards.

The college also visited Greenville junior high and senior high schools with a nine-booth exhibit of historic information displays that reflected subjects such as African-American Inventors and Scientists, African-American Clothing Styles, Music, Food, History of the Underground Railroad, The Middle Passage, African American Authors and Pulitzer prize Winners, as well as African-American Entertainers and Sports figures.

Other activities included Greenville's 5th Annual Gospel Festival; a screening of the movie *Selma*, *Lord Selma* with discussion afterward; and the annual Soul Food Dinner and discussion.

Malone College, Canton, Ohio

Malone College presented the following series of events:

- Invisible Children, a powerful program addressing the plight of children in Uganda
- Jonathan Dunn and Christopher in a praise and worship concert
- An African-American Readers Theatre
- What's Race Got to Do with It? – a discussion

addressing social disparities and student success

In addition, Malone College partnered with Brooks and Associates Business Consultants and Time Warner Cable to present the Counseling Culturally Diverse Families Symposium.

Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, Ohio

Mount Vernon Nazarene University held several community-wide events throughout February:

- Debuted the Social Justice Quilt on the MVNU campus. The quilt, comprised of 24 squares and made by individuals across campus—students, parents, faculty and staff members, represents MVNU's diverse story and its desire to bring awareness to social justice issues locally and around the world.
- Participated in the African American Read-In, a nation-wide event
- MVNU's Jim Singletary, Director of Multicultural Affairs, and a panel of African American MVNU students and quilters, presented an open dialogue called, "Why American Quilting History is Important for Everyone"
- Invited middle school and high school students to participate in "Crossing the Bridge," an overnight multicultural student visitation day
- Showcased "Quilting Codes," a system used during the Underground Railroad as signals to and from both slaves and free families assisting the slaves in their quest for freedom
- Hosted a gospel concert with Raise Chorale

LeTourneau University, Longview, Texas

LeTourneau honored Black History Month with different chapel speakers and presentations. Several students played music and sang African songs.

The 2 C.A.R.E. Council performed two skits which highlighted where we were as a nation and where we are trying to go. One skit, "Get off the bus Rosa", detailed the events surrounding Rosa Parks and the start of the bus boycott.

(The purpose of the 2 C.A.R.E. Council is to help provide Conscious, Awareness Representation, and Education/Enjoyment of Culture, Age, Region, and Ethnicity differences and commonalities within the LeTourneau University community.)

North Park University, Chicago, Ill.

All four chapel services in the month of February addressed issues pertinent to Black History Month. Rev. Harvey Carey, a minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) in Detroit, Mich., spoke about the civil rights movement. Evangelist Sandra Riley spoke on the topic of love. A joint presentation featured Interim Campus Pastor Judy Peterson and Superintendent Jerome Nelson of the ECC's Central Conference, followed by a visit from Emergent Church leader Doug Pagitt.

Other events associated with Black History Month include:

- A visit to Salem Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in the U.S. with more than 25,000 members and a live television broadcast of services
- *The Spoken Word*, co-hosted with the Seminary, in which Bishop Adonijah Okechuku Ogbonnaya, Ph.D. will address a dinner in Magnuson Campus Center. The Bishop is the founder and president of Kohanim Kingdom Empowerment Ministries, which works with church bodies around the world.
- The Step Show at University of Illinois-Chicago
- Student Awards Dinner, co-hosted with the Center for Latino Studies, where African American and Latino students will be honored and Dr. Robert Westly of Tulane University will speak
- Bus tour of Chicago, including historic churches, George's Music Room, the DuSable Museum of African-American History, the historic Pullman neighborhood, and other sites to be announced
- The Knowledge Bowl, a fun opportunity for food and fellowship as students, faculty and staff compete to see who has the most thorough

knowledge of African American history

A trip was also coordinated for 50 students/faculty/staff to visit stops at a plantation in Louisiana; Jackson, Miss; museums in Memphis; Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The three-day trip, held Feb. 15-18, was part of the two-credit Sankofa class. Sankofa brings together readings, films, class lectures, and conversations with a pilgrimage to major civil rights sites in the southern part of the U.S. focusing on black/white relations. The class explores the biblical theological, sociological, political, cultural, and psychological dimensions of the struggle for racial justice during the civil rights eras, and its contemporary implications. Sankofa also seeks to provide experiences that lead to personal transformation on the difficult questions of race and justice.

Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Palm Beach Atlantic held several events to honor Black History Month, including dinners, a gospel gala, an urban youth impact worship and fellowship night, a chapel series, a viewing of *Amazing Grace* on opening night and a Christian comedy performance.

Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Wash.

Seattle Pacific University's Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Gospel Choir performed "Reconciled: A Gospel Symphony." The concert included a premiere performance of "Reconciled," written by SPU Gospel Choir Director Stephen Michael Newby, and such pieces as "Somebody's Knocking at Your Door," "He's Done So Much for Me," and "Precious Lord."

A Reconciliation Forum With Perkins and Skinner was held Feb. 22. John Perkins is founding partner in SPU's Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development; and Barbara Williams Skinner is co-founder and president of the Skinner Leadership Institute, headline a forum on the principles of biblical reconciliation.

Seattle Pacific University's Second Annual Perkins Lecture Series took place January 23–February 22, inviting listeners to explore the implications of reconciliation through Christian community development.

Trinity International University, Deerfield, Ill.

Trinity's Black History Month celebration included five chapel services between the college and Graduate school, a viewing of the movie *Glory Road*, the third

annual Diamond Ball (A Stepping Ball), Trinity Gospel Choir performances and a visit to Navy Pier to see the "Exhibition of Pride" presented by McDonald's Operators Association. This is a walk through gallery highlighting achievements of 28 notable African-Americans in math, science, film, literature, diplomacy, education, sports and more.

Warner Southern College, Lake Wales, Fla.

Warner Southern welcomed Angela Jennings, Curator, and the Sankofa African-American Culture Exhibit to campus on Thursday, February 15. Ms. Jennings is an Exhibitor of African-American History and Cultural Ambassador of Goodwill, from Denmark, South Carolina. The Sankofa exhibit is considered to be one of the foremost collections of African American history readily available to all audiences.

The Sankofa exhibit spans the period of 1860 to the present and takes the audience on a journey through slavery, the era of King Cotton, emancipation, African American inventions, Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement. The exhibit is a testament to the contributions that African Americans have made to this country and to the world.

Warner Southern students and faculty members toured and studied the exhibit throughout the day and listened to the riveting story Ms. Jennings told about an experience of her ancestor who was a slave. The dramatizations of certain periods and historical figures allow those in the audience to “experience” both the pain and pride of the history portrayed.

The term, Sankofa, means to “use the wisdom of the past to build the future.”

Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa.

Waynesburg College’s Black Student Union supported a number of events throughout February.”

- A special production by Maxine Maxwell, called “Echoes of the Past: Celebrating African-American Women”
- A viewing and discussion of the movie *Imitation of Life*
- A display of civil rights movement posters to raise awareness among students

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.

On Feb. 5, Wheaton held its 13th Annual African American Church Lecture.

Dr. Dwight Perry of the Great Lakes Baptist Conference was the speaker.

The William Osborne Society (black student union at Wheaton College) hosted its very first "William Osborne Weekend" on Campus, which included a reception during which the society introduced its cabinet and their vision for the year. The William Osborne Society also presented a dramatization entitled "A Generation Remembers," depicting the contributions of African Americans throughout American history.

At the end of the month, the Conservatory's Symphony Orchestra performed a concert featuring movements of The American Scene by William Grant Still, known as The Dean of African American Composers.

These and other colleges had also celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January with volunteer service projects, chapel addresses, dinners and more. For example, Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., held a concert on Jan. 15 featuring long-time Chicago jazz pianist Willie Pickens, and on Jan. 17, Dr. Charles Marsh from the University of Virginia spoke to the campus about his book *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, from the Civil Rights Movement to Today*. MidAmerica Nazarene University, in Olathe, Kan., held a prayer breakfast on Jan. 16 in honor of Dr. King

The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities is a higher education association of 182 intentionally Christ-centered institutions around the world. There are now 105 member campuses in North America and all are fully-accredited, comprehensive colleges and universities with curricula rooted in the arts and sciences. In addition, 77 affiliate campuses from 24 countries are part of the CCCU. The Council's mission is to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help its institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth.

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