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# Students celebrate culture, recognize history

Lane Smith News staff writer  
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The African Cultural Association began Black History Month by screening the documentary "The Neo African Americans," which addresses how African Americans identify themselves in the United States.



This event, held on Wednesday, is one of many that are occurring across campus throughout February. From benefit concerts by the Black Chorus to colloquiums put on by the Department of African American Studies, numerous registered student organizations and University groups are celebrating with diverse events.

## Black History Month events

Feb. 5: "Power of the Mic 2: The Movement" will have free singing, dancing, acting, and poetry at 8 p.m.

Executive members of the African Cultural Association, Jessica Imarenezor, left, senior in LAS, Patricia Bonsu, senior in AHS, and Bibiane Epouhe, senior in Business, watch the documentary "The Neo African Americans" in the Main Library on Wednesday.  
 Brad Meyer The Daily Illini

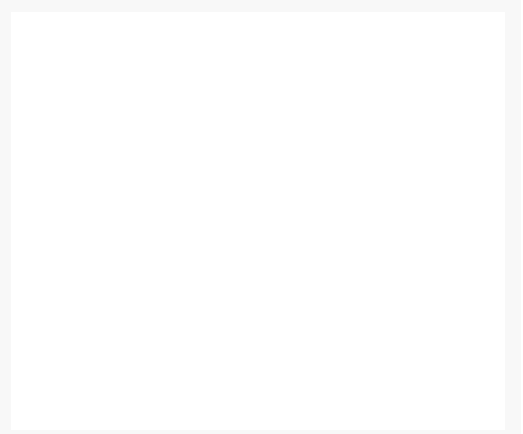
affects the black community.

Feb. 11: S.P.E.A.K. Cafe, which is an open-mic event that encourages the expression of hip-hop and Black Power.

Feb. 16: The Inclusive Illinois Diversity Roundtable, The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Illini Room A of the Illini Union Building.

not just black people, (or) white people, (or) Asians, everybody,"

Black History Month was pioneered in the 1920s by Carter G. Woodson, who was an African American historian and scholar to study black history. The event was created to celebrate the culture and history of African Americans. Head of the Department of African American Studies, Ron Jackson said that recognizing Black History Month throughout the month of February is one of the most important ways the history of black people is celebrated.



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Feb. 19: The symposium "Mad World: Sex, Politics, Style and the 1960s," from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Levis Faculty Center.

Feb. 23: the W.E.B. DuBois Lecture and Reception. From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Levis Faculty Center.

Feb. 28: The University of Illinois Black Chorus will perform a benefit concert for the SAFEHouse at 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Champaign.

Compiled by Lane Smith, staff writer

"The reason we have Black History Month, Women's History Month, and a variety of other cultural history months is just to remind people that there are a set of important legacies that need to be acknowledged, recognized, and celebrated," Jackson said.

Jessica Imarenezor, senior in LAS, added that similar to how former servicemen are recognized on Veterans Day, Black History Month provides all Americans with the opportunity to celebrate and recognize the contribution of blacks to the United States' history and culture.

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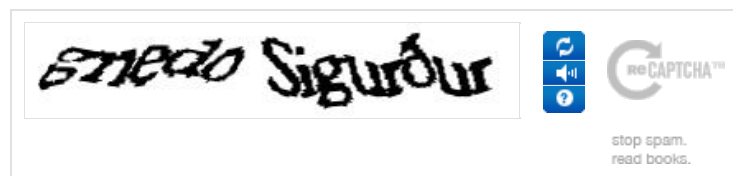
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