

USD celebrates Black History Month

LAUREN NICOLAS
GUEST WRITER

What began as a remembrance called “Negro History Week” in 1926, is now celebrated as Black History Month for all of February. As Krishelle Hardson, Co-President of the Black Student Union, explains, “it is a time that we dedicate our efforts toward recognizing African Americans of our past, present and future and educating the USD public about them.”

As a university that is striving to continue to become more culturally diverse, it is important that USD recognizes and celebrates Black History Month.

The organization formerly known as the Black Student Union, BSU, has added another aspect to their name, Brothers and Sisters United, so that all students feel welcome to join. They also recently began their BLACK OUT Campaign, which started on Feb. 9 at the Alcalá Bazaar, where BSU had a table and was giving out t-shirts specifically for the BLACK OUT campaign so that it will be represented on campus on a daily basis. Students can be seen wearing their black t-shirts that read: “I support the fight for diversity and inclusion” on the front and “We are ALL above the stereotype” on the back. Through this campaign, BSU hopes to promote inclusiveness and reject stereotypes that people of all backgrounds deal with.

BSU has many great events lined up for the month of February, including films, meetings, fashion shows, parties and banquets. The next upcoming event will be a fashion show called Art Conquers All that will feature BSU members and is hosted by the San Diego Youth Action Board, a non-profit organization that provides innovative youth driven leadership to disadvantaged youth. The San Diego Youth Action Board, Y.A.B. for short, strives to motivate the youth of today in order to form a positive, prosperous and united community. On that same day, Feb. 20, there will be a 24-hour Black History celebration at the Malcolm X Library beginning at 10 a.m.

On Feb. 23, beginning at 4 p.m. in the SOLES building, BSU will be presenting a film titled, “Made in Africa: The Impact of Slavery on Major Public Works Projects.” This film on slavery and its impact is very fitting for Black History Month because “Negro History Week,” is celebrated in February in honor of abolitionist Abraham Lincoln and former slave Frederick Douglass, whose birthdays are both in the second week of February.

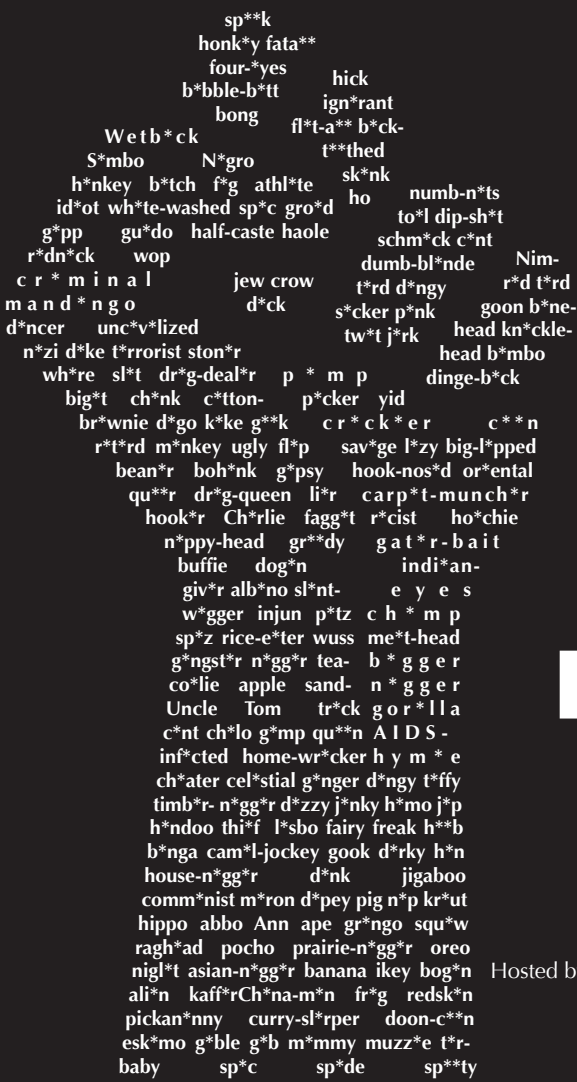
Another prominent figure in Black History, Martin Luther King Jr., will be honored at a banquet hosted by BSU on Feb. 25. King Jr., a baptist minister and Nobel Peace Prize winner was an inspirational leader of the

Civil Rights Movement and led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. For these reasons and so many more, he will always be remembered as a key figure during Black History Month and throughout black history in general.

As the grand finale for Black History Month at USD, BSU will host their signature event, A Night to Celebrate Rich Heritage, on March 5 at 6:30 p.m. The night will consist of a nice dinner, a dance performance, a fashion show featuring African clothing and an educational piece to honor the great African Americans of the past. This year professor Dr. Daniel Walker will be there to discuss various topics of black history. Both outstanding students as well as supportive professors will also be honored for their achievements and contributions throughout the academic year.

Black History Month is a time to remember great African Americans throughout history who, through determination and passion, paved a path for a better future. USD and BSU recognizes and celebrates all the hard work of those who have come before us by hosting events throughout the month of February. With fashion shows, banquets and films, it is easy to find an event that is fun and interesting to everyone. Take the time to learn a little bit more about the legends of black history and honor them for their perseverance.

I SUPPORT THE FIGHT FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2010

Hosted by: BSU: Brothers and Sisters United

BLACK OUT logo used in BSU's Black History Month t-shirts. COURTESY OF BSU



BARBARA FERGUSON

USD students wearing BSU's t-shirts designed to represent the BLACK OUT campaign on campus

WHAT DOES BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEAN TO YOU?

“The study of a unique heritage that changed life for many minorities as well as sexes and orientations. More importantly it opened the world’s eyes to equality.”

Murad Tolbert

“It is the recognition of a race and culture that for too long has been ignored and oppressed.”

Raymundo Quezada

“To me it mainly offers a chance to reflect on the leaders, people and events which chronicle the historic evolution of African Americans from slavery to presidency. Beyond the past challenges, Black History Month allows people to reflect on the triumphs and continuing success of African Americans in the United States.”

Nick Coppedge

“A month to appreciate all the important people and events in African American history during their time of Diaspora. It was also made to remember all the blacks that did important things but during the old times hadn’t got any credit for it because they were just considered slaves.”

Michael Barbeito

“For me, Black History Month is an opportunity to recognize the achievements of outstanding men and women who, throughout history, have faced opposition due to race, gender, sexuality, etc. I think it’s a time to commemorate all of these individuals.”

Michelle Bowen

“Black History Month to me is a celebration of a rich heritage. It’s a time for remembering and reflecting on the accomplishments and strides of the black communities who endured so much to give us an opportunity to equal rights and essentially making us who we are today.”

Hannah Wikkeling