

UB's Black Student Union celebrates Black History Month

Members promote black history, culture – ‘not just one month’

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UB's Black Student Union (BSU) has big plans for Black History Month, including birthday celebrations for Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two pioneers for black equality.

BSU has several events lined up, such as a leadership conference for local high school students, its annual health fair with local health organizations, community service events that will be held every other weekend and a Valentine's Day candy-gram and raffle, according to Christina Dunn, an activities coordinator for the club and a sophomore sociology and communication major.

To conclude the month's festivities, the club will continue its tradition of hosting Black Explosion.

"It's a fashion and cultural show where we take any theme or idea that we want and run wild with it," said President Greg Bellanton, a senior psychology major. "The point of this year's fashion show is to readjust the focus to show that black is beautiful by taking the same ideas [that society has deemed beautiful] and putting our passion into it and showing that black is beautiful."

This year, BSU is switching things up by holding Black Explosion on March 1 instead of in February.

"It's really important to realize that black history is not just one month," Dunn said. "You should know your culture and your people and the way that we appreciate our history."

BSU holds meetings every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in 307 Student Union and welcomes people of every ethnicity and culture.



COURTESY OF GREG BELLANTON

(Top left to bottom right) BSU leaders Sean Galette, publicity coordinator, Robin Murray, vice president, Donald Kelly, Black Men United co-chair, Alana Barricks, community service chair, and Greg Bellanton, president, have several events arranged for Black History Month.

"You don't have to be black or from the Caribbean or Jamaica to come to our events," Bellanton said. "We can relate to everybody in America and throughout the world on different topics."

Anyone in the UB community can join BSU's progressive thinking by becoming a part of the club, Bellanton said. Even students from other schools, such as Buffalo State College and Erie Community College, attend the meetings, Dunn said.

Vice President Robin Murray said the club focuses less on "fighting against racial pressure" and more on "fighting for progress as youthful individuals."

BSU Treasurer Efun Sade Cadle, a junior finance major, is in her second semester at UB. She transferred to UB in August.

"I went to a historically black high school and 98 percent of the school was black," Cadle said. "UB is huge, and to find a small group of people who share the same interests as you just in-

stills so much in you."

BSU Publicity Coordinator Sean Galette said the club allowed him to find family eight hours away from his home. Being an active BSU member has challenged him to maintain certain standards at school and led him to make multiple sacrifices.

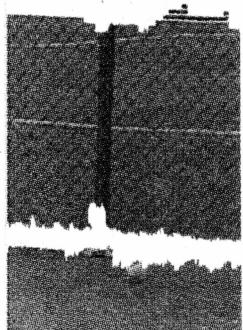
"You really have to be truly dedicated to more than one thing at once," said Noelle Nesbitt, an activities coordinator and a junior biomedical engineering major. "You do have to measure up to the requirements that you actually put yourself up for."

Despite the challenges, Nesbitt said she is thankful for how BSU has provided her with the opportunities to network and grow as a person.

To find out more about the club or its events, Black Student Union is an open group on Facebook.

email: features@ubspectrum.com

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In India, they play

Cricket is so high in India that some can be like its own religion. the game garnered America after ESPN's Thompson traveled Asia and wrote a legend titled, "Why You Should Like Cricket." The game – a vital part of Indian culture – is carried over to be a part of Indian campus, too.

When Raman Rastogi, a student in the field of physics and coach of the Cricket Club, left his home in 2009 and arrived to the States, the first thing he did was a cricket association.

UB's club has helped him develop a love for cricket flourished.

In 2010, alumni president, Anirudh Kumar, Anirudh Reddy founded the Undergraduate Cricket Club (UBCC). During the year, the club had 16 members, all of whom graduated.