

Celebrate

A Special Edition Newsletter Dedicated to celebrating Black History Month



2024 Theme

ASALH designates this year's theme as **"African Americans and the Arts"**

Why February?

Frederick Douglass and **Abraham Lincoln** were both born in February. Douglass was a prominent leader of the abolitionist movement, and Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation as president.

Simone Biles

"I was built this way for a reason, so I'm going to use it."

1926 "The Father of Black History"

Carter G. Woodson, a historian and president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, designated the second week of February as Negro History Week. Fifty years later, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month. The lives and past contributions of all African Americans should be celebrated as they are pivotal in the shaping of US History.



Allison Russel wins Grammy for Best American Roots Performance for her song "Eve Was Black"

African Americans have used art to preserve history and for empowerment. This month's theme celebrates the richness of the past and present as well as looking toward what the rest of the 21st century will bring. "Eve Was Black" contributes to the power that Black History Month has in commemorating the oppression black people face.

"'Eve Was Black' is an anthem of love for our intersectional communities that are fighting for equality in a time when we are suffering from major empathy impairment globally and still so deeply plagued by the false ideology of white supremacy and all the other bigotries that ride on its coattails.... It's kind of an open letter to people suffering from the sickness of white supremacy."



Student Spotlight

Gaining Perspective on what Black History Month means to our students

MILAN BROWN
CLASS OF 2025
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR; THEOLOGY MINOR
DIRECTOR OF DEIJ AND MEMBER OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

"The term "taking up space" is used a lot in today's world. I feel like the term has taken on a derogatory connotation, but to me, what this means is that when I enter into a space, it is God's will for me to be in that room and it would be a disservice to myself and to Him to get in that room and shrink myself or minimize myself because I am scared of the opinions of others. How I achieve this as a Black woman attending a PWI is to join certain organizations, such as SGA, to ensure that the Black student voice is represented and heard at the highest levels at Loyola. I also encourage other Black students to join organizations on campus and use their experiences to ensure the ventilation of the Black voice in how organizations and, by extension, Loyola, conduct decision-making. In doing so, I encourage them to keep talking when they feel as though they aren't being heard or people aren't listening. Eventually, they will wake up to what you are saying. In the meanwhile, stay true to your word and never dim what you want to say because people are not paying attention; you never know who might actually be listening and what changes you could inspire."



JOSHUA RAFFERTY
CLASS OF 2024
ECONOMICS MAJOR; POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR
MEMBER OF THE LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND ROWING TEAM

"The significance of Black History Month to me is that it allows us to take time to reflect on and recognize the achievement of Black people, especially because for so long if someone Black did something important, its significance wasn't really acknowledged, it was taken or was even hidden. A good example that comes to mind is that a Black person invented the traffic light. In a normal history class, black or white, there is a chance that that person is highlighted, but Black History Month ensures that those achievements and accolades are identified and recognized because it would ordinarily be minimized."

LAURYN CLARKE
CLASS OF 2026
MARKETING MAJOR; BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING MINOR
MEMBER OF THE LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND TRACK TEAM

"I believe that my role in the business world as a Black woman, especially in Marketing, is to act like a kind of trailblazer, but not by myself. Yes, I am a Marketing Major, but there aren't many Black people in the field. I think my role is to encourage other people that look like me to do it as well. I would encourage people by doing this myself, taking the initiative and putting myself out there. I feel like doing this will spark other people in the Black community to follow their dreams."

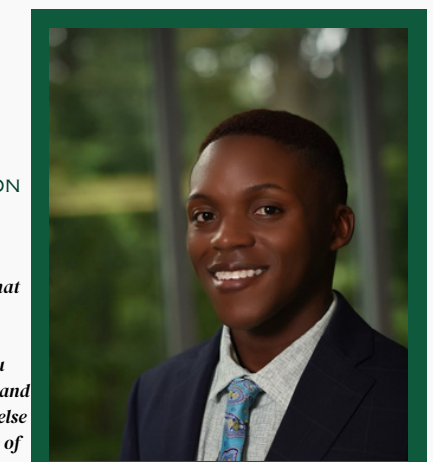


AHMAD MILLER
CLASS OF 2026
FINANCE MAJOR
CO-PRESIDENT OF LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND BOXING AND WRESTLING CLUB

"I feel like my voice does add to the business school. I believe that my experiences as Black man adds to the perspectives of the discussions we have in class. We're actually doing Diversity and Equity now in my Marketing class. When I share ideas with my classmates about marketing strategies, I feel like it adds another dimension to the discussion where I can include what will capture minority audiences and in so, boosts the reach of our ideas. I think that my voice can add strength to any environment because my thoughts can be used to further serve clients of various backgrounds and help companies understand how to properly treat their minority employees."

JACOLBY LACY
CLASS OF 2025
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT MAJOR; WRITING MINOR
SENATE MEMBER OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION; EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN THE SELLINGER SCHOLARS EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR DEIJ; DIRECTOR OF THE BSA FASHION SHOW

"Being Black to me means a struggle and that can be something small, like a bit of micro aggression that we have been conditioned to deal with, compartmentalize and put away or it could be something big like wanting to see yourself in a space that you've only ever seen another race be in. When I was younger, I wanted to be on the big screen; I wanted to be a great actor. However, I never saw, growing up at least, people that looked like me, but now that has changed. I feel like being Black means overcoming a lot of struggles and dealing with a system, an old house (America is an old house), that was designed against you rather than for you. Being Black is also a strength because in dealing with the struggle you have to develop a skin that is tough and a mind that is resilient and quick on its feet. Of course, there are days where you feel like you are working harder than anyone else but that adds to your character and creates a more deeply seeded constitution for you personally and gives you a greater sense of efficacy and drive and innovation."



Support Black Business Baltimore

Food

- Crust by Mack - Hampden
- Magdalena - Mount Vernon
- BLK Swan - Harbor East

Apparel

- Illicit Rag Vintage - Govans
- L.R.L. Clothing - Charles Village

Bookstores/Small Shops

- Drama MaMa Bookshop - Federal Hill
- KSM Candle Co. - Hampden

Beauty

- Beauty Plus - Northwood

Loyola Events

The Karson Institute for Race, Peace, Social Justice

- Black History Month Sponsored Basketball Game - Feb 10, 3-7pm
- Maryland's Slavery Task Force Report - Feb 16, 12:30-1:30 pm
- Loyola's Quilted Peculiar Narratives Program - Feb 27, 6:30-8 pm