Why Do We Celebrate?

Black History Month was created in February of 1926 as Negro History week and centered around the birthdays of President Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass; two men who pushed for the rights of African Americans. By 1976, this week-long celebration had become the month-long event we know today.

The founder of Black History Month (BHM) was Carter G. Woodson, an activist who studied the African diaspora and sought avenues for radical change in this country. From the original week came more waves of progress in our country to allow education of Black history in schools in the 1940s, and by 1967 there was a push to extend this weeklong celebration into a month.

With the progress of this Month as a celebration, it is also seen as a time for education on the heritage and history of the Black experience in the US, and through acknowledgment and understanding of this history, a push forward. Since its creation, other countries such as Canada, Ireland, and the UK have come to celebrate this month.
BLACK HISTORY IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Pictured from left to right: Lynda Woodruff, Vilma Evans, Arnold Bell, Thelma Brown Pendleton, Mary McKinney Edmonds, Leon Anderson.

There are numerous Black physical therapists who have made a tremendous impact on the field. We will be highlighting a few of these trailblazers:

Lynda D. Woodruff, PT, Ph.D. was the First African American to join the PT department at UNC-Chapel Hill. Woodruff established the first DPT program at Alabama State University. As a member of the APTA, she helped establish the APTA’s Advisory Council on Minority Affairs, which helped offer mentorship for minority women in the field. In addition, she was a founding member of the Section on Clinical Electrophysiology.

Mary McKinney Edmonds, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA, one of Lynda Woodruff’s mentors founded the PT program at Cleveland State University. Edmonds recognized a disparity between Black and White women with Diabetes who came to rehab, leading her to pursue a graduate degree in Sociology at Case Western Reserve University. She was the first African American PT to become a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA.

Leon Anderson Jr., PT, was the chief PT at Highland View Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, and later became the Director of Physical Therapy at University Hospitals of Cleveland. Anderson was the first African American member of the APTA’s Board of Directors.

Thelma Brown Pendleton, PT, and Vilma Evans, PT, Ed.D., were some of the first Black PT’s in the U.S. Pendleton founded the Provident Hospital PT program and became the chief PT at La Rabida Children’s Hospital and Research Center. In addition, she supervised clinical instructor education at Northwestern University. Evans was the Director of Physical Therapy at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Danville, Illinois for 26 years. Evans won numerous rewards as a member of the APTA including the Illinois Chapter’s Outstanding Service in Physical Therapy Award and the Lucy Blair Service Award.

Arnold Bell, PT, Ph.D., ATC was one of the first African American ABPTS-certified clinical specialists in sports PT. Bell founded the PT program at Florida A&M University. Bell ended up being an athletic trainer at the 1984 and 1996 Olympic Games.
According to the APTA workforce analysis, Black Americans make up 3.6% of P Ts and 5.8% of PTAs in the U.S.

During the 2019–20 academic year, Black SPTS made up 3.8% of students in accredited PT programs.

Among the faculty from accredited programs in 2019, Black/African Americans made up:

- Program Directors: 6/239
- DCE: 13/303
- Core Faculty: 70/2765
- Associated Faculty: 63/2423
- Other Faculty: 51/2221
There are over 130 black-owned businesses in Durham! Discover Durham has a great list of businesses you can support ranging from beauty, food, comedy, and bars! Highlighted below are a few of our favorites and why! [https://www.discoverdurham.com/community-culture/black-history/black-owned-businesses/](https://www.discoverdurham.com/community-culture/black-history/black-owned-businesses/)

- **Goorsha** - A bright and beautifully central location that serves authentic Ethiopian food. Goorsha offers a variety of traditional dishes that are accompanied by injera, an Ethiopian flatbread. The food here is flavorful, and with great sharing-sized portions it's good for a large group to go and try a lot of things!

- **Nora’s African Groceries** - Was founded by a Sierra Leone businesswoman Monica Boston. They offer African foods, products, and are accessible in-person, online or for delivery.

- **Tips and Needles** - Nail salon that accepts online bookings and does a variety of beautiful nail styles. Voted most booked on Booksy.com!

- **Nailz Plus Beauty** - An all-inclusive beauty experience with a variety of services including manicures, pedicures, brow henna, lash extensions, waxing, and skin and massage therapy. This salon focuses on natural beauty and uses nontoxic products.

- **The Dankery** - Starting off as a local food truck, the Dankery has expanded to two restaurant locations (Durham & Raleigh), serving their delicious trays while also showcasing other black-owned businesses (Ashleigh Bakes Daily & Mel’s Sweet Fix)

- **Durham Success Summit** - Founded by a Duke alumnus, this organization serves to uplift and promote Black men by increasing access to business education, mentorship, and professional networking opportunities for young Black men in Durham.
Black Artist Highlight

Music:
- Shirley Caesar: Singer from Durham, NC who's Gospel voice gave her the nickname "The Queen of Gospel Music"
- Nina Simone: Renowned singer, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Her songs "feeling good" and "I put a spell on you" show her unique tone and set her as a part of history.

Visual artists:
- Michael Richards: "Are you Down?" exhibit at NC Museum of Art from March 4 - July 23rd
- L Jamal Walton: Durham based graphic artist who's work will be featured downtown throughout the month of February.
- James Van Der Zee: captured much of the Harlem Renaissance in film camera

Film:

CELEBRATIONS:

Here are a few events occurring locally and within the Duke Community that we invite everyone to attend.

- Thursday, February 23rd at 5pm: Paint & Chill at the Mary Lou
- Tuesday, February 28th at 7pm: Dinner and Dialogue with Author and Publisher Daniel J. Camacho; Join the DEI and Student Affairs GAs for a night of dinner and discussion. Meet Jess and Razan at 6:45pm outside of IPE to walk over together or meet them at the event.
- Friday March 3rd- Duke DPT Diversity Club will be meeting as a book review of Jasmine Mans' work "Black girl, Call home" at Oakhouse in Durham from 5-6 pm.