

## Black History Month Melissa Chin

In the United States, every February is recognized as Black History Month. During this month, we celebrate the many contributions that Black people have made to American culture, art, music, technology, and literature throughout U.S. History. Prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Black people were commonly excluded from mainstream American political, cultural, and social spaces. This exclusion forced Black Americans to create their own spaces for cultural, social, and political expression, leading to cultural revolutions such as the Harlem Renaissance, the birth of Jazz, and ultimately, the Civil Rights Movement. Black History Month celebrates the achievements of Black Americans, both past and present, who have helped shape the modern cultural identity of the United States. You can learn more about the history of Black Americans through PBS's Black Culture Connection Series [here](#), and through The History Channel's Black History Month articles and video tributes [here](#). You can also find information about how the University of Illinois is celebrating Black History Month [here](#). And here is a list of some of the events taking place during Black History Month:

**February 25 • 12 PM at Illini Union - Courtyard Café**  
Jazz Café featuring the Lamonte Parsons Experience

**February 25 • 4:30 PM at ISR and PAR**  
Themed Dinner: Neo Soul

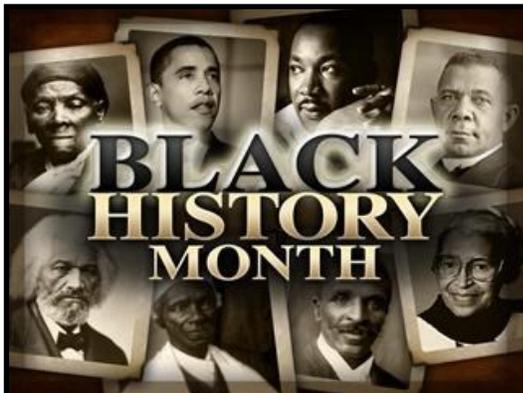
**February 26 • 12 PM at University YMCA**  
Reclaiming OUR Narrative: How History Can Inform Policy, the Change, and the Future

**February 28 • 3 PM at BNAACC**  
Fourth Sunday Fellowship

**February 29 • 2 PM at BNAACC**  
Cultivating Creative Expression: Black Arts Appreciation Mixer

**March 5 • 9:30 AM at I-Hotel & Conference Center**  
2016 Black and Latino Male Summit

**March 5 • 4 PM at Illini Union - Courtyard Cafe**  
10 Year Academy of African American Arts Anniversary Concert



## St. Patrick's Day Jennie Avery

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17, and while on this day many proclaim that "we're all Irish," there are a lot of things that we don't know about our adopted culture. Especially in the United States, there are many common misconceptions about the holiday and the man for whom it was named. Here are a few of these, so that you can be as Irish as possible come March 17:

March 17 is the date of St. Patrick's death, and was declared a holiday by the Catholic Church which designates the day a saint dies as a holy day on which the saint entered Heaven.

St. Patrick's given name was Maewyn Succat. He changed his name to Patrick when he became a priest.

St. Patrick wasn't Irish. His parents were Romans who were living in modern-day England. St. Patrick was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland where he was a slave.

St. Patrick's color is blue, not green.

While St. Patrick's Day in the United States is known for the heavy drinking that takes place, the holiday used to be alcohol-free in Ireland, as all of the pubs would be closed for the religious observance of the day.

There are more Irish people in the United States than there are in Ireland. The population of Ireland is around 4.2 million, while the Irish population in the United States is around 34 million.

A couple of other fun facts about St. Patrick's Day in the United States:

The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United States was held in Boston, Massachusetts in 1737.

Each year, the city of Chicago celebrates St. Patrick's Day by dyeing the Chicago River a vivid fluorescent green, using 400 pounds of green vegetable dye.

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## Spring in Champaign-Urbana

It's been a long winter, but the good news is that the weather will eventually begin to warm up and after spending several months stuck inside, we're sure that you'll be ready to start enjoying the outside world again. Luckily, Champaign-Urbana has a lot to offer during the Spring in the way of events and festivals. Here are just a few of the fun events taking place during Spring 2016.

### **International Week—Jennie Avery**

It is a fact that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is home to an incredibly large number of international students and scholars who come to the cornfields each year to study, research, and work. Each year at the beginning of April, as a way to celebrate the diversity and richness of cultures represented on the Illinois campus, the entire University comes together to present International Week. This week boasts hundreds of events sponsored by various offices and departments across campus. The activities range from movie showings and lectures to language courses and photo contests. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Here are just a few of the events taking place during International Week 2016.

#### **Travel Around the World – 4/5**

Individuals and groups host tables representing their home countries/cultures and participants visit the tables to learn about the different countries/cultures represented!

#### **Taste of Language – 4/6**

Native speakers of 8-10 different languages teach 25 minute crash courses. Participants will have the chance to learn two different languages during the event.

#### **International Perspectives – 4/7**

A Pecha Kucha-style presentation series where students and scholars are invited to present on a central theme. This year's theme will be "A Place Worth Saving." Presenters will speak about a place in the world that is special to them and why they believe it is worth protecting.

For a full list of the events taking place during International Week, please visit the Illinois International website: <http://international.illinois.edu>



### **Ebertfest—Nick Dunn**

Looking for a fun way to celebrate spring but prefer to stay indoors? Check out Ebertfest, founded by the late Illinois alumnus and famed film critic Roger Ebert, and hosted by his wife, Chaz Ebert. The festival aims to highlight great films that deserve more recognition.

Champaign Parks District will host the 18th Annual Ebertfest at the Virginia Theatre from April 13th to 17th, 2016. Festival passes and single-show tickets (student discounts available) are on sale now at [ebertfest.com](http://ebertfest.com). Ebertfest relies heavily on film-loving volunteers like you to accommodate thousands of fans, so check [ebertfest.com/beavolunteer](http://ebertfest.com/beavolunteer) for more information. As Ebert always said, "I'll see you at the movies!"



# Spring Training Baseball with Nick

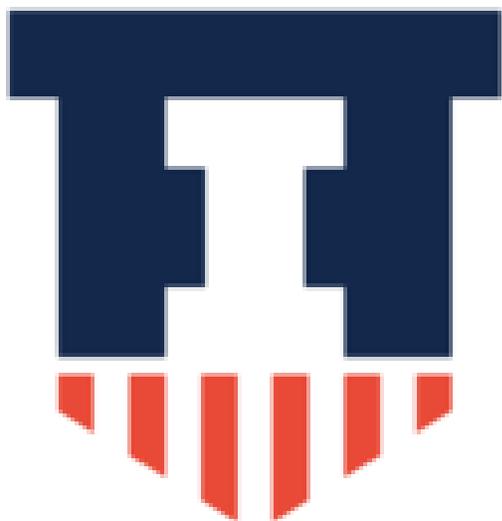
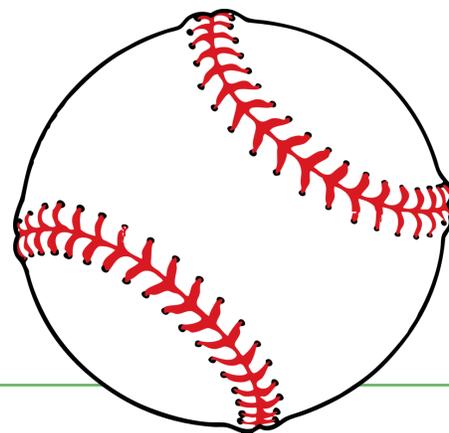
Nick Dunn

No doubt you, like everyone else in the US, are on the edge of your seat eagerly awaiting the start of the 2016 Major League Baseball season. The good news is baseball really starts an entire month earlier than Opening Day.

Baseball is often considered a game of deep and abiding tradition (an example: team managers still wear player uniforms, though it's been decades since player-managers were commonly expected to take the field). Though it's now an anticipated annual tradition, Spring Training started as an incredibly early example of evidence-based strategy. In 1886, the White Stockings (now Illinois' own Chicago Cubs) followed up a Spring Training in Hot Springs, Arkansas with a very successful season, and the following season other teams adopted this time of extra practice. Spring Training also proved invaluable for preparing and evaluating players. We may never have known Babe Ruth as the home run king had he not been moved from pitcher to First Base in a St. Patrick's Day 1918 Spring Training, and had he not ripped a 573-foot home run that day.

Spring Training has grown in the past 130 years into a month-long mini-season. Though games have been played in many states, and even internationally (in Cuba, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic), Spring Training has now consolidated into the Arizona-based Cactus League and the Florida-based Grapefruit League.

You can follow Illinois' teams (the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox) online as they begin Spring Training March 3rd. They'll face off in a sort of crosstown series March 12th and March 18th.



## Baseball 101

Nick Dunn

Want to come out to a game and even learn and practice your baseball skills? Join us for a free Baseball 101 event at Illinois Field at 430PM on Tuesday April 5th. We'll "tailgate" (enjoy food and beverage before the game), play some wiffleball (a fun, easier version of baseball), and get ready to cheer on the Illini as they face Eastern Illinois in a free game at 6PM.

## ISSS Favorite Comedies!

It's almost spring, but we've still got a little bit of winter to get through before it's nice enough to go outside. To help get you through the last weeks of winter, the ISSS staff shares their favorite comedies!

**Afroza:** School of Rock - A former rock band member turned substitute teacher helps elite students find their rhythm. Hilarity ensues.

**Amira:** 9-5 is one of my ultimate favorite comedies. It sheds light on some serious issues societal issues, but manages to make me shed some laughter tears. Last but not least, there is an all-star cast of leading ladies (Lily Tomlin, Dolly Parton, and Jane Fonda). Can it get better than this?

**Dylan & Erin:** Pee Wee's Big Adventure - Is Pee Wee more of a boy, or more of a man? Who really cares? This outlandish 80's classic from the bizarre mind of Tim Burton is one of a kind and can be appreciated by audiences of any age. If you ask for it at the video store "*Be sure and tell 'em Large Marge sent ya!*" This classic movie is one that kids who grew up in the 80's can appreciate if they spent their Saturday mornings watching Pee-Wee's Playhouse.

**Kara:** The Family Stone - This movie captures a moment in life that makes a lot of us nervous – meeting your significant other's family for the first time. I love how it features so many awkward (but hilarious) moments. This movie takes place during the Christmas holidays, and captures a lot of U.S. holiday traditions.

**Martin & Nick:** Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb - Hilarious film, where unfortunately quotes like "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room!" and "Mr. President, I'm not saying we wouldn't get our hair mussed. But I do say no more than ten to twenty million killed, tops" are now less satire and more representative of US culture than we'd like them to be...By turns over the top hilarious and dry-witted, "Dr. Strangelove" is an insightful and inspiring anti-nuclear-proliferation and anti-military-industrial-complex romp. Watch it for the laughs and a startling view of the geopolitical situation at the height of the Cold War.

**Melissa:** Hitch! - This is a Will Smith Rom-Com about a "Date Doctor" who helps shy guys gain the confidence to navigate the dating world. It's filled with embarrassing moments and unexpected love connections.

**Stephanie:** European Vacation! - One of the National Lampoon movies starring Chevy Chase, this movie takes us on vacation again with the Griswolds – this time to Europe! Of course, nothing really goes as planned, and pretty much all of their trip ends up very chaotic. This movie should be taken lightly, it might not be the best

