What is the Alternative Break Immersion (ABI) Program?
University Ministry’s ABI Program offers Dominican University students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to step beyond our gates and dive into the social concerns of today. The program includes immersion experiences offered over the fall, spring, and summer breaks. We learn together in relationship. A team from Dominican University engages in service and builds relationships with people living in a different culture and among themselves. Together we examine social issues, reflect, and pray together. We do all of this because such experiences have the power to transform lives, especially our own. We hope that you’ll consider applying.

To apply for the spring ABI program, please visit [http://www.dom.edu/studentlife/ministry/alternative-break-immersion](http://www.dom.edu/studentlife/ministry/alternative-break-immersion) where you’ll find an application. Complete and return to University Ministry by Wednesday, January 28.

What is March?

“March: a Civil Rights Journey at 50”
The social and political changes brought on by the US Civil Rights Movement continue to impact national life around issues of race, equity and citizenship, but this is not the full extent of the movement’s impact. This trip will explore two important threads of social and cultural impact – faith communities and social action and the arts and social action.

Martin Luther King, Jr., worn from a long, protracted bus boycott in Montgomery in 1956, declared that their common goal was not simply the end of segregation as an institution. Rather, “the end is reconciliation, the end is redemption, the end is the creation of the beloved community.” It is an end for which we still search. King’s reminder reflects the spirituality that motivated the civil rights movement in the South. This vision of the Beloved Community is one that we still search for in the wake of killing of Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown. In many ways, the community from which King spoke is still a target and the vision of the Beloved Community has not yet arrived.
The Black Arts Movement arose in the US following the assassination of Malcolm X in 1965, and became the literary extension of Black Nationalist ideologies that partially defined the Civil Rights Movement’s sociopolitical agenda. The literature produced during the Black Arts Movement forged an activist art aesthetic in the African American community that continues to influence everything from Hip-Hop to Black theater. Exploring the linkages between contemporary Black cultural production in the US and the principles of the Black Arts Movement allows us to draw a direct line of influence from the Civil Rights Movement to today. Drawing such a line provides a framework for examining the Civil Rights Movement’s legacy as a major shaper of the African American artistic and political destiny in the US.

Tracing these two themes, the students embarking on the “March: a Civil Rights Journey at 50” will explore social action through the lens of faith and culture. They will participate in the 50th Jubilee March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, hear civil rights leaders past and present address the work that still needs to be done, visit hallowed places in the Movement in Selma, Montgomery, Atlanta, Birmingham, and Memphis, and reflect with one another on the call to be the Beloved Community and embrace the legacy of our Civil Rights forebears.

Rough Itinerary (subject to change)

Travel Day - Thursday, March 5

Selma - Thursday night, March 5 - Monday morning, March 9
- Collaborative Student Mini-Conference with Concordia College of Alabama
- Touring sites of major significance in the Voting Rights March
- 50th Jubilee Reenactment of the March over the Edmund Pettus Bridge
  with Civil Rights leaders like John Lewis and (possibly) President Barack Obama

Montgomery - Monday morning, March 9 - Monday afternoon March 9
- Southern Poverty Law Center - 11am Tour & Presentation
- Rosa Parks Museum & Tour
- Visit to Tuskegee University

Atlanta - Monday night, March 9 - Thursday morning, March 12
- Exploration of the issue of refugee resettlement as a modern civil rights issue
- Role of the Sisters in the Civil Rights movement, dinner and prayer with Sinsinawa Dominicans, DVUSA Volunteers, and Associates at Penn House Community
- Visit to Ebeneezer Baptist Church and other significant Atlanta sites

Birmingham - Thursday afternoon March 12
- Visiting the jail cell where Martin Luther King, Jr. authored Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Memphis - Friday, March 13
- National Civil Rights Memorial
- Lunch/Dinner @ Central BBQ
- Stax Records

Travel Day - Saturday, March 14
How does the application process work?
Please take some time to thoughtfully complete the application. Return it to the Ministry Center (Lewis 216) by January 28th. The faculty and staff leaders will carefully consider each application and discern a possible placement for you. Depending on the number of applicants we may choose to interview you. We will take into account such factors as your ability to contribute to the group experience, your motivation, experience, hopes, the likelihood that this will be an empowering experience for you, and the needs of the groups and the sites. You will be notified by e-mail about the status of your application shortly after it is received.

If accepted to the program, what will I be asked to commit to?
- **MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MISSING CLASSES ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MARCH 5-6. WE LEAVE BEFORE SPRING BREAK OFFICIALLY BEGINS.**
- Attend **three preparation meetings** in the spring semester. The first will be held: **Sunday, February 8th from 5:30pm-8:00pm.** The others will be scheduled at that meeting on February 8.
- Participate fully in a group fundraising campaign to help offset the total cost of the trip (see below).
- Participate fully in the immersion experience.
- **Attend a follow-up session on a date to be determined by the group.**
- Submit your deposit by **Tuesday, February 10.**

How are the trips funded?
Because of housing, food, transportation, and program costs, these immersions require significant funding. University Ministry is able to subsidize a portion of the cost, but not all. We ask that each participant make a deposit of $125 and commit to working with the other ABI participants and leaders to fundraise a total of $2500 through **letter writing.**
Family, friends, professors, former teachers, etc. want to support you in your ambitions and in your service. We will give you the tools and confidence to ask for their support. Once accepted, more details will follow about making your deposit and the letter writing campaign.

| Participant Deposit = $125 - due Tuesday, February 10 or risk losing your place |
| Fundraising Commitment = $2500 together with the other spring ABI students |
  (This amounts to about $275 per person.)

**SCHOLARSHIPS**
University Ministry understands that the cost of these trips can be prohibitive for some students. We encourage students in this situation to make an appointment with John DeCostanza to create a payment plan or scholarship assistance.

If you have any questions about the trips, the application process, or anything else about the ABI program, please contact John DeCostanza in University Ministry: Lewis 216, (708) 524-6685, or jdecostanza@dom.edu

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**Alternative Break Immersion Application**
**Spring Break, March 5-14, 2015**

Name: ____________________________  Student I.D. # ____________

Anticipated year of graduation: ____________  Major: _______________________

☐ Commuter  ☐ Resident, Residence Hall/Room Number ________________________
We always need more drivers for our Alternative Break Immersions. To be a driver, you need to be at least 21 years-old by March, have a valid driver's license, feel comfortable driving a 15 passenger van, and attend a van training by campus security.

Do you qualify? ___________ (Y) _________________ (N)

Please respond briefly to ALL the questions below on a separate sheet. Please type your answers.

1. Please describe your interest in March. What motivates you to apply? (150-300 words)

2. Please explain how racism has touched you. Share one brief story about how racism has affected your life, education, etc. (150-300 words)

3. Carefully read the trip description. Which thread of the experience speaks to you the most - the exploration of faith or culture? Why? How might you like to grow in the other area? (150-300 words)

4. Describe the gifts that you would bring to an Alternative Break Immersion. How will you contribute to the group's experience? (150-300 words)

5. Given what you know about the experience from this application and what you imagine you might encounter on our journey in the South, how might this experience better prepare you to further create a more just and humane world? (150-300 words)

6. Is there anything else you would like the student and staff leadership to know as we discern a possible placement for you?

Please Return to University Ministry (Lewis 216) or jdecostanza@dom.edu by January 28, 2015
PLEASE PRINT
Name of student: ________________________________________ Birth Date ___/___/___

Circle one: Male / Female

Home Address:___________________________________________
City:___________________________ State & Zip:_______________ Phone: (___)________

Emergency contact person:______________________________ Relation to you: ____________

Day phone: (___)___________________ Evening Phone: (___)_______________

Known Allergies: __________________________________________
Dietary Needs (vegetarian, vegan, food allergies, I only eat twinkies, etc.)__________________________

Current Medications __________________________________________

Will you need assistance with your medication(s)? Please specify.

Blood Type (if known):_____________

Complete name of Insurance Company:___________________________
Policy Number/Group Number: _________________________________
Name on insurance card:_____________________ Cardholder's date of birth ____________________

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I, _________________________, I certify that the above information is correct.

Signature of Volunteer:______________________________________________

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH A COPY OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE AND YOUR HEALTH
INSURANCE CARD. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT BOTH COPIES ARE LEGIBLE.
DATE(S) OF ACTIVITY: Thursday, March 5, 2015 – Saturday, March 14, 2015
Sponsored by University Ministry

ACTIVITY: march Alternative Spring Break Immersion

Name: _______________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact: _______________________________________________________________________________________
Relation to you: _______________________________________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact Phone Number: ________________________________________________________________________

I recognize and acknowledge that there are always certain risks of physical injury during off campus activities
and travel. I hereby agree to assume full risk, regardless of severity, for any injury or harm that I may sustain
during the above noted activity. I waive and relinquish all claims I may have as a result of such injury sustained
during or as a result of participation. I fully release Dominican University, its staff, officers, agents and servants
from all responsibility of injury or claim to loss sustained during the activity.

I agree to be responsible for all costs of medical treatment or other services deemed necessary for me. I hereby
give permission for the leaders of this activity to secure treatment for me in the event of an emergency.

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Name

I agree to release Dominican University to use photographs of myself from this experience in on-line and print
publicity materials.

Signature

Name

I understand that during any activity sponsored by Dominican University’s University Ministry Center I am
considered a representative of the university and am expected to act accordingly. I will respect all property (of
other participants and host facility) and persons. I will not use or introduce any substances including alcohol or
illegal drugs. If I smoke cigarettes, I will follow all codes and smoke only in the designated areas of the facility.
I will maintain mature behavior and follow the reasonable directions of the leaders. I understand that any severe
breach of this agreement will result in my being dismissed from the activity at my expense.

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________