The portrayal of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a peaceful, docile black man whose non-violent protests are the sole reason for the perceived success of the Civil Rights Movement, is a manipulative tool of white supremacy. This portrayal of his legacy is often used to delegitimize today’s protests against a nation that continues to uphold a racist status quo. The idea that today’s Civil Rights Movement is too “violent” or “angry” to be effective is dangerous.
MLK’S LIBERTY LEGACY

University participates in 40th annual MLK Jr Parade

MELISSA BURGESS
Staff Writer

T his year marks FIU’s 23rd annual commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
In honor of Dr. King, the Department of Multicultural Programs and Services and committee members from different departments of the University, including the Black Student Union and Student Government, have organized a variety of events inspired by Dr. King’s lifelong dedication to equality and peace.

This year, the University will be participating in the 40th annual MLK parade on Jan. 16 in Liberty City. Leading FIU in the parade will be University President Mark B. Rosenberg along with Roary, FIU ROTC, FIU Marching Band, Black Student Union, Cheerleaders, Dazzlers, Athletes and Greek Organizations.

While some march and others walk, some of the students and administrators will be riding in a float to represent the FIU community.

"FIU brings in the largest contingency of students, faculty, families and members of the local community at the parade bringing in over 200 participants each year," said Dorrett Sawyers, Director for the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and committee chairperson.

Jeffrey McNamee, the associate director for MPAS says that FIU participating in the parade goes hand in hand with their mission to promote diversity and social justice to FIU and the local south Florida community.

“For our students, this parade is university pride. This is FIU what we can give back to our community. This parade is like a step into social activism especially in this parade where people are standing up for the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King,” said McNamee.

The parade kicks off at 11 am and takes place along NW 54th Street from NW 12th Ave to NW 32nd Ave.

Since 2012, MPAS has provided free buses for students to attend the parade. The buses will be located in Lot 5. Buses arrive on campus at 7:30am and leave to the parade site at 8am.

“We encourage everyone in the FIU community to attend the parade. We need the support of our students. We want to make sure that our local community knows that FIU cares about their students,” she said. “When you look at the demographics of FIU, more than 60% of students are Hispanic and a lot of times, students from other ethnicities may feel like FIU is not their university. FIU needs to have a presence in our community to reassure them that FIU is their public institution. Our black community needs to know that FIU is here, and if we’re going to be worlds ahead, we have to embrace our local community.”

Jasmine Chaney, an FIU alumni who attended the parade two years ago with her sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha, said that the parade was a great way for the community to celebrate Dr. King’s legacy.

"As an African American woman, I was taught that if you don’t know your past how can you know your future if you don’t know your history. I think it’s important as a community to remind people that he stood for something and coming together to celebrate him is a beautiful thing,” said Chaney.

Travis Stokes, the Parking and Transportation Manager at FIU, says that MLK day is not just a day off but rather a day to celebrate Dr. King.

“AT FIU, we are such a melting pot of diversity that this parade has become the fiber within our fabric,” said Stokes.

Sawyers says that it’s important to work towards becoming a community to keep Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream alive.

“We need to advocate the spirit of Dr. King. We need to continue on our journey of social issues and we are not where we need to be yet. We have made some great strides but we have a lot to go.

We need to advocate the spirit of Dr. King. We need to continue on our journey to advocate social issues and we are not where we need to be yet. We have made some great strides but we have a lot to go.

Dorrett Sawyers
Director
Multicultural Programs and Services

Annual breakfast to commemorates MLK

ARIANA RAMSUNDAR
Contributing Writer

A s the beginning of January rolls around FIU’s Office of Multicultural Programs and Services (MPAS), Division of Student Affairs, begins their final preparations for their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Breakfast.

The Office of Multicultural Programs and Services has been hosting this remembrance event honoring the life of Martin Luther King for twenty-six years. The breakfast features keynote speakers who are prominent figures in the local national or global community and are actively working in areas such as Civil Rights. The annual Martin Luther King Commemorative Breakfast began in 1991 after staff members working in the MPAS wanted to follow in the footsteps of other universities and implement a day commemorating the work of Dr. King.

That small idea has now snowballed into an annual event that has surpassed the capacity of the Graham Center Ballrooms. However if you want to get tickets for this remarkable event they are usually sold out by Thanksgiving.

Dr. Dorrett Sawyers is the Director for the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and also chairs the entire MLK Commemorative Celebration of events. The committee has 20 dedicated members who co-chair and serve on various sub-committees to put on a month-long celebration.

By continuing this event organizers hope to continue to drive the passion of Dr. King. Dr. Sawyers remarked about the impact that Dr. King’s legacy and this event had for her. “Our past as a nation has not been a pleasant one but despite the active segregation and societal challenges Dr. King’s civil rights agenda move forward in the same manner and sought to make changes and the fact that he was able to achieve all that he did through peaceful protest showcases the power of love which he had which is why every year we select a theme that matches his work. This year’s theme is “The Life of a Prophet with style.”

She was not here for the first event but
Students discuss MLK legacy

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
News Director

Martin Luther King was jailed 29 times while leading the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968 according to history.com. "The fact that [FIU] is an international school with hispanic, white, asian, indian and african americans students all integrated and I think Martin Luther King is one of the big reasons why we can be integrated," Grant said.

Grant sees and looks up to King as a role model for herself. "When faced with so many problems like he did, King never gave up, and was able to accomplish so much for American civil rights" she said. "Anybody who can do what [King] did is a role model to me, period."

Grant describes Martin Luther King as a father figure to her. "He definitely brought that aspect to me and looking at his life, I could see what is right and what is wrong," she said.

The legacy of Martin Luther King’s achievements in civil rights is well known. To people who have yet to learn about him, Grant would described him as “more than just an individual”. "King himself was a movement, a legitimate movement that can’t be reckoned with," Grant said.

"If I am sitting right now, I have Martin Luther King to thank for that," Grant said. "The strength he had to peacefully advocate his right was a bit sceptic at first but he eventually convinced a lot of people to join his cause."

Grant admits to slight disagreements to King’s approach in the civil right movement, but she agrees that he found a way that worked and he did it. “I respect him for what he accomplished” she said.

Anjali Thota, a sophomore civil engineering major, believes that the University advocates Martin Luther King’s principles by celebrating his birthday nearly half a century after his death.

"FIU is being Worlds ahead by celebrating such a great leader like MLK," Thota said. "I am proud to be part of a school that celebrates civil rights triumph in the 1950s and 1960s era."

"Martin is also an international business major, thinks that Martin Luther King has become a symbol of hope over the years and that’s why people remember him." "FIU is a hispanic dominated school and I feel like celebrating a black leaders like King is such a meaningful action for me and the black community. as a whole. I think that’s why I am glad FIU is doing a set of commemorative events next year,” Joissaint said.
No Rest for the Protest
Student activists fight for their voices to be heard

Joshua Munoz-Jimenez
Contributing Writer

In 2016, student activists demanded nature conservation, political asylum and fought against systemic racism in a variety of protests to make their voices heard by the University and local communities.

Back in March, students argued that concern for life isn’t limited to human life, but also the environment and the species depending on the ecosystem to survive.

Students expressed their outrage over the University’s plan to pave over a portion of the nature preserve near the soccer stadium to build two athletic practice fields.

Several protestors, including students, such as Joshua Munoz-Jimenez, then an agroecology major, protested against the plan to build over 2.8 acres of the preserve.

Promoted by hashtags like #SaveDonPaveIt, the “Peace for the Preserve” event on Nov. 4, held on the nature preserve’s north border, boasted students who passed out flyers. Despite the fact that the Board of Trustees was in favor of the building project, the Panthers still put up a fight, even when that fight was against their own university.

“Justice for students and nature drove me. The issue at hand was a microcosm for what happens at the bigger scale in the world with corrupt governments,” said Jimenez.

Jimenez suggests that direct action is the best course for students who feel strongly about an issue, as negotiations can often lead to dead ends when situations are time-sensitive.

Possibly the most divisive events of this year was the culmination of the United States presidential election. When the result of the election was announced and the world knew that Donald Trump was to be our next president, certain students at the University felt that their livelihoods and futures were in danger.

Daniel Leon, junior biology major, felt personally to the election. When the result of the election was announced and the world knew that Donald Trump was to be our next president, certain students at the University felt that their livelihoods and futures were in danger.

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Joshua Munoz-Jimenez
Protestor

In 2015, international relations major, Lana Pohlmann, went to the University of South Florida, and joined UNICEF at FIU. A year and a half later, she is the vice-president of the organization’s executive board and be a site leader for this year’s service trip in Costa Rica during the spring break.

“I gave me a lot of encouragement to see that my peers see how willing I am to work toward my goal and how passionate I am about certain causes,” she said.

In addition to her work at UNICEF, Pohlmann became very involved in another cause, human trafficking. Last summer, Pohlmann got an internship in Sarasota with More Too Life, an organization that helps victims of human trafficking and brothel situations.

After joining UNICEF and being involved in various fundraising events, Pohlmann went to Peru with the organization when they partnered with Alternative Breaks for a service trip last March. Her experience during pre-service, raising money and working with local schools, prepared her for the trip but Pohlmann was still apprehensive about the language barrier, as she didn’t really know what to expect,” she said.

Her group assured her that her actions would be enough to communicate with the Peruvian children she was working with and when Pohlmann got there, she experienced exactly that.

“It was really great, it was the first time I’ve ever done something like it,” Pohlmann said. “I really enjoyed my experience there and through that, I became even more involved with UNICEF.”

Because of Pohlmann’s constant involvement and dedication, she was asked to be a member of the organization’s executive board and be a site leader for this year’s service trip in Costa Rica during the spring break.

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MLK: ‘Symbol of perseverance’

NADINE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

At a public level, what the man stood for was hope, said Christopher Tonarely, a senior fine arts major. On Jan. 16, a day for celebrating the achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr., most in the community will acknowledge his success with using nonviolent forms of resistance to overcome injustice, and at the time prevented blacks from entering public spaces like as restaurants, hotels and public schools. “To me, he stands in for the voice that would not be heard,” said Alex Ballester, a senior public relations and fine art major. “He made everyone listen to him. And with just his words, he was able to make himself a huge presence that was able to aid in the abolishment of segregation.”

Other than having the University closed the day of, the University is doing its part in celebrating Martin Luther King Day this year, hosting several events throughout the month of January. The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum will be hosting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Exhibition Series, “Casting Shadows” from Jan. 19 to March 19. According to their website, it “addresses issues of race, diversity, social justice, civil rights, and humanity to serve as a catalyst for dialogue and to enrich our community with new perspectives.” On Jan. 16, the University will also have a contingency joining the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade that is held on 54th street annually.

In addition to events, scholarships in honor of Martin Luther King are also provided by the university, such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Scholarship and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Award. “I usually attend an event or watch documentaries about the civil rights movement on Martin Luther King Day,” said Marissa Oria, a senior English major. “Honestly, my favorite quote from him would have to be “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.””

“To me, Martin Luther King represents a symbol of courage and perseverance. A man who truly exemplified the quote, ‘take the path less traveled by,’” said Sergio Chaviano, a junior political science major. “He was a man who believed in peace, a man who strived for love over the the hatred that surrounded him, a man who pushed his beliefs into practice and lead those who followed him through a path that can only be described as selfless sacrifice.”

“Hope is something more powerful than any one person could muster, something rare to find, and I think what makes him important to me is that he represents that hope, that person that comes up every now and then who speaks louder than the others and fights for more change than others,” said Tonarely.

Student fights to end human trafficking

domestic violence and provides therapy, mentorship programs, temporary housing and other types of support needed to get victims back on their feet.

“It was really eye-opening, I got to interact with the people that came there and saw how the organization helped get them back on track after they’ve been so violated,” said Pohlmann. “I, not only got to learn about human trafficking, but also how the organization comes to life, how they’re a big part of the community and how much they can have an impact.”

Pohlmann added that the organization is nonprofit and volunteer-based so they don’t always receive as much support as they need but they work with law enforcement and find ways to “crack down on the issue.” That’s a big message, she says, for individuals who doubt the effect they can have locally.

“We have such a diverse population and student body [in Miami] who might have heard about human trafficking on a global scale ... but maybe aren’t aware on a local scale — especially what’s happening here in Florida, which is one of the biggest states for not only labor trafficking but also sex-related trafficking,” said Pohlmann.

After working at the center, she wanted to continue working working on this issue at the University. Back in November of 2016, Pohlmann participated in a panel discussion during “Shut Out Trafficking” week — a week focused on raising awareness on trafficking and getting students involved.

“I shared what I learned [at my internship in Sarasota] and how this is definitely something we, as students, have to care about because it can happen anywhere, to anyone,” she said. “You don’t have to be part of a big international organization or know someone from law enforcement to help end the fight of human trafficking. Just by opening your eyes, your ears ..., being alert in your day-to-day life, you can make a big impact.”

Pohlmann calls activism a continuum and stresses the importance of actively working in the causes that interest you. She also adds that it’s a collective task. “Activism is not only you working toward something alone, but also inspiring the people around you to join you for this cause because the more people you have on board, the more effective in the end you will be,” she said.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and Pohlmann hopes to plan events on campus to promote it with UNICEF at FIU.
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“A leader, a father and a legend”

Bob Marley, everyone’s shirt their own. We all came together to show our gratitude and love for this man and his profound holiday. As I become older I realise just how prophetic of his vision was and still is. King had a dream of not only equality and justice but peace. Peaceful protests, peaceful forms of communication. King was against any form of violence, chaotic uproar or mischief. He believed in equal rights and equal treatment of the voice of the people as well as a voice for authority. He was 48 years after his assassination and we still see police brutality, killings, suicides and peaceful protests. 2015 was the year that such police killings surpassed any occurrence of police assault as well as lynching and capital punishment combined in the United States.

According to The Huffington Post, there are more than 1,100 police killings each year — about one every eight hours. 88 percent of those killed by police are killed by gunshot. In 2016 alone, at least 258 blacks were killed by police. These are the statistics that worry me. As we quickly approach MLK Day it’s only human to think about the equivalent of pigs flying. Not only have the amount of convictions gone down but when an African-American male is the victim we hardly see any form of justice. If King was alive today I’m sure his heart would be full of sorrow, a man who gave his life for righteousness, in such disbelief of how the world still remains in the same condition he left it. Why is it that 48 years later, it’s as if we are still separated by race?

Are we equal? Or are we not? Don’t get me wrong, yes we dine, laugh, learn and party together, however when we discuss the issue of life or death, there are so many deaths unjustified, unnoticed and at times unpublicized. These deaths are viewed as miniscule issues in a simultaneously speaking on racial issues. As someone who lost one of their closest friends to an act of racial injustice, it’s indeed a touchy subject for myself. Trayvon Martin, a Miami-Dade native and a friend of mine was shot and killed by George Zimmerman who later found innocent. Zimmerman’s reasoning for killing my childhood friend was nothing more than that he “looked suspicious.”

I continue to wonder how a 17 year-old boy, minding his business, walking down the street with skittles in his hand, wearing a hoodie a conversation on his telephone, can at all look suspicious. How can one as sweet and loving as Martin even cause an ounce of terror in one’s body?

Have we lived up to the dream of King?

It’s the Martin’s, the Oscar Grant’s, the Tamir Rice’s and the Michael Brown’s of the world that are taken away from the loved ones and not once provided with justice. Have we not instilled enough fear in the hearts of killers everywhere so that they don’t kill with the thought of knowing they will be found innocent because of both the color of their skin and of their victim’s.

Whether it’s everyday people like Zimmerman or police figures such as I have a dream, who were both found innocent, there should not be a constant rotation of white men pleading innocent to the killings of black men and walking away to carry on with their lives. King said “We can never be satisfied as long as the [Black man] is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.”

And yet, here we are; it’s the year 2017 and yes, black men, the black man and woman are still oppressed. Though people were killed by police, women were killed by police. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” King said. As I look around, injustice is like a five o’clock rain, continuous and disruptive. I hope 2017 brings less killings, more justice and an end to the racial issues in a country “known” for equality, freedom and power.

Laquavia Smith is a creative writing major for Panther Press. Her column, What’s Up FIU, is a commentary on the latest style and entertainment news.
EDITORIAL, schools and that makes it harder in economically disadvantaged society today.

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy has been stripped of the pure cultural importance and reduced to a mockery of the struggle that it has been to get to the freedoms we are given. As an abdicate, we ask that the FBI community respect King’s legacy as a leader that did see color, that did see white privilege and that he understood the path to equality was not and never will be a peaceful one. For white supremacy is not peaceful, it is not docile, it is nonviolent and it has never asked nicely for them to fight for a future.

The school that the most disadvantaged black children attend today are segregated because they are located in segregated neighborhoods far distant from truly middle class neighborhoods. We cannot de-segregate schools without de-segregating these neighborhoods...”

Discrimination has not died either. It’s very much alive today only for African-Americans, but minorities in general. Women are still paid less than men and according to the FBI’s HCSA report, more than twice as many late crimes were reported against African-Americans much any other group.

All men were NOT created equal. This state in itself questions that idea. It’s evident today. Women are still fighting for reproductive rights, immigrants coming to the U.S. find it difficult to establish themselves or even become a citizen. A white special needs child stated: “We can never be race could be. It creates this idea that black people must stay silent, smile, shake-hands and walk arm-and-arm with white supremacy in order to be granted our basic human rights.

There’s this song that plays on loop in the black community, and it’s the song of other races depicting their feelings. With history to prove it, no other race in America can empathize with African-Americans. African-Americans have had a long journey en route to 2017; and, sensibly, the journey continues.

As the new year different year dawned, many looked for a shining beacon of hope to wash away their woes from the past year. This new year, however, starts a bit differently for the African-American community; it starts with ambitions towards Jan. 16th and Jan. 20th. The upcoming work week will begin with a holiday commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. and this work week will end with the inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump.

Two historically important characters, two vastly different philosophies, one week. Exactly eight and four years ago, the momentum of the Civil Rights Movement and inauguration day historical. People celebrated. And people continue; now for a moment different reasons. But, in 2008 and 2012, King was praised in his grave. A first black president was born into American history; 43 years after his assassination and inauguration day.

Yet, this feeling is just an assumption. These assumptions are foolish on the behalf of other races that are not black. For they [I] cannot merely comprehend the struggle I have yet to truly endure. Dana Daley, a freshman studying political science, however, does not have to assume; her mother emigrated from Jamaica in 1986; and back then it was much easier to gain citizenship, therefore, Daley’s mother achieved the American dream to build a life for Daley and her brother when the American Dream had arms open as wide as an eagle’s wings.

“During elementary school, my mother would say every day, 'don’t my hair braided, lunch in my bag, and hope in my pocket,' Daley said melodically reminding her innocence: ‘To repay its editorials. Send them to cayla.bush@fiu.edu
MLK Day is more than just another holiday off

Although Monday, Jan. 16 will mark the 31st anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, there are still some who don’t really know what all that King did and why there is a holiday to honor him.

“My understanding of Martin Luther King is that he is a Civil Rights leader, and he tried to activate a lot of people toward that movement,” said sophomore redshirt forward Hassan Hussein.

But some are unaware of the process, especially students and athletes who come from other countries.

“I always had to go and do my own research about Martin Luther King Jr. because my family is from a different background,” redshirt sophomore forward and Somalia native Hassan Hussein said.

The University should do much more to honor this holiday, as well as educate its students, staff and faculty on who King was, and the process of getting his birthday to become a national holiday.

Now, I’m not taking away from the organizations who do recognize this holiday and give back to the community. But some students do not participate in these opportunities. Hussein said he doesn’t really do anything to celebrate the holiday, and he may just go to the beach or lie in bed for a little while.

But some students do recognize this holiday and give back to the community. But some students do not participate in these opportunities.

“I do feel that I am aware of the process,” said sophomore forward Michael Douglas. “It was very humbling for me. I’m happy that I was able to go out my comfort zone and do something different,”

Douglas mentioned that because his background is African-American, he usually spent his time celebrating the holiday with his family with cookouts and music at home.

“This was really different for me, but I’m happy that I was able to go out my comfort zone and do something different,” said Douglas.

The team usually does not do anything together for the holiday due to schedule conflict, but Hussein said that he would like for that to change in the future.

“I would like to do more things like the event we just had for kids with my teammates for holidays like this,” he said.

It has been several decades since the King’s death and some young people in particular do not regard the holiday as they should. If your plans for MLK Day consist of shopping or just staying at home, I ask that you rethink your plans and take the day out to participate in a community event.

If that is too much, at least educate yourselves on why you’re not working or attending school every third Monday in January and learn about King’s journey to gaining equal rights for all.

I implore all students, faculty and staff to honor this holiday through service, and not look at it as another day off.

Jasmine Casimir is the assistant sports director for Student Media. Jas Reports is a column that focuses on University sports.

Team gives back in Martin Luther King Jr.’s honor

JASMINE CASIMIR  Asstl. Sports Director

While Martin Luther King Day may be a holiday for some to take time to attend parades, the men’s basketball team won’t be able to partake on any festivities. The Panthers will be all about business as they will be spending their Monday practicing to prep for their next home game on Thursday, Jan. 12 against Middle Tennessee at 7 p.m.

“As far as I can remember, our schedules have always conflicted with MLK day because of a game we have to get ready for,” said sophomore redshirt forward Hassan Hussein.

The team was aware that it would be busy with practice for the holiday, so the Panthers decided to give back to the community by teaching 21 blind children from the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, ages 5-12, how to play basketball on Jan. 5, 2017.

The event was held in the auxiliary gym on the second floor of FIU Arena after the basketball team wrapped up its 11 a.m. practice.

“It was great to see those guys interacting with the kids,” said Director of Sports Information Mike Hogan.

The goal was to give the children an opportunity to learn how to play the game of basketball through touch and sound.

“I enjoyed myself honestly,” said sophomore forward Michael Douglas.

“I was able to get an insight on their lives, and they ended up teaching me some things.”

This would not be the first time that the team has made time to honor Martin Luther King Jr. day. Back in 2011, the team has made time to honor Martin Luther King Jr. day. Back in 2011, the team was able to get an insight on their lives, and they ended up teaching me some things.”

“arTpop with Harold Daniel

PHOTO COURTESY OF FIUSPORTS

only on the pop

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