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DREAM FULFILLED?

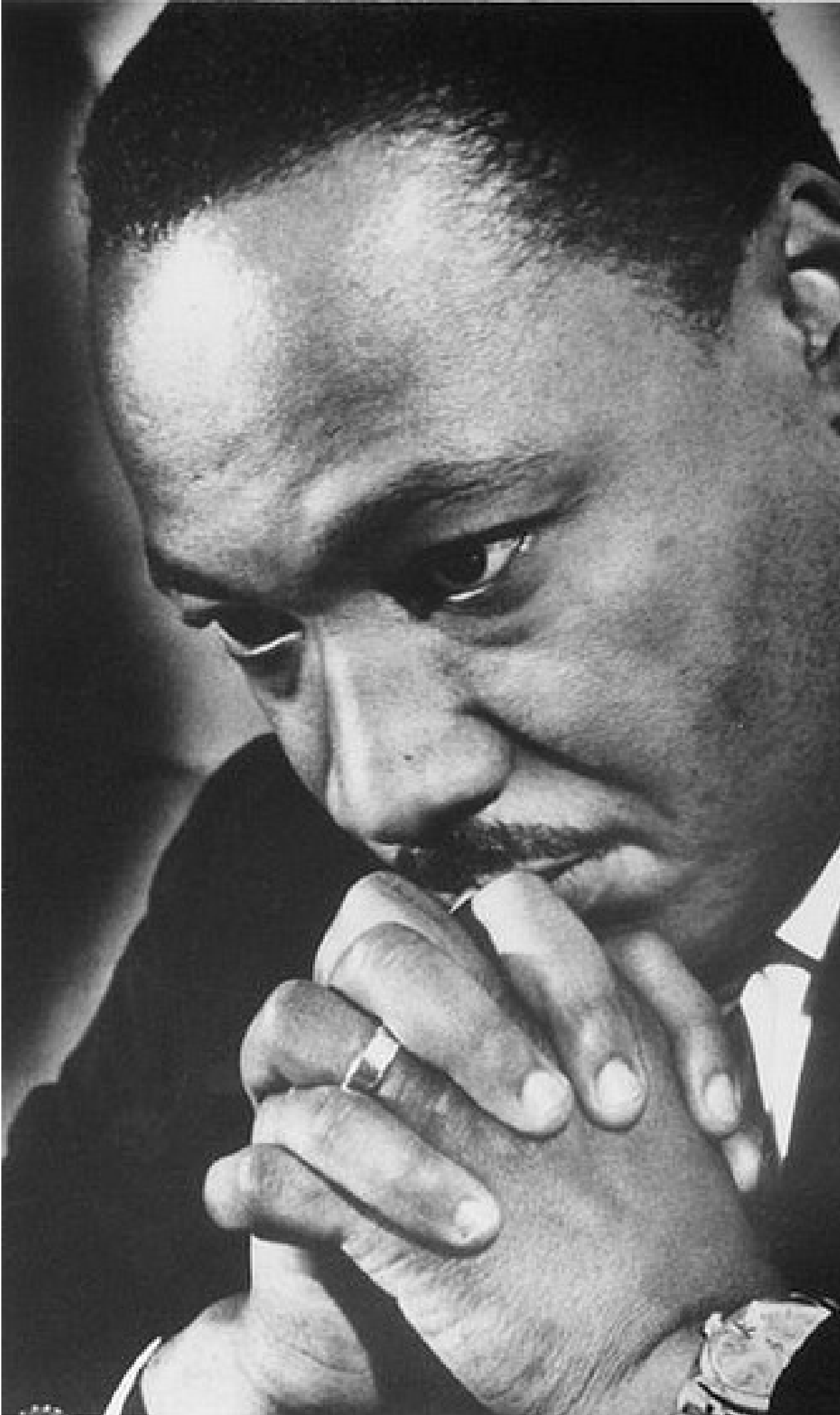


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“
FREEDOM
IS NEVER
VOLUNTARILY
GIVEN
BY THE
OPPRESSOR;
IT MUST BE
DEMANDED
BY THE
OPPRESSED.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

”

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.

SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 7

MLK'S LIBERTY LEGACY

University participates in 40th annual MLK Jr Parade

MELISSA BURGESS
Staff Writer

This year marks FIU's 27th 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 showing 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 11am and takes place along NW 54th Street from

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

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.

Sawyer says that it's important to work together as 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 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. It means a lot to me to keep his dream alive. We see what's happening in our world and in our local communities and we see that we still have work to do. It challenges us to keep the dream alive and work harder so that his dream can be reached," said Sawyer.

Students are not just encouraged to go to parade but also to attend the other events that start next week. Moreover, those who can be encouraged to donate what they can for events of this nature in the future, and for the provisions the university's organizations make available for students to access higher education.

"Dr. King's message is timeless and it always seems relevant every time we prepare these activities. There's always something new and relevant to pull from his speeches. His message fits with what FIU is trying to be, which is being worlds ahead together. Who knows who is going to follow the footsteps of Dr. King, but it would be awesome if it was a FIU student!" said McNamee.

“

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

”

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Martin Luther King's memory and legacy more important than ever

CAYLA BUSH



EDITOR IN CHIEF

Four days before Donald Trump, a man who seemingly thinks that all black people live in poor Chicago neighborhoods, is sworn into office, the nation will observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King's legacy is often blurred, misunderstood and unknown these days, but we as a staff believe it's important to be celebrated.

Our editorial board wanted to send a strong message with our magazine regarding the Civil Rights activist - he should no longer be used as the counterargument for today's Movement for equality. Our cover is meant to illustrate that equality must be demanded by all.

Beyond that, our writers wanted to show what the University does to commemorate King's memory and legacy, how he's shaped activism and how students are using this in creating on-campus change.

Our men's basketball team gives back to honor King, with some of the players explain how they did their research to understand the cultural importance of

King.

Our opinion writers discuss the significance of Trump's inauguration during the same week King will be celebrated, whether the legacy is being lived up to, and his relevance today.

It's a new year, new name for Panther Press and the Student Media team. But we're still very dedicated to sharing more stories, varying focuses and points of view with our readers.

We're students too, we're learning and, as all journalists do, we'll offend a few people along the way. But we will always be real with you all. We'll be the voice of University students as best we can.

Good luck this semester.

Annual breakfast to commemorates MLK

ARIANA RAMSUNDAR
Contributing Writer

As 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 a month long celebration of Dr. King's legacy.

When the event first came into fruition the organizers were skeptical about its success in the University community, but the event was a success with almost two hundred students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members

attending the event. Since then the breakfast has continued to grow and exceed expectations with the last two years guest lists topping over five hundred mark, this event 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. Dorret 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 reminisced 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 faced he stood up in a nonviolent 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 and influence he had which is why every year we select a theme that matches his work. This year's theme is "The Path to Peace Begins with Me".

She was not here for the first event but

SEE BREAKFAST, PAGE 3

University commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. with day of service

ZUE LOPEZ DIAZ
Staff Writer

Although Martin Luther King Day is observed on Monday, Jan. 16 in Florida, this year the FIU community will make sure to celebrate throughout the whole week, including on the days right before the federal holiday.

One of the many activities planned in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. is the Day of Service, an event that will happen throughout Saturday, Jan. 14 on the weekend before Martin Luther King Day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A full day of activities tailored to many different forms of volunteering, FIU uses the Day of Service as a way to reach out to the community.

“There’s five different sites where people can go to volunteer throughout the day,” said Jancarla Hernandez, a graduate student studying higher education administration who works in the FIU center for leadership and service office.

According to Hernandez, three of the five volunteering activities this Saturday will be educational efforts to help the local community.

“Three schools are going to be visited during the Day of Service this year. Jessie J. Elementary School, Booker T. Washington High School, and Liberty City Elementary School,” said Hernandez.

All three schools are local Miami

Dade public schools that “really need the help,” Hernandez said. “At the schools the volunteers could be either doing gardening, murals, or painting the school walls.”

Apart from volunteering at these three schools, there are two more sites that can be visited on Saturday.

Volunteers will also be stationed at Feeding South Florida, which is a food insecurity food bank where “volunteers

The Day of Service event is not new to FIU. It was also held last year with “much success.”

Lillian Rodicio, a junior pre-med major, enjoyed the experience very much last year, and is excited to be a part of it again.

“Last year I went to MLK day of service as part of my alternative breaks experience (as it is mandatory for aB members). I am going this year again for

easily join in with the activities.

“It’s a very easy and fun way to volunteer and make a difference,” said Rodicio. “Sometimes it can be hard for students to find or set up a place to volunteer at. The MLK day of service is very easy to sign up for, and I really like that this year lots of the locations are very close to BBC campus and with transportation to and from the MMC campus.”

The MLK day of service is only one committee under a larger committee spear-headed by Dr. Dorret Sawyers, one of the directors in the office of student affairs.

“This year the event was chaired by Peter Melnik, who was basically the master planner of the Martin Luther King Day of Service,” said Sawyers.

Melnik is one of the many teachers under Sawyers that are organizing Martin Luther King events.

“The Day of Service is under our events, but it’s just one of a number of subcommittees that are responsible for each event, because we have so many of them,” said Sawyers. “I am the general chair for all the committees that have to do with Martin Luther King, but each one of them are doing their own thing for their own particular committee.”

A list of other activities and days that will be celebrated in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. can be found at www.studentaffairs.fiu.edu

There’s five different sites where people can go to volunteer throughout the day. At the schools the volunteers could be either doing gardening, murals, or painting the school walls.

Jancarla Hernandez
Graduate student
Center for Leadership and Service

will be sorting and making the food.”

The Biscayne Bay Campus will have the last Day of Service site, where volunteers can go to help clean up the bay.

“It’s really a nice thing to do, whichever one you go to,” said Hernandez.

The event encourages anybody to go, whether from the local or FIU community.

“Anybody can go, whether it’s a student, or a family member that wants to join, or anyone from the community. It’s really open to the community,” said Hernandez.

the same reason.”

Although different in what types of volunteer opportunities are offered, the Day of Service will have the same general idea as the last one.

“I attended the day of service at South Florida SPCA, and I really enjoyed going because I was able to do service for my cause [of animal rights] locally. Since then, I’ve returned to the horse rescue a few times as a volunteer.”

She likes the event because she thinks it gives many people the opportunity to

Breakfast honors memory of MLK

BREAKFAST, PAGE 3

continues the event because she is inspired by the work that he has done and the effect that this event has had on students and the university community. “He is one of the greatest moral leaders of our time and his work has shaped how we deal with race and civil rights issues in the 21st century” said Sawyers. She was primarily inspired by Dr. King’s “preaching of non-violence and equality.”

He inspired so many across the world trying to subdue societal ills and advocate for all and lost his life for his work. We are fortunate enough to live in a world that has seen some improvement as a result of his work but we must keep at it and keep his dream alive.

By hosting this breakfast every year we are engaging the youth and keeping his ideas and dreams at the forefront of the minds of the university community. Traditionally this event has a keynote speaker, the speaker is usually a prominent figure in the local, national, or global community and can attest to the legacy and is fighting for similar dreams and aspirations and challenges everyone to work to improve the lives of others.

This year’s breakfast features keynote speakers Mr. Charles Bonner, Civil Rights Trial Attorney and author. This event serves to enhance and enlighten the university community on the Civil Rights work done by Dr. Martin Luther King and the connection to the university and world civil rights issues that remain prevalent in our current society.

This event not only feeds the stomachs of many students, faculty, staff and guests but also nourishes the mind and creates an environment open for discussion and the continuation of Dr. King’s work.

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.

King left a reputation behind him that not only affected the people in his era but also impacted students around the nation including those of the University.

Imani Grant, a sophomore in business administration, believes that King had a great influence on our society as a whole and the world.

“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 describe him as “more than just an

individual”.

“King himself was a movement, a legitimate movement that can’t be reckoned with” Grant said Grant described MLK as strong, tactic in the way he went about fighting for his rights, and patient in the wait for progress.

“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”.

Martina Joissaint, a freshman 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 so that’s why I am glad FIU is doing a set of commemorative events next week,” Joissaint said.

No Rest for the Protest

Student activists fight for their voices to be heard



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT

Protestors at the Board of Trustees' ruling to build over 2.82 acres Nature Preserve for athletic practice fields.

JOSHUA CEBALLOS
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 #SaveitDontPaveit, 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

“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,

Joshua Munoz-Jimenez
Protestor

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 at risk in the wake of Trump's election. Leon is an undocumented immigrant who has found sanctuary

thanks to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

"I've been afraid of Trump taking away my right to work legally and drive," said Leon.

With president-elect Trump's statements about his future policies on undocumented immigrants, many students who attend the University set out to protest on the Graham Center lawns on Nov. 17.

Protesters asked University President Mark Rosenberg to make the campus a sanctuary for DACA-protected students. After the demonstrations by students, the office of President Rosenberg sent a letter to students entitled "DACA and undocumented students have a home at FIU," ensuring students they would be safe from persecution at their home school.

Some students also held a counter protest, holding signs showing their support of Trump, one sign stating "The silent majority stands with Trump."

This year also saw FIU's Black Student Union organize its "Blackout" event. During this event, students were encouraged to wear black clothing and join together in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught the world that voices can be more powerful than guns and fists, and the students of FIU have and will continue to stick true to his model with their commendable acts of activism and courage.

Student uses activism to inspire the people around her

MARTINA BRETOUS
Entertainment Director

In 2015, international relations major, Lana Pohlmann, went to a club fair after transferring from the University of South Florida, and joined UNICEF at FIU. A year and a half later, she is the vice-president of the organization, the vice-president of membership at FIU's UN Women chapter, a site leader for this year's Alternative Breaks trip and an activist determined to raise awareness on human trafficking.

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 speak much Spanish.

"I was a little bit nervous to go because this was the first time I had been to South America. I love traveling and I was excited to get to know a new culture but I 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 would be 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.

"It 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

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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

ACTIVISM, PAGE 4

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

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.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A “leader, a father and a legend”

WHAT'S UP FIU



LAQUAVIA SMITH

Martin Luther King Jr. is someone who as children growing up, we held much reverence for. We were taught that he was a person who exemplified importance, with a vision and a dream. He was a leader, a father and a legend.

When I think about King I think about black power, justice, struggle and triumph but I also think about how much we have digressed as a nation. To me, MLK day is the beginning of Black History Month. It's the whistle before the race, the cutting of the ribbon at a ceremony, the start of a journey.

As a child I remember attending the Martin Luther King Jr. parade faithfully every year and be enlightened by the spirit and energy of all the individuals in attendance. From blacks to hispanics, everyone standing in the crowd, with their different color shirts, Martin Luther King embroidered on the front.

At times you would even see King next to

Bob Marley, everyone's shirt their own. We all came together to show our gratitude and love for this man and this profound holiday. As I become older I realize just how prominent 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 punishment, a voice for the people as well as a voice for authority.

Yet, 48 years after his assassination and we still see police brutality, killings, suicides and violent 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 progress — or lack thereof — we've made as civilians.

We have numerous deaths and practically no convictions. This day and age an authority figure being found guilty of killing a civilian is

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Have we lived up to the dream of King?

”

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 united? 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

country who is supposed to be build on justice.

Have we lived up to the dream of King? Are we fulfilling his vision or are things as bad as they were in 1968. It's so difficult to talk about MLK without

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 was 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, holding 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?

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 their 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 Daniel Pantaleo, 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 victims and justice has not been served. MLK Day reminds me that things have not changed, that I have lost a piece of my own heart to racial injustice and that the cycle continues.

Like myself, many people — public figures and celebrities included

— have decided to speak out on how they feel about such issues. San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, for example, put himself in the lime light when he kneeled down during the national anthem.

Kaepernick's demonstration of peaceful protest caused a ton of backlash. His reasoning behind the iconic kneeling, according to The Huffington Post, as said by Kaepernick was “[I'm] not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color.” Twenty-two days after the protest, another 67 people 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 contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, What's Up FIU, is a commentary on the latest style and entertainment news.

MLK is a spokesperson for anyone with a dream

EYES ON THE EARTH



AMANDA JUNG

In a world that has increasingly become more accepting of cultural diversity and of people from different backgrounds, it's hard to believe that there was a time when African-Americans were not free.

Martin Luther King Jr. said it himself; “one hundred years” after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, “the life of the negro [was] still sadly crippled by the manacles of

segregation and the chains of discrimination.”

King is not only a spokesperson for people of color, however, but for anyone with a dream. His dream was quite obvious; for everyone to be equal, no matter what race or color they identify as.

This man served as a role model for so many people, when America was filled with sadness and with no way to move forward as a person of color.

Today, he still continues to fuel dreams and motivate people to go after what they believe in. This is definitely the case for me. Personally, I took the underlying message of King's famous speech to be that we need to be able

to peacefully coexist.

This is something, that whether you recognize it or not, we have trouble

“

I took the underlying message of King's famous speech to be that we need to be able to peacefully coexist.

”

doing. Do not get me wrong, because this nation has made great strides and even better progress, but with recent events, there has been extreme hatred towards one another and on top of that, fear.

With many lessons in history class about this incredible activist, it has

only taught me to fight for what is right. In my case, that is the environment.

As we need to

peacefully coexist with each other, we need to do the same thing with the earth. As King wanted everyone to be equal with each other, I think it's about time to start treating the Earth as our equal as it has done so much for us.

“I have a dream today” King once said. I have a

dream where everyone will think about the food that they put into their bodies and how it affects the environment.

I have a dream today. One where people recycle frequently and produce less waste. A dream where people conserve energy and carpool with each other to school. A dream where people put the environment first, with every decision that they make.

There was a time where this was not a priority. Maybe you didn't believe that your decisions could have such a big impact on the planet.

Well, this could have been the same case for when King was fighting for equal rights for

everyone. Perhaps not everyone felt affected by this issue because they were not a person of color.

We cannot adopt these attitudes or beliefs. King was a man with great hopes and aspirations and if he has taught you anything, it should be to fight for what is right. There is so much that we can learn for this man. Without him, we might not have known the definition of justice.

Amanda Jung is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, Eyes on the Earth, is a commentary on current global environmental issues.

King's legacy goes beyond nonviolent resistance

EDITORIAL, PAGE 1

It creates this idea that black people must stay silent, smile, shake-hands and walk arm-and-arm with white supremacy in order for us to be granted our basic human rights.

“Martin Luther King wouldn't support the Black Lives Matter movement, he didn't see color,” says the white moderate.

We'll never truly know what King would say about the Black Lives Matter movement, because unfortunately white-nationalism took him away too soon. However, to say he didn't see color is a gross misconception. To say he believed that black anger should be ignored and invalidated is just plain false.

This is evident in his letter written during a stint in Birmingham Jail in 1963.

“I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is...the white moderate who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who constantly says 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action,’” wrote King.

In truth King said the white moderate who believed they could “set the timetable for another man's freedom” by constantly advising black people to “wait until a 'more convenient season'” was the true threat to freedom and justice for all.

This is evident by the diminishment of his memory to exclude the more radical ideologies King held towards the end of his life. King had begun to openly protest the War on Vietnam, fight against the systemic impoverishment of people of color and importantly understand and agree with the benefits of the radicalism seen in Malcolm X.

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 eboard, we ask that the FIU community respect King's legacy by acknowledging that he did see color, that he 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 not nonviolent and it has never asked nicely.

MLK's legacy has been abused

PULITZER'S PHENOMENA



DANIELA PEREZ

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. African-Americans have had a long journey en route to 2017; and, sensibly, the journey continues.

As the new year dawns onto the earth, many look 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 ambivalence 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 proximity of the dates of MLK day and inauguration day were historical. People celebrated. And people celebrate now; just for a morally different reason. But, in 2008 and 2012, King was praised in his grave. A first black president was born into American history; 43 years after literacy tests were outlawed in 1965. Barack Obama was born in 1961.

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 sent me every day with my hair braided, lunch in my bag, and hope in my pocket,” Daley said melancholically reminiscing her innocence. “To repay her efforts, I arduously studied.” From studying day to night, Daley soon came to realize that history was her favorite topic— not because of the information, but because of the human fallacy of historical repetition.

Studying and learning about history, Daley said, is what led to her learning that the only month dedicated to black history was February and that it was the only month where her history could be taught with “zero negotiation.”

But, even with all her studying, Daley said she didn't learn until recently that King has been “used as a puppet for the plight of African-Americans in the United States.” The way King's quotes have been used against the Trump administration and the Black Lives Matter protesters, she said, are prime examples of how he's been used as a “puppet.”

But, even with this new knowledge, King's “peaceful rhetoric,” Daley said,

hasn't failed to leave an impression on her.

While she is no longer infatuated with King—a man that she was taught to love—Daley is still in awe of him, especially now that his day will be celebrated so close to the inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump.

“Am I simply on the other side of the movement?” Daley questions. “In four years, I saw the inauguration of our first African-American president, and the xenophobic controversy of where he was born come after.”

“In one week, I will encounter the remembrance day of a great figure and a remembrance day for what could also be the end of modern day democracy. In four years, I will live to see another campaign. The end is far from over and the next two weeks will not be my forever.”

January 20, 2017 will live forever in the minds of all and the hearts of many. This will be a chapter in the next generation's history book, and a chapter in this generation's life. For this time, the lesson regarding the repetition of history is yearned to be understood.

And always recall that hope has a really weird way of manifesting itself in people. The only thing that can kill or renew hope, is time, and time is beautiful and horrible. Four years is just a passage of time that will not be forever.

Daniela Perez is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, Pulitzer's Phenomena, is a commentary on human interest.

King's “I Have a Dream” speech still relevant today

POLITICBUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

1963.

He spoke in the hopes of solidifying a future for African-Americans and passing on the message of equality amongst all men and women. Although these words were spoken 54 years ago, it's uncanny and almost terrifying to read this rhetoric and realize how spot on King's words were about today's society.

“...the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination,” King said.

In this day and age, we are seeing less segregation than before but it's still prevalent in society today.

The Economic Policy Institute states that there is a concentration of black students in economically disadvantaged schools and that makes it harder

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 desegregate schools without desegregating these neighborhoods...” writes Richard Rothstein in “Modern Segregation.”

Discrimination has not died either. It's very much alive, not 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 hate crimes were reported against African-Americans more than any other group.

All men were NOT created equal. This state in itself quantifies that idea.

It's evident today. Women are still fighting for reproductive health. Immigrants coming into the U.S. find it difficult to establish themselves or even become a citizen.

A white special needs child was brutally attacked because of some mistaken hateful ideal. Native Americans have the

lowest employment rate of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S., according to indianyouth.org. And even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law in 1863, the rights of African-Americans were not recognized until more than 100 years after.

We are still judged by the content of our skin, not the content of our character. This is not done by all but it has been practiced. Dylan Roof was taught to hate African-Americans and that led to the senseless murder of nine innocent black lives in cold blood.

When people meet me, they are surprised by my behavior at times because it does not fit the ideal stereotype that has been ingrained in them.

I hope more people are willing to break that concrete image of what they think race is and instead, be open to what race could be.

But one line in King's speech stunned me silent. It was a statement that reached into the present with such a sense of accuracy.

When King passionately stated: “We can never be

satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.”

Sound familiar?

In recent years, we have been plagued with the murders of innocent black men by white Police Officers. Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray and numerous others. This statement is the brutal truth of our reality — not

that much has changed in over fifty year. It's scary to think that although time has passed, old fears have not vanished.

It's eye-opening to see how much King's words resonate within the realms of today's society. We realized that his words have helped changed today's circumstances but we still have far to progress. Hopefully we take these words

seriously and cement the change King wanted so long ago today.

Fabienne Fleurantin is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, PoliticoBuzz, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 348-2709

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 919-4722

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994

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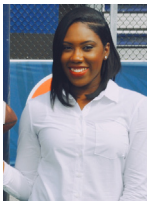
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MLK Day is more than just another holiday off

JAS REPORTS



JASMINE CASIMIR

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 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," junior math education major Cody Bovino said. "I know that there are other Civil Rights leaders, but I don't know exactly why he's the one that we have a day off for."

King was a Civil Rights Movement leader, and he used nonviolent civil disobedience based on his religious beliefs. After his assassination, members of Congress proposed that his birthday should be a national holiday, but bills ordering the occasion went nowhere. Objections were present, and eventually, Congress passed a bill designating King's birthday as a national holiday to be celebrated on the third Monday in January, starting in 1986.

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

Somali 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

“He had a dream, and he did everything in his power to make that dream come true.

Jessica Spencer
Senior
Accounting

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. Bovino 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.

Freshman cornerback Isaiah Brown said he doesn't really do anything on MLK Day, but he is aware that King was a man who really brought us all together.

For whatever reason, students may not want to

come on campus to celebrate, but there are some who participate in off-campus parades to pay tribute.

"I do attend the MLK Day parade which happens just throughout a whole bunch of different cities, and they pay tribute to him and do different activities that honors what he did for our people," senior accounting major Jessica Spencer said. "He had a dream and he did everything he could to make that dream come true that one day blacks and whites could be equal."

It has been several decades since the King's death of 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
Asst. 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. 19 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



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIUSPORTS

The 2016-2017 men's basketball team and the children of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind gather after the children learned how to play basketball through touch and sound.

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 visited the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia, while on the road for a game.

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. "It was very humbling for me."

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 was a great experience for us."

The team will be traveling to El Paso Texas for a matchup against University of Texas El Paso on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 9 p.m.

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