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.

“Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.
MLK’S LIBERTY LEGACY
University participates in 40th annual MLK Jr Parade

MELODI BURGESS
Staff Writer

This year marks FIU’s 25th 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 Jr 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 and 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 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. Sawyer says that it’s important to work with students 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 in social activism and we are not where we need to be yet. We have made some great strides but we have a lot to go.”

“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.

Annual breakfast to commemorates MLK

ARINADA 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. Dorrett Sawyers is the Director for the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and also chairs the entire MLK Commemorative Celebration of events. That 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 remained 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 and other students are able to keep the dream alive 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 activism. Her work has shown us that every year we select a theme that matches his work. This year’s theme is “The Life I’ve Projected” which was not her first but for the first event but

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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 seemsingly thinks in hand with their mission to promote diversity and social justice to FIU and the local south Florida community.

Our editorial board wanted to send a strong message with our magazine reggistering 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 they are using this in creating on-campus change.

Our men’s basketball team game back to honor King, with some of the players explaining 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 its 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 community as best we can.

Good luck this semester.

Our opinion board looks at the demographics of FIU, more black students are attending the event two years ago with

charging 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.

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She was not here for the first event but...
University commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. with day of service

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 all members). I am going this year again for 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 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." 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 Jr. 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

...
No Rest for the Protest

Student activists fight for their voices to be heard

JOSHUA CEBALLOS
Contributing Writer

I n 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 protesters, 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.

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

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 toward my goal and how passionate I am to get to know a new culture but I didn’t really know what to expect,” she said.

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 have to worry because I had an interpreter,” 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 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. Protestors asked University President Mark Rosenberg to make the campus a sanctuary for DACA-protected students.

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
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 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

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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 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, everybody’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 realise just how powerful this 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 opportunity for everyone as well as a voice for authority. When he was assassinated and we still see police brutality, killings, suicides and 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 every 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, as if we are still separated by race?

Are we united? Or are we not? Don’t get me wrong, yes I believe, 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 tough 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 thoughts 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 consistent right 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 separated by race, as long as the [Black man] is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.

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.

MLK is a spokesperson for anyone with a dream. In a world that has increasingly become more accepting of cultural diversity and from people of 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, he asked “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. He’s a 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 meaning 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 doing. Do not get me wrong, because 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 one another, we need to do the same thing with the earth. As King wanted everyone to be equal to 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 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.

Amanda Jung is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, What’s Up FIU, is a commentary on the latest style and entertainment news.

“I took the underlying message of King’s famous speech to be that we need to be able to peacefully coexist.”
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, eyes cast towards the horizon, 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, vastly different philosophies, one week. Exactly eight and four years ago, the uncertainty of the country was at its peak, and inauguration day was historical. People celebrated. And people continue to ask, just for a moment, if things have changed. 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, a first black president was signed into law in 1963. 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 would say every day when my hair braided, lunch in my bag, and hope in my pocket,” Daley said melodichally reminiscing her innocence. “To repay her efforts, I austerity studied.” From studying day to day, 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 within the American curriculum. 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 King’s way’s quotes have been used against the Trump administration, when African-Americans have been mistreated. Lives Matter protesters, she said, are prime examples of how he’s been used as a “propert.”

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. “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 whom he was born come after.”

“I will remember 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 near 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 life. The only thing that can kill or renew, hope is time, time and time is beautiful. 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.

Panther Magazine – Thursday, January 12, 2017

Send Us Your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to Paula Castile, Editor-in-Chief, or any member of the editorial staff. These voicemails are separate from our print editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the community.

Disclaimer

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the FIU Panther or Panther Press. Our staff responsible for print editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the community.

Editorial Policy

Editorials are the unvaried voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the four sections. Panther Press welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to capilau@fiu.edu

Panther NOW.com
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 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 team was aware that it would be busy 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 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 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 was able to get an insight on their lives, and they ended up teaching me some things.”

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

Jessica Spencer
Senior Accounting

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.

“I 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.

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

JASMINE CASIMIR
Asst. Sports Director

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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.

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