

MLK, Jr. holiday at FSU

Coretta Scott King says "A day on, not a day off" at national signing of MLK, Jr law.

Why we celebrate MLK day?

by Tiffinie Lee
Voice Staff Writer

In 1955, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. joined Rosa Parks in the most memorable and effective bus boycott in American history.

A year later due to Dr. King's decision to see the boycott through and Mrs. Park's unwillingness to move, bus segregation was declared illegal by the Supreme Court.

Coretta Scott King created The King Center in 1968. When asked why we celebrate MLK day, she was quoted as saying,

"The national holiday honoring Dr. King is an occasion for joy and celebration for his life and his work toward nonviolent social change in America and the world."

Since it was made into a federal holiday by former President, Ronald Reagan in 1983, students as well as people from all around the world, celebrate MLK day by volunteering at local shelters, attending church to honor his life, and by vowing to show no hate towards others. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for equality for all, peaceful living and an end to all racism.

We celebrate Dr. King because he is an iconic symbol of integration among Americans. He has helped change the way we view and get along with one another and his accomplishments both while he was alive and in his passing, has shown us that hate towards others is not the way to solve problems. He stood for all Americans and those around the world and sent a message that was not only for blacks, but for those who were disenfranchised within society as well.

Dr. King powered his way through hate

and segregation with his ability to reach people with his words. We celebrate on the third Monday in January his life and accomplishments because with those words, he helped forge new laws and set precedent changes in the minority community.

Alisha Stanton, a junior at FSU said "Martin Luther King Jr. helped out many people of all races. When you think about it, without his help, we would still be trapped in the 1960's fighting for justice for simple things such as sitting down in a restaurant or drinking from a water fountain."

While educating those that MLK was a day of service and not a day off, Fayetteville State University held volunteer activities in cooperation with the Second Harvest Food Bank in the late King's name on Jan. 16.

Martin Luther King Jr. was quoted saying "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Dr. King

by April Love
Voice Staff Writer

On what once was just another Monday in January, the third Monday of the month is now set aside to recognize the late and great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. President Ronald Reagan signed a law in 1983 recognizing the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Jr. day, and it was first celebrated/recognized in 1986. Since this time, the day has come to be more than just having the day off for school kids or even another holiday for a forgotten American figure; Martin Luther King Day has now come to be a day of service in order to



Voice Photos by Eldon Alford, Jr.

FSU's very own Mr. FSU Ervin Brinkley and Mrs. FSU Tatianna Mosley sharing candle light at Martin Luther King Jr. candlelight vigil at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Park Thursday, Jan. 12.

carry on his torch and tradition of service to others. The work that Dr. King did throughout his life, including his non-violent movement to further the Civil Rights movement, have created a legacy far reaching and it has encouraged others to continue in his path.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Fayetteville State University answers this question by participating in an annual MLK Service day, in which they enlist students to create service projects and then execute them throughout the community and on campus. Some of these activities include voter registration, cleaning up the community, and being of service to those in need. The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. This day gives students and others a chance to fulfill some aspects of

Dr. King's dream that he spoke of and lived and died for.

One of President Obama's biggest issues that he champions is service, and as a part of his initiative, he has tried to bring more attention to MLK Day of Service, and asks Americans to not take the day off, but rather take the day on. On a day that students had on, sophomore Victoria Brown woke up early and went out into the cold to be a participant for the school's day of service, on her involvement, "it felt good to help people register and give back to the community. I know that the outcome will be greater than ever fathomed." People today are not only learning what Martin Luther King's mission of service was, but now, instead of just sleeping in on a Monday they have off, they are able to keep Dr. King's dream alive.



Orator Kenneth O. Capel speaking at FSU's Martin Luther King Celebration at J.W. Seabrook Auditorium Monday night, January 16.

MLK Day: Challenge

by Cimmeon Terry
Voice Staff Writer

"Martin Luther King Jr. died for equal rights. People die today for Jordans." -Anonymus

A day off or a day on? The question that goes off in our heads every time January 16th comes around the corner. People desperately wait for that one day off. In this day and age people are tired. But as all mature minds know, if you knew what MLK was about, there is no excuse. Ever since the establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Fayetteville State University has been an advocate for participation in productive and charitable events on campus and in the surrounding community.

As expected, FSU students exceeded the participation attendance for the MLK Day of Service. There were plenty of charity causes going on available for students of all ages to be a part of. The events in detail that were available were students being sent to volunteer work at venues such as The Jubilee House, The Boys and Girls Club, The Salvation Army and the Dorothy Spainhour Center. There were also charity events at the 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Ti-

gata, and The American Red Cross.

Tiara Walker, a 19-year old sophomore was one of the coordinators of the day's activities. As a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology and the president of the FSU NAACP chapter she is obviously no stranger to hard work. Tiara feels that participation in the day of service is imperative. "Students should be active in charitable works every day if possible, not just this day. It would be a waste if students didn't do something productive on MLK day." As pleasantly expected Walker was happy to report a high attendance and volunteer output. "Most of the students enjoyed going to the different places and they talked about doing it again next year."

January 16th is the one day where everyone should walk in Dr. King's footsteps. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated and gave his life so that we have the right to go where we want, make the choices we want, and live how we want. Thanks to him, our God-Given rights were restored to the fullest. You can imagine that he didn't take too many days off.

"The people who are trying to make this world worse than what it is are not taking a day off. How can I?" -Bob Marley