

Looking Ahead to MLK Day Celebrations

Daisy Partington

Staff Writer

"Why should we do anything on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day?"

Santes Beatty, Director of African American Affairs & Multicultural Service asked this question of a handful of faculty and staff members at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day planning meeting held Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Rebecca Saunders, Events Coordinator for Student Activities, replied, "At Guilford, we would revel in the celebration of somebody like MLK."

"MLK Day, Black History Month... these days and months can become token and eventually you only think about those issues on the assigned day," said Judy Harvey. "We should really be trying to infuse every single day with King's values and lessons ... but it would be sad to let the day pass without celebrating it."

Santes Beatty also answered the question. "MLK Day is an opportunity to remember the fact that there are some things you should never forget ... movements you should never forget ... for me, it's bigger than King."

Guilford sponsored its first celebration of MLK Day in 1988. However, as Beatty pointed out, classes did not close on this day until 1995. "Many people were in opposition to taking the day off ... it was a controversial reality several years ago," said Beatty.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is now one of three official holidays, along with Thanksgiving and Christmas, that Guilford recognizes by canceling classes.

All attendees at the planning meeting felt that programs needed to be offered to the Guilford community. By providing a variety of programs, students could then pick and choose what events to attend, and personalize their observance of Dr. King's life.

While nothing was set in stone at the meeting, a rough schedule was proposed.

Guilford will send ten to 20 students and staff to a Human Relations Committee breakfast held in Greensboro's Koury Convention Center on Monday, Jan. 20, at 8 a.m. In addition, Guilford and Bennett College hope to hold a combined community breakfast at 9 a.m. Interested students should contact Santes

Beatty for more information.

James Shields will coordinate a community service project later in the morning. Last year's "Kid's Fest" on MLK Day brought children in from the community, and student and faculty volunteers taught the kids about the Civil Rights movement. Shields hopes to organize a similar service project this year.

"For me, MLK Day would be a good opportunity to bring Dr. King's values and teachings to the community," Shields said. "Dr. King had really gotten to a point where he encouraged people to do more service. This should be a day for us to reflect and ask ourselves, 'are we really doing these things?'"

Early afternoon worship will be held most likely in Bryan Auditorium of the Frank Family Science Center and will begin at 1 p.m.

Panel discussions will follow worship: "Race Matters: A Closer Look at Our Anti-Racism Initiative," and "What About Us? Beyond Black and White," will be held in

Bryan Junior Auditorium at 2 and 3:30 p.m., respectively.

A candlelight vigil, organized by the African American Cultural Society, will begin at 7 p.m. in Dana Auditorium. Student speakers, a local guest speaker, and choirs will set the stage for reverent observance of Dr. King's life.

A reception immediately following the vigil will be held in the Walnut Room.

To close the evening, an open-mic presentation called "Awakening Voices of A Movement" will be held in the Underground.

However students decide to spend MLK Day, they will have many options on campus. Judy Harvey hopes Jan. 20 will be "not ... a day off, but a day on."

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day arrives just as the Quaker Peace Conference (Jan. 17-20), themed, "Friends' Peace Witness at a Time of Crisis" wraps up, segueing into Guilford's MLK Day activities. Beatty expects the conference to "tie in nicely" with the celebrations on campus.

CCE Corner: Who Took My Parking Spot?

John Allred

Guest Writer

For many traditional students here at Guilford, the term CCE can offer a mixed bag of meanings. Who are the CCE students? How many attend Guilford? Why have they taken my parking space? Why don't they pay the same student activity fees? Why are classes designated CCE only? These are all common yet less-discussed questions surrounding the CCE population on the Guilford campus. By comparison, CCE students often experience similar curiosity about their traditional counterparts.

To remedy this perplexing and long-lasting sense of uncertainty, the CCE Student Gov-

ernment Association, or CCE/SGA, would like to introduce the CCE Corner. With some much-welcomed support from *The Guilfordian* editorial staff and Community Senate, we would like to take this opportunity and begin our journey of getting the word out about CCE. The goal is not only to bridge the gap between traditional and CCE students that has seemed to broaden over time, but provide a platform for exchange of information, ideas and issues that impact us all.

Are CCE students aware of the services available to them at Guilford? Do they know about the Career Development Center? Are CCE students aware of CCE/SGA and who their representatives are? Does CCE have an inter-

est in the development of a co-op coffee shop managed by students? Are CCE students aware of the Anti-Racism Initiative here at Guilford? Chances are, many CCE students have asked these very questions and we would like to provide some answers. Additionally, traditional students may have similar, and definitely equally important, issues and concerns they would like to see addressed. What about those CCE-only classes? What is the CCE fee policy? What about CCE would we like to know? Did CCE students take my parking space? Getting the word out about CCE will provide some much needed discussion about these issues and a range of topics that can affect each one of us. For that reason, we need both traditional and

CCE students alike to take part. Your input is vital and necessary to our success.

Now comes the fun part - we need your help! With your questions, suggestions, issues, hot buttons or concerns please e-mail *The Guilfordian* at guilfordian@guilford.edu and place "CCE" in the subject heading. In order to make this a true open forum, it is imperative to have your feedback and recommendations as to the material you would like to see covered in the CCE Corner.

So, without further delay, I invite you to take this opportunity and let's get the word out about CCE. We have a tremendous opportunity to educate, illustrate, debate, and most importantly, communicate!