Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration 2017

Washington University in St. Louis
January 16, 2017 | 7 pm | Graham Chapel
Schedule of Events

Prelude
Orchestrating Diversity

Welcome and Introductions
Rosalind N. Byrd and Kenneth Sng

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (Black National Anthem)
Orchestrating Diversity and Audience

Selection
Orchestrating Diversity

Chancellor’s Remarks
Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton

Statement of the Occasion
Rosalind N. Byrd and Kenneth Sng

Student Essay Winner
Maya S. Terry

Black Anthology Performance

Faculty Keynote Speaker
Reverend Traci D. Blackmon

Rosa L. Parks Award Presentation
Leah Merrifield, Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement Washington University

Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Service Award Presentation
Mya Petty

Visions Gospel Choir

Provost’s Closing Remarks
Provost Holden Thorp

Benediction
Lerone A. Martin, PhD, Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics

“We Shall Overcome”
Harry V. Moppins Jr. - Organ
Special Program Participants

Reverend Traci D. Blackmon is the Acting Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries for The United Church of Christ. She is also the pastor at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Missouri where she has served since 2009. Rev. Blackmon obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Birmingham-Southern College (1985) and a Master of Divinity degree (2009) with an emphasis in Womanist Liberation Theology, from Eden Theological Seminary. She became nationally known for her work for social justice in Ferguson, Missouri after the death of Michael Brown Jr., on August 9, 2014, where she became involved in organizing the Black Lives Matter movement. Rev. Blackmon was appointed by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to serve on the Ferguson Commission. She has stated that, “It is important to figure out the desire, direction and priorities around social issues, and then listen to all involved so that no one is left behind.”

Leah Merrifield is Washington University’s associate vice chancellor for community engagement and St. Louis college readiness initiatives. She is responsible for cultivating, sustaining and advancing strategic university academic partnerships in the St. Louis region. Merrifield leads the College Prep Program. The free program helps high-achieving high school students with limited resources prepare for college life. Students commit to attend three consecutive summers living on campus, take courses for college credit, learn how to craft admissions essays, and prepare for college admission tests. Leah Merrifield says, “I feel blessed to be intimately involved in the lives of these students… Once you build a trust, they will invite you into their whole lives. Their lives are sometimes joyful, sometimes complicated, sometimes challenging.”
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's preeminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950's and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by “any means necessary,” including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Dr. King's “I Have a Dream” speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capital. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly relevant to the progress of humankind…"

…”The King Center is dedicated to educating the world on the life, legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspiring new generations to carry forward his unfinished work, strengthening causes and empowering change-makers who are continuing his efforts today.”

For the complete biographical essay see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change (“The King Center”) at: www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king
Campus Partners

African and African American Studies Department
Association of Black Students
Black Alumni Council
Black Anthology
Bon Appétit
Catholic Student Center
College of Arts and Sciences
Center for Diversity and Inclusion
Cornerstone: The Center for Advanced Learning
Campus Life
Office of the Chancellor
Office of the Provost
Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement and Institutional Diversity
Office of Residential Life
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Students
Orchestrating Diversity
Student Union
Washington University Libraries

Programming Participants

Arts and Sciences Class of 2017, President of the Association of Black Students (ABS)
Rosalind N. Byrd
Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics
Lerone A. Martin
Chair of Black Alumni Council, Executive Committee
Harry V. Moppins Jr.
Arts and Sciences Class of 2017, Student Union President
Kenneth Sng
Arts and Sciences Class of 2020, Student
Maya S. Terry
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs
Holden Thorp
14th Chancellor of Washington University
Mark S. Wrighton
Participating Organizations

Black Anthology
Black Anthology which began in 1989, is the university’s oldest “cultural show” and is a student-written and student-run production. Each year, Black Anthology creates a production that highlights issues that affect the African American community and the American culture more broadly.
For information about the February 3 and 4, production of “Black & Blue”
See http://blackanthology.wustl.edu

Orchestrating Diversity Urban Youth Orchestra
The orchestra, directed by Mark Sarich, brings professional musicians and college faculty to young inner-city students in an intensified music education program. The social change program empowers students through the performance of orchestral music. The program is free for all students and is offered at the Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center.
For additional information see: http://orchestra.lemp-arts.org

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s December 4 1957, Address on the Washington University Campus in Graham Chapel

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s December 4, 1957, address in Graham Chapel, we have listed below excerpts from the Student Life campus newspaper article, “Promised Land of Integration Near’ King Says at Assembly,” December 6, 1957, vol. 79, no. 20, page 1 and 3.

“Now we are on the border of the promised land of integration,” said the Reverend Martin Luther King, Baptist Minister from Montgomery, Alabama, sixth speaker in the Wednesday morning Assembly Series.

Reverend King, introduced by Dean Haack, spoke to a full crowd at Graham Chapel.

Reverend King began by saying that this is a great time to be alive in America. “We are on the threshold of the most constructive period of our nation’s history,” stated King. “There are those who contend that we live in the most ghastly period of human history.” He continued, “and they point out as proof of this the presence of federal troops in Alabama, the tragic reign of violence and terror, the revival of the Klu Klux Klan. But it seems to me that the present tensions are the usual pains that accompany something new. History and biological truths prove that there can be no birth and growth without birth and growing pains. Growth comes through struggle.” King cited three periods in the history of racial relations in the United States. The
first, he said, covered a period from 1619 to 1863, “This was a period of slavery,” he emphasized, “as a Negro was something of a commodity to be used rather than to respect.”

The decision of the Supreme Court to give legal and constitutional validity to the dominant thought patterns of that period was revealed in the Dred Scott decision, where the Negro was declared, in substance, not to be a citizen but merely property.

The second period lasted from 1863 to 1954. According to King, this period was characterized by the Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court case. “This case gave legal and constitutional validity to the dominate thought patterns of that period by making the separate but equal doctrine the law of the land. This type of segregation is slavery covered up by certain niceties of complexion.”

Constructive integration is the theme of the third period which was highlighted by King. “Separate facilities are unequal, for to separate a child on the basis of his race is denying that child the equal protection of the law. We must not rest until segregation has been removed from every area.”

King said that some people think we should confront integration with moderation but “we can’t afford to slow up for we love the democratic way of life too much to do this.” To make integration a reality, both legislation and education are necessary. It is true that we can’t legislate morals, but through legislation we can control external effects of internal feelings.

“The Negro himself has a tremendous responsibility in this horizon,” he declared, “as he can do a great deal to bring ideals of this period into being. He must keep in his heart an idea of love so that he will not let any individual put him so low that he will respond in hate. We must not become bitter and we must never seek justice though violence.

“It is sometimes necessary to boycott, which is a means to awaken a sense of shame with the oppressor. The tension in the south is not a tension between Negroes and Whites, but rather between justice and injustice.

“I believe firmly that we are going to achieve the goals of the third period. I have faith in the future because I have faith in God.” He concluded by saying “If you can’t run, walk; if you can’t walk, crawl, but by all means keep moving.”
Affiliated Activities

The Black Rep
Help the Black Rep celebrate its 40th season
www.theblackrep.org

THE EDISON SERIES at Washington University

January 11-29, 2017
“Lines in the Dust” by Nikkole Salter

When Denitra loses the charter school lottery for her daughter, she must find another way to escape from their under-performing neighborhood school. The answer seems like a risk well worth taking but may end up requiring a bigger sacrifice than she ever could have imagined. It’s been exactly 60 years since Brown Versus the Board of Education. “Lines in the Dust” questions how far we’ve come and more importantly, where we go from here.

THE EMERSON SERIES at Harris-Stowe State University

“Seven Guitars” by August Wilson

March 29- April 23, 2017
Set in 1948 in the backyard of a Pittsburgh apartment house, “Seven Guitars” follows Floyd “Schoolboy” Barton’s circle of friends and neighbors—the play’s seven voices—as they spin a rich tale of the deck that’s stacked against them, what they’ve lost and all they dream. Part murder mystery, part memory play, “Seven Guitars” depicts the events leading up to the untimely death of Floyd “Schoolboy” Barton, a gifted blues guitarist. Released from jail after serving time for the crime of “worthlessness,” Floyd tries to retrieve his guitar and get to Chicago to make a record. He believes he is on the brink of a career breakthrough, but bad decisions and worse luck prevent him from leaving Pittsburgh.

“Crossin’ Over” by Ron Himes

May 24-June 18, 2017
The author states that, “Crossin’ Over’ takes a look at songs of faith, spirituals and gospel music from its roots in Africa, through the middle passage, slavery, northern migration, the Civil Rights Movement and into contemporary gospel music today… At the same time, we trace the crossing over in cultures as well as styles of music and their relationship to the African-American experience.”
Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award

Nominate someone you admire for the Washington University Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethic of Service Award. The award recognizes people who exemplify a character of service and contribution to the St. Louis region. We encourage a broad range of nominations celebrating individuals who exude passion for service as a way of life, inspire compassion and action in others, and go above and beyond the call of duty. This university-wide award typically recognizes 5-7 members of the WU community every year. Recipients often include current undergraduates, graduate students, alumni, staff, faculty, and volunteers. Learn more and submit nominations at: https://gephardtinstitute.wustl.edu/ethic-service-award


Black Anthology

“Black & Blue”
February 3 and 4, 2017
Edison Theatre

Black Anthology was founded in 1989 by Marcia Hayes-Harris to provide a means of commemorating the history and progress of African Americans. Since its creation, the program has been totally student run, from the script to set and costume design. In the beginning skits were compilations centered on pertinent literature. Over the years, the productions have become a scripted play. Even with the changes in the format of the show, Black Anthology’s aims remain the same and we, the executive board, hope to see the program continue to thrive.

Visit http://blackanthology.wustl.edu for performance information

“Faith is taking the first step even when you can’t see the whole staircase.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
African Students Association – Africa Week Fashion Show
February 24, 2017 at 7:30pm
Tisch Commons, Danforth University Center
http://africanstudents.wustl.edu for additional information.

The 12th Annual African Film Festival
March 31-April 2, 2017
Brown Hall, Room 100
Screenings at 7:00 p.m. & Youth Matinée on Saturday, April 1 at 3:00 pm
Free and open to the public
See: http://africanfilm.wustl.edu for additional information

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium
Spring Semester 2017 (Date: TBD)
Sponsored by the Association of Black Students (ABS), this annual event provides opportunity for fun and activities as well as serious dialogue. Location: Various locations around campus. Signs will be posted.
Visit ABS at: https://www.facebook.com/ABSWashingtonU

26th Annual St. Louis African Arts Festival
May 27-29, 2017
World’s Fair Pavilion in Forest Park
The St. Louis African Arts Festival is held in beautiful Forest Park. Each year the festival attracts a diverse audience of thousands of local residents and out-of-town visitors during the Memorial Day weekend. The Festival draws the community together in celebration of the rich contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora. For more information see: http://www.stlafricanartsfest.com

Margaret Bush Wilson Civic Engagement Grant
The grant financially supports programming initiatives that directly reflect the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work toward social justice, civic engagement and equity for all. There are a limited number of $250.00 grants available to support Washington University-sponsored programs. Additional marketing for the awarded programs may be provided by the MLK Commemoration Committee via the printed program, announcements at the program, and the event web page. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis throughout the academic year. Applications will be accepted each academic year until the first Friday in April. https://sites.wustl.edu/mlkcommemoration/mlk-commemoration-grant
The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Committee, 2016–2017

Office of the Provost
Gail Boker

Olin School of Business
Jacqueline Carter

Campus Life ⋆ Leadership Development
Dean Choi

University Libraries
Rudolph Clay Jr. (Chair)

Sam Fox School of Architecture
Robert (Bob) Hansman

Residential Life
Amanda Heubach

Campus Life ⋆ Event Management
Phyllis Jackson

Catholic Student Center
Brennan Strand

The Committee organizes and plans the logistics for the program activities of the MLK Commemoration celebration. Washington University faculty and staff are welcome to join the committee.

For additional information visit:
https://sites.wustl.edu/mlkcommemoration

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*Poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)
Set to music by John Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954)

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers died
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forgot Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

*“Lift Every Voice and Sing” is frequently referred to as the “Negro National Anthem.” It was written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and his brother J. [John] Rosamond Johnson for a celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday in Jacksonville, Florida, their hometown.” Joseph T. Skerrett. Source: The Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature.
“We Shall Overcome”

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome, some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

We’ll walk hand in hand,
We’ll walk hand in hand,
We’ll walk hand in hand, some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace, some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

We are not afraid,
We are not afraid,
We are not afraid, today

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

The whole wide world around
The whole wide world around
The whole wide world around some day

Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

This song has origins in African American spirituals and has been used in a range of protest movements.
Thank you for attending the 30th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration. Please join us in the Tisch Commons, located in the Danforth University Center (DUC), for a reception, immediately following the close of the program. It is sponsored by Bon Appetit. Our student ushers will assist you.