

June 15, 2010

**To: Interim Chancellor Robert Easter**

**From: Nathaniel C. Banks, Chair 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration  
Planning Committee**

**Subject: Final Report**

**Committee Members:**

Nathaniel Banks, Chair  
Aaron Ammons, Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice  
Andre Arrington, Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club  
William Berry, Ex- Officio  
Domonic Cobb, Office of the Provost  
Troy Collier, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics  
Anna Gonzalez, Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Relations  
Catherine Heidke, Illini Union  
John McKinn, Native American Studies  
Alicia Rodriguez, Latino Studies  
Karen Simms, Youth Leadership  
Samuel Smith, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts  
Amy Sponsler, Registered Student Organizations  
Mildred Trent, College of Education

**Theme: D. R. E. A. M. Developing Relationships to Empower All HuManity**

**Planning Committee**

The 2010 MLK Planning Committee members were selected based on either their positions representing larger campus programming units, or their affiliation with local organizations which have traditionally been involved in MLK commemoration activities.

**Summary of 2010 MLK Activities:**

County Wide Celebration featuring Dr. Ron Jackson  
Film Screening: "Against All the Odds"  
Urbana Rotary and Urbana High School Youth Festival

Youth Community Service Project  
Youth Speak Out on Violence  
Summit for College Students on Responsible Leadership  
MLK/Lincoln Essay Contest entries  
Youth Music program commemorating MLK  
MLK Culminating Community Celebration

## **Activities Narrative**

The committee traditionally plans programs during the MLK holiday week. However, a number of MLK related activities are not confined to the National MLK day and subsequent week. MLK related activities are also produced during the course of the academic year. Most notably, the MLK choir which has traditionally sung during the Sunday activity has also sung at other venues during the course of the year. This outreach to the local community is also extended to music programs which focus on youth music expression and development. The MLK committee continually collaborates with other campus units engaged in programming consistent with our perennial theme of creating a “beloved community”. Those collaborations have included the ethnic studies programs, Women’s studies, and the units of the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations. The 2010 activities are highlighted as follows:

- **MLK County-wide Celebration January 15, 2010**

Nathaniel Banks served as the campus representative to the County-wide Celebration planning committee so as to maximize programming efforts between the campus commemoration and the celebration by the Cities of Champaign and Urbana and Champaign County. This year, through his efforts, arrangements were made to have Dr. Ronald Jackson, Head of the Department of African American Studies, as the keynote speaker.

- **Film Screening: “Against All the Odds” Saturday January 16, 2010**

This was a premier screening of a documentary on the community of East St. Louis IL. The documentary focused on the struggles of a community riddled by white flight and systemic neglect. There was a post screening discussion led by film Director Sandra Pfeifer and Assistant Professor Clarence Lang.

- **MLK Essay contest**

The MLK middle and high school Essay contest was coordinated by Mildred Trent, Assistant Dean College of Education. The contest focused on the work of Dr. King as well as the election of President Barack Obama. There were 230 essays submitted. A screening and selection committee read all of the essays several times. Out of that process, 16 winners and 16 runner-ups emerged. The winners were given gift certificates to the Illini Union Bookstore. This year, in addition to the winners being announced at the MLK day activities and the culminating event, they were also acknowledged at a dinner held in the private dining room of Peabody Hall on campus. Dean Kalantzis was the Keynote speaker.

- **Youth Community Service Project January 18, 2010**

President Obama suggested that the nation commemorate Dr. King Jr. by having a day of service on the holiday. The MLK planning committee invited college, middle and high school age students to conduct community service projects at 5 locations. Approximately 50 students from Champaign and Urbana and the university participated and served at one of the following locations: Empty Tomb, Salvation Army, Salt and Light, American Cancer Society.

- **Youth Speak-Out on Violence Monday January 18, 2010**

The committee worked with local schools and the Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club to address the local issues of violence among youth and negative interactions with local law enforcement. The activity was the first of two events coordinated in direct response to the incident between police and two local youths in which one of the youths was killed. The committee used the forum in an interactive way to assist students as they sought productive ways to deal with conflict resolution among themselves and with local law enforcement. They were encouraged to address their issues in ways that are consistent with the philosophies of Dr. King.

- **Summit for College Students on Responsible Leadership Tuesday January 19, 2010**

This forum was held on the university campus and was part two of the event described above. A nationally known authority on social relations, Jeff Johnson, was the speaker/facilitator of a discussion on responsible leadership in the Black community. This activity was also in response to an act of violence in which an Illinois student was killed while visiting relatives in Chicago.

- **Culminating Celebration Saturday January 23, 2010**

Held in the lobby of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, this event closed the MLK week activities and featured child-friendly artistic activities by three local artists. Additionally, performances by Chai Town acapela singers, Inner Voices Social Issues Theater, Latin singer Juan Luis, Omnimov Dancers, and Soul Premier Singers. The MLK Essay contest winners were also recognized. Several students read their winning essays. All winning essays were on display in the lobby of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. After the MLK week, the essays are made available for viewing in local schools and libraries.

- **MLK and the Arts:**

The MLK Committee understands that commemoration of the MLK legacy is incomplete without acknowledgement of his love for artistic expression and its role in the struggle for civil rights. To that end, two ensembles have been formed and perform the music loved by Dr. King during the course of his leadership in the civil rights struggle. A community choir is assembled annually and performs at the Scholarship Program on the Sunday before the holiday. That vocal experience has now expanded into a course offered under the OSHER Life Long Learning Institute. Under the leadership of Willie T. Summerville, the class rehearses and performs sacred music typical of the music sung by protesters in the civil rights era. There is also a youth ensemble that has been formed which also rehearses and performs music from the mid and late sixties. The ensemble is part of the Mo' Betta Music Program. In the program, youth are given exposure to musical instruction during the academic year and the summer. The music program is supported by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement and the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center.

- **Other collaborations**

2010 MLK collaborations were intended to expand the scope of the King Commemoration so as to be more inclusive of the community and its interactions consistent with the King vision. To that end, several activities were supported by the committee. They included support of the Latino Youth Leadership Forum sponsored by La Casa Cultural Latina, and support of a community choir and youth instrumental ensemble. The musical ensembles performed music related to the civil rights era and to certain songs known to have been favorites of Dr. King. These activities were co-sponsored by the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement.

- **Updated Web site**

The MLK website was updated and used to publicize the MLK activities as well as the essay contest winners.

- **Cosponsoring campus units** As in past years, co-sponsorship was solicited from campus units. 58 units responded and were listed on publicity materials as well as the web site.

## **Recommendations for 2010:**

- Consider giving a campus related service award sponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement. This award would be given in conjunction with the awards given by both cities and the county.
- Continue the usage of a film in the commemoration
  - Dovetail the film with activists work in the community.
  - Select a film that highlights present-day human or civil rights issues
  - Invite local activist as responders to the film
- Continue the involvement of high school and college students in a service project during the
  - Collaborate with the Office of Volunteer Programs to coordinate a “Day of Service” on the MLK Holiday.
  - Include high school students
  - Include reflection on service as activism
  - Coordinate the service around the chosen theme of the essay contest
- **Committee make-up**
  - I would recommend that most of the 2010 committee remain intact, with the following exceptions: Mildred Trent, Essay Contest coordinator will be replaced by Dr. Lisa Monda-Amaya. Domonic Cobb has asked to be released from the committee. I also recommend that Monique Rivera-Rogers and Sam Smith be appointed as the Co-chairs. There are several other additions reflected in the list below.

Aaron Ammons, Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice

Andre Arrington, Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club

William Berry, Ex- Officio

Troy Collier, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics

Cope Cumpston, University Press

Anna Gonzalez, Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Relations

Catherine Heidke, Illini Union

Minor Jackson, Parkland College

John McKinn, Native American Studies

Lisa Monda-Amaya

Monique Rivera-Rogers

Alicia Rodriguez, Latino Studies

Claude E. Shelby, Pastor Salem Baptist Church

Karen Simms, Youth Leadership

Samuel Smith, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Amy Sponsler, Registered Student Organizations

Lu Turner, Department of African American Studies



# *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration*

## **D.R.E.A.M. Developing Relationships to Empower All HuManity**

**Sponsored by:  
The Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club, Krannert Center for the  
Performing Arts, Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Provost, and  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement**

**Friday, January 15, 2010**  
**Embracing Brotherhood: Rising Above Personal Confines**  
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Hilton Garden Inn

Keynote: Professor Ronald L. Jackson - Head of Department of African American Studies

**Saturday, January 16, 2010**  
**Film Screening:**

**“Against All The Odds”**

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Knights Auditorium, Spurlock Museum

A film on the struggle for survival in the community of East St. Louis, Illinois

By Sandra Pfeifer.

Post-screening discussion with Ms. Pfeifer and Professor Clarence Lang

**Sunday, January 17, 2010**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Advocacy for Justice Committee**

**Annual Scholarship Program**

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center

Keynote: Dr. James D. Anderson—Head of Department of Educational Policy Studies

**Monday, January 18, 2010**

**Community Service Project**

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

At various locations

Facilitated by the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club

**Youth Speak-out on Leadership**

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Douglass Community Center

Facilitated by Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010**

**Summit for College Students on Responsible Leadership**

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Smith Music Hall

Key Facilitator: Jeff Johnson

**Saturday, January 23, 2010**

**MLK Commemoration Celebration Community Event**

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lobby, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

The program will include: Art -Making Projects, Essay Contest Winners Recognitions, and

Performances by Chai Town, Inner Voices Social Issues Theatre, Juan Luis,

Omnimov Dancers, and Soul Premier

Please See: <http://engagement.illinois.edu/mlk/>







*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Commemoration*

**D.R.E.A.M.**

**Developing Relationships to Empower All  
HuManity**

**MONDAY  
JANUARY 18, 2010**



***Community Service Project***  
**10 am to 1 pm**  
**at local community agencies**

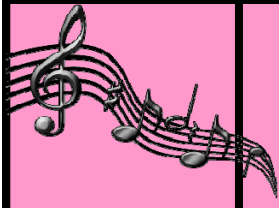
***Youth Speak-Out***  
**3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**  
**Douglass Community Center**

Sponsored by:

**The Don Moyers Boys & Girls Club, Office of the  
Chancellor, Office of the Provost, and Office of the  
Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement**

Please See: <http://engagement.illinois.edu/mlk/>





# Mo' Betta Music After School Program



## Fall 09 After School Music Instruction for Urbana Schools

Small group and ensemble instruction in reeds, brass, percussion,

Classes meet for 45 minutes right after school

Mondays at Prairie Elementary

Thursdays at King Elementary

**Contact information:**

Nathaniel Banks 333-2092, [nbanks@illinois.edu](mailto:nbanks@illinois.edu)

Robert Lewis 384-2313 Robert Lewis [robertlewis803@comcast.net](mailto:robertlewis803@comcast.net)

<http://engagement.illinois.edu/campuscommunity/mobetta.html>





# Mo' Betta Jazz and Gospel Music 1/2 Day Camps Summer sign-up

Premier Camp: June 8-13 , 9:00-1:00 p.m. (audition required)

Developing Musicians Camp: August 10-15, 9:00-1:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline: April 30, 2009

Cost: \$100 per session

Auditions held: May 23, 2009 1:00-2:30 p.m.

- Premier camp for highly skilled.
- Developing Musicians camp for grades 5-9

For On-line and paper registration go to:  
<http://engagement.illinois.edu/campuscommunity/mobetta.html>

Location: Salem Baptist Church

Contacts: Nathaniel Banks, 333-9525 Jazz  
Melvin Leach, 714-9991 Gospel



# Mo' Betta Music Camp Closing Concert 2009 East St. Louis High School Jazz Band

Premier Camp concert: 2:00 p.m. Saturday June 13, 2009

Concert features:

Mo Betta Music camp playing jazz, blues, Earth Wind and Fire  
East St. Louis High School Jazz Band

Camp Instructors: Nathaniel Banks, Ron Bridgewater, Barrington  
Coleman, Mark McKnight, Robert Lewis

Location: Salem Baptist Church Old Sanctuary  
501 E. Park Street, Champaign Illinois

If you love jazz and want to support our youth, you don't want  
to miss this concert!

Contact: Nathaniel C. Banks 359-9784

## **Mo' Betta' Music Summer Camps**

During the summer of 2009, the Mo' Betta' Music Program sponsored by the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center will offer two camps. One camp will be held at the beginning of summer and the other at summer's end.

Mo' Betta' Music is an artistic enrichment program dedicated to enhancing the musical arts skills of low and moderate income students in culturally sensitive manner so that they can actively participate, with confidence in their music programs at their respective local schools. The program utilizes the idioms of jazz and Urban Contemporary music as vehicles to enhance the skill levels of young musicians and vocalists.

**Camp Dates:**             June 8-13, 2009             Premier Students camp  
                                    August 10-15, 2009     Developing Artists camp

### **Premier Camp ( Grades 8-12)**

The Premier Camp will focus on individual skill development, small and large ensemble playing, basic music theory and jazz appreciation. There will be closing concerts for both camps. Students in the Premier Camp will be auditioned in voice, brass, woodwinds, piano, bass, and drums. Students will prepare for concert a repertoire of classical jazz and classical soul music made popular by bands such as Earth Wind and Fire. A CD will be made of the concert and given to each student participant.

### **Developing Artists Camp (Grades 5-8)**

The Developing Artist camp is designed to prepare young musicians for band and small ensemble playing in their respective schools. Students will be exposed to scales and traditional jazz rhythm technique, as well as small and large ensemble playing. Basic music theory and jazz appreciation will also be part of the curriculum.

Camp clinicians will include University of Illinois Graduate students and local professional musicians.

Questions? Please contact:     Nathaniel C. Banks  
  [nbanks@illinois.edu](mailto:nbanks@illinois.edu)  
  333-9525

# COME ALIVE! 2

A Celebration of African-American Culture and Spirit

Saturday,  
November 14,  
2009

2-4 p.m.

Levis  
Faculty Center

919 W. Illinois St., Urbana

**Featuring:**

- CU Super Stars — vocal soloists
- Nathaniel Banks & the Pick Up Jazz Quartet
- Ted Adkisson — "America's 14th Colony"
- Shawn Hayes & the Mont Olive Praise Dancers
- Candy Foster & Shades of Blue
- Visual Artists: Jason Patterson, Michael Sherfield, Scott Brown, Jessie Knox, Carol Elliot
- Soul Food Taste — regional dishes to sample

**And:**

- "Right of Passage":  
Photographic display from  
the Doris Baker Hoskins Collection,  
courtesy of the Early American  
Museum, Mahomet, IL,  
Cheryl Kennedy, Director.
- Ernie Westfield:  
display and memorabilia,  
Negro League Collection

**FREE,**  
the Public is invited

Sponsored by Doris Roberts, 2009 Design  
November 2009

Sponsored by the City of Urbana  
and the University of Illinois

