

MLK

WEEKEND

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



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SOUTH CAROLINA

2019



Each January, we celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through a month-long series of events.

Photo courtesy of the Moving Image Research Collections, University of South Carolina.

17 **Black Women on the Front Lines of Freedom: a film screening and forum**

6 p.m., Karen J. Williams Courtroom, School of Law

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Charleston Hospital Workers strike, where Coretta Scott King joined 400 workers — primarily black women — to protest labor conditions. The Honorable Matthew J. Perry chapter of the National Black Law Students Association presents excerpts of the strike documentary “I Am Somebody” followed by a forum.

18 **MLK Commemorative Breakfast**

7:30 a.m., The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium

The event features music, a keynote address by the Posse Foundation in Atlanta director Zenith Houston, '91, '96 and presentation of the university's social justice awards. Advance tickets required.

19 **Day of Service**

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Davis Field

Live King's message of caring for others by volunteering your time in the Columbia community as part of a national day of service on Saturday, Jan. 19. Check-in is on Davis Field (by the reflection pool in front of Thomas Cooper Library).

20 **Freedom Rings: An artistic celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr.**

6 p.m., Booker T. Washington Auditorium

Arts groups from around the Midlands join together in a night honoring the legacy of MLK. Enjoy performances by gospel artists John Lakin, Big Redd and A Touch of Faith, plus additional vocalists and spoken word artists. Tickets required.



HARRIS PASTIDES
PRESIDENT

Welcome to the University of South Carolina on this significant weekend.

Last year, we recognized the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death and honored his tremendous legacy. Today we come together again in his memory to serve our community. His example compels us to reflect on and address his imperative anew each year: “Life's most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

MLK's legacy guides us as we recognize what connects us as Gamecocks, as South Carolinians, and as family. Our outpouring of support each year for MLK Days of Service demonstrates South Carolina's commitment to encouraging service and unity in our campus community.

Each one of us has a choice to make between service and selfishness. MLK said, “Every person must decide. Either he or she will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.” Each year, our university comes together in this creative altruism and gives back to our community. In fact, we have been recognized by Pillars of Academic as South Carolina's top school for producing altruistic, service-minded students.

This year, we also honor the legacy of Dean Willie Lloyd Harriford Jr., UofSC's first black administrator and a key civil rights figure. In 1971, he was instrumental in founding our African American Studies program and devoted much of his life to documenting the Civil Rights Movement. In addition to his work at the university and in South Carolina, Dean Harriford also directly worked to continue MLK's legacy in helping found the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, which has now been renamed as the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia. UofSC remains committed to continuing Dean Harriford's vital efforts and dialogues as we honor his memory.

Our Carolinian Creed echoes MLK's legacy in the lines: “I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings and their need for conditions which support their work and development.” Leadership takes many forms, and I encourage each of you to follow MLK's example by continuing to ask, “What am I doing for others?”

I look forward to working with you this weekend.

Harris Pastides

Black Women on the Front Lines of Freedom: a film screening and forum

Thursday, January 17 | 6 p.m.
School of Law, Karen J. Williams Courtroom



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Moderator

Lashawnda Woods-Roberts, *Equal Justice Works Fellow at South Carolina Appleseed Justice Center and USC School of Law graduate*

Panelists

Judge Jaribu Hill, *community organizer and human rights attorney specializing in housing and racially hostile work environments*. Hill is founder and executive director of the Mississippi Workers’ Center for Human Rights and founder and director of the Southern Human Rights Organizers Conference. As director of the Southern Regional Office of the Center for Constitutional Rights, she won an important judgment against the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Gicola Lane, *community advocate, organizer and non-profit leader focused on criminal justice reform*. As manager of the Nashville Community Bail Fund, Lee highlighted the injustice of the money bail system by coordinating bail for low-income Nashville residents and raising awareness of the negative effects of pretrial incarceration on families and communities.

Louise Brown, *community activist and organizer*. Brown has been instrumental in grassroots movements, such as the national Poor Peoples Campaign. In 1969, she was one of 12 Charleston area nurse assistants who initiated a historic strike that called for equal wages, fair treatment and the right to unionize.

MLK Commemorative Breakfast

Friday, January 18 | 7:30 to 9 a.m.
The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium



Welcome Kenneth Campbell, *associate professor, mass communications*
Invocation Lizzie Keegan, *campus chaplain*
Musical selection A Touch of Faith, *student gospel ensemble*
Introduction of keynote speaker Taylor Wright, *student body president*
Keynote address Zenith Houston,
director, The Posse Foundation (Atlanta, Georgia)
Remarks Harris Pastides, *university president*
Presentation of 2019 University of South Carolina
Social Justice awards Jabari Bodrick,
assistant director, department of student life
Video: 2019 University of South Carolina Social Justice Award winners
Closing John Dozier, *chief diversity officer*

About the Keynote speaker



As director of The Posse Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, **Zenith Houston**, '91, '96 supports college access and leadership development for high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by the traditional college selection processes. To help the students achieve personal and academic excellence, the foundation places them in multicultural, supportive teams (posses) of 10 students. Houston graduated from South Carolina with a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal justice and then went on to build a successful career in the non-profit sector, building expertise in fundraising, strategic philanthropy and community engagement. A servant leader, Houston has served on several national and local boards and was recognized with the Chick-Fil-A True Inspiration Award and participated in the 2018 Atlanta Regional Leadership Institute, among other honors.

Freedom Rings: Celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. through the Arts



Sunday, January 20 | 6 p.m.
Booker T. Washington Auditorium

- “The Beloved Community”
(excerpts from Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech).....*dramatic reading*
- “The Lord’s Prayer”
Jasmine Johnson..... *vocalist*
- The Watering Hole..... *spoken word artist*
- John Lakin *vocalist*
- Big Redd *Christian rap artist*
- Just Us (Zion Campbell, Motley Nelson, Fred Kennedy)..... *instrumental group*
- A Touch of Faith *vocal group*
- The Watering Hole..... *spoken word artist*
- John Lakin *vocalist*

With special student performances by

- Micah Charles..... *poet*
- Alex Thompson..... *vocalist*

Emcees

- Wally Amos.....*entrepreneur*
- Tre Tailor.....*on-air announcer at Glory Communications*

Program produced in conjunction with the Auntie Karen Foundation.

University of South Carolina Social Justice Awards

Faculty winner



Dr. Rajeev Bais
Clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, School of Medicine, and Director, Carolina Survivor Clinic

Columbia’s refugee support infrastructure has mushroomed since the 2015 arrival of Dr. Rajeev Bais. Building on his experience launching clinics for survivors of torture and trauma in New York and Kentucky, Bais founded the Carolina Survivor Clinic, staffed primarily by a 400-member core of student volunteers. He also led efforts to create a youth tutoring and soccer program and an adult English language program. Through his work, Bais aims to show students how they can turn their idealism into action in sustainable, meaningful ways.

Staff winner



Maureen Grewe
Director of student conduct, department of student conduct and academic integrity
Concerned about the needs of local at-risk children, Maureen Grewe

became involved with the Junior League of Columbia. Serving through that organization, Grewe helped to create a 10-week mother/daughter counseling program to strengthen families and built relationships with young girls in foster care through courses about diet and fitness at the Epworth Children’s Home. She also spearheads an annual supply drive that distributes \$20,000 in goods to hundreds of vulnerable students, pairing volunteers with children to shop for their own books, clothing and shoes — often a first experience for the kids.

Student winners



Chelsea Jimenez
Undergraduate student, senior majoring in early childhood education

Growing up in a household with foreign-born, non-native English-speaking parents, Chelsea Jimenez was dismayed by the lack of multi-cultural and multi-lingual representation in her school. As a leader in the College of Education’s urban education cohort, she makes home visits and creates culturally relevant lessons tailored to her students’ cultural backgrounds. Seeking to validate young African-American students in the classroom, Jimenez, a McNair scholar, developed and implemented a pilot program teaching them to code-switch, winning first place in the Education category at the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel conference for her related research.



Lyric Swinton
Undergraduate student, junior majoring in sport and entertainment management

Reflecting upon her own experiences as a first-generation college student, Lyric Swinton became a campus activist and advocate for diversity at the University of South Carolina. She has mentored other low-income, first-generation college students and created lessons about high school and college preparation for rural elementary and middle school students. She is the first student government secretary of inclusion and equity and serves on many university committees, including the President’s Student Advisory Council, often as the lone minority voice. Swinton was the only undergraduate speaker selected for the inaugural TEDxUofSC event, where she discussed overcoming stereotypes and using adversity as a creative spark.

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About the cover image: Martin Luther King Jr. visited Kingstree, South Carolina, on May 9, 1966, encouraging residents to exercise their voting rights with the refrain, “Let us march on ballot boxes.” This still image was taken from WIS-TV footage of King’s visit, preserved by the University of South Carolina’s Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC) and viewable online at mirc.sc.edu.

Special thanks to the MLK Weekend steering committee for coordinating this weekend’s events

Jabari Bodrick, Pam Bowman, Stanley Brown, John Dozier, Anna Edwards, Augie Grant, Aaron Greene, Keisa Gunby, Jennifer Gunther, Kareemah Hosendove, Rebecca Kaze, Shay Malone, Elizabeth Muth, Ore Oluwole, Prischilla Ramsey, Hasan Ross El, Meagan Shipley, David Simmons, Qiana Whitted, Dana Woodward and Taylor Wright



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