



Wednesday, January 14, 2004

OU celebrates 'freedom through education'

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

The Oakland University community is invited to participate in African-American Celebration Month activities Monday, Jan. 19, through Thursday, Feb. 19. Each event helps capture this year's theme, "Celebrating Freedom through Education," selected in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the landmark legal case, Brown vs. Board of Education.

Among the lectures, films, panel discussions, poetry readings and other cultural events that fill the month is Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Day on Monday, Jan. 19. OU has suspended classes for the day so students may participate in events that commemorate the life of the civil rights leader.

MLK day events begin with the annual Association of Black Students March, which begins at 11:30 a.m. in the first floor lobby of Vandenberg Hall. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to participate. The march concludes at Meadow Brook Theatre, where the Student Life Lecture Board will present author, activist and rapper Sistah Souljah at noon. Souljah's lecture, titled "Forty Years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream: The Role of African-American Students on Campus," is free. The day's events conclude with the Association of Black Students Dinner and Candlelight Vigil in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. This free event is at 6:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

OU students are encouraged to participate in the seventh All-Campus Essay Contest in commemoration of Dr. King. Participants must submit an original essay or poem that addresses the topic: "Uniting OU Students through Campus Life." The cash prizes are \$300 for first place and \$100 each for second and third place. Rules and entry forms are available at the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, 121 North Foundation Hall; Center for Student Activities, 49 Oakland Center; Dean of Students Office, 144 Oakland Center; and at the Hamlin and Vandenberg Hall reception desks. Contest winners will be announced at the African-American Celebration Month Closing Ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at noon in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

The final event of the celebration is the **Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Banquet** on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 6-9 p.m. at the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. This year's keynote speaker is First Gentleman of Michigan Daniel G. Mulhern.

See the **African-American Celebration Month schedule** listed on the campus calendar for a complete list of activities. For more information, contact the **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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