



Tuesday, December 14, 2004

Coretta Scott King to speak at OU in February

By *Rebecca Wyatt*, OU Web Writer

Coretta Scott King will highlight her husband's achievements and commemorate his legacy when she visits Oakland University Feb. 17 as the keynote speaker and presenter at the 2005 Keeper of the Dream Awards Banquet, which honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes the award recipients.

"We've always had influential speakers at the Keeper of the Dream Banquet," said Gloria Sosa, director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives. "Coretta Scott King is someone who will be able to speak about the importance of the event and personify Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

The wife of the highly recognized civil rights leader, King also has made a name for herself in the pursuit of equal rights.

She grew up in Alabama and then studied at Antioch College in Ohio where she earned a bachelor's degree in music. She then studied concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, earning a degree in voice and violin.

It was while studying in Boston that she met Dr. King. They were married June 18, 1952, and moved to Alabama. After Dr. King was assassinated in 1968, Coretta Scott King devoted her life to carrying on her husband's quest of equal rights for all Americans.

Her dedication and accomplishments have earned her honorary degrees from more than 60 colleges and universities. She also has authored three books and a nationally syndicated column and served many organizations committed to equal rights.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation is sponsoring King's appearance at the Keeper of the Dream Banquet.

The **Keeper of the Dream Award** recognizes OU students who have contributed to interracial understanding and goodwill while demonstrating academic achievement, a clear career focus and academic persistence. Nominees must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0, demonstrate campus involvement, have a record of responsible citizenship and be enrolled for the following academic year. Forty students have received the award since its establishment in January 1993.

Award recipients are recognized at the Keeper of the Dream Awards Banquet held every February during OU's African-American celebration. The banquet honors Dr. King's dream of brotherhood, harmony and equality for all people and raises funds for the scholarships. Support for the banquet is drawn from businesses, industry, government, community members and OU faculty, staff and students.

The Keeper of the Dream banquet will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 17. For ticket information, contact the Office of Special Events at (248) 370-4915.

For more information on the Keeper of the Dream Awards, visit the **Center for Multicultural Initiatives** Web site.

SUMMARY

Coretta Scott King will highlight her husband's achievements and commemorate his legacy when she visits Oakland University Feb. 17 as the keynote speaker and presenter at the 2005 Keeper of the Dream Awards Banquet, which honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes the award recipients. The wife of the highly recognized civil rights leader, King also has made a name for herself in the pursuit of equal rights.

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