



Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Martin Luther King III to speak at OU banquet

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Martin Luther King III, the second oldest child of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, will be the keynote speaker at the 10th annual **Keeper of the Dream** scholarship banquet on Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Oakland University's Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion.

A human rights advocate, community activist and political leader, Martin Luther King III has been actively involved in significant policy initiatives to maintain the fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, at home and abroad. Currently, he serves as the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization his father co-founded in 1957.

While on the Board of Commissioners in Fulton County, Georgia, King helped create legislation regulating minority business participation in public contracting, strong ethics legislation, purification of the county's natural water resources and stringent hazardous waste disposal requirements. He also initiated several programs to support young people and volunteered for several youth and young adult-oriented projects. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

The **Keeper of the Dream** banquet celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Created to provide funds for student scholarships, the award recognizes students who have demonstrated strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership in breaking down cultural stereotypes and in promoting interracial understanding. Four OU students each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship at this year's banquet and one will receive the Special Recognition Award.

Kevin Early, associate professor of sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, created the scholarship program in 1992. The first Keeper of the Dream dinner was held Jan. 29, 1993, in The Crockery – a former Oakland Center eatery that could seat 300. The dinner soon became a banquet that outgrew its original home. Since 1997, the event has been held at the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion, where it draws close to 800 celebrants annually.

Since the initial dinner, 35 OU students have received Keeper of the Dream awards, with \$35,000 in scholarships awarded at last year's banquet. Scholarship nominees must possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, demonstrate campus involvement and a record of responsible citizenship, write an essay of up to 500 words describing how they have made a positive impact toward improving interracial understanding at OU, and submit three letters of nomination from members of the university community.

For the full story on 10th anniversary of the **Keeper of the Dream** scholarship banquet, including personal memories from Keeper of the Dream committee members, see the February 2002 issue of Inside OU. Historical information on the program can be found on the **Office of Equity** Web site.

SUMMARY

Martin Luther King III, the second oldest child of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, will be the keynote speaker at the 10th annual Keeper of the Dream scholarship banquet on Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Oakland University's Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. A human rights advocate, community activist and political leader, King has been actively involved in significant policy initiatives to maintain the fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, at home and abroad.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, February 13, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, February 13, 2002
Article Start Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2003