

CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Inter-Office Correspondence

Date: June 12, 2006

To: Dr. Joseph P. Grunenwald, President
Dr. Jocelind Gant, Assistant to the President for Social Equity

From: Mr. Rogers J. Laugand III, Co-Chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Committee
Dr. Robert Girvan, Co-Chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Committee

Re: **2005-2006 Martin Luther King Jr. Program Report**

Cc: Dr. Jeffrey Waple, Director, Office of Campus Life

PROJECT TITLE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee
“The Dream: A Vision in Progress”
Special Events 2005-2006

Committee Members:

Mr. Rogers J. Laugand III, Co-Chair
Dr. Robert Girvan, Co-Chair
Ms. Amy Shannonhouse
Dr. Mike LaRue
Dr. Mary Ann Fricko
Mr. Scott Horch
Mr. Ralph Critten
Dr. Jamie Phillips
Ms. DeAnne Irwin
Ms. Taneisha Pride
Dr. Greg Goodman
Ms. Susan Bornak
Ms. Sandy Kifer

Ex-officio Member:

Dr. Jocelind Gant

MAIN SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Office of the President

Other Co-Sponsors: Office of Minority Student Services, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Office of Social Equity, Finance and Administration, Student and University Affairs, Office of Greek Life, Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, Presidential Commission on Disabilities, Presidential Commission on Human Relations, Department of English, College of Education and Human Services, Office of Campus Life

ABSTRACT:

The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee coordinated sponsored and co-sponsored university-wide and community programs which were meant to nurture Clarion's socially diverse campus and community climate. The project was designed to enhance and encourage awareness of Dr. King's beliefs and actions as inspiration for our efforts in fostering a just, multicultural and understanding community. The commemorative endeavors took place from September to April.

GOAL STATEMENT:

The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee maintains that the breadth of Dr. King's heritage as a national and international leader is a largely untapped resource. Consequently, we provided a series of programs that focused on Dr. King's dream of achieving a truly inclusive and humane community. Some interests of Dr. King that celebrate the enriching potential of social diversity include equitable education opportunities, ending human violence, moderating intolerance, expanding good work opportunities for all citizens, and the moral/ethical foundations of human behavior. Programs developed in these domains in cooperation with various academic and student affairs departments seemed appropriate for the committee to cooperatively sponsor.

OBJECTIVES:

To emphasize the positive effect of a just, multicultural and accepting environment, in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the committee focused on its ability to:

- (a) Identify scholars, activists and performers whose work, in our opinion, contributed to the celebration of human diversity. As appropriate, some of these persons were invited to Clarion University to share their ideas and experiences with the campus community through various educational modes and genres.
- (b) Ensure that these guests were exposed to as many students, faculty, staff and community members as possible to encourage “conversations of respect” (Hill, 1999) and build bridges toward human harmony. These discourses focused on the concept of social equity as represented in Dr. King’s thoughts and beliefs as well as by his participation in social change organizations.
- (c) Support responsible social activism to enhance the social justice that Dr. King’s example represented. The range of possible involvement was demonstrated by the variety of guests supported by the committee.

TARGET GROUPS:

The target groups were those individuals who were misinformed about those who were different from them and lacked the understanding and appreciation of a diverse community. The committee sponsored programs which served the purpose of breaking down stereotypical images about “others” among the administrative, student, faculty, staff and community bodies. In the final analysis, the campus and community population was targeted.

THE PROBLEM:

Clarion’s campus community has worked with varying degrees of success to create a curriculum and complimentary programs which serve to “educate the total student regardless of race” (Taylor, 1986). This statement infers, however, that minority status has been often conceived as residing in only one marginalized social category, such as race or gender. Dr. King’s concern with the content of one’s character and the nature of power in today’s society transcends a focus on narrow **bases** of inequality. Instead he envisioned constructing a broader, more complex and inclusive, concept of social equity.

The Martin Luther King Jr. series is meant to further educate the campus and the community regarding the concerns for uniqueness, empowerment, commonality, justice, and interdependence that Dr. King recognized as crucial in order to fully celebrate the diversity of the human experience in a pluralistic and democratic society. One of our main concerns is the need for us to unify as a single community.

METHODOLOGY:

The committee met objective (a) in the following manner: During the academic year, we worked with various departments and organizations to suggest, coordinate initiatives, and help sponsor appropriate programs. Each scholar, activist and/or performer addressed a theme found in Dr. King's teachings. The following criteria were utilized in the selection process:

- (1) Preference was accorded to resource persons of a particular minority status, or to the interaction of more than one marginalized category. However, all persons who clearly demonstrated Dr. King's wide interest in social equity were utilized as a resource to the committee. In addition, those studying various topics that spoke to civil rights were invited to share their knowledge and/or experience.
- (2) Overall, the resource persons included both sexes, various religions and races. Additionally, they were representative of disciplines and pursuits that provided substance to Dr. King's thinking, e.g., history, equity, education, and social justice.

For each visit, contracts were negotiated via the candidate's agent or through personal contacts in an effort to get the most favorable terms for Clarion University and the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

Our approach to objective (b) was as follows: The manner of exposure and interaction varied depending upon the type of presentation and arrangements made by the primary sponsor. We encouraged the resource persons to be invited to attend classes in their respective fields and to interact informally with students, administrators, faculty, and staff. The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee functioned as follows:

- (1) Identified and assisted other groups in finding respective scholars and performers.
- (2) Developed program activities and assisted others when possible.
- (3) Provided follow-up actions to related programs.
- (4) Assessed the effectiveness of sponsored programs.
- (5) Promoted and encouraged the participation of campus and community members. The committee ensured that the series was broadly advertised through newspapers, radio, posters, handbills, faculty, email and a comprehensive brochure.

Objective (c) was met by making available information about participation in organizations and activities that related to the relevant theme(s). Each guest or group was asked to suggest appropriate solutions to problems of social inequality as a crucial part of every presentation.

FEASIBILITY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

The prospects of keeping this project successful are good, especially with respect to the presence of qualified and committed personnel at Clarion to assist in implementing each year's version of the series. The major constraint for the proposed Dr. King Committee program during a particular year is fiscal. It can be quite difficult to secure reasonably

priced programs, high quality guests interacting at appropriate times with significant numbers of the campus community. Extensive research, negotiating, and organization on our part, coupled with contributions from other campus departments and goodwill on the part of the presenters and/or agents, played a critical role in providing effective commemorative activities. **The schedule of events included the following:**

SEE ATTACHED BROCHURE

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the committee was successful in providing programs that were educational in nature and directly coincided with our theme. Because the committee wanted to attract a diverse population and increase participation, members sought to provide events that focused on some type of entertainment. As a result, the programs were well attended, reaching out to diverse audiences across the campus and community, with an average attendance of 180 per presentation. The events were highly rated with many individuals indicating an interest in having similar programs in the future.

Based on the feedback from the evaluations, as well as verbal feedback, the committee believes that the Martin Luther King Jr. Series was a great success. Specifically, we believe we accomplished the following:

- (a) Increased the echelon of understanding from a humanistic perception
- (b) Increased the multicultural awareness and appreciation for the opulence of diversity
- (c) Confronted the stereotypes that individuals may embrace about particular groups
- (d) Offered ongoing dialogue on the issues of racial understanding, gender equality, and economic empowerment
- (e) Developed a program that the entire community has come to value, and one that community members are eager to support in some form
- (f) Contributed to the mixture of knowledge, increasing awareness of commonalities among the differences
- (g) Presented a catalyst for the assessment of further knowledge on America's history

The Martin Luther King Jr. Series has become an integral part of the university and community culture. It is a series of events and programs which people look forward to attending each year. It is programming which faculty incorporate into their curriculum, and students and staff incorporate into their schedules.

This Martin Luther King Jr. Series has become a great success but only due to the commitment of many people working together as a team. Through this team effort, the university has been able to provide educational programs that enrich the social, cultural and intellectual environment in which we live and grow together.

MLK Budget 2005-06
The Dream
“A Vision in Progress”

Program	Date	Honorarium	Misc.	Travel	Hotel/Food	Total
The Human Race Machine	Sept. 19-23	\$3500				\$3,500
Ebony Washington	Sept. 19	\$1800 Including Air		\$110.35	\$54.06 (H) \$107.89 (F)	\$2,072.30
Dr. Don Bartlette	Sept. 27	\$500 Co-sponsor				\$500
Joe Martin	Oct. 18	\$3850 Including Air & Hotel		\$100.30	\$66.45 (F)	\$4,016.75
Equity Week -Play “English Only”	Nov. 7	\$500 Co-sponsor				\$500
T. Gardner Sr.	Jan. 24	\$2670 (driving) Including travel			\$54.06 (H)	\$2,724.06
T.J. Leyden	Feb. 20	Greek Life				\$-0-
The Afro-Semitic Experience	Feb. 6	\$3000		\$610.32	\$162.18 (H) \$246.30 (F)	\$4,018.80
Maxine Maxell	Mar. 21	\$3600 Including Air		\$117.99	\$54.06 (H) \$16.67 (F)	\$3,788.72
Gary Guller	Apr. 26	Finance & Adm.				\$-0-
Printing Brochure/Posters			\$581.80			\$581.80
Piano Tuning			\$100			\$100
Total Budget		\$19,420	\$681.80	\$938.96	\$324.36 (H) \$437.31 (F)	\$21,802.43