Annual Beloved Dinner

The ideals and dreams of Martin Luther King were remembered, relived and cherished on Tuesday January 20th, as students and teachers gathered in the Terrace Room for the Annual Martin Luther King Dinner.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil right activist during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950’s and 1960’s who fought for equal human rights through activism, civil disobedience and non-violent acts. Sadly, he was assassinated before he could fulfill his dream of the dissolution of racial segregation and discrimination. Thus, we all gathered on his birth date to reflect and discuss how we all could live out his dreams.

The student speaker of the night, Megan Hathaway, a senior at Bucknell, addressed issues from her own life experiences and enlightened the audience of how her own experiences with history, race, poverty and discrimination shaped her perceptions of the world. She encouraged to uphold values like opportunity, equality and civil duty and hope to achieve in the future.

The Voices of Praise gave an uplifting and heart-felt performance that left children and students dancing and clapping along with the music.

Carmen Gillespie, Associate Professor of English also spoke and focused on the fact that Martin Luther King, a man with more than twenty degrees from schools such as Morehouse College, Boston University, Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania was just a human being. The idealized view of the amazing Martin Luther King should never take away from the fact that he was a man who lived and decided like many others to dedicate his life to the movement of civil rights and equality for all Americans.

Other than the inspiring speeches from various staff members and students, the food was amazing with a variety of dishes. Many people went for seconds.

The key speaker was Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Director of the Women’s Studies at Spelman College.
She focused her speech on women activists of the same time of Martin Luther King who also contributed to the struggle but did not get as much credit as they deserved. She shed light on not only the fight for civil rights for minorities in America but also the civil and equal rights for women.

The recent election of the first African American as the President of the United States was also brought up and left some with a comforting feeling of hopefulness for the future. Many people spoke on the sense of pride for America, that despite its foundation on exploitation, slavery, segregation and discrimination, Americans could choose to look past the color of one’s skin and consider the character and political views of each candidate.

Overall, the night was an unforgettable experience filled with wonderful speeches, food and spirits.

 Semester at Sea– A Study Abroad Experience

BY, LINDA KANG ’10

So I went around the world last semester with the Semester at Sea program. It was a great experience. I sailed via cruise liner with about 650 college students nationwide to the Bahamas, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, Japan, Costa Rica, and went through the Panama Canal to Miami—all in 108 days.

Now after coming back I am still getting used to my new perspective of the world, and that other people are not able to see that. But that is alright.

I won’t try to tell you why I don’t use the word “starving” anymore, or why I wake up thinking about the holes in the ceiling of the homes in Khayelitsha township, South Africa.

I’m not going to try to explain what it felt like to play with a child deformed by Agent Orange who couldn’t quite play back, or how it was like to be a part of a Hindu family in Erode, India.

I won’t try to explain what it was like to realize that love can sustain everything even if you have nothing.

Mark Your Calendar!!

Jan 31, 09: Chinese New Year, Larison Dining Hall, 12-4pm

Feb 16, 09: Multicultural Movement Monday, Larison Dining Hall, 7pm

Feb 18, 09: Wacky Wednesday, Vedder Lounge, 10-12pm

Feb 21, 09: BU After Dark, Gerhard Fieldhouse, 11pm

Feb 22, 09: Black History Alive

Feb 27, 09: The Vagina Monologues, Harvey Powers Theater, Coleman, 8-10pm
Chinese New Year

While the origins of the Chinese New Year cannot be traced with accuracy, it is generally agreed that the tradition began in the Han dynasty. Legend has it that the Chinese people were tormented by the annual appearance of a monster, Nian, that devoured people in large numbers. It was then learned that the monster was scared of the color red, loud noise, and bright lights.

Hence, according to the legend, the Chinese New Year Celebrations started as a way to protect people from the monster Nian using the color red in abundance along with bright and loud fireworks. The Chinese word for ‘year’ is Nian - the name of the feared mythical monster.

Today the festival is celebrated to mark the onset of Spring in many East Asian cultures. Since the New Year is celebrated according to the lunisolar calendar, it can fall anywhere between January 21 and February 20. In addition to fireworks and colorful festivities, the New Year is marked by the biggest meal of the year. The meal features dishes that are symbolic in different ways. For example, The 'Tray of Togetherness' features eight rice recipes where eight is considered to be a number that brings good fortune, and various types of dumplings are believed to bring wealth.

The Year of the Ox begins on January 26 this year. In the US, the Chinese New Year (or Spring Festival) is celebrated widely, especially in cities with large immigrant populations such as Los Angeles and New York City.

Bucknell’s Chinese Cultural Association will be celebrating the New Year on the 31st of January, at Larison Dining Hall. The CCA holds a Chinese New Year festival every year with for good food, performances and a chance to learn about the culture. Don’t miss it!
Interested in being an
International Orientation Assistant?

Pick up an application at
International Student Services,
Vedder 125.

Applications due:
Thursday, February 5, 2009

- Help students transition to Bucknell
- Meet the new international members of the Class of 2013
- Be a leader
- Learn about intercultural and interpersonal communication
- Have fun!

These positions are open to energetic students with an interest in helping new students during the International Student Orientation Program and to participate as mentors throughout the academic year.

International Student Services
570-577-3794
paula.myers@bucknell.edu