

MARTIN
LUTHER
KING

DAY CELEBRATION



Princeton University's Annual Celebration
of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

January 21, 2013





“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
“I Have a Dream”, 1963

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with Assistant Dean of the Chapel Carl Reimers and chapel deacons on the steps of Chancellor Green in 1960.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Arts High School Gospel Choir

WELCOME
Shirley M. Tilghman
President

**OPENING REMARKS &
INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE**
Michele Minter
Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Anne Cheng
Professor of English and African American Studies

JOURNEY AWARD PRESENTATION
Shirley M. Tilghman

STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION
Jason R. Klugman
Director of Princeton University Preparatory Program

CLOSING
Michele Minter

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Arts High School Gospel Choir

Anne Cheng, Professor of English and African American Studies



Anne Anlin Cheng is Professor of English and of the Center for African American Studies. She is also affiliated with the Program in American Studies and the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies. She specializes in race studies, aesthetic theory, and film and psychoanalytic theories, working primarily with twentieth-century American literature with special focus on Asian American and African American literatures. She is the author of *The Melancholy of Race: Assimilation, Psychoanalysis, and*

Hidden Grief (Oxford University Press), which explores the difference between racial grief and racial grievance by engaging literature, history, and law. Her book *Second Skin: Josephine Baker and the Modern Surface*, also published by Oxford University Press, traces the unexpected intimacy between the invention of a modernist style and the theatricalization of black skin at the turn of the twentieth century. This study, awarded Honorable Mention by the Modernist Studies Association for their annual Book Prize, situates Baker's provocative nakedness within larger philosophic and aesthetic debates about, and desire for, 'pure surface' that crystallized at the convergence of modern art, architecture, machinery, and philosophy. *Cinespect* calls this book "a playful, insanely ambitious text that seeks to rethink standard assumptions about Modernism, race and Josephine Baker . . . The book performs the admirable service of making Josephine Baker, the world she inhabited, and the skin that inhabited her seem stranger and more complex

than they did before." Recent articles by Cheng includes: "Sheen: On Glamour, Race, and the Modern," *PMLA*; "Skins, Tattoos, and Susceptibility," *Representations*; "Psychoanalysis without Symptom," *Differences*; "Skin Deep: Josephine Baker and the Colonial Fetish," *Camera Obscura*; and "Ralph Ellison: Melancholic Visibility and the Crisis of American Civil Rights," *Journal of Law, Philosophy, and Culture*. She is the founder and organizer of the public conversation series Critical Encounters which gathers speakers from different disciplines and walks of life to discuss shared interests in issues of social justice from diverse perspectives.

Cheng received her B.A. in English and Creative Writing at Princeton, her Masters in English and Creative Writing from Stanford University, and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from University of California at Berkeley. Prior to coming back to Princeton, she taught at Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley.

Arts High School Gospel Choir



The Arts High School Gospel Choir, based at Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey, was constituted in the 1970s by students seeking to increase the

variety of the musical performance programming. Originally, the choir was student-led, and all of the musicians were students of Arts High.

Over time, the choir grew in size and the style of music continued to evolve. The administration of the choir was transferred to the hands of an assigned faculty member dedicated to teaching and nurturing the young performers. At present, the Gospel Choir is directed by Mr. Scott Cumberbatch, an English instructor at Arts High School and a musical director for

churches and choirs across the country.

The choir, including both vocalists and musicians, is made up of Arts High students of various majors, as well as alumni. The choir sings across New Jersey, including performances for the New Jersey Education Association, Continental Airlines' Black History Month celebration, and various gospel programs in schools and churches throughout Essex and Passaic counties.

The Journey Award

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a powerful advocate for human rights who became one of the most noted African Americans in history. Yet even King acknowledged that his work represented the continuation of a journey started by others before him, including some of his personal mentors and heroes such as Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, Jesus Christ, A. Philip Randolph, and Mahatma Gandhi. King also predicted that the journey would not end with his own death. He often warned that this journey was not an easy path, but a courageous one. In his 1967 address, "Where Do We Go From Here?" King said: "I must confess, my friends, the road ahead will not always be smooth.

There will still be rocky places of frustration and meandering points of bewilderment. There will be inevitable setbacks here and there. There will be those moments when the buoyancy of hope will be transformed into the fatigue of despair. Our dreams will sometimes be shattered and our ethereal hopes blasted. ... Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future." And so, the journey continues.

The MLK Day Journey Award has been created to recognize annually members of the Princeton University faculty, staff, or student body who best

represent the continued journey to achieve King's vision. Awardees have demonstrated that they support King's philosophy and teachings and that they have actively contributed to the improvement of civil rights and/or human rights, particularly in manners that have positively affected the Princeton University community.

President Shirley M. Tilghman and the MLK Day Celebration organizers are pleased to honor Karen Jackson-Weaver.

Past Journey Award Recipients

2012

Miguel Centeno, for Lifetime Service
Sandra Mukasa, for Special Achievement

2011

Tommy Parker, for Lifetime Service
Josue Lajeunesse, for Special Achievement

2010

Janet Smith Dickerson, for Lifetime Service

2009

William A. Massey, for Lifetime Service

2008

John Templeton, for Lifetime Service
Anna Almore, for Special Achievement

2007

None Awarded

2006

Albert J. Raboteau, for Lifetime Service

2005

Robert K. Durkee, for Lifetime Service
Dylan H. Tatz, for Special Achievement

Journey Award for Special Achievement

Karen Jackson-Weaver



Karen Jackson-Weaver has worked tirelessly since her appointment in 2007 as associate dean of academic affairs and diversity in The Graduate School to increase the population of historically underrepresented students and enrich their experiences. Whether recruiting students across the country, working with faculty colleagues to ensure diversity in the applicant pools, or mentoring students of color during their studies, Jackson-Weaver invests countless hours to ensure that diverse graduate students enroll and thrive at Princeton. Among her many activities is

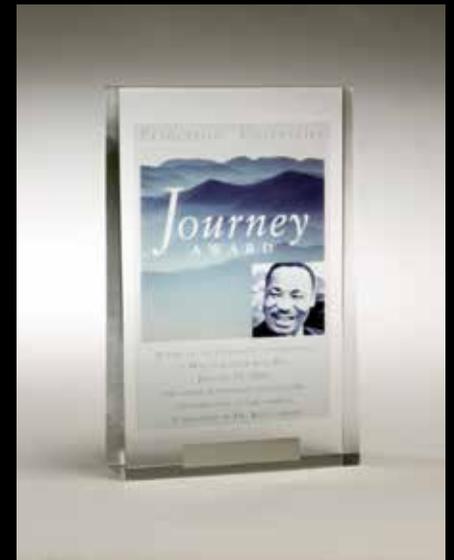
the organization of Hosting Weekend, an event designed to celebrate the Graduate School's efforts to increase diversity and to encourage underrepresented and socioeconomically disadvantaged applicants to matriculate. As stated in her nomination, "Dean Weaver truly has a heart for service and her leadership allows her to be such an effective conduit for supporting the needs of others. Without a doubt, she has enhanced the academic, spiritual, and social quality of life for many graduate students...."

In addition to her strong commitment to her students, Jackson-Weaver remains dedicated to teaching and her own scholarly interests. Her current research explores women's leadership roles in sacred contexts and gender dynamics within the civil rights movement. During her tenure at Princeton, she has taught the seminar "Women's Leadership in Modern America" and this spring she will be teaching a new course, "The African American Prophetic Tradition." Recently, Jackson-Weaver was selected to be the Series Editor of the Oxford University and American Academy of Religion "Teaching Religious Studies" series.

Prior to assuming her role at Princeton, Jackson-Weaver served as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Amistad Commission. Jackson-Weaver

has been a Fellow at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, and a Visiting Scholar at the King Center Library and Archives in Atlanta, Georgia. She has taught at Columbia University and served on the faculty at the Institute of Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Jackson-Weaver is married to John Weaver Jr. '92 and the proud mother of Adia Grace and John III. A member of the Princeton class of 1994, she earned a master's degree at Harvard University and her Ph.D. at Columbia University.



Lifetime Service Award recipients receive a commemorative plaque (above) and an engraved wristwatch.

This year, hundreds of New Jersey students helped to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by submitting original writings, artwork and videos. August 28, 2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, which was delivered before the Lincoln Memorial as the keynote address of the 1963 March on Washington. Based on Dr. King's concern for humanity in general and the plight of our most vulnerable members of society in particular, we asked students to consider the question: how can we overcome assumptions about identity and foster inclusion?

VISUAL ARTS CONTEST

Grades 4–6

First Prize	Brent Ferenczy, grade 6, Readington Middle School, Whitehouse Station
Second Prize	Preetham Prince, grade 5, Montgomery Lower Middle School, Montgomery

LITERARY AND VIDEO CONTEST

Grades 7–8

First Prize	Eloise Yang, grade 7, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Second Prize	Evan Monfre, grade 7, St. Paul School, Princeton
Third Prize	Denay Smith, grade 7, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Honorable Mention	Julia E. Berdzik, grade 7, St. Paul School, Princeton
	Meg Gordon, grade 7, St. Paul School, Princeton

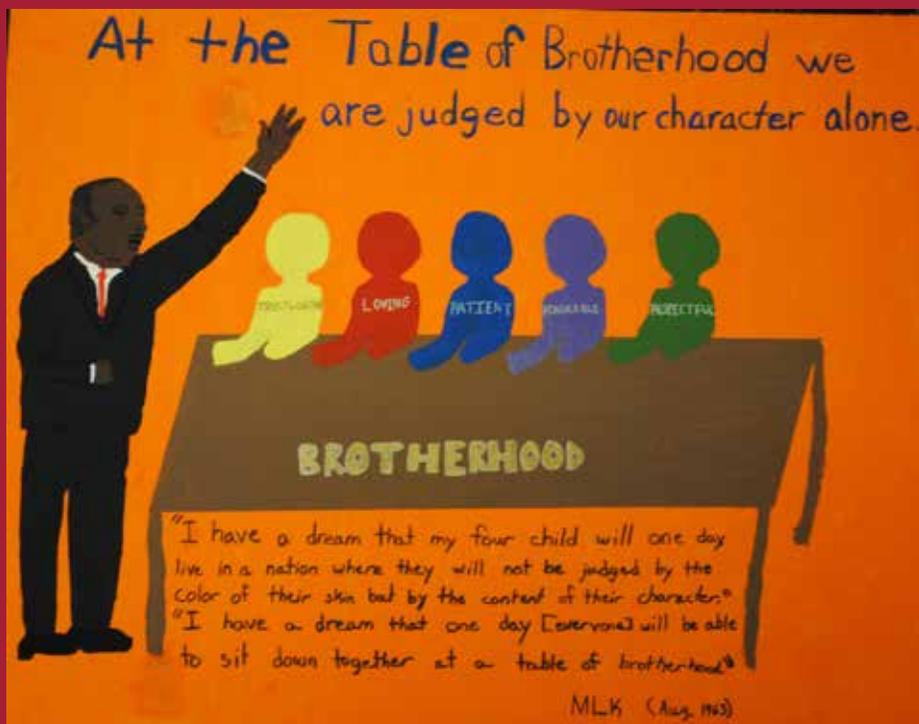
Grades 9–10

First Prize	Lisette Vasquez, grade 10, Princeton High School, Princeton
First Prize	Hayley Siegel, grade 9, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Third Prize	Iman Khan, grade 10, Moorestown High School, Moorestown
Honorable Mention	Ana Patricia Esqueda, grade 10, Trenton Central High School, Trenton
	Vanessa Conde, grade 10, Lawrence High School, Lawrence

Grades 11–12

First Prize	Lu Chen, grade 12, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Second Prize	Sara McArthur, grade 12, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Third Prize	Paul-Anne Robb, grade 12, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton
Honorable Mention	Brianna S. Barrett, grade 11, Kent Place School, Summit

First Prize Winner



Brent Ferenczy

grade 6
Readington Middle School
Whitehouse Station

Second Prize Winner

Preetham Prince

grade 5
Montgomery Lower Middle School
Montgomery



A sampling of literary and video excerpts follows:

Grades 7-8

ELOISE YANG

grade 7, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton

First Prize

I have so many traits that could win me a date
 Yet look where I am, sad and afraid
 To be repudiated in another way, Dr. King would say
 Treat her in a different manner, her appearance does
 not outshine her character
 Her mobility does not measure her capability
 Show her civility, treat her fairly
 She is a normal person
 Disabled
 Mislabeled

EVAN MONFRE

grade 7, St. Paul School, Princeton

Second Prize

Another way to combat this important issue is to teach about it in school. Health or other classes should have lessons about what each disability actually is and what each does, hopefully giving children a better understanding of them, which would lead to more tolerance. If we try to get the youth of America involved like Dr. King did, the fight against discrimination towards people with special needs would dwindle....The youth of today will play a major role tomorrow because if we plant the seed of tolerance in their heads right now, it will sprout into a large tree of knowledge and tolerance towards this matter, and all other matters. If everyone accepts others, our world would be one peaceful place, just as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted.

DENAY SMITH

grade 7, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton

Third Prize

In today's day and time we have to learn how to overcome assumptions and stereotypes, because in the long run it's going to hurt this country in many ways. It's going to keep us from progressing forward, and from having a community. A community where everybody knows each other's names, and nobody makes assumptions before actually sitting down, and getting to know the person first....So before you assume make sure you use your sense of empathy, and think about how you would feel if someone you didn't even know judged you, and didn't give you a fair chance to show the real you. Not the person on the outside, but the person on the inside that's the one who really matters.

JULIA E. BERDZIK

grade 7, St. Paul School, Princeton

Honorable Mention

People cannot help making assumptions about a person because we are not perfect and we have our own insecurities. An assumption is a way of judging someone in your mind. It is a personal belief so sometimes it is difficult for others to change how another person perceives another person. It is difficult to change someone's assumptions because most of the time the assumptions are not accurate. Some assumptions that people hold of those with disabilities are that they are weird, not smart, incapable of learning, unfriendly, mean and do not want to have fun. We can help overcome these stereotypes through education. People need to understand that disabled people are extremely capable and a person's disability does not define them....People should be more open minded to befriending and including individuals who are disabled. Individuals can learn a lot from people that are different than they are. Many times, individuals learn more about themselves by developing relationships with other people who they normally would not have befriended.

MEG GORDON

grade 7, St. Paul School, Princeton

Honorable Mention

After 9/11 occurred, it was just a natural reaction for us to become afraid and hate all Muslims. We were afraid and thought all Muslims were terrorists. This ignorance made us just like the terrorists. It was easy for us to think this because of the horrible and traumatizing attack we suffered. The unique quote of Martin Luther King tells us that by being separated we cannot become educated about another culture or race....Using schools and children may help in bringing families together. When we get to know each other we find that we have many similar interests. When we get to know other people, our fears of different people goes away. When people look different from us it does not mean that they are less important than we are. The only way the world can live peacefully is to learn that most people have the same values. It is not what color our skin is or what language we speak, but that we are really all the same inside. And, that is what really binds us together.

Grades 9–10

LISETTE VASQUEZ

grade 10, Princeton High School, Princeton

First Prize

I never truly knew how much damage a few words could make. How everything we say can truly have a significant impact on others....To apply Martin Luther King's speech to my everyday life, I have to explain what my life has been like. America is seen as the land of hope and opportunities. However, that land is a fantasy for America has been no blessing for me and my family. We have been discriminated, deceived, and deprived of our rights as human beings. My family and I thirst for the rivers of freedom and oceans of justice. Our thirst might not be satisfied but I hope for a better world for future generations to come.

HAYLEY SIEGEL

grade 9, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton

First Prize

Although we have made great strides against racism, racial prejudice has not been obliterated, just more difficult to pinpoint. In an age where communication has to be reduced to sound bites and the ubiquitous use of visual media has made us ever more sensitive to visual cues, race, not basic character, is still the most basic denominator. Aided and abetted by popular media, we still feed into the misconceptions of racial stereotypes. We associate race with traits that we base our identity on instead of our intrinsic character. We can all agree that race is a cultural construct that has relatively little bearing on who we are or limitation on our potential in life. Yet, if race is something that we impose upon ourselves, why then are we so afraid to speak of it?

IMAN KHAN

grade 10, Moorestown High School, Moorestown

Third Prize

Why does acceptance seem so difficult? Is it them, or is it me? Or maybe it's both
 God made me the way I am, but why am I trying to change?...No I won't blend in, no I won't mold at all
 I will retell the story; I will spice up my life with these flavors indeed
 Will proudly pass it on to generations in need
 Because I will be me and me is what they'll see
 I will have to somehow find a way, a way to prevail
 To make my parents proud of me and not be derailed

ANA PATRICIA ESQUEDA

grade 10, Trenton Central High School, Trenton

Honorable Mention

Why is it that after so many years, and so much progress, African Americans still do not achieve as much as Caucasians do? It's because in the eyes of many people, African Americans still have the characteristics or traits of not being as sufficient, well-educated and determined enough to be treated as equally as Caucasians are. The way many people see African Americans, affects the way they see themselves. If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, that fish will go through his entire life believing that he is not good enough. He won't try his hardest because he doesn't have anyone's support.... Do we want a nation in which everyone is truly treated equally and is equally encouraged, or do we want a nation in which we put people down based on their race and our own personal beliefs?

VANESSA CONDE

grade 10, Lawrence High School, Lawrence

Honorable Mention

Let's celebrate ourselves and each other
 I am here to welcome anyone
 Despite one's sexual orientation, ideology, or color
 Point is we are humans and we are all someone

We shouldn't discriminate,
 It's hard enough putting ourselves out there.
 People shouldn't intimidate,
 This world is for us to share.

Grades 11-12

LU CHEN

grade 12, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton

First Prize

Focus.

Focus on me. I'm an individual. Apart from the Asian Race. Me.

A part.

Being Asian is a fragment of me. I'm a daughter, sister, friend, too. Pause.

Nothing in all the world is more hurtful than your judgment. Don't make fun of my name. Stop.

Breaking.

My self-esteem is shrinking. You may be joking, but I'm decimating. Pause.

Instead of assuming facts about me based on me being Chinese, don't assume anything.

As the saying goes, "Better safe than sorry". Better to ask me than assume. Go.

Ask me.

About my Chinese culture. About my interests, hobbies, classes, aspirations.

Inquire.

SARA MCARTHUR

grade 12, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton

Second Prize

With his pants halfway to his knees, he spoke slang English so thick.

Who really was this boy and were the assumptions something I should see?

He should not be judged by the way he speaks but by the words he leaks.

He should not be judged by the clothes he wears but by his values and cares.

He is not like the cover of his book.

He is not worthy of such judgmental views.

He is different and unique and always deserves one's second look.

She is One, He is One, We are One – together.

PAUL-ANNE ROBB

grade 12, Stuart Country Day School, Princeton

Third Prize

A black person walking on the streets at night, they clutch their purses and hold their children. And then I ask, is it because I'm black?

I get a response as if I offended the person that offended me. Now they're the victims. The victim of being called out on their ways. Their judgment.

Fade to black.

Now back to white. Two colors, opposite each other. Opposite, that's all they see, just the opposite. They point out the differences instead of the similarities. Why is that?

The urge to create one inferior and one superior instead of being just one. Just one race, no separation, no judgment. The dream Martin Luther King Jr. had, is it coming true? Two colors as one, working together to create something beautiful. Something beautiful, something that will set the world ablaze. Imagine that.

Imagine the world with no judgment.

BRIANNA S. BARRETT

grade 11, Kent Place School, Summit

Honorable Mention

Personally affected by sizeism, I am compelled to spread awareness of its horrors and how it is as serious and damaging as other stereotypes such as racism or sexism. As I reflect on the incident that occurred a little over a year ago, I am able to see the verbal attacker as an uneducated citizen rather than a bully. Little did that man know, I was not fat. I was not an organic compound formed from unused energy. I had fat, just like him, but I was much more than that. I was a writer, a leader, an athlete, a sister, a friend, and so many other things. Like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I had spent many years enduring comments from others who discriminated against me because of my physical appearance. But like Dr. King, I will never allow words to destroy me or what I stand for.

The MLK Day contests are open to all New Jersey students in grades 4 through 12. Students may submit entries as individuals, or through their schools or community organizations. Please be sure to check www.princeton.edu/mlk periodically for updates and information on next year's celebration.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Conveners

Shirley M. Tilghman, President
Michele Minter, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity
Lianne Sullivan-Crowley, Vice President for Human Resources

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Student Contest Judges and Staff

Trevor Dawes, Princeton University Library
Joseph DeLucia, Office of Information Technology
Felicia Edwards, Office of the Provost
Kim Jackson, Office of Transportation and Parking Services
Brandi Jones, School of Engineering
Cheri Lawson, Office of the Provost
Jacqueline Leighton, Davis International Center
Andrea Moten, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
Cynthia Murphy, Office of the Provost
Romy Riddick, Office of Human Resources
Lauren Ugorji, Office of Communications
Shana Weber, Office of Sustainability
Torey Wilson, Program in Teacher Preparation
Marguerite Vera, Alumni Council

Special thanks to our event volunteers and for significant contributions from:

Broadcast Center, Center for African American Studies, Office of Communications, Office of Community and Regional Affairs, Office of the President, Office of Print and Mail Services, Office of Public Affairs, Princetonians of Color Network, Richardson Auditorium and University Services, and ASL Interpreters Don Rubel and Stephen Toth.

www.princeton.edu/mlk

Program by Zia Best.

Photo Credits: Photo of the Chapel from Princeton University Archives, photo of Anne Cheng by Gregory Blatman, SF, photo of Karen Jackson-Weaver by Denise Applewhite and photo of Arts High School Gospel Choir provided by the choir.

