Princeton University’s annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.
January 16, 2006
Program: 1 to 3 p.m.
Richardson Auditorium on campus
The Rev. Dr. Charles G. Adams, a renowned pastor, activist and leader in faith-based economic development, has been cited by Ebony Magazine as one of America’s 15 greatest black preachers and among Ebony’s top 100 influential black Americans. He has spoken around the world, including at the recent memorial service for Rosa Parks, the civil rights legend; before the United Nations on South African apartheid; and before the World Council of Churches on the rioting in Los Angeles following the verdict in the Rodney King case.

Before joining Hartford Memorial in 1969, Adams served as pastor of historic Concord Baptist Church in Boston, which has New England’s largest African-American congregation. He currently teaches at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary and has taught theological courses elsewhere including Boston University, Andover Newton School of Theology, Central Baptist Seminary and Iliff School of Theology.

Adams attended Fisk University, where he was president of the sophomore class and vice president of the student council. He graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and Harvard University. He went on to become a doctoral fellow at Union Theological Seminary. He has been awarded numerous honorary doctorates including those from Dillard University, Kalamazoo College, Marygrove College, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Morehouse College and Morris College.

A prolific writer, Adams has published in scholarly journals, and daily and weekly newspapers. Adams serves as a trustee of Morehouse College and Morris College. He is a board member of First Independence National Bank of Detroit and a member of Phi Mu Alpha and Omega Psi Phi. He has served as president of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, the largest branch in the country. Adams is married to Agnes Hadley Adams and is the father of Tara Adams Washington, M.D., a staff physician at Harper Hospital in Detroit, and the Rev. Charles Christian Adams, assistant to the pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church.

Marvalene Hughes
President, Dillard University

Marvalene Hughes was appointed Dillard’s ninth president on July 1, 2005 —two months before the historically black institution was devastated by flooding and fires as a result of Hurricane Katrina. She has led her team courageously through unfathomable conditions to resume classes earlier this month, utilizing a downtown hotel and various campuses around New Orleans. In September, Princeton and Brown universities formed a partnership to help Dillard restore operations, designating personnel to assist in vital areas such as physical planning, facilities, libraries, academic offerings, campus life, human resources, computing and development. Hughes is being honored for her leadership, spirit and tenacity in her journey to save and restore one of this nation’s treasured institutions of higher learning.

Prior to joining Dillard, Hughes was president of California State University’s Stanislaus campus for 11 years. She also has served as vice president for student affairs/vice provost and professor of educational psychology at the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities campus, and system-wide administrator for all four University of Minnesota campuses. Hughes was vice president and professor at the University of Toledo, associate vice president for student affairs at Arizona State and a senior-level administrator at San Diego State University. Her educational background includes earning a Ph.D. in counseling and administration from Florida State University, and bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Tuskegee University.

Hughes has published and conducted research in the areas of education, managing organizations, human behavior and diversity. She has made hundreds of presentations globally, including throughout the United States, Austria, South Africa, Russia, Lithuania, China, Bermuda, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia.
We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.  
Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968)

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Princeton University Jazztet, featuring:
Wilson “Willie Tee” Turbinton, Piano
Audrey Betsy Wright, Sax
Dean Reynolds ’07, Bass
Chuck Staab ’07, Drums

GREETING
Deborah K. Blanks
Associate Dean, Office of Religious Life

REMARKS
Shirley M. Tilghman
President

ADDRESS
Marvalene Hughes
President, Dillard University

JOURNEY AWARD PRESENTATION
Shirley M. Tilghman

STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION
Lauren D. Robinson-Brown
Director of Communications

ADDRESS
Charles G. Adams
Senior Pastor, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit

CLOSING
Deborah K. Blanks

MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Princeton University Jazztet

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at Princeton twice at the invitation of Dean of the Chapel Ernest Gordon, once in 1960 and once in 1962. He attends a dinner on campus in the photo above.
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 be still 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 for America. 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 Committee are pleased to honor Professor Albert J. Raboteau, this year’s award recipient, and are grateful for his continued efforts.

Journey Awards

2006
Albert J. Raboteau, for Lifetime Service

2005
Robert K. Durkee, for Lifetime Service
Dylan H. Tatz, for Special Achievement

The Journey Award includes a commemorative plaque (above) and, for the Lifetime Service award, an engraved wristwatch (opposite page) that features concepts including: love, truth, risk, vision, dedication, strength, dignity, hope, justice, faith, courage and community.
Many Princeton professors have achieved international acclaim and interviewers often ask them to whom they look for wisdom and advice. There has been one resounding answer at the intersection of religion and African-American studies, Albert J. Raboteau. “He is the godfather of us all,” Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion Cornel West remarked, in support of this recognition.

Born in Mississippi in 1943, Raboteau was both a witness to and victim of the devastation and chaos that is racism. Three months before he was born, his father was murdered by a white man who was never held accountable for the crime. His mother, who had been a teacher, escaped the South and gave up her career to improve life for her children. Raboteau found order in his life through education and the church, which he was exposed to by his stepfather, who was one of the early black priests in the Roman Catholic Church. His stepfather left the church due to perceived racism and became a teacher of classics. In fact, he taught Raboteau Greek and Latin from the time he was age 5, eventually helping him enter college at age 16.

In church, Raboteau developed a “religious grammar” that shaped his life and the lives of the many he has influenced. Now Orthodox Christian, Raboteau helped found the Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church, which is attended by several Princeton students and other community members. His calm, good nature and ability to link seemingly disparate works to provide insight on the intensity of life has left enduring marks on his students. “Professor Raboteau has been so central to my development as a scholar and as a human being,” noted Eddie Glaude, associate professor of religion and acting director of African-American studies.

As noted in his nomination, Raboteau, like King, has an “unflinching moral vision” and has used both direct and indirect, nonviolent means to confront injustice. He has been the catalyst for and served on numerous efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of underrepresented populations at the University and was one of the founders of the MLK Day annual program.

Brief Biography:
Raboteau, one of the nation’s foremost authorities on African-American religious history, is the Henry W. Putnam Professor of Religion. He came to Princeton as a visiting professor in 1982 and joined the faculty a year later. He chaired the Department of Religion from 1987 to 1992 and served as dean of the Graduate School in 1992–93.

Raboteau is the author of several books, most notably “Slave Religion: The ‘Invisible Institution’ in the Antebellum South,” which has become a classic in its field.

Raboteau also has written an autobiography, “A Sorrowful Joy,” in which he describes the death of his father in a racial incident as well as his own encounters with prejudice.

Albert J. Raboteau
Journey Award for Lifetime Service
**POSTER CONTEST**

**Grades 4–6**

- **First Prize**
  Chanjuan Ma, grade 6, Chatham Middle School, Chatham

- **Second Prize**
  Nicole Keim, grade 6, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Third Prize**
  Gavin Springer, grade 6, Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Honorable Mention**
  Harrison Dunne-Polite, grade 4, Princeton Charter School, Princeton
  Brooke Ferenczy, grade 6, Readington Middle School, Whitehouse Station
  Hanna Hauschild, grade 5, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Jennifer Liu, grade 6, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Zara Mayat, grade 5, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Julia Rew, grade 6, John Witherspoon Middle School, Princeton
  Rahul Wadhwa, grade 4, Yardville Elementary School, Hamilton

**ESSAY CONTEST**

**Grades 7–8**

- **First Prize**
  Donald Nuzzio, grade 8, Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Second Prize**
  Mackenzie Wislar, grade 8, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Third Prize**
  Justin Miles Herron, grade 8, Glenfield Middle School, Montclair

- **Honorable Mention**
  Sophia Ginez, grade 8, Crossroads South Middle School, Monmouth Junction
  Erica Humphrey, grade 8, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor
  Bethan Johnson, grade 7, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Rachel Levitt, grade 7, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor
  Kirtana Rajendran, grade 8, Community Middle School, Plainsboro
  Zora Schiltz-Rouse, grade 8, John Witherspoon Middle School, Princeton
  Eric Trast, grade 7, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor

**Grades 9–10**

- **First Prize**
  Christina Cuneo, grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Second Prize**
  Elizabeth Henderson, grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Third Prize**
  Sarah Rich, grade 10, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Honorable Mention**
  Courtney Alexander, grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Abigail Borah, grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Rakhee Lalla, grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Prerna Sinha, grade 10, Montgomery High School, Skillman

**Grades 11–12**

- **First Prize**
  Christian Ginez, grade 11, South Brunswick High School, South Brunswick

- **Second Prize**
  Mary Kate Dahlberg, grade 12, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Third Prize**
  Kamara Edwards, grade 11, Cherry Hill High School West, Cherry Hill
  Rebekah Martin, grade 12, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Nina Szemsis, grade 12, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Kelly Watkins, grade 11, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Hannah Wilson, grade 11, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

**VIDEO CONTEST**

**Grades 7–12**

- **First Prize**
  Izzy and Alex Kasdin, grade 8, John Witherspoon Middle School, Princeton

- **Second Prize**
  Allys Dittmar, grade 8, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton

- **Third Prize**
  Steven Jack, grade 8, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor
  Sarah Caswell, grade 8, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Sarah Horton, grade 8, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
  Madeline Smite, grade 8, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
First Prize Winner

Chanjuan Ma

grade 6, Chatham Middle School, Chatham
Second Prize Winner

Nicole Keim

grade 6,
Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart,
Princeton

Third Prize Winner

Gavin Springer

grade 6,
Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart,
Princeton
Grades 7–8

DONALD NUZZIO,
grade 8, Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
First Prize

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

When we are passionate about our beliefs we must express our opinions. However, results may not always happen immediately... The struggles, perseverance and the power of the vote of many people did produce equal rights for African Americans.

MACKENZIE WISLAR,
grade 8, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Second Prize

If voting did not exist in our lives today we would not be a democratic nation, creating all types of injustices in our society.... If you vote you will be contributing your opinion to our country, and most importantly you will be setting an example for your peers and the voters to come.

JUSTIN MILES HERRON,
grade 8, Glenfield Middle School, Montclair
Third Prize

Dr. King believed that the power of the ballot entitled citizens to sculpt the world into a just society, for all people. [He] insisted that without the right to vote a person could not live up to their full potential. [He] was the leader of a new frontier. This new frontier led people into a land of equality, which has helped develop the standards we live by today.... All Americans must vote, but the government must insure that protections remain in place to protect voters’ rights.

ZORA SCHILTZ-ROUSE,
grade 8, John Witherspoon Middle School, Princeton
Honorable Mention

So maybe my one vote would not make much of a difference. But being able to vote, I am a drop in a river that has the power to change the landscape and the course of history.

ERIC TRAST,
grade 7, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor
Honorable Mention

What if you are underage and can’t vote? That doesn’t mean that you can’t make a difference. Persuade people into voting.

SOPHIA GINEZ,
grade 8, Crossroads South Middle School, Monmouth Junction
Honorable Mention

When we deny ourselves the “sacred right” to vote, we are betraying ourselves and our country. We are betraying the heritage created for us by wise founding fathers like James Madison, preserved for us by strong leaders like Abraham Lincoln, and then perfected for us by brave men like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Grades 9–10

CHRISTINA CUNEO,
grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
First Prize

“I’m not going” you announce
To nobody in particular
Defiantly
Positive
You won’t be going there
You won’t be voting
Your opinion will go unnoticed...

ELIZABETH HENDERSON,
grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Second Prize

Their voices will be heard
Not through a megaphone
Or a song
Or a law
But through the vote
The one tool by which everyone is the same.

A dark hopeless destiny awaits
If we forget those dreams
Content to feel good
And do nothing
And love no one

But there still exist
Those who would fight
For the right to vote
And the right to be free
The right to challenge, to criticize, to change
The right to be different
And the right to be heard.

SARAH RICH,
grade 10, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Third Prize

Many Americans fail to recognize the importance of the vote because they do not always understand the magnitude of the power that it gives them and the great changes that it can create. Today, everyone’s vote is considered to be of equal worth, though it is often forgotten that this was not always so.

ABIGAIL BORAH,
grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Honorable Mention

Martin Luther King Jr. That’s what you can call me...
You think I’ll live
In a country whose laws stifle me?
Think I’ll let you
Smother my dream?
You’re wrong,
I want a say.
I want to elect
My representatives.
I seek the vote
I labor for justice
I work for freedom.

RAKHEE LALLA,
grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Honorable Mention

My parents longed for the right to vote. They felt as though they didn’t matter in the country, so it didn’t matter to them who the leader elected was, because they didn’t have a say in the decision, unlike many other people. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “I cannot make up my mind—it is made up for me.” This is how my parents had felt before they became citizens.

COURTNEY ALEXANDER,
grade 9, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Honorable Mention

The vote is what distinguishes a free society from an oppressive one, a democracy from a dictatorship.... The power of the vote can be boundless, but it is only as powerful as we, the citizens of America, are willing to make it.

PRERNA SINHA,
grade 10, Montgomery High School, Skillman
Honorable Mention

It is exceedingly imperative that the arising generations recognize not only the importance of the vote, but also the struggle great Americans have experienced in order for all of us to receive this privilege.... The one way we can show our respect for the amazing individuals who spent the entirety of their lives fighting for a cause, is working with their achievements and using them to move our world in the direction of complete equality.

Grades 11–12

CHRISTIAN GINEZ,
grade 12, South Brunswick High School, South Brunswick
First Prize

“That a man be willing, when others are so too, as far forth as for peace and defense of himself he shall think it necessary, to lay down this right to all things; and be contented with so much liberty against other men, as he would allow other men against himself.” These words, penned by the famous English philosopher Thomas Hobbes, elucidate the fundamental principle of consent of the governed. While the American system of government is more complex and far-reaching than Hobbes could have envisioned, his idea of the consent of the governed constitutes the basis for our democratic form of government.

The modern electoral system has evolved to include the introduction of the secret ballot, the direct election of United States senators, and the extension of suffrage to all citizens, but the vote still remains the fundamental method by which the governed express their consent. Throughout history, therefore, the denial of suffrage has been an effective means of enslavement and oppression. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. expressed this very idea when he said, “So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote I do not possess myself.” Consequently, it should be cause for great concern that voter turnout continues to decline in America, because this means our citizens are forfeiting their most fundamental political right of self-determination.

MARY KATE DAHLBERG,
grade 12, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Princeton
Second Prize

Dr. King sought equality in a time of political turmoil.... If Dr. King had been satisfied with just empowering people through his words and never once took action then he never would have accomplished his mission.... Words, a message, no matter how true or just or necessary, are still just words.... So when the time comes to voice your opinion, do so, but remember the cost of your right to speak freely is your choice to vote. It isn’t a right to vote, it’s a duty to yourself and your country to vote and to back up the words that encapsulate your ideas with firm action.

KAMARA EDWARDS,
grade 11, Cherry Hill High School West, Cherry Hill
Third Prize

Dr. King’s message, his dream, was one of inclusion and participation for all people. Dr. King, and the thousands of people who sacrificed in the early civil rights struggle, made those sacrifices for me, a young person of 16 years old, and other young people. The legacy of Dr. King is empowerment. A non-violent struggle can only be won, in a democracy, through the power of the people. This power lies in the right to vote.
[King] also knew that along with power, comes responsibility. King taught that anyone with the right to vote has the civic responsibility to take advantage of that powerful and sacred right.

Despite the heroic efforts towards assuring voting rights for all, many citizens today display an alarming apathy towards the governance of their country... Society must become more proactive and aggressive in affirming the importance of voting, and appeal to people of all ages and races to register and participate.

Dr. King deserves to be commemorated with more than just a day off, or replaying of his speech. To truly honor him, we need to continue what he believed in.... In our democratic society, voting is one of the fundamental acts that grant us equality. In choosing to not vote, we erase 100 years of radical liberation. In not voting, we surrender to a dictation of laws and decisions in which we have no opinion.

If no one stands up for what they believe, how can they achieve anything? The answer is that they can’t. Giving up before even reaching the polls is a type of disappointment I hope to never inflict on myself.... When the time comes for me to stand up for my rights and represent the opinions of which I am supportive, I hope to be ready.... Voting takes maybe 10 minutes of my time, but the effect is ever lasting.

The MLK Day student contests are open to all 4th to 12th graders in New Jersey. Students may submit entries as individuals or through their schools or community organizations. Information on next year’s contests will be posted at www.princeton.edu/mlk, so please check the site periodically for updates. Generally, contest submissions are due in November, before Thanksgiving.

Journey through Alabama in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his contemporaries and celebrate the achievements and understand the struggles of the Civil Rights era while standing where history was made.

Join Professors Albert Raboteau and Valerie Smith on the Princeton Journeys program, The Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, October 30–November 4, 2006, and investigate the impact of these and other pivotal events of the Civil Rights Movement through music, film, discussions and visits to important sites in Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery. The journey, unique to Princeton, is open to all alumni and friends of the University.

For more information on this program, contact Princeton Journeys at (609) 258-8686 or journeys@princeton.edu.

The Alumni Association of Princeton University
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**Student Contest Judges**

Camilo A. Azcarate, Ombuds Officer  
Thomas J. Bartus, Assistant to the Director of Communications  
Deborah K. Blanks, Associate Dean, Office of the Dean of Religious Life  
Laurel Masten Cantor, Director of Publications, Office of Communications  
Felicia Edwards, Assistant to the Vice Provosts  
Pamela J. Hersh, Director of Community and State Affairs  
Donna M. Liu, Consultant, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs  
F. Joy Montero, Associate Dean, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School  
Julia Seymore, Assistant Manager, Voice Messaging System, OIT Telecommunications Services  
Lytisha M. Williams, Associate Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations  
Rie Yamauchi, Director of Marketing and Communications, University Services  
Carol A. Zanca, Department Manager, Anthropology

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Committee**

and Journey Award Judges

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