Dear Faculty and Staff Colleagues,

The URI Multicultural Center and the URI Dr. Martin Luther King Week Planning Committee are pleased to announce the 29th Annual Celebration of URI Dr. Martin Luther King Week, Saturday, January 31-Friday, February 6, 2015.

In keeping with the theme, “Dismantling Segregation: Race, Poverty, and Privilege”, URI Dr. Martin Luther King Week presents 16 events, headlined by the popular Unity Luncheon. The Unity Luncheon will feature Katrina Browne, founder of the Tracing Center for Histories and Legacies of Slavery, Watertown, MA, and producer/director of Traces of the Trade, a documentary film about her family’s wealth and privilege built upon the African slave trade. In addition, a student, student organization, faculty or staff member of the URI academic community will receive the 11th Annual URI Peacemaker Award.

Other events of the Week include a day of service and outreach to middle school students, workshops on meditation, “deep listening”, leadership, and nonviolence; lecture/discussions on spirituality, African history, race and policing, Chinese spirituality, and Islamic nonviolence; and screening of documentaries on the life and legacy of Dr. King, an interfaith celebration, and an interfaith food sharing.

URI faculty are requested to incorporate relevant events into their course syllabi and to consider offering academic incentives to students for their participation. Participants are encouraged to preregister for the event that they are interested in attending by visiting MLK Week Registration

For further information, please see the attached schedule or visit www.URI.edu/mcc

With appreciation,

Melvin Wade
Director, URI Multicultural Center
29th Annual Celebration of URI Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Week
Dismantling Segregation: Race, Poverty, and Privilege
Saturday, January 31-Friday, February 6, 2015

For more information go to www.uri.edu/mcc

The University of Rhode Island Multicultural Center, Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, URI Chaplains Association, URI Fraternities and Sororities, Africana Studies Program, Office of Community, Equity and Diversity, Cross-Currents, Feinstein Center for Service Learning, Center for Student Leadership Development, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Multicultural Unity and Student Involvement Council (MUSIC), Sankofa Christian Ministry, School of Education, Departments of History, Theatre, and Psychology, Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, and Hillel, along with the Tracing Center for the Histories and Legacies of Slavery, Falun Dafa Association of Rhode Island, Paul Cuffee School, The Met School, Highlander Charter School, and the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program will join forces to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Since 1986, the university community has observed the anniversary of the national MLK holiday through lectures, discussions, meditations, videos, workshops, music and dance performances, art exhibits, and other activities. The objectives of Dr. Martin Luther King Week are (a) to remember the life and legacy of Dr. King; (b) to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of the global civil and human rights movements to contemporary concepts of democracy and citizenship; and c) to act with an understanding of the relevance and importance of nonviolence, community service learning, and civic engagement for today’s society. URI Faculty members are requested to involve their classes by integrating these enriching events into their courses and assignments. While the official holiday is commemorated on the third Monday of January, the URI celebration customarily takes place during the second full week of the University semester to encourage maximum participation. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

2015 Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 31, 2015

Leadership & You: How to Make the Most of Your Inner Dr. King!
Co-Sponsored by the Feinstein Center for Service Learning and the Center for Student Leadership Development
10:00 - 1:00 PM, Roosevelt Hall, Great Room
Facilitated by Sarah Miller, Coordinator, Feinstein Center for Service Learning, and Robert Vincent, Coordinator, Center for Student Leadership Development.
This interactive and discussion based workshop enables students to examine their own personal leadership strengths and values and tap into their inner Dr. King potential. We all have the ability to be amazing leaders in our community and this workshop will help participants reflect on this by focusing on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s leadership through the framework of the Social Change Model of Leadership. Students will ultimately be able to define MLK leadership for themselves and apply new leadership practices to their URI career and beyond.

Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service
Co-sponsored by the School of Education, the URI Fraternities and Sororities, the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, and the Multicultural Unity and Student Involvement Committee (MUSIC)
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101).
Facilitated by Dr. Susan Brand, Professor, Education; Dr. Adam Moore, Assistant Professor, Education; and Dr. Steve Simo, Director, Fraternities and Sororities. Dr. King once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?” The 29th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King federal holiday provides people
of all cultures and identities an opportunity to honor Dr. King’s life through service, and to move us closer toward the vision of the “beloved community.” This Day of Service offers URI students the opportunity to provide volunteer service with classmates and educators to middle-school students from Paul Cuffee School, the Met School, Highlander Charter School, and Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

The schedule of events for the Day of Service is as follows:

**12:00pm**—Welcome, **12:15pm**—Icebreaker, **12:45pm**—Lunch, **1:15pm**—Leadership & You: How to Make the Most of Your Inner Dr. King! **3:00pm**—Wrap up and Transition to game

**Monday, February 2, 2015**

**Gallery Talk, The Great Kings and Queens of Africa**
**Co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Program**
**2:00PM - 3:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)**
Facilitated by Dr. Norman Barber, Adjunct Faculty, Africana Studies Program. Distinguished scholars, such as Cheikh Anta Diop in *The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality* (1989), Ivan Vansertima in *The African Presence in Early Europe* (1989), and Martin Bernal in *Black Athena: The Afro-Asiatic Roots of Classical Civilization, Vols. I-III* (1987, 1991, and 2006) remind the world of the eminent international status attained by men and women of African ancestry prior to the era of slavery. Images and accounts of these leaders were often eradicated from accounts of world progress in order to portray Africa as “the dark continent”, and to justify the practice of slavery of Africans as an economic engine for emerging Western economies. First commissioned by Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., in 1975, the “Great Kings and Queens of Africa” collection is a series of 30 paintings by 23 African Americans, including such award-winning artists as Jonathan Knight, Alexander Bostic, Barbara Higgins-Bond, Paul Collins, John Biggers, Lydia Thompson, Jerry Pinkney, Leo Dillon and Carl Owens. Since it was first introduced, “The Great Kings and Queens of Africa” collection has appeared in such prominent venues as the United Nations, Capitol Hill, the Dr. Martin Luther King Library, and the Kennedy Center. Viewed by more than 43 million people around the country, this collection has advanced cultural awareness and educated the public about luminaries who have contributed greatly to the development of Africa and the world.

**Screening of Documentary Film, *Martín Luther King and the March on Washington* (2013), and Discussion**
**Co-sponsored by the Department of Theatre**
**4:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)**
Facilitated by Bryna Wortman, Associate Professor, Theatre, who attended the 1963 March, this documentary film, directed by Smoking Dog Films, co-produced by Robert Redford and Sundance Productions, and narrated by Denzel Washington, describes the buildup to one of the peak moments of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States by interspersing rarely seen archival footage of influential power elites from diverse races with interviews of the diverse surviving organizers and spokespeople of the March. Embracing the long-held strategy conceived by civil rights elder statesman A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the leaders of the other major civil rights groups – the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the Congress of Racial Equality – saw the opportunity in the March to nationalize the Southern-based consciousness of the Movement. Culminated by Dr. King’s *I Have a Dream* speech before 250,000 people, the March laid the foundation for the passage of the Civil Rights Act (1964).

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

**Screening of Documentary Film, *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* (2008), followed by post-screening dialogue with the Director**
**Co-sponsored by the URI Chaplains Association**
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Swan Auditorium, Swan Hall (decide if time should be until 7pm)**
Directed and produced by Katrina Browne, *Traces of the Trade* tells the story of her ancestors, the DeWolfs of Bristol, Rhode Island, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history, engaging in the trade from 1769 to 1820. Focusing on twenty-first century descendants of the DeWolf family, the film documents the journey of Browne and nine other relatives as they retrace the triangle of the slave trade from Linden Place in Bristol to Ghana where the slaves were purchased, and to Cuba, where the family patriarch James DeWolf owned three sugar and coffee plantations. The family comes face-to-face not only with their own history, but with the hidden history of the North’s
massive complicity in slavery – puncturing the myth that slavery was only a Southern phenomenon. Rhode Island, for example, was the leading slave-trading state in the nation, and slavery was pivotal to the growth of the whole American economy. The film, and the discussion with Ms. Browne, will help connect the dots from the past to the present, shedding light on racial disparities and the trust gap between whites and blacks. What she invites is not a guilt trip, but a shared journey to understand how we got to where we are today – an invitation to see the amazing power of cutting through the layers and getting real with each other in all directions. The documentary poses the question, “What can and should every American do to repair the unacknowledged damage from the nation’s past?” Refreshments will be provided.

The Spirituality of Falun Gong
Co-sponsored by the Falun Dafa Association of Rhode Island
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Dr. Mike He, Assistant Professor, Pathology, Brown University Medical School, Staff Pathologist, Women & Infants Hospital and Brown Medical School, and President, Falun Dafa Association of Rhode Island.
Traditional Chinese culture is rich in spirituality. In ancient times, the Chinese viewed their land and culture as divinely inspired. Over the course of time, the Chinese people have pursued the quest for the connections between the nation, the universe, and the higher beings that transcend the universe through many paths and schools of spirituality, including Daoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, China’s three main religions. Once the Chinese Communist Party established dominance over the mainland, many of the spiritual paths moved underground, banding together under the name “Qigong”, “aligning the qi(chi) life energy for the purpose of developing one’s full human potential.” Qigong is now practiced throughout China and worldwide for recreation, exercise and relaxation, preventive medicine and self-healing, complementary and alternative medicine, meditation and self-cultivation, and training for martial arts.”

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Unity Luncheon with Keynote Address by Katrina Browne, Traces of the Trade
Co-sponsored by the URI Chaplains Association
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Memorial Union, Ballroom
Emceed by Jalessa Bryant, Graduate Assistant, Multicultural Center/Psychology Department, the Unity Luncheon is a communal sharing of food, song, and reflection in celebration of the legacy of ideas espoused by Dr. King, and the application of the legacy at the University of Rhode Island. The URI Chaplains Association will present the 11th Annual Peacemaker Award honoring a student, student organization, or member of the URI academic community whose goals and activities express a commitment to the pursuit of peace and nonviolence. Katrina Browne, Producer and Director of Traces of the Trade, and founder of the Tracing Center on Histories and Legacies of Slavery, will present the keynote speech. The event will be concluded with a selection from the “Civil Rights Songbook”.

Seminar on “Bias, Baggage and Beyond” with Katrina Browne
Co-sponsored by the URI Chaplains Association
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Computer Classroom (005)
Whether you saw the film on Tuesday or not, come for deeper dialogue with each other and with Katrina Browne, Producer and Director, Traces of the Trade. The focus will be on breaking down the word “racism” to get at some important distinctions – so we can all recognize where we fit it. We’ll explore the differences between intentional racism, unconscious racial bias, structural racism, white privilege, racial historical myths, and racialized emotions. The national conversation has intensified given events in Ferguson and around the country, so this is a prime moment to strengthen how we speak and listen with one another. Come with your passions, your questions, your fears!

More than a Dream: The Life and Nonviolence Legacy of Dr. King
Screening of Documentary Film “KING”(2008), with Discussion
Co-sponsored by the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies
5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, Director, Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, this special documentary and discussion session goes beyond the popular “I Have a Dream” speech, and deeper into King as a man, a father, a philosopher, a strategic activist, and movement leader. This documentary brings to life the epic and often unknown story of one of the most important nonviolent figures in American history. This program remembers
and celebrates the life and the important nonviolence legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Viewers of KING will re-live his remarkable journey for civil rights; from the moment he reluctantly joined the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, through his rise as a world figure, to his tragic assassination in Memphis in 1968 at age 39.

**Deep Listening - the Path to the Beloved Community**
Co-sponsored by the URI Chaplains’ Association
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Joanne Friday, Associate Chaplain, the URI Chaplains’ Association and Amy M Olson, Executive Director, Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, Martin Luther King’s vision of a "beloved community" was the realization of a completely integrated society, a community of love and justice wherein brotherhood would be an actuality in all of social life. "Deep Listening" is a practice where we let go of our inner clamoring and our usual assumptions and listen with respect in order to understand another person. As we grapple with issues of racism in our society, particularly in light of the recent incidents in Ferguson and Staten Island, this workshop will offer an opportunity to experience how deep listening can lead to reconciliation and empathy and bring us closer to King's vision of the Beloved Community.

**Interfaith Celebration**
Co-sponsored by the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Sankofa Christian Ministry, and the URI Chaplains Association
8:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Adam Croft, Staff Worker, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, and Matthew Quainoo, Convener, Sankofa Christian Ministry, this celebration features students and other members of the campus from diverse religious communities who come together to share readings, stories, songs, and dances from their respective sacred traditions that embody peace and honor the life and work of Dr. King.

**Thursday, February 5, 2015**

**Discussion, “Exploring the Confluence of Multiculturalism and Spirituality”**
Co-sponsored by Cross-Currents
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Melvin Wade, Director, Multicultural Center, this discussion presents the case for spirituality and multiculturalism as convergent methodologies for transforming the inner and outer worlds, each with its distinctive model of humanity and the world, both grounded in a consciousness sensitive to the economic, political, and psychic dimensions of organizational culture. Through a series of discussions, Cross-Currents seeks to engage people across socially constructed lines for the purpose of the integration of spiritual and academic dimensions of life. Cross-Currents is a global network of people of faith and critical consciousness who are committed to connecting the wisdom of the heart and the life of the mind.

**Discussion, “Nonviolence Principles in the Islamic Tradition”**
Co-sponsored by the Muslim Community Center of Kingston and the URI Muslim Student Association
5:00-6:15 PM, Multicultural Center, Computer Classroom (005)
Facilitated by Qutaiba Albloui, Muslim Chaplain, A close examination of Islamic religion and tradition reveals many resources that can be applied to identify values, beliefs, and strategies for the nonviolent resolution of conflicts. Awareness of the Qur’an, the Prophetic tradition, and the early Islamic period is crucial to understanding the historic relevance of nonviolence to Islam. This presentation applies an Islamic perspective on mercy (rahma), justice (adl) and beneficence (ihsan) for the purpose of establishing core principles of nonviolence, and undermining the negative characterizations of attitudes toward violence religious communities often hold of each other.

**Discussion, “Desegregation and the Black Radical Agenda”**
Co-sponsored by the URI NAACP
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Marco A. McWilliams, Adult Education Instructor, Amos House and YouthBuild, and Founder, Providence Africana Reading Collective. At the nation’s founding, Africans, both enslaved and free, wrestled with the decision to fight for inclusion within the white, patriarchal nation on one hand, or to test their luck at freedom elsewhere. This discussion will explore ways in which people of African descent living in the U.S., and segregated socially, economically, educationally, and politically, critically theorized an agenda for freedom.
Compassion Meditation Workshop
Co-sponsored by the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum (101)
Facilitated by Thupten Tendar, Buddhist Monk, Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, and Instructor, HPR 307, this workshop will explore the basis, rationale, common situations, and health benefits for practicing compassion, concluding with seven minutes of guided compassion meditation. Practiced by diverse people around the world for centuries, compassion is the powerful impulse of human beings to free themselves from suffering and to eliminate suffering by others. Research has shown that compassion can maximize positive emotions, reduce fear of the other, enhance self-image, increase empathy, promote neural integration, and increase immunity.

The 4th Annual URI Avi Schaefer Jewish/Muslim/Multicultural Shabbat (Sabbath)
Co-sponsored by Hillel and the URI Chaplains Association with participation from a variety of student groups
3:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, Fraternity Circle
Facilitated by student leaders of Hillel, the Avi Shabbat Program is an annual event to bring together students on campus for a communal meal and a shared experience fostering interfaith understanding and cross-cultural encounters. Jewish students, Muslim students and students of other faiths, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds are invited to prepare a meal together, share their cultural and religious traditions including music and dance, and eat! Avi Schaefer was a student at Brown University who dedicated himself to promoting the values of empathy, mutual respect and active listening. After he was tragically struck and killed by a drunk driver in 2010, his family established a fund to promote the ideals and dreams that inspired Avi throughout his life. Sign up with Hannah Kaplan, hannah.kaplan@my.uri.edu, to have your group participate or to come as an individual. Free for students, $15 for non-students.

3:00-5:00 pm Cooking Together
5:00-6:00 pm Sharing Traditions Together
6:15-7:30 pm Eating Together