

“Where Do We Go From Here:”

University of Michigan
Student Activism

This year the University of Michigan Library is highlighting some of the student activism that furthers the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day**

January 19, 2015



“America, I don’t plan to let you rest until that day comes into being when all God’s children will be respected...America, I don’t plan to allow you to rest until from every city hall in this country, justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream...America, I don’t plan to let you rest until you live it out that “all...are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Which Way Its Soul Shall Go Sermon, 1967

1963

a nation

the

acter.”



“The thing that we need in the world today, is a group of men and women who will stand up for right and be opposed to wrong, wherever it is.”



Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Rediscovering Lost Values:
Sermon in Detroit, MI,” 1954*

Coalition for Tuition Equality



The Coalition for Tuition Equality has worked successfully in reforming University policy to provide in-state tuition rates for undocumented students. During their 29,000 Silent Voices protest at the Board of Regent's meeting, over 200 members came together to convince the Board to change the University's tuition policy for undocumented students.



“We must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderers.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Eulogy for the Martyred Children, 1963

Trans* Awareness Week: Day of Remembrance Vigil



Both the Spectrum Center and Information Across the Spectrum, an LGBTQ student group at the School of Information, have observed the International Transgender Day of Remembrance with ceremonies and other events to honor those who lost their lives to anti-trans violence. The Spectrum Center and Information Across the Spectrum are committed to creating a more inclusive campus community free from all types of discrimination.

U-M National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)



The U-M NAACP partnered with the Black Student Union (BSU) to organize the “Die-In’s” in the Diag and during Winter Commencement in commemoration of Eric Garner and Michael Brown and in solidarity with the social media campaign **#BlackLivesMatter.**



“The great glory of American democracy is the right to protest for right.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Speech in Montgomery,
Alabama, 1955*





The United Coalition for Racial Justice (UCRJ)

The UCRJ hosted “1000 Speak Out” at the UM Shapiro Undergraduate Library to protest low underrepresented minority enrollment and poor climate for students of color at the University of Michigan. Students, faculty, staff, and community members all gathered together to encourage the University community to make a “true commitment” to supporting diversity and improving the campus cultural climate.



“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Strength to Love, 1963



“Desegregation is the necessary step in the right direction if we are to achieve integration.”

-MLK, “The Ethical Demands for Integration,” 1962

In response to practices that compromise Black enrollment and retention at our university, students of the **Black Student Union (BSU)** led peaceful protests against the further minoritization of Black students within the university system. These protests followed a “**Being Black at Michigan**” (#BBUM) social media campaign to broadcast the experience of currently enrolled Black students at our university.

Black Student Union



Photo: The Ann Arbor News



Photo: The Michigan Daily

Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC)

SAPAC strives to end sexual violence and foster safe spaces on campus by hosting events such as its annual *Speak Out* event and *Take Back the Night*. *Speak Out* is a public forum where sexual assault survivors can share their stories in a safe space. More than 100 people within the campus and surrounding communities have gathered in the Diag during *Take Back the Night* to bring awareness to sexual assault and work to make the community safe for both women and men.

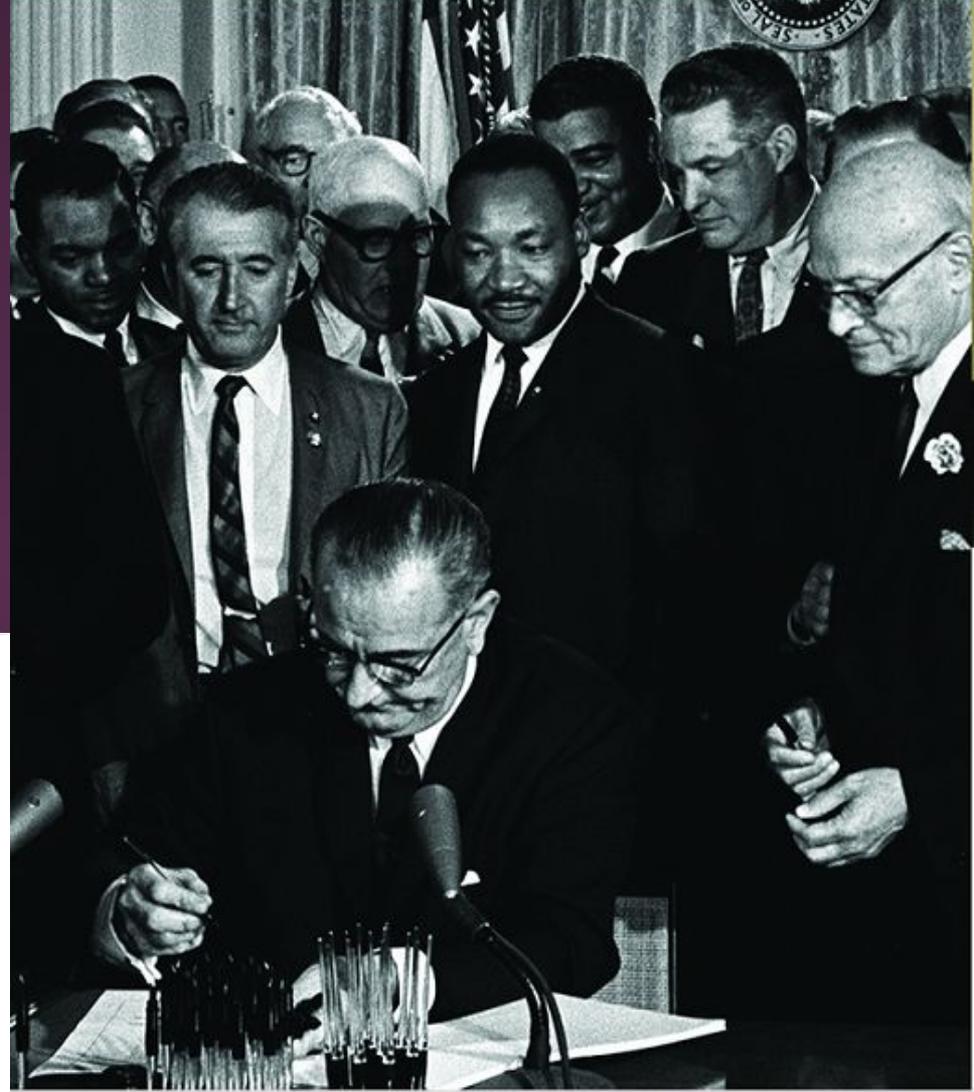


Photo: Rita Morris

“The conscience of an awakened activist cannot be satisfied with a focus on local problems, if only because he sees that local problems are all interconnected with world problems.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Trumpet of Conscience, 1968



We were not granted the privilege of white Michigan students who didn't have to worry about being targeted for anything but their Maize and Blue apparel. VSA believes that the aggressors do not get a free pass because they wore State colors, were men, were white and/or intoxicated.

"What shocked me the most was when a girl wearing Maize apparel walked past us saying, 'I'd say GO BLUE to you guys, if you weren't Asian.' And there you have it, racial hatred from both sides."

As an organization, we do not condone racist behavior from any student, faculty, staff, and persons in and beyond our environment. To excuse this behavior as belonging exclusively to MSU is problematic, for that tactic distances ourselves from the issue. What was hurtful to members of VSA was that the racial discrimination came from some of our fellow Wolverines.

This confirms our suspicions that there are affiliates of UoM who do not deem us as equal members of the Michigan community due to our racial identity. Maize and Blue are our colors, the University of Michigan is our school, and the Wolverines are our team, just as much as any student or fan can lay claim to. The fact that we have to fear for our safety because of both the colors we wear and the colors of our skin is something we find unacceptable. We are part of the University just as much as it is a part of us, and our experience should not be devalued by those who cannot fathom that we too love and are a part of this school.

We, as the Vietnamese Student Association at UoM, do not condone these behaviors, nor will we support this continued ostracism throughout our Michigan community. As our



Vietnamese Student Association's Open Letter

When members of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) experienced racism first-hand at a UM vs. MSU football game, they posted an open letter on Tumblr describing the incident and how it relates to the overall discrimination they face as Asian/Pacific Islander Americans. Their open letter was an excellent example of the impact that social media can have when it is utilized to call attention to the discrimination and marginalization that people face on multiple fronts.

May We All Continue to
Work to Carry Out the
Dream of Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.

*Brought to you by the UM Library Peer
Information Counselors (PIC) Program*

