2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Southeast Missouri State University has a continued commitment to cultural diversity. One of the key components of diversity on the campus is the recognition and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday.

On January 19, 2011, the University will begin its celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday and Black History month. As we continue to “Live the Spirit of the Dream,” we will host our annual community-wide dinner with a keynote address from Mr. Roland Martin.

Mr. Martin is a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate, author of *Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith* and *Speak Brother! A Black Man’s View of America*. Mr. Martin has made his mark on CNN as a political analyst. He was named by *Ebony Magazine* in 2008 as one of the 150 Most Influential African Americans in the United States. He is also the 2008 winner of the NAACP Image Award for Best Interview for “In Conversation: The Sen. Barack Obama Interview.”

An insightful and provocative analyst, Mr. Martin has appeared numerous times on MSNBC, FOX News, Court TV, BET Nightly News, BBC News, National Public Radio, The Word Network, America’s Black Forum, American Urban Radio Networks, the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* and NPR’s *News and Notes*.

We have invited the community to be included in our recognition of Dr. King through churches, educational systems, and civic groups. High school students are once again being sponsored by various organizations to attend the dinner and hear our guest speaker.

We will continue our program through February, Black History Month, with several programs including a “Read-A-Thon” where students, faculty, and administration will volunteer to go into public schools to read books to elementary classes about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the principles for which he stood.
Roland S. Martin  
Award-Winning Journalist and CNN Contributor

A nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate, Roland S. Martin is the author of *Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith and Speak, Brother! A Black Man's View of America.*

Martin is a commentator for TV One Cable Network also host of *The Roland S. Martin Show* on WVON-AM/1690 in Chicago. He can be heard daily from 6 AM to 9 AM. He is also a CNN contributor, appearing on a variety of shows, including *The Situation Room, Anderson Cooper 360°, Lou Dobbs Tonight,* and many others. In August 2007, he joined *Essence Magazine* as a special correspondent, writing a bi-monthly column and a daily blog on Essence.com.

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He is the former executive editor/general manager of the *Chicago Defender,* the nation's largest black daily newspaper.

He is the former founding news editor for *Savoy Magazine* under the team of New York-based Vanguard Media, and the former founding editor of BlackAmericaWeb.com, owned by nationally syndicated radio show host Tom Joyner and Radio One.

He previously served as owner/publisher of *Dallas-Fort Worth Heritage,* a Christian monthly newspaper. He also has worked as managing editor of the *Houston Defender* and the *Dallas*
Biography

Weekly, which he led to a number of local, state and national journalism awards. Mr. Martin has worked as morning drive reporter for KRLD/1080 AM; news director and morning anchor at KKDA-AM in Dallas; city hall reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram; and county government and neighbors reporter for the Austin American-Statesman.

He has won more than 20 professional awards for journalistic excellence, including a regional Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television News Directors; several first place awards from the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators; two citations from the National Associated Press-Managing Editors Conference; the top sports reporting award in 1997 from the National Association of Black Journalists; and honors from the Houston Press Club.

Mr. Martin is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

He is a 1987 graduate of Jack Yates High School-Magnet School of Communications, and a 1991 graduate of Texas A&M University, where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in journalism. Martin is studying to receive his master's degree in Christian Communications at Louisiana Baptist University.

He is married to the Rev. Jacquie Hood Martin, author of Fulfilled! The Art and Joy of Balanced Living. They reside in Chicago and Dallas.