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15th annual MLK day breakfast draws 300

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15th annual MLK day breakfast draws 300

Speakers stress mutual respect, civility

By Heather Pilling

Copy Editor

More than 300 people attended the University of Maine's 15th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on Jan. 18 at the Wells Conference Center.

A host of distinguished individuals, including state legislators and the chief of the Penobscot Nation, spoke of past successes and continuing issues with diversity in Maine. The event was sponsored by both UMaine and the Greater Bangor Area chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

"We have ... 750 students of color here at the University of Maine now," Dean of Students Robert Dana said. "It represents a tremendous tenfold growth over the last 15 years."

"We believe in difference," Dana added. "We celebrate difference."

Discussing respect, Maine Rep. Mike Michaud, D-2nd District, spoke much of the current political atmosphere

and urged those in attendance to look past superficial dividing lines in society in an effort to return to the principles King preached.

"As a nation, we've come a long way," Michaud said. "Until we put these labels aside, we cannot focus on the most basic American ideals that all men are created equal. Mutual respect and civility must be the rule, not the exception ...

"I believe as we are a state, that while we may not always look diverse at first blush, it doesn't mean we cannot value diversity."

**Rep. Emily Cain
D-Orono**

Today, as we gather to celebrate the life of a truly remarkable American, we must rededicate ourselves to the ideals [Martin Luther King Jr.] pursued."

Rep. Emily Cain, D-Orono, also spoke at the event, high-

lighting the perceived tolerance of the Maine, the whitest state in the nation, according to 2009 U.S. Census figures.

"I believe as we are a state, that while we may not always look diverse at first blush, it doesn't mean we cannot value diversity," she said.

Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, the featured speaker, was raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and attended

See MLK on **A4**

Jobs from A2

were enrolled as graduate students and were not working, and 6.5 percent were unemployed.

According to the "Life After UMaine" 2007-2008 survey, 80 percent of the students who reported they were working full time said their jobs were related to their degrees.

The survey showed in-state students tended to find employment in Maine while out-of-state students either returned home or found jobs in other states. Approximately 70 percent of in-state students remained in Maine and approximately 84 percent of out-of-state students left Maine.

Counihan said the Career Center provides students who have already graduated from the university free services, such as one-on-one career coaching and resume review, for a year after graduation. If graduates have moved away from the university, she said, counselors can provide services via e-mail or phone.

Nursing in Maine

"Look at what's happening with nursing right now," Counihan said. "If you're a December grad in nursing, you're probably in panic mode right now."

Nancy Fishwick, director of the school of nursing, said recent rushes of layoffs in hospitals and a moratu-

rum on hiring new nurses tell of the uneasy atmosphere in health professions.

"The peculiar thing going on right now, and it's been going on all year, lots of hospitals weren't hiring nurses. Period. There are layoffs going on up and down the East Coast and in Maine as well. Patient census is down in most hospitals," Fishwick said, suggesting that low reimbursement for services has also stilted hiring practices.

"Some big hospitals are closing entire services," Fishwick added. "It is a ripple effect of the economy."

Due to restricted hiring, Fishwick suggested that students who graduate in December, at least those who graduate from the University of Maine, may have an advantage in the local job market.

"I suspect that the ones who graduate in December might have a little bit of a leg up because, I don't think, Husson or Eastern Maine Community College graduate students in December," said Fishwick. "There's going to be a bigger infusion of new nursing grads in the spring" from all local nursing schools, but UMaine nursing grads who graduated this December will have had several more months during which to find employment.

"A lot of our graduates want to stay in Maine," Fishwick said. "They haven't been snapped up as fast as

they used to be."
Nursing students used to be able to expect job offers in their final semester, according to Fishwick. Now, they have to be more proactive about sending out resumes and spend more time preparing for interviews at the local and national level.

Teaching in Maine

Anne Pooler, interim dean of the college of education and human development, suggested that students who graduate in December with degrees

"If you're a December grad in nursing, you're probably in panic mode right now."

ing those sort of positions, rather than holding out for a permanent classroom of their own, can provide an opportunity for school administrators to see recent graduates' skills before the new school year, when positions often become available.

Pooler emphasized that education students often see their graduation timelines thrown off due to work or family obligations or due to their student teaching requirements, which may cause them to spend a semester at recess rather than research.

According to Pooler, students who graduate with degrees in elementary or secondary education often spend time in the classroom before returning for graduate-level studies.

"Unless they've decided on a particular degree path, most of them will teach for a period of time and then return for a Master's degree," Pooler said. Doing so can also allow graduates to spend time with a range of ages and can help them determine whether second grade or senior year is more their style.

Your best option

Upcoming graduates can do more than time their graduation dates in order to secure jobs soon after they receive diplomas, such as accepting less-than-ideal job offers after graduation rather than holding out to see

what else may come along.
NACE's survey of 2010 graduates showed that less students graduated with job offers than in previous years and that those students who did receive job offers were more likely to accept them than were past graduates.
According to NACE, 66 percent of graduating students who applied for jobs in 2007 received offers by graduation day. That percentage decreased to 40 percent in 2009 and to 38 percent last year. With fewer jobs available, students tend to be receptive to positions that previously were not attractive to them.

In 2009, only 45 percent of students who received offers accepted them; in 2010, 59 percent of students had accepted job offers by graduation.

While these numbers deal with subsets of graduates, they contributed to the 24.4 percent of total college graduates in 2010 who had jobs secured by graduation day.

With only one in four college graduates having a job to go to after the pomp and circumstance dies down, it is prudent for upcoming graduates to think critically about approaching the job market. While diving head-first into the applicant pool may work for some, that tactic does not guarantee that they will not find themselves working jobs unrelated to their degrees in an effort to pay their bills. Some careful timing and consideration may be the route to a successful career after graduation rather than just a job.

Peace Corps at University of Maine

Information Session

Student Union - Main Campus
FSA Room

Wednesday, January 26th
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Live, learn, and work with a community overseas.
Be a Volunteer.
peacecorps.gov

Corrections...

On page A2 of the Jan. 13 edition of The Maine Campus, an article erroneously stated that \$30,000 energy was used in a specific area of the Engineering Research and Science Building. The correct figure is \$300,000.

On page A4 of the Jan. 13 edition, it was written that Chancellor Richard Patten-aside had not spoken with President Robert Kennedy in some time. They had not spoken on one particular subject.



Haley Johnston • Asst. Photo Editor
Students, faculty, staff and friends gathered on Monday for the 15th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast held in the Wells Conference Center.

MLK from A2

Howard University, where he converted to Islam during his graduate years. Currently, he serves as the director of outreach at the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, Va.

Abdul-Malik powdered why he was asked to be the keynote speaker at this year's breakfast.

"I'd been praying for a better relationship with the NAACP and they called me," he said. "Maybe because I'm doing some interfaith work and building bridges... I'm working for justice. Or maybe they invited me because I suffer from two almost terminal conditions: D.W.B. and F.W.M."

promoting anti-immigration legislation. Not only are they Islamophobic, but they're homophobic too... It's equal opportunity bigotry."
Discussing incidents of war and violence worldwide, Abdul-Malik spoke of the need for future prophetic voices to promote peace and carry on King's dedication to nonviolent social change.

He specifically mentioned the recent shooting at an appearance by U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Ariz., that left six dead and several more wounded, saying that the "climate of hatred and violence seems to be raising its head again."

Quoting King, Abdul-Malik said, "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution,

we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values, that we must rapidly begin to shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society."
Abdul-Malik praised the government officials for attending the breakfast, explaining their attendance meant they were not afraid to stand up for what they believe in.

"That vision that [Martin Luther King, Jr.] had of a beloved community where people treat one another as brothers and sisters, whether they're black, white, red or yellow... we've passed the previous mountains, but there's always on the horizon another mountain top," Abdul-Malik said adding, "We must remain determined that we're going to keep marching."

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1st Annual 3 on 3 Pond Hockey Tournament at Orono High School

Brought to you by The Maine Campus!

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Be on the lookout for more details in The Maine Campus.



Courtesy of Lisa Morin
The University of Maine Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism collaborated with the Office of Multicultural Programs and UMaine athletics to hold MLK Diversity Day at the Bangor Mall. Those who attend can be seen here taking part in one of the team building activities that focused on communication and working with others.