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MLK Day Teach-In Panels Focus on Social Justice

January 10, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University’s Action Research Center (ARC) and political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) will host a “teach-in” comprising of three, one-hour panel discussions on Monday Jan. 17 from 1- 4 p.m. in Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington).

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the teach-in will focus on three topics relating to social justice. While he is most known for his impact on the Civil Rights Movement, King’s teachings also addressed a wider scope of social justice.

“When Dr. King came to campus for the second time in 1966, he was in the process of expanding his focus to a broader campaign for social justice that focused on race, poverty and violence nationally and internationally,” said Chair of Political Science and PSA sponsor James Simeone.

According to Simeone, panel topics have been chosen based on how the topics correspond to this larger view of social justice.

The Teach-In schedule is as follows:

- 1 p.m. – “Meaningfully Engaging Diversity” facilitated by Assistant Professor of Sociology Meghan Burke. Students from the Engaging Diversity project will present.
- 2 p.m. – “Education and Social Justice” facilitated by Dick Folse, managing director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Students from the Blank Canvas project will present.
- 3 p.m. – “Theatre of the Oppressed” facilitated by Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Dani Snyder-Young. Students who have returned from studying abroad will present.

The panel discussions seek to engage participants by asking the audience to generate answers to some of the questions raised. “This gives the audience a chance to discuss and respond to the presenters,” said Simeone, “To discuss is to learn.”

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