



# news

## Until justice rolls down like water *MLK* speaker comes to campus

**KAITLYN MOORE**  
@AUCollegian

For the last 35 years, on every third Monday of January, Americans celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

What may first come to mind is his “I Have A Dream” speech, this year being its 50th anniversary, but that is not what Dr. Pamela Brooks remembers him for.

Invited to speak at the university Chapel by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence and the Division of Student Affairs, Brooks’ discussion “Lessons from King’s Riverside Speech” demonstrated that while King is well known for his love, oratory, brilliance, and leadership, he was primarily a fighter: a militant pacifist.

“I come instead to celebrate a King who helps us dare to face our best selves,” she said.

Brooks follows in the footsteps of her parents.

She is enthusiastically engaged in the spirit of activism for black and colored people.

As the chair of Africana Studies at Oberlin College, she has dedicated her life to educating those around her as well.

Her emotionally powerful voice resonated within the walls of the hallowed halls as around 100 people came to celebrate this special MLK Day with Brooks.



KAITLYN MOORE

AU's peace scholars with Dr. Pamela Brooks and Dr. Craig Hovey.

She also reminded the audience about the Vietnam war, and King’s opposition to it.

“King was moved by a call of conscience against the Vietnam War. He couldn’t stand the destruction, the horrendous photographs, the

aggressive imperialism. He had a sense of peace and wellbeing for all God’s children, and he couldn’t reconcile all of that.”

Brooks explained that King had an understanding of his moral courage, and could speak his truths

with conviction.

The Vietnamese people wanted freedom from their oppression, but instead they were subjected to imperialism and racism.

Simultaneously, the black people fighting in the military overseas were subject to that same racism.

In 2018, the revolution America goes through should be one of values, “a fight to strive for the best version of ourselves, and to be champions for those who cannot speak.”

The fire of her words pierced through the snowy evening, sparking hope in a few students who came to hear her speak.

Junior Ariana Graves, diversity intern, said Brooks was a valuable part of the discussion.

“This is encouraging us and asking us: are we stepping outside of our comfort zone to make sure there is justice and making sure there is going to be a difference,” she said.

Vincent Hill, president of Brothers in Action, said King recognized the problems society was facing and implemented action and led

from the front, not just talking about it.

He liked that Brooks recognized that warrior aspect of King.

Junior Aashawnti West believes people need to look at King as more than just his “I Have A Dream” speech.

“It is important that we not think of King as such a 2-dimensional character, standing in front of a podium with his I have a dream speech, but instead about his moral character, what he stood for and what he was trying to accomplish, which is more interactive. He was an activist in trying to build unity among people of diversity,” she said.

That is also the goal of the ACN.

Their mission is to promote alternatives to violence through programs, education, training and building relationships that foster awareness and consideration of issues related to nonviolence and social justice, and supports ways to create a caring community that is inclusive and just.

Their next conference will be held in February.



KAITLYN MOORE

Dr. Pamela Brooks speaks in the chapel in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## AU alumna opening bakery

**SAMANTHA DIDION**  
@AUCollegian

Julianna Hritz, a 2016 Ashland University graduate will be opening her own bakery in Ashland called Vines Bakery.

While at AU, Hritz majored in Family and Consumer Science Education, but once she graduated she realized that that was not where her heart was.

She quickly realized that her love for cooking was not something she could ignore any longer and made the decision to open her own bakery and do what she has loved since she was a child.

“It all started at the local farmers market with a simple scone. For two years I’ve been on a journey to explore my love of feeding people and the passions God has placed in my heart in this kind, supportive

small town,” Hritz said.

A variety of scones, cakes, cookies, and other additional items such as pies and tarts with additional items and flavors always considered upon request.

Special menus are also available during the holidays.

“When I’m not in my own kitchen, you’ll probably find me in someone else’s,” Hritz said.

To Hritz, it is more than just a

baked good. It is a chance to connect, encourage, or celebrate with people.

She also explains how John 15 has been in her prayer as she takes on this adventure.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

The Vines Bakery menu is cur-

rently available on her website at [www.vinesbakery.com](http://www.vinesbakery.com) along with more information on the new up and coming bakery.

Vines Bakery is located at 503 College Avenue.

To keep up to date with Vines Bakery follow her on Facebook and Instagram at [vinesbakery](https://www.instagram.com/vinesbakery).

For questions or to place orders call 724-766-4011 or email [vinesbakeryorders@gmail.com](mailto:vinesbakeryorders@gmail.com).

## Ashland Area Chorus starts in the new semester

**CHRISTINE JENKINSON**  
@AUCollegian

Elizabeth Slade, current director of Ashland Area Chorus, is directing a chorus that has been around for 20 years.

AAC was founded by Dr. Ron Blackley, Director of Choral Activities at AU.

“I formed the Ashland Area Chorus in the fall of 1998 because several area singers from the community, included some AU alumni, had suggested that I start a community-based chorus,” Blackley said. “The goal has always been, and continues to be, to sing great music well.”

The group is made up of AU

faculty, staff, students, and the community. There are no age restrictions, but the director must approve of any singers who are younger than college age.

For AU students who participate, this counts as a ½ credit per semester, as the cost will be included in their tuition.

For high school students, the cost is \$15, while it is \$25 for community members.

Past experience is not needed to join AAC, but it is helpful.

“Previous choral singing and music reading ability will be helpful, though not required,” Slade said. “New members are asked to schedule an initial voicing session with the director within the first

two weeks of the semester. All singers must consistently demonstrate the ability to match pitch (sing ‘on key’) and to learn and sing their individual parts successfully within the context of the group. The director reserves the right to request a meeting with individual singers to ensure that they are matching pitch and learning their parts.”

Slade explained why she wanted to be the director of AAC.

“I have loved being part of choral music-making since I was very young, and I studied music and directed a number of choirs on the East Coast before moving to Ashland in 2006,” Slade said. “I have great respect for AAC’s previous director Dr. Ron Blackley and I

let him know of my interest in the position as soon as I heard that he had decided to pass the baton to a new director of AAC in 2013. I was honored to accept the position, and it has been my delight to make music with the chorus since then.”

Some major songs the group has sang are: Handel’s Messiah, Mendelssohn’s Elijah, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, Brahms’ German Requiem, Faure’s Requiem, and Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms.

AAC has some performances coming up in April and July.

“AAC performs regularly as part of AU choral concerts, including the annual Festival of Lights in the

Chapel,” Slade said. “AAC also performs twice annually with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra, once in the spring, and once at the Pops in the Park concert celebrating the 4th of July. The summer session is directed by Dr. Ron Blackley.

AAC’s next concert this spring will be with the Ashland University Choir and the Ashland Symphony Orchestra in the Romantic April concert April 28 at 7:30pm in Archer Auditorium.”

Rehearsals are during the school session in the Center for the Arts, Room 242, on Mondays at 7 p.m.

The next one is on Monday, Jan. 22 since there was no rehearsal on MLK Jr. Day.