

King sculpture unveiled

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Ada  ICON



Artist Tad McKillop speaks at the unveiling of his 700-pound bronze sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Ohio Northern on Tuesday morning.

He said he tried to make the sculpture represent Dr. King as an example of the path we should follow, that the Civil Rights leader represents the best of us, the best in us.

The Ann Arbor artist said he wanted to invoke the feeling of Dr. King as a contemplative man, a man of peace, that Dr. King represents human advancement and change without violence.



The sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is now prominently displayed on the campus of Ohio Northern University.

The artist shows Dr. King's gesture as beckoning us to follow his lead.



The crowd begins to gather at the site of the Dr. Martin Luther King statue following a service inside English Chapel. This photo was taken from the second floor of Taft Memorial. Dr. King addressed a large audience in Taft 50 years ago when Taft was the university's gymnasium. It is now an academic building.

More than 500 people jammed into English Chapel at Ohio Northern on Tuesday for the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech on campus 50 years ago.

There was standing room only for the service that included moving songs by the ONU Gospel Ensemble and thoughtful remarks by a close associate of Dr. King and a historian who told of the time when Dr. King was a Civil Rights leader a half century ago.

Many students attended the chapel service, along with faculty, townspeople, residents from Lima and several who travelled great distances to be there. In this photo, the audience gave the Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. a standing ovation following his remarks.



President Dan DiBiasio recognizes two individuals who had a lot to do with the commemoration of Dr. King's speech.

At left is Dr. John Lomax, history professor, whose idea it was to have a commemoration and place a sculpture. At right is Paul Logsdon, longtime director of Heterick Library, now retired who serves as archivist and an expert at finding historical facts. Both men served on the event planning committee.



Historian Dr. Christopher Manning describes what the culture was like in America a half century ago when Dr. King spoke at ONU.

He is a history professor at Loyola University in Chicago. The platform was flanked by large black and white photos taken when Dr. King spoke on campus on Jan. 11, 1968.

Much can be learned about Dr. King's visit at ONU by clicking on the website ONU.edu/mlk. Included at that site is a recording of Dr. King's moving 55-minute speech.



Here is a portion of the large crowd at the unveiling of the statue. The formal program was held in English Chapel due to cold weather, then the audience walked to the nearby sculpture area for a few remarks and unveiling of the King sculpture. Several TV stations were on hand (one is seen at left in photo) to report the occasion.

Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr., a member of Dr. King's inner circle, addresses a large gathering inside English Chapel during the dedication and speech commemoration.

A SRO crowd of nearly 500 people attended the program. The event was held in the chapel due to cold and wind, but concluded at the site of the sculpture where it was unveiled.

The bronze sculpture, made by artist Tad McKillop, is located between Taft Memorial and the Law Building.





The Martin Luther King sculpture on the campus of Ohio Northern University was unveiled and dedicated during ceremonies Tuesday. Here, members of the MLK planning committee unveil the sculpture made by artist Tad McKillop. He also produced the sculpture of ONU Founder Dr. Henry Solomon Lehr that was placed on the Front Campus 11 years ago. Watch tomorrow's Ada Icon for more stories and photos of the occasion.