



MILLER CENTER
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U.Va.'s Miller Center Marks MLK Day by Examining LBJ-MLK Relationship

Charlottesville, VA – The University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs hosted a program, "King: In His Own Words," on Jan. 19, exploring Martin Luther King, Jr.'s private conversations and public communications. The program, which was part of the U.Va.'s week-long commemoration of King's life and legacy, highlighted the relationship between King and President Lyndon B. Johnson that emerges in secret tapes recorded by Johnson.

Speakers included Kent Germany, an associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina and a Miller Center fellow, who edited the civil-rights volume of a new digital edition of Johnson White House tapes. Michele Rubin, a literary agent who represents King's estate, also took part.

Germany played White House tapes of King and Johnson's conversations about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the election of 1964. He also played a tape of King discussing the Birmingham church bombing with Kennedy and civil-rights leaders. Rubin then explained how King's spiritual beliefs and moral vision informed his actions and writings concerning civil rights, the Vietnam War, non-violent tactics, and social justice.

An archived webcast of this event can be found at www.millercenter.org.

"The Presidential Recordings of Lyndon B. Johnson: Digital Edition," just released by the Miller Center and U.Va.'s Press' digital imprint Rotunda, includes hundreds of newly transcribed and annotated Johnson conversations from 1964 and 1965. Besides civil rights, the edition also includes volumes on Vietnam and the War on Poverty. Conversations include audio, a transcript and background information, and are searchable by topic, speaker, date, and location.

The new Johnson digital edition was edited by Miller Center scholars, who are in the process of transcribing and annotating the secret White House tapes recorded by every president from Franklin Roosevelt to Richard Nixon.

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson's public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives, and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

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