



# THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RESEARCH & EDUCATION INSTITUTE

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY**





*In 1985 Coretta Scott King, founder and president of the King Center in Atlanta, asked Stanford historian Clayborne Carson to edit the papers of her late husband.  
Photo by Margo Davis*



# KING PAPERS PROJECT BEGINS

*The King Papers Project*  
is a long-term effort to publish  
The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.  
– the definitive edition of Dr. King’s  
sermons, speeches, correspondence,  
writings, and other materials.

*The Project has received support from  
Stanford University, the National  
Historical Publications and Records  
Commission, the National Endowment  
for the Humanities, the Andrew Mellon  
Foundation, and several other  
foundations and individual donors.*



*Mrs. King with staff of the King Papers Project in 1986. Photo by Margo Davis*

Since its founding, the King Papers Project’s mission has expanded to include various educational and research activities. In 2005, Dr. Carson created the **Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute** as a permanent endowed center to sustain the King Papers Project and its related initiatives. With initial support from founding donor Ronnie Lott and his *All Stars Helping Kids* organization, the Institute is continuing its effort to secure a \$12 million endowment.

# The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute: *Preserving the Legacy*



*Photo by Robert Sengstacke. Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, Stanford University.*

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute assembles and disseminates to various worldwide audiences comprehensive resources about King's life and the movements he inspired. Although the King Papers Project is the focal point of the Institute, its mission includes related activities and programs:

- **King Papers Project** (See page 3)
- **Liberation Curriculum** (See page 6)
- **Scholar in Residence** (See page 8)
- **Global Outreach** (See page 9)
- **Institute Online Access** (See page 10)
- **King Research Fellowships** (See page 11)

The King Institute, directed by Professor Clayborne Carson and located on the Stanford University campus, employs a full-time staff as well as student researchers. The Institute is affiliated with Stanford's Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and the King Center in Atlanta. It has collaborated with numerous other organizations, including the Alameda and Oakland public school districts.

We invite you to examine our work, participate in our public programs, and support our work by making a financial contribution.

# King Papers Project

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Papers Project is a comprehensive, annotated collection of King's papers, sermons, speeches, correspondence, and other materials. The first of a planned 14 volumes of *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, was published in 1992, immediately attracting considerable interest and praise from both academic and general audiences. The Institute published its sixth volume in 2007 and is currently working on volumes seven and eight. Plans to release the final fourteenth volume are projected for 2027. The series, published by the University of California Press, is an essential reference work for the study of modern history and social thought. It is one of very few documentary editing projects to focus on an African American.

## The Work of the King Papers Project

A volume of *The Papers* takes approximately seven years to complete. The process involves the consideration of thousands of documents, and is undertaken by a team of editors, researchers, and students working under the leadership of Dr. Carson. The project includes:

- obtaining documents from hundreds of archives and sources around the world;
- transcribing documents such as speeches, interviews, letters, and audio recordings;
- digitizing and indexing documents;
- researching and writing introductory and explanatory text; and
- preparing the final annotated volumes for publication.

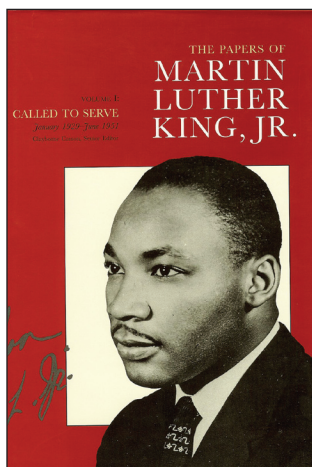
The King Papers Project also selects and prepares documents for online access and maintains an extensive digital document database for use by the Institute staff, scholars, and the public.



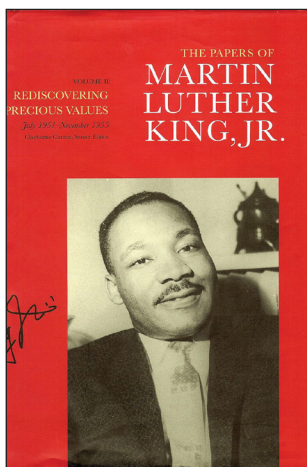
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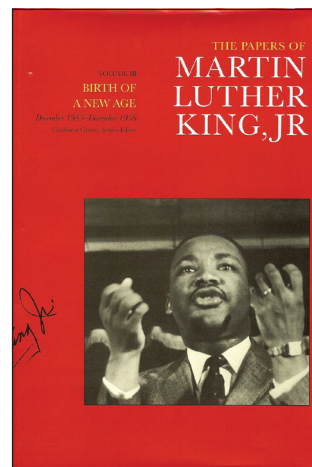
# Publications



**Volume 1: Called to Serve: January 1929–June 1951** (1992) covers King's childhood, family history, his attendance at Morehouse College, and his studies at Crozer Theological Seminary.



**Volume II: Rediscovering Precious Values: July 1951–November 1955** (1994) chronicles King's graduate studies at Boston University, including the full text of his doctoral dissertation; his courtship of and marriage to Coretta Scott King; and the beginnings of his pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.



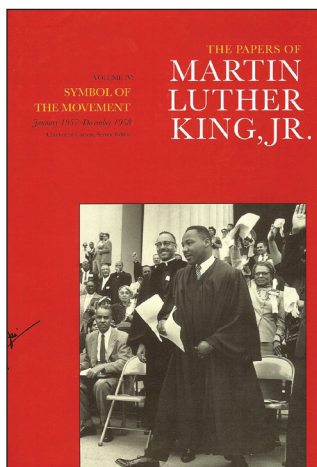
**Volume III: Birth of a New Age: December 1955–December 1956** (1997) details King's leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

*PRAISE FOR **The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.***

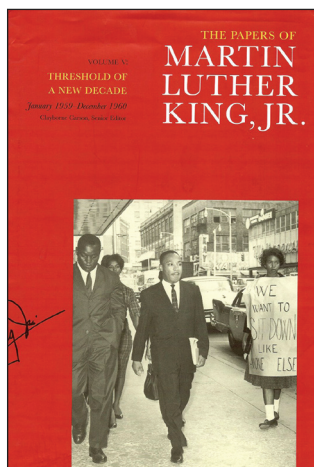
*“One of those rare publishing events that generate as much excitement in the cloistered confines of the academy as they do in the general public.”*

– Ebony

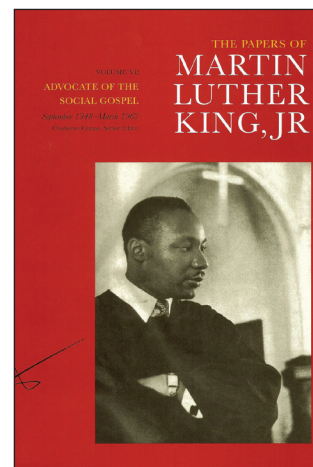
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*



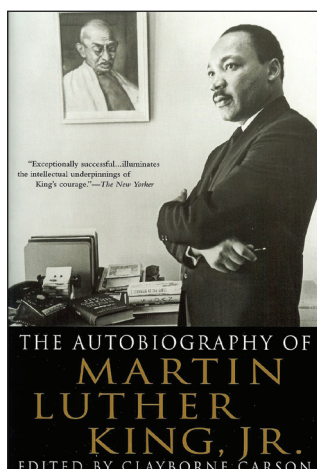
**Volume IV: Symbol of the Movement: January 1957–December 1958 (2000)** contains documents covering the formation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and King's rise to national and international prominence as a civil rights leader.



**Volume V: Threshold of a New Decade: January 1959–December 1960 (2005)** deals with King's growing political sophistication and effectiveness, his response to the student sit-in movement, and his influence on the presidential election of 1960.



**Volume VI: Advocate of the Social Gospel: September 1948–March 1963 (2007)** is a groundbreaking collection of King's most historically significant sermons and religious writings that includes his earliest known homilies.



In addition to the scholarly editions of King's Papers, the Project in collaboration with the King Estate and Warner Books has produced a series of publications for a general audience. These works include books, audio books, and multilingual editions of the highly acclaimed *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1998); *A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration from the Great Sermons of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1998); and *A Call to Conscience: The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* (2001).

# The Liberation Curriculum



*History teachers walking across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.*

*The mission of the Liberation Curriculum (LC) is to provide curricular resources and professional development for teachers emphasizing nonviolent efforts throughout the world to achieve social justice and human rights. Given the wealth of information provided by the King Papers Project, special emphasis is placed on the modern African American freedom struggle and on document-based teaching strategies that reveal the liberatory potential of education.*

## Students and History

The LC resources and programs help teachers engage students in critical thinking and historical analysis while inspiring a new generation to achieve positive social change. In emphasizing not only the visionary ideas of King, but also the extraordinary efforts of other social change activists, the LC seeks to transform the way history is taught and perceived by students.

## Serving Teachers

### Social Justice Community

The Gandhi-King Community –

<http://gandhiking.ning.com> – provides a space for educators to share lesson plans, resources, effective teaching practices, and receive updates on LC developments.

### Educational Resources

The LC website – <http://liberationcurriculum.org> – offers teachers historically accurate and pedagogically effective online, educational materials. These materials go beyond traditional textbook learning while still meeting state and national teaching standards. The website includes: lesson plans, documents, classroom activities, an audio compilation of significant King sermons and speeches, and access to the King Encyclopedia. The LC's teaching unit, "Human Rights: By Any Means Necessary," is featured in the April 2008 issue of the Magazine of History published by the Organization of American Historians.

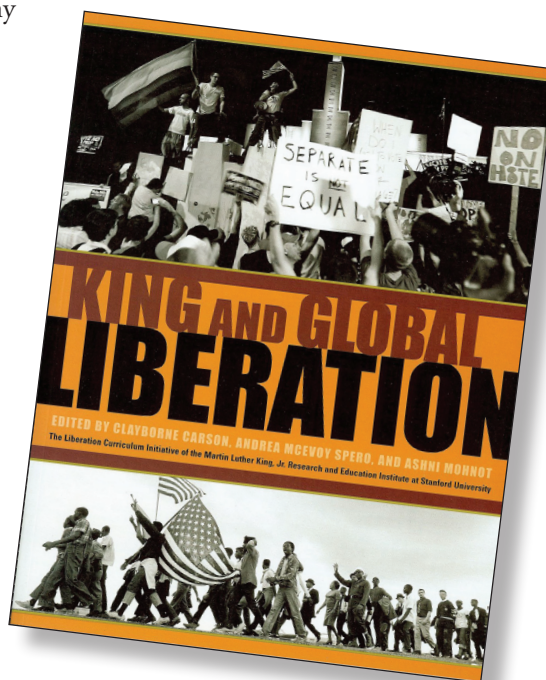
Other teaching units are designed around the Montgomery bus boycott, King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," the Children's Crusade, the "Beyond Vietnam" speech, and Malcolm X. *King and Global Liberation*, a curriculum guide published in 2009 by LC staff features these online lessons and new units on social justice including two K-8 lessons.



*California teachers and LC staff visit historic Little Rock Central High School.*

### **Teachers' Professional Development**

The LC provides a variety of professional development opportunities for history teachers. The King Digital History project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, enabled LC staff to select ten teachers and gave them access to the King Papers' vast collection of primary documents to help them build curriculum units on King and the African American freedom struggle. In addition, as part of an institutional partnership with the Alameda County, California Office of Education and its "Words that Made America" program, the LC conducted professional development workshops for county teachers. This partnership has included an educational trip for teachers to some of the many significant sites of the civil rights movement, including Selma, Alabama; Memphis, Tennessee; and Little Rock, Arkansas. The LC has also conducted collaborative workshops with other social justice focused organizations such as Teachers 4 Social Justice, Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco, and Facing History and Ourselves.



## Scholar in Residence



Clarence Jones, King Institute Scholar/Writer in Residence.

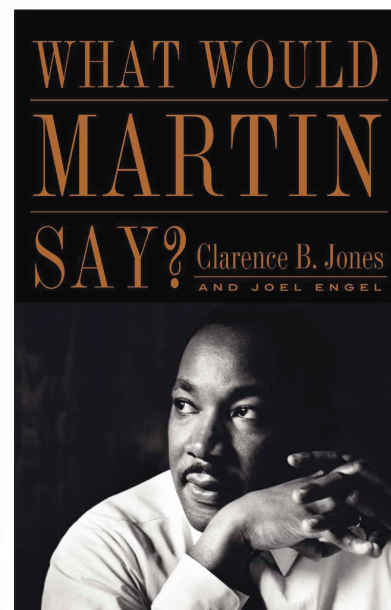
Photo courtesy of Michael Collopy

Since August 2006, the Institute has hosted Clarence B. Jones as its first Scholar/Writer in Residence. A pioneer of the civil rights movement, Mr. Jones was part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s innermost circle of advisors. Through his involvement as an attorney, advisor, fundraiser, speech writer, and personal friend to King and other movement leaders, Mr. Jones contributed in significant ways to a variety of civil rights campaigns. Now, as Scholar/Writer in Residence at the Institute, Mr. Jones continues to contribute to the legacy of the freedom struggle. He meets regularly with students, visitors, and community members at the Institute in addition to his writing and speaking engagements. Drawing from documents compiled for the King Papers Project, Mr. Jones has completed and published *What Would Martin Say?* (2008), a book in which he, in his words, "translate[s] Martin for a modern audience." The book has been described as a "surprising, provocative, and historically significant" work. He is currently writing his memoir, *Thank You Martin, A Tribute to Winter Soldiers: Stories from the Front*.

### PRAISE FOR *What Would Martin Say?*

*"With fervor, honesty, and eloquence, Clarence Jones faithfully captures the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the modern day."*

— Donna Brazile, political strategist and commentator for CNN, ABC News, and NPR's *News and Notes*



## Global Outreach

The Institute increases world-wide understanding of King's life and thought through books and other publications, lectures and seminars, dramatic works such as "Passages of Martin Luther King," and documentary films such as "Have You Heard from Johannesburg?" The Institute's website – [www.kinginstitute.info](http://www.kinginstitute.info) – and its online network – <http://gandhiking.ning.com> – also reach global audiences.



*Cao Li (center) of the National Theatre Company of China plays King in the Beijing performance of "Passages of Martin Luther King." Photo by Clayborne Carson*

### King in China

In June of 2007, the Institute and the National Theatre Company of China in Beijing staged the international premier of *Passages of Martin Luther King* [pictured above], a play by Dr. Carson based on the life and words of King. The play was the highlight of Beijing's first annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Week. The event was sponsored by the Institute and featured lectures, discussions, and workshops at universities across Beijing. A documentary film based on the play is in production.



*During a tour by an American delegation commemorating the 50th Anniversary of King's 1959 visit to India, Dr. Carson visits the Gandhi Smriti, the site of Gandhi's assassination, in New Delhi.*

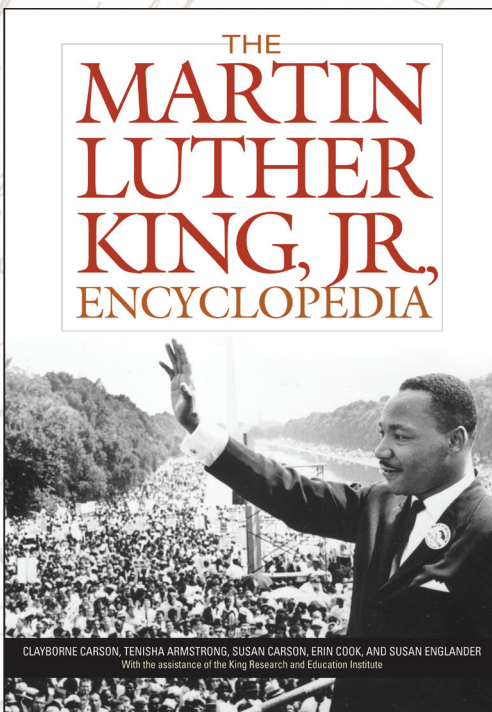
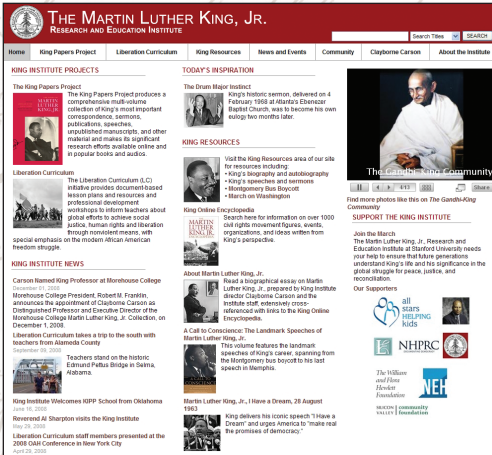
### King in India

In February 2009 Dr. Carson traveled to India with a Congressional delegation organized to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of King's historic trip to what he called "The Land of Gandhi." The delegation, which included former King colleagues John Lewis, Andrew Young, and Harris Wofford, met with Indian political leaders and social-justice activists in New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and other cities.

### Visitors

The Institute hosts a number of public events and visitors each year at the time of the King Holiday. Visitors to the Institute have included the late Coretta Scott King and other King family members. In addition, the Institute has hosted His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Contemporaries of King, and other activists in the African American freedom struggle including Robert Moses, Dorothy Cotton, the Reverends Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and Billy Kyles, Angela Davis, and Bernice Johnson Reagan have also been received by the Institute. Intellectual and cultural figures like Dr. Cornel West and Tavis Smiley have participated in King Institute events.

## Online Access



Background: Draft of King's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

### The Most Visited King Site on the Web

The King Institute is a pioneer in the online distribution of historical materials. The most visited King-related site on the internet, the Institute maintains the world's largest online archive of previously inaccessible King speeches, sermons, letters, and other documents. The website – [www.kinginstitute.info](http://www.kinginstitute.info) – is updated regularly and includes the *Martin Luther King, Jr., Encyclopedia*, which was published in January 2008 by the staff of the King Papers Project. The Encyclopedia is an outgrowth of the Institute's overall effort to provide educational resources for students, teachers, researchers, and interested readers of all ages.

Based on the extensive historical research conducted for *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, the Encyclopedia draws upon the Papers Project's expertise and access to a vast collection of primary source documents. The nearly 300 entries cover all facets of King's life, including his family, friends, and associates in the movement; his participation in various campaigns and marches; and his relationship and affiliation with various organizations. Also included in the Encyclopedia is a detailed chronology of King's life, a selected bibliography, photographs, and an introduction that provides a broader context for the entries.

The website also makes available many of the documents published in the Project's first six volumes and frequently requested documents such as the 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail," the "I Have a Dream" speech from the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech. The website also provides access to teaching materials developed by the Liberation Curriculum.

The Institute is constantly exploring ways to use new media technologies to broaden the scope, scale, and outreach of its scholarly, educational, and public activities. Recently, the King Institute launched a search engine on our website that provides public access to a growing number of the records of documents catalogued at the Institute (Online King Records Access or OKRA). These records present basic information on King-related documents in archives all over the world assisting scholars, researchers, and members of the general public interested in gaining access to these documents.

# King Research Fellowships: *Training Young Scholars*



*Student researchers at the King Institute. From left to right: Mackenzie Tudor, Anneliese Rice, Lisa Ruskin, Jessie Knight, Lauren Mathews, and Alexandra Hunter.*

*The Institute is committed to involving students from diverse backgrounds in historical research and by encouraging students of color to pursue academic careers. A number of past fellows and directed research students have gone on to receive advanced degrees. Other students have become professors, two have won Rhodes Scholarships, and several have joined the Institute staff.*

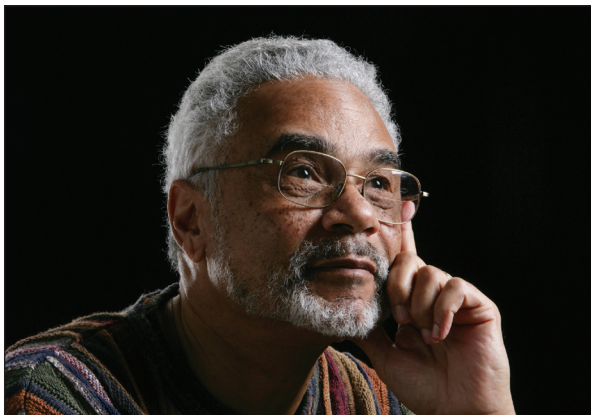
## **King Research Fellows Program**

For more than a decade, the King Research Fellows Program has engaged undergraduate and graduate students in every stage of the work of the King Papers Project. Students assist the editorial staff with the acquisition of documents from archives and with document-based research and writing that is at the core of the editorial process for *The Papers*. Students are trained in library, internet, and computer-based research, and digitization techniques. Students receive regular evaluations of their performance, and they typically produce a variety of research products including document annotations and detailed event chronologies. The program includes opportunities for part-time research internships during the academic year, full-time summer internships, directed research projects, support for honors theses, and frequent opportunities for students to participate in Institute-sponsored lectures, seminars, and forums.



*L.A. Cicero / Stanford News Service*

## Staff



*Photo courtesy of Michael Collopy*

### **Professor Clayborne Carson, Director**

Clayborne Carson is a professor of history at Stanford University and the Ronnie Lott Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Institute. In 2008 Dr. Carson also became Martin Luther King, Jr., Distinguished Professor and Executive Director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr., Collection. In addition to co-editing *The King Papers*, Dr. Carson has produced numerous other works based on the papers. Dr. Carson's first book, *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*, a study of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, was published in 1981 and won the Frederick Jackson Turner Award of the Organization of American Historians. He coauthored the textbook *African-American Lives: The Struggle for Freedom* (2005). Dr. Carson has also served as advisor for numerous documentaries including the award-winning public television series "Eyes on the Prize."



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# Supporting the King Institute

## King Institute Resources

The Institute's King Papers Project and Liberation Curriculum, its involvement of students in scholarly research, and its outreach to the public are made possible by support from individual donors, Stanford University, foundations such as the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and government funding sources such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The Institute seeks contributions both for current operating purposes and for building an endowment. An endowment is essential to ensure a permanent funding base, regardless of the future political landscape or shifts in funding sources. Endowment gifts over \$250,000 may be eligible for matching contributions through Stanford's Hewlett Challenge program.

All gifts are tax-deductible and gifts of any size are welcomed.

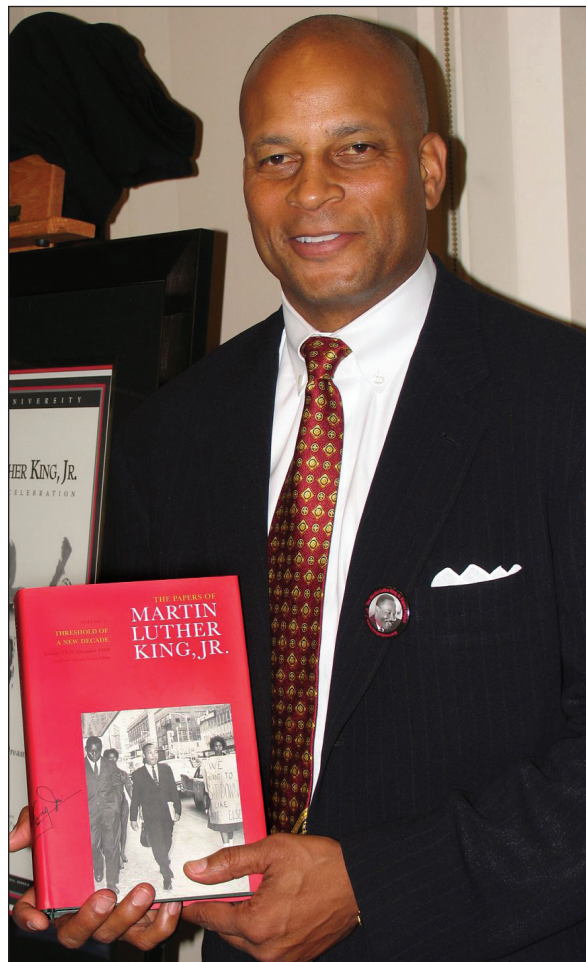
Our preferred method of receiving gifts is by check. Checks should be made payable to *Stanford University* **or** *The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University*. **For: King Institute** should be noted on the purpose line.

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Founding Donor Ronnie Lott with "Volume V: Threshold of a New Decade."

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**By Telephone:** For contributions by telephone, please contact the Stanford development office at 866-543-0243



*Clayborne Carson with His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his 2005 visit to the Institute.*

## Gift of Securities

We welcome gifts of securities. Please visit the Giving to Stanford website, designate the Institute as the recipient of your gift, and follow the prompts for securities transfers.

## Memorial or Celebration Gifts and Planned Gifts

We welcome gifts that memorialize or celebrate a loved one or a person who has made a difference in your life or a difference in the world, and planned gifts such as bequests, gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. For more information about supporting the King Institute, please contact Dr. Carson at 650-725-8828 or the planned giving group at the Stanford Development Office at 866-227-8977 / 650-723-2092 x. 5-4358.

## Visiting the Institute

The Institute maintains a public exhibit of documents and photographs and welcomes visitors. The Institute is located in Cypress Hall on the Stanford campus in Stanford, California. Driving directions and a map are available at [www.kinginstitute.info](http://www.kinginstitute.info).

The Institute also welcomes your questions and comments. Please contact us at 650-723-2092 or by e-mail at [kinginstitute@stanford.edu](mailto:kinginstitute@stanford.edu).

# Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute

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### Liberation Curriculum

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*Martin Luther King, Jr., during his visit to Stanford University in 1967.*  
*Chuck Painter / Stanford News Service*



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