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## **Grammy Winner and Social Activist “Killer Mike” Lecture Headlines USF’s MLK Commemorative Week**

*Award-winning rapper and activist lectures on Jan. 20*

**TAMPA, Fla. (Jan. 6, 2016)** – The University Lecture Series (ULS) at the University of South Florida is proud to host Michael Render, aka Killer Mike, as the MLK Convocation lecturer, the signature event of the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Week, held Jan. 15-22.

Render, nicknamed Killer Mike for “killing the microphone,” is known as a socially conscious and politically engaged rapper. He made his music debut on OutKast's 2000 album *Stankonia*, and later appeared on OutKast’s Grammy-winning song *The Whole World*. In 2013, Killer Mike and rapper-producer El-P formed Run the Jewels and released their self-titled debut via Fool's Gold Records. "Run the Jewels 2" was released in Oct. 2014 to rave reviews with Rolling Stone naming it *Best Rap Album of 2014*.

Render’s noted activism on topics of social equality and systemic racism has led to interviews on numerous media platforms and attendance of the 2015 White House Correspondents Dinner. In a time when conversations about race, inclusion and equality are in the spotlight on college campuses across the nation, ULS and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (the coordinator of MLK Commemorative Week), were committed to bringing a speaker offering a critical and conscious perspective on social issues affecting students. Render’s entertainment value coupled with his commitment to building community through critical dialogue made him an excellent fit to address the USF community as the university honored the legacy of Dr. King, Jr.

The Convocation is scheduled for 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) on Wednesday, Jan. 20 in the Oval Theater in the Marshall Student Center (MSC). This event and others open to the public during USF’s MLK Commemorative Week include:

**MLK Dedication Luncheon**, *Friday, Jan. 15, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m., MSC Ballroom*

Attend this luncheon to reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.; seating is limited, RSVP by Jan. 12 [here](#).

**Interfaith Service for the Homeless**, *Friday, Jan. 15, 6 – 9 p.m., 1609 N. Franklin Ave., Tampa*

USF’s Project Downtown invites people of all faiths and beliefs to come together to serve the homeless. Register to participate [here](#).

**Stampede of Service**, *Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Corbett Soccer Stadium*

Thousands of USF student volunteers head out to various Tampa Bay area sites for a morning of service.

**MLK Candlelight Vigil**, *Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 – 9 p.m., MLK Plaza Fountain*

Join Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for this annual event.

For more information or to view the full schedule, which includes some [Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival](#) events, visit [the MLK Week website](#). For more information about the University Lecture Series seating and attendance policy, visit the [ULS website](#). For reasonable accommodations, please contact (813) 974-5111 (FL Relay 711).

*The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is a Top 50 research university among both public and private institutions nationwide in total research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving nearly 48,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.*

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