Races unite at Dr. King vigil

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With somber faces, UNCP students braced cold temperatures while they walked from the University Center to the Mary Livermore Library after the candlelight vigil for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr...

President of the African American Student Organization Quinn Davis talked about the changing times and Dr. King's influence on the events of today.

"Times are changing and we need to see what it is to help ourselves and help others. Our parents and grandparents did it for us, so now it is time for us to help ourselves. So as we remember Dr. King we should keep those things in mind as we celebrate his memory," Davis said.

Keynote speaker Mary D. Williams is an adjunct professor at Duke University and teaches a course called "The South in Black and White."

"My main purpose in the class is to talk about gospel music called spirituals that enhanced so many of our leaders and particularly Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Williams said.

As Williams continued to speak in front of the crowd, she occasionally broke into spirituals and asked the audience to sing along or clap their hands.

"We are going to allow ourselves to be immersed tonight in songs that brought people together, that unified a people against attack-dog politics, against injustices and even against the dream that Martin Luther wanted all of us to experience," Williams said. "So I am going to need some voices, from those that can sing and those that cannot."

Williams walked among the onlookers and in between her messages of history and encouragement alternated between speaking and singing.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Tribute in the Mary Livermore Library was held to honor the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday which came one day before the inauguration of the first black president of the United States of America, Barack Obama.