A TIME TO SPEAK OUT

Over 200 gather to remember Agee, Martin, others

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Staff Writer

DeKalb | Over 200 people gathered at the MLK Commons yesterday to "break the ice against violence" at an event hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Alandis Phillips, senior sociology major and president of Alpha Phi Alpha, said to "break the ice" means to speak out. Phillips said the group decided to have the event in light of violence occurring in the DeKalb and Chicago area. A younger brother of Darrell Nelson, senior sociology major and vice president of Alpha Phi Alpha, was shot about a month ago in Chicago, Phillips said, which also sparked the idea for the event.

"I know in the media the Trayvon Martin case is real prevalent right now," Phillips said. "I really think that, although that case deserves a lot of media attention, we can't turn a cheek on our own communities."

Wednesday also marked the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., who was once a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Phillips said. He said the group planned a march after the rally to symbolize what King used to do for the civil rights movement. The memory of King should serve as a reminder of the importance of speaking out against violence, Phillips said.

"If we don’t act against these heinous crimes, we’re going to keep losing our leaders of today and tomorrow," Phillips said in his opening speech.

Kimberly Agee, mother of student Steven Agee II, who was killed in a shooting in DeKalb last November, speaks at Breaking the Ice Wednesday in the MLK Commons.

"I didn’t send him to college to bring him home in a body bag. No one here is exempt. No one. Don’t think it can’t happen to you."

KIMBERLY AGEE
Mother of Steven Agee II

James McCarter | Northern Star

Kim Gollund and Tanya Rachan jump, flip and spin into regionals at U of I Saturday. Read up on the two women in Sports.