

**JULIAN BOND DISCUSSES 'RACE AND RIGHTS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM'
AT SUA, CALABASAS
BY JEFF FARR
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Soka University of America's Human Rights Lecture Series on Feb. 23 welcomed Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who spoke on "Race and Rights in the New Millennium." Based on his three decades of involvement in the civil rights movement, Mr. Bond emphasized that the progress made thus far has not been enough.

Acknowledging that there are many signs of hope — black income is at an all-time high, more blacks are in college than ever before, and black home ownership is up — Mr. Bond, on the other hand, revealed these disparities: Black unemployment is still twice as high as white unemployment; the median income for blacks is 40 percent lower than whites'; the average black family has 8 cents in net worth for every dollar a white family has. Mr. Bond also believes that rollbacks on affirmative action are evidence that our government is putting civil rights on the backburner.

Still, Mr. Bond was positive about the movement's future: "As we find ourselves refighting old battles we thought already won..., let us take heart," he said. "If there is more to be done, we have more to do it with, much more than those who came before us and who brought us this far." Citing a "century's worth of aggressive self-help and volunteerism" and a "long and honorable tradition of social justice" in America, Mr. Bond encouraged the audience that the civil rights victories of the 20th century can be built upon.

He admitted that this will be no easy task, but reminded everyone that "we Americans have never wished our way to freedom. Instead, we have always *worked* our way." (See Mr. Bond's three ways we can each make a difference for civil rights, p. 2).

Since 1992, SUA's Human Rights Lecture Series has been introducing nationally and internationally prominent speakers to address various issues related to the worldwide struggle for peace, social justice and reform. The series continues on May 3 with a debate on "Human Cloning: Medical Ethics and Biotechnology Into the 21st Century." For more information, please contact either Deborah diCesare or Valeria Leiva at the Program Development Office of SUA at (818) 878-3780.