

**UT graduate student wins MLK essay contest: UToday, March. 1, 2007**

Jason M. Bechtel, a graduate student pursuing a master of science degree in bioinformatics on the Health Science Campus, is this year's winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

He received a long-sleeved T-shirt that reads "As a matter of fact, it is Rocket science."

Bechtel feels passionately about upholding the civil rights leader's ideas.

"I have heard some people blaming immigrants, and mostly those of color, for our problems," Bechtel said. "This is racist scapegoating. We have a bipartisan consensus in government that appropriates most of our wealth for the military and consistently underfunds education and health care, while simultaneously pursuing foreign and trade policies that drive people abroad into the desperation that brings them here. I believe that if he were alive today, Dr. King would be denouncing the scapegoating of immigrants, truly some of the people most victimized by our policies."

In 2000, Bechtel graduated with honors from the University with a **bachelor of science degree in computer science and engineering.**