



**Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice
Co-curricular Programming Spring 2012 Academic Year**

**Anoka-Ramsey Community College in collaboration
with Winona State University
“Preparing Students for Social Responsibility and Social Action”**

January 18, 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Lecture

The Freedom Riders: Sounds of Liberation

Guest Speaker, Bettie Mae Fikes

Location & Time: Coon Rapids 10:00am-11:30am **Room: SC270**
Cambridge 1:30pm-3:00pm **Room: G201**

The Freedom Riders is the powerful harrowing and ultimately inspirational story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever. From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating Jim Crow laws, the Freedom Riders met with bitter racism and mob violence along the way, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism.

Organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the self-proclaimed "Freedom Riders" came from all strata of American society—black and white, young and old, male and female, Northern and Southern. They embarked on the Rides knowing the danger but firmly committed to the ideals of non-violent protest, aware that their actions could provoke a savage response but willing to put their lives on the line for the cause of justice.

Born in Selma, Alabama and descendant of a long line of country gospel singers and preachers, Bettie Mae Fikes began singing gospel alongside her mother at age 4. At the age of 16 she became a student leader for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the Civil Rights Movement, emerging as a music leader. In 1963 she was jailed for several weeks for protesting during the voting rights struggle in Selma. Bettie began singing with the SNCC Freedom Singers. Her passion and commitment garnered her the Long Walk to Freedom Award as well as a letter from California Governor Gray Davis acknowledging her role in the Civil Rights movement.

Ms. Fikes has graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Newport Jazz Festival, the Library of Congress, and numerous Blues Festivals and clubs. In 1964 she sang for the Democratic National Convention and in 2004 she sang for the Democratic National Convention where she was introduced by Maya Angelou. Ms. Fikes has performed with Joe Turner, Lightnin' Hopkins, Albert King, James Brown, Bob Dylan, and Mavis Staples, among others.

Ms. Fikes is also a dynamic lecturer, having delivered moving speeches about diversity and civil rights at universities throughout the United States and Canada. Her singing has been recorded by the Smithsonian Institute and that music is still available on CD.

Bettie Mae Fikes has been called a musical genius of a storyteller, weaving the audience into her story with her impromptu lyrics with her throaty, rich, velvety voice. Small in stature, her voice can vibrate a room until the walls beg for mercy. Bettie says, "I travel around the country trying to deliver the message that my grandmother passed to me: "I am too strong to be broken down." ...All I can say is we know where we've been but we don't know where we're going."

Bettie Mae Fikes is a bright light in this world. She is a beacon of hope, a beloved daughter of Jesus, an adoring mother, a miracle of love to her friends, and a loving mistress to her music.

Contact: Mr. Marcellus Davis at (763) 433-1695 or by email at Marcellus.Davis@anokaramsey.edu

All Lectures are Free and Open to the Public

The above lectures are sponsored by: The Office of Diversity & Multiculturalism, Winona St. Department of Diversity and Inclusion, and the African Student Association



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February 22, 2012 Black History Month Lecture

An American Legacy: The Negro Baseball Leagues

Guest Speaker, Byron Motley

Location & Time: Anoka Ramsey Community College
Cambridge Campus 10:00-11:30am Room: G201
Coon Rapids Campus 1:30-3:00pm Room: SC270

The complete story of the Negro Baseball Leagues has yet to be told. At its core is a story of pride, hope and courage. "THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES - AN AMERICAN LEGACY" chronicles the dramatic tales and truths of some of the greatest athletes ever to play the game. Filmmaker Byron Motley, son of the only living umpire from the Negro Leagues, and Sam Pollard (award-winning editor and co-director whose credits include When the Levees Broke, 25th Hour, and Inside Man) uses old-time photographs, newsreels and never-before-seen interviews with former players, current major-leaguers, and famed celebrities to reveal how the Negro Leagues inspired integration and shaped modern day professional baseball.

Byron Motley is a singer/songwriter/filmmaker/lecturer/author and photographer. As a singer he has performed and recorded with such luminaries as Natalie Cole, Dionne Warwick, Celine Dion, Barbra Streisand, Donna Summer, Melissa Ethridge and Barry Manilow. He performed on Broadway alongside Patti LuPone in the acclaimed show "Patti LuPone On Broadway". He has also lent his vocal talents to movie soundtracks including "Ghosts of Mississippi", "Amistad", "Frozen Assets" and "Men of Honor".

Byron has also performed on three separate occasions with the famed Boston Pops Orchestra under the baton of renowned conductor/composer John Williams. As a photographer, Byron's work has appeared in Vanity Fair Magazine and his photography has shown in galleries in the U.S as well Europe.

With diverse interests and talents, Byron is also producing a television documentary about the historic Negro Baseball Leagues entitled "The Negro Baseball Leagues ▪ An American Legacy". He has had a long fascination and appreciation of the Negro Leagues having heard many tales about the leagues from his father Bob Motley, who umpired in the leagues for over a decade. Acclaimed Producer/Director Penny Marshall is at the helm as Executive Producer.

Byron has recently added author to his numerous accomplishments having co-authored his father's memoir Ruling Over Monarchs, Giants & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues & Beyond (Sports Publishing, LLC, 2007). Ruling... chronicles his father's journey of growing up in a segregated America to becoming one of the first African-American Marines to his experiences in Negro baseball. The book is a candid, funny and emotional story that contains much historical relevance as well.

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Wednesday, March 7th

**The North Minneapolis Tornado:
The Systemic Effects of a Natural Disaster**
Guest Speaker, Lissa Jones

Location & Time: Anoka Ramsey Community College
Cambridge Campus 10-11:30am Room: G201
Coon Rapids Campus 1:30-3:00pm Room: SC270

Lissa Jones will speak about the systemic effects of the impact of the North Minneapolis Tornado of 2011. She will speak about historic issues in north Minneapolis (gentrification, economic exploitation, high-unemployment rates, high foreclosures rates, struggling education system). She will talk about the resiliency of the North Side people, survivors of the Tornado, she will talk about the money that has been deployed to help the rebuild the North Side, and the non-discussed post-traumatic stress syndrome experiences of the people, in particular, the youth. Ms. Jones is the former executive of The African American Family Services and she is the host of the Urban Agenda Radio Show on 89.9 KMOJ.

Thursday, March 8th, 2012

What Does Justice Look Like: The Liberation of the Dakota People
Guest Speaker, Waziyatawin Dr. Angela Wilson
Events are subject to cancellation or rescheduling.

Location & Time: Anoka Ramsey Community College
Cambridge Campus -10:00am-11:30am Room: G201
Coon Rapids Campus - 1:30-3:00pm Room: SC270

Waziyatawin Angela Wilson is a Wahpetunwan Dakota from the Pezihutazizi Otunwe (Yellow Medicine Village) in southwestern Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. in American history from Cornell University in 2000 and spent seven years teaching in the history department at Arizona State University. After earning tenure and an associate professorship at ASU, she left the academy in 2007 to work as an independent scholar.

Waziyatawin is the author of *Remember This!: Dakota Decolonization and the Eli Taylor Narratives* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005) and co-editor of *Indigenizing the Academy: Transforming Scholarship and Empowering Communities* (University of Nebraska Press, 2004) and *For Indigenous Eyes Only: A Decolonization Handbook* (School of America Research Press, 2005). Her most recent volume, *In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors* (St. Paul: Living Justice Press, 2006), is an edited collection that tells the stories, both in words and pictures, of the Dakota Death Marches of 1862 and the commemorative walks that have been held in recent years to honor the memory of those Dakota people who endured the 1862 forced removals. That volume was the recipient of the 2007 Independent Publisher's Silver Book Award for Adult Multicultural Non-fiction.

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Waziyatawin's interests include projects centering around Indigenous decolonization strategies such as truth-telling and reparative justice, the recovery of Indigenous knowledge, and the development of liberation ideology in Indigenous communities. She is currently living, working and writing on her home reservation with her husband and three children.

Dr. Waziyatawin will provide a historical overview of the genocidal practices implemented in Minnesota, the homeland of the Dakota Nation. Not only do Minnesotans not acknowledge this painful legacy, they also continue to celebrate all that was gained as a consequence of genocide while glorifying its perpetrators. The primary question posed at the conclusion of this presentation will be "What Does Recognition of Genocide Demand?"

Thursday, April 12, 2012 Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Lieutenant General Vang Pao and the Migration of Hmong People to Minnesota

**Guest Speaker, Ka Vang
Diversity Programs Director for The Office of Diversity and Equity
for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities-System Office
and award-winning published author)**

Location & Time: Anoka Ramsey Community College
Cambridge Campus -1:00pm – 2:30pm Room: F203
Coon Rapids Campus – 10:00am – 11:30 am Room: SC270

The daughter of a major in the Royal Lao Army and a shaman, Vang grew up in her early years in Thai refugee camps before resettling in the United States Midwest, with the majority of her formative years spent in the Twin Cities and the Frogtown quarter of St. Paul, Minnesota. She briefly attended the St. Agnes parochial school in the late 1980s before attending the local public high school.

Vang was the oldest of seven children in her family. At an early age, she was known for her intense curiosity and intelligence and a tendency to challenge established norms of American and Hmong society.

Bi-culturalism was a significant issue in Vang's experience as she sought ways to succeed in both Hmong and American society, and this experience is frequently reflected in her later writing.

While issues of bi-culturalism are a part of the experiences of many Hmong refugees, Vang's approach is noteworthy for her consistent efforts to cultivate a more informed, global perspective of those issues, particularly through international travel.

Ms. Vang will be telling the story of the Hmong Migration to Minnesota. Ms. Vang will be speaking about the importance of Lieutenant General Vang Pao to the Hmong community and American History. She will be sharing with Anoka-Ramsey the whole story of the Hmong People prior to the Vietnam War. She will discuss the economics in the Hmong community, politics, and acculturation vs. assimilation of the Hmong people in Minnesota today.

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Tuesday, April 26, 2012 This event has been rescheduled to this new date

Bullying

Guest Speaker, Jaime Nabozny

Location & Time: Anoka Ramsey Community College
Cambridge Campus -10:00am-11:30am Room: G201
Coon Rapids Campus - 1:30-3:00pm Room: SC270

I grew up in Ashland, a small town in northern Wisconsin on the south shore of Lake Superior. My life changed drastically when I was targeted in middle school for being gay. My years of harassment ended with a beating that put me in hospital and required abdominal surgery. I moved to Minneapolis and after realizing that many other young people endured similar fates in their schools I decided to fight back. With the help of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund I won a Landmark Lawsuit in Federal court that establishes that all young people including those of us who happen to be queer deserve a safe educational experience. My story has been told through "Bullied", a short documentary produced by The Southern Poverty Law Center. Here is the trailer for the documentary.

Thursday, April 19, 2012

**Remembering the Survivors and
Those that loss Their Lives in the Holocaust**

Guest Speaker, TBA

● Event confirmation pending. Events are subject to cancellation or rescheduling.

Location & Time: Anoka Ramsey Community College
Cambridge Campus -10:00am-11:30am Room: G201
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