



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER COLLEGE of LETTERS & SCIENCES

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2006-2007 Contemporary Issues Lecture Series

The College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is once again offering the Contemporary Issues Lecture Series.

"We strive to bring in speakers that will discuss contemporary issues in a provocative way to create an academic discussion that begins before the speaker arrives and continues after he or she has left," said Susan Johnson, associate professor of political science and lecture series committee chairperson. Faculty across campus have embraced the series and students are encouraged to attend the lectures.

Fall 2006

MICHAEL THELWELL

Voting Rights in the 21st Century

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

7 p.m. Irvin L. Young Auditorium

Ekwueme Michael Thelwell is a Jamaican-born novelist and Professor of Afro American studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was also the former field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). While working for SNCC in Washington DC, Thelwell recruited volunteers for the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign in Mississippi, which sent volunteers into the state to register African-American voters. Thelwell's many accomplishments include his publication *Ready for Revolution*, a compilation of the memoirs of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Toure), chair of SNCC and honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party. Thelwell is also the author of the novel *The Harder They Come*.

JOHN ESPOSITO

The Roots of Terrorism

Monday, October 23, 2006

7 p.m. Irvin L. Young Auditorium

John Esposito is a recognized authority on Islam and Islamic culture, University Professor of Religion and International Affairs, Professor of Islamic Studies and Founding Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Esposito is the author of more than thirty books on Islam and is the editor-in-chief of the four-volume *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* and *The Islamic World: Past and Present*. A former president of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Esposito founded the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding in 1993 to foster a better understanding of Islam and of Muslim-Christian relations in the West.

Spring 2007

CHARLES FISHMAN

The Walmart Effect

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

7 p.m. Irvin L. Young Auditorium

Charles Fishman is one of America's most accomplished journalists. As an award-winning investigative and magazine journalist, he has spent the last 20 years trying to get inside important organizations to try and understand and explain them to his audience. Charles Fishman's latest book, *The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works—and How It's Transforming the American Economy*, is the definitive guide to understanding the world's most important company, the role it plays in the social and economic life of the United States, and the far-reaching effects it has on people around the world. In 2005 he won a Gerald Loeb Award for distinguished business journalism. In 2004 his revelatory *Fast Company* cover story, "The Wal-Mart You Don't Know," generated the strongest reader response in the history of the magazine, and won best business magazine story of the year from the New York Press Club. His magazine writing has also been in *The Best Business Stories of the Year*.

SUSAN HUNTER

AIDS in America

Monday, March 12, 2007

7 p.m. Irvin L. Young Auditorium

Susan Hunter is a medical anthropologist who has worked at the highest policy level with world health organizations (UNAIDS, UNICEF, USAID) in Africa over the last 20 years. She continues to travel frequently in Africa and South East Asia as part of her work on the AIDS pandemic. She is author of *Black Death: AIDS in Africa*, *AIDS in Asia: A Continent in Peril* and most recently, *AIDS in America*. In *AIDS in America*, Hunter brings the continuing AIDS epidemic into the living room by featuring a young woman from Billings, Montana. Paige Swanberg doesn't fit the profile many may conjure when they think about people with AIDS, and that is precisely why Hunter made her and others like her the focus of her research.

College of Letters and Sciences Community Reading Initiative

JAMES MCBRIDE

The Color of Water

Monday, November 13, 2006

7 p.m. Irvin L. Young Auditorium

James McBride is an award-winning writer and composer. His critically acclaimed memoir, *The Color of Water*, won the 1997 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Literary Excellence, was an ALA Notable Book of the Year, and spent more than two years on *The New York Times* bestseller list. In 2003 it was the inaugural selection of "New York City Reads Together," as well as the 2004 selection of "One Book/One Philadelphia." It is a perennial favorite among book clubs and community-wide reading groups, and has been published in 16 languages and in more than 20 countries. McBride is a former staff writer for *The Washington Post*, *People Magazine*, and *Boston Globe*. His work has also appeared in *Essence*, *Rolling Stone* and *The New York Times*.

College of Letters and Sciences Distinguished Scholar Lecture

TAYLOR BRANCH

Myth and Miracles from the King Years

Monday, April 9, 2007

7 p.m. Irvin L. Young Auditorium

Pulitzer Prize winning author Taylor Branch emerged as a national authority on America's civil rights movement with the publication of *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63* in 1988 followed by *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65* in 1999 and the third book in the trilogy, *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68* in 2006. With passion and insight, he has chronicled the high-stakes political events and the day-to-day struggles of the farmers and teachers, sharecroppers and dentists who pried their freedom loose from the grip of segregationist whites. He won both the Pulitzer Prize for History and the Book Critics Circle Award in 1988. Additionally, he received a five-year MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1991 and the National Humanities Medal in 1999.