The 2009 MLK, Jr. Day Steering Committee thanks the following for their generous support:


Our special thanks to all the Focus Session presenters.

2009 MLK, Jr. Day Steering Committee

Co-Chairs: Jane Bello-Brunson, Eric Gutierrez, Stacy Hoult-Saros, Nelly Blacker-Hanson, Bill Marion, Jr.

Student Coffee House: Eric Gutierrez

Service Day: Jim Wetzstein, Angela Zemke

Poetry Event: Gloria Ruff, John Ruff

Film Festival: Nelly Blacker-Hanson, Ed Gaffney

MLK Award Winners Breakfast: Jane Bello-Brunson

Convocation: Jane Bello-Brunson, Eric Gutierrez, Stacy Hoult-Saros, Nelly Blacker-Hanson, Bill Marion Jr.

Luncheon: Aimee Tomasek, Luci Hicks

Young Aspiring Artist Contest and Reception: Del Gillispie, Jo Ellen Nix

Closing Event: Jane Bello-Brunson, Stacy Hoult-Saros

Focus Sessions: Carlos Miguel-Paez, Jan Rubsam, Dan Saros

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Social Action Leadeship Team: Melissa Kariger

1995 Lou Jeanne Walton
1996 Walter Reiner and Karl Lutze
1997 VU Faculty Jazz Trio
1998 No Award
1999 Jane Claiborne
2000 Judith Erwin-Neville and VU Gospel Choir
2001 Hugh Mcguigan
2002 David Kehret
2003 Bill Marion, Jr.
2004 Jane Bello-Brunson
2005 Asian American Association, Black Student Organization, and Latinos in Valparaiso for Excellence
2006 James Kingsland
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2009 MLK, JR. CELEBRATION
Valparaiso University
Jan. 15 – Jan. 22

Website Address: http://www.valpo.edu/mlk
Thursday, January 15
MLK Film Festival – Screening of Bread and Roses with discussion led by Prof. Nelly Buckner-Hanson
7 p.m. – Niehoff Union Center

Friday, January 16
Aspiring Artist Reception and Award Ceremony
(Recognizing local high school students who have created art work remembering Dr. King's life and legacy)
6 p.m. – Harre Union
Student Coffeehouse with music by Ciara Reyes, Buckman Page and Bealton Hervey
7 p.m. – Harre Union Ballroom

Saturday, January 17
Community Service Projects
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. – meet in Harre Union
MLK Film Festival – Screening of North Country with discussion led by Prof. Ed Gaffney
7 p.m. – Niehoff Science Center

Sunday, January 18
MLK Celebration of Remembrance and Praise
10:30 a.m. – Chapel of the Resurrection.
Poetry Reading featuring Lawson Fusao Inada
7 p.m. – Center for the Arts, Duesenberg Recital Hall

Monday, January 19
MLK Convocation
10 a.m. – Chapel of the Resurrection
Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Michael Honey and presentation of Valparaiso's 2009 MLK Award.
Luncheon: A Meal Fit for a King
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. – Harre Union Ballroom
A Southern-style lunch will offer an opportunity to discuss Dr. Honey's keynote address.
Focus Sessions
1:15-3:30 p.m. – Various locations
Closing Ceremony with Dr. Michael Honey
4 p.m. – Christopher Center
Talk to a Lawyer
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Wissmann Hall
Local attorneys will offer 10-minute consultations to the general public free of charge.
Sponsored by Indiana First Judicial District Pro Bono Committee.

Tuesday, January 20
Presidential Inauguration: Reflection and Discussion
5 p.m. – Harre Union

Wednesday, January 21
Mock Congressional Debate: “Is it fair for illegal immigrant children to receive free education?”
4 p.m. – Wissmann Hall

Thursday, January 22
VU School of Law Speaker
4 p.m. – Christopher Center
A tree will be planted in Valpo's MLK Arborhaven on the east side of the Center for the Arts Friday, April 24, in honor of this year’s winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

Focus Session I and II: Repeated Sessions 1:15-2:15 PM; 2:30-3:30 PM (Continued)
Perspectives on Women in Ministry
Presenters: Elyssa Salinas and Emily Weller, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: 20
Brief Description: By facilitating discussion on women in ministry, this session will help people explore whether Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream has been fulfilled in the church as well as in society. The session begins with a brief history of women in ministry, focusing on the Lutheran Church. A panel discussion follows, including Valpo theology professors, campus pastors, and Valpo professors who attend Lutheran churches outside of Valpo. There will also be time for questions.
Praise Is What I Do…The Worshippers in Me
Presenter: Nicholas Henton, Black Student Organization; Another Level Ministries
VUCA: Duesenberg Hall
Brief Description: Although the dream of racial unity is unfulfilled, God has served as a constant source of strength for African Americans. In this session, musical selections, live band, choir, praise dancers, mime, the spoken word, and reflection all play a role in depicting blacks' faith and adoration of God even in the midst of struggle. Dr. King served as a similar source of inspiration and strength as African Americans have struggled over the course of many years to relate to others racially, spiritually, and socially.
Black and White and Read All Over: An Exploration and Discussion of Race, Gender, Sexuality and Violence in Kara Walker's Mural Installations
Presenter: Instructor Liz Maynard, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: 14
Brief Description: Not only will this session be an educational exploration of Kara Walker's work, but it will employ the practice of looking, which is so vital to not only art historical practice, but to discerning the world in which we live. Walker's work can be described as humorous, grotesque, obscene, and appalling, and it is all of these features working together that force the viewer through a process of first discerning and then making sense of the complex and intricate tableaus she presents. By forcing this process of reconciling the sexually and violently explicit subject matter with the ordinarily genteel 19th century silhouette tradition, the viewer comes to understand the grotesque nature that belies the power dynamic behind slavery and racism.
The World's Dream: A Dream Becoming True!
Presenters: Carol Dahlen and Sandra Maytan
Harre Union: 264
Brief Description: American for decades have been raised with the idea that everything is possible, achievable, attainable, and will become true if you work hard enough. The latest developments in the economic, ecological and social crisis are teaching us a different lesson. Parallel to that there has been a far older dream that is about to become true for the first time in the world's history: The unity of mankind in its diversity, a world free of war, a world of peace. How is that possible, we may ask, in this chaotic day and age in which international forces strive and conflict while economic turmoil and ecological catastrophes are endangering our very existence on this planet? In a globalized world a single country cannot live and fulfill its dream anymore if it is based on the suffering and exploitation of others, as has happened for so long. We can only live and fulfill the American dream if we fulfill the World's Dream first.
Diversity Goes to War? A Look at Hollywood During World War II
Presenter: Instructor Bridget Kies, Valparaiso University
CCLJR: Board of Directors Room
Brief Description: This focus session will examine clips of several movies made prior to and during the American engagement in World War II to see how representations of race and diversity demonstrate American unity in the face of “the enemy.” From the romance and intrigue of Casablanca to the glory of ethnically diverse troops at battle, Hollywood in the late 1930s and 1940s presented a wider range of cultures and race on screen than ever before - but not entirely without problems. Open discussion will follow the presentation.
A Mascot By Any Other Name Would Still Rock
Presenter: Kevin Geiman, Valparaiso University Identity (VUID)
Mueller Hall: 2
Brief Description: This discussion-based session will focus on the use of symbols with emphasis on the Crusader mascot. In a world where we are trying to move away from memories, actions, and images that are hurtful in the way that they reflect past injustices, it is an inappropriate message to represent VU students with a mascot that embodies such a painful and unjust past, in the name of Christianity. It is not a matter of political correctness but of coming to grips with our past and not forgetting the same or similar wrongs in the present. In this way, our mascot is an issue where we see that the dream is not quite fulfilled and only through this kind of education can we hope for such fulfillment.
Inclusion in the program does not constitute endorsement by Valparaiso University or the MLK Steering Committee of any of the views presented in the Focus Sessions.
Focus Session II: Single Session 2:30-3:30 PM

Love Deferred: The Same-Sex Marriage Debate in America
Presenter: James Stoker, Alliance, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: 33
Brief Description: With our nation’s most recent election there is a sense that change is in the air, yet the more things change, the more they stay the same. Before November 4th only three states issued same-sex couples marriage licenses and held their unions in equal regard to heterosexual unions. Now that number has diminished to two, with several other states applying restrictions against same-sex couples adopting children. This session will look at the history behind the institutionalization of same-sex marriage discrimination and analyze the current political climate to see if change is, in fact, possible. A presentation of historically significant events in marriage laws will be followed by an open discussion among those attending.

Culture, Diversity, and America: Where Are We Headed?
Presenters: Eric Gutierrez and Ryan Colley, Latinos in Valparaiso for Excellence (LIVE)
Mueller Hall: 12
Brief Description: This presentation will examine issues of culture, race, and the current immigration debate in the U.S. We will look at the development of an “American” culture and determine what shape it has taken historically and to what extent it will change in the future with changing demographics. Discussion will be followed with an interactive activity used to show how communication and teamwork between different groups of people can take place despite their differences.

Focus Session I and II: Two Hour Sessions 1:15-3:30 PM

Easier Said than Done: Are We Nurturing Diversity in the Classroom
Presenter: Professor Michele Monzon, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: 140
Brief Description: What was it about your own upbringing that prepared you to nurture—not just manage—diversity in the classroom? Session participants will be invited to reflect upon their own disposition toward diversity and assess personal and institutional competencies needed to address the potential within increasingly diverse educational settings, as they explore strategies for working together with students of all ages in culturally interactive ways and for creating a more internationally conscious orientation within the classroom.

Focus Session I and II: Repeated Sessions 1:15-2:15 PM; 2:30-3:30 PM

Reflections on the Changing of an Era
Presenter: Pastor Derek Perkins, Community Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Valparaiso
Mueller Hall: Refectory
Brief Description: Pastor Perkins reflects on his experience growing up in rural Mississippi during the civil rights movement. He recalls how he stood at the steps of the courthouse in Philadelphia, MS as Aaron Henry prayed for justice for three slain civil rights workers and how he heard Fannie Lou Hamer as she articulated the struggle for voters’ rights. He also recalls more painful experiences, including the time his father was beaten almost to death by highway patrol officers in Brandon, MS because he helped lead a boycott in Mendenhall as well as how he was jailed with his father for trying to stop the beating of a black man who was in police custody. He has a hard time believing how far we have come and now is determined to lead the march to reconciliation.

Moving Toward Fulfilling the Dream: Study Circles on Race Relations
Presenters: Professor William Marion and Jane Bello-Brunson, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: 10
Brief Description: Much has changed for the good since the time of the modern civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. However, there is much still to be done. The Study Circles course has been set up as a way to continue the conversation about race relations and to continue to move all of us forward. This session is an interactive exploration of race relations in America through the Study Circles program. With the help of a small group of students, the session leaders will simulate a typical conversation that takes place in the Study Circles classroom—a safe place to explore difficult subject matter. Attendees will, then, be invited to join the Circle by addressing some of the issues raised.

That’s Life
Presenter: Brittanie Becker, Habitat for Humanity, Valparaiso University
Haugi Hall: Lamima Room
Brief Description: Participants will play a game of monopoly. The game creates division among players, displaying the diversity in the world, and the inequalities that people face because of their differences, whether class, race, or otherwise. Through the discussion, the players will be able to identify how the game represents the world, how it relates to MLK’s dream, and how these situations still exist. The players will be encouraged to also discuss what we are doing to face these inequalities in our communities and what we can do to work toward the fulfillment of the dream unfulfilled.

MLK Convocation Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Honey

Dr. Michael Honey, Fred and Dorothy Haley Professor of Humanities at the University of Washington, Tacoma, is a widely-respected historian whose work focuses on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights and labor studies. Dr. Honey’s 2007 book Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King Jr.’s Last Campaign, is a critically-acclaimed history of Dr. King’s struggle for economic justice during the last months of his life. His previous books include Black Workers Remember: An Oral History of Segregation, Urbanism and the Freedom Struggle, which received the Southern Historical Association’s H.L. Mitchell Award for a distinguished book on southern working-class history and the Southern Regional Council’s Lillian Smith Book Award for a book on human rights issues, and Southern Labor and Black Civil Rights: Organizing Memphis Workers, winner of the Organization of American Historians’ James A. Rawley Prize for an outstanding book on the history of race relations and the Southern Historical Association’s Charles Synder Prize for a book on southern history.

Dr. Honey is president of the Labor and Working-Class History Association, works with the Labor Heritage Foundation and other groups to preserve the cultural legacy of movements for social change, and has developed partnerships with a number of labor and community organizations in the Tacoma area. His students have prepared oral histories with scores of residents—including union members, business people, Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos and Japanese-Americans—and he has helped produce short films on labor and civil rights issues with Underdog Productions. A civil rights and civil liberties organizer in the Deep South from 1970 to 1976, Dr. Honey has a long-standing interest in linking scholarship, music and public speaking with community and labor organizing. He has performed “Links on the Chain,” a musical and multimedia presentation of labor and civil rights history, with Pete Seeger and other musicians.

School of Law Speaker: Randall Kennedy

Randall I. Kennedy, Michael R. Klein Professor of Law at Harvard University, focuses his research on the intersection of racial conflict and legal institutions in American life. His books include Interracial Intimacies: Sex, Marriage, Identity and Adoption; The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word; and Race, Crime, and the Law. Additionally, Kennedy has published numerous collections of shorter works. Many of his articles can be found in periodicals and newspapers such as The American Prospect, The Nation, The Atlantic Monthly, Georgetown Law Journal, Harvard BlackLetter Journal, and The Boston Globe. Professor Kennedy received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from Yale University. A Rhodes Scholar, he served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Guest Poet: Lawson Fusao Inada

Lawson Fusao Inada is an emeritus professor of writing at Southern Oregon University and Oregon’s poet laureate. He has written five books: Legends from Camp (American Book Award, Drawing the Line, In This Great Land of Freedom, Just Into/Nations and Before the War. He also served as editor of the acclaimed Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese-American Internment Experience, has twice won Poetry Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and was narrator for the PBS specials “Children of the Camps” and “Conscience and the Constitution.”
The Convocation, 10:00 a.m.-The Chapel of the Resurrection

Prelude
VU Chamber Concert Band
Dr. Jeffrey Doebler, Conductor

Invocation
Rev. Joseph Cunningham, University Pastor

Welcome
Dr. Mark Heckler, University President

Hymn
“ Lift Every Voice and Sing”
Led by the VU Gospel Choir
Brytish Thomas, Director

Presentation
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award

Introduction to Keynote Speaker
Rev. Gregory Jones, 2008 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award recipient

Keynote Address
“Martin Luther King's Unfinished Agenda”
Dr. Michael K. Honey

Announcements
Jane Bello-Brunson, Director, Office of Multicultural Programs

Benediction
Rev. Darlene Grega, University Associate Pastor

Special Music
“Happy Birthday”
Led by the VU Gospel Choir

Post-Convocation Music
VU Chamber Concert Band

Focus Session I: 1:15-2:15 PM
Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King’s Last Campaign
Presenter: Professor Michael K. Honey, University of Washington-Tacoma
CCLIR 205
Brief Description: Join keynote speaker Dr. Mike Honey for a discussion of his book Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King’s Last Campaign (2007). The book, which won the 2008 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, is a critically acclaimed account of the key figures on both sides of the dramatic conflicts leading up to King’s assassination. This presentation will focus on the central role of the working poor in King’s vision of the American Dream.

Silence
Presenters: Professors Lisa Yogan and Becky Byrum, Valparaiso University
VUCA: 1412
Brief Description: Silence is a short film about a bi-racial son and his family’s refusal to acknowledge that he is of African-American descent. Following the film, Prof. Lisa Yogan will lead a discussion about the persistent beliefs in racial hierarchies and racial purity and the effect of such beliefs on society today. This session will encourage participants to consider the social construction of race in the context of family groups. We will explore the idea of the American dream through the lens of multi-racial persons.

Legends from Camp: Poems by Lawson Fusao Inada
Presenters: Gloria Ruff and Kristin Nygaard, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: Commons
Brief Description: Author Lawson Fusao Inada will attend this session that explores the “American Dream” from the perspective of a Japanese-American who spent time in the internment camps during World War II. Inada’s poems are plentiful, full of life, and easy to understand, even when the subject is somber – as in the first section which recounts the author’s experience as a boy in the Japanese internment camp. A limited number of free copies of the book are available to the campus and community through the generosity of the Project on Civic Reflection.

Progress Towards Equality: Environmental Justice Issues
Presenters: Professors Bharath Ganesh-Babu, Nirupama Devaraj, and Alan White
Mueller Hall: 12
Brief Description: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has defined environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” The objective of this panel is to examine issues related to the achievement of environmental justice in legal, socioeconomic, and spatial contexts. The American dream will be achieved when “everyone enjoys the same degree of protection of free copies of the book are available to the campus and community through the generosity of the Project on Civic Reflection.”

Older Adults and Experience of the American Dream
Presenter: Karen Meuzeelaar, Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall: 4
Brief Description: Very often the American Dream seems to relate to younger individuals graduating college, families seeking a satisfactory life, or other younger people in society. However, the older generations of our nation also seek the American Dream. They seek to be valued, to fulfill their goals, and to live a rewarding life. As the number of older adults increases, our nation will need to consider how the American Dream applies to their goals. The services for older adults, the opportunities for involvement, and the general value of this population must be taken seriously and actively engaged. The American Dream does not end with retirement—often the teaching of the American Dream is only beginning.

From Domination to Liberation: Latin America Has Proven a New World is Possible
Presenter: Professor Ruth Needleman, IU Northwest
CCLIR 205
Brief Description: This session will explore the vast and exciting changes that have transformed the Americas, and the critical ingredients that made change possible. It began with grass-roots education and organizing, broad coalitions and a vision for the future based on equality, justice, and jobs. How ironic that the slogan (Si se puede!) that ushered in populist democracy throughout Latin America, stood at the center of Cesar Chavez’s and Martin Luther King’s vision, and also powered the campaign of our very soon-to-be president Barack Obama. This session will focus on Brazil, in order to show how the tools and strategies of the civil rights movement also moved change in Latin America. Then we will examine what we can learn from our Southern neighbors about how to organize and build power under a popular presidency.