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Center for Multicultural Education

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# VOICES Newsletter, v7n2, November 2010

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THE CENTER FOR  
MULTICULTURAL  
EDUCATION

NOVEMBER  
EVENTS:

NOVEMBER IS  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE  
MONTH!!

DRUMLINE LIVE—  
THURS, NOV 18

DR.  
WAZIYATAWIN  
LECTURE—  
WED, NOV 10

CME SEVEN BOOK  
CLUB: WED, NOV  
10

LEONARD PITTS—  
WED, NOV 17



# Voices

Promoting diversity in the university community and beyond...

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2010

## CME Sponsors Drumline Live!

Emily Wilker

Have you got the beat? DrumLine Live does! The Center for Multicultural Education is pleased and excited to announce their sponsorship for DrumLine Live at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. These “riveting rhythms, bold beats, and ear-grabbing energy,” can be seen and heard on the evening of **November 18, 2010** at 7:30 p.m.

DRUMLine Live is an international tour based on the Historically Black College and University marching band tradition. The staged show will be a synchronized musical showcase of the HBCU experience. Incorporating original compositions and soul-infused interpretations of top 40 hits, group performances will range from colorful, choreographed routines to heavy doses of drum riffs and cadences.

As a sponsor of Drumline Live, the CME has a limited amount of FREE tickets to giveaway for the November 18 performance. If interested in attending, please contact the Center for Multicultural Education. Or stop by the GBPAC to purchase a ticket!



## Reception for Leonard Pitts

Leonard Pitts won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary as a syndicated columnist based at the *Miami Herald*. His twice weekly columns routinely inspire Americans and compel them to think about issues such as diversity, race, equality and humanity. He is the author of two novels and has served as a

University professor. Mr. Leonard Pitts is the keynote speaker at the 2010 Cedar Valley Conference on Human Rights at Allen College on Thursday, November 18, 2010.

The Center for Multicultural Education will sponsor a reception for Mr. Pitts on

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 from 7-9 p.m. at the CME, with a short address by Mr. Pitts. Refreshments will be provided and University Book and Supply will also be present, selling Mr. Pitts’ most recent publication *Forward From this Moment, Selected Columns from 1994-2009*.

Each piece tells a story. They are a little look into another culture and people. And when you walk in, the show is breathtakingly beautiful.  
- Karen McGuire

Peace can only be achieved through understanding.  
- Albert Einstein

Anybody can be great, because anybody can serve.  
- Martin Luther King Jr.

The "Voices" newsletter is published occasionally and electronically throughout the year.

# Cultivating Leaders

Emily Wilker

On November 5, twenty-one students from the University of Northern Iowa gathered at the Center for Multicultural Education to learn how to lead in today's multicultural world. These students had an opportunity to hear leaders from the UNI and surrounding community, speaking about their personal experiences with leadership. Among these presenters were filmmakers, the Vice President of the Black Hawk branch of the NAACP, a Campus Minister, a Residence Life Coordinator, and UNI students.

During this eight hour retreat, students had an opportunity to expand their cultural perspectives and push themselves intellectually. The retreat offer opportunities to openly discuss their opinions during small break-out sessions and the group as a whole convened together for

keynote lectures three times throughout the day. Students learned what it takes to be an effective leader in today's society and how to get others behind them in their goals.

A highlight of the event was mid-day presenter Mike Ramsdell, filmmaker from Michigan who spoke on his documentary The Anatomy of Hate. The documentary was shown Friday evening to available retreat participants as a kick-off to Saturday's day-long event. The documentary profiled extremist groups from the United States, ex-terrorist groups from Israel and Palestine and a military base in the middle east; taking a closer look at contributing factors which lead to hate and discrimination across the world.

The overall experience was overwhelmingly positive. One student participant mentioned

national students. Another student remarked, "I found myself able and eager to speak out for my opinions and beliefs."

Participants were asked how they would use these new tools. Some planned to use them in their respective student organizations, while other planned on implementing them in their careers after graduation. Others maintained that they would use them in everyday life. The Multicultural Student Leadership Retreat is an annual event sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education. For more information on retreats in the future or for suggestions, please contact the CME at 273-2250 or email at [cme@uni.edu](mailto:cme@uni.edu).



Participants of the Fall 2010 Multicultural Student Leadership Retreat

## Does Social Familiarity Make for Justice?



Let me begin an answer to the titular question by telling a story. There once was an interracial, inter-ethnic married couple. Both were working at low paying jobs. The woman was from a Latin American country with parents that were very well off; and the man was from a New England state with parents barely in the lower middle class. The latter's mother-in-law kept riding him for not being the traditional head-of-the-household and repeatedly castigated her daughter for staying with him. Subsequently, the couple got into a heated argument about their economic state of affairs. At the height of the intense discussion, the wife called her husband the "n" word. Of course the

woman loved the man; but when the chips were down, she resorted to dastardly stereotypical slurring.

The lesson to be learned from this story is kind of like the old adage: "familiarity breeds contempt." It is not an exact analogy but the point is that bigotry does not simply dissipate just because one knows somebody who fits into a particular category, including when one is in the throes of romantic love! After all, slave masters knew and frequently befriended some of their human property; however, they did not spare the lash to control their subjects' behavior.

Learning about another culture and encountering people in that culture are nice gestures, but they do not result substantively in the transformation of the oppressive conditions in which "the other" lives. During a period of white backlash, Martin Luther King Jr. was wont to say that blacks wanted to be white men's brothers, but not their brothers-in-law. Unfortunately friendships do not, by themselves, affect positive social change without the proactive

Dr. Michael D. Blackwell

challenging of structures and processes that oppress the underrepresented and underserved. Friendships alone do not lead to the dismantling of racism and other forms of xenophobia and injustice. Any workshop, program, or initiative that focuses on increasing cultural awareness without addressing the radical transformation of our American society is virtually worthless. Centuries of neglect and moral turpitude cannot be eradicated by touchy-feely exercises or listening to stories of inhumanity or teary eyed confessions or social mea culpas.

The major speakers invited by the CME help the audience to ferret out this kind of nonsense and to negotiate ways to counter structural and systemic inequities. Social familiarity is never a central approach to undoing racism and other issues. Working together to address specific institutional problems is the only true praxis.

### Check out Dr. B's Blog!

Featuring his comments on current events and social issues

<http://drmdbwell.blogspot.com>

OR

<http://mdbwell.wordpress.com>

#### "Voices"

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Reserve the CME for your  
organization's event!

We foster success in racial and ethnic minority students, contribute to the cultural competence of all students, and promote an appreciation of diversity in the University community.

We do this by:

- ◆ Providing programs and services that contribute to success for racial and ethnic minority students.
- ◆ Encouraging racial and ethnic minority students to become fully engaged in campus life.
- ◆ Producing programs and activities intended to raise awareness and appreciation of diversity across the campus, and to increase the cultural competence of all students.
- ◆ Providing educational resources for faculty and staff regarding racial and ethnic minority issues; and
- ◆ Maintaining a facility environment that conveys appreciation for the cultural traditions, expressions, and perspectives of racial and ethnic minorities.

Our  
Mission

## Native American Heritage Month Recipe

### Ingredients

- 3 C. Flour
- 1/4 tsp. Nutmeg
- 1 3/4 C. Cornmeal
- 3 1/3 C. Milk
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 C. Molasses



### Directions

Sift together the dry ingredients. Combine the milk and molasses. As the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients and beat until smooth. Pour into a well-greased 2-quart steam mold, cover and place on a rack in a deep kettle that has a close-fitting lid. Pour enough boiling water into the kettle to come about halfway up the mold. Cover the kettle and steam the mold for 3 hours. Remove the mold from the kettle and let stand 20 minutes. Remove the cover and let stand 10 minutes longer. Loosen the edges with spatula; invert onto plate. Let stand until bread unmolds. Serve with lots of butter.

[http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.channel4.com/food/images/mb/Channel4/Food/recipes/delicious/291\\_3.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.channel4.com/food/recipes/baking/bread/poories-indian-bread-&ty=125&ei=UqnRTM6TFsKenweH8eyODA&oei=UqnRTM6TFsKenweH8eyODA&esq=1&page=1&ndsp=16&ved=1t:429,r:0,s:0](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.channel4.com/food/images/mb/Channel4/Food/recipes/delicious/291_3.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.channel4.com/food/recipes/baking/bread/poories-indian-bread-&ty=125&ei=UqnRTM6TFsKenweH8eyODA&oei=UqnRTM6TFsKenweH8eyODA&esq=1&page=1&ndsp=16&ved=1t:429,r:0,s:0)