



News From

Muskegon Community College

221 South Quarterline Road • Muskegon, Michigan 49442 • Contact: (231) 777-0341

Global Awareness Festival at MCC Focuses on African Culture 9-13 February

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Muskegon Community College is hosting the annual **Global Awareness Festival** on campus from **9-13 February 2009**. Events spanning the entire week include an international film series, international cuisine on campus, and a collection of artifacts from the community which will be displayed in Gerber Lounge along with flags representing 200 nations.

The kick-off event on Monday, 9 February, is a collection of African folk songs by the MCC Choir, 11:30 a.m. in Collegiate Hall, followed by the first in

a week-long film series on HIV/AIDS, and an opening talk and reception by **Greg Waskowsky** of The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, **“Out of Africa and Discovering Ancient Egypt,”** at Overbrook Gallery from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, 10 February, a Political Discussion **“African Decolonization and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement,”** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Blue and Gold room, with Dr. Joseph Bangura, History and Director of African Studies, Kalamazoo College; and Dr. Onaiwu Ogbomo, African Studies, Western Michigan University, and moderated by MCC instructor Kurt Troutman. Also on Tuesday is a Science and Technology Seminar at 6:00 p.m. in room L261, **“Great Lakes on Two Continents.”** The seminar will explore and compare two Great Lakes systems, in Africa and North America.

On Wednesday, 11 February, **Global Topic Investigations** will explore the ancient libraries of Timbuktu, U.S. and Africa in the new Obama Era, Peace Corps experiences in Africa and much more, in the Blue and Gold room from 9:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. An **Information Fair** will feature booths highlighting international opportunities for students to study and work abroad as well as cultural differences around the world in Collegiate Hall from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., the

Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater will perform in the Student Union from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and the event's **Keynote Speaker**, Papa N'jai, MCC instructor and native of Sierra Leone, will speak on "**The Journey – from West Africa to West Michigan**" at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, 12 February, join us for an **Honors Seminar and discussion lead by Phi Theta Kappa** in the Blue and Gold room at 2:00 p.m. Also on the agenda is a seminar on "**Women Researching Women's Issues -- Gender Issues in Africa.**" The seminar is sponsored by the Center for the Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), Women and International Development (WID), and the African Studies Center at Michigan State University and Muskegon Community College.

All events are free to the public, with the exception of the international cuisine served by the Bookside Bistro. For updates and more information, please contact MCC International Coordinator **Katherine Tosa** at 231.777.0376 or visit the website at www.muskegoncc.edu/GAF.

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