2-2015

2015 Spring Humanities Symposium: Race in America

Messiah College

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Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

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“Eavesdropping on America’s Conversation About Race”

Award-winning journalist Michele Norris is a host and special correspondent for NPR. Previously, Norris served as co-host of NPR’s “All Things Considered,” public radio’s longest-running national program. Norris and “All Things Considered” received many of journalism's highest honors, including a Peabody Award, duPont Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, and she was named the 2009 Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists.

Before joining NPR, she served as a correspondent for ABC News, reporting extensively on education, inner city issues, the national drug problem and poverty. While at ABC, Norris earned an Emmy Award and Peabody Award for her contribution to the network’s coverage of 9/11.

Norris is the author of the 2010 best-selling memoir, “The Grace of Silence,” which began as a quest to uncover how America talked about race in the wake of the 2008 presidential election and became an eye-opening family history lesson revealing Norris’ family’s racial legacy and a window on America’s complicated racial history. The book also led to “The Race Card Project,” a blog that asks people to submit their thoughts and observations about race in six words.

Admission is free, but a ticket is required. Please contact the Ticket Office at 717-691-6036.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

“Let’s Talk: A Conversation About Race and Dialog-to-Change Model Expanding in Harrisburg”
Panel discussion: Tina L. Nixon, CEO, YWCA Greater Harrisburg; Amanda L. Arbour ’09, racial justice program coordinator, YWCA Greater Harrisburg; Patricia Gadsden, founder/director, Life Esteem, Inc.; Tara Leo Auechy, founder/editor, Today’s the Day Harrisburg
3:45-5 p.m. | Boyer 131

Symposium Keynote Address: “Eavesdropping on America’s Conversation on Race”
Michele Norris, award-winning journalist, host and special correspondent for NPR
7 p.m. | Parmer Hall, Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

“Recalibrating the Witness of the Church Amidst Racialized Violence in America: Towards Counterintuitive Solidarity with the Oppressed”
Drew Hart ’04, Ph.D. candidate at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
9:10-10:10 a.m. | Boyer 131

“Race for Beauty: Mapping the Social Contours of Early 20th Century Harrisburg”
Dr. David Pettigrew and Dr. James LasGrand (history) and students
10:20-11:20 a.m. | Boyer 337

“This Paper Is Not White: Reading and Writing Race”
Dr. Crystal Downing’s Senior Literature Seminar students Cora Hines and Allen Fernandez
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Boyer 131

Lunch / Poster Sessions
12:15-1:40 p.m. | Howe Atrium
• Ethnic and Area Studies, Dr. Emerson Powery and students
• Public Humanities Student Fellows: Rachel Carey, James Mueller, Rachel Oellig, Jonathan Wolf
• Choral Reading “Civil Rights: Giving Voice to the Journey,” Dr. Cynthia A. Wells and company

“#ineeddiversity”
Multicultural Council
3-4 p.m. | Boyer 131

“#ineeddiversity” Multicultural Council

“Race at Messiah: Past, Present and Future”
Scott Hwang, director of multicultural programs; Faith Minnich, director of the intercultural office; Kevin Villegas, director of international student programs; and Brian Reynolds, student
1:50-2:50 p.m. | Boyer 131

“Six Words: Dances Inspired by the Race Card Project”
GiViM, Messiah College Dance Ensemble
7-8 p.m. | Poorman Black Box Theatre, Climenhaga Building

Closing Reception
8 p.m. | Upper Lobby, Climenhaga Building

RELATED CAMPUS EVENT: FEB. 27 AND 28
SAB Lost Films: “Dear White People”
Parmer Cinema, Boyer 137
Films cost $2 for students and $4 for guests. Showtimes are Friday at 6 and 9 p.m. and Saturday at 3, 6 and 9 p.m.