12TH ANNUAL

DIVERSITY MATTERS
FILM & LECTURE SERIES

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2017-18

LECTURE : Discussing "Killers of the Flower Moon"

Amanda Proctor, Osage tribal member, B.S. Harvard University, J.D., University of Tulsa College of Law

David Grann's book, "Killers of the Flower Moon," describes the conspiracies that killed Osage tribal members in order to steal their oil wealth, which could only be passed on through inheritance. The statutory story begins in 1906 when then Congress devised a scheme to deal with the Osages' newfound wealth by severing the mineral estate from the surface estate. Amanda Proctor is one of the attorneys of record on the Fletcher v. United States case that continues to fight for the Osage Mineral Trust. General Counsel for the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, join Proctor to discuss this and other cases of justice for tribal people.

Thursday, Sept. 28 | 6:30 p.m.
Fort Omaha Campus, Institute for the Culinary Arts
Building 22, Swanson Conference Center, room 201C

LECTURE : "The Fluidity of Race: The Legacy of the Racial Divide in Post-Obama America"

By Dr. Michael Combs, Ph.D., professor, Political Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, senior pastor, Mt Zion Baptist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

The fluidity of race is evidenced in the legacy of the racial divide in post-Obama America. The persistence of the racial divide illuminates that racial differences are dynamic, but such changes have not eliminated race based inequalities in the lives of racial and ethnic disadvantaged groups. The inequalities have survived the intervention of path breaking Supreme Court decisions, the Civil Rights Movement, the enactment of civil rights legislation (e.g. the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965), the implementation of affirmative action and diversity programs, and the election of Barack Obama, the first and only African American to serve as President of the United States. Seemingly, in 2017, certain elements of the racial divide are increasingly pulling at the seams of the fabric of American society. Combs argues that Americans must be vigilant to champion changes that transform our society and prevent devastating retrenchments.

Monday, Oct. 9 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Fort Omaha Campus, Institute for the Culinary Arts
Building 22, Swanson Conference Center, room 201AB

VIDEO & DISCUSSION: "Of Kites and Borders"

Winner of the Best Documentary Award at the San Diego Film Festival and the Havana Film Festival in New York, tells the story of the daily struggle to be a child living on the US-Mexico border through the eyes of four working children in the city of Tijuana.

Edie is a teen who smuggles immigrants into the United States while promising himself that he will never get worn-out working in the maquilas (assembly plants). Carmela is a nine-year old who knows more about work in the city's dumps than about fairy tales, yet every day at sunset she dreams of a better life while watching the kites that fly over her slum. Lastly, brothers Adrián and Fernando don masks to conceal their youth and perform wrestling matches at busy intersections in order to support their family all the while dreaming of traveling the world as famous Mexican luchadores.

Tuesday, Oct. 17 | 2:30-3:50 p.m.
South Omaha Campus, Industrial Training Center, room 120
ENGL-Staff

LECTURE: Global Voices and Perspectives featuring lecture by Carlos Velazquez, The Nunavut Inuit living in the High Arctic

In recognition of the upcoming U.S. International Education Week, enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, musical entertainment, a student global photo contest and a lecture by Carlos Velazquez, mechanical engineer and former Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs of the Southern Cherokee Nation. He reports on his experience living with the Inuit, learning their traditions before their forcible removal from life on the ice to their assimilation in government hamlets. He in China as a project engineer, where he met with the Chinese Environmental Department and was the first westerner to present on preserving the environment at Dalian University in China.

Wednesday, Oct. 25 | 6-8 p.m
South Omaha Campus Industrial Training Center, room 120
6-6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres reception
6:30 p.m. Program begins

VIDEO & DISCUSSION : "Incarcerating U.S."

"Incarcerating U.S." tells the story of America's broken criminal justice system through the eyes of those who created it, those who have suffered through it and those who are fighting to change it.

Through expert testimony, shocking statistics and dramatic first-hand accounts of those tragically affected by the system for committing minor crimes, we see the failures of two major initiatives: the War on Drugs and mandatory minimum sentences.

Monday, Oct. 30 | 10:30-11:50 a.m.
Elkhorn Valley Campus – Call for location

VIDEO & DISCUSSION : "Love & Solidarity"

An exploration of nonviolence and organizing through the life and teachings of Rev. James Lawson. Lawson provided crucial strategic guidance while working with Martin Luther King, Jr., in southern freedom struggles and the Memphis sanitation strike of 1968. Moving to Los Angeles in 1974, Lawson continued his nonviolence, organizing in multiracial community and worker coalitions that have helped to remake the LA labor movement.

Through interviews and historical documents, acclaimed labor and civil rights historian Michael Honey and award-winning filmmaker Errol Webber put Lawson's discourse on nonviolent direct action on the front burner of today's struggles against economic inequality, racism and violence, and for human rights, peace and economic justice.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 | 11-11:50 a.m.
Elkhorn Valley Campus – Call for location

PANEL: Human Trafficking in the Heartland

Led by Meghan Malik, MPA, trafficking response coordinator, Women's Fund of Omaha

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide, with significant activity across the state of Nebraska. The UN crime-fighting office announced that 2.4 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking at any one time, with 80 percent being exploited as sexual slaves and 17 percent trafficked to perform forced labor, including in homes and sweat shops. Every year, $32 billion is being earned by criminals running human trafficking networks, and two out of every three victims are women. It is estimated that 14,500 to 17,500 people, primarily women and children, are trafficked to the U.S. annually. Learn from panel members who share the realities of human trafficking in the Heartland.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 | 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Fort Omaha Campus – Call for location

LECTURE: A Living Tradition; the Art of Native American Basketry

By Kelly Church, Anishnabe, Matchi-bi-nash-she-wish Tribe of Michigan, BFA University of Michigan, AFA Institute of American Indian Arts

After receiving her BFA, Kelly Church returned to the traditional arts of her family through caring for her grandparents and listening to their stories of times past. Her heritage is from an unbroken line of black ash basket makers who harvest and process all materials from the forests of Michigan. They weave with black ash, white cedar, birch bark, sweetgrass and basswood to make baskets, quill boxes and birch bark bitings from the birch tree. With the invasion of the emerald wash borer, predicted to decimate the entire Ash resource across the U.S., Church has changed her role from artist to artist activist. She photographs and videos the process of pounding for future generations that will need to teach weaving using alternative materials. Her Seventh-Generation Series represent what could be the future.

Thanks to the College of St. Mary for sharing their artist in residence with Metropolitan Community College and the Nebraska Arts Council for providing financial support for this presentation.

Thursday, March 29 | 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Elkhorn Valley Campus – Call for location

VIDEO & DISCUSSION: "The True Cost"

This is a story about clothing. It's about the clothes we wear, the people who make them and the impact the industry is having on our world. The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically. "The True Cost" is a groundbreaking documentary film that pulls back the curtain on the untold story and asks us to consider, who really pays the price for our clothing?

Filmed in countries all over the world, from the brightest runways to the darkest slums, and featuring interviews with the world's leading influencers including Stella McCartney, Livia Firth and Vandana Shiva, "The True Cost" is an unprecedented project that invites us on an eye-opening journey around the world and into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.

Wednesday, April 4 | 2:15-3:50 p.m.
Elkhorn Valley Campus – Call for location

Contact 531-MCC-2253 or bvelazquez@mccneb.edu or visit mccneb.edu/intercultural for additional information

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