



Butler University • Indianapolis, Indiana

CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

*A Collaborative Diversity Initiative of Butler University and
The Office of the Mayor, City of Indianapolis*

Butler University is proud to host the **Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series**, presented as a collaborative diversity initiative of Butler University and the Office of the Mayor for over 20 years to our community. The Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series, founded in 1987, and the Visiting African-American Scholars Program, implemented in 1989, was developed to provide Butler and the greater Indianapolis community with opportunities to encounter outstanding dignitaries and scholars through short-term campus visits.

Serving Butler and the greater Indianapolis community, the Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series has become one of the largest multicultural collegiate observances in the Midwest, hosting over 50,000 people in the last decade. The population served includes Butler students, faculty, staff and alumni; area high school and college students; Indianapolis community leaders and residents; and student and faculty groups from other Indiana colleges and universities. **All events are free and open to the community.**

In 2002, the Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series became a Collaborative Diversity Initiative between Butler University and the Office of the Mayor, City of Indianapolis. With generous support from the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Anthem Blue Cross - Blue Shield, Citizens Energy, Indianapolis Power & Light Company, Old National Bank, Kroger, Radio One, and The Columbia Club. Previous corporate partners included Vectren Corporation, Allison Transmission, Duke Inc., and Comcast.

Community Partners (In-kind Partnerships)

Baker & Daniels, LLC
100 Black Men of Indianapolis, Inc.
Circle City Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Eastern Star Church
Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee-
Race and Cultural Relations Leadership
Network
Ice Miller, LLC.
Indiana Civil Rights Commission
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of
Black Males
Indiana Humanities

Indianapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Indianapolis Public Schools
Indianapolis Urban League
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
National Council of 100 Black Women,
Inc.- Indianapolis
National Pan-Hellenic Council of
Indianapolis
Shortridge Magnet High School for Law
and Public Policy
Urban Mission YMCA

The mission and purpose of this partnership is to:

- Support the Mayor's commitment to race relations and diversity within the Indianapolis community;
- Combine efforts to develop a sense of awareness and understanding of differences and similarities among people of different races through increased dialogue and cultural interaction.

Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series Lecturers/Performances – 1987-2012

Academicians

Dr. Lionel C. Barrow	(1989)
Dr. Janice Hale Benson	(1989)
Dr. Jacqueline Fleming	(1990)
Dr. Asa Hilliard	(1991)
Dr. Vivian Gordan	(1992)
Dr. Maki Mandela, daughter of former President Nelson Mandela	(1995)
Dr. Ted Williams	(1991)
Dr. Michael Eric Dyson	(2001)
Dr. Manning Marable	(2002)
Dr. Cornel West	(2003)
Dr. Lee Jones	(2003)
Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson (Brown vs. Board of Education)	(2004)
Dr. Mae C. Jemison, Astronaut, Physician – First African-American Woman in Space	(2006)
Dr. Cornel West and Dr. Michael Eric Dyson	(2006)
Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Henry Louis Gates – Distinguished Historians	(2007)
The Three Doctors (Dr. Samson Davis, Dr. Rameck Hunt, Dr. George Jenkins)	(2008)
Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and Rev. Marcia Dyson	(2008)
Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, M.D. – World Renowned Pediatric Neurosurgeon	(2009)

Civil/Human Rights Activists

Julian Bond	(2000)
Dr. Benjamin Chavis	(1995)
Morris Dees	(1998)
Dr. James Farmer	(1992)
Jennifer Harbury	(1999)
Dr. Joseph Lowery	(1990)
Myrlie Evers-Williams	(1997)
Coretta Scott King	(2002)
***Archbishop Desmond Tutu	(2002)
Shoshana Johnson – First African-American P.O.W.	(2004)
Kweisi Mfume –Executive Director, NAACP	(2005)
Wilma Mankiller — First Female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation	(2008)
Marian Wright Edelman -President and CEO of The Children’s Defense Fund	(2009)
Andrew Young — Former U.N. Ambassador and Civil Rights Icon	(2011)

Government Officials/World Leaders

Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, Surgeon General of the United States	(1994)
Dr. Phakamile Gongo, Secretary General of the U.S. South African Embassy	(1996)
President William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States	(2005)
The Honorable J.C. Watts, Statesman and Former Congressman	(2006)
President George H.W. Bush, 41st President of the United States	(2006)
General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.), Secretary of State	(2008)
Mayor Cory Booker of Newark, NJ	(2008)
Former Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele of Maryland	(2008)
Mayor Gregory Ballard of Indianapolis, IN	(2008)
Dr. Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, Distinguished American Diplomat	(2010)

Distinguished Poets and Authors

Maya Angelou	(1988, 1989)
Amiri Baraka	(1996)
Gwendolyn Brooks	(1991)
Lucille Clifton	(1993)
Nikki Giovanni	(1994)
Derek Walcott	(1991)
*bell hooks	(2002)
**Mari Evans	(2003)
**Salmon Rushdie	(2003)
*Charles Johnson	(2003)
**Amy Tan	(2004)
Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez	(2007)
Maxine Hong Kingston	(2007)
Ishmael Beah, former Child Soldier from Sierra Leone	(2009)
***Carlos Fuentes – Distinguished Mexican Author and Diplomat	(2009)

Musical Artists/Entertainment/Media Personalities/Theatrical Performances

Kimberly Aiken – Miss America	(1995)
Margaret Avery – Actress	(1987)
Martina Arroyo – Opera Star	(1990)
Dr. Bertice Berry – Sociologist, Talk Show Hostess, Author, Actress	(1997)
Spike Lee – Distinguished Writer/Director/Actor	(1993)
<i>The Meeting</i>	(1991)
Carole Simpson – ABC Senior News Anchor/Correspondent	(1989)
Sinbad – Actor/Comedian	(2000)
Robert Townsend – Actor/Director/Comedian	(1996)
William Warfield – Distinguished Opera Star	(1993)
Tavis Smiley – Distinguished Broadcast Journalist	(2003)
Edward James Olmos – Distinguished Actor and Human Rights Activist	(2003)
Russell Simmons – Multimedia Mogul, Philanthropist, and Political Activist	(2003)
Russell Simmons presents <i>Def Poetry Jam</i>	(2003)
<i>It's Showtime at The Apollo on Tour</i>	(2004)
Harry Belafonte – Legendary Entertainer and Humanitarian	(2004)
Danny Glover – Award-winning Actor, Producer and Human Rights Activist	(2005)
Arturo Sandoval – Grammy- award-winning Jazz and Classical Musician	(2005)
Soledad O'Brien – Distinguished Broadcast Journalist, CNN Anchor	(2005)
Susan L. Taylor – Author, Entrepreneur and Editorial Director of <i>Essence</i> Magazine	(2006)
Mariane Pearl – International Journalist, Human Rights Activist	(2008)
Sandy 'Pepa' Denton – Hip-Hop pioneer, member of <i>Salt-N-Pepa</i>	(2010)
Jeff Johnson – Political and Social Activist, BET Talk Show Host	(2010)

Musical Artists/Entertainment/Media Personalities/Theatrical Performances
(cont'd.)

Yung Joc – Platinum-selling Hip-Hop Artist (2010)

John Legend – Grammy Award-winning Musician,
Activist, and Philanthropist (2010)

Common – Grammy Award-winning Artist, Actor and Author (2012)

America Ferrera- Emmy Award-winning Actress and Activist (2012)

Dan Rather – Distinguished Broadcast Journalist (2012)

*Spirit and Place Festival Public Conversation Speaker

** Co-Sponsored with the Butler Visiting Writers Series

*** Butler Commencement Speaker

**** Cancelled due to illness of the speaker