Mr. Juan Pacheco  
*Hispanic Heritage Month:*
*“From Gang Member to Pediatrician the Recycling and Cultivation of Human Purpose”*

Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

Mr. Pacheco has invested his life working and volunteering (since 2005 Barrios Unidos East Coast has not received formal funding) as the East coast Representative for Barrios Unidos, a youth violence prevention/intervention and community awareness organization. Barrios Unidos believes that drawing upon the resources of adults and older youth that have made it out of the “street life,” youth are helped to choose life-affirming behavior, positive self-esteem, constructive goals, supportive community, and cultural pride. Mr. Pacheco worked as community Liaison for World Vision’s Community Mobilization Initiative (CMI). His role in World Vision helped the CMI Program attain the title of “Best Practices in Gang Prevention Program” highlighted in the study “Dare to Care – Community-Based Responses to Youth Gang Violence in Central America and Central American Immigrant Communities in the United States.”

Ms. Julia Walsh  
*“What the Frack? A Renewable Revolution”*

Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 7pm, East Hall, WSU  
Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 12pm, East Hall, WSU

Julia Walsh is a community organizer, motivational speaker and political strategist who has worked on progressive issues and campaigns since 2001. In 2010, Julia started Frack Action in response to the immediate threat that fracking would start in New York State. Soon after its founding, Frack Action played a pivotal role in the New York State legislature’s passage of a fracking moratorium which has halted fracking in NY thus far. Prior to starting Frack Action, Julia served as an elected official on the Village Board of New Paltz, NY from ’03-’07. During her time in office she was instrumental in passing environmental legislation, as well as organizing New Paltz’s high-profile, politically charged same-sex marriages in Feb.’04. For the past nine years, Julia has been an NGO Representative to the United Nations on behalf of children’s rights and indigenous rights organizations.
Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs

*National Coming Out Day and Domestic Violence Awareness Month: “Because I Know the Truth: Ending Sexual Violence”*

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 12pm, Student Activity Center, WSU
Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs is a queer black trouble-maker and a black feminist love evangelist. She walks in the legacy of black lady school teachers in post slavery communities who offered sacred educational space to the intergenerational newly free in exchange for the random necessities of life. As the first person to do archival research in the papers of Audre Lorde, June Jordan and Lucille Clifton while achieving her PhD in English, Africana Studies and Women’s Studies at Duke University, she honors the lives and creative works of Black feminist geniuses as sacred texts for all people. She believes that in the time we live in, access to the intersectional holistic brilliance of the black feminist tradition is as crucial as learning how to read.

Ms. Winona LaDuke

*Native American Heritage Month*

*“The Next Energy Economy: Grassroots Strategies to Mitigate Global Climate Change and How We Move Ahead”*

Monday, November 17, 2014, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

A Native American activist and an advocate for environmental, women’s, and children’s rights, Winona LaDuke was Ralph Nader’s running mate for his presidential campaigns in 1996 and 2000. She is the founder and campaign director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, a reservation-based land acquisition, environmental advocacy, and cultural organization. A prominent human rights speaker, she is also founder and co-chair of the Indigenous Women’s Network.

Environmental speaker Winona LaDuke takes her audiences on a ride that opens their minds to what is going on with the environment. She speaks on subjects such as the deterioration of Native American reservations and the devastation of the world’s rain forests.
Mr. David J. Dennis Sr.
*Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration*
“Involvement in the Civil Rights Movement in Louisiana and Mississippi from the Freedom Rides of 1961 through Freedom Summer 1964 and Beyond”

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 12pm, Winona Senior High School
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

Dave Dennis joined CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) in 1960. During his freshman year at Dillard University in New Orleans in May of 1961, he traveled by train to Montgomery AL where continuation of the Freedom Rides came into question in the face of great tension and violence. The issue was debated, with the “elders” reluctantly ready to end the Freedom Rides and the “youth” willing to persevere. Dave will take his audience with him as he boards the bus headed to Jackson MS, as he drops out of school to commit full time to the movement, as he lives those tumultuous months and years that included--among many other heart-wrenching events--the murders of Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman, to the point at which he returns to Dillard University in the fall of 1965.

Dr. Joy DeGruy
*Black History Month*
“Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome”

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

Dr. Joy DeGruy is a nationally and internationally renowned researcher, educator, author and presenter. With over twenty years of practical experience as a professional in the field of social work, she gives practical insight into various cultural and ethnic groups that form the basis of contemporary American society. Dr. DeGruy’s workshops also go far beyond the topic of cultural sensitivity and diversity; she provides specialized work in areas of mental health and ecological resilience.

The Theory of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome suggests that centuries of slavery followed by systemic racism and oppression have resulted in multigenerational adaptive behaviors- some of which have been positive and reflective of resilience and others that are detrimental and destructive. In brief, Dr. DeGruy presents facts, statistics and documents that illustrate how varying levels of both clinically induced and so cially learned residual stress related issues were passed along through generations as a result of slavery.
Dr. Nekima Levy-Pounds
“The Time for Criminal Justice is Now: Race, Policing and the Criminal Justice System”
Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

Dr. Nekima Levy-Pounds is an award-winning professor of law at the University of St. Thomas Law School and the founding Director of the Community Justice Project, civil rights legal clinic Professor Levi-Pounds is also a civil rights attorney, legal scholar, blogger, and national expert on issues at the intersections of race, public policy, economic justice, public education, juvenile justice, and the criminal justice system. She has a heart for the people and works towards achieving justice on behalf of those whose voices are often unheard within society. A great deal of her legal work, scholarly writing, and advocacy focuses on identifying and implementing solutions for improving the quality of life for African Americans in general, and young African American men, in particular. To that end, she is co-founder and board chair of Brotherhood, Inc., a nonprofit organization geared towards young African American men ages 16-24, who have been involved in the criminal justice system or gangs or who are at risk of such involvement.

Mr. Lee Pao Xiong
“The Plight of the Hmong: 40 Years of Cultural Sustainability in Minnesota”
Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 7pm, East Hall, WSU

Lee Pao Xiong is currently the founding Director of the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University, St. Paul and professor of American Government/Political Science and Hmong Studies. He is a co-founder of the Hmong Resource Fair, the Asian Festival (now Dragon Boat Festival in St. Paul), Hmong Academy (now Hmong College Prep Academy), Hmong Community School of Excellence, and the Asian Development Corporation (now Asian Economic Development Association). Currently, he serves on the board of the friends of the St. Paul Library, the Sunrise Community Bank Advisory Board and Change Inc. He is widely sought after as a speaker and trainer by many educational institutions, community organizations, as well as family members to speak about Hmong history, culture, and society as well as on leadership and board governance related topics.