



Spring 2010 UIS Speaker Series*

All Events are Free & Open to the Public!


<p>February 2 Tuesday 7:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p><i>AIDS in the African Continent</i></p> <p>Film screening of <i>Living with AIDS</i>, followed by a discussion moderated by <i>Africa Action's</i> Briggs Bomba and UIS International Admissions Counselor, Samba Dieng.</p>	<p>This event will consist of a screening of the documentary <i>Living With AIDS</i> by Sorious Samura, followed by a discussion led by Briggs Bomba of <i>Africa in Action</i> and UIS International Admissions Counselor Samba Dieng</p> <p><i>Living With AIDS</i> documents Samura's work as an orderly in a hospital in Zambia, where the majority of the patients are HIV positive. In this film, Samura exposes the untold story of AIDS --how poverty and the complex nature of African culture and sexuality are hampering efforts to eradicate this horrifying disease. http://www.insightnewstv.com/aids/</p> <p>Briggs Bomba of <i>Africa Action</i> has extensive experience working with civil society organizations in Zimbabwe and other African countries. He has traveled extensively on the African continent and is a frequent guest on broadcast media including BBC, The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, Al Jazeera, and SW Radio Africa.</p> <p>Samba Dieng has a masters degree in International relations and political science. He has worked for <i>Africa Action</i> and other NGO's as an intern. He worked for the United Nations Volunteers for six months in a refugee camp in Chad. He grew up in seven countries and has a wealth of international experience. While at <i>Africa Action</i>, he helped design a campaign update on the President's Emergency Plan for Aids relief and developed a monthly HIV AIDS fact sheet on the web. Both Briggs and Samba are from the African continent and have first-hand experience of the disease. http://www.africaaction.org/</p>
<p>New Event!!</p> <p>February 20 Saturday 9:30AM-11:30AM UHB 2008</p>	<p><i>Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes</i></p> <p><i>Film Screening & Discussion by Dr. Kamau Kemayo</i></p> <p>Co-Sponsored by: BASUAH Health Summit & Hip-Hop Symposium</p>	<p>In honor of Black History Month, we will be showing the documentary <i>Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes</i>, followed by a discussion of the film led by Dr. Kamau Kemayo, Chair of the UIS African-American Studies program.</p> <p>Hip-Hop is a man's game...but does it have to be? In this documentary a self-described "hip-hop head" takes an in-depth look at masculinity and manhood in rap and hip-hop, where creative genius collides with misogyny, violence, and homophobia, exposing the complex intersections of culture and commerce. http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/hiphop/index.htm.</p> <p>Note: Due to the sexual imagery and strong language used in the film to encourage critical thinking and spark dialogue, this event is <u>NOT</u> appropriate for children.</p>

<p>February 22 Monday 6:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FLOW</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Film Screening and Discussion</i></p> <p>Moderator: Richard Gilman-Opalsky</p> <p>Sponsored by: <i>Political Art and the Public Sphere</i></p>	<p>From both local and global perspectives, this documentary examines the mounting water crisis around the world. Learn how politics, pollution and human rights are intertwined in this important issue that affects every being on Earth. Engage in open discussion about the issues raised by the film. http://www.flowthefilm.com/</p> <p>Dr. Richard Gilman-Opalsky hosts a series of events called <i>Political Art and the Public Sphere (PAPS)</i>. The basic idea behind PAPS is to consider how “political art” raises provocative social and political questions, and to engage in discussion with students, faculty, and members of the general public. http://www.uis.edu/politicalscience/faculty/gilman-opalsky.html</p>
<p>February 24 Wednesday 12:00PM PAC Conference Room G</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Combating Human Trafficking in Illinois</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lisa Fedina</p>	<p>Lisa Fedina is the Project Coordinator of the <i>Illinois Rescue and Restore Coalition</i>, a state-wide coalition of social service organizations, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and community members working together to fight human trafficking in Illinois.</p> <p>Fedina will discuss the basics of human trafficking (including child exploitation, sex trafficking, and labor trafficking), trafficking in local and global contexts, U.S. anti-trafficking legislation, victim identification, and how individuals can get involved in local anti-trafficking efforts. www.dhs.state.il.us/rescueandrestore</p>
<p>March 11 Thursday 7:30PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mexican Drug Violence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ricardo Ainslie</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sponsored By: World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI)</i></p>	<p>Ricardo Ainslie, a native of Mexico City and a US citizen, will discuss Mexico’s drug war cartels and its implications for the United States, drawing heavily on interviews with Mexican government sources and American drug-enforcement experts. He has worked in the epicenter of this war, Ciudad Juarez, the city of 1.5 million across the border from El Paso, Texas, where in 2009 alone over 2,660 people were executed in cartel-related violence.</p> <p>Dr. Ainslie is a clinical psychologist who specializes in applying the methodologies of anthropology, American studies, and the liberal arts to currently pressing problems of social concern. http://www.ricardoainslie.com/</p>

<p>March 23 Tuesday 7:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p>Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p><i>American Indian Traditions: Black Elk's Legacy</i></p> <p>Aaron Black Elk DeSersa</p> <p>Co-Sponsored by: Lawrence J. Smith and Sheila Stocks-Smith and Unity Church of Springfield</p>	<p>Aaron Black Elk DeSersa is a member of the Lakota Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, living on Pine Ridge Reservation. Aaron is the great-grandson of Nicholas Black Elk and holder of the Black Elk family pipe, signifying him as the religious leader or spiritual conscience of the family.</p> <p>DeSersa will describe for us the unique contribution his great-grandfather and family have made to our culture. In carrying on their traditional way of life, and in educating others about "walking in a sacred manner", or continuously honoring your beliefs in your life and your work, the Black Elk DeSersa family embody a unique world view. The American Indian perspective of the connectedness of all people, and indeed all living things, means that their orientation to life is different from that of most Americans.</p> <p>Black Elk's powerful visions were related in John G. Neihardt's book <i>Black Elk Speaks</i>. Aaron will share some family, tribal and American history, and will describe some of the ongoing results of his great-grandfather's teachings. The presentation will offer a special glimpse into a community with economic standards of living that are tantamount to a third world country within the borders of the U.S., a community that yet maintains a unique identity, rich in tradition and dignity. Such an authentic voice from one of the best known, historic American Indian families is a rare opportunity for the Springfield community.</p>
<p>March 24 Wednesday 7:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p>Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p><i>Women Candidates for the American Presidency: from Victoria Woodhull to Hillary Clinton</i></p> <p>Sara Evans</p> <p>Co-Sponsored by: UIS Women's Center</p>	<p>In celebration of 2010 marking the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting voting privilege to all American women and in honor of Women's History Month, this event examines women and the presidency.</p> <p>Hillary Clinton may have been the first truly viable female candidate for the presidency, but she was far from the first to run. In fact, she is part of a very long line of women who have challenged cultural assumptions about gender and political power. Understanding the importance of her accomplishment – and the more than two centuries of linked struggles for gender and racial equality — requires a look back at the many women who broke the path and began to make the unthinkable, thinkable.</p> <p>Sara Evans is a pioneer in the field of women's history, which she taught at the University of Minnesota from 1976-2008. She has been an active feminist since 1967 and chronicled the feminist movement in the late 20th century in several books including <i>Personal Politics</i>, <i>Wage Justice</i>, <i>Born for Liberty</i>, and <i>Tidal Wave</i>. http://www.hist.umn.edu/people/profile.php?UID=s-ewan</p>

<p>March 29 Monday 6:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Trouble the Water</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Film Screening and Discussion</i></p> <p>Moderator: Richard Gilman-Opalsky</p> <p>Sponsored by: <i>Political Art and the Public Sphere</i></p>	<p>This documentary recounts a tale of heroism in New Orleans, where a wannabe rapper and her husband brave the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina to rescue their neighbors. Featuring live video diary footage from the couple, the Oscar-nominated documentary is both a poignant portrait of a family's will to survive and a startling portrayal of Katrina's devastating power. Engage in open discussion about the issues raised by the film. http://www.troublethewaterfilm.com/</p> <p>Dr. Richard Gilman-Opalsky hosts a series of events called <i>Political Art and the Public Sphere (PAPS)</i>. The basic idea behind PAPS is to consider how "political art" raises provocative social and political questions, and to engage in discussion with students, faculty, and members of the general public. http://www.uis.edu/politicalscience/faculty/gilman-opalsky.html</p>
<p>March 31 Wednesday 12:00PM PAC Conference Room G</p> <p>Video on Demand</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Reality of the Improbable: Science Fiction as Social Commentary</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Edward Beekman-Myers</i></p> <p>A book signing will follow the discussion.</p>	<p>Within most works of science fiction and fantasy there exists a basis in present day and/or historical reality. A number of authors have used the genre to comment on particular social problems and injustices by placing them in an otherworldly setting and exaggerating them in order to raise awareness. Looking at various works of sci-fi and fantasy in literature, film, and television, we can see how something that seems improbable can often be all-too real.</p> <p>Edward Beekman-Myers is the author of several short stories, plays, and novels, including the first volume in a sci-fi/comedy series, <i>The Totally Gnarly Adventures of the Galactically Bitchin' Comet Sweat!</i>, which was recently published through CreateSpace. He serves as an instructor for UIS's Speaker Series and as an English instructor for various other colleges in the Springfield area. www.beekmanmyers.com</p>
<p>April 6 Tuesday 9:30PM Location TBA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Step Afrika!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance and discussion</p> <p>Sponsored by: Student Affairs Committee</p> <p>Co-Sponsored by: Black Student Union, Center for First Year Students, Diversity Center, ECCE Speaker Series, International Student Services, & Sangamon Auditorium</p>	<p>Step Afrika! celebrates stepping, an art form born at African American fraternities and based in African traditions. As the first professional company dedicated to stepping, Step Afrika!'s intricate kicks, stomps and rhythms mixed with spoken word pound the floor and fill the air to entertain and raise awareness for the culture that created stepping.</p> <p>From Appalachia to South Africa, from stepping to gumboot to Zulu, Step Afrika! seeks to build connections between people and to highlight the similarities in our dance forms, our lives and our communities. Step Afrika's message is <i>if we can dance together, we can work together</i> and <i>stepping is just one way of starting the conversation</i>. http://www.stepafrika.com/home.htm</p>

<p>April 14 Wednesday 2:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p>Video on Demand</p>	<p><i>Hip Hop, Lao American Youths, & Performative Blackness</i></p> <p>Monica Chiu</p>	<p>To be Americanized has been a long standing goal of immigrant children and a key to their future economic and social success. In the particular case of Lao American youth, "becoming white" is closely associated with performing blackness. This talk discusses how Lao American boys' refashion themselves with the blackness inspired by media in order to achieve the so-called social acceptance among their American peers. It also highlights how their efforts to "fit in" are related to their academic struggles. Taking ethnographical and cultural approaches, this talk addresses how this cultural phenomenon reflects the dilemma of social acceptance for adolescents, the perception of community, as well as US immigration history and the relationships between different racial groups.</p> <p>Monica Chiu is Associate Professor of English and University Honors Program Director at the University of New Hampshire. Specializing in Asian American Studies, she is the author of <i>Filthy Fictions: Asian American Literature by Women</i> (2004), the editor of <i>Asian Americans in New England: Culture and Community</i> (2009). http://www.unh.edu/english/index.cfm?id=1B2A4041-DD62-3ED4-E69EE026EE12B2DA</p>
<p>April 15 Thursday 7:30PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p>Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p><i>The Myth of the Three Abrahamic Religions</i></p> <p>Gabriel Said Reynolds</p> <p>Co-sponsored by: <i>World Affairs Council of Central Illinois</i> and the <i>Notre Dame Club of Central Illinois</i></p>	<p>In recent years academic institutions and the popular press have embraced the idea of the Three Abrahamic Religions, suggesting thereby that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are united by common origins with Abraham. Cambridge University now has a <i>Centre for the Study of Abrahamic Faiths</i> and Oxford University has established a <i>Chair in Abrahamic Religions</i>. In fact in all three religious traditions Abraham is a figure meant to divide, not unite. This is evident in the legends of Abraham – a figure who precedes all three religions -- that turn him into a Jew, a Christian, or a Muslim. A sober analysis of the way in which Abraham is used for the sake of religious competition will offer us a more useful starting point to address the conflicts between Jews, Christians, and Muslims today.</p> <p>Gabriel Said Reynolds is an Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Theology at the University of Notre Dame, where he researches the Qur'ān and Muslim/Christian relations. At Notre Dame Reynolds is the director of a conference series on the emergence of the Qur'ān and its relationship with Biblical literature. He also translated Abd al-Jabbār's <i>Critique of Christian Origins</i> the first Islamic history of Christianity. http://www.nd.edu/~medinst/faculty/bios/reynolds.html</p>

<p>April 19 Monday 5:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p>Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p><i>How to Be a Change Maker</i></p> <p><i>Jonathan Sprinkles</i></p> <p>Sponsored by: Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center and the Student Government Association</p>	<p>Ready to be inspired?</p> <p>The Volunteer Center is pleased to welcome Jonathan Sprinkles (yes that is his real name) to kick off our celebration of National Volunteer Week in April.</p> <p>From his very first motivational speech, Jonathan's stated mission has been to "teach beautiful people how to act like it". His own troubled background has taught him that fear, doubt, and low self-esteem are illusions that can be overcome with specific techniques that utilize the intrinsic power of our brains. Jonathan insists that all of us have the <i>ability</i> and the <i>responsibility</i> to impact our world in a positive and lasting way.</p> <p>His highly interactive and energetic style has been recognized with numerous regional and national awards, including "National College Speaker of the Year" from the APCA. He is also a Toastmasters International District Champion, one of only 73 in the world. You can find out more about Jonathan and hear clips of some of his past speeches at http://www.jsprinkles.com.</p>
<p>New Event!!</p> <p>April 20 Tuesday 7:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p>	<p><i>Annual John Holtz Lecture Series</i></p> <p><i>Don Springer</i></p> <p>Sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society & the Friends of Brookens Library</p>	<p>Don Springer, a descendant of members of the Donner Party, will be the featured speaker for the 2010 John Holtz Lecture. Spring will be speaking about the challenges and hardships of nineteenth century pioneers in the American West, using as an example the Donner family.</p>
<p>April 22 – Earth Day Thursday 7:00PM Brookens Auditorium</p> <p>Live Webcast & Video on Demand</p>	<p><i>The Open Space of Democracy</i></p> <p><i>Terry Tempest Williams</i> <i>2010 UIS Earth Day Speaker</i></p>  <p>Co-sponsored by: UIS Julia J Henderson Award Fund and the Senate Committee on Sustainability</p>	<p>Terry Tempest Williams has been called "a citizen writer," a writer who speaks and speaks out eloquently on behalf of an ethical stance toward life. A naturalist and fierce advocate for freedom of speech, she has consistently shown how environmental issues are social issues that ultimately become matters of justice.</p> <p>Known for her impassioned and lyrical prose, Williams is the author of several books including the environmental literature classic <i>Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place</i>. In 2006, Williams received the Robert Marshall Award from The Wilderness Society, their highest honor given to an American citizen.</p> <p>http://www.barclayagency.com/williams.html</p>

***Please note:**

- Schedule current as of February 18, 2010.
- Visit our website at <http://illinois.edu/goto/speakerseries> for the most up-to- date event schedule.
- For additional information contact speakerseries@uis.edu or Kimberly Craig at 217.206.6245
- To view a live webcast: At the time of the event go to <http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html>
- Video on Demand recordings are available a couple of days after an event at <http://www.uis.edu/its/iss/webcasting.html>

