

Dyson Delivers Lecture, Appears on *Larry King Live* from UWG

Dr. Michael Erik Dyson brought a standing-room-only crowd to the Campus Center Ballroom at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series. The celebrated author and scholar spoke for an hour about politics, love, honor and respect and received a standing ovation when he ended his oration.

The MLK lecture series is hosted by the Center for African-American Male Research, Success and Leadership (CAAMRSL) and was a free event open to faculty, staff and students and the metro Atlanta community.

After the book signing, Dyson and a CNN crew filmed a live segment for the “Larry King Live” show in the UWG Campus Center.

Dyson, a prominent African American scholar who received his doctorate in religion from Princeton University, has gained star appeal on shows such as “Rap City,” “Def Poetry Jam” and “The Colbert Report.” Dyson also hosts his own syndicated radio show, “The Michael Eric Dyson Show,” which addresses social, cultural and political issues in a contemporary venue.



He has been named by Essence magazine as one of the 40 most inspiring African-Americans and by Ebony magazine as one of the 100 most influential black Americans.

“The lecture series helps inspire UWG students,” said Dr. Said Sewell, associate professor of political science and planning and director of CAAMRSL. “By bringing Dr. Dyson, we continue to fulfill our duty to motivate students and the surrounding community. Dr. Michael Dyson will help us persevere in our endless journey of greatness.”

While Dyson has taught at some of the nation’s most prestigious universities, including Brown University, University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University, his influence extends beyond the academy and into political conventions, union halls, prisons, bookstores, church sanctuaries and lecture stages across the world. Dyson is also an accomplished author, taking on some of the toughest and most controversial issues of our day, including Martin Luther King, Jr.’s radical legacy in “I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.” and issues of racial conflict and black identity in “Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line.”

Sewell opened the CAAMRSL in 2005 to develop and implement programs that help African American males have a successful transition from high school to post-secondary institutions. In addition to the MLK Distinguished Lecture Series, the center sponsors other programs such as the W.E.B. Dubois Academic Institute, The Black Males with Initiative Program and the African-American Male Learning Community.

UWG Welcomes New Chair of Political Science and Planning

The department was delighted to welcome Dr. Robert M. Schaefer as Chair of the department in August 2007. Dr. Schaefer was born and raised in Rochester, NY, then moved to Dallas where he received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Dallas. He taught at the University of Mobile in Alabama for 17 years where he held a variety of positions, including Acting and later Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor and Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. His academic interests include the American Constitution, state politics, and political theory. Dr. Schaefer's family includes wife Jill and three daughters: Maggie, Claire and Ilse.

Political Science major and departmental assistant Connie Reyes asked Dr. Schaefer a few questions.



What are your favorite books? Plato's *Republic* and Walker Percy's *Love in the Ruins*

What is your proudest accomplishment? Assisting the City of Mobile to promote relations with the people of Cuba and working with Governor Riley, et al., to promote constitutional reform in Alabama.

What is your pet peeve? Not accomplishing goals

What is your favorite thing to do? Refurbish old homes (while staying away from emergency rooms!)

Six MPA degrees Awarded

Six students received their Master of Public Administration degrees at the Spring 2008 Commencement. Brittani Saylor, who is working at CNN and has a BA from the University of Georgia, completed her degree, as did Lee Wade, an officer in the Carrollton Police Department, who also won the Lee Wash award for Public Service this year. Randall Hayes, who previously worked at the Roosevelt Rehabilitation Center in Warm Springs, was awarded his degree, as was Angela Newson, who has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of West Georgia. Also getting their MPA degree were Torri Durham and Edmond Richardson, who previously was a graduate student at Georgia State University.

Students Honored, Inducted at Awards Ceremony

A number of students were honored with scholarships and awards this year. Among those were Amanda Graham and Lee Wade, honored with the Lee Wash Award for public service. The Thomas Herndon Award for best Political Science major and the George T. Bagby Scholarship both went to Ashley Colcord. Cara Welch received the Jud Whatley Scholarship and Nia Kulakova and Lee Wade shared in the award of the Dudley Crosson scholarship.



This year's inductees into Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, are pictured, left. These students represent the best amongst our majors. Pictured are new Pi Sigma Alpha members Katrina Word, Irene Tsipolitis, Amanda Graham, Jena Edwards, Adrian de Santos, and Ashley Colcord. Inductee Mark Puckett was unable to be present.

Pictured to the right are those inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honorary society for public affairs and public administration. From left to right are Nia Kulakova, Lyndsey McGaha, and Lee Wade. Other new Pi Alpha Alpha members unable to be present include Amber Bracewell and Andrea Hollins.

Finally, Irene Tsipolitis received her certificate in European Union studies with Honors at the ceremony. Jena Edwards completes her certificate this summer.

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Political Science loses two; UWG awards posthumous degree

The department was saddened by the loss of two students this spring. Amanda Dawn Miller died on March 20, 2008 after a lengthy illness. On May 22, President Sethna presided over a posthumous degree ceremony for Amanda, granting her BS in Political Science that she would have completed this semester.

Also, Christopher Chambers, Bagby Scholarship winner in 2005, passed away May 15, 2008. We extend our condolences to the family and friends of these students.



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Department of Political
Science and Planning
University of West Georgia
1601 Maple St.
Carrollton, GA 30118

Tel: (678)839-6504
Fax: (678)839-5009
Email: aimmele@westga.edu

We're on the Web!
www.westga.edu/~polisci

Alumni and Faculty Newsbites

Jennifer Rankin was recently admitted to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Lakeisha Porter and Laurail (Neoshia) (Phillips) Williams both graduated from John Marshall Law school and passed the bar last month.

Dr. Thomas Hunter and Dr. Shun Waymon and their wives welcomed new babies this year.

Dr. Louis Howe has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and is off to Canada next year.

Anita Immelé, the department's Administrative Professional, was one of several campus staff members to be honored with a Unity Award from the campus chapter of the NAACP.

Dr. J. Sal Peralta was named the best professor in the Latin American Studies program.

Dr. Heather Mbaye is off to England to teach in the USG London Program.

Kristi Walker is attending John Marshall School of Law.

We welcome hearing about you! Send your news in to the department!

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