

Affirmative Action Speakers recommended by Committee Member Vicki Washington

- ***Kimberly Crenshaw.***

Kimberly is a Professor of Law at Columbia University and UCLA and is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the African American Policy Forum (www.aapf.org). She is an expert on Affirmative Action and critical race legal theory and research. She also has connections to the UW-Madison School of Law. Check out these websites--

<http://www.aapf.org/focus/> and <http://www.commondreams.org/views03/1011-08.htm>

- ***Michael Eric Dyson, Avalon Professor in the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania***

The School of Arts and Sciences has announced that Dr. Michael Eric Dyson has been named the Avalon Professor in the Humanities. Dr. Dyson comes to the religious studies department from DePaul University, where he was the Ida B. Wells-Barnett University Professor. In addition, he has taught at Chicago Theological Seminary, the University of North Carolina, and Columbia and Brown universities. In his research, which focuses on race, religion, popular culture and contemporary crises facing the African-American community, he sometimes employs a new genre of scholarship, which he terms 'bio-criticism,' the fusion of social and cultural criticism and biographical analysis. He earned a Ph.D. in religion at Princeton University and is also an ordained Baptist minister.

A widely published author and frequent media commentator, he has written six highly acclaimed books including the recent bestseller *Holler If You Hear Me: Searching for Tupac Shakur*, as well as examinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. He writes a monthly column for *Savoy* magazine, and is a contributing editor at *Christian Century* and is a contributor for *Vibe* magazine. He has received awards from the National Association of Black Journalists and the NAACP.

The Avalon Professorship was created in 1966 by the Avalon Foundation, now the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. "It is an honor to acknowledge the foundation's generosity with this exceptional appointment," said SAS Dean Sam Preston.

See Penn's online directory to contact Dr. Michael Eric Dyson.

- ***Ira Katznelson***, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History at Columbia University.

Author of "When Affirmative Action Was White", W.W. Norton & Company (2005), and other relevant books. Through an examination of historical Presidential, Congressional records, Prof. Katznelson demonstrates how U.S. economic policies enacted during the Great Depression (Social Security Act Programs, GI Bill, Aid to Dependent Children, Fair Labor Standards Act, Emergency Relief Act, Federal Housing Administration, etc.) and ensuing decades both excluded African Americans from attaining social parity and widened the gap between black and white living standards through uneven enforcement and oversight by the federal government, and intentional race discrimination in the administration of those programs at the state and local levels. I've read this book and agree with the description quoted below.

"Katznelson places into contemporary context the cause of racial inequity that is directly related to government policies, which are widely believed to benefit blacks but which have actually benefited whites. He eschews the more generalist focus on slavery and white supremacy as the causes of racial inequality and focuses on government policies of the New Deal and post-World War II distribution of veteran benefits. He identifies in a practical sense government policies, most of which appear neutral on their face, that were designed to restrict blacks and, in fact, impeded them from progressing commensurate with white America. The war economy and labor needs expanded opportunities for blacks and substantially reduced economic disparities. But postwar policies to promote home ownership and labor laws regarding minimum wages deliberately excluded blacks. Other policies providing the engine that produced today's middle class, including the GI benefits that financed college education, reinforced the discriminatory patterns. By connecting the dots, Katznelson provides the foundational basis that justified affirmative action for blacks, as the disparities are an outgrowth of government policies and practices."

- ***Elliott Currie, Troy Duster, Majorie Shultz***, professors at UC-Berkley;
- ***Michael Brown and David Wellman***, professors at UC-Santa Cruz;
- ***Martin Carnoy***, professor at Stanford University;
- ***David Oppenheimer***, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, Golden Gate University.

Authors of "White Washing Race", University of California Press (September 18, 2003). Below is a description of the book, quoted from the inside jacket of the book. I've read the book and agree it is a compelling, well-researched analysis of the ways the white racism- attitudinal, cultural, systemic and structural - is the singlemost influencing factor that undergirds the continuing legacy and persistence of racial inequality in the U.S.

"White Americans, abetted by neo-conservative writers of all hues, generally believe that racial discrimination is a thing of the past and that any racial inequalities that undeniably

persist--in wages, family income, access to housing or health care--can be attributed to African Americans' cultural and individual failures. If the experience of most black Americans says otherwise, an explanation has been sorely lacking--or obscured by the passions the issue provokes. At long last offering a cool, clear, and informed perspective on the subject, this book brings together a team of highly respected sociologists, political scientists, economists, criminologists, and legal scholars to scrutinize the logic and evidence behind the widely held belief in a color-blind society--and to provide an alternative explanation for continued racial inequality in the United States. While not denying the economic advances of black Americans since the 1960s, *Whitewashing Race* draws on new and compelling research to demonstrate the persistence of racism and the effects of organized racial advantage across many institutions in American society--including the labor market, the welfare state, the criminal justice system, and schools and universities. Looking beyond the stalled debate over current antidiscrimination policies, the authors also put forth a fresh vision for achieving genuine racial equality of opportunity in a post-affirmative action world."

- **Frank H. Wu, Dean and Professor of Law, Wayne State University**, School of Law; Library Building 3325, Detroit, MI; Telephone: (313) 577-3933; E-Mail: frankhwu@wayne.edu

In 2004, Frank H. Wu became the ninth Dean of Wayne State University Law School in his hometown of Detroit. From 1995 to 2004, he served on the law faculty of Howard University, including two years as Clinic Director. He has been an adjunct professor at Columbia University, a visiting professor at University of Michigan, and a teaching fellow at Stanford University.

Dean Wu is the author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White* and co-author of *Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment*. His writing has appeared on a professional basis in such periodicals as the *Washington Post*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Legal Times*, and *Asian Week*.

Dean Wu serves as a Trustee of Gallaudet University, the only university in the nation primarily for deaf and hard of hearing. He has taught at Deep Springs College, a highly-selective full-scholarship all-male school enrolling twenty-six on a student-run cattle ranch near Death Valley. He served briefly by appointment of the D.C. Court of Appeals on its Board of Professional Responsibility, which adjudicates attorney discipline matters, as well as two terms on Board hearing committees. He was appointed by Mayor Anthony Williams as Chair of the D.C. Human Rights Commission for 2001-02. He joined the Board of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund in 2004. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and a member of the Committee of 100, a civic group founded by Yo-Yo Ma, I.M. Pei, among others, to promote Asian American political participation, as well as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

He was named among the top twenty scholars in the nation by *Black Issues in Higher Education* in its twentieth anniversary issue. His media appearances have included the Oprah Winfrey show, *Now with Bill Moyers*, *Lehrer Newshour*, *O'Reilly Factor*, *Book Notes* with Brian Lamb, *Talk Back Live* on CNN, NPR, Voice of America, and Fox Movie Channel. He has hosted episodes of the "Asian America" PBS-syndicated television show.

Prior to his academic career, Dean Wu held a clerkship with the late U.S. District Judge Frank J. Battisti in Cleveland. He then joined the law firm of Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco, concentrating on complex litigation and devoting a quarter of his time to the representation of indigent individuals. He received a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan.