

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2005

Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services
taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

NPR's Williams to present Ferris May Day Lecture

BIG RAPIDS – Juan Williams, one of America's leading political writers and thinkers, will present Ferris State University's annual May Day Lecture on Tuesday, April 19.

Ferris' Social Work Association, in collaboration with other campus organizations, is sponsoring the free public appearance of the well known National Public Radio correspondent at 7:30 p.m. in Williams Auditorium.

The association annually brings to campus a speaker to address issues of social and economic justice relevant to society. Williams will join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark verdict de-segregating public schools. His talk, drawn from his considerable expertise about the civil rights movement and the *Brown* decision, promises an enlightening evening for the campus and local communities.

Williams is the senior correspondent for NPR and a political analyst for Fox Television. A former prize-winning columnist and editorial writer during a 21-year career at *The Washington Post*, he has also authored three books. He has won an Emmy for TV documentary writing and earned widespread critical acclaim for a series of documentaries, including "Politics – The New Black Power."

His most recent book is titled, "My Soul Looks Back in Wonder," which presents stirring, thought-provoking, eyewitness accounts from people who played active roles in the civil rights movement over the past 50 years. Previous books include the nonfiction bestseller, "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965," which was a companion volume to the TV series, and the critically acclaimed biography, "Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary."

To celebrate the anniversary of the *Brown* decision, Ferris is conducting several additional events during that week. On April 19, walk-in tours of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia will be held starting at 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. On Wednesday, April 20, a round table discussion about public school segregation will take place in the Rankin Center Dome Room at 6:30 p.m. The panelists include George Hartwell, mayor of Grand Rapids; Bert Bleke, superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools; the Reverend David May of GRACE Institute for Healing Racism; and Emily Aleman, executive director of the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan.

These events are collaboratively sponsored by the University's College of Arts and Sciences, Community Studies Institute, Department of Social Sciences, NAACP, Office of Governmental Relations and General Counsel, Office of Minority Affairs, Office of the President, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Phi Alpha Honor Society, Phi Alpha Delta Honor Society, Public Administration Association and Social Work Association. The event is funded, in part, by student activity fees as allocated by Student Government. Any person with a disability who needs special accommodations to attend these events may contact 231-591-2606 at least 10 days in advance.



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
NEWS SERVICES & MEDIA RELATIONS

- 30 -