



PRESS RELEASE: Film Presentation: "A Village Called Versailles"

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included is a press release on the upcoming showing of the film "A Village Called Versailles" at Ferris State University. The showing will feature a discussion led by Todd Stanislav, Ferris' director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, a former resident of New Orleans and a survivor of Hurricane Katrina. Any questions can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

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**Film Presentation: "A Village Called Versailles"
Natural Disaster Forms Community Bonding**

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 created national and international awareness and its victims worked to rebuild a community.

Ferris State University students, faculty and staff, along with Big Rapids community members will have an opportunity to witness this true-life turnaround story with the showing of the film "A Village Called Versailles" in College of Business 111 this Thursday, Jan. 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Todd Stanislav, director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning at Ferris and a Hurricane Katrina survivor, will lead a post-showing discussion.

"I was living in New Orleans when Katrina hit. I lived in a neighborhood, in not quite the same way (as the village of Versailles), that had a large green dot on it. It was going to be turned into a green space (a city-identified area not for habitation or city services)," said Stanislav, who taught for 14 years in the biology department at Xavier University of Louisiana.

Versailles rebuilt its village faster than any other area damaged in the aftermath of Katrina. More than 70 countries contributed to the relief effort, noted Stephanie Thomson, assistant professor of Humanities and event coordinator.

"Students can have a voice in community affairs and learn it is important to come together when there are problems in the community," Thomson said.

The Versailles community worked to overcome challenges such as a toxic landfill and a green space. Thomson believes this film will illustrate the power of people in a community during a time of crisis.

“Problems need to be addressed by communities coming together and addressing these issues,” said Thomson.

Discussion is encouraged afterwards to reflect on the Big Rapids community. Popcorn will be served as light refreshment.

This event is being co-sponsored by the Academic Service Learning Project, Michigan Campus Compact and the Political Engagement Project.

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