

Creating Access for the Future: Honoring Heritage and Legacy

The Office of Institutional Diversity Presents:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH HERITAGE GALA

Featuring the vocal and thespian talents of
THOMASINA PETRUS

&

Keynote by UST Alum '01
ALFRED "AI" COLEMAN, JD

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2007, 6-9 PM
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
SCHOOL OF LAW
SCHULZE GRAND ATRIUM

\$30 p/ticket includes dinner

For tickets and other information contact Jackie Elvehjem
Diversity Graduate Assistant, at (651) 962-6178 or jmelvehjem@stthomas.edu

A fundraiser supporting diversity initiatives at



Thomasina Petrus has performed in the Twin Cities for the last 15 years, portraying lead characters on Penumbra, Mixed Blood, Illusion, Park Square and Old Arizona Theatre Stages. Most recently, Thomasina was seen at Penumbra in *A'int Misbehavin'*. A true "hometown girl", she has cultivated her talents as an actor and jazz vocalist through mentorship and friendship with some of the Twin Cities most beloved artists including: James "Cornbread" Harris, Sr., Jevetta Steele, Stokley, Regina Williams, Prince, T. Mycheal Rambo, and Lou Bellamy. Thomasina published her own production company where her first production *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* by Lanie Robertson allowed her to portray Billie Holiday, her musical muse. Her tribute CD, "If Only...Billie Unsung" continues to sell locally and worldwide.



Alfred Coleman is a Twin Cities native and proud alumnus of the University of St. Thomas. Al received his bachelor of arts in financial management from UST in 2001 and a *juris doctorate* from the University of Minnesota Law School shortly thereafter. Upon graduation, Al accepted employment with a major law firm located in Minneapolis where he practiced in mergers and acquisitions, real estate and commercial lending. Al remained committed to community service as a young professional. He assisted in the formation of the state's first bioscience charter school and provided pro bono legal services to low income individuals. Al also authored a widely circulated business advice column known as "Ask Al" for *One Nation News*. Such efforts led Al to be recognized by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* as one of the youngest professionals to receive their prestigious "40 Under Forty" Award. Al currently serves as corporate counsel to RSM McGladrey, Inc. and remains active in the community by serving on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Diversity Foundation, a local non-profit dedicated to the recruiting, mentoring and retaining talented ethnic minorities in Minnesota; and the Mixed Blood Theater, a nationally recognized multi-racial theater that promotes cultural pluralism and individual equality through artistic excellence.

