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CHANGE OUR WORLD



UNIVERSITY  
*of* ST. THOMAS  
MINNESOTA



## Creating Access for the Future: Honoring Heritage and Legacy

The Office of Institutional  
Diversity Presents:

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH *HERITAGE GALA*

School of Law  
Schulze Grand Atrium  
Minneapolis, MN

FEBRUARY 24, 2007  
6-9 PM

 UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

## Greetings from the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity



Thank you for your generous support and favor in choosing to join us as we launch and celebrate “Creating Access for the Future: Honoring Heritage and Legacy.”

Tonight’s theme is significant for many reasons. Perhaps the most important is the access imperative. Never before in the history of American higher education have universities and colleges been called upon to provide leadership in responding to so many national challenges, from ensuring that our students acquire higher-order thinking skills to providing solutions for complex global, social and economic problems.

Access to higher education is a national imperative. The pressure to respond to demographic change and the need for a better-educated work force are forcing us to rethink the ways we conduct our business. It is critical that we address what we are doing as leaders of our community to ensure both student access to our institutions and excellence within them. We must accelerate our response to expand access to a larger portion of the population. Even more critical, St. Thomas hopes to be a leader in providing access and excellence as a Catholic institution of higher learning.

The gala is sponsored by St. Thomas’ Office of Institutional Diversity and supports diversity initiatives at the university. The evening will feature a performance by singer and actress Thomasina Petrus and a keynote talk by attorney Alfred Coleman, a 2001 St. Thomas alumnus.

My sincere appreciation to Thomasina Petrus and Al Coleman for their willingness to make this event a priority. I would also like to extend a big hand of thanks to my graduate student assistant, Jackie Elvehjem, for her tremendous support and energy in making tonight’s gala a success. The Office of Institutional Diversity and St. Thomas is happy to have such wonderful, bright students like you as part of our community.

We are making great strides at St. Thomas., but for the University to reach its full potential as a center of learning, teaching, and service, it must more fully welcome and foster diversity cultures, thoughts, and viewpoints. We are absolutely committed to enhancing the diversity of our faculty, staff, and students, and we will remain so. We will continue to honor the remarkable heritage and legacy by doing all we can to make the University of St. Thomas a welcoming, inclusive community. Sincerely, I am

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence T. Potter, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

**Lawrence T. Potter, Jr., Ph.D.**

## SPECIAL THANKS

Alfred Coleman, '01

Thomasina Petrus &  
Thomasina Productions

Dr. Gene Scapanski  
Vice President for Mission

Helen Hunter  
Office for Mission

Jackie Elvehjem  
Graduate Student Diversity Assistant

Susan Spray and Tamara Tesch  
Office of Development

Jack Winterer  
UST News Services

African American &  
African Alumni Partnership

Black Empowerment  
Student Alliance (BESA)

Local Twin Cities TV & Radio Stations

## MENU

(Dinner will be served buffet style)

### Appetizers

- ▲ Breaded Cheese Raviolis
- ▲ Vegetarian Spring Rolls
- ▲ Mesquite Chicken Taquitos

### Salad

- ▲ Raspberry Vinaigrette Salad

### Entrée

- ▲ Pesto Chicken

*(Chicken breast marinated in sweet basil pesto served with marinara sauce and parmesan reggano)*

- ▲ Center Cut Pork Loin

*(Roasted center cut pork loin served with a cherry port sauce)*

- ▲ Lasagna  
*(Vegetarian)*

### Starch

- ▲ Parsley Buttered Steamed Potatoes
- ▲ Wild Rice Pilaf

### Vegetable

- ▲ Green and Yellow Beans with Baby Carrots
- ▲ Roasted Squash and Pepper Blend with Basil

### Dessert

- ▲ Cake and Assorted Desserts

## PROGRAM

### *Reception*

(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**5:30 to 6:00**

### *Welcome and Introductions*

(Atrium Level)

Lawrence Potter, Ph.D.

**6:00**

### *Negro National Anthem*

Led by Thomasina Petrus

**6:15**

### *Dinner*

*(see enclosed menu;*

*tables will be directed to service line)*

**6:25**

### *“A Tribute to Billie Holiday”*

Thomasina Petrus

Thomasina Productions

**6:30 to 7:30**

### *Keynote*

Al Coleman, J.D.

Corporate Counsel, RSM McGladrey

UST Alumnus, 2001

**7:40 to 8:00**

### *Recognitions & Closing Remarks*

Lawrence Potter, Ph.D.

**8:00 to 8:30**



**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.

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**ALFRED COLEMAN** is a native of the Twin Cities 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 Bio-science 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.

## LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

*Written by James W. Johnson*

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through  
the blood of the slaughtered;  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met Thee.  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world,  
we forget Thee.  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.