



Academics Convocation

From Activism to Global Citizenship

Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010
4:30 p.m.
Bellarmino Lawn

The Fairfield University Fall Convocation celebrates the newest members of the University community, the first-year students. Drawing on Jesuit mission and identity, academic ritual, and an annual thematic focus, Convocation is an occasion for all to join in welcoming the incoming class.

This year's Convocation, "From Activism to Global Citizenship," features reflections from Dr. Renée White, professor of sociology and anthropology and academic coordinator for diversity and global citizenship, and the Rev. Gerald Blaszcak, S.J., University chaplain. It ushers in Fairfield's 2010-11 Year of Global Citizenship, a theme that will be woven through courses, public lectures, residential community events, and arts and cultural performances throughout the academic year.

"RFK in the Land of Apartheid: A Ripple of Hope"

In addition, the entire University community and the public are invited to a Sept. 1 screening of the new film, *RFK in the Land of Apartheid: A Ripple of Hope*. Using rare archival footage and interviews with those who were there, this Shoreline Productions documentary tells the little-known story of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's 1966 visit to South Africa, where he made his powerful and oft-quoted "Ripple of Hope" speech.

Invited by South African student activists but refused any contact with the South African government, Kennedy spoke at a series of universities. He also made an unannounced visit to Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chief Albert Lutuli, the banned president of the African National Conference, and toured the black township of Soweto, where he gave voice to Lutuli's silenced call for a free South Africa. Everywhere he went Kennedy stressed the vital role of engagement and dialogue in response to difficult and destructive public policies.



Both the fall convocation and the film explore the role of students and universities in challenging oppression and highlight the relationship between global conditions of inequality and local commitments to change.

Sept. 1, 2010

7 p.m.

Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts

Introduction and Q&A with John F. Suggs, assistant director of the Center for Faith and Public Life and the film's outreach director

For more information on the film, visit <http://rfksafilm.org>.

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