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African American Studies expert to speak at UCT on affirmative action debate changes in US

18 June 2013, 18h00, Lecture Theatre 3, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus

Dr Earl Lewis, newly-elected President of the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in the United States, will speak on "The Ever-Changing Contours of the Affirmative Action Debate in the US," at a Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at the University of Cape Town on Tuesday, 18 June 2013 at 18h00. The address will take place in Lecture Theatre 3, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus.

A noted scholar, academic administrator, teacher and speaker, Dr Lewis is an expert in African American history and affirmative action. He has lectured widely in the US and abroad, and serves on several editorial boards. He is also a founding co-editor of the award-winning University of California Press book series, *American Crossroads*.

In his lecture at UCT, Dr Lewis will unpack the history of America under the themes of race, opportunity and democracy. He says these three themes have been constant companions in American history ever since the first Africans were sold in colonial Jamestown as un-free labour. "In about five years (2019), the US will observe the 400th anniversary of an event that forever changed the course of human history. More recently that history has centred on the role the state and institutions should play in that long history, especially the acceptability of affirmative action policies that make use of race and other diversity factors," he adds.

Dr Lewis is the author or editor of seven books, as well as an eleven-volume history of African Americans for young adults, and scores of essays and articles. His published works include his monograph and *In Their Own Interests: Race, Class and Power in Twentieth Century Norfolk* (1991). He co-authored or co-edited books such as the widely acclaimed *Love on Trial: An American Scandal in Black and White* (with Heidi Ardizzone, 2001); and *Defending Diversity: Affirmative Action at the University of Michigan* (with Patricia Gurin and Jeffrey Lehman, 2004).

Due to limited space, seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a seat, **please contact Loga Makwela at loga.makwela@uct.ac.za or 021 650 5427 by Thursday, 13 June 2013.**

ENDS

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