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University Relations

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**Early humanities faculty, Dr. Henry Parker, returns to reprise 1960s lecture**

*Summary:*

(September 27, 2005)-Dr. Henry Parker, a member of the Humanities faculty at the University of Minnesota, Morris from 1961-65, and UMM's first black professor, will return to UMM on September 28 and 29. Dr. Parker will present a reprise of his 1960s lecture, "Sirens Sing to Me," and a 2005 Sequel, "Conquering Thanatos," beginning at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, in the Student Center Cougar Room. The public is invited to hear the presentation and attend a Campus Community Reception that follows from 3:30 - 5 p.m. in the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center Lounge (formerly Minority Resource Center).

Dr. Parker will also give a First Year Experience presentation, "Making College Success Inevitable," at 7:30 p.m. in the Independence (residence) Hall lounge- main floor. This presentation is based on a book he co-authored with his wife, Marilyn Crist, who will accompany him to Morris.

Additionally, Dr. Parker will speak during a UMM education class on "Opportunities for International Collaboration in Education," including People to People International, "a voluntary effort of private citizens promoting international understanding through direct people-to-people contacts," founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In a recent letter Dr. Parker sent to UMM, he noted, "Although I speak to students across America and abroad, my most beautiful memories are those I had in Morris. It was a great place to work."

Dr. Parker is currently a Cunningham Distinguished Scholar/Professor at the University of Tennessee, Martin. He is a Ford Foundation Fellow and a former Danforth Associate. He served on the Tennessee State Supreme Court task force on racial, ethnic and gender fairness. In 1995, Dr. Parker served as co-director of the People to People International delegation to South Africa and Zimbabwe, at the request of Nelson Mandela. Since 2003, he has worked in South Africa, China and Egypt through People to People International.

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