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Dr. Hayes is Black History Month speaker

Summary: Dr. Tyrone Hayes, a biology professor at the University of California, Berkeley, will present the Black History Month keynote, "From Boyhood Curiosity to Scientific Discovery," at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in Edson Auditorium.

(January 20, 2006)-Dr. Tyrone Hayes, a biology professor at the University of California, Berkeley, will provide the keynote address for Black History Month. His lecture, titled "From Boyhood Curiosity to Scientific Discovery," will be given at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in Edson Auditorium. The presentation is offered as part of the 2005-2006 Speaker Series at UMM. There will be a reception in the Oyate Hall Alumni Room of the UMM Student Center following the lecture.

Hayes has produced a series of high profile studies challenging the ecological safety of atrazine and its link to abnormalities in frogs. The mysterious ill health of amphibians native to North America is one of the more alarming environmental stories in recent years. Hayes is the first to find a link to pesticides. Called charismatic and a brilliant scientist, Hayes oversees a laboratory that has quickly become a magnet for a diverse group of students and researchers who approach their work as a calling.

Most recently, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency dropped Hayes from a pollution conference where he was to have been the keynote speaker, but re-invited Hayes after receiving dozens of emails and phone calls protesting the decision. However, Hayes declined the "re-invite" because the MPCA did not offer the keynote spot, saying "My work should be important enough to be a keynote. It's not building my resume. If people want information, the MPCA should be giving it."

This event is co-sponsored by the Campus Activities Council Convocations Committee, the Biology Club and the Black Student Union, all at UMM. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the North and West parking lots. Disability accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the UMM disabilities coordinator at (320) 589-6178.

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The views expressed by the visiting speakers of the UMM Speaker Series do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regents of the University of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, Morris students, staff or faculty, or the UMM Convocations Committee.

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