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## Amnesty Director and Acclaimed Writer January Distinguished Speakers at UD

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Jan. 8, 2003  
Contact: Pam Huber  
Huber@udayton.edu

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## NEWS RELEASE

### AMNESTY DIRECTOR AND ACCLAIMED WRITER JANUARY DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio — Human rights and Africana studies are on the January slate for the University of Dayton Distinguished Speakers series.

William Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International USA, will address "I Never Want to Speak English Again: Human Rights in a Post-9/11 World" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

"Human rights are the foundation of national security, both domestically and around the world," wrote Schulz, author of *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All* and *Finding Time and Other Delicacies*. "Every time the United States commits a human rights violation or silently tolerates them elsewhere, we hand our adversaries evidence that we do not value freedom and the rule of law as we claim. We hand them fodder with which to charge us with hypocrisy. We offer them on a silver platter a propaganda victory for their extremism. And, most importantly, we make the world a far more dangerous place for us all."

Schulz was appointed executive director in March 1994. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, he came to Amnesty after serving for 15 years with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), the last eight as president of the association.

Molefi Asante will speak on "Africana Studies: Past, Present and Future Prospects" at 8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 27, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. Admission is free and open to the public.

Asante shaped the doctoral program in African-American studies launched at Temple University in 1987. It "was the first time that a new terminal degree was written and proposed entirely by an African intellectual," Asante wrote. "By introducing the idea of studying phenomena from the standpoint of African agency, that is — as subjects acting and not simply acted upon, the Afrocentric perspective opened up an entirely fresh field of research."

Author of *The Painful Demise of Eurocentricism*, *The Afrocentric Idea* and *Afrocentricity: The*

OFFICE OF <sup>over</sup>PUBLIC RELATIONS  
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679  
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax  
www.udayton.edu

*Theory of Social Change*, Asante is a prolific writer whose works also include novels and poetry. He has published more scholarly books than any contemporary African author, and his work on African culture and philosophy has been cited by journals and newspapers such as the *Journal of Black Studies*, *Imhotep*, *Journal of Communication*, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Western Journal of Black Studies*, *Boston Globe*, and the *Afrocentric Scholar*.

The next speaker will be author Ernest Gaines. He'll present readings from *A Lesson Before Dying* at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Kennedy Union ballroom on campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information on the Distinguished Speakers Series at UD, call 937-229-4114.