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“Human Rights in Perspective: A Tribute to Alison Des Forges”
International Education Week at UB, November 15-19

BUFFALO, N.Y. – October 27, 2010 – International Education Week (IEW) at the University at Buffalo this year will focus on the theme “Human Rights in Perspective: A Tribute to Alison Des Forges.” Des Forges, known internationally for her expertise on the Rwandan genocide and her advocacy for human rights, died in the crash of flight 3407 in 2009.

Keynote lectures in honor of Des Forges will be presented on Monday, November 15 by Richard Dicker, Director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch, and Susan Thomson, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary African Politics at Hampshire College. Dicker will speak on “Rwanda, Darfur and Guantanamo: The Struggle for Human Rights and Justice.” Thomson, a specialist on state-society relations in contemporary Africa, will address “Challenges of Justice in Central Africa.” The lectures will be preceded by “Confronting Evil,” a short Human Rights Watch documentary that features Des Forges, sheds light on the 1994 genocide, and looks critically at the Western response. The lectures will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union Theater on UB’s North Campus.

Des Forges will also be remembered at the forum “The Woman behind the Scholar-Activist: Perspectives on the Life of Alison Des Forges,” to take place on Thursday, November 18 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Student Union 210 on UB’s North Campus. This event is organized by the Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Fund Committee, which is raising funds to establish a scholarship in Des Forges’ memory.

Keynote films for IEW 2010 will also focus on themes of human rights and justice. “Pray the Devil Back to Hell,” a riveting documentary about the unsung heroines
of Liberia who, armed only with white tee-shirts and courage, helped bring down the dictator Charles Taylor and end Liberia’s long civil war, will be screened on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union Theater, UB North Campus. Commentary on the film will be given by Melinda Adams, Associate Professor of Political Science at James Madison University.

The new International Criminal Court’s efforts to prosecute crimes against humanity as it fights to establish international legitimacy are the topic of the film “The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court,” to be shown on Wednesday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m. in Natural Sciences Complex 220, UB North Campus. Claude Welch, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science, will provide commentary on the film.

Other IEW 2010 events will highlight UB’s international student population and feature the international efforts of UB faculty.

Helping the community understand the perspectives and traditions that international students bring with them to Buffalo is the goal of “Understanding Cultures: China”, “Holidays Around the World: Korea”, and “Nigeria and Tanzania,” an MBA Cultural Forum.

The annual “Without Borders” lecture series, which highlights UB’s global reach, will feature “Research of Climate and Cultural Change in the Past and Present”, “Supporting Victims of Sex Trafficking in Macedonia”, and “Global Health Research and Rehabilitation in Resource Poor Settings”.

Noontime performances by international student groups and community organizations will take place in the Student Union lobby on Monday, November 15, Tuesday, November 16, and Friday, November 19. The performances will kick off on Monday with lively Korean drumming and dance, and conclude on Friday with a thrilling Tae Kwan Do demonstration, the popular International Fashion Show, and an exciting Indian fusion dance.

UB international students will take IEW on the road on Friday, November 19, as they visit Bennett Park Montessori, Buffalo School #33, and City Honors. Students from Russia, Turkey, China, Egypt, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will present their
cultures through story-telling, simple language lessons and informational cultural sessions.

At “World View: Study Abroad Photo Contest and Exhibition”, a vibrant display of photos taken by UB students studying in all corners of the world will highlight the wide range of study abroad programs offered at UB.

IEW events at UB are made possible through generous support from AT&T, Bank of America, Haylor, Freyer & Coon, Inc., HSBC Bank, M&T Bank, and UB’s Office of International Education. The week’s events are organized by UB’s Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

With a total of 3,884 international students, the University at Buffalo ranks in the top 20 of 2,700 accredited U.S. universities in international enrollment, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE). The University has exchange agreements with more than 60 institutions in over 25 countries.

The University at Buffalo is a premier research-intensive public university, a flagship institution in the State University of New York system, and its largest and most comprehensive campus. UB’s more than 28,000 students pursue their academic interests through more than 300 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Founded in 1846, the University at Buffalo is a member of the Association of American Universities.

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