Conference to explore Milwaukee Idea and the new urban university

Reverend Bernice A. King, nationally recognized for her inspiring oratory, will be the keynote luncheon speaker at an upcoming UWM conference that will explore the changing role of the urban university. Reverend King is the daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. A widely traveled lecturer and author of the book Hard Questions, Heart Answers, she has been cited by Ebony magazine as “one of the 50 leaders of tomorrow.”

Reverend King will join several other speakers and panelists who will share their thoughts at the day-long conference set for Thursday, June 8 at the UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Avenue. “The Dynamics of Change: The Milwaukee Idea and the New Urban University” will offer a provocative look at the challenges UWM faces as it seeks to become more engaged with the community and realize the goals of The Milwaukee Idea.

See Conference, page 2

First Ideas Launched!

Campus Design Solutions and Cultures and Communities, two of The Milwaukee Idea’s “First Ideas,” debuted recently at events celebrating these exciting new initiatives for university community collaboration.

Cultures and Communities is a one-of-a-kind curriculum that will connect students to the rich diversity of urban life by blending academics with community based learning. It will bring students and educators of diverse backgrounds, ages and races together to learn from each other.

Called The Milwaukee Idea in Motion: A Visionary Partnership in Dance, the Cultures and Communities event itself captured the collaborative spirit of The Milwaukee Idea with performances by UWM’s dance department and by three groups with strong ties to the campus: Danceworks, Ko Thi and the Milwaukee Ballet School.

“People who learn to dance and to make and do dances learn to respect themselves, and when they dance with others, they respect them too,” said Dance Department chair Marcia Parsons, and “Dance helps to learn from each other."

See First Ideas, page 2

The Milwaukee Idea Office welcomes new Associate Director Fran Luebke. Fran brings to us the experience and insights gained from nine years at UWM’s Institute of World Affairs where she most recently served as Assistant Director. She has an extensive background in planning conferences, diplomatic study tours and presentations on foreign policy issues. She has served on the boards of several local arts groups and is currently an officer on the board of the Max Kade Institute for German American Studies. Theresa Payton, who is our Administrative Assistant, has worked for UWM for the past ten years. “I am delighted to be here and excited about working with the community and the university on these challenging new initiatives,” she said.

Fran joins a staff which also includes Theresa Payton, Adam Rose, Deborah Fagan and Steve Percy. Theresa Payton, who is our Administrative Assistant, has worked for UWM for the past ten years. She has held positions in the Department of Enrollment Services, the Health Center and the Department of Slavic Languages and Hebrew Studies. Theresa is also a full time student in the School of Education.

Student assistant Adam Rose has been with The Milwaukee Idea office for nearly a year. He is junior majoring in English and Journalism.

Meet The Milwaukee Idea Staff

Deborah Fagan, who serves as Communication Director, previously worked in marketing communications for several non-profit organizations, most recently Children’s Service Society of Wisconsin. She is a member of the board of the Milwaukee Ballet Friends. Steve Percy is the Chancellor’s Deputy for The Milwaukee Idea, Director of the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research and a professor of political science. He is active in several community based organizations.

We encourage your inquiries and questions about The Milwaukee Idea. Call us at 229-6913 or visit our office at B78 Engelmann.

The Milwaukee Idea in Motion: A Visionary Partnership in Dance
Claire L. Gaudiani, President of Connecticut College, will speak at the closing session of the conference on the topic of university engagement in a civil society. Dr. Gaudiani is a frequent speaker, both nationally and internationally on education, philanthropy, ethics and the role of colleges in civil society.

Sessions will cover such topics as teaching and learning in the engaged institution, community-university partnership opportunities and race and engagement. In addition, a panel of state legislators will discuss the evolution of the Wisconsin Idea and the Milwaukee Idea.

Plan to attend this thought provoking conference which is sponsored by The Milwaukee Idea office and the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research.

Dancers from the Milwaukee Ballet School warm-up before the Cultures and Communities event.

First Ideas from page 1

operators gathered to hear about several collaborative efforts.

The goal of Campus Design Solutions is to help link the universities in the UW system with their neighborhoods in order to improve their shared physical environments. “Campus Design Solutions has the potential to make a difference both here and across the state,” said Bob Greenstreet, Dean of the School of Architecture. “We believe in the power of design to change the physical environment and the way we do things for living and learning.”

Among the projects that exemplify Campus Design solutions are:

- **The Milwaukee Idea House** – A prototype for low-cost, energy efficient city housing developed by UWM’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning. It’s also a house and which lives up to its namesake – a bold idea and a collaborative effort between the community and the university that will enhance the quality of life in city neighborhoods.

- **Spaces and Traces** – An effort by students in sociology and housing.

- **The Kenilworth Building** – A renovation that would ultimately turn this former factory at E. Kenilworth Place and N. Prospect Ave. into a lively center for artist studios, shops and housing.

- **A Plan to create an art installation at Mitchell International Airport with several art glass windows designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and owned by UWM. The installation would showcase the university and help raise money for scholarships.**

- **Watch for other First Ideas to take flight in the coming months as The Milwaukee Idea realizes its vision of university community collaboration.**

- **If you would like more information or a brochure about Campus Design Solutions or Cultures and Communities, please call The Milwaukee Idea Office, 229-6913.**

Milwaukee Idea House offers new vision for urban housing

Imagine a new, well-designed house in the heart of the city. It’s a house that fits nicely with the older homes surrounding it: two stories, a gabled roof and good living space.

Keep imagining: It’s also a house priced at a modest $98,000 with energy costs that are only a fraction of comparable homes. It’s constructed of reconstituted building materials to minimize waste and maximize environmental benefits. And its interior can be adapted to a changing household, be it for a working couple, family with kids or older adults.

This is the Milwaukee Idea House, a prototype for low-cost, energy efficient city housing designed by UWM’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning. It’s also a house and which lives up to its namesake – a bold idea and a collaborative effort between the community and the university that will enhance the quality of life in city neighborhoods.

If all goes as planned, the first Milwaukee Idea House will be built next year on a site donated by the city of Milwaukee next to the new Milwaukee Tech (more formally, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology and Trade School) at 319 W. Virginia St. Over the next five years, six to twelve more houses will follow.

The design of the first house is still evolving, but the goal is affordable, sustainable housing suited to older city neighborhoods.

“We want to re-envision how whole city blocks may be organized to improve value and reduce costs,” said architecture faculty member Stan Wrezeski. “The long-term vision is city communities that are competitive and compelling alternative to sprawling suburban development.”

The first Milwaukee Idea house will most likely be used as a laboratory to evaluate the performance of a variety of design features. “Each time we build one, we want it to be a learning experience and have it inform our decisions for the next one,” Wrezeski explained.

The project is truly a collaborative one with expected participation from foundations, federal government agencies, community organizations and the city of Milwaukee. “City staff will share their experiences and use us to come up with notions of what they can do to develop new ideas for affordable city housing,” Wrezeski said.
Idea office, 229-6913. 

placed on the mailing list, or have mail soon. If you would like to be speakers and workshops will be in the Registration materials and more on for Urban Initiatives and Research.

Milwaukee Idea office and the Center conference which is sponsored by The Wisconsin Idea and the Milwaukee Idea.

Plan to attend this thought provoking event which is sponsored by the Milwaukee Idea office and the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. Registration materials and more on speakers and workshops will be in the mail soon. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list, or have questions, please call the Milwaukee Idea office, 229-6913.

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**Bernice King**

Dancers from the Milwaukee Ballet School warm-up before the Cultures and Communities event.

**Campus Design Solutions or Cultures and Communities, please call The Milwaukee Idea Office, 229-6913.**

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**Engaged Learning**

**Imagination**
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Danceworks dancers perform at the launch event for Cultures and Communities.