

Press Release

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“THE POLITICS OF SLAVERY AND RACE IN AMERICA”
Extraordinary panel discussion featuring Dr. Cornel West,
Dr. Tukufu Zuberi and Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems – moderated by Dr. Molefi Asante

PHILADELPHIA (September 10, 2008) On Wednesday, September 17, in partnership with the **Multicultural Affairs Congress** and the **African American Museum of Philadelphia**, The Franklin is bringing together the community, civic leaders and public officials for a thought-provoking evening aimed at creating open dialogue on race. One of America’s most provocative public intellectuals, **Dr. Cornel West**, professor at Princeton University and author of the bestselling book *Race Matters* will be joined by **Dr. Tukufu Zuberi**, professor and the Director of the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, most recognized for his research of African and American society, and for developing and expanding the Africana Studies program at Penn; and **Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems**, professor of English at University Missouri-Columbia and author of *Africana Womanism & Race & Gender in the Presidential Candidacy of Barack Obama*. Moderated by Philadelphia’s own **Dr. Molefi Asante**, *“The Politics of Slavery and Race in America”* will join some of the of the most well-respected educators and scholars in America to share their thoughts and perspectives on the impact of race, slavery and gender on the politics of today, based upon their years of research and teachings.

The event is tied to The Franklin’s current exhibit, *Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship*, which centers on the story of a British slave ship that initially set sail from England for West Africa to carry human cargo to the Caribbean. Before its first voyage was complete, The *Whydah* was waylaid by pirate captain, “Black” Sam Bellamy, and became a multi-cultural pirate vessel, until it sank in a storm in 1717 off the coast of Cape Cod.

As a nonprofit organization, The Franklin Institute has been providing hands-on science and technology education to the public for more than 184 years through interactive exhibits, theater-based programming, educational programs, and community outreach. Today, the Institute is the most visited museum in Pennsylvania

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and is nationally and internationally recognized as a premier institution of science education.

The evening is currently sold-out, however the panel discussion will be viewable LIVE in The Franklin's Harcourt Education Center – free of charge, no advanced registration required. Additionally, the panel discussion will later be available as a podcast at www.fi.edu.

