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PRESS RELEASE  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, February 6, 2009

**MASSBAY PUTS ON SLATE OF EVENTS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
*Upcoming performances celebrate diversity and inclusion*

Wellesley Hills, Mass. – In the spirit of celebration of February as Black History Month, Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) will hold a series of events brought to the community by the Diversity Council as part of the College's effort to foster a campus environment that values diversity, inclusion, and equity.

Black History Month kicked off February 4 by Michael Jeffries, Ph.D., who delivered his "Bridging Civil Rights and Hip-Hop: Obama and the state of Black Politics" lecture to a packed crowd at MassBay's Library Atrium on the Wellesley Hills campus. Dr. Jeffries is an assistant professor of American Studies at Wellesley College and holds a Ph.D. in African American Studies from Harvard University, and has published work on hip-hop feminism, theories of racism, and interracial dating. His current research focuses on thug performances within hip hop, and Barack Obama's candidacy and victory.

The upcoming schedule of events includes:

**The Art and Times of Nina Simone**  
**Music and Narrative Concert by The Valerie Stephens Group**  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
McKenzie Auditorium, Wellesley Hills campus

Valerie Stephens, backed by the best musicians that the Boston area has to offer, soothes, teases, cajoles and thoroughly entertains audiences with her renditions of blues, jazz and spoken word at nightclubs and eateries throughout the area.

She will perform a tribute to the High Priestess of Soul Nina Simone during her event "The Art and Times of Nina Simone."

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The Valerie Stephens Group has become a celebrated attraction at the Beantown Jazz Festival, Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park Concert Series, the Lexington Arts Festival, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center's Summer Concerts in the Courtyard, JazzBoston Festival and the Boston "Ahts" Festival.

### **Traces of the Trade**

#### **Documentary Film 86 minutes**

Tuesday, February 19, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

McKenzie Auditorium, Wellesley Hills campus

Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Auditorium, Framingham campus

In *Traces of the Trade*, Producer/Director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne's ancestors were Northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise.

The MassBay Diversity Council is proud to bring you all events free of charge.

#### About MassBay Community College

*Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) is an open-access, accredited two-year public educational institution. The College grants associate degrees and certificates in a range of disciplines through its five divisions of academics: the Division of Health Sciences; the Division of Humanities; the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (S.T.E.M.); the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and the Division of Transportation & Energy. Offering over 60 academic programs, MassBay serves Boston and the MetroWest communities with locations in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).*

---[www.massbay.edu](http://www.massbay.edu)---

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