



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AAA Experts Called to Nation's Capital for CBC "Discussion on Race"

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) is pleased to announce that two of our nations' foremost experts on race and racism, Drs. Michael Blakey and Alan Goodman have been invited by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to open its "Discussion on Race" event, to be held November 18, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the US Capitol Visitor Center located on Capitol Hill.

Alan Goodman and Michael Blakely are not only active members in the AAA, but also serve as project advisors to the Association's award-winning *RACE: Are We So Different?* public education project. Alan Goodman is an immediate past president as well.

Other expected forum participants include such luminaries as Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. former National Urban League President Marc Morial, noted political scientist Dr. Ronald Waters and a host of others.

According to the CBC, the event is designed to examine the critical role of race in our society and how race continues to shape the legislative priorities of the Caucus. The discussions will be focused on ways to examine income, health and educational disparities among minority populations.

Dr. Michael Blakey is National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary where he directs the Institute for Historical Biology. Dr. Blakey specializes in biohistory, skeletal biology and has published many pivotal works, including articles on race and scientific racism in journals such as *American Anthropologist* and *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

Dr. Alan Goodman is Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Hampshire College. He is nationally known for his work on human variation, race, genetics and racism, human adaptability, nutritional and medical anthropology, as well as skeletal and dental biology. He is an Associate Editor of *The Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*.

"I am ecstatic that the CBC continues to address how race and structural racism affects all facets of the American landscape," AAA Executive Director Bill Davis said in a statement released today. "I am also pleased that while the CBC undertakes this work, it looks to anthropology and anthropologists as an important resource for this and other important discussions."

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Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, VA – based association represents all specialties within anthropology – cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.

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