On January 19 & 20, 2017, the Department of Media, Film & Journalism Studies had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Julianne Malveaux - economist, author, and political commentator - as the keynote speaker at the 2017 Diversity Summit.

Dr. Malveaux was honored by the department in two capacities, as both the Morton L. Margolin Distinguished Lecturer and the Estlow International Center for Journalism and New Media's Anvil of Freedom recipient.

This year's Diversity Summit, held on inauguration day, followed the theme of Many Stories, Many Truths: Overcoming Challenges in Building Community. It featured a variety of workshops, panels, and meetings centered on the concept of diversity and inclusivity, including a teach-in with Chancellor Rebecca Chopp.

Dr. Malveaux presented on Thursday, January 19 in her capacity as the Morton L. Margolin Distinguished Lecturer. She spoke first to students from Media, Film & Journalism Studies, Economics, Gender & Women's Studies, Sociology, and Communication Studies at a Master Class titled Gender, Media & the Economy. The Master Class was followed by a panel on The Business and Economic Outlook of Denver and the Nation after the Inauguration where Dr. Malveaux was joined by panelists Joelle Martinez, Executive Director of the Latino Leadership Institute at DU; Candi CdeBaca, Executive Director of Project VOYCE; and Dana Coffield, Business Editor of the Denver Post. Brent Chrite, Dean of the Daniels College of Business, served as moderator.

On Friday morning Dr. Malveaux gave the Summit's breakfast keynote speech as the Estlow Center Lecturer and Anvil of Freedom Honoree, speaking on Race, Gender, and Building Communities: What Happens Next? A recording of highlights from the breakfast is now available online: watch Race, Gender, and Building Communities: What Happens Next?
Dr. Malveaux was honored in recognition of the publication of her book, *Are we better off? Race, Obama and public policy*, published in February 2016. This book is a compilation of Malveaux's columns that offer a review of the highs and lows of the Obama presidency from an African American perspective.

Students from Dr. Lynn Schofield Clark's Newswriting & Reporting class participated throughout the Diversity Summit, and were each asked to write up an article about one of the events they attended. Three of these articles are featured below.

**Dr. Julianne Malveaux Receives DU's Anvil of Freedom Award at Diversity Summit**

*By Leah Swander, Sophomore Journalism Major*

As a successful economist, journalist, and author, Dr. Julianne Malveaux presented her professionalism this past weekend at the University of Denver's Diversity Summit.

On Thursday January 19th, she discussed her thoughts and observations on various issues at her master class, Media, Gender, and the Economy. By speaking on topics ranging from Former President Obama's style of work in the oval office to President Donald Trump's perception of women and of journalists, Malveaux touched on subjects that many are afraid to speak of.

She began telling personal stories. Growing up in San Francisco and then moving to Mississippi, Malveaux had vastly different experiences during the 1960s. In fact, Malveaux decided not to finish high school in Mississippi, but to finish after her junior year and to later attend MIT Graduate school. She said that it was during her teens that she decided to contribute to social change. "The best preparation for being an activist was growing up in San Francisco," she noted.

During the hour-long class, Malveaux reiterated the many issues she stood for as an activist: integration, women's rights, the economy and minority social injustices. On Trump's policies and goals for the next four years, she noted, "No one knows what to expect right now."

Cristiana Behnken, a sophomore at DU who attended this class, said, "I really enjoyed her viewpoint on both Obama and Trump...I'm not that involved in economy or political issues so it was nice to get an educated opinion on what our country might endure."

Along with concerns regarding the economy, Malveaux touched on some intersectionality issues such as race, gender, and class as these emerged throughout the recent election. Reflecting on the coverage of candidate Hillary Clinton, Malveaux observed, "She was treated like a woman." Comparing the coverage of the two candidates, she noted, "People saw him as
a joke, but the women in media didn't see it as gender stereotyping. It ultimately made
Hillary look less serious."

Malveaux has shared her views on politics, gender, race, and the economy as a commentator
with FOX, CNN, PBS, and in other major media outlets, and has had her columns published
in USA Today and Ms. Magazine.

Julianne Malveaux, Colorado Experts Discuss Business & Economic Outlook of Denver and
the Nation

By Ivey Bostrom, First Year IIC Student


The panel included economist and commentator Dr. Julianne Malveaux who has been selected as the Margolin Lecturer, Estlow Lecturer, and recipient of the University of Denver's Anvil of Freedom award in recognition of the publication of her book, Are we better off? Race, Obama and public policy, published in February 2016.

Dr. Malveaux was joined by an accomplished panel that included Joelle Martinez, a nationally respected non-profit executive, political strategist, public affairs specialist and the Executive Director of the Latino Leadership Institute at the University of Denver, Candi CdeBaca, DU graduate (BA '09, MSW '09) and the Executive Director of Project VOYCE, which works to develop future leaders in underrepresented communities in Denver by training and employing youth to address real life school and community challenges, and Dana Coffield, the Business Editor of the Denver Post and longtime reporter on the business and financial affairs of Colorado.

Dr. Malveaux spoke about the importance of building our economy by addressing issues of inequality that has led to marginalized and impoverished communities. She believes that if we invest equally in programs for all races then our economy will begin to strengthen and flourish in all communities. Malveaux discussed the implications “that not all media is created equally which makes a difference in the stories that we tell.” She says that by perpetuating a white dominant discourse in the media it leaves out the stories and experiences of African-American, Latino, Asian and Natives. When asked about immigration and the economy she said “black people have a hard time with the term immigrant, because they didn't choose to come here.” She warned of predatory capitalism that was founded on the backs of slaves. She
encouraged everyone to “Seek out the stories you know nothing about…use your intellectual curiosity to dig deep and see another perspective.”

During times of doubt as we face the Trump presidency, Candi CdeBaca deliberated the importance of building better communities for Latinos, starting with the youth. She stated that rather than encouraging youth to “get out of the hood,” we need to invest in those communities by creating a safe place with better education, which will ultimately contribute to economic stimulation. Joelle Martinez gave an eloquent speech regarding the importance of a cohesive community under Trump’s administration. Dana Coffield supported the idea that the newsroom needs to cover and include stories that encourage diversity and represent more than one dominant voice. The consensus was to work together in our local communities to affect change on a national level by representing all voices equally.

Trump’s Economy and Inequality: Julianne Malveaux Speaks at University of Denver’s Diversity Summit

By Sarah Steck, Sophomore Media Studies Major

Dr. Julianne Malveaux, a featured speaker at this year’s DU Diversity Summit, received the University of Denver’s 2017 Anvil of Freedom award for her recently published book, Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy. The award recognizes superior leadership and commitment to ethics, integrity, and democratic freedoms.

Dr. Malveaux’s keynote speech on January 20 explored how various media outlets tell “the story of us” in a way that often leaves out those who face inequality. She attributed this lack of diversity in coverage to a lack of diversity among those creating news stories, noting that East Coast media industries are dominated by “wealthy, white, well educated, elitist reporters.” According to Dr. Malveaux, the press has enormous power but it is not exercised since the corrupt media does not tell the story of the suppressed. Lynn Schofield Clark, Professor and Chair of the MFJS department at DU and Director of the Estlow Center that presented Malveaux with the award, elaborated on this idea stating, “the media industries are rooted in a profit-based system, which means that news organizations have to appeal to the people who have the resources to buy news subscriptions and the items advertised within the platforms that deliver the news. … Because of that, news tends reinforce the world views of people who have more resources rather than those who have fewer.”

Dr. Malveaux further elaborated on her view regarding the problems of a free market economy. She critiqued the Obama administration for its lack of attention to the distribution of wealth, which meant that the U.S. continued on its path toward greater economic
inequality. She argued that if we do not figure out how to tell the story of community, we will be in chaos, because predatory capitalism prevents us from being able to work together, as its focus is to maximize profits, not distribute wealth.

Dr. Malveaux explained that it’s crucial for us to find a way to share and embrace the story of our communities, since our country is so diverse, whether we like it or not. She continued, expressing that we need business reporters to connect the dots of the elites. But she also suggested that the future lies in the rising popularity of social media, because such platforms give a means of expression to those who are otherwise ignored. She concluded this speech with a hopeful message, noting, "The bad news about Mr. Trump is that we know who he is and what he is... the best news about Trump is, frankly, that he has caused us to examine ourselves and what we stand for. And this will challenge us."

Experts Discuss Fake News at University of Denver Diversity Summit

By Lindsey Brand, Sophomore Strategic Communication Major

Many complex questions regarding diversity and truth in the news were explored during the "Many Voices, Many Truths in the News" workshop at the University of Denver Diversity Summit on Jan. 20. The workshop consisted of a panel of three prominent Colorado journalists: Jennifer Brice of CBS4News, Joe Danborn of The Associated Press, and Tina Griego of The Colorado Independent. Each panelist emphasized the importance of keeping an open mind as a journalist and explored how to incorporate diverse voices into the media. One of the most important messages they had for media consumers, however, concerned the hot-topic issue of fake news. To put the issue of fake news into context, the panelists first shed light on where it comes from. According to Griego, fake news is often just "poorly done news." This means that some media producers aren’t putting in the necessary work to ensure that a story is accurate and complete before publishing it. This can include not fact checking sources or reporting the untruths of a different published story as if it were fact. According to Griego’s definition, these journalism failures can be attributed to ignorance or disregard for integrity. On the less innocent side of the spectrum, fake news is knowingly created to further an agenda. Brice lamented the ease of “cherry-picking” stories, a term she used to describe picking and choosing facts and details to spin actual events with a misleading tone. Or, worse, entirely fake claims are incorporated into a story to craft an event or an aspect of an event that never happened.
The panelists all had one similar point to make about fake news, noting that the ultimate burden of keeping journalism truthful and informative is on consumers. "The people who are doing their due diligence are far and few between," claimed Griego, referring to people who actually look into the accuracy of sources before believing or sharing a story. Danborn agreed, recognizing that finding new sources with integrity can be difficult and requires effort, especially given the current trend of consumers finding news stories on aggregator websites and social media platforms rather than going directly to reputable publications. However, Danborn had some recommendations for keeping personal social feeds more accountable. "Don't ignore" fake news when you see it, he counseled. "If someone is sharing something on their feed [that is untrue]... take the trouble to find something truthful as a counterpart."

While he cautioned against making enemies up and down one's Facebook feed by pointing out every time an acquaintance shares a fishy article, he did affirm that not taking part in the spread of fake news isn't enough to make a difference. While it's important to find reputable publications for ourselves, sometimes consumers must intervene in order to stop fake news from being overshared. It's also important, all panelists agreed, that consumers pay for the journalism we need and want to consume.

About Julianne Malveaux

Julianne Malveaux is a journalist, author, and economist and has been a regular commentator featured on CNN, PBS, NBC, BET, and FOX among others, and her columns have appeared in USA Today, Ms. Magazine, and more.

Her writings provide insights on a range of topics, including the merits of minority-owned businesses and Black entrepreneurship, the payday loan debt system that traps many moderate and low income people in poverty, and the societal benefits of a livable minimum wage.

For five years, Malveaux served as President of Bennett College, which along with Spelman College is one of only two all-women historically black colleges. During the election season Malveaux called for both Clinton and Trump to address the nation's poor and hungry in their debates.

Read more Diversity Summit recaps from undergraduate student reporters at https://mfjsreporters.wordpress.com/