

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA WILL HOST DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER AND GRAMMY-NOMINATED  
MUSICIAN IN RESPONSE TO THE BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

Dr. J. Steven Picou of the University of South Alabama will speak and Dr. Michael Brant DeMaria will perform

Pensacola, FL.-On Friday, October 1, 2010, Dr. J. Steven Picou will speak and Dr. Michael Brant DeMaria will perform in response to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Dr. Picou will present his research on the Exxon Valdez oil spill and relate those findings to the current impacts of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. Dr. Picou's presentation, entitled "The Unfolding Tragedy of the BP Catastrophe: Ecological and Sociological Lessons from the Exxon Valdez Disaster," will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the UWF Center for Fine and Performing Arts' Music Hall. In addition to Dr. Picou's presentation, Dr. Michael Brant DeMaria, a Grammy-nominated musician, will perform at 5:30 p.m. Dr. DeMaria's music incorporates the sounds of nature and melodies of song to create harmonies that are intended to heal the soul. Dr. DeMaria's album *Siyotanka* was nominated for the 2010 Grammy for Best Native American Music Album. Proceeds from Dr. DeMaria's music benefit wildlife rescue and oil-spill cleanup. This event is free and open to the community. To RSVP for this event, please visit <http://uwf.edu/CAP/oilspillevent/rsvp/>.

Dr. Picou is a distinguished Sociologist who has held many positions in academia and research institutions. Dr. Picou, Professor of Sociology at the University of South Alabama, is the former chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at the University of South Alabama. He has been interviewing Gulf Coast residents in regards of the impacts felt from the catastrophe. He also has developed and trained peer listeners utilizing workshops across the Gulf Coast.

Dr. DeMaria is a renowned clinical psychologist and musician who has integrated the healing sounds of music into his form of psychotherapy. Dr. DeMaria will perform selections from his albums of healing music described as serene and natural. His latest album, *Siyotanka*, tells the story of Takoda and his travels into the wilderness. Throughout Takoda's journey, he encounters different characters in nature depicted using natural sounds and instrumental interpretation.

"I am truly excited to have Dr. Picou present his research on the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon oil spills to the community," said Dr. Laura Koppes Bryan, Director of the School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences at UWF. "A highly informative presentation accompanied by a remarkable performance from Dr. DeMaria awaits anyone who should come."

The University of West Florida Center for Applied Psychology (CAP), UWF Office of the President, UWF Archaeology Institute and Division of Anthropology and Archaeology, UWF College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, UWF College of Professional Studies, UWF School of Allied Health and Life Sciences and Department of Biology, UWF Department of Communication Arts, UWF Department of Environmental Studies, and UWF Department of History are sponsoring the event.

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For more information, please contact the UWF Center for Applied Psychology at (850) 473-7307 or [cap@uwf.edu](mailto:cap@uwf.edu).