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## 2006 CLASS OF FLETCHER FELLOWS ANNOUNCED

Eleven Scholars, Artists Each Awarded \$50,000

NEW YORK, April 13, 2006 – Alphonse Fletcher, Jr., Chairman and CEO of Fletcher Asset Management, Inc., today announced the selection of the 2006 class of Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellows, recipients of a charitable initiative created by Mr. Fletcher in 2004 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. Each of the 11 Fletcher Fellows will receive a stipend of \$50,000, for work that contributes to improving race relations in American society and further advances the broad social goals of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Reflecting on this new generation of Fletcher Fellows, Mr. Fletcher said, "The committee carefully selected a distinguished class of scholars and artists. Thoughtfully examining the past and the present, this class, like the inaugural group of Fletcher Fellows, will contend with and provoke significant questions related to the American experience of race in fields including sociology, history, biological anthropology, law, literature, and the dramatic and visual arts."

The Fletcher Fellows and their projects are:

- Lawrence Bobo, Martin Luther King, Jr., Centennial Professor and Director, Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University, "Unfair by Design: Black and White Americans View the New Law and Order Regime"
- Fatimah L.C. Jackson, Professor of Anthropology, University of Maryland, "Development and use of new computation-assisted alternatives to the racial model in social, cultural, and biological research"
- Randall L. Kennedy, Michael R. Klein Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, "Where Do We Go from Here?: Explorations of Race, Law, and Politics in Twenty-first Century America"

- Miranda Massie, , chief counsel for the student interveners in the University of Michigan's affirmative action case, *Grutter v. Bollinger*, Scheff & Washington, P.C., Detroit, MI, "Equality under Fire: The Ongoing Struggle for Racial Justice"
- Lorna Simpson, artist, Brooklyn, NY, "Subject"
- Anna Deveare Smith, University Professor, New York University, and actress, "Let Me Down Easy"
- Valerie Smith, Director of Program in African American Studies and Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature, Princeton University, "In Retrospect: The Civil Rights Movement in Contemporary Culture"
- Margaret Beale Spencer, Board of Overseers Professor of Applied Psychology and Human Development, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, "Patterns of Resiliency and Resistance: Crafting Identities in a Post-Brown Era of Privilege and Risk"
- Brent Staples, *New York Times*, "The Secret History of Race: The Story of 'Black' Americans Who Lived Their Lives as 'White'"
- Patricia Sullivan, Associate Professor of History, University of South Carolina, "Struggle Toward Freedom: A History of the NAACP"
- Loïc Wacquant, Assistant Director of Center for Urban Ethnography and Professor of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley, "'Peculiar Institutions': A Historical Sociology of Racial Rule in the United States"

The Selection Committee, chaired by Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University and composed of auxiliary members Professor K. Anthony Appiah, Laurance Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University; Dr. James P. Comer, Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Study Center, Director of the School Development Program, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, School of Medicine; Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem; and Dr. Amy Gutmann, President of the University of Pennsylvania, selected the 11 Fletcher Fellows from what Professor Gates deemed "a remarkably strong pool" of 110 applications.

"Working in the humanities, the social sciences, and the biological sciences, the Fletcher Fellows will help us understand the tremendous changes introduced by Brown and also a number of areas in which equal access and opportunity to American social and economic resources are still theoretical at best," Professor Gates said, adding, "Each member of the second class of Fletcher Fellows brings unique perspective and experience to the thorny questions of race that are not going away in this country, regardless of the 'ideal' of Brown."

Among the varied projects being offered up by this year's fellows is a new performance by Anna Deveare Smith addressing racial disparities in the health care system. The play, entitled "Let Me Down Easy" and performed in multiple voices, is in the vein of her well-known works "Fire in the Mirror" and "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992." Randall Kennedy and Miranda Massie address the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the context of law and politics. Lawrence Bobo, Loïc Wacquant, and Margaret Beale Spencer use the tools of sociology and psychology to examine often brutal racial disparities that still exist in the criminal justice system, education, and other American institutions. Fatimah Jackson, a biological anthropologist, works in the burgeoning field of DNA research to explore the social, cultural, and biological foundations of racial identity. Brent Staples and Patricia Sullivan will offer markedly different histories of the years leading up to the Civil Rights Movement, with Staples exploring the phenomenon of "passing" through the 1940s, and Sullivan producing the first comprehensive institutional history of the NAACP. Valerie Smith offers an analysis of how contemporary writers and visual artists represented the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and '70s. Lorna Simpson's multiple screen video projection will explore issues of identity and subjectivity, by incorporating found archival film footage of an anonymous woman from a mental institution during the late 1950's, with a new scripted video by the artist.

With high expectations, Mr. Fletcher said, "With a year of concentrated work behind them, our first class of Fellows is poised to publish and present their projects, which will make a difference not only in the world of scholarship and the arts, but also in the ways in which equality, opportunity, and tolerance are understood, discussed, and practiced in our society building upon the legacy of Brown v. Board of Education."

Information on the program is available at the Fletcher Foundation website ([www.fletcherphilanthropy.org](http://www.fletcherphilanthropy.org)).

The Fletcher Foundation is a not-for-profit private charitable organization that was created by Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. in 1993, approximately two years after his founding of Fletcher Asset Management, Inc. (FAM). Just as one of FAM's primary goals is to generate strong investment returns by investing in "responsible" companies, The Fletcher Foundation seeks to invest in, and thereby provide strong returns for, communities. The Foundation in conjunction with charitable contributions from FAM and Mr. Fletcher supports a wide variety of programs and charitable activities, and is most strongly committed to projects that better the community at large. Projects include current use donations through the Fletcher Fund of the New York Community Trust and endowment scale gifts to select institutions in commemoration of the 1954 landmark Supreme Court Decision "Brown v. Board of Education."

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