



**Washington University
School of Medicine**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration Lecture**

Monday, January 19, 1998

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Graham Chapel

Washington University Hilltop Campus

Guest Speaker:

Alvin Poussaint, M.D.

Director of the Media Center for Children at the
Judge Baker Children's Center and
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at
Harvard Medical School

*Presented by
Washington University School of Medicine
Office of Diversity Programs*



Alvin Poussaint, M.D.

The family is the unit that shapes the choices each of us makes in our lives. Two-career families, increased competition in the workplace, and the desire for a healthy and integrated family life often result in divorce, violence and neglect. Author, psychiatrist, educator and respected social critic Dr. Alvin Poussaint shows how to balance these and other important issues to create positive solutions for the future.

From stress to interpersonal communication, from affirmative action to family dynamics, Dr. Poussaint is one of the country's top authorities. He has worked with corporate managers on the origins and management of stress-related work issues and on diversity in the workplace. He is an expert on race relations in America and the dynamics of prejudice in our increasingly multicultural society. In addition, he is a strong proponent of non-violent parenting and parenting education.

Dr. Poussaint joined the faculty of Tufts Medical School in 1967 as director of the psychiatric program in a low-income housing project. He developed a strong interest in community psychiatry and race relations, particularly in the psychological impact of racism on the black psyche. In 1969, he joined Harvard Medical School. He is the author of *Why Blacks Kill Blacks* (1972) and co-author, with Dr. James Comer, of *Raising Black Children* (1992). A contributor to *Teaching Tolerance Toward an Open-Hearted Family* (1996) by Sara Bullard, he has written dozens of articles for both lay and professional publications.

Dr. Poussaint is Director of the Media Center for Children at the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston, and he has provided

consultation to government agencies, corporations and the media. He serves as Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Faculty Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Harvard Medical School, where he also sits on the board of Harvard's AIDS Institute. His efforts to promote good parenting include serving as National Co-director of the Lee Salk Center, with Professor Louis Lipsitt of Brown University.

Born in East Harlem, Dr. Poussaint attended Columbia and received his M.D. from Cornell in 1960. From 1965 to 1967, he was Southern Field Director of the Medical Committee for Human Rights in Jackson MS, providing medical care to civil rights workers and aiding the desegregation of health facilities throughout the south.

As a script consultant to one of the most popular and groundbreaking television programs, "The Cosby Show," Dr. Poussaint is an advocate and influence for more responsible network programming.

Dr. Poussaint is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In addition, he has received numerous awards and is the recipient of many honorary degrees.