

## UWFV hosts programs on history, legacy of Negro Baseball Leagues

THE NEWS-RECORD

MENASHA — The history of the legendary Negro Baseball Leagues in the United States is the focus of two presentations at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley on Feb. 25.

"The Negro Baseball Leagues: An American Legacy" is being presented by Byron Motley from noon to 1 p.m. in the campus' Fine Arts Theatre, and from 7 to 8 p.m. in the student union. Both presentations are free, with unreserved seating available.

Byron Motley's father, Bob,

umpired in the Negro Baseball Leagues for more than a decade. He passed on inspiring stories and fascinating facts about those exciting times to his son.

The story of the Negro Leagues has been said to transcend the game of baseball; it's a story of pride, hope and courage. The stories that Byron shares with the audience reflect a significant slice of social history, as well as how the



Motley

Negro Leagues impacted the national pastime when our nation's society was segregated.

A multitalented artist from Los Angeles, the younger Motley is producing a television documentary titled "The Negro Baseball Leagues — An American Legacy."

He also is co-author of his father's memoir, "Ruling Over Monarchs, Giants & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues & Beyond," which chronicles his father's journey of growing up in segregated America, becoming one of the first black Marines and his ex-

periences in Negro baseball.

His presentation focuses on the lasting contributions made by the Negro Leagues and its players, and how they ultimately impacted the nation's civil rights movement.

Motley also is a singer and songwriter. As a singer, he has performed and recorded with Natalie Cole, Celine Dion, Barbara Streisand, Melissa Ethridge and Barry Manilow, as well as several American Idol winners. He has performed on Broadway and been involved in several movie soundtracks.

Motley's presentations at

UWFV are sponsored by the Fox Cities Stadium Charitable Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, the Kimberly-Clark African American Employee Network and the UWFV's Campus Activities Board.

For more information about Motley's presentations at UWFV, contact Jeff Kuepper, student activities coordinator, 920-832-2671 or e-mail jeff.kuepper@uwc.edu. UWFox is located at 1478 Midway Road. Motley's Web site is [www.byronmotley.com](http://www.byronmotley.com).