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MEDIA ALERT

Award-winning film at UMass Amherst

“Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North”

Screening and discussion with the filmmaker and director

What: "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North" screening and discussion with the filmmaker and director.

When: Wednesday, February 4, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Bartlett Hall Auditorium, room 65, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Why: In recognition of African-American History Month

Sponsored by: the Women of Color Leadership Network, the Health Education Department of University Health Services (UHS), the Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black and other Minority Students, Everywoman's Center and the Malcolm X Cultural Center, with support from the Department of Sociology, Student Government Association, Student Bridges and the Black Student Union.

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In this critically acclaimed film, a Northern family discovers that their ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Join them as they come face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise.

A conversation with filmmaker and family member Katrina Browne; and family member Holly Fulton and her husband, William Peebles, follows the screening of this powerful and deeply personal story.

In December, the Women Film Critics Circle honored Browne with its "Courage in Filmmaking" award, citing the documentary as one of the three best of 2008. Browne wrote, directed and produced the project, with co-director, editor and writer Alla Kovgan, and co-director and executive producer Jude Ray. Read more at www.tracesofthetrade.org.

From 1769 to 1820, the DeWolf family trafficked in human beings. Fathers, sons and grandsons sailed from Bristol, RI to West Africa, carrying rum to trade for African men, women and children. Captives were taken to Cuban plantations owned by the DeWolfs or sold at auction. Ships were then loaded with sugar and molasses, bound for the family's rum distilleries in Bristol.

Over the generations, the family owned 47 ships that transported thousands of Africans across the Middle Passage into slavery. By the end of his life, James DeWolf had been a U.S. Senator and was reportedly the second richest man in the United States.

The questions the DeWolf descendants face are shared by all of us: What is the legacy of slavery? How does Northern complicity change the equation? What's owed for the sins of our country's fathers? What would repair – spiritual and material – really look like? What would it take?