The 10th Annual Lecture on Multiculturalism
“Promoting Social Development in Cuba: What Works Best”

Tuesday, February 10, 2004
7:00 pm Chafee Auditorium, Rm. 271 Chafee Building

Dr. Miren Uriarte, Professor of Human Services, University of Massachusetts at Boston; and Rev. Lucius Walker, Executive Director, Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization and Pastors for Peace, will deliver the University of Rhode Island’s Tenth Annual Lecture on Multiculturalism

Dr. Uriarte and Rev. Walker will discuss “Promoting Social Development in Cuba: What Works Best.” The speech was originally scheduled to be presented by Rev. Raul Suarez, Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Memorial Center and Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Havana, Cuba, and an official of the Cuban government. While Suarez has visited the United States in 1997 and 1999 on diplomatic missions, current U.S. State Department policy treats any Cuban government official as a security risk. Endorsed by two U.S. Senators and eight U.S. Representatives, his visa application to visit the United States is still pending.

Since the founding years of the King Memorial Center, Uriarte and Walker have been allies to Rev. Suarez in implementing his popular education, community development, antipoverty, and international solidarity initiatives. An authority on applied sociology and community development in Cuba and other Latino communities, Uriarte received her Ph.D. in sociology from Boston University, her M.S.W. from Boston College, and her B.A. in psychology from the University of Florida. Pastor of Salvation Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY, Walker is widely known for his efforts to focus attention on the economic and travel restrictions that complicate US-Cuba relations; and his organization of humanitarian aid caravans and educational tours to Cuba, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. A recipient of the Edwin O. Dahlberg Peace Award, first conferred upon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964, Walker received a B.A. from Shaw University, a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Wisconsin.