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ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Winthrop University begins its Hunger Series this week in discussing food security at home and abroad.

This series consists of five different programs aimed at informing the campus and community about hunger, which is one of the most important social issues both here at home and throughout the world.

The first event will take place Tuesday, Dec. 2 when Papa Sene of Senegal talks about “Nutrition-led Agriculture Approach to Food Security in Senegal.”

Papa Sene has been serving with the National Cooperative Business Association for three decades, but has a life’s history of accomplishments in the cooperative movement and their impact on development. He grew up in Naikhar, Senegal, where cooperating was a natural way of life.

Throughout his life, he shared, taught, enhanced, and finally globalized the values and practicality of cooperatives everywhere he went. He began spreading the message of cooperating in the Boy Scouts, but moved outside of scouting when he led a transformative co-op housing movement in Dakar in the 1960s.

After serving as the head of accounting for a regional cooperative through the Senegalese government, Sene went back to school to learn more about cooperative business at The National School for Applied Economics (where he began to teach as soon as he graduated), continuing his education with a doctoral dissertation in Paris.

Sene began with Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA), the international arm of the National Cooperative Business Association, as a consultant, eventually leading the design of the “CLUSA Approach,” a method which has been used across sectors and around the world. This approach has since been applied to natural resource management, community health and governance strengthening.

During his 30 years with NCBA CLUSA, Sene has been recognized by USAID and the World Bank for his achievements. He has also written several books and received numerous awards.

Here are details about the other programs:

* Jan. 22-28 - Winthrop University SNAP Challenge:
Could you live on $4.20 per day? Take the SNAP Challenge and find out! In a SNAP Challenge, participants follow a restricted food budget for one week that reflects the average daily SNAP/food stamp benefit.
(For more information contact Tyler Wallace at wallaces14@winthrop.edu)
* Feb. 3 - 11 a.m. Dina's Place:

* Feb. 17 - 11 a.m., Dina's Place:
“Food Matters: Ethics and Economics” by Laura Ullrich, Winthrop's Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics.

* April 7 - 3:30-5:30 p.m., Withers 401: Poverty Simulation
A poverty simulation is a guided experience that exposes participants to the realities of poverty, including the challenges of navigating the complex world of government services and other essential service providers. During the simulation, participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. The task for each family is to provide basic necessities and shelter while balancing the requirements of various service providers with the realities of daily life. RSVP to: Simone Camel at camels@winthrop.edu.

This series is sponsored by Winthrop's Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Studies Program, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Department of Human Nutrition, the Office of Career and Civic Engagement, the Global Learning Initiative and the Winthrop Common Book.

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