

NOMMO

Power of the word Volume 6, 2009

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AASRC is in the midst of some interesting transitions. We have lost a long time faculty member, Antonio Tillis, and will be losing affiliated faculty Cornelius and Mia Bynum; however, we look forward to the involvement of new affiliated faculty and hope to be able to recruit more jointly appointed faculty in the near future. Despite these personnel changes, we are moving forward with our educational mission.

We recently completed the initial phases of the university wide assessment process and we are pleased with the preliminary results. The faculty identified four learning outcomes for the major. African American Studies majors should be able to 1) explain the development of African American Studies as a field, 2) describe African American cultural development, 3) describe Africa and its Diaspora outside of the US, and 4) critically analyze and synthesize theoretical paradigms of the Africana experience. The first two outcomes are tied to our introductory course, AAS 271, Introduction to African American Studies. The third outcome is connected to a new course being developed on the Diaspora and the fourth outcome is connected to AAS 474, Research Methods in African American Studies. Our initial findings relate to the first two outcomes and are based on student performance on homework assignments, exams, and papers. Our findings suggest that students are indeed learning the key

components of the discipline.

Although our focus has been on our undergraduate major and minor, we have begun initial discussions regarding the possibility of a joint Ph.D. with American Studies. AASRC faculty have

met a few times to discuss the possibility upon the suggestion of the American Studies director and we will be having a joint meeting with American Studies faculty and students later this semester. For several years we have had students inquire about the possibility of graduate study, so we may soon have an answer for them. In the mean time, we hope that those of you on or near campus will come out to one or more of our many upcoming events this academic year. In a few weeks, we will hold our 25th annual symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy with the theme, "New Directions in Feminism and Womanism in Africa and the African Diaspora." In February, we will have our annual W.E.B. Du Bois Lecture featuring Dr. Stanlie James of Arizona State University and in March, we will have our annual Harriet Jacobs Lecture with Dr. Carol Henderson from the University of Delaware. Please read the following pages for more information about these events and others. Please join us in building an intellectual community for the 21st century.



Venetria K. Patton

For several years we have had students inquire about the possibility of graduate study, so we may soon have an answer for them.

Symposium Announcement



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn
University Professor Emerita at Morgan State University

Thursday, November 5, 2009
Stewart Center • Room 322 A&B 7:00 pm

“New Directions in Feminism and Womanism in Africa and the African Diaspora”

African American Studies and Research Center is pleased to host the twenty-fifth annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy. The series was designed to examine the cultural and philosophical dynamics of the African Diaspora in a global society. Each symposium allows for an extended analysis of a timely topic. We are excited about this year’s theme of *“New Directions in Feminism and Womanism in Africa and the African Diaspora.”*

We are particularly pleased to have Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, University Professor Emerita at Morgan State as our keynote speaker. Dr. Terborg-Penn is a consultant, lecturer, and author of over 40 articles and books on topics in African Diaspora History, specifically women of African descent in the U.S. and the Caribbean. Three of her books are, *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850 to 1920*, *Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: A Reader*, co-edited with Andrea Benton Rushing, and *The Columbia Guide to African American History Since 1939*, co-edited with Robert Harris.

Dr. Terborg-Penn began her teaching career at Morgan University in 1969. She has taught a generation of undergraduate and graduate students at MSU, where she led in the development of the Ph.D in History, which, in 1995, became the first Ph.D. granting program at Morgan State University. The recipient of numerous awards for scholarship and service to the Historical profession, in recent years Dr. Terborg-Penn was awarded the 2008 Carter G. Woodson Scholar's Medallion from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. In addition she received the 2008 Morgan State University Outstanding Woman Award. Dr. Terborg-Penn received the 2003 Towson University Distinguished Black Marylander Award and she won the 1998 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Prize for the best book on Black Women's History.

Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn was born in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from Queens College in Flushing, New York with a B.A. degree in History. She completed her Ph.D. in Afro-American History at Howard University, where she wrote her dissertation, *“Afro-Americans in the Struggle for Woman Suffrage.”* Presently, she serves as the Dissertation Supervisor for Ph.D. students in History at Morgan State University. We hope you find the symposium stimulating and that you will attend next year’s symposium on *“Race & Reality: Mediated Truths,”* which will be held on November 18-20, 2010.

2008 Symposium Review



Dr. Myriam J. A. Chancy

The African American Studies & Research Center hosted the 24th Annual Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy. The symposium was held in conjunction with *PALARA: Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association*. The symposium panels and presentations centered on the theme of “(Re)Visioning the Black Caribbean: Spaces, Places, & Voices.” We solicited plenary speakers to address three broad themes related to the Black Caribbean, as well as Afro-Latin/American Research: Dr. Carole Boyce Davies, Cornell University (Anglophone), Dr. William Luis, Vanderbilt University (Hispanophone), Dr. Françoise Lionnet, University of California, Los Angeles (Francophone). The keynote address occurred on Thursday, November 6, 2008. The keynote speaker, Dr. Myriam Chancy, Professor of English at Louisiana State University, discussed, “I Might Have Been Queen”: Racial Identity Formation, Caribbean Epistemes, and the New Nations.”

Program Review: Talkin’ & Testifyin’: Works in Progress Series—2009 “A. Philip Randolph and the Search for Social Justice in the Age of Harlem Renaissance”

On January 28, 2009, Dr. Cornelius Bynum, an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Purdue University presented his research on A. Philip Randolph and Frank R. Crosswaith. Crosswaith, a general organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and one-time *Messenger* correspondent articulated a distinctly egalitarian conception of social justice in critiquing the modern industrial society that asserted the equal rights of all individuals to benefit from society's advances. Though attention is generally drawn to Randolph, Dr. Bynum argues that Frank R. Crosswaith was equally active in the manifestation that genuine social justice was predicated on a participatory democracy open to all, and both of them fashioned a program of reform that drew on black racial identity to frame their vision of class-consciousness and, in so doing, planted the roots of an independent strain of black radicalism in the war years.



Program Review: Harriet A. Jacobs Series in the Humanities and the Arts—2009 “Toni Morrison, Théodore Géricault, and Incendiary Art”



Dr. Nancy J. Peterson, Associate Professor of English at Purdue, gave a talk as part of the African American Studies and Research Center’s “Harriet A. Jacobs Series in the Humanities and the Arts” at Purdue’s Black Cultural Center. Her presentation, “Toni Morrison, Théodore Géricault, and Incendiary Art,” began in Paris’ Musée du Louvre where Dr. Peterson and others gathered in November of 2006 for Toni Morrison’s limited engagement as guest curator. Dr. Peterson led into her talk by focusing on Morrison’s discussion of Théodore Géricault’s 1819 painting “Le Radeau de la Méduse” (“The Raft of the Medusa”) during her lecture, “The Foreigner’s Home.” Morrison’s decision to focus on this piece was particularly apt in Dr. Peterson’s view in that Morrison’s discussion of Géricault’s work as important due to its engagement with issues of race, class, and nationality would seem to also apply to her literature. Dr. Peterson continued by quoting a definition for incendiary art that Morrison once gave at the national conference for the Modern Language Association in 2004. According to Dr. Peterson, Géricault’s painting and Morrison’s literature (particularly her most recent novel, *Mercy*) are linked in that they both exemplify characteristics of the incendiary art Morrison defined. Dr. Peterson’s adept incorporation of art interpretation, literary analysis, and personal experience into her talk marked its achievement of the delicate balance between being academically rigorous and just plain interesting.

NCBS 2009 Participants

NCBS Participants:

Arthur Banton, Kevin Brooks, Gilmer Cook, Nicholas Krebs, Jamal Ratchford, Heidi Freeman, Dr. Venetria Patton & Tosha Sampson-Choma



Arthur, Gilmer, Nicholas, Kevin



Jamal & Kevin



Heidi, Dr. Patton & Tosha



2009 Annual NCBS Conference

As usual, Purdue University had an impressive presence at the National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference. The 33rd annual conference was held March 19-21, 2009 and although the conference typically does not have a theme, this year's meeting was deemed "A Salute to our 44th President, Barack Hussein Obama."

We encouraged our majors and minors to submit abstracts so that they might be able to experience presenting their research within the professional environment of an academic conference. Major, Nicholas Krebs joined three of our teaching assistants for a panel entitled, "Gotta get Freedom!: The Revolutionary and Liberatory Politics of Hip Hop." Nick's paper was "Afrocentricity and Hip Hop: A Much Needed Articulation of African American Interests." Nick said of the event, "My recent attendance at the National Council for Black Studies 33rd Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia was an amazing and eye opening extra-curricular activity that enhanced and deepened my understanding of all that I have learned in Africana Studies thus far. I was enthused by putting into practice what I have learned in the classroom through discussions with other scholars in attendance and through hearing their presentations."

Teaching Assistant, Arthur Banton, was another first time attendee. His paper was, "Luther Campbell and the Censorship of Black Capitalism." He described the conference as "one of the most unique conferences I've ever attended." While noting several interesting panel discussions, Arthur seemed to focus on the sense of community—"it was a great opportunity to share the fellowship with other junior scholars, whom respect your work and understand its larger significance that extends beyond the academic community."

Another first time attendee and Teaching Assistant, Gilmer Cook, seemed to echo Arthur's sentiments, "I found my experience at the 2009 NCBS Conference in Atlanta to be enriching and educational. This was my first opportunity to attend a conference centered on Black Studies. Though the situation was – for this reason – unfamiliar, it was also the first time I've felt at home at an academic conference." He went on to comment on presentations of particular interest to him, "These papers, their respective panels, and the NCBS conference in general, allowed me to expand my knowledge of subjects in which I am personally and academically invested."

AASRC makes a point of supporting the attendance of our Teaching Assistants because we believe this is a crucial aspect of their professional development. Our final two attendees, Teaching Assistants Jamal Ratchford and Kevin Brooks, are regular NCBS conference attendees. Jamal's paper was entitled, "Black Fists and Fool's Gold: Race, Sports, Politics, and Student Activism at the 1968 Olympic Games," which was delivered on a panel with Kevin's paper, "Still Risin': Africana Womanism and the collective Liberation Struggle of Black Athletic Heroines." Kevin also delivered a paper with the other Purdue students, which was called "'Gangstas Fa Life': Revolutionary Politics, Cultural Practices, and the Transformative Nature of Hip Hop." Jamal and Kevin have both benefitted from the networking aspect of the conference. Jamal said of the conference, "The 2009 NCBS conference was beneficial, refreshing, and insightful for me. I obtained much needed advice from various mentors on the burdens and importance of a dissertation prospectus, established professional relationships with scholars and colleagues, became exposed to new student leadership opportunities, and learned cutting edge research specific to Black Studies and the post-WWII Black Freedom Struggle. I left the conference reenergized with fresh research ideas specific to my dissertation, and discovered that young scholars continue to up hold the mission of Black Studies in their communities." A similar idea is reflected in Kevin's comment that "NCBS serves as an integral part of my intellectual and social development as a scholar and productive citizen in the community." This was Kevin's fifth conference and first as a Keto Fellow and student member of the NCBS Board of Directors. In this role he chaired a panel and co-coordinated a reception for undergraduate and graduate students.

We're looking forward to the 34th annual conference in New Orleans. We hope to see many of you there.

H.H. Remmers Award Reception 2009

Since 1985-86, African American Studies and Research Center has coordinated the identification of annual recipients for the Remmers Award. This Award has been made possible through the H. H. Remmers Memorial Fund established in 1969 to honor Dr. Remmers who had been head of the Division of Education Reference and a member of the Psychology Department.

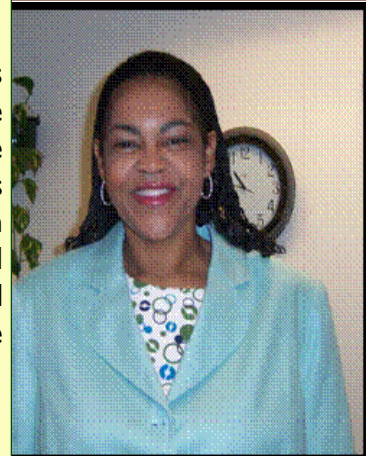
The Remmers family has stipulated that the income from the fund be used to assist "Afro-American men and women who are pursuing graduate study in the social sciences, providing the amount of \$500.00 per calendar year." In 1988, the family graciously agreed that the award be increased to \$1000.00 each for an African American doctoral and master's level student.

Each year, the selection committee solicits nominations from the heads of the social science departments, including Anthropology, Audiology /Speech Sciences, Communications, Political Science, Psychological Sciences, and Sociology. Nomination criteria include consistent and outstanding academic progress as well as academic, professional, and leadership potential.

Unfortunately, the balance in the fund has diminished and we will not make awards this year. Please consider contributing to this fund, so we may continue supporting worthy graduate students.

2009 Doctoral Level H. H. Remmers Award Recipient:

Adrienne R. Carter-Sowell is completing her fifth year in the Psychological Sciences Doctoral program in the area of Social Psychology. She received her Master of Science Degree in May 2007. She is expected to receive her Doctoral degree in May 2010. She conducts research on the effects of ostracism - being ignored and excluded. Adrienne's dissertation is contributing to the field of Social Psychology by introducing an Ostracism Experiences Scale (OES). The OES measures individual's experiences of being ignored and excluded. Adrienne is a native of Virginia, specifically the Tidewater area. She received her B.A. from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. She is married and the mother a 9 month old son.



2009 Doctoral Level H. H. Remmers Award Recipient:

Laurent Wrzesinski came to Purdue University after completing his Africana Studies B.A. at Hunter College in New York City. He received his M.A. in American Studies in 2007. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science. His research interests include congressional representation, political participation, and political campaigns. Next year he will begin dissertation work on placing the Obama Campaign within a historical context. Originally from north side Chicago, Laurent enjoys life in the Midwest and ultimately hopes to receive a faculty appointment at a nearby university. His favorite book is Voltaire's *Candide* and his favorite movie is *Robin Hood* (Disney version). He is an avid Cubs fan and is known to enjoy any conversation about politics.



Program Review: Black History Month Display—2009

To commemorate Black History Month, African American Studies & Research Center teaching assistants Kevin Brooks, Gilmer Cook and Mindy Tan, created an exhibit for the College of Liberal Arts display case called 45 years after the dream.



Program Review: Conversations on the Diaspora—2009

Dr. Mark Sawyer, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of California at Los Angeles, gave a thought-provoking presentation under the title, "From Maceo to Obama: Race and Republicanism in the Americas. Professor Sawyer electrified the audience with his political analysis of comparative republicanism in the contexts of black identity and national identity in the United States and Latin America. Dr. Sawyer's examination of Black-based republicanism in the Americas calls attention to the magnitude of politics and government in the African Diaspora.



Course Offerings Spring 2010**Course Offerings Spring 2010**

The following courses are being offered Spring 2010:

AAS 27100—1**Introduction to African American Studies**

Dr. Niambi Carter

MWF: 9:30—10:20

AAS 27100—2**Introduction to African American Studies**

Mr. Jamal Ratchford

TTH: 9:00—10:15

AAS 37100—1**African American Experience: African American Health**

Dr. Titilayo Okoror

TTH: 10:30—11:45

AAS 37100—2**African American Experience: The Black Athlete**

Mr. Kevin Brooks

MWF: 11:30—12:20

AAS 37300**Literature of the African Diaspora**

Mr. Gilmer Cook

TTH 1:30—2:45

AAS 47300**Blacks in Hollywood Film**

Mr. Arthur Banton

MW 2:30—3:20

T Lab

6:30—9:00 pm

Please contact the center for more details and the class schedule. The class schedule can also be found online at:
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/african-american/courses/spring.cfm>

Upcoming Events

Fall 2009

November

11/5 Thursday 7:00—9:00 pm
Keynote Address
Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn
 Stewart Center Rm 322

11/6-11/7 Friday & Saturday 9:00
25th Annual Symposium:
New Directions in Feminism
and Womanism in Africa and
the African Diaspora
 Stewart Center

Spring 2010

February

2/11 Thursday 3:00—4:30
African Americans in the
Marines
 Lt. Michael Porfirio
 Stewart Center Rm 313

2/18 Thursday 3:00—4:30
W.E.B. Du Bois Annual
Pan-African Lecture
 Dr. Stanlie James
 Stewart Center Rm 314

March

3/2 Tuesday 3:00—4:30
Harriet Jacobs Lecture Series
 Dr. Carol Henderson
 Stewart Center Rm 202

April

4/6 Tuesday 3:00—4:30
Talkin' & Testifyin'
 Dr. Joseph Dorsey
 Stewart Center Rm 313

W.E.B. Du Bois Annual Pan-African Lecture

February 18, 2010, 3:00—4:30 Stewart Center room 314



Dr. Stanlie M. James is Professor and Director of African American Studies and an affiliate of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Arizona State University in Tempe. Dr. James is the editor or co-editor of several books, including: *Genital Cutting and Transnational Sisterhood: Disputing U.S. Polemics* (University of Illinois Press 2002), *Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories* (Routledge 2000), and *Theorizing Black Feminisms: The Visionary Pragmatism of Black Women* (Routledge 1993). Other publications include book chapters and articles on women's international human rights and Black feminisms. Prior to her current position as Director of African American Studies at Arizona State, Dr. James was Professor of Afro-American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin where she served as both Chair of the Afro-American Studies Department and Director of the Women's Studies Research Center. Dr. James has been the recipient of several significant awards and grants, including the Susan S. Koppelman Award honoring feminist editing of anthologies, multi-authored or edited books in American culture or Popular culture for *Genital Cutting and Transnational Sisterhood: Disputing U.S. Polemics* and a Ford Foundation grant for a book project on Black Women and International Human Rights.

Harriet A. Jacobs Annual Lecture Series in the Humanities and the Arts

March 2, 2010, 3:00—4:30 Stewart Center room 202



Dr. Carol E. Henderson Belton is Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the University of Delaware's Black American Studies Program, Newark campus, as well as Associate Professor of English. Her recent publications under her publishing name "Carol E. Henderson" include an essay on spirituality and ancestry entitled "Refiguring the Flesh: The Word, The Body, and the Process of Being in *Beloved* and *Go Tell It On The Mountain*" in *James Baldwin and Toni Morrison: Comparative Critical and Theoretical Essays*, Eds. Lovalerie King and Lynn O. Scott (Palgrave 2006), an edited book, *James Baldwin's Go Tell It on the Mountain: Historical and Critical Essays* (Peter Lang Publishers, Modern American Literature Series 2006), as well as the book, *Scarring the Black Body: Race and Representation in African American Literature* (University of Missouri Press 2002). In addition to numerous articles in professional journals and critical volumes, such as *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Religion and Literature*, and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, she has the following recent essays: "Allegories of the Undead: Rites and Rituals in *Tales from the Hood*" in *Folklore and Popular Film*, eds. Mikel J. Koven and Sharon Sherman (Utah State UP Fall 2007), "Writing from No Man's Land: The Black Man's Quest for Freedom from Behind the Walls" in *Confinement Literature from the Plantation to the Prison*, ed. Tara T. Green (Mercer UP 2008), "Notes of a Native Daughter: The Nature of Black Womanhood in Wright's *Native Son*" in *Richard Wright's Native Son: Critical Essays*, ed. Ana M. Fraile (Salamanca, Spain 2007), and "King Kong Ain't Got Sh** On Me: Allegories, Anxieties, and the Performance of Race in Mass Media" in *The Journal of Popular Culture*. She has recently completed work on an edited collection of essays entitled *Imag(in)ing America: The African American Body in Literature and Culture*, and is beginning work on a monograph entitled *Ethnic Notions: Race, Sex, and the Venus Hottentot*.

Faculty Focus: New Faculty



Dr. Marlo D. David accepted a joint appointment between English Department and Women's Studies Program at Purdue. Marlo has received her PhD in English from the University of Florida. Her research attends to the intersections of race, gender and sexuality in 20th century African-American literature. Her current research project, "Mama's Gun: Transgressive Narratives of Race, Gender and Nation," addresses how mothers and motherhood are depicted in contemporary African-American literature and culture. Her work has appeared in *African American Review* and *Home Girls Make Some Noise: A Hip Hop Feminism Anthology*. We look forward to Dr. David's involvement with AASRC.

Faculty Focus: New Faculty



Jennifer Freeman Marshall is Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies. She comes to Purdue from Emory University where she was Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Women's Studies from Emory University with specializations in feminist theories (black feminist literary theory, and feminist anthropology and ethnography) and African American literary and cultural productions from 1891-1960. She received her M.A. in Anthropology from Georgia State University and her B.A. in English from Spelman College. She has received several fellowships for her research and teaching including the Emory University Southern Studies Dissertation Fellowship and the Andrew W. Mellon Teaching Fellowship. Her research interests include black feminist thought, 20th century African American literary and cultural productions, and feminist methods. Her current research project explores the intersectional politics of Zora Neale Hurston's canonization in U.S. literature and anthropology.

Good bye Dr. Mia Bynum



Dr. Mia Smith-Bynum, Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences and an Affiliated faculty member of AASRC will be leaving Purdue at the end of the fall semester to join the Department of Family Science, School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park. We have enjoyed working with Dr. Smith-Bynum and had looked forward to her greater involvement in the program.



We also say goodbye to Dr. Neil Bynum, Assistant Professor of History and Affiliated faculty member of African American Studies. Dr. Bynum is still finalizing his plans, so we'll share those in the next issue. We will miss them both.

Good bye Dr. Tillis



Dr. Antonio Tillis has left Purdue to begin a new position as Chair of African American Studies at Dartmouth. He is currently on a Fullbright in Brazil and will assume his duties upon his return at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. Professor Tillis has been an important presence within AASRC and has been an exceptional mentor to our students, while also serving as Director of the new Latin American/Latino/a Studies program and as a faculty member in Foreign Languages and Literatures and as an affiliated faculty member of the American Studies Program. He will be sorely missed, but please join me in wishing him well in his new position. He is clearly well positioned to do lead an African American Studies Program. We'll look forward to many reunions at NCBS.

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