



# AFRICANA STUDIES

## NEWSLETTER—2006/2007

### A Farewell to Dr. Trevor Purcell



Dr. Trevor Purcell  
Chair, 2000-2007

This Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Trevor Washington Purcell who was an associate professor in the departments of Anthropology and Africana Studies.

Trevor Purcell joined USF in 1990 as an Adjunct Professor and Research Associate and became an Associate Professor and Research Associate in the Anthropology Department and in the Africana Studies Program in 1992. During his seventeen years of service to the Univer-

sity of South Florida, he was the Chair of, or a member of, numerable departmental, college, and university committees. (In Fall 2007, he was posthumously honored with a fifteen-year Service Award from the University.) In 2000, Dr. Purcell was appointed Chair of the Africana Studies Department and served in this position until September of Fall 2007. His commitment to the survival, stability, and development of the Africana Studies Department was heroic. We lovingly called him "Chief."

Standing tall on the industry and the legacy of those before him, he continued the work of advancing the history and culture of Africana peoples and envisioned an expansion of Africana Studies into the areas of Health and Political Economy. He was indefatigable in his efforts to forge this new path by initiating research and curricular collaborations with the College of Public Health. The seeds he planted have begun to sprout as AFA (through the industry and wisdom of Dr. H. Roy Kaplan) and the College of Public Health have launched a joint **Graduate Certificate in Diasporas and Health Disparities**. The recent hiring of **Dr. Dawood Sultan** (the successful candidate of the Spring 2007 faculty search led by Dr. Edward Kissi) is also reflective of this new initiative, as Dr. Sultan's position is a joint position with the College of Public Health.

Dr. Trevor Purcell was equally passionate about serving the community. As community engagement is a priority among USF's strategic goals, it is also a priority within AFA. To that end, Dr. Purcell and Dr. Kaplan have been successful in acquiring USF's first-ever **Ford Foundation Grant**. The grant was awarded to fund the establishment of a summer institute designed to train Hillsborough county public school teachers

to infuse African American history into the school curriculum. Correlated with the project is an internship program that will allow students to engage in service-learning. The proposal was funded for \$150,000. Dr. Purcell also forged strong connections with the Caribbean community. He gave leadership or support to several campus and community organizations. He was a proud Jamaican and enthusiastic in the sharing of his culture with others.

To honor Dr. Purcell's love of and commitment to community, the Department of Africana Studies has made contributions to the WMNF 88.5 Community Radio Station where a memorial brick paver, in recognition of his dedication to the community, will be placed in the garden plaza of the station. To honor his work as Chair of the Africana Studies Department, it was the intention of the faculty to award him a commemorative plaque during the 2007 Fall AFA Open House. It was our great misfortune that we had to do so posthumously. A program of the memorial service held for Dr. Purcell can be found at [http://www.cas.usf.edu/africana\\_studies/MemorialServiceProgram.pdf](http://www.cas.usf.edu/africana_studies/MemorialServiceProgram.pdf). **The Trevor Purcell Memorial Scholarship Fund** has been established for those who would like to honor Dr. Purcell's life and work monetarily: <https://usfweb2.usf.edu/foundation/asp/ssl/adfdn/funds.asp?dept=AFA&group=TA>. On September 25, 2007, Dr. Trevor Purcell left us a legacy on which we are to build: Strength, Intelligence, Industry, Wisdom, Vision, Humor, and Grace.

We in the Department of Africana Studies are filled with gratitude for all the support, words of condolence, and various acts of generosity and kindness that were forthcoming from the administration, the staff, current and former students, and the Tampa Bay community as we mourned the loss of our beloved Dr. Trevor Purcell. We heartily thank President Genshaft, Provost Khator, and Dean Skvoretz who personally sat with us and grieved with us as we had to accept the shock of the reality of Dr. Purcell's death. We are very thankful to Dean Skvoretz and his staff who, in one way or another, continued to assist us throughout a challenging semester. We are grateful to the many individuals, units, departments, and campus and community organizations that assisted us with the memorial service held in honor of Dr. Purcell and who also continued, in thought and in deed, to help AFA get through a difficult semester. AFA also expresses special thanks and appreciation to Dr. Samuel Wright, Dr. Joan Holmes, Dr. Kofi Glover, the Institute on Black Life, Dr. Kristen Davis-John, Dr. Olga Skalkos, Ms. Susan "Suzy" Hall, Ms. Sharon Johnson-Hamilton, Ms. Julie Benson, Ms. Gloria Plant-Gilbert, Mr. Greg Jackson, Mr. Ken Wynn, Dr. Kevin Banks, Mr. Eric Statham of ProCopy, Father Fenniston Kerr, Mr. Ron Bob-Semple, and The Gospel Choir at USF. As we continue the difficult work of adjusting to the loss of our leader, colleague, and friend, we also remain mindful of the Purcell Family and keep them in our thoughts and in our hearts.

The torch has been passed. My departmental colleagues and Dean Skvoretz have expressed their confidence in me by supporting my official assumption of the responsibilities of chairing the Department of Africana Studies. It is with humility, courage, and faith that I have accepted the honor to do so. The Department of Africana Studies is the only full-fledged department of its kind in the state of Florida.



**Dr. Deborah Plant  
Chair-Elect**

That speaks volumes to the vision and wisdom of the University of South Florida and the College of Arts and Sciences as it “strives to instill in its students an understanding of the history of human ideas.” And it speaks volumes to the vision, wisdom, courage, strength and tenacity of the faculty, staff, and the students at USF who desired to realize the historical goals of institutionalizing the study of the history and culture of African peoples—which is simultaneously and integrally the history and culture of the world, this nation, the state of Florida, and the Tampa Bay community. To be a part of the legacy of warriors who struggled to build the Department of Africana Studies, is humbling. To face the challenges of continuing and expanding upon that legacy requires courage. To move AFA from the modality of struggling to the modality of thriving, demands faith. And this is my absolute intention. That means that the Department of Africana Studies must become a sustainable community. That means that the AFA faculty (the core faculty and to a great extent the adjunct faculty) must be able to carry out their responsibilities of teaching, research, and service, without sacrifice of their physical health, their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, or their very lives.

As scholars in the field of Health Disparities have demonstrated, health is not a colorblind issue. Just as ethnicity and a lack of cultural competency are factors in the health of Americans in the larger society, they are factors in the microcosm of the university system. The stress experienced by many, if not most, faculty and staff at USF is exacerbated when the variable of “ethnic minority” is factored into the issue. Stress is one of the root causes of ill health, and it is a condition that has been a constant in AFA’s function as a small liberal arts department that, heretofore, has been caught in the matrix of survival. So much energy has been spent on securing gains and undertaking various strategies to maintain those gains while continuing to develop and expand—especially in the face of budgetary issues and policies that are numbers-driven.

It speaks to our ability to persevere in that even with our many challenges, we are a highly productive cadre of scholars. But at a cost. Ironically, the beginning of the end of the physical life of Dr. Trevor Purcell was the stroke he suffered last year as he was preparing to attend the convening activities of the annual conference of the African Heritage Association: **Understanding Health and Well-Being in Africa and its Diasporas**, October 19-21, 2006. Dr. Purcell suffered the stroke on October 19. He died September 25, 2007, almost a year later.

This is not coincidental. As we talk about sustainability and sustainable communities, we cannot afford to ignore the reality of stress-related illness within academia and as it relates to numerical minorities within the academy. Our health requires our awareness and vigilance. Dr. Purcell often advised us to do exactly that—be mindful in guarding our health. “A wounded soldier cannot fight,” was his ready words of wisdom. But some wounds are not evident to the eye, so we tend to forge ahead. As **Dr. Jocelyn Elders**, former Surgeon General of the United States and keynote speaker of the conference emphasized, the individual must assume responsibility for his or her health and so must the society in which the individual lives, if we truly want healthy and sustainable communities. A community, an institution, a department is only as sustainable as its members.

As the AFA family has begun to recover from the loss of our Chief and as we continue to fulfill the promise of our mission and that of the College and the University, we do so with an even stronger commitment to Dr. Purcell’s vision of moving the Department into the areas of health and political economy. The torch has been passed to all of us.



**Looking ahead: The Institute on Black Life will be integrated into the Africana Studies Department.** Plans for merging the two units are underway, and we anticipate implementation of the plans in 2008. AFA undergoes the **Program Review** for its undergraduate and graduate programs this Spring 2008. AFA is in the process of structuring a **Graduate Certificate in Genocide and Holocaust Studies**. We anticipate approval of the Certificate in Spring 2008 and activation of the Certificate in Fall 2008.

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## FACULTY NEWS

### Dr. Edward Kissi Appears Before the United Nations

**Dr. Edward Kissi** is a historian of African history and culture and an internationally-recognized scholar of genocide studies. He was invited, in July 2007, by the United Nations to write a short discussion paper, from an African perspective, for the "**Holocaust and the United Nations**" outreach program. The United Nations General Assembly on 1 November 2005 passed Resolution 60/7 requesting the Secretary-General to establish an outreach program on the subject of the "Holocaust and the United Nations" to help prevent future genocides. Kissi submitted his paper on "**The Holocaust as A Guidepost for Genocide Detection and Prevention in Africa.**"



Dr. Edward Kissi



Dr. Edward Kissi at the Kristallnacht Seminar at the UN Headquarters in New York on November 8, 2007.

All Discussion Papers solicited by the UN from reputable scholars who study genocide will be published on UN websites and distributed electronically to students, academics, NGOs and Member States upon request. Kissi also presented a paper on the benefits and pitfalls of a comparative approach to the study of genocide at the **7th Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars**, of which he is a member. The meeting was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, from July 9-13, 2007. Dr. Kissi is currently conducting research on his second book—*Africans and the Holocaust: What Colonial Subjects Knew and Thought*— a historical study of how Africans, under European colonial rule, perceived and discussed the Nazi persecution of European Jews from 1933 to 1945. This book will also examine the dynamics of Black-Jewish relations in colonial Africa.

### Dr. Eric Duke on the Move in Africana Studies

In Spring 2007, **Dr. Eric D. Duke** received two grants from the University of South Florida: a **Faculty Research Award** from the USF Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC) to conduct research in London and another Faculty Research Award from the College of Arts and Sciences to conduct research in Washington, D.C. During the summer, he participated in a USF Assessment Workshop in June (along with Dr. Kissi), and USF's Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence's Increments and Transformations Institute 2007 in July.

In Fall 2007, Dr. Duke submitted an article to the **Radical History Review**. He wrote several encyclopedia articles, including an article on the "British Caribbean" for Oxford University Press, **The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World**, and multiple entries on Caribbean and Black Diaspora activists for a soon-to-be published Caribbean encyclopedia. In November 2007, he presented a paper on West Indian Students and Caribbean Nation-Building at the **First British Scholars Conference** at the University of Texas. And most recently, Dr. Duke was selected to participate in the National History Center's **Third International Seminar on Decolonization**, a Summer 2008 workshop co-sponsored by the **Library of Congress** and **American Historical Association** (funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation). Currently, he is completing a book review for the *Journal of African American History*, and continuing his efforts to transform his dissertation into several refereed articles and a larger book manuscript.



Dr. Eric Duke

He and his wife, Jody, also welcomed a new addition into their family, **Xavier Zion Duke** (October 11, 2007). They are also the proud parents of a daughter, **Mya Gabrielle Duke**, age three.

## FACULTY NEWS

### Welcome to new faculty member, Dr. Dawood Sultan

Dr. Dawood Sultan holds a joint appointment in the Department of Africana Studies and the Department of Health Policy and Management. He earned a doctorate in Sociology from Louisiana State University (LSU) with concentrations in demography, development, statistics and health outcomes.

Dr. Sultan's current research interests include examining the behavioral, socioeconomic and structural determinants of nutrition and health outcomes, and investigating the pathways through which ethnicity affects health outcomes, access to and use of healthcare services. This is in addition to interests in the political economy of development, ethnic conflict and globalization.



Dr. Dawood Sultan

### Faculty Accomplishments



Dr. Trevor Purcell, 3rd from left and Dr. Roy Kaplan, 4th from right, at Human Rights Award Banquet.

Dr. Trevor Purcell and Dr. H. Roy Kaplan were awarded a grant from the **Ford Foundation** (\$150,000 over 2 years) for their project "**Narrowing the Achievement Gap**." This is a pilot project designed for middle school students in **Pinellas County** that will run for three years. The project involves teaching teachers about Africa, the African Diaspora, and contributions of African Americans to our society, and creating an on-line curriculum with supporting materials that can be accessed, downloaded and integrated into the curriculum. The materials on music, dance, art, literature, and science will be geared to the Sunshine State Standards and the FCAT. Students' progress will be measured to ascertain their improvement over time in an attempt to assess the impact of the program on reducing the achievement gap.



Dr. Roy Kaplan

The second edition of Dr. Kaplan's book **Failing Grades**, was published by Rowman and Littlefield in August 2007. The book outlines problems that students, teachers, and administrators have in public schools, linking the achievement gap and negative school outcomes to cross cultural misunderstandings, breakdowns in communication, irrelevant curricula, and racism. Much of the material is drawn from Dr. Kaplan's work in area schools and is presented in the form of stories related by and about students and staff.

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Dr. Festus Ohaegbulam has re-published **A Culture of Deference: Congress, The President, And The Course of The U.S.-Led Invasion and Occupation of Iraq** (New York: Peter Lang Publishers, May 2007).

Dr. Kersuze Simeon-Jones has been awarded the **McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship** for the academic year of 2007-2008. During that time she will be completing a manuscript to be published with Lexington Books. Also, she is currently working on completing several academic articles. In summer 2007, she published a review of **Slavery and African Ethnicities in the Americas: Restoring the Links** by Gwendolyn Midlo Hall. She also has a review published in the **Journal of Haitian Studies** (Volume 12, No. 2, Fall 2006) pp. 144-147.

Dr. Deborah Plant's publication, **Zora Neale Hurston: A Spiritual Biography**, was released in early Fall 2007. The work was supported by a USF Sabbatical Award, a USF Humanities Summer Grant and a USF Faculty Award. She is currently engaged in research for a biographical work on Pulitzer Prize-winning, Political Activist Alice Walker.

Dr. Shirley Toland-Dix, USF Associate Professor of English and affiliate professor in the Department of Africana Studies, has submitted a book proposal, "**Half the Story has Never Been Told**": **Caribbean Women Novelists and the Representation of History**. The proposed manuscript will examine imaginative interventions and representations of history in the novels of Caribbean women writers. This work promises to contribute significantly to the critical discourse in Caribbean literature and in post-colonial debates regarding the representation and/or erasure of the histories of colonized peoples.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Congratulations to our 2006-2007 Recipients of the Master of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies



From left, Jasey "Asantewaa" Maxwell, recipient of the first Africana Studies MLA in 2002; Dr. Deborah Plant, Chair-Elect and Graduate Director; Titilayo Kendrick, MLA 2006; and Rhone Fraser, MLA 2007.

**Rhone Fraser**, who is now enrolled in a doctoral program at Temple University in Philadelphia, wrote a thesis entitled, "A Surviving Legacy: Non-Violent Resistance in the Congressional Black Caucus 2001-2007."

**Titilayo Kendrick** undertook an internship with local community centers as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MLA in Africana Studies degree.

**Jasey Asantewaa Maxwell** has been working within the Department of Africana Studies as an Adjunct Instructor. She has taught Black Women Writers and Black Women in America.



## Africana Studies Alumni in Action

**Evelinda Watkins**, who earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and Africana Studies in spring 2006, is currently at work preparing students for college through mentoring and tutoring Hillsborough High School students. Tutoring students has been a hobby that keeps Evelinda in touch with the future. She also enjoys advising students here in the Department of Africana Studies. Her future goals are to earn the new AFA graduate certificate in *Diasporas and Health Disparities* and, eventually, the Master of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies.



Evelinda Watkins

**Dasha Saint-Remy**, B.A. 2005, is currently working as **A Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)** for the Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program. GALs are appointed by the court to advocate for a child and is an information gatherer, community advocate, and courtroom advocate, all for the best interest of each child they represent. Dasha reports that volunteers are needed. Information can be obtained by visiting their website at <http://www.Guardianadlitem.org> or by calling 1-866-341-1425.

**Rhone Fraser** just finished his first semester at Temple University in Philadelphia as a Ph.D. student in the Africana Studies program this Fall. He is currently preparing to host a fourth staged reading of his original stage play, "Living Sacrifice: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer," at the Black Power/Black Feminism Conference March 7-8, 2007, at Sarah Lawrence College in upstate New York.



Titilayo Kendrick

**Titilayo Kendrick** is a substitute teacher in the Duval County public school system in Jacksonville, Florida, and also serves as a volunteer at the I. M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. She is also busy writing a grant for a local church to help them expand a community outreach mission, which includes a child-care learning center, clothing/food pantry, and substance abuse counseling. Although still in the discussion stages, she hopes to be working on grants to assist a group of Black women with mental health issues, help a high school teacher fund some literacy projects, and assist a teacher's aide in starting a daycare for children with severe mental/physical disabilities in the near future. Titilayo has been researching her family history and very slowly learning to speak Yoruba, the language of her Nigerian heritage.



Braulio Colón

**Braulio Colón** currently serves as Assistant Director of ENLACE Florida, a statewide network funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and managed by NCCEP that promotes college readiness, access, and success for Latinos, African-Americans, and other underrepresented students through non-partisan research, communication, advocacy, and support. Prior to joining ENLACE Florida, he served as General Manager for the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

### AFA Welcomes New MLA and Graduate Certificate Students



Rayshana Black

**Rayshana Black** is a grant writer and researcher for an international technology and communication organization which provides educational opportunities designed to prepare technologically savvy, management-oriented professionals for careers in business, industry, government and education in Ghana, West Africa: Technology in Africa. In the Africana Studies graduate program here at USF, she is also earning a certificate in Globalization Studies with an emphasis in Latin-American Studies. Rayshana notes, “My interest of study is Afro-Cuban retention in Cuba. I am still working on fine-tuning the topic into a research proposal, and eventually thesis.”



Erica Fox

**Erica Fox**, a native of New York, entered the program in Fall 2007. She is studying African American Women’s history, concentrating on the post-emancipation era, with the guidance of Dr. Eric Duke. Erica earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of South Florida in spring 2007. Erica works as a Graduate Teaching Assistant here in the Department.



Cynthia Smith

**Cynthia Smith** joined the Department of Africana Studies in the fall of 2005. Under the mentorship of Dr. Edward Kissi, she intends to do research on the family as a social unit and a framework of social organization in contemporary Ghana, West Africa. In addition, she will focus on the challenges that Ghanaian family structures face in the era of globalization. Cynthia works as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department.

**Michael Carter** is an honorably discharged Air Force veteran who has lived, worked and traveled in twelve countries and many parts of the United States as a tourist, a student, and a military member. During his travels, he has been able to do many things, from taking courses at Cambridge University in England, to conducting ethnographic research in Cuba. His practical experiences are enhanced by his undergraduate degree in Criminology and Sociology, conferred by St. Leo University and his Master’s program in Liberal Studies (with concentrations in Political Science, Diversity and Africana Studies), through the Humanities Department at the University of South Florida. He brings all of these experiences to bear in his current position as a sixth grade, Exceptional Student Education (Special Education) teacher. As a team teacher in Geography, Language Arts and Reading curriculum, he is able to provide his students with a broader perspective and understanding of the world and their place in it.



Michael Carter

**Mitchell McNelly**, an Admission Evaluator in the USF Office of Undergraduate Admissions and **Robin Baldwin** are also among Africana Studies’ Graduate Certificate students.

### Ramonica Moore takes a position with the Black Leadership Forum



Ramonica Moore

This past April, **Ramonica Moore** relocated to the Washington, D.C., area for a position with the **Black Leadership Forum, Inc.** (BLF). Formed in 1977, BLF is an umbrella organization comprised of thirty-four national, Black organizations, which include the NAACP, National Urban League, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and SCLC. BLF’s focus is linking leadership to legislative policy priorities. One of the highlights of Ramonica’s job is that she is able to directly apply all that she learned in her studies at USF, while pursuing her Master of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies degree. Furthermore, on any given day, she can be directly interacting with legendary activists like Dr. Dorothy Height and Congresspersons like Carolyn Kilpatrick, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and Senator Barack Obama. It is truly an exciting opportunity! If you would like to find out more about the Black Leadership Forum, please visit their website at <http://www.BlackLeadershipForum.org>.



## UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE NEWS

### Undergraduate Program Revised



The "Real Talk Group" — Clockwise: Will, Lianne, Ashley, Jennifer, Tia, George, and Mireille.

AFA is revising its undergraduate program to better reflect the Department's mission statement and to integrate into the program an applied skills dimension. The anticipated revisions are designed to better orient AFA majors and minors toward specific academic and professional career paths. AFA's undergraduate Spring Colloquium continues to be a success. Students have an opportunity to present their research and receive feedback from their peers and professors. In addition, the Colloquium is a forum wherein students gain the experience of themselves as aspiring scholars and professionals. In the near future, these activities will be subsumed as components of the Department's capstone course.

In Spring 2007, The *Fourth Annual Africana Studies Senior Colloquium* was hosted by the AFA Student Outcomes Assessment Committee. Respondents were Dr. Eric Duke, Dr. Edward Kissi and Dr. Roy Kaplan. Critical reflections were made by Dr. Kersuze Simeon-Jones. Dr. Kissi presented awards and recognitions. The following

AFA Majors presented their creativity and scholarship: **Larry D. LeCroy**, "Sociedad La Union Marti-Maceo as a Rock in the Afro-Cuban Community," **Cynthia Smith**, "The Triangular Slave Trade, the Middle Passage, and their Impact on Africa and the African Diaspora," **Candice Humphries**, "Evaluating Success and Failure in Nation-Building in Post-Colonial Africa," **James Bell**, "The Post-Atlantic Slave Trade and its Impact on Africa," **Brittany Thomas**, "Colorism and Black Women," and **Mr. Otis Coliny**, "Black Family Divided." Congratulations! to all!

### Africana Studies to Offer Graduate Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies

AFA has revised its graduate core requirements to include courses in African and African American historiography and courses in theory and methodology. These courses are designed to ground students in the discipline and to better train students in critical reading, thinking, and writing skills and in the practical application of theoretical constructs. To reflect the department's expansion into the areas of health and political economy, AFA, in collaboration with the College of Public Health, has created and launched a **Graduate Certificate in Diasporas and Health Disparities**. The Certificate requires 18 credit hours. There are 12 hours of core courses, 3 hours of an elective, and a 3-hour internship. (Students can substitute an additional 3-hour elective course for the internship if they have worked in the field.) In accordance with AFA's mission to understand Africana history and culture from a humanistic perspective that is, at once, global and comparative, in Spring 2008, the Africana Studies Department will meet with partners in the USF community and in the wider Tampa Bay community to collaborate on the creation of a **Graduate Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies**.

The curriculum for this certificate will explore, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the roles of hate, racism, prejudice, and social science discourse in the origins of the Holocaust and other genocides, as it also explores means of detection and prevention of genocide. The Department of Africana Studies has long had at its disciplinary core the study of identity, ethnicity, and diversity issues, and is therefore positioned to make a unique contribution towards combating genocide in a world that continues to be intolerant of group identity and human diversity. With its current faculty strengths, its partnership with other USF departments and units, and its relationship with the Florida Holocaust Museum, the Africana Studies Department is poised to pioneer this certificate at USF and make a major contribution to a growing field of study, nationally and internationally, in the humanities and liberal arts. **For more information about AFA's graduate certificates or MLA in Africana Studies program, contact Graduate Director Dr. Deborah G. Plant: 813-974-4220, [plant@cas.usf.edu](mailto:plant@cas.usf.edu). For an information packet, please call our office at 813-974-2427.**



### THE AFRICANA STUDIES CLUB



The **AFRICANA STUDIES CLUB (ASC)** is an organization of USF students that works closely with the Africana Studies Department. The Club seeks to explore the significance and influence of Africa on all areas of the Diaspora through dialogue, action, and positivity. They are a scholastic organization, seeking to utilize research and other scholastic resources to further their motto:

**"Bridging the Gap through the Spread of Information."** For more information or to find out how you can get involved with ASC, visit their website at

<http://ctr.usf.edu/asc/index.htm> or send an email to [usfasc@gmail.com](mailto:usfasc@gmail.com). The Africana Studies Club office is located at the Faculty Office Building, Room 257. The office phone is (813) 974-1522. To contact the Club via e-mail, send your questions, comments and concerns to [ascusf@gmail.com](mailto:ascusf@gmail.com).

## EVENTS

### Africana Studies hosts the 2006 African Heritage Studies Association Conference on Health in the Black Diaspora



Alicia Winn, center, helps to register guests attending the 39th Annual AHSA Conference.

The phenomenon of health security/insecurity has emerged as a global issue that disproportionately afflicts the people of Africa and its diasporas. The crisis of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, hypertension, diabetes, respiratory ailments and other illnesses are well known. But less on the forefront of our consciousness as directly health-related are the intractable economic, political, environmental, racial, ethnic, social, military, and other historically created social ills and vulnerabilities. Based on the outstanding need for collaborative efforts to address these issues, the Department of Africana Studies hosted a conference, **“Understanding Health and Well-Being in Africa and its Diasporas.”** Other sponsors were the **USF College of Arts & Sciences**, the **USF Office of the Provost**, **Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Inc.** and **USF’s Institute on Black Life**. This three-day conference, with a target audience of

academics, professionals working in the field, students and the general public, was held from October 19-21, 2006. Featured speakers were some of the most reknown in the field and included **Dr. Rony François**, Florida’s Secretary of health, **Dr. Maulana Karenga**, creator of the Kwanzaa holiday, and **Dr. Joycelyn Elders**, former U.S. Surgeon General.



Dr. Rony François



Maulana Karenga.

### Dr. Ted Williams Guest Speaker at Fall 2007 Annual Open House



On October 18, 2007, Africana Studies celebrated **“The Way of the Warrior”** at our Annual Open House Celebration. The event began with a warm welcome from **Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez**, Director of the Institute on Black Life and an opening prayer led by **Dr. Samuel Lamar Wright, Sr.**, Director of USF’s Office of Multicultural Affairs. In addition, **Dr. John Skvoretz**, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences gave opening remarks. The guest speaker for the event was **Dr. Ted Williams**, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, who gave a presentation entitled, **“Disparate Health Care: A History and Possible Solutions.”** This year’s event also honored several of the faculty who have made our department “Who We Are.” Presented with engraved plaques, the honorees were **Dr. Festus Ohaegbulam**, Professor Emeritus, **Dr. Kofi Glover**, Associate Provost, **Dr. Navita James**, Associate Professor of Communications, and posthumously, **Dr. Trevor Purcell**, Chair of Africana Studies. We also enjoyed a drum and dance performance by **Mr. Myron Jackson** and son, as well as a dynamic spoken word presentation by **Mr. Reginald Eldridge** and **Mr. Ryan Burns**. Thanks to all who came out to help make the event a success!



Dr. Ted Williams



Photos: Clockwise from top: Reginald Eldridge and Ryan Burns perform spoken word; Dr. Plant presents plaques to Dr. Navita James, Dr. Kofi Glover and Dr. Festus Ohaegbulam.

## PROJECTS

### The USF Africana Heritage Project Breaks New Ground

by Toni Carrier

On Tuesday, June 26, 2007, the **USF Africana Heritage Project** and **WeRelate.org** announced that they will collaborate on groundbreaking historical research sponsored by the **Magnolia Plantation Foundation** of Charleston, South Carolina. In the first-ever project of its kind, Magnolia Plantation is funding genealogical research in the plantation journals of the Drayton family of Charleston. The **USF Africana Heritage Project** will reconstruct the lineages of enslaved communities on Drayton family plantations, and build family files which anyone may access for free on the Internet.

WeRelate, the world's largest genealogy wiki, will host the family tree files, provide technical support and share expertise to make the research results easily accessible and user-friendly. "We feel strongly that WeRelate's collaboration in this project will bring talent and expertise to the effort, and will make the work product truly special," said **Toni Carrier**, Founding Director of the **USF Africana Heritage Project**. "The folks at WeRelate have poured an enormous amount of time and technical skill into making an innovative, free website where genealogists and scholars may collaborate on research. We look forward to collaborating with them on this historic research."



A "wiki" is a new type of website that makes it easy for people to collaborate on research projects. Anyone can edit pages and build upon others' work. A history of changes is kept so that information is not lost and people can see who changed what. "Wikis like Wikipedia and WeRelate demonstrate the effectiveness of wiki technology in helping people share information. We are excited to participate in this important and historic effort to reconstruct slave family lineages and make them freely available online," said **Dallan Quass**, President of the **Foundation for On-Line Genealogy**, the sponsor of WeRelate.

The **USF Africana Heritage Project** is an all-volunteer research project sponsored by the **Department of Africana Studies** at the University of South Florida. Their research mission is to rediscover records that document the names and lives of slaves, freedpersons and their descendants, and share those records on the free Internet site at <http://www.africanaheritage.com>.

For more information about Magnolia Plantation's sponsorship of this historic research, please visit: [http://www.africanaheritage.com/Lowcountry\\_Africana.asp](http://www.africanaheritage.com/Lowcountry_Africana.asp). For more information about the **USF Africana Heritage Project** please visit their webpage at: <http://www.africanaheritage.com/>.

**WeRelate** is a free public-service wiki for genealogy sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. (<http://www.folg.org/>) in partnership with the Allen County Public Library (<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>). It is the world's largest genealogy wiki with pages for over 400,000 people and growing. Their goal is to be the number one community website for genealogy. At WeRelate you can connect with other researchers and cooperatively work on web pages for your ancestors. Your research can be documented completely online. You can upload GEDCOM files, upload and annotate scanned documents and photos, include family stories and biographies, and generate maps of your ancestors' life events. WeRelate is currently in beta and is funded by tax-deductible donations. For more information please visit WeRelate.org or follow the link WeRelate video tour at [http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Help:WeRelate\\_tour](http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Help:WeRelate_tour).



In Fall 2007, **We Relate**, the **USF Africana Heritage Project** and **Ideas4** announced plans to build **Afriquest**, a free, central Internet database for records of African and African American genealogy and history. The Afriquest database uses collaborative software that allows anyone to add images and records to the database or draw images and records from the database for research purposes. Access to the images and records on Afriquest will always be free. Visit the Afriquest website at: <http://www.afriquest.com/>.

## PROGRAMS

### Africana Studies and the Institute on Black Life launch the USF Slavery & Abolition Lecture Series

To commemorate the first efforts to eradicate slavery, many universities in the United States are holding conferences this year. Having been asked to set up a conference here at USF to participate in this commemorative spirit, the Department of Africana Studies and USF's Institute on Black Life organized a Slavery & Abolition Lecture Series, spearheaded by Dr. Eric Duke. This provided an outstanding opportunity for students in Dr. Duke's Fall 2007 class, Slavery and Abolition, to hear top scholars in the fields of Latin American history and Africana Studies speak weekly. After the lectures, which were also open to the public, students had the opportunity to speak directly with the guest lecturers.



### Dr. Dawood Sultan speaks on Genocide in DarFur at Fall 2007 *Dialogues on Diaspora* Lecture



Attendees listen intently to Dr. Sultan's discussion.

In 2004, we initiated the Brown Bag lecture series. In spring 2007, we re-titled the series *Dialogues on Diaspora* and united with the Institute on Black Life. Our goal is to provide a relatively informal forum where faculty and graduate students can present their work on a regular basis. The intent is to increase interdisciplinarity across campus and, at the same time, develop extra-departmental academic relations that enrich AFA. We hope that by providing a forum for exposing faculty and students to a wide range of research and discourse related to the Black experience in Africa and the Diaspora, we can help to stimulate research on African and Diasporan topics. Our fall 2007 speaker was new faculty member, Dr. Dawood Sultan (see page 4 of this newsletter), who gave a well-attended presentation entitled, "*Geopolitics, Ethnic Differentiation, Pathological Others and Ethnic Violence in Dar Fur.*" We look forward to more exciting talks in 2008.



Dr. Dawood Sultan

### Donate to AFA USF Foundation Fund and Trevor Purcell Memorial Scholarship Fund

Trevor Purcell Memorial Scholarship Fund #420043003  
 Africana Studies Operating Fund #421050  
 Africana Studies Travel Scholarship Fund #421940

Your contribution will help to continue growth and expansion of African Studies at USF. Should you like to contribute a gift to these funds please do so by writing a check or by payroll deduction. Checks should be made out to the "USF Foundation, Inc." and write on the memo line of the check the fund name and number. Payroll deduction can be made through the web address: <http://www.usf.edu/fsc>. You will need to provide your GEMS ID. If additional information is needed, please contact the USF Foundation Hot Line at 974-4900.

Gifts should be directed and processed through: University of South Florida, CAS Office of Development, Julie V. Benson, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue - CPR 107, Tampa, FL 33620. The Faculty, Staff and Students of African Studies appreciate your contributions. Thank you.