



AFRICANA STUDIES

2008/2009 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Deborah G. Plant

“Pioneers and leaders in the field of Africana Studies” describe who we have been and inspires our vision as we move more boldly into the 21st century. Our country has made an historical shift as its citizenry elected the first African American president and welcomed the guidance of our first African American First Lady. Liberal Arts programs such as **Africana Studies** are major contributing factors in the development of critical, creative, and visionary minds capable of embracing cultural and ideological differences, recognizing our common humanity, and emboldened to take on the tasks and challenges required of all who believe in democracy, freedom, and justice for all—at home and abroad.

This is the work of the Department of Africana Studies. In Fall 2009 the **USF Department of Africana Studies (AFA)** will have been doing this work for 40 years. On **16 October 2009** AFA will host a Gala Celebration to mark the event. (So mark your calendars!) As we continue teaching and research in the traditional subject areas of history and culture, AFA has also expanded into the areas of health, political economy, and diplomacy. We offer students courses, research, and internships in these areas. Undergraduate and graduate certificates and degrees acquired in Africana Studies are designed to give students the opportunity to acquire applied skills and practical experience that will prepare them for an increasingly dynamic and competitive global economy.

Infused with the politics of Hope and Change and in alignment with the strategic goals of the College and the University, the vision of the USF Department of Africana Studies lights the steps on our path to the full realization of our role as pioneers and leaders in our field—here in the state of Florida, in the region, the nation, and internationally. This is a formidable vision and we embrace it, knowing that we are moving forward with the industry and collective effort of our faculty—core, affiliate, and adjunct faculty—our staff and students, the support of our administrators, and the support and wisdom of our AFA-IBL Advisory Board.

A Renewed Vision

The **Department of Africana Studies** at the **University of South Florida** is the only full-fledged academic unit in the State of Florida that offers undergraduate and graduate training in the study of Africa, and peoples of African descent in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. Given our distinctive commitment to the study of Africa and the global Black Diaspora, USF’s Department of Africana Studies is the leader in the State of Florida in the provision of instruction in the foundational themes and topics in Africana Studies. We take this leadership role seriously. To that end, we continue to pioneer innovation in a discipline with a distinctive history. We have not only championed, but also adapted to the transformations that have occurred in the dynamic discipline of Africana Studies, nationally and globally.

Today, USF’s Department of Africana Studies offers undergraduate and graduate courses and certificate programs of applied value and contemporary relevance such as the political economy of health, genocide and human rights and leadership and diplomacy to the diverse group of students who have looked up to us to fulfill their yearning for a relevant, unique and globally competitive university education. By addressing the needs of USF’s students, as tomorrow’s leaders, we have also advanced USF’s strategic goals of creating and supporting distinctive academic programs that meet the needs of the state and nation.

Our interdisciplinary faculty, with state, national and international renown, and innovative course offerings, also make us the embodiment of USF’s goal of expanding world-class interdisciplinary research and graduate programs. In the State of Florida, we are the leaders in the training of world-class students in the discipline of Africana Studies. Beyond that expectation, we value applied content in our courses and quality instruction in our classrooms. We are not only quenching thirsts for new thinking, and filling gaps in the knowledge of our students, we are preparing them for Life. This is who we are as Florida’s sole Department of Africana Studies.

A Warm Welcome to Our Administrators, Ms. Irina Ramirez-Fuentes and Ms. Clara Cobb



Irina Ramirez-Fuentes



Ms. Clara Cobb

Ms. Irina Ramirez-Fuentes has been an employee of USF for eight years. Among other appointments, she has worked in the Accounts Payable Office and as Office Manager for the Department of Women’s Studies. She joined the Department of Africana Studies in Fall 2009. In the midst of challenging institutional realignments and readjustments, Ms. Ramirez-Fuentes brought compassion, skill, commitment, a smile, and a promise: “It’ll be all right.” And it has been more than all right. With the finesse of an expert, she assisted AFA and IBL in our re-organization while also assisting other units with necessary adjustments. She has been a friend to students a source of clarity, answers, and direction for faculty, and she has been my right hand as department Chair.

AFA is doubly blessed as Ms. Clara Cobb also joined us in Fall 2009. Ellos son el corazón del Departamento d’Estudios Africanos. Ms. Cobb brings with her 30 years of experience at USF. Among other positions she has held, she has worked with USF’s Institute on Black Life. Ms. Cobb joins us as an Administrative Assistant. She, too, is my right hand. (No, I don’t have three hands, I’m basically a very ambidextrous Chair now.) In addition to institutional knowledge, Ms. Cobb is very knowledgeable of and has strong relations with the Tampa Bay community. She makes sure we honor the fact that “we are the community and the community is us.” Part of Ms. Cobb’s responsibilities includes continued support of the mission and objectives of the Institute on Black Life.

Africana Studies and the Institute on Black Life Join Forces



In Fall 2009, the Institute on Black Life (IBL) officially became an integral part of the Department of Africana Studies. As USF continues to move toward its realization as a Research I institution, the need for academic units to align themselves with USF’s strategic goals is imperative. Community engagement is one of the cornerstones of USF’s Strategic Plan. A focus on community and the generation of research that has practical application to the community—on a local, national and international level—is not new to AFA. The former USF African and African American Studies Program had charted a similar direction in the past, and proposed the establishment of the Institute on Black Life as a mechanism toward the achievement of goals that extended its academic mission. Thus, at its inception, the Institute was proposed as the major *research and service arm* of what is currently known as the Department of Africana Studies.

This historical relationship forms the backdrop of the conjoining of IBL and AFA. Together the units will be strengthened and their synergy will be mutually beneficial in carrying out community initiatives.

Annual Faculty Retreat

On April 30, 2009 the faculty and staff of the Department of Africana Studies and the Institute on Black Life held its annual Faculty and Staff Retreat for faculty, administrators and staff. We assessed and revised our vision, mission, and direction. Because our efforts are collective, we also held a Retreat Social on May 1 at the Marriott Waterside in honor of and in recognition of core, adjunct, and affiliate faculty; students; administrators; advisory board members; and community supporters. A good time was had by all, and we will do this again!

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Topic	Page
From the Chair	1
Faculty News	3
Adjunct Faculty News	5
Graduate Student News	6
Undergraduate News	8
Outreach and Collaboration	9
Events	10
USF Student Organizations	11
Donations	12

FACULTY NEWS

Edward Kissi continues to work on his second book which examines continental African reactions to the Nazi destruction of European Jewry in the course of World War II. He spent much of the Summer of 2008 in the US National Archives and the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington, DC, collecting archival materials for the book project. That summer research was funded by a **USF Humanities Institute Summer Grant**. In September 2008, he participated in an international conference on Famine and Mass Violence held at Youngstown State University, in Youngstown, Ohio. He spoke on "**Famine and Political Violence in Ethiopia**." His paper will be included in a book that will be published in 2009 containing all papers presented at the conference. Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), in New Britain, CT, invited Dr. Kissi, in October 2008, to deliver a public lecture on "**Genocide and State-Terrorism in Africa**," as part of CCSU's annual lecture series on International Human Rights. Dr. Kissi's proposed paper on "**Africans and the Holocaust: how colonial subjects viewed Nazi persecution of European Jews**" has been accepted for presentation at the First Global Conference on Genocide to be held at the University of Sheffield, in England, from 9-12 January 2009. Dr. Kissi's Discussion Paper entitled "**The Holocaust as a Guidepost for Genocide Detection and Prevention in Africa**," which he submitted to the **United Nations**, at the UN's request, in 2007, will be included in a special volume of seven Discussion Papers to be published by the United Nations in 2009. Dr. Kissi's Discussion Paper is available at the UN's website (<http://www.un.org/holocaustremembrance/docs.shtml>).



Dr. Edward Kissi



Dr. Eric Duke

In Summer 2008 Dr. Duke completed a month-long fellowship at the **Library of Congress** as a participant in the National History Center's "**International Research Seminar on Decolonization**." This seminar, which brought together an international group of fourteen young scholars working at some of the most prestigious universities in the world, provided Dr. Duke an opportunity to share his work on decolonization and nation-building in the black Diaspora, as well as to complete additional archival research for his book, tentatively titled "**Out of One ... Many Nations: Conceptualizing a 'United West Indies' in the British Caribbean and Black Diaspora**." In addition to this book project, Duke has co-edited a volume, "**Extending the Diaspora: New Histories of Black People**," which will be published by the University of Illinois Press during Summer 2009. He made presentations for the **Humanities Institute, Institute on Black Life, and Black Emphasis Month** at USF. Dr. Duke also presented a paper, "**Not Just Liberation, Black Liberation: Transnational Support for British Caribbean Federation in the African Diaspora**," at the **Collegium for African American Research (CAAR)** in Germany during Spring 2009. Over the past year, he has been awarded grants from the **College of Arts and Science, the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC), and the Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence (C21TE)**.

Dr. Kersuze Simeon-Jones is a contributing board member of the journals *Anthurium: Caribbean Studies* and *Negritude: Journal of Afro-Latin American Studies*. She is currently revising her book manuscript "**19th-20th Century Literary and Socio-Political Writings of the Black Diaspora**." She has submitted her essay "**Haiti's Politico-Cultural Transcript**" for publication in the *Journal of Haitian Studies*. Her article "**Masculinity in the works of Zora Neale Hurston**," was accepted for publication in the forthcoming volume *Reading Zora Neale Hurston: Critical Essays*.

Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez is co-author of an article based on earlier HOPE VI program research, published in the *Journal of Poverty* and has written an essay published in *Anthropology News*. She is working on a book chapter that is also based on HOPE VI research. Dr. Rodriguez is president of the Association of Feminist Anthropology. Her article "**Beyond Today and Pass Tomorrow: Self-Efficacy Among African-American Adolescent Mothers**," published in the Association's journal, is based on research collected in a rural town in Louisiana and in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Deborah G. Plant gave presentations at the Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts in Eatonville, Florida, and the Annual ZoraFest in Fort Pierce, Florida in Spring 2009. She was also a panelist at the Alice Walker Symposium, "A Keeping of Records," at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is editor of the forthcoming volume *Reading Zora Neale Hurston: Critical Essays*, and is at work on a biography of Alice Walker.

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Dawood Sultan with the Maasai

Dr. Dawood Sultan Joins USF World Task Force

In Fall 2008, Dr. Sultan was formally invited by Dr. Linda Whiteford (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives) and Dr. Donna Petersen (Dean of the College of Public Health) to join the **USF World Task Force**. Among other duties, the *Task Force* is charged with recommending “*the necessary policies, strategies, and procedures needed to make USF the destination for those committed to global engagement.*” Dr. Sultan was selected to Co-Chair a **Development Sub-Committee**. The Committee will make recommendations on ways to raise funds needed to finance global engagement.

Dr. Sultan is currently directing the theses of three Honors College students (Joanna Scian, Konstance Kasimos and Amir Boules), and is leading two primary research projects with Africana Studies graduate students (Cynthia Smith and Rayshana Black) and two students pursuing Graduate Certificates in Diasporas and Health Disparities (Kamilah Thomas and Maisha Kambon). The findings of the two projects have been presented at professional conferences in Spring 2009 and will be submitted for review and possible future publication in relevant Public Health journals.

In Spring 2008, Dr. Sultan gave a presentation (with Dr. Deanna Wathington, Director of USF Public Health Practice Program and current Interim CPH Dean of Academic Affairs) entitled “***The Challenge of Ethnic and Racial Disparities in Healthcare and Health Outcomes***” at the Pinellas County Health Department’s All-Day Training Program, for over 500 staff members of the staff of the Pinellas County Health Department. In Summer 2008, Dr. Sultan and students of ***By Your Side***, a USF student organization which he mentors, hosted a Gala at the Alumni Center to raise funds to support three orphanages caring for children whose parent(s) died of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. More than \$3000 was raised during the event and was donated to the orphanages.

Dr. Sultan has accepted a full appointment in the College of Public Health, which will begin Fall 2009. The faculty, staff and students of the Africana Studies Department wish him well in his new position.

AFA Summer Institute Trains Teachers



Dr. Roy Kaplan

Summer 2008 saw successes of our Ford Foundation project “**Narrowing the Achievement Gap,**” a \$150,000, three-year project designed to improve the academic success of African American middle school students. Drs. Trevor Purcell and Roy Kaplan conceived of the project and managed to acquire the first grant USF ever received from **The Ford Foundation**. Twenty middle school teachers from five Pinellas middle schools met over the period of a year and attended a five-day **USF Summer**



Summer Institute Teachers at Work in the Classroom

Institute on July 14-18, 2008 at the **Florida Center for Teachers** at USF in St. Petersburg. The project teaches teachers about Africa, the African Diaspora, and contributions of African Americans to the United States. A website, **Teachaficana.com** (<http://teachaficana.com/>), was created to provide teachers with information about these topics, lesson plans, links to sites around the world, and information they can use in their classrooms. Students taught by participating teachers will be tracked to determine what effects the material has on their grades, FCAT scores, discipline, and academic success. The project is also being funded by: **The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay**, the **Shimberg Foundation**, **Carlton Fields Law Firm**, and the **Pinellas School District**.

ADJUNCT FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Shirley Toland-Dix, Assistant Professor in the English Department, teaches African American Literature Survey, Twentieth Century African-American Novel (undergrad & grad), Caribbean Literature and the Neo-Slave Narrative. Her research goals currently focus on completing a monograph: *“Half the Story Has Never Been Told: Caribbean Women Writers and the Representation of History.”* Her most recent publication is: *“Sylvia Wynter’s Disruption of the Narrative of the Nation,”* in *Small Axe: The Journal of Caribbean Criticism*, February 2008. She has a forthcoming chapter article on the politics of the Black Atlantic Diaspora in *Reading Zora Neale Hurston: Critical Essays* (Praeger). She was a panelist for the **USF Humanities Institute New Faculty Research Presentation** along with **Antoinette Jackson** (Anthropology) in Fall 2008.



Dr. Joan B. Holmes

Dr. Joan B. Holmes is Interim Assistant Dean of Diverse Student Success at USF's Graduate School and the Director of the McNair Scholars Program. In addition to her busy schedule, for the last six years she has taught the popular undergraduate class, "Major Black Thinkers," for the Department of Africana Studies. When asked what she enjoyed the most about teaching this class, she enthusiastically responded, "Observing the knowledge-building processes of the students over the course of a semester." Dr. Holmes emphasizes that this course catapults students into knowledge of how historical influences impact the policies, practices and lives of black people today. Such great thinkers as W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, among others, spoke of things in their own particular historical periods that are still relevant to the issues facing the contemporary black community today. Dr. Holmes just returned from a sabbatical in spring 2009 where she conducted a follow-up study on graduate and professional school completion rates by McNair Scholars, a group composed primarily of underrepresented ethnic minority students. Her research demonstrated that this successful program resulted in over 86% of the students enrolling in graduate or professional school. Whether in her role as Dean, Director, or Adjunct Faculty, Dr. Holmes's dedication to the students is unsurpassed.

Mr. Shawn Moore has worked six years as an Adjunct Faculty member teaching AFA 2000, *Introduction to the Black Experience*, the introductory undergraduate course in Africana Studies. Despite a hectic schedule which includes a full-time position as Counselor/Advisor/Instructor for USF's Student Support Services office, as well as his status as a doctoral student in Higher Education Administration, Mr. Moore states that he continues to teach this course because he loves being a part of the Africana Studies family. Furthermore, he states that this introductory course is a great opportunity for students to be introduced to the many great courses offered by the Department.



Mr. Shawn Moore standing next to a flyer advertising his class.



Dr. Sam Wright

Dr. Samuel L. Wright, Student Ombudsman and Adjunct Professor in the Africana Studies Department, was nominated to serve as a member of the **State of Florida African American History Task Force**, an organization that serves as an advocate in implementing the teaching of the history of African people and the contributions of African Americans to society. As part of **Black Emphasis Month** activities, Dr. Wright also hosted a **“NAACP Panel Discussion,”** held at the USF Marshall Center in Spring 2009 and a **100 Year Centennial** birthday celebration for the NAACP at the Hip Hop Soda Shop in Spring 2009. All donations benefited the NAACP Hillsborough Branch.

Ms. Daphine Washington has been working as Adjunct Faculty, teaching courses for the **Department of Africana Studies** and the **Department of Anthropology**, for the past four years. A doctoral student in the Department of Applied Anthropology, Ms. Washington's research focuses on the black Diaspora, public policy, development and the Afro-Latin cyber community. She also holds a M. Ed. In Instructional Technology, focusing on the implementation of technology in effective curriculum and instruction. Courses she has taught include Introduction to the Black Experience, Black English, Zora Neale Hurston, Cultural Anthropology and Caribbean Anthropology. Ms. Washington joins the Africana Studies Department in Fall 2009 as a full-time Instructor.



Ms. Daphine Washington

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

From the Graduate Director, Dr. Eric D. Duke

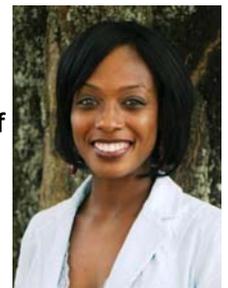
It is my pleasure to greet you as the new graduate director in the Department of Africana Studies. Since stepping into this role in Fall 2008, I have been working closely with Dr. Plant to insure a smooth transition for our current graduate students, while also working to continue the expansion of the graduate program. With multiple students proceeding towards graduation in the coming year, as well as the addition of many new MLA and Graduate Certificate students, our program continues to flourish. As you can see from some of the articles and updates from our graduate students in this newsletter, many have had busy and successful years

Of the many goals we have set for ourselves in the graduate program, two are most pressing. First, we intend to increase awareness of the graduate program within both the community and the academy. As the only full-fledged academic unit in the State of Florida that offers undergraduate and graduate training in the study of Africa, and peoples of African descent in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, we believe we have a unique department destined to attract attention at the local, state, national, and even international levels. Therefore, it is our duty to raise the profile of the graduate program. With that mission in mind, Dr. Plant and I are also seeking the transition of the graduate program from its current Masters of Liberal Arts (MLA) to a more independent Masters of Arts (MA) in Africana Studies.

We look forward to working with our current and future students, alumni, community, and other academics to see that these goals are reached!

GRADUATE STUDENTS AT WORK

Alisha Winn, a Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Anthropology, works as a Graduate Research Assistant in Africana Studies to Dr. H. Roy Kaplan. She also teaches Introduction to Anthropology, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, and Social Science Research Methods for USF's Anthropology Department. Alisha's dissertation research, entitled "**Beyond the Business: The Social and Cultural Aspects of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company**," examines the social and cultural dynamics of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company in Atlanta, GA, one of the largest and most successful African-American financial institutions in the country during the 20th century. In addition to assisting Dr. Kaplan with the Ford Foundation grant (see page 5), Alisha's personal and professional goals are to educate and empower African American youth in African American history and culture, to enhance an appreciation for their culture, to promote cultural identity, and advocate change in African American communities by providing applied anthropological solutions to social issues.



Alisha Winn

approved for new

"The Year of Change" Conference

by Cynthia L. Smith

The conference called "The Year of Change," hosted by the **National Association of African American Studies**, took place on February 9-14, 2009 at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Attendees enjoyed research sessions, roundtable discussions and with poster presentations. Scholars from across the United States and several foreign countries shared and interacted on subjects and issues that relate to all aspects of society. Two of our graduate students along with Dr. Dawood H. Sultan, presented their on-going research: AFA Graduate students Robin E. Baldwin and Cynthia L. Smith presented at the conference. Ms. Baldwin's presentation was titled, "**Difficulties in Educating Immigrant Haitian Bilingual Children**" and Ms. Smith's presentation was titled, "**Examining the Association between Area ethnic Demography and Access to Health Foods.**" The students both said that "this was an experience that they will never forget." They were able to take lots of pictures especially while visiting the Ninth Ward in New Orleans. Both Robin and Cynthia claimed that just seeing the homes made the reality of the devastation that took place during Katrina just over-whelming.



African Studies Graduate Students Ms. Cynthia Smith and Ms. Robin Baldwin with Dr. Dawood Sultan at the National Association of African American Studies conference in Baton Rouge, LA, Spring 2009.



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Africana Studies Graduate Students Engage in Research

Ms. **Erica Fox** is a Graduate Student and Graduate Assistant in the Department of Africana Studies. She has worked as a Teaching Assistant in African American History I & II under the guidance of Dr. Duke, Racism in American Society under the guidance of Dr. Kaplan, and Culture & Society in Africa under the guidance of Dr. Schuler. Her research focus and goals are the study of African American women's club organizations in the Tampa area and how these clubs epitomize the cross-sections of race & gender. Despite the confines of racism, these women assisted with the cultivation of the black community. Ms. Fox is also focused on local chapters of black sororities at the University of South Florida and the Jackson House (a black boarding home). She intends to do fieldwork which includes capturing the oral histories of Tampa Bay community members for cultural preservation. Upon graduation, Ms. Fox will pursue doctoral studies in history.



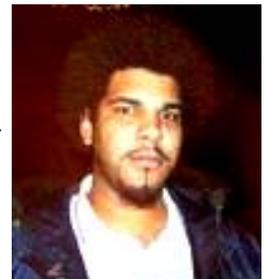
Ms. Erica Fox



Ms. Cynthia Smith

Ms. **Cynthia Smith** joined the Department of Africana Studies graduate program in the fall of 2007. 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. Under the direction of Dr. Dawood Sultan, Ms. Smith conducted an examination of structural impediments to minority access to fresh fruit, vegetables, and healthy foods using Census Bureau zip code specific data to map out minority population concentrations in Hillsborough County and to correlate that with major area grocers. This research was presented at the annual meeting of the **National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS)** in spring 2009. Ms. Smith also works as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and as the Undergraduate Student Advisor.

Mr. **Billy Joseph Nelson**, currently a Master of Liberal Arts student in Africana Studies, holds the degree of Bachelor of Science in African American Studies from Florida A & M University. His research is focused on African American teachers and politicians. Music, structural and transportation engineering, and community building and development are among his interests.



Mr. Billy Nelson



Ms. Robin Baldwin

Ms. **Robin Baldwin** was born and raised in Dade City, FL. She was graduated from the University of Florida where she majored in Sociology with a concentration in Race Relations. Upon graduation, Ms. Baldwin joined **Teach For America** and taught 4th grade in Newark, NJ. After teaching she became AmeriCorps Director in a Paterson, NJ Community Development Corporation, and most recently she directed the Huntington Learning Center in Land O'Lakes, FL. She joins the Africana Studies graduate program to continue her focus on racial inequities in America, specifically in education.

Ms. **Rayshana Black** is a grant writer/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. Ms. Black is a graduate student in the MLA in Africana Studies program and is also a Graduate Certificate student in Globalization Studies with an emphasis on Latin-American Studies and Afro-Cuban retentions in Cuba.



Ms. Rayshana Black



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The Dr. Trevor W. Purcell Memorial Seniors' Colloquium



The Dr. Trevor W. Purcell Memorial Senior Colloquium took place Thursday, April 16, 2009, in the Marshall Center. Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez opened the program, followed by a poetry presentation by Reginald Eldridge. Dr. Deborah G. Plant introduced the respondents, Drs. Roy Kaplan, Edward Kissi, and Eric Duke. The moderator was Ms. Cynthia L. Smith, GA and Graduate Director Assistant. The students who presented their research and the titles of their presentation are as follows:

Mr. Derrick Ross: "The Correlation Between Black English, Black Culture and Black Authors: Using Language and Culture to Attract a Black Audience."

Ms. Andreka D. Pringle, "The Misconception of Black Life."

Mr. Demetrick L. Brown, "US Media Coverage of Africa"

Ms. Bianca Brown, "Blaxploitation in Film: Nothing But a Man"

Ms. Janice Andrews, "Skin tones, Discrimination (The Lily Complex) Societal Standards of Beauty"

Ms. Molly Pierre, "Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean"

Ms. Fabiola Compas, "Science Fiction and the African Diaspora: Analyzing the Jamaican through Science Fiction writer Nalo Hopkinson and her novel *Midnight Robber*."

AFA Graduate Students also presented their research. **Robin Baldwin:** "Inequalities in Education for Haitian Youth in Hillsborough County: A Community Perspective." **Cynthia Smith,** "Healthy Food Access for Blacks in Hillsborough County." *Certificates & Recognitions* were presented by **Dr. Deborah Plant** and *Closing Remarks* were made by **Dr. Bryan Shuler,** AFA Adjunct Professor. We wish all of our graduates the best as they pursue their next endeavors. Also, a special thanks to program organizers **Mrs. Clara Cobbs, Mrs. Irina Ramirez-Fuentes, Reginald Eldridge, Robin Baldwin, Evelinda Watkins,** and **Cynthia Smith** and to our sponsors, **Gray's College Bookstore,** and **Publix Supermarket (New Tampa),** .

The Undergraduate Certificate in Africana Studies

The College of Arts and Sciences offers this certificate through the collaboration of the Departments of **Africana Studies, English,** and **World Languages.** It is designed for non-degree seeking students and majors in all colleges who wish to engage in a focused study of Africana literatures, acquire appreciation and knowledge of these literatures, and have that knowledge formally recognized in their academic record. The certificate is further designed, through its internship hours, to enhance the student's academic and professional growth and development.

Students are required to take 18 credit hours and must declare their intention to acquire the certificate prior to completing nine hours of program coursework. A grade of B or better is required in core courses and a cumulative overall GPA of 3.0 must be maintained in all work for the certificate. For more information, please contact Dr. Deborah Plant at (813) 974-4441, FAO 259, plant@cas.usf.edu.

OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

The Institute on Black Life



Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez, Director

Ms. Debra Thrower

The USF Institute on Black Life (IBL) continues to provide services to both USF and the Tampa Bay community. During Fall 2008, IBL partnered with **Vote or S.H.U.T.U.P. (Surviving Historical Undeniable Truths Under Politics)** and several other organizations to present several voter awareness events. Other participants included undergraduate and graduate students, USF faculty and staff, and campus-wide organizations such as **Progressive Black Men, Black Graduate & Professional Students Association**, and USF's **Black Student Union**. Vote or S.H.U.T. U.P. is a campaign created to encourage voter registration and voter participation for the 2008 election season and those to come. It is the responsibility of citizens to participate in the voting process to ensure that we are heard by those in political offices whose responsibility it is to **"Represent the People."** The change is now for us, as Americans, to be proactive versus reactive. We need to return to inspiring and empowering our community through education.

ability of citizens to participate in the voting process to ensure that we are heard by those in political offices whose responsibility it is to **"Represent the People."** The change is now for us, as Americans, to be proactive versus reactive. We need to return to inspiring and empowering our community through education.

Special Guest Gives Stimulating Lecture

In Spring 2008, AFA hosted a well-attended special talk by Dr. Ken Williamson, Assistant Professor in the USF Department of Anthropology in the Institute on Black Life conference room. He performed his doctoral fieldwork in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. His research is in the areas of community engagement, participatory action research, identity, and grassroots political organization in Brazil and the United States. His presentation was titled: **"Contested Spaces of Brazilian Carnival: Race and Black Movement Activists in Salvador, Bahia,"** and he stimulated an exciting discussion. Thank you, Dr. Williamson.



Dr. Ken Williamson, left

The AFA-IBL Advisory Board

Ms. Andrea White, Co-Chair
 Mr. Braulio Colón, Co-Chair
 Ms. Alisha Wynn, Administrative Assistant
 Mr. John Ekufu
 Phyllis Busansky
 Ms. Joyce Russell
 Honorable Pat Frank
 Mr. Earl Haugabook
 Dr. Gail McDonald
 Dr. Sam Wright
 Dr. Paulette Walker
 Dr. Cynthia Johnson
 Ms. Thomia Minor
 Reverend Steve Nunn
 Mr. Otis Anthony
 Mr. Linton Williams

Reverend Moses Brown
 Mr. William Thomas
 Mr. Joseph Jackson
 Ms. Ida Walker
 Mr. Bob Buckhorn
 Mr. Ken Anthony
 Ms. Amy Kendall
 Mr. Anddrikk Frazier
 Dr. Ray Gadd
 Mr. Leon Russell
 Mr. Bob Morrison
 Ms. Michelle Manor
 Ms. Chloe Coney

EVENTS

A Great Turnout for the President Obama Roundtable Discussion “A Change Has Come”



Economic stability, accessible education, an end to the Iraq war, affordable health care, tax breaks for the middle class, restoration of America’s status in the world, effective foreign policy, an ethic of care and a policy of inclusion are among the issues on which President-Elect Barack Obama campaigned. What can we expect from an Obama presidency? How might implementation of his campaign promises affect us as individuals, as students, staff, and faculty, as citizens in the state of Florida, in the U.S. and as world citizens? A panel of distinguished faculty and students presented, discussed, and explored these and

other issues. Facilitator: **Rob Lorei, WMNF, 88.5 Community Radio Station**; Panelists: **Drs. Edward Kissi, Eric Duke, Dawood Sultan, Ms. Cynthia Smith, Ms. Kristen Kowzan**; Spoken Word Artists: **Mr. Reginald Eldridge and Ms. Kendra Nicole Bryant**. Thanks to our sponsors: **Outback Steakhouse, Florida Sentinel Bulletin, WMNF 88.5 Community Radio, and Dr. Paulette Walker.**



AFA Graduate Students Attend Presidential Inauguration

by Robin Baldwin



Attending President Obama's inauguration was emotional and unforgettable. On the long drive up to Washington, D.C., I wondered if everyone's warning to "be extra careful" because of the expected crowds would be warranted. As it turns out, the masses of people were the most positive part of my experience at the inauguration. As we watched the **We Are One** concert on Saturday, strangers were hugging, singing together, passing food to one another, and exchanging stories of personal histories and amazement at Obama's election. On Inauguration Day, the crowds of people on the metro line and those awaiting entry into the National Mall at 5 a.m. were massive, but calm. During the ceremony, people from around the country, including Native Americans, punk rockers, immigrants, young and old were huddled around each other to keep warm and quietly listen to the swearing in of our historic new president. I met people from South Africa, Kenya, and England that each traveled internationally to take part in the empowering moment. Before this experience, I started to question if individuals in this country were truly invested in community development. However, President Obama's Inauguration reminded me that many American people want to take ownership of our country's problems and

Top Photo:: Robin Baldwin, Center; Bottom Photo: President Obama’s limousine rolls by

will personally take action to better our nation. President Obama has the power to inspire and mobilize people to make change. His message has been consistent that change must begin with us, and I am grateful that he

has already proven his ability to motivate millions of us to take action.



USF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

African Students Association (ASA). ASA was founded in 1997 to help promote awareness of Africa and its Diaspora to USF and the Tampa Bay community, but to also help African students adapt to their home away from home. Their office is located in Room 3709 of the Marshall Center. You can also email them at: jchigbue@mail.usf.edu. Visit their website at: <http://www.cyber.acomp.usf.edu/~asa/index.htm>.

Black Student Union (BSU). The purpose of the Black Student Union is to promote racial/ethnic interaction between and among the different ethnic groups at the University of South Florida. Through promoting relations between Black students and other students by providing cultural and social forums and activities, we hope to improve the relations between the different ethnic groups by knocking down the wall of ignorance and building a bridge of understanding. **MEETING:** Thursday – 5:00pm MSC 3711 **EMAIL:** bsu.president@gmail.com

Caribbean Cultural Exchange (CCE). CCE's mission is to promote cultural awareness and recognition of people of the Caribbean within the University of South Florida and the local community. **MEETING:** Wednesday – 4:45pm MSC 3711. **WEBSITE:** <http://www.ctr.usf.edu/cce>. **EMAIL:** usf_cce@hotmail.com

Club Creole. The purpose of Club Creole is to dispel the negative stereotype and myth about Haiti and its people and to promote our culture at USF and the Tampa Bay community at large. **MEETINGS:** Friday – 5:00pm MSC 3711. **WEBSITE:** <http://www.ctr.usf.edu/clubcreole>. **EMAIL:** clubcreole@gmail.com

Cuban American Student Association (CASA): Los Pinos Nuevos. CASA's purpose is to explore Cuba's culture, history, and current status; while creating a network with University of South Florida students, faculty, and staff. **MEETINGS:** Thursday – 2:00pm. **EMAIL:** feherna2@mail.usf.edu.

Gospel Choir at USF. The vision of the Gospel Choir at the University of South Florida is to see the will of God accomplished and the USF campus transformed by the love of His son, Jesus Christ, the power of His Holy Spirit, and the sincere labor of campus believers. **MEETINGS:** Thursday – 9:00pm FAH 102. **EMAIL:** nmaye@mail.usf.edu.

THE AFRICANA STUDIES CLUB

The AFRICANA STUDIES CLUB (ASC) is an organization of USF students that works closely with the Africana Studies Department. ASC seeks to bring forth renewed knowledge and interest in the study of the African continent and its effects on modern existence throughout the world and to reconcile the community with its heritage and engage in fruitful dialogue which will serve to expand the horizons of the students involved and the larger community. Their motto is: "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 fgeffrar@mail.usf.edu. The Africana Studies Club office is located in the Africana Studies Conference Room, FAO 249A. The office phone is (813) 974-2427.

AFA Students at Work



Mr. Demetrick L. Brown
Spring 2009 Graduate
Africana Studies Major

B.M.A.D. (Brothers Making A Difference) is a non-profit program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan, Inc. B.M.A.D. is designed to address the behavioral influences specific to culture, race, and socialization among ethnic minority men ages 18-24 who identify themselves as gay, bisexual, or transgender. B.M.A.D. addresses issues like positive self-esteem, STD and HIV education, risk education, relationship dynamics, and the social influences of racism and homophobia. B.M.A.D.'s goal is to equip gay men of color with tools to make better choices, foster the power to change and make a difference in one's life as well as the lives of those with whom one comes into contact. By participating in B.M.A.D., one will have the opportunity to expand his thinking while sharing life lessons and experiences with peers. Free HIV and STD testing is available, along with free counseling and referrals. B.M.A.D. also offers monetary incentives for those who attend meetings or choose to get tested for HIV and/or STD's. Transportation is also provided for those without a means of transportation. B.M.A.D. hosts a variety of activities, community-based projects, and monthly outings. B.M.A.D. extends the invitation to minority men to come out and be a part of something that can change your life. Knowing the difference can make a world of difference. For more information, call or text B.M.A.D. at (813) 695-4487 or visit their website at:

<http://www.myspace.com/bmadtampabay>.

Tampa Bay Organization "Are You Safe"

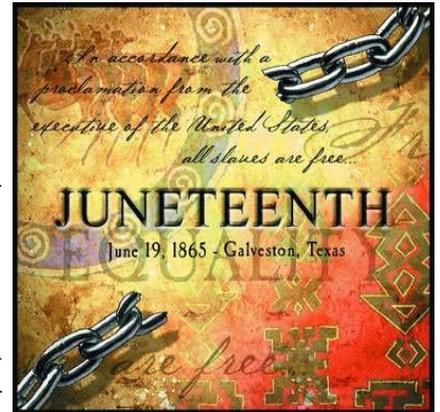
The East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership & Public Safety Committee and the National Black Nurse's Tampa Bay Chapter Inc. "aka" TBNNA have collaborated with the Tampa Police Department, the Hillsborough County Sheriff Department, the USF Institute on Black Life, Kinship Care of Hillsborough County, and Health Start Coalition to promote safety in our community to present a Community Forum on: "Our You Safe????". For more information, call 813-888-7002/813-546-0277 or email lagayla3@verizon.net.

JUNETEENTH: THE OTHER INDEPENDENCE DAY

by Evelinda Watson

The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is believed by many to be the singular event that fostered the release of all Africans in the U.S. It, in fact, freed few, if any. The end of the Civil War did not bring independence for everyone. While it's news was not spread in Texas until well after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, the delayed freedom of Africans in Texas has been noted to have happened for a few reasons: news of emancipation was intentionally withheld to complete harvesting of cotton, the time it took for the message to arrive by mule, and the fact that the original messenger was murdered while traveling.

On June 19th, 1865, federal troops enforced the Emancipation Proclamation in Galveston, Texas, and ushered in the freedom of more than 250,000 people, two and a half years after President Lincoln's effective date of January 1, 1863. The celebration of Juneteenth is a *de facto* second Independence Day. Rev. Ronald V. Meyers, Chair of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, acknowledges that it is not only, "a time of celebration, but also a time of reflection, healing, and hopefully a time for the country to come together and deal with its slave legacy."



While Juneteenth has been and continues to be celebrated in many states and countries as an unofficial holiday, President Barack Obama has co-sponsored legislation to make Juneteenth a national holiday in years past. Meyers says of Blacks and Whites, "We may have gotten there in different ways and at different times, but you can't really celebrate freedom in America by just going with the Fourth of July." In recognizing the history of American freedom, advocates say, Juneteenth is as deserving of recognition as Independence Day. For further information on the history and celebrations from state to state and worldwide, please visit the official Juneteenth website at <http://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm>. Other web resources are available at: http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/juneteenth.html and <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1815936,00.html>.

We welcome your donations to the Department of Africana Studies' USF Foundation Fund and Trevor Purcell Memorial Scholarship Fund

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 Africana Studies appreciate your contributions. Thank you.

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