From the Chair and Director

The 2012-2013 academic year has been a very exciting one for Africana Studies and the Institute on Black Life. During the fall and spring semesters, we had a wealth of activities that reflected our commitment to student success, faculty scholarship and community engagement. This newsletter includes some of the highlights of the year and some of the ongoing projects of these two historic departments. Enjoy this lively review and drop in for a visit!

The Department of Africana Studies and the Institute on Black Life are located on the second floor of the FAO building. Please see page 7 for the upcoming events.

Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez
Chair, Dept. of Africana Studies
Director, Institute on Black Life

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Africana Studies: A Year in the Life

The Department of Africana Studies at the University of South Florida is an interdisciplinary academic unit that offers undergraduate and graduate courses on Africa and people of African descent in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and throughout the global community.

Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.
Swami Sivananda
In May 2012, the Institute on Black Life’s initiative, the African-American Neighborhood Project, received funding from the USF Office of Community Engagement. The purpose of the project is to collect community stories about historically Black communities in Tampa. The project facilitates students’ knowledge of research methods and also encourages service learning activities.

Attention Students
If you are interested in doing community research, please contact: Elizabeth Dunham-eldunham@usf.edu

USF student researchers are involved in:
- Collecting Family & Community Histories
- Conducting Interviews
- Digital and archival preservation of ephemera & public records
- Digital and archival preservation of organizational materials pertinent to the history of the communities
- Transcribing and archiving Interviews within the USF Special & Digital Library

Kindling bravery is a daily challenge: not hiding in safety, not settling for whatever is just good enough. - Junot Diaz
Did you know that there are at least nine historically Black communities in Hillsborough County?

Students enrolled in the African-American Community Research course, conducted archival research, and interviews with residents of Progress Village and Lincoln Gardens-Carver City. In collaboration with community leaders, students selected topics of interest and conducted their own research projects in local communities. Below you can find some of the student abstracts.

**The Role of Churches in the Community of Progress Village**

This project examines the role churches play in uniting, aiding and educating the community of Progress Village. I used archival research, participatory observation, and first-person interviews to gather information about Progress Village First Baptist Church, St. James AME Church, Progress Village Seventh Day Adventist, and Harris Temple. I chose this topic because I live close to Progress Village and knew little about the community. I also noticed the community had several churches and I wanted to know how they worked together to bring unity to the Progress Village community.

- Nicole Bowman

**Barbershops in the Black Community**

My project explores the cultural background of barbershops in the Black community. I chose two communities in Tampa— the Historic Central Avenue District and Progress Village. Through two different eras, first in the Central Avenue District and later Progress Village, these barbershops have made a great impact on the communities. Barbershops within the community have served as a brotherhood. Historical research was needed to first understand the communities. My interviews have added both history and personal stories to my own experiences. Through my research, I have found how the barbershop has evolved over the years and how much has stayed the same.

- Kenneth Holland

*If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.* - Milton Berle
The Role of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

This study is focused on The First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in the community of Lincoln Garden in Tampa, Florida. Interviews and archival research were the two methodologies utilized to answer three major research questions: What social and partnering role did the church play in Carver City-Lincoln Gardens? How has this been obstructed or strengthened over time? Finally, how has the Black church participated in activism for the community?

-Maya Brown

Central Avenue Archive project

Archives exist both to preserve historic materials and to make them available for research. Materials in an archive are often unique, specialized or rare, and many are the only ones of their kind. Since materials in archival collections are unique, the people (archivists) in charge of caring for those materials strive to preserve them for use today, and for future generations of researchers.

The Central Avenue Archive Project, within the Institute on Black Life, is involved in accessing current public archives and adding new documents, photographs, and oral histories. This project requires an assessment of the USF Library’s Special & Digital Collection in order to delve into the past several decades of Tampa’s historic African-American neighborhood.

The project will continue to seek out new photographs, news articles, and other material that may have been set aside and in some cases forgotten. Oral histories and transcriptions, documents and photographs will be assembled and arranged into a comprehensive guide of the Central Avenue neighborhood.

This archival expedition is now being compiled for a new webpage which should enlighten individuals of this community (past and present) that was rich in history and spawned the development of several other Tampa neighborhoods.

- Mathew Vega

The Next Generation

My project involves the development and role the Loretta Ingraham Recreation Center plays in the Carver City-Lincoln Gardens community. The youth of today are facing internally confusing struggles of choosing right from wrong. Some find themselves with no one to guide them. I theorized that the time kids spend at a recreation center with strong adults for guidance would help mold and build them into stronger persons. Finding a sense of leadership from the adults should provide a positive direction to guide them into adulthood. Interviews were conducted with several adults – young and old who work directly with the children in the community. My assessments for the next generation resulted from interviews and observations.

-Michael Perdomo
Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it. - Maya Angelou

IBL 2012-2013 Speakers’ Series

The Institute on Black Life is actively engaged in a broad range of grant-funded research projects, university-based events, and collaborative projects with organizations in the greater Tampa Bay community.

IBL programs include lectures by local, national and international scholars. These speakers are all experts in their fields.

◊ Meet the Author: Jeb Sprague
Jeb Sprague introduced his first book on paramilitarism and the assault of democracy in Haiti.

◊ Get Me Bodied: Beyoncé Knowles as Post Identity
  Re-Articulation of Black Female Citizenship
A presentation by Dr. Manoucheka Celeste.

◊ Akih Institute for Women: Connecting Women to the economy in Rwanda
Two recent graduates from the Akilah Institute in Rwanda shared their stories of survival and recovery from the trauma of genocide.

◊ The Black Jacobins and the Making of the Modern Atlantic World
Dr. Aaron Kamugisha spoke about the historic book “The Black Jacobins” by C.L.R. James, a history of the 1791-1804 Haitian Revolution.

◊ Afro-Cubans and the Civil Rights Movement in Tampa:
  A Tribute to Francisco A. Rodríguez
The Hon. E.J. Salcines paid tribute to the life and times of Francisco A Rodriguez, attorney for the NAACP and a civil rights activist in Tampa.

◊ Holocaust & Genocide Education in Post-Apartheid South Africa
Tali Nates is the director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Center. She spoke about the effects of the holocaust and the importance of genocide education. She welcomed audience participation and shared the strategic plans for a new museum dedicated to holocaust & genocide studies in South Africa.
Getting To Know Faculty and Staff

**Faculty**

Cheryl R. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chair, AFA
Director, IBL & the Center for Africa and the Diaspora
Eric Duke, Ph.D.
Edward Kissi, Ph.D.
Kersuze Simeon-Jones, Ph.D.
Abraham Khan, Ph.D.
Cynthia Stewart, M.A.

**Staff**

Irina Ramirez-Fuentes, AFA Office Manager
Olga Atehortua, IBL Office Manager
Elizabeth L. Dunham, Project Coordinator
Michael Magee, Academic Advisor

**Student Assistants**

Anika Graham
Vannesha Marshall
Valnick Touloute

What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality. - Plutarch
The Department of Africana Studies: Faculty Teaching & Research

**Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez** teaches “African-American Community Research”. In 2012 she was awarded a Global Academic Partners grant for a collaborative project in Ghana and a “Research that Matters” grant for a project on Tampa’s historic Black communities. In April 2013, Dr. Rodriguez was appointed Hillsborough County Historian by the Board of County Commissioners. She is the first woman to be appointed as historian since its initiation in 1949.

**Dr. Edward Kissi** teaches courses in African history. An internationally recognized scholar on genocide and human rights, Dr. Kissi was invited to speak on “Holocaust and Genocide Education” in Salzburg, Austria and Cape Town, South Africa, during the 2012-2013 academic year. His book, *Revolution and Genocide in Ethiopia and Cambodia* was published in 2006.

**Dr. Eric Duke** teaches African-American history. His research focuses on nationhood in the Caribbean. In 2012, he was awarded the “USF Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award”. He is the co-editor of the book *Extending the Diaspora*.

**Dr. Simeon-Jones** teaches “Haiti: Legacy of Resilience” and “Afro-Diasporic Literature” for the Department of Africana Studies. Her research is on the work of the Guadeloupean novelist and playwright, Maryse Conde. She is the author of *Literary and Sociopolitical Writings of the Black Diaspora in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*.

**Dr. Abraham Khan** teaches courses on race and sports and on Social Theory in Africana Studies. His first book, *Curt Flood in the Media*, was published in 2012 by the University Press of Mississippi.

Thank you to our adjunct instructors: Dr. Roy Kaplan, Dr. Festus Ohaegbulam, Dr. Manoucheka Celeste, Mrs. Cynthia Stewart, Mr. Bryan Shuler, Ms. Jasey Maxwell, Mr. Shawn Moore.

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Abney Henderson and Brandy Langley
Upcoming Events for 2013-2014

- **Sub Rosa: The Language of Resistance** – August
- **Reception for AFA majors** – September
- **AFA-IBL Open House** – September
- **Akilah Institute for Women** – November
- **AIDS Walk** – January 2014
- **International Women’s Day** – March 2014
- **Many Faces of Africa** – TBA

*If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome.* – Michael Jordan
Student Success:
Institute on Black Life Scholarships

The Institute on Black Life currently administers a number of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. The scholarships were established to provide academically talented students the opportunity to study at the University of South Florida. These scholarships are based on academic talent, grade point average, financial need and a personal statement of commitment to their success at the University of South Florida.

To be considered for a scholarship, APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED to complete a financial aid (FAFSA) application available from the USF Office of Financial Aid or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

For detailed information, see www.IBL.USF.EDU

Application deadline January 15th

To get lost is to learn the way. - African Proverb

Congratulation to 2013-2014 Scholarship Awardees!

Catherine and John Lott Brown Endowed Scholarship
Aretha Boakye-Donkor
Omonigho Bubu
Erica Coates
Rachel Erickson
Monica Solomon

Ruth and Jerry Bell Endowed Scholarship
Porsche Purkett

Bright House Scholarship
Maripily Peralta

Ivory Club Endowed Scholarship
Korede Adegoke
Folakemi Oyewumi
Angella Hanciles
Chukwudi Ufondu
Department of Africana Studies Courses  
Fall 2013

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CERTIFICATES
1. Graduate Certificate- Genocide & Human Rights  
2. Graduate Certificate- Diasporas and Health Disparities

University of South Florida  
Department of Africana Studies  
4202 East Fowler Ave FAO 270  
Tampa, FL 33620  
(813) 974-2427

University of South Florida  
Institute on Black Life  
4202 East Fowler Ave FAO 277  
Tampa, FL 33620  
(813) 974-9387

Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.  
-Wilma Rudolph