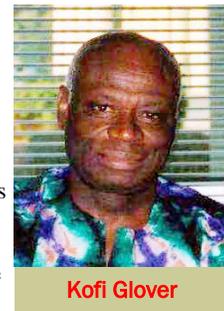


Faculty News

DR. KOFI GLOVER is the newly appointed Interim Vice President of Student Affairs. Prior to his appointment, he was Assistant to the Provost. A political scientist by training, Dr. Glover joined both the Department of Government and International Affairs and the African and African American Studies program in the early 1970s. With Dr. Festus Ohaegbulam, now USF Professor Emeritus, Dr. Glover may truly be considered to have laid the cornerstones of what is today the Department of Africana Studies. The Department is thrilled that in spite of his several promotions - to Director of Facilities for the College of Arts and Sciences, and now Vice President of Student Affairs - he continues to teach his favorite course, Culture and Society in Africa. Over the years, Dr. Glover has served in a number of key positions, positions that testify to his commitment to educational life at USF and that contribute to his phenomenal institutional memory. The many positions in which he served include four years as Director of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences; a term as Speaker of the Faculty Senate and several terms as an Executive Committee member, during which time some significant changes were made in faculty life at USF; and a member of the Steering Committee of USF Self Study in the early 1980's. Thankfully, Dr. Glover maintains an office in our Department, so we can still call him our own.



Kofi Glover



Cheryl Rodriguez

DR. CHERYL RODRIGUEZ is an Associate Professor in AFA, teaching courses on community research and African American women. She is also engaged in establishing AFA's Internship Program. Her current research includes her work as Co-Principal Investigator, with Kim Vaz in Women's Studies, of a \$15,000 grant from the USF Collaborative for Children and Families to study approaches to sex education for at-risk African American Youth. She also received, with Dr. Susan Greenbaum of Anthropology, a \$200,000 NSF Grant to study the relocation of low-income people in Tampa. She has a book chapter, "We Came With Truth: Black Women's Struggles Against Public Housing Policy," in a forthcoming book titled *Homing Devices*, Schullen and Thomas-Houston, eds.

DR. DEBORAH G. PLANT is an Associate Professor, teaching courses in Africana literature and the Maafa/Middle Passage. She is also the Director of the AFA graduate program and graduate and undergraduate Advisor. She was given an "Outstanding Service" award by the Department in Spring of 2004. Her current research involves the creation of web-based instructional modules on the Maafa/Middle Passage. In October of 2004, she was awarded a book contract with Praeger Publishers to write a biography of Zora Neale Hurston.



Deborah Plant



Edward Kissi

DR. EDWARD KISSI joined the Department in August 2003 as an Assistant Professor of African History. His teaching and research interests focus on Africa, U.S. foreign relations and the comparative study of genocide. In January 2005, Dr. Kissi will be one of several scholars interviewed for a 6-hour PBS presentation, *Auschwitz, Inside the Nazi State* and his book, *Revolution and Genocide in the Third World*, the first comparative study of the social revolutions in Ethiopia and Cambodia in the late 20th century, will be published by Lexington Books.

DR. JOAN HOLMES is Director of the McNair/Jenkins Scholars Program, President of the Black Faculty and Staff Association, and an adjunct faculty member in AFA. She has worked as a consultant in a funded UNCF national study undertaken in relation to the No Child Left Behind Act. She has also been a consultant with USAID International on a contract between selected HBCU's and selected African countries to develop textbooks for schools in these countries.



Joan Holmes



Roy Kaplan

DR. ROY KAPLAN recently joined the Department as a Visiting Associate Professor after retiring as Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice, Tampa Bay. He conducted a workshop for the Superintendent of Hillsborough Schools and his staff on multicultural education on 17 September 2004. He also received the Tampa Bay Ethics Award from the Center for Ethics at the University of Tampa on 24 September 2004. He is also author of the 2004 Scarecrow Education publication entitled, *Failing*

Grades: How Schools Breed Frustration, Anger, and Violence and How to Prevent It.

A Farewell to Dr. Frank Gurdy

The AFA faculty, staff, and students, and other members of the University community regret the departure of our former colleague Dr. Frank Gurdy. Dr. Gurdy joined the Department in Fall 2001 as an Assistant Professor of African American and Diasporan History. His marriage to a scholar on faculty at another institution necessitated his resignation in Spring of 2003. We all wish him success in his personal and professional endeavors.





Dr. Deborah Plant

FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR AND UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR

In the Spring of 2000, under the leadership of Dr. Navita Cummings James, the Africana Studies Department launched its graduate program. The program consisted of a Certificate of Africana Studies and a Master of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies. Since then, under the leadership of Dr. Trevor Purcell, the faculty and staff have solidified and refined both aspects of the program in context of the Department's revised philosophical perspectives and mission statement. The Department of Africana Studies acknowledges that the African and African Diaspora experiences are part of the history of the wider world and that that history is best understood from a humanistic perspective that is, at once, global and comparative. Integral to this global and comparative Diaspora orientation is also our recognition of the importance of transnational, but also local and community issues such as race, culture, gender, political economy and public health. We believe that mastery of these issues in our undergraduate and graduate programs will prepare our students to be effective and proactive agents in a diverse, complex and changing world. To actualize our perspective and mission, the Department is built on an interdisciplinary academic modality combining social scientific and humanistic perspectives.

Both our Certificate and MLA programs are reflective of these ideological perspectives and academic mission. The Certificate in Africana Studies and the MLA offers students the opportunity to do graduate-level study that focuses on African and African Diasporan histories and cultures. The Certificate requires completion of 15 credit hours. The MLA consists of 33 credits and has two options: a straight MLA Africana Studies option and a combined MLA Africana Studies and Graduate Certificate option which includes a concentration of *applied skills* courses. For more information, contact the Director at 813-974-4220 or plant@chumal.cas.usf.edu. For an information packet, please call our office at 813-974-2427.

As we have established and expanded our graduate program, we have continued to strengthen our undergraduate program. We currently have over forty majors, and the number of majors and minors continually increases. Moreover, our faculty and staff continue to work to ensure that our students have a quality undergraduate experience. To this end, our courses are more and more research oriented, as we challenge our students to become analytical and critical thinkers. In addition, as we intend that our students have the academic and professional training that will serve them in an increasingly competitive environment, the Department has implemented new Senior Requirements as part of the College's Student Outcomes Assessment program. The requirements are designed to demonstrate and evaluate students' knowledge, skills, theoretical foundation, and personal and professional grounding. One aspect of the requirements is that students participate in a Spring Colloquium wherein they present their research. See page five for more details of this event.

The Doctoral Program: A New Concept

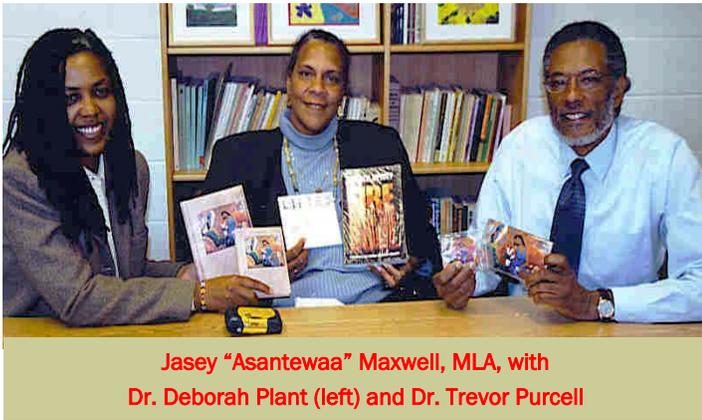
Two years ago the idea emerged out of a meeting of heads of Africana Studies programs in the Southeast United States that one of the most pressing problems in the African Diaspora is the issue of health security and its link to economic conditions. The idea was brought to the AFA faculty, who suggested that we investigate the possibility of a doctoral program that addresses health security as part of the political economic development in Diaspora populations. Briefly, the program as we conceive of it would have the following characteristics:

- Treat health and healing as part of social and economic development with long-term security implications
- Approach health and healing as a culturally defined phenomenon
- Focus on the relationship between health and historical population movements
- Have tracks or concentrations based on ethnic, national, and/or geographic areas where population movement (Diaspora) directly affects health and economic well-being
- Have a concentration on health disparity
- Build on collaboration with domestic as well as foreign institutions
- Recruit domestic and international students
- Marketed internationally to development agencies, governments, and NGOs
- Focus on attracting research funds

Though we recognize the challenge of implementing such a program, the content of the idea has wide support across campus. As of Fall 2004, the Provost has given the Department permission to write and send forward a formal proposal for the program we envision.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Africana Studies Graduates its First MLA Student



Jasey "Asantewaa" Maxwell, MLA, with Dr. Deborah Plant (left) and Dr. Trevor Purcell

In Fall of 2002, Jasey "Asantewaa" Maxwell became the first student to be graduated from the Africana Studies Department's Master of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies graduate program. "Asantewaa" is a name Ms. Maxwell acquired during an Africana Studies Department Study Abroad Ghana Tour. The name means "courageous and great warrior" and recalls the august Ghanaian leader, Yaa Asantewaa. Throughout her studies, Asantewaa Maxwell proved to be the very embodiment of courage and fortitude. She faced and triumphed over a variety and multiplicity of challenges to complete her coursework, carry out her research, and write her thesis. Both her coursework and research focused on African history and culture, in general, and African Spirituality in particular, emphasizing women's roles in the creation and transmission of African cultural traditions and institutions. Asantewaa Maxwell culminated her studies with a critical and ethnographic thesis, entitled, "Spirituality and Empowerment of African Americans, Rooted in Africa and Channeled through Africanisms in America." Congratulations Asantewaa!!!

AFA MLA Students at Work



Nicole Sealey

Nicole Sealey, MLA student, is a freelance writer/editor living in New York City. She has published in *Black Issues Book Review* and *Rootz: Reggae & Kulcha Magazine*. She has forthcoming pieces in *Quarterly Book Review* and *Feeding the Soul: Black Music, Black Thought* -- an anthology edited by Dr. Diane Turner (Chief Curator at the African American Museum in Philadelphia). Concurrently, Nicole Sealey is the Programs Assistant for the Readings/Workshops program at Poets & Writers, the nation's largest not-for-profit literary organization, and a freelance educator at The Studio Museum in Harlem.

Patty Alexander received her Bachelor's Degree in Africana Studies in 2002. A nontraditional student and an entrepreneur, Patty returned to school in her 40's while also managing the two businesses she owns in Tampa. Since 1999, she has operated Mack Services, a desktop publishing business and, since 2001, the Kingdome Clothing Store, that sells everything from African apparel to Hip-Hop urban gear to more upscale clothing. Patty is proud to emphasize that these are both black-owned businesses. When asked how she combines her dual roles as both student and businessowner, Patty reports: "As a student I am living out my dream through the businesses -- the businesses not only exemplify who I am, but also the things I want for myself as well as for all black people. It has been a trying experience at times, but the end rewards are wonderful. To educate the Black mind is power within itself. By continuously educating myself and owning these businesses, I have gained a positive aspect on uplifting the Black community." The Kingdome is located at 8206 West Waters Avenue, Tampa, FL 33615, 813-881-0489. For your desktop publishing needs, contact Mack Services at 813-294-6009.

Welcome, New AFA Graduate Students

Sherri M. Anderson is an international student with a Bachelor's from Carleton University's School of Social Work in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Her principal advocacy interests include: poverty issues, community development and capacity building, women and children's rights, and African American Studies. Currently, she is working towards an MLA degree in Africana Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies.

She is also working as an AFA Teaching Assistant.



Sherri Anderson

Ramonica Moore moved to Tampa from — Surprise! — Grand Forks, North Dakota, where her father was stationed when she was a teenager. She decided to stay in North Dakota for college. Ramonica received her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Religion, International Studies and Women's Studies. She decided to pursue a Master of Liberal Arts degree here at USF because she wants to be able to work in the disciplines of Africana Studies, Women's Studies and English. Her area of particular interest is Black American Literature. Ramonica is also working in the Department as a Teaching Assistant.



Ramonica Moore



Titilayo Kendrick

Titilayo Kendrick, 23, graduated *cum laude* from Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Africana Studies. She is from Jacksonville, Florida, like her mother, but her father is from Nigeria and Titilayo is Yoruba. She was in the Upward Bound Program at Jacksonville University, which motivated her to attend college — first at the University of Miami, then Tennessee State University. Titilayo is the first graduate in the third generation of her family to attend and be graduated from a Historically Black institution. Her goal is to earn an MLA in Africana Studies with a certificate in Globalization Studies. Later, she contemplates enrolling in a Ph.D. program in Anthropology to study the effects of globalization on African culture and ethnicity.

Alumni News



Patrice Thybulle

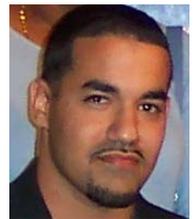
Some Words from Patrice Thybulle, 2004 AFA graduate

I am currently the store manager at The Kingdome Fine Clothing store, a Black, family owned business. I am learning the ins & outs of entrepreneurship first-hand and hands on. One thing that I have learned through the Africana Studies Program is that one of the keys, if not the main key, in revolutionizing the African state of mind is to become economically stable. While at the same time the spoken word facilitates continuity, it is imperative that we fund our ideas rather than protest them on deaf ears. Our efforts should go towards cultivating the actual changes we want to see manifested, however small the starting point. I mean, we are the Creators. With that said, Dr. Plant and I are working on the MAAFA project. We are creating a mediagraphy about the Middle Passage, along with six web-based, multi-media instructional modules. The significance of this interactive web page is that it will be available for academic and public use and anyone "surfing" for a close examination about the trafficking of Africans. One thing that my experience at the University of South Florida has shown me — something that the Africana Studies program has bolstered within — is

this: Africa is the beginning and the end. **Take it and stride.**

Braulio Colón, Making Strides in Government!

A graduate from the University of South Florida with a B.A. in Africana Studies and Mass Communication, **Braulio Colón** is currently the Southwest Regional Field Director for the Florida Department of Education. He previously worked for Senator Victor Crist as a Community Relations Assistant at the University Area Community Development Corporation in Tampa. In addition, he has worked for the Institute on Black Life at the University of South Florida where he assisted in organizing several nationally recognized academic conferences on the African Diaspora. He recently was appointed to the Governor's Faith-Based Mentoring Steering Committee and serves on the City of Tampa's Youth Corporation Organizing Committee and Hillsborough County Schools Adult and Technical Education Committee. He also serves as a member of the Africana Studies Department's newly formed Advisory Board. As a student, Braulio served as President of the Africana Studies Club and Vice President of Koinonia Covenant Campus Ministry. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration from USF.



Braulio Colón

Undergraduate News



Katie Curley

AFA Senior accepted into Peace Corps!!

Katie Curley, a senior majoring in Africana Studies who is expecting to graduate May 2005, has been accepted into the Peace Corps. She has been nominated for a position working with schools and communities on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Katie expects to depart for Africa in September, 2005, for her 27-month program. Although she will not know which country she will serve in until she passes through medical clearance, she does know that she will be sent to a French-speaking Sub-Saharan country. Katie attributes her motivation for wanting to join the Peace Corps to her study abroad trip to South Africa in 2002 where she worked extensively in the local township of Kayamandi. She has also had the opportunity to study in Japan, Italy, and Australia.

Sitting In The Airport In Cuba

I learned during my trip to Cuba that to understand the true identity, religious beliefs and culture of a people, it is important to have a guide who is a member of the culture. My first view of the island country was breathtaking – it was a paradise. Could there be so much upheaval about a place as beautiful as this? Filled with propaganda and rhetoric, warned that conditions would be difficult with few creature comforts, warned I would experience racism and distrust, I wondered: Would I find Cuba totally different from what I had heard? I discovered that, like America, Cuba was filled with contradictions. The capital city was deteriorating and decaying; yet there were signs of wealth and prosperity. *By Michael E. Carter, Sr., Africana Studies Certificate student (Sally Faucette Carter, ed.)*



Senior Student Colloquium—Spring 2004

On Monday, April 19, 2004, the *1st Africana Studies Senior Colloquium* was held in the Marshall Center. Seven undergraduate students presented papers at the colloquium. Africana Studies faculty served as respondents to the papers. In Panel I, **Holmer Johnson** examined the slave trade system in the Americas, **Sharron "Safiya" Spann** did a comparison of the convict labor system and **Marlon Graham** looked at reparations. Panel II presented papers by **Melissa "Nyota" Lormine** on Vodou and Haitian identity and **Dwayne "Heru" Holloway** on African philosophy. Panel III consisted of **Esdra Richardson**, who reflected on the origins of slavery and **Dasha Saint-Remy** who examined diversity at USF. Congratulations to all of the students on sharing their exciting work! We look forward to the Spring 2005 colloquium!

The Africana Studies Club

The **Africana Studies Club** at USF supports the unity of the diasporic student body and diversity campus-wide. It is an organization that provides students with the opportunity to develop and refine their leadership skills within a university and community context. Weekly communication offers the space to address the political/personal nature of issues affecting our wellness as students and world citizens. Committed to sharing our knowledge and available resources with youth, the ASC strengthens the educational experiences through community tutoring, mentoring, and college outreach. Some of the events in which the Club has sponsored or participated include the Multicultural (Week of Welcome) Dinner, catered with the Caribbean Culture Exchange, the artistic opening for Afeni Shakur & Jasmine Guy (University Lecture Series), Africana Studies Open House, Be Healthy Days, Matinees and Poetry Nights. Participation in the University's multicultural community is a key component of the Club that keeps diversity and unification as written goals expressed in action.

AFA DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

The USF Africana Heritage Project: Rediscovering Records of African American Genealogy and History

The Project

In February of this year, the Africana Studies Department launched the USF Africana Heritage Project. The project's mission is to rediscover records that document the names

and lives of slaves, freedpersons and their descendants, and make that information available on our free Internet site at <http://www.africanaheritage.com>.

The project grew out of ongoing research by Dr. Deborah Plant's students, and is now nationally recognized as a resource center for learning about African American history and genealogy. Since the project website went live in March, more than 67,000 visitors have logged on to avail themselves of the information and services the site offers.

How do We Conduct Our Research?

Documents, such as wills, deeds, bills of sale, runaway slave advertisements, plantation journals, church records, early voter registration lists and more, name slaves and associated slaveholders, and reveal much information about the history of slavery and the African American experience. There is lots of information. It simply isn't "out there" where scholars and researchers can find it.

That's where the Africana Heritage Project comes in. The project's volunteers inventory USF's library holdings and public documents to gather records that collectively document the African American experience. Since February, the project has placed more than 2,000 individual documents online that name slaves and freedpersons, for those who are tracing African American ancestry.

On the Internet and in the Community

The Africana Heritage website, located at URL <http://www.africanaheritage.com>, offers articles, features, and services to help put resources in researchers' hands. The Eleanor's Links page contains an exhaustive list of links to Internet resources that document the African American experience. The site's searchable database offers access to documents, photo images and sound recordings. The project also produces original research articles.

Within the local community, Africana Heritage is involved in ongoing oral history interviews. We need volunteers to help conduct oral history interviews at upcoming town hall meetings in Hillsborough and Pasco counties. If you would like to volunteer, please visit the Africana Studies Department in FAO 270 or drop us an email at info@africanaheritage.com. We cherish our volunteers!

— Toni Carrier, Project Coordinator



Reaching Across Campus with the Brown Bag Series

Last year, with the dedicated help of Graduate Assistant, **Daphne Washington**, we were able to launch our Brown Bag series. The series provides 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-



Dr. Elizabeth Metzger

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.

This year's Brown Bag Lecture Series was kicked off on September 23, 2004, with a Workshop, "Effective Writing," led by **Dr. Elizabeth Metzger** of the Department of English. Over 40 undergraduate and graduate students were in attendance at this workshop. On October 27, 2004, **Dr. Shirley Toland-Dix**, a new faculty member in the Department of English, presented a lecture entitled, "This is the Horse. Will You Ride?": Zora Neale Hurston, Erna Brodber and *Rituals of Spirit Possession*." On November 17, 2004, **Dr. Humphrey A. Regis**, from the Department of Mass Communications, presented the final lecture of the Fall 2004 semester, entitled "Mass Communication and Cultural Domination by Re-Exportation/Re-Importation in the Caribbean." We extend a sincere thanks to our presenters and to all who attended the lectures.

Reaching Across Florida: "The Florida Black Writers and Artists Lecture Series"

The humanities is at the core of all liberal education — the type of education that fits psychologist B.F. Skinner's observation that "Education is what survives when what is learned has been forgotten." We in AFA thought that one way of contributing to this form of education and at the same time build links with the local community would be to develop a program that brings Florida talent together on a regular basis. To achieve that end, we are in the process of developing the Florida Black Writers and Artists lecture series. Thanks to the work of graduate assistants **Daphne Washington** and **Shawna Brown**, we hope to launch our first event in April 2005. The event is likely to include a lecture by a popular local writer, a humanities panel discussion, a musical performance, and a children's art exhibit by the children from PRODIGY Cultural Arts Program at the University Area Community Center.

New AFA Web Page

With the help of Graduate Assistant **Shawna Brown**, our Department is in the process of launching a new and updated website dedicated to providing information to students and visitors.



Gloryvee Cordero

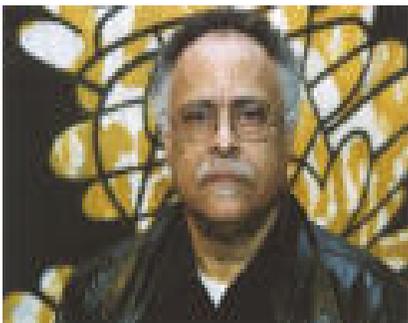


Shawna Brown, G.A.

The site outlines the goals and academic focus of the Africana Studies program, while providing users with quick, easy access to the Department's programs, course offerings, student organizations and various other links related to Africa and its Diaspora. Our intention is that the site will become more resourceful to students and other users. Also, a warm thank you goes to **Gloryvee Cordero**, a Web Programmer with the Graduate Studies Office, who designed both the new AFA logo and the website. The site is under reconstruction at: <http://www.grad.usf.edu/test/Africana/index.html>.

MORE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Speaker, Haile Gerima, Lectures on Black Filmmaking



On September 27, **Haile Gerima** made an appearance on the USF campus and spoke to an audience of over 100 eager attendees. He was introduced by Aries Hines, student and president of The Poets, a USF campus student organization. Haile Gerima's films have made a tremendous impact on movie-goers worldwide. Gerima formally studied acting at the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago. He received a B.A. in 1972 and an M.F.A. degree in film at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1976. Gerima is originally from Gondar, Ethiopia. A tenured professor of film at Howard University, he began teaching film in 1975. He continues to create and distribute African and African American films through his company, Mypheduh Films, Inc. Participation in a host of film festivals has earned him international acclaim and deep respect from film aficionados worldwide. Gerima's selected honors include The 43rd International Berlin Film Festival (in competition), Initiator of the Paul Robeson Award at the first FESPACO Pan African Film Festival in Burkina Faso; the 1984 Tribute to Haile Gerima at the Festival De La Rochelle in France; and the Critics Choice Award at Cannes ('83). The lecture was co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Department and the University Lecture Series, in association with the Institute on Black Life.

Study abroad trip to Ghana and Togo



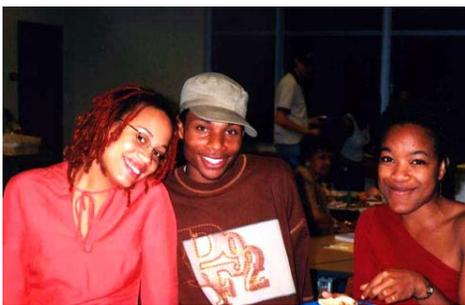
In Summer 2004, USF Professor and native Ghanaian, **Dr. Kofi Glover**, escorted a group of 14 students on a Study Abroad trip to Ghana and Togo. No other country in West Africa is more significant to people of African heritage in the West than is Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast. One has only to stand in one of the slave dungeons in El Mina Castle and peer through the inch-thick iron bars at the imposing structure of the Catholic church on the main floor of the Castle to see — no, to feel — the enormity of the slave experience.

At Cape Coast Castle, the same door that has been marked "The Door of No Return" from the inside, is now marked "The Door of Return" from the outside. So, the reason people from all over the Americas flock to Ghana is not just because of its thriving democracy, its proud Ashanti Kingdom, life-transforming ceremonies, and the people bursting with generosity of spirit. People go for all those reasons, but they also go to *feel their past*. And that past is not just racial, for people of diverse ethnic heritages have long shared that history we are proud to own.

When you have become saturated with the emotions of history, says Dr. Glover, go experience the thrill of "hiking" over 150 feet above the rainforest canopy. You will also dance, drum, eat of Ghana, and you will be given a permanent African name in a ceremony you will never forget. In class sessions two weeks prior to departure, participants will be introduced to the country and culture as well as provided with practical information to prepare them for the experience and make their experiences more meaningful. The next trip will take place in Summer 2006. For more information, contact Anthony dePina, Coordinator Overseas Study Programs, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, CPR 10, Tampa, FL 33620-5550, (813) 974-4043.



Africana Studies Open House Held 14 October



AFA Students Enjoying the Festivities

The 2004 Open House was held on Thursday, October 14th. It began with a tour of the Department's new space, on the second floor of the Faculty Office Building (FAO), by the members of the Department's Advisory Board. Afterwards, Dr. Trevor Purcell, Chair, presided over the Open House evening program in the TECO Room. Among other speakers present was College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Arthur

Guilford, who highlighted the accomplishments of the Department and articulated the significance of the Africana Studies Department in context of the goals and objectives of the College and University.



Dr. Trevor Purcell with AFA Faculty, Graduate Assistants and Guests

Highlighting USF Student Organizations

THE POETS

The Poets is the only organization dedicated to the pursuit of poetic inspiration and expression. Our mission is to invite people to explore themselves and others through the language of spoken word in expressing experiences, personal/social conflicts, and whatever inspires the writer. Many members of the organization are not poets, although they are dedicated to the maintenance of the organization. We welcome any and everyone who is interested. The Poets hosts Weekly Poetry Nights every Thursday at USF in the Marshall Center, Room 296 from 9-11:30 p.m. The birth of The Poets is a realization of the poetic dreams and passions of **Ms. Aries Hines**, an undergraduate English major at USF who felt the need for an organization strictly devoted to poetry. Because there were many open mic nights but no formal resort for poetry people, the organization was created. As a result, The Poets will celebrate their one year anniversary in February 2005. The Poets are ready and available to perform at University and community events upon request. For more information, please come by our offices in the Leadership Zoo, Room 227 of the Marshall Center, Monday-Thursday, 3:45-4:45 p.m. or contact us via e-mail at misty_aries@yahoo.com.

BLACK GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION (BGPSO)

The Black Graduate and Professional Student Organization is an exciting new student group founded by **Chivon Mingo**, current president and Aging Studies master's student, and is open to all degree-seeking students at USF. The purpose of the BGPSO is to provide academic and social support to minority graduate students. In addition, the organization seeks to promote and to encourage interest in graduate education among the undergraduate population. BGPSO gives minority students the opportunity to fellowship and bond through social and volunteer activities. It is the mission of BGPSO to enhance the educational and cultural experience of minority students at USF. There are no dues or fees levied by the organization. All eligible students are strongly encouraged to attend monthly business meetings and all BGPSO events are open to the USF community. Some of the programming that BGPSO has planned for this academic year include graduate workshops to mentor undergraduate students, development of a mentoring program for the benefit of graduate students, faculty and staff, and active recruitment of new minority students. Meetings of BGPSO are held on Tuesdays in FAO 100N at 5:00 p.m. All interested parties are invited to attend. The organization can be reached via e-mail at bgpsa_usf@yahoo.com for comments, questions, and a membership application.

THE AFRICAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The African Students' Association was founded in 1997 to express African students' interests, promote activities to develop an awareness of the social, cultural and political values of Africans, with the view to contributing to the development of USF and its immediate community. The purpose of ASA is to promote activities which will help develop unity amongst African students as well as create a social network support system which will aid them in expressing their interests in the contexts of the university and its immediate community. Membership is free and open to any individual interested in the welfare of the organization and of Africa. Currently we have members from Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Lucia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the US. General Meetings are held every Friday at 7pm at the Marshall Center of the University of South Florida in Room 106. Join us for Food, Fun and interesting facts about Africa! For additional information, contact the ASA at asa_usf@hotmail.com.

Department of Africana Studies
University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave.
FAO 270
Tampa, FL 33620

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Tampa, FL
Permit No. 257