

NOMMO

Power of the word

Volume 3, 2007

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This edition of *Nommo* reviews the activities of the past academic year and announces some of our upcoming events. Last year, we hosted an excellent symposium on black identities, which featured a keynote address by Dr. Michael Gómez entitled “Perception and Reality: Diasporic Identities Through Time and Space.” This year’s symposium looks to be a promising discussion of various aspects of the Harlem Renaissance. In addition to a keynote address by Dr. Arnold Rampersad on Alain Locke and the Harlem Renaissance, we will feature a plenary session highlighting Purdue faculty members who have published on either the Chicago or Harlem Renaissances. Please join us November 1-3rd for “Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity.”

In addition to our regular programming, we contributed to Experience Liberal Arts

In addition to our regular programming, we contributed to **Experience Liberal Arts Month** during October 2007.

Month during October 2007. This month long celebration features several speakers and events organized by CLA departments. We held one of the first events of the month, “Affirmative Action in Brazil: Affirming Rights or Ideologies,” by Brazilian scholar, Dr. Miriam Luci dos Santos. Our W.E.B. Du Bois Annual Pan African Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Nadege Veldwachter, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures, on October 25th. Her address will provide an analysis of translation issues in the work of Francophone writers, Maryse Condé,

Simone Schwarz-Bart, and Raphaël Confiant.

Our Spring Programming will include Black History Month events, Talkin' & Testifyin': Works in Progress lectures, and the annual Conversations on the Diaspora. On March 6, 2008 at 3:00pm, as part of Project Respect, we will hold the Harriet A. Jacobs Lecture in the Humanities and the Arts with Dr. Kwakiutl Dreher of the University of Nebraska as our speaker. Dr. Dreher will speak about her new book, *Dancing on the White Page: Black Women Entertainers Writing Autobiography*. Please visit our webpage for the most up to date information regarding upcoming events.

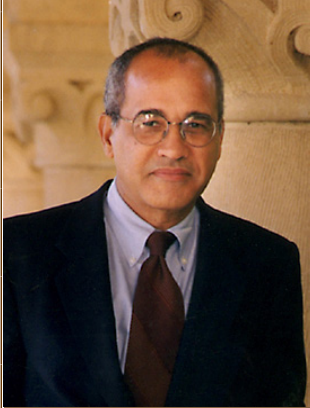


Venetria K. Patton

As part of our continuing curriculum development, the

faculty will create a new course on the African Diaspora and will work to regularize our study abroad courses. These changes will enhance the Diasporic aspect of our curriculum by requiring students to have at least one course focused on Africa and the larger Diaspora whether it is a class here at Purdue or abroad in such places as Brazil, Ghana, London, or Paris. We hope to have this change submitted to the CLA Curriculum Committee by fall of 2008. We also hope to make progress in the development of a Graduate Certificate, so stay tuned for more information over the next year.

Symposium Announcement



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Arnold Rampersad

Professor of English and Sara Hart Kimball Professor
in the Humanities at Stanford University

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Stewart Center • Room 214A&B • 7:00 pm

“Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity”

African American Studies and Research Center is pleased to host the twenty-third annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy. The series was designed to examine the cultural and philosophical dynamics of the African Diaspora in a global society. Each symposium allows for an extended analysis of a timely topic. We are excited about this year’s theme of the Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity. We solicited papers and panel presentations to address three broad themes related to the Harlem Renaissance:

Art, Literature and Music:

- * The Art of the Harlem Renaissance
- * Capturing the Cultural Voice in Literature
- * Issues of Gender and Prose During the Harlem Renaissance
- * The Photographer’s View of the Harlem Renaissance

Institutions, Identity, and Politics:

- * Class and Community during the Harlem Renaissance
- * Looking for Race: Vision and Visibility During the Harlem Renaissance
- * Mindful of the Harlem Renaissance

Focusing on Alain L. Locke:

- * Art, Literature, and Aesthetics
- * Critical Theory and Hermeneutics
- * Pluralism and Value Theory
- * Pluralism and World Order

We are particularly pleased to have Dr. Arnold Rampersad, Stanford University Professor of English and the Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities, as our keynote speaker. He has recently published *Ralph Ellison*, a biography of the novelist (Knopf, 2007). In addition, he has authored *Jackie Robinson: A Biography* (Knopf, 1997), a two-part biography of Harlem Renaissance poet-playwright Langston Hughes — *The Life of Langston Hughes* (Oxford University Press, 1986 and 1988) and *The Art and Imagination of W.E.B. Du Bois* (Harvard University Press, 1976). He also co-authored the Arthur Ashe biography *Days of Grace: A Memoir* (Ballantine Books, 1994). Dr. Arnold Rampersad is a previous recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and currently is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. His remarks on Thursday evening will be an excellent start to a weekend of stimulating discussion. This will be a wonderful opportunity for scholars to engage in dialogue and to share research. The annual symposia are part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the discipline by providing a forum for scholarly interchange. We hope you find the symposium stimulating and that you will attend next year’s symposium on “(Re)Visioning the Black Caribbean: Space, Place, and Voices.”

2006 Symposium Review



Dr. Michael Gómez

The 22nd Annual Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy opened on Thursday, December 7, 2006, with a keynote address by Dr. Michael Gómez, Chair and Professor of History at New York University and Director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). Dr. Gómez, who received his Ph.D. in African History from the University of Chicago, delighted the audience with his research of West Africa and speech on the “Perception and Reality: Diasporic Identities Through Time and Space.” In addition to interrogating issues on class dynamics and diasporic identities, participants in the symposium also discussed topics pertaining to the cultural impact of “identifying black,” the structural plurality of identity formation and conflict, cross currents and tensions of being black and other, and the authentic representation of blackness in popular culture.

Program Review: W.E.B. Du Bois Annual Pan-African Lecture “W.E.B. Du Bois and Asia: The Color Line or World Revolution?”

What better way to celebrate the Annual Du Bois lecture than with a presentation on the esteemed William Edward Burghardt Du Bois himself? Furthermore, why not have this presentation given by a Purdue faculty member?

On 15 November 2006, Professor of English and Director of American Studies, Bill Mullen, presented “W.E.B. Du Bois and Asia: The Color Line or World Revolution?” It was a profound and provocative conversation on Du Bois’ intellectual relationship with Asia, highlighted by an academician who understands the value of transnational discourse. Professor Mullen’s presentation stems from his co-edited book, *W.E.B. Du Bois on Asia: Crossing the World Color Line*.



Program Review: Talkin’ & Testifyin’ 2006 “I guess I’m becoming more and more militant”: Arthur Ashe, Apartheid, and American Sport”



On November 29, 2006, Eric Hall, a Ph.D. student in the Department of History presented his research on Arthur Ashe at the first Talkin’ & Testifyin’ event of the 2006-2007 school year. Hall suggested that Ashe’s life revealed the ideological diversity among black athletes on black power protest and the ways in which sports and politics intersected in the public sphere. Hall also discussed issues on South African apartheid in his presentation. Since Ashe was denied a visa by the South African government, his situation allows for a critical examination on American public opinions on race relations and apartheid during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In preparation for his presentation Hall used U.S. newspaper and magazine articles and columns, memoirs of tennis players, civil rights leaders, and native South Africans, as well as FBI files in order to analyze media and public representations of Ashe between 1969 and 1973.

Hall, who is advised by Professor Randy Roberts and intends to build his presentation into a dissertation, was grateful for the feedback received at the Talkin’ & Testifyin’ event. He mentioned that the suggestions offered were as helpful as those he received at a recent scholarly conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Program Review: AASRC & Classics Lecture Series "Black Ulysses: Classics in Conversation with African American Studies"



Harry J. Elam, Jr. received his BA from Harvard College in 1978 and his Ph.D. in Dramatic Arts from the University of California Berkeley in 1984. Presently, Dr. Elam serves as Chair and Professor of Drama at Stanford University and in his tenure, he has been awarded six different teaching awards. The scholarly work of Harry J. Elam, Jr. includes authorship of two books, *Taking It to the Streets: The Social Protest Theater of Luis Valdez and Amiri Baraka* (University of Michigan Press) and *The Past as Present in the Drama of August Wilson* (University of Michigan Press), winner of the 2005 Errol Hill Award from the American Society of Theatre Research. He is co-editor of four books, as well as author of several journal articles and critical anthologies. Dr. Elam is the current editor of *Theatre Journal* and a member of the editorial boards for *Modern Drama*, *Atlantic Studies*, and *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*.



Dr. James R. Saunders is the author of *The Wayward Preacher in the Literature of African American Women* and *Tightrope Walk: Identity, Survival and the Corporate World in African American Literature*. He co-authored *Urban Renewal and the End of Black Culture in Charlottesville, Virginia* and *Black Winning Jockeys in the Kentucky Derby*. In addition, he co-edited *The Dorothy West Martha's Vineyard*. Dr. Saunders attended Harvard Law School, the University of Michigan, and the University of Virginia. He is the author of numerous essays, many of which have been reprinted in scholarly editions.

The 2006-07 Classics & African American Studies Lecture Series commenced on October 4, 2007 with a talk by Dr. Harry J. Elam, Jr. This lecture series fostered conversations between African American Studies and the Classics in the areas of theater and performance, the visual arts, and literature. The theme for the series was "Black Ulysses: Classics in Conversation with African American Studies."

Dr. Elam is the Olive H. Palmer Professor, Robert and Ruth Halpern Fellow, Professor and Chair of Drama at Stanford University. The title of his presentation was "Behind the Minstrel Mask: Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake's *Shuffle Along* and its Images of Blackness." The premise of Dr. Elam's talk was that minstrel performances in blackface are linked to the actors who used masks to perform Classic Greek Tragedies. Dr. Elam explained the meticulous process of creating the blackface costume, which includes, blackening all exposed skin with burnt cork, greasepaint, or shoe polish, exaggerating the lips, wearing wooly wigs, gloves, and tailcoats or ragged clothes. Blackface is a controversial style of theatrical makeup used during the minstrel theater era, primarily by white actors and later by black actors to caricature slaves and belittle the descendants of slaves.

Dr. Elam illustrated varying images of blackness with analysis of the cast and creators of *Shuffle Along* and *Bamboozled*. *Shuffle Along* was the first African American musical to premiere on Broadway in 1921 and featured black actors, musicians, and dancers. *Bamboozled* was a movie released in 2000 by filmmaker Spike Lee depicting a contemporary minstrel show that featured black actors in blackface. Dr. Elam concluded his talk by proposing that the purpose of masking, in both Greek tragedies and blackface minstrels, is to cloak one's personal dignity in exchange for public fame and fortune, by portraying the unspeakable.

On October 19, 2007, Dr. Davina McClain, Chair of Classical Studies at Loyola University, presented "From Sophocles to Ray Charles: The Representation of Oedipus in The Gospel at Colonus." The talks by Drs. McClain and Elam were paired to encourage discussion of the role of Classics within African American visual art. Although coming from different disciplinary perspectives, the professors illustrated some common ground shared in the arena of African American theater.

Dr. James Saunders, Professor of English at Purdue University presented the second AASRC sponsored lecture of the four part series on Classics and African American Studies. This talk was presented in lieu of our annual Harriet A. Jacobs Arts Lecture Series in the Humanities and the Arts due to its emphasis on an African American woman writer. His talk was entitled, "Zora Neale Hurston's Investigation of the Modern-Day Achilles." Dr. Saunders looked at the character of Tea Cake as a flawed character, akin to a modern-day Achilles. Although the focus of the lecture was *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Dr. Saunders also made reference to other Hurston novels such as, *Jonah's Gourd Vine* and *Moses, Man of the Mountain*. His talk was followed by a talk the next week by Dr. Gail T. Smith, Associate Provost of the City University of New York Graduate Center. Her lecture, "Zora Neale Hurston and the Uses of Mythology," provided a nice compliment to Dr. Saunders' lecture.

The pairings of these four lectures were components of two one credit courses taken by African American Studies and Classics majors and minors. In addition to attending the lectures, students attended class sessions with Dr. Patton and Dr. Rankine. These discussions introduced the lectures to come and continued the discussions begun during the question and answer portion of the formal lectures. Students also screened *The Gospel at Colonus* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

H.H. Remmers Award Reception 2007

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

The Remmers family has stipulated that the income from the fund be used to assist “Afro-American men and women who are pursuing graduate study in the social sciences, providing the amount of \$500. 00 per calendar year.” In 1988, the family graciously agreed that the award be increased to \$1000. 00 each for an African American doctoral and master’s level student.

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

2007 Doctoral Level H. H. Remmers Award Recipient: **Tamora Callands**, Psychological Sciences

As a fourth year student in the clinical psychology program, Tamara’s work focuses on designing and implementing research aimed at understanding parenting, adolescent behaviors and personality factors. She has assisted with the development of significant research projects including a community-based project examining African American racial socialization practices and a study exploring support networks of African American collegiate faculty and staff. The opportunity and knowledge to impact meaningful changes in the community.



2007 Master’s Level H. H. Remmers Award Recipient: **Nakia Collins**, Sociology and Anthropology

Nakia is a proud graduate of Hampton University in Hampton, VA with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. While it may be a bit unorthodox, she has always viewed her education as a way to understand her life and the lives of those around her. Typically, she chooses research topics based on something that has happened to her — something for which she needs an explanation. After completing the doctoral program, she would like to join the faculty of a college or university and continue doing research to this end.



Adrienne R. Carter-Sowell Receives First Prize in Sigma Xi Poster Competition

Sigma Xi, an international honor society of scientific and engineering research, sponsored the graduate student research competition. Students prepared an abstract and presented a poster at the campus-wide competition held on February 28, 2007. Out of 20 posters entered in her division, Adrienne R. Carter-Sowell received top honors in the Behavioral and Social Sciences division of the Sigma Xi poster competition. Adrienne’s poster, entitled “Out of the Loop: When Water Cooler Chatter Matters,” was based on her research work done with fellow graduate student Eric E. Jones and under the supervision of Professors Janice R. Kelly and Kipling D. Williams. In addition to having her abstract published in a booklet, she will also receive a cash award. The Purdue chapter of Sigma Xi was established in 1909 with a mission to foster and recognize outstanding research on the Purdue campus. There are currently over 400 active members who sponsor activities at all levels from high school through post-graduate and faculty.



2007 Annual NCBS Conference



AASRC again sponsored a group of students to present at the annual National Council for Black Studies Conference. The 31st annual conference was held March 14-17, 2007 in San Diego California. We had three undergraduates organize a panel and one of our teaching assistants delivered an individual presentation. African American Studies major, La Nese Chandler organized the panel, which included papers by African American Studies major and minor, Brittany Hoskin and Elise Bates. Brittany's paper, "Black is Beautiful," looked at Eurocentric notions of beauty. Elise focused specifically on skin color bias and its slavery roots in her paper, "You Ain't that Light: Skin Color as a Status Symbol in the African American Community." La Nese's paper built on a survey she initially conducted in a course with Dr. Barnes. "Check Ya Self Before You Reck Ya' Self: Identifying Levels of Black Cultural Awareness" sought to understand the formation and sustainability of the Black identity through a survey conducted with black adults with varying levels of education. LaNese hoped to find correlations between education and cultural awareness.

Reflecting on her experience at the conference, Brittany notes, "As an African American Studies major, I believe that I have a deeper understanding and a heightened sense of awareness of issues regarding the Black community; but until I attended the NCBS conference I did not appreciate how far my knowledge could take me. Here (at the conference) I was surrounded by hundreds of individuals who critically analyze(d) *What it is to be Black?*, and in some cases offered solutions. The environment was very inspiring; to be surrounded by such intelligent people ranging from college students (like myself) to Maulana Karenga (the creator of Kwanzaa) is a priceless experience. My paper started with a comment made by one of my peers and it took me San Diego, California. My only regret is that I did not get involved with NCBS earlier."

LaNese is now a veteran conference attendee: "2007 was my third year traveling to the NCBS Conference and my second time presenting. This time I felt more comfortable presenting because not only did we have an exciting panel from Purdue but the other presenters were also my friends and the chair of our panel was Dr. Patton. Our panel was catchy entitled, "It Doesn't Matter If You're Black or White: WAIT A MINUTE! Yes It Does!" Our main theme of discussion for that panel was black identity and acceptance." The panel was quite a success and Dr. Patton enjoyed hearing the praise from colleagues about how well the Purdue students had done.

In addition to bringing undergraduate majors and minors, AASRC sponsors the attendance of teaching assistants as part of their professional development. Graduate Instructor, Kevin Brooks has presented three times at NCBS. He observes, "It was a remarkable feeling to present my work before some of the leading researchers and intellectuals from a variety of academic disciplines. It was an honor and privilege to receive their constructive feedback, as well as their praise, on my paper presentation. This experience will help to prepare me for a career as an academician, researcher, educator, and community activist. The NCBS conference is a wonderful opportunity to engage in dialogue where we can share and exchange ideas to enhance our understanding and awareness of the African and African American experiences."

On last tidbit of wisdom from La Nese, "the NCBS Conference was an invaluable experience because it gave me a chance to meet with other intellectually talented undergraduates and graduate students as well as having the opportunity to meet and interact with some of the leading researchers and professors in the field of African American and Africana Studies. If any students are thinking about going to graduate school for any of the social sciences and they are taking any African American Studies courses at Purdue, attending or presenting at the NCBS Conference is a great experience to have."

Majors and Minors, we hope you'll join us in Atlanta in 2008!



Dr. Patton Meets With Swaziland Princess

Venetria Patton, director of African American Studies and Research Center, was among a group of faculty who met with Princess Ncengenenge Dlamini of Swaziland during her visit to Purdue on Friday, July 20, 2007. Gilbert Rochon, associate vice president for Collaborative Research and director for the Purdue Terrestrial Observatory, arranged the campus visit. Dlamini was accompanied by Cynthia Prime, president of Indianapolis-based Seeds of Hope Outreach, a nonprofit organization devoted to addressing the needs of African children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Dlamini also met with faculty in the Cytometry for Life program, the College of Agriculture, School of Veterinary Medicine, and the College of Liberal Arts' Department of Communication.



Program Review: Talkin' & Testifyin' 2007 "Diaspora Philanthropy: African American Philanthropic Engagement of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and Africa"



Jasmine N. Burnett's presentation in the AASRC's "Talkin' & Testifyin'" series entitled "Diaspora Philanthropy: African American Philanthropic Engagement of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and Africa," gave her the opportunity to share her Masters research with a new audience, while giving those in attendance the opportunity to learn about resources for aiding in efforts to resolve arguably the gravest issue facing the global Black community today. Following some preliminary discussion of the debt she owes her family and the benefits of pursuing a minor in AAS at Purdue, Ms. Burnett demonstrated the need for African Americans to engage in philanthropic efforts to fight HIV/AIDS

on the African continent by graphically offering a comparative analysis of HIV/AIDS rates in America, Africa, and throughout the African Diaspora. Though the figures Ms. Burnett presented solidified HIV/AIDS as an issue of concern for all peoples of African descent throughout the world (thus her presentation being geared toward African Americans specifically), the paralyzing effect of HIV/AIDS on the continent is unparalleled. Ms. Burnett went on to use the contemplative mood created by the graphs she presented as her opportunity to discuss her own work in Africa, as well as various organizations committed to Diasporic Philanthropy in Africa. In the end, Ms. Burnett's presentation cogently defined the field of Diasporic Philanthropy in terms of the fundamental belief that efforts to alleviate the effects of HIV/AIDS on members of the African Diaspora must begin with philanthropic initiatives on the African continent.

Program Review: Experience Liberal Arts



On October 1, 2007, Dr. Miriam Jorge presented "Affirmative Action in Brazil: Affirming Rights or Ideologies" at the Black Cultural Center. Jorge, an Associate Professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, spoke as a part of the Experience Liberal Arts Month series. The event was sponsored by the African American Studies and Research Center and the College of Education. Co-sponsors of the event were the Diversity Resource Office and the Office of Affirmative Action.

Course Offerings Spring 2008**IDIS 271: Introduction to African American Studies**

TTH 9:00—10:15

Instructor: Ms. Mindy Tan

MWF 9:30—10:20

Instructor: Mr. Jamal Ratchford

MWF 1:30 –2:20

Instructor: Mr. Kevin Brooks

This course introduces students to the conceptual and methodological principles underlying the field of African American Studies. Interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional, the course familiarizes students with literature in the field and examines historical as well as contemporary issues in a manner that crosses, intersects, and challenges traditional lines of demarcation.

IDIS 277: African American Popular Culture

MWF 10:30—11:20

Instructor: Mr. Gilmer Cook

The course will focus on the production of popular or “pop” culture in the United States with special emphasis on linkages between “mainstream” pop culture and pop culture originating in the African American experience. The course will provide a sociological perspective for understanding and examining topics related to popular culture including Black film, R&B, literature, Disco, art, Rap, and Hip Hop and their correlates to topics such as the African oral tradition, folklore, and minstrelsy. Through the use of music, film, dance, literary and visual arts, and poetry, students will gain insight into ways that shared meanings and ways of life have emerged via U.S. traditions, in general, and the African American experience, in particular.

IDIS 371A/ H&K 490C: The African American Experience: Issues in African American Health

TTH 10:30—11:45

Instructor: Dr. Titilayo Okoror

"This course is designed to address issues involved in the health of African Americans. Students will be provided with a comprehensive overview of historical forces and social factors related to the health behavior and status of African-Americans. Students will analyze the impact of cultural, educational, social, economic, political and environmental influences on health of African Americans."

IDIS 373 & 491M: Issues in The African American Experience: Filmic Representations of Slavery

TTH 1:30—2:20/ Lab W 6:00—8:00 pm

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Dorsey

This class will examine black slavery at the movies from three basic viewpoints: (1) It will explore the history and cultures of black slavery throughout the Americas--that is, the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America--by comparative perspective (2) How film directors handle particular periods and the problems peculiar to them and (3) How the films reflect the social and cultural politics of the specific period in which they were made.

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

Upcoming Events

Fall 2007

October

10/25
**WEB Du Bois Annual
 Pan-African Lecture**

November

11/1-11/3
**23rd Annual Symposium:
 Harlem Renaissance:
 Aesthetics, Values,
 and Identity**

Spring 2008

February

TBA
Black History Month

TBA
Talkin' & Testifyin'

March

3/6
**Harriet A. Jacobs Series in
 the Humanities and the
 Arts**

April

4/3
**Conversations on the
 Diaspora**

 **African American
 Studies & Research Center**
 Building an Intellectual Community for the 21st Century

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
 Voices • Communities • Cultures

WEB DuBois Annual Pan-African Lecture

Thursday, October 25 2007

3:30pm

Stewart Center, Room 313

**“Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, and Raphaël Confiant
 in English: Translation from the Margins”**

Speaker

Dr. Nadege Veldwachter
 Purdue University

Dr. Veldwachter is an Assistant Professor of Francophone literatures in the Purdue Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. She received her PhD in French and Francophone Studies from UCLA in 2005. Her research brings theories of cultural and linguistic translation to bear on basic questions about the production and reception of Caribbean literature. Dr. Veldwachter's paper will examine the issues surrounding the translation of Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, and Raphaël Confiant's work from French into English.

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

Thursday, March 6 2008

3:00pm

Stewart Center, Room 214 C & D

Speaker

Dr. Kwakiutl Dreher
 University of Nebraska

**“Dancing on the White Page: Black Women Entertainers
 Writing Autobiography”**

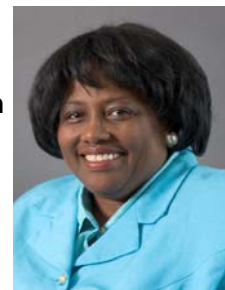
Dr. Kwakiutl L. Dreher, in addition to being an Assistant Professor of English and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nebraska, is also a performance artist. She received her PhD from the University of California-Riverside and her research interests include African American literature since 1970, including auto/biography, film, visual, and popular culture, and mass marketed popular literature (romance). Dr. Dreher's presentation is based on her forthcoming book, entitled *Dancing on the White Page: Black Women Entertainers Writing Autobiography*.

Faculty Focus: New Affiliated Faculty



Dr. Cornelius L. Bynum, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, received his PhD in 2004 from the University of Virginia. His dissertation was entitled “Fighting for Identity: A. Philip Randolph’s Search for Class-Consciousness in the Age of the Harlem Renaissance.” With a specialization in 20th-century U.S. and African American History, Dr. Bynum’s research focuses on intersections of race and class and how they have affected African Americans’ pursuit of full citizenship in the twentieth century.

Dr. Carolyn Johnson received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in elementary education from Indiana University in 1968 and 1970 and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Purdue in 1985. After working in AASRC as a Senior Research Associate for several years, Dr. Johnson left to fill the position of Director for the Diversity Resources Office at Purdue University. This year, we welcome her back as an AASRC affiliate.



Faculty Kudos

Dr. Mia Smith-Bynum was a participant in the 2007 African American Mental Health Research Scientist Program, a grant-writing mentoring program sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. Her recent publications include “Racism experiences and psychological functioning in African American college freshmen: Is racial socialization a moderator?” in *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology* 13, and “Mother-adolescent relationship quality and autonomy as predictors of psychosocial adjustment in African American adolescents,” in the *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 15.

Dr. Joseph Dorsey published a book review on *The Atlantic Slave Trade* by Johannes Postma in the *Journal of Caribbean Studies*, June-December, 2006, v. 34 num. 1, pp. 317-325, and also has an essay entitled “Toward a History of Slavery in Small Places: Economic Expansion, Demographic Diversity, and Social Stability in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, 1812-1838,” co-authored with Dr. Sandra Barnes, in the *Journal of African American Studies*, fall-winter 2006, v. 10 num. 2, pp. 3-21.

Dr. Titilayo Okoror presented on a panel called “Loveline sex and relationship forum” organized by one of the Fraternities on March 21st, 2007. As part of the Department of Health and Kinesiology’s Spring 2007 Colloquium, she will also be presenting a paper on her current research involving South Africa entitled: “Food and HIV Stigma—Exploring the socio-cultural contexts in South Africa.”

Dr. Venetria K. Patton served as the Technical Reviewer for the book, *African American History for Dummies*, written by Ronda Penrice, which will be published by Wiley Publishing. She has also been asked to serve as an Editorial Board Member for *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*.

Faculty Farewell

AASRC bids a fond farewell to Dr. Sandra Barnes, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology. Dr. Barnes left Purdue for Case Western Reserve University, where she is Associate Professor of Sociology. At Case, she will continue her research in urban sociology with an emphasis on race, class, and gender dynamics and the experiences of the urban poor. One of the attractions of her new position was the possibility of working with Case’s Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development. She also expects to be involved with the Ethnic Studies program. We wish Dr. Barnes all the best.



Faculty, Staff and Affiliated Faculty Listing

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