Greetings from the Chair

It is an honor for me to greet you as chair of the Section. Since being active within AFAS for the past eight years, I have been impressed with the dedicated service rendered by so many of the Section's members. Your work as moderators, committee chairs and members, and within the general membership is the reason why AFAS continues to function as a section that develops and inspires leadership, encourages professional development, and promotes service. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve you. I would also like to express my appreciation to those of you who willingly accepted committee appointments and look forward to working with each of you as we move forward with the work of the Section. Those of you who wish to become members of a committee we welcome your participation. See a listing of the various committees on page 4.

Committee work provides a wonderful opportunity for you to share your expertise and ideas with your colleagues as well as to build a professional network. Please inform AFAS vice chair/chair-elect, Carol Rudisell, of your interest at rudisell@udel.edu.

Kudos go to Mary Wrighten and Gerald Holmes for a very informative 2000 Annual Conference Program. The panelists and audience raised very thought-provoking issues as ethnic studies librarians grapple with budgetary and political concerns at their institutions that affect building collections and providing service to their patrons. The session was well attended. Mary and Gerald, a job well done!

We now look toward to the Denver and San Francisco programs. At the Denver conference, Abdul Alkalimat, Director of Africana Studies, Univ. of Toledo, Thomas Wessinger, head librarian of the Africana Library at Cornell Univ., Elaine Westbooks, Cornell Univ., and Gladys Smiley Bell, Hampton Univ. have been invited to consider issues and concerns pertaining to “eBlackStudies, Bridging the Digital Divide: Academic Excellence and Social Responsibility.” Again, Mary’s coordinating abilities shine.

The 2001 Annual Conference Program, “African American Studies and African American Studies Librarianship: A Natural Relationship” also includes individuals with outstanding credentials in African American Studies and African American Studies Librarianship.

Continued on page 2
Invited presenters are Charles P. Henry, faculty associate for Equity, VP Chancellor and professor of African American Studies at University of California at Berkeley, Jessie Carney Smith, university librarian, Fisk University, Stanton Biddle, professor at Baruch College and a founding member of AFAS, and Karen Jefferson, archivist, Clark-Atlanta University. Henry is also a past president of the National Council for Black Studies. Many thanks to Sylvia Curtis, University of California at Santa Barbara and Myrtis Cochran, University of California at Berkeley for their assistance as members of the Program Planning Committee. Mark your calendar for what we believe will be a stimulating discussion on professional development, educational opportunities, and potential for collaborative research projects between African American Studies scholars and librarians/archivists.

And lastly, let us all extend a warm welcome to Kim Gallon, AFAS newsletter editor, to the profession. Kim is a recent graduate of Drexel University and has begun her first professional position as African American Studies librarian and bibliographer in the Van Pelt Library at the University of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Kim, for your willingness to serve AFAS. We wish for you much success!

Dorothy Washington,
Chair, AFAS

Call For an AFAS Membership Drive
By Grace Jackson-Brown, AFAS Membership Committee Chairperson

Renew your membership to the African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS) of ACRL in the coming year, and be a part of the exciting activities that are planned for 2001-2002! At the upcoming 2001 ACRL 10th National Conference in Denver, Colorado AFAS is sponsoring a dynamic program entitled “eBlack Studies, Bridging the Digital Divide: Academic Excellence and Social Responsibility” with featured guest Dr. Abdul Alkalimat of the University of Toledo. Another exciting in the years ahead is the African American Funnel Project that will see AFAS take a leadership role in working with the Library of Congress to update and improve subject access to materials about African Americans. The aforementioned are only two examples of the many possibilities for areas of organizational involvement and professional development for AFAS members.

As chairperson of the 2000-2001 AFAS Membership Committee I would like to thank you for your current AFAS membership. Please continue to support AFAS not only with your section membership and organizational involvement, but also by recruiting your colleagues, friends, and students to join AFAS!

AFAS membership provides networking opportunities for meeting and working with other AFAS librarians and friends nationwide. Other benefits include a member subscription to AFAS-L, our organizational listserv, and to the AFAS newsletter.

The total membership of AFAS was recorded as 237 in August 2000. It is my goal to increase this number by 30 percent in the year 2001 which will take us just over the 300 mark. Please join me in meeting this membership drive goal!

AFASers in the NEWS!

Gladys Smiley Bell – Former AFAS Chair and current member-at-large is now the President of the Black Caucus of the American Library (BCALA). In addition, Gladys is no longer at Kent State University, but is now Assistant Director of Public Services at Hampton University.

Angela M. Gooden - Became the chemistry/chemical engineering librarian in the Science & Engineering Library at Ohio State University on Sept.1, 2000. She was formerly the Mary P. Key Resident Librarian there.
Forthcoming Books

Check out these new and exciting titles to see where they will fit into your collection!

- Bundles, A’Leia. **On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker.** Scribner February 2001
- Conyers, James L., Jr. **African American Jazz and Rap.** McFarland Publishers, 2001
- Conyers James L., Jr., **African American Historiography.** Edwin Mellen Press, 2001

New Publications

- Rickford, John and Russell Rickford. **Spoken Soul: The Story of Black English.** Wiley, 2000. This book is one of 17 nationwide that won an American Book Award (from the Before Columbus Foundation in 2000.)
New AFAS Members

AFAS is pleased to welcome the following persons to membership.


Announcements

Dr. Carolyn F. Frost, professor and associate dean in the School of Information, University of Michigan, will conduct a subject cataloging workshop geared toward non-catalogers during the AFAS Membership Meeting at ALA MidWinter Meeting, 2001. Reference and public service librarians are encouraged to attend. An African American Funnel has been established within AFAS Cataloging Issues Discussion Group in collaboration with the Library of Congress. The workshop is being sponsored in support of this endeavor.

AFAS Committees

Get involved today! Contact the chair of each committee for further information

Joyce K. Thornton, Chair - jkthorn@tamu.edu

Membership

Grace Jackson-Brown, Chair - jacksonb@indiana.edu

Nominating

Mary Wrighten, Chair - mwright@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Program

Dorothy Ann Washington, Chair - dwashin@purdue.edu

Publications

Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair - gladys.bell@hamptonu.edu

Policy and Research

Patricia Morris, pmorris@bird.library.arizona.edu

Section Manual

Michael Walker, mcwalker@vsu.edu

Strategic Planning

Stanton Biddle, SFBBB@cunyvm.cuny.edu

Cataloging Issues Discussion Group

Dorothy Ann Washington, Chair - dwashin@purdue.edu

FEATURED WEB SITE

WWW.PEOPLE.CORNELL.EDU/PAGES/FLW25/AA_DIGITAL_ARCHIVE.HTM
By: Elaine L. Westbrooks, Metadata Librarian, Cornell University

Many information centers are beginning to reveal and promote materials relating to African American history that are housed in their respective facilities. In the hopes of enhancing access, dozens of institutions are digitizing such materials. This website reviews several existing websites and digitization projects and lists noteworthy digitization projects that are forthcoming.

The scope and content of these websites vary greatly. Academic institutions produce most collections, but there are many created by governmental institutions, historical societies, and commercial agencies. A few are exclusively devoted to African American related collections; a greater number focuses on selected documents. Descriptions of websites are organized alphabetically by the title of the information institution or by the name of the collection.
AFAS Program Summary: Future Challenges for Ethnic and Cultural Academic Collections

By: Kim Gallon, AFAS Newsletter Editor

On Saturday, July 8th the African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS) hosted the program, “Future Challenges for Ethnic and Cultural Academic Collections” at the ALA Chicago Annual Conference. A panel of four speakers, representative of the primary ethnic collections in academic libraries, spoke at length on a variety of issues concerning these collections. A common thread of concern that linked all of the speakers’ presentations together was the idea that there are many historic and traditional battles still being waged in the library field in these areas. For example questions as to what is scholarly and what is not are still being asked when librarians attempt to define a core collection in a discipline. All of the speakers agreed that any librarian striving to create a core list for his or her subject area must first examine the population that is being served by the institution.

“Mapping the borders” between closely related ethnic and cultural collections was another issue that two speakers in particular addressed in their presentation and responses to the participants. Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng, Associate Professor, School of Library & Information Science, University of Kentucky and member of the Chinese- American Library Association demonstrated the difficulties people have with ascertaining the differences between Asian Studies and Asian American Studies collections. With touches of humor throughout her presentation, Dr. Jeng facilitated an audience discussion by asking them questions about a book with an Asian American author. Questions such as whether it would go in an Asian collection or Asian American collection, help to highlight the dilemmas that librarians working with ethnic collections struggle with everyday. Lillian Castillo-Speed, Head of Ethnic Studies Library, University of California at Berkeley and member of REFORMA (National Association to Promote Library Service to the Spanish Speaking) also spoke briefly about the conflicts between Puerto Rican Studies and Mexican American Studies.

To integrate or segregate these collections was addressed by the panel. Lisa Pillow, Director of Black Studies Library, Ohio State University and member of AFAS, remarked on the difficulty of offering one answer for all institutions by remarking that whether a collection should be separate from the consortium collection is dependent upon the individual institution. Pillow also recommended that librarians form tight and close relationships with each other. This will help with what Castillo-Speed sees as the role of librarians in this field; “to publicize and preserve ethnic collections.”

John Berry, member of American Indian Library Association, added his voice to the panel discussion with ideas on how librarians can create optimum access to ethnic collections.

A question and answer session ended the program in which the audience was able to ask questions that were specific to their individual collections and institutions.
Future Challenges for Ethnic and Cultural Academic Collections

Bibliography of Selected Sources

Prepared by: Gerald Holmes, Program Chair

African American Sources
Books and Journal Articles


African American Sources
Web Sources

African American Studies Librarians Section, ACRL
http://www.ala.org/acrl/afas/index.html

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
http://aarl.af.public.lib.ga.us/index.html

African-American History and Culture, Library of Congress
http://lcweb.loc.gov/nr/mss/guide/african.html

African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution
http://www.si.edu/resource/flag/nmah/afroam.htm

African American Internet Resources, Emory University
http://info.library.emory.edu/ref/rvc/afas/index.html

Amistad Research Center, Tulane University
http://www.tulane.edu-amistad

Black Cultural Center Library, Purdue University
http://www.purdue.edu/bcc/library/

Black Studies Library, Ohio State University
http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/OSU_profile/bslweb/

Moorland Spingarn Research Center, Howard University
http://www.founders.howard.edu/moorland-springarn/

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library
http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html

Latino Sources: Books and Journal Articles


Latino Sources

Web Sources

REFORMA
http://www.reforma.org

Chicano LatinoNet
http://clnet.ucr.edu

California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives
http://www.library.ucsb.edu/speccoll/cema/cema.html

Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection--Mexican American Library Program
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/libs/Benson/mals/mals.htm

Library of the Centro de Estudios Puertorriquenos, Hunter College, NY
http://libraries.cuny.edu/lib-cep.htm

Chicano Research Center, Hayden Library, Arizona State University, Tempe
http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/chicano.htm

Chinese American

Journal Articles


Chinese American

Web Sources

Chinese American Library Association
http://www.cala-web.org/

Native American

Books and Journal Articles


Native American

Web Sources

American Indian Library Association
http://info.pitt.edu/~lmitten/aila.html

Oklahoma State University, Edmon Low Library
http://www.library.okstate.edu/index.htm

Kappler’s Indian Affairs Laws and Treaties
http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/

Index of Native American Resources (all areas)
http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/

Other Ethnic Groups


**Membership Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, July 8, 2000, 4:00-4:30 p.m
Chicago Hilton & Towers – Lake Michigan Room

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Wrighten following the AFAS program, *Future Challenges for Ethnic and Cultural Academic Collections*. The minutes from the January 15, 2000 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

**Committee Reports**

**Publications**

*Newsletter* – Volume 8, Issue 1 of the newsletter was completed and made available on the Web. The page currently resides on a server at the University of Delaware and will be moved to ALA’s server after this conference.

*Web Site* – The AFAS web site was revised and updated in mid June. The web site moved to ALA’s server on June 26, 2000.

**Old Business**

**African American Subject Funnel Project**
An AFAS Cataloging Issues Discussion group has been established by Dorothy Washington. The group had their first training session on Friday, July 7th.

**AFAS Archive Permanent Home**

AFAS papers must be placed with the archive of the parent organization. Therefore, AFAS papers will be sent to ACRL, who in turn, send them to University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Mary Wrighten will contact past AFAS chairs.

**Trip to Africa**

Kathleen Bethel is interested in knowing how serious/committed the group is to going on a trip to Zimbabwe’s Book Fair with an excursion to South Africa. Raquel Cogell will assist Kathleen Bethel in ascertaining the group’s interest.

**New Business**

**Committee Membership**

Members are needed for committees. Interested parties should inquire with Dorothy Washington. Kathleen Bethel and Kim Gallon will join the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Michael Walker will work with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee informally.

**AFAS Brochure**

Dorothy Washington will follow-up on the update of the brochure.

**Announcements**

**ACRL 10th National Conference in Denver**

Mary Wrighten submitted a program proposal in May, but has not yet heard whether it has been accepted.

The meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.