



AFAS: African American Studies Librarians Section

Association of College and Research Libraries - ALA

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Greetings from the Chair

Greetings AFASers,

I hope your semester continues to be an academic success and you are gearing up for those wonderful summer outreach activities and special projects. I encourage you to post programming activities in your library throughout the year via AFAS-L. It's a great forum for us to share ideas that promote the use of our collections.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at Midwinter and to hear the progressive activities each committee is planning or is currently executing. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has worked diligently toward the revision of the bylaws. Thank you, Joyce Thornton, for your leadership. AFASers, please examine closely the draft at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/afas/index.html>. Click

Message from AFAS Chair." We hope to make final changes and present to the membership for vote during AFAS Membership Meeting at the Annual Conference on Saturday, June 16, 4:00-5:00. Please forward your suggestions and comments no later than April 20th.

We are excited about AFAS forthcoming program, "African American Studies and Librarianship: A Natural Relationship" that will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2:00-4:00 at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. There has been a change in panel members since I last communicated to you. Kristin Franckiewicz, product specialist at ProQuest, will demonstrate the newly developed database *Black Studies Online*. As communicated other outstanding presenters include Charles P. Henry, Jessie Carney Smith and Stanton F. Biddle (<http://www.purdue.edu/bcc/library/afasflyer>).

It is an honor for me to provide an opportunity for AFAS membership to hear and read the progressive thinking of two dynamic administrators in African American Studies. As a recipient of a fellowship to participate in the Summer Institute sponsored by the National Council for Black Studies in 1993, I had an excellent learning experience in attending the Council's 17th Annual Conference and first International Conference that was held in Accra, Ghana. Then Charles P. Henry was the Council's president and William Little was the vice-president and chair of the Institute. Such experience provided the impetus for me to pursue a graduate degree

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in African American Studies. I encourage you to hear their voices as AFAS explores ways to collaborate with scholars on research initiatives and curriculum development projects that would contribute toward the advancement of African American Studies within the academy and well as explores discipline-related continuing educational opportunities.

The opportunity to serve you as chair has been professionally rewarding. I hope we have addressed some of your concerns as well as moved AFAS forward. Forever grateful!

Dorothy Washington, Chair
Chair, AFAS

FEATURED WEB SITE

History of Lincoln University Online
<http://www.lincolnu.edu/~library>

Lincoln University, a historically black institution in Jefferson City, MO, has put 310 pages of the book *the History of Lincoln University* on the Inman E. Page Library's website. This site may be accessed by going to and clicking on the digital archive link.

This project makes the contents of the book available to scholars and the public online. *The History of Lincoln University* describes the development of Lincoln from its founding in 1866 by Civil War soldiers from the 62nd and 65th Colored Infantries to its status as a developing university in 1939.

The project was made possible by the generous donations of the alumni of Lincoln University. An overhead scanner was purchased and the staff and student workers of the University Archives, a part of Page Library, worked to scan in the book.

Further projects are in the works to scan in other historical documents and make them available on the web from the digital archives website. At present, *The Soldier's Dream*, original letters between Langston Hughes and Lincoln University, and the *History of Lincoln University* are available at the website.

AFAS Committees

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

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

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Strategic Planning

Stanton Biddle, SFBBB@cunyvm.cuny.edu

Cataloging Issues Discussion Group

Dorothy Ann Washington, Chair -
dwashin2@purdue.edu

Welcome new AFASers!

Marion Hinton, Michelle R. Kalech, Mica Lavaughin-Slaughter, Pamela Jean McDonald, and Lisa Pillow.

Ethnic Studies and Globalization at California State University, Dominguez Hills

**By: Dr. William A. Little, Professor/Chair
Department of Africana Studies**

The growing interest in the study of diasporas in the United States today is being fueled by one of the driving forces of the 21st Century – the phenomenon of “crossing borders” – the flow of people and ideas across human and physical borders as a result of the explosion of technology, and the massive influx of non-white, non-western immigrants. Earlier, traditional views of immigration assumed that ethnic and cultural identity ultimately disappear through the process of assimilation, with second and third generations of immigrant families becoming absorbed into the common fabric as they are “Americanized” and mainstreamed. Cultural homogenization was assumed to be the result. Today this model is no longer accepted as valid. From coast to coast, our nation is witnessing a challenge to homogenization with the rise of immigrant families who bring to the United States their cultural knowledge, languages and historical experiences.

Educators across the country, and particularly in California, are grappling with ways of meeting the needs and interests of undergraduate students who come from diverse populations. Today’s university student body is a diverse population with individuals from various racial and national origins, language groups and cultural heritages. They also differ in their preparation for higher education. The challenge for the university is to develop a curriculum that will provide students with a cohesive educational understanding of the various peoples in the globalized world.

Globalization at CSUDH

The California State University, Dominguez Hills has embarked upon an innovative program to globalize its undergraduate curriculum. Under the leadership of the Dr. Selase Williams, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Centre for Global Diasporas in Southern California is transforming the curriculum of its Ethnic and International Studies units. The University is committed to establishing a premier undergraduate program for the study of global Diasporic communities. Building upon the best teaching and scholarship within the existing ethnic studies programs and other relevant departments, i.e. Africana Studies, Chicano Studies, and Asian Pacific Studies, the focus of the curriculum is on the historical and contemporaneous inextricable relationships between African American, Asian American, and Chicano/Latino communities and their respective homelands.

through a three-year grant from the Ford Foundation. The Centre is engaged in a number of projects and activities that support the development of a global undergraduate curriculum. The projects include among other things, curriculum development, international conferences, a visiting scholars program, faculty exchange program, student research and internship programs, and a study abroad program. The curriculum development component of the project focuses on developing courses in four concentration areas. The areas of concentration are 1) language, literature and communication; 2) history and political development; 3) social and economic development, and 4) arts and aesthetics. Each of the Ethnic Studies programs will develop courses, which will fit within one of the general concentration areas listed above.

Dr. William A. Little, Chair of Africana Studies, chairs the Curriculum Committee. Dr. David Maciel, Chair of Chicano/Chicana Studies, coordinates the international research and exchange activities with the assistance of Dr. Jung Sun Park, Coordinator of Asian Pacific Studies. Dr. Gary Kawaguchi, Co-Project Director, is responsible for coordinating the grant administration and conference activities. Dr. Myrna Donahoe, Coordinator, Women Studies Program, has the responsibility of working with each committee to ensure the infusion of women’s content and perspectives in all aspects of the Center’s projects and activities.

One of the critical components of the Ford Foundation grant is the expansion of the library collection in the area of global Diasporas Studies. Ms. Naomi Ogawa Moy, Reference Resources Librarian, is coordinating the Ethnic Studies instructional resources development project. She is working with the three Ethnic Studies program chairs and coordinators to identify books, films, and other materials for library acquisitions.

The Centre also received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The NEH grant is funding the creation of an anthology of cutting-edge essays on the global diasporic experience in the United States. The anthology entitled *The Borders In Us All: Global Approaches to Three Diasporic Societies* will serve as a basic text for the Global Diasporas: A Comparative Approach course.

Theoretical and Intellectual Foundation

The consequences of the shift in the intellectual paradigm in the study of non-European people from a geographical emphasis to a people-based focus will provide scholars with new insights into the human dynamics of cultural reconstruction. For instance, refugees might be considered relatively uninteresting within a traditional area studies framework because they would no longer be considered part of the area. However, in the new people-based framework, they become world culture change agents. Immigrants are the engines that reassert cultural continuity as well as drive cultural reconstruction at the same time within those non-European diasporas societies. The struggle for ethnic and racial autonomy and the struggle for national integration and ethnic and racial assimilation remains the link between the non-European societies and Western society.

The intellectual framework for this project is one that reconceptualizes ethnic studies and area studies as a people-based, rather than a place-based field of study or discipline. The intellectual thrust for this approach evolved from the *Holistic Curriculum Model* developed by the National Council for Black Studies, under the leadership of Dr. William A. Little. The model departs from traditional interdisciplinary curriculum models by identifying new frameworks of study based on natural interconnections between seemingly disparate disciplines such as art and politics, economics and culture, language, literature and communications, organizational and political behavior, industrialization, urbanization and mental health and social and economic development.

The Holistic Curriculum model, when used to develop Ethnic Studies curricula, expands the intellectual orientation beyond the geographical boundary of the nation state. To a great extent, this new approach elevates the study of the cultural dimensions of non-European people over that of the racial paradigm which has been used as the primary focus of inquiry into the artistic, political, social, economic dynamics regarding the movement of people from one geographical area to another.

Conclusion

The central focus of the globalized inquiries is to examine human populations from the perspective of their culture rather than their citizenship or race. In this context, the examination of nationalities, ethnic and racial groups would focus on issues such as immigration policies and laws, cultural preservation, cultural reconstitution, cultural identity and cultural fusion.

New Books

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

Jeffries, J.L. *Virginia's Native Son: The Election and Administration of Governor L. Douglas Wilder*. West Lafayette, Ind: Purdue University Press, c2000.

Patton, Venetria K. *Women in Chains : The Legacy of Slavery in Black Women's Fiction*. Albany: State University of New York Press, c2000.

Simms, Rupe. *The Politics of Accommodation and Resistance in the Black Church : A Gramscian Analysis*. Lewiston, N.Y. ; Lampeter, Wales : Edwin Mellen Press, c2000.

Forthcoming Books

Vincent, Theodore G. *The Legacy of Guerrero: First Black Indian President of Mexico*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, (October) 2001

Announcements

The West Virginia University Center for Black Culture and Research (CBC&R) is currently accepting books and manuscripts for its Africana Studies Reading/Resource Room. The library of the CBC&R has plans to become a dedicated repository for Afrocentric (theory, methodology) scholarship. Please forward all contributions to:

**Dr. Katherine Olukemi Bankole, Director
West Virginia University Center for Black Culture and Research
Assistant Professor, Department of History
590 Spruce Street, P. O. Box 6417
Morgantown, West Virginia 26506
(304) 293-7029 (Office)
(304) 293-2967 (Fax)**

Website -- <http://www.wvu.edu/~cbcr/>

Dear Colleagues:

If you know any Spectrum Scholars, please encourage them to apply for the NCAPAL (National Conference on Asian Pacific American Librarians) Scholarships.

Encourage them to take part in such an opportunity that they might not ordinarily consider for whatever reason. Thank you.

Dear Scholars...of 98, 99, and 2000:

Did you know that there are 8 scholarships for Spectrum Scholars to attend the NCAPAL conference? Please go to the website:

<http://bioac.uky.edu/ncapal/> for

more information.

Elaine Westbrook
Metadata Librarian
Albert R. Mann Library
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-6401
elw25@cornell.edu

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The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
Syracuse University

By: Angela Williams, Librarian

If scholarship is an essential aspect of the education process then research is its companion. The companion to the scholarly foundation of the Department of African American Studies, is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. MLK Library serves as a repository that supports the African American Studies curriculum by providing research materials to majors and minors as well as those with an interest in Black Culture. Located adjacent to the Department of African American Studies, in 231 Sims Hall, the library forms a union of scholarship and research.

MLK Library beckons patrons to explore the heritage of African Americans with its afrocentric ambience of original artwork and memorabilia. The expanding collection is comprised of over 10,000 monographs, 250 non-prints, and a well-balanced assortment of journals and popular magazines. In addition, MLK also houses one of the few departmental computer clusters on campus. Recent acquisitions include the Herbert T. Williams, Community Folk Art Gallery founder and former AAS faculty member; collection of some 200 titles ranging from art to classics such as works by J.A. Rogers. A 1999 Vision Fund Grant administered by the Center for Teaching and Learning helped to establish the Harriet Tubman Research Collection. This developing collection chronicles the life of a remarkable woman and her interests.

As libraries in the twenty-first century are moving towards a variety of formats to chronicle mankind's achievements, the MLK Library has also accepted the challenge by acquiring media to present African Americans as seen through film. Documentaries such as *A Century of Black Cinema*, *The Buena Vista Social Club*, and *The Language You Cry In*, are examples of the cultural diversity that spans the Diaspora. Genre titles like the blaxploitation era hits *Cornbread*, *Earl and Me*, *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, *Cleopatra Jones*, and *Uptown Saturday Night*, identify the perceived sentiments of Blacks in the 1970's. Timeless classics as seen in *Imitation of Life*, *Lilies of the Field*, and *Carmen Jones*, are indicative of the artistry of African Americans. Often, in spite of the obstacles faced in the entertainment industry, the African American actor was able to create a legacy of brilliant performances.

From its early origins as a student reading room, MLK has fulfilled the vision of its founders. During the early 70's, a group of Black and Latino students under the auspices of what is now SAS (Student African American Society) were compelled by the limited availability of library materials on African Americans, to create one of their own. They envisioned a library that would support their interest in African American Studies while providing a conduit through which a sense of unity would also thrive. Materials such as magazines and books unique to the African American experience were donated and a professor's office on Walnut Avenue served as the setting. Their small treasure was defined as a library not for its descriptive properties but for what they hoped it would become. Today, through the commitment of faculty, students, and administrators, MLK is embarking on new projects that will solidify its place as a quality African American resource. By expanding our services to the students, faculty, and the community, the MLK Library is focused to provide a research-based gateway for the scholarly pursuits of African American Studies into the 21st century.

Follow the dream...to the MLK Library!

Visit us on the web at http://sumweb.syr.edu/afri_am/mlk

Autumn in Paris: Report from an International Colloquium

By: Kathleen E. Bethel, African American Studies

Librarian, Northwestern University Library

Scholars, artists, writers, librarians, and students met in Paris for the international conference "African Diasporas in the Old and the New Worlds: Consciousness and Imagination," October 26-28 2000. [<http://www.sigu7.jussieu.fr/2000/col-diaspo-octobre.html>] Convened by Geneviève and Michel Fabre, distinguished scholars of African American studies, this was another of their impressive symposia documenting global dimensions of the Black experience. Hosted by the Cercle d'Etudes Afro-Américaine, the lectures, panel presentations, readings, and performances were held at the Sorbonne, the Université Paris 7, and Institut Charles V. A cadre of talented cultural workers were attracted to the gathering, including Deborah Willis Kennedy (Smithsonian), Eleanor Traylor (Howard U.), filmmaker Louis Massiah, Richard Long (Emory U.), Barbara Chase Riboud [<http://www.chase-riboud.com/>](Paris), actor Delroy Lindo, artist Tom Feelings, photographer Adger Cowans, Lowery Stoke-Sims (Studio Museum of Harlem [<http://www.studiomuseuminHarlem.org/>]), and Robert Farris Thompson (Yale U.), who gave a fascinating presentation on the origins of the tango in the African quarters of Buenos Aires.

Of interest to AFASers are panels held on "Archives and Collections" and "Publishers." Howard Dodson (Schomburg Center) [<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>] moderated the program on "Building Research Collections for the Study of the African Diaspora." Panelist James E. Allen (Atlanta) spoke on collecting sensitive materials for the exhibit and book, "Without Sanctuary; Exhibit of Lynching Photos." [<http://www.journale.com/withoutsanctuary/>] Kimberly Camp, Director of the Barnes Foundation [<http://www.barnesfoundation.org/>] (PA), told fascinating accounts of her institution and its archives. Phyllis Bischof (African & African American Collections, [<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/Africana/>] UC Berkeley) spoke on "The Black Diaspora: A Bibliography of Autobiographies," focusing on Hans Massaquoi's book, "Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany." Walter Hill (National Archives' "Black History") [<http://www.nara.gov/alic/rayd/blackhis.html>] reminded us of the depth of government documents in his discussion, "Living

With the Hydra: The Documentation of Slavery and the International Slave Trade in Federal Records." Access to a myriad of new and traditional resources was discussed.

Claire Bruyère (U. of Paris VII) chaired the "Publishers" panel, where Christiane Besse (Editions Stock, Paris) spoke on the nuances of foreign language translations. Benjamin Bess (Besspress, Honolulu) [<http://www.besspress.com/>] addressed the concerns of small presses in his talk on "New Electronic Media and New Demands on Publishing and Distribution: Publishing in the 21st Century." Chris Mulvey [<http://www.wkac.ac.uk/american/mulvey.htm>] (King Alfred's Winchester, UK) discussed language issues and the Anglo-Saxon domination of cyberspace in his presentation on "French Browser/African American User: The Construction of a Gallomantic Cyberworld." Kathleen E. Bethel (Northwestern University) spoke about African centered electronic resources in "eBlack Library: Afri-cyber Collecting for the Diasporan World." The evenings were filled with performances, readings and film screenings. Sisters, an association of African American women in France, were hostesses at the conference reception held at the Sorbonne. Librarians and others enjoyed the literary atmosphere of the conference and the many Paris bookstores and stalls. Attendees had opportunities to sightsee, shop, dine and visit sites of importance in the history of Africans and African Americans in the City of Light.

