Greetings from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a pleasure working with many of you and seeing the work of the Section progress. Let me tell you a little about what has been going on with AFAS.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, under the leadership of Joyce Thornton, completed revisions to the Section bylaws and presented those revisions to the ACRL Board for approval at the Midwinter meeting. The ACRL Board approved those revisions, clearing the way for the changes to be presented to the Section’s membership on the April ballot. The bylaws were sorely out-of-date and even lacked the Section’s last name change. We look forward to having the amended bylaws approved by the membership and having the updated document available on the AFAS website.

The Program Committee, which is comprised of Heather Martin, Carmelita Pickett and myself, is working on bringing you an exciting program at the 2002 Annual Conference in Atlanta. The program, “When Old is New: The Art of Developing New African American Special Collections,” will allow our members to hear about some of the newer African American special collections that are being developed and to discuss issues pertaining to collection development, outreach and public programming. We hope you will join us in ‘Hotlanta’ to learn what your colleagues are doing and also to provide us with an update of your own related activities.

The Section is also working on developing programs for the 2003 ALA Annual Conference in Toronto, and for the ACRL 11th National Conference in Charlotte. Raquel Cogoll is coordinating the Toronto program and Mary Wrighten is coordinating the Charlotte program.

The AFAS African American Funnel Project, which has been coordinated by Dorothy Washington, continues its work of evaluating subject headings for African American materials and recommending changes to the Library of Congress. At the Midwinter meeting, the ACRL Board passed a resolution commending the Section on its work in this area. We are grateful to our Board liaison, Barbara Jenkins, for shepherding the resolution through the approval process. Congratulations to Dorothy Washington and other AFAS members on receiving well-deserved recognition for this important work that will surely benefit African American Studies librarians and scholars for many years to come!

There is still much for AFAS to accomplish, so I hope you will join us in contributing to the work of the...
Section. Volunteers for every AFAS committee are needed! Raquel Cogell is in the process of making committee appointments, so please let us know if you’re interested in working on an AFAS committee. Your help is vital to the growth of the Section! The Executive Committee welcomes ideas for future developments and encourages your input. We also like to see your ideas and opinions expressed on AFAS-L, the Section’s discussion list. Our collective efforts will allow us to build on the excellent work of our predecessors and take the Section in new and exciting directions. I look forward to seeing you at the AFAS membership meeting and program in Atlanta.

Asante,
Carol Rudisell
Chair, AFAS

Legislative News

On December 28, 2001, President Bush signed into legislation Public Law 107-106 to create a Presidential Commission to develop a plan of action for the establishment of a National Museum of African American Culture in Washington, D.C. The Commission will consist of 23 members to be appointed by the President, the Speaker of the House, and Senate Majority leader. Members of the commission are to be chosen from professional museum associations, including the Association of African American Museums and the African American Museum Cultural Complex, as well as academic institutions and groups committed to the research and study of African American life, art, history, and culture such as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

AFAS Committees

Get involved! Contact chairs of committees that interest you for more information.

Constitution and Bylaws
Joyce K. Thornton, Chair
jkthorn@tamu.edu

Membership
Grace Jackson Brown, Chair
jacksonb@indiana.edu

Nominating
Dorothy Ann Washington, Chair
Dwashin2@purdue.edu

Program
Carol Rudisell, Chair
rudisell@udel.edu

Publications
Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair gladys.be@hamptonu.edu

Raquel V. Cogell, Ex Officio/ Web Site Editor
rcogell@emory.edu

Lisa Pillow, Newsletter Editor
lpillow@uic.edu

Policy and Research
Patricia Morris, Chair
Pmorris@bird.library.arizona.edu

Cataloging Issues Discussion Group
Dorothy Ann Washington, Chair
dwashin2@purdue.edu

Welcome New Members!

AFAS Program Announcement
2002 Annual Conference of the American Library Association

When Old Is New: The Art of Creating New African American Special Collections

Sponsor: African American Studies Librarians Section, ACRL
Co-Sponsor: Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, ACRL

June 15, 2002
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Atlanta, Georgia

African American special collections had their roots in historically black colleges and in the research departments of large public libraries. The Civil Rights Movement and the 1960s renewed interest in African American Studies as a discipline and spurred the growth of African American collections in historical societies and other select institutions throughout the United States. After many years of status quo, the last few years have witnessed a resurgence of interest in African American special collections. New freestanding research libraries and centers have been created. Also, well-established libraries began to develop research collections in this area. This program will focus on these new collections and examine the ways in which they have acquired their materials, developed their donor bases, conducted outreach to their local communities, and collaborated with older, more established library collections.

The program will be a panel presentation including three speakers and a moderator:

Speakers

Randall K. Burkett
Curator of African-American Collections
Special Collections Department
Robert W. Woodruff Library
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Lucelia Flood-Partridge
Head, Research Division and Acting Administrator
Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System
Atlanta, Georgia

Pearl Woolridge
Head of Special Collections
Broward County Board of Commissions Libraries
African American Research Library and Cultural Center
Von D. Mizelle Library
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Moderator

Karen L. Jefferson
Head, Archives and Special Collections
Robert W. Woodruff Library
Atlanta University Center
Atlanta, Georgia
ALA Annual: A Taste of Atlanta
By Raquel V. Cogell, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, AFAS

Atlanta offers a myriad of restaurants, museums, art galleries, and other cultural attractions. A selected list of restaurants and museums are listed below. If you are interested in tourist sites in the historic Sweet Auburn District or other parts of the metropolitan Atlanta, see:

Sweet Auburn http://www.sweetauburn.com/
Soul of America http://www.soulamerica.com/cityfldrl/atlanta.html
Souljourn http://www.souljourn.citysearch.com/20.html

Restaurants
Downtown
Beautiful Restaurant
397 Auburn Avenue
404-752-5931
Hours: Sunday-Wednesday, 7am-11pm; Thursday-Saturday, 24 hours
Major credit cards accepted.

Island Breeze Café (Caribbean cuisine)
182 Courtland Street
404-577-3696
Hours: 1:30-4pm, 5-10pm
Major credit cards accepted.

Sweet Auburn Curb Market
209 Edgewood Avenue
404-659-1665
http://www.atlanticurbmarket.com/
African and Caribbean food vendors are available at the Market.

Sylvia’s of Atlanta
241 Central Avenue
404-529-9692
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11am-10pm; Friday-Saturday, 11am-11pm; Sunday, 12pm-8pm. Sunday, gospel and jazz buffet. Major cards accepted.

Thelma’s Kitchen
764 Marietta St.
404-688-5855
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm; Saturday, 7am-5pm.
Cash only.

201 Courtland
201 Courtland Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-577-5156
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm, 5pm-10pm; Saturday, 11am-3pm, 4-8 pm.
Major credit cards accepted.

Midtown
Gladys Knight and Ron Winans Chicken and Waffles
529 Peachtree Street
404-874-8393
Hours: Sunday, 11am-8pm; Monday-Thursday, 11am-11pm; Friday and Saturday, 11pm-4am.
Major credit cards accepted.

Shark Bar
571 Peachtree Street
404-815-8333
Hours: Monday-Friday, 11:30-3pm, 5pm-10pm. Open later on weekends. Major credit cards accepted.

Wildwood at Colony Square
1197 Peachtree Street
404-888-1898
Hours: Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5:30pm-11pm; Saturday, 5:30 pm-11pm; closed Sunday.
Major credit cards accepted.

Backhead
Imperial Fez Restaurant (Moroccan cuisine)
2285 Peachtree Road
404-351-0870
Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 6pm-11pm; Friday-Saturday, 6pm-11:30pm.
Major credit cards accepted.

Justin’s Restaurant & Grill
2200 Peachtree Road
404-603-3353
Hours: 11am-11pm; Friday and Saturday 11am-1am.
Major credit cards accepted.

Virginia-Highlands
Cashah Moroccan Restaurant
465 North Highland Avenue
404-544-5777
Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 5:30-11pm; open later on weekends.
Major credit cards accepted.

Purdue Vida (Puerto Rican tapas)
636 North Highland Avenue
404-875-1641
Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 5:30pm-11pm; Friday-Saturday, 5:30 pm-midnight; Sunday, 5-10pm.
Major credit cards accepted.

Soul Vegetarian II
621 North Highland Avenue
404-875-6641
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-10pm.
Major credit cards accepted.
Museums and Galleries
Downtown/Sweet Auburn

APEX Museum
135 Auburn Avenue
404-521-APEX
http://www.apexmuseum.org/
Admission: Adults, $3.00; students, $2.00; and children, free.
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, 1-5pm.

Atlanta University Center/The West End
Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries
Trevor Annell Hall
404-880-6102/6644
http://www.cau.edu/
Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11am-4pm.

Hammonds House: African American Art Gallery
503 Peeples Street
404-752-8730
http://www.hammondshouse.org
Summer Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday-Sunday, 1pm-5pm.

Spelman College Museum of Fine Art
404-215-2583
http://museum.spelman.edu/
Summer Hours: Tuesday-Wednesday, 12pm-4pm; Thursday-Friday, 10am-4pm.

Midtown/Buckhead
High Museum of Art
1280 Peachtree Street
404-733-4400
http://www.high.org/
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm; Sunday, 12pm-5pm.
On exhibit in June: “Over the Line: The Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence.”

Kubatana Moderne
1831 Peachtree Road
404-355-5764
http://www.kubatana.com/
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm.

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ACRL Board Resolution Recognizes AFAS and the African American Funnel Project

The ACRL Board of Directors approved the following resolution to acknowledge the contribution of the Section to the African American Funnel Project. Our liaison to the Board, Barbara Jenkins, was instrumental in drafting this resolution and presenting it to the Board. AFAS would also like to thank Dorothy Washington and acknowledge her considerable efforts in providing leadership for this important project.

“Whereas the African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS) partnered with the Library of Congress and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging to establish the African American Funnel Project.

Whereas AFAS initiated a Cataloging Issues Discussion Group and conducted a survey to look at ways of improving access to African Americana in library catalogs.

Whereas the African American Funnel Project provided the opportunity for librarians to propose new subject headings and changes to existing headings relating to the African American experience.

Whereas the African American Funnel Project resulted in major improvements in providing access to African Americana in library catalogs.

Be It Resolved that the ACRL Board of Directors acknowledges and applauds the initiative and leadership that the African American Studies Librarians Section provided to the African American Funnel Project of the Library of Congress and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. The Board also lauds the extensive changes accomplished by the Project that will provide improved access to African American materials.”
Present: Carol Rudisell, Dorothy Washington, Bennie Robinson, Heather Martin, Joyce Thornton, Lisa Pillow, Raquel Cogell, Carmelita Pickett

Visitors: Barbara Jenkins, ACRL Board Liaison, Larry Hardesty, ACRL National Conference, Charlotte

Carol Rudisell called the meeting to order at 9:30 pm. The agenda was presented and accepted. The minutes of the June 16, 2001 were read and approved. Carol motioned that recent minutes from AFAS meetings be posted to the website. Dorothy Washington seconded the motioned.

Revision of Bylaws:
Joyce Thornton distributed 2002 draft of the revisions to the AFAS Bylaws. They will be submitted to the ACRL Bylaws Committee on Monday, January 21, 2002. Discussion on the Bylaws followed:

Article IV: Meetings Section 2 was added. “Committee meetings: Committee meetings shall be held during the Annual and Midwinter Meetings of ALA. All Section meetings except those dealing with nominations and awards are open to registered attendees of the Annual and Midwinter Meetings.

Article V: Duties of Officers were deleted to streamline bylaws and to make allowances for any future changes in duties.

Article VI: Nominations and Elections Joyce Thornton and Carol Rudisell moved to remove the requirement for two nominees for each position. Dorothy Washington suggested that requirement should remain. After some discussion, it was agreed to not include it in the bylaws.

Article X: Procedures Section 2 was added.

Article XII: Representatives and Other Sections “ACRL Constitution” was changed to “Constitution” referring to ALA because ACRL does not have a constitution.

The bylaws were approved for presentation to the ACRL Bylaws Committee.

Program Planning
Carol Rudisell distributed copies of the Interim Report of the AFAS 2002 Program Planning Committee. Two panel participants have confirmed, one has been invited, but not confirmed, and the moderator has confirmed.

ACRL Conference 2003, Charlotte - Larry Hardesty
The conference will put more emphasis on panels, roundtables, discussions, and workshops to engage attendees. Hardesty encouraged AFAS membership to submit proposals. Carol Rudisell asked if proposals coming through the sections have a higher chance for selection. Hardesty affirmed.

ACRL Board – Barbara Jenkins
Suggested that digital scholarly publishing and African American Studies as a proposal for the ACRL Conference in Charlotte. Announced the ACRL Presidential Candidates Forum. A resolution to ACRL Board crafted to recognize AFAS participation in the Funnel Project was read. Discussed ACRL Task Force for recruitment to the profession. Asked for suggestions on how the Board can assist with recruitment for the AFAS section. Carol Rudisell said this issue would be raised at the membership meeting. Acknowledged increase in AFAS membership.

Carol Rudisell moved to add remaining agenda to the membership meeting agenda. All Carol asked for approval to submit a request to BCALA for endorsement. Both motions were granted. Dorothy Washington formally thanked Barbara Jenkins for the ACRL Board Resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 pm.
Present: Carol Rudisell Lisa Pillow, Carmelita Pickett, Ronald Glass, Dorothy Washington, Helen Threatt, Heather Martín, Mary Wrighten, Michael Walker, Kathleen Bethel, Bennie Robinson, Joyce Thornton, Lee LaFleur

The chair, Carol Rudisell convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. The agenda was presented and accepted with two additions:
1) Approval of minutes, and 2) AFAS archives. The minutes of the June 16, 2001 meeting were read and adopted with one correction, “I. Zulu” should be “Ilibari Zulu.”

Committee Reports:
Executive: Carol Rudisell read an earlier draft of the ACRL Board resolution recognizing AFAS and the Funnel Project. She also called for volunteers to work on a proposal for submission to the 2003 ACRL Conference in Charlotte.

Bylaws: Joyce Thornton presented revised bylaws. She will present the bylaws to the ACRL Bylaws Committee on Sunday, January 20, 2002.

Nominating: Dorothy Washington read the AFAS ballot for spring elections.

Programming Plan: Carol Rudisell has submitted the program for ALA Annual 2002. The program, “When Old Is New: The Art of Creating New African American Special Collections,” has been accepted, and is scheduled for June 15, 2002, 1:30-3:30 pm. The format of the program is a panel, and is being co-sponsored by the Rare Books section of ACRL. Carmelita Pickett is working on a web page to advertise the session along with links to special collections. Mary Wrighten suggested advertising with the African American Studies Association, The National Council of Black Studies, and the National Association of Ethnic Studies in addition to targeting appropriate sections within ALA.

Membership: As of August 2001, AFAS membership is 277, which is a 9.92% increase from August 2000. Grace Jackson-Brown will update the AFAS brochure by end of 2002. Carol Rudisell proposed that the Membership Committee consider drafting a letter to new members welcoming them and inviting them to volunteer for committees. The letter would also include contact information for those wishing to serve on a committee.

Publications: Carol Rudisell announced that Kim Gallon has left the library profession and has resigned from the section to pursue a PhD in History. This leaves a vacancy in the newsletter editor position for the section. Lisa Pillow volunteered to fulfill the duties for the rest of the year.

Policy and Research: No official report was given for this committee. The committee has been inactive for several years. Raquel Cogell and Carol Rudisell are discussing what charge the committee will have in the future.


AFAS Archives: Mary Wrighten followed up on the storage of the AFAS archives. Records of the section are considered official records of ALA. Procedurally, the section records are sent to ACRL who then sends them to the ALA archives. Due to restructuring of ACRL administration, the records are presently being stored by Michael Walker.

Volunteers for Committee Membership: Carol Rudisell reported that Raquel Cogell is compiling rosters for standing committees. Carol called for volunteers for a Program Planning committee for the 2003 ACRL National Conference. Mary Wrighten volunteered. Carol also called for volunteers to chair the By-Laws and the Research and Policy committees.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.
Book Reviews

America Becoming: Racial Treads and Their Consequences, Volumes 1 & 2
By Neil J. Smelser, William Julius Wilson, and Faith Mitchell, Editors; National Research Council

America Becoming is a necessary addition to African American Studies collections. The papers collected in these two volumes document meeting between former President Clinton's Initiative on Race and the National Research Council. This publication covers historical and present trends among ethnic minorities. Both volumes cover the most current research and analysis on racial issues and social economics. The topics covered include social and demographic trends, segregation in housing, shifts in ethnic populations, immigration, disparities in health care, job opportunities, affirmative action, as well as racial attitudes and relations. This book provides commentary regarding the status of African Americans from all social aspects and compares them to that of Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans and the white majority. It provides a wealth of information and statistics. The writing is intelligent and suitable for general and academic audiences.

Tiffeni Fontno, Resident Librarian
University of Illinois at Chicago

Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class by Lawrence Otis Graham

Lawrence Graham's book provides an honest look at the Black aristocracy. It chronicles the lifestyle of the Black upper class from organizations, colleges and universities, fraternities and sororities, vacation spots, to the Black elite families of 'Chocolate Cities' like Washington D.C., Chicago, Atlanta, and Detroit. Although certain sections drag on a little more than necessary, this book is informative and candid in its descriptions of high society. One of the most enjoyable sections of the book is "The Rules for Passing". It is a must have for African American Studies collections, and rounds out the discussion on this topic as addressed by an earlier work, Black Bourgeoisie by E. Franklin Frazier.

Tiffeni Fontno, Resident Librarian
University of Illinois at Chicago

Forthcoming Books


