

AFAS: AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES LIBRARIAN'S SECTION NEWSLETTER

Association of College and Research Libraries and American Library Association

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

It was great to see many of you in Philadelphia and I look forward to seeing more of you in Toronto. I'm excited about the program we have planned for Toronto, "African American Studies Librarianship in the Digital Age: Approaches and Best Practices." Eric Acree, Cornell University; Kathleen Bethel, Northwestern University; and Dorothy Washington, Purdue University will discuss the impact technology has had on African American studies librarianship from developing collections, providing research assistance and delivering instruction to establishing and building relationships with faculty and vendors. I invite you all to attend the program on Saturday, June 21, 2003, 1:30 p.m - 3:30 p.m.

By the time you read this I will be nearing the end of my term as chair of AFAS. As my term ends, I encourage each of you to become more actively involved in the section. The section needs you. We need your energy, ideas, and commitment. We have a strong legacy and must continue to build upon it.

Sincerely,
Raquel Von Cogell
Chair, AFAS

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The *AFAS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editor, preferably in electronic format.

The *AFAS Newsletter* is sent to all AFAS members at no additional cost. Claims and address changes should be sent to the above address, Attention: Membership. © American Library Association, 2003.

AFAS Officers 2002/2003

Raquel Cogell, Chair

Lisa Pillow, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Carol Rudisell, Past Chair

Joyce K. Thornton, Secretary

Grace Jackson-Brown, Member-at-Large

Bennie Robinson, Member-at-Large



ALA/CLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 21-24, 2003

AFAS Program Announcement
2003 Annual Conference of the American Library Association

**African American Librarianship in the Digital Age:
Approaches and Best Practices**

Saturday, June 21, 2003
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m

Sponsor: African American Studies Librarians Section, ACRL

A panel of librarians will discuss the impact technology has had on African American studies librarianship from developing collections, providing research assistance and delivering instruction to establishing and building relationships with faculty and vendors.

Speakers:

Eric Kofi Acree, *John Henrick Clarke Africana Library, Cornell University*

Kathleen E. Bethel, *Northwestern University*

Dorothy A. Washington, *Black Cultural Center, Purdue University*

Location will be posted on AFAS-L or check your conference program.

A Connecticut Partnership for the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Initiative

By Penny Welbourne

On Thursday, August 29, 2002, Alice Prochaska, University Librarian at Yale University; James Welbourne, City Librarian; New Haven Free Public Library; and Brinley Franklin, Director of the University of Connecticut Libraries jointly sponsored a private reception in support of the American Library Association's Spectrum Scholarship Initiative. The event was held at The Lewis Walpole Library, a department of Yale University Library. Located approximately thirty miles from New Haven, the Walpole Library has significant holdings of eighteenth-century English books, manuscripts, prints, drawings, watercolors, and paintings, and is a prime source for the study of Horace Walpole. The reception took place in the 1784 Root House, which is located next to the Library and used to accommodate visiting scholars. The building, recently restored to its original late 18th- century appearance, provided a beautiful setting for the event. Margaret Powell, the Librarian at

The Lewis Walpole, led an informative historical tour of the 1st and 2nd floors.

The primary purpose of the Spectrum Initiative is to recruit applicants and award scholarships to African American, Latino/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American/Alaskan Native students for graduate programs in library and information studies, to "address the specific issues of under representation of critically needed ethnic librarians within the profession" (www.ala.org/spectrum, *The Spectrum Initiative*). To date, the Initiative has provided support for more than 200 individuals at \$5,000.00 each. The program today is primarily funded through the efforts of an ALA Presidential Fundraising Task Force with the support of divisions, affiliates, organizations, members, and individuals. The scholarship recipient may be a full-time or part-time student, and receives, in addition to the tuition support, free ALA student membership and admission to an ALA Annual conference during the scholarship year; participation in a national library diversity initiative; free attendance to the Spectrum Leadership

Institute; access to colleagues via an electronic discussion list; as well as other benefits. *Cont'd on page 4*

Cont'd from page 3

Two 1999 Spectrum Scholars—Astoria Howard Ridley, and Soraya Magalhaes-Willson, were guests of honor who spoke about their experiences. Ms. Ridley, who received her Master's degree in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University, is currently the Government Documents Librarian at the New Haven Free Public Library, where she had been working in the Circulation Department when she began attending SCSU for her MLS degree. Ms. Magalhaes-Willson, a graduate of the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies, currently has a dual position at Yale, where she is a Reference Librarian for the Social Science Libraries and Information Services and a selector in the subject areas of education, psychology and sports; and is also the Catalog Librarian for the Social Sciences Library and Information Services and the Government Documents Information Center. Each spoke eloquently about what the Spectrum Scholarship had meant to them, not only in terms of the

financial support, but also the program's national recruitment system and networking Institute. Following their accounts of the impact that the Spectrum Scholarship had on their professional careers, the directors of each of the three sponsoring libraries spoke briefly, stressing the importance of supporting this program that encourages and assists minorities in pursuing careers in library science. At the conclusion of the evening, more than sixty individuals had donated \$4,590.00 to the scholarship fund, many writing checks even as the speakers were making their presentations. Those who attended the event unanimously agreed that they had learned much about the Spectrum initiative as a result of the fundraiser, and especially appreciated knowing more about the purpose and goals of the national program.

The sponsors hope to host the event again this year, and are considering doing so on an annual basis.

For more information on the ALA
Spectrum Initiative visit:

<http://www.ala.org/spectrum/index.html>

WELCOME TO AFAS !

Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming our new members to AFAS.

2002

June

James Damron
Ira Revels

September

Yvonne Stanford
Courtney Young

November

Angel Falco-Oyola
Sikura Sulaimon

July

Jocelyn Poole
Timothy Johnson
Vanessa Middleton
Linda White

October

Laura Baker
Harold Goss
Leslie Hayden
Shaundra Walker
Matthew Young

2003

January

Em Claire Knowles
Charlene Kim
Jerome Cummings
Sibyl Moses
Penny Welbourne

August

Todd Elliot
Carmelita Pickett

COMING SOON!!

Look for re-designed AFAS web site with new and improved content. The 2003-2004 AFAS Publications Committee will soon begin revamping the AFAS web site. If you have suggestions or comments on how to improve our web site, please email Tiffeni Fontno at tfontno@uic.edu.

Visit the AFAS web site at:
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/afas/index.html>

Looking Ahead: AFAS 2003-2004

As incoming chair, I am looking forward to working with all of you to advance the themes and build on work accomplished by recent AFAS chairs. At the ALA Midwinter meeting, AFAS Chair Raquel Cogell posed the following questions at both the Executive Committee and Membership meetings: What are the most pressing issues facing our section? How can we make our section stronger? What followed in both meetings was a lively discussion about what we as a section can do and are doing to contribute to African American Studies librarianship in terms of collaboration, publishing, and AFAS sponsored projects.

As a result, I have set four priorities for AFAS 2003-2004:

- Redesign the AFAS web site and improve content
- Revise the AFAS brochure
- Establish core lists for African American Studies books and journals
- Improve communications for smooth transitions as Chairs enter/leave office

The appropriate AFAS committees will soon receive charges to accomplish these goals.

AFAS needs you as its members to ensure that we are contributing to the

profession and the field of African American Studies. We need everyone to be active whether it is serving on a committee, contributing to the core lists project, or expressing concerns and opinions on AFAS-L.

I believe AFAS will meet the priorities I've set, and I look forward to keeping you updated as things progress.

Lisa Pillow
Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Lpillow@uic.edu

THANK YOU!

On behalf of AFAS, thanks to the following outgoing AFAS committee chairs and members for their hard work and service:

Membership Committee:
Grace Jackson-Brown, Chair

Nominating Committee:
Carol Rudisell, Chair,
Rochelle Redmond Ballard, Member

Policy and Research Committee:
Brenda E. Twiggs, Member

Publications Committee:
Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair

Program Committee:
Carmelita Pickett, Chair
Raquel Cogell, member



AFAS Member Sibyl E. Moses has just published:

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS IN NEW JERSEY 1836-2000:
A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide

ISBN 08135-3183-7

Published by Rutgers University Press, 2003

African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000 is the first and only reference work to identify and document the lives, intellectual contributions, and publications of over one hundred African American women writers in the Garden State from 1836 through 2000. Many, like Jessie Redmon Fauset, Alice Perry Johnson, Sharon Bell Mathis, Ntozake Shange, Claudia Tate, and Ruby Ora Williams, were born in the state. Others, like Gertrude Pitts, Dorothy Porter Wesley, and Helen Jackson Lee, although not born here, were residents of New Jersey for more than fifteen years, and made significant contributions during that time

This volume contains biographical and bibliographical information for each author. Also included are photographs of many writers as well as citations for published pamphlets, books, reports, and articles written by these women. To give the flavor of some writers' work, Sibyl E. Moses has provided characteristic excerpts from poetry and prose. The two appendixes demarcate the distribution of African American women writers in New Jersey both by city and town, and by genre.

By identifying the considerable output of these writers, Moses's research expands our knowledge of the literary and printing history of New Jersey, the social and cultural history of New Jersey, and women's history.

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D., a native of Newark, New Jersey, is the Reference Specialist in African American History and Culture at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Formerly an associate professor in the School of Library and Information Science, The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., she has directed the African American Women Writers in New Jersey Project since 1985.

Authors listed in African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-200 include: Amina Bakara, Chrisena, Coleman, Norma Jean Darden, Monique Gilmore-Scott, Shirley Hailstock, Christine Moore Howell, Kristin Hunter-Lattany, Jarena Lee, Carrie Allen McCray, Valerie Wilson Wesley, Marion M. Thompson Wright.

For ordering information see:

http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/African_American_Women_Writers_in_New_Jersey_1836_953.html

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