

AFAS



AFAS: African American Studies Librarians Section
Association of College and Research Libraries - ALA

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

As AFAS Chair for 2005-2006, I have enjoyed working with other AFAS officers and committee chairs and members on advancing the mission of the Section. During this year, we have pursued several issues and projects. For example, the Ad hoc Awards Committee is working on guidelines for an AFAS award for a reference title in African American Studies. During the AFAS Membership meeting at ALA Midwinter in San Antonio, attendees discussed ways to establish relationships between AFAS and scholarly associations for African American Studies (e.g., National Council for Black Studies, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and National Association of Ethnic Studies). The reasons for collaboration and possible projects were explored.

I encourage AFAS members to become involved and contribute ideas to these and future Section projects. Members interested in AFAS committee service should contact current Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Akilah Nosakhere (akilah7@myway.com), who will become AFAS Chair at the end of ALA Annual Conference in June.

Finally, I look forward to seeing AFAS members at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The AFAS Membership Committee, chaired by Carmelita Pickett, has plans for a new member reception following the AFAS General Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 24. Stay tuned to the AFAS discussion list and Web site for details. Also, save the date for the AFAS program "HBCUs and Libraries: Preserving and Strengthening Bonds" on Sunday, June 25, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The AFAS conference program committee, chaired by Thomas Weissinger, has organized a program in which panelists examine the history, administrative issues, and new initiatives of libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. See the description in this issue of the AFAS Newsletter for program details.

Heather Martin
Chair, AFAS 2005-2006
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LOOKING AHEAD: AFAS 2005-2006

Greetings AFAS Colleagues,

My term as AFAS Chair begins after the New Orleans ALA conference and I am excited about the opportunity to serve AFAS in this capacity. It is my goal to encourage AFAS members to become more visible in the field of Africana studies by reviewing books, presenting papers, writing articles and grant proposals for the development of new resources for the field of Africana Studies.

As Africana studies librarians we are charged with promoting Africana studies as a viable and scholarly field of study. We promote the development of new materials naturally through reference and research assistance given to students, professors, independent scholars and publishers. However, there is always more to do as noted by Morgan

Freeman's statement questioning the value of Black History Month. As managers of Africana materials it is our responsibility to address such statements and reiterate the importance of the African legacy in this country and the world. Anytime the validity of the study of African people is questioned we are called into action to reiterate the fact that African people are an integral part of this much-talked about global diversity and we are obligated to tell our story!

As incoming chair of AFAS, I will continue to promote *active* participation in AFAS committees and Africana studies organizations. Also, I encourage AFAS members to share their activities in the AFAS newsletter, on the list, and website to inspire other colleagues to action.

At the Mid-Winter meeting in San Antonio,

members of the 2007 Conference Committee enthusiastically made plans for a workshop that present new skills and opportunities for using federal documents for the creation of innovative materials to promote study of the African American experience.

Again, I encourage your active participation in AFAS committees, programming and electronic discussions. This year, let us pledge to actively promote Africana studies as only we can.

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AFAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE 2006 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Candidates for Vice Chair/Chair Elect- 2006-2009, Secretary- 2006-2007, and Member-at-Large- 2006-2008, are available at <https://www.alavote.org/2006/>. Online voting is open through April 24, 2006, 11:59 pm Central Standard Time.

It has been said often that an organization (or its leaders) is only as good as its members. To me this means that for the organization to thrive, the membership has to work efficiently, be willing to serve in leadership positions, and support its leaders. We are off to a good start for 2006. We have a slate of qualified individuals running for office. Now it is our turn as a membership to elect a Board of qualified leaders. Do your part and vote!

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I want to thank the candidates for volunteering to run for office. I also want to thank the Nominating Committee members Lisa Pillow, Audrey Taylor, and Mary Wrihten for their work in developing the slate.

If you want to advance and sustain the work of AFAS, I encourage you to volunteer to serve your organization, run for office.

Best of luck to the 2006 AFAS Candidates!

Myrtis Cochran

Chair, 2005 AFAS Nominating Committee

About AFAS

Established as a section within the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association, AFAS is the outgrowth of a discussion group consisting of dynamic librarians with interest in and concern for African American studies and librarianship. Its circle of founding leaders include Clarence Chisholm, Stanton Biddle, Doris H. Clack, William Welburn, and others.

Mission Statement

The mission of the African American Studies Librarians Section is to study librarianship and collection development as it progresses and relates to African American Studies collections; to conduct ongoing evaluation and discussion of research in African American Studies; to focus on resource sharing, archival materials, bibliographic control, retrospective collecting/purchasing, mechanized information, retrieval selection policies and procedures, oral history, and others as they relate to collection development and librarianship of African American Studies.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

AFAS Program for ALA Annual 2006

New Orleans, Louisiana

Sunday, June 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the ACRL African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS), with cosponsors Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS), and ACRL University Libraries Section (ULS).

Please join us as we explore the history, current roles and challenges, and future projects of libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, including how they serve their constituencies through the development of library collections, services, and staff.

Program speakers are Janice Franklin, University Librarian, Alabama State University; Emma Bradford Perry,

Professor & Dean of Libraries, Southern University; Ira Revels, Division of Instruction, Research and Information Services, Cornell University; and Brenda Billips Square, Director of Archives and Library, Amistad Research Center, Tulane University. Thomas Weissinger, Afro-American Studies Bibliographer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will moderate the session.

Brenda Billips Square will unveil the Amistad Research Center's HBCU collection discussing the content of the collection and the importance of preserving these documents for African American Studies. Emma Bradford Perry will examine current concerns and staffing issues of HBCU

libraries, including opportunities and plans for developing library leaders on these campuses. Janice Franklin will discuss the formation and current projects of the HBCU Library Alliance, a consortium working to enhance the resources and services provided by HBCU libraries. Ira Revels will describe the HBCU Library Alliance/ Cornell University collaborative project to develop digital collections of the culturally-significant materials at HBCU libraries across the nation.

Save Sunday, June 25, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. for this informative program examining the historical significance, present concerns, and plans for development of libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

AFAS 2006 Conference Program Committee: Thomas Weissinger (Chair), Myrtis Cochran, Rebecca Hankins, Carol Ritzen Kem, Gennice W. King, Heather Martin, Teri B. Weil

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AFAS Membership Reception

Saturday, June 24, 11:30 am - 12:30 am

Please join the Membership Committee as we host our first Membership Reception on Saturday, June 24, 11:30 am - 12:30 am, immediately following the AFAS Membership Meeting. This will be a great opportunity to network with colleagues from around the country and learn more about the current AFAS committees. Officers will be present to discuss current projects that maybe of interest as you consider how to contribute to the ongoing mission for the African American Studies Section. Light refreshments will be served. Please visit our website <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/africanam/afashomepage.htm>

Carmelita Pickett, Membership Chair

ALA PANEL

From the Bronx to the Burbs: Defining, Collecting, and Preservation of Hip Hop Culture, Literature, & Resources
Saturday, June 24, 4:00-5:00 pm

Please join AFAS members Tiffeni Fontno and Raquel Rodriguez for this exciting panel that touches on various aspects of the growth of hip hop and its inclusion - and exclusion - in public and academic libraries. The panel will include acclaimed writer Bakari Kitwana author of *The Hip Hop Generation : Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture*; *Why White Kids Love Hip Hop : Wankstas, Wiggers, Wannabes, and the New Reality of Race in America*; and *The Rap on Gangsta Rap : Who Run It? Gangsta Rap and Visions of Black Violence*.

Given the recent announcement by the Smithsonian Institution to build an unprecedented collection of hip hop objects, this is a noteworthy time to look at the current climate of what hip hop means to us as librarians and educators.

The panel discussion will cover the significance and history of hip hop culture, the development of hip hop related scholarship, and the importance of collecting such materials in libraries and archives. In addition, we will discuss collection development practices and possible relevant programming for libraries.

We hope that this will be useful for bibliographers, administrators, and any librarian who is curious to learn about hip hop. Please save the date and time!

Raquel Rodriguez, Publications Chair



HOLMES EARNS ROADBUILDER AWARD

Reference Librarian Gerald Holmes received the REMCO (Roundtable for Ethnic and Minority Concerns) Roadbuilders Award at the recent North Carolina Library Association meeting in Winston-Salem.

The Roadbuilders Award recognizes ethnic minority librarians in library education, academic, public, school, and special libraries who have served

as pioneers in librarianship and also as positive role models. This award recognizes ethnic minority librarians who exemplify courage, integrity, and perseverance, and contributed to the field of librarianship for their specific category. Gerald, who served as Chairperson of the Roundtable for Ethnic Minority Concerns from 2003-2005, was honored for his ongoing service to the profession of academic librarianship.

SIBYL E. MOSES SPEAKS ON NJ AFRICAN AMERICAN WRITERS

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D., Reference Specialist in African American History and Culture at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. was the featured speaker on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, at the Lunch Time Lecture Series sponsored by The New Jersey Historical Society. The program was part of the month long celebration of African American heritage at the headquarters of the statewide museum, library and archives at 52 Park Place, Newark.

Dr. Moses, author of *African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide*, will discuss the unusual methods she used to find authors included in the book. Several authors featured in her book were in attendance. Formerly an associate professor in the School of Library and Information Science, The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Dr. Moses has directed the African

American Women Writers in New Jersey Project since 1985.

Her book, published by Rutgers University Press, is recognized as 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. The volume contains biographical and bibliographical information for each author and also includes photographs of many writers as well as citations for published pamphlets, books, reports, and articles written by these women.

provide opportunities for individual self-improvement and promotes and helps maintain the cultures of the Confederated Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation.

Hampton University, founded in 1868, is a historically black, comprehensive institution of higher education, dedicated to the promotion of learning, building of character and preparation of promising students for positions of leadership and service.

The Institute of American Indian Arts is a national Native American fine arts college in Santa Fe, N.M. It is dedicated solely to the study and practice of American Indian and Alaska Native Arts and cultures, and has graduated more than 3,800 students representing 90 percent of the 562 federally recognized tribes in the nation.

"ACRL is delighted to provide these

scholarships to the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute," said Camila Alire, ACRL president. "The scholarships support the leadership and continuous learning goals in ACRL's strategic plan, as well as reflect ACRL's commitment to diversity and inclusion in the profession. We are thrilled that Harvard offered an additional scholarship so that three individuals could take advantage of this wonderful program."

The ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute is an intensive program held on the campus of Harvard University. During the Institute, participants work with program faculty and with other participants, testing new ideas and developing new strategies for taking institutions into the future. The ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute is designed for directors of libraries and those who report directly to them.

GLADYS SMILEY BELL RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

Carlene Engstrom, library director, D'Arcy McNickle Library, Salish Kootenai College; Gladys Smiley Bell, director, William R. and Norma B. Harvey Library, Hampton University; and Marilyn Russell, Institute of American Indian Arts, have been selected as recipients of the 2006 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)/Harvard Leadership Institute scholarships.

The scholarships provide support for the participation of academic and research librarians from historically black colleges and universities or those employed at tribal colleges and universities. The scholarships cover the cost of tuition to the Institute,

which will be held in Cambridge, Mass., August 6-11, 2006. ACRL awarded two of the scholarships. The third was provided by the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education (HIHE) courtesy of the Plan for Social Excellence, a Tampa-based foundation that has provided generous support to HIHE's Tribal College Leadership Development Project for administrators from tribal institutions.

Salish Kootenai College, located in Pablo, Mont., provides postsecondary educational opportunities for Native Americans, locally and from throughout the United States. The college strives to

RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIES PROJECT

Last March, a call was posted on the AFAS list for librarians to assist in the development of the African-American Studies section of the forthcoming edition of the Resources for College Libraries. The response was very good and together we have selected over 600 Africana titles for inclusion in the 4th edition of Resources for College Libraries. AFAS chair-elect Akilah Nosakhere of the Auburn Avenue Research Library in Atlanta served as subject editor for the RCL project. Other AFAS members who participated in the RCL project are:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ACRL 13th National Conference, "Sailing into the Future - Charting Our Destiny"

<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/baltimore/baltimore.htm>

March 29 - April 1, 2007, Baltimore, Maryland

ACRL's 13th National Conference offers an energizing exchange of ideas on research, practices, developments, and visions in the field of academic and research librarianship. The Call for Participation: [<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/baltimore/program07/program07.htm>] is currently available. Submit your proposal today!

Virtual Conference, "Innovate and Motivate: Next Generation Libraries"

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/virtualconference.htm>

April 20-21, 2006

Sponsored by ACRL, the Coalition for Networked Information, and EDUCAUSE

The Virtual Conference offers a forum for an energizing exchange of ideas focusing on technology and academic librarianship. Registration opens in February 2006.

ACRL @ ALA Annual Conference

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/ACRLatAnnual.htm>

June 23, 2006, New Orleans, Louisiana

ACRL is offering three professional development pre-conferences at the ALA Annual Meeting. Topics include, federated searching, library liaison programs and methods of assessment.

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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.

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2005/2006

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