

# AFAS



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

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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear AFAS Members:

We are looking forward to another productive year for the section. Progress calls for significant changes and we are making some changes to strengthen our goals for the section. The section's newsletter is moving from print to an electronic format. All section communications will be through ALA Connect and the ACRL-AFAS Listserv. A special thanks to Heather Martin who continues to moderate our listserv. I encourage all members to subscribe to our discussion list and ALA Connect.

ACRL has instituted a new initiative for submitting Program proposals. The new Professional Development Coordination Committee (PDCC) is an oversight committee that has the responsibility to approve or deny future conference proposal submissions. The aim of this committee is to insure that all ACRL section programs are aligned with ACRL's Strategic Plan.

I would like to thank the 2009 AFAS Program Planning Committee and its co-chairs Thomas Weissinger and Sylvia Nyana for an outstanding program, "Black Studies and Information Technology" presented by the keynote speaker Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The panel of database vendors: ProQuest Black Studies Center, Oxford African American Studies Center, and the Alexander Street Press discussed and demonstrated their resources. As we continue to witness changes in our profession with new technologies and resources and its impact on our work, programs such as this are important to keep us informed of new trends and product development.

The 2010 Programming Committee co-chaired by LeRoy LaFleur and Johnique Love is working on a program entitled "Digitization: Preserving and Open Access to African American Collections." The aim of this program is to focus on digitization and preservation of African American research collections and address a number of the various aspects involved in this process.

During the Midwinter conference in January 2009, it was recommended that The Cataloging Issues and Discussion Group broaden its focus to include issues that affect cataloging, preservation, collection development, scholarly communications, special/rare collections and digitization, which was spearheaded by Elaine Westbrook the new convener for the discussion group. The proposal she drafted enhances the role of cataloging by broadening it to include the technological changes in the profession and its impact on libraries and archives. During the 2009 Annual conference in Chicago, the proposal was submitted to the AFAS Executive Board and voted upon unanimously by board members to accept

the name change “Access to African American Content Discussion Group.” The new purpose of the group is:

- To provide a forum for the discussion of access to all types of African American resources
- To serve as a channel/clearinghouse to submit proposals to the Library of Congress and other groups for the enhancement of bibliographic records and authority files.
- To coordinate AFAS participation in the Library of Congress Program for Cooperative Cataloging

A membership survey was conducted this year. Some of the results that received overall high numbers were: providing training/professional development to members, providing timely information about the profession to members, creating and disseminating standards of practice and connecting practitioners within the field to each other/networking. Many who joined the section learned about it from their colleagues and coworkers. We can look to this survey to develop new initiatives for membership into our section.

The AFAS 2010 Action Plan’s objective is to recruit new and diverse talent to the field of academic and research librarianship. Four AFAS representatives will attend Career Fairs at institutions with Library/Information Schools to recruit prospective MLS/PHD library school students/graduates who could be interested in a career as an academic or research librarian. We welcome new members to the AFAS section along with their ideas and commitment to making a difference. Increasing membership is vital to keeping our section moving ahead as we face new challenges in a changing workforce in academic and research libraries.

Our new Vice-Chair/Chair elect, Joyce Thornton, has submitted a 2011 Action Plan proposal to the ACRL Board (details below) to allow two librarians to attend a conference of selected organizations that are important to faculties they serve. The goal is to strengthen ACRL/AFAS’s relationship with higher education organizations that are important to faculty and administrators in order to develop instructional understanding of a librarian’s role in enhancing teaching and learning.

In closing, let us continue to support, volunteer, and encourage others to join ACRL and the AFAS section. We need your time and commitment to serve on committees to continue the progress that we have made in the past as we continue to move forward as a section.

Vivian Fisher

Chair, AFAS 2009-2010

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**LOOKING AHEAD: AFAS 2010-2011—JOYCE K. THORNTON, VICE CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT**

### **AFAS’s Strategic Initial Action Plan Proposal for 2011**

As noted above, AFAS submitted a proposal for 2011. The proposal is connected to ACRL’s Strategic Priorities for 2009-2013 in the strategic area of “Higher Education and Research, goal area of “Learning”. The strategic objective is to Strengthen ACRL’s relationship with higher education organizations that are important to faculty and administrators in order to develop institutional understanding of librarians’ roles in enhancing teaching and learning. (*Continued on page 3.*)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS & MEMBER NEWS

### AFAS ELECTION RESULTS

#### Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

Joyce K. Thornton

#### Member at Large

Sylvia A. Nyana

#### Secretary

Isabel Espinal

AFAS continues to build on a strong foundation of devoted and qualified leadership. AFAS is stronger and more focused on its mission of service to scholars in the field of African American studies. As we thrive, the membership has to volunteer for committee work, be willing to serve in leadership positions, and support its leaders.

### Congratulations to Our Winners!

#### Akilah S. Nosakhare, Director of Library Services at New Mexico State University.

Congratulation are in order for AFAS member and Policy and Committee Chair, Akilah S. Nosakhare on her new position. Below is Akilah's new contact information and e-mail:  
Akilah S. Nosakhare, M.Ed., MLS;

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### ACRL/AFAS Program Report in C&RL News -October 2009 Issue

If you missed the excellent program put on by AFAS at the ALA Conference in July, titled "Black Studies and Information Technology," the current issue of C&RL News has a report on the program on page 499. We hope to also have a video stream of the program in the future.

### Thornton, 2010-2011 Looking Ahead, contd.

The proposal asks for \$4,000.00 for funding to allow two librarians to attend two different conferences of selected organizations that are important to faculties they serve. By actively participating in these conferences, the librarians can learn of different methods to help faculty understand the significant roles librarians can play in enhancing their teaching and learning.

### 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.

## ALA/AFAS CONFERENCE JAN 15-19, 2010 & WEB NEWS



### Mid-Winter Conference

Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, January 15-19.

*Program information is forthcoming soon.*

### NEW AFAS DISCUSSION LIST



**[acrl-afas-l@ala.org](mailto:acrl-afas-l@ala.org)**

This is the official discussion list of the ACRL African American Studies Librarians Section.

Go to <http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/acrl-afas-l> and click subscribe

### AFAS is on FACEBOOK

Have a facebook account. If so, look for AFAS on Facebook. AFAS has joined ACRL, the Instruction Section, and other ACRL Sections on the social networking site.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22843361484>

### Get Involved!

What do members of the African American Studies Librarians Section do?

- Participate in AFAS committees whose objectives are promoting, supporting and fostering information services in the field.
- Plan programs of interest to members and their constituents.
- Network with librarians with similar interests. Maintain an online list of core resources in African American Studies.
- Promote librarianship among African American Studies organizations.

## ALA/ACRL NEWS

DAWN MUELLER-PRODUCTION MANAGER/ALA

**ACRL Volunteers Needed**

ACRL division and section committee volunteers are an integral part of the association. If you have been looking for a way to become more involved, ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe invites you to volunteer for a section committee for the 2010-11 term. The ACRL volunteer form at <http://www.acrl.org/volunteer> will be available until February 15, 2010.

**Go mobile @ ACRL  
Midwinter Workshops**

Friday, January 2010 - Boston, Massachusetts *Anytime, Anywhere, Any Device: Developing a Mobile Website for Your Library*

Learn about the current state of mobile technologies both within and outside of libraries, and learn how to launch a mobile library Web site.

**Text Messaging, Twitter,  
and Libraries**

Learn about text messaging and Twitter and their various roles and value for libraries. Registration is now open, with an advance registration deadline of Dec. 4,

2009. Complete workshop details including registration materials are available at [www.acrl.org](http://www.acrl.org) (click "Conferences & Events"). Complete details are available online at <http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/annual09.cfm>. May 22, 2009 is the advance registration deadline. Questions? Contact Margot Conahan at 312-280-2522 or e-mail [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org).

**Apply for Immersion '10**

The Invitation to Apply for the ACRL Immersion '10 Program is now available. Applications are being accepted for Immersion '10 Teacher and Program tracks, to be held at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, July 25-30, 2010. Complete program details and application materials are online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/professactivity/iil/immersion/immersion10.cfm>. The application deadline is **December 11, 2009**.

**Submit a proposal for  
ACRL 2011**

Submit a proposal for the ACRL 2011 National Conference, "A Declaration of Interdependence," to be held in Philadelphia, March 30 - April 2, 2011. The ACRL National

Conference attracts and engages many of the brightest minds in our profession. We invite you to participate in this exciting and energizing exchange of ideas—bring your latest research, cutting-edge practices, and innovative developments to share with your colleagues. Complete details and submission forms are online at [www.acrl.org](http://www.acrl.org) (click "Conferences & Events").

**ALA JobLIST (<http://joblist.ala.org>)** has had a facelift in response to user feedback. Its redesigned homepage displays the most recent listings at a glance, offers clearer paths for job seekers and employers to find what they need, and allows employers more options to control the response to their ads. Listings are searchable and sortable on a variety of criteria for professional and support-staff positions in libraries of all types, and for IT and knowledge-management positions with many types of nonprofits and companies. Positions can also be saved and shared through a variety of social networking sites and tools.

## News of Interest

### Black Abolitionist Papers

This extraordinary, primary source collection is now available as a standalone database at <http://bap.chadwyck.com> and as an add-on module to Black Studies Center <http://bsc.chadwyck.com>

The collection is the first to comprehensively detail the extensive work of African Americans to abolish slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War. Covering the period 1830-1865, it presents the massive, international impact of African American activism against slavery, in the writings and publications of the activists themselves.

The approximately 15,000 articles, documents, correspondence, proceedings, manuscripts, and literary works of almost 300 Black abolitionists show the full range of their activities in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Germany. This collection, when first published in microfilm, literally transformed scholarly understanding of Black activism during this period. Now it is available in an online, searchable format for research and teaching.

### **We Shall Not Be Moved: African Americans in the South, 18th Century to the Present**

Southern Historical Collection: Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room: Louis Round Wilson, Special Collections Library University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill October 8, 2009 – February 5, 2010

From the period of enslavement through the “Long Civil Rights Movement” to the present, the struggles and triumphs of African American life have shaped the South and changed the nation and the world. This fall, the Southern Historical Collection at UNC Chapel Hill will present an exhibition of selected historical manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts documenting African

American life and culture in the South. The exhibition titled: *We Shall Not Be Moved: African Americans in the South, 18th Century to the Present* will feature many newly acquired items and documents not previously placed on display, and the opening will coincide with the release of the revised online edition of the *Guide to African American Resources in the Southern Historical Collection*.

### **Network to Freedom, Follow the Drinking Gourd: A Cultural History**

The American folksong: *Follow the Drinking Gourd* was first published by H.B. Parks in 1928. The *Drinking Gourd* song was supposedly used by an Underground Railroad operative to encode escape instructions and a map. These directions then enabled fleeing slaves to make their way north from Mobile, Alabama to the Ohio River and freedom. Taken at face value, the “drinking gourd” refers to the hollowed out gourd used by slaves (and other rural Americans) as a water dipper. But here it is used as a code name for the Big Dipper star formation, which points to Polaris, the Pole Star, and North.

In the ensuing 80 years, the *Drinking Gourd* played an important role in the Civil Rights and folk revival movements of the 1950s and 1960s, and in contemporary elementary school education. Much of the *Drinking Gourd*'s enduring appeal derives from its perceived status as a unique, historical remnant harkening back to the pre-Civil War South – no other such map songs survive.

By Joel Bresler, [joel.br@verizon.net](mailto:joel.br@verizon.net)

### **The International Civil Rights Center & Museum Announces Grand Opening Activities**

Museum Chairman, Skip Alston, Previews Three-Day Event Greensboro, N.C.,

## NEWS OF INTEREST CONTD.

Aug. 11 /PRNewswire/ -- The International Civil Rights Center & Museum today announced its grand opening with activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the F.W. Woolworth sit-ins. The [Museum](#) will officially open on Feb. 1, 2010.

The Museum's opening schedule of events will include:

- 50th anniversary gala and banquet, Saturday, Jan. 30,
- Ecumenical service, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010
- Grand opening ceremonies at site of the historic F.W. Woolworth sit-ins in Greensboro, N.C., Monday, Feb. 1, 2010

### **Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation and Woodruff Library Partner to Prepare Tupac Shakur Writings and Papers for Scholarly Research**

(Atlanta, GA) The Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation and Afeni Shakur-Davis, mother of platinum recording artist, actor and poet, Tupac Shakur, will partner with the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center to make available for scholarly research Shakur's manuscript writings and other papers.

The Tupac Shakur Collection, now housed within the Woodruff Library's Archives & Special Collections Department, features Shakur's handwritten lyrics and track listings, personal notes, video and film concepts, fan correspondence, promotional materials and other items providing a unique insight into his career and creative genius.

For more information on the archival work associated with The Tupac Shakur Collection, contact the Woodruff Library of the AUC at [archives@auctr.edu](mailto:archives@auctr.edu) or 404-978-2052.

### **Coca-Cola Company Gives \$7.2 million to Atlanta University Center**

#### **Robert Woodruff Library to Receive \$1.2 million to Manage and Provide Access to Archival Papers**

ATLANTA, Sept. 9, 2009 - The Coca-Cola Company announced today that it will give \$6 million to Spelman

College, Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University and the Morehouse School of Medicine, all part of the Atlanta University Center. This support will assist students at these Atlanta-based historically black colleges and universities with scholarship funds where economic hardship is impacting the likelihood of the completion of their education. Additionally, the Company announced that \$1.2 million will be given to the Robert W. Woodruff Library on the campus of the Atlanta University Center to upgrade the Library's IT infrastructure and enhance the ability to manage and provide access to critical archival documents, such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. papers.

### **Archives & Special Collections Reading Room at Woodruff Library Relocated until January 2010**

Now until January 2010, Woodruff Library Archives & Special Collections research and reference services will be provided in Conference Room 303 on the Library's Upper Level while the Archives & Special Collections Reading Room is being renovated.

Please contact Archives & Special Collections staff at [archives@auctr.edu](mailto:archives@auctr.edu) or 404-978-2052 for inquiries and to schedule appointments.

### **Huntington Library receives sci-fi writer Octavia Butler's collection**

Three years after Butler's death at age 58, the Huntington has received 39 cartons and eight file cabinet drawers of manuscripts, correspondence, school papers, notebooks, photographs, and other materials accumulated over the years by the African-American author, a woman who became preeminent in the almost exclusively male field of science fiction. Butler, best-known for "Kindred," wrote a dozen novels exploring race, gender, slavery, poverty, politics and sex. She received two Hugo Awards and two Nebula Awards for her science fiction writing, and in 1995 she received a \$295,000 MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant - the first science fiction writer so honored. Read more information on this announcement at: <http://www.huntington.org/>.

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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 ALA address, Attention: Membership.

**AFAS WEBSITE:**  
[www.afasection.org](http://www.afasection.org)

#### **AFAS WIKI**

To directly access the AFAS Wiki use the following URL: <http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/AFAS>. You can also access our Wiki from the ACRL Wiki main page: [http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Main_Page).

#### **AFAS OFFICERS 2009/2010**

Vivian Fisher  
Chair

Thomas Weissinger,  
Past Chair

Malaika Grant, Secretary

Gennice W. King,  
Member-at-Large

Adam Burling,  
Staff liaison  
American Library Assn  
ACRL Division

Debbie L. Malone  
ACRL Board Liaison

#### **Committee Chairs**

##### Membership

Allison M. Sutton

##### 2009 Conference Program

##### Cataloging Issues

Elaine L. Westbrooks

##### Nominating

Carmelita Pickett

##### Policy and Research

Akilah Nosakhere

##### Publications

Heather Martin