

AFAS



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

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

During the past year as chair of AFAS and with the help of the Executive Committee, we have managed to continue to advance the goals of the section and work on new goals for the year. In the last issue of the AFAS Newsletter, I listed several questions raised at the Midwinter Membership meeting including what we as a section can do to raise the awareness of African American Studies librarianship. I also outlined several goals to pursue for the year including:

- *Polling membership regarding issues of interest to AFAS librarians

- *monitoring the ACRL Strategic Plan as it relates to sections

- *increasing committee participation

- *providing support to ongoing activities such as the Research & Policy Committee's Core List Project of African American books and journals.

Several of these goals have been completed and others are in progress. With Executive Committee approval, AFAS Vice Chair, Heather Martin and I submitted an AFAS response to the ACRL Strategic Plan Survey. We focused our responses on and in support of issues related to the mission of AFAS. We will continue to monitor the ACRL Strategic Plan and participate in its implementation as a Section.

At the Midwinter meeting in Boston, we discussed how to

increase active participation from committee members. Several suggestions were offered as positive ways to engage committee members such as keeping communication channels open and assigning tasks. Recruiting new members may be another solution to getting members actively involved. The Membership Committee, chaired by Carmelita Pickett, continues to recruit new members and encourage lapsed members to return to the section. In order to learn more about membership development in the 21st century, the ALA Membership Committee and ALA Chapter Relations Committee will sponsor a pre-conference in Chicago. AFAS plans to send a couple of members to this event.

An ongoing activity that is making excellent progress is the Core List of African American Studies Resources being compiled by the Research and Policy Committee, chaired by LeRoy LaFleur. In addition to a core list of books, a core list of journals has been added. To take the project to another level, the committee will investigate making the Core List a searchable web database. Stay tuned for more on the development of this project. The Core List of AFAS Books and the Core List of AFAS Journals are accessible from the AFAS web site.

Other AFAS committees have been hard at work with continuing projects and new tasks. The Publications Committee, chaired by Raquel Rodriguez, has been

busy updating and keeping the web site current. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Lisa Pillow, submitted a slate of officers for 2006-2007. When it is time to vote, please support your fellow AFAS members. Dorothy Washington, chair of the Cataloging Issues Discussions Group, continues to coordinate the African American Subject Funnel Project, which creates new subject headings and changes or updates old subject headings relating to the African American experience. For more recent activities of the Discussion Group, visit <http://www.purdue.edu/bcc/library/afascat.htm>.

To add to a long list of interesting and memorable programs, this year the AFAS Conference Program Committee, chaired by Carol Kem, is co-sponsoring with the ACRL Arts Section, a program for ALA Chicago with a musical theme. The program titled "Chicago Blues: From the Delta to the World" will feature a panel of experts to discuss the scholarship of the blues, practical applications and music collections/preservation. Hold the date Sunday, June 26, 1:30-3:30pm and plan to join us for an exciting event. I extend a special thank you to the Arts Section, chaired by Sandy Mooney, for their efforts to help make this program a success.

With member participation, committee volunteers, and the Executive Committee, AFAS continues to thrive.

I hope you will continue to participate and encourage others

to do so. Several new projects may be introduced in the near future as a result of ideas and discussions presented at Midwinter in Boston. One project you will hear more about is the Membership Poll. The Research and Policy Committee will be sharing the results of the poll with the membership and making recommendations as to how we can use the information in future planning for AFAS. I hope you will find it imperative to participate. Even though there is progress, there is definitely more to explore and build. By maintaining a strong membership base with active participants, there is no doubt in my mind that great things can be accomplished.

At the end of the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Chair-Elect Heather Martin will assume the position of AFAS Chair. In order to advance the organization, continue projects, and begin new ones, Heather will need our help. I encourage you to join a committee and share your experiences and expertise. Contact Heather for details: hmartin@uab.edu

It has been a privilege and my pleasure to serve you as chair of AFAS this past year. See you in Chicago.

Myrtis Cochran
Chair, AFAS 2004-2005
mcochran@library.berkeley.edu

LOOKING AHEAD: AFAS 2005-2006

As incoming AFAS chair (beginning after ALA in Chicago), I welcome the opportunity to represent the Section and work with members on ongoing and new projects. We discussed several new ideas at the 2005 Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Topics included a proposal to establish an AFAS award for an African American reference book, and using the AFAS membership poll (conducted by current chair Myrtis Cochran) for strategic planning.

In addition to continuing these and other projects, I would also like to establish ties between AFAS and scholarly African American Studies organizations,

particularly the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Several AFAS members are presenting during the panel session "Toward Advancing the Discipline: Strengthening the Connections between African American Studies and the Library" at the March 2005 NCBS Annual Conference. I would like to highlight these types of contributions from individual AFAS members, encourage other Section members' involvement in these organizations, and investigate establishing more formal partnerships with these groups.

I look forward to working with the AFAS Executive Committee, as well as standing and ad-hoc committees, in moving forward on projects and strengthening the Section. I encourage all AFAS members to become more involved by posting and responding to ideas on AFAS-L, volunteering for and contributing to AFAS committees, or attending AFAS meetings and programs. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, or if you have comments about any of these projects, please e-mail me. I hope to meet many of you at ALA in Chicago.

Heather Martin
Vice Chair/Chair Elect
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A Rich and Satisfying Gift:

THE DAVID WALKER LUPTON AFRICAN AMERICAN COOKBOOK COLLECTION COMES TO UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES

Lillian A. Clark

The University of Alabama Libraries recently received one of the largest collections of African American cookbooks in the country – some 450 volumes covering the period from 1827, when the first book with recipes by an African American was published, through the year 2000. When David W. Lupton, a distant cousin of former UA president Nathaniel Thomas Lupton, was considering a permanent home for his collection, the University of Alabama seemed to offer the ideal context both geographically and institutionally. His widow, Dorothy R. Lupton, finalized arrangements for transferring the volumes in the summer of 2004.

The collection is known as the *David Walker Lupton African American Cookbook Collection*

and strengthens the Libraries' holdings in African American history and culture. It is housed in the Hoole Special Collections Library on the UA campus. David Lupton, who collected and published in several areas, put this collection together through intensive effort over a period of 10 years. Simultaneously, he compiled a comprehensive bibliography of African American culinary literature, which is in the final stages of publication. Mrs. Lupton, who resides in Oriental, North Carolina, recently stated, "David had a deep conviction that cookbooks compiled by individuals in America of African heritage needed to be identified and preserved."

According to Clark Center, curator of the Hoole Special Collections Library, "The Lupton Collection is a significant addition

to the Libraries' resources for many reasons. First of all, the collection is a treasure trove of rare and obscure books, many of them not widely published, that too often pass 'under the radar' of what research libraries acquire." Center added, "In the last twenty years or so, cookbooks have received scholarly attention and interpretation as literary texts, with the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University and Tulane University Libraries among the leaders in recognizing their importance." Significantly, *The Southern Foodways Alliance*, an affiliate of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, at the University of Mississippi, chose as the subject of its 2004 symposium a focus on food and race relations.

Professor Amilcar Shabaaz, Director of the UA African American Studies Program, said, "This collection will make possible

the kind of creative research in food and ethnic identity that has lately become the focus of numerous university press publications." Culinary texts yield far more than recipes when closely scrutinized. They are written from the point of view of an individual or a community and, as such, have much to say about ethnic identity, family and community life, social history, the roles of women and men, values, religion, and economics, as well as the more obvious fields of diet and nutrition, use of agricultural products, the food supply, and general food history. "Cookbooks are widely accepted among scholars both as documents of history and works with literary interest," commented Professor Elaine Martin, Professor of German and authority on food in film and

A Rich and Satisfying Gift:

THE DAVID WALKER LUPTON AFRICAN AMERICAN COOKBOOK COLLECTION COMES TO UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES (cont'd from p. 2)

literature. "Their study can illuminate the lives of people in new and innovative ways," she explained.

Browsing the titles of the Lupton Collection, one is made aware of several interesting aspects of the relationship between food and African American history and culture. Well before the popularization of "soul food" and before the advent of celebrity media chefs, there were the countless talented African American chefs who were responsible for the elegant cuisine in fine restaurants, hotels, clubs, and dining cars across the country. Rufus Estes (*Good Things to Eat*, originally published in 1911) presided over the luxurious private dining car of a railway executive and later was head chef of the subsidiary companies of the United States Steel Corporation in Chicago. In this collection one finds the first edition of *The Historical Cookbook of the American Negro* (1958) by The National Council of Negro Women, possibly the first African American cookbook to link in a deliberate manner culinary heritage with social, cultural, economic, and political history. Also present is the slim volume of recipes by

Clementine Hunter (*Melrose Plantation Cookbook*, published in 1956), internationally collected folk artist sometimes called the Black "Grandma Moses," who late in life turned her talents from the kitchen to the canvas.

The beginnings of the soul food movement in the late sixties are well documented and traced through the many subsequent volumes extolling dishes that can now be found in trendy restaurants in most states. Many of the cookbooks are community-based fund-raisers from churches, women's clubs, and sororities. Such books can often be the most difficult to identify and locate because they usually do not receive wide publicity or distribution beyond their contributors.

Almost every title in the Lupton Collection suggests more than recipes: food is linked with music, humor, social satire (see the underground classic, *Vibration Cooking*, by Vertamae Grosvenor, published in 1970), cultural and religious celebrations (several Kwanzaa cookbooks, for example), and almost every other aspect of life.

published in 1970), cultural and religious celebrations (several Kwanzaa cookbooks, for example), and almost every other aspect of life. There are plenty of celebrity recipes: Muhammad Ali's favorite recipes and cookbooks by Johnny Mathis, Pearl Bailey, and Mahalia Jackson among others.

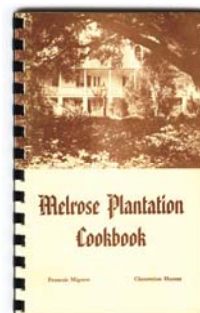
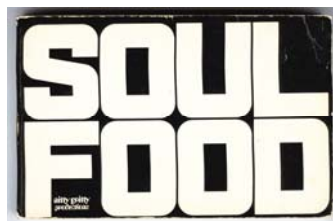
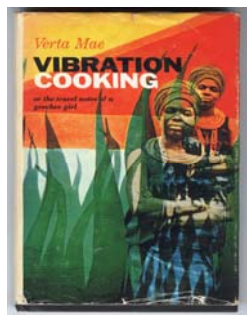
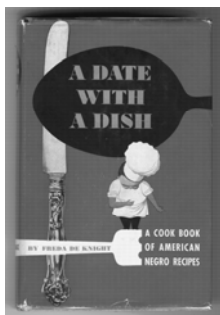
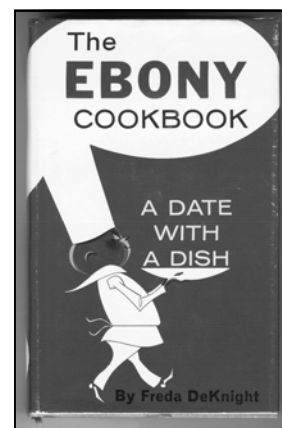
The Lupton Collection was avidly sought by more than one institution, and we are honored that the Lupton family has entrusted the result of David's creative vision to us," said Louis A. Pitschmann, Dean of Libraries. "We are eager to add to the Collection," added Pitschmann, "and are hopeful that the arrival of this important gift will encourage people throughout Alabama and the Southeast to consider contributing their African American cookbooks and recipe collections to the Hoole Library."

Please visit <http://www.lib.ua.edu/luptonlist.htm> to view a list of books included in the *David Walker Lupton African American Cookbook Collection*.

Enhancements to Lupton Collection

Additional contributions of original works depicting the relationship between the African American community and the culinary arts are welcome.

Please contact Clark Center, Curator of the Hoole Special Collections Library, ccenter@bama.ua.edu, or 205-348-0513.



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**AFAS Program for ALA Annual 2005****Chicago, Illinois****Sunday, June 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

The AFAS 2005 Conference Program Committee, chaired by Carol Kem, is planning a program for ALA Chicago entitled, ***Chicago Blues: From the Delta to the World.*** The Program is being co-sponsored by the ACRL/Arts Section. Presenters will explore the “**Chicago Blues**” from their origin in the Mississippi Delta, migration north to Chicago, musical evolution, preservation and publication of the genre, both written and recorded, and the influence of the Blues on contemporary music. Scholarship on the history and development of the art form, its influence on African American life and culture and the preservation and dissemination of research will be reviewed. Influences on current musical expression will also be highlighted.

Suzanne Flandreau and **Andrew Leach**, archivists at the **Center for Black Music Research** at Columbia College in Chicago, will discuss the Center, its collections and current research.

Roland Hansen, ACRL/Arts Section member and Program Committee member, is making arrangements for informal tour times when interested conference attendees can visit the Center.

Alexander Street Press will provide examples of blues from their new release, **Smithsonian Global Sound**. This is under development in connection with the Smithsonian and with Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. In addition there will be some live music at the program.

A noted Blues scholar and poet has also been invited to be a guest presenter.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**, and join us for an interesting, informative and entertaining program.

African American Librarians Present at National History Conference
Reprinted from the BCALA Newsletter

Insight into current historical research pursued by African American librarians and members of BCALA

By Sibyl E. Moses

On Behalf of the History Committee of the Black Caucus of ALA

Four African American librarians presented papers at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 1-3, 2004. Kathleen E. Bethel, Ida Jones, Sibyl E. Moses, and Allison M. Sutton were panelists in ASALH sessions that addressed various aspects of documenting and preserving African American history. In particular, their papers explored and reported on their research on Black women's history, philanthropy and self-help in Black education in the 20th century South, and resources for the study of Black women's organizations.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), founded on September 9, 1915, by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson and five others, in Chicago, Illinois, is one of the oldest professional organizations organized "to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community." The following abstracts provide an insight into current historical research being pursued by African American librarians and members of BCALA.

Reclaiming Concealed African American Historic Personalities

Kathleen E. Bethel, Northwestern University, presented the paper "Belle da Costa Greene: African American

bibliophile, Hidden in Plain View," wherein she made known the accomplishments of Belle da Costa Greene (1879-1950). Greene was the first director of the Pierpont Morgan Library. Hired to manage the collections of financier J. P. Morgan in 1905, Belle da Costa Greene led New York City's Pierpont Morgan Library from a private collection to one of the most preeminent public research institutions. Greene, without a college education, worked in the Princeton University Library where she developed her knowledge and appreciation of rare books and manuscripts.

Mentored by many, Belle da Costa Greene became one of the most knowledgeable and astute appraisers of antiquarian materials, respected throughout the United States and Europe.

She lived a life of tremendous independence and responsibility not available to many women of her generation. She was able to live her life and complete important work by disguising her origins. The daughter of Richard T. Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard University, Belle passed as being of Portuguese descent. Ms. Bethel reviewed the lives and contributions of the father and daughter, and discussed her approach to reclaiming concealed African American historic personalities.

Collecting and (Re)Presenting the African American Gendered Experience

Ida Jones, Ph.D., Howard University, delivered a paper, "Build Within Thy Own Soul: African American Women, Collecting, Preserving and (Re) Presenting the Past," wherein she examined the rich primary sources that the Manuscript Division of the Moorland Spingarn Research Center holds, by and about African American women working in various fields such as education, religion, politics, civic organizations, law and civil rights.

Dr. Jones provided a brief history of the Moorland Spingarn Research Center, an overview of the record types held in the Manuscript Division of interest to scholars, researchers, and librarians documenting the African American gendered experience, and finally, the importance of locating and preserving African American religious history. Her position was that a composite portrait of the above three elements: Moorland, manuscripts, and collecting strategies was essential in understanding existing collections as well as locating areas where collection emphasis needs to be directed for the future.

Preserving the Organizational Records of the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D., Library of Congress, presented the results of her activist scholarship wherein librarians work with national African American

African American Librarians Present at National History Conference

Reprinted from the *BCALA Newsletter* (continued from p. 5)

organizations to preserve the history and culture of the people.

In the paper, "The Daughters of Isis: Preserving the History and Legacy of African American Masonic Women's Organizations," Dr. Moses explored methods used to identify and preserve the organizational records of the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis, and the personal papers of Past Imperial Commandresses of the organization, covering the period 1908 to present. She discusses issues confronted when attempting to identify and collect material culture and various other forms of organizational memorabilia which help document the history of the organization and its members.

She also explored ways in which various types of information provide insight into the political, social,

educational, and economic landscape of African Americans. Her work has established a framework that can be utilized by other African American Masonic women's organizations in capturing and preserving their history and ensuring that this history is reflected in local, state, regional, and national histories.

Negro Teacher-Librarian Training Program (1936-1939)

Allison M. Sutton, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, delivered a paper "The Negro Teacher-Librarian Training Program (1936-1939): Bridging the Gap in Library Education for African Americans."

Ms. Sutton explored the development of a little known library education program during the pre-Brown v. Board and pre-civil rights era.

Scarcely noted in the literature, the program was held in four Southern cities, hosted on four Historically Black College and University campuses and is credited with training over 200 African American teacher-librarians. Through an account of significant historical precursors, the curriculum, its participants, and the involvement of professional associations and philanthropic foundations in expediting this initiative, Ms. Sutton contextualizes its importance to the historical record, recruitment and diversity issues within the profession, and its contribution to literacy development in African American communities of the Jim Crow South.

Historic Pittsburgh Image Collections

Raquel Rodriguez

Images can often be the most time-consuming research material for which to search and the most rewarding to find. With this in mind the University of Pittsburgh's Digital Research Library created the Historic Pittsburgh Image Collections. Historic Pittsburgh takes thousands of images that document the rich history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania and makes them available to view online. Covering

over a century, the images depict Pittsburgh at work, at play, and at home. Two collections in particular may be of interest to African American Studies scholars, the **Teenie Harris Collection** and the **Urban League of Pittsburgh Collection**.

The Teenie Harris digital collection (<http://images.library.pitt.edu/c/teenieharris>) consists of over 500 images chosen from Harris' extensive photograph archive. Charles "Teenie" Harris had a forty-year career as

a photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, one of the oldest African American newspapers in the country.

Harris began his career with the *Courier* in the mid-1930s. Working for the newspaper, and from his own photography studio, Harris poignantly documented the everyday life of African Americans in his hometown of Pittsburgh. From birthday parties to funerals, sports heroes to political leaders, Harris captured the nuance of Black Pittsburgh that

often went overlooked elsewhere.

The Urban League digital collection (<http://images.library.pitt.edu/urban>) contains sixty-three images that illustrate the activities of the Urban League of Pittsburgh from 1923 through 1958. The National Urban League established a Pittsburgh branch in 1918 and worked to correct the problems African Americans faced related to employment, housing, health, and education. The collection includes portraits of Urban

League staff and fellows as well as group portraits from conferences. There are also photos of work conditions and recreational activities. Together, the Teenie Harris and Urban League collections provide a glimpse into the history of Pittsburgh's Black communities.

Raquel Rodriguez is the African American Collection Librarian Hillman Library University of Pittsburgh

**Toward Advancing the Discipline: Strengthening the Connections Between
African American Studies and the Library**

Submitted by Dorothy Ann Washington, Purdue University

September 23-25, 2004 scholars, professionals, and the general public converged upon Purdue University to share research, engage in dialogue, and provide future directions toward advancing the discipline of African American Studies at the 30th Anniversary Conference of the African American Studies Program and Research Center, "African American Studies: Meeting the Challenge Today, Learning from the Past - Envisioning the Future".

Under the leadership of Dr. Carolyn E. Johnson, conference coordinator, and Dr. Venetria Patton, director, an array of distinguished invited speakers and panel presenters were in attendance. Plenary sessions speakers included Delores P. Aldridge, Grace Towns Hamilton Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Emory University; Carol Boyce Davis, Professor of English and Director, African New World Studies, Florida International University; Lewis Gordon, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Philosophy, Temple University; Charles Jaret, Professor of Sociology, Georgia State University; Keith Kilty, Professor of Social Work, The Ohio State University; Marvin Lewis, Professor of Spanish and Institute Director, Afro-Romance Institute for Languages and Literature of the African Diaspora, University of Missouri-Columbia; and James Stewart, Professor of Labor Studies and Industrial Relations and African American Studies, Penn State University.

Both Aldridge and Stewart are past-presidents of the National Council for Black Studies. Culminating the event was the keynote address delivered by Charles Ogletree, author of *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half-Century of Brown v. Board of Education* and the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. There were approximately twenty-six presentations during the concurrent sessions including "Toward Advancing the Discipline: Strengthening the Connections Between African American Studies and the Library."

Organized by Purdue Black Cultural Center librarian, Dorothy Ann Washington, and consisting of four librarians and a Black Studies scholar, the panel proposed to highlight the past, discuss the present, and suggest directions for the future. In her presentation "African American Studies and Librarianship: A Natural Relationship" Washington drew upon writings of Doris H. Clack and Jessie Carney Smith to provide a historical overview. She also discussed recent accomplishments that send a strong signal of support for African American Studies librarianship as evidenced by the creation of new positions for African American Studies librarians at Emory University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Penn State University; an increase in budget allocation as experienced at Purdue; and the establishment and construction of new research centers in Broward County, Florida; Denver, Colorado; and Houston, Texas.

Although most of these centers have been in the public library sector they do present opportunities for collaboration with the academic community. Some colleagues at major research institutions that have long supported Black Studies collections are experiencing challenges that could be viewed as threats. Such challenges include a reduction of operating hours, freezing professional positions as they are vacated by librarians, or integrating the separate African American collection into the main library collection. Washington emphasized that it "behooves African American Studies librarians to bring those issues to the table so that as a group they could collectively develop strategies to meet such challenges."

Presenting "Black Studies Collection: Implications for the Classroom and the Curriculum from a Black Studies Scholar's Perspective," Dr. Yvonne C. Williams, Hampton and Esther Boswell Distinguished University Professor of Black Studies at DePauw University and former chair of the Black Studies Program at the College of Wooster, provided a first-hand account of how increased allocation for the purchase of library materials under-girded a strong research thrust among faculty and students at the College of Wooster.

Myrtis Cochran, the present chair of AFAS, presented "African American Studies Librarians Section (AFAS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries: Its Past

Cont'd on p. 8

**Toward Advancing the Discipline: Strengthening the Connections Between
African American Studies and the Library**

Submitted by Dorothy Ann Washington, Purdue University (cont'd from p. 7)

Present and Future in Training African American Studies Librarians and the Support for the Development and Preservation of African American Studies Collections." Drawing upon the historical record of the Section documented by Stanton Biddle, she shared the mission of AFAS with the audience, as well as its past and current activities since its inception as a Discussion Group in 1980 under the leadership of Jeff Jackson and Wendall Wray. Outlining AFAS organizational and programmatic success, Cochran declared that the physical force behind this success is the AFAS membership. Currently the Section has 244 members. Cochran suggested that the "key to strengthening and sustaining communication between librarianship and the discipline and to training librarians is to build on what we have accomplished." She challenged African American Studies librarians to create a new vision with objectives to address future needs African American Studies librarians; to remain abreast of trends and issues in the discipline; to strengthen our existing partnerships and establish new ones; to listen and communicate effectively; to pave the way for a new generation of professionals to take our place through recruiting and mentoring activities; to move forward by archiving our information to ensure its availability and accessibility for future scholars; to recognize the Internet as a tool that is only as good as the content we make available and the steps we take to

preserve our web presence; and to continually assess and fulfill, to the best of our ability, the information needs of our user populations.

In "Integrating Library Resources and Services, and Information Literacy into the African American Studies Curriculum: the University of Illinois Model" Tom Weissinger presented an intriguing account of his experience at Illinois. The course Afro-American Bibliography (AFRO 234) had been taught by Rosemary Stevenson for approximately 15 years. However, Weissinger revamped the course in 2001 to bring it in line with the College of Liberal Arts and Science general education requirements. Desiring to increase enrollment he renamed it Researching the African American experience. In the course students learn about influential bibliophiles such as Arthur Schomburg, John Bruce, and Monroe Work. They also examine significant repositories that include the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Vivian G. Harsh Collection of the Chicago Public Library and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. Also discussed in the class is the work of bibliophiles, bibliographers or research librarians who created research tools or enhanced library processes that improved access to African American resources. Assessing the course value Weissinger stated, "The course's cultural component, of course, always focused on African American reference tools.

Here, there is purpose and motivation built into learning about these resources on the back end. Students wanted to know about the kinds of resources available to do library research in African American studies. However, I was able to add a measure of purpose and motivation to the front end of the process also. Students could learn, not just how to use reference tools but why black people thought such resources were worthwhile in the first place." The course outline is available at <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/afx/Course.htm>

Kathleen Bethel from Northwestern University presented "Supporting Scholarship, Learning, and Discovery Through Collection Development and Library Services."

In short, the presentations provided a wealth of information regarding the development of African American Studies librarianship. They highlighted the accomplishments, discussed the present, and suggested directions for the future. As African American Studies continue to strengthen within the academy it is imperative that librarians and African American Studies scholars and administrators forge strong partnerships. Such endeavors will enhance curriculum development, promote excellence in the classroom, encourage collaborative research, and improve scholarly communication.

**Toward Advancing the Discipline: Strengthening the Connections Between
African American Studies and the Library**

Submitted by Dorothy Ann Washington, Purdue University (cont'd from p. 8)

The Conference also provided a wonderful forum for librarians to dialogue with scholars. We are excited as we prepare to present the panel at the Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies on Saturday, March 26 in New Orleans and yet once again have an opportunity to engage scholars. Presenters will be Kathleen Bethel, Kristin Franckiewicz, Product Manager, Ethnic and Minority Studies for ProQuest Information and Learning, and Dorothy Washington. Franckiewicz's presentation is entitled "Merging Curriculum and Collection Development in Black Studies: A Vendor's Perspective on Collaboration."

For additional readings on this topic see the bibliography "African American Studies and Librarianship: A Natural Relationship" compiled by Dorothy Ann Washington at <http://www.purdue.edu/bcc/library/aaslib.htm>.

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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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