

# AASP INTERSECTIONS

TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

Fall 2010 vol 2, no 1

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM @ UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## Building on a Strong Tradition of Program Principles

**Michelle Duster, Great-Granddaughter of Ida B. Wells-Barrett to Deliver Ronald Foreman Lecture, Friday, April 15, 2011**

Michelle Duster is a writer, speaker, and personal historian who focuses on the positive contributions of African Americans. She has written numerous articles and essays as well as the books, *Ida In Her Own Words* (BW Publishing, 2008) and *Ida From Abroad* (BW Publishing, 2010) which are the first two in a series that will include the writings of her great-grandmother. Michelle has produced dozens of concerts, awards ceremonies, fundraisers and other public programs while working with various organizations including the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Jewell Jackson McCabe in New York City. She also worked on documentary films *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice* about the life and times of her great-grandmother, and *A Question of Color*, that examined intraracial tensions in the African American community. Michelle earned her B.A. in Psychology from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire and an M.A. in Communications from the New School for Social Research in New York City. Mrs. Duster will also deliver a talk at the NIA Youth Mentoring Summit on Saturday and attend Sunday services at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Gainesville's oldest African American church.



**On the Meaning of Symbols: Why Representations of Haiti Matter Now More Than Ever**



**Dr. Gina Ulysse** delivered the Ronald Foreman lecture in April 2010. An internationally prominent Haitian scholar, poet, and spoken word performer, Dr. Ulysse is author of *Downtown Ladies: Informal Commercial Importers, A Haitian Anthropologist, and Self-Making in Jamaica* (2007). Her op-eds, articles and interviews, available in *The Huffington Post*, *Social Text*, NPR, and elsewhere have provided a much-needed Haitian perspective on the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti.

For further details on her writings and interviews, visit: [www.ginaathenaulysse.com](http://www.ginaathenaulysse.com).

## African American Studies Proposing a Major

Leading institutions to which UF compares itself offer a major in African American Studies. The AAS Program at UF is now completing a pre-proposal phase for a BA, made possible by the growth in core and affiliate faculty in the past 5 years. As of 2010, there are twelve national institutions that offer a PhD in Africana Studies: Temple, Berkeley, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Yale, Michigan State, Harvard, Northwestern, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Indiana, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Texas at Austin. Five of these programs were founded since 2005, indicating recent national growth in critical race and intersectional studies. Stay tuned: **African American Studies is MAJOR at UF!**

## New Core and Affiliate Faculty Increase Course Offerings

New core and affiliate faculty have brought new and exciting AFA courses and cross-listed courses offered to students. Fall 2010 cross-listed courses include: Up From Slavery (Dr. Willie Baber), Archeology of African American Life (Dr. James Davidson), and African American Politics (Dr. Sharon Austin). New courses offered in the spring 2011 include: Blacks In Florida and Blacks in Media (Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn), Afro-America and Latino History (Dr. Paul Ortiz), Race and Racism (Dr. Clarence Gravlee), Modern Caribbean (Dr. David Geggus), Asian American and African American Interaction (Dr. Malini Schueller), and Race-Religion and Rebellion (Dr. Gwendolyn Simmons).

# FACULTY NEWS:

## Director's Message



I am *EXCITED* to serve as the University of Florida African American Studies Program Director and very pleased to offer this newsletter of AASP updates. Personally, I define African Studies as “an interdisciplinary that provides a systematic method to view and change the world.” I have two main goals in my work: 1) solidify the curriculum and finish our journey to the BA and 2) serve by explicitly supporting the four tenets of the UF AASP core faculty’s collectively-defined Program Principles: interdisciplinarity, community-based learning, African American experience in a transnational context, and student intellectual/professional development.

Recently, Arizona passed a law against teaching Ethnic Studies in schools. I began my tenure by co-sponsoring a forum on this topic with the Levin College of Law’s Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations and the Sam Proctor Oral History Program (the video is available at <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/afam/>). Three panelists, Professors Kenneth Nunn (Levin College of Law), Samuel Stafford (Political Science), and James Davidson (Anthropology) tackled the topic from their respective areas of expertise. HB 2281 prohibits ethnic studies in Arizona schools, specifically targeting K-12 programs and “prohibits classes that

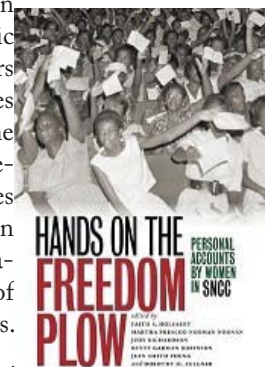
1) promote the overthrow of the United States government; 2) promote resentment toward a race or class of people; 3) are designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group; or 4) advocate ethnic solidarity instead of the treatment of pupils as individuals. Schools whose curriculum does not reflect the law’s mandates have a portion of their state funding withheld.” This law reminded me of three antebellum anti-literacy laws of the South in Heather Williams’s *Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom: the 1830-31 North Carolina law that stated, “teaching of slaves to read and write has a tendency to excite dissatisfaction in their mind”; the 1740 South Carolina law stating, “the having of slaves taught to write, or suffering them to be employed in writing, may be attended with great inconveniences”; and the 1800 follow up law which increased sanctions because, “the laws heretofore enacted for the government of slaves, free negroes, mulattoes and mestizos have been insufficient for keeping them in due subordination.” Questions of education, insubordination, and solidarity present in my research on Black women’s intellectual history flow into my administrative leadership because self-definition is essential to both Black heritage and critical academic work.*

In addition to the Arizona Law Forum, African American Studies has developed many events, classes and partnerships in campus, community, nation, and international settings. In Fall 2010, these events included August Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean* play (Theatre Department), Dr. Elizabeth Chin’s lecture, “Ethnography and Cultural Politics in Katherine Dunham’s Stage and Studio Work” (Women’s Studies & Latin American Studies), Hands to Hands Brazilian Dance benefit concert for Haitian libraries (Latin American Studies), Re-Centering Nigeria 50th Anniversary Independence Conference (Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere and African Studies) and the Race and Community Engagement Conference held at Texas Tech University. These programs, coupled with increased course offerings, will move us toward the much-anticipated major in African American Studies. The growth of African American Studies, especially in the South, can help us better understand the complexities of how identity and culture impact human rights and civil rights. Empowerment education, as Dunham defined, means self-examination and community building for humanization, socialization, and professionalization. As educator Jaime Escalante argued, all we need to improve community, social, political and educational institutions is “*ganans*”... desire. With this newsletter, I work to foster a collaborative African American Studies environment for growth on all levels of the social spectrum. **Please support the development of African American Studies as we move toward a major!**

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## Welcome: Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons as Core AASP Faculty

Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons received her BA from Antioch University in Human Services and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion with a specific focus on Islam from Temple University as well as a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies. Simmons’ primary academic focus in Islam is on the Shari’ah (Islamic Law) and its impact on contemporary Muslim women. Dr. Simmons spent two years (1996-1998) living and conducting dissertation research in the Middle East countries of Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. The areas of focus for her teaching at this time include: Islam, Women, Religion and Society; Women and Islam; African American Religious Traditions; and Race, Religion, & Rebellion. In addition to her academic studies in Islam, Simmons was a disciple in Sufism (the mystical stream in Islam) for seventeen years (1971-1986) under the guidance of Sheikh Muhammad Raheem Bawa Muhaiyadeen, a Sufi Mystic from Sri Lanka, until his passing. She remains an active member of the Bawa Muhaiyadeen Fellowship and Mosque and student of this great Saint’s teachings.



Dr. Simmons has a long history in the area of civil rights, human rights and peace work. She was on the staff of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker peace, justice, human rights and international development organization headquartered in Philadelphia, Pa. for twenty-three years. During her early adult years as a college student and thereafter, she was active with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and spent seven years working full time on Voter Registration and desegregation activities in Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama during the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Her contributions are chronicled in the lead chapter in the newly released book *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC* (University of Illinois Press, 2010). Her chapter is titled, “From Little Memphis Girl to Mississippi Amazon.”

# FACULTY NEWS:



## SUMMER 2010: FIELD SCHOOL COMPLETES A 5TH YEAR

**Dr. James Davidson**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African American Studies has completed his 5th year of the Kingsley Plantation field school. Occupied around 1792, Kingsley Plantation derives its name from Zephaniah Kingsley, who owned the site between 1814 and 1839. Kingsley was a slave trader and ship's captain. Defying convention, he took as a wife Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, an enslaved girl from Senegal. Objecting to the harsh laws regarding interracial marriage and biracial children when Florida became American territory, Kingsley and his family moved to Haiti in 1839. The plantation was subsequently owned by a number of individuals into the early 20th century.

The entire field of African-American archaeology can actually trace its origin back to Kingsley Plantation, where in 1968 Dr. Charles Fairbanks (former professor at UF) conducted the first-ever scientific excavation of a slave cabin. Excavations have been conducted in slave Cabins W-12, W-13, and W-15. Through archival and archaeological data, it was established that these cabins were occupied between 1814 and 1839, during Zephaniah Kingsley's stay on the island.

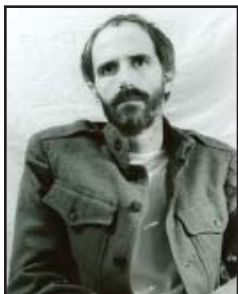
Amazing finds include French gun flints (from flintlock pistols and muskets) and lead shot in the cabins, and a chicken sacrifice and deliberate burial of the remains beneath the floor of Cabin W-15, presumably as part of an African religious ritual. Davidson's team has also uncovered previously unknown or "lost structures," including cottages along Cedar Avenue destroyed in the 1850s or 1860s and the Sugar Mill, an octagonal, tabby-walled industrial complex not seen since the 1880s. The team began exploring an east arc cabin with standing walls, Cabin E-10, and began the search for the lost slave cemetery.



**Students Ayana Flewellen and Jessica Marine examine an artifact found during the 2010 field season.**

Building on prior seasons, during the 2010 field season the Davison team will expand their excavations within Cabin E-10, continue exploration of the Sugar Mill complex and the long lost slave cemetery, and begin the exploration for evidence of the brief British Period occupation on the island. The summer field school is open to visitors!: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/davidson/kingsley.htm>.

# FACULTY NEWS:



## Dr. James Davidson

Dr. Davidson earned his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in August 2004 in anthropology, with a subdiscipline in archaeology. His research focuses on mortuary archaeology, mainly studying burial sites dating from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century. His graduate research involved exhuming Freedman's Cemetery in Dallas, Texas, a burial ground for former black slaves from 1869 to 1907 and has now completed his fifth year at the Kingsley Plantation in Jacksonville. His publications include, "Keeping the Devil at Bay: The Shoe on the Coffin Lid and Other Grave Charms in 19th and Early 20th Century America" in *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* (2010), "Identity and Violent Death: Contextualizing Lethal Gun Violence within the African-American Community of Dallas, TX" in *Journal of Social Archaeology*, and "Resurrection Men' in Dallas: The Illegal Use of Black Bodies as Medical Cadavers" in *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* (2007).

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## Dr. Patricia Hillard Nun

Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn earned her doctorate in Mass Communication from Florida State University. She owns Makare Publishing Company and works as an independent media producer. Her areas of research include: media and culture, audience analysis, enslaved Africans in Alachua County, and African American history in Alachua County. Her creative practices include media production, West African dance & mixed media art. Before teaching in African America Studies, she taught Black Women and Film in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Florida and served various populations while working as a community organizer in Alachua County. Her classes for the 2010 academic year include Theorizing Black America, The Black Experience: Psychological Perspectives, Blacks in the Media and Blacks in Florida (Spring 2011)--an experiential education class that will prepare students to work with Dr. Paul Ortiz and with the UF Sam Proctor Oral History Program in the Gainesville community.

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## Dr. Faye V. Harrison

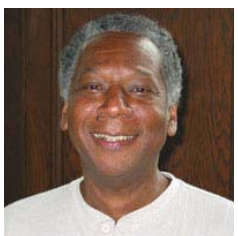
Dr. Harrison earned her doctorate from Stanford University. She is the recipient of an Andrew Mellon Visiting Fellowship at the University of Cape Town for a portion of the spring 2011 semester. After three years of dedicated effort, AASP is making serious headway and Dr. Harrison's work is continuing to give the program national recognition. She delivered the keynote lecture at an international conference, "Rethinking the Black Atlantic: Afrodescendants Still at the Bottom?", hosted by the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean at the University of South Florida in April 2010. The conference brought academics together with community activists, development practitioners and philanthropists working toward the development of organizational capacity in Afrodescendant communities in Latin America, particularly Brazil, Colombia, Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and their transmigrant communities in the U.S. The conference organizers have signed a contract of publication with Michigan State University Press' African Diaspora Series. She has been nominated for a 2010-11 Doctoral Dissertation Advising/Mentoring Award.

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## Dr. William Conwill

Dr. Conwill earned his doctorate at Stanford University. His most recent publications include a co-authored book chapter: "Using Group Work Strategies to Continue the National Discussion on Race, Justice, and Peace." in A. Singh and C. Salazar, *Social Justice in Group Work: Practical Interventions for Change*. (Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group). The research team actively engages members of the lay and professional community and trains them in the principles and applications of social justice and peace-making. Another recent publication is a collaborative book project with AASP Affiliate Faculty member Dr. West-Olatunji entitled *Counseling African Americans*. Dr. Conwill also has an upcoming article in the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*.

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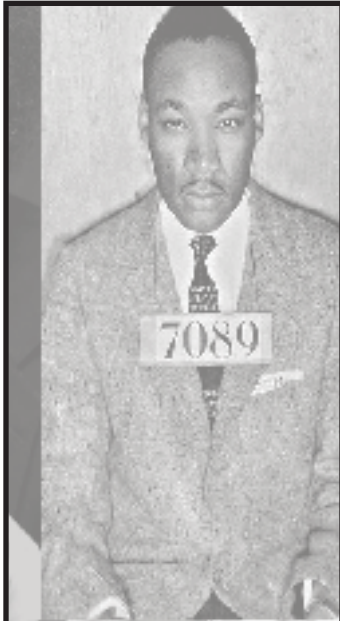


## Dr. Willie Baber

Dr. Baber earned his PhD from Stanford University and held positions at Tuskegee University, Purdue University and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro before coming to UF in 2004. His most recent research is on race, caste, and class in Sri Lanka, African American masculinity and HIV risk behavior. He also is working on a book-length manuscript, *The Social Ecology of Booker T. Washington*, based on research funded by the Department of the Interior from 1997 to 1999 and research conducted at the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Franklin County, Virginia. Dr. Baber's research interests include Economic anthropology including Marxist contributions and the Caribbean as a socio-cultural area; plantation and peasant systems of production, culture theory, and race/ethnic relations; applied anthropology, anthropology and education, public health.

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# FACULTY NEWS:



## Dr. Marilyn Thomas-Houston

Dr. Thomas-Houston earned her PhD in cultural anthropology from New York University. Before coming to UF in 2001, she was an assistant professor of anthropology and African American studies at the University of South Carolina. She has two books, *Stony the Road to Change: Black Mississippians and the Culture of Social Relations*, on the Civil Rights Movement in Oxford, Mississippi and she co-edited a volume with Mark Schuller, *Homing Devices: The Poor as Targets of Public Housing Policy and Practice*. Dr. Thomas-Houston has recently spearheaded *From These Roots* a two-part documentary on Black basketry in Nova Scotia, highlighting the life and work of the 7th generation basketmaker, Clara Gough. The documentary premiered in Savannah, GA in July 2010. In Spring 2010, Dr. Thomas-Houston organized a trip and chaired a panel of undergraduate AASP researchers at the National Council of Black Studies (NCBS) in New Orleans.



## FIRE!!! The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies: Dr. Thomas-Houston

In addition to the *From These Roots* documentary, Dr. Thomas-Houston is also the co-editor of a new online peer-reviewed journal, *Fire!!!: The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies* published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and distributed online by JStor. CALL FOR ARTICLES: \*The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) proudly announces the creation

of *Fire!!!*. Designed to connect Black Studies scholarship with the Digital Revolution in the Age of Communication, *Fire!!!* serves as a contemporary conduit through which Black Studies knowledge can be distributed. The journal's unique contribution is the use of the digital world, providing a peer-reviewed venue for scholars who utilize multimedia evidence to advance their theories and interpretations. Interested in contributing to this cutting-edge publication? Visit [www.fire-jbs.org](http://www.fire-jbs.org) or contact the editors at: [editors@fire-jbs.org](mailto:editors@fire-jbs.org) with questions.

## ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

### Dr. Nicole Banton

Dr. Banton earned her PhD in Sociology from Georgia State University with a concentration in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her areas of specialization are mothering studies, gender studies, cultural studies, sex and sexualities, medical sociology (specialization in procreative functioning), film studies, family sociology, race and ethnicity, and qualitative methods. She has taught courses such as Birth and Parenthood (with Wendy Simonds), Introduction to African American Studies, Marriage and Family, Introduction to Social Problems, and Human Sexuality.



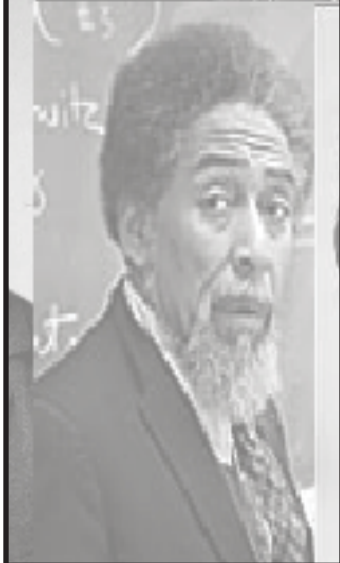
### Camee Maddox

Camee Maddox is entering her third year as the recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston Diaspora Fellowship offered by the Department of Anthropology. She is also entering her third year as the Black Graduate Student Organization Secretary. Last summer she conducted preliminary fieldwork in Martinique, and will be completing her MA requirements with an article based on her research findings and this year took part in summer training at a National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) retreat in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, she will soon submit an article based on her research in Martinique for publication, and presented in New Orleans at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meetings in November 2010.



### Dr. Courtney Moore Taylor

Dr. Moore earned her PhD in History from the University of Florida in Summer 2010. Her dissertation title was "Free In Thought, Fettered In Action: Enslaved Adolescent Females In The Slave South." Her research focuses on the neglected area studies of enslaved females and her dissertation, she advances African American history by moving the focus by scholars of slavery focus beyond adult males. Dr. Moore Taylor will present her work on a panel at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, held in Boston, MA.



# CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS



## Hand in Hand Diaspora Dance Performance for Haitian Libraries & Katherine Dunham Lecture by Dr. Chin

African American Studies Program co-sponsored a dance concert featuring dancers from Brazil, Atlanta, and New York. This benefit concert, put together by the Center for Latin American Studies, was conducted to benefit the Haitian Patrimony Initiative which seeks to assist struggling libraries in Haiti. In a related event, **Dr. Elizabeth Chin** offered a lecture on “Ethnography, Katherine Dunham and the Cultural Politics of Stage and Studio. Dr. Chin holds a BFA in Drama from NYU and a PhD in Anthropology from City University of New York, where she worked with Delmos Jones and Vincent Crapanzano. A professor of Anthropology in the Department of Critical Theory and Social Justice at Occidental College, Chin teaches courses concerned with children, the Caribbean (with emphasis on Haiti), consumerism, urban culture, and the anthropology of dance. She has done extensive research on the spending habits of inner-city African-American children, the cultural semiotics of the Barbie doll, and traditional Haitian dance. She has studied, taught, and performed Haitian Folklore for over 20 years, both in the U.S. and in Haiti. Her teachers include Jean Leon Destiné, founder of Haiti’s national ballet, Emerante de Pradines Morse, Mona Amira, Florencia Pierre, Elle Johnson and Katherine Dunham.

## National Presence: Texas Tech Conference & Ethnic Studies Week

The *Race, Ethnicity and Community Engagement in Higher Education Conference* was held October 17-20, 2010 in Lubbock, Texas. The conference, chaired by **Dr. Colette Taylor**, Assistant Professor in the TTech College of Education, explored the relationship between race, ethnicity and the variety of partnerships that flourish in educational institutions. Presenters discussed university connections to diverse communities through service learning courses, community-based research projects, and student-led multi-curricular activities. The conference expanded on the publication *African Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education* co-edited by Drs. Stephanie Evans (University of Florida), Colette Taylor (Texas Tech), Michelle Dunlap (Connecticut College), and DeMond Miller (Rowan University). For book, conference, and program information, see: <http://www.professorevans.com/AACE.asp>.

*Ethnic Studies Week*, celebrated October 1-7, 2010, was a nationally coordinated week of actions to defend ethnic studies and academic freedom. It was inspired by opposition to the passage of HB 2281 in Arizona banning ethnic studies and the May 21 passage of new social studies standards by Texas State Board of Education. Ethnic Studies Week is a **grassroots movement** initiated by 225 educators, endorsed by organizations around the country. Visit the website at: <http://ethnicstudiesweekoctober1-7>.



## African American Studies Program in Paris, 2011

Two AASP classes will be offered in Paris. Class #1: Identity, Politics, Education, and Culture: African Americans in Paris. **Dr. Evans**, Spring Break 2011, 2 credits. Students will approach topics chronologically and thematically to explore the various reasons African Americans have continued to engage in Parisian life since the early 1700s. Class engages visitations to the *arrondissements* where Black Americans experienced world wars, the Pan-Africanist movement, study abroad, writer’s life, café culture, and Jazz Age club life. Student assignments include critical reflection on autobiographical travel writing. Class #2: Hip Hop Culture and French Language. **Dr. Hebblethwaite**, Summer 2011, 6 credits. \*Intermediate French language skills required. In recent years, immigrant youths from North and West Africa have formed gangs, protested and taken to the streets. Rap music has emerged as the musical style and cultural force most closely associated with immigrant youth. In addition to studying scholarly work on urban culture and ethnomusicology, this class examines French rap to gain insights into the language, society, and psychology of second generation immigrant youth in France.

## Director’s Corner: New Publication, Named Professorship, Book Chapter Prize & Invited Lectures

Dr. Evans co-authored a special edition of the *Western Journal of Black Studies* with Dr. Mark Christian. The primary focus of this edited volume is the state and future of graduate studies in Black/Africana doctoral programs. Contributors include: Molefi Asante and Ama Mazama (Temple), Denise Troutman and Ke-fentse Chike (Michigan State), Ula Taylor (Berkeley), Terry Kershaw, Efua Akoma & Lawrence Johnson (Virginia Tech), and Shana Redmond (Yale). See the table of contents at: <http://www.professorevans.com/BSTPHD.asp>. In addition, Dr. Evans gave two invited talks in Fall 2010: a keynote address for the 40th Anniversary of Africana Studies at University of Georgia, and two lectures for Africana Studies at University of Miami (one on African Americans in Paris and one on her book *Black Women in the Ivory Tower*). She received an Emerald Award for her book chapter “Learners and Teachers of Men” in *Black American Males in Higher Education* and she was named a UF Colonel Allan R. and Margaret G. Crow Term Professor for CLAS, 2010-11. The working title of her new book project on autobiographical archetypes is, *My Passport Made Me Persona Non Grata: Quest and Insubordination in Black Women’s International Travel Narratives*.

# CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## Alumni Corner: Jasmin Robinson

African American Studies has been working very closely with the UF Association of Black Alumni (ABA), especially benefiting from the assistance of **Jasmine Robinson**.

In addition to working with Michael Grant, the ABA President and Rachael Nickie, the new Communications Vice President, Jasmine coordinates the events and details for the annual Black Alumni Weekend.

The theme for the 2010 ABA Weekend was "Building OUR Foundation in the Gator Nation."™ This annual reunion event took place September 3-5, 2010 in Gainesville. ABA honored our past and focused on our future with a weekend full of fun, networking opportunities and learned what our alma mater is doing for diversity.

The Keynote Speaker for this year's Friday night banquet was Dr. Gwendolyn



Zoharah Simmons, a core faculty member of AASP.

The mission of the ABA is to establish programming, formulate support, and develop initiatives that assist in the professional and personal development of UF African-American alumni, students, faculty and staff. ABA is looking for your involvement in formulating future plans for the organization. Serve on our Executive Board and contribute your time and expertise to building ABA programming.

Jasmine can be reached at [jrobinson@ufalumni.ufl.edu](mailto:jrobinson@ufalumni.ufl.edu), (352) 392-5496. Upcoming events are posted at the ABA website, located online at: <http://aba.ufalumni.ufl.edu/>.

### Featured Partnerships: University of Florida Library & Teach for America

ing to bolster library holdings in African American Studies and related areas. For suggested titles and desired acquisitions, please contact **Jana Ronan** at [jronan@ufl.edu](mailto:jronan@ufl.edu).

**Teach For America (TFA)** represents a national community partnership for AASP. TFA is building the movement to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our nation's most promising future leaders in the effort. TFA recruiters seek individuals from all backgrounds, majors, and professional experiences who have what it takes to excel as teachers and improve the quality for education for children growing up in low-income communities. For more information, contact **Angie Brice** at [angie.brice@teachforamerica.org](mailto:angie.brice@teachforamerica.org).

AASP is developing a strong relationship with the University of Florida Library. In addition to working closely to develop the Professor Jim Haskins tribute during Black History Month (February 2011) AASP and Jana Ronan (Research Services Coordinator and African American Studies Librarian), are seeking

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Sharon Burney, Program Assistant, for seven years of committed service to AASP!**

**Ayana Flewellen and Alisa Valentin, AASP Student Assistants, for help with this 2010 newsletter and dependable office work. Ayana is a 3rd year Anthropology major and Alisa a 3rd year Journalism/Telecommunication major.**

**...and Brittany Ferguson, graphic designer for AASP program materials. For design inquiries contact: [yvonnegraphics@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnegraphics@gmail.com).**

### COLLABORATIONS WITH THEATER, LANGUAGES, & AFRICAN STUDIES

The African American Studies Program at the University of Florida has increased our commitment to becoming the academic hub for scholarly programming around campus. To that end, we are thrilled to have played a role in co-sponsoring two significant events in Fall 2010:

**AN INCESSANT JOURNEY: INVESTIGATING SPIRITUALITY IN AUGUST WILSON'S TWENTIETH CENTURY AFRICAN AMERICAN PLAY CYCLE** was the brainchild of **Dr. Mikell Pinkney**, Associate Professor of Theater and Affiliate Faculty of the African American Studies Program. Using the first play of Wilson's 10-play cycle, *Gem of the Ocean*, as a launching pad into discussion and discovery, the symposium focused on the spiritual journeys and links that run through the characters in all ten plays, from Aunt Ester Tyler in the first play to Harmond Wilkes in the last play, (*Radio Golf*). Guest panelists included Obie Award winning director and producer Lou Bellamy, founder and artistic director of Penumbra Theatre and Associate Professor at University of Minnesota; Woodie King, Jr. Obie Award winning actor and theater director; decorated Broadway and movie actress Ebony Jo-Ann; and Dr. Sandra Shannon, professor of African American Literature, Criticism, and Drama in the Department of English at Howard University. Details are online at <http://wilsonsymposium.pandpprojects.net/>.

**NIGERIA AS A CENTER OF DISCOURSE: RE-CENTERING A MARGINAL NATION-STATE**, a one-day symposium, was created by **Dr. Kole Odutola**, a Lecturer of Yoruba in the Department of Language, Literature, and Culture. The event, co-sponsored by African Studies African American Studies, the Gainesville-area Nigerian community, and the Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere, commemorated the 50th Anniversary of Nigerian Independence. The symposium featured Adewale Ajadi (UK), Professor Robin Poynor (Art History, UF), Professor Wolfgang Bender (Director, Center for World Music, Universität Hildesheim), Professor Ken Harrow (English, Michigan State University), Tunde Akinloye (Founder, Nigeria Web Radio, Texas), Dr. Rachel Hastings (Linguistics, Evergreen State College), Ms. Bunmi Oyinsan (Canada), Professor Chuck Ambler (History, University of Texas), Professor Tunga Lergo (Santa Fe College), and Professor Su O'Brien (UF). Information is available online at: <http://www.humanities.ufl.edu/calendar/20101001-Nigeria.html>.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY DONATING TO AASP

The African American Studies Program at the University of Florida depends upon gifts from alumni and friends to fund student and faculty initiatives, research, programs and lecture series. If you would like to support the program, please consider making your gift today. The University of Florida Foundation, Inc. is the steward of all private support of the University of Florida--there are two ways to donate. First, you can give online to THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM FUND which makes it possible for the program to engage in extracurricular activities that promote community building and public programming. Private sources of funding increase our capacity for creating a supportive environment for interactions among students, faculty, and the wider community.

Secondly, The JAMES HASKINS VISITING SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND honors the memory of the late James Haskins (1941-2005), a former University of Florida Professor of English and a distinguished writer who interpreted the African American experience. In well over 100 books, he exposed children and youth readers to the biographies of leading African Americans and key aspects of Black culture, social history, and contemporary life. The scope of his writings also extended beyond Black America to other parts of the world. The James Haskins Visiting Scholar Fellowship Endowment Fund will provide the critical resources needed to enable the AASP to host emerging and established scholars with research interests that complement some aspect of the scholarly agenda of faculty within the program.

You may also make a gift of cash, appreciated stocks and bonds, real estate, and through various planned giving opportunities through the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences Development and Alumni Affairs office. For more information, please contact **Zoe Seale**, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs (352) 392-0624 or [zseale@uff.ufl.edu](mailto:zseale@uff.ufl.edu).



### GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER SERIES: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The UF African American Studies Program Graduate Student Speakers Bureau (GSSB) is a collective of UF graduate students whose dissertation research centers around African American Studies. Beyond conducting research about African Americans, the thesis in progress employs theories and methods informed by African American Studies scholars. Graduate students of the Speakers Bureau will make themselves available for UF and community classes and events. This will be a mutually beneficial relationship that allows emerging scholars to share their research and the campus to benefit from a vast variety of critical race, interdisciplinary, and intersectional expertise. When speaking on behalf of AASP, the GSSB participants frame their work in terms of the four principals developed by faculty of the University of Florida African American Studies Program, which are: 1) interdisciplinarity; 2) community-based and experiential scholarship; 3) situating the African American experience within a transnational context; and 4) preparing undergraduate students for the next step in their academic and professional journey.

Are you a graduate student at UF interested in becoming a speaker for AASP? (Must be ABD.) Submit the following to Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans at [drevans@ufl.edu](mailto:drevans@ufl.edu):

1. CV and picture
2. Word document with your contact information, dissertation title and abstract, names of chair and committee members (include departments), and short bibliography with citations of Africana Studies scholars who inform your work.

### AASP Students Who Have Graduated With a Minor Now Have a Network!

The UF African American Studies Program is making strides towards a major and we need your help! If you have graduated from the program with a minor or taken classes that have impacted your professional and personal development, please keep in touch with us. Here are 5 ways to keep in touch:

1. Check the <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/afam/> and Facebook sites regularly--add us to your favorites list.
2. Contact the Association of Black Alumni to keep up with what is happening all over campus.
3. Add your contact information and professional updates to your alumni profile by emailing **Rhana Gittens**, President of the Alumni Network: [rhana.gittens@gmail.com](mailto:rhana.gittens@gmail.com).
4. Donate to the Program to support ongoing programming contact Zoe Seale, (see informatino above).
5. Stop in to our offices at 103 Walker Hall or call 352-392-5724.