

CHOICE REVIEWS ONLINE

FULL TEXT REVIEW

<http://www.cro2.org.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/default.aspx?page=reviewdisplay&pid=3337993>

[BACK TO RESULTS](#)

45-2787

LC2741

2006-22029 CIP

Social & Behavioral Sciences \ History, Geography & Area Studies \ North America

Evans, Stephanie Y. **Black women in the ivory tower, 1850-1954: an intellectual history.**

University Press of Florida, 2007. 275p bibl index afp ISBN [0-8130-3031-5](#), \$59.95; ISBN [9780813030319](#), \$59.95. Reviewed in 2008jan CHOICE.

Evan's well written book drawn from her dissertation is one of the first accounts of the accomplishments of the black American women who entered the world of higher education in the 1850-1954 pre-*Brown* decision era. Chronological surveys of the pre-1965, 1865-1910, and 1910-1954 eras precede two chapters describing the ideas and experiences of the women students derived from their college memories of their aspirations and the barriers they overcame. The sixth chapter catalogs their earning of doctoral degrees during 1921-1954. The inspiring stories outline how black women achieved degrees and careers in a multiplicity of fields despite the handicaps of gender and racial bias. Evans (Univ. of Florida) provides a more traditional intellectual history in the book's second section as she illuminates the intellectual legacies of Mary McCloud Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, and Anna Julia Cooper, who was born enslaved and earned her doctorate from the Sorbonne. The author adds her personal intellectual history as a scholar activist in the Ivory Tower. The last chapter offers succinct insight into the complicated world of black women in academia and recent cultural history since 1954. Evans urges academic gatekeepers to "create more equitable and ethical institutions as time, technology, and circumstance reconfigure the international human landscape." Scholarly notes. **Summing Up:** Recommended. All levels/libraries. -- *J. H. Smith, Wake Forest University*