



Director, Dr. Tara T. Green

"Greensboro, NC is one of the best places in America to teach African American Studies!"

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## Director's Corner

Greetings!

Allow me to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not yet met. On July 1, 2008, I began as Director of the African American Studies at UNCG. I have often been asked why I chose to teach African American literature and studies courses. My reasoning goes back to the stories that my mother told me about her childhood in rural Louisiana. When I learned that I could get paid to learn more about

African Americans and tell others about the accomplishments of African Americans, I was hooked.

I come to this position with a bachelor's degree from Dillard University and a Master's and Doctorate in English from Louisiana State University. During the past eight years, I taught at state universities in Louisiana and in Arizona. After five years in Arizona, I was happy to return to the South. The South, and



specifically Greensboro, North Carolina, is one of the best places in America to teach African American Studies.

We have gotten off to a great start. Please read on to find out about the new study abroad program, our conversations series, our current faculty search with Women and Gender Studies, and about our talented students and faculty.

It is both an honor and pleasure to be Director of UNCG's AFS Program .

## AFS Students to Study Abroad in Botswana

AFS is proud to announce a new study abroad program to the University of Botswana, in conjunction with UNCG's International Programs office. With the help of Penelope Pynes, interim Associate Provost of International Programs Center at UNCG, we were able to establish a student exchange program with the university in Gaborone, Botswana. Currently, three UNCG students are planning to attend UB in the Spring, including AFS

majors Tiffany Watson and Cameron Wynn. Tiffany says, "It has always been my dream to visit Africa. I can't wait to experience education in a new environment!" Cameron is most excited about the cultural opportunities. "I am really looking forward to tasting the food, immersing myself in the culture, and conversing with students of the University of Botswana." We know our students will enjoy the wonderful

university and faculty.

UB is sending three of their students to UNCG in the Spring. The AFS program is proud to have initiated this unique opportunity for UNCG students, and we will continue to encourage our majors to take part in this student exchange.





“Conversations with the Community occur the second Tuesday of each month and are led by faculty or AFS students.”



Students perform at the “Poetic Conversations” event.

## Conversations with the Community

This fall we began the “Conversations with the Community” series. The purpose of the series is to engage in conversations with students, faculty, and community members about issues related to the experiences of African Americans. The “conversations” occur the second Tuesday of each month and are led by faculty or AFS students.

William Hart, Associate

Professor of Religious Studies and affiliate of the AFS Program, was our first speaker at the September event. Dr. Hart talked about his recently released book, *Black Religion; Malcolm X, Julius Lester & Jan Willis*. In October, Professor SallyAnn Ferguson led a discussion on her new book *Nineteenth Century Black Women’s Literary Emergence: Evolutionary Spirituality, Sexuality, and Identity*. In November we

enjoyed, “Poetic Conversations,” led by the students of Logie Meachum’s “Black Poetry” course.



## Fall Events

**Learning About Legal Careers** - On October 27, 2008, the African American Studies Program organized a meeting between students, practicing attorneys and a current law school student. John O’Neal (class of 1992) invited Thomas Jackson, Aisha Prigen, Justin Outling, and Charlene Armstrong to share their experiences with students, along with AFS alumna and Elon law student, Tiffany Dyson. With the exception of Armstrong, all of the speakers are UNCG alumni.

Students asked questions about the admissions process, preparation for law school, and about the speakers’ professional experiences. The Program plans to work with alumni on an event focused on applying to and attending graduate school. Please let us know if you would like to participate by e-mailing [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu).

**Self Publishing**- Many students participated in a workshop titled “Zine Making for Social Justice” with Alexis Gumbs, which

allowed them to collaboratively publish a mini-magazine.

**Career of an Activist** - Several students also met with Max Rameau, founder of the Center for Pan-African Development, to hear about his activism.

**2008 Elections**-A few weeks before the elections we hosted a panel with Women and Gender Studies titled “Race, Gender & Electoral Politics.” Approximately 100 people attended.

## New Faces in the Office

Two staff people have joined us in the African American Studies office. Mr. Bruce Holland is the new administrative associate who comes to us with years of international service experience as an administrator in the Air Force. He is excited to be back in the US and to work with African American

Studies. “So far I have enjoyed meeting faculty and students and being part of the AFS Family,” says Bruce. “I look forward to our exciting plans for the Spring semester and beyond!”

LaTisha Moore is this year’s work study student. She is

majoring in Early Child Care and Education and plans to work with young children upon graduation.

Isabell Moore continues on as the graduate assistant and will graduate from the Women and Gender studies program in May.

## Looking Forward

Stay tuned for several exciting developments coming up in the next year...

**Joint Faculty Hire with the Women and Gender Studies (WGS) Program** - AFS and WGS are interviewing candidates for a joint position in both programs. By January, we hope to announce a new tenure-track faculty member! S/he will teach undergraduate and graduate courses, supervise internship experiences, serve on project/thesis committees, as well as continue her/his own research.

**CACE on "Race and Politics" in April** - Between April 3rd-4th 2009, AFS will once again host the annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE). This conference examines critical and timely African American-related issues and perspectives to engage students, faculty, staff, and members of the community in the exploration and discussion of these topics and ideas. This year's topic is "Race, Gender & Politics, Past, Present and Future" and we expect an engaging array of presentations, panels, workshops and lectures. For more information see [www.uncg.edu/afs/cace.html](http://www.uncg.edu/afs/cace.html)

**Graduate Certificate Under Review** – AFS's Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate proposal recently passed the college curriculum committee and will continue on to the next stage of review. If approved, this program would provide an AFS focus for current graduate students or non-graduate degree seeking students.

**Internship Program**- This program will allow AFS majors and minors to receive course credit for relevant work experience while serving the community. If you know of an organization which serves African Americans and is in need of interns, please e-mail [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) and let us know!

**Henry O. Tanner Symposium**-The event will take place on Saturday, April 18th 2009 in the Weatherspoon Auditorium and will feature a panel of scholars.

**Conversations with the Community**-The series will resume in February 2009. Visit our website for dates and times.

## Faculty News

**Cauthen Authors Book** - UNCG AFS Professor Michael Cauthen recently co-authored *The Student-Athlete's College Recruitment Guide*, with two others. It is being published by Facts on File, Inc., of New York City and it will be in stores by June 2009. The book shows high achieving student-athletes in "non-revenue" sports, like track & field, soccer, gymnastics, tennis, and swimming, how to increase their chances for college and university athletic scholarships.

**Cauthen Delivers Conference Address** - On Friday, October 10th, 2008, Cauthen delivered the

Presidential Address of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society (SAPES). He just completed a two year term as the president of that organization. His address, "Thought Experiments from the Edge of Infinity," examined how the discovery of "massive" intergenerational increases in the mean IQ scores of developing nations revealed a fundamental arbitrariness in the relationship between IQ scores and cognitive ability.

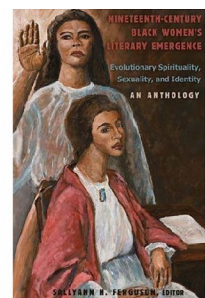
**Meachum Stars in Movie & Wins Blues Contest** - Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum, AFS adjunct instructor, co-starred in the independent movie, *Bone Creek*. The feature film, directed and produced by broadcasting and cinema professor Dr. Emily Edwards, mixes music

with drama and magical realism. He also won the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society's Solo/Duo Blues Challenge, and shared the stage with Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius at a North Carolina Democratic Women's event.

**Woods' Artwork On Cover** – The artwork of Frank Woods, Visiting Assistant Professor and former AFS director, appears on the cover of SallyAnn Ferguson's recent book (pictured at right). Woods discussed the inspiration for the work after Dr. Ferguson's *Conversations with the Community* presentation in October.

**Green Publishes** - Tara T. Green, AFS Program Director and Associate Professor, published *From*

*the Plantation to the Prison: African American Confinement Literature* in April of 2008, which analyzes forms of confinement from slavery through the Civil Rights era. Her recent scholarly article, "Meeting Richard Wright in the Mountains," was published in *Papers on Language and Literature*. Her book, *A Fatherless Child: Autobiographical Perspectives on African American Men*, will be published in February of 2009.

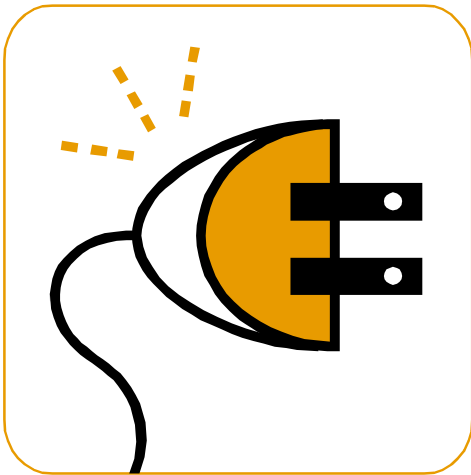




## AFS Major in the Spotlight

Cameron Wynn is an AFS major who will graduate in May. He will spend his final semester studying at the University of Botswana in Gabrone. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as an AFS major," he says. "AFS courses delve into black issues that were barely touched on in high school and have given me the opportunity to learn from truly phenomenal people like Professor Logie Meachum." Upon graduation, he will attend Wake Forest Medical School. "I want to become

a doctor for a community health center that serves the patient population that is uninsured, on Medicaid, or slipping through the cracks of the system," he recently told us. "AFS classes have given me perspective and a cultured view of the world which has enhanced my critical thinking and problem solving skills. We wish great things for this talented major and know he will go on to make an impact in the world!"



## AFS On Facebook

AFS recently became part of the Facebook craze. Facebook is a free social networking website where members create an account and use it to link with other friends, post pictures and events, and message their contacts.

"A friend of mine at another university told me about Facebook," says Dr. Green, "I started asking students and found out that they all have accounts! We created the account so we could maintain contact with students."

Since creating the account, we have used it to find alumni, to publicize events and to stay in touch with students. We also created a photo album page with pictures of all our past events. As of printing, we have 72 friends linked with us on Facebook. If you already have an account, please search [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) and join us as a friend!

Look for our AFS logo as our profile picture.



## Congrats Grads

This semester we have two AFS majors graduating.

Jordan Matthews teaches with Bright Futures Learning. She will also graduate with a minor in English.

Reasha Rieves works at Citi bank and plans to pursue a Master's in Conflict Resolution.

These students will be recognized at the AFS Fall Reception on December 8, 2008.

## AFS Ambassadors

AFS Ambassadors are students who represent the UNCG African American Studies Program at public events and help the program to meet students' needs. Students who participate will build contacts, increase

leadership skills, and develop communication abilities. Interested students should e-mail us for more information.

## Alumni Notes

We recently followed up with alumni to find out where they are and how they are doing. Enjoy finding out about a few of our wonderful AFS alumni! Let us know what you're doing so we can share your good news through future newsletters. Contact us at [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) or find us on Facebook!

**Valencia Brown** lives in Utica, NY where she is a student and works as a teacher's assistant.

**Jeanna Covington** lives in Philadelphia where she is a graduate student pursuing an MA degree in African American Studies at Temple University.

**Nadine Dörner** lives in Greensboro and is a client associate at Wachovia Securities.

**Tiffany Dyson** is a law student at Elon University. Tiffany double majored in African American Studies and Political Science.

**Andrea Jenkins Bryant** lives in Winston-Salem and works as a manager in retail. She is currently pursuing an MPA degree in non-profit management from High Point University.

**Sherrie Kirk** lives in Mint Hill, NC where she works as a Mental Health Technician.

**Robert Randolph** lives in Greensboro and teaches

for AFS, as well as at ECPI. He holds a Masters degree in African American Literature from NC A&T.

**Jamesa McGriff** lives in High Point and works as the program director for Defined Destiny Leadership Enrichment.

**Melanie McLean** lives in Arlington, VA and works as a marketing and management consultant for Bejon & McLean LLC.

**Crystal Patrick-Jefferson** lives in Longs, SC and works as a pediatric social worker.

**Michelle Shepard** lives in Burgaw, NC and is pursuing a master in public administration degree from UNC-Wilmington.

## Reflections of an Alumna by Ashanti White

I was elated to be able to advance the studies that had begun for me when I was still in elementary school. My decision to major in AFS was one of the best life decisions that I have made.

The beauty of African Americans was exhibited in the program--it was diverse and all encompassing. As an AFS major, I was able to take English, Dance, History, and Political Science courses in addition to the Special Topics classes, such as the Color Complex and African American Woman in American Society. This diversity showed that the professors in the program were not interested in students regurgitating

information but actually learning and applying the information that was provided. When UNCG students expressed interest in the Poetry and Spoken Word Movements, Dr. Woods and the African American Studies Program supported the efforts. I was able to grow as a writer, orator, and intellectual as organizer and host of the bi-annual Poetry Slams that drew an audience and performers from across the state of North Carolina.

The themes discussed in the program found way to my writings, especially in "Black Holocaust," the piece that propelled me on the path that I have continued on as

a writer.

I still maintain contact with my professors, whose constant guidance and encouragement is still felt. I encourage all students, not just African Americans, to consider majoring in UNCG's African American Studies Program. The caliber of knowledge that I receive cannot be duplicated. I owe much of my success to the program, professors, and staff that created and continue to support the program.

Ashanti White is the author of *Chasing Eden* and currently lives in Atlanta. You can check her out at: [www.ashantiwhite.com](http://www.ashantiwhite.com)



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## Support AFS

If you like what you have read, please consider helping us to continue to grow and improve our program by making a donation.

Your gift to AFS allows us to provide more lectures and events, and to

help us launch new programs, such as internships and scholarships.

To support AFS, please send your donation to Advancement Services  
1100 W. Market Street  
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Greensboro, NC 27402 clearly marked for UNCG African American Studies. No donation is too large or too small!

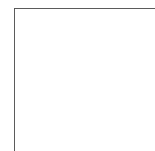
## About UNCG's AFS Studies Program

The mission of the UNCG African American Studies Program is to provide students with an opportunity to engage in the study of people of African descent.

AFS is an interdisciplinary program that is student-centered. Students are encouraged to not only engage in academic study, but

to broaden their knowledge by getting involved in community-projects and participating in the study abroad program. For More Information: [www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)

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