

# AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4      MAY 2010

## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME!

I am pleased that you are taking the time to learn about how busy our faculty and students have been this semester. We have had a productive spring semester.

In December, we said good-bye to 7 students. I am proud to report that all of them have plans to attend graduate and professional schools. Two of the students that graduated were the first to receive internship credit towards their degree. One of them was the first to participate in the University of Botswana student exchange with UNCG.

This semester we had two students from the first and only course at UNCG that

focuses on Black women to read papers from that course at a national conference.

By far, one of the most exciting events was the opening of the International Civil Rights Museum. I had the opportunity to go to the community breakfast at 5:30 am on February 1 and to leave that venue to stand with others in the city when the ribbon was cut. Later that day, I took a tour of the museum and stood in Governmental Plaza with students and community members from all over the country. It was a moving event that I hope to never forget. I also had the pleasure of meeting the Woman's College alumni who drove from

Virginia to remember the days that they too sat down at the Woolworths. I remain humbled by the energy of Betsy Toth and Eugenia Seaman Marks, who returned in April for the 1960's class reunion.

When I introduced myself to Ms. Toth she said, "African American Studies is not a phrase I thought I'd ever hear in relation to UNCG." I understood. We are here. Moving forward.

Read more about the AFS Program's involvement with the February 1's events, our search for a new faculty member, and other exciting news.

My best to all,  
Tara



Director, Dr. Tara T. Green

*"We are preparing leaders. Their knowledge as African American Studies majors and as citizens in a rapidly changing world prepares them for success and to achieve the American Dream."*

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## CONGRATS AFS GRADUATES & STUDENTS!

**Congrats Graduates:** Our 2010 Spring graduates are, **Raffinee Archible** (plans to pursue a MA in Management at Wake Forest), **Carrie Bell, Carla Bowman, Katie Brown** (plans to enter Doula training at the YMCA, then begin her research on racism in prenatal care and birthing outcomes), **Dominique Crump** (plans to attend GTCC dental hygien-

ist school in 2011), **Christine Edwards** (plans to attend UNC-Charlotte to pursue a Masters in Public Administration), **Vanessa Curtis, Jocelyn Franklin, Racheal Hammond** (cum laude), **Jaimey Howard** (Cum laude, plans to attend North Carolina Central University School of Law in the fall), **Keosha Johnson, Whitney McCorkle** (plans to work in the

Meckleburg County Court house then attend Law School at NCCU fall 2011), **and Kaquana Neal** (plans to attend NC A&T School of Nursing). And, our first recipient of the Post Baccalaureate Certificate is **Valencia Abbott**. Best wishes to all of you. **Jaimey Howard** was also selected as the AFS Graduating Senior of the Year 2010.





Dr. Green with graduates Kenyatta Lowrey, Ronald Hayes, Tiffany Watson, Whitney Manns, & Branden Reid.

## AFS FALL CONVOCATION – CELEBRATING STUDENTS

It was the time of year for us to say good-bye to those who accomplished the goal of completing the requirements for a degree in African American Studies at UNCG.

In the fall, 7 students shook the hands of their faculty members, received their AFS graduation stoles, and smiled at the cameras. All of the students have plans to attend graduate or law school.

Among them was Tiffany

Watson, who received the award for AFS Graduating



Tiffany Watson giving her speech.

Senior of the Year. Tiffany organized the annual CACE Conference and was one of the first students to attend the University of

Botswana. She is currently pursuing the Masters of Public Administration at Liberty University.

We are proud of all graduates and we look forward to hearing great things about their future accomplishments.



Please e-mail [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) with an update on your life so we can include it in our next newsletter!

## AMBASSADOR NOTES

**Jarrod Rudd** has been selected as an AFS Ambassador. "I wanted to become an AFS Ambassador because at the CACE conference this year I saw how important the conference was to the guests. I could see the joy and feelings of accomplishment from the presenters. I was also interested in becoming an Ambassador because I would love to be able to talk to students and get them interested in our program."

Jarrod is joined by Sophomore **Charles Chavis**. "I wanted to be an AFS Ambassador because I can be a light of inspiration in the eyes of African American youths who are struggle economically, socially and racially. In this position of leadership I can also inspire African American College students like myself who are struggling with the issues of life and college."



JARROD WITH TWO OF THE GREENSBORO FOUR

## STUDENTS ATTEND CONFERENCES



### Students present at National Conference

Kejuana Kendrick (AFS minor) and Arjanae Gay were chosen by Dr. Green to present their papers on notable



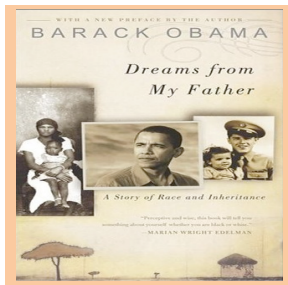
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY DAVID T. HARRIS

Black women at the National Council of Black Studies Conference in New Orleans March 18, 2010. Dr. Green taught these intellectual women in her Black Women in the U.S. course. For class assignments, the students wrote papers on the accomplishments of specific Black women they had studied for the course. Arjanae's

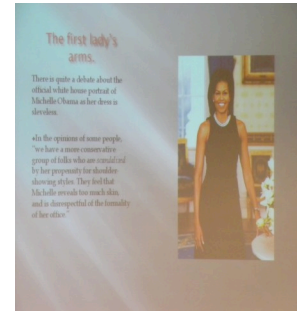
paper, "Freedom through Writing in Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*" and Kejuana's paper, "To Be Unbought and Unboosed: Shirley Chisolm Before Obama" were very well received.

## SPRING CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

This spring AFS hosted two "Conversations with the Community." On February 9<sup>th</sup> Dr. C.P. Gause and Professor Robert Randolph led the discussion on Barack Obama's autobiography, *Dreams from My Father*. The discussion focused on Obama's struggle to find his place in Black America.



On March 16<sup>th</sup> the program hosted another "Conversation with the Community" titled "Black Female Body Images." Led by AFS director Dr. Tara Green and Dr. Sarah Cervenak, this discussion focused on the attention that famous Black women have attracted over the years. Two of the famous figures discussed were Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama.



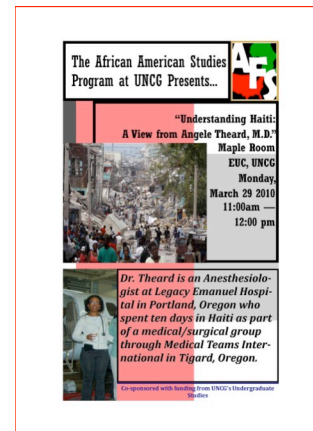
### Understanding Haiti?

On March 29, 2010, the AFS Program presented "Understanding Haiti." Dr. Angele Theard, an anesthesiologist at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland Oregon came to campus to describe the ten days she spent in Haiti, after the earthquake, as part of Medical Teams International.

Dr. Theard, whose parents are Haitian immigrants, used a

PowerPoint presentation to illuminate the impact the earthquake had on the physical and mental health of Haitians. She began the presentation by discussing the political history of Haiti that provided context for the devastation. Dr. Theard shared the stories of children who lost limbs and loved ones and how she, as an American trained doctor, learned to work with few resources to help save lives.

After taking questions from the audience, Dr. Theard left the audience of students and faculty with an informed understanding of the history and culture of Haiti.



## STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Student News

#### AFS Students on February 1

On February 1, 2010, both UNC-G and NC A&T were closed, but not all students stayed home. Many of them joined the commemorative walk from A&T to the Governmental Plaza, a block from the new International Civil Rights Museum. With much excitement, Teshone Jones, senior AFS major and member of Ignite Greensboro, along with Eugenia Brown, AFS and Sociology major were among the students who participated in the

historic activities. Several other students related to the AFS program participated in this event as well.

**Dwayne Barnes** has recently become a new addition to the LIHC's Disciplinary Honors Program. "I wanted to join the LIHC's Disciplinary Honors Program as a new challenge for [myself]." He feels that the program will help him establish dialogue with professors on campus and expand his knowledge of Black history. He is currently working on his third de-

gree as an AFS student. He enjoys studying African American history because it has helped him to reconnect with himself. He feels the AFS program has given him enormous tools to use while pursuing his goal to become an attorney. Dwayne thanks the program and UNCG for accepting him into the LIHC's Disciplinary Honors Program.



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY TESHONE JONES

## SPRING NEWS AND FUTURE EVENTS

### Remembering Woman's College students on February 1

Many students are unaware of the history of Civil Rights activism among Woman's College students in the 1960s. As the city of Greensboro worked together to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sit-in Movement and the opening of the long-anticipated International Civil Rights Museum, the African American Studies Program joined with the Department of History, Women's and Gender Studies, and Betty Carter of Jackson library to remember the efforts of a few heroic women.

Through a successful collabora-

tion, women from the previously mentioned units organized several events. On January 28, the group hosted a panel discussion on the women, Ann Dearsley Vernon, Eugenia Seaman Marks, Claudette Burroughs-White, and Marilyn Lott involved with the Sit-in Movement. The group also worked with student leaders to organize a walk from campus to the Governmental Plaza where triad college students were planning to meet, but those plans were cancelled due to the lingering effects of a snowstorm.

Chancellor Linda Brady and Provost David Perrin supported these events. "Being here during that historic time reminded

me of why I chose to apply for the Directorship," said Dr. Green.



**Thursday, January 28, 2010**  
**4:00 pm**  
Multicultural Resource Center  
Elliott University Center

**WC at the Lunch Counter:**  
UNCG's Involvement in the Sit-In Demonstration of 1960  
A discussion of the history of events surrounding the sit in protests and consequences for WC students and the community

**March to Woolworth's**  
February 1st - 11:30 am  
In front of Guilford Dorm

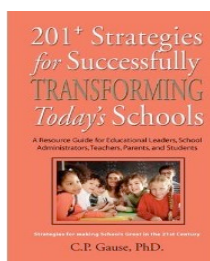
Join your fellow UNCG students, staff and faculty for a walk planned in honor of the opening of the Civil Rights Museum and in honor of three WC students who joined fellow college students from A&T and Bennett in the protest.

These events have been supported by the Linda Arnold Carole Distinguished Excellence Professorship in TRCS

### Faculty News

**Tara T. Green** spoke about Woman's College's Feb. 1 participation and commemorative events on Fox morning news and WXII. She also presented papers at the National Black Council of Black Studies Conference (March 2010) and the College Language Association (April 2010). She is scheduled to attend a faculty seminar hosted by the University of Ghana in Ghana, Africa this June.

**C.P. Gause** (affiliate, School of Education) released his new book, "201+ Strategies for Successfully Transforming Today's Schools: A Resource

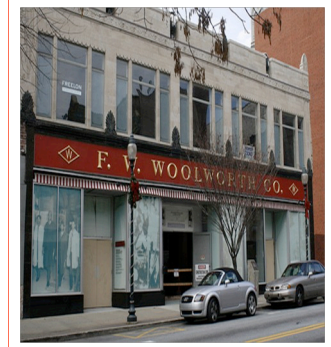


**Sarah Cervenak** presented "Blackness at the Funeral Pyre: William Pope L's Revelation" at NC Central's 2nd Annual African Diaspora Conference in March.

**William Hart** (affiliate, Religious Studies) presented three papers in the Spring, including "Afro- Eccentricity : Beyond the Standard Narrative of Black Religion" at UC-Riverside.

**Cerise Glenn** (affiliate, Communication Studies) has two articles in press and presented at two conferences. She is raveling to Ghana in May 2010 as part of the International Scholars of the African Diaspora Alliance (ISADA) to conduct research.

**Frank Woods**, who wrote a column on Albion Tourgee for the Greensboro News and Record that coincided with the opening of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, was invited to participate on the planning committee for a symposium on the Reconstruction judge at that the University of North Carolina Center for the Study of the American South in Chapel Hill. Tourgee played an active role in North Carolina shortly after the Civil War in securing fundamental rights for newly freed slaves. **Dr. Woods** also wrote a review: "A Woman's Undying Gift" in the Greensboro News and Record on "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot.



Photographed by Jerry Wolford, Greensboro News and Record Photographer

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR THE  
21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND EXPERIENCES  
(CACE)**

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

October 14-16, 2010

Theme: EXPLORING BLACK MASCULINITIES ACROSS MULTIPLE LANDSCAPES:  
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Topics may include, but are not limited to the following:

Theorized black masculinities, Multi-racial/multi-ethnic black masculinities, Black masculinities across the Global Diaspora Comic & Fictional black masculinities, Queer, Feminist, and/or Feminized Black masculinities, Black masculinities and politics Black masculinities and the Public Sphere, Popular Culture and black masculinities, Black masculinity and Education, Historical elements of black masculinity, Black masculinity and performance, Black masculinity and religion/spirituality, Black men and families/relationships, Black masculinity and music

Send proposed abstracts (100 words) in Word or RTF to [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) no later than August 13, 2010. Panel proposals are highly encouraged. Student panels are welcomed. Send inquiries to [AFS@uncg.edu](mailto:AFS@uncg.edu). For more information and registration, visit [www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs).



### **New Professor in AFS**

Dr. Omar H. Ali will join the faculty of the AFS Program as Associate Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies in the fall. He plans to offer several new upper-level courses on the African Diaspora, including seminars and colloquia on independent black politics, Islam and abolitionism in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, and Black Populism in the New South. “My family and I are thrilled to be joining the UNCG community,” says Ali, who previously taught in the History Department at Towson University in Maryland. “I’m especially looking forward to working with students in the AFS Program. I hope to generate further interest in a global view of the African Diaspora by exploring with students the histories and cultures of men and women of African descent not only in the United States and the Caribbean, but in South America and the Indian Ocean world.” An honors graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science, Ali studied ethnographic methodology at the School of Oriental and African Studies before pursuing his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University.

The author of two books, *In the Balance of Power* (Ohio University Press, 2008) and *Black Populism in the New South, 1886-1900* (University Press of Mississippi, 2010), Dr. Ali has been a Fulbright professor of history and anthropology at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, a visiting professor in the Program in African American and Diaspora Studies at Vanderbilt University, and a Library Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. His next book-length project is entitled *Bilal's Song: A History of Muslim Africans in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic Worlds*.

“As someone of Peruvian and East Indian descent, studying the African Diaspora in Latin America and the Indian subcontinent are as much intellectual as they are personal interests of mine. Twenty years ago, as a research assistant to the Ghanaian anthropologist Maxwell Owusu, I developed a commitment to the study of Africa and the African Diaspora. As I came to understand things then, the making of the African Diaspora is synonymous with the making of World History—one cannot be understood without the other. The AFS Program offers students a unique opportunity to gain such a global perspective, and I am deeply honored to have been selected from among some of the nation’s leading scholars in African Diaspora studies to join its faculty.”



Dr. Omar H. Ali

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH  
CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

**UNCG**  
**African American**  
**Studies Program**  
200 Foust Building  
P.O. Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC  
27402-6170

Phone: 336-334-5507  
E-mail: [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu)  
[www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)

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WE'RE ON  
FACEBOOK!

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JUST SEARCH AFS UNCG!

## Support AFS

We hope that you will support our Program by making a tax-deductible donation. Your gift to AFS allows us to build our scholarship fund to support students in need or provide funding for our students to study abroad and/or attend conferences.

**To support AFS, please send your donation** to Advancement Services 1100 W. Market Street P.O. Box 26170 Greensboro, NC 27402 clearly marked for UNCG African American Studies Enrichment Fund or give on-line at [http://www.uncg.edu/dur/studentsfirst/give\\_now.html](http://www.uncg.edu/dur/studentsfirst/give_now.html).

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us.



## ABOUT UNCG'S AFS STUDIES PROGRAM

The mission of the UNCG African American Studies Program is to provide undergraduate and graduate 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, participating in conferences, and studying abroad.

Visit: [www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)

**UNCG African American**  
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200 Foust Building  
P.O. Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC



TO:

