

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2010

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME!

Greetings To All:

It is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of UNCG's African American Studies Program faculty, students, and staff. We have had many accomplishments during the Fall 2010 semester.

In August, Dr. Omar Ali joined us. He has already published a book and taken part in national conversations on politics. As you know, Dr. Ali joins a busy faculty. Sarah Cervenak was a guest on NPR's "The State of Things." Frank Woods has had two articles accepted for publication and participated in a showing of his wood carvings. What a talented group!

Our students have been busy winning awards,

growing as leaders in the community and on campus, and delving into research projects. Soon, they will join our alumni who are teaching and/or completing their medical, law, or graduate degrees. I am so proud to call them ours.

We are also pleased to have hosted the 21st Annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE): "Exploring Black Masculinities Across Multiple Landscapes: A Global Perspective." The conference featured perspectives from Africa, America, and the Caribbean.

AFS is moving from theory to practice. The National Council for Black Studies awarded the Program \$2,500 to partner with Delta Sigma Theta Soror-

ity, Inc. and Greensboro groups that focus on enriching the lives of African American boys. AFS faculty and students will facilitate workshops that integrate history with the arts.

We also hosted two stimulating and informative "Conversations with the Community." This year we are focusing on the African Diaspora.

Lastly, our numbers of majors, graduates, and post-baccalaureate certificate students have grown tremendously over the past two years. AFS is on the move!

Read and Enjoy,
Tara T. Green, PhD



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."

CONGRATS AFS GRADUATES!

Congrats Graduates: Our 2010 Fall graduates are, **Sade Barnes**, **Courtney Brown** (plans to attend law school), **Christi Brunson** (plans to teach English), **Courtney Clark** (plans on enriching the lives of African American

females), **Erika Martin**, **Tiffany Swepson** (plans to attend law school in Fall 2011), and **Dustin Wilson** (plans to complete a Sociology and/or Business degree).



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AFS SPRING CONVOCATION – CELEBRATING STUDENTS



AFS GRADUATION STOLES.

On May 13th, 2010, AFS graduates and parents gathered along with faculty, affiliates, and staff for our Spring Convocation Ceremony.

Fourteen graduates received their AFS stoles. Of these, the majority plan to go on to either graduate school or law school. Some others plan to enter various careers as teachers, social workers or dental

hygienists. In addition, the AFS Program awarded its first Post-Baccalaureate Certificate to Valencia Abbott.

The Graduating Senior of the Year Award was given to Jaimey Howard.

Charles Chavis was awarded the Outstanding AFS Student of the Year Award.

Charles serves as one of the Program's AFS Ambassadors.



AMBASSADOR NOTES

When asked to reflect on his experiences as an AFS Ambassador, sophomore **Jarrod Rudd** commented, "I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of being an AFS ambassador. From the people that I have met, to the events that I have been allowed to participate in, they have truly impacted my life in a positive way. Being an ambassador is really fun and I can't wait to see what else is in store for the program!"

Charles Chavis had this to say: "The AFS Ambassadorship thus far has afforded me experiences that are quintessential to my college career. This year's CACE conference was a matchless experience. I was truly honored to see scholars from all backgrounds and nations come together and express their passion for the African American Experience. While traveling

throughout the Greensboro community volunteering and mentoring I am constantly reminding students, citizens and leaders about the African American Studies Program and how it has impacted me as student and a person. As the program continues to grow, I want to be there every step of the way, advocating on its behalf."

STUDENT NEWS

Jarrod Rudd and **Charles Chavis** will both present papers this year at the National Council for Black Studies conference.

Charles Chavis was also accepted into the Golden Key Society.

Eugenia Brown worked with Dr. Kay Lovelace of the Department of Pub-

lic Health on a project titled, "Understanding the Lives of Women Experiencing Homelessness." The methodology used and photos collected during the project were presented as a display at the Greensboro Central Library. She also received the Community Impact Student Award at this fall's

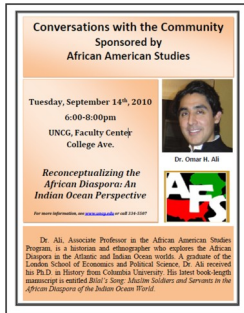
NC Campus Compact Student Conference.

Courtney Clark has an internship with the YWCA.



THE ADINKRA SYMBOL (GHANA) ON AFS GRADUATION STOLES MEANS "KNOWLEDGE, LIFELONG EDUCATION, AND CONTINUED QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE."

FALL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY



Two "Conversations with the Community" events were hosted by the AFS Program in the Fall. The first, titled "Reconceptualizing the African Diaspora: An Indian Ocean Perspective," was led by AFS' own Dr. Omar H. Ali on September 14th. In the presentation, Dr. Ali offered a more

expansive view of the global African Diaspora by discussing the history of the dispersion of men and women from Africa across the predominantly Muslim Indian Ocean world--as soldiers, slaves, merchants, and concubines--beginning over one thousand years before the formation of the African Diaspora of the Atlantic world.

The second of the Fall "Conversations" series was titled "From Free to Captive to Slave: How People Became Cargo in the Atlantic Slave Trade." It took place on October 19th, and was led by Dr. Colleen Kriger, an AFS affiliate who works in the History Department. She presented an

overview of her current research, which is a social and economic history of British trading forts on the west coast of Africa in the 17th and 18th centuries. More specifically, her talk focused on captives in the slave trade -- how free people became captives and the actual economic transactions that turned them into chattel slaves that were shipped across the Atlantic.



CACE CONFERENCE 2010



This year the UNGC AFS Program hosted the 21st Annual CACE Conference. The theme for this year's conference was "Exploring Black Masculinities Across Multiple Landscapes: A Global Perspective." Presenters were welcomed from all across the United States and the Caribbean.



The Conference began on Thursday, March 14, with a Literary Café held at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum. The Café featured performances choreographed by Duane Cyrus.

Dr. Michael Dantley was this year's keynote speaker. Dantley is the Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, in addition to being a professor, in the Department of Educational Leadership in the School of Education, Health, and Society at Miami University of Ohio. He is also the Senior Pastor of Christ Emmanuel Fellowship in Cincinnati, OH.

This year's presenters were also given the opportunity to submit proposals for possible publication in the *Journal of Black Masculinities*, edited by C.P. Gause.

The conference continues to grow and progress each year, and this year was a great success!



STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Eugenia Brown is a senior AFS major who will be graduating in May 2011.

"Growing up as an African American I felt as if I had lived the experience and there was nothing else to learn," she says. "However, after enrolling in an African American Studies class my freshmen year I realized this mindset was far from the truth."

Upon completing her degree, Eugenia plans to attain a graduate degree in Higher Education and Student Personnel Administration.

When asked what she enjoys most about majoring in AFS, she replied, "As a major in the program, I really enjoy the enthusiasm the professors exude when discussing topics within African American Studies."

"I constantly leave class with ideas on my mind, and as a result of this, the lectures we partake in class, often extend outside of the classroom as well," she says.

No doubt she will carry those ideas with her into the future. Congratulations, Eugenia!



EUGENIA BROWN RECEIVING THE COMMUNITY IMPACT STUDENT AWARD WITH DR. LISA KEYNE AND BUD BERRO, PIEDMONT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

SPRING EVENTS

Spring Conversations

On February 8th the AFS Conversations with the Community series will present a discussion with Bamidele Demerson titled "Bedcovers: Hoodoo Folk Beliefs in African American Art." Bamidele Demerson is Executive Director at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum and an AFS Advisory Board Member.

Dr. Willi Coleman, an adjunct with the African American Studies program and advisory board member, will lead our final Con-

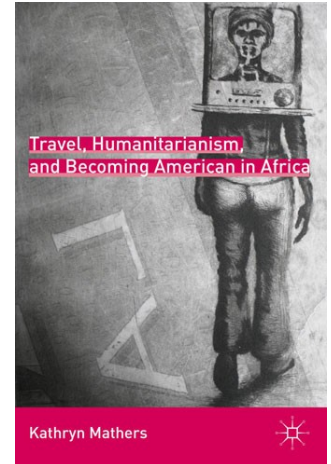
versation for the Spring semester on March 15th. Her discussion is called, "Choosing to Get on the Boat: Early Black Women as Global Travelers." The topic for discussion will be the variety of reasons that Black Women in America's past chose to journey beyond the borders of the United States.

Visiting Speakers

Dr. Kathryn Mathers will be visiting the UNCG campus as a visiting speaker on February 10th. Dr. Mathers will give a public talk concerning her book

"Travel, Humanitarianism, and Becoming American in Africa."

Dr. Sylviane Diouf will also visit our campus this Spring. Dr. Diouf is a historian and curator with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library. She has published several books, and will give a talk on March 24th about her latest research concerning runaway slaves in North America.



Taken from <http://us.macmillan.com/travelhumanitarianismandbecomingamericainafrica>

Faculty News

Tara T. Green was accepted to the Fulbright Specialist Roster. Her article, "Voodoo Feminism through the Lens of Jewell Parker Rhodes's *Voodoo Dreams*" was accepted for publication in *Women's Studies Journal*. She gave the keynote address at the Family Studies Conference at North Carolina A&T on November 18. She was also accepted to participate in the BRIDGES program for women leaders at NC universities.

Frank Woods and **George Dimock** published an article, "Affirming Blackness: A Rebuttal to Will South's 'A Missing Question Mark: The Unknown Henry Ossawa Tanner,'" in the Autumn 2010 issue of *Nineteenth Century Art Worldwide*. Dr. Woods was also invited to be a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Black Studies*.

Sarah Cervenak presented a paper on Bill T. Jones at CACE and is co-authoring an article with Dr. Danielle Bouchard on *Eat Pray Love* to be submitted for consideration for *A Special Issue of Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal on "Women and Travel."*

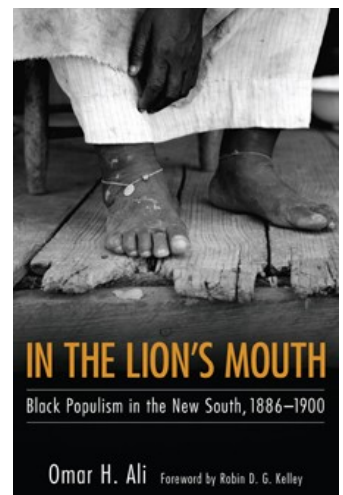
Michael Cauthen was a presenter at the "Contemporary Issues Forum" hosted by the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs on Sept. 7th. He also presented a paper at the 55th Annual Meeting of the South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society and at CACE.

William Hart's (affiliate, Religious Studies) book *Black Religion: Malcolm X, Julius Lester, and Jan Willis* has recently become available in paperback and his third book, entitled

Afro-Eccentricity: Beyond the Standard Narrative of Black Religion will be released in April 2011.

Omar H. Ali was interviewed twice on the nationally-syndicated Michael Eric Dyson radio show discussing independent black politics and the midterm elections. Dr. Ali has also been interviewed by CNN concerning this issue. On September 18th, he gave a paper at the African Studies Association conference at Oxford University on "Muslim Africans in the Indian Ocean World". He has just published his second book, entitled *In the Lion's Mouth: Black Populism in the New South, 1886-1900* (University Press of Mississippi, 2010). The book traces the development of the largest political movement of African Americans in the South prior to the modern Civil Rights movement.

Duane Cyrus (affiliate, Dance Department) has recently implemented his Business Plan for Access to Art Academy, a professional development program for aspiring performing artists. Cyrus and his team's plan won 1st place in the Anne Fulton Carter Business Plan Competition given by the NC Entrepreneurship Center.



Taken from <http://www.uncg.edu/ure/news/stories/2010/nov/ali111710.htm>

DR. GREEN'S GHANA TRIP

From June 13-25, Dr. Tara T. Green participated in the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) seminar in Accra, Ghana. She joined faculty from across the United States, including Alaska, Missouri, and Texas. During her two-week stay, she met with faculty and students from the University of Ghana. These faculty delivered lectures on issues related to health, gender, performance, economics, politics, and culture. When she

was not in the classroom, she visited various markets and practiced the art of market negotiations. The group also traveled to the Kamasi region and visited some of the local villages, markets, and a slave fort. Dr. Green states, "The Atlantic Ocean is absolutely beautiful. It is still difficult for me to associate its beauty with tragedy."

Dr. Green remained an extra day to visit Tema, Ghana, the hometown of Kweku Atta. Kweku, a member of UNCG's

custodial staff, has been supporting a school that he helped to build when he was a politician in Tema. "Mr. Atta's legacy is immeasurable."

Her trip was funded with support from the Kholer Fund, the College of Arts and Sciences, and a grant from the Teaching and Learning Center. She plans to develop a course titled "African World Literatures," which she hopes to teach next year.



DR. TARA T. GREEN ON HER TRIP TO GHANA.

ALUMNI NEWS

Raffinee Archible is currently teaching Spanish at both the Middle and High School levels at The Upper Room Christian Academy. She will also teach International and Global Studies and an elective course in African American Studies to the high school students next semester.

Carrie Bell is currently living in Miami, Florida. She is involved with Americorps and working with minority

youth through an organization called South Florida Urban Ministries.

Cameron Wynn is finishing his second year of medical school at UNC Chapel Hill.

Tiffany Watson is teaching 8th grade Reading and Communication Skills at Westover Middle School in Fayetteville, NC. Next month she will complete her Master of Arts degree in Management and Leadership.

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



A VIEW OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN FROM ELMINA CASTLE.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

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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/ur/studentsfirst/give_now.html.

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



ABOUT UNCG'S AFS STUDIES PROGRAM

The African American Studies Program (AFS) advances the university's commitment to diverse perspectives and inclusive learning environments through course offerings, programming, and community involvement. It fosters interdisciplinary study for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students by examining how people of African descent have shaped our world. As a program located in a city with a history of Black sociopolitical movements, we provide a forum to engage the complexities of Black life across African diasporas.

Visit: www.uncg.edu/afs



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