AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT
STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR

THE MISSION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

THE IMPORTANCE OF DONORS TO AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

STUDENT AND TEACHING INITIATIVES

African American Studies Minor Degree Plan
African American Studies Graduate Certificate Program
Undergraduate Courses in African American Studies

Programs for Undergraduate Students
  Summer International Study Program—Ghana, West Africa
  National Model African Union-Washington, D.C.
  National Council for Black Studies
  Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society, University of Houston-Songhai Chapter

Visiting Scholars Program
  Visiting Scholars for 2006-2007
  Teaching, Publication and Lectures of 2006-2007 Visiting Scholars
  Past Visiting Scholars from 1995-2007

Funding for Undergraduate and Graduate Students
Annual Scholarship Banquet
Undergraduate Scholarship Awardees for 2006-2007
Ghana Summer International Study Program
  Scholarship Awardees for 2006-2007

Undergraduate Scholarships in African American Studies
AAS Scholarships Awarded by Type, 2003-2007 (bar graph)
AAS Scholarship Distribution by Student Program, 2006-2007 (pie chart)
History of Graduate Assistantship Program
Graduate Assistantship Awardees for 2006-2007
Past Graduate Assistantship Awardees from 1995-2007
CONTENTS

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS
Journal in African American Studies
The Black Houston History Project
Center for the Study of African American Culture
New Publications in African American Studies
Research Symposium on Africana Historiography

SPECIAL HOSTED OR CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT
African American Studies Teaching Faculty
  AAS Faculty for 2006-2007
  AAS Adjunct Faculty for 2006-2007
  AAS Courtesy Affiliated Faculty
AAS Staff Team for 2006-2007
Student Support Staff for 2006-2007

AAS STAFF AND FACULTY ACTIVITY FOR AY 2007-2008

FACULTY AWARDS AND SERVICE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
AAS Faculty Travel Award Program
  AAS Faculty Travel Awardees for 2006-2007
  AAS Faculty Travel Award Review Committee
AAS Faculty Development Award Program
  AAS Faculty Development Awardees for 2006-2007
  AAS Faculty Development Award Review Committee
Other AAS Review Committees in 2006-2007
  Graduate Assistantship Review Committee for 2006-2007
  Undergraduate Scholarship Review Committee for 2006-2007
  AAS Visiting Scholars Review Committee for 2006-2007
  Ghana Summer International Study Program Review Committee for 2007

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES ADVISORY BOARD

APPENDIX
The 2006-2007 academic year was filled with much activity, advancement, forward thinking and proactive growth for the African American Studies program at the University of Houston.

With the continuation of our seminar lecture series and the impetus of the hip hop lecture series archive, AAS sustained its tradition of providing the campus and surrounding community with critical discussions of contemporary issues facing African people. In this respect, African American Studies celebrated our emphasis on African-centered research and service by bringing to campus a number of named academic and independent scholars to discuss topics from: ethnomusicology, African American architectural history, Africana Islam, Africana History and Culture, and the critical discourse on Africana Studies.

With regard to student input and advancement, we sponsored a delegation of U of H students to participate in the model African Union conference at Howard University. Mr. Paul Easterling, our program manager, has labored in coordinating student efforts and has been supportive in being the staff-faculty advisor to this group. During the spring of 2007, the Center for the Study of African American Culture, with the support of a GEAR grant from the University of Houston, hosted the Charles Hamilton Houston symposium. This event attracted a plethora of scholars from across the country to Houston, to brief and debrief on the intellectual tradition and lasting contributions of the late Charles Hamilton Houston.
Additionally, we hosted our annual scholarship banquet with the coordination, support, assistance, and patience of our Friends of African American Studies. Indeed, without the Friends of African American Studies support, this event would be not be able to be hosted. Again, as mentioned in our communication throughout the year, we are extremely grateful to the Friends for their support and assistance.

AAS was also supportive in working collaboratively with the Houston chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense (People Party 3) for coordinating a community reception for Attorney Bobby Caldwell for his untiring work and support of civil rights litigation in the state of Texas for over five decades.

In closing, the graduate program has graduated our first student with the certificate in African American Studies at the University of Houston. Similarly, our Kwame Nkrumah Scholars had a successful summer study abroad exposure to Ghana and experienced participating in Pana-fest—a biannual celebration recognizing Pan-African unity across the continent of Africa. We are now getting in gear for the 2007-2008 academic year and expect to dialog and advance the idea of AAS becoming a degree granting unit.

In doing so, our primary job remains to educate and graduate students at U of H. By advancing these ideas forward, we look to bring forth stewardship and good fellowship for our goals and objectives.

James L. Coneyrs, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, African American Studies Program
Director, Center for the Study of African American Culture
University Professor of African American Studies
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES is a distinct academic discipline that engages Africa-centered research and teaching through an interdisciplinary approach to scholarly inquiry. The term Africa-centered signifies that the epistemological starting point for scholarly analysis resides in the historical and cultural understanding that African people are people of the African continent regardless of the recency or geographical distance of their out migration from the African homeland.

Employing tools from the humanities and social sciences for academic study, research, and teaching, African American Studies explores the varied dimensions of the human experience -- that is, phenomena, ideas, events, peoples, and personalities -- from the perspective of the interests of African people in the United States and their relationship to themselves and to African and other peoples in the world.

Hence, the mission of African American Studies is to provide students with a comprehensive quality undergraduate and graduate education and the opportunity for a creative intellectual experience based on the critical and systematic study of the life, thought, and practice of African peoples in their current and historical unfolding.

Interdisciplinary in both conception and practice, African American Studies seeks to critically examine and understand the African experience from an African-centered perspective, that is, from a position internal to the culture, joined with an openness and receptivity to the rich variety and instructiveness of the total human experience. African American Studies stresses comparative analysis and holistic thinking as indispensable to the discipline and the general educational enterprise.

Within this framework, the goals of African American Studies are:

1. To expand our degree offerings by transitioning from a program to a tenure-granting department, and, thus, recruit a faculty that will enable the department to introduce a baccalaureate major degree in the discipline at the University of Houston;
2. To cultivate and increase the awareness of UH students to international and cultural pluralism and to stimulate their sensitivity to issues of culture, race, ethnicity, class, and gender;

3. To further internationalize the Africana Studies curriculum to include the study of African peoples in other parts of the world in addition to those on the Continent and in the United States, i.e., in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific Rim;

4. To encourage expanded scholarly productivity and professional activity by the department's faculty to maintain currency with the latest developments in the discipline and ensure the highest levels of instruction and intellectual exchange;

5. To increase the holding of conferences, seminars, colloquia, and other fora devoted to the expansion of the discipline;

6. To develop and maintain links with local high schools and community colleges;

7. To maintain and strengthen existing links with the community through expanding joint educational and practical projects and exchanges;

8. To increase the utility of academic service to Houston’s African American community through research and publication on historical and public policy issues by means of The Black Houston History Project and the Institute for African American Policy Research;

9. To expand and further consolidate the intellectual space of the discipline as an integral and indispensable part of the university’s mission to offer a culturally pluralistic quality undergraduate and graduate education to its students.
### Minor in African American Studies

A minor in African American Studies requires a minimum of 18 semester hours, including AAS 2320: Introduction to African American Studies, and AAS 4370: Seminar in African American Studies; Six additional hours in AAS and the humanities, fine arts, or communication courses; and Six hours in AAS and social science fields of study. Twelve of the 18 hours must be in residence. Twelve of the 18 hours must be in AAS courses. Twelve hours must be advanced, at least six of which must be in residence. A minimum 2.00 grade point average for all courses applied to the minor is required.

Students may obtain a complete list of courses approved for this minor in the office of the African American Studies Program, 629 Agnes Arnold Hall. Briefly, students may fulfill the humanities, fine arts, and communication portion of this minor with approved courses in African American Studies, art history, English, history, journalism, music, and theatre (including appropriate selected special topics courses). Students may fulfill the social science portion of this minor with approved courses in African American Studies, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

### Undergraduate Courses in African American Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAS 2320</td>
<td>Intro to African American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 2322</td>
<td>Intro to African Religion and Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAS 3307</strong></td>
<td>Africana Spiritual Transformation in the Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3310</td>
<td>African American Exp through Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3330</td>
<td>AAS Oral History Field Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 3340</td>
<td>African American Sociolinguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3348</td>
<td>African Americans &amp; the Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3350</td>
<td>Slavery and Race Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AAS 3354</strong></td>
<td>African Nationalist Thought &amp; Ethics in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3356</td>
<td>African Thought &amp; Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3379</td>
<td>Africana Oratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 3394</td>
<td>Selected Topics (maximum 3 hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 4300</td>
<td>African Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 4330</td>
<td>Black Church in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 4370</td>
<td>Seminar in African American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 4373</td>
<td>Black Leaders of the 20th Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS 4377</td>
<td>Seminar on W.E.B. Du Bois</td>
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** = New Course
AAS Graduate Certificate Program

The Graduate Certificate in African American Studies is a nine-hour disciplinary concentration open to students in all UH graduate and professional degree programs. It is also open to post baccalaureate professionals (including teachers, social service providers, policymakers, and others) interested in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of Africana phenomena.

The graduate concentration in African American Studies introduces students to advanced discussions, analyses, theoretical perspectives, and research methodologies in the discipline of Africana Studies. In addition, it provides intellectual breadth to a student’s course of study, increasing the depth and coherence of the student’s work within her/his primary field of study on critical issues concerning Africana phenomena.

Graduate Certificate in AAS

Requirements:

AAS 6300: Africana Studies Theory and Method
The course explores critical issues in research theory and methods in Africana Studies, including issues in research designs and tools of analysis. (3 hours)

AAS 6307: Seminar on Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X
The course is a critical study and analysis of the major ideas and doctrines that formed the conceptual frameworks of these two men. It engages explorations of cultural pluralism, self-determination, Pan Africanism, satyagraha, nonviolence, civil disobedience, reform, and revolution. (3 hours)

AAS 6308: Africana Religion and Biography
The course examines Africana religion in the United States, interrogating Christian, Islamic, Hebrew, and traditional African forms by means that include auto/biographies of representative and influential figures. (3 hours)
Programs for Undergraduate Students

Summer International Study Program—Ghana, West Africa (Summer Session IV, annually):

UH students take three (3) or six (6) credit hours of African American Studies courses that integrate lectures by Ghanaian academics at the University of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology with work at the University of Houston. Study includes educational travel. In 2008, five University of Houston students, Alishia Baisy, Van G. Garrett, Alexis Guidry, Sherail Jordan, and Tamara Spiller were provided with funding to participate in this rich and fulfilling program. In all, since 2003 the African American Studies Program has sponsored over thirty students to travel to Ghana and continues to encourage students to be internationally minded in this growingly global world.
In the spring of 2008 the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston reestablished its chapter of the Ankh Maat Wedjau National Honor Society of the National Council for Black Studies. The overall mission of the Songhai Chapter of the Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society is to establish a strong foundation of knowledge and wisdom in the field of Africana/Black Studies at the University of Houston. It is the hope that the knowledge and wisdom shared will help students to grow within themselves academically, mentally and spiritually. The goal in this would be to grasp conceptually the interconnectedness of African people world wide and to stimulate conversation and thought.

National Model African Union-Washington, DC (First Week in March, annually):

Every spring the African American Studies Program sends a team of University of Houston international scholars to Washington D.C. to participate in the annual Model African Union conference sponsored by Howard University. This conference hosts 30-40 different universities every year with each institution bringing anywhere from 4-10 students with them to engage in the mock sessions of the African Union. Given this, the Model African Union conference is an excellent way for students to network with other universities, network with other students from around the country and gain international experience which is vital for a growing global world.

National Council for Black Studies Conference (Third Week in March, annually):

The National Council for Black Studies is the leading organization of Black/Africana Studies professionals in the world. In addition to establishing standards of excellence within the discipline, NCBS serves as a major outlet for the scholarly dissemination of African-centered knowledge and modes of inquiry regarding the life and experiences of African people. UH students are encouraged to attend and present research-based papers at the annual conference. In the past, AAS minors have presented papers and achieved academic distinction such as placement in the NCBS Student Essay Competition.
In pursuit of our broad mandate to advance excellence in academic research, undergraduate and graduate education, and intellectual exchange and service within the University and Houston communities, the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston annually invites for a year-long visiting appointment two scholars whose demonstrated research and teaching are in the discipline of Africana Studies/Africalogy. Scholars whose research and teaching are, however, in other disciplinary areas will also be considered. Visiting Scholars add to the richness and diversity of our undergraduate curriculum in Africalogy by teaching one course of their own design. In addition, the program prioritizes applications from scholars who demonstrate a commitment to generating research and publication in the discipline of Africana Studies/Africalogy. Successful candidates are, therefore, afforded an opportunity to add to the ongoing scholarship in the discipline by working toward the completion of a research project. The Visiting Scholars Program is designed to encourage new scholars to contribute fresh and innovative teaching and research in the discipline of Africalogy.

**2007-2008 AAS Visiting Scholars**

**Professor Carroll Parrott Blue** is one of two African American Studies Visiting Scholars for the 2007-2008 academic year. Professor Blue, professor emeritus at San Diego State University’s School of Theatre, Television and Film, is a nationally and internationally recognized and respected filmmaker, a producer, director, and writer.

Her work has been featured internationally in such countries as Brazil, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Nigeria, Australia, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the Virgin Islands. Perhaps her most noted recent work is her memoir published as a book with accompanying DVD-ROM titled *The Dawn at My Back: Memoir of a Black Texas Upbringing*, published by the University of Texas Press in 2003.

An extremely short list of her work includes:

a. Producer, director, writer of a one-hour documentary film titled “Mystery of the Senses; Vision,” which appeared on NOVA/PBS-TV as one in a five-part series.

b. Producer, director, writer of a one-hour documentary film titled “Nigerian Art-Kindred Spirits,” which was one in a series of documentaries that appeared on PBS-TV titled “Smithsonian World.”
c. Segment producer for “Eyes on the Prize, Series II,” which appeared on PBS-TV.

Professor Blue taught AAS-3356 Africana Thought and Philosophy: Explorations in Community Learning, Public Art, and Community-Made Media, in the fall of 2007 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. The course is a Houston Third Ward case study that explores the role of public art and community-made media in community development.

The objective is to help students learn the history of the new emerging arts, how to employ traditional and new media art as tools for African American community development, and/or how to work effectively with artists who are doing this work and audiences who are using it.

The course incorporates parallel learning between students, scholars, policy makers, institutions builders, and community residents in order to create new cultural and economic infrastructures to enrich the quality of life of Houston’s Third Ward. It explores the use of 21st century arts and media tools as methods for becoming effective global citizens.

Dr. Clyde C. Robertson, Visiting Scholar at the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis, is the second of two African American Studies Visiting Scholars for the 2007-2008 academic year. An accomplished administrator, insightful scholar, and critical theoretician, Dr. Robertson’s areas of emphasis focus on African American History and Twentieth Century African American Leadership Typologies. His ongoing research projects examine Africans in America and the African Diaspora in comparative, cognitive and cultural perspectives.

A Hurricane Katrina survivor, he is co-director of the Saddest Days Project, a multi-state effort that examines Katrina’s aftermath and impact on New Orleans’s African American community through qualitative oral interviews, archival retrieval and curriculum development. In the spring of 2006, he published an article titled “Bon Feerey: A Teaching and Learning Methodology for Healing the Wounds of Distance, Displacement and Loss Caused by Hurricane Katrina,” in the Journal of Black Studies.

Although his research interests lie largely within the realm of twentieth century African American history and leadership typologies, Dr. Robertson’s teaching agenda and interests are broader both in terms of methodology and topic areas. He has taught, researched, and held administrative posts in
2007-2008 AAS Visiting Scholars (cont.)

both Africana Studies and Communications. Most recently, he was the Director of the Africana and Multicultural Studies Department for the New Orleans Public School District. He also served as the News Director for the Temple University Public Radio Network.

In addition to his post at the University of Memphis, Dr. Robertson brought a wealth of teaching experience in the classroom. He has taught or lectured at Southern University-Baton Rouge, Alabama State University, Xavier University of Louisiana, and the African World Studies Department at Dillard University.

In the Spring 2008 semester, Dr. Robertson taught AAS 4373: Black Leaders of the 20th Century. The course looks at the different leadership typologies that have arisen among Africans in America over the past century from a multi-disciplinary approach.

Teaching, Publications, and Lectures of 2007-2008 AAS Visiting Scholars

Professor Carroll Parrott Blue

AAS Course Offering, Fall 2007, Spring 2008:

AAS-3356 Africana Thought and Philosophy: Explorations in Community Learning, Public Art, and Community-Made Media

DAWN, UH, SWAMP and YATES Media Production Training Program, January – April 2008

Publication:

Phase One Completion of Eight Station Platforms, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas, Southeast Transit Line Corridor Public Art Initiative, March 2008

Exhibition


Presentations


Funding

Grant, University of Houston Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, May 2008

Grant, Academy Foundation, Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, Spring 2008

Scholarship, Stanford Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship, June 22-30, 2008

Professor Clyde Robertson

AAS Course Offering, Spring 2008:
Black Leaders of the Twentieth Century

Publications:


Lectures:


“”The Saddest Days: Katrina Stories Through the Eyes of HBCU Students,” Documentary presentation and discussion, African Film Festival, African American Studies Program, University of Houston, Houston, TX, (February 13, 2008).


Past AAS Visiting Scholars, 2000-2007

2006-2007: Dr. Marilyn Denise Lovett, assistant professor of psychology at Prairie View A&M University
Dr. Clyde Robertson, visiting scholar, University of Memphis

2005-2006: Dr. Marilyn Denise Lovett, assistant professor of psychology at Prairie View A&M University
Dr. Fred L. McGhee, independent scholar, Fred L. McGhee and Associates

2004-2005: Dr. Kimberly Ellis, assistant visiting professor of Africana Studies, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Dr. Andrew P. Smallwood, associate professor of Black Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha

2003-2004: Dr. Reiland Rabaka, assistant professor of Black Studies and Africana philosophy, California State University at Long Beach
Dr. Andrew P. Smallwood, associate professor of Black Studies, University of Pittsburgh

2002-2003: Dr. Beretta E. Smith-Shomade, assistant professor of media arts, Univ. of Arizona

2001-2002: Dr. Scot Brown, assistant professor of history, Cornell University

2000-2001: Dr. Nikol Alexander, assistant professor of Women’s Studies, Virginia Tech University
Dr. Rose Harris, assistant professor of Women’s Studies, Virginia Tech University
In the spring of 2008, African American Studies hosted its annual scholarship banquet at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel. The banquet, aptly themed “One World, One People” and headed by Dr. Clara Meek and The Friends of African American Studies, with collaboration from the AAS staff, was a remarkable success. With the coordination of their efforts, the program and dinner provided a welcoming and inspiring atmosphere for all those who came to embrace the young scholars of the University of Houston. The program featured an array of entertainment and scholarly presentations for those in attendance.

The event, which was Emceed by News Anchor Melanie Lawson of KTRK TV Channel 13, included two dance performances by Sunanda’s Performing Arts Center, a musical selection by Mr. Hanq Neal, Minister of Music, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, and a dynamic live auction conducted by Mr. Alan Helfman, co-owner of River Oaks Chrysler Jeep, and Mrs. Georgia Provost of Provost & Associates.
AAS SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET (cont.)

The evening concluded with the presentation of the student scholarship awards. Caleb Alexander was a recipient of the John Rueben Sheeler Memorial Scholarship. Jasmine Black, Brian Harris and Sherail Jordan were recipients of the Bryant Scholarship. Eronn Putman, Tamara Spiller, Leniqua Dominique Jenkins and Kymberly Keeton were recipients of the Julius Thompson Book Scholarship Award. Leniqua Dominique Jenkins received the Mrs. Debbie Haley Academic Scholarship. AAS awarded Kymberly Keeton with the Friends of African American Studies Scholarship. Eronn Putman received the Sylvester Turner Academic Distinction Scholarship. Tamara Spiller was awarded the John Moores Humanitarian Scholarship. Alexis Guidry, Sherail Jordan, Kymberly Keeton and Tamara Spiller received the Dr. Kwame Nkrumah International Study Scholarship enabling them to study abroad at the University of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, West Africa.

The Annual African American Studies Banquet satisfied its primary objectives to recognize outstanding alumni and community leaders for their achievements and community service and to recognize and reward outstanding students currently enrolled in African American Studies. African American Studies offers courses on the history, culture and contributions of people of African descent to a cross-section of students from various disciplines.
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS (cont.)

Ghana Summer International Study Program Scholarship Awardees

The Summer Study Tour to Ghana, West Africa is a program that has been a very important element of African American Studies at the University of Houston since 2003. This program allows students to experience the beauty, history and culture of Africa and its people from a very intimate first hand basis. In the country of Ghana students study at the University of Ghana at Legon, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and the University of Cape Coast on a variety of subjects that range from the history of slavery and enslavement to the culture and religious practices of the Akan. In 2008 five University of Houston students, Alieshia Baisy, Van Garrett, Alexis Guidry, Sherail Jordan, and Tamara Spiller were provided with funding to participate in this rich and fulfilling program. In all, since 2003 the African American Studies program has sponsored over thirty students to travel to Ghana and continues to encourage students to be internationally in this growingly global world.

AAS study abroad students providing school supplies to elementary students in northern Ghana.

AAS study abroad students learning the process and cultural significance of bead making in Ghanaian society.
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

John Rueben Sheeler Memorial Scholarship:

--Established in 1981 by the widow of Dr. John Rueben Sheeler, historian and chair of the Department of History and Geography at Texas Southern University, this scholarship provides funding to academically talented students who have declared minors in African American Studies and whose GPAs are at least 3.0. The amount of this award is $1,000.

Mrs. Debbie Haley Academic Scholarship:

--Established by Mrs. Debbie Haley and African American Studies, this scholarship provides funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies and whose GPAs are at least 2.5. The amount of this award is $1,000.

Friends of African American Studies Scholarship:

--Established in 1999 by supporters of African American Studies throughout the Houston community, this scholarship provides funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies and whose GPAs are at least 2.5. The amount of this award is $1,000. Scholarships are awarded annually in the name of an important person of African world heritage.

Sylvester Turner Academic Distinction Scholarship:

--Established in 2006 to provide funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies and whose GPAs are at least 3.5. The amount of this award is $1,000.

John J. Moores, Sr. Academic Achievement Scholarship:

--Established in 2006 to provide funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies and show GPAs are at least 3.0. The amount of this award is $1,000.

Dr. Ira B. Bryant, Jr. Academic Scholarship:

--Established in 2005 in honor of the great Houstonian educator and civil rights leader, this scholarship provides funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies.
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (cont.)

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah International Study Scholarship:

--Available to UH-matriculated undergraduate students enrolled in six (6) credit hours of African American Studies Summer IV Session International Study courses to the University of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, West Africa.

African American Studies Graduate Assistantship:

--This award, established in 1995, was initiated to recruit outstanding students for graduate study at the University of Houston pursuing M.A. or Ph.D. degrees in research related to or in the disciplinary field of African American Studies. Graduate assistants work 20 hours weekly on various assignments as required by the African American Studies Program.

***NEW SCHOLARSHIP***

Dr. Julius Thompson Memorial Book Scholarship in African American Studies


2008 Dr. Julius Thompson Memorial Book Scholarship Award Winners

Kymberly Keeton
Leniqua dominique Jenkins
Eronn Putman
Tamara Spiller
While AAS remains consistent in its commitment to providing study abroad opportunities to its minors, the program has rededicated itself to recognizing academically talented AAS minors and advancing student interest and conference participation within the discipline on a national and international level.
The interdisciplinary nature of African American Studies and the need for today’s africalogists to study the human experience using a multitude of approaches is reflected in the disciplinary diversity of UH students receiving awards from the program.
Graduate Assistantship
In African American Studies

Established in 1995, African American Studies initiated the graduate assistantship program to recruit outstanding students at the University of Houston pursuing M.A. or Ph.D. degrees in research related to or in the disciplinary field of African American Studies. Graduate assistants work 20 hours weekly on various assignments as required by the African American Studies program.

Graduate Assistantships Awarded for 2007-2008

Radheshyam K. Bang, Cynthia A. Tate, and Quiana Whitesell received graduate assistantships in African American Studies for the 2007-2008 academic year. Radheshyam is pursuing the MA degree in computer science; Cynthia is pursuing the MA degree in communications; and, Quiana is completing her MSW in social work.

Past AAS Graduate Assistantship Awardees, 2000-2007

- **2006-2007**: Andre P. Ball, Sociology (MA)
  Tawana Cummings, Social Work (MSW)
  Britany Paley, Social Work (MSW)
- **2005-2006**: Megha Agrawal, Computer Science (MA)
  Tawana Cummings, Social Work (MSW)
  Phoebe Hawkins, Social Work (MSW)
- **2004-2005**: Kady Kante, Accounting and Finance (MBA)
  Leah McAlister-Shields, Social Work (MSW)
- **2003-2004**: Ms. Kemesha Denea Stewart, Literature (PhD Candidate)
  Ms. Leah McAlister-Shields, Social Work (MSW)
- **2002-2003**: Jon R. Wilson, History (MA)
  Donald Sean Hill, English (MA)
- **2001-2002**: Juliette Bartlett, English (MA)
RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Journal in African American Studies

Africana Studies, A Review of Social Science Research: A new peer-reviewed academic annual serial published by Transaction Publishers in New Brunswick, New Jersey, the new journal offers an important contribution to research and scholarship in the discipline of Africana Studies. The annual serial’s inaugural issue will be published in 2004.

Monograph Series

African American Studies monograph series, Transaction Publishers: The series features original studies and recovery works within the discipline of Africana Studies.

African Americans in the American West monograph series, University Press of Colorado: The series publishes original studies and recovery works on the Africana experience in the western United States from diverse disciplinary perspectives.

Public Policy Research Initiatives

The Black Houston History Project: An initiative committed to the research, study, and preservation of the history of African American people and institutions in the city of Houston, Texas, from the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries.

Center for the Study of African American Culture: Approved by the University’s Division of Research, the Center for the Study of African American Culture is committed to interdisciplinary research revived in the multiple dimensions of African American life and culture.

Visiting Scholars Program: Each year, at least two scholars from across the Untied States participate in a one-year visiting appointment in African American Studies. They teach one course of their own design while working toward the completion of a research project. The Visiting Scholars Program is designed to encourage new scholars to contribute new and innovative teaching and research in the discipline of Africana Studies.
New Publications in African American Studies

AAS Faculty Publications

In the spring of 2008, Dr. James L. Conyers, Jr., University Professor and director of African American Studies, co-edited a work entitled *Malcolm X: A Historical Reader* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2008) with Dr. Andrew P. Smallwood, coordinator of African American Studies at Austin Peay State University and former 2004-2005 AAS visiting scholar. The editors assembled an impressive array of contributors whose works reflect their expertise in the fields of history, sociology, social work, religion, literature, labor and management, and Africana studies. These essays fuse social science, humanistic, and professional studies methods as they look at Malcolm X and his contributions in place, space, and time.

Dr. Conyers also edited the second volume of Africana Studies, the annual series published by Transaction Publishers. This particular volume, entitled *Law, Culture & Africana Studies*, reviews the past in order to evaluate the present and move ahead with appropriate policies for the future. The authors focus on issues of affirmative action, legal culture, theories of black culture, and methodologies of scholarly work in Africana studies.

AAS Adjunct and Affiliate Faculty Publications

New AAS Library Resources

**Nora Dethloff** is the new African American Studies library liaison. Ms. Dethloff has an M.A. in English from Ohio State University, an M.F.A. in English and Creative Writing from the University of Notre Dame, and an M.L.I.S. from Kent State University. Before joining the U of H libraries she worked in the reference departments of Otterbein College and Montgomery County Public Library.

Ms. Dethloff is available for research assistance, course-related library instruction, requests for materials, or any library questions. She can be reached at ndethloff@uh.edu, or by phone at 713-743-9747.

Be sure to watch for the new African American Studies virtual library!

**New Books in African American Studies at the M.D. Anderson Library**

*With all deliberate speed: implementing Brown v. Board of Education*
Edited by Brian J. Daugherity and Charles C. Bolton
(Anderson Library call # KF4155.W58 2008)

*A respectable woman: the public roles of African American women in 19th-century New York*
By Jane E. Dabel
(Anderson Library call # F128.9.N4 D33 2008)

*In search of the Black fantastic: politics and popular culture in the post-Civil Rights era*
By Richard Iton
(Anderson Library call # E185.625.I76 2008)

*Toni Morrison: conversations*
Edited by Carolyn C. Denard
(Anderson Library call # PS3563.O8749 Z46 2008)

*Burning faith: church arson in the American South*
By Christopher B. Strain
(Anderson Library call # E185.92.S82 2008)
CSAAC: Research Symposium on Africana Psychology

In April 2008, the Center for the Study of African American Culture (CSAAC) hosted its fourth annual research symposium at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel. The symposium centered on examining theoretical and pedagogical issues in the field of Africana psychology. Scholars from across the country, representing a variety of academic disciplines and from a broad field of professional backgrounds participated in the event.


The symposium, as a CSAAC research initiative, is focused on the presentation and publication of thematic ideas which contribute to the growth and expansion of knowledge and research in Africana life and culture. It contributes to the growth and expansion of research and publication at the University of Houston, bringing together scholars from across the country in a moderated and academic forum.
SPECIAL HOSTED OR CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

On Friday, 21 September 2007, co-hosted with the Department of Sociology “Are We Really a Melting Pot: How Religion and Race Differences Impact Beliefs about the American Nationality,” featuring Dr. Jason E. Shelton, Postdoctoral Fellow on Race, Religion and Urban Life (CORRUL), Rice University

On Thursday, 27 September 2007, hosted lecture “Africana Studies and Womenism,” by Dr. Shawn R. Donaldson, Associate Professor of Sociology RSCNJ


On Thursday, 8 October 2007, hosted lecture “Pan Africanism and the Contemporary Politics of Africa,” by Professor James Small, New York based Independent Researcher


On Monday, 26 November 2007, hosted lecture “Successful cases of Publishing dissertations as books,” by Mary Lenn Dixon, Editor-in-Chief Press Consortium, Texas A&M College University

On Thursday, 6 December 2007, hosted for UH and Houston Community the Annual Holiday Reception, “Winter Wonderland Cultural Explosion.”


On Thursday, 6 March 2008, hosted lecture “Binga Bank and the Development of Bronzeville,” by Beth Johnson, Founder of FOCUS (Forum on Cultural Sites Architectural Historian)

On Monday, 11 February 2008, hosted lecture “White Power: One Historian’s Journey through Black History,” by Dr. Alex Byrd, Assistant Professor of History, Rice University

On Monday, 14 April 2008, hosted lecture “Atlantic World Combat and the Creole Label,” by Dr. T.J. Desch-Obi, Professor, Department of History, Weismann School or Arts and Sciences Baruch College

On Thursday, 10 April 2008, hosted lecture “Genealogy and Diversity,” by Professor Kimberly M. Gay, Academic Reference and Instruction Librarian, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

On Tuesday, 19 February 2008, hosted lecture “African American and the Law,” by Professor Crisarla Houston, JD, Director of the Legal Writing Program and Assistant Professor of Law, Florida A&M University College of Law
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

African American Studies Teaching Faculty

AAS Faculty for 2007-2008

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director
  University Professor of African American Studies

AAS Adjunct Faculty for 2007-2008

Franklin Anderson, Challenger Program, University of Houston
Elias Bongmba, Ph.D., Rice University
Carroll Parrott-Blue, 2007-2008 AAS Visiting Scholar
Malachi Crawford, AAS, University of Houston
Paul Easterling, AAS, University of Houston
Clyde Robertson, 2007-2008 AAS Visiting Scholar
Carole Poindexter-Sylvers, AAS, University of Houston
Aswad Walker, AAS, University of Houston
Gretchen Wiggins, AAS, University of Houston

AAS Courtesy Affiliated Faculty

James Anderson, Ed.D., UH Executive Associate to the Chancellor/President for Community Relations
Jenifer Bratter, Ph.D., Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, English Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Gerald Horne, J.D., Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D., Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Kairn Klieman, Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Demetrius Pearson, Ed.D., Health and Human Performance Department, College of Education
Linda Reed, Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Tyrone Tillery, Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Louis Williams, Ph.D., Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, College of Pharmacy
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT (cont.)

AAS Staff Team for 2007-2008

Director: James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D
   University Professor of African American Studies
Assistant Director: Malachi D. Crawford
Program Manager: Paul H. L. Easterling
Financial Coordinator: Angela Williams-Phillips
Secretary II: Sheneka Stewart
Secretary II: Linda Harris

AAS Student Support Staff for 2007-2008

Graduate Assistant: Rhadheshyam Bang
Graduate Assistant: Cynthia Tate
Graduate Assistant: Quiana Whitesell
Student Worker: Alexis Guidry
Student Worker: Kayela Shannon
Student Worker: Eronn Putman
Work Study: Caleb Alexander
Work Study: Dennis Campbell
Work Study: Shar-day Campbell
Work Study: Sha-Kara Jackson
Research Assistant: Lindsay Withers

Mr. Dennis Campbell, 2007-2008 AAS Work Study Student
Mrs. Sheneka Stewart
AAS, Secretary II
AAS FACULTY AND STAFF
ACTIVITY FOR AY 2007-2008

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
University Professor of African American Studies

Teaching:

◊ AAS 3379: Africana Oratory, Fall 2007
◊ AAS 6308: Africana Religion and Biography, Fall 2007, Grad Cert.
◊ AAS 4370: Seminar in African American Studies, Spring 2008
◊ AAS 6300: Africana Studies Theory and Method, Summer Session IV, Grad Cert.

Publications:


Guest Lectures:

◊ January 24, 2008: Guest Panelist at “Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.” event
◊ February 11, 2008: Guest Speaker for KPFT Radio Retreat; gave interview on “African Culture”
◊ February 26, 2008: Guest Lecturer at Prairie View A&M University; gave lecture on “Cater G. Woodson and Multiculturalism”.
◊ July 7, 2008: Invited Guest Speaker at the College of Social Work, per request of Dr. Lawson; gave presentation on “Single Parenting”

Campus and Community Service

◊ Attended UH College Readiness Event, February 21, 2008.
◊ Attended WALIP Academy Luncheon, May 19, 2008.
James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D.
Director and University Professor of African American Studies
(Continued)

Campus and Community Service

◊ Attended Defending Democracy exhibit featuring the political art of Emory Douglas, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX, June 7, 2008
◊ Attended Teach Africa USAID Event, June 11, 2008
◊ Attended Charles “Teenie” Harris: Rhapsody in Black and White exhibition, UH Blaffer Gallery, June 25, 2008
◊ Attended CLASS Chairs and Directors meetings regularly throughout the academic year
◊ Attended and participated in University of Houston Commencement Ceremony for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters
◊ Coordinated “Successful Cases of Publishing Dissertations as Books,” by Mary Lenn Dixon, Editor-in-Chief Press Consortium, Texas A&M College University, 26 November 2007; a forum to assist and direct new and current publishers in the field of Africana Studies
◊ Coordinated “African Americans and the Law,” by Crisarla Houston, JD, director of the legal Writing Program and Assistant Professor of Law, Texas Southern Law School, 19 February 2008; a forum to assist Africana Studies minors with preparation for law school

Malachi D. Crawford
Assistant Director
African American Studies

Teaching:

◊ AAS 3350: Slavery and Race Relations, Spring 2008

Publications:


Guest Lectures/Presentations:


Campus and Community Service:

◊ Attended “Canto Nuyorican! Afro-Puerto Rican Poet Sings”, University of Houston, November 1, 2007
◊ Attended “Beyond the Exodusters: 20th Century African American Community Life”, UH History Department’s Are the Answers in the Archives? Series, November 13, 2007
◊ Served as guest judge for the 25th Annual Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Eta Mu Chapter, University of Houston, February 17, 2008
◊ Attended the 32 Annual National Council for Black Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2008
◊ Attended “Mexico Hoy!” the Center for Mexican American Studies’ annual spring conference, April 17-18, 2008
◊ Attended Defending Democracy exhibit featuring the political art of Emory Douglas, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX, June 7, 2008
◊ Attended Teach Africa USAID Event, June 11, 2008
◊ Attended Charles “Teenie” Harris: Rhapsody in Black and White exhibition, UH Blaffer Gallery, June 25, 2008
◊ Attended CLASS advisor meetings regularly throughout the academic year.
◊ Attended the University of Houston Commencement Ceremony for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters
Paul Easterling  
Program Manager  
African American Studies

Teaching:
- AAS 2320: Introduction to African American Studies, Fall 2007
- AAS 2320: Introduction to African American Studies, Fall 2007
- AAS 4300: African Philosophy, Summer Session IV, 2008

Publications:

Guest Lectures/Presentations:
- April 2008: Guest lecture entitled, “Hip Hop and Moorish Science,” in AAS 3350: Slavery and Race Relations, University of Houston

Campus and Community Service:
- Served on Assistant Director Search Committee for AAS, Summer 2007
- Served on Visiting Scholars Search Committee for AAS, Spring 2008
- Served on Travel Funds Committee for AAS, Spring 2008
- Coordinated Model African Union program in Washington, D.C., March 2008
- Coordinated Study Abroad to Ghana Program, July 2008
- Served as advisor to Songhai Chapter (UH) of the Ankh Maat Wedjau National Honor Society
- Chaired panel session at the National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference, March 2008
- Coordinated AAS Black History Month Activities
- Coordinated all AAS programming (e.g., speakers, lecture series, literary circles, etc.) for the 2007-2008 academic year
- Coordinated the Center for the Study of African American Culture’s 2008 research symposium on Africana psychology
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES GARNERS NATIONAL AWARD

The National Council for Black Studies honored the African American Studies (AAS) Program at the University of Houston with its Sankore Award. The award is given annually and recognizes the outstanding African American Studies program of the year and its contributions to the field of Africana Studies. "We are proud to receive this award that is a testament to our dedicated and hardworking staff and faculty," said James Conyers, professor of African American Studies and director of the program. "We look forward to advances in our program and to strengthening our faculty recruitment and development components."

The organization announced the award during its 32nd Annual convention in Atlanta, Ga. Judges considered faculty research production and publication, partnerships in the community and academic excellence. Past award recipients have included the African American Studies programs at Georgia State, Dillard and Purdue universities. "The African American Studies program and its leadership exemplifies the two main principals of the organization—academic excellence and social responsibility," Charles Jones, president of the NCBS, said. "We considered the program’s Study Abroad Program, its lecture series and its external links to the African American community, like the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center and the Shrine of the Black Madonna."

The African American Studies program at UH was established in 1969 and focuses on the history, culture, life and contributions of people of African descent. Its mission is to provide students with a comprehensive, quality education and the opportunity for a creative, intellectual experience based on the critical and systematic study of the life, thought and practice of African peoples. Currently, more than 170 UH students are pursuing minors in African American Studies. Many are assisted by scholarships, and raising funds for scholarships is a priority for the program.

The Study Abroad component works through partnerships with the University of Ghana in West Africa, the University of Cape Coast and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi. Students can earn six hours of credit with the summer program. The annual lecture series brings scholars from across the country to UH to discuss diverse topics. The lectures are free and open to the public. Guests have included filmmakers Spike Lee and M. K. Asante Jr.

The AAS program includes elective classes in African Americans and the Law, Black Leaders of the 20th Century and The Black Church in America, taught by Cardinal Aswad Walker, pastor of the Shrine of the Black Madonna. In addition, the Graduate Certificate in African American Studies is gaining the attention of students. The nine-hour program includes study on Africana religion and biography, a seminar on Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and a course on research methods and theory.
AAS FACULTY TRAVEL AWARD

AAS Faculty Travel Awardees for 2007-2008

Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D., Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Demetrius Pearson, Ed.D., Health and Human Performance Department, College of Education

AAS Faculty Travel Award Committee for 2007-2008

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies
Paul Easterling, Program Manager, African American Studies

AAS FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

AAS Faculty Travel Awardees for 2007-2008

Demetrius Pearson, Ed.D., Health and Human Performance Department, College of Education

AAS Faculty Travel Award Committee for 2007-2008

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies
Paul Easterling, Program Manager, African American Studies

OTHER AAS REVIEW COMMITTEES

AAS Undergraduate Scholarship Committee

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies
Gretchen Wiggins, J.D., African American Studies
OTHER AAS REVIEW COMMITTEES (cont.)

Ghana Summer International Study Abroad Program Review Committee for 2007-2008

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies
Gretchen Wiggins, J.D., African American Studies

AAS Graduate Assistantship Award Review Committee for 2007-2008

Franklin Anderson, Director, Challenger Program
James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies
Paul Easterling, Program Manager, African American Studies

AAS Visiting Scholars Review Committee for 2007-2008

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies
Paul Easterling, Program Manager, African American Studies
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
ADVISORY BOARD

**Hon. Ada Edwards**
Member, City Council, District D
Houston, Texas

**Cleo Glenn-Johnson**
President/CEO, National Black United Fund for the State of Texas
Houston, Texas

**Gene L. Locke**
Partner, Andrews Kurth LLP
Houston, Texas

**Reginald E. McKamie**
Attorney, Reginald E. McKamie, Sr., P.C.
Houston, Texas

**DeLloyd Parker**
Founder/Executive Director,
S.H.A.P.E. Community Center
Houston, Texas