Education and Pan African Collaboration in AAS:

African-centered Instructional Design p. 2

Cover Story: The Pencil Project p. 5
African American Studies (AAS) remains committed to recognizing academically talented AAS minors and advancing student interests and participation within the discipline on a national and international level. To this end, the program provides resources and funding to assist today's africologists critically study the human experience through attendance at national research conferences, study abroad opportunities, and by helping to defray the costs associated with attending college.

INCREASE ACROSS THE BOARD

The 2009-2010 academic year witnessed African American Studies increase its support for deserving students in each of its three main areas of funding: academics, study abroad, and conference participation. AAS contributions to students who distinguished themselves academically more than doubled within the last two years. In fact, the 2009-2010 academic year saw AAS offer more academic scholarships than in any previous year since 2005. From 2005-2009, AAS had never given out more than 10 merit-based academic scholarships at any one time. Last year, however, AAS awarded 25 academic scholarships to University of Houston students. AAS offers two types of academic scholarships to eligible students: tuition-based scholarships that help cover tuition-related costs; and academic scholarships to University of Houston students. AAS offers two types of academic scholarships to eligible students: tuition-based scholarships that help cover tuition-related costs; and academic scholarships to University of Houston students. AAS offers two types of academic scholarships to eligible students: tuition-based scholarships that help cover tuition-related costs; and academic scholarships to University of Houston students. AAS offers two types of academic scholarships to eligible students: tuition-based scholarships that help cover tuition-related costs; and academic scholarships to University of Houston students. AAS offers two types of academic scholarships to eligible students: tuition-based scholarships that help cover tuition-related costs; and academic scholarships to University of Houston students. AAS offers two types of academic scholarships to eligible students: tuition-based scholarships that help cover tuition-related costs; and academic scholarships to University of Houston students.

Building Leaders, Advancing Research, Impacting Lives: Undergraduate Scholarships in AAS

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the program saw six times the number of students making appearances at national conferences, up from a seven-year low in 2007. AAS provides funding for student participation at three major conferences: the Model African Union Conference at Howard University; the National Council for Black Studies National Conference; and the Black Psychology Undergraduate Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University. A key measure of the program’s strength in introducing students to advanced research opportunities and original sources is student participation in its study abroad program. In July of 2010, 16 students from the University of Houston received the Dr. Kwame Nkrumah International Study Abroad Scholarship in African American Studies to study abroad in Ghana, West Africa, totaling more than $51,000 in funding from AAS. In addition to conducting field research and oral histories, student participants in the study abroad to Ghana received instruction at the University of Ghana, the University of Cape Coast, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

AAS will continue its advancement and support for student education and research initiatives at the University of Houston. The program’s commitment to each of its three areas of student funding remains imperative to providing a robust and logically sound platform upon which to make these objectives concrete realities.
Lamar Johnson: AAS Alumnus Develops African-centered Instructional Design in Cameroon

Over the years, the African American Studies program has provided many students with opportunities to take part in a variety of experiences that have helped further their interests and passion within the discipline.

Lamar Johnson, an alumnus of African American Studies, entered the University of Houston as a pharmacy major but quickly discovered that he did not have the study habits to further pursue a demanding field. At the same time, he discovered his attraction to psychology and decided to transfer from pharmacy to psychology.

Towards the last two years of his psychology program, Johnson enrolled in an African American Studies course and became immediately intrigued with how subjects within his psychology curriculum correlated with issues being discussed within his African American Studies course.

As a result, he committed himself to both programs, successfully graduating in the spring of 2006 with a bachelor of science in psychology and a minor in African American Studies.

“I went to Ghana my graduating year, and, with support from African American Studies, I received a full scholarship to attend the University of Louisville to get a masters degree in Pan African Studies (PAS). In PAS, I concentrated specifically on history, the history of urban schools and film,” Johnson said.

Johnson currently teaches social sciences and social studies to seventh and eighth grade students at one of Houston’s most renowned charter schools, Kipp Liberation Academy. “In the way of my hobbies, I’ve been playing with short film making, photojournalism, so on and so forth.” He spends his free time documenting his experiences.

But, it’s Johnson’s next year that’s going to be truly interesting, as he describes it. “I landed a teaching position in Cameroon.” Johnson explained that he will be working for an international school that is African-centered called African American Education.

“It is a dual program. It is designed to give students an African-centered education while still making them competitive with their international counterparts,” Johnson said. “They earn the equivalent of a high school degree and then go on to top colleges or universities in the United States and other continents.”

“It’s a blessing how I found out about this experience,” he explains. After two of his students experienced an educational program in Cameroon, they came to Houston and attended Kipp Liberation. At the same time, Johnson was teaching social sciences over the summer, a co-curricular class on African studies. He was able to utilize the skills and knowledge that he acquired from taking African American Studies courses at his undergraduate level.

“One day after class, one of my students who had been to school in Cameroon had a conversation with me and was saying, ‘I went to this school in Cameroon and this is exactly what they’re trying to do with their curriculum,’” Johnson said. Following that conversation, one of the seventh grade students took the initiative in contacting the school leader so that she and Johnson could touch base whenever she came to Houston.

Johnson, in complete awe, expressed gratefulness at the fact that a young child noticed something that he possessed that would be of value in another country and took his own initiative to contact her personally.

African American Education educates students starting at age two all the way to their senior year in what Americans call high school. The students are required to dress in uniforms in order to set apart age groups. “There are differences between what’s expected from the two year olds and the three year olds all the way up to what’s expected from high school students,” Johnson explains. “But for the most part, they start the students very, very young. There is very strong culture at the school and an understanding to respect authority.”

The positions offered to Johnson are teacher and administrator. He is responsible for writing the curriculum and giving guidance to the program while creating a lesson plan and gathering tests. “It’s almost like a research administrator.”
Hannah McConn and Randryia Houston are students in the African American Studies program at UH who have created a new nonprofit organization that aids school children in Ghana, The Pencil Project. Their mission is to help alleviate educational disparities within Ghana’s primary and secondary school systems by providing educational tools and resources. It was a comment made by a school administrator in Ghana to a studying abroad group of UH African American Studies students that started it — the revelation that elementary school students in the African country drop out at an early age as a result of something as little as not having a pencil to do their work with.

That single complaint frustrated Randryia Houston and Hannah McConn, two of the students who participated in the AAS Summer Study Abroad in Ghana trip that summer in 2009. A friend of theirs, Tiffany Lester — an English major and former president of the Resident Hall Association — came up with the idea that they should start a big school supply drive.

“When we got back, we were really frustrated,” McConn said. “We knew that we wanted to help the Ghanaian people in some way, but we didn’t really know how, and we kind of felt that as students, we didn’t have the means or revenue to do so in a huge way. So, she (Lester) suggested we just start with pencils.”

From that frustration, The Pencil Project was born — and this summer, when Houston and McConn returned to Ghana for the AAS Summer Study Abroad program, they brought with them more than 30,000 pencils to donate to children.
“When we were given this opportunity to go to Ghana, it just opened up a new world to me,” Houston said. “Our professors in the African American Studies program really pushed the idea of Americans always going to places, and they take and they never give back. So, why is it that they asked that we bring school supplies on the trip to give back to the local people and to give back to the communities and the cultures that we visit? So, I guess we took that idea and, we ran with it. It was simple—it’s just a pencil and it’s very inexpensive and it’s something we take for granted here, that the children really need there.”

Houston is currently pursuing a master’s degree in international social work from the UH Graduate College of Social Work, and her background—and passion—is philanthropy. She previously graduated with a sociology degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and is pursuing a Graduate Certificate in African American Studies, said.

McConn is starting her last year as an undergraduate and plans to attend the UH Law Center next fall. A graduate from Nimitz High School in Humble, she was the president of the UH chapter of the Keep a Child Alive foundation, a nonprofit organization started by Leigh Beal and singer Alicia Keys. Her passion is politics and international law, and she has been an intern in State Senator Rodney Ellis’ office whose district includes the UH campus. In 2009, she participated in the Texas Legislative Internship Program through the Hobby Center for Public Policy.

“I went to Ghana wanting to study the politics, but… I couldn’t study anything about it because the education system was so broken there,” McConn said. “I don’t think people can put the right people in office and make the right decisions for the country to move forward until all the people are educated.”

Houston and McConn recently registered The Pencil Project as an official nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, and they hope to expand its outreach to other continents and African countries. Houston said that their five-to-seven year plan includes opening a boarding school in Ghana.

In some respects, the logistical challenges of coordinating a donation effort as massive and extraordinary as The Pencil Project required overcoming psychological hurdles more pronounced than physical or financial barriers.

“Transportation was about building those networks while you’re in college that can guarantee you the
tution that has alumni that are still in the city?” Houston said. “At the end of the day, we’re[...]

McConn was quick to agree, saying emotions ran high on both sides. “When we would get to a school, everyone would be extremely grateful and kept thanking us.”

“When presented with the opportunity, they used their education and background in African American Studies to solve a problem facing African people. That is exactly what we ask our students to do,” Malachi Crawford, assistant director of African American Studies, said.

For more information about the African American Studies program and its Summer Study Abroad in Ghana program, visit http://www.class.uh.edu/aas/. For more information about The Pencil Project, visit www.pencils-ghana.org. Drop off donations for The Pencil Project in the African American Studies office, Room 629 Agnes Arnold Hall.

**The Pencil Project by the Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,368</td>
<td>Lbs. first shipment of pencils weighed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>675</td>
<td>Days: the average lifespan of a pencil for primary through tertiary school students in Ghana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>429</td>
<td>Thousand pencils acquired for the education of students in Ghana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>The total number of years of schooling that a child can get without pencils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pencils it takes to make a profound difference in the life of a student.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Levels of Giving

Friends (500 pencils or less)
Diandra Houston
Dr. Cache Steinberg
Dr. Danny Hoey
Dr. Louis Sportelli, D.C.
Dream Academy Houston
Felix Robinson with UH Bookstore
Garden Oaks Elementary
Houston Dynamo
Kim Ba
Lawanda Hill
Lindsay Moody
Lt. Daniel Walker
Malachi & Karla Crawford
Malika Mitchell
Margaret O’Donnell
Mark Griffin
M.K. Asante
Mrs. Mary Miklos
Nguba Phan
Phyllis Simmons with Vetted, Warden, and Coleman, LLP
Dr. Simon Bott
Tim & Judy Edwards
UH American Humanics Student Association
UH African American Studies Department
UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
UH Council of Ethnic Organizations
UH Graduate College of Social Work
UH Metropolitan Volunteer Program

Partners (501-1000 pencils)
Aaron Brown with Abel Lodge #16 AF & AM
Adeola Sankofa
Alexis Guidry with the New Covenant Fellowship Church
Kevin McKeve with Nationwide Insurance
Lativya Houston with AT&T
Lucia Gonzalez
Pamala Owens
Porsche Randall with the Phi Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Sam Dike
Shaina Pruit with Sheltering Arms Inc.
Sloan-Golman Family
Smart Marketing Inc.
Sugar Land Lewis Club
UH American Humanities Student Association
Visionaries (In-kind)
Benjamin Martin
Cathedral of Faith Church
Christian Jackson
Ghana Study Abroad 2009
Ghana Study Abroad 2010
Karen McGonnell
Kimberly Gay
Scott Wharton
Toan Joey Tran
Victor Epps
各类合作伙伴

Sponsors (1001-3000 pencils)
Angel Rodeo- Lewis with Abel Holmesquint Elementary
Christine Paul
Crystal Fox
David Anderson with 2010 Media
Edmar Ordonez
Gene Harper
Jackie Thomas
Leadership Circle (3001-5000 pencils)
Clar Kugler of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
Dr. Ed Kieke of the Koala Health and Wellness Centers, Inc.
Dr. Joel Bloom (UH-HHP), Hannah L. McConn, Randryia L. Houston, and Dr. Ed Kieke of the Koala Health and Wellness Centers, Inc.

Hannah and Randryia deliver supplies at St. Anthony Preparatory School.

Students at St. Anthony Preparatory School stand in line for a midmorning snack.
Event Briefs • 2009-2010 AAS Programming

2009-2010 AAS Events

On Monday, 10 September 2009, hosted lecture “Islam in the U.S.: The Twenty-First Century,” by Dr. Amiriha Beverly McCloud, professor of religious studies, DePaul University

On Monday, 12 October 2009, hosted lecture “The Possessive Investment in Consumption of the Black Women’s Body,” by Dr. Kaila Story, assistant professor, Aude Lorde Chair in Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Department of Pan-African Studies, Department of Women’s & Gender Studies, University of Louisville

On Thursday, 29 October 2009, co-hosted with the Department of Modern & Classical Languages and the Women’s Studies Program “Terroir-ities of the Breast: A Documentary Screening & Discussion,” co-directed by award winning artist and documentary filmmaker Sonia Hace-Hernandez

On Monday, 2 November 2009, hosted lecture “Cultural Trauma and the Psychological Well-Being of African Americans,” by Dr. Shwian Ushey, Chair, Department of African American Studies, associate professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University Producer

On Monday, 9 November 2009, hosted lecture “Beginning Family History,” by Mrs. Debra Blacklock-Sloan, historian, Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum, chair, Harris County Historical Commission Marker Review Committee

On Monday, 16 November 2009, co-hosted with the Department of Modern & Classical Languages and the Women’s Studies Program “Territories of the Breast: A Documentary Screening & Discussion,” co-directed by award winning artist and documentary filmmaker Sonia Hace-Hernandez

On Tuesday, 9 November 2009, hosted lecture “Still Seeking 40 Acres & a Male: African American Economic Empowerment in the 21st Century,” by Dr. James Sweet, professor emeritus of labor studies & employment relations, Penn State University—Greater Allegheny

On Tuesday, 16 November 2009, presented “500 Years Later,” as part of our annual Africana Film Festival

On Thursday, 18 November 2009, hosted lecture “A Historical View of the Nation of Islam,” by Dr. Claude Andrew Clegg, III, professor and chair, Department of History, Indiana University—Bloomington

On Tuesday, 2 February 2010, presented “500 Years Later,” as part of our annual Africana Film Festival

On Tuesday, 9 February 2010, hosted lecture “Cultural Considerations of Grounded Theory as a Research Method: A Case Study,” by Dr. Evelyn Curry, assistant professor, School of Library & Information Studies, Texas Woman’s University

On Tuesday, 22 February, 2010, hosted lecture “African American Studies provided support for three students to attend the conference in the spring of 2010: Natasha Johnson, Christine Paul, and Ashley Taylor. With the professional guidance of Fedora Biney, doctoral student in neuropsychology and former graduate assistant in AAS, Johnson, Paul, and Taylor presented groundbreaking research in several critical areas of psychology. The conference highlights the outstanding research of undergraduate students at partnering institutions and promotes leadership and community engagement among the participants. Model African American Society—An African American Studies International Initiative

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 four to ten students to engage in mock sessions of the African Union. Likewise, the Model African Union conference is an excellent way for students to network with other universities, other students from these universities, and gain an international experience within this increasingly interdependent world.

On Tuesday, 11 February 2010, hosted lecture “Beginning Family History,” by Mrs. Debra Blacklock-Sloan, historian, Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum, chair, Harris County Historical Commission Marker Review Committee

On Thursday, 11 February 2010, hosted lecture “African Cosmology, Spirituality, and Knowledge,” by Dr. Denise Martin, associate professor of Pan-African Studies, University of Louisville

On Monday, 18 February 2010, hosted lecture “African American Studies provided support for three students to attend the conference in the spring of 2010: Natasha Johnson, Christine Paul, and Ashley Taylor. With the professional guidance of Fedora Biney, doctoral student in neuropsychology and former graduate assistant in AAS, Johnson, Paul, and Taylor presented groundbreaking research in several critical areas of psychology. The conference highlights the outstanding research of undergraduate students at partnering institutions and promotes leadership and community engagement among the participants. Model African American Society—An African American Studies International Initiative

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On Thursday, 25 February, 2010, hosted lecture “Cultural Considerations of Grounded Theory as a Research Method: A Case Study,” by Dr. Evelyn Curry, assistant professor, School of Library & Information Studies, Texas Woman’s University

On Monday, 23 February, 2010

• 2009-2010 AAS Programming

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Summer International Study Program—Ghana, West Africa (Summer Session 1, 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 2010, 17 University of Houston students were provided with funding to participate in this rich and fulfilling program: Oluwakemi Akeredolu, Fred Bryant, Jr., Quamia Carthan, Jahmien Davis, Brian Harris, Randrya Houston, Le Huang, Jamie Ladet, Hannah McConnell, Deidra Motton, Craig Nelson, John Nicklos II, Nwabuhodo Okongpua, Nwadoogo Okongpua, Angel Rhoden, Lewis, Whitney Welch, and Alexanderia Wilkerson. In all, since 2003 the African American Studies Program has sponsored over 60 students to travel to Ghana and continues to encourage students to be internationally minded in this increasingly global world.
For students wanting to study the evolution and current manifestations of Hip Hop today, African American Studies at the University of Houston (UH) is offering a course that will discuss and analyze Hip Hop as a cultural phenomena, expression and experience for African American people. Paul Easterling, program manager and adjunct faculty in African American Studies, will instruct AAS 3301: Hip Hop History and Culture during the spring 2011 semester. The course covers the history of Black music, religion and resistance in America, including the history of Hip Hop and its cultural, sociological and religious manifestations. Course assignments also place emphasis on examining the views of Hip Hop artists and critics.

The course hopes to contribute to the growing research and discussions on Hip Hop already taking place in and around many institutions of higher learning throughout the world, but especially here in the city of Houston. With its unique array of artists and distinct sounds, Houston has made an indelible contribution to Hip Hop culture. Artists such as the Geto Boyz, Lil' Flip and Trac the Truth have had national appeal through radio air play and record sales, while the late DJ Screw invented an entirely new method of musical production through the development of Screw Music.

A similar effort to study the complexities of Hip Hop music is being undertaken by Anthony B. Pinn, Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and Religious Studies at Rice University. In addition to the course in African American Studies at UH, the Department of Religious Studies at Rice will offer a course under the instruction of Dr. Pinn focusing on the religious aspects of Hip Hop in the spring of 2011, RELI 157: Religion and Hip Hop.

For more information, please contact Paul Easterling via telephone at (713) 743-2814, or by email at peasterling@uh.edu.

2010 AAS Study Abroad Experience
Le Huang (the artist)

For some students, college is little more than a four to five year hurdle to becoming gainfully employed—at least that is the expectation. Le Huang, a studio art and art history major who studied abroad in Ghana this summer as an African American Studies Nkrumah Scholar, looks at her collegiate experience from a different angle.

After studying fine arts design at Shanghai Normal University in her native country of China four years ago, Huang moved to the United States and completed her core undergraduate courses at Houston Community College before transferring to the University of Houston in the fall of 2007. Despite being cautioned by friends and relatives against embracing art as a field of study during the peak of America's economic recession, Huang believed that making a career out of her professed love for painting would be the least of her concerns.

For Huang, art was not simply a means to getting a job; it was also a form of self-expression, and potentially a prism for understanding the world. The traditional style of art, she says, involves picking up a brush and painting—an intimate interaction between artist and canvas. "It's a whole process involving your mind and body, while expressing your spirit to the format at hand."

To enhance her appreciation and knowledge of the field, Huang studied art history at Yale University during the summer of 2009. The experience left her looking for more concrete and practical ways to encounter artistic creation on a global scale.

Huang says AAS's study abroad to Ghana as a unique opportunity to broaden her exposure to art and enrich her personal relationship with African people. Incorporating her skills as a lay photographer, she decided to create paintings from the pictures she took documenting Ghanaian life and culture. "My goal is to go to those countries that I'm unfamiliar with and can offer me a different background and cultural experience," Huang said.

Huang's aspirations were soon realized when she became aware of her presence as a foreigner in the country. The trip was her first time travelling in large urban areas without a significant population of Chinese nationals.

I remember once where we went to a village and met with one of the local leaders. When we went to shake each other's hands, it seemed we automatically noticed the extreme contrast of our skin tones. I felt like our two cultures were meeting at that moment," Huang said.

Her perception of differences increased when she was made to question her position of privilege as a tourist. During a rest stop in the village of Ho, Huang leaned out of her window seat and photographed a row of houses off to the right of the group's bus. Ten minutes later, a man appeared in the door of the bus demanding that Huang explain herself. "Who gave you the permission to take a picture of my house?" the resident asked.

"That's my property. You Americans think that you can take whatever you want." Surprised and somewhat startled by the encounter, Huang apologized and agreed to delete the photos from her camera. It was both a lesson in humility and being sensitive to the human dimensions of other people's lives.

The rest of the trip went smoothly. From that point forward, Huang made it a point to ask permission before capturing any more images.

Her photos turned out beautifully, and we offer a few here for our readers.

NOTE: Le Huang, “thanks African Americans Studies and the University of Houston for supporting her financially and by many other means.”
“Future Spaces, Social Change, and African Identity Through Octavia Butler”
By Bekunle Ascroft

In her speech “How Does Change Happen”, Angela Davis suggests that as a “potential agent of social change” there is a critical stance one should adopt in their relationship to how they perceive social realities. This stance is a “critical impulse” that makes “use of knowledge in a transformative way,” and takes a “critical posture towards the conceptual tools” used in marginalization. This posture, which Davis terms feminism, appears in Octavia Butlers’ Parable of the Sower and Parable of the Talents.

Speculative fiction set in the dystopian world during the year 2024 and beyond, Butler’s fiction narratives transgress various conceptual paradigms by empirically using the experiences of the historical past and present to inform possibilities within the future through the concept of change. Lauren Oya-Olamina, her protagonist, and also a potential agent of social change is located within an Africentric paradigm. Which is to say, that while Oya’s local identity is African American, her identity is also tied to her African past in relation to her surrounding social realities.

Oya, as the protagonist name suggests, is representational of an Orisha in Yoruba mythology. A Goddess of the Niger River, her characteristics, which can be construed as radical, are such that she is known as “one who puts on pants to go to war” or “one who grows a beard to go to war.” Oyas’ reality, set in future fiction America, is a gated community in Robeldo, a racially diverse community operating as a boundary confronted by the encroachment of social ills where the plight of the human condition has deteriorated into such a state that gated communities are created to protect societies from the outside world.

“Literary Uplift: Octavia Butler, Poverty, and Despair in African Communities”
By Alexandria Wilkerson

As a response to the problem of despair within the Black community, Octavia Butler’s Earthseed can be used to show people living in economically strained conditions that they can change their situation without any negative consequences. When Lauren Olamina says, “shape God,” she is referring to shaping one’s own reality and the society around them. If a person shapes their reality, there is no longer a need for them to rely on a higher being for their success—they become the individual in control. If these ideas were properly presented to groups in need of reform, positive reinforcements of success could eventually replace defeatist mindsets. Moreover, communities desiring liberation from oppressive forces must collectively come together and fight for their beliefs. Olamina’s struggle affirms this notion and her story, although it is fictional, is inspiring to say the least.

“Black Estrangement in Octavia Butler”
By Rebecca Ramirez

Through her protagonist, Lauren Oya Olamina, Octavia Butler portrays the image and elements of “cyberpunk”, a subgenre that presents a dystopian alternative to the utopia of mainstream science fiction as a fertile ground for exploitation. Butler’s tone consistently illuminates three socio-political conditions: urban decay, highly technological societies, and political disillusionment appropriated through literary and “creative transgression,” and featuring aspects of black invisibility. Commenting on science fiction as a genre, Greg Tate, author and cultural critic, writes, “Black people live the estrangement that science fiction America, is a gated community in Robeldo, a racially diverse community operating as a boundary confronted by the encroachment of social ills where the plight of the human condition has deteriorated into such a state that gated communities are created to protect societies from the outside world.

BooksHELF Africana:

1. Afrocentricty in the Academy (Conyers, James L., editor) 2003
2. An Essay On African Philosophical Thought (Gyekye, Kwame) 1995
3. (The) Autobiography of Malcolm X (Malcolm X) 1987 (reissue)
4. Fighting for Honor (Desch Obi, T.J.) 1999
5. Intellectual Warfare (Jacob H. Carruthers) 1996
8. Muntu (Jahn, Janheinz) 1994
9. Slavery By Another Name (Blackmon, Douglas) 2008
10. They Came Before Columbus (Van Sertima, Ivan) 2003 (reprint)
11. Women in the Yoruba Religious Sphere (Olahubu, Oyeronke) 2003
12. The Hood Comes First (Forman, Murray) 2002
13. The Hip Hop Generation (Kitwana, Bakari) 2002
14. Vibe History of Hip Hop (Light, Alan, ed.) 1999
15. Hip Hop Culture (Price, Emmett G.) 2006
16. Race First (Martin, Tony) 1986
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 for 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 $3,000. 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. Moosers, Sr. Academic Achievement Scholarship Established in 2006 to provide 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.

International Study and Conference Exposure
- National Model African Union—Washington, DC (First Week in March, annually). Every spring the African American Studies Program sends a team of students to Washington D.C. to participate in the national Model African Union conference sponsored by Howard University. This conference hosts 30–40 different universities every year with each institution bringing anywhere from four to ten students to engage in mock sessions of the African Union. Likewise, the Model African Union conference provides an excellent way for students to network with other universities, students from these universities, and gain an international perspective on and knowledge of African studies.

- 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 Cape Coast, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, with work at the University of Ghana. Study includes educational travel to Ghana and the University of Ghana.

- National Council for Black Studies Conference (Third Week in March, annually). The National Council for Black Studies is the leading organization of Black/African Studies professionals in the world. In addition to establishing standards of excellence within the discipline, NCBS serves as a network and outlet for the Unite.

- African American Studies Graduate Assistantship: This award, established in 1997, is 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.


- Julius E. Thompson and Nancy J. Dawson: The Encyclopedia of African American Life and Culture, published by Transaction Publishers in 2009. A unique reference tool, this volume includes more than 600 entries comprising 35,000 pages and received several grants. His publica-

- Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society: Established in 2006 to provide funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies and whose GPAs are at least 3.0. This award is $1,000.

- Mrs. 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.

- 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 with work at the University of Ghana. Students study Ghanaian and Ghanaian academics at the University of Ghana.

- National Council for Black Studies Conference (Third Week in March, annually). The National Council for Black Studies is the leading organization of Black/African Studies professionals in the world. In addition to establishing standards of excellence within the discipline, NCBS serves as a network and outlet for the Unite.

- African American Studies Graduate Assistantship: This award, established in 1997, is 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.


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