

University of Houston African American Studies

WHEREAS, African American Studies (AAS), established at the University of Houston in 1969, is a distinct academic discipline that engages Africa-centered research and teaching through an interdisciplinary approach to scholarly inquiry; and,

WHEREAS, AAS focuses on the cultural and historical heritage of Africans on the continent, in America and throughout the greater diaspora, as well as their contributions to the world's history and civilizations; and,

WHEREAS, AAS's goal is to provide African-centered classes and curricula that adequately address the aesthetic, historical, philosophical, psychological, sociological, anthropological, cosmological, ontological, axiological and epistemological issues and problems of African people throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2014, the AAS will celebrate its 45th anniversary at the University of Houston-Hilton; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Houston commends University of Houston African American Studies for its many contributions to academia, students and the community, and extends best wishes for a memorable event.

THEREFORE, I, Annise D. Parker, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim May 2, 2014, as

University of Houston African American Studies Day

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 17th day of April, 2014.

Annise D. Parker

Annise D. Parker
Mayor of the City of Houston



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Office of Harris County Commissioner Precinct One, it is a pleasure to send **MESSAGES OF RECOGNITION AND CONGRATULATIONS** to the **University of Houston African American Studies (AAS) Program 2014 Annual Scholarship Banquet 45th Year Celebration**; and

WHEREAS, it is an honor to join the members of the AAS program and the members of the Houston community as participants in celebrating the program's 45th Year, all in observation of the **program's theme: "Honoring the Legacy and Leadership of Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett, University of Houston's only African American President"**. Dr. Barnett's intense interest in support of a comprehensive academic curriculum of various disciplines is well noted, and in the spirit of Dr. Barnett, the AAS program is committed to provide the framework for academic excellence and development of community leaders. In total, the AAS program focuses upon the cultural and historical heritage of Africans worldwide along with their contributions to the world's global history; and

WHEREAS, in fulfillment of the AAS program's mission to reflect on the larger vision of Black, Africana and African American Studies department and programs, the program develops, promotes and enhances the knowledge and information of the discipline to bring about growth and prosperity for strong communities and a stronger nation. On Friday-May 2, 2014 @ the Hilton University Hotel, the University of Houston African American Studies Program's 45th Year Celebration will highlight its celebration with the daughter of Dr. Barnett as its Keynote Speaker, Ms. Amy Dubois Barnett, Editor-in-Chief of Ebony Magazine.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as Harris County Commissioner of Precinct One, it is hereby recognized and proclaimed that this message be widely recognized and disseminated throughout Houston-Harris County communities and beyond on this 2nd day of May 2014 in observance of:

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AAS) PROGRAM
2014 Annual Scholarship Banquet 45th Year Celebration**

in
Harris County Precinct One
Houston-Harris County, Texas

ADOPTED on this 1st day of May 2014 by Harris County Commissioner Precinct One,
Harris County, Texas.



El Franco Lee, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct One
Harris County, T E X A S



TLBC

Texas Legislative Black Caucus
1108 Lavaca St, Suite 110-PMB 171, Austin, TX 78701-2172

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District 23- Dallas

Senator Rodney Ellis
District 13- Houston



Greetings University of Houston African American Studies Program & Guests:

I would like to congratulate you all on the occasion of your 45th commemorative celebration highlighting the 2014 Scholarship Banquet and honoring the legacy and leadership of Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett.

Through your hard work and efforts, your organization has been able to consistently provide very beneficial financial support to deserving students in the program on the undergraduate and graduate school level serving both here and abroad. The University of Houston African American Studies programs' mission to develop knowledge of people of African descent in America, the Diaspora and in Africa provides a perfect segue to the pre-eminent role Houston plays regionally and globally in terms of education, trade and social exchange. The multitude of endeavors pursued by the program over the years and the impact the program has made on the lives of its graduates are truly laudable.

This worthy cause and those undertaken over the years by the University of Houston show the true commitment, dedication and impact to the city, region, state and globe at large.

In addition, the truly groundbreaking accomplishments of Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett will benefit many generations. As the first African American woman to serve as President of a major university in America, the University of Houston, her selection points to her excellence and the University's recognition of her abilities and acumen. Dr. Barnett was a scholar, leader and role model and we must cherish the legacy she has bestowed. With her focus on guiding universities to act as a dominant fixture spurring economic growth and solving the social problems in the areas they serve, she was at the helm of a movement leading large urban universities to become more actively engaged in solving the dilemmas facing communities today.

In closing, I wish you all the best in all your future endeavors and a very successful event!

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Chair, Texas Legislative Black Caucus



As we embark on the 45th anniversary of the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston, expression can be explained in three ways: historical; 2. Narrative; and 3. Uplift and advancement for the future. Within the framework of a tier 1 university, the AAS unit at the University of Houston, is one of the oldest AAS programs in the state of Texas. Indeed, the city of Houston has a vibrant and ongoing history of African American life and culture. Still, the historical ledger draws emphasis on the role of civil rights, development of Africana institutions, and forward movement of progress in H-Town. With regard to narrative, AAS has played a pivotal role in the history of the university. Additionally, with the appointment of Dr. Margurite Ross Barnett, as President of the university, UH mapped itself as the first university below the Mason Dixon line, to hire an African American female, as their chief executive officer. Equally important, as a trained political scientist, Dr. Ross Barnett provided leadership, tenacity, and a spirit of common sense to advance the university during her tenure period. Lastly, with reference to uplift and advancement, AAS at this moment in the historical narrative of the university, has postured to advance the thought of an academic major and to participate in the university's strategic plan to assertively diversify and recruit faculty. Here, there is the option of a win for our campus community, in providing a holistic education for UH students.

-Dr. James L. Conyers, Jr., University Professor of African of American Studies and Director

African American Studies Program Staff

Malachi Crawford, Ph.D.
Assistant Director,

LaShonda R. Williams, M.P.A.
Program Manager

Mary Sias, B.A.
Office Coordinator

Irene Ray, B.A.
Secretary II

Graduate Assistants
Gwendolyn Alfred
LaQuasha Burke
Anuja Deshpande

Visiting Scholars

Marsha Walker- Mc Williams, Ph.D.
Vincient Willis, Ph.D.



Lynn Cecilia Eusan

(b. October 11, 1948 Galveston, TX)

(d. September 10, 1971 Houston, TX)

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Lynn C. Eusan was a community activist, student, and the first African American homecoming queen at the University of Houston and cited by others as the first black homecoming queen at predominantly white institution in the south. Additionally, she is a founder of the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston and SHAPE Community Center. Eusan political activism centered on international issues concerning African people, disparity, and racial segregation.



Emmett J. Scott

(b. February 13, 1873, Houston, TX)

(d. December 12, 1957, Washington, DC)

A native of Houston, Texas, Emmett J. Scott garnered a reputation as Booker T. Washington's chief aide. He was also the highest ranking African American in the Woodrow Wilson's Administration. The son of ex-slaves, Scott was born in 1873. In 1887, he entered Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, eventually leaving school in his third year. Soon he worked at the Houston Post, first as a sexton, and later as a copyboy and journalist. In 1893 Scott, along with Charles N. Love and Jack Tibbit, formed the Texas Freeman, Houston's first African American newspaper. Scott also worked for Galveston, Texas, politician and labor leader, Norris W. Cuney.

Scott caught the attention of Booker T. Washington, who hired him in 1897. For the next eighteen years, Scott served Washington as a confidant, personal secretary, speech writer, and ghostwriter; in 1912, he became Tuskegee's treasurer-secretary. Scott advocated Washington's philosophy of constructive accommodation over immediate social integration. Scott and New York Age editor T. Thomas Fortune helped Washington found the National Negro Business League (NNBL) in 1900. In 1917, two years after Washington's death, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Scott special advisor of black affairs to Secretary of War Newton Baker.



Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett

(b. May 22, 1942, Charlottesville, VA- d. February 26, 1992, Wailuku, Hawaii)

Born May 22, 1942, in Charlottesville, Virginia, Barnett is the daughter of Dewey Ross and Mary (Douglass) Barnett. She completed elementary school and in 1959 graduated from Bennett High School, both in Buffalo, New York. In 1964, she graduated from Antioch College with an A.B. degree in political science. She continued her studies in political science at the University of Chicago where, in 1966, she received an M.A. degree and, in 1972, a Ph.D. As a child Barnett planned to become a scientist. While studying a course on Indian politics, she changed her career interests. As a part of her doctoral studies, she conducted research in south India for two years. For her subsequent book on ethnic and cultural pluralism, *The Politics of Cultural Nationalism in South India* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1976), the American Political Science Association awarded her its top book prize in 1981. Barnett became the first black and the first woman to head the University of Houston. Her appointment resulted in widespread press coverage. An article in the March 6, 1991, issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* put her in the national spotlight as head of an institution that she says is “literally on the cusp of greatness” (Mangan, A-3). Barnett was one of three women to lead universities with more than thirty thousand students. The fact that she was the only black leading a major research institution was less significant to her than her agenda at the University of Houston and her belief in the role that public urban universities should play in addressing a wide range of issues, from homelessness to space exploration. Barnett believed that urban research universities should help society “solve its key conundrums,” They must do so “in the same way land-grant institutions helped solve the problems of the 19th century” (Mangan, A-3).





Sharron Melton

ABC-13 News Anchor

Mistress Of Ceremony

Sharron Melton is the co-anchor of ABC13's award winning morning newscast from 4:30-7:00 a.m. She is also a proud Texas native and thrilled to be back in her home state.

A native of San Antonio, she has lived all over the state including Houston, where she has numerous family members who've lived in the city for decades. She's also lived around the nation, before joining the ABC 13 family. She was the Weekend Anchor/Reporter at WSVN-TV in Miami, Florida, the 5pm Anchor and Education Reporter at WPMI-TV in Mobile, Alabama. She was also an Anchor/Reporter/Producer at KOBR-TV in Roswell, New Mexico. She even worked as a radio reporter for the Agriculture Communications Network in Texas.



Sharron has been recognized several times for her broadcast work. She received the Outstanding Feature Story Award from the South Florida Black Journalists Association, Best Feature Reporting Award from the Press Club in Mobile, Alabama. She is the recipient of the Alabama Education Media Award. The New Mexico Broadcasters Association also presented her with the Outstanding Newscast Award. Sharron was recently named One of the 50 most influential Women in the City of Houston, by Houston Woman's Magazine.

She holds a Master's degree in Television Communication from Eastern New Mexico University and a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communication and Journalism from Texas A&M University, in College Station. Sharron has also taught at the university level. She worked as an undergraduate lecturer and instructor in broadcast news fundamentals at the University of South Alabama.

Sharron is on the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. She is also a member of the Houston Chapter of the Links, Inc., the National Association of Black Journalists, and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Family Counseling Center of Mobile, Alabama. In her spare time, Sharron is heavily involved in volunteer service work and enjoys singing, dancing, and swimming.



Amy Dubois Barnett, M.F.A.

Keynote Speaker

An award-winning media executive and brand architect, Amy DuBois Barnett is of one of our nation's premier curators of American popular culture. Barnett's vision has shaped the pages and websites of Harper's Bazaar, Essence, Teen People, Honey magazine and Ebony, where she is currently Editor-in-Chief of the oldest and largest African-American magazine in the country with an audience of 10 million. At Ebony, Barnett executed the publication's first top-to-bottom redesign in its 66-year history to critical acclaim. She also introduced key new editorial franchises (Ebony Beauty Awards, Black Wealth issue, 50 Finest) as well as groundbreaking editorial packages (Multiracial in America, Can We Save Detroit, Black Men in America, Election 2012). As well, she re-conceived and re-launched Ebony.com with a new mission and message.



In 2011, Ebony's achieved rate base grew by 11%, and Ad Age listed Ebony as one of the 25 fastest growing magazines in the country based on circulation. Since re-launch, Ebony.com's unique visitors have grown by 500%. Ebony won a record-breaking eight Salute to Excellence awards from the National Association of Black Journalists in 2012. Ad Age listed Ebony as a 2012 Magazine Brand to Watch and minOnline listed Ebony as one of the top five advertising gainers in the industry for the June 2012 issue. Barnett was named the 2012 Media Executive of the Year by Target Market News.

Most recently, Barnett was the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Harper's Bazaar where she served as right hand to publishing legend, Glenda Bailey. Prior to Harper's Bazaar, Barnett was the Editor of Teen People, entering history books as the first African-American woman in the country to head a major mainstream consumer magazine. With Barnett's editorial redesign, Teen People grew to lead the teen category in audience (14 million) and reader satisfaction scores increased to their highest levels since the publication's launch. Her groundbreaking redesign of TeenPeople.com made it the first media website to incorporate video into its regular content.

Before Teen People, Barnett served as Editor-in-Chief of Honey magazine (targeting urban women in their 20s and 30s) for nearly three years where she oversaw a major redesign of the magazine that doubled its rate base and generated national buzz for the previously unknown brand. She also launched HoneyMag.com and integrated the brand's online and print content. Prior to Honey, Barnett was with Essence magazine, heading up the publication's style content and lifestyle department. She was also a founding editor of the internet's first comprehensive luxury style website, FashionPlanet.com, and its sister magazine, Fashion Almanac.

Barnett has appeared weekly as an on-air correspondent for CNN's American Morning and has been featured on many national television shows including The Today Show, Good Morning America, The Early Show, Nightline, and on various programs on VH1, MTV and BET.

A Brown University graduate, Barnett also has an M.F.A. degree in Creative Writing from Columbia University and a certificate in Fashion Merchandising from Parson's School of Design. She is the author of the NAACP Image Award-nominated advice book for women, *Get Yours! How To Have Everything You Ever Dreamed Of And More* (Doubleday/Broadway Books, 2007). She is also a published fiction author whose work has appeared in various journals and anthologies.

For her pioneering work as a journalist, style expert and writer, Barnett received the Trailblazer Award from the New York Association of Black Journalists, an Aldo award for fashion journalism from the Fashion Association, and a Hurston/Wright award for creative writing. Barnett is on the board of the American Society of Magazine Editors and is a member of the Fashion Committee of the School of the Arts Institute in Chicago and the Communications Coordinating Committee of the American Heart Association.

Barnett has lived in 12 cities on three continents, and is fluent in French. She has spent most of her adult life in New York City, but currently resides in Chicago with her six-year-old son, Max.





Cheryl D. Creuzot CFP®, J.D. LL.M., M.B.A.

Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett
Award Recipient

Cheryl D. Creuzot, a thirty-year industry veteran, is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of Wealth Development Strategies, L.P., a position she has held since 2001. Wealth Development Strategies, one of Houston's oldest comprehensive financial planning firms, offers contemporary, personalized solutions for individuals and business professionals who wish to protect, grow and efficiently distribute their wealth. The boutique firm consists of twenty-six associates who combine extensive financial experience and expertise to effect personalized client solutions.

Ms. Creuzot carries the same spirit of service delivery to her numerous civic and charitable endeavors. She is currently a trustee of the University of Houston Foundation (Investment Committee) and serves on the Board of Directors of MD Anderson University Cancer Foundation Board of Visitors (Government Relations Committee) and Unity National Bank (Chair of the Audit, Compliance and Investment Committee). Past board experience includes the Houston Museum of African American Culture, the Ensemble Theatre, Project Row Houses, the Menil Collection Development Committee, the University of Houston Alumni Organization (Chairman), the University of Houston Law School Association, the Dean's Advisory Board, and College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the University of Houston.

In addition to extensive civic service, Ms. Creuzot has received several political appointments. Ms. Creuzot was appointed by the Democratic National Committee to serve as the state co-chairman of the Women's Leadership Forum. In 2002, Ms. Creuzot was selected to participate in the Center for Houston's Future Leadership Forum, a business and community partnership. In 1993, Ms. Creuzot was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to a six-year term on the Texas Public Finance Authority Board, a political and corporate body created to provide financing for state agency facilities. Ms. Creuzot served as Vice Chairman of the Authority from 1995 to 1997.

A published author of many articles on the subject of financial planning, Ms. Creuzot is a resource for print and on-line media and has been quoted in MONEY, Mutual Funds, and Black Enterprise magazines. She previously co-hosted the local talk show radio KPRC's Organizing Your Life. She is currently working on a financial reality show pilot showcasing a variety of unique investor situations.

A sought after speaker, Ms. Creuzot delivered the key note address for the 2012 Women's Leadership Academy Summit, the 2010 African American Financial Professionals and the 2008 National Bar Association. She was the commencement speaker for the 2009 American Intercontinental University. Ms. Creuzot has also addressed Essence Magazine's Women Who are Shaping the World Leadership Summit, the State of the Black Union, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Megafest, the National



Conference of Black MBAs and the Junior League of Houston.

Ms. Creuzot has been recognized by her community and alma mater for outstanding leadership. She is the recipient of the Corporate Sector Achievement Award from the University of Houston Law Alumni Association (2012), the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Houston (2011), the Women of Distinction Award from the Houston Crohn's and Colitis Foundation (2008), the National Black MBA Leadership Empowerment Award from the Houston Chapter (2004) and the Super Achiever Award from the Greater Houston YMCA (2001). Ms. Creuzot is a 2012 Honoree of the Houston Easter Seal's Hats Off to Mothers. She has also been recognized by the Houston March of Dimes three times (2004, 2006 and 2008).

Ms. Creuzot is a four-time alumna of the University of Houston – the University of Houston Bauer College (M.B.A. with honors, December 2012), the University of Houston Law Center (J.D. and LL.M.), and the University of Houston (B.A. with honors). She is a member of the Texas State Bar, the Registry of Financial Planning Practitioners, the Financial Planning Association and the Million Dollar Round Table, Houston branch. She carries the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation and has been named one of Texas Monthly's Houston Region's Five Star Wealth Managers (2011 and 2012) as well as a Top 100 Advisor in the country and Financial Planner of the month by Mutual Funds Magazine (2001 and 2002). Ms. Creuzot is also a Registered Player Financial Advisor for the National Football League. Ms. Creuzot's licenses include Series 7, 24 and 63 and Group 1 Life, Health and Variable Insurance.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Creuzot has called Houston home since entering the University of Houston as an undergraduate freshman. She is married and has three children.



The Honorable Judge Hilary H. Green, J.D.

Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett
Award Recipient

Judge Hilary H. Green serves as the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 7, Place 1. Judge Green brings to the bench more than 13 years of experience in civil and criminal proceedings. She has served in numerous capacities including attorney at law, instructor and Judge and oversees cases involving evictions, small claims, mental health detainment, tow-related issues, occupational licenses, and a host of Class C offenses. Currently, Judge Green serves as the Co-Presiding Judge for all 16 Harris County Justices of the Peace. This is an elected position which allows her to assist with review and implementation of Local Rules which govern all aspects of daily community living.



Proving not to be one-dimensional, Judge Green spends numerous hours volunteering in her community to further both positive endeavors and expectations for area students. As a judge with the highest number of truancy related offenses in the State of Texas, Judge Green is dedicated to meeting the needs of students with a host of challenges. When asked what motivates her – Judge Green boldly emphasizes her desire to be the change the community needs and wants.

As a graduate of the Melcher School of Business at the University of Houston, Judge Green attended Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. After gaining both her Bachelor's Degree and Law Degree, Judge Green practiced law as a litigator in both civil and criminal cases. Once her husband, Controller Ronald C. Green, successfully secured his seat on the Houston City Council, Judge Green enthusiastically assumed her position as Managing Partner of The Green Firm, LLP. Thereafter, staying true to the "Green" brand, Judge Green successfully secured her seat as a Justice of the Peace in a spirited and contested Primary election.

Judge Green is a licensed a member of The State Bar of Texas, and she is also a member of many philanthropic and service organizations, including: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Houston Chapter of the Links, Inc., The Twelve Days of Christmas, Inc., and the National Congress of Black Women. Judge Green credits her parents with providing a loving and encouraging home environment and good "ole' school" parenting for what she considers "the few successes" she's had in life. "It was the steadfast commitment of both of my parents in allowing me to find my way – at the same time providing the guidance and support I needed to stay focused."

Judge Green has been married to Houston City Controller, Ronald C. Green, for 13 years. She says her biggest accomplishment is their son, Ronald "Christopher" Green II (who is 8 years old) and the most beautiful thing she's ever seen is the smile on her son's face.



Wayne Lockett

Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett
Award Recipient

Wayne Lockett is the founder and President of Branwar Wine Distributing Company. Branwar Wine serves as an importer and wholesale distributor of premier wines from around the world. The company's portfolio is highlighted by award-winning South African wines. Wayne developed an affinity for these wines during his five year residency in Johannesburg, South Africa. After returning to the states, he wanted to continue his enjoyment of select South African wines. Realizing there was a void in good consistent South African wines in the Texas wine industry, he set out to offer one of the Western Cape's best kept secrets. Branwar Wines are now available in upscale restaurants, wine bars, and country clubs across major markets in Texas including Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin. Plans are currently underway for national expansion.



Prior to launching a wine business in 2010, Wayne was a telecommunications executive formerly involved with new technology and venture developments in Africa and the United States. Aside from spending several years in research and development and addressing public policy issues for new technology, most of his 33 year career with SBC (now AT&T) was associated with planning and managing network operations for the company.

While with SBC, Wayne was selected in 1997 to join a team of executives that privatized Telkom South Africa and revolutionized the telecom industry in South Africa. During this five year international assignment, he was recognized for his leadership contributions associated with the world class development of state-of-the-art network infrastructure, service delivery and operational efficiency for Telkom.

After retiring from SBC in 2005, Wayne spent several years as a consultant for WCW International. In this capacity, he collaborated with AT&T and developed telecom business opportunities and projects with the City of Houston, Houston Community College and the University of Houston. He also provided leadership for a delegation of international professionals bidding on the acquisition of a telecommunications company in Ghana.

Wayne received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Houston in 1974. He is an active member in both church and community. He is a member of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and serves on the board of several non-profit community organizations. He is a Board Member of the Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce and a Board Member of the Wheeler Avenue Africa Project (WAAP) missionary organization. He is past Vice President of Communications for the Friends of the Houston Public Library. He is also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Byron C. Alfred, J.D.

Lynn Cecelia Eusan
Award Recipient

Byron C. Alfred is a Trial Lawyer with Vujasinovic & Beckcom, PLLC Law Firm, located in Houston, Texas. VB Attorneys represents people who have been seriously injured in major car & 18 wheeler accidents, explosions, offshore and Jones Act cases, as well as Refinery accidents.

Byron is a graduate of South Texas College of Law where he won several awards and championships while representing the school's nationally renowned Advocacy Program. In addition to practicing law, Byron continues to serve as adjunct faculty at South Texas College of Law coaching mock trial and moot court teams. In his first year of practice, Byron has already tried multiple cases to jury verdict and has received substantial verdicts and settlements for his clients.

Byron is a proud alumni of the University of Houston African American Studies Program.



Eronn Putman, Esquire

Lynn Cecelia Eusan
Award Recipient

Eronn Putman is the managing attorney of The Putman Firm, a Houston law firm that concentrates in the areas of criminal defense, family law and real estate law. Her practice focuses on techniques of negotiation and strategy. She is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Houston, and an alumna of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Prior to practicing law, Eronn worked in politics with positions as a legislative aide in the United States Congress, Texas House of Representatives and Houston City Council. She also worked as lobbyist representing individual clients, local and national corporations with business with the City of Houston. Her proven track record in strategy and advocacy in governmental affairs are skills that has transferred to courtrooms in Harris and surrounding counties.

In addition to lobbying and running a law practice, she is also an adjunct professor at the University of Houston teaching African American legal history, a constitutional law course that examines the law and legacy of Blacks in America. Eronn Putman is a classically trained pianist with over twenty years of experience and former competitive pianist. She enjoys playing the piano, watching political and legal drama and is a huge football fan of the LSU Tigers and Houston Texans.





Sarah Trotty, Ph.D.

Lynn Cecelia Eusan
Award Recipient

Sarah Trotty was born in Charleston South Carolina and spent her early years in Newport News, Virginia before moving to San Antonio, Texas at the age of seven. Growing up in the sixties, she spent her adolescent years in Kerrville, Texas, graduating in 1965. She has degrees in Art Education from the University of Houston (B. S. 1968), Texas Southern University (completed M. Ed with an Art Specialization 1971/received 19974) and Purdue University (PhD 1977).

Sarah was among the Houston Independent School District's first "Cross-Over" teachers in 1968. She taught art at Fondren Junior High School for six years, serving as chair for two years, before moving to Indiana in 1974 to begin her doctoral studies. She married Willie F. Trotty before the year ended and they both studied at Purdue. A year after returning to Houston (1978), Sarah became chair of the art department of the Fleming Fine Arts Academy Magnet School. She was very active in the Houston, Texas and National Art Education Association, serving as secretary and eventually president of the local organization.

Sarah became Chair of the Department of Art at Texas Southern University in July of 1983. She is proud to have started a program to reclaim former art students, most who graduated. A year later, the department was reorganized to the Department of Music and Art, and she served as Art Coordinator for about six years before being elected to serve as Chair of the Music and Art Department, which later became the Department of Fine Arts. During that time she helped to found and design the University Museum, a dream, project that she shared with Dr. Biggers and Mr. Simms. She returned to the classroom in 2000 before being appointed as Interim Chair of Visual and Performing Arts in December of 2010. She now serves as Associate Professor of Art and as one of the leaders of the TSU Mural Taskforce charged with conserving and maintaining the murals. She has had several individual and group exhibitions of her watercolors and photographs and curated a number of local exhibitions.

Sarah serves on the Education and the Glassell School of Art Committees of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where she has also served as Board Member. She is Co-founder of the Community Artists' Collective, which for twenty-five years has brought quality art exhibitions and arts educational and entrepreneurial programs to Houston's Third Ward. And she is a long time board member of the Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum, which preserves and conserves the architecture and history of the Fourth Ward. She has been a member of the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church where she serves as a deaconess for over forty-seven years. Sarah and Dr. Willie Trotty are the proud parents of two adult daughters and an adult son, and proud grandparents of two girls and a boy.



**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
DR. MARGUERITE ROSS BARNETT,
EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

MAY 2, 2014

HILTON UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON HOTEL

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY: SHARRON MELTON, ABC-13

INVOCATION

INTRODUCTION OF THE MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

LASHONDA R. WILLIAMS, PROGRAM MANAGER AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY GREETINGS

PAULA M. SHORT, PH.D., SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND PROVOST

PROCLAMATION

THE HONORABLE SYLVESTER TURNER ('77), TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 139

WELCOME

DR. MALACHI CRAWFORD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

DA'VONTE D. LYONS, HONORS SOCIETY PRESIDENT

-DINNER-

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THE HONORABLE WELCOME W. WILSON, JR., SECRETARY, UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

AMY DU BOIS BARNETT, DAUGHTER OF DR. MARGUERITE ROSS BARNETT

INTRODUCTION OF AWARDS

DR. MARGUERITE ROSS BARNETT AWARD

LYNN CECELIA EUSAN AWARD

DR. EMMETT J. SCOTT AWARD

AAS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

AAS STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

AAS GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS & CLOSING REMARKS

DR. JAMES L. CONYERS, JR., UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF
AFRICAN OF AMERICAN STUDIES AND DIRECTOR

CONVOCATION



John Guess, Jr.

Dr. Emmett J. Scott
Award Recipient

John Guess, Jr. could be called the ultimate multi-tasker!! The busy native Houstonian is the unrelenting voice and architect behind the resurgence of the Houston Museum of African American Culture, which he was brought in turn around and make tangible in late 2009, and where he currently serves as Chief Executive Officer. He also serves as Managing Consultant of the Guess Group Inc., a Principal in the Dallas based Access Seminars, and is former Managing Director of Just Right Entertainment.



The Guess Group, Inc, is the recipient of the Houston Citizens Chamber of Commerce 2011 Pinnacle Award for African American Business Achievement. In Dallas, Access Seminars is past recipient of the Quest Award for Outstanding Business, the Texas Workforce Commission President's Award and the Dallas Black Chamber's Outstanding Business Award. With Just Right Entertainment, John has produced two award winning films, *The Hand We've Been Dealt: Borderline Houston* and *Telling Our Story: Conversations on Race, Reconciliation and the Future of the Black Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas*, the cult classic film *Bert* about the late Houston artist Bert Long, Jr., and co-produced a Town Hall meeting hosted by Alfre Woodard and Hill Harper for the Congressional Black Caucus at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

His hectic work schedule often includes speaking on business and organizational strategy for groups such as Inc. Magazine, the University of Florida Museum Studies Program, and the Charlotte, NC Chamber of Commerce and writing articles for numerous newspapers and magazines. Nevertheless, he still finds time for extensive community involvement.

John serves on the Board of Trustees of the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, where he founded the special event Champagne & Ribs and co-chaired the committee responsible for the current museum motto, Always Fresh, Always Free; on the Board of the Museum of Fine Arts Glassell School and Core Program; is the immediate past President of Art Lies, when the journal became full color, nationally distributed and part of the prestigious Warhol Foundation Writers Initiative; on the board of the Houston Arts Alliance, where he serves as Vice Chairman, and on the national board of Artadia, which sponsors artist awards and support in San Francisco, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and Boston.

But there was is a life in addition to art that compels John, and that life includes work as former Board Chair of Reach Across Houston, a former Cisco Networking Academy, that under John's direction became one of ten such academies nationally to be recognized in Washington, DC for its efforts to bring technology to the community level. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Dr. Marnie Rose Foundation, named in honor of the brilliant and compassionate late doctor who died of brain cancer at an early age,

which has raised more than \$2 million since 2003 to benefit brain cancer research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and pediatric initiatives at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. He also serves on the on the Board of Directors of the Fred C. Johnson Foundation, a family foundation that he chaired for three years, that has provided college scholarships for close to 100 kids.

Before returning to Houston in the late 1980s, John had a successful career in politics and finance. Right out of college, he was Campaign Manager for the Baltimore mayoralty campaign of State Senator Clarence J. Mitchell, III. Subsequently, he became a Legislative Investigator on the first Congressional Black Caucus staff and Senior Legislative Assistant for the Hon. Parren J. Mitchell, MC, where he drafted legislation for the impeachment of former President Richard Nixon but more importantly for the federal government program establishing minority business set-asides to help level the economic and business playing field. After graduate school in Washington, DC and Bologna, Italy, John was an officer at the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York and Sao Paulo, Brazil and a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch.

The Johns Hopkins University graduate, with degrees in History and International Affairs, has been honored at the University for his founding and sponsorship of the Office of Multicultural Affairs Diversity Awards and for his fundraising for the Center for African Studies, for which he is currently heading a major fundraising drive.

Along with his partner Melanie Lawson, John is a passionate collector of African American, glass and contemporary art. Works from their collection have been exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Roswell Museum in New Mexico, the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the Bellville Museum of Art, and the Afrika Museum in Amsterdam. They have donated works from their collection to the Menil Collection and the Blanton Museum, and have been honored by the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Diverseworks, the Bayou Arts Festival and the Center for Contemporary Craft.



Clara Meek, M.P.A., J.D., Ph.D.

Clara Loraine Meek was born to Clara Ethel Gray Meek and Omri Rossar Meek I on June 30, 1949, in Marshall, Harrison County, Texas. She was delivered at home by a midwife, in a house built by her grandfather and her father. Clara was the last of eleven children--her mother was nearly 50 when she was born.

Her hometown Marshall is a small, East Texas, farming community near the Louisiana and Arkansas borders, approximately 260 miles northeast of Houston and about 150 miles southeast of Dallas. It is known for its red and clay soil, tall pine trees and two well-known historically Black colleges – Bishop and Wiley Colleges; the latter is still there, Bishop moved to Dallas and subsequently closed.



During her childhood Clara's father operated a logging business and a 172-acre farm originally purchased in 1911 by his parents Edward Johnson Meek and Lucy Childs Meek. Her mother was primarily a homemaker who worked along side her husband on the farm. They raised staples such as cotton, corn, peanuts, a variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as some cattle, pigs and poultry.

Having attended Tuskegee University, Clara's father had developed a keen interest in African American history and often regaled her brother and her with stories about his former teacher Dr. George Washington Carver, the Carthaginian Hannibal--the great military strategist and guerilla warrior who successfully occupied much of Rome for fifteen years, and the military genius of King Shaka of the Zulus. His stories spurred Clara to learn to read by age three and to learn to love African American history as well.

Clara's family has strong Texas roots. Her paternal great-grandmother Chloe Titus was born in Titus County, Texas around 1830; her maternal great-grandfather Sam Houston Gray arrived in Texas from Tennessee in 1845. Both were captives held as slaves until emancipation. Her Meek ancestors were from Nigeria and were probably Muslim.

Clara's family also has firm ties to public education. Her paternal grand parents began teaching in rural Harrison County in 1890. They helped establish the first public schools for Black children in the area neighboring their farm. Four of her siblings spent their entire careers as public school teachers; two others were teachers for a least a period of time. Clara herself began her professional career as a college teacher--as an assistant professor at Howard University in Washington, DC. She left academia only because she became an administrator--an assistant dean--which proved to be disastrous for her.

While a young child in Marshall, Clara was baptized by a country preacher in a muddy creek near the Sabine River. Her Baptist indoctrination and faith endured for many years but faltered for a time under the unwavering weight of American racism, sexism and income inequality. It was revised only after a homeless person she met taught her the necessity of forgiveness and gratitude.

Clara's first school was a racially segregated, one-room, school house four miles up a dirt

road from her family's farm. The school only heat came from a corner wood-burning stove. It had no running water and students had to use unsanitary outdoor restrooms that could not be kept free of dangerous insects. Because of the dire conditions at the school, her parents scraped together enough funds for her brother and her to attend a private Catholic school in town. It too was racially segregated but had better classroom facilities, was less crowded and offered a better curriculum. When the County consolidated its rural and urban schools, Clara's parents returned their children to public schools. The County bused Clara past at least three all-white schools into an inner city, all-Black school. The bus ride took more than 1½ hours each way and required her to sometimes wait in the dark and cold to catch the bus.

Segregation was an enduring part of all aspects of her life in Harrison County. Hence, as a child, Clara learned to do without water when away from home for lengthy periods because her father refused to allow her to drink from public fountains marked "Colored." She never attended a county fair or local carnival, went to a movie, or participated in other public activities in Marshall. Her father did not want his children subjected to the humiliation of separate entrances, sitting in segregated balconies and/or waiting in separate lines.

Clara moved to Houston in 1963 and graduated from Jack Yates High School in 1966; Texas Southern University's School of Business, B.B.A. in 1970 (summa cum laude); Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs—M.P.A. in 1972, Ph.D. in 1976; and the University of Texas School of Law at Austin, J. D. in 1985 (with honors). She was admitted to the Texas Bar in November 1985 and practiced law in Houston for about fifteen years before retiring due to health problems.

Over the years Clara worked on and in a number of causes and movements, including African famine relief, the "free South Africa" movement, women's reproductive rights, anti-death penalty, voting rights, children's rights, "free Darfur," and the anti-war and peace efforts regarding the Viet Nam War and Iraq wars. She has worked as a volunteer with TransAfrica, the Houston Area Urban League, the NAACP (life member), the National Council of Negro Women (life member), People on the Move for Christ Ministries (a nonprofit that operates a food pantry in Houston's Third Ward), the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston, as well as various local and federal political campaigns. She has served on the boards of the local United Negro College Fund, The DePelchin Children's Center, Jazz Education, Inc., The Bakari Fund, the Houston Area Women's Center Guild, and the W. J. Durham Legal Society.

Clara loves life and enjoys reading, politics, volunteering and traveling.

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ADINKRA GLOSSARY



WISDOM KNOT

NYANSAPC – Symbol of wisdom, ingenuity, intelligence and patience



THE EARTH HAS WEIGHT

ASASE YE DURU – Symbol of providence and divinity of Mother Earth



GO BACK TO FETCH IT

SANDKCFA – Symbol of the need for ever-readiness, steadfastness, hardiness, valor and fearlessness



FENCE

EBAN – Symbol of safety, security and love



THE FERN

AYA – Symbol of endurance, independence, defiance against difficulties, hardiness, perseverance and resourcefulness



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Artist, Educator, Cultural Community Volunteer

*Sarah believes in the potential of young minds, the sanctity of spirituality,
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She salutes the U of H African American Studies Program on its 45th year.*

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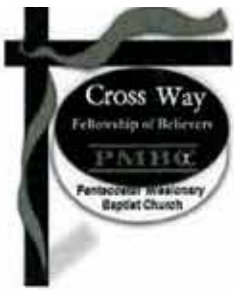
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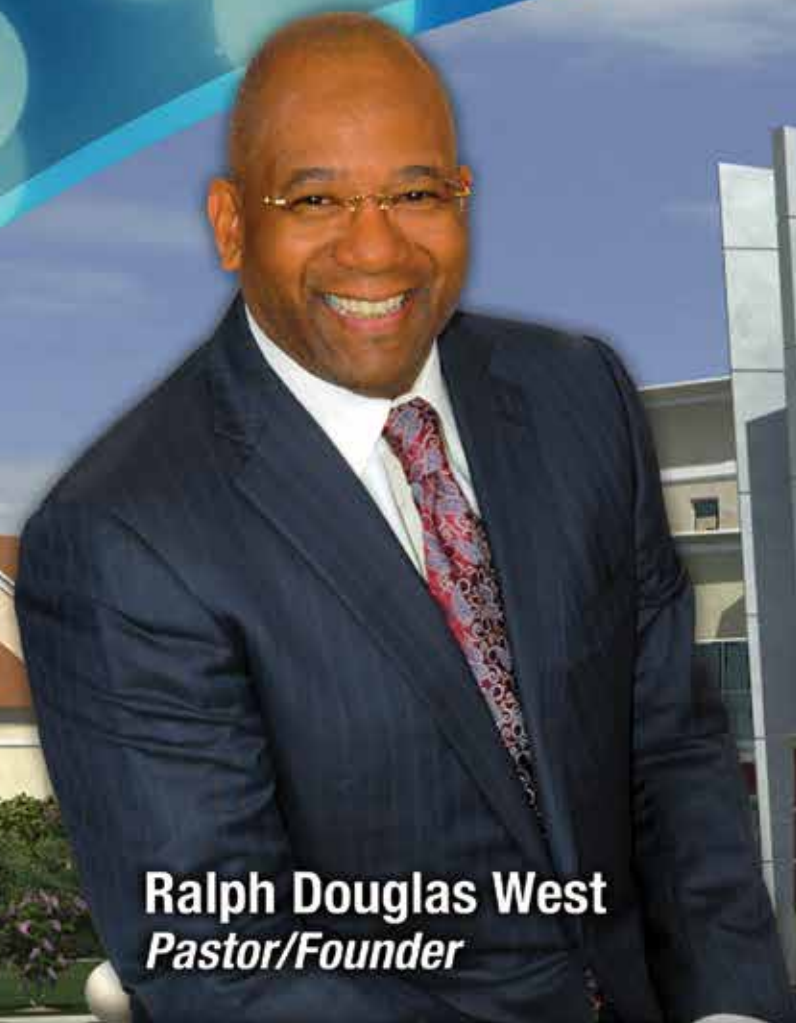
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