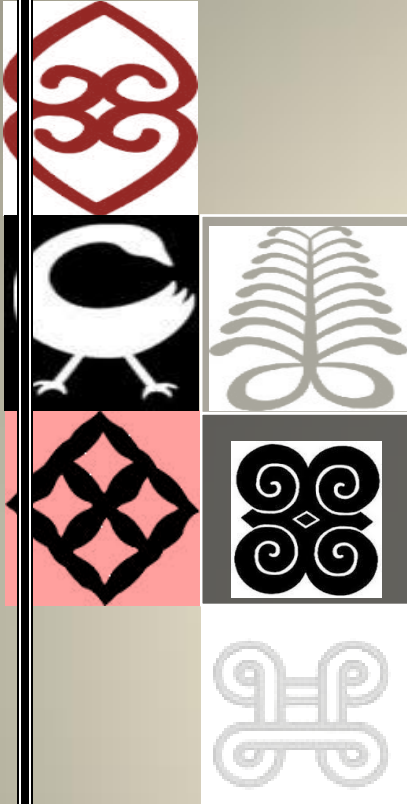


2013

# *Embarking Upon 45 years of Excellence*

University of Houston

African American Studies Department



*8<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Studies Program Scholarship Banquet*

*May 3, 2013*

*University of Houston Hilton Hotel*

*6:00 pm - 8:00 pm*

*Invocation*

*Pastor Reverend Jacques Dickens, M. Div.  
Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church*

*Welcome*

*Dr. Malachi Crawford, Assistant Director  
African American Studies Program*

*-Dinner-*

*Introduction of the Mistress of Ceremony*

*LaShonda R. Williams, Program Manager  
African American Studies*

*Introduction of Keynote Speaker*

*Keynote Speaker*

*Jarvis Butler,  
Senior Firefighter, City of Houston*

*Introduction of Awards*

*Lynn Cecelia Eusan Award*

*Larry V. Green, J.D.  
Sonny Messiah- Jiles*

*Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett Award*

*Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr.*

*Dr. Emmett J. Scott Award*

*John H. Lucas, II*

*Community Leadership Award*

*AAS Student Scholarships*

*AAS Graduate Assistantships*

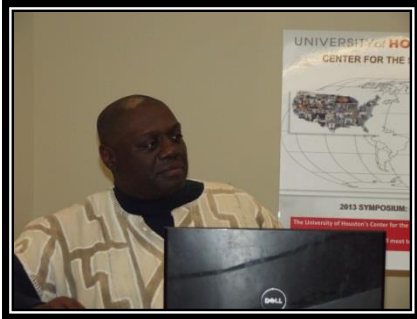
*AAS Study Abroad Scholarships*

*Recognition of Guests & Closing Remarks*

*Dr. James L. Conyers, Jr. Director  
African American Studies*

*Convocation*

*Pastor Reverend Jacques Dickens, M. Div.  
Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church*



The mission of African American Studies at the University of Houston is reflected in the larger vision of Black, Africana and African American Studies departments and programs' commitment to the development of the knowledge of people of African descent in America, throughout the greater Diaspora and on the Continent. The program develops, promotes and enhances the knowledge and information of the discipline as well as the collective consciousness of African descended people, which will in turn lead to the growth and prosperity of strong communities and a powerful nation. AAS focuses upon the cultural and historical heritage of Africans on the Continent, in America and throughout the greater Diaspora and their contributions to the world's history and civilizations.

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.

*-Dr. James L. Conyers, Jr, Director*



*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 is one of three women to lead universities with more than thirty thousand students. The fact that she is the only black leading a major research institution is 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 believes 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).



Ms. Nzinga Rideaux is Promotions Coordinator and On-Air Personality at Majic 102.1 FM, she also held the same position at sister station Praise 92.1. Nzinga has been in Houston radio over 15 years. Her radio broadcasting career started at the Legendary KYOK 1590 Amen station back in 1996, where she served as the Program Manager and On-Air Personality.

She is the Founder and CEO of Fundamentals Ink, Incorporated; a faith based organization that provides scholarships annually to well deserving youth who have gone through their programs.

In addition to these responsibilities Nzinga serves in ministry at her church, Windsor Village UMC under the leadership of Pastor's Kirbyjon & Suzette Caldwell; she is a member of the United Methodist Women & OutBreak Youth Ministry.

Nzinga commitment to community service comes from her parents who modeled selflessness early on in her childhood and explained the importance of giving back to the community. She's a member of The Kingdom Movement Ministry and she sits on The Team Emily Foundation Board & SHAPE Community Center's Advisory Board.

She is a graduate of Paul Quinn College where she received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Secondary Education in 1987.

Nzinga is married to her high school sweetheart, King Kamau Rideaux and last October they celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Her hobbies are reading, bowling, riding her bike, singing, listening to music traveling, writing, volunteering and hanging out with family & friends.

She loves to glorify GOD and edify His people through His compassionate, encouraging living Word.

You can follow Nzinga on Twitter or friend her on Facebook @nzingaspeaks

She currently hosts Sunday Inspiration from 11am-2pm on KMJQ Majic 102.1 FM. and [www.myhoustonmajic.com](http://www.myhoustonmajic.com).

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*Mr. Jarvis Butler is a native of the Freedman's Town, Fourth Ward community of Houston, Texas. He is a strong supporter of and contributor to the University of Houston African American Studies Program, Mr. Butler has traveled the world over which includes the continent of Africa over 20 times on educational tours and fact finding trips at the request of his mentors the late great Congressman George "Mickey" Leland of Houston and African Historian, Cornell University, Professor and author Dr. Yosef Ben Jochannan, to better understand the history and culture of the worlds oldest people and cultures.*

*He is a 34 year veteran of the Houston Fire Department and currently holds the rank of Sr. Captain. He is a graduate of Dilliard University's prestigious Executive Development Institute of Fire Management. He has previously worked in corporate America at Bechtel and Exxon Co. USA. Jarvis is married to Attorney and Professor of Law at Southern Methodist University, Cheryl Butler and is blessed with 4 children Mia (33), Jarey (28), Nia (10) and Jarvis (7).*

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**LYNN CECELIA EUSAN  
AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Larry V. Green, J.D.** is the Council Member to the newly formed District known as “K”. District K serves from the edge of the Texas Medical Center to the portion of Houston within Fort Bend County which also includes the Reliant/Astrodome Complex, two management districts, and two school districts—Houston ISD and Fort Bend ISD.

Council Member Green earned his BA in Political Science from the University of Houston (Houston, TX) and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence, from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University (Houston, TX). He is a member of the Greater Houston Partnership, a Board Member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Workforce Development Committee, a member and former Board Trustee of Brentwood Baptist Church, serves on the Board of the Texas Black Expo, and serves on the College of Science and Technology advisory Board at Texas Southern University.

Council Member Green has been engaged in private practice of law for 13 years and was responsible for all matters related to general practice of law which includes, but is not limited to, interviewing clients, researching and litigating legal matters related to civil, criminal, municipal bonds, business and contracts with an emphasis on employment and toxic tort litigation. He is also responsible for advising small business clients on terminations, reductions-in-force, policy and procedure manuals, EEOC charge response, and numerous employment related matters. He has tried cases in both state and federal district courts involving matters regarding Title VII, ADA, FMLA, wrongful discharge, breach of contract and constructive discharge. For four years he served as CEO of HoustonWorks USA, a workforce development and human services nonprofit organization that provides job training and placement. Council Member Green helped secured over \$70 million in revenue over the last four years.



**DR. MARGUERITE ROSS BARNETT  
AWARD RECIPIENT**

Dr. Bernard A. Harris Jr., Astronaut, Physician, Entrepreneur and President of the Harris Foundation, holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology from the University of Houston, a Master of Medical Science (MMS) from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Houston Clear Lake and a Doctorate of Medicine (MD) from Texas Tech University School of Medicine. He completed a Residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, a National Research Council Fellowship in Endocrinology at the NASA Ames Research Center and trained as a Flight Surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He is also a licensed private pilot and certified scuba diver.

He holds several faculty appointments including, Associate Professor in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch and Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine. Additionally, he is the author and co-author of numerous scientific publications.

Dr. Harris was at NASA for ten years, where he conducted research in musculoskeletal physiology and disuse osteoporosis. He conducted clinical investigations of space adaptation and developed in-flight medical devices to extend Astronaut stays in space. Selected into the Astronaut Corp in January 1990, Dr. Harris was a Mission Specialist on the Space Shuttle Columbia STS-55/Spacelab D-2 in 1993. As Payload Commander on Space Shuttle Discovery STS-63 in 1995, he served on the first flight of the joint Russian-American Space Program, becoming the ***“First African American to walk in Space”***. A veteran astronaut for over twenty years, he has logged more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space.

He was a Senior Consultant for NASA Aerospace Safety Panel, Member of the NASA Biological and Physical Sciences Committee, Council for the National Institute Health/National Institute for Deafness, Texas Tech University Board of Regents, Texas Higher Education Coalition Texas Commission on a Representative Student Body and Communications Disorders and committee for the National Academies Institute of Medicine.

Currently, he is a member of the Board of Directors of some of the leading companies in America: U.S. Physical Therapy (Nasdaq: USPH), E-Cardio, Monebo Technologies, American Institute of Minimally Invasive Surgery (AIMIS) and the Space Agency. Also, Dr. Harris serves as a Director of a number of investment funds, including The Endowment Fund, Salient Absolute Return Fund/MLP & Energy Infrastructure Fund/MF Trust; and Board of Trustees of Babson Capital Global Short Duration High Yield Fund. In addition, he is on the Board for the Houston Technology Center, the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, Board of Scientific Counselors and the National Math and Science Initiative.

Dr. Harris is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner of Vesalius Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm, that invest in early to mid-stage Healthcare technologies and companies. He is also the Founder of the Harris Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports math/science education and crime prevention programs for America's youth.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including honorary doctorates from Stony Brook University (SUNY), Morehouse School of Medicine, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and University of Hartford, NASA Space Flight Medal, NASA Award of Merit, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, and was the recipient of the 2000 Horatio Alger Award. He has been a featured guest on “CNN”, “Fox and Friends”, “NBC’s Today Show” and the Tom Joyner Radio show; and is the author of “Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration.”

Dr. Harris’s goals in life have been achieved through self-empowerment and self-determination. He believes that education and effort will allow **anyone** to meet **any** challenge in life, inspiring others to reaches for the stars.



**LYNN CECELIA EUSAN  
AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Sonny Messiah-Jiles** is the CEO and Publisher of the Defender Media Group (formerly the Houston Defender Newspaper), Houston's leading Black Information Source. The media group includes the Defender newspaper, the website [www.defendernetwork.com](http://www.defendernetwork.com) and several social media sites. She has been at the helm of the company since 1981 when she purchased the newspaper at age 27.

Messiah-Jiles served as the chairperson of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (The Black Press of America), a federation of African-American newspapers across the country. She also served as the National Alumni Chair for the Houston Alumni Organization (University of Houston). Currently, Messiah-Jiles serves as Vice President and Director of Grand Slam, a marketing/investment consulting firm. Her professional activities include being the first African-American female board member of the Greater Houston Partnership, and she currently serves on the M.D. Anderson Board of Visitors. She has served on the Advisory Board of J.P. Morgan Chase-Houston, United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, Center for Houston's Future, NAACP-Houston, JobPlus, Hester House, March of Dimes Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, American Diabetes Association, and American Leadership Forum.

Messiah-Jiles recently received the Houston Association of Black Journalists Trailblazer Award. In addition, she has been honored with many other awards including the Phenomenal Woman Award, NNPA Publisher of the Year, American Civil Liberties Freedom of Speech Award, YWCA Outstanding Woman of the Year, Jaycees "Outstanding Texan", "Women on the Move", UH Distinguished Alumni Service Award and the National Dental Association Civil Rights Award. She has been named by EBONY Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans. She and her husband were awarded the "Community Service Award" by the University of Houston Downtown. In December 2008, Messiah-Jiles was inducted into the Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce inaugural Hall of Fame along with former first lady Barbara Bush and eight other women.

Messiah-Jiles received an undergraduate degree from the University of Houston and did postgraduate work at Texas Southern University and Rice University.

Prior to purchasing the Defender, Sonny worked as a radio news reporter, a television talk show host, and an advertising account executive at the Houston Chronicle.

Messiah-Jiles is married to Jodie Lee Jiles, an investment banker. They have two sons, Jodie and Clyde. She is a native of McNair/Baytown, Texas.



**John Harding Lucas II** is a retired American professional basketball player. Lucas played in the NBA for fourteen years and was a member of the 1986 Houston Rockets team that made it to the NBA Finals. He also played for the U.S. National Team in the 1974 FIBA World Championship, winning the bronze medal. He has coached the San Antonio Spurs, Philadelphia 76ers and Cleveland Cavaliers, compiling a 174 - 258 overall coaching record. His most successful stint was with the Spurs where he took over from Jerry Tarkanian (9-11) and went 39-22 the rest of the season, and reached the Western Conference semi-finals. Prior to accepting the head coaching position for the Cavs, he was assistant coach for the Denver Nuggets for three seasons. He also worked with Indiana Pacers guard T.J. Ford in Houston. Lucas was hired for the 2009–10 NBA season as an assistant coach for the Los Angeles Clippers under head coach Mike Dunleavy. Lucas also worked with former NFL first round pick JaMarcus Russell in 2010 as a life coach, but ceased this role in April 2011. Besides also coaching the Miami Tropics for the USBL, he also coached the Nigerian National Team in the 2009 African Championship.

Lucas was not only a standout basketball player, but also a standout tennis player. Lucas competed in two Grand Prix tennis tournaments in 1973 and another in 1979, and a challenger event in 1979. His best result was reaching the semi-finals of the challenger in Raleigh, North Carolina, partnering Fred McNair. He won one other tour match, in doubles in 1973 in Merion, Pennsylvania while partnering Vic Seixas. In 2005, Lucas was the head coach of the Houston Wranglers, which featured Steffi Graf and Mardy Fish.

## *African American Studies 2013-2014 Scholarship Recipients*

### ☎ **Dr. Julius E. Thompson Memorial Book Scholarship**

- ☎ Tiffany Cebrun
- ☎ Zertora B. Freeman
- ☎ Trenshae' N. Gilbert
- ☎ Jalyn M. Gordon
- ☎ TaMeika Page
- ☎ Kaylan L. Stubblefield

### ☎ **Friends of African American Studies Scholarship**

- ☎ Zertora B. Freeman
- ☎ Kayla S. Stewart

### ☎ **Dr. Ira B. Bryant, Jr. Academic Scholarship**

- ☎ Jalyn M. Gordon
- ☎ BerQuisha J. Henry
- ☎ Chanel L. Tapper
- ☎ TaMeika R. Page

### ☎ **John J. Moores, Sr. Academic Achievement Scholarship**

- ☎ Kaylan L. Stubblefield

### ☎ **Sylvester Turner Academic Distinction Scholarship**

- ☎ Tiffany M. Cebrun

### ☎ **Kwame Nkrumah International Study Abroad Scholarship**

- ☎ Charles E. Allen, Jr.
- ☎ Tyshamera O. Bryant
- ☎ Tiffany M. Cebrun
- ☎ Phillip J. Eckles
- ☎ Chanelle Frazier
- ☎ Trenshae' N. Gilbert
- ☎ Jason D. Holiday
- ☎ Da'Vonte Lyons
- ☎ Tameika Page
- ☎ Kayla S. Stewart
- ☎ Jarkarda Varnado

### ☎ **Graduate Assistantships in African American Studies**

- ☎ Gwendolyn D. Alfred
- ☎ Ali Arab

## *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



### **Ram's Horns**

**DWENNIMMEN** – Symbol of strength (in mind, body and soul), humility, wisdom and learning



**MPATAPC** – Symbol of reconciliation, peace-making and pacification



*Congratulations to*

*The 2013 University of Houston*

*African American Studies Alumni Awards Recipients*

*City Council Member Larry V. Green*

*Lynn Cecelia Eusan Award*

*Dr. Bernard A. Harris*

*Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett*

*Sonceria “Sonny” Messiah-Jiles*

*Lynn Cecelia Eusan Award*

*John H. Lucas, II*

*Dr. Emmett J. Scott Award*



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*Urban Souls Dance/ Dream Academy*

*Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church*

*Chris Wilmont*

*Windsor Village United Methodist Church*

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☎ *Save The Date: May 2, 2014 Reserve Your Table Now!*