



AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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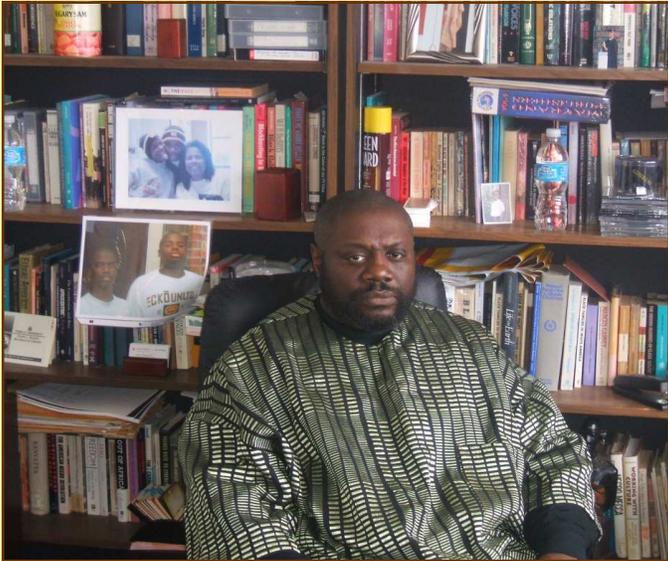
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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE



2008-2009

ANNUAL REPORT

We are proud to present another edition of our annual report. This publication has served as a valuable tool to share information and provide updates concerning the perspective of the African American Studies Program (AAS) at the University of Houston. Hence, my message is short and succinct.

Reflexive of our priorities, AAS has aggregated a common sense of tradition with activities such as: the Annual Scholarship Banquet; the Study Abroad Program to Ghana, West Africa; the Annual Africana Speakers Bureau; Africana History Month; and the Annual Africana Studies Research Symposium. Moreover, the year was successful. Yet, examining the 2008-2009 academic year and assessing how the program can become better requires reflection and analytic thinking.

We often take for granted the need for establishing a sense of tradition regarding continuity, tenacity, and creative efforts to study Africana phenomena on a global and national level. Simply put, it is with a team approach—postured from an Africana-centered perspective—that our staff receives incentive to exhibit a collective and community spirit. Thus, the concept of

participation with the academy is constant, but necessitates a firmament of vigor.

In closing, the mission and goal of the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston remains uncomplicated, precise, and unbowed: to educate, disseminate, defend, challenge, encourage, mentor, and service citizens of the campus and greater Houston community. Agoo-Amen, Nzuri Sana, Shemhotep!

*James L. Conyers, Jr.*

Dr. James L. Conyers, Jr.  
African American Studies Program, Director  
Center for the Study of African American Studies  
University Professor of African American Studies

## MISSION STATEMENT

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AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES is a distinct academic discipline that engages Africa-centered research and teaching through an interdisciplinary approach to scholarly inquiry. The term Africa-centered signifies that the epistemological starting point for scholarly analysis resides in the historical and cultural understanding that African people are people of the African continent regardless of the recency or geographical distance of their out migration from the African homeland.

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

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

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

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

1. To expand our degree offerings by transitioning from a program to a tenure-granting department, and, thus, recruit a faculty that will enable the department to introduce a baccalaureate major degree in the discipline at the University of Houston;

## MISSION STATEMENT

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2. To cultivate and increase the awareness of UH students to international and cultural pluralism and to stimulate their sensitivity to issues of culture, race, ethnicity, class, and gender;
3. To further internationalize the Africana Studies curriculum to include the study of African peoples in other parts of the world in addition to those on the Continent and in the United States, i.e., in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific Rim;
4. To encourage expanded scholarly productivity and professional activity by the department's faculty to maintain currency with the latest developments in the discipline and insure the highest levels of instruction and intellectual exchange;
5. To increase the holding of conferences, seminars, colloquia, and other fora devoted to the expansion of the discipline;
6. To develop and maintain links with local high schools and community colleges;
7. To maintain and strengthen existing links with the community through expanding joint educational and practical projects and exchanges;
8. To increase the utility of academic service to Houston's African American community through research and publication on historical and public policy issues by means of The Black Houston History Project and the Institute for African American Policy Research;
9. To expand and further consolidate the intellectual space of the discipline as an integral and indispensable part of the university's mission to offer a culturally pluralistic quality undergraduate and graduate education to its students.

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## STUDENT, TEACHING, AND COURSE DEVELOPMENTS

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### Minor in African American Studies

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

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

### Undergraduate Courses in African American Studies

**AAS 2320:** Intro to African American Studies

**AAS 2322:** Intro to African Religion and Philosophy

**\*\*AAS 3301:** Hip Hop Culture and History

**AAS 3307:** Africana Spiritual Transformation in the Social Sciences

**AAS 3310:** African American Exp through Theatre

**AAS 3330:** AAS Oral History Field Research

**AAS 3340:** African American Sociolinguistics

**AAS 3348:** African Americans & the Law

**AAS 3350:** Slavery and Race Relations

**AAS 3354:** African Nationalist Thought & Ethics in the U.S.

**AAS 3356:** African Thought & Philosophy

**AAS 3379:** Africana Oratory

**AAS 3394:** Selected Topics (maximum 3 hrs)

**AAS 4300:** African Philosophy

**AAS 4330:** Black Church in America

**AAS 4370:** Seminar in African American Studies

**AAS 4373:** Black Leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**AAS 4377:** Seminar on W.E.B. Du Bois

**\*\*AAS 4440:** History and Politics of the African Union

7      \*\* = New Course

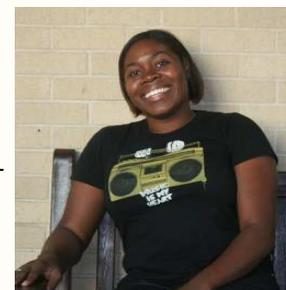
## STUDENT, TEACHING, AND COURSE DEVELOPMENTS

### AAS Graduate Certificate Program

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

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

(For more info, see Appendix B)



### AAS Graduate Certificate Courses:

#### AAS 6300: Africana Studies Theory and Method

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

#### AAS 6307: Seminar on Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X

The course is a critical study and analysis of the major ideas and doctrines that formed the conceptual frameworks of these two men. It engages explorations of cultural pluralism, self-determination, Pan Africanism, satyagraha, nonviolence, civil disobedience, reform, and revolution. (3 hours)

#### AAS 6308: Africana Religion and Biography

The course examines Africana religion in the United States, interrogating Christian, Islamic, Hebrew, and traditional African forms by means that include auto/biographies of representative and influential figures. (3 hours)

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## STUDENT, TEACHING, AND COURSE DEVELOPMENTS

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### Programs for Undergraduate Students



#### **Summer International Study Program – Ghana, West Africa (Summer Session IV, annually):**

UH students take three (3) or six (6) credit hours of African American Studies courses that integrate lectures by Ghanaian academics at the University of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology with work at the University of Houston. Study includes educational travel. In 2009, thirteen University of Houston students, Gabriel Ashcroft, Jasmine Black, Ariel Brinkley, Crystal Edwards, Kaine Hampton, Randryia Houston, Christian Jackson, Ant Kwakye, Hannah McConn, Christine Paul, Brandon Pittman, Porsché Randall, and Tamara Spiller were provided with funding to participate in this rich and fulfilling program. In all, since 2003 the African American Studies Program has sponsored over forty students to travel to Ghana and continues to encourage students to be internationally minded in this increasingly global world.

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## STUDENT, TEACHING, AND COURSE DEVELOPMENTS

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



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



### **Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society**

In the spring of 2008 the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston reestablished its chapter of the Ankh Maat Wedjau National Honor Society of the National Council for Black Studies. The overall mission of the Songhai Chapter of the Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society is to establish a strong foundation of knowledge and wisdom in the field of Africana/Black Studies at the University of Houston. It is the hope that the knowledge and wisdom shared will help students to grow within themselves academically, mentally and spiritually. The goal in this would be to grasp conceptually the interconnectedness of African people world wide and to stimulate conversation and thought.

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

The National Council for Black Studies is the leading organization of Black/Africana Studies professionals in the world. In addition to establishing standards of excellence within the discipline, NCBS serves as a major outlet for the scholarly dissemination of African-centered knowledge and modes of inquiry regarding the life and experiences of African people. UH students are encouraged to attend and present research-based papers at the annual conference. In the past, AAS minors have presented papers and achieved academic distinction such as placement in the NCBS Student Essay Competition.

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## VISITING SCHOLARS

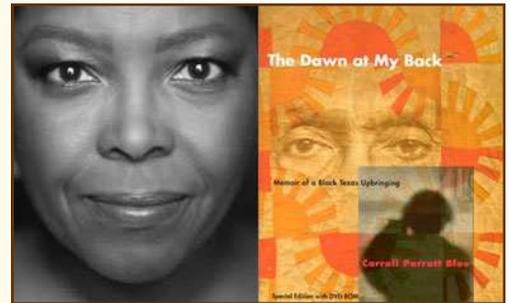
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In pursuit of our broad mandate to advance excellence in academic research, undergraduate and graduate education, and intellectual exchange and service within the University and Houston communities, the African American Studies Program at the University of Houston annually invites for a year-long visiting appointment two scholars whose demonstrated research and teaching are in the discipline of Africana Studies/Africalogy. Scholars whose research and teaching are, however, in other disciplinary areas will also be considered. Visiting Scholars add to the richness and diversity of our undergraduate curriculum in Africalogy by teaching one course of their own design. In addition, the program prioritizes applications from scholars who demonstrate a commitment to generating research and publication in the discipline of Africana Studies/Africalogy. Successful candidates are, therefore, afforded an opportunity to add to the ongoing scholarship in the discipline by working toward the completion of a research project. The Visiting Scholars Program is designed to encourage new scholars to contribute fresh and innovative teaching and research in the discipline of Africalogy.

### 2008-2009 AAS Visiting Scholars

**Professor Carroll Parrott Blue** is one of two African American Studies Visiting Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year. Professor Blue, professor emeritus at San Diego State University's School of Theatre, Television and Film, is a nationally and internationally recognized and respected filmmaker, a producer, director, and writer.

Carroll Parrott Blue thanks the UH African American Studies Program for the opportunity to continue her research work during the 2007 - 2009 academic years. There are many beneficial results from these efforts, including an emerging UH-Third Ward Community Partnership Initiative directly supported by Provost John Antel in the UH Provost's Office. This initiative has begun to strengthen relationships between UH and the new Ryan Middle School administration, the City of Houston's Historic Preservation Department, and the Third Ward Community Cloth Collective.



For AAS Visiting Scholar Carroll Parrott Blue, the 2008 - 2009 academic year was spent deepening the digital media for community development research and consolidating relationships built during the 2007 - 2008 year. Blue worked with the UH Provost's Office under the direction of Provost Antel to help establish stronger ties between UH and Third Ward. Dr. Melissa Romain is the UH/Ryan Middle School/Third Ward Partnership Initiative coordinator and Blue is a community liaison for the 2009 - 2010 academic year, in addition to her continuing work as a UH Research Professor.

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## VISITNG SCHOLARS (CONT.)

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During this year Blue worked with three professors and seven UH students from the UH School of Architecture, School of Art and the Center for Public History to successfully complete an architectural design of an art gallery and computer kiosk, a historic preservation report and contemporary photographic building documentation at Ryan Middle School and six oral histories and portraits of the Jack Yates Class of 1958 and community activists in 1958.

In 2008 - 2009 Blue hosted seven speakers and the programs were co-sponsored by The Academy Foundation, The Dawn Project, the UH Texas Learning and Computation Center and African American Studies Program, the Southwest Alternate Media Project, and the Contemporary Museum of Art Houston. Through these activities Blue has either continued or broadened AAS outreach.

In addition, Blue has obtained support and in-kind donations from the UH President's Office, the Texas Learning and Computation Center, CLASS Dean's Office, the African American Studies Program and the Center for Public History.

African American Studies selected **Dr. Michael Tillotson** as one of two AAS Visiting Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year. Professor Tillotson is a May 2008 graduate of the PhD program in African American Studies at Temple University.

In both his scholarship and everyday life, Tillotson has remained committed to the belief that scholars in the discipline of Africana Studies must be problem solvers for African people.

For the past seven summers Tillotson has taught young people through the Upward Bound Program at the University of Louisville. Before his involvement as an instructor at Louisville, he taught Upward Bound for two summers at Indiana University. While completing his doctoral degree in Philadelphia, Tillotson worked as the programs coordinator and curriculum developer for a program called the N.U.L.I.T.E.S. – the National Urban League initiative towards excellence and success.

Although new to the ranks of the professoriate, Tillotson brings an impressive body of scholarly work with him to the University of Houston. He has a book chapter, journal article, three book reviews, an encyclopedia entry, two editorials, one radio interview, and a play in his list of publication credits at this early stage of his career.

After completing the A.A. and B.A. in Liberal Studies at Indiana University, Tillotson entered the graduate program in Africana Studies at the State University of New York-Albany where he studied advanced black psychology under Dr. Marcia Sutherland. He earned an M.A. in Albany and went on to the doctoral program in African American Studies at Temple University.



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## VISITING SCHOLARS (CONT.)

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For the spring 2009 semester, Tillotson taught a new course in African American Studies, **AAS 3307: Africana Spiritual Transformation in the Social Sciences**. Under his direction, the course examined the development of the racial paradigm and ideas such as bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, racism and domination as socio-political philosophies that have been absorbed into societal structures and historically used to suppress the life chances and opportunities of certain members of the human family. “We go back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century and look at the development of the racial project,” Tillotson says. “Later on, we look at how [these ideas] started to imbed themselves in the institutional realities of America.”

Tillotson's research interests center on the impact of ideas such as color-blindness, race neutrality, post-modernism, and essentialism on the lives of African people, while his broader interests concern critiquing domination within the social, structural, and institutional realities of American society. Tillotson suggests that “if we accept these ideas uncritically, overtime it will lead to a collective passivity,” on the part of African people, “and further marginalize and oppress us as a people.”

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

#### Professor Carroll Parrott Blue

##### AAS Course Offering:

AAS 3356 Africana Thought and Philosophy, Fall 2008  
 Virtual Harlem Renaissance – Creating Digital Multi-User Virtual Environments

##### Publications:

2007 – 2009

Southeast Transit Corridor Line (public art work continues)  
*Emancipation Park Final Report by Projects for Public Spaces*  
 (park revitalization acquired a \$4 million dollar budget)

2008 – 2009

Ryan Middle School Historic Preservation Building Reports  
*Building on History: The Jack Yates Colored Senior High School Building*  
*Ryan Middle School: A Contemporary Documentary Portfolio*

Ryan Middle School Art Gallery and Ryan Middle School Computer Kiosk Reports  
*The RMS Project: An Architectural Reform*

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## VISITING SCHOLARS (CONT.)

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### Presentations

November 2008

Contemporary Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Group Exhibition and Public Presentation

February 2009

Metropolitan Transit Authority Public Presentation at the Palm Center Southeast Transit Corridor Station

July 2009

UH School of Architecture Auditorium

Four African American Filmmakers: Sam Pollard, Judy Richardson, Carroll Parrott Blue and John Simmons

### Funding

2008 - 2009

The Academy Foundation \$10,000

### Professor Michael Tillotson

AAS Course Offering, Spring 2009:

Africana Spiritual Transformation in the Social Sciences

### Publications:

**Accepted for publication by the Journal of Black Studies (Book Review)**

Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind by Curtis Keim

**Submitted for publication review: The Journal of Black Studies**

Article: The Misdirection of The Black Church

**On-going editing, rewriting, and formatting of book manuscript**

Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans

## VISITING SCHOLARS (CONT.)

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### **Professor Tillotson: Presentations (cont.)**

#### **Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference**

Philadelphia, PA (October 16 - 17, 2008)

Panel: *Afrocentric and Pan-African Affirmations*

Paper Title: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans

#### **Consciousness, Community, Liberation: Fulfilling the Promise of '68 Conference**

San Francisco State University (October 29 - November 1, 2008)

Panel: *Applied Africana Studies*

Paper Title: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans

#### **American Academy of Religion: Fostering Excellence in the Study of Religion**

Chicago, IL (November 1 - 3, 2008)

Attended panels and received feedback on paper titled The Misdirection of the Contemporary Black Church

#### **African American Studies Program University of Houston**

December 4, 2008

Seminar Presentation: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans

#### **National Conference of Black Studies**

Atlanta Georgia (March 19-21 2009)

Panel: *Healing the African Spirit*

Paper Title: Healing the African Spirit

Paper Title: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans

#### **Temple University Graduate Student Conference 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary**

Philadelphia, PA

April 17, 2009

Delivered Keynote Address: " Applied Black Studies"

#### **African American Freedom and Reconstruction League**

Philadelphia, PA (April 18, 2009)

Presented Paper: The Influence of European Worldview on Black Boys

Presented Paper: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans

## VISITING SCHOLARS (CONT.)

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### Past AAS Visiting Scholars, 2000-2009

- 2007-2008: Dr. Carroll Parrott Blue, professor emeritus at San Diego State University, School of Theatre, Television, and Film  
Dr. Clyde Robertson, visiting scholar, University of Memphis
- 2006-2007: Dr. Marilyn Denise Lovett, assistant professor of psychology at Prairie View A&M University  
Dr. Clyde Robertson, visiting scholar, University of Memphis
- 2005-2006: Dr. Marilyn Denise Lovett, assistant professor of psychology at Prairie View A&M University  
Dr. Fred L. McGhee, independent scholar, Fred L. McGhee and Associates
- 2004-2005: Dr. Kimberly Ellis, assistant visiting professor of Africana Studies, Univ. of Pittsburgh  
Dr. Andrew P. Smallwood, associate professor of Black Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 2003-2004: Dr. Reiland Rabaka, assistant professor of Black Studies and Africana philosophy, California State University at Long Beach  
Dr. Andrew P. Smallwood, associate professor of Black Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- 2002-2003: Dr. Beretta E. Smith-Shomade, assistant professor of media arts, Univ. of Arizona
- 2001-2002: Dr. Scot Brown, assistant professor of history, Cornell University
- 2000-2001: Dr. Nikol Alexander, assistant professor of Women's Studies, Virginia Tech University  
Dr. Rose Harris, assistant professor of Women's Studies, Virginia Tech University

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## FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

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### AAS Undergraduate Scholarships

#### **John Rueben Sheeler Memorial Scholarship:**

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

#### **Mrs. Debbie Haley Academic Scholarship:**

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

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

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

## FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

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### **Sylvester Turner Academic Distinction Scholarship:**

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

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

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

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

--Established in 2005 in honor of the great Houstonian educator and civil rights leader, this scholarship provides funding to students who have declared minors in African American Studies.

### **Dr. Kwame Nkrumah International Study Scholarship:**

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

### **African American Studies Graduate Assistantship:**

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

### **Dr. Julius Thompson Memorial Book Scholarship in African American Studies**

– Established by African American Studies in 2008, this scholarship assists students with their book fees.

(For more information, see Appendix A)

## FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

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### UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, 2008-2009

**John Rueben Sheeler Memorial Scholarship:**

--EDWARDS, CRYSTAL

**Mrs. Debbie Haley Academic Scholarship:**

--GUIDRY, ALEXIS

**Friends of African American Studies Scholarship:**

--ASHCROFT, GABRIEL

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

--HARRIS, BRIAN

**Dr. Kwame Nkrumah International Study Scholarship:**

—ASHCROFT, GABRIEL  
—BLACK, JASMINE  
—BRINKLEY, ARIEL  
—EDWARDS, CRYSTAL  
—HAMPTON, KAINE  
—RANDRIYIA, HOUSTON  
—JACKSON, CHRISTIAN  
—ANT, KWAKYE  
—MCCONN, HANNAH  
—PAUL, CHIRSTINE  
—PITTMAN, BRANDON  
—RANDALL, PORSCHE  
—SPILLER, TAMARA

**Dr. Julius Thompson Memorial Book Scholarship in African American Studies**

—EDWARDS, CRYSTAL  
—GUIDRY, ALEXIS  
—MCCONN, HANNAH

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## FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

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### Graduate Assistantship In African American Studies

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



#### Graduate Assistantships Awarded for 2008-2009

Radheshyam K. Bang, Cynthia A. Tate, and Fedora Biney received graduate assistantships in African American Studies for the 2007-2008 academic year. Radheshyam is pursuing the MA degree in computer science; Cynthia is pursuing the MA degree in communications; and, Fedora is completing her doctorate in clinical neuropsychology.

Fedora Biney, 2008-2009 AAS Graduate Assistant

#### Past AAS Graduate Assistantship Awardees, 2005-2008

- 2007-2008: Radheshyam K. Bang, Computer Science (MS)  
Cynthia A. Tate, Communications (MA)  
Fedora Biney, Psychology (Ph.D.)
- 2006-2007: Andre P. Ball, Sociology (MA)  
Tawana Cummings, Social Work (MSW)  
Brittany Paley, Social Work (MSW)
- 2005-2006: Megha Agrawal, Computer Science (MA)  
Tawana Cummings, Social Work (MSW)  
Phoebe Hawkins, Social Work (MSW)

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal in African American Studies

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

### Monograph Series

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

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

### Public Policy Research Initiatives

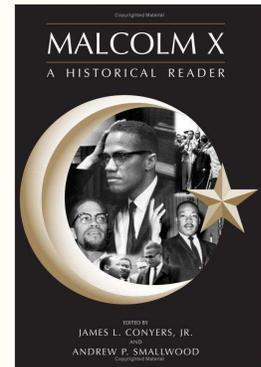
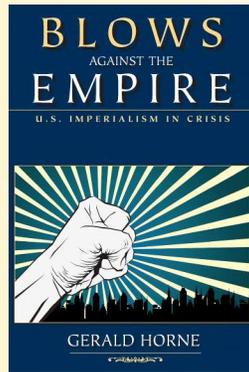
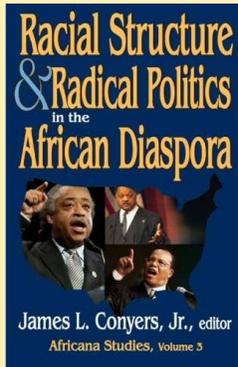
**The Black Houston History Project:** An initiative committed to the research, study, and preservation of the history of African American people and institutions in the city of Houston, Texas, from the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries.

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

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

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

## New Publications in African American Studies



## AAS Faculty Publications

In the spring of 2008, **James L. Conyers, Jr.**, University Professor and director of African American Studies, edited the third volume of *Africana Studies*, the annual series published by Transaction Publishers. This edition of the serial is entitled *Racial Structure & Radical Politics in the African Diaspora*. Racial structures can be referred to as the study of Africana communities and their formation globally. The essays aggregated in this volume aspire to query, precipitate analysis, and offer a contribution to the forward flow of knowledge, as it pertains to social scientific approaches to describing and evaluating Africana phenomena.

## AAS Adjunct and Affiliate Faculty Publications

**Gerald Horne**, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History, published *Blows Against the Empire: U.S. Imperialism in Crisis* (International Publishers, 2008).

**Demetrius Pearson**, associate professor of health and human performance, published a series of abstracts and two book chapters: **Pearson, D. W.** (2008). Sport in contemporary society. In K. C. Longest (Ed.), *Teaching the sociology of sport: ASA resource materials for teaching* (5<sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 79-81). Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

**Pearson, D. W.** (2009). "Black in the saddle: The best bull rider you never saw." In J. L. Conyers Jr. (Series Ed.), *Africana studies: Vol. 3. Racial Structure & Radical Politics in the African Diaspora* (pp. 183-196). New Brunswick: Transaction.

**Janis F. Hutchinson**, professor of anthropology, published several journal articles during this period, including: Issa, A.M., Tufail, W., Hutchinson, J., Tenorio, J., and Poonam, M.

"Assessing Patient Readiness for the Clinical Adoption of Personalized Medicine." *Public Health Genomics* 12 (2009): 163-69.

**Hutchinson, Janis Faye** and Richard Sharp, "Karma, Reincarnation, and Medicine: Indian Views on Biomedicine." *Journal of Genomic Medicine*, 2 (2008): 107-111.

Patterson, Thomas, **Hutchinson, Janis Faye**, and Alan Goodman, "Minorities in Anthropology: 1973 versus 2008, Progress or Illusion." *Anthropology News* 49, no. 4 (2008): 23.

**Hutchinson, Janis Faye**, "Medical Racism." In: *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*. Ed. John Hartwell Moore. Vol. 2. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, pp292-298., 2008.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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### CSAAC: Media Symposium on Africana Art & Film

The Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival, sponsored by the African American Studies Program's Center for the Study of African American Culture (CSAAC) was conceived after the recent controversy involving racially insensitive statements by Keith Richards and Don Imus. Afterwards many in the media offered an analysis that blamed Black pop culture for creating a climate that facilitated such statements. With many in the African American community opining that this was yet another case of blaming the victim, the need to recognize and discuss the primary role of African American institutions in promoting positive black images also emerged. The Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival aimed to do just that. Participants had an opportunity to engage in discussion, dialogue about African American images as well as celebrate the beauty of black images.

The symposium was inclusive of some Black America's top scholars who discussed historic, current and future issues involving African Americans on stage, in film and in music. The symposium included informative workshops for "industry" professionals on such topics as "Independent Film Production 101", "Strategies to Preserve Stage Theatre" and "How To Get a Record Deal". There was also a two day film festival featuring the best in film shorts, features, documentaries and music videos.

The Black Images in the Media Film Festival was held in Houston, Texas April 8-11 at the University Hilton Hotel on the campus of the University of Houston. Sponsored by the University of Houston Africana Studies Program the festival was a major activity of the Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival that involved scholars and other artists from across the country. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for networking as well as a platform for African American independent film makers to showcase their works in ways that depict positive black images.

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

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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### CSAAC: Research Seminar on Black Power

On January 31, 2009, African American Studies hosted a Seminar on Black Power at the Shrine of the Black Madonna. The program invited several distinguished faculty from around the nation to present critical research on the issues and people that guided the Black Power Movement. The list of presenters included Kathleen N. Cleaver, senior lecturer in law, at Emory University; Scot Brown, associate professor of history at the University of California-Los Angeles; Jane Rhodes, dean for the study of race and ethnicity and professor and chair of American Studies at Macalester College; and, Andrew P. Smallwood, assistant professor in the Center for Ethnic Studies Department of Social Sciences at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. The event was free, catered, and open to the public.



## SPECIAL HOSTED OR CO-HOSTED PROGRAMS

On Monday, 22 September 2008, hosted lecture "Liberated Africans in Grenada and St. Vincent, 1835-1861" by **Edward Cox**, associate professor of history, Rice University



On Thursday, 14 October 2008, hosted lecture "I am Annie May': An Extraordinary Black Texas Woman in Her Own Words" by **Barbara Bullard**, a Houston based independent researcher/author

On Thursday, 4 November 2008, hosted lecture "The New Scramble for Africa: Resource and Trade Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" by **Serie McDougal**, assistant professor of Africana Studies, San Francisco State University

On Monday, 17 November 2008, hosted lecture "The Essentiality of African (Black) Psychology" by **Marcia Sutherland**, associate professor and chair of Africana Studies, University of Albany – State University of New York



On Monday, 1 December 2008, hosted lecture "Artivism: By Any Medium Necessary," by

**M.K. Asante, Jr.**, Assistant Professor of English, Morgan State University.

On Wednesday, 11 February 2009, hosted lecture "Re-imagining the Race and Re-presentation: Elijah Muhammad, Transcendent Blackness, and the Construction of Ideal Black Bodies" by **Stephen C. Finley**, assistant professor of African and African American Studies at Louisiana State University.

On Friday, 13 February 2009, hosted lecture "Chinua Achebe's Blue(s) Notes: Things Fall Apart and the Blues (Aesthetic)" by **Christopher Okonkwo**, associate professor of English, University of Missouri-Columbia

On Monday, 16 February 2009, hosted lecture "African Americans and Space Exploration: Links and Legacies" by **Edward Tunstel**, the Space Robotics and Autonomous Control Lead in the Space Department of the John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL)



On Monday, 16 February 2009, hosted lecture "The Making of Modern America: The African

American Diaspora" by **Oscar Williams**, associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in the Africana Studies Department of the University at Albany.

On Thursday, 19 February 2009, hosted lecture "African American Business History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed?" by **Robert E. Weems Jr.**, professor of history, University of Missouri-Columbia



On Tuesday, 24 February 2009, hosted lecture "Freaks, Gold Diggers, Divas & Dykes: Framing Black Female Sexual Risk Outcomes" by **Dionne Stephens**, assistant professor of psychology and African Diaspora Studies.

On Monday, 2 March 2009, hosted lecture "Atlantic World Combat and the Creole Label" by **T. J. Desch-Obi**, professor of history, Weismann School of Arts & Sciences, Baruch College

On Tuesday, 28 April 2009, hosted lecture "On a World Tour: Issues in International Hip Hop" by **Daniel Levine**, doctoral candidate in religious studies at Rice University.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

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### African American Studies Teaching Faculty

#### AAS Faculty for 2008-2009

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

#### AAS Adjunct Faculty for 2008-2009

Franklin Anderson, Challenger Program, University of Houston  
Elias Bongmba, Ph.D., Rice University  
Carroll Parrott-Blue, 2008-2009 AAS Visiting Scholar  
Malachi Crawford, AAS, University of Houston  
Paul Easterling, AAS, University of Houston  
Carole Poindexter-Sylvers, AAS, University of Houston  
Michael Tillotson, Ph.D., 2008-2009 AAS Visiting Scholar  
Aswad Walker, AAS, University of Houston  
Gretchen Wiggins, AAS, University of Houston

#### AAS Courtesy Affiliated Faculty

James Anderson, Ed.D., UH Executive Associate to the Chancellor/President for Community Relations  
Jenifer Bratter, Ph.D., Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Gerald Horne, J.D., Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D., Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Kairn Klieman, Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Demetrius Pearson, Ed.D., Health and Human Performance Department, College of Education  
Tyrone Tillery, Ph.D., History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Louis Williams, Ph.D., Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, College of Pharmacy

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## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

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### AAS Staff Team for 2008-2009

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



Mrs. Irene Ray, AAS, Secretary II

### AAS Student Support Staff for 2008-2009

Graduate Assistant:	Rhadheshyam Bang
Graduate Assistant:	Fedora Biney
Graduate Assistant:	Cynthia Tate
Student Worker:	Alexis Guidry
Student Worker:	Kayela Shannon
Student Worker:	Eronn Putman
Work Study:	Caleb Alexander
Work Study:	Dennis Campbell
Research Assistant:	Tamara Spiller
Research Assistant:	Brandon Pittman



Ms. Cynthia A. Tate  
2008-2009 AAS Graduate Assistant

## AAS FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITY FOR AY 2008-2009

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

### Teaching:

AAS 3330: *AAS Oral History and Field History*, Fall 2008  
AAS 6308: *Africana Religion and Biography*, Fall 2008, Grad Cert.  
AAS 4370: *Seminar in African American Studies*, Spring 2009  
AAS 6300: *Africana Studies Theory and Method*, Spring 2009, Grad Cert.  
AAS 3379: *Africana Oratory*, Summer Session IV  
AAS 6307: *Seminar on Martin L. King, Jr. and Malcolm X*, Summer Session IV, Grad Cert.

### Publications:

Conyers, James L., Jr., ed. *Racial Structures in Radical Politics in the African Diaspora*.  
*Africana Studies*, vol. 2. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2009.

### Guest Lectures:

January 8, 2009: Guest Panelist at "Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration" event  
February 13, 2009: Guest Speaker for Baitus Samee Mosque's Black History Program  
February 25, 2009: Invited Guest Speaker at Outreach Missionary Baptist Church  
March 18, 2009: Invited Guest Speaker for the Black Graduate Student Association, Rice University

### Campus and Community Service

Served on the AAS Undergraduate Scholarship Committee  
Served on the AAS faculty travel award committee  
Served on the AAS faculty development award committee  
Served on the AAS graduate assistant award review committee  
Served on the AAS visiting scholars review committee  
Served on the Achieving the Dream committee  
Served on the CLASS Dean's Search committee  
Attended the Carl B. Hampton Memorial, Golden Gate Cemetery, Houston, TX, July 26, 2009  
Attended CLASS Chairs and Directors meetings regularly throughout the academic year  
Attended and participated in University of Houston Commencement Ceremony for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters

## AAS FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITY FOR AY 2008-2009

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**Malachi D. Crawford**  
**Assistant Director**  
**African American Studies**

Teaching:

AAS 2320: *Introduction to African American Studies*, Fall 2008

AAS 3354: *African Nationalist Thought & Ethics*, U.S., Spring 2009

AAS 3350: *Slavery and Race Relations*, Summer Session IV, 2009

Publications:

Crawford, Malachi. "Patriot Day: The World Community of Al-Islam in the West's Vision of Multi-cultural Politics in a Neo-Racist World." In *Racial Structures in Radical Politics in the African Diaspora*. Africana Studies, ed. James L. Conyers, Jr., vol. 2. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2009.

Crawford, Malachi. *The Frederick Douglass Encyclopedia*, s.v. "Ralph Waldo Emerson." Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, December 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Frederick Douglass Encyclopedia*, s.v. "Richard T. Greener." Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, December 2009.

Campus and Community Service:

Coordinated student travel to the Black Psychology Student Research Conference, Virginia Commonwealth University, March 3, 2009

Served on the AAS Undergraduate Scholarship Committee

Served on the faculty travel award committee

Served on the faculty development award committee

Served on the graduate assistant award review committee

Served on the visiting scholars review committee

Attended CLASS advisor meetings regularly throughout the academic year

Attended the University of Houston Commencement Ceremony for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters

## AAS FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITY FOR AY 2008-2009

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**Paul Easterling**  
**Program Manager**  
**African American Studies**

Teaching:

AAS 2320: *Introduction to African American Studies*, Fall 2008  
AAS 4373: *Black Leaders of the Twentieth Century*, Fall 2009  
AAS 2320: *Introduction to African American Studies*, Spring 2010  
AAS 3394: *Special Topics: Hip Hop Culture and History*, Spring 2010  
AAS 3356: *African Thought and Philosophy*, Summer Session IV, 2009

Publications:

Easterling, Paul. "Cultural Helix Theory: Language, Life, and Rhythm." In *Racial Structures in Racial Politics in the African Diaspora*. Africana Studies, ed. James L. Conyers, Jr., vol. 2. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2009.

Guest Lectures/Presentations:

October 2008: Guest lecture entitled, "Hip Hop and Moorish Science," in AAS 2320: Introduction to African American Studies, University of Houston

Campus and Community Service:

Served on Visiting Scholars Search Committee for AAS, Spring 2009  
Served on Travel Funds Committee for AAS, Spring 2009  
Coordinated Model African Union program in Washington, D.C., March 2009  
Coordinated Study Abroad to Ghana Program, July 2009  
Served as advisor to Songhai Chapter (UH) of the Ankh Maat Wedjau National Honor Society  
Coordinated AAS Black History Month Activities  
Coordinated all AAS programming (e.g., speakers, lecture series, literary circles, etc.) for the 2008-2009 academic year  
Coordinated the Center for the Study of African American Culture's 2009 research symposium on black images in the media, film and arts festival.

## AAS FACULTY AND STAFF ACTIVITY FOR AY 2008-2009

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**Angela Williams-Phillips**  
**Financial Coordinator**  
**African American Studies**

Campus and Community Service:

Mrs. Williams-Phillips attended the 57th Annual College Business Management Institute (CBMI) Conference from July 26 – July 31, 2009, at the University of Kentucky-Lexington. The University of Kentucky and the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers (SACUBO) sponsored the conference.



Mrs. Angie Williams-Phillips (3rd from L), AAS financial coordinator, attends the CMBI conference in Lexington

## FACULTY AWARDS AND COMMITTEES IN AAS

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### AAS FACULTY TRAVEL AWARD

AAS Faculty Travel Award Committee for 2008-2009

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

AAS Faculty Travel Awardees for 2008-2009

Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D., Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

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

### AAS FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

AAS Faculty Development Award Committee for 2007-2008

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

AAS Faculty Development Awardees for 2008-2009

Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D., Anthropology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

### OTHER AAS REVIEW COMMITTEES

AAS Undergraduate Scholarship Committee

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

## FACULTY AWARDS AND COMMITTEES IN AAS

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Ghana Summer International Study Abroad Program Review Committee for 2008-2009

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

AAS Graduate Assistantship Award Review Committee for 2008-2009

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

AAS Visiting Scholars Review Committee for 2008-2009

James L. Conyers, Jr., Ph.D., Director, University Professor of African American Studies  
Malachi D. Crawford, Assistant Director, African American Studies  
Paul Easterling, Program Manager, African American Studies  
Demetrius Pearson, Ed.D., Health and Human Performance Department,  
College of Education



## APPENDIX A: AAS MINOR AND SCHOLARSHIP DATA FOR AY 2008-2009

Table 1: AAS Minor Graduation Rates by Academic Year, 2005-2009 Showing Discontinued and Suspended Students			
Year	Graduates	Disc./Susp.	Rate
2005-2006	23	03	88.5%
2006-2007	28	03	90.3%
2007-2008	22	12	64.7%
2008-2009	15	06	71.4%

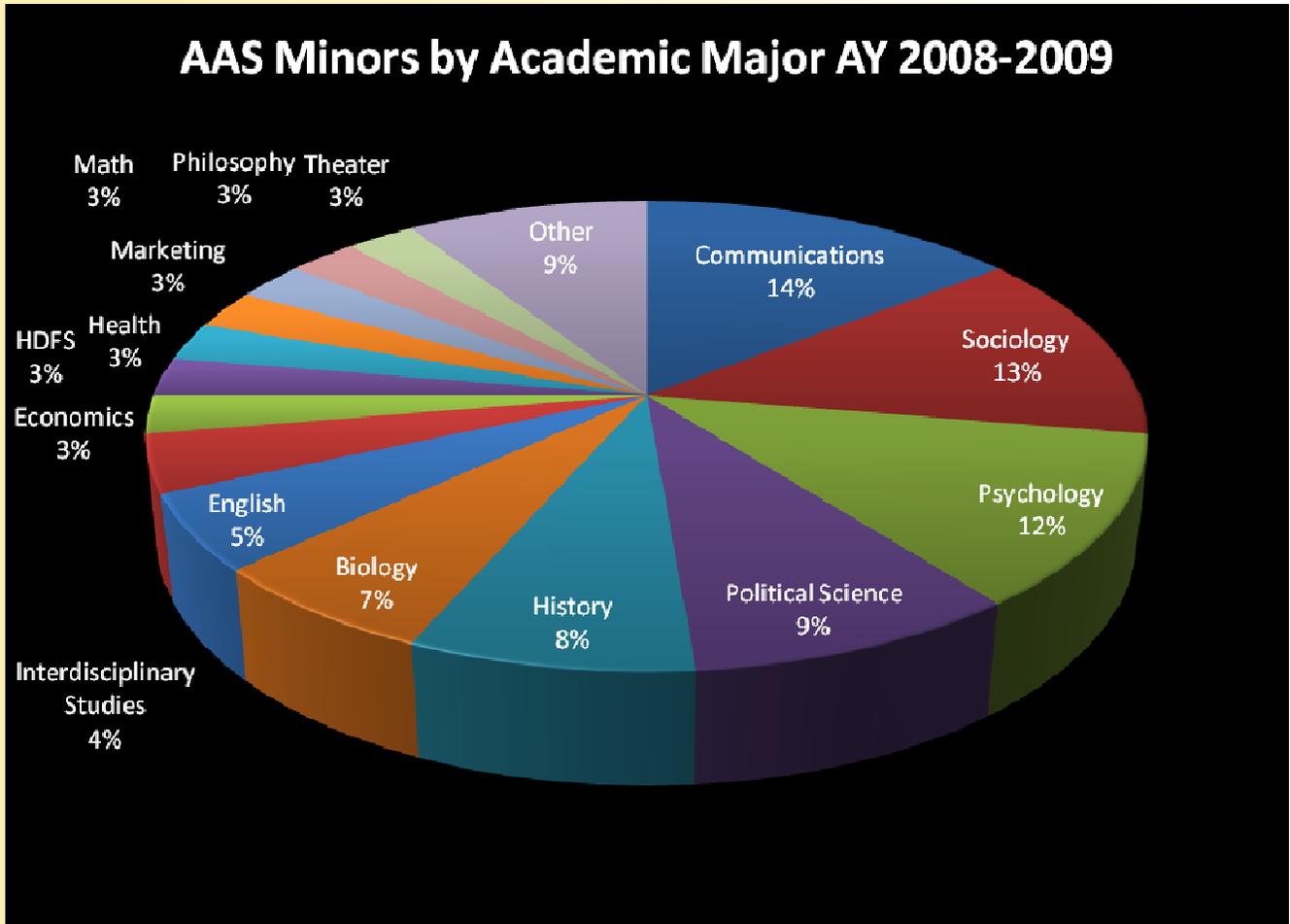
Note: These calculations use a modified version of the Leaver Rate, which is used by the National Center for Education Statistics. The method calculates graduation rates by dividing the total number of African American Studies (AAS) minors graduating during a given year by the total number of AAS minors that have been discontinued or suspended during that same year.

Table 2: AAS Minor Graduation Rates by Academic Year, 2005-2009 Showing Only Discontinued Students			
Year	Graduates	Discontinued	Rate
2005-2006	23	02	92%
2006-2007	28	00	100%
2007-2008	22	12	64.7%
2008-2009	15	05	75%

Note: These calculations use a modified version of the Leaver Rate, which is used by the National Center for Education Statistics. The method calculates graduation rates by dividing the total number of African American Studies (AAS) minors graduating during a given year by the total number of AAS minors that have been discontinued or during that same year. Because suspended students (i.e., those students whose records are still “active” in the UH system, but who cannot enroll in courses for a semester or year) still have the ability to continue their education at UH, removing them from the calculation here provides a more accurate assessment of AAS minor graduation rates.

It should also be noted that many factors impact the graduation rates of AAS minors at the University of Houston. The University of Houston is essentially a commuter campus, hosting primarily non-traditional students in a major metropolitan city. As such, the current global economic downturn that began in 2007 and present domestic recession might explain the increased number of discontinued students during the 2007-2008 academic year.

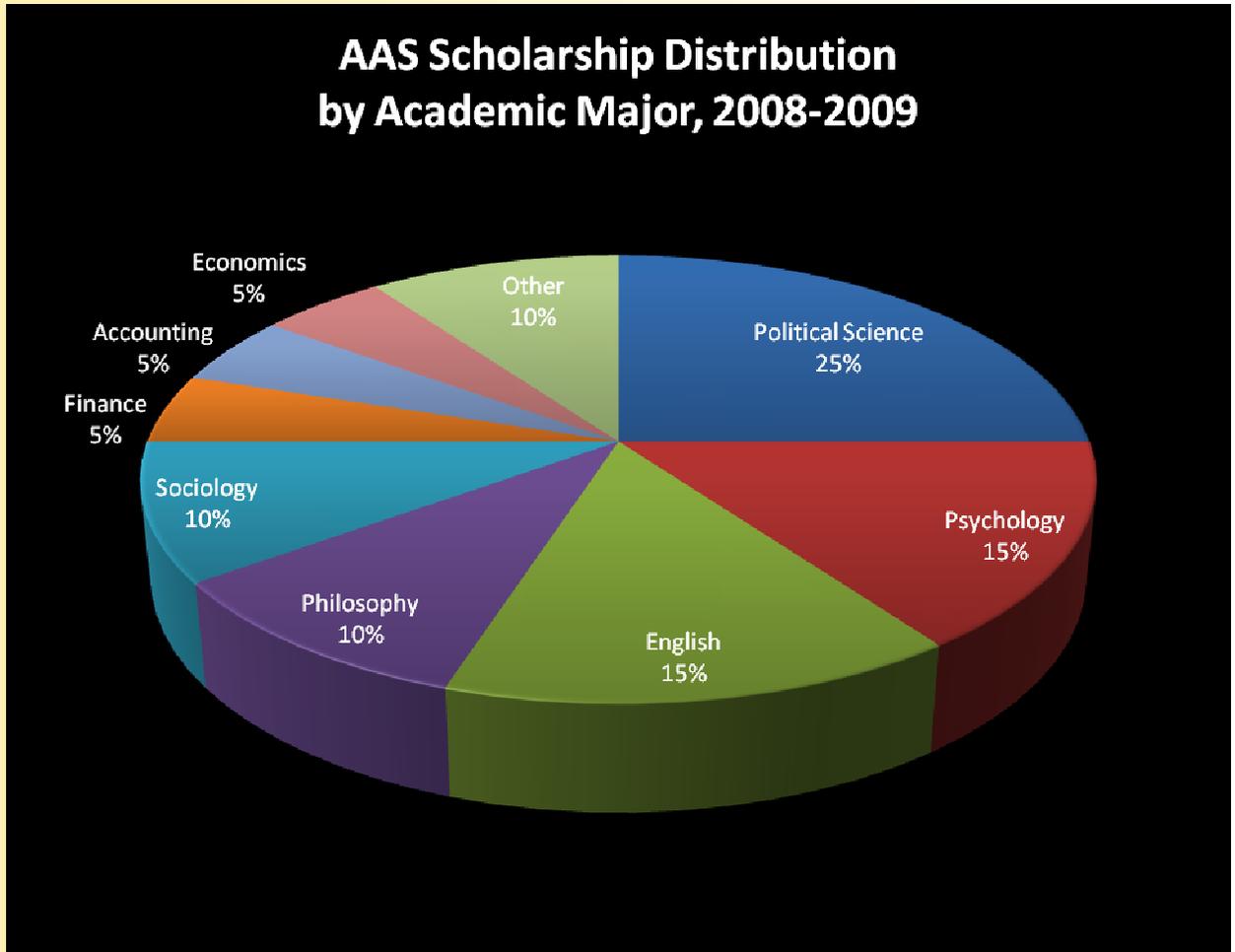
APPENDIX A:  
AAS MINOR AND SCHOLARSHIP DATA FOR AY 2008-2009



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APPENDIX A:  
AAS MINOR AND SCHOLARSHIP DATA FOR AY 2008-2009

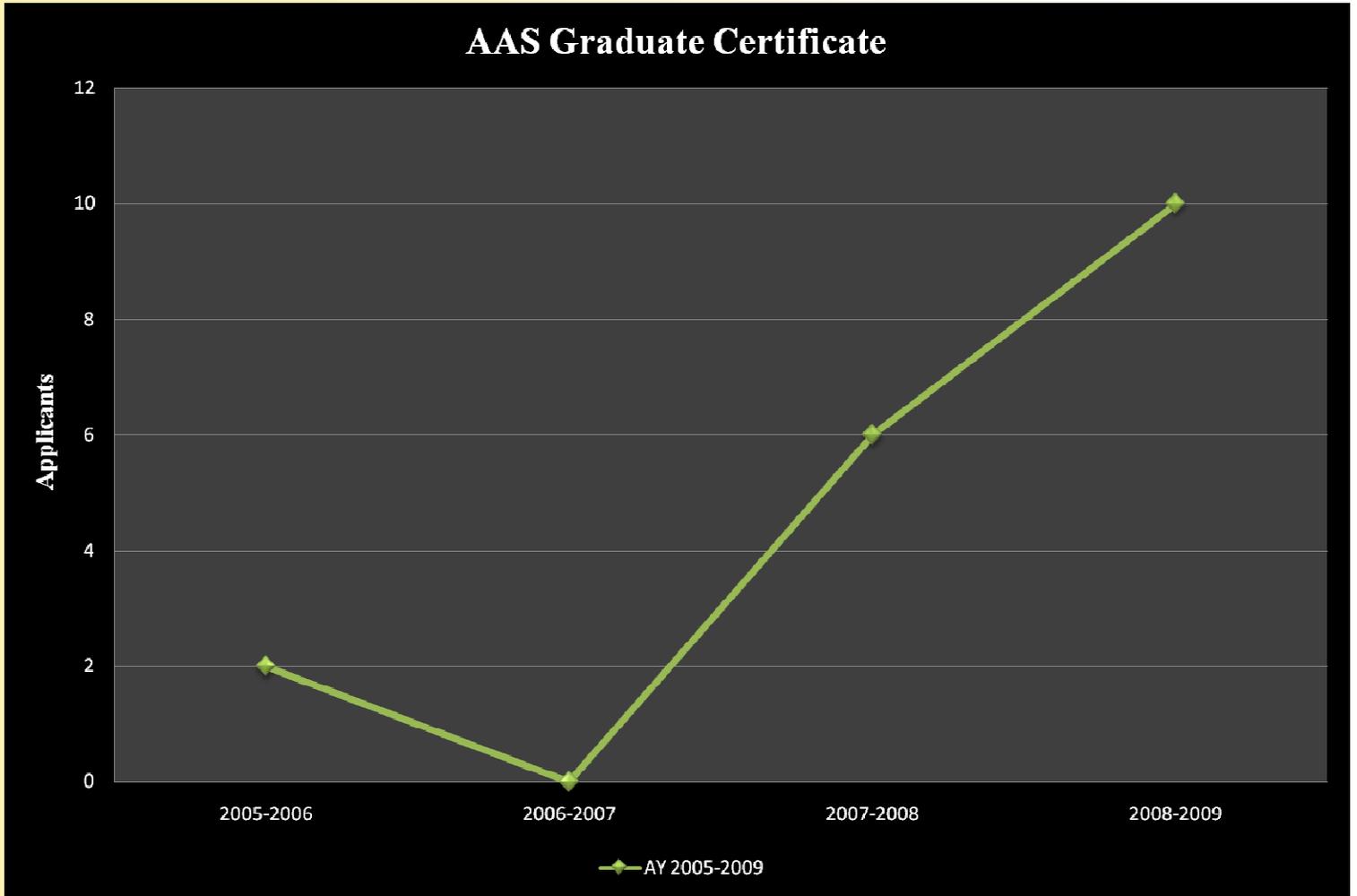
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APPENDIX B:  
AAS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DATA FOR AY 2008-2009

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APPENDIX B:  
AAS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DATA FOR AY 2008-2009

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