One of the privileges of my job as department chair is being on the frontline for receiving faculty, student and alumni stories, as well as feedback from our community and international partners. There is also the excitement of collaborating with my colleagues to develop new academic programs and organize conferences, as well as host guest speakers, international scholars, and artists-in-residence. Collating and sharing these stories with our various constituencies, stakeholders, and friends is one of my favorite tasks.

This edition of the annual Africana Studies newsletter covers what the faculty, staff, students, and alumni have been doing since October 2013 and what we are planning to do in the coming months. Our faculty members have traveled the world over the past twelve months, from India to South Africa, Germany to Brazil, United States to Nigeria, creating new frontiers of knowledge and participating in the global circulation of ideas. They have also won awards for teaching, notably the selection of Dr. Debra Smith as one of the five finalists for this year’s Bank of America (BoFA) Award for Teaching Excellence. Dr. Oscar de la Torre heads to Yale University this fall for a prestigious fellowship. Faculty and students have collaborated on research projects on campus, and have also gone into the community to share their knowledge of the history, culture, and social life of Africana peoples.

The department organized and hosted two conferences in the past year, and consequently drew in scholars from several universities and countries to deliberate on some of the pertinent issues of our time. You will also come across the smiling faces of our graduates in this newsletter, and read excerpts from a forthcoming book authored by Sandra Wilbourn, a senior. Our alumni also shared their stories with us. They are working in almost all professional endeavors, including banking, college administration, and teaching. We have authors in their rank, and some are completing their doctoral degrees in leading universities.

The number of our faculty affiliates also continues to increase. We welcome our new Africana Studies Faculty Council members from the College of Arts and Architecture, the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Honors College.

We also share with you our upcoming events—symposium, lecture, and seminars. The Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Lecture is around the corner with Dr. Yele Aluko, Senior Vice President at Novant Health (Charlotte), as speaker and guest of honor. In addition, we are collaborating with the Mint Museum and Michael Gallis and Associates to co-host the first-ever symposium on African Art in Charlotte.

Relevance, Resourcefulness and Results are the three key words that I see throughout the pages of this fall 2014 Africana Newsletter. We look forward to another round of these three Rs during the 2014–15 academic year. Please join us.
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**Spring 2014 Archive:**

*Guest Speakers, Faculty, and Students*

- Dr. Darden Pyron, Florida International U., speaking on General William T. Sherman and the American Civil War
- Ms. Devan Pender at the AFRS spring award ceremony
- Dr. Emmanuel Babatunde, Lincoln University, speaking on Immoral Economy
- Ms. Linda Midgett, filmmaker, discussing her documentary film on poverty in America
- Dr. Joseph Winters, Dr. Olivia Saunders, and Dr. Edward Sammons at the conference on Moral Economies
- Dr. Tekla Johnson, on political economy of repression in the U.S.
THE SIXTH DR. BERTHA MAXWELL-RODDEY DISTINGUISHED AFRICANA LECTURE FOCUSES ON HEALTHCARE

Dr. Aluko has served in leadership position in several professional and civic organizations in the Charlotte region and across the United States. He is a past board member of the Association of Black Cardiologists, a past president and founding member of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas, and a founding member of the Carolinas Association for Community Health Equity. Dr. Aluko has also served on the board of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and the Greater Carolinas chapter of the American Red Cross. He has received numerous awards for his trailblazing medical practice, advocacy for equity in healthcare, and civic leadership. He was the 2009 recipient of the Award of Excellence from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. In 2010 he received the prestigious Richard Vinroot International Achievement Award. The Charlotte Post Foundation awarded him a Luminary Lifetime Achievement award in 2011, and he was honored with the Health Hero award by the Bobcats Sports & Entertainment Inc. in 2012.

The Africana Studies Department inaugurated the Maxwell-Roddey Lecture in 2008 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Africana Studies academic program at UNC Charlotte. Named after the first program director and later chair of the department, the lecture celebrates Dr. Maxwell-Roddey’s pioneering contributions to the development of Africana Studies as an academic discipline and to the building of black cultural and intellectual institutions in the Charlotte region and the United States as a whole. She is the co-founder of the National Council for Black Studies—the umbrella organization for Black, African-American, and Africana Studies in the U.S. She is also the co-founder of Charlotte’s African American Cultural Center (now the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture). North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory, Chairman Trevor M. Fuller of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, and Mayor Daniel Clodfelter of the City of Charlotte are expected to send proclamations to recognize the importance of the occasion.

The lecture will take place in Rowe 130 on the main campus of UNC Charlotte. The event will start at 5:30 p.m. and will close with a reception. The event is free and open to the UNC Charlotte community and the general public.

Eminent cardiologist, healthcare administrator, and community leader, Dr. Yele Aluko, will serve as speaker and guest of honor at the sixth Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture, which will be held on October 22, 2014. The title of this year’s lecture is “North Carolina’s Rejection of Medicaid Expansion: Politicizing the Health of Our Society”.

Dr. Aluko is a Senior Vice President at Novant Health, and Medical Director of the Novant Health Heart and Vascular Institute in Charlotte. His clinical expertise and interests include complex coronary interventions, transcatheter valve replacement, and transcatheter closure of congenital cardiac septal defects. Dr. Aluko is certified by the American and Canadian Boards of Internal Medicine in the subspecialties of cardiovascular diseases and interventional cardiology. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions.

Beyond a personal commitment to excellence in the delivery of cardiovascular medicine through Novant Health’s facilities, Dr. Aluko demonstrates vocal and visible commitment to both local and national advocacy efforts that address the issue of healthcare disparities within racial, ethnic, and gender minority populations in the United States.
Dr. Debra Smith, an associate professor in the Africana Studies Department, was one of five finalists honored at UNC Charlotte’s 2014 Bank of America (BofA) Award for Teaching Excellence ceremony, which was held on September 5, 2014 at Founders Hall, Charlotte. Chancellor Philip Dubois, Provost Joan Lorden, 2012 BofA winner Dr. Joanne Robinson, and Julie S. Harris, Bank of America’s CFO for Global Commercial Banking, presided at the award ceremony. The BofA award is the university’s most important honor for outstanding teachers.

Extracts from the Citation Read by Provost Joan Lorden at the award banquet:

Debra C. Smith, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, learned in the 8th grade that teaching should be inspirational, relevant, challenging, creative, respectful, collaborative, interesting, exciting, and irresistible. Teaching should help one grow.

“My philosophy,” she says, “is to teach in a way that respects every student and confirms their experiences as valuable to the learning environment.” Debra is the first to acknowledge that the courses she teaches are successful because of the relationships she builds with the students. She wants her students to feel a connection to the content and be able to discern why this content is relevant. She “works to guide students to critical consciousness, to a sense of ethical action, and to a conscious engagement with their educational endeavors.”

Her students recognize and thrive under this dedication. A senior Africana studies major comments that Debra, “Works at every level of student ability by participation and reinforcement. She has a very special way of covering sensitive race issues within the boundaries of mutual respect, which allows the class to operate within a framework of social comfort.”

Following her 8th grade teacher’s example, Debra has embraced the word “challenging” as it relates to teaching practices. In addition to her outstanding classroom competency, Debra also has been a facilitator of best practices in teaching and learning. She was the first to teach an online class in the department many years ago, before instructional technology became a widely adopted tool in the University. She led the efforts to convert the department’s gateway course to an online class and coached colleagues transitioning to Moodle-supported classes.
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Felix Germain

Dr. Felecia C. Harris

Dr. Akin Ogundiran


• There is an entry on Dr. Ogundiran in Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology, edited by Claire Smith (Springer 2013). His writings on the anthropology of material experience are also anthologized in an entry titled "Archaeology and Anthropology" in the same encyclopedia.


• Received TOFAC Research, Leadership, and Service Award, presented at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, October 12, 2013.

Dr. Charles Pinckney (with Elizabeth Alston-Pinckney)

Dr. Dorothy Smith-Ruiz


Dr. Tanure Ojaide was in Nigeria from August 2013 through June 2014 as a Fulbright fellow. He was affiliated with the University of Abuja, Nigeria’s Federal Capital Territory, where he taught Creative Writing with a focus on poetry and short stories. He also traveled to the Niger Delta to conduct field research on five Udje performances.

During his stay in Abuja, he attended the memorial celebration for the great Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe, who died on March 21, 2013. His tribute to the writer was published in *Tydskrif: Journal of African Literature* (Pretoria, South Africa). He also served as a resource person at the National University Commission’s Grant-Writing Workshop, where he made a presentation on “Writing Grant Proposals in the Humanities.” In addition, he participated in the annual convention of the Association of Nigerian Writers at Akure, southwest Nigeria (October 28–November 1, 2013).

From March 18 to 25, Dr. Ojaide was invited to the World Poetry Festival in New Delhi, India, where he read his poems and discussed poetry in world cultures, and the role of poetry for addressing issues arising from the post-colonial condition and globalization. Ojaide later traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the African Literature Association’s annual conference at University of the Witwatersrand. (April 7–15, 2014). In addition to presenting a paper on “The Politics of Modern African Literature,” he organized the Poetry Evening at the conference, where he read from his poetry collections. He later joined the conference participants on a visit to Soweto and made sure he took a picture in front of Nelson Mandela’s house.

He described his Fulbright year as “rewarding . . . In addition to my teaching and research, I wrote a large collection of poems and short stories, and completed a scholarly work on the politics of modern African literature.”

Dr. Ojaide returned in time to attend this year’s University Convocation where Chancellor Dubois recognized him and others for twenty-five years of service to the university.
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT II: DR. OSCAR DE LA TORRE

Assistant Professor Oscar de la Torre is a recipient of the highly regarded Gilder-Lehrman Fellowship for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale University. He plans to use the fellowship to complete his book manuscript, “Leaving Behind the Big Snake: A History of Black Amazonia, 1850–1950,” which is based on his doctoral dissertation. The book is about the history of black rural communities in Amazonia, focusing on how enslaved Africans and Maroons used the eco-social characteristics of the region to dig their way out of slavery, and how they dialogued and competed with the elite and non-elite social groups to build a political identity that is rooted in their African ancestry. He will unfold the implications of these historical processes for black land ownership and citizenship in twentieth-century Brazil.

He is also a recipient of the College Educators Research Fellowship of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Consortium at Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill, which he will use to develop a course on “Environment, State, and Society in the Caribbean and Latin America.” The course will be offered at UNC Charlotte in fall 2015 to support the Africana Studies B.A. concentration in health and the environment. Dr. De la Torre has also been active in advancing scholarship beyond the revision of his dissertation. He recently co-edited a special issue of Boletín Americanista (no. 68, 2014) on “La postemancipación en el mundo Americano: Síntesis y nuevas perspectivas,” in which he also authored an article titled “Los ambiguos efectos de la fluidez y la contingencia: La postemancipación en el Brazil fronterizo (Amazonia, 1888–1950).” In addition, Dr. De la Torre published an article, “Are They Really Quilombos?: Black Peasants, Politics, and the Meaning of Quilombo in Present-Day Brazil” in a special issue of Ofo: Journal of Transatlantic Studies (no. 3, 2013), on “Community Engagement and Citizen Empowerment in Africa and the African Diaspora.” He co-edited the special issue with Dr. Akin Ogundiran.

JEFFREY B. LEAK (Associate Professor of English, African American Literature), Visible Man: The Life of Henry Dumas (University of Georgia Press, 2014).

Henry Dumas (1934–1968) was a writer who did not live to see most of his fiction and poetry in print. A son of Sweet Home, Arkansas, and Harlem, he devoted himself to the creation of a black literary cosmos, one in which black literature and culture were windows into the human condition. While he certainly should be understood in the context of the cultural and political movements of the 1960s—Black Arts, Black Power, and Civil Rights—his writing, and ultimately his life, were filled with ambiguities and contradictions. Dumas was shot and killed in 1968 in Harlem months before his thirty-fourth birthday by a white transit policeman under circumstances never fully explained.

With Visible Man, Jeffrey B. Leak offers a full examination of both Dumas’s life and his creative development. Given unprecedented access to the Dumas archival materials and numerous interviews with family, friends, and writers who knew him in various contexts, Leak opens the door to Dumas’s rich and at times frustrating life, giving us a layered portrait of an African American writer and his coming of age during one of the most volatile and transformative decades in American history.

This piece is excerpted from a longer version available at http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/visible_man/
Christopher Cameron (Assistant Professor of History: Early American History; African-American Religious and Intellectual History; Slavery and Abolition)

Dr. Cameron’s book, *To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in Massachusetts and the Making of the Antislavery Movement* (The Kent State University Press, June 2014), explores the significant contributions of African Americans in Massachusetts to local and nationwide antislavery activity before 1831. The author demonstrates that their efforts represent nothing less than the beginning of organized abolitionist activity in America. Fleshing out the important links between Reformed theology, the institution of slavery, and the rise of the antislavery movement, Dr. Cameron argues that African Americans in the Bay State initiated organized abolitionism in America and that their antislavery ideology had its origins in Puritan thought and the particular system of slavery that this religious ideology shaped in Massachusetts. The book demonstrates that much of the rhetoric and tactics that well-known abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass employed in the mid-nineteenth century had their origins among blacks in Massachusetts during the eighteenth century.

Dr. Eddy Souffrant (Associate Professor of Philosophy: Caribbean Philosophies, Ethics and International Affairs, Diversity in Organizations)

In his latest book, *Identity, Political Freedom, and Collective Responsibility: The Pillars and Foundations of Global Ethics* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013), Dr. Eddy Souffrant argues that our current social and political theories do not properly account for twenty-first century living circumstances and experiences. He therefore makes the case for a reassessment of the individual-centered liberal epistemologies of moral, social, and political philosophy. This reassessment, he argues, must be cognizant of the contemporary circumstances in which individuals live their lives, their local and global interconnectedness, and tacit and active participation in multi-sited communities. Organized in four chapters, the book examines several pertinent topics such as oppressive liberties, composite identities, informal democracies, public accountability, moral philosophy, Africana cosmopolitanism, and of course the challenges of Caribbean modernity to global ethics.
Dr. Malin Pereira (Professor of English and Executive Director, Honors College) has been extending her scholarship on contemporary African American poetry into the area of mixed race studies. She recently published an article in the first special issue of a journal devoted to the poetry of Natasha Trethewey. Citation: “Re-Reading Trethewey through Mixed Race Studies.” Special Issue on Natasha Trethewey, ed. Joan Wylie Hall. The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of Arts and Letters in the South 50.4 (Summer 2013): 123–152.

She then presented a paper extending the focus of the article to Trethewey’s creative non-fiction, as part of a panel at the international MESEA conference (Multi-Ethnic Studies in Europe and the Americas). Colleague Jeffrey Leak also presented a paper as part of the panel. Citation: “Crossing Race and Class: Natasha Trethewey’s Mixed Race Interrogations in Beyond Katrina.” MESEA Conference. Saarbrücken, Germany, May 28–31, 2014.

Dr. Pereira is now entering the final year of her three-year term (2012-2015) on the Executive Committee for the Association of Departments of English (part of the Modern Language Association) to which she was elected in 2011, while chair of English Department. Last June (2013), she served as host of the ADE Summer Seminar for Chairs in Charlotte, which was generously supported by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

This academic year, Dr. Pereira is hosting Fulbright Scholar Marta Werbanowska, from Warsaw, in residence in the Honors College. Ms. Martha Werbanowska is writing her dissertation on three Dark Room Collective poets (see page 12).
NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY

New members have joined the Africana Studies Faculty Council, a body of scholars, teachers, and professionals across the university whose academic training and expertise focus on Africa and the global African Diaspora, including African-American life. The council serves in advisory capacity to the Africana Studies Department Chair. Its members collaborate on teaching, research, outreach, and other program activities. The Africana Studies Faculty Council showcases the diversity, breadth, and depth of expertise in Africana Studies across the university.

Dr. Carl DuPont is an Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He teaches applied voice and French, German, Italian, and English lyric diction. The bass-baritone recently made his Mexican debut as Jim in Porgy and Bess at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, and has also sung Uberto in La Serva Padrona, Taxi Black in One Touch of Venus, Ramfis in Aïda, and the title role of Don Giovanni. He has performed in Carnegie Hall with Ton Koopman, in Avery Fischer Hall under the baton of Kurt Masur, in Tel Aviv with Riccardo Muti, and in Willy Decker’s production of Tristan und Isolde in Hong Kong as an ensemble member. On the concert stage he has been heard as the bass soloist in Verdi’s Requiem with the National Music Festival and in Hadyn’s Lord Nelson Mass with the Rochester Oratorio Society.

Dr. DuPont received a Bachelor’s degree from Eastman School of Music and a Master’s degree from Indiana University, and was awarded Performer’s Certificates at both institutions. He completed the Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Frost School of Music in Florida, where he was a recipient of the prestigious University of Miami Fellowship. In addition to the standard repertoire, he enjoys advocating for works by African-American composers. His research interests include diversity and inclusion in higher music education and self-care for the professional voice user.

Dr. Diana Rowan, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work, earned her Ph.D. in social work at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her research focuses on HIV prevention among young African-American gay/bisexual men and transgender women, and sexual minorities in Malawi and other regions of Africa. Now in her eighth year at UNC Charlotte, Dr. Rowan developed the university’s first faculty-led study abroad course in Africa. In spring 2015, she will lead the course “Social Work, Social Development, and NGOs in Malawi” for the fourth year. This service-learning course offers students opportunities to work alongside Malawian NGOs in addressing issues of poverty and HIV in the rural areas.

This academic year (2014–15), Rowan (with co-Principal Investigator Darrin Johnson) will organize the visit of two Malawian civil rights activists from the Centre for Development of People to Charlotte. The goal of the visit is to share ideas on how to overcome obstacles to advancing the civil rights of sexual minorities in Malawi and in North Carolina. This project, titled “Comparing Closets,” is funded by the Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund. Dr. Rowan and her research staff are in year three of a four-year $1.1 million project funded by the U.S. Center for Disease Prevention and Control on HIV/AIDS prevention among minority populations. As part of this grant, she engages in community-based participant-driven research with population groups and individuals who have been difficult to reach with traditional HIV prevention approaches.
Lisa Homann assumed her new position as Assistant Professor of Art History in the College of Arts and Architecture this fall. She earned her Ph.D. in Art History (2011) from the University of California at Los Angeles with specialization in African Arts. She has previously taught at Wayne State and was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Penn Humanities Forum at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research is on the performance and aesthetics of masquerade in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso (West Africa) with emphasis on the themes of violence, urbanity, and Islamic identity. She will be offering a wide range of courses on African, African American, and African diaspora art, as well as Islamic art in the African context.

Krystion Obie Nelson is an instructor in the Africana Studies department with additional teaching responsibilities in the Department of History and the American Studies program. A former Division 1 college athlete and intercollegiate coach, she received dual baccalaureate degrees in Africana Studies and Mass Communications, with a minor in American Studies at UNC Charlotte. She also received a Masters degree in History from the university. Ms. Obie Nelson has been a guest lecturer for courses on Black Urban History and Early African American Literature. Her conference papers include “Black Women, White Women, and Lynching: A Complex History” for the panel Lynching Across Lines of Color and Gender and “Title IX” for the panel Sports in the New South: Culture, Color, and Cash. She also serves on the UNC Charlotte Athletic Department Gender Equity Committee. Ms. Obie Nelson teaches courses on Racial Violence, Sports, and Afro-Latin American History.

Peter Szanton is an Africanist and the current Director of Sponsored Research for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He holds a B.A. in History from Georgetown University and an M.A. in African Area Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has worked in higher education, museums, and educational non-profits, including Social Science Research Council, with a focus on international programs and issues.
Marta Werbanowska is a pre-doctoral Fulbright scholar affiliated with the Honors College, the Department of English, and Africana Studies Department during the 2014–15 academic year. A Ph.D. candidate and academic instructor at the University of Warsaw’s Institute of English Studies, Poland, Ms. Werbanowska’s research area is African-American and late-twentieth/early-twenty-first-century literature, culture, and literary criticism. Her interests also include feminist, postcolonial, and neo-Marxist theories.

She is currently writing her doctoral dissertation titled “Voices from the Dark Room Collective: Post-Soul Aesthetic in the Poetry of Kevin Young, Tracy K. Smith, and Thomas Sayers Ellis.” In this study, she seeks to trace and analyze the shared motifs and qualities in the writings of three poets who are former members of the Dark Room Collective, a Boston-based academic and literary community active in the years 1989–1998. Her choice of UNC Charlotte as the host institution for Fulbright award was motivated by her desire to work with Professor Malin Pereira, whose work on contemporary black poetry has been a great influence on her. According to Ms. Werbanowska, “I believe that working under Professor Pereira’s guidance will allow me to get a better insight and a more informed perspective on the subject matter of my dissertation. The vast and interesting resources of the J. Murrey Atkins library as well as the exciting courses offered by the English and Africana Studies Departments have also been important driving forces for my decision.”

Most of her time at UNC Charlotte will be devoted to the writing of her dissertation. However, she will also audit a number of courses in order to expand and deepen her knowledge in the areas of African-American literature and African diaspora theory. Werbanowska also plans to attend the Furious Flower Poetry Conference in Harrisonburg, VA, and the African and African Diaspora Studies Conference at CUNY’s College of Staten Island. She enthusiastically shared with Africana Newsletter: “I am looking forward to spending the next eight months at UNC Charlotte. I believe my time here will be filled with wonderful opportunities, exciting conversations, significant academic progress, and unforgettable cultural experience.”

Leslie Gutierrez enrolled in the Africana Studies Graduate Certificate this fall semester in order to advance her knowledge in African Diaspora Studies and to become academically credentialed in the field. She holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Spanish and is currently at the dissertation stage of her graduate program in English with a concentration in Teaching English as a Second Language. She is also a Spanish Instructor at a Historically Black College, where her courses usually incorporate Afro-Latino themes and experiences.

“I believe this program will advance my research interests in the transnational movement of black people, aesthetics, and popular culture. I am particularly interested in pedagogies, theoretical perspectives and research practices that advocate for global human rights within African Diasporic communities, and that encourage social change within and outside of the academy. The certificate will also strengthen my dissertation on the theoretical and conceptual frameworks that are useful for interpreting the racialized and essentialized rhetoric surrounding undocumented communities within the United States. To this end, I am collecting testimonios of undocumented migrants, and I’m using Critical Race Theory to analyze how the U.S./Mexico border discourses in the media, popular culture, and politics shape my collaborators’ lives. The Africana Studies Graduate Certificate program is fostering my personal, academic, and pedagogical enrichment as I continue on my journey as a cultural broker and social justice teacher-scholar.”
I am from the Mississippi Delta. However, when people ask me where I am from, I say “dust and dirt.” In fact, I am from a small dusty Delta town, in Tallahatchie County. The Mississippi Delta. Some say it is “The Most Southern Place on Earth.”

On a recent trip to Chicago, my father told me about one of his childhood experiences growing up in the Delta. I sat on his bed and listened as he talked and I felt like a small child again. He told the story so vividly that I felt like I was walking through the crowds listening to them talk and joke. The story my father told me was about the night that Joe Louis fought Max Schmeling met for the second time in a boxing match. That was in late June of 1938.

Granddaddy was the manager of a large cotton plantation and the house was not far from town, which allowed electricity to run to the house. The white owner had lived in it before he died. Not many people could afford a television set in the Delta at that time. It was not just the affordability; it was also the problem of having electricity where they lived. Power lines were not in many areas of the Delta. Even if you could afford electricity, there might not be a power line near your house. Because so few people—black or white—had television and electricity, people literally walked for miles to get an opportunity to watch TV. My father said that blacks and whites came from miles around to their house to watch the fight on TV. The whites sat together and rooted for Max Schmeling, and the blacks sat together to root for Joe Louis. He said when Schmeling lost the fight the whites became angry and left quickly. The blacks stayed after the fight and celebrated, feasting on a whole hog that granddaddy had roasted. The fight between Joe Louis and Max Schmeling was not just a sporting event; it also represented the political and social conflicts of the time. In the 1930’s Joe Louis was a symbol of racial pride for African Americans. The two boxing matches between Joe Louis and Max Schmeling also represented the struggle between freedom and fascism because of Schmeling’s ties to Hitler and Nazi Germany.

***

The Delta itself nurtured me almost as much as the people of the Delta did. I loved the soil. I played in the dirt daily making mud pies. When I grew tired of making mud pies I would pour the dirt over me and even roll in it. Sometimes I would go up the road from my house to a shady bank, dig the dirt out from the roots of a tree, and eat it. When storms came up in the summer the wind would blow up the red dust and I would go out and twirl around in it until I got dizzy. Even though Mama, who was really my grandmother, would have to pump water and heat to wash my hair and bathe me, she would let me play in the dust.

A rural house near Greenville, Mississippi. circa 1966.

Photo by Tom Hilton

When I was about five years old, Mr. Sydney Gardner rented some land from Uncle Allen to build a juke joint on. The juke joint was a small wooden building with a kitchen/bar area and jukebox. There wasn’t a bathroom inside it but it had an outhouse. The first night that it opened, Uncle Allen took me with him. When we got there, it was crowded and very hot inside. It was late summer and the heat was unbearable. At five years of age, I was short and skinny. I was crushed in between the adults who were standing shoulder to shoulder unable to move, all they could do was shift from side to side. People made their way cautiously to the bar holding their beers up out of the way of people’s bodies. However, this was early in the evening. I’m sure, as the night wore on and they got more drinks, they moved about with less caution. This was a memorable evening for a five-year-old to be out with the adults and I loved it. I became intoxicated with the smell of fried chicken, laughter, cigarette smoke, beer, corn liquor (sometimes called “white lighting” or “moonshine”), and blues from the jukebox.

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continued on page 14
My hometown of Charleston now has a population of a little over two thousand. When I was growing up, the downtown consisted of only three blocks. Practically everyone knows that in the Delta, cotton is “king.” The land in the Mississippi Delta contains some of the most fertile soils in the world. The land is flat. Cotton grows on all the land, which has left it treeless and grassless. The landscape is barren when cotton is not in season.

Sharecroppers often lived in the middle of cotton fields in three- or four-room shacks. Cotton grew right up to the doors and often you could not see the shack from the highway or road. The shacks were dark at all times, hot in the summer, cold in the winter. They were of wood, plank as we called them, with spaces in-between the planks. People would nail cardboard or newspaper to the inside walls in-between the crevices of the planks to prevent the cold air from coming in during the winter. The roofs were tin and you heard the rain beating; a constant reminder that you were not working, which meant no money. A small square or rectangle passed as a window in each room with no pane or screen to keep the insects out. The windows had wooden shutters; when closed, they did not allow any light into the house.

The houses had wood-burning stoves to cook on and fireplaces or wood-burning heaters for warmth. They had no electricity. In the winter, if it got too cold the family slept in their clothes and added layers of clothes on top of the quilts to keep warm. Quilts are the equivalents of comforters. The tops were usually old worn-out clothes, anything unrepairable, patched together. Feed sacks were sometimes sewn together to create the bottom with cotton padding in-between the top and bottom.

I grew up hearing Mama and Aunt Lura whispering about the “murder of that boy in Money.” I was not yet two years old when the murder took place. I remember the last time I heard Emmett Till’s name mentioned in my family. I was fifteen years old. Emmett Till had been dead for fourteen years. Aunt Lura was visiting from Mound Bayou. She was getting ready to drive home. Mama had walked out to the car with her and Aunt Lura was getting into the driver’s side of her car. Aunt Lura was standing with the car door open. Mama was close to her. I heard Mama say in a hushed voice, “what they did to that boy over in Money.” Aunt Lura looked away from Mama, nodded, and got into the car. Even though she did not mention him by name, I knew she was talking about Emmett Till. It is one thing to grow up hearing about the murder of a boy that you never saw, but it is entirely different when he was someone nearby. Maybe the reason Mama and Aunt Lura spoke so often about the murder of Emmett Till was that his murder was so horrendous and so close to home. It was not just that Money, Mississippi was less than a hundred miles from Charleston. One of the major players in the cover-up of the murder lived in Charleston.

Excerpts from Sandra Wilbourn’s forthcoming book, Living in the Shadow of Emmett Till. The book is about her experience growing up in Mississippi—a story of childhood and family activism set in the larger context of desegregation and racial violence.

Ms. Wilbourn is a senior in the Africana Studies Department.

AFRS ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Eboni Frazier (AFRS Major. Class of 2011) is a Financial Crimes Specialist in the Corporate Risk and Operations division of Wells Fargo & Co. She is also committed to civic responsibilities. She serves in various volunteer positions with the Urban League of Charlotte, Big Brothers & Big Sisters Inc. and IAMNOTTHEMEDIA. She plans to return to UNC-Charlotte soon to enroll in the Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies. 

Ms. Frazier sent in the following reminiscence: “My professors in the AFRS department really showed interest in my education…I did not feel like a number... They took the time to get to know each of their students on a personal level and that experience really impacted my studies and growth while attending UNC Charlotte. Majoring in Africana Studies is not like your traditional college...course; each of the courses is unique and truly a learning experience…I would like to thank each and every one of my professors from the AFRS department for the opportunity! Thank you for impacting my life.”

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the U.S. Congress engaged in bitter debates on whether to enact a federal law that would prosecute citizens who lynched black Americans. In *Getting Away with Murder*, the author investigates the underlying motives of the Southern Democrats’ opposition to federal intervention and why Southern Democrats thought each state should have the responsibility to find solutions to lynching, when, in fact, the phenomenon was a baffling national crisis. The book explores the following questions: (1) was the federal government truly limited in its constitutional power to protect black Americans from private citizens who organized themselves as lynch mobs? (2) Were concerns for states’ rights the core reasons for Senate filibustering, or did Southern Democrats’ argument for states’ rights support the lie of racism?

Professor Holloway teaches history courses at the City University of New York-Medgar Evers College.

Brenda D. Tindal, a 49er with baccalaureate degrees in History and Africana Studies (2000), is completing her doctoral dissertation at Emory University on “‘What Our Common Past Had Done to Us’: Movement Widows in American Public Life, 1963–2013.” She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History and the Honors College, UNC Charlotte. Professor Tindal is recently selected as the U.S. Graduate Coordinator for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, which will take place January 3–12, 2015. As coordinator, she will participate in a ten-day experiential learning program that seeks to broaden American and South African participants’ understanding of the South African socioeconomic, racial, cultural, historical, and environmental landscape through critical inquiry, reflection, and debate. Moreover, she will have the opportunity to mentor and work closely with an interdisciplinary and talented group of U.S. and South African undergraduate students on their individual research projects, many of which are comparative in scope. She will also deliver a lecture related to her dissertation project and larger research interests.

SaDonna Smith (AFRS 2011, M.Ed. West Carolina University) is currently an Academic Advisor at Santa Fe College, Gainesville, FL where she works primarily with a caseload of around 1,700 students assigned to particular academic paths seeking to transfer to a 4-year institution. She serves as a liaison with academic departments at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida. She previously worked as Assistant Director for College Reach Out Program at the University of Florida.
Nine high-achieving undergraduate students had the opportunity to work with core and affiliated Africana Studies faculty from May 27 through July 28, 2014 under the auspices of the Charlotte Research Scholars (CRS) program at UNC Charlotte. The research mentoring program provided undergraduate students with hands-on research experience in their field of interest. It also nurtured their professional development through workshops on research ethics, strategies for graduate school application, professional writing, and resume preparation. Each student worked with a faculty on a research project and the results of the project were presented in a symposium that brought the nine-week summer program to an end. The participating AFRS faculty and their mentees are listed below. [Opposite: Chelsea Glover at the CRS poster session]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholar</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Alvarez</td>
<td>Latin American Studies</td>
<td>Finding freedom through family: Slave demography in nineteenth-century Amazonia</td>
<td>Dr. Oscar de la Torre Africana Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temeka Brooks</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Recent African immigrants as agents in the changing cultural and economic landscape of Charlotte</td>
<td>Dr. Akin Ogundiran Africana Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Burch</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Images and perceptions of black women in African American literature</td>
<td>Dr. Janaka Lewis English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meinkeng Fonge</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Global social work-related field placements, studies abroad, and curricular content in CSWE accredited social work programs</td>
<td>Dr. Diana Rowan Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Glover</td>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>Culturally relevant strategies for communicating health interventions for African-American female students</td>
<td>Dr. Debra Smith Africana Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Kane</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>A history of medical tourism in Africa</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Flint History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Lee</td>
<td>Africana Studies</td>
<td>From slave ships to scholarships: Examining the history of the black athlete</td>
<td>Dr. Charles Pinckney Africana Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monika Soler</td>
<td>English / History</td>
<td>Bolivar's failure: The illusion and disillusion of Gran Colombia</td>
<td>Dr. Erika Edwards History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Whitlark</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Lynching in the South</td>
<td>Dr. Julia Maria Robinson Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Aderemi Ajala, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, was in residence at UNC Charlotte (March 16 through April 8, 2014) as a visiting research scholar. Hosted by the Africana Studies Department, his visit was part of the implementation of the collaborative and exchange initiative between UNC Charlotte and University of Ibadan. Dr. Ajala was a guest speaker in many Africana Studies classes during his visit. Among the topics he addressed are:

- **Health Issues in Africa:** Local Knowledge in Healthcare Delivery
- **Good Health as a Luxury in Africa**
- **Family Health, HIV/AIDS and Virginity Testing in South Africa**
- **Impacts of Globalization and Contemporary Changes on Family Structures:** Focus on African Perspectives
- **Opportunities for Study Abroad Programs and Intensive Yoruba Language at University of Ibadan**

He also initiated discussions with Dr. Debra Smith for a collaborative research project on Health and Migration between Africa and the United States. And he met with Dr. Joël A. Gallegos, Assistant Provost of the Office of International Programs; and Dean Nancy Gutierrez, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, in order to learn more about institutional goals and priorities.

He summed up his experience at UNC Charlotte as follows:

“My visit to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte offered numerous academic opportunities. In addition to teaching and proposing new research initiatives, I obtained some insights on best practices for effective academic and university management. The insights will be shared with my colleagues at the University of Ibadan. I generally observed that UNC Charlotte has an excellent culture of facility maintenance and prompt service delivery. Judging from the curriculum of the Africana Studies Department, I inferred that the university is well positioned to address emerging global issues and challenges of globalization through knowledge and capacity building. The courses are forward-looking, dynamic, and relevant.”

Dr. Ajala is an expert in health and political anthropology. He is author/editor of three books, 22 journal articles, and ten chapters in anthologies. His publications include *Rural Health Provisioning: Socio-cultural Factors Influencing Maternal and Child Health in Osun State, Nigeria*, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang Verlag (2009). Dr. Ajala has received many awards, fellowships and grants for his research, including an Economic and Social Science Research Council’s post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Birmingham; a British Academy fellowship; two Alexander von Humboldt fellowships in Bonn; and a Rockefeller Foundation Senior Academic fellowship (hosted in Bellagio Institute, Italy).

Dr. Ajala’s visit was funded in part by the Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of International Programs.
“Contemporary African-American Families: Achievements, Challenges, and Empowerment Strategies in the Twenty-first Century” is the title of a two-day conference held on October 16-17, 2013 at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Organized by Dr. Dorothy Smith Ruiz, the conference brought together scholars, legal and civil rights professionals, and community advocates to showcase various issues pertaining to contemporary black families in the United States. Presenters discussed the ways in which current racial and sociopolitical climates, health disparities/access, new legislative and legal frameworks, economic trends, social service industries, housing policies, criminal justice, child health, education, and father involvement impact African-American families. Audience members ranged from undergraduate students to K-12 teachers, school administrators, social justice activists, and university researchers.

The workshop aspect of the conference, “The Value of a Twenty-first Century Education,” was moderated by Dr. Chance Lewis, the Carolyn Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Middle, Secondary and K-12 Education within the College of Education at UNC Charlotte. The conference also included a luncheon remark by Dr. Patrick C. Graham, President/CEO of the Urban League of Central Carolinas, Inc. Dr. Graham addressed issues pertaining to health, economics, and politics among ethnic and racial minorities in the Carolinas.

The conference closed with a keynote address by distinguished sociologist and Charles William Eliot Professor of Education Emeritus at Harvard University, Dr. Charles V. Willie, who also served as speaker and guest of honor at the Dr. Bertha Maxell-Roddey (BMR) Distinguished Africana Studies Lecture in 2013.

The conference was sponsored by the Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund and the Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
THE 12TH ANNUAL AFRICANA STUDIES CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON MORAL ECONOMIES

Twenty-four scholars from the United States, Canada, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Jamaica, and the Bahamas presented on a diverse range of topics dealing with late capitalism and moral economies at the 12th annual Africana Studies conference, April 2–3, 2014. Inspired by the Occupy Wall Street events in the U.S. and the Moral Monday protests in North Carolina, the 2014 conference brought the local and the global political economies into dialogue. The two-day conference offered insights into the comparative dimensions of moral economies and was attended by students, faculty, staff, and members of the Greater Charlotte community.

In addition to presentation of scholarly papers, a film screening on the new faces of poverty in the U.S. and a community-organizing forum in North Carolina were held at the conference. The conference keynote address was delivered by Professor Gene R. Nichol, the Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity, at UNC Chapel Hill. His speech has been published in the Charlotte Papers in Africana Studies series, No. 6. The text and the audio are available at http://africana.uncc.edu/sites/.

Convened by Dr. Akin Ogundiran, the conference was sponsored by the Writing Resource Center; Belk College of Business; Office of International Programs; University Internal Communication; Dean’s Office, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund; Center For Applied And Professional Ethics; and Council for the Advancement of Yoruba Studies.

PRESENTATIONS

Session I: Theorizing and Rethinking Moral Economies
Chair: Dr. Felix Germain, Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

Olivia Saunders
Professor, School of Business, College of The Bahamas, New Providence, Bahamas
Moral Economics

Joseph Winters
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, UNC Charlotte
The Tragic Ambivalence of Hope

Edward Sammons
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Brooklyn College, CUNY
Re-Tuning Thompson: Moral Economy and Moralization in Paul Gilroy’s Darker than Blue

Session II: Globalization and Africa
Chair: Dr. Tracey Thompson, College of The Bahamas

Olayiwola Abegunrin
Professor, Department of Political Science, Howard University
Moral Economy and Unequal International Economic Relations: Africa as a Victim?

Eric Amah Kouevi
PhD Candidate in Economics, University Jean Moulin Lyon 3, France &Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, UNC Charlotte
The Imperatives of Moral Economy Considerations for Designing Industrial Policies in sub-Saharan Africa

Emmanuel Babatunde
Professor and Chair, Sociology, Criminal Justice and Anthropology, The Lincoln University
Immoral Economy and the Destabilization of Nigeria
Session III: Moral Economies of Health
Chair: Dr. Oladimeji Aborisade, Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

Aderemi S. Ajala
Associate Professor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
HIV/AIDS, Panic and Moral Economy of Health Care in southwestern Nigeria

James Battle
University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Santa Cruz
Bioethical Conscription: Ascriptive Inequality, Categorical Inclusion and the Moral Economy of Participation

Session IV: Screening of The Line ("Poverty in America") & Conversation with the Film Producer, Ms. Linda Midgett

Session V: Round Table - Organizing Academics to Speak Out: Scholars for North Carolina’s Future

Stephen Boyd
J. Allen Easley Professor and Director, Religion & Public Engagement, Wake Forest University

Robert Korstad
Professor of Public Policy and History, Duke University

Lisa Levenstein
Associate Professor of History, UNC Greensboro

Session VI: Ethical Considerations for Global Capitalism
Chair: Dr. Oscar de la Torre, Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

Michael Franczak
Doctoral Candidate in History, Boston College

Political and Moral Economy at the Bretton Woods Conference: Perspectives from the Global South
Sophia G. Brown
Doctoral Candidate in Educational Leadership, Nova Southeastern University
Tourism Industry in Jamaica: A Viable Pathway to Development?
Isaac Olawale Albert
Professor of African Studies & Peace and Conflict Studies
Moral Economy and China’s Strategies for Winning Hearts and Minds in Africa

Session VII: Moral Economies of the State and Society in Africa
Chair: Dr. Peta Katz, Anthropology, UNC Charlotte

Teferi Abate Adem
Research Associate, Human Relations Area Files at Yale
Morality of Partisan Leadership in a Northeast Ethiopian Village
Ralph Callebert
Lecturer, Department of History, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax
Dualism and Popular Economies in South Africa

Tokuissant Losier
Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Afro-American Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
No Land! No House! No Vote!: The Moral Economy of Non-Collaboration in South Africa’s Past and Present

Session VIII: Moral Economies of Race, Citizenship and Democracy
Chair: Dr. Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, Africana Studies, UNC Charlotte

Jamal Turner
Independent Scholar and Community Activist, Charlotte

The Rise of Corporative Fascism Amerikan Style
Gregory Mixon
Associate Professor, Department History, UNC Charlotte
Black Militiamen and the Militia: An Instrument of Citizenship in the Nineteenth Century Western Hemisphere

Tekla Ali Johnson
Assistant Professor of History, Salem College, NC
Un-Random Acts: Three Synchronized Repressions

Samuel O. Oloruntoba
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, University of South Africa, Pretoria
Capital-Society Relations in a neoliberal global order: Towards re-engagement with Karl Polanyi’s thoughts

Gene R. Nichol
Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity, UNC Chapel Hill
Keynote Address: Banishing Equality: Poverty, Plenty and Exclusion in North Carolina
Dr. Darden Pyron of Florida International University (Miami) delivering a talk on “Biography: Bane and Blessing” co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Department and the Department of History (March 19, 2014)
STATEMENT ON EBOLA by Dr. Akin Ogundiran (originally issued on October 8, 2014)

“Ebola is a rare and deadly disease that is spread through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or died from Ebola”. As at press time, the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has claimed almost 3,500 lives since March of this year. The hot zone of the epidemic is Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The outbreak spread to Nigeria and Senegal but it seems these two countries have been able to contain the spread of the disease among their populations. For example, no new case has been reported in Nigeria over the past 32 days. Cases of Ebola have also been reported in Spain and the United States. There is up to date information at the website of the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention about the nature and status of the disease as well as precautions: http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html.

There are assurances on October 3 by the local health officials in Charlotte that they are confident they have the capacity to deal with any occurrence of Ebola in the region http://www.wsoctv.com/news/news/local/nephew-man-diagnosed-ebola-called-cdc/nhZ7G/. There are still many things we do not know about the disease. This time calls for vigilance and caution. It is however important not to succumb to the apocalyptic fear that may drive individuals and institutions to make irrational decisions in dealing with the nationals of the countries where Ebola has been identified. We all need to educate our communities about this disease. We should also endeavor to show sensitivity when addressing this issue with members of our community who are currently grieving for their loved ones who have died or are sick from Ebola.

BACCALAUREATE AFRS CONCENTRATION IN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (CHE)
The concentration in health and environment is an option for students who are majoring in Africana Studies. Established in 2011, the concentration focuses on the cultural, social, ethical, psychological, historical, and policy dimensions of the pertinent health and environmental issues in the global Africana World. The concentration requires a total of six three-credit hour core courses and four electives in health- and environment-related courses within the Africana Studies curriculum.

Sample of CHE Courses

AFRS 2170. Introduction to Health and Environmental Issues in the Africana World. (3) A general introduction to the cultural, social, political, ethical, and psychological dimensions of health and environmental issues affecting the African and African Diaspora peoples globally, and the policy implications. (Fall)

AFRS 2172. Black Sexuality and Health. (3) Examines the intersection of sexuality, gender, race, class, and ethnicity, and how they influence social relations and health. Students are introduced to the critical concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality; the links between becoming gendered, sexuality and heterogeneity within African-American populations and the impact it has had on health-related issues. (Yearly)

AFRS 3155. Health and Healing in Africa. (3) Provides an historical context for some of the major healthcare challenges facing Africa today. Traces the history of health and healing from the pre-colonial era through the period of colonial rule, and since political independence. Both the Africa-centered and Western methods of healing and conceptions of health and illness are examined at different junctures in African history. (On demand)

AFRS 3250. African Americans and Health Communication. (3) Focuses on the use of communication strategies to inform and influence individual and community decisions regarding health among African-American populations. Considers how health messages are created and the impact they have on African Americans within the context of their lives. (Yearly)

AFRS 4630. Environmental and Public Health in Africa. (3) (O) In-depth analysis of environmental and public health hazards in Africa, including pandemic, as well as the principles and practice of public health, pollution control, and waste management. The social and political contexts of the environmental and health issues in Africa are emphasized throughout. (Yearly)

AFRS 4640. Environment, State, and Society in the Caribbean and Latin America. (3) The history of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially the impacts on race, labor, culture, political relations, and state formation from the pre-Columbian period through the present. (On demand)

AFRS 4652. Race, Health, and the African Diaspora. (3) (W) Global approaches to health disparities throughout the African Diaspora using racial, gender, class, and development theoretical frameworks. Explores the comparative relationships between contemporary social and historical factors determining the health status of peoples of African descent residing in different areas of the world. (Spring)
NEW!

EARLY ENTRY GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The Department of Africana Studies is now accepting applications from juniors and seniors for admission into the Africana Studies Graduate Certificate. The goal is to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to begin working towards a graduate degree before completing a baccalaureate degree.

The Early Entry admission into AFRS graduate certificate is an accelerated program. It allows 6-9 credit hours earned at the graduate level to be substituted for required undergraduate credit hours. In other words, up to 9 hours of graduate work may be "double counted" toward both the baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

A student may be accepted into the Early-Entry Program at any time after completing 90 semester hours of undergraduate work in any major in the university provided 12 credit-hours of these are in Africana Studies.

To be accepted into this program, an undergraduate student must have at least a 3.2 overall GPA and a minimum 3.0 GPA in at least 12 hours of Africana Studies courses.

Students accepted into the Early-Entry program will be subjected to the same policies that pertain to other matriculated graduate students. Early Entry students must finish their baccalaureate degrees before they complete the 15 hours of graduate work in AFRS.

Students admitted to the Early-Entry program are not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship since they have not completed a baccalaureate degree. Students admitted into any Early-entry program will be charged undergraduate tuition and fees for all courses (graduate and undergraduate) for which they register. For more information, visit http://africana.uncc.edu/graduate-programs.

To apply, go to: http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/gradadmissions.html.

For more information, contact ogundiran@uncc.edu.
CALL FOR PAPERS

The Joint
13th Annual Africana Studies Conference of the Department of Africana Studies
10th William Wilson Brown Jr. Conference of the Program in Latin American Studies; and
The Río de la Plata Workshop of the History Department

Dis/Locating and Connecting Spaces in the African Diaspora and Latin America

April 16-18, 2015
UNC Charlotte Center City Campus

Space plays a fundamental role in the study of the African Diaspora. Be it in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, or Europe, scholars from all disciplines have always discussed the role played by spatial dislocations during the era of the transatlantic slave trade in spreading African individuals and cultures throughout the world. Long after that era was gone, and well into the present, diasporic ideas and practices have bridged and re-interpreted spatial dislocations by tracing connections between seemingly disparate regions in the Atlantic basin and beyond, while formulating multiple political, economic, social, or religious linkages that bound together those distant regions.

In this conference, graduate students, community activists, and junior and senior scholars will interrogate the importance of ‘space’ in understanding the African Diaspora, with a special focus on Latin America. How does the study of particular regions in the Atlantic world benefit from a consideration of their diasporic connections? Conversely, how are our conceptions of the African diaspora enriched by paying attention to the experiences of its members in specific spaces? How do these questions apply to the study of Latin America, the first among all spaces in the Diaspora, in terms of the number of Africans received?

For more information and submission of abstracts, contact:
Dr. Erika Edwards (History Department) edwar27@uncc.edu, and
Dr. Oscar de la Torre (Africana Studies Department) odelator@uncc.edu

VACANCY: TENURE TRACK: ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:
SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW
Position #6912

The Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is seeking candidates for a tenure-ladder position at the Assistant or Associate Professor rank in the area of social justice, human rights and the law. The appointment will begin in August 2015. Candidates with scholarly expertise and teaching interests in social policy and the legal frameworks of race, human/civil rights, migration, labor, health, gender, and cultural identity in the US, or in comparative and transnational settings are particularly encouraged to apply. Interested applicants are required to hold a Ph.D. degree in Africana Studies or any relevant field in the humanities or the social sciences. Relevant experience or credentials in legal studies is desirable but not required. Applicants must demonstrate an excellent record of scholarship, teaching, and service relevant to the rank they are applying for. The Associate Professor applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong trajectory for institutional leadership.

Screening of applications will begin on November 15, 2014 and will continue until the position is filled. Applications must be made electronically at https://jobs.uncc.edu (position #6912) and must include a cover letter, CV, and a writing sample of 30 pages or less. Three letters of recommendation should be mailed separately to Chair, Search Committee, Department of Africana Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223.

Inquiries can be directed to the department chair, Professor Akin Ogundiran at ogundiran@uncc.edu or to the search committee at africana_studies@uncc.edu. The University of North Carolina-Charlotte is an AA/EEO and an ADVANCE Institution.
The department, in collaboration with the Department of Music and with additional support of the Dean of the College of Arts and Architecture, hosted critically-acclaimed baritone and voice professor Emery Stephens as the fifth Africana Artist-in-Residence February 23–March 2, 2014. The highlights of his residency included:

- Lecture at the Early African-American Literature class (host: Dr. Janaka Lewis, Department of English).
- Master class in the Department of Music.
- Luncheon workshop with Africana Studies faculty on pedagogy of music in Africana Studies curriculum.
- Recital and public presentation.
- Visit to Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools: Garinger High and William Hough High.

NOTES FROM THE 2014 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Above: Dr. Stephens and Dr. Dylan Savage (piano) on stage at the UNC Charlotte recital

Below: Cross-sections of the audience at the Recital, (Rowe Arts, UNC Charlotte)
The department also facilitated voice and singing workshops for students at Garinger High School and William Hough High School through its 2014 Artist-in-Residence Dr. Emery Stephens. More than 400 students attended the performances and workshops in both schools. Garinger High School’s Choral Director, Ms. Jocelyn Thompson, was elated in her appreciation letter to Africana Studies Department and Dr. Stephens for the impact of the event on her students.

February 28, 2014

Dear Dr. Stephens:

On behalf of the Garinger High School family, I’d like to thank you for coming to our school and sharing your gift of song and your passion for knowing and understanding our history. Please know that your visit has sparked energetic discussions in our classrooms. Our students have been enlightened and empowered to read, learn, understand, and appreciate “from whence we’ve come.” The musical foundation has been laid. The rest is up to us.

Your voice awakened emotions in many of my music students. One young lady said, “I’ve never heard anyone sing like he does.” Exposure is the key.

We wish you continued success in your musical endeavors. Keep us in your thoughts as the Garinger faculty and staff continue to push our students towards path of excellence.

Musically yours,
Jocelyn Thompson
Choral Director
Garinger High School
AFRICANA STUDIES IN SCHOOLS

The department continued the implementation of its Africana-in-Schools program in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014. The goal of the program is to use faculty and student expertise to support and enrich instruction in K-12 schools on African and African Diaspora history and cultures.

On January 23, 2014, Dr. Akin Ogundiran presented a talk titled “Nelson Mandela’s Lessons for Contemporary Youth” at an event organized for adolescents and young adults by Mecklenburg Ministries, an interfaith, interracial, and multi-ethnic organization, with more than 12 faith traditions.

Mr. Thomas Tillman, AFRS junior, presented on African History and Culture to second-graders at Corvian Community School, Charlotte. He also discussed the importance of drums and drumming in African cultures. The hands-on experience gave the students opportunity to compose their own beats and songs to the stories about Egyptian pyramids and Yoruba kings shared by Mr. Tillman—master drummer and a griot in his own right. More than forty appreciative students and their teacher, Ms. Crystal Moore, individually sent “Thank You” notes to Mr. Tillman for his presentation.
MORE “THANK YOU NOTES” FROM CORVIAN ELEMENTARY – 2ND GRADE

Dear Drummer,

I loved that you taught about history in Egypt. I also liked that you taught us African drumming (Even though I did not get to drum.)

From,
Ned

Mr. Tillman,

On behalf of the staff and students of Corvian Community School, thank you for your presentation on African history, culture, and drumming. Our students loved playing your drums and your talk on early pyramid construction was a great introduction to our next study on the Mayan Pyramids in Mexico.

We greatly appreciate your time and please accept these thank you notes and drawings from our students.

Sincerely,
Crystal Moore
Corvian Community School

Thank YOU
mr. Tillman

Peter

mr. Tillman

I really enjoyed learning Base, Tone, and Tip!

Love,
Giana Billiard 2nd Grade Lees

You Have A Great Talent Mr. Tillman!
SYMPHOSIUM TO FOCUS ON ARTS IN GLOBAL AFRICA

A one-day symposium on African Arts will be held at the Mint Museum (2730 Randolph Road) on November 15, 2014. The symposium, titled “Arts in Global Africa” will use African artistic heritage to explore questions of globalization, the importance of African indigenous knowledge in global affairs, and what roles culture could play in facilitating closer economic ties between Africa and the Carolinas. The symposium is inspired by the rejuvenated exhibition on African Arts that recently opened at the Mint Museum. The symposium will also provide the opportunity to launch the newly published catalog of the exhibition. The symposium is presented by the Mint Museum, Michael Gallis and Associates, and the Africana Studies Department at UNC Charlotte. The event is free and open to the public.

SYMPHOSIUM PROGRAM
Venue: The Mint Museum, 2730 Randolph Rd, Charlotte, NC 28207
10 am: Convene for coffee, tea, pastry
10:30: Welcome: Dr. Kathleen Jameson, Mint Museum Director and CEO
10:45: Moderator: Dr. Herbert M. Cole, University of California, Santa Barbara
Introduction to the symposium topic and speakers: “The Many Global Africas”
11: 10: Dr. Akin Ogundiran, University of North Carolina, Charlotte: “The African Historical Journey: Geographies, Peoples, Cultures”
1:30: Dr. Cécile Fromont, University of Chicago: “Kongo and the World: Five Hundred Years of Art and History”
2:15: Dr. Henry John Drewal, University of Wisconsin, Madison: “Planetary Yoruba: Arts on the Move”
3:00: Dr. Victoria Rovine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: "Global Style Networks; Fashion From Africa"
3:45-4:15: Q and A
Closing Comments: Mr. Michael Gallis
4:15: Oyotunji Yoruba Egungun (Ancestral) Performance
Contacts: (704) 337-2000; 704-943-9198; art@mgallis.com; africana_studies@uncc.edu

AFRS 2014 BROWN BAG SEMINAR: WEDNESDAY 12:30-1:45

October 15, 2014
Barnard 244
Dr. Tanure Ojaide: The Boko Haram Phenomenon: Challenges for the Nigerian State and Society

November 12
Barnard 244
Dr. Chris Cameron: To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in Massachusetts and the Making of the Antislavery Movement

February 11, 2015
Venue TBA
Dr. Jeffrey Leak: Henry Dumas and the Briar Patch of Black Biography

March 11
Venue TBA

April 15
Venue TBA
Dr. Oscar de la Torre: Environmental Narratives and the Spaces of Black Identity in Brazil: Restoring the Links
AFRICANA STUDIES FACULTY COUNCIL
RESEARCH INTERESTS

CORE FACULTY

Oscar de la Torre, Brazil and Afro-Latin American history
Felix Germain, Caribbean history, Migration, African Diaspora in Europe, African Cinema
Veronica N. Hilliard, African Politics, Development, and Conflict Studies
Akin Ogundiran, Archaeology and Cultural History of Africa and the African Diaspora
Tanure Ojaide, African and African Diaspora Literature/Culture
Debra Smith, Media, Health, and Race in the US
Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, African American, Grandparenting, Aging, Health and Race

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Oladimeji Aborisade, Public Policy, Governance & Health in Africa
Felecia Harris, Women’s and Gender, African American Studies, and Diversity
Krystion Obie Nelson, Sports, Race, African Diaspora
Honore Missihoun, Black Atlantic, Lusophone & Spanish Literature
Charles Pinckney, Hip-Hop Studies and Black Psychology
Annette Teasdell, African American Literature and Culture

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Takiyah Amin, World Dance, African American Aesthetics and Cultural Studies
Jose Batista, Spanish and Caribbean Literature
Lloyd Blenman, International Finance, Futures, Asset Pricing
Christopher Cameron, Colonial US, Religion and African American History
John Cox, Comparative Genocide; Modern European history: social and labor history
Carl Dupont, Voice, Diversity and Music in Higher Education
Erika Edwards, Colonial Latin American History, African Diaspora

Lisa Homann, African, African-American, and African diaspora art history
Karen Flint, History, Health and Healing in Modern Africa
Cheryl Hicks, US/African-American History
Karen W. Hubbard, Modern Dance, Contemporary and Traditional Jazz Dance, Ballet and Mime
Charles Hutchison, Urban Education, Middle & Secondary Education
Kendra Jason, Stratification, Race and Gender, Organizations
Peta Katz, Cultural Anthropology of Africa: Gender
Jeffrey Leak, African American Literature
Richard Leeman, African American Rhetoric
Janaka Lewis, African American Literature
Shawn Long, Diversity and Organizational Communication
Gregory Mixon, US/African American History
Malin Pereira, African American Literature, Mixed Race Studies
Sonya Ramsey, US/African American Gender History
Julia Robinson-Harmon, African American Religion and history
Diana Rowan, Social Work with HIV/AIDS, Africa, Social Group Work
Eddy Souffrant, Ethics in International and Corporate Affairs, Caribbean Philosophies
Peter Szanton, African Studies, Sponsored Research
Brenda Tindal, U.S. History, African America, Gender, Apartheid South Africa
Jodi Turner, African American Studies, Gender, Body Aesthetics
Beth Whitaker, African Politics, Refugee Studies, and Development
Greg Wiggan, Black Intellectuals, Urban Education, and Middle & Secondary Education
Joseph Winters, Religion, Modern Culture, Critical Theory
THE AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT UNC CHARLOTTE OFFERS INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AND MINOR, AS WELL AS A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM. IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES. ITS COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM EMPHASIZES CULTURE, HISTORY, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WITHIN A CRITICAL LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION.

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<th>Program</th>
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For more details: africana_studies@uncc.edu; 704-687-5161

Faculty and Graduating Seniors, Spring 2014