On March 12, 2015, the executive board of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) at its meeting in Los Angeles, selected the Africana Studies Department at UNC Charlotte to serve as the lead host institution for the Council’s 40th annual conference. The four-day event is scheduled for March 16-19, 2016 in Uptown Charlotte, at the Omni Hotel (corner of Trade and N. Tryon Streets). The conference will mark the 40th anniversary of NCBS, the leading organization of Black Studies professionals and scholars. More than 400 participants are expected at panels, roundtables and poster sessions. The presentations will focus on various aspects of African, African American, and African diaspora issues, including history, culture, politics, social policy, economics, education and pedagogy, gender, youth, health, environment, human rights, and social justice.

This year’s conference is a home-coming for NCBS because it was right here in Charlotte that the organization was conceived. The National Council for Black Studies was established as a result of the initiatives of the then director of the Black Studies program at UNC Charlotte, Dr. Bertha L. Maxwell. Between March 18 and 21, 1975, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte hosted a meeting of Black Studies faculty and leaders across the United States. The meeting was called by Dr. Bertha L. Maxwell (now Bertha Maxwell-Roddey) to start the process of creating “a national organization for the accreditation of black studies programs”. Those pioneering academic programs were established between 1967 and 1971. The planners of that first meeting included Ewart Guinier, chair of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University; James Turner, director of the Africana Studies at Cornell University; T. J. Reddy, one of the student-activists who spearheaded the establishment of the Black Studies Program and Black Students Union at UNC Charlotte; and Dr. Herman Thomas, a professor of Religious Studies and faculty affiliate in UNC Charlotte’s Black Studies program. At the final plenary session of the conference, the participants committed themselves to develop the framework that would lead to the establishment of an organization to be called the National Council for Black Studies. On July 16th of the same year, the group met again; this time in Princeton, New Jersey. At the end of the meeting on July 18th, NCBS was officially established and Bertha L. Maxwell was appointed its acting chair.

Forty years later, NCBS has grown to become the leading organization for Black Studies professionals in the world, guided by the philosophy that “education should engender both academic excellence and social responsibility”. Based on this principle, this year’s conference will involve workshops for teachers, outreach programs in the Charlotte community, student-focused career development symposia, roundtable discussions on some of the burning issues about race and human rights, in addition to academic presentations on some of the latest scholarly research in Africana Studies and cognate fields of study.

The 2016 conference will feature two plenary sessions: one sponsored by the host institution – UNC Charlotte; and the other by the board of NCBS. UNC Charlotte will also host a reception for the conferees at the Harvey B. Gantt Center on March 17 (7:00pm). Community leaders will be invited to the reception. The conference will close with a banquet on March 19 at the Omni hotel.

The call for papers can be accessed at [http://ncbsonline.org/conference_call_for_papers](http://ncbsonline.org/conference_call_for_papers).

NCBS, welcome home!
AFRICANA STUDIES FACULTY COUNCIL: TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

CORE FACULTY

Danielle Boaz, Legal Studies; African and African Diaspora Religion, Colonialism, and Human Rights
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 U.S.
Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, African American, Grandparenting, and Health

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, Sociology of Stratification: Race and Gender, Organizations
PETE 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
KRYSTION OBBIE NELSON, Sports, Race, African Diaspora
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
SHANNON SULLIVAN, Feminist Philosophy, Critical Philosophy of Race
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

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Oladimeji Aborisade, Public Policy, Governance & Health in Africa
Helaine Daniels, Non-Governmental Organization and Grassroots Development in Africa and the U.S.
Felecia Harris, Women’s and Gender, Diversity, and African American Studies
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
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
#Black Lives Matter—A Commentary by Akin Ogundiran

#Black Lives Matter is not an incoherent response to the recent incidents of police brutality. It is a spontaneous disapproval of institutionalized and embodied racial violence against the black and brown. It is a collective call for a moral society to solve the problem of intergenerational poverty that global capitalism has orchestrated for more than four hundred years. It is a moral call to exorcize the ghost of fear of the black and brown from the psyche of Eurocentric thought. #Black Lives Matter calls attention to history and memory, to the three-fifth compromise in the foundation of the union; to the recent erosion of Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts in the state legislatures and the Supreme Court; to the fact that 35 percent of African American children attend high-poverty schools; to the fact that blacks account for 26 percent of all juvenile arrests but represent 58% of youth admitted to state prisons. #Black Lives Matter calls attention to the centuries old prejudice against the black and brown, in housing, education, bank lending, insurance rates, and criminal (in)justice system, among others. The movement is not anti-Police. But it is against the mental template, the discursive and non-discursive practices, and socialization that persistently treat the Black and Brown as sub-human, here at home and abroad. We have passed equality into law but our society has not granted equity. #Black Lives Matter is a renewed call for equity and justice as the foundation for building a just and godly society.
All indicators over the past decade show aggregate improvements in various aspects of human lives in Africa. The continent has witnessed economic boom and the number of its middle class has significantly grown despite pockets of challenges. This year’s Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture will focus on the role of higher education and the diaspora in these transformations and the new areas of opportunities that should be pursued in order to build upon the recent fortunes in Africa’s economy and democratic leadership. The lecture will be held on October 8, 2015 in Rowe Arts Building on UNC Charlotte’s main campus starting at 5:30pm.

Titled “Africa Rising: The Role of Higher Education and the Diaspora”, the lecture will be delivered by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, a leading African and Africanist public intellectual who combines groundbreaking scholarship with innovative academic administration and institution building, both in Africa and North America. Dr. Zeleza, who has just been appointed as the Vice Chancellor (President) of The United States International University-Africa (USIU-A) in Nairobi (Kenya) effective January 1, 2016, is currently a fellow at Harvard University. He served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Quinnipiac University, 2013-15. Before that, he was the dean of the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts and presidential professor of African American studies and history at Loyola Marymount University (2009-2013). He has also served as head of the Department of African American studies and as liberal arts and sciences distinguished professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, among others. In addition, he has advised several international organizations, such as the Carnegie Corporation and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), on capacity building and sustainable development.

Zeleza earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Malawi and his master's from the University of London, where he studied African history and international relations. He holds a Ph.D. in economic history from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. Zeleza's academic work is wide ranging, from economic and intellectual history to human rights, gender studies and diaspora studies. He is also a literary critic, novelist, short-story writer and blogger. He is author/editor of 26 books, several of which have won international awards including Africa's latest book is titled Africa’s Resurgence: Domestic, Global and Diaspora Transformations (2014).

He has presented nearly 250 keynote addresses, papers, and public lectures at leading universities and international conferences in 31 countries and served on the editorial board of more than two-dozen journals and book series. He served as president of the African Studies Association in 2009. Zeleza was recognized by the Carnegie Corporation in 2013 as one of 43 immigrants whose contributions have enhanced the United States.

The Africana Studies Department inaugurated the Maxwell-Roddey Lecture in 2008 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Africana Studies program at UNC Charlotte. Named after the first director and 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. Hosted by the oldest Africana Studies Department in the University of North Carolina system, the main goal of the Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture is to facilitate the communication and exchange of original ideas relevant to the improvement of human conditions, with emphasis on the experience of Africa-descended populations.

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PICTURES FROM THE BERTHA MAXWELL-RODDEY LECTURE IN 2014

The 2014 BMR Speaker, Dr. Yele Aluko, Dr. Maxwell-Roddey, and Dr. Shirley Aluko

Dean Nancy Gutierrez, Dr. Maxwell-Roddey, and Dr. Akin Ogundiran

Audience, 2014 BMR Lecture
Africana Studies founding chair, Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, was one of thirteen African Americans honored in South Carolina's 2015 African American History Calendar. The 12-month calendar profiles individuals from across the state who have had a compelling impact on the state, the nation and the world. The calendar was launched at an elegant gala held on Oct. 07, 2014, at the Koger Center for Arts in Columbia and attended by many dignitaries in politics, business, education, the arts, and other professions.

Featured as the face of the month of August, Dr. Maxwell-Roddey is celebrated for her pioneering roles in school desegregation, contributions to higher education and to the institutionalization of Black Studies as a field of study, in addition to her long list of community service. She was recognized for starting the first Head Start program in Charlotte, NC; co-founding the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture; founding and serving as the first chair of the National Council for Black Studies; and co-founding the Theodore and Bertha M. Roddey Foundation. She has served on more than 50 boards and commissions and received numerous awards for her dedication. Her most cherished awards include the Thurgood Marshall Award of Education, Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Elizabeth Catlett-Delta Legacy “Women Making a Difference,” and Eagle Fly Free Award from the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine.

Actively involved in the Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Maxwell-Roddey served as Charlotte Alumnae Chapter President, National First Vice-President, and the 20th National President. As the president, she worked with Habitat for Humanity and led the process of building more than 350 houses in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa.

The calendar is sponsored annually by AT&T and its partners. The 2015 calendar marks the 26th year AT&T has spearheaded this initiative of providing educators, parents, and visitors a method of identifying African American role models for all youth and honoring notable African American achievers with ties to South Carolina. Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey was born June 10, 1930 in Seneca, South Carolina.

New Appointments in Africana Studies

Dr. Tanure Ojaide has taken over from Dr. Beth Whitaker as coordinator of the African Studies Academy. Dr. Whitaker stepped down in spring 2015 following six years of service as the Academy’s coordinator during which she facilitated several speaking engagements on campus on a wide range of topics that focused on Africa. Dr. Ojaide is a founding member of the Academy, established in 1992 as an outreach arm of the Africana Studies Department. He was also a previous coordinator of the Academy. He has returned to this position in order to guide the realignment of the goals of the Academy with the mission of the Africana Studies Department. He and his team will focus on developing initiatives that support Africa-in-Schools outreach program, explore opportunities for Study Abroad programs with emphasis on health, environmental sustainability, entrepreneurship, and business; as well as foster campus-wide collaborative research on Africa.
Danielle N. Boaz is the newest tenure-track faculty in the Africana Studies Department. She will offer courses in the areas of social justice, human rights and the law including “African Americans and the Legal Process,” “Racial Violence: Colonial Times to Present,” and “African Diaspora Theory.” Dr. Boaz was previously an Assistant Professor in the Law, Politics, and Society Department at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Boaz brings a unique combination of expertise in law, legal history and Africana studies to the department. She has a Ph.D. in History with a specialization in Africa, the African Diaspora and the Caribbean from the University of Miami, (Coral Gables, FL), a J.D. with a concentration in International Law from the University of Toledo, and a L.L.M. in Intercultural Human Rights from St. Thomas University. She is also a licensed attorney in the State of Florida and practiced law in Miami for several years before transitioning to a career in academia. Dr. Boaz plans to seek admission to the bar in North Carolina and use her legal experience to help students engage with pro bono civil rights work in the Charlotte area.

Dr. Boaz’s research focuses on the structural racism ingrained in domestic and international mechanisms protecting civil, political, social and cultural rights. Her main research addresses the legal proscription of African cultural practices in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the modern day impact of those laws on public perceptions of these practices. She has published articles about linguistic rights for Creole speakers as well as broad overviews of the history of the proscription and prosecution of African religions in the Western Hemisphere. One of her more recent articles examined the use of the term “voodoo” in U.S. court proceedings regarding divorce, child custody and insanity.

Dr. Dorothy Smith-Ruiz will serve as Interim Chair of the Africana Studies Department from September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Until her appointment, Dr. Smith-Ruiz was the coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in the department. Dr. Smith-Ruiz joined UNC Charlotte in 1992. Her teaching and research expertise focuses broadly on the African-American family, grandparents, and health. She has held fellowships at Yale University and Duke University, and was a Fulbright Scholar in 1985. Dr. Smith-Ruiz is the author of Amazing Grace: Custodial African American Grandmothers as Caregivers and Conveyers of Traditional Values (Praeger, 2004).

Dr. Boaz’s current book project explores the boundaries of “legitimate” spiritual practices in the Anglophone Atlantic world from the 1850s to the 1950s. Her research integrates British colonial proscriptions of African diaspora religions in the Caribbean and Africa into more well-established studies of the legal prohibition of astrology, spiritualism and “pretended” witchcraft in the United States and Britain during this period. Dr. Boaz will receive the Kathryn T. Preyer award at the 2015 annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Legal History for a paper she wrote on this topic. Dr. Boaz has received other accolades for this research project; recently, she was invited to participate in two selective summer workshops: the Junior Scholars Law and Humanities Workshop hosted by Columbia Law School and the Institute for Constitutional History’s Summer Research Seminar hosted by Stanford Law School.
**NEW APPOINTMENTS IN AFRICANA STUDIES (conts.)**

**Dr. Shannon Sullivan**, Chair of Philosophy and Professor of Philosophy and Health Psychology at UNC Charlotte, is one of the latest affiliates of the Africana Studies Faculty Council. She is also affiliated with UNC Charlotte’s Women’s and Gender Studies program. Her previous position was Professor and Head of Philosophy at Penn State University. She received her PhD in philosophy from Vanderbilt University. Sullivan works in the intersections of continental philosophy (especially phenomenology, existentialism, psychoanalytic theory, and genealogical philosophy), feminist philosophy, critical philosophy of race, and American pragmatism. She has published numerous articles and is the author of four books: *Living Across and Through Skins: Transactional Bodies, Pragmatism, and Feminism* (Indiana UP, 2001), *Revealing Whiteness: The Unconscious Habits of Racial Privilege* (Indiana UP, 2006), *Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism* (SUNY Press, 2014), and *The Physiology of Sexist and Racist Oppression* (Oxford UP, 2015). She also is co-editor of four books, including *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance* (SUNY Press, 2007).

**NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY**

**Dr. Helaine Daniels** is a new lecturer in the Africana Studies Department. She is an international development specialist, with extensive higher education administrative experience. Her work and travels have taken her to 61 countries around the world, in Asia, Africa, South America, Europe, Central America, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. Her work within the United States includes service to numerous non-profit organizations, several universities, as well as the private sector. She has served in various capacities at Harvard University, Morehouse College, and Clark Atlanta University. Within the private sector, she has worked with Hewlett Packard and Mobil Oil. Her international consultations have been with the United Nations, the World Bank, USAID, the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help, Africare, and numerous other organizations.

Having earned her doctorate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Dr. Daniels has researched and published in the areas of self-help and empowerment, organization development, institutional planning, and language learning among children from disempowered communities. She has designed and administered professional training modules in twenty cognitive areas, including team building, conflict resolution, cross-cultural effectiveness, and employee motivation. She has served as an adjunct professor in Social Policy at the Simmons School of Social Work in Boston and as a special lecturer in the Black Studies Department at Providence College.

A former director of International Student Programs and the Master in Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, Dr. Daniels began her professional career as a reporter for the *Boston Globe* newspaper. She also served as the Specialist in Health and Education for the United Nations Population Fund and the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help in the Republic of Djibouti in East Africa.

Dr. Daniels is scheduled to develop and teach a writing intensive course titled “Non-Governmental Organizations and Sustainable Development in Africa”. She will also be working on program development to support international learning experience for Africana Studies students.
AFRICANA STUDIES FACULTY RECEIVED CARNEGIE FOUNDATION GRANT AND NATIONAL HUMANITIES CENTER FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Akin Ogundiran is a Co-PI on a Carnegie Foundation research grant awarded to collaborate with Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria on the development of a public exhibit and collegiate courses on the theme of “Sacred Groves and Green Sustainability in Nigerian Cities”. The one-year project has already seen his collaborator from Nigeria, Dr. Adisa Ogunfolakan (right), visit UNC Charlotte to learn about green space initiatives in the university and the Greater Charlotte area. Dr. Ogundiran has also traveled to Nigeria to work with a team of scholars on the project. The team has already developed a masterplan for the exhibition set to launch in spring 2016. Ogundiran and Ogunfolakan are also working on the curriculum that will accompany the exhibition in addition to creating courses that will be available to students at UNC Charlotte and Obafemi Awolowo University through distance learning technology. The courses will focus on sacred groves, cultural and natural resource management, and community outreach for sustainable environment.

Ogundiran has also been named a fellow at the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park (NC) for the 2015-16 academic year. He is the second UNC Charlotte faculty and the only one currently affiliated with the university, to receive the honor. The National Humanities Center is the only major independent American institute for advanced study in all fields of the humanities. Established in 1978, it provides a national focus for the best work in the liberal arts, drawing attention to the enduring value of ancient and modern history, language and literature, ethical and moral reflection, artistic and cultural traditions, and critical thought in every area of humanistic investigation. By encouraging excellence in scholarship, the Center seeks to insure the continuing strength of the liberal arts and to affirm the importance of the humanities in American life. He will use his fellowship year to complete a book on the cultural history of the Atlantic Experience in West Africa. He seeks to use the book to answer epistemological and historical questions about the meaning, meaningfulness and practice of modernity in Yoruba Civilization between ca. 1550 and 1830.

NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY: SHANNON SULLIVAN (from page 8)

Revealing Whiteness received an Honorable Mention for the 2007 Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Awards from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights. Good White People was named a 2014 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title and a Ms. Magazine Must-Read Feminist Book of 2014. Good White People also was selected for this year’s CLAS Personally Speaking Series, to be held November 10th at Center City.

In fall 2015, Sullivan is teaching a combined 4000/5000 level class on Critical Philosophy of Race crosslisted with the Africana Studies Department. In spring semesters, she plans to teach regularly an introductory course on the philosophy of love and sex.
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<td>• “Our Ancestors were Material Scientists: Archaeological and Geochemical Evidence for Indigenous Yoruba Glass Technology.” 39th Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies, Los Angeles. March 11-14, 2015. (with Dr. Akinlolu Ige, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria).</td>
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<td><strong>Dr. Tanure Ojaide</strong></td>
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<td>• Ruiz, D. “Parental Incarceration and its Consequences for the Academic and Social Development of School Age Children and their Caregivers” - International Conference on Urban Education. Montego Bay, Jamaica, November 6-8, 2014.</td>
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**BOOKS BY CORE FACULTY AND AFFILIATES : 2014-15**

**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF SEXIST AND RACIST OPPRESSION**
Oxford University Press, New York. 2015
Shannon Sullivan (Professor & Chair, Department of Philosophy)

While gender and race often are considered socially constructed, this book argues that they are physiologically constituted through the biopsychosocial effects of sexism and racism. This means that to be fully successful, critical philosophy of race and feminist philosophy need to examine not only the financial, legal, political and other forms of racist and sexism oppression, but also their physiological operations. Examining a complex tangle of affects, emotions, knowledge, and privilege, *The Physiology of Sexist and Racist Oppression* develops an understanding of the human body whose unconscious habits are biological…

Ranging from the stomach and the gut to the hips and the heart, from autoimmune diseases to epigenetic markers, Sullivan demonstrates the gastrointestinal effects of sexual abuse that disproportionately affect women, often manifesting as IBS, Crohn's disease, or similar functional disorders. She also explores the transgenerational effects of racism via epigenetic changes in African American women, who experience much higher pre-term birth rates than white women do, and she reveals the unjust benefits for heart health experienced by white people as a result of their racial privilege. Finally, developing the notion of a physiological therapy that doesn't prioritize bringing unconscious habits to conscious awareness, Sullivan closes with a double-barreled approach for both working for institutional change and transforming biologically unconscious habits.

**RACE, RELIGION, AND THE PULPIT: REV. ROBERT L. BRADB Y AND THE MAKING OF URBAN DETROIT**
Wayne State University Press (April 2015)
Julia Marie Robinson (Associate Professor, Religious Studies)

During the Great Migration of African Americans from the South to the cities of the Northeast, Midwest, and West, the local black church was essential in the making and reshaping of urban areas. In Detroit, there was one church and one minister in particular that demonstrated this power of the pulpit—Second Baptist Church of Detroit and its nineteenth pastor, the Reverend Robert L. Bradby. In *Race, Religion, and the Pulpit: Rev. Robert L. Bradby and the Making of Urban Detroit*, author Julia Marie Robinson explores how Bradby’s church became the catalyst for economic empowerment, community building, and the formation of an urban African American working class in Detroit. Robinson begins by examining Reverend Bradby’s formative years in Ontario, Canada; his rise to prominence as a pastor and community leader at Second Baptist in Detroit; and the sociohistorical context of his work in the early years of the Great Migration. She goes on to investigate the sometimes surprising nature of relationships between Second Baptist, its members, and prominent white elites in Detroit, including Bradby’s close relationship to Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford.

*continued on page 12*
Finally, Robinson details Bradby’s efforts as a "race leader" and activist, roles that were tied directly to his theology. She looks at the parts the minister played in such high-profile events as the organizing of Detroit’s NAACP chapter, the Ossian Sweet trial of the mid-1920s, the Scottsboro Boys trials in the 1930s, and the controversial rise of the United Auto Workers in Detroit in the 1940s.

Race, Religion, and the Pulpit presents a full and nuanced picture of Bradby’s life that has so far been missing from the scholarly record. Readers interested in the intersections of race and religion in American history…will appreciate this thorough volume.

Materialities of Ritual in the Black Atlantic
Indiana University Press, Bloomington. October 2014
Edited by Akinwumi Ogundiran and Paula Saunders
(Professor & Chair, Africana Studies Department)

Focusing on everyday rituals, the essays in this volume look at spheres of social action and the places throughout the Atlantic world where African-descended communities have expressed their values, ideas, beliefs, and spirituality in material terms. The contributors trace the impact of encounters with the Atlantic world on African cultural formation, how entanglement with commerce, commodification, and enslavement and with colonialism, emancipation, and self-rule manifested itself in the shaping of ritual acts such as those associated with birth, death, healing, and protection. Taken as a whole, the book offers new perspectives on what the materials of rituals can tell us about the intimate processes of cultural transformation and the dynamics of the human condition.

Dr. Oscar de la Torre co-edited a special issue of the journal of Boletín Americanista 68 (2014) on the topic of post-emancipation in the Atlantic world.

Dr. Tanure Ojaide co-founded Aridon: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies in 2014 and serves as the journal’s co-editor. The first issue was published in December 2014.
NOTES FROM THE FIELD: EXPLORATIONS IN “DRONE ARCHAEOLOGY”
— Akin Ogundiran

There is a new "toy" in town, and it is fast gaining popularity worldwide. You have possibly heard of it. It’s the Camera Drone. This "toy" is based on the same technology as the one the military is using for surveillance and warfare. It flies and it is remotely controlled. Only that this one is a camera-carrying drone (without fire-power). It can take still and moving pictures from high altitudes. Archaeologists and other scientists who are interested in landscape studies are increasingly taking advantage of these drones for surveying archaeological sites, monitoring land-use patterns, and recording above-ground features.

A colleague once joked that archaeologists are historians who like to use expensive toys. That’s a nice way to describe this breed of scientists whose methodology cuts across many disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and physical sciences. Archaeologists study the past like historians but they primarily base their evidence on the material records and the landscape of the past populations they are studying. They rely on a myriad of tools to do this, from trowel, pick-ax and shovel (for digging) to Global Positioning Systems and, now, Camera Drones (for survey).

This past summer, my archaeological team (The Upper Osun Archaeological and Historical Project) linked up with another team from the William and Mary College, VA (led by Dr. Gérard Chouin) to carry out the first drone survey in Nigerian archaeology. We also used the technology to test-run what it would look like to use drones for inventorying the ecological elements and cultural resources at two sacred groves where I have been conducting research for several years.

The quality of our findings is stunning. Less than ten years ago, we relied on helicopters to be able to take the kind of aerial pictures shown here. Then, the cost was exorbitant, running into a couple of thousand dollars per hour. Here is the contrast. One can now get a good quality Camera Drone for less than $2,000. Once you load the software onto your laptop, you are ready to survey the world! It is like flying a kite, an expensive one though. You can take as many pictures as possible for several hours. You just need back-up batteries to keep powering your mechanical kite.

In Osun-Osogbo grove, we noticed how invaluable Camera Drones would be to monitor biodiversity patterns, and detect human activities that may be harmful to the integrity of the largest sacred grove in Nigeria (upper). At another site (lower), Oduduwa grove (Ile-Ife), we used the drone to record and survey cultural resources and vegetation in one of the most venerated sites among the Yoruba of West Africa. In both cases, the drone gave us new perspectives that are useful for developing a more effective plan for the management of sacred sites and green spaces in the middle of two expanding cities. The drone also gave us insights on the likely archaeological sites that we may want to investigate in the future. The bird’s eye views shown in these pictures reveal what a ground observer could not easily recognize. We expect that Camera Drones will be a game changer in the way archaeologists, geographers, environmentalists and other scientists do their job in the future, especially towards improving our knowledge of the past, city planning, and management of the earth resources.
AGE OF TRANSPLANTS  - A New Poem by Tanure Ojaide

California is baking with incendiaries exploding
and there’s no summer this year in London.

The August Break in Lagos has not arrived when due
but in its place comes a freeze warning.

The China Seashore has drowned a number;
elsewhere others praying for rain have died by water.

Climate change justifies this harmattan in July
and thunderstorms obfuscate the December haze—

the tropical turns more frigid than the temperate
and Northern summer is suffering from high fever.

Rivers cut new paths to their distant destinations
and dry beds display disabled boats as trophies—

the fishermen are having hard times; with their
baits spared all night and substituted for supper.

Today’s sun is humid without its fiery arrows
and there’s a weeping moon hiding from sight.

An age of transplants has begun in earnest;
exotic flowers show faces where they don’t belong—

what belonged to water comes to inhabit land,
and land creatures seek refuge underwater

with what was normal out of place upside down;
weather forecasters disgraced for their ignorance

in not seeing ahead a river basin in a torrid desert
or ice glaciers defining the new Equator of forests.

If we continue to abuse the earth as if nothing,
why should climate not change; an avenging spirit?

We who brag about fixing every problem that crops up
with human intelligence, have to contend with this enigma.

*Tanure Ojaide* is the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. A prolific writer, he has published seventeen collections of poetry, three collections of short stories, two memoirs, four novels, and scholarly works including *The Poetry of Wole Soyinka; Poetry, Art, and Performance: Udje Dance Songs of the Urhobo People;* and *Contemporary African Literature: New Approaches*. His literary awards include the Commonwealth Poetry Prize for the Africa Region (1987), the All-Africa Okigbo Prize for Poetry (1988, 1997), the BBC Arts and Africa Poetry Award (1988), and the Association of Nigerian Authors Poetry Award (1988, 1994, 2003, and 2011). Ojaide has read from his poetry in more than a dozen countries, in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America. His scholarship has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright Scholarship. Ojaide is a graduate of University of Ibadan (Nigeria) and Syracuse University.
Africana Studies faculty affiliates continue to serve in several leadership positions at UNC Charlotte. Here we highlight the work of four affiliate faculty: Dr. Malin Pereira, Dr. Shawn Long, Dr. Richard Leeman, and Dr. Jeffrey Leak.

Dr. Malin Pereira has been re-appointed to a second three-year term as Executive Director of the Honors College, 2015-2018. A professor of English and a leading scholar of black literature and cultural studies, she is a former chair of the Department of English and an interim chair of Africana Studies. She has also just finished a three-year term on the Executive Committee for the Association of Departments of English.

In addition to providing opportunities to extend the Honors experience to all high-achieving undergraduates, as well as diversifying and deepening the Honors experience for students currently in Honors programs, Dr. Pereira has created new platforms for faculty-honor student interactions, including collaborative research. She has presented some of these initiatives to her peers in Honors conferences. At the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Greenville, SC (March 19-21), she presented, with honors students Brian Barrows and Nadia Clifton, a paper titled “Reading in Slow Motion: An Honors Research Course Model.” In September 2014, she co-authored a paper with honors faculty and program directors Janet Levy and John Szmer titled “Redesign of Honors Education at UNC Charlotte” which was presented at North Carolina Honors Association Conference, Mount Olive.


During the 2014-15 academic year, she lectured on Natasha Trethewey at University of Warsaw, Oct 20, 2014 (shown above); gave an opening keynote on “The Poetry of Wanda Coleman and Natasha Trethewey” at the Polish Association of American Studies, University of Bialystok, Poland. Oct 22-24, 2014. As recent as June 2015, she attended the Collegium for African American Research Conference in Liverpool, UK, where she presented a paper titled “The Politics of Memorializing Family and Place: The Poetry of Natasha Trethewey and the Photography of LaToya Ruby Frazier.”
**LEADERSHIP : CHAIR, DEAN, ETC.**

**Dr. Shawn Long** has been appointed as the Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This followed his five-year role as chair of the Communication Studies Department (2010-2015). Previously, he served as the department’s graduate director for three years.

During his term as chair, he led the department to win the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, led the department to win the Southern States Communication Association’s Minority Recruitment and Retention Award, and expanded Internationalization Efforts (Xiamen, China, Curriculum Integration). All of these initiatives helped to raise departmental visibility on and off campus and within the discipline. During his tenure, he also launched the annual departmental electronic magazine, Communication Studies Learning Community, and the Communication Faculty Affiliate Program; in addition to leading faculty, staff, and student diversification efforts as well as student-centered curriculum changes.

In 2014-15 academic year, he was selected as Provost Faculty Fellow. He used the fellowship to develop and launch the University’s Multicultural Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and the University’s online adjunct orientation program. He also chaired the new communications task force, the goal of which was to develop a campus-wide communication campaign for the success of new and transfer students.

The long shadow of Dr. Long’s service-leadership extends beyond the University Boulevard. Within the National Communication Association, he is currently the President-elect of the Association for Communication Administrators; Chair of African American Communication and Culture Division; and Chair of the Affirmative Action and Intercaucus Committee. For his impactful leadership, he is the recipient of an Outstanding Service Award from the African American Communication and Culture Division of the National Communication Association.

Dr. Long’s responsibilities as Associate Dean include Faculty Governance; Course and Curriculum, Accreditation; Program Reviews; Diversity and Inclusion; and Leadership and Innovation projects within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Dr. Richard Leeman,** Professor of Communication Studies, is back on his “old turf”. He will chair the Department of Communication Studies in 2015-16 while the department conducts the search for a new chair. Dr. Leeman served as the chair of the department for nine years between 2001 and 2010. Author and editor of several books including *The Teleological Discourse of Barack Obama* and *The Will of a People: Great Speeches by African Americans* (with Bernard K. Duffy), Dr. Leeman regularly teaches a course on African American Rhetoric. He has served since 2010 as the liaison for the College of Liberal Arts and Science’s Internationalization Plan.
Dr. Jeffrey Leak recently stepped down from his position as Director of the Center for the Study of the New South in order to assume new responsibility as the President of Faculty Council at UNC Charlotte. The Africana Studies Newsletter editors had a chat with Mr. President.

How would you describe your tenure as Director of the Center for the Study of the New South?

My work as director has been fulfilling in many ways.

In what ways?

In terms of the programs that we hosted on campus and in the community, as well as the partnerships we developed in carrying out those programs. We facilitated discussions on cultural, social, and political issues. Some of these are very sensitive issues but they are issues that our students and our community need to develop a better understanding of.

Please give us examples?

Our first major event at the Center for the Study of the New South during my tenure was the Without Sanctuary Conference in October 2012. One of the center’s longtime programming partners, Levine Museum of the New South, was courageous in bringing this collection of lynching photographs and postcards to Charlotte. After consulting with the dean and faculty affiliates with the center, we decided to organize a conference to provide historical and cultural context for this most painful exhibit. I was able to secure a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council which enabled us to bring in four keynote speakers and thirty conference presenters in History, Religion, Literature, Musicology, Photography, etc. Our programming occurred at UNC Charlotte Center City, Levine Museum, and First United Presbyterian Church. This collaborative effort served as a signal to the community that our community should and would come together to discuss such a volatile subject. For our first keynote address, over 250 people came to the church to hear Dr. Claude Clegg (Indiana University) discuss the history of lynching in his hometown of Salisbury, NC. Given the difficulty of the subject matter and my own ties to Charlotte, the opportunity to organize this conference was one of the most important acts of community engagement in which I have participated.

Did you not also organize several events on sports?

Yes, that was in 2013, our first year of football at UNC Charlotte. We thought it only appropriate to consider how sports figure into our conceptions of the New South. So, we developed the theme: “Sports in the New South: Culture, Color and Cash.” We hosted lectures on the integration of women and racial minorities in sports in the making of the modern South; a roundtable (with our Chancellor, Athletics Director, and the President of the Carolina Panthers) on the significance of bringing football to campus; and a panel on concessions, in collaboration with the College of Health and Human Services and the Center for Applied and Professional Ethics. Faculty and staff from across campus, high school students, high school coaches, athletics trainers, health practitioners, and other members of our community attended the event in high numbers.

We didn’t stop there. In 2014, our programming focus shifted to “Soul Food: A Contemporary and Historical Exploration of New South Food.” We began 2014 with a screening of the film Pride and Joy, which explores southern foodways. We then convened a panel on the “Future of Food in the South.” And in March we hosted Toni Tipton Martin at Levine, who lectured on the history of African American women cooks and the racial politics behind the writing of cookbooks. We continued our programming in fall 2014 with a presentation by Adrian Miller at Center City, author of Soul Food: The History of an American Cuisine One Plate at a Time. We also held panel discussions on the local food movement and the growing practice of hydroponic farming and efforts to educate the next generation of culinary professionals and farmers about this promising sustainability initiative.

continued on page 18
LEADERSHIP (from page 17)

What is responsible for the achievements that the Center for the New South has had under your leadership?
First, our faculty affiliates are always contributing ideas for programming and even long-term sustainability, and they are a major reason for the success we have experienced. I also recognize the support of the administrators, especially Dean Nancy Gutierrez and her staff. Then, the support of the community has been very important. My training in Africana Studies highlighted the responsibility we have in connecting the university to the community. In our programming efforts we have done just that. More people in the community know about the center; they see it as a source of historical, cultural, and political exploration.

A good example of this is our Real Talk series on the African American Male in America, which we initiated in May 2014, and continued on throughout this past academic year with five additional panel discussions that were all well-attended. There was such a huge community response to our panels on higher education, employment, the criminal justice system, spiritual and psychological development, and homosexuality that we took two of our panels on the road this past semester. Our panel on black men and employment reconvened at West Charlotte High School and our panel on black men and incarceration did the same at Parkwood Institutional AME Church. The community’s tremendous response to these sessions indicates the need to find funding for such programs in the future. Having journalist Bea Thompson host those events enabled us to get the word out and establish ourselves in the community.

So, what should we expect in your new role as faculty president?
During my time as president, we will address issues related to student performance (such as the drop/add policy), and new assessment requirements set forth by the Board of Governors. Our plate is full, so you’ll hear about a number of ideas coming out of the Faculty Council.

AFRS FORUM ON THE FILM SELMA by Debra Smith

Africana Studies faculty, Dr. Charles Pinckney and Dr. Debra C. Smith, combined their classes in “Psychology of the Black Experience” and “Black Images in the Media” respectively to feature "Where Selma Meets Hollywood," a lively discussion and critique of the film Selma. The event was held on April 22, 2015 (7:00-8:30 PM) in Fretwell 123. Panelists Dr. Pinckney and Madison Pinkney, a UNC Charlotte junior, represented two distinct generations and this reflected in their views on racism, violence, political activism, and other relevant themes from the film. Students critiqued the film for its "cinematic" representations of drama and sensationalism. The event gave students an experiential opportunity to put their course theories and film criticism skills into practice while revisiting history from a generational perspective. Prior to the event, students submitted questions to guide the discussion. While many of the questions focused on the content and representations in the film, much of the discussion also focused on the irony of the film as it relates to recent killings of unarmed black men and women in Ferguson, Missouri, New York City, and Charleston, South Carolina. Students grappled with their own sense of political and social urgency and how they could continue the strides of social activism. Close to 150 students attended the event.
AFRICANA STUDIES MAJOR SEES CONNECTIONS BETWEEN MAYA ANGELOU AND HIP-HOP/RAP

Thomas Tillman, Africana Studies major, was one of the student scholars selected for the 2015 summer Charlotte Research Scholars (CRS) program at UNC Charlotte. Inaugurated in 2012, the mentoring program provides undergraduate students with hands-on research experience in their field of interest under the guidance of a faculty. Tillman’s research is titled “Hip-Hop/Rap Poetry Production.” He focused his final project on the influence of Maya Angelou on the evolution of hip-hop and rap. Working under the direction of Africana Studies hip-hop scholar, Dr. Charles Pinckney, Tillman demonstrates how Angelou’s poetry and other creative writings crossed over to the hip-hop generation. For example, he identifies the impact of Angelou on Tupac’s song “Still I Rise” which is titled after one of Angelou’s poems. He also shows the impact of the poet, author, and actress on Janet Jackson’s appearance in the movie Poetic Justice, and Kanye West’s “Get By” remix, among others. His study emphasizes continuity between the Civil Rights and Hip-Hop generations.

Koffi Yao-Kouame’s paper ”Civil War in Liberia as the Prequel of the Côte d’Ivoire Civil War” won the 2015 Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies Prize for the best graduate student paper. Koffi is a student in both the AFRS graduate certificate and the M.A. in Latin American studies.

Zakiyah Everette, a May 2015 graduate with a major in Africana Studies has been appointed in the Charlotte Mecklenburg schools as a Middle Grade social studies teacher. “I am very excited to start my teaching job this fall and…to apply all of what I learned throughout my education in this (Africana Studies) department.” (right, receiving her stole from Dr. De la Torre at the department’s graduation ceremony)
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<tr>
<th>December 2014 Graduates: AFRS Major</th>
<th>December 2014 Graduates: AFRS Minor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Grinage</td>
<td>April Bass</td>
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<td>Zakiyah Ibrahim</td>
<td>Shawntee Cassel</td>
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<td>James Jones</td>
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<td>Melvin Klingensmith</td>
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<td>Bernadine Okoroji</td>
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<td>Ursula Rhodes</td>
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<td>Bianca Bradley</td>
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<td>Sharissa Chestnut</td>
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<td>Zakiyah Everette</td>
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<td>George Harmon</td>
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<td>Ahmad Holmes</td>
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<td>Ayanna Holmes</td>
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<th>May 2015 Graduates: AFRS Minor</th>
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<td>Temeka Brooks</td>
<td>Natwana Pacem</td>
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<td>Jasmine Brunson</td>
<td>Jamea Scales</td>
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<td>Krhrystle Bullock</td>
<td>Kacie Thomas</td>
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<td>Joshua Clark</td>
<td>Verdetta Turner</td>
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<td>Jane Connell-Nduly</td>
<td>Anah Wallace</td>
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<td>D'marcus Owens</td>
<td>Bana Zeru</td>
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PICTURES OF GRADUATES

December 2014 Graduates and Faculty/Staff

May 2015 Graduates
The Levine Museum of the New South announced on August 31 that Africana Studies alumna, Brenda Tindal, has been appointed as the museum’s new Staff Historian. Tindal is the second person to occupy the high-profile position.

Tindal graduated from UNC Charlotte in 2004 with double major in Africana Studies and History. The following year, she enrolled in Emory University's American Studies M.A. program, and later in the institution's doctoral degree in history. Her dissertation concentrates on U.S. history. Her secondary interest is the history of South Africa, a country she has visited on many occasions. She is set to complete her doctoral degree program this fall. Commenting on the appointment, Africana Studies chair, Akin Ogundiran noted that Tindal has deep intellectual roots in Southern history and she has also developed a wide breadth of intellectual interest in comparative history that connects with Africa. "Considering the rising profile of Charlotte as an immigrant city with people coming from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, it is fitting and reassuring that Levine Museum has found its new staff historian in this cosmopolitan and transnational young scholar."

Tindal started her working relationship with The Levine Museum of the New South in 2003 as an intern. She has since worked on several special exhibition projects on a contract basis. She assumed her new position on September 1 to replace Dr. Tom Hanchett, who is retiring from the museum after sixteen years as the museum’s historian.

Solomon Franklin, AFRS alumnus, was one of the 2015 Employees of the Year honored in the category of Community/Public Service at a beautiful ceremony presided over by Chancellor Philip Dubois on March 11. Franklin currently works in the university’s Facilities Management Department as a program development and education coordinator. In this role, he is responsible for managing processes and initiatives that impact the continuous improvement of the staff in the department.

Franklin, who serves as a member and chief operating officer of the 100 Black Men of Greater Charlotte Inc., is also the staff advisor for the UNC Charlotte chapter of the Collegiate 100, an auxiliary chapter for the 100 Black Men of America Inc. In these roles, Franklin sets the agenda for mentoring young black men on- and off-campus. He was celebrated for being an active participant in these programs which include tutoring, sports, creative endeavors, and fostering the youth personal development. He has also led initiatives on behalf of the 100 Black Men to assist families and children facing the challenges of food insecurity in Greater Charlotte. His nominators for the award describe him as a “selfless servant leader”.

The award of Employee of the Year was a culmination of several accolades he has received in recent years. In 2009, the Africana Studies Department honored him with its Alumnus Award for Excellence. In 2012, he received the Urban League of Central Carolinas Young Professional of the Year Award. He was the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Member Award from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), and the Young Black Men Leadership Alliance designated him as a 2015 Success Leader in Charlotte.

In addition to Mr. Franklin’s bachelor’s degree in Africana Studies, he also earned a baccalaureate degree in graphic design and a master’s degree in history from UNC Charlotte. In accepting the 2015 Employees of the Year award, Mr. Franklin describes himself as “a 49er for life” whose mission is to continue to “improve the brand of UNC Charlotte” in the community. “My comprehensive education at UNC Charlotte prepared me for this mission of social engagement,” he added.
The 13th Annual Africana Studies Symposium was held on April 30 and May 1, 2015 under the title: “Locating and Connecting Latin America and the African Diaspora”. It was the first time the symposium was held concurrently with the William Wilson Brown Jr. Conference, organized by the Program in Latin American Studies and the Rio de la Plata Workshop, organized by the Department of History and the Graduate History Association. The Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund and the Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences provided generous support for the symposium.

The two-day symposium witnessed several papers dealing with racial identities, gender, race and education, black religions across borders, and comparative slaveries, by faculty and advanced students from more than twenty-five universities and colleges in the US and from abroad. Distinguished Professor of History George Reid Andrews, the author of *Afro-Latin America: 1800-2000* (Oxford U.P., 2004), delivered a keynote address on the first day of the conference on the history of census-taking and race in Latin America from 1776 to the present. On the second day, the Director of the recently created Afro-Latin American Institute at Harvard University and Robert W. Bliss Professor of Latin American History and Economics, Alejandro de la Fuente, discussed how Afro-Latinos (Afro-Latin Americans living in the U.S.) are quickly emerging as a field of study.

Organized by Oscar de la Torre (Africana Studies) and Erika Edwards (History), the two-day event reinforced the value of interdepartmental collaboration and the strength of UNC Charlotte in Afro-Latin American studies.
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP 1: AFRICANA STUDIES TAKES YORUBA LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TO CENTER CITY

The department launched a pilot Yoruba Language-in-Community program for K-12 students in October 2014 at the Center City campus. The program developed in partnership with a UNC Charlotte alumnus, Mrs. Sola Ogunro. The outreach class, taught by Dr. Akin Ogundiran, met once a week for one-and-a-half hours from October 2014 through May 2015. The program introduced Charlotte area youth to one of Africa’s most widely-spoken languages. Yoruba is spoken by more than 30 million people in Nigeria, Benin Republic, and Togo, and it is the liturgical language in many diaspora communities, especially Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and many parts of the United States where Yoruba religion is practiced. The lessons focus on speaking, writing, and reading. The language classes were taught in the context of Yoruba history and culture over the past one millennium with emphasis on five pillars of Yoruba ethics of ọmọlùàbí – good character, humility, coolness, self-actualization, and responsibility to the community.

Due to popular demand for the course, the fall session of Yoruba Language-in-Community will resume on October 10 at UNC Charlotte’s Center City Campus, 6:00-7:30pm, and will henceforth take place every Saturday at the same time and venue. The outreach program is free and open to K-12 students from all backgrounds. Parents and guardians must accompany and stay with their children during each weekly meeting. This program is a service of UNC Charlotte to the community, and it is an extension of the Yoruba language and culture courses that Professor Ogundiran teaches at UNC Charlotte. Undergraduate students are encouraged to volunteer as teaching assistants in the Yoruba Language-in-Community program.

Below: UNC Charlotte students in Yoruba Language and Culture II class, April 2015.
Tommie Robinson, widely acclaimed as “the first black artist in the Guild of Charlotte Artists”, is the latest invitee to the distinguished list of Africana Artist-in-Residence at UNC Charlotte. He was in residence in the Africana Studies Department from March 9th through the 20th 2015 during which he had one-on-one meetings with students to discuss creative processes. He also gave a talk to the general public titled “The Art of Environment and Race” in the McKnight Hall. A month-long exhibition of Robinson’s paintings was presented at Latibah Collard Green Museum on the theme: “Environment and Social Justice”. The opening reception for the exhibition drew many guests from across the social profiles of Metrolina.

Now in its seventh year, the 2015 Africana artist-in-residence was organized in collaboration with the Latibah Collard Green Museum. Mr. Robinson used the opportunity of the residency to facilitate discussion, through his art, about some of the pertinent issues dealing with environmental pollution, excessive consumption, waste, race, as well as health and wellness.

a. Robinson, with one of the paintings in his “environment series”; b. Robinson, leading a tour of the gallery on the opening night of the exhibition; c. Affiliate Faculty Lisa Homann (middle) and other guests at the reception; d. Robinson, discussing creative process with Marlene Burrell - AFRS student and artist; e. Robinson and AFRS Faculty discussing art and the environment.
“Educating Our Black Youth: A Community Responsibility” is the theme of a two-day Leadership Conference for African American Males presented by the North Carolina National Alliance of Black Educators (NABSE), coordinated by Dr. Betty Howell Gray, in association with the Department of Africana Studies, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, and other area institutions. West Charlotte High School hosted the first day of the conference where most of the sessions focused on the youth, especially African American male students of middle and high school age. Activities included motivational sessions as well as workshops on developing skill-sets for success especially in the areas of positive attitude, effective communication, academic success, leadership, personal responsibility, and college readiness. A workshop on language arts through music was also organized to demonstrate the alternative ways for students to improve their writing skills. The first day closed with a community forum titled “Racial Equity in Public Education: How it Impacts African American Males”. The panelists included Mayor Dan Clodfelter of Charlotte and leaders of thought in education and social services.

The second day of the conference was hosted by the Africana Studies Department at UNC Charlotte’s main campus. The day-long presentations by a cast of seasoned educators focused on K-12 teachers drawn from school systems in Charlotte metropolitan area. The topic on cultural competency for teachers was presented by Glenn Singleton, President/Founder of Pacific Educational Group while Dr. Lucian Yates, III, former Dean of Whitlowe R. Green College of Education at Prairie View A & M University (TX), gave a highly spirited talk on different learning styles and the different teaching strategies that support those styles. The closing presentation, titled “Removing the Barriers to African American STEM Achievement: The Impact of Culturally Relevant Instruction and Low Teacher Expectations on College Readiness” was made by Dr. Chance Lewis, Director of The Urban Education Collaborative at UNC Charlotte.
Now in its seventh year, the lecture has hosted a cast of distinguished personalities on a wide range of pertinent issues. The inaugural BMR lecture titled “The Future of Charlotte as a Global City: The Black Dimensions” was delivered in 2009 by distinguished attorney and widely respected Civil Rights leader, Mr. James E. Ferguson II, president of the law firm Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham and Sunter, P.A. The president of the Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. Ronald L. Carter, gave the second lecture: “Avoiding the Perfect Storm: A Vision of Excellence in the Emerging New Majority.” Honorable Terry Bellamy, Mayor of the City of Asheville (NC), presented the third lecture on “Youth Empowerment: Structure for Developing Tomorrow’s Workforce”. In 2012, Dr. Lorand James Matory, the Lawrence Richardson Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University delivered the BMR lecture on Global Migrations and the Crisis of Identity in Black America. Dr. Charles V. Willie, The Charles W. Elliot Professor of Education Emeritus at Harvard University, gave the 2013 Maxwell-Roddey lecture on the topic: “African American Families in the Twenty-first Century”. The 2014 lecture titled “North Carolina’s Rejection of Medicaid Expansion: Politicizing the Health of Our Society?” was delivered Dr. Yele Aluko, Senior Vice President at Novant Health, Medical Director of the Novant Health Heart and Vascular Institute, and an avid advocate for equity in health service delivery.

**THE 2015 BERTHA-MAXWELL LECTURE (from page 4)**

Akin Ogundiran (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/ Africana Studies) Co-Chair
Gregory Mixon (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/ History) Co-Chair
Oweeta Shands (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/ Africana Studies) Coordinator
Takiyah Amin (College of Arts and Architecture/ Dance)
Chanel Davis (Events Manager, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture)
Oscar de la Torre (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/ Africana Studies)
Tafo Feimster (Founder and President, Latibah Collard Green Museum)
Kali Ferguson (Cultural Educator)
Scott Gartlan (Charlotte Teachers Institute)
Victor Mack (College of Education, Director, Office of Educational Outreach)
Lisa Merriweather (College of Education)
Sonya Ramsey (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/ History and WGST)
Bridgette Sanders (Atkins Library)
Debra Smith (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/ Africana Studies)
Kerrie Stewart (Special Assistant to the Council on University Community)
David Taylor (President, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture)
Malik Tillman (Student Representative)
Kimberly D. Turner (Director, Multicultural Resource Center)
At the height of the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa in 2014, the Council on University Community chaired by Provost Joan Lorden and the African Studies Academy coordinated by Dr. Beth Whitaker played leadership roles in facilitating educational programs for the members of the university and Greater Charlotte communities. These helped to guide a well-coordinated and informed response by the university to the concerns about the spread of the virus in different parts of the world, including the United States.

On October 8, 2014, UNC Charlotte political science alumnus Benjamin Sanvee spoke on campus about the crisis in his home country of Liberia. He was in the midst of running for a Senate seat in Monrovia when the Ebola outbreak prompted him to suspend his campaign and channel resources instead toward assisting victims and combatting the spread of the virus. At the event, Mr. Sanvee spoke about people whose lives had been personally affected and about the many heroes in Liberia who were stepping up to address the situation. He also expressed gratitude to the United States and other countries that were sending health care workers and other resources to assist in West Africa. Approximately 130 students, faculty, and community members were in attendance, and two local television stations covered the event.

The Council on University Community followed up on October 28 with a campus-wide conversation titled “Ebola – Understanding Facts and Confronting Fears”. Coordinated by Stewart Kerrie, Special Assistant to the Council, a panelist of UNC Charlotte Africanist and epidemiology faculty – Dr. Akin Ogundiran, Dr. Diana Rowan, Dr. William Sanders, Dr. Shannon Sullivan, and Dr. Beth Whitaker - discussed the epidemiological nature of the virus, the political and socioeconomic contexts of its spread, the likely precautions, sources of up-to-date information, and the need to avoid hysteria about the virus.

On April 7, 2015, the African Studies Academy and the Council on University Community hosted “Fighting Ebola in West Africa: The Charlotte Connection”. The event, facilitated by Africanist scholar Tim Geysbeek, an adjunct faculty in the Department of History, featured a medical professional and two missionaries working for Serving in Mission (SIM), an international Christian organization based in the Charlotte area. The trio played central roles in the response to the Ebola crisis. Surgeon Dr. Debbie Eisenhut was working at ELWA Hospital in Liberia when the outbreak began and moved quickly to establish an Ebola treatment facility. She was among the doctors honored as TIME Person of the Year 2014. Dr. Eisenhut showed a series of photos depicting the challenges of treating patients with a highly contagious disease. Nancy and David Writebol also spoke about their experience as missionaries in Liberia. During their work assisting victims in the summer of 2014, Mrs. Writebol contracted Ebola and was eventually airlifted to the United States for medical treatment. Despite their ordeal, the couple had recently returned from a visit back to Liberia. Many West African immigrants attended the event (above), held at UNC Charlotte Center City, and spoke about the experiences of their loved ones.
AFRICANA EVENTS ACROSS CAMPUS: 2014-15

The department organized brown-bag seminars and co-sponsored several guest speaker engagements initiated in other academic units during the last academic session:


**Dr. Regina Bradley**, Assistant Professor of African American Literature at Armstrong State University: *The Place From Which Funky Things Come: Outkast and the Hip Hop South*. Initiated by Dr. Karen Cox – History (April 8, 2015).


![a. Dr. Melancon, flanked by Dr. Cheryl Hicks and Dr. Lewis; b. Dr. Bradley; c. Dr. Eddy Soufrant (AFRS Brown Bag); d. Dr. Oscar de la Torre presenting at the AFRS brown bag seminar](image_url)
Provost Joan Lorden and Dr. Yele Aluko at the 2014 BMR Lecture; Dr. Aluko delivering his lecture; Dr. De la Torre and Dr. Smith-Ruiz congratulating a graduating senior; Symposium on African Art at the Mint Museum (November 15, 2014), co-sponsored by AFRS.
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

B.A. Africana Studies
30 credit-hours

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