

AWH Newsletter

Department of
African American Studies,
Africana Women's Studies,
and History

@ Clark Atlanta University



African American Studies Mission

The mission of CAU African American Studies (AAS) is to offer undergraduates and graduates an interdisciplinary course of study that expands and imparts knowledge related to cultures, and the history of the African Diaspora utilizing scholarly research, theoretical inquiry and policy analysis to prepare graduates for diverse professions who will understand experiences of people of African descent and others as well as promote social justice within the global community.

Africana Women's Studies Mission

The mission of CAU Africana Women's Studies (AWS) is to offer undergraduates and graduates an interdisciplinary course of study that expands and imparts knowledge related to gender, cultures, and the history of the African Diaspora utilizing scholarly research, theoretical inquiry and policy analysis to prepare graduates for diverse professions who will understand experiences of people of African descent and others as well as promote social justice within the global community.

History Mission

The mission of CAU History (HIS) is to prepare students in the major and in other disciplines with historical knowledge of human experience, past events and the understanding of global issues, diverse cultures, and our shared humanity. The CAU history motto is "find your future in your past."

The Department of African American Studies, Africana Women's Studies, and History (AWH) is one unique department that offers degrees in three specific areas.

The AWH Department offers courses leading to the following degrees:

BA Bachelor of Arts
(HIS only)

MA Master of Arts
(AAS, AWS, or HIS)

PhD Doctorate of Philosophy in Humanities
(AAS, AWS, or HIS degree concentration)

Contact: Ms. Claudia Combs,
Administrative Secretary
(404) 880-8239
Email: ccombs@cau.edu
Website: www.cau.edu

Are you an emerging scholar-activist? Apply today!

Fall 2013 CAU Application Deadline: April 1, 2013

Due to increased interest in the AWH Department, we *strongly* encourage applicants to ensure all required materials are submitted *early*.

Call 404-880-6605 or [click here](#) to contact CAU Office of Admissions.



Greetings from Our Chair

It is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of the **Department of African American Studies, Africana Women's Studies, and History (AWH)** at Clark Atlanta University. Our department offers three separate degree programs under a unified administrative umbrella, and at a time of increasing growth in southern critical race research, our academic collective offers something truly unique.

The AWH department reflects a longstanding commitment to the principles of CAU: we research, teach and emulate a **'Culture for Service'** and during challenging times we always **'Find a Way or Make One.'** AWH students represent a rainbow of backgrounds, a broad range of research interests, and will harvest a compellingly diverse set of professional futures in scholar-activist work. In my two years at CAU, I have witnessed firsthand the tradition of student leadership as a campus cornerstone and I am blessed to be part of such a spirited academic base.

I am grateful to **AWH undergraduate and graduate students** who have served the department: The AWH Chair's Advisory Committee helped kick off the new unit and 2012-13 academic year with an outstanding orientation—they also have weighed in on all areas of departmental functions to ensure we are moving forward quickly; *numerous* students initiated service projects through AWH and keep alive the Du Boisian legacy; most notably, I thank the dynamic trio—our newsletter editorial team who helped to create this groundbreaking collection of highlights!



Rayshana Black



Yvonne Nash



Bilal Abbey

As outlined in this newsletter, my faculty colleagues are a powerful bunch. **Six full-time faculty and over ten adjunct faculty** have made this year of transition into the new department productive and seamless...virtually unheard of in academia.... Ours was a model for collegial and professional institution building and the passion for growth resulted in a willingness to pull together at crucial times. Even as I worked diligently in 2012 to fashion a solid foundation for our administrative core, my colleagues' matched commitment to AWH allowed me to ensure my own research agenda remained on track: in 2013, SUNY Press will publish my manuscript **Swag Diplomacy: Guiding Youth Empowerment with 200 Black Travel Narratives** to accompany the online, interactive Library of Congress Viewshare database <http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2012/09/back-to-school-with-viewshare/>.

Of course, I offer my appreciation, professional respect, and enduring love to my husband and colleague, **Mr. Curtis Byrd**, head of CAU Graduate Admissions, whose clear and creative vision led me here to Atlanta and Clark Atlanta University in the first place. *BYRD--thanks for always makin' it happen!* Lastly, **President Carlton E. Brown's** enthusiasm to reestablish the legacy of W. E. B. Du Bois at Clark Atlanta University has enabled work on a once-in-a-lifetime project! Brown's support was essential to my ability to craft a sojourn into our shared academic heritage. I see Dr. Du Bois's *interdisciplinary, collaborative and engaged research* as a fitting guide for AWH's quest toward a more connected CAU scholarly community. Check out this newsletter's last page to discover how you can become a part of the **CAU Du Bois Legacy Project. We dream and work in the memory of all who have come before us.**



**Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans,
AWH Department Chair**

Education

PhD, Afro-American Studies
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Research Interests

~ Black women's intellectual history
~ African American autobiography, memoir and Black travel narratives:

Publications

Books: *Black Women in the Ivory Tower, 1850-1954, An Intellectual History. African Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education.* **Articles:** *GRIOT, International Journal of Women's Studies, Black Women, Gender, & Families, Feminist Teacher, Thought and Action, International Journal of the Humanities, and African American Research Perspectives.*

Honor Societies

Phi Beta Kappa ~ Phi Kappa Phi

Campus and Community Service

Originator and organizer of the W. E. B. Du Bois Legacy Project

Contact

Email: sevans@cau.edu

Website: www.professorevans.net



Full Time Faculty Profiles



Dr. Daniel Black

Education: PhD, African American Studies, Temple University
Research Interests: Black Male Studies, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Middle Passage (Maafa), and Ancient African Initiation Systems
Dissertation Title: Dismantling Black Manhood: An historical and literary analysis of the Legacy of Slavery
Publications: *Dismantling Black Manhood* (1997); *They Tell Me of a Home* (2005); *The Sacred Place* (2007); *Perfect Peace* (2010); *Twelve Gates to the City* (2012); "The Price of the Presidency: At least for a Black man" in Melvin Rahming's edited book titled, *Reaffirming the Hope: Critical Essays on Barack Obama*
Campus & Community Engagement: Ndugu-Nzinga Student Rites of Passage Society

Education: PhD, Graduate Institute for Liberal Arts, concentration: African American and Women's Education, Emory University
Research Interests: African American Women's Spirituality School desegregation (Sociology of Education), Oral history, and African American women's autobiography
Dissertation: *Wearing My Name: School Desegregation in Greensboro, North Carolina, 1954-1958*
Publications: Chapter on Africana Women's Studies in *Anthology of Women's Studies Programs*, ed. Aaronette White (forthcoming, 2012); Book Review in *Journal of Ethnic Studies* (January 2012). Bradley, Josephine, Deborah Cook, Deidre McDonald, and Sarah North. "We, They and Us: Stories of STEM Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *Doing Diversity in Higher Education*, Rutgers University Publication, 2006; Articles: Sustainability of Black Studies Program, *Journal of International Africana Studies*, (2006); *Monograph on Brown v. Board of Education*, Southern Policy Publication, Clark Atlanta University, (2003).



Dr. Josephine Bradley



Dr. Latangela Coleman-Crossfield

Education: DAH, Humanities (African American History concentration) Clark Atlanta University
Research Interests: Analyzing the impact of sexism on women in secular institutions and writing historical novels.
Dissertation: *The Impact of Sexism on African American Women Ministers in Methodism.*
Publications: *A Pilot Study of The Impact of Sexism on African American Women Ministers in Methodism: 1980-2000*; *Forever Seventeen: The Bianca Dillard Story*, Forthcoming Publication; *Crushed Ice: A Memoir*, January 2014
Teaching: African and The World, African American History, Georgia History, Oral History
Campus & Community Engagement: APEX Museum and The Attorney Michael King Foundation (Volunteer), Natural and Proud Sistah's Organization (Advisor), National Black Council Society, American Association for Blacks in Higher Education, National Organization for Professional Development, ASLAH, Oral History Association & University Effectiveness Committee (Advisor).

Full Time Faculty Profiles cont.



Dr. Richard Morton

Education: PhD, History, University of Illinois

Research interests: American political, urban, twentieth and nineteenth century American history.

Publications: Books: *Justice and Humanity*, Edward F. Dunne, *Illinois Progressive* (SIU, 1988); *A political commerce: Roger C. Sullivan, John P. Hopkins, and the rise of the Modern Chicago Democracy, 1881-1906*. Submitted for publication.

Articles: "A Victorian Tragedy: The Strange Deaths of Mayor Carter H. Harrison and Patrick Eugene Pendergast." *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, spring 2003; "Public Transportation and the Failure of Municipal Socialism in Chicago, 1905-07." *Illinois History Teacher*, summer 2000; "Man of Belial: Roger C. Sullivan, the Progressive Democracy, and the Senatorial Elections of 1914," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, winter 1999; "Means of Grace: Directions in Presbyterian Home Mission Policy," *American Presbyterians*, *Journal of Presbyterian History*, winter 1994; Edward F. Dunne. "Illinois' Most Progressive Governor," *Illinois Historical Journal*, winter 1990.

Teaching: American History, European History, Historical Methods, Graduate History Methodology

Education: PhD, History, Georgia State University

Dissertation Title: The African American Megachurch and Prosperity Theology (this dissertation manuscript is currently under review for book publication)

Research Interests: African American History, Contemporary Religious History/ the Black Church, 20th Century Social Movements

Teaching: US, Africa, and the World, US History, African American History, History of Africa since 1800, Jim Crow South, African American History Graduate Seminars

Campus & Community Engagement: Department Liaison for the Study Abroad Program, Library Advisory Committee, Faculty Advisor for DuBois Society, Faculty Advisor for Onyx Basketball Dance Team, Volunteer- Destiny's Daughter of Promise



Dr. Charmayne Patterson

Education: PhD, History, Georgia State University.

Dissertation: "The Apocalypse will be televised: Representations of the Cold War on Network Television, 1976-1987"

Research Interests: Post war-US history, Cold War, World history, History of Media, Cultural History

Publications: "Examining *The Day After*: The White House's response to the ABC made-for-tv movie," under review in the *Journal of Television and Film*; "Redefining Cold War Cinema: Religion, the Middle East and the importance of the *Ten Commandments*," under review in the *Journal of Cold War Studies*. "Selling Iran-Contra: The Cultural Representations of Latin Americans during the Reagan Years," under review in *Studies in Popular Culture*.

Teaching: US in the Twentieth-Century, Directed Readings Cold War/Civil Rights, U.S. History to 1865, U.S. History from 1865 to Present

Campus & Community Engagement: CAU History Department 201/202 Coordinator; CAU History Minor Coordinator; CAU Task Force Technology, Information, and Media subcommittee; CAU Task Force "General Education Committee"



Dr. Aubrey Underwood

A Special Thank You to Our Longtime AWH Supporters:

Dean Shirley Williams-Kirksey Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Viktor Osinubi Director, PhD in Humanities Program

AWH Adjunct Faculty

<p>Dr. Jesse Benjamin Dr. Juliet Blackburn-Beamon Ms. Regina Bradley Dr. Regina Bryant Mr. Gregory Fuller Ms. Christy Garrison-Harrison Dr. Richard Hill</p>	<p>Mr. Peter McDade Ms. Angela McMillan, JD Mr. Nubian Mzekewe, JD Dr. Georgianne Thomas Dr. Mary Twinning Dr. Cameron Van Patterson Dr. Thomas Scott</p>	<p>Dr. Shirley Waters-White Mr. John Williams</p> <p>AWH Graduate Student Adjuncts: Ms. Kathleen Oluwajuyemi Mr. N. Josiah Pamoja Mr. Alfred Worley</p>
--	---	--

PANTHER ADJUNCT FEATURES: Alumni Investing in the Legacy through Teaching

Education: J.D., Woodrow Wilson School of Law; , M.A. The Atlanta University
Research interest: Evidence of the African Diaspora
Publications: Amazing Grace: A History of the Charles & Cam McMillan Family (1830-1988),(1989); Fish Fry: Tales From the Low Country (1999); Substance of Things Hoped For: Documentary History of the U.S
Paper Title: for 2013 CAU W. E. B. Du Bois 50th Anniversary Commemorative Conference: WEB DU BOIS On The Executive Branch in America; Abstract: " How far in a State can a recognized moral wrong safely be compromised? " This question formulated by one of the first intellectual African Americans after the Civil War in the U.S., Dr. WEB Du Bois , in his written masterpiece, The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the USA, was also addressed indirectly in most of his writings. A renown social scientist, civil rights advocate, author and professor during the 1st half of the 20th century, Du Bois' wrote openly about injustices of executive actions regarding what he termed as "moral wrongs" against the "natural law" and rights of its citizens. A synopsis from examination of selected writings by him reveal the intensity and extent of Du Bois' commitment to analyze discrimination and in so doing documented the position of the executive branch of the United States government towards racism.



Angela McMillan, JD



Christy Garrison-Harrison

Education: doctoral candidate in History, pursuing certificate in Women's Studies, Georgia State University; M. A. in African American History; B. A. History, Clark Atlanta University.
Research interests: intersectional examinations of civil rights activism in Atlanta, Georgia, women in the Civil Rights Movement, the African- American labor struggle post World War II, and contemporary southern history with an emphasis on role of economics in racism. Specifically, Garrison-Harrison's research studies the political leadership and community activism of Mrs. Ella Mae Brayboy, Dr. Pearlle Dove, and Ms. Dorothy Bolden to illustrate Black women in leadership roles. Secondary research interests include nineteenth century colonial and colonized Women and Afro-Latino women of the African Diaspora.
Teaching: United States History, African American History, African American Women's History, and World Civilizations. **Awards:** Summer Fellow by the National Council for Black Studies (2010) and in 2012, was awarded the John O. Alexander Award for Outstanding Graduate Student at GSU; appointed to the Atlanta City Council Commission to Honor Mrs. Ella Mae Brayboy and commissions to honor the first 16 African American Firefighters/Tiger Flowers, the first African American middleweight.
Publications: book reviews in *Journal of African American History* SAWH H-Net; editorial content, *United States, Africa, and The World: A History Reader*, 3rd and 4th Editions, Tapestry Press, 2010, 2012. **Affiliations:** Association of Georgia State University Historians (AGSUH,) the American Historical Association (AHA,) Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH,) Southeastern Conference On African American Studies, Inc. (SCAASI,) and The World History Association (WHA).

AWH Graduate Student Profiles

Sheryvone Bascombe

Education: BA, Mass Communications, Bethune-Cookman University

Research interests: The study of cultures with women as minorities; The world's view on the physicality and mentality of African women; The social status of minority women in the United States; African American Women's beliefs on interracial relationships and homosexuality; Opinions on women in relationships and marriage

Clarissa Frances

Education: BA, Africana Studies, Bowling Green State University

Research interests: Sexual health of Black women, public health, health promotion in the Black community

Thesis Title: "A Comparison of Sexual Health Peer Education at Bowling Green State University and Clark Atlanta University and its Relation to Black College Women's Sexual Health."

Campus and Community Engagement: CAU's Student Health Services' H-PEERS (health peer education organization), Graduate Assistant, CAU's Africana Studies Organization, Public Relations Chair

Jamilah Shabazz

Education: BS, Psychology and Africana Studies, San Diego State University

Research interests: Sexuality/Queer studies; Media's effects on perception of ourselves and others; International views on; gender, race, and sexuality; Women and spirituality; Colorism among diverse groups

Thesis Title: "American Media's effects on International Perceptions of Blackness, specifically Black Women."

Campus and Community Engagement: YouthPride Volunteer and People of Color Forum Facilitator, IAME (CAU LGBTQ Organization) Vice President

Trenton Bailey

Education: BA, African American Studies, Morehouse College; MA African American Studies, CAU

Research interests: "Earth, Wind, & Fire," African Civilizations, The Black presence in the Bible

Dissertation Title: "The Elements: How Earth, Wind, & Fire Changed the Style of Black Pop Music."

Campus and Community Engagement: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Robert Lee Edwards

Education: BS, Florida A&M University, Political Science (English and Social Science Education minor) *cum laude*

Research Interests: African American Literary History and Criticism, 19th Century African American Novel, Early American Fiction, Early African American Women's Fiction, Classical Literary Theory and Criticism

Dissertation Title: "African Eco-Criticism: Discourse on Literary Theory and the African Personality"

Campus and Community Engagement: I mentor freshmen students at Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University.

LaSella Hall

Education: Bachelors of Liberal Arts, History, La Salle University

Research interests: School integration, political science (elections and presidential politics), Black male gender studies Black leadership.

Publications: "The Prodigal Youth" in *The Takeover Magazine* (2006)

Teaching: Teaching 6th-12th grades in CCSD and APS

Campus and Community Engagement: Student Government Association, House of Delegates, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Psi Chapter, Africana Studies Organization

Derrick Napoleon

Education: MA, Museum Studies, Southern University

Research Interests: Pan-Africanism, Colorism, Race, Class, Sex and Gender, Egyptian hieroglyphics/cosmogony, Red Summer of 1919.

Campus and Community Engagement: AmeriCorps

Graduate Student Profiles

Nicole Sullivan

Education: BS, Social Science, Troy University

Research interests: Social mobility, graduate mentoring, African American life and experiences.

Thesis Title: "Effective Mentoring, Persistence, and Educational Outcomes of Graduate Students."

Publications: Book review. "Learning in a Burning House: Educational Inequality, Ideology, and (Dis)Integration" by Sonya Douglass Horsford. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. In Press; Book review. "Black, Brown, and Beige: Surrealist writings from Africa and the Diaspora" by Franklin Rosemont and Robin D.G. Kelley. *Western Journal of Black Studies*. Volume 35, Issue 3. September 2011. Book review. "Dreams of Africa in Alabama" by Sylviane Diouf. *Journal of Negro Education*. Volume 80, Number 4. Fall 2011.

Campus and Community Engagement: Africana Studies Organization, Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society

Terry Thomas

Education: MA, African American Studies, Clark Atlanta University

Thesis Title: "Afri-Cobra: A Black Revolutionary Arts Movement and Arts for People's Sake."

Campus and Community Engagement: African American Cultural Arts Organization of Palm Beach County Florida (AACAO), founder, World African Diaspora Union (WADU)



We thank Dr. Tate for her central role as a knowledgeable, talented and committed advisor to the CAU Du Bois Legacy Project!

OUTSTANDING AWH ALUMNI: DR. R. CANDY TATE

Class of 2012 and a CAU Family Legacy

Employment: Assistant Director of Emory College's Center for Creativity & Arts and an adjunct professor at Atlanta Metropolitan State College in the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts teaching Art History and Art Appreciation

Fourth Generation CAU Graduate: parents Dr. Gerald L. Tate, Jr. and Dr. Theopia Johnson Tate (Clark College); grandparents Mr. Theodore Winston Johnson and Hilda Canon Johnson (Clark College) great aunt Rachel Rogers Fox (Atlanta University)

Education: BA, Art History (Emory University). MPA with Non-profit Administration concentration (Georgia State University), MA, Art History (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Dissertation Title: "'Our Art Itself was Our Activism': Atlanta's Neighborhood Arts Center, 1975-1990"

Campus and Community Engagement: Volunteer /Member, CAU Art Galleries; Intern, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Special Collections; co-curator "Searching for a New Land: reconstructing the Historical Geography of African American Migration and Settlement" CAU Lecture; American Research Center in Egypt-Georgia Chapter, titled "Egypt in Africa: The Politics of Knowledge"; Buckhead/ Cascade City Chapter, The Links, Inc., Arts Co-Chair, Program Co-chair serving the Woolfolk Boys & Girls Club and Jerusalem House, a shelter for women with HIV/AIDS and their children. Stone Mountain/Lithonia Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Charter Member and Former Vice President. Treasurer, Visual Arts Ministry at Ben Hill United Methodist Church. Atlanta Oral History Roundtable, President; Atlanta Metropolitan State College, Vice-President, American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Georgia Chapter.

Scholarly Success! A Sample of 2012 AWH Thesis and Dissertation Defenses

Congratulations to Two Scholars with Outstanding Research Topics

Augustus Wood III is in his fifth year as a tenured teacher in United States History at Benjamin E. Mays High School where he was awarded both the Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award and the Eagle Leadership Academy Teacher of the Year Award (2011-2012). Born and raised in Atlanta, his career in history flourished under the mentorship of renowned southern historians, Dr. Alton Hornsby Jr. and Dr. Marcellus Barksdale of Morehouse College. He has written numerous papers on various political and socioeconomic topics in Black culture, including "Perchance to American Dream: The Search and Seizure of Modernity and Nationalism on the Cuban Baseball Field, 1868-1970," and "From Ballots to Bullets: The Politics of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot," both submitted for publication. His thesis, discusses the discourse of racial consciousness and the magnification of masculine icons within sports. He argues, "As the Black community witnessed both Jack Johnson and Muhammad Ali continuously thrive and capture success in a predominantly white and commercial environment, they also saw the potential to showcase the greatest aspects of the American Black race not just nationally, but also globally to other Black groups. Therefore, race consciousness would both intensify and spread if powerful, masculine icons continued to dominate in societal contests like sports." Upon completion of his Master's in history, he will immediately pursue the PhD in history with his dissertation focusing on the political life of former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson.



Wood's Research:
The Sixth Finger:
Jack Johnson,
Muhammad Ali, and
the Unconscious
Race Hero in Sports

**Master's Thesis,
HISTORY**



Mabhunu's Research:
Knowledge of HIV Transmission
among Zimbabwean Adolescent
Females in Metropolitan Atlanta,
GA

**Doctoral Dissertation,
AFRICANA WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Loveness Mabhunu is a native of Zimbabwe and a doctoral student in Africana Women's Studies at Clark Atlanta University. A recipient of Fulbright Scholarship and Delta Kappa Gamma World Fellowship, she graduated from the University of Zimbabwe, with a BA HONS and MA in Religious Studies with a concentration in Hebrew language and Old Testament. She is a professor on study leave in the Department of Religious Studies, Classics and Philosophy at the University of Zimbabwe. She has worked with Women Organizations and The Girl Child Network in Zimbabwe. Dr. Mabhunu has experience as a researcher in the following areas: women, girl child and HIV/AIDS; traditional Zimbabwean sex culture and its relevance to HIV prevention; and African traditional religions. In October 2012, she completed and successfully defended her dissertation on adolescents and HIV/AIDS in Atlanta, GA. She has presented papers at conferences and seminars in Zimbabwe, Mexico City and the United States.

DEPARTMENT NEWS



AWH at ASALH 2012 in Pittsburgh, PA

~Newsletter Staff (All three of our newsletter staff attended ASALH!)

On October 24, 2012 several graduate and undergraduate students along with some staff from the AWH Department traveled to Pittsburgh, PA to take part in the annual ASALH conference. The Clark Atlanta presence was definitely felt by various panelists: **Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon** and **Dr. Sonia Sanchez** remarked that they could "feel the love among the CAU family." The two pioneers of artistic expression were featured in a plenary session chaired by our very own Dr. Stephanie Evans. The conference theme was Black Women in American Culture and History and their numerous accomplishments and contributions that have fueled African American political and social progress. It was surprising to know that most of the panelists where the first historians to do extensive research on the women that were being discussed, like Lillie Jackson, Lulla B. White, and other women marginalized in areas like history of blues or civil rights and grassroots movement scholarship. Panelists from over 80 different universities ranged from first year graduate students to esteemed professors like **Professor John Bracey** and **Professor Darlene Clark Hine**. One panel even featured in-depth discussion between Grammy-winning artists **Les Nubians** and cultural theorists **Regina Bradley** and **Moya Bailey**!

It was refreshing to see scholars not far out of undergraduate studies leading the way in research that is yielding information about the lives, work, and personalities of some very influential Black women. It was unfortunate though to know that most of the history received in the 200 plus panel sessions is not being taught in schools across America. This is partially because primary sources being uncovered were previously dismissed by earlier historians, because they did not provide insight on the lives of African American, American or international men. If there was anything learned at this year's annual ASALH conference, it was that for too long and too often the priceless contributions and sacrifices made by women have not been recognized, and that to ignore them is to not only ignore our past, but also to be an inadequate scholar. We hope to attend next year's ASALH conference in Florida, and impact each panel as active listeners, thoughtful presenters, and curious students of history and culture.



DEPARTMENT NEWS



OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER PROFILE: Dr. Daniel Black

~ Rayshana Black

Dr. Daniel Black is simply an indescribable presence within the AWH department, and without a doubt an irrevocable pillar of our CAU community. He personifies Clark Atlanta University's "Black experience." One class with Dr. Black will forever leave an imprint on your soul. His energy draws students from all over Atlanta, piling into a 5x8 office and overflowing into the hallways of the AWH Department. We call him *Baba*, which means priest, father, mentor, and teacher. He is described as a mentor and educator that enlightens and transforms his students' intellectual concepts to perceive life as a continuum in a learning process. He whole-heartedly believes that spiritual occurrences are cornerstones of life, and he recognizes each students' capabilities as "stepping stones" in their spiritual and life path. In a brief interview with Baba Omotosho, I asked what continues to inspire him as an educator and author. His response was as simplistic as his demeanor: As an educator, "I see teaching more as gift, than as skill. I am as concerned with inspiring students as I am with just wanting students to gain knowledge.... I want you to have the knowledge and BE inspired to know more."

I first met Baba holding the poster board of his third published novel, *Perfect Peace*. It was a novel that promised to deliver an incredible impact on its audience...the novel did just that. *Perfect Peace* has earned monumental recognition including as this year's Detroit's book of the year. Two novels later, his characters continue to inspire the CAU community, and his is the effervescent light that illumines our AWH Department. His novels speak of timeless themes and roles that we, as a community, have challenges in accepting. One of my most influential figures during my tenure at CAU, he never ceases to evolve as a writer, which is apparent in his works, *They Tell Me of a Home*, *Perfect Peace*, and *The Coming* (2013). As an author, he finds that his greatest source of inspiration comes from the rain. The rain, he describes, is his balm. He states, "water draws spirit and energy" and allows the energies of the characters to speak to him. The most compelling parts of his novels are the conclusions. They are cliff-hangers designed to leave the audience inspired or in suspense. The irony is that Dr. Black struggles most with the conclusions, as he always envisions an alternate ending than what is written.

One of the greatest masterminds of Black literature of the 21st century can be found wandering the halls of the AWH department. His newest novel, titled *THE COMING*, has already met with preliminary critical acclaim and is anticipated to be released in late 2013. We have a gem in our midst. His contributions to contemporary Black literature have been the beacon of light for people who are struggling to withstand adversity. Dr. Daniel Black, Baba Omotosho, represents the authenticity of a peoples' voice that has too often been deemed voiceless. **For more info, visit <http://danielblack.org/>.**

Recent Awards:

2006 and 2012 Townsend Prize for Fiction Finalist
 Detroit's One City One Book
 Mid-Atlantic Writers Association and Morgan State University Conference on *Perfect Peace*

Invited Speaker:

The Chattahoochee Review Guest Author Series
 Atlanta Black Theatre Festival

Book Club Picks:

Las Vegas, Athens, Philadelphia

Non-Profit Training Conference

~ Newsletter Staff

Dr. Josephine Bradley and several AWH students have been instrumental in developing and sustaining community partnerships throughout Atlanta, the state and the nation. One such partnership is the Non-Profit Training Conference. On October 25-26, 2012, attendees participated in panel discussions dealing with tax-exempt nonprofit regulatory issues, a funders' panel describing program initiatives and community partnerships available to offer funding opportunities to viable nonprofits, and training sessions that taught organizations how to apply for specific funding programs and how to develop their capacity to serve as viable community partners. Regional directors, program coordinators, and professional consultants and trainers conducted 30 training sessions during the two-day period. A networking session was scheduled for Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for conferees to meet and greet.



Tupac Conference at AUC Woodruff Library

~ Courtney Terry

A collection of Tupac Shakur's private papers were donated in 2009 by his mother Afeni Shakur Davis and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation. Since then, the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library has highlighted the collection and engaged a new generation of hip-hop scholars to facilitate a deeper understanding of the music and the man. In fall 2012, the library coordinated the first Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection Conference: Hip Hop, Education And the Archival Imagination. Several renowned scholars and hip-hop legends attended. This was the inaugural conference and set a precedent for international scholarly inquiry. I was selected to present my research paper: "Ain't Trickin' If You Got It: Identifying the Trickster Tradition in Contemporary Rap Music" in which I discuss the trickster tradition and its presence and impact in the Black music tradition. I was well received by the panelists and the audience was engaged and had good questions. I look forward to participating in the next conference and contributing to the canonization of the rap music tradition. The conference schedule can be viewed online at <http://research.auctr.edu/content.php?pid=305696&sid=2854548>.



Dr. Greg Kimathi Carr: Fall 2012 AWH Lecture

"The Impact and Implications of the Maafa"

~ Rava Chapman

While on this path of academic excellence, there may come a time, about mid-semester, when the reservoir of will-power and drive reach seemingly record low levels. A dose of re-mental-stimulation is much needed. In a hot, overcrowded room on a Friday evening in November, an insightful lecture took place on the campus of CAU. Dr. Greg Kimathi Carr, of Howard University, presented the Maafa, in conjunction with contributions of notable intellectuals, as vital tools that must be utilized in the task of racial uplift and the attainment of true freedom. The Maafa, which denotes the adaptive nature of the Africana experience due to African Holocaust, has its place in the academia. Perhaps, it is our call to incorporate this nature, or the awareness of this way of being, into our lives and work. For those that needed reaffirmation for the decision to be subjected to the woes of Academia (or anything you have been called to undertake), this was the event for you.

AWH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Africana Studies Organization (ASO)

The ASO of the African American Studies, Africana Women's Studies, and History Department (AWH) hosts regular general body meetings throughout the academic year.

You are cordially invited to attend and join in the fellowship as the proud students of the AWH Department come together to kick off another great semester of scholarship here at Clark Atlanta University. You will enjoy a warm, friendly environment and an assortment of pleasant treats to eat. This is the official student organization of the AWH Department and where students can find a sense of intellectual and social connection as well as get a sense of what is happening in the department and on campus. There is a strong service component that enhances the academic experience as well.

Most recently, ASO honored our organization's advisor, Dr. Josephine Bradley, for her outstanding service and commitment as Department Chair of the African American Studies, Africana Women's Studies Department for over 10 years. Her dedication to our department has resulted in one of the highest graduation rates here at CAU.

There are many opportunities to get involved with academic and community projects, so contact us to see what is happening next!

ASO Officers:

Arnetta Slaughter

ASO President

LaSella Hall

ASO Vice President

Jayme Canty

ASO Secretary

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta is an honor society for undergraduate and graduate students and professors of history. The society has over 350,000 members, with about 9,500 new members joining each year through 860 local chapters.

Undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours (4 courses) in History achieve a minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and a GPA of 3.0 or better overall. Only 3 credit hours of online, transfer, or AP credits may be applied to the membership eligibility requirement.

Membership is not limited to History majors. Graduate students should have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours towards their Master's Degree in History, have a GPA of better than 3.5, and shall have completed approximately 30% of the residence requirements for the Master's Degree. For information, contact the faculty Phi Theta Alpha advisory, **Dr. Richard Morton** or graduate student member **Lauren Brisbon**.

Alpha Epsilon Lambda

Alpha Epsilon Lambda, an interdisciplinary graduate honor society was established as a national graduate student honor society in 1990. The Alpha Tau Chapter was established at Clark Atlanta University in 2010 by Lauren Williams, MPA. She served as President for the year 2010.

Gayle K. Watts, ABD (President) and **Demisha Burns**, MSW (Vice President) have led AEL since 2011.

The Mission of the national AEL is to:

- confer distinction for high achievement
- Promote Leadership Development
- Enrich the intellectual environment of graduate education
- Encourage high standards of ethical behavior

The Mission of the Alpha Tau Chapter include the above as well as the promotion of service, academic excellence and camaraderie amongst all graduate students at Clark Atlanta University.

Membership is by invitation only.

To be considered for invitation, a graduate student must:

- Be financially enrolled
- Have at least 12 hours of course work completed
- Have an overall GPA in the 35th percentile of campus graduate students
- Be able to demonstrate at least one year of leadership through their involvement on on-campus or off-campus community service

Letters of invitation go out via the students campus e-mail January/February of each year. The Induction Ceremony is held in April of each year.



Special Thanks to the Chair's Advisory Committee:

Rava Chapman
LaSella Hall
Alicia Fontnette
Yvonne Nash
N. Josiah Pamoja
Paul Slack
Gayle Watts
Tamara White

AWH: Home of the W. E. B. Du Bois Legacy Project

The year 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois. Dr. Du Bois wrote his most influential works in the 23 years he spent as a professor at Atlanta University, in History and Economics (1897 to 1910) and as chair of Sociology (1934 to 1944). Du Bois also impacted the area of social work and as a novelist, poet, and short story writer. Thus, for his birthday, it is fitting that Clark Atlanta University celebrate his life and scholarship with a global gathering: **The W. E. B. Du Bois and the Wings of Atlanta Conference, February 20-23, 2013.**

In 2012, with support from a Georgia Humanities Council (GHC) grant, CAU hosted a yearlong seminar on the major works of Du Bois. The CAU President, Provost, and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, joined Dr. Evans to kick off a sustained consideration of Du Boisian texts in preparation for the 2013 Conference.

Over 50 faculty from CAU, Atlanta University Center, Metro-Atlanta universities and notable CAU alumni participated in the seminars by offering insightful papers.

The full set of 40 Du Bois Seminar videos are now available on the website!

At the February 2013 conference, scholars will meet at the crossroads of Du Bois's work. In 30 sessions held over 4 days, 150 conference presenters will engage in an interdisciplinary, international introspection of the life, scholarship and activism of one of the most influential intellectuals of the 20th century. Attendees will include Arthur McFarlane (Dr. Du Bois's great-grandson), Sonia Sanchez and Amiri Baraka.

On February 23, we will dedicate a sculpture (an Odeleye bust of Du Bois) to CAU. We are bringing the "dream, deed and memory" of Dr. Du Bois home to the HBCU where he spent the most significant portion of his academic career.

Visit the CAU Du Bois website to support the legacy!
www.cau.edu/dubois.aspx



Featured video:
CAU President Carlton E. Brown

[Dr. Brown's Video Link](#)



Artist:
[Odeleye Sculpture Studios](#)

Thank You CAU Administrators for Encouraging Undergraduate and Graduate Student Scholarship!

In October 2012, eighteen students and three faculty from Humanities and the AWH Department attended the 97th ASALH convention in Pittsburgh. This was possible through encouragement by Dr. Joseph Silver, Dr. Jeff Phillips, Dean Shirley Williams-Kirksey, and head of the Humanities program, Dr. Viktor Osinubi. Below are sentiments of gratitude for support of intellectual and professional development of up-and-coming CAU scholars. This support is essential for the next generation of scholars to exchange ideas and gain leadership in professional organizations including ASALH, NCBS, AHA, OHA, ASCAC, ASWAD, NWSA and several other professional organizations. After this experience, students can now move from attendance to presentation, as did AWH doctoral student **Lauren Brisbon** whose ASALH paper on Martin Luther King Jr. and W. E. B. Du Bois was well received!

"As a struggling graduate student, one finds it difficult to receive an opportunity to go out of the state for a conference. My classmates and I want to thank you for providing us the funding to attend the Association for the Study of African American Life and History conference. This conference helped shape my future research endeavors. Because of your kindness, my classmates and I could engage with other scholars within our field and expand our knowledge." ~ Jayme Canty

"Never before in my graduate career have I attended a conference of this magnitude and scope. Although this year's theme was, *Black Women in American Culture and History*, there were venues designed to satisfy any and every intellectual taste. Visiting the August Wilson Center for African American History located in downtown Pittsburgh was one of the highlights of the convention, as well as being in attendance for the plenary sessions featuring Mary Frances-Berry speaking about the life and legacy of Derrick Bell and his scholarship pertaining to 'Critical Race Theory.'" First impressions are lasting impressions and I am extremely confident that our delegation from Clark-Atlanta University in a positive light did just that. Next year's conference is being held in Jacksonville, Florida and I look forward with great anticipation to attending.

~ Derrick Napoleon

"I met and exchanged ideas with others in my field as well as complimentary academic areas that included Dr. Joanne A. Sutherland, Dr. Joselli Audain Deans, Arika Easley (Hudson Community College), Karla Zelya, (Massachusetts Amherst) from whom I garnered intensive information about the highs and lows of the Ph.D. journey. I spoke with Helene Faussart of Les Nubians and Eola L. Dance of the National Park Service. Other individuals of interest include Justin P. Dunnivant, (University of Florida) and Elvatrice P. Belsches, Historical Researcher. During the conference I also had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Janice Sumler-Edmond, (Houston-Tillotson University), Paula Wright Coleman, Director of Cultural Programs/Grants Manager for African Diaspora Ancestral Commemoration Institute (ADACI), Dr. Wilmer J. Leon, (Howard University), Dr. Talitha LeFlouria, (Florida Atlantic University), and Dr. Daina Ramey Berry, (University of Texas Austin). The most fulfilling moments of the conference were meeting Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon and Dr. Paula Giddings... Our presence at conferences benefits CAU scholars intellectually, professionally, and personally and I believe student scholar attendance at conferences can be an ultimate mode of recruitment for CAU." ~ Anonymous and Appreciative