W.E.B. Du Bois Department Founders Esther Terry and Ekwueme Michael Thelwell Retire

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Photo credit: Edward Cohen
Sidney Kaplan, Jules Chametsky, Esther Terry and Michael Thelwell, along with William Darity, Chancellor Randolph Browney, and others, launched what was then a hopeful, experimental, and interdisciplinary idea in U.S. higher education which, in 1970, was officially approved by the UMass Board of Trustees; creating the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies.

We have come a long way since 1969, but our journey has barely begun. In December 2008, for example, with the help of a College of Humanities and Fine Arts Visioning Grant, the Department launched a special series of programs examining the cultural and political history of African Americans in the 1960s and 1970s. In the series we critically explore the Black Arts, Black Power, and Black Studies movements that shaped the terrain on which our department stands.

We started our “Visions of Empowerment” series with the visual arts (see article on p. 9) and looked at the connection between struggle-minded artists and struggling black communities. We continue to learn from the experiences of creative activists as we work to develop the Greater Springfield-UMass Partnership initiative.

Our roundtable event in March 2009, on “Black Women and Black Power,” brought together Cheryl Clarke of Rutgers University, Andrea Rushing of Amherst College, Daphne Lamothe of Smith College, and Dayo Gore and Yemisi Jimoh of UMass Amherst. Following their insightful opening remarks, a dynamic discussion ensued that will soon be available on DVD for those interested in viewing the program.

In April 2009, our last Visioning event for the year explored the future, present, and past of Black Studies. Presentations from founders Esther Terry and Michael Thelwell, undergraduate and graduate student panels, and a closing roundtable session of Five Colleges Afro-American/Black Studies faculty (José Celso Castro Alves and Amy Jordan), traced the roots of the field and the routes we are taking in the 21st century to teach and develop the body of knowledge that defines our interdiscipline. We invited broad participation in this one-day conference that was jointly sponsored with our colleagues at Amherst, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and generously supported by the Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black & Other Minority Students (CCEBMS).

As more events in this series are planned we welcome your feedback, as well as your material and moral support. We build our future on the shoulders of Esther Terry, Michael Thelwell, Shirley Graham Du Bois, David Du Bois, Max Roach, Archie Shepp, James Baldwin, and other greats who were former faculty members. Let us never forget their contributions as we continue the work of developing Africana Studies in the 21st century.

— Amilcar Shabazz
**In Tribute: Two Du Bois Department Co-founders Recognized**

Two founding members of the Du Bois Department retired this year. Below are brief tributes to their amazing record of accomplishments:

**ESTHER ALEXANDER TERRY**
was a major contributor to the development of Black Studies; Esther Terry holds a B.A. from Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, a M.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she has had a long career as both a faculty member and as an administrator. Esther first arrived in 1965 and, except for a brief stint at St. Augustine’s College in Raleigh, North Carolina, has worked to develop the UMass campus into the premier research university it is today.

A founding faculty member of the Du Bois Department, Esther was tapped to serve as its sixth Chair in 1988, a position she held until 2007. Under her leadership, the department inaugurated a Ph.D. program in 1996, the second doctoral program in Afro-American Studies to be established in the country. Esther’s administrative responsibilities have included Associate Provost for Faculty Relations from 1978 to 1983. She has also been Associate Director and Co-Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities. In 2005, she was appointed Associate Chancellor, with responsibility for oversight of the Chancellor’s Action Plan which sought to make the UMass Amherst campus more inclusive. This past year Esther has served as Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. In the Fall she will begin a new chapter in her dynamic career when she becomes the Provost of her alma mater, Bennett College. Esther will be deeply missed, but she has promised that her spirit will never leave us.

**EKWUEME MICHAEL THELWELL**
A pioneer in Afro-American Studies, in 1970 Mike Thelwell became the founding chairman of the Du Bois Department. The Jamaican-born writer, activist, educator, and intellectual received his early education at Jamaica College. He came to the United States in 1959 to attend Howard University and went on to do his graduate work at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Thelwell was active in the civil rights movement; participating in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Thelwell’s anti-apartheid activism in the 1980s resulted in successful legislation that outlawed tax write-offs for U.S.-based corporations paying taxes to the apartheid regime in South Africa. As a writer of fiction, as well as of influential essays, his work has been published nationally and internationally in journals and magazines including *The Black Scholar, Temps Moderne*, the *Partisan Review, Presence Africaine* (Paris), the *New York Times*, and *African Commentary*. His novel *The Harder They Come* (1980) has become a classic on life among Jamaican common folk. His political and literary essays are collected in *Duties, Pleasures and Conflicts* (1987). Thelwell’s literary awards include fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Centennial Medal of the Institute of Jamaica. We hope to continue to draw upon the wisdom of the “Moor of Pelham” for years to come.
Christopher Tinson is hard at work on his dissertation research on black radicalism and the *Liberator* magazine, 1960-1971. A course entitled “Black Radicalism in the U.S. and Beyond: 1960s and 1970s” he is teaching at Hampshire College is modeled after Professor Allen’s Black Power course. At the University of Connecticut, Storrs Chris taught an introductory course on African American Studies. Along with fellow W.E.B. Du Bois Department comrades Jonathan Fenderson and Anthony Ratcliff, Chris co-edited and wrote an article for a recent issue of *The Black Scholar*. In addition, Chris was one of the lead organizers of the Triggering Change: Hip-Hop, Media Justice and Social Responsibility conference held in Holyoke, Mass, April 25, 2008, which featured activists and artists from around the country. Finally, our hearty best wishes to Chris and Kyngelle Mertilien who jumped the broom this summer.

**David Lucander** was awarded the Gilder Lehrman Research Fellowship for the Spring 2008 semester. David conducted research for his dissertation entitled, “It is a New Kind of Militancy: The March on Washington Movement, 1940-1946,” at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York.

**Kabria Baumgartner** won the Phillips G. Davies Graduate Student Paper Award at the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) for her paper, “Public Pages: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Education, and Abolitionism.” Her paper is being considered for publication in the *Ethnic Studies Review*, which is the journal published by the NAES. The association also provided her with a travel grant to attend the April 2009 conference in San Diego, CA. Kabria also received a travel grant from the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) to present her paper on, “The Struggle for African American Female Education in Canterbury, Connecticut,” at the NCBS’s 33rd Annual Conference. In its early stage, her dissertation examines the political activism of African American women educators and abolitionists in 19th century United States and Canada.

**Jonathan Fenderson** has been awarded a two-year pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia’s Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American Studies. He is our first Ph.D. student to receive the prestigious fellowship. Also, his article “Toward Organizational Dialogue in Black Studies,” appeared in March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Black Studies*. “Write on” Jonathan!

**GUEST EDITORS:**

Jonathan B. Fenderson
Anthony Ratcliff
Christopher M. Tinson


Lehman book recognized.

*The Colored Cartoon: Black Representation in American Animated Short Films*, by Christopher Lehman (‘02) has been designated a Choice Outstanding Academic Title of 2008. The book is one of 700 so honored from a pool of 7,000 books reviewed each year.

*Choice* is a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Each year more than 25,000 titles are submitted to the journal for review. According to *Choice*, “The Outstanding Academic Titles are truly ‘the best of the best.’” Lehman, who is an Associate Professor in the Ethnic Studies department, also has authored *A Critical History of Soul Train on Television, and American Animated Cartoons of the Vietnam Era*. Lehman instituted the African American studies minor at St. Cloud State.

If one *Choice* title wasn’t enough…

Another book that started as a dissertation in the Du Bois Department also was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title of 2008. Dr. Jennifer Jensen-Wallach (‘04), Assistant Professor of History at Georgia College & State University, received the coveted honor for her *Closer to the Truth Than Any Fact: Memoir, Memory, & Jim Crow*.

Our 2008-09 Ph.D. graduates are working:

Dr. Thomas Edge (‘08) is a visiting professor at Northwestern University; Marieta Joyner is a lecturer at Brandeis University; Daniel McClure is an assistant professor at Grand Valley State University; Aleesia McFadden Williams is an instructor at the University of South Alabama; Zebulon Miletksy is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha; and Anthony Ratcliff is an assistant professor at California State University, Northridge. Yes, we’re proud of them!

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans (‘03) Assistant Professor, African American Studies and Women’s Studies, University of Florida, has published “Women of Color in American Higher Education” in the National Education Association’s *Journal of Thought & Action*.

Dr. Shawn Alexander (‘04) Assistant Professor, African American Studies at the University of Kansas, has been appointed its Interim Director of the Langston Hughes Center for African American Studies; the University Press of Florida has published his anthology of the writings of T. Thomas Fortune and he has published “Vengeance Without Justice, Injustice Without Retribution: The Afro-American Council’s Struggle Against Racial Violence” in the *Great Plains Quarterly*. Shawn won the 2008 Frederick C. Luebke Award for outstanding regional scholarship and is now working on a larger monograph on African American civil rights activity in the Post-Reconstruction era, for the University of Pennsylvania Press.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies would like to acknowledge the participation of several of its graduate students, alumni, and faculty at *The Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts & Letters* conference held at the University of Connecticut, March 27-29, 2008. H. Zahra Caldwell, Jason Hendrickson, Allia Matta, and McKinley Melton presented papers in the panel session “Named & Being Named: Womenspace, Gender, Topos, and Self Definition in the Harlem Renaissance.” Du Bois Department alumnus Dr. Ousmane Power-Greene, Assistant Professor of History at Clark University, shared his current research on Hubert Harrison and black literary criticism of the New Negro. Department Chair Amilcar Shabazz presented a paper on the Black Press and the New Negro. The conference featured presentations by poet Amiri Baraka and film director Spike Lee.
FACULTY NEWS

Professor John Bracey is always engaged. In 2007-08, he and Joyce Vincent were invited to Brown University to address Dr. Rhett Jones’ class on Native American and African American Relations. Bracey and Vincent use Jones’ work in their course and have exchanged ideas and materials with him over the years. While at Brown they had the opportunity to dine with Aishah Rahman, former director of the New Africa House Cultural Center who is still writing plays and fiction.

October 31st: Bracey invited Dean Joel Martin to lead a discussion of his book *The Sacred Revolt: The Muskogee’s Struggle for a New World* to his AFROAM 397B Native Americans/African Americans class. The defeat of the Muskogee in 1813-1814 ended the largest uprising of Native peoples in the nation’s history, the largest loss of Native lives, and the largest lost of land in the Southeast.

November 5th: Bracey appeared on Channel 40 News as a commentator on the significance of the noose and lynching in the history of African Americans. The story involved an incident at a local high school.

December 7-8: Participated in the third segment of the NAACP’s Civil Rights School. The “Schools” are structured as a combination of free flowing discussions between scholars and NAACP activists and leaders, dialogue with college students of the hip-hop generation, and individual interviews focused on specific aspects of the history of the NAACP. Held at Harvard University, this segment was devoted to the Struggle for a New World to his AFROAM 397B Native Americans/African Americans class. The defeat of the Muskogee in 1813-1814 ended the largest uprising of Native peoples in the nation’s history, the largest loss of Native lives, and the largest lost of land in the Southeast.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies always has a significant presence at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). However, even by those standards the 93rd annual meeting of ASALH in Birmingham, Alabama last October was exceptional. What made the difference in this year’s meeting was the critical mass of UMass Afro-American Studies Ph.D. graduates who have gone on to jobs in the academy.

The numbers alone were impressive. Ten UMass faculty and staff members, five UMass Afro-American Studies graduate students, and ten graduates of the Du Bois Department Ph.D. program participated in (and often organized) sixteen panels and one plenary session and won two awards. The topics of the papers and the panels covered a broad range of topics, including black women’s history and education, the Civil Rights Movement, African American political and cultural radicalism in the 1950s, the birth of the Du Bois Department and Black Studies, African American popular music, and the current state of the black community.

The highlight of the meeting for the Du Bois Department was a well-attended screening of Ernest Allen’s documentary history of the founding and growth of the department, *Look Back and Wonder*, followed by a panel examining the value of the film as a tool for understanding the Black Studies Movement and as a model for institutional histories of other African American/Africana Studies departments. Two other high points were the ASALH Graduate Student Essay Contest Prize to Jonathan Fenderson for his essay, “ ‘Large Ideas Which Never Got Down to Earth or Finance’: W.E.B. Du Bois, Carter G. Woodson, and the Encyclopedia Africana, 1909-1963,” and the presentation of an ASALH Executive Council Award to Professor John Bracey, for his work as faculty advisor to the Amherst ASALH Branch. He also chaired the plenary session, “Reflections on Returning to Birmingham,” which featured Sonia Sanchez and Mary Frances Berry (photo on p. 12).
An interview with Professor Ernest Allen, producer and director of the video documentary “Look Back and Wonder: The Rise of Black Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.” The documentary has been screened at several venues this year, and will be available to the public in DVD format sometime in 2009.

Du Bois Lines: Why did you decide to produce “Look Back and Wonder”?
Ernest Allen: Actually, this project started out as an oral history project concerned with documenting the history of the Du Bois Department here at UMass. A number of us had been talking for some time about the need to write the history of the department. I wasn't prepared to take on such a writing project myself, and it didn’t appear that anyone else was either. On the other hand, I had a pretty decent digital video camera, and decided that I could at least record the oral testimonies of colleagues—especially those who started the department or who were around during the earliest years—and make them available in an archival DVD format for that special someone who, I was convinced, would come along some day to write that history. Such a project is still necessary.

Du Bois Lines: So how did an oral history project turn into a video documentary?
Ernest Allen: Several factors. First, I cannot describe how moved I was by the testemony of my colleagues as I interviewed them over the last three or four years. I thought that I had heard all the stories surrounding the department’s beginnings—but learned otherwise once I sat them down in front of the camera. As time went on, I became convinced of the need to bring our incredible, collective story to a wide audience. Second, I had been involved with computers since 1979 when I purchased an Apple II, and was well aware of the convergence of technologies which had been occurring over the past decade, a convergence manifested in the ability to manipulate text, moving pictures, and sound in the same digital space. Much of what I needed in the way of tools was already on my computer desktop. The third part—the acquisition of lighting, camera, and editing skills—was the most daunting, but I’ve at least been able to develop them to such a degree as to be able to fool the public into believing that they’ve seen an actual documentary! And fourth, I was strongly encouraged by colleagues in Film Studies—Cathy Portuguese and Nancy Inouye, especially—to commit to putting the documentary on the screening schedule of the Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival this past spring.

Du Bois Lines: How much did “Look Back and Wonder” cost to produce?
Ernest Allen: It depends on how you count, and we’re not through yet because we are now in the process of trying to secure copyright clearances for the music used, which will be incredibly expensive if, indeed, we will even be able to afford it. At this point, excluding hardware, software, and labor, the cost was less than a grant. To purchase the minimal equipment and software required, we are talking around twenty thousand dollars. But that sum can be spread over multiple projects. I am just guessing here, but I think that the same equipment might be rented for less than ten grand.

Du Bois Lines: What did you learn from producing the film?
Ernest Allen: Apart from the technical aspects, the complexities of producing a documentary that I thought would tell a unified departmental story. But there were and remain contested stories of the same events told by department members that I had to reconcile or, failing that, had to choose between. Many stories had to be edited down to “sound bites” almost, although they deserved far more than that. At the end of the process you are led to ask yourself what the “truth” of the final product is, especially when you hear the polite groaning of some of your colleagues when certain treatments come up. Even with all the painful cutting, the film is still running two hours in length. I’ve still got some trimming to do, and need to conduct at least a handful of re-takes. I’ve been asked to produce a one-hour version for classroom use. I’m not convinced that will work, but will make an effort in that direction. The final DVD will contain longer excerpts from significant testimonies that could not be shoe-horned into the larger project, and there is also the possibility of putting such testimonies on the web as well.

Du Bois Lines: What, in your opinion, is the greatest significance of “Look Back and Wonder”?
Ernest Allen: It demonstrates, for all who need proof, that a video documentary history of an African American Studies department can be produced on a shoestring with acceptable production values. I’m hoping that this will inspire other departments to document their own histories, and would be more than pleased to assist others in that process.
More Faculty News...

In After Winter: The Art and Life of Sterling A. Brown (Oxford U. P., 2009) Professor Steven Tracy and John Edgar Tidwell have brought together a book-length collection of critical and theoretical writings about Sterling Brown that recovers and reasserts his continuing importance for a contemporary audience. Tracy was a plenary speaker at the international conference on August Wilson in Lexington, KY (2008). In July, he also performed with his Cincinnati band, the Crawling Kingsnakes, at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington, KY; and continues to play a couple of times monthly with the King Bees in the Amherst area. Tracy also spoke and performed at the Centennial Conference on Richard Wright in Paris in June 2008. The University of Kansas’ Langston Hughes Center for African American Studies has published Tracy’s chronology of Hughes on the web at “http://www2.ku.edu/~lhcaas” which places events of Hughes’s life in the context of other important events taking place in the world at the same time.

Professor James Smethurst participated on a panel at the “Women in the Black Revolt Mini-Conference,” Brooklyn College, March 5-6th. Also, he delivered a paper entitled, “Rethinking Southern Radicalism,” at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Winter 2008.

Professor Amilcar Shabazz was elected to membership in the Texas Institute of Letters and was formally introduced as a new inductee at the Institute’s annual meeting, April 17-18, 2009. The TIL was founded in 1936 to recognize distinctive literary achievement. By his induction he joins the ranks of many eminent historians, essayists, poets, journalists, publishers, and novelists with Texas ties including Lorenzo Thomas, Nicholas Lemann, Harryette Mullen, Robert Caro, Donald Barthelme, Molly Ivins, Bill Moyers, Ntozake Shange, and others.

Professor Manisha Sinha was invited to speak in the plenary session of the Atlantic Emancipations Conference held at the University of Pennsylvania in April, 2008. Her talk was on her book project, “African Americans and the Abolition Movement.” She was also a respondent to a keynote address on slavery and capitalism at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in February, 2008. She commented on a panel on antebellum politics and friendships at the Annual Conference of the Society of Historians for the Early American Republic in Philadelphia in July, 2008.

Professor Sinha delivered a talk entitled, “Allies for Emancipation? Lincoln and Black Abolitionists” at a number of venues, including the 13th Annual Lawrence Pelletier Library Lecture in October, 2008 at Allegheny College. She also delivered this talk at Columbia University in November, 2008 to celebrate its publication in Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World, edited by Eric Foner.

Professor Bill Strickland gave a public lecture at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton on “Black History and Black Politics: Past, Present, and Future.” On February 11th, he was awarded a plaque by Virginia State University in recognition of his support for VSU’s Jim Crow Exhibit, “Hateful Things,” a two week traveling art exhibit “of pictures, signs and items from the late 19th century to the present that embody the terrible effects of Jim Crow.” He also keynoted at the opening ceremony at VSU.

On February 7th Professor Strickland was a plenary speaker on the panel, “Taking Back America,” at the Statewide Conference of the Massachusetts ACLU, “Beyond the Politics of Fear: Reclaiming our Civil Liberties,” held at UMass Boston.

On February 21st he spoke at the Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church in Hartford for the Greater Hartford NAACP on “Remembering Du Bois on the 100th Anniversary of the NAACP.” Professor Strickland was a panelist and gave a paper entitled, “Du Bois’s Revenge or Why We Need a Revolutionary Black Research Agenda in the 21st!” on March 21st at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists 39th Annual Meeting in Chicago. The paper was an update of an article he published in the journal SOULS in 2008. The panel was: The Worldwide Paradox of Black Political Leadership.

On Saturday, December 13, 2008, the Du Bois Department convened The Visions of Freedom Roundtable on African American Visual Art of the 1960s & 1970s as its first in a series of events on the meaning of the Black Arts and Black Power movements. A community forum, held in the Springfield Museums’ Davis Auditorium, it examined the visual arts in this period not only in broad national and international terms, but also with the local context as a touchstone. It drew close to a hundred participants on a chilly afternoon.

The Springfield Museums’ Director Heather Haskell opened the forum. Du Bois Department chair Amilcar Shabazz spoke next, noting how the forum, partially funded by a Visioning Grant from the College of Humanities & Fine Arts, launches an ongoing program series on Black Power and Black Arts. Professor James Smethurst, a leading authority on the Black Arts Movement, then moderated the rest of the program.

Richard Yarde, UMass Amherst art professor since 1990, and a major presence in the art world since the mid-1960s, presented first. Through slides of some of his most important watercolor paintings he discussed his evolution as an artist and the importance that subjects like black life in Boston’s Roxbury/South End area where he grew up, Malcolm X, the ring shout, and Yoruba cosmology had for him.

Nelson Stevens, a member of the Coalition of Black Revolutionary Artists (COBRA) and a former UMass Professor, reflected on his thirty years in the Du Bois Department and how in the 1970s he began directing the creation of more than thirty public murals in Springfield. COBRA was a “major architect” of the Black Art Movement.

Professors Margo Crawford, a faculty member in the Du Bois Department, and Mario Ontiveros, in the Art History Program at UMass, gave thought-provoking presentations based upon their original research. Dr. Crawford focused on Chicago’s Wall of Respect, while Dr. Ontiveros discussed the Chicano Art movement in Los Angeles in juxtaposition to the Black Arts Movement.

This community forum, one of the first since the formal announcement of the Greater Springfield-UMass Amherst Partnership signals, that the time is ripe to work together with community people in a renewed effort to foster Springfield’s economic revitalization. As we recalled the Du Bois Department’s past role in Springfield, particularly in the arts, we see the forum as prologue to renewing a critical, collaborative engagement with the city and its African American community, the second largest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As projects and plans emerge to expand Springfield’s Pan-African Historical Museum (PAHMUSA), African American exhibits in the Springfield Museum of History, and various “creative economy” initiatives in the City of Homes, we feel that it is important that a department with the faculty and student resources of the Du Bois Department and the larger UMass campus be engaged with and of service to the Greater Springfield community where it can.
AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

GRADUATES OF 2009!!

For the PH.D.
Daniel McClure
Alesia McFadden
Zebulon Miletsky
Anthony Ratcliff

For the B.A.
Michelle Christian
Victor Cruz
Brian Ellis
Kristofer Handel
Vanessa Lima
Shaun Robinson
Monica Vance
Nathan Wagner
Gregory Walters

UMass Amherst Chancellor Robert C. Holub, Aaron D. Spencer, founder, director and chair-
man emeritus of UNO Pizzerias, and Faculty Marshal Amilcar Shabazz, at the Undergraduate
Commencement, May 23, 2009, in the Warren P. McGuirk Alumni Stadium. Seated to the left
is Earl W. Stafford, an alumnus and Virginia businessman, who also received a Distinguished
Achievement Award. His Stafford Foundation paid $1 million to help less-fortunate citizens
take part in the inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20, 2009.

Congratulations & Farewell
to Clarisa Amezquita

Clarisa received her B.S. in Biology and Psychology!
She entered the Scholars of the 21st Century Program in
as a freshman and continued as our work study student
for five years. Clarisa, we thank you for your dedication
and hard work over the years, and most of all, for your
charming personality, cheerfulness and willingness to
help our students and faculty. We wish you peace, happi-
ness and a wonderful future!!
I/we would like to donate to the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Name:_________________________________________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________________________________
Telephone:___________________________ Emai l:__________________________________________

Enclosed is my/our check for $________made out to UMass Amherst (note Afro-American Studies in the memo field).

I/we wish to charge this gift of $________to my/our credit card (Visa, MC or Discover—circle one).

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Kudos to Professor John Bracey, who received the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Executive Council Award and chaired the plenary session, “Reflections on Returning to Birmingham” at the 2008 meeting. After the plenary, pictured here (l-r) are Thomas Battle, Mary Frances Berry, Sonia Sanchez, John Bracey, and James Stewart.