Over four hundred scholars, students, artists, and community activists from as far away as China, attended the Du Bois Department’s Art and Power in Movement Conference November 18-20. The conference brought together some of the leading scholars of—and participants in—the Black Power and Black Arts movements of the 1960s and 1970s to discuss those movements and their legacies in a series of panels and lectures with enthusiastic audience discussion.

The conference kicked off with a lecture on Dudley Randall and Broadside Press in a packed Special Collections reading room at the Du Bois Library. The lecture was given by Wayne State University professor Melba Joyce Boyd, a biographer of Randall, who described Randall’s founding and operation of Broadside Press, which published dozens of titles and printed hundreds of thousands of volumes of poetry by black writers in the 1960s and 1970s, inspiring an upsurge of African American poetry and independent presses. Accompanying the lecture was a wonderful exhibit on Broadside Press drawn from the holdings of the University’s Special Collection.

Some of the other highlights of the conference included keynote speeches by the authors, educators, and activists Amiri Baraka and Sonia Sanchez; a plenary panel on black music at UMass and in the Pioneer Valley [chaired by Afro-Am’s John Bracey] included remarks by the great jazz pianist Randy Weston; a plenary panel on Malcolm X with William Strickland, Sonia Sanchez, Rickey Hill of Mississippi Valley State, James Turner of Cornell University, the poet, publisher, and educator, Haki Madhubuti; a plenary panel on the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, included Charlie Cobb of Brown University, filmmaker Judy Richardson, and Ekweume Michael Thelwell (all SNCC veterans); and a concluding plenary session on the legacies of the movements with Judy Richardson, Sonia Sanchez, the artist and emeritus Professor Nelson Stevens, the poet and professor at Southern Illinois University Eugene Redmond, the poet and critic Askia Touré, and William Strickland. In addition to the keynotes and plenary panels, there were a wide range of concurrent panels on such topics as black theater of the 1960s and 1970s; print culture; the Revolutionary Action Movement and the Republic of New Afrika; local Black Arts and Black Power efforts; the Black Student Movement of the 1960s and 1970s and the creation of Black Studies; Black Power, Black Arts and the rise of Ethnic Studies; women in the Black Power and Black Arts movements; and the international dimensions of Black Power and Black Arts. The presenters in these panels were a mixture of young scholars, established scholars, and important veterans of the movements, such as Muhammad Ahmad and Askia Touré. Other events at the conference included a concert by Randy Weston, scenes from plays by Sonia Sanchez, Amiri Baraka, and Ed Bullins from the Black Arts era placed in dialogue with scenes from recent works by younger African American playwrights presented by the UMass Theater Department, and a screening of Judy Richardson’s documentary Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre of 1968.

(Continued on Page 12)
W.E.B. DU BOIS IN CHINA  
by Bill Strickland

Du Bois’s lifetime advocacy in behalf of Africa understandably earned him the distinction of being called “The Father of Pan Africanism”. Less well-known—but equally significant to Du Bois himself—was Germany where he went for graduate study in 1892 and was treated more humanely than in America, his native land. Thus Du Bois thrilled in the early twentieth century at the rise of “the darker races of mankind,” as he called them in *The Souls of Black Folk*. He identified, for example, as did most of the colored world, with Japan’s triumph over czarist Russia in the Port Arthur war of 1904, and he was equally enthusiastic in 1912 when China’s dynastic monarchy fell and Dr. Sun Yat-sen embarked on the founding of the Chinese Republic. So the black, brown, and yellow peoples, as Du Bois had presaged years before, seemed at last to be claiming their place in the historical sun.

But with these cracks in the overbearing colonial-imperial world, what should now be the new model of human society—and where was it to be found?

After his first visit to the Soviet Union in 1926, Du Bois thought that it might be that model. Ten years later, in 1936, on his world tour of Europe and Asia, he was similarly impressed by Japan and China. But it was on his second visit to China, ten years after its successful revolution in 1949, that he seemed to bestow the crown on the People’s Republic; writing that year he said:

“I have traveled widely on this earth since my first trip to Europe 67 years ago. Save South America and India, I have seen most of the civilized world and much of its backward regions. Many leading nations I have visited repeatedly. But I have never seen a nation which so amazed and touched me as China in 1959.”

And the feeling was reciprocal as expressed in a letter to Du Bois from the second year students in the English Department at Tientsin Normal University. Learning that Peking University had feted him on his ninety-first birthday, they wrote to Du Bois that, “We cannot express our grateful feelings in words when we know you have arrived at Peking. Your name is not strange to us at all, for you are popular with all peace-loving people in the world.” (And as a further measure of respect for Du Bois, China translated *Souls of Black Folk* into Chinese that very year.)

On that triumphal February birthday, Du Bois spoke to a thousand students and faculty at Peking University and called for China and Africa to recognize their common bond and join together to chart a new progressive path for themselves and the other “wretched of the earth”:

“Africa...asks friendship and sympathy and no nation better than China can offer this to the Dark Continent. Let it be given freely and generously. Let Chinese visit Africa, send their scientists there and their artists and writers. Let Africa send its students to China and its seekers after knowledge. It will not find on earth a richer goal, a more promising mine of information. On the other hand watch the West...This China knows. This Africa must learn....”
Dr. Britt Rusert joined the faculty of the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies this Fall. Professor Rusert comes to us with a Ph.D. in English in 2009, supplemented by a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies, both from Duke. She spent a year as a Post-doctoral Associate at the Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy, Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy at Duke, and this past year was an external Humanities Fellow at Temple. With a number of articles and reviews to her credit, including a recent submission on Martin Delany’s Blake, along with co-editing a special issue of American Literature on “Technologies of Enslavement and Liberty” with renowned scholar Priscilla Wald, Dr. Rusert will bring her distinctive takes on African American literature and culture to the classroom in courses concentrating primarily on Afro-American literature and culture before the 20th century, including issues related to science and women’s studies and courses encompassing such topics as Darwinism, gender and medicine, and “weird science.” Her book manuscript in progress is Radical Empiricism: Fugitive Science and American Literature, 1776-1865.

Professor Tracy was granted status as a Fulbright Senior Specialist for 2010-2011 through 2014-2015. The roster of specialists identifies internationally-recognized scholars from whom universities worldwide may choose for residencies lasting from two to six weeks, with Fulbright picking up a substantial part of the financial expense for up to three visits to foreign universities. There are already two universities in China who intend to apply for these visits from Professor Tracy, along with another in Germany, but applications are open to all universities overseas.

A Chinese translation of Tracy’s first book, Langston Hughes and the Blues, is being released in the Fall, targeted for issue at the Dialog on Poetry and Poetics: The 1st Convention of Chinese/American Association for Poetry and Poetics, an international poetry conference in China in the Fall.

Professor Tracy was a Spotlight Scholar at UMass Amherst in November 2010 (details on page 4). Professor Tracy gave the keynote addresses, “Futuristic Jungleism, Ragmentation, and the Bluing of American Literature,” at the International Conference on Literature in English, Harbin Institute of Technology, China in January 2011. The address will be published in a volume of selected essays from the conference scheduled to appear in China in 2012.


Professor Tracy was a coordinator/commentator of the plenary speeches session at the International Conference on Literature in English, at the Harbin Institute of Technology in China on January 15, 2011. He also presented, “The Dope on ‘Dope’” at the Black Arts Movement conference at UMass Amherst, November 18, 2010. Professor Tracy gave a lecture on “Harlem Renaissance Aesthetics.” Loomis Retirement Village. December 2, 2010. Professor Tracy performed at the Tribute to Stevie Wonder event with the UMass Music Department Jazz Bands on February 16-17, 2011. (Continued on Page 4)
Spotlight Scholar: Professor Steven C. Tracy, challenging boundaries and bending notes Afro-American Studies professor Steven Tracy is a man who blurs boundaries. A writer and editor of works about African-American literature and culture and an accomplished blues musician, Tracy's made a career of mixing music and literature and of "being in places he shouldn't be." While in high school, Tracy won a national harmonica competition that landed him on the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson. With just a year of playing experience, Tracy was given an opportunity more seasoned musicians only dream of - the chance to launch his musical career on one of the most popular television shows of the time. "I really had no business being there," laughs Tracy. See In the Loop for the full version of the article.

Professor Bill Strickland was a panelist at the NCOBPS (National Conference of Black Political Scientists) in Raleigh, NC on March 20, 2011. His presentation was “If Jefferson is Wrong, America is Wrong”. He also presented on “The Role of Violence in Maintaining American Herrenvolk Democracy, 1865-1900”.

He was a part of a panel on the cultural and historical meanings of LeBron James as part of the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series in March 2011. Professor Strickland also participated in an evening with Bill Fletcher, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the International Labor Rights Forum, which also took place in March 2011. Progressive Democrats joined together to talk about how to best organize inside and outside the Democratic Party. See http://www.pdamerica.org for details.

On April 19-20, 2011 Professor Strickland attended a celebration of the Black Studies Department’s 10th Annual Malcolm X Festival at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He presented on “Malcolm X: The Theoretician We Never Knew.” He was invited to speak by one of our own Ph.D. alums, Zebulon Miletsky (‘08).

Professor Strickland was a panelist on “Malcolm X: The Evolution of a Black Revolutionary” at the Schomburg Center in New York on May 19, 2011.

Professor Kym Morrison presented her research on the intersection between racial identity formation and family reproduction in Cuba at two national conferences: The Latin American Section of the Southern Historical Association in October 2010, and the 80th Anniversary for the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida in March 2011. She also presented at the roundtable "Sexuality and Slavery" at the 15th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in June 2011.

Professor Morrison gave several presentation in more local settings. She worked with the Boston-based teacher training company Primary Source to instruct middle school and high school teachers on national differences in slave emancipation processes in the Americas; and, gave a talk before the Five Colleges African Studies Council on the role of Yoruba cosmology in present-day Cuban political thought. She also discussed multiple forms to Black identity at the annual conference of the Black Students Association at Smith College.
FACULTY NEWS & VIEWS  (Continued)

Professor James Smethurst’s new book, *The African American Roots of Modernism: From Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance* has been published by the University of North Carolina Press (May, 2011).


This past year Professor John Bracey was the inspiration for not one, but two poems. Professor Emeritus Frederick Tillis wrote his in response to the music panel at the Black Arts Conference in November 2010. The haiku by Joanne Veal Gabbin was in response to a presentation at “Continuous Fire: A Seminar on the Poetry of Sonia Sanchez” held at James Madison University in June 2011.

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**A Man of Means**
(for John Bracey)
November 19, 2010

One of a kind
bright, brainy, and brawny
with a sharp and
keen sense of humor.
A bee that can sting
but leaving no scar
of harsh touch of pain,
with a deep commitment
to truth, faith, and honor.

He is a professor
a real teacher
who trades and exchanges
history, facts, and reason
with shades of light
and shadows of darkness.
He is a champion of time
African American culture
with a spirit of heart, soul, and mind.

Frederick Tillis
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE W.E.B. DU BOIS DEPARTMENT OF AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

WELCOMING OUR FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Doctoral Program

Julia Bernier is from Manchester, CT. She has spent the past ten years living in Brooklyn, NY, during which time she received her B.F.A. in Art History from Pratt Institute, and her M.A. in History at City College of New York. Julia’s research will center on African-American citizenship in the era leading up to the Dred Scott decision and the Civil War. She is particularly interested in examining the mobility of free African Americans and the legal and constitutional debate over state laws that attempted to control their travels before federal intervention. She is on the history and politics track and received the University Fellowship 2011-2012.

Peter Blackmer is from Marcellus, NY, a small suburb outside of Syracuse. He attended the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University before receiving his B.A. in History and M.S. in Education at Wagner College, where he was a Division-1 athlete. His research interests include the struggle for civil rights in the urban North, specifically focusing on the socio-economic and political conditions in Harlem that led to conflict in the 1960s. Peter is on the history and politics track.

Rosa Clemente-Delrow is a community organizer, Hip-Hop activist and independent journalist who was born and raised in the South Bronx and Elmsford, NY. She received her B.A. in Africana Studies at SUNY at Albany, and her Masters of Professional Africana Studies and Education at Cornell University. In 1995, she developed Know Thy Self Productions, a speaker's bureau for young people of color. Rosa's academic work has been dedicated to researching national liberation struggles inside the United States, with a specific focus on The Young Lords Party, The Black Panther Party and the Black and Brown Liberation Movement's of the 60's and 70's as well as the effects of COINTELPRO on such movements. On July 13th 2008, in Chicago, IL, Rosa Alicia Clemente and former Democratic Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, were nominated by the Green Party of the United States, as Vice-Presidential and Presidential candidates respectively. They made up the first women of color ticket in American history and Rosa Clemente was the first Latina in the history of the U.S.A. to be on the vice-presidential ballot in over thirty states. Rosa is on the history and politics track.

Trent Masiki is from Shreveport, LA. He earned his B.S. in Computer Science from Southern University, his M.A. in English from Texas A&M University, and his M.F.A. from Emerson College. His research interests include examining contemporary intersections of African American, Afro-Latino, and Afro-Caribbean literature and popular culture. He plans to explore his interests using literary theory, cultural history, and critical media studies. Trent is on the literature and culture track.

Meng Xianzhi is from Sandong, China. She received her B.A. in English from Weifang University and an M.A. in English from Sun Yat-sent University, and an M.A. in American Studies at Heidelberg University in Germany. Her research interests are situated in African American literature and music, namely how writers incorporate music into their works to critique American culture. She is on the literature and culture track. Meng has received an international tuition waiver from the International Programs Office.

The Master’s Program

Erin Judge Erin Judge grew up in Middlefield, MA, and graduated from Westfield State University with a B.A. in Ethnic and Gender Studies as well as History with certification for middle/secondary education. Erin’s research includes a senior honors thesis entitled “The Middlefield Fair: A Case Study of the Agricultural Fair in New England” and a capstone project entitled “Transcending the Racial Smog in Teacher Education.” Erin’s research interests focus on early New England history of racism and race relations. Erin is on the literature and culture track.

Robert “Bob” Williams was born and raised in the Pioneer Valley. Bob received his B.A. in Education/History at American International College and an M.A. in Medieval History from Saint Andrews University. He is interested in examining the impact of political ideology on structural aspects of institutions of enslavement in the United States at the end of the 18th century. He is joining the history and politics track.
Flávia Santos de Araújo participated in the 2011 production of the Vagina Monologues at UMass, supported by the Everywoman’s Center. Co-sponsors of this production include the Community Ed Program and VOX – Students for Choice.

Kabria Baumgartner joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of History at the College of Wooster in Ohio. She presented her essay, “The Educational Thought of Susan Paul: A Short Intellectual History” at the 50th Annual History of Education Society Meeting in Cambridge, MA. Kabria also presented her paper, “Across the Trackless Ocean: Mary Highland Garnet Barboza in Brewerville, Liberia, 1880-1890” at Columbia University’s Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women Conference. At the April 2011 American Educational Research Association (AERA) meeting in New Orleans, Kabria was selected to participate in the Division F Mentoring Seminar led by historians of education like Margaret Nash, James Anderson, and Wayne Urban.

Markeysha Davis received the W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship at the UMass Amherst Library. The Du Bois fellowships assist younger scholars in conducting research in Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA).

Vanessa Fabien received the UMass Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Jonathan Fenderson received a Post-doctoral fellowship for 2011-2012 in African & African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Jonathan will be joining the faculty as an Assistant Professorship in Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh after he finishes his post-doctoral fellowship.

Ernest Gibson, III, recently published an article entitled, “‘For Whom the BELL Tolls’: The Wire's Stringer Bell as Tragic Intellectual” in the Americana: the Journal of American Popular Culture (Spring 2011, Vol.10, Issue 1). Ernest made it onto the 2011 Boston Lizard Lounge National Poetry Slam Team. The team competed at The National Poetry Slam, an annual poetry slam championship tournament against teams from all over North America and Europe, on August 8-13th in Boston. Also, Ernest was awarded the Thurgood Marshall Dissertation Fellowship for the 2011-12 academic year at Dartmouth College. This fellowship promotes student and faculty diversity at Dartmouth, and throughout higher education, by supporting completion of the doctorate by underrepresented minority scholars with a demonstrated commitment and ability to advance educational diversity.

McKinley E. Melton was honored with the “Creative Research Fellowship Award” by the Charles Drew Scholarship Commission of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. at the International Conclave in July 2010. McKinley was also presented with the “Student Choice Award” by the Residential First Year Experience at UMass. His essay, “Speak it into Existence: James Weldon Johnson’s God’s Trombones and the Power of Self-Definition in the New Negro Harlem Renaissance” was published in the anthology, The Harlem Renaissance Revisited: Politics, Arts, and Letters, edited by Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar (John Hopkins University Press, 2010).

Agyei Tyehimba was contacted by the producers of the 2011 Grammy Awards for permission to utilize a photograph of him protesting at Cornell University. An alternative rock band called “Muse” used his photograph in depicting social revolution and consciousness raising in their new musical project which appeared during the airing of the show on CBS.


Cristina Tondeur will be an Assistant Professor of History at American Public University beginning January 1st 2012.

Crystal Donkor has entered into the Department of History’s interdisciplinary certificate program in Public History this year. This certificate program seeks to provide a multidisciplinary approach that enables students to develop and demonstrate depth of study in the many ways history and heritage shape contemporary life.

Alex Carter and Johanna Ortner have been admitted into the Graduate Certificate program in Advanced Feminist Studies via the Program of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies. This program enables students interested in feminist scholarship to pursue a coherent, integrated curriculum in the field and to credential them as knowledgeable in Feminist Studies, thus qualifying them for positions requiring such expertise.
Stephanie Y. Evans (Ph.D. ‘04) accepted a position as Chair of the History Department and joint Associate Professor of African/African American and Africana Women’s Studies at Clark Atlanta University. She recently completed her first year as the Director of the African American Studies Program at the University of Florida at Gainesville. She presented her paper entitled, “My Passport Made Me Persona Non Grata”: Insubordination, Quest, and Voice in African American Women’s Study Abroad Memoirs” at the IRAAS Columbia University Conference, “Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women” in April 2010. Stephanie will be the Academic Program Co-Chair for the 2012 ASALH Convention. The theme will be Black Women in American History and Culture. She is also on the Series Board for a new series, Critical Africana Studies: African, African American, and Caribbean Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Studies.


David married Beth Cole in September 2010 and they are expecting their first child, a baby girl, in December 2011. Congratulations!

Christopher Lehman (Ph.D. ‘02), Professor of Ethnic Studies at St. Cloud State University, published his fourth book, Slavery in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1787-1865. He wrote a review of Elizabeth Abel’s Signs of the Times: The Visual Politics of Jim Crow for the December 2010 issue of the Journal of American History. In June 2011, Professor Lehman was a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University’s W.E.B Du Bois Institute for its 2011 Summer Institute on “African American Civil Rights Struggles in the Twentieth Century,” which is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Zebulon Miletsky (Ph.D. ‘08) served as the 2010-2011 Post Doctoral Fellow in African-American Studies in the Department of History at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He worked on a manuscript based on his dissertation, “I Yield My Birthright to No One: Passing and the Van Houten Trial in Boston.” He gave a campus-wide lecture on his work in April 2011. Zeb is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Stony Brook University (SUNY) while on academic leave from his position at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Zeb and his wife Karla welcomed their first child, Zebulon, a baby boy, on February 22, 2011.
Christopher Tinson (Ph.D. ‘10), Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Hampshire College, is the first recipient of the Esther M. Terry Award for the most distinguished dissertation in Afro-American Studies. His dissertation examines black radicalism and the Liberator magazine in the 1960s and 1970s. Chris and his wife Kyngelle welcomed their first child, Caidan, a baby boy, on November 15th, 2010.


Jennifer Jensen Wallach (Ph.D. ‘04), Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Texas, published her third book in June 2011, *Arsnick: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Arkansas*. Additionally she authored *Closer to the Truth Than Any Fact: Memoir, Memory, and Jim Crow* and *Richard Wright: From Black Boy to World Citizen*. The History News Network recently named her one of their “Top Young Historians.”

Cristy Tondeur and her husband Xavier had their second son, Phoenix, who was born on June 3rd, 2010.

Chris and Kyngelle Tinson had their first baby, a son, Caiden who was born on November 15th, 2010.

Zeb and Karla had their first baby, a son, Zebulon who was born on February 22nd, 2011.
Congratulations to our Class of 2011!

PH.D.

Jonathan Fenderson after two years as a Fellow at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia, has successfully defended his dissertation “Journey Toward a Black Aesthetic,” about Hoyt Fuller, the 1960s Black Arts Movement, and the Black Intellectual community that formed in the movement’s wake. He has accepted an appointment in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh that will begin after a postdoctoral fellowship in the African and African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

M.A.

Flavia Araujo
Savannah Carroll
Markeysha Davis
Donald Geesling
J. Anthony Guillory
Cynara Robinson

B.A.

Stephanie Andrade
Quinn Brown
Justinn Delaney
Shashi Parmar
Kadian Simmonds

MINORS

Danisha Augustt
James Baptista
Rose Delorme
Netha Gill
Hannah Katz
Sophie Kolchin-Miller
Sean Nolan
Zahava Stern

Community Involvement, by Emahunn Campbell and Agyei Tyehimba

The Du Bois Department co-sponsored a well-received rally on March 2nd, standing in solidarity with the workers in Wisconsin, and rallying against tuition and fee increases at the University of Massachusetts. Along with the local United Auto Workers, the Graduate Employee Organization, the International Socialist Organization, and other groups, faculty members and students from the Du Bois Department energetically participated through chants and speeches, showing the department’s dedication to social justice and economic rights.

On April 5th, the department also co-sponsored the national teach-in titled “Where’s the Funding?” (WTF). Faculty members, students and community organizers engaged in panel discussions about the next steps students, faculty, and staff at UMass can take to challenge the attack on public education. Professor Emeritus and co-founder of our department Ekwueme Michael Thelwell spoke about the role of racism as it relates to the economic crisis and the assault on unions. The audience then enjoyed a live-stream discussion featuring sociologist Frances Fox-Piven and philosopher Cornel West. Our department’s sponsorship of both events highlights how the department continues to bridge scholarship and activism, finding the two fields to be firmly linked and inseparable.

ALUMNI EVENT

The Departments of Afro-American Studies, Social Thought and Political Economy (STPEC) and the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies co-sponsored the Spring 2011 Alumni Event on April 7th in the Cape Cod Lounge, UMass Amherst.

Thank you to our alums: Akosua Boateng, Lucinda Ealy, Johanna Ortner and David Swiderski for taking the time to represent our department at this very important event.

Du Bois Lines would like to hear from all of our Afro-American Studies graduates. Please send us news about yourself to: tlove-lan@afroam.umass.edu
ART & POWER IN MOVEMENT

This is our semi-official thank you for all of those who made the Art and Power in Movement Conference such a success. Much thanks to the “Old Heads” from the movement days who demonstrated that fame and accomplishment can go hand in hand with accessibility and concern for one’s audience. Thanks to the post 1960’s scholars who came as participants and as listeners. The future of the field looks bright. A special thanks to Randy Weston and Glenn Siegel. Glenn for scheduling a concert by Randy Weston that served as a wonderful opening night event and to Randy Weston for agreeing to stay over to take part in the panel on Black music. A shout-out to sister Sonia Sanchez for her hard work in helping to prepare for the conference as well as taking the time to do an additional reading at Food For Thought Books. And, a special thanks to our graduate student poets/spoken word artists who opened for her: Jason Hendrickson, Ernest Gibson and Agyei Tyehimba. Much appreciation, too, to Eugene Redmond, poet, critic, teacher, photographer, and organizer extraordinaire for his contributions to the conference and his wonderful collage of conference participants and events. The conference attracted a number of current and past students and faculty. Among them were Playthell Benjamin, the Department’s first historian, and Stan Kinard who was a leader in the student takeover of New Africa House and contributed to the founding of our department.

Special thanks to our cadre of graduate students who performed admirably in their roles as hosts and guides for individual guests, and in providing wonderful support throughout the conference. Many of the conference participants commented on their enthusiasm and efficiency. Jim Smethurst was the faculty “lead dog” on the planning committee along with David Swiderski who acted as an always reliable “trouble shooter” throughout the conference, Bill Strickland, Ernest Allen, Mike Thelwell, Amilcar Shabazz, Emahunn Campbell, Savannah Carroll, Flavia Araujo, Jonathan Fenderson, Ernest Gibson, Cristy Tondeur, Allia Matta, Kebria Baumgartner, Zahra Caldwell, Anthony Guillard, McKinley Melton, Markeysha Davis, Crystal Donkor, Don Geesling, Jason Hendrickson and Johanna Ortner. Special thanks to Demetria Shabazz for her general support, and for her efforts in securing the services of Jim Lescault at ACTV who filmed the plenary sessions. (See the front page of our website at http://www.umass.edu/afroam for the links to ACTV).

Sincere thanks to Mike Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement for securing our Research Leadership in Action Program (RLA) grant; and thanks to Joel Martin, then Dean of HFA, for the CHFA Visioning Grant; and to the Theater and History Departments for their support. Because of all their support we didn’t have to cry poor. We also are thankful for the Hampshire Educational Collaborative’s involvement and participation in the conference as well as Chinese scholars Professors Fu Li, Zhu Ning, and Lianggong Luo.
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:_________________________________________________________________________________
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Enclosed is my/our check for $________made out to UMass Amherst (note Afro-American Studies in the memo field).

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