



Center for the Study of African American Language  
 226 South College  
 150 Hicks Way  
 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
 Amherst, MA 01003

**Yes!** I am interested in receiving information on the SDRP application process. Please send me an application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Undergraduate institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area of academic interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: Professor Lisa Green  
 Center for the Study of African American Language  
 SDRP  
 226 South College  
 150 Hicks Way  
 University of Massachusetts  
 Amherst, MA 01003



**UMASS  
 AMHERST**

The flagship campus of the Commonwealth's University system, the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a major research institution that offers outstanding faculty, state-of-the-art research facilities, and nationally recognized research centers.

Located on 1,450 acres in the scenic Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, the campus provides a rich cultural environment in a rural setting, two hours from Boston and three hours from New York City.

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts is one of the largest and most diverse colleges on the UMass Amherst campus, with 22 departments and programs, including nationally ranked departments in Linguistics, Philosophy, Classics, English, and History.



For further information about the application process, go to [www.umass.edu/csaal](http://www.umass.edu/csaal) or email [csaal@hfa.umass.edu](mailto:csaal@hfa.umass.edu)

**CSAAL** Center for the Study of African American Language

## CSAAL Summer Dialect Research Project

Language-related research for undergraduates

Dispelling Myths about Language in African American English Speech Communities



University of Massachusetts Amherst  
[www.umass.edu/csaal](http://www.umass.edu/csaal)

**June 1-14, 2011**

## Summer Dialect Research Project SDRP Program

The Summer Dialect Research Project (SDRP), held from June 1-14, 2011, is a program of the Center for the Study of African American Language at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The goal of the SDRP is to provide research experiences in linguistics for undergraduates with interest in language-related disciplines and to increase the number of students, particularly those from underrepresented minority groups, who conduct graduate research in these areas.

The focus of the 2011 SDRP will be on dispelling myths about language in African American English (AAE) speech communities. The participants will gain research experience by exploring background information and data samples related to current issues and topics in the study of AAE. During the program, participants will take part in seminars and discussion groups on the linguistic description and characterization of AAE and on special topics such as regional variation in AAE speech communities, language use and education, codeshifting and child AAE, and the recent interest of law enforcement agencies in the use of dialects. Emphasis will be placed on research and language analysis, and participants will have the opportunity to meet with specialists in different areas of AAE as they complete the mini course project. Some of the language-related research will have practical application in fields such as education and communication sciences.

The SDRP invites applications from undergraduates interested in language-related fields and who are considering graduate research in these areas. To be eligible for this program, candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Participants will receive a taxable stipend of \$600 plus free room and board on campus, and travel fees up to \$600 will be paid.

## A Research-based Approach to AAE: Dispelling the Myths

What rules and principles govern the sentence structure, sound system, word formation, and meaning and pragmatics in AAE?

- Do principles and patterns suggest that AAE is a separate language?
- Is it necessary to consider African languages and Creoles in descriptions of AAE?
- What patterns are shared in AAE speech communities across the U.S.?
- Is there a difference between “sounding black” and speaking AAE?
- When do patterns of AAE appear in the language of children growing up in AAE-speaking communities?
- To what extent are deficit models of the 1960s perpetuated in current work on AAE?
- Is the emphasis placed on codeshifting and AAE in education misguided?
- Why is AAE commonly linked to popular culture?
- When enforcement agencies request Ebonics specialists, do they expect them to know AAE or “speak the lingo”?

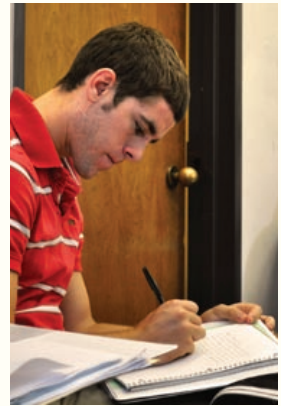


# CSAAL

Center for the Study of  
African American Language

### Programs, Activities & Services

- Colloquia
- Conferences
- In-service workshops
- SDRP for undergraduates
- Study groups in collaboration with Western Massachusetts Writing Project (WMWP)
- Summer Dialect Teacher Project (SDTP)



### Associated Faculty

The CSAAL is directed by Lisa Green, Professor of Linguistics; the associated faculty are from Afro-American Studies, Education, English, Linguistics, Communication Disorders, Theater, and Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Smith College.

