



Drawing by Nelson Stevens



POETRY & RESISTANCE

On the evening of Thursday March 29th, the UMass was treated to an outstanding display of poetic artistry as well as to a moving and insightful discussion of the relationship of poetry and political activism. The occasion was the visit of Keorapetse Kgositsile and Sonia Sanchez. Kgositsile was named poet laureate of South Africa in 2006; Sonia Sanchez, the first Poet Laureate of the City of Philadelphia in 2011. In addition to their international renown as poets, both have lived lives committed to the struggles against injustice and for peace. Kgositsile spent the 1960s and 1970s in the U.S. in exile from his homeland, South Africa, which was laboring under the burden of the white supremacist system of apartheid. He returned to a liberated South Africa to teach and to continue his writing. He is generally acknowledged as the leading South African poet of his generation. Kgositsile was on a rare visit to the United States on a book tour, so we pulled out all the stops to get him to include UMass on his very crowded itinerary.

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Sonia Sanchez, one of the country's most accomplished poets and lecturers, went in the space of a year and a half from being arrested by the Philadelphia police at a U.S. Army Recruiting Office with Grannies for Peace to being named Poet Laureate of the city. Both occurrences indicate the depth of her commitment to social justice and the power of her words.

The enthusiastic and appreciative audience of several hundred in the Student Union Ballroom had the opportunity to ask questions, to interact with the artists after the formal program, and to buy autographed copies of their books. Both artists had to leave Amherst early the next morning as they also had prominent roles in the 11th National Black Writers Conference held at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York that weekend. March 29th was a unique and inspiring evening that did the campus proud. A visual flourish was added to the event in the striking poster designed by Jason Hendrickson, one of our doctoral students who is himself a poet. Way to go Jason.

*See Page 10 for more...

BLACK ALUMNI REUNION

It was like "old times" again when a few hundred (counts vary as people were in and out) Black Alums returned to the campus for the Black Alumni Reunion. Alums came from as far away as China, California and all points in between. The reunion weekend, spearheaded by Doris Clemmons and Mary Custard (both alums) and supported by CMASS, the Alumni Association, and the newly formed Black Alumni Network, featured a host of activities ranging from parties, a fashion show, the Malcolm X Barbeque (not quite like the old days), a concert, and a brunch. The Du Bois Department hosted a "meet and greet" reception in New Africa House (also not quite like the old days), and our faculty, staff and students were active participants throughout the weekend. It was good to see some of the students whose efforts led to the founding of our department and to the establishing of New Africa House as the center of the African American academic and cultural experience on the campus in the late 1960's.



At the Sunday brunch Doris Clemmons and John Bracey were acknowledged for their years of service on behalf of African American students. Both have been at UMass for over three decades. They both received many kind words and beautiful desk clocks inscribed with their names. As Professor Bracey remarked several times during the weekend: "It is the success of one's students, even the ones that gave me grey hairs, that is a teacher's greatest reward." In a display of their commitment to the promise of UMass, alumni members of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity presented CMASS with a check for one thousand dollars to help defray the cost of the reunion.



FACULTY NEWS & VIEWS



Steve Tracy and Zhou "Rita" Huan in Wuhan, China. Rita will be joining our Ph.D. program this fall.

Professor Steve Tracy recently returned from another trip to China, where he received an award, delivered a keynote address, gave several lectures, taught classes, and performed music. Tracy was granted visiting professor of English at the School of Foreign Languages status by Central China Normal University in a ceremony held just before the Dialog on Poetry and Poetics: The 1st Convention of Chinese/American Association for Poetry and

Poetics, an international poetry conference in Wuhan, China on September 25th. Following the ceremony, Tracy lectured on Sterling Brown. Then he left for Beijing, where he gave lectures on Ralph Ellison and the Black Chicago Renaissance. While in Beijing, Steve visited the Olympic Village and the Olympic swimming pool complex. After that it was back to Wuhan for the poetry conference, where Tracy performed "Amazing Grace" and "Going Down to the Graveyard" on harmonica and vocals at an international poetry reading and showcase for Central China Normal University's music department. He also offered a keynote address based on his upcoming volume, *Touched by the Blues: Futuristic Jungleism, Ragmentation, and the Bluing of American Literature*. Tracy met with many students interested in American and Afro-American literature and culture, and several who wish to apply to the Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies doctoral program. Student guides Joan and Rita took Steve to the Hubei Province Museum, East Lake, Mo Mountain, a Buddhist Temple (where Steve joined a

reverential processional ceremony with the monks), and other locations around Wuhan before Steve left to return to the States. Tracy was appointed as the Chu Tian Scholar by Central China Normal University, Hubei Province, China. This is the most prestigious program and award in the province, aimed at bringing top international scholars to China to establish cooperative liaisons between their home universities and universities in China. Also, a Chinese translation of Tracy's first book, *Langston Hughes and the Blues*, will be released in 2012.

Writers of the Black Chicago Renaissance, edited by Tracy, was released in mid-November by the University of Illinois Press. The volume also includes essays by UMass Afro-Am faculty James Smethurst and PhD student Jamal Eric Watson. Reviewer Professor William Maxwell calls the book a "genuinely useful reference and inspirational sourcebook," while Professor Amritjit Singh asserts that it is a "most important reference book" and a "foundational source of information and perspective on the major figures of the Black Chicago Renaissance."

Professor James Smethurst co-edited the Fall 2011 issue of the *Black Scholar* with Markeysha Davis and David Swiderski. The issue contained proceedings from the Du Bois Department's 2010 international conference on black art and politics of the 1960s and 1970s. He also published the following articles in the last year: "'Internationally Known': The Black Arts Movement and U.S. Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop" in *The Oxford Handbook of Modern and Contemporary American Poetry*, ed. Cary Nelson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011; "Genesis and Crisis: Foundations of Modern Black Literary Intelligentsia" *Modernism/Modernity* 18.2 (April 2011); and "The John Reed Clubs/League of American Writers" in *Black Writers of the Chicago Renaissance*, ed. Steven C. Tracy. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2011. He is currently co-editing *SOS—Calling All Black People: A Black Arts Reader* (under contract with the University of Massachusetts Press) with John Bracey and Sonia Sanchez.

Professor Smethurst gave an invited presentation, "Lost in Castro's Beard?: Bandung Postmodernism in African American Poetry," at the Race, Law, and American Literary Studies Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, March 29-30, 2012 and an invited lecture, "The Black Arts Movement and the Institutionalization of Black Radicalism: A View from Atlanta," at the University of Hartford. He also organized a panel on the new Black Power and Black Arts studies and gave a paper on the Black Arts Movement in Texas at the 2011 ASALH annual convention; delivered a paper, "Camp Unity: Camp and Popular Front Aesthetics and Reception," at the 2011 American Studies Association annual meeting; and presented a paper, "On Bringing America to Africa: Phillis Wheatley and the Black Radical Democratic Tradition," at the 2011 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women.

Professor Smethurst gave an invited presentation, "Deep in the Heart of Jersey: Some Thoughts on Race and Ethnicity and the Evolution of the U.S. Suburb and Its Literary Representation" at a conference, "Heterotopic Visions in Post-World War II American Suburbia," on August 11th at Hangyang University in Seoul, South Korea. He also delivered an invited lecture, "Poetry, Politics, and the Beginning of U.S. Literary Modernism in the Age of Paul Laurence Dunbar," on August 15th at Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China.

FACULTY NEWS & VIEWS (Continued)

Professor Strickland participated in several events during the year. He was one of the patrons for the reception commemorating the 39th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, held at the Amherst College Alumni House.

He was on the radio show of WBAI in New York, "Economic Update," hosted by Professor Richard Wolff, to assess both the Obama presidency and the state of global capitalism today.

Professor Strickland was a cosponsor and signatory of an ad that appeared in the NY Times on March 4th entitled, "No Mr. Netanyahu, No President Obama: No War on Iran and No First Strike." The ad was organized by *Tikkun* magazine's Network of Spiritual Progressives and Rabbi Michael Lerner's Shalom Center.

In remembrance of Malcolm X, Professor Strickland was a keynote speaker at the Left Forum's conference "Occupy the System: Confronting Global Capitalism" which was held at Pace University in New York City. See link for video: <http://www.leftforum.org/content/william-strickland-left-forum-opening-plenary>. Professor Strickland's article, "Remembering Malcolm: A Personal Critique of Manning Marable's Non-Definitive Biography of Malcolm X" was published in August by Black Classics Press as a chapter of the book entitled, *A Lie of Reinvention: Correcting Manning Marable's Malcolm X*. It has also been published this Spring in *The Black Scholar* as well as online by *blackcommentator.com*.

An essay by **Professor Ernest Allen**, "Notes on the Concept of Integration," appeared in the most recent issue of *The Black Scholar* 42/1 (Spring 2012): 2-15.

Professor Amilcar Shabazz ends five years of service as chair of the Du Bois Department to take on new roles locally, nationally, and internationally. On April 3rd, he was elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Amherst School Committee and Amherst Regional School Committee. He will serve as vice-chair of the latter committee that governs the high school and middle school that serves Amherst and three nearby towns. On campus he serves in the Faculty Senate as a senator, an At-Large Member of its Rules Committee, Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Oversight, and as a member of the General Education Council. He served on the Search Committee for Endowed Chair in the Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance (2012) and on the Chair Search for the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department (2011).

Nationally, Shabazz was elected Secretary of the National Council for Black Studies in May of 2012. He attended board meetings of the NCBS and chaired two panel sessions at its annual meeting, March 2012, in Atlanta, GA. In April, he appeared as an invited guest speaker giving the talk "Education for Life: The Du Bois Doctorate of African American Studies and Its First Forty Years of Unity and Struggle," at Northwestern University's AFAM Visibility Conference, A Beautiful Struggle: Transformative Black Studies in Shifting Political Landscapes—A Summit of Doctoral Programs. News stories mentioning the department appeared in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* (July 5), *The Daily Northwestern* (April 13), and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (April 12). Other presentations in 2012 include "Melvin Tolson: Radical as Educator," at the Texas State Historical Association's Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas (March 2012); on "Black Women in American Culture and History," and at the Community Charter School of Cambridge Black History Month Assembly on the MIT campus (February 2012). In 2011, his invited activities included "Reading W.E.B. Du Bois in the Context of the Present Economic Crisis," at the Commonwealth Honors College Faculty Lecture Series (February); "African American Studies: Perceptions, Realities, Possibilities" at the University of Mississippi African American Studies Program's 40th Anniversary Conference (April); "Reading Frederick Douglass" discussion at a Massachusetts Humanities Foundation event at Old First Church in Springfield, MA (June); "Du Bois and the Strengthening of Trans-Atlantic Connections: Digital Discoveries in the Afro-German Experience," at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC (August).

Internationally, Shabazz joined with Prof. Agustin Lao-Montes to develop and teach "Afro-Caribbean Studies" summer study abroad course to Cuba [see <https://blogs.umass.edu/afroam597a-shabazz/about/>]. In Cuba, he made a plenary presentation to the International Colloquium of the 32nd Annual Festival del Caribe in Santiago de Cuba entitled "Africana Studies in the Americas from Estudios Afrocubanos to Estudios Afrodiasporicos" (July 7, 2012). Nine students, including Trent Masiki and Erin Judge, spent almost three weeks on the island interacting with top Afro-Cuban and Afro-Caribbean scholars, artists, and activists. In March, he presented "Developments in the Digital Humanities, W.E.B. Du Bois, and the History of Afro-Latin American Studies" in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the 3rd Annual Negritud Conference at the Center of Advanced Studies of Puerto Rico & the Caribbean. In December 2011, he and Prof. Lao-Montes completed an internationalization trip to Colombia that included presentations at universities and community-based cultural/arts centers in Bogotá, Buenaventura, and Cali on the development of Afro-American Studies throughout the African Diaspora.

FACULTY NEWS & VIEWS (Continued)

Professor Britt Rusert was the Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Visiting Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society in July 2011. She delivered a talk on "Race and Empiricism in the Early Republic" at the American Studies Association in Baltimore in October, and gave a presentation titled "Experiments With Gender: New Approaches to Nineteenth-century Race Science" to the Five Colleges Feminist Science Studies Initiative in November. She had several presentations at national conferences in the Spring and will present at an interdisciplinary symposium on early black performance, "Triumph in My Song: 18th and 19th Century African Atlantic Culture, History & Performance," at the University of Maryland in June.

Professor Rusert designed and taught several new courses during her first year in the Du Bois Department, including a course on the African American slave narrative and on antebellum black print culture. During the Spring 2012 semester she taught an undergraduate course on nineteenth-century African American poetry as well as her first graduate seminar, "Writing Gender and Sexuality: Reconstruction, Post-Reconstruction."

Professor Rusert signed on as the new Chief Undergraduate Advisor and has enjoyed her time working with our majors and minors in that capacity.

Professor Rusert has received the Lilly Teaching Fellowship for 2012-2013, granted by the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development and the Provost's Office. Check out *In The Loop* for details at <http://www.umass.edu/loop/people/articles/152785.php>

Professor Sinha delivered a keynote address, "James WC Pennington and Transatlantic Abolitionism," at the 625th anniversary of the University of Heidelberg in Germany in June 2011. Heidelberg University started an inaugural fellowship named after the black abolitionist Pennington, who received an honorary doctorate from the university in 1849. President Obama sent a message of congratulations read by the American Consul General at Frankfurt in which he likened his unlikely rise to that of Pennington from a fugitive slave to an internationally renowned abolitionist and writer.

Professor Sinha was interviewed and served as a historical advisor for the PBS documentary on abolition for its American Experience series. She is also the lead historian for a public exhibition on abolition, "In Pursuit of Freedom" to be housed in the Brooklyn Historical Society in 2013.

In October 2011, she helped to organize the Five Colleges conference on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War at UMass Amherst and participated in a panel on the causes of the Civil War. The conference was funded by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and televised for the local access channel in Amherst.

In April 2012, she delivered the keynote address for the National Underground Railroad Conference in Troy, New York entitled "Fleeing for Freedom: Fugitive Slaves and the Making of American Abolitionism." During the same month she presented her work on abolition in two roundtables at the Organization of American Historians Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In the 2011-2012 academic year, she again delivered three lectures for the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History at predominately minority schools in New York city. Her essay, "Did the Abolitionists Cause the Civil War?" was published in *The Abolitionist Imagination* (Harvard University Press, 2012). The book was favorably reviewed in the New York Review of Books recently.

Meanwhile she continues to work on her big book on abolition, *To Live and Die in the Slave's Cause: Abolition and the Origins of America's Interracial Democracy*, to be published by Yale University Press in 2013. She also enjoys interacting with students as the Graduate Program Director, in which capacity she helped introduce the new terminal MA program in Afro-American Studies.

Professor John Bracey began his new position as Interim Chair of the Du Bois Department on August 1st, 2012.

In addition to his usual busy schedule of lectures and conference presentations, Professor Bracey was in Philadelphia on Dec. 29th, 2011 as a guest at the naming of Sonia Sanchez as that city's first Poet Laureate. Mayor Michael Nutter presided over the ceremony held at City Hall. Professor Bracey in addition to working with Sanchez and Professor Smethurst on a reader on the Black Arts Movement, is collaborating with Jacquie Wood and Morani Sanchez on a Sonia Sanchez Reader. A lecture by Professor Bracey entitled "The Cost of Racism to White People" will be produced as a dvd by Professor Sut Jhally's Media Education Foundation.

SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATE STUDENT

Cristy Casado Tondeur

Cristy is a current graduate student on the history/politics track in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies. Her research interests are centered in 20th century U.S. History and the Civil Rights Era. Cristy's dissertation "We Are Tired of Your Games: A History of Evansville, Indiana's Civil Rights Movement" brings the movement in Evansville into the larger conversation about Civil Rights. Her research highlights NAACP's efforts to improve schools and job opportunities for black citizens. It also examines the work of the local branch of the Black Panther Party, the creation of the Community Action Program, and the impact of *Brown v. the Board of Education* on the fight to desegregate schools in Evansville.



Christy is now an Assistant Professor of History at American Public University System (APUS). APUS is an entirely online institution that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in History. Currently, she teaches survey courses in African American history and serves as the Course Lead for *African American History since 1877*. Creating a Multicultural History concentration for APUS History majors is one of Cristy's current goals. She also works as an Adjunct Instructor in Ethnic and Gender Studies at Westfield State University, where she teaches Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies and Introduction to Women and Gender Studies.

Cristy serves the community through her professional service. In 2009, she was a co-coordinator for the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) Expanding Access to Higher Education Conference at Framingham State College. This conference addressed the roles of race, class and gender in the disparity of educational access in Massachusetts. In June of 2009, Cristy conducted a workshop entitled: "A Practical Guide for Instructors: Teaching Race in the Face of White Denial" at the 8th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences. At Hampshire College's CLPP 30th Annual Reproductive Justice Conference in 2011, she led the workshop "Understanding Power, Interrupting Privilege, & Self Preservation" to discuss how power and privilege work in our classrooms and our community activism. It offered solutions to help activists prevent from getting burned out.

Cristy is an active member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and organized a panel discussion entitled: "Examining Virtual Blackness: A Roundtable Discussion on Teaching Black History Online" at the 2011 annual meeting of ASALH. The panelists were all APUS faculty who teach African American History. Their goals were to present APUS's pedagogy, discuss issues unique to online teaching, and use audience participation to help brainstorm issues that impact online education.

Cristy and Xavier moved to North Carolina with their two lovely boys (photo above), six-year-old August (right) and 18-month-old Phoenix (left). Since having children, she is immersed in the world of Autism and would like to pursue future research on how power and privilege impact access to early intervention services for Autistic children of color.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS & VIEWS

Flávia Santos de Araújo presented her essay entitled "'From the Earth's Inside': Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Audre Lorde and Conceicao Evaristo" in the V International Seminar on Women and Literature, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from Aug. 4-6, 2011. This seminar paid special homage to Afro-Brazilian women writers. Flavia completed training to become a certified Educator Advocate for the state of Massachusetts. She currently serves as an Educator Advocate for the Everywoman's Center at UMass Amherst. Flávia participated in the 2012 production of *The Vagina Monologues* at UMass Amherst.

Emahunn Campbell gave his paper, "It Comes From the Soul: The New School of Afro-American Thought, Washington, D.C., and Black Arts" at the DC Historical Studies Conference and presented at the American Studies Association annual meeting on "Du Bois, Prisons, and Imperialism." Emahunn also published an essay in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Black Scholar* entitled, "A Critique of the Occupy Movement from a Black Occupier." An upcoming issue of *The Black Scholar* will feature Emahunn's book review of *Sojourning for Freedom*. Emahunn helped to establish a Western Massachusetts chapter of Students Against Mass Incarceration.

Ernest L. Gibson III successfully defended his dissertation, "In Search of the Fraternal: Salvific Manhood and Male Intimacy in the Novels of James Baldwin," in April. Ernest was offered an appointment in the English Department at Wittenberg University and an Africana Research Center Postdoctoral Fellowship at Pennsylvania State University. Ernest declined these offers and has, instead, accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Jason Hendrickson moderated a debate and facilitated a series of dialogues at the Youth Summit of the National Urban League's Annual Conference this past summer in Boston. The dialogues, designed to raise awareness of critical issues in race, culture, health, gender, and education, brought together more than 200 Black and Latino teenagers from around the country. He presented his paper, "'From Whence My Love of Freedom Sprung': Phillis Wheatley, Salvation-Liberation Ideology, and the Poetics of Diasporic Displacement Reconciliation?" at the biannual meeting of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) this past fall. Jason was recently hired as a part-time Writing Associate at the Writing Center at Amherst College and will continue in his position as a visiting adjunct instructor at Westfield State University this upcoming semester.

Allia Matta successfully defended her dissertation, "Uncovering the Covered Word and Image: Framing a Blackwoman's Diasporan Stage-Space," in September. Allia has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of English at LaGuardia College CUNY.

Kelli Morgan gave a paper at NCBS titled "Black Visions: The Transformation of Memory to Images of Revolution in the works of Margaret Walker and Elizabeth Catlett" that examines how Walker and Catlett use their grandmothers' memories of slavery and post-emancipation as images in their works to influence ideas of revolution in their Black audiences. Kelli was also recently accepted as a participant in the CHAViC Summer Seminar in American Visual Culture at the American Antiquarian Society.

McKinley E. Melton successfully defended his dissertation, "Pen Stroking the Soul of a People: Spiritual Foundations of Black Diasporan Literature," in June. McKinley was hired as a tenure-track faculty member of Gettysburg College. Starting in the fall, McKinley will serve as Assistant Professor in the English Department, specializing in African American Literature.

Jamal Watson successfully defended his dissertation, "Ethel Payne, the First Lady of the Black Press: Black Journalism and Its Advocacy Role from 1954-1991," in August.



McKinley Melton, Joseph A. Guillory, Vanessa Fabien, Markeysha Davis, Ernest Gibson, Julia Charles, Kelli Morgan, Flávia Santos de Araújo, and Julia's brother Isaiah.

James Smethurst, Ernest Gibson, Ekwueme Michael Thelwell, and Esther M.A. Terry

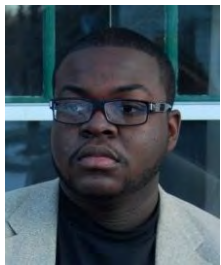


WELCOMING OUR FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ph.D. Incoming Students

Maria Ximena Abello Hurtado is from Cali, Columbia. She is a social worker who graduated from Universidad del Valle. As an active member of the Afro-Colombian Group GAUV, she has participated as researcher in several projects related to the problems of Afro-Colombian women and families. Her research has helped established complex linkages between family, gerontology and intercultural issues; effects of multiple forms of discrimination on Afro descended women in the case of access to public health care in Cali.

Erin Judge finished her first year in our terminal M.A. program and has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Fall 2012. Erin grew up in Middlefield, CT and graduated from Westfield State University with a B.A. in Ethnic and Gender Studies as well as in History, with certification for middle/secondary education. Erin's research interests focus on the history of racism and race relations in early New England. Erin is on the history and politics track.



Anthony Phillips is from Philadelphia, PA and received his M.A. degree in Black Religion in the African Diaspora from Yale Divinity School. In 2010, he graduated as a Benjamin Elijah Mays Scholar with a B.A. in African American Studies and Philosophy from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Anthony is an alumni member of The Institute for Responsible Citizenship and is the proud Co-Founder of Youth Action, a Philadelphia based youth-led service non-profit operated by young African Americans. Anthony has received a diversity fellowship for 2012-2013 and is on the history and politics track.

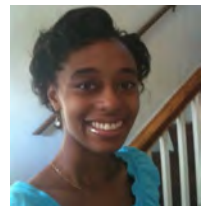
Jacinta R. Saffold is from Milwaukee, WI and received her B.A. in African American Studies and Educational Studies from Emory University and is a Mellon-Mays Fellow. Jacinta is on the literature and culture track.



Huan "Rita" Zhou is from Huanggang, China. She received her B.A. in English from Central China Normal University and worked as an English teacher for two years in a high school in the Sichuan Province. Rita's research interests focus on African-American women writers. She is on the literature and culture track.

M.A. Incoming Students

Olivia Brown is from Windsor, CT. She graduated from Temple University with a B.A. in African American Studies in addition to a minor in History. Her research interests include the history of African American women's activism, history of the Black Power Movement, Civil Rights Era history, and African Diaspora History.



Spencer Kuchle is from Woodstock, CT. He received his B.A. from Hampshire College in Africana Studies with an emphasis on "performing blackness" and concepts of racial malpractice. Spencer's research interests include hip hop and social justice, the Black Arts Movement, and Black feminism. He has served as a member of a five-year interdisciplinary, inter-institutional research team to engage in participatory action planning around clean water solutions, sustainable agriculture, and entrepreneurship for women in Kenya's rural communities. Spencer is on the history and politics track.

Justin McCarthy is from Lynn, MA and received his B.A. at UMass Amherst in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies. Justin's research interests include the use of Hip-Hop as a social tool as well as the Nation of Islam's impact on African-American youth culture. He is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Justin will be on the literature and culture track.



SPOTLIGHT: PH.D. ALUMNUS & ALUMNAE/I NEWS



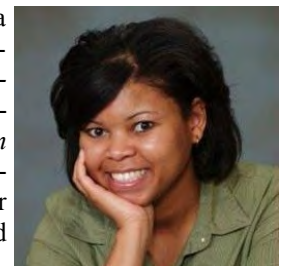
Among the first cohort of graduate students in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies was Christopher P. Lehman. Having earned his B.A. in History from Oklahoma State University and an M.A. in History at UMass, Lehman took to the History/Politics track in the Du Bois department. His dissertation “Black Representation in American Animated Short Films, 1928-1954” – directed by Professor Ernest Allen – explored the portrayals of African American images in early commercial animation. Since earning his Ph.D in 2002, Dr. Lehman has been on faculty at the Ethnic Studies Program at St. Cloud State University located in Minnesota, where he is now a full professor.

Lehman has authored four monographs: *American Animated Cartoons of the Vietnam Era: A Study of Social Commentary in Films and Television Programs, 1961-1973* (2006), *The Colored Cartoon: Black Representation in American Animated Short Films, 1907-1954* (2007), *A Critical History of Soul Train on Television* (2008), and *Slavery in the Upper Mississippi Valley: A History of Human Bondage in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin* (2011). His scholarship has garnered numerous commendations, including an award for Outstanding Academic Title from the Association of College and Research Libraries for *The Colored Cartoon*. He has also been a featured guest or commentator on a bevy of media forums including Minnesota Public Radio, Chicago Public Radio, WGN Radio, CNN, VH1, and ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

In addition to his prolific publishing career, Dr. Lehman leads an active professional life on campus at St. Cloud State where he coordinates the African American Studies minor and serves on the faculty committee in the Ethnic Studies Program. In June of 2011 he was a Visiting Fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, participating in the National Endowment for the Humanities' Summer Institute "African American Struggles for Freedom and Civil Rights, 1865-1965" at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University from June 27 to July 22, 2011.

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans is chair of the Department of History with a dual appointment as Associate Professor in African American and Africana Women’s Studies. She is spearheading the reclamation of W. E. B. Du Bois’s legacy at Clark Atlanta University. She is coordinating a year-long reading seminar of Du Bois’s major works which will culminate in an international conference commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Du Bois’s passing. For the January 20, 2012 kick off seminar, Mr. Arthur McFarlane, Du Bois’s great-grandson was among the panelists. CAU President Carlton Brown, a founding student member of the Du Bois Department at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, was also a member of the initial January seminar. Details of the 2012 Du Bois Major Works Seminar and the 2013 “Wings of Atlanta” Commemorative Conference can be found online at the CAU History Department website: http://www.cau.edu/Academics_History_Main.aspx.

Dr. Trimiko Melancon, Assistant Professor of English and African & African American Studies at Loyola University in New Orleans has been awarded a prestigious 2012 Woodrow Wilson National Foundation fellowship for next academic year. During this time, she will complete the final revisions of her first book *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and the Politics of Representation*. Additionally, she will be working on her second book project, *You People: Race and the Global Politics of Exclusion from Katrina to Berlin*, from which she presented at the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies "Fire Next Time" Colloquium Series in October 2011. An article based on, as well as a culmination of, her presentation has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Popular Culture* entitled "Reading Race and the Difference It Makes: (Post) 9/11, Black Performance, and Cultural Production."

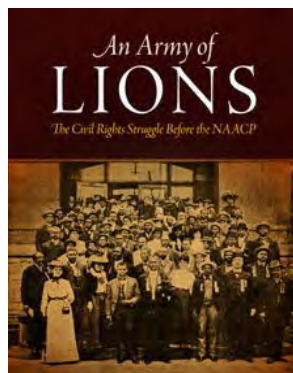


Drs. Kabria Baumgartner and **Jonathan Fenderson** completed an edited volume of the *Journal of African American Studies*, along with James Stewart. Also, congratulations to Dr. Fenderson for winning the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Short-term fellowship for the summer.

Kabria and her husband, Stefan, are expecting their first child, a girl, in January 2013.

Dr. Shawn Alexander has been awarded tenure and is now the Director of the Langston Hughes Center at the University of Kansas.

Dr. David Goldberg has been selected as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Scholar in Residence for 2012-2013. He will be doing research for his monograph on the history of Black firefighters.



Dr. David Lucander’s article on “the March on Washington Movement” in a forthcoming anthology (2013) about A. Phillip Randolph, is coming out from NYU Press edited Andrew Kersten & Clarence Lang. Also, his article “Exhuming Hidden History: Sources for Teaching about Slavery in New England” appeared in print in the 75th issue of *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* in Summer 2011.

Congratulations to our Class of 2012

PH.D.

Ernest Gibson
Kabria Baumgartner (Sept. 2011)

B.A.

Ryan Carvalho
Jaclynn Chiodini
Cecili Graham
Raynard Grange III
Colton Knibbe
Brendan Kuntz
Justin McCarthy
Stephane Milhem (Dec. 2012)
Ericca Rezendes
Samantha Sanon

M.A.

Julia Charles

MINORS

Jessica Bonheur
Tayla Bloom
Akiyah Francis
Michael Grady
Arianna Gray
Letisha Harris
Adele Jean
Kethia Joseph
Michael Mongeau
Erica Richardi

THE ESTHER M. TERRY AWARD

Kabria Baumgartner and Jonathan Fenderson have been selected to receive the prestigious Esther M. Terry Award for their outstanding dissertations in 2011. Congratulations!

Welcome to Our Afro-Am Babies



David Goldberg and Beth Cole
had their first baby,
a girl, Civia Louise
who was born on
December 11, 2011.



Bob and Sara Williams
had their first baby,
a girl, Charlotte Grace
who was born on
December 12, 2011.

Du Bois Lines would like to hear from all of our **Afro-American Studies** graduates. Please send us news about yourself to:
tlovelan@afroam.umass.edu.

A special thanks to the following publicity committee members for their support and contributions to our newsletter: Jim Smethurst, Bill Strickland, Tricia Loveland, Jason Hendrickson, Vanessa Fabien, Crystal Donkor, Alex Carter, David Swiderski, Don Geesling, Emahunn Campbell, Agyei Tyehimba, and Trent Masiki.

POETRY & RESISTANCE (Continued)

Keropatse Kgositsile was named South Africa's poet laureate in 2006. His country embraces him now, but in early 1960s the South African government forced Kgositsile into exile because of his political journalism and his membership in the ANC. Kgositsile fled to the US, where he spent thirteen years (1962-1975) surrounded by major political, literary, and jazz figures in the Black Arts Movement. It was the Black Arts Movement that gave birth to Kgositsile, the poet. In a 1978 interview with Charles Rowell, Kgositsile says, "although I was writing before I came to this country, I had never attempted to write poetry." He goes on to say he "stopped trying to mess with fiction" after he wrote his first poem. Kgositsile honored his poetic origins in the Black Arts Movement by publishing his first two collections with African American publishing houses, Broadside Press and Third World Press, respectively. Kgositsile's return to the U.S. lecture circuit this spring is highly anticipated. His poetry continues to promote the power, politics, and possibilities of resistance.

Although she was born in Alabama, it was in Harlem that Sonia Sanchez became a writer. She started writing in New York at the age of nine, giving voice to her feelings of alienation and overcoming a childhood stutter. Sanchez began to flourish as a poet during her college years in the early 1960s. Amiri Baraka, Haki Madhubuti, and Larry Neal were part of the writing group Sanchez started after she studied creative writing at NYU. Sanchez published her first collections of poetry with Broadside Press. She earned her Ph.D. in Fine Arts in 1972 from Wilberforce University, an HBCU in Ohio. Malcolm X was a major poetic and political influence for Sanchez. Black nationalist themes figure prominently in her early work, which challenges mainstream social, political, and cultural values. Sanchez's poetic interests are multidimensional. Her poems, plays, and prose focus on, among other things, womanhood, drug abuse, jazz, AIDS, spirituality, and the trials and tribulations of family life. Ever the activist, Sanchez continues to inspire young people in her public lectures, urging them to love themselves and each other as they fight the power.



(Top row from left to right): Bryan Bracey, Emahunn Campbell, Rosa Clemente-Delrow, Christopher Tinson, Julia Charles, Jason Hendrickson, Fangfang "Barbara" Zhu, Trent Masiki, Markeysha Davis, Allia Matta, Joseph A. Guillory, McKinley Melton, Peter Blackmer, Mary Custard. (Front row from left to right): Nelson Stevens, Sonia Sanchez, Keropatse "Willie" Kgositsile, Xianxhi "Shirley" Meng, John Bracey and Tricia Loveland.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES

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- Grounding in the complex political and historical development of Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora in the Americas;
- Conceptual strategies and critical apparatus for engaging with a variety of discourses on the African Diaspora;
- Working knowledge of the issues, themes, and concepts informing the current scholarship in African Diaspora Studies, especially a critical engagement with issues such as refugee status, exile, migration, immigration, trans-nationalism, and expatriation;
- Critical knowledge of the scholarship in at least one aspect of African Diaspora Studies.

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- Have gained admission into a graduate degree-granting department at UMass Amherst.
- Have earned a bachelor's or graduate degree from an accredited university and have made application for and gained admission to UMass as a non-degree student through the Graduate Admissions Office.

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Requirements: Five graduate courses distributed as follows:

- AfroAm 692Q: African Diaspora Studies: Introduction to Concepts and Historiography
- Four electives selected among the current offerings by the UMass Amherst and Five Colleges African Diaspora Faculty or alternate courses with the approval of one of the certificate co-directors.

Co-directors: John H. Bracey, Agustin Lao-Montes, Kym Morrison

Contact: Tricia Loveland, Administrative Assistant
Afro-American Studies, 329 New Africa House
Phone: (413) 545-2751
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