

Du Bois Lines

**W.E.B. Du Bois Department of
Afro-American Studies
University of Massachusetts
Amherst**

2012-2013

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Britt Rusert, Assistant Professor
Amilcar Shabazz, Professor
Manisha Sinha, Professor
James Smethurst, Professor
Steven Tracy, Professor

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Nelson Stevens
William Strickland
Esther M.A. Terry
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Du Bois Lines is the newsletter of the Department of Afro-American Studies. Contributions are welcomed from faculty, staff, and students. Special thanks to our contributors and editors: John Bracey, Sharon Coney, Vanessa Fabien, Don Geesling, Tricia Loveland, and James Smethurst.

W.E.B. Du Bois Department Professors Ernest Allen and William Strickland Retire



Ernest Allen, John Bracey, Esther M.A. Terry, Ekwueme M. Thelwell, William Strickland

It is with more than a little sadness that I presided at the joint retirement reception for Ernie Allen and Bill Strickland on June 15th. We all were part of the founding generation of the department and have stayed the course for four decades. Bill and Ernie were instrumental in helping to build the department to the heights that it has reached today. They are entitled to relief from those efforts and to the rest or new pursuits that retirement offers.

Ernie came from Oakland, where he was a founding editor of *Soulbook* magazine, by way of Detroit, where he worked on the *Inner City Voice* the newspaper arm of *Drum* and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. Ernie continued this interest by serving as editor of the fifteen annual issues of *Contributions in Black Studies*. The department "techmaster", Ernie led the way in the use of digital and audio visual technology in his teaching and research. He established the Benjamin Banneker Computer Lab, one of the first such facilities in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. He put in his time as assistant chair and chair of the department. Ernie's infectious laughter at the foibles of the world, his keen eye for the absurd, yet his insistence on order and responsibility in the business of the department, will be missed. The good news is that, at least for a little while, Ernie will continue to teach one course a year, and can be counted on to film department events with his Hollywood quality equipment.

Bill came to Amherst from Atlanta where he was one of the founders and directors of the Institute of the Black World. During his time in the Valley, Bill maintained his involvement in the independent politics in Black communities, both nationally and internationally. Bill never failed to remind us that in the naming of the department we had inherited the struggles that engaged the life of W.E.B. Du Bois, and that legacy should inform our teaching, scholarship and service. He also took on the responsibility of spearheading efforts with the Library staff and others of maintaining Du Bois's life and achievements as part of the life of both the campus and of the larger world.

No ivy or ivory tower for Bill. His questions always were: "How does this help Black people? How does this make America confront her legacy of racism and oppression?" Like Ernie, Bill has offered to continue to teach one course per year: our required grad seminar in African American Politics.

Trying to find comparable replacements for them would be a foolish and impossible undertaking. The task of the department is to recruit and hire younger scholars who have the energy, talent, and commitment to continue into the twenty-first century, in their own way, the contributions made by Ernie and Bill during their years with us. We will do our best.

For Bill and Ernie, we wish them health and good luck during their retirement years.

John Bracey, Chair and Professor

FACULTY NEWS

Emeritus Professor Ekwueme Michael Thelwell represented the department (and the University) when he delivered the keynote address in the "National Week of Respect" in celebration of the life of Chinua Achebe in his native Nigeria on May 20th, 2013 at the International Conference Center in Abuja the capitol. After which our brother traveled to Eastern Nigeria for the traditional ceremonies of celebration and burial by Achebe's family and kinsmen. As you know Professor Thelwell has taught courses on Achebe's work in the department for many years.



Professor Thelwell will be a keynote speaker at the November 2013 International Conference on *Celebrating the Life and Works of Chinua Achebe: The Coming of Age of African Literature* by the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA).

Professor Steven Tracy Makes First Chu Tian Scholar Visit

Professor Steve Tracy has participated in a myriad of activities, including six lectures and two courses taught, in the first visit as a Chu Tian Scholar in China. His first Chu Tian Scholar visit to China was November 14th through January 9th,



Steve Tracy with Dr. John

2013. Steve started with a lecture on 11-16-2012, one and one-half hours after he got off the plane to Wuhan and was met by students Wei Yan and Joan Zhang at the Tianhe Airport. He could not find his lecture notes, and was unable to use his i-pod music, so he just improvised the lecture, "Mascon Blues," and played his musical examples on the harmonica. The following week, Steve began teaching two graduate courses, one dealing with ethnic American literature for MA students, the other with the subject of his recent manuscript, "Futuristic Jungleism," for PhD students. Professor Tracy made copious use of his collection of audio and video materials, and provided live vocal and harmonica performances of materials in classes as well, teaching more than thirty graduate students three days per week. Next Steve traveled to the city of Xi'an, capital of China for 1300 years, to give a lecture: "Louis Armstrong, Peetie Wheatstraw and the Invisible Man: Blueprint for Rural and Urban Folklore and Popular Culture" on December 7th, at Xi'an International Studies University School of English Studies. Next, he traveled to Shaanxi Normal University (SNNU), one of the key institutions of higher learning directly affiliated with Ministry of Education and "211 Project University," where he lectured on the same subject from 3-5 P.M. Then it was back to Wuhan to teach and engage in a funding debate for programs in the Department of Foreign Languages. On December 17th, Professor Tracy lectured to an undergraduate class at CCNU on two poems, Percy Bysshe

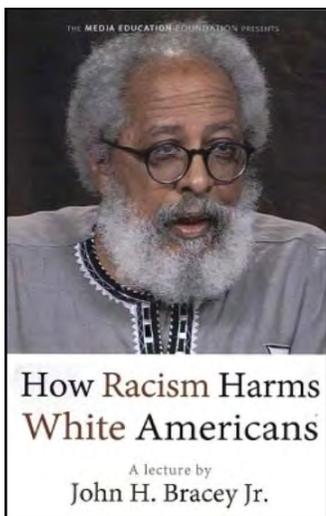
Shelley's "Ozymandias," in the context of Romanticism, and W.B. Yeats's "Sailing to Byzantium." Steve attended a conference to explore new research methods of Literature and advance further Chinese and Foreign Literature Critic in China, the 2nd Academic Symposium on Ethical Literary Criticism, Theoretical Exploration and Criticism Practice, held from December 21 to December 23, 2012, at China Three Gorges University, Yichang, China. The conference was jointly organized by the Editorial Department of *Foreign Literature Studies* of College of Chinese Language and Literature at Central China Normal University, Foreign Literature Association in Hubei Province, Literature Theory and Criticism Research Center of Hubei Province, and the College of Art & Communication and College of Foreign Language at China Three Gorges University. Professor Tracy delivered a keynote address, "'Bellies are Basic': Ethical Criticism and Afro-American Literature."

Professor Tracy was also appointed a Fulbright Senior Specialist and made a Fulbright trip to the University of Konstanz for six weeks. There he taught two courses, "The New Negro Renaissance" and "The Afro-American Image in American Literature" from May 3-June 12, 2012. He also offered a Lecture/Performance on "Blowing a Righteous Blues: African American Harmonica Performance and its Sociopolitical and Aesthetic Implications for Art and Literature." University of Konstanz, Germany, June 4, 2012.

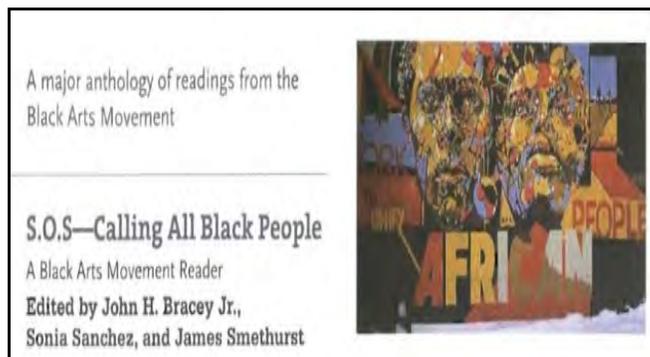
While in Germany, Steve also advised graduate students in the literature department and found time to sightsee around the lake at Konstanz, which borders on Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. In one of his classrooms, it was possible to look at the window to the right and see Austria, to the back and see Switzerland, and to the left and see Germany—not that the students were spending class time looking out the windows! Steve also visited the Dachau Concentration Camp, listening to ominous local church bells as he visited the camp's crematorium.

Professor Bracey Receives Honorary Degree from College of Wooster

Professor John H. Bracey, Jr. was awarded the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters at the College of Wooster's 143rd Commencement on May 13, 2013. The honor recognizes Bracey's accomplishments as a distinguished social historian and pioneer of Africana studies, and his commitment to and influence on the study of the history of identity, race and gender.

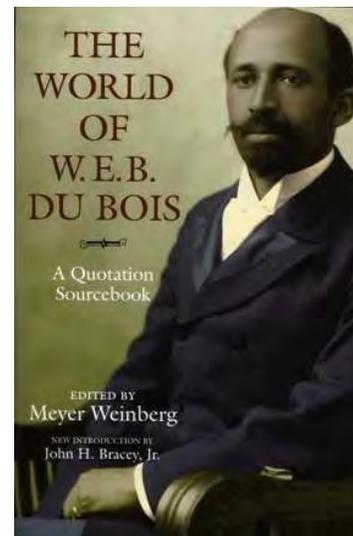


Professor John Bracey offers a provocative analysis of the devastating economic, political, and personal toll that racism has taken on white Americans. A dvd produced by Shut Jhally's Media Education Foundation (2013).



S.O.S.—Calling All Black People

This volume brings together a broad range of key writings from the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, among the most significant cultural movements in American history. (Forthcoming from UMass Press in May, 2014)



The World of W.E.B. Du Bois
 Edited by Meyer Weinberg with a new introduction by John H. Bracey, Jr. (UMass Press, 2012)

On June 9th, 2013, **Professors John and Ingrid Bracey** went to Philadelphia to participate in the dedication of the mural "Peace is a Haiku Song." The subject of the mural was the brainchild of Sonia Sanchez currently serving as the first Poet Laureate of the City of Philadelphia. Sonia sent out a call over a year ago for poets, writers, musicians, activists, scholars, students and community folk to send in a haiku based on the theme of peace. A few of the poems would be included as part of the mural painted on the side of a three story building at 1425 Christian Street. Others would be on other spaces such as bus shelters, subway stations, sidewalks, walls in schools. A larger selection of the many haiku submitted have been published in book form along with pictures of some of the artists, activities, other sites, and the finished mural.



Sonia Sanchez and John Bracey

Professor Bracey was fortunate enough to have his haiku (his first poem since junior high English class) included on the mural on Christian Street and in the book. It reads as follows:

Du Bois...Sonia Arrested
 For peace, let us lock up war
 See who posts bail...

At the dedication Bracey was one of thirty speakers who read their haiku or paid tribute to the vision of Sonia Sanchez. Among participating poets were Jessica Care Moore, Ursula Rucker, Askia Toúre, and T.C. Carson.

Professor Britt Rusert Receives NEH Fellowship

Professor Rusert has received an NEH Post-Doctoral Fellowship to complete her book, *Radical Empiricism: Fugitive Science and the Struggle for Emancipation*, at the Library Company of Philadelphia in Fall 2013. From UMass, she received a Healey Endowment/Faculty Research Grant for her book project as well as a Mellon Mutual Mentoring Grant from the Center for Teaching & Faculty Development to work with two mentors, Dr. Gene Andrew Jarrett of Boston University and Dr. Alondra Nelson of Columbia University. Both Dr. Jarrett and Dr. Nelson visited campus in the Spring, discussed their recently published books with graduate students and faculty, and delivered public lectures. Dr. Rusert has two forthcoming publications: "Experiments in Resistance: Counter-Archives of Racial Science on the Antebellum Stage" will appear in the June 2013 special issue of the *African American Review* on Black Performance, and "Delany's Comet: Fugitive Science and the Speculative Imaginary of Emancipation" will appear in the December 2013 issue of *American Quarterly*.



Professor James Smethurst published "A Soul Message: R&B Soul, and the Black Freedom Struggle" in *Routledge History of Social Protest in Popular Music* (New York: Routledge, 2013) and "Let the World Be a Black Poem: Some Problems of Recollecting and Editing Black Arts Texts" in *Publishing Blackness: Textual Constructions of Race Since 1850* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012). He also delivered a keynote lecture, "The Street Ran through Cities: Faulkner and the Early African Migration Narrative" to the 2013 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha at the University of Mississippi. He presented papers at the annual meetings of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and the American Studies Association.



Professor Manisha Sinha published "Did the Abolitionists Cause the Civil War?" in *The Abolitionist Imagination* (Harvard University Press, 2012) which was reviewed favorably in *The New York Review of Books*. Her article "To Cast Just Obliquity on Oppressors: Black Radicalism in the Age of Revolution" was republished in *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution* (Cengage, 2013). Professor Sinha participated in a historians' forum on the Emancipation Proclamation published in *Civil War History* (March 2013), published three other articles on emancipation, and wrote an article on emancipation and abolition in *The New York Times* Opinionator blog *Disunion*. She gave the Lincoln lecture at Washburn University; the keynote address in a Civil War conference in Portland, Maine sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council and Maine Historical Society; gave a talk on emancipation at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio; and, lectured for a traveling exhibition on emancipation and the US Constitution sponsored by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association at Norwalk Community College, Connecticut. Professor Sinha also chaired and commented in panels at the Organization of American Historians, a Civil War conference at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and at the Association of African American Life and History. She was also one of the faculty featured in the UMass Rising Campaign and received an award of extraordinary merit from the University. She was featured in "The Abolitionists," the PBS American Experience series, which first aired in February, 2013.



Professor Ernest Allen presented a paper, "Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, Harry Haywood, and the *Soulbook* Essays, 1965–67," at the 127th annual meeting of the American Historical Association held in New Orleans.

Professor Bill Strickland was featured in two books. The first was *The Institute of the Black World and Black Politics in the 1970's*, by Derrick White, which is a history of Institute of the Black World (IBW), the only independent black think tank in American history. (An extra bonus was that Professor Strickland is shown on the book's cover along with IBW's original Director, Dr. Vincent Harding.) The second was a chapter published by Black Classics Press last Fall in the volume, *A Lie of Reinvention: Manning Marable's Malcolm X*. Professor Strickland's chapter is entitled, "Remembering Malcolm: A Personal Critique of Manning Marable's Non-Definitive Biography of Malcolm X."

Professor Strickland was invited to Detroit by the Charles H. Wright Museum to participate in the museum's Liberation Film Series. He spoke on the PBS video on Du Bois, *Du Bois: In Four Voices*, for which he consulted. He went to a conference on Du Bois at Atlanta University, hosted by Ph.D. alumnae, Dr. Stephanie Evans. His topic was, "Reflections on Du Bois's Thirty Years at AU." And still in Atlanta, Professor Strickland spoke at the annual symposium on the renowned Guyanese scholar-activist, Walter Rodney. He spoke about his relationship with Rodney, his visiting Rodney in Tanzania, as well as Rodney's years at IBW.

The Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit invited Professor Strickland back to show and discuss his other PBS film, *Malcolm X: Make It Plain*. On that visit, he was given a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Museum and the city of Detroit for his contribution in bringing black history home to the people of Detroit. Throughout the year, Professor Strickland has been a member of, as well as a consultant to, the organizing committee of the university's Museum of Contemporary Art that is sponsoring the September symposium on Du Bois "Du Bois In Our Time." The symposium is a joint collaboration between artists and scholar's brought together to commemorate the fifty year anniversary of Du Bois's passing and discuss the relevance of Du Bois's legacy today. It is cosponsored by the department, among others, and a key speaker will be former UMass professor and Du Bois department member, Johnetta Cole. Finally, Professor Strickland has written a memorial essay dedicated to his late friend, Howard University and University of Maryland political scientist, Dr. Ron Walters. The essay will be published later this year by the *National Political Science Review* and is called, "Ron Walters: Black People's Strategist against the Politics of Post-Modern Racism in America."

The W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies would like to welcome:

Dania Francis, Assistant Professor of Economics and Afro-American Studies, joined UMass this Fall. She works in the fields of labor economics with particular attention to racial and ethnic inequalities. She completed her Ph.D. in May 2013 at Duke University. Her dissertation research studies the economics of education, focusing on the causes and consequences of the racial and socioeconomic academic achievement gap.

Evelyn Harris has dedicated her voice to giving depth and meaning to an extensive array of musical styles, creating stirring interpretations of African-American traditional and contemporary material, freedom songs from around the world, jazz, pop, rock 'n' roll, gospel and blues. Her 18-year tenure with the internationally acclaimed Black women's acapella ensemble Sweet Honey In The Rock guided her studies as an artist, performer, arranger and composer.

Karla Zelaya received her B.A. in English from SUNY College at Cortland and an M.A. from the Du Bois Department. She is from the Bronx, NY. She teaches African-American Writing, 18th Century to 1940; Black Literature of the Caribbean; and Black Women in the Americas and the Caribbean, as a full-time instructor in the Center for Ethnic Studies at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Karla will be teaching three classes in African American Studies.

WELCOMING OUR FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ph.D.



Nneka Dennie is from Leonardtown, MD. She received her B.A. in Political Science at Williams College. She is interested in researching political theory, racial politics in the Caribbean, 19th century Black feminism, and global expressions of Black feminism. Nneka is on the history and politics track and is the recipient of a 2013-2014 diversity fellowship.



Theresa Dudek is from Windsor, CT. She received her B.A. in English Literature at the University of Hartford. Tess's interests are primarily in 20th century African-American and Caribbean writing, the Black aesthetic, and the Black Arts Movement. She is on the literature and culture track.



Carlyn Ferrari is from Rohnert Park, CA. She received her B.A. in English at Pacific Union College and her M.A. in English at San Francisco State University. She is passionate about higher education and spent her professional career working with and teaching at-risk, underrepresented students. Her research centers on representations of blackness and black figures and identifies the ways in which past racial dogmas have influenced our current understanding of race. Carlyn is on the literature and culture track and is the recipient of a 2013-2014 university fellowship.



Crystal Sheffield was raised outside of Phoenix, AZ. She earned her B.A. in African American Studies at Oberlin College. After leaving Oberlin, Crystal taught 4th grade math and science at George H. Oliver Elementary School in Clarksdale, MS. An accomplished violinist, she taught violin to students as well. Crystal's research interests surround theories of racial identity/formation linked to miscegenation laws in the early 20th century. She is on the history and politics track.



Robert Williams finished his second year in our terminal M.A. program and has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in the Fall 2013. Bob was born and raised in the Pioneer Valley. He received his B.A. in Education/History from American International College and an M.A. in Medieval History from Saint Andrews University. He is interested in examining the ghettoization and marginalization of African American experiences in American Secondary School US History curricula and is on the history and politics track.

M.A.



Gary Orr is from Hartselle, AL. He received his B.A. in American History at the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in Sociology at the University of Connecticut. He is interested in examining the ways in which the social climate that existed during the Reconstruction period, as reflected in policies, personal accounts, institutions, etc., supported racist ideologies that favored White over Black. Gary is on the history and politics track.

SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATE STUDENT

Alex Carter, Ph.D. Candidate, has been selected for the 2013 Fulbright U.S. Postgraduate Scholarship award



to Australia by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission for the academic year 2013-2014. His project explores the connections and influences between Afro-Americans and Aboriginal Australians during the Black Power and Black Arts movements. These cross-cultural and transnational connections between Afro Americans and Aboriginal Australians are a vital component in understanding the trajectory and depth of the Black Power and Black Arts Movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Mr. Carter's objective is to foster the development of a national research depository that would promote future research initiatives among scholars who are engaged in these transnational discourses. He will be affiliated with Professor Maryrose Casey of Monash University in Clayton, Victoria. Alex Carter presented on his research, "Robert Maza, The National Black Theatre of Sydney and the Black Arts Movement" at the 2013 Australian and New Zealand Studies Association of North American at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

During the month of February, several of our graduate students participated in a Black History Month lecture series at Sabis Charter School in Springfield. **Julia Charles, Crystal Donkor, Johanna Ortner, Anthony Phillips, and Flávia Santos de Araújo** delivered a series of talks on various topics in African American history and literature. The project was an overwhelming success. Some of the journalism students at Sabis wrote articles on the various topics discussed for their campus newsletter. Sabis hopes to continue the series for many years to come.

Spencer Kuchle was engaged this past summer in participatory action planning with youth groups in Kenya's West Lake District. Sixty-five percent of Kenya's population is comprised of youth, defined as those between the ages of 18 and 35. The primary objective of the work has been youth leadership development in partnership with APHIA PLUS (AIDS Population Health Integrated Assistance), World Vision and "Yes Youth Can." Each of the organizations is supported by USAID and is committed to long-term community building. An underlying assumption is that the social determinants of health can be addressed by fostering solutions to food insecurity, poverty and disease burden that are community-centered, sustainable, promote universal access and foster leadership. "Yes Youth Can" seeks to mobilize youth to have a greater voice within their communities and to facilitate civic engagement. The communities I collaborate with are targeting clean-water solutions using local materials, producing drought-resistant, high-yield crops, and empowering youth through enterprise creation. This is his fifth year working with community members in Kisumu, Kisii, Bondo and Siaya to enhance availability to primary health services, prevent disease and treat illness.

James Carroll successfully defended his dissertation entitled, "Composing the African Atlantic: Sun Ra, Fela Anikulapokuti, and the Poetics of African Diasporic Composition."

David Swiderski successfully defended his dissertation entitled, "Approaches to Black Power: African American Grassroots Political Struggle in Cleveland, Ohio, 1960-1966."

Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell is a 2013 American Antiquarian Society Visiting Fellow. He is the secretary-elect of the Mark Twain Circle for the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. He has a forthcoming chapter published in Dr. Gretchen Martin's work, *Twain's Omissions: Exploring the Gaps as Textual Context*. Additionally Mr. Campbell presented at the American Studies Association Conference in Puerto Rico in November 2012 and will present at the American Literature Association Conference in Boston 2013.

Fangfang (Barbara) Zhu presented two papers at conferences: "The Mutually Reinforced Oppression of Women, Nature, and Race in Jean Toomer's Cane" at the 10th International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research in Atlanta, GA; and, "Bessie Smith and Sherley Anne Williams's 'Any Woman's Blues'" at the 2nd Convention of Chinese/American Association for Poetry and Poetics in Wuhan, China.

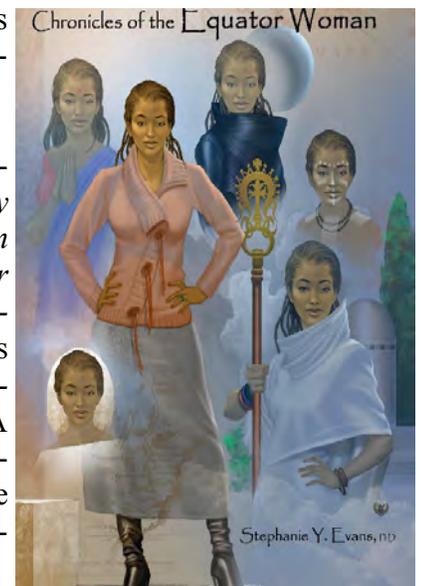
SPOTLIGHT: PH.D. ALUMNA

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans was admitted to our Ph.D. program in the Fall, 1999. She had studied at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Humanities in 1999 from California State University at Long Beach. That fall, she entered Du Bois Department's newly minted doctoral program. Seeking to further engage the topic of black women's educational and intellectual history in the United States, Evans joined the history and politics track. En route to a Ph.D., she earned an M.A. in Afro-American Studies along with a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. In 2003, under the guidance of Professor John H. Bracey, Evans completed and defended her dissertation, *Living Legacies: Black Women, Educational Philosophies, and Community Service, 1865-1965*. Upon matriculation, Dr. Evans joined the faculty in the African American Studies and Women's Studies Departments at University of Florida-Gainesville. She earned tenure and later



served as Director of the African American Studies Department. In 2011, she relocated to Atlanta, Georgia to work at the historic HBCU Clark Atlanta University where she currently serves as Chair of the Department of History and a joint Associate Professor in the Departments of Africana Studies and Africana Women's Studies.

In addition, Dr. Evans has authored numerous publications, including a monograph, *Black Women in the Ivory Tower, 1850-1954: An Intellectual History* (2007), a co-edited book, *African Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education* (2009), *Chronicles of the Equator Woman: The Recipe for Justice Soup* (2013), and a forthcoming work entitled *Black Passports: A Resource Guide to 200 Black Travel Memoirs*, which will be issued by SUNY Press in 2014. She also co-edited a special issue of the *Western Journal of Black Studies* with Dr. Mark Christian titled "Africana Studies at the Graduate Level: A Twenty-first Century Perspective" (2010). Dr. Evans has also served as a consultant and interviewee for numerous programs and organizations, including the documentary *Historically Black, Inside Higher Ed*, the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, the Oklahoma Board of Regents, and the Florida Humanities Council.



PH.D. ALUMNAE/I NEWS

Jonathan Fenderson (2011) has started a tenure track job as an Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. In March of this year, Fenderson received the Mary Mcleod Bethune Award for Outstanding Service in the Promotion of Africana Studies from the National Council for Black Studies in recognition for his work with St. Louis' Organization for Black Studies. Additionally, he has authored an article, "Toward the Gentrification of Black Power," which will appear in the July-September 2013 volume of *Race & Class*.

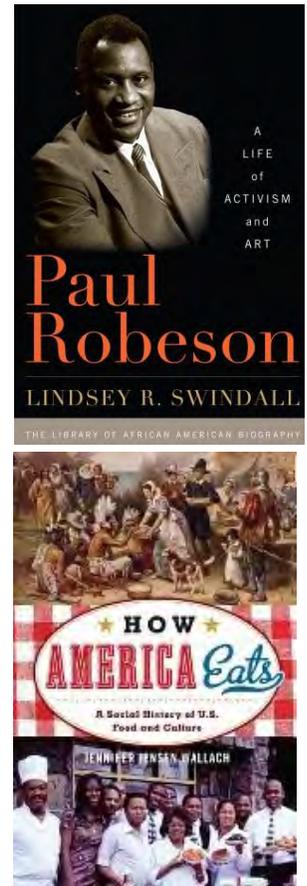
Trimiko Melancon (2005), Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies at Loyola University, is a 2012-2013 Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Visiting Scholar at Tulane University's Anna Julia Cooper Project for Gender, Race, and Politics in the South under the founding directorship of Melissa Harris-Perry. She has completed the final revisions for her first book, *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and the Politics of Representation* (now under contract) and is now completing a co-edited book with Joanne M. Braxton on *Contemporary Black Female Sexualities*. In addition, she recently appeared in a video commemorating the 50th anniversary of King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and facilitated a discussion with Civil Rights icon Diane Nash.

David Lucander (2010) has two books presently under contract, *"Winning The War For Democracy": The March on Washington Movement, 1941-1946* (University of Illinois Press) and a reader co-edited with Andrew Kesten of A. Philip Randolph's speeches and writings (University of Massachusetts Press). Both will be released in 2014.

Zebulon Miletsky (2008) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in Africana Studies at Stony Brook University. In spring 2012, he published a book chapter, "Mutt Like Me: Barack Obama and the Mixed Race Experience in Historical Perspective", that appeared in the collection "Obama and the Biracial Factor: The Battle for A New American Majority", edited by Andrew Jolivette; (Policy Press) February, 2012.

Lindsey Swindall (2007) completed her second book, *Paul Robeson: A Life of Activism and Art*, which was released in February 2013 by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Jennifer Jensen Wallach (2004) recently received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of North Texas in Denton. Her latest book, *How America Eats: A Social History of U.S. Food and Culture*, was issued in 2012 by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. In addition, Wallach was named series editor of the University of Arkansas Press Series on Food and Foodways.



THE NEW AFRICA HOUSE ENSEMBLE



(Left to right): Kevin Harrington Jim Carroll, Berhani Woldu, Mtalika Banda, Isaac Luxon, Donald Geesling, Jon Fisher and Dave Picchi.

On February 28th, 2013 the newly constituted New Africa House Ensemble performed their first concert in the Augusta Savage Gallery. The group consists primarily of graduate and undergraduate students in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department, with a few additional musicians and poets to fill the gaps. The founding members include pictured left to right: (Kevin Harrington, Jim Carroll, Berhani Woldu, Mtalika Banda, Isaac Luxon, Donald Geesling, Jon Fisher, and Dave Picchi). The NAH Ensemble performs music from a range of modern African American forms from blues, bebop, r&b, 1960's jazz from Coltrane and beyond. Subsets of the larger ensemble performed at the Memorial Ceremony for Bill Bromery on June 22nd as well as

generating two student-run ensemble classes in group improvisation and African percussion.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS



Abiodun Oyewole (from The Last Poets), Tantra-zawadi (poet/author/recording artist from Brooklyn), Tony Vacca (world-percussion musician from the Pioneer Valley), Derrick Jordan (musician from Vermont), Eshu Bumpus and Motoko (two storytellers from the Pioneer Valley who travel the country to different schools

The group stayed at a place called Sobobade, which is an artist's hotel on the shores of the Atlantic in a town called Toubab Dialaw. This town is a popular destination for foreigners from all over, and the name "toubab" means white, while "dialaw" means black. They put on two workshops the first week that involved poetry and rap. They played music behind the rappers who came from the neighboring towns to participate in the workshop. They also performed at a concert at Sobobade as well as with some of the participants in the workshops. While at Sobobade they worked with an English Speaking Club, where they shared poetry and music and songs with a large group of kids ranging in ages from eight to twenty-one.

They collaborated with a group of musicians called Bideew Bou Bess (BBB—3 brothers who have been a group since they were in their teens. They are all over the radio in Senegal, and are some of the most successful musicians/singers in Senegal). Their performance group played a concert with them at the largest arena in Senegal as a part of their 18th Birthday of being a group. BBB took them to Podor, where they are from, for a couple days to meet their family. This is the poorest part of the whole country, so it was a fresh perspective of all sorts of living conditions. We also performed with BBB on Goree Island, and met the mayor of Goree as well.

In Dakar they collaborated with Africulturban (an urban African culture). They have what's called the Hip Hop Akademy, which is a place the youth can go to and learn about hip hop and develop their passion for rap/hip hop. The performance group performed at one of their poetry nights, and also discussed future plans. There was also a large discussion on the use of the "N" word, which Abiodun feels partially responsible for. Dun and The Last Poets used the "N" word a lot in their poems. Their poetry inspired and influenced the birth of rap and hip hop as a whole. What The Last Poets were really saying was to not be a "Nigga." It was an interesting conversation that they had with Africulturban and the young rappers there.

By Kevin Harrington

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO

PH.D.

James Carroll, Allia Abdullah-Matta, McKinley Melton, Jamal Watson

M.A.

Alex Carter, Crystal Donkor, Johanna Ortner, Kelli Morgan, and Fangfang Zhu

Graduate Certificate in the African Diaspora

Flávia de Santos Araújo (2012), Carmen Cosme, Allia Matta, Aurora Vergara-Figueroa

B.A.

Lawrence Carrier, Freddie Riley, Terrell Vinson, Berhani Woldu

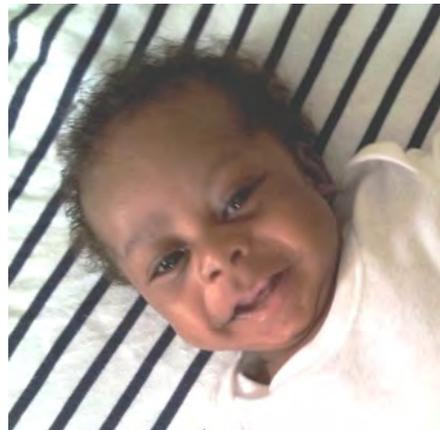
Minors

Elizabeth Asefi, Jessica Bonheur, Anthony Field-Strickland, Joseph Forson, Madelaine Hicks, Mindy Menardy, Amanda Moore, Elizabeth Sinclair, Erika Slocumb, Cassandra Spadory, DeShawn Townshend, Jenea Warren, Taylyse Wornum

WELCOME TO OUR AFROAM BABIES



Kabria and Stephane Baumgartner had a baby girl, Ella Winter Rose, born on December 26, 2012.



Zahra Caldwell and DeRoy Gordon had a baby boy, Nefur Chinua, born on July 18, 2013.



David Goldberg and Beth Cole had a baby boy, Oscar Solomon, born on August 24, 2013.



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