

Nommo

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURE CENTERS

Fall 2015

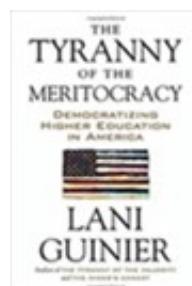
VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1

Book Power

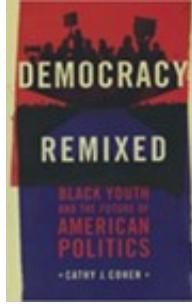
Recent releases in literature, history and culture.



Black Culture Centers: Politics of Survival and Identity
Edited by Fred L. Hord
Third World Press



The Tyranny of the Meritocracy: Democratizing Higher Education in America
By Lani Guinier
Beacon Press



Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics
By Cathy J. Cohen
Oxford University Press

Honoring 25 Years of ABCC and Culture Centers in Boston

Dr. Richard L. O'Bryant
Director, John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute



Habari Gani in KiSwahili—an eastern and central African language — means, “What good news do you have?” The John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute and Northeastern University have “good news” and are proud and excited to co-host the 2015 Association for Black Culture Centers Conference in historic Boston. This year’s conference is appropriately themed, “Commemorating a History ... Establishing a Legacy!” We have so much to commemorate with the ABCC conference’s 25 years of rich history and experiences. The

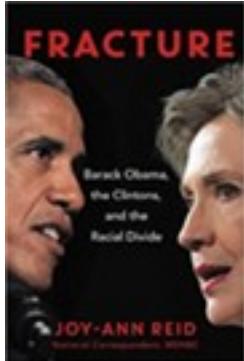
conference program will be engaging and inspiring to speak to the overarching conference theme. Workshops during Friday and Saturday deal with the following issues: importance of culture centers, incorporating STEM programs, globalization of centers, student retention, centers as liaisons to other campus units, women directors, leadership succession plans, using social media for student engagement, drama and literature in centers, and co-curricular activities. *Continued on page 12...*

Northern Illinois University Welcomes the ABCC to Campus



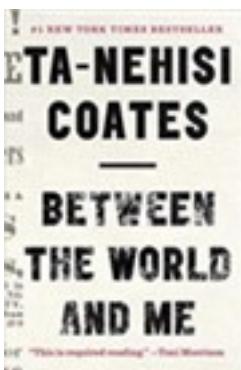
Northern Illinois University held an event in late March to welcome the ABCC to campus. In July, the ABCC moved its national headquarters to NIU. Left to right: NIU President Dr. Doug Baker, NIU Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Lisa Freeman, ABCC President Dr. Rodney Cohen, ABCC Founder/Executive Director Dr. Fred Hord, ABCC Assistant to the Executive Director Terry Duffy, ABCC Vice President Dr. Shakeer Abdullah, and ABCC Web Expert Donnie Forti

More books on page 2



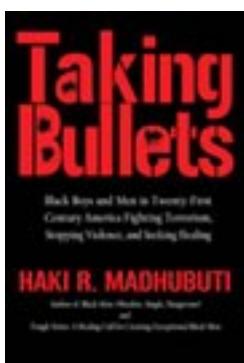
Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons, and the Racial Divide

By Joy-Ann Reid
William Morrow



Between the World and Me

By Ta-Nehisi Coates
Spiegel & Grau



Taking Bullets: Black Boys and Men in Twenty-First Century America Fighting Terrorism, Stopping Violence, and Seeking Healing

By Haki R. Madhubuti
Third World Press

ABCC President's Corner: Expanding Partnerships to Advance the Mission of Culture Centers

Dr. Rodney T. Cohen
ABCC President



For close to 30 years the Association for Black Culture Centers has been in the forefront for support, advocacy, research and training of Black Culture Centers in higher education. ABCC has been the only organization of its kind to dedicate itself solely to the preservation and development of collegiate Centers promoting black culture and success.

This year the ABCC will celebrate its 25th annual conference, highlighting current and future issues relevant to the black community, the Culture Center Movement and the continued role, direction and challenges of these Centers. Many Centers nationally are being challenged with relevancy and as our society evolves, many believe that black or ethnic centered spaces are no longer needed or relevant in the context of today's society.

We at the ABCC beg to differ; we actually believe that our Centers are needed more today than when they were conceptualized in the 1960s. However, we do contend that many current models are outdated. The "home away from home" adage has been the guiding principle for many Centers historically, and justifiably so, but today institutions are requiring more rigor and accountability related to measurable outcomes and success.

The ABCC continues to push the envelope, ask the hard questions and provide some recommendations and solutions for the future. A number of new initiatives have been developed by ABCC to address the changing terrain and demographics. The ABCC, while staying very true to its origin and history, has expanded its footprint to include and engage other ethnic-centered Centers across the country.

The ABCC has also been very active with recent partnerships and collaborations. These partnerships and collaborations have included national organizations such as the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE), American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA), John D. O'Bryant National Think Tank (JDOTT) and National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE). As a result, ABCC members have been actively involved in conducting webinars, providing consultation and presenting at some of the conferences of the mentioned organizations; all in the name of advancing the mission and efficacy of Black Culture Centers.

The ABCC is in the process of releasing another book which will examine the current challenges, the future of our Centers and how institutions can be poised to provide the appropriate support and structure for their success. *Continued on page 13...*

Executive Director's Report

By Dr. Fred L. Hord,
ABCC Executive Director and Founder

How we got over! This is the ABCC's 25th national conference in more than 27 years of existence. We have aged, we have grown, we have had the customary blips, and we have more than survived. Recently, one person who attended our inaugural conference at Knox College said she was 24 then; she is now 50. We are working on a book length history of those years; here we only briefly identify 10 significant initiatives central to our progress. There is no attempt to rank them in importance.

Though we are not a conference organization, they have clearly been critical to our development. We have often been told the themes are compelling, the Professional Development Institute useful, the workshops engaging, the students track valuable to more than students, and the keynote speakers extremely provocative. We are approaching one hundred speakers in number but, even more, most have national if not international reputations.

Our growing partnerships throughout the years have been impressive to all and vital to our progress. Almost from the beginning, we identified a number of presses, journals, and film/DVD companies, and created working arrangements. More than a quarter century later, three partners have provided special benefits to our institutional members: California Newsreel, Diverse, and Third World Press. A more recent kind of partnership has been with mainstream student activity and diversity organizations, as well as Black academic and professional ones. In the past year, our collaborations with NASPA (Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education), ACPA (American College Personnel Association) and NADOHE (National Association of Chief Diversity Officers in Higher Education) have been notable, including our webinar with NASPA and presentation at an ACPA conference. Each of them, in turn, is represented by its president at this conference to convene a special plenary.

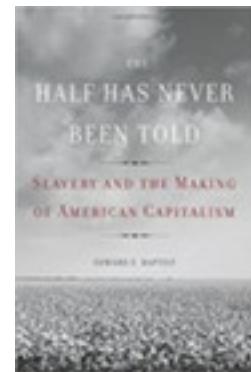
Certainly, our fairly recent increased emphasis on other Centers of domestic specific ethnic groups (Latino, Asian American, and Native American) has received fanfare. All of these groups have an historical and contemporary connection with Africana people, and we begin these relationships by focusing on the connections. For instance one of our conference keynote speakers is Dr. Khalil Muhammad, Director of the Schomburg Center for Black Culture; that Center was launched by the private collection of a Black Puerto Rican. At Northern Illinois University, ABCC national headquarters, The Center for Black Studies works closely with the Latino Resource Center and the Asian American Center.

Yet another recent ABCC strategy to organize Centers is through conferences of colleges/universities. *Continued on page 14...*



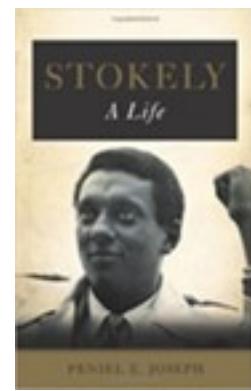
The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America

By Khalil Gibran Muhammad
Harvard University Press



The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism

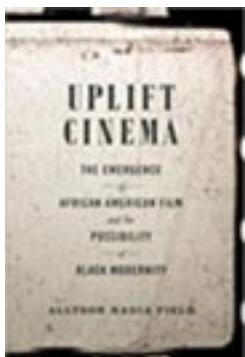
By Edward E. Baptist
Basic Books



Stokely: A Life

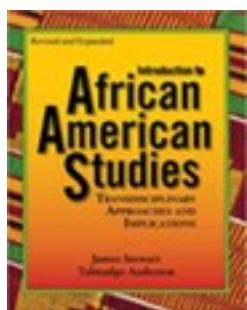
By Peniel E. Joseph
Basic Civitas Books

More books on page 4



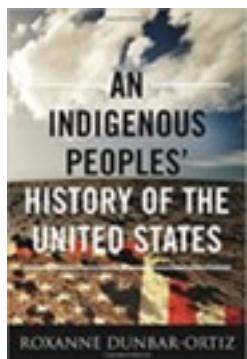
Uplift Cinema: The Emergence of African American Film and the Possibility of Black Modernity

By Allyson Nadia Field
Duke University Press



Introduction to African American Studies

By James Stewart and Talmadge Anderson
Inprint Editions



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Beacon Press

25 Years of Mentoring Boys to Manhood

By Dr. J. Keith Motley
Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Boston



The Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self Development serves young men in grades 3-12 every Saturday

The Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self Development (PRI) was initiated in the fall of 1989 by the Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts, Inc. (CBMM), under the leadership auspices of its Standing Committee on Education. CBMM is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization founded for the purpose of "improving the quality of life of Black people by affirming the viability of Black males." PRI was established to engender a holistic conduit of educational,

emotional, and personal support to young African American males and their families. Predicated on the ground that Black children and their families are at acute risk in today's society, the Institute provides a range of early intervention and self-awareness options for elementary age youth and their families.

PRI serves young men in grades 3 – 12, with sessions held weekly on Saturdays from 8am – 1pm. PRI provides breakfast and lunch during the sessions, at no cost to the young men or their families. The overall program operates annually from September through June, which culminates in a Rite of Passage ceremony.

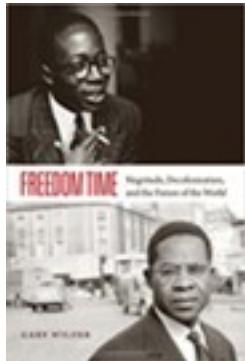
The impetus for The Paul Robeson Institute is stimulated via the research and writing of Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, a Black educator, who identifies the third and fourth grade levels as a pivotal point in the learning experience of Black male students. According to Dr. Kunjufu, by the close of the third grade, something

has transpired in young Black boys that results in their losing interest in education, achievement, strength, intellect, sensitivity, and self-conviction sufficient to overcome tremendous odds.

Continued on page 18...

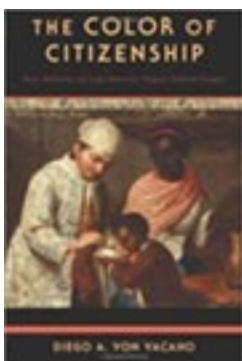


College students provide mentoring and guidance to students in the Paul Robeson Institute



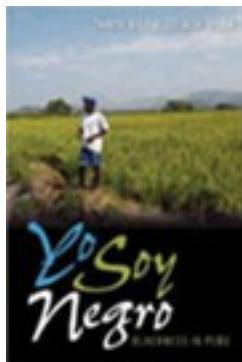
Freedom Time: Negritude, Decolonization, and the Future of the World

By Gary Wilder
Duke University Press



The Color of Citizenship: Race, Modernity and Latin American / Hispanic Polit- cal Thought

By Diego A. von Vacano



Yo Soy Negro: Blackness in Peru

By Tanya Maria Golash-Boza
University Press of Florida

'A Compassionate Man Who Loved People,' John D. O'Bryant's Legacy Remembered at ABCC Conference

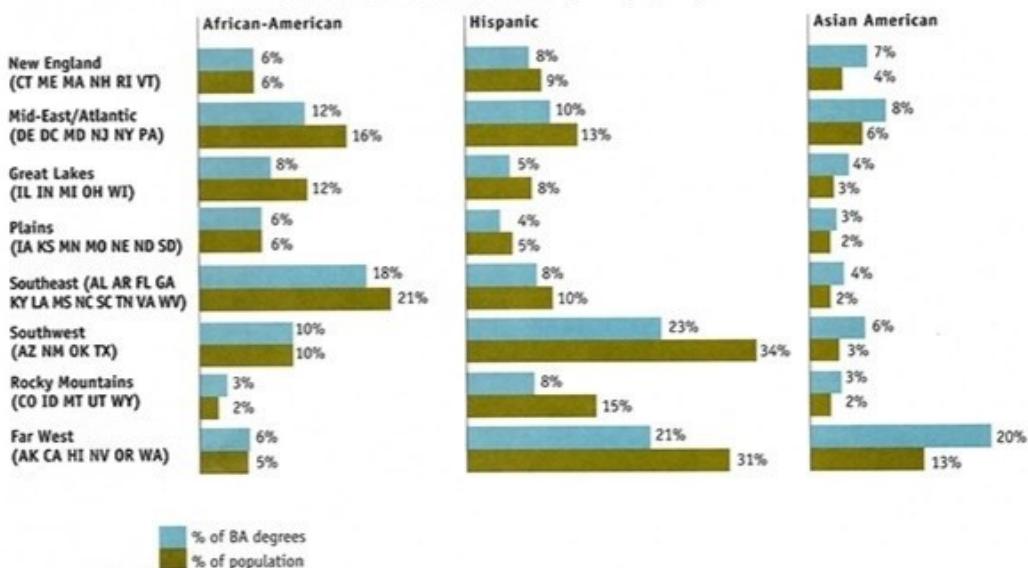


The Association for Black Culture Centers would like to thank the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute for serving as the co-host of our 25th anniversary ABCC conference. In the spirit of this year's conference theme, "Commemorating a History...Celebrating a Legacy," we remember the legacy of John D. O'Bryant.

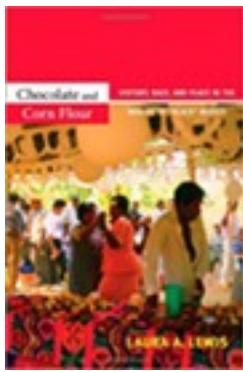
Born in Boston, John became the first African-American to serve as Northeastern University vice president, a position he held from 1979 until his death in 1992. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University, served in the U.S. Army, and worked as a teacher and guidance counselor in Boston Public Schools for 14 years. He also served as president of the Boston School Committee, as national chairman of the Council of Urban Boards of Education, and founded a number of local and statewide education advocacy groups. In 1969, O'Bryant developed the Health Vocational Training Program at the Dimock Community Health Center and directed that program until he joined Northeastern as Associate Dean of University Administration in 1978. In 1979, he was appointed Northeastern's Vice President of Student Affairs.

At its 25th anniversary in 1993, the African-American Institute was renamed the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute. That November, the ABCC held its third national conference at the Institute.

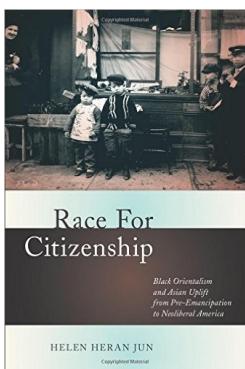
**Representation of Bachelor's Degree Recipients (2013-14)
and General U.S. Population (2014) by Region**



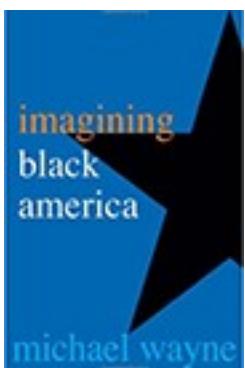
Source: www.diverseeducation.com



Chocolate and Corn Flour: History, Race, and Place in the Making of “Black” Mexico
By Laura A. Lewis
Duke University Press



Race for Citizenship: Black Orientalism and Asian Uplift from Pre-Emancipation to Neoliberal America
By Helen Heran Jun
NYU Press



Imagining Black America
By Michael Wayne
Yale University Press

The ABCC on Your Phone, Tablet and Computer

By Donnie Forti
ABCC Web Expert

Whether your favorite device is a phone, tablet or computer, we've improved abcc.net to better serve you whenever and wherever you need information about the Association for Black Culture Centers.

In July, we converted the ABCC website to responsive design, an approach that detects your device's screen size and adjusts the page layout accordingly. This means no more scrolling and zooming in and out on small screens to view a page. To keep the home page fresh, we built an “in the news” widget that updates automatically with headlines from Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, Black Politics on the Web and The New York Times. We hope you'll visit abcc.net on your favorite device and let us know how the site works for you.

With the move to our new national headquarters at Northern Illinois University, we created a website at niu.edu/abcc. In addition to my role with the ABCC, I work with NIU's Creative Services team to build and update websites across campus. The goal of the ABCC NIU site is to show how our association's mission supports Centers across the country, including the NIU Center for Black Studies, Latino Resource Center and Asian American Center. From NIU to your campus, the site reinforces our association's message to encourage all faculty, staff, students and community members to visit culture Centers. We believe that increased understanding of history and culture of each ethnic group will lead to authentic integration on campus and in the community.

To show how our institutional members are making a difference on campus and in the community, we're featuring testimonials on our website from Center directors. We're grateful for testimonials from Larry Williamson, director of the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center at Ohio State University, and Renee Thomas, director of the Purdue University Black Cultural Center. How has the ABCC benefited your campus? We would love to include your testimonial on abcc.net. First-time visitors to the ABCC website want to read how an ABCC membership will benefit them, and you can help us grow the organization by sharing your experience.

The testimonials complement our revised membership and history pages. Did you know your ABCC membership includes 13 benefits? From book and DVD discounts to year-round networking opportunities, visit abcc.net/membership to start using your member benefits today. As the ABCC grows, our member benefits continue to evolve to better serve you. We want your Center to flourish; it's been our mission for 27 years and we invite you to read about our association's roots at abcc.net/history. *Continued on page 7...*

The ABCC on Your Phone, Tablet and Computer...Continued from page 6

By Donnie Forti

ABCC Web Expert

Our goal is to stay in touch with you throughout the year. We hope you'll do the same and let us know what's happening on your campus by liking our page at Facebook.com/AssociationforBlackCultureCenters and following us on Twitter at abcc1987. We'll be sure to follow you back!

Introducing the ABCC Kuumba Programming Series Directory

Are you looking for a speaker or artist for your next event? As an ABCC institutional member, your entire campus gets access to the Kuumba Programming Series. Visit <http://www.abcc.net/kuumba> to browse more than 45 speakers and artists. Simply complete the online form to make arrangements to bring the speaker or artist to your campus at a discounted price.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the ABCC website. On the left, there's a green sidebar with the text "ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURE CENTERS" and "Includes African American, Latino, Native American, & Asian American Centers". The main navigation menu includes "Membership", "Conference", "Members and Affiliates", "Most Active Culture Centers", and "About". To the right of the menu are two search fields and social media icons for Twitter and Facebook.

Dr. Darlene Clark Hine, Board of Trustees Professor of African American Studies and Professor of History at Northwestern University

Bring Dr. Clark Hine to Your Campus

Having served as Visiting Distinguished Professor at several universities in the United States, Hine has edited and written widely on African American history. Her numerous publications include *The African-American Odyssey*, *Black Victory: The Rise and Fall of the White Primary in Texas*, *Black Women in White: Racial Conflict and Cooperation in the Nursing Profession, 1890-1950*, *The Harvard Guide to American History*, *Hine Sight: Black Women and the Reconstruction of American History*, *More Than Chattel: Black Women and Slavery in the Americas*, *A Question of Manhood: A Reader in U.S. Black Men's History and Masculinity*, *A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America*, *Speak Truth to Power: Black Professional Class in United States History*, and *"We Specialize in the Wholly Impossible": A Reader in Black Women's History*. She has been awarded fellowships and grants by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Humanities Center, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and the Rockefeller Foundation.



Some Presentation Areas

- History of Black women in America
- Black historiography
- Rise and fall of the white primary
- Black professional class in the U.S.
- Black women and the nursing profession

Speaker Appearances at ABCC Institutional Members

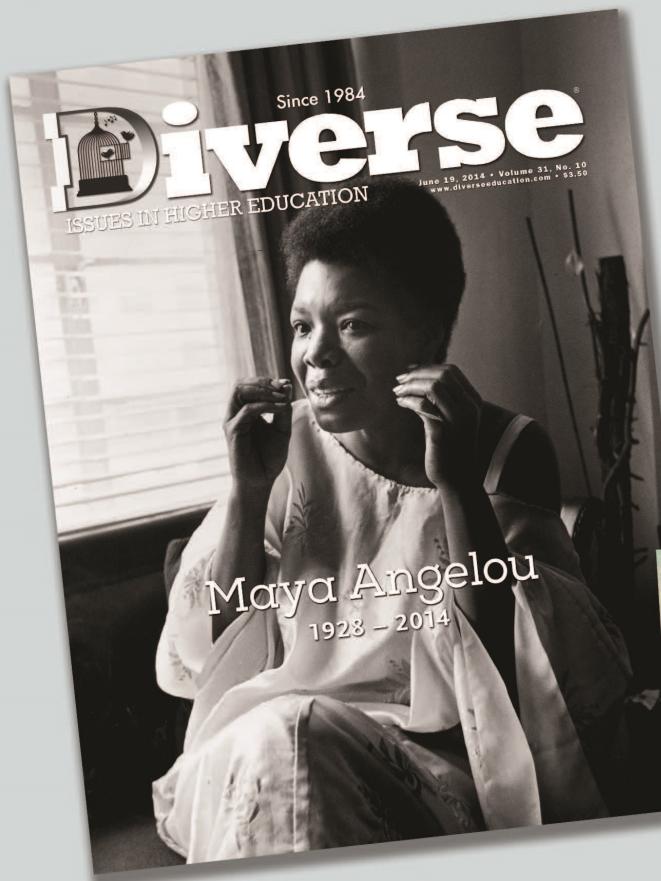


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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Find a Speaker

Search

Anthony Browder
Aska Toure
Bakari Kitwana
Bettye Collier-Thomas



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Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center Director Named as Ohio State University Distinguished Staff



ABCC Board Member and Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center Director, Larry Williamson, honored with 2015 Distinguished Staff Award at Ohio State University

Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus (BGPSC); and Iota Phi Theta and serves on a number of university-wide committees. In addition to his work in Hale Hall, Larry is the curator of the Bricker Hall exhibits.

Larry is a staff member who clearly loves what he does and does it with passion and purpose, always operating with the Hale Center's, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and our students' best interest at heart. Throughout many years, Larry has brought quality, compassion, and dedication to his work. "Mr. Williamson places an emphasis on the well-being of each student and reminds us of the importance of our roles in continuing the legacy started by Dr. Frank Hale," said Edwin Lee, the current student president of the BGPSC – and there are many more Buckeyes out there who would readily affirm this assessment.

Larry, along with the 11 other honorees, was presented his Distinguished Staff award by President Michael Drake and Provost Joseph Steinmetz.

Congratulations, Larry, on this well-deserved honor.

After returning from a trip to the White House where President Obama welcomed the National Championship Buckeye football team, Larry Williamson, Jr., had another honor waiting for him: the 2015 Distinguished Staff Award.

Larry, who has been the Director of the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center for over 22 years, was named as one of only 12 Ohio State employees selected to receive the university's Distinguished Staff Award. Larry also serves on the National Board of the Association for Black Culture Centers, is a Regional Coordinator and heads up the Big Ten Conference initiative. Additionally, he coordinates numerous events with the Alumni Association, Student Life, Columbus State, Kings Arts Complex, the Urban League, United Way as well as many other community entities. Larry is also the advisor of three student groups:

African American Voices; the



Left to right: Larry Williamson, III; Larry Williamson, Jr.; Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Valerie Lee; Pamela Burdette-Williamson

Be sure to be added to the ABCC List-serve

so that you can get updated information from the National Headquarters!

Please visit the ABCC website at www.abcc.net

Follow the link to provide information so you can receive regular updates about conferences, newsletters, and other workings of the ABCC. Join now!

What is the Future of Jazz Music?

Dr. Ronald Zeigler

Director and Musician, Nyumburu Cultural Center

University of Maryland



The Nyumburu Jazz Club highlights the cultural, personal, and communal benefits of the Jazz art form

as Blues selections. For example, growing up as a child, I recall learning the children's song, "Do the Huck-A-Buck." Low and behold, the famous Jazz artist Charlie Parker incorporated the melody from this children's song into his Blues tune entitled, *Now Is The Time*. Spirituals, work songs, and African American church music were also stirred into the pot of music that we now loosely call jazz.

Overall, the need for live music created the landscape for the development of early Jazz. The city of New Orleans, with its intense musical activity and ethnic diversity, provided the cultural and creative atmosphere that catapulted the music into early non improvised styles of Jazz known as Dixieland and Ragtime. Subsequently, these two musical styles became popular and helped to ignite the "Roaring Twenties."

Later came Swing, Be Bop, Hard Bop, Modal, Fusion, Free, Cool, Big Band, Latin, and Smooth Jazz. All of these genres of Jazz are characterized by their own uniqueness, instrumentations, tone qualities, and repertoire. Many of the pioneers of Jazz such as Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong, Scott Joplin, Bessie Smith, Sidney Bechet, Ma Rainey, Joe "King" Oliver, Buddy Bolden, Bix Beiderbecke, W.C. Handy and others paved the way for the many forms of music that became influenced by Jazz. Specifically, Gospel music, Rhythm & Blues, Rock, Funk, Country, and Hip Hop are just a few of the musical styles that are direct or indirect descendants of Jazz.

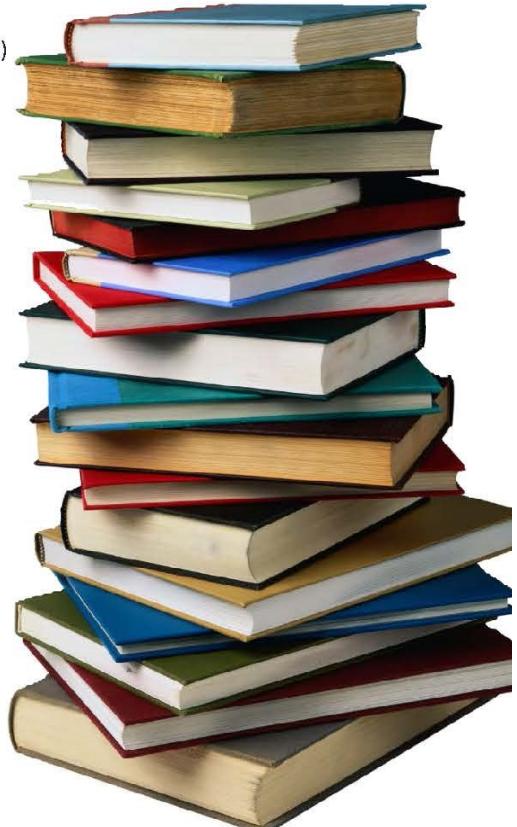
In spite of the contributions by these great innovators, why then has Jazz as a "popular" music only represented about three percent of radio airplay and record sales? Moreover, why are many of our young college aged students largely disinterested in learning Jazz? In citing the late jazz historian and trumpeter Richard Sudhalter (1989) in an article entitled, "Does the Jazz of the Past Have A Future?", he wrote, "for reasons not entirely understood, but often guessed at, prewar jazz has become a music listened to by the white and generally affluent middle class. Traditional jazz-oriented programs on the public radio networks attract generally upscale professional white listenerships." The late great African American pianist Dr. Billy Taylor had a comment similar to that of Sudhalter; "the absence of black players in traditional jazz is part of a larger breakdown in which Jazz in general no longer plays a central role in black culture." *Continued on page 17...*

Jazz music has influenced many contemporary improvisational genres of music in the mid through late 20th and 21st centuries. Moreover, the legacy of Jazz music is steeped in a tradition that is noble yet unfortunately unappreciated as an art form. This is the great dilemma and tragedy of America's classical music which is defined as Jazz. Therefore, I would like to explore with you the reasons as to why 21st Century Black Culture Centers and Multiculture Centers, along with university departments of music and public schools, should be compelled to carry on the rich musical traditions of jazz music.

In the beginning, there was Ragtime and the Blues. Ragtime did not have that looseness associated with modern Hip Hop or Rap music. However, the *Blues* filled that void as so many Jazz tunes were classified

Third World Press
Titles that ABCC Libraries Should Have
ABCC Institutional Members Receive 30% Discount

1. *Blacks* by Gwendolyn Brooks (Poetry)
2. *Destruction of Black Civilization: Great Issues of Race from 4500 B.C. to 2000 A.D.* by Chancellor Williams (History)
3. *The Diary of Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, 1964* edited by Herb Boyd and Ilyasah Shabazz (Biography)
4. *Seeking the Sakhu: Foundational Writing for an African Psychology* by Wade Nobles (Psychology)
5. *Black Men: Obsolete, Single, Dangerous? The Afrikan American Family in Transition* by Haki R. Madhubuti (Sociology)
6. *Velvet Bebop Kente Cloth* by Sterling D. Plumpp (Poetry)
7. *My Life in Search of Africa* by John Henrik Clarke (History)
8. *Walking in Circles: The Black Struggle for School Reform* by Barbara A. Sizemore (Education)
9. *Black Culture Centers: Politics of Survival and Identity* edited by Fred Lee Hord (Black Studies)
10. *Feeding the Soul: Black Music, Black Thought* edited by Diane D. Turner (Music Education)
11. *Intellectual Warfare* by Jacob Carruthers (History, Black Studies)
12. *Harvesting New Generations: The Positive Development of Black Youth* by Useni E. Perkins (Sociology)
13. *The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations of Black Life in America* by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Marc Lamont Hill (Social Commentary)
14. *Liberation Narratives: New and Collected Poems 1966-2009* by Haki R. Madhubuti (Poetry)
15. *Ballers of the New School: Race and Sports in America* by Thabiti Lewis (Sports Education)
16. *Reconstructing Memory: Black Literary Criticism* by Fred Lee Hord (Literary Criticism)
17. *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature and Art* edited by Tony Medina, Samiya A. Bashir and Quraysh Ali Lansana (Cultural Studies/ African American Literature)
18. *Black Authenticity: A Psychology for Liberating People of African Descent* by Marcia Sutherland (Psychology)
19. *By Any Means Necessary, Malcolm X: Real, Not Reinvented* edited by Herb Boyd, Ron Daniels, Maulana Karenga, and Haki R. Madhubuti (African American Studies/Criticism)
20. *Into Africa, Being Black: New and Selected Poems* by Fred Lee Hord (Poetry)
21. *Razor: Revolutionary Art for Cultural Revolution* by Amiri Baraka (Social Commentary)
22. *44 on 44: Forty-four African American Writers on the Election of Barack Obama 44th President of the United States* edited by Lita Hooper, Sonia Sanchez and Michael Simanga (Politics and Social Commentary)
23. *The Covenant with Black America* edited by Tavis Smiley (Social Commentary)
24. *Pedagogical Imagination: A Conceptual Memoir*, Volumes 1-3 by Edmund Gordon (Education)
25. *I've Been A Woman: New and Selected Poems* by Sonia Sanchez (Poetry)



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Honoring 25 Years of ABCC and Cultural Centers in Boston ...Continued from page 1

Dr. Richard L. O'Bryant

Director, John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute

The specially selected conference keynotes speakers, University of Chicago Professor Cathy Cohen, Schomburg Center Director Dr. Khalil Muhammad, Harvard University Professor Lani Guinier, Northeastern University Professor (retired Judge) Margaret Burnham, and University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor Dr. J. Keith Motley are going to stimulate, educate and motivate conference participants. The workshops and professional development seminar topics and content are designed to not only inform partakers, but to also encourage discussion and exchange at a high level for substantive individual and organizational development.

The history of Black culture centers on predominantly white campuses is full with stories of struggle, consoling, restoration, advancement and achievement. Our importance remains substantial, and our significance continues to be defined by the times and environment we operate in. The John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute (JDOAAI), the "Institute" founded in 1968, has gone through much of the same evolution over the years as other Black culture centers around the country. This year's ABCC conference will dig deep into the dialogue and conversation about our relevance, substance and future trajectory.

The Institute has come a long way since its early days amongst the turbulent 1960s. Its history has been one of determination and progress. Born out of the idea to create an oversight committee for Northeastern's Black community, the African-American Institute was established in 1968 to develop and implement a long-range plan for a genuine, effective and permanent Black presence at Northeastern University. In recent years the Institute, as an integral part of student affairs, has positioned itself within Northeastern University to play a significant role in supporting African-American students and providing services and programs to increase opportunities for academic success, civic engagement and social inspiration.

The African-American Institute was renamed the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute in honor of Vice President of Student Affairs, John D. O'Bryant, an untiring advocate for educational opportunity and excellence at Northeastern University and throughout the City of Boston. As the first African-American appointed to vice president at Northeastern University, John served in that capacity from 1979 until 1992. During that period, he oversaw the workings of the Institute and provided invaluable leadership in what were often difficult times. By naming the Institute in John's honor, Northeastern honored the legacy of a man whose love and guidance profoundly influenced countless lives.

The Institute is a long-time proud member of the Association for Black Culture Centers and honored to be co-hosting this year's national conference. The ABCC has provided guidance, resource sharing and national networking opportunities for all of its members and beyond, and this year's conference will be that and more. We are delighted to be this year's co-host and welcome everyone to our great city. We look forward to everyone visiting our campus and especially the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, meet new contacts and to learn how to become engaged with the Association for Black Culture Centers and its national network.

The ABCC Congratulates ASALH on 100 Years



ABCC President's Corner: Expanding Partnerships to Advance the Mission of Culture Centers

ters ...Continued from page 2

Dr. Rodney T. Cohen

ABCC President

In addition, there has been a great deal of work directed towards the accreditation process implemented by the ABCC to look at Centers nationally related to their efficacy, impact, structure and outcomes.

Lastly, I would like to thank Northern Illinois University for hosting and supporting the recent relocation of our national headquarters to NIU from Knox College. I would also like to thank Northeastern University and the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute in partnering with the ABCC for our 25th annual conference in Boston; and a final thanks goes out to our national headquarters, board members, regional and state coordinators, member institutions, Culture Center directors, students, staff and supporters for your hard work and dedication.

It is an exciting time to be involved with the ABCC. If you are not a current ABCC member, we invite you to visit our website and join our association.

California Newsreel has released

BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez

a new feature length documentary on the legendary poet, activist and Black Studies trailblazer, Sonia Sanchez.



California Newsreel is releasing

Furious Flower III

a new video anthology of performances by and conversations with leading African American poets.



Beginning in November 2015 a selection of

20 CLASSIC FILMS ON BLACK HISTORY & CULTURE will be available to ABCC member institutions at a 50% discount

The discount code is ABCC2015
Please call 877-811-7495

for more information and to order visit www.newsreel.org



Executive Director's Report ...Continued from page 3

Dr. Fred Hord, ABCC Executive Director and Founder
ABCC President

We began with the Big Ten Conference, and have followed with the Mid-American Conference and Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Our plan is to expand this type of organizing by focusing on institutions in other conferences, even as we continue statewide and regional arrangements.

Finally, with respect to organizing, we are now poised to develop our first international region, in West Africa. This effort has been a long one in the making, but Northern Illinois University's initiative developed by Dr. LaVerne Gyant and the recent five-year effort by ABCC President, Dr. Rodney Cohen, then at Yale University - to connect with African Alums, have put us in a better position to pursue this venture. When this region becomes a reality, we anticipate reaching out to the University of the West Indies- Jamaica, again to establish a region there.

Four of our benefits listed on our website are the ABCC accreditation program, the Kuumba Programming Series- our independent speaker's bureau, our models of student retention, and our publications. With Board member, Dr. Tashia Bradley, working with the Executive Director, the present strategy is to move forward with all Centers committed to the full, formal process, while making available a process outline for those Directors who have not yet persuaded their supervisor's accreditation will substantially enhance their Centers' legitimacy. We are both tailoring and expanding the Kuumba Programming Series (Consult our website at abcc.net for current information even as we continue to refine/expand the series.) The bottom line is your Centers can save from 20 percent to 50 percent on our speakers. Another practical benefit is the work we are doing on Centers enhancing student retention. Three of the models of retention we hope are soon available to all institutional members are by two Board members and one State Coordinator. For seven or eight years, we have had special workshops on retention; Centers doing this well find themselves less vulnerable to administration claims they do not serve their primary aims. Regarding our publications, not only are we regularly commended that our twelve-page biennial newsletter- soon to become a quarterly, is informative and well done, but we also get rave reviews on our book on Centers, the first ever on Black Culture Centers. Some Directors have their staff members read a chapter a week, and then all discuss it. The second book should be in the galleys by next spring, and be available at next year's conference at Louisiana State University. All ABCC publications offer members a potential way to get their work in print.

Yet, given all the above, what continues to please but intrigue us is your ongoing response that networking at and between conferences is as important as anything we do. Whether in conference private exchanges, public comparison of notes in State Coordinator meetings, a private phone call/e-mail or conference calls/collective e-mails, we connect and we learn. You say this is good; we say we are happy; this is ABCC networking.

Do you have news for Nommo? Email your article to newsletter@abcc.net for a chance to be featured in our spring newsletter. From book reviews to research and everything in between, we welcome your articles.

University of West Georgia Center for Diversity and Inclusion Recent Initiatives

Deirdre H. Rouse
Director, Center for Diversity and Inclusion
University of West Georgia



Left to Right: Ray Moore ('84,'84), Mandy Smith ('90), Rafael Booker ('11,'13), Cheryl Thomas Hill ('94, '96, '12), Ashley Copeland ('14), & Eric Maxwell ('83)



Panel Participants

Moderator: Ray Moore
Special Agent in Charge, United States
Secret Service, Atlanta Field Office

Panelist: Cheryl Thomas Hill
Coordinator, African-American Male
Initiative, UWG

Panelist: Rafael Booker
Interrelated Resource 4th/5th Grade
Teacher at Gwinnett County Public
Schools

Panelist: Ashley Copeland
Web Content & Social Media Manager
at St. Mary's Medical Center (West
Palm Beach, FL)

Panelist: Mandy Smith
Wealth Management Advisor
& Certified Divorce Financial Analyst
at Milestone Investment Management,
Carrollton, GA

Panelist: Eric Maxwell
Attorney (Personal Injury)

On September 17, 2015, the University of West Georgia Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) sponsored the 4th annual “*An Honest Conversation with University of West Georgia Alumni*” panel. Since its inception, the CDI received sponsorship from the Black Student Alliance (BSA) and UWG Alumni relations. The purpose of the annual panel is to encourage students and alumni to network and engage in “real talk” conversations related to college matriculation and life experiences. Panelists from various decades provided worthwhile insight to UWG students. With the theme, “*Providing Diverse Insights on Matriculation and Life,*” supporters included: The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Student Government Association (SGA) & A UWG Africana Studies/African American Studies.

Annual Village Youth Summit



Jordan Legree, UWG student, instructs youth in making a diversity mask with the goal to discuss respect and helping others

The Village Youth Summit is a free community event for the entire Carroll County area. The purpose of the summit is to bring together city officials, families, local artists, and family resource organizations, to encourage the community to unite and be the “village it takes to raise our children!” The event features local entertainment, motivational speakers, activities (such as face painting and the diversity-mask), food, and back to school giveaways for youth up to age 18. Occurring the first Saturday in August, this year’s theme was “*Building a better relationship between youth and law enforcement.*” Law enforcement members were on hand to facilitate engaging conversations with youth, to become a more integral part of the community. *Continued on page 16...*

University of West Georgia Center for Diversity and Inclusion Recent Initiatives...Continued from

page 15

Deirdre H. Rouse

Director, Center for Diversity and Inclusion

University of West Georgia



The University of West Georgia Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) has participated in the Village Youth Summit since its inception in August 2012. Each year, the CDI sponsors the diversity mask activity, with the support of Walmart.com. Youth are encouraged to create diverse mask using art supplies. Once the mask is completed, a brief discussion is held regarding respecting others. Each child then vows to make a difference. All children are given a pledge card and bracelet inscribed with the quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world", (Gandhi). In the past, about 300-400 youth attended this back to school rally with their families.

Area primary youth displaying creations after respect discussion

Controversies of Culture



In light of various human, social and civil rights issues that continue to occur in the United States, (Ferguson, Child Welfare, Healthcare Reform, Poverty and Economic Injustice, Voting rights, Education, criminal justice reform, etc.), the focus of Center for Diversity and Inclusion Controversies of Culture Series for the 2015-16 academic year is social justice. Instituted in 2011, the Controversies of Culture Series occurs twice per semester. Its purpose is to provide an atmosphere for presenting challenging topics that generate thought-provoking discussions. Dr. Hazel Cole, Assistant Professor and Public Relations Concentration, Department of Mass Communication, presented at the first Controversies of Culture Series on the topic: We are the Media: Online Pitfalls and your Social Brand with students, faculty, staff and the community. She emphasized that when viewing and utilizing social media, one must understand the context and history behind each. Dr. Cole encouraged those in attendance to be conscious of media framing. Additionally she stressed utilizing reputable sources and knowing the difference between opinion and facts (facts can be proven). Dr. Cole suggested two of the most destructive words as it relates to social media are: "post and send," so take time to Think!

Dr. Cole received her doctoral degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Mass Communication and Journalism. Due to her passions being social justice, mentoring, and making a difference, Dr. Cole serves on the board of the Mississippi Innocence Project founded by John Grisham at the University of Mississippi Law School.

The Association for Black Culture Centers is the only national organization whose primary focuses are African American, Latino, Asian American, Native American, Multiculture Centers, and related offices. We offer institutional members 13 benefits ranging from book and DVD discounts to networking opportunities with NASPA, ACPA and NADOHE. Join the ABCC today at <http://www.abcc.net/membership>

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What is the Future of Jazz Music? ...Continued from page 10

Dr. Ronald Zeigler
Director and Musician, Nyumburu Cultural Center
University of Maryland

Thus, the role of our Black Culture Centers (BCCs) and Multicultural Centers is critical to the advancement of culture, particularly Jazz Culture, within the Black community, communities of color, and the wider national and international communities that embrace all cultures. In both my Jazz History course entitled Jazz As A Cultural Art Form and the Nyumburu Jazz Club, I am able to introduce 30 - 50 students annually to an art form with which most of them had previously no contact. If you have not yet begun, you should get your Jazz Program started or activated on your campus. The benefits are immeasurable and worth the effort. Email me for suggestions at: nyumbz@umd.edu

On the Move: ABCC Members in New Positions



Bethel "B" Nathan
Director , Campus Life ALANA Center
Vassar College



Dr. Frances Graham
Interim Director, African American
Cultural Center
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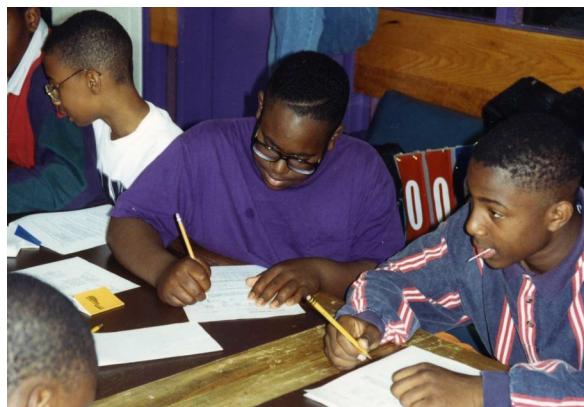
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25 Years of Mentoring Boys to Manhood...Continued from page 4

By Dr. J. Keith Motley
Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Boston



The Paul Robeson Institute helps students develop an appreciation for learning

ment, strength, intellect, sensitivity, and self-conviction sufficient to overcome tremendous odds.

In this day and age, when peer pressure has supplanted the role of family as the primary influence shaping a child's life and values, when the loss of self-esteem becomes the normal course of development in a child's life from preschool onward, and when mass media becomes the Pablum for value formation and verification of family and church, there is a critical need for leadership, mentorship, and positive role model exposure that challenges apathy and fear governing the lives of our youth, their families and communities. The Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self-Development is designed to offer longitudinal strategic alternatives to these byproducts of centuries of neglect and institutional racism.

In an effort to create an environment to combat today's disinterest in an appreciation of learning, to negate the celebration of violence and self-destruction, to eradicate the need for substance abuse dependency and to offset the enhancement of negative self-image reinforcement, CBMM assertively modeled formation of an infrastructure that targets striving for excellence in mind, body and spirit after an African-American male whose life's work served as a paragon of achievement,

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10/06/2015 - 10:10am

[Two Black Scholars Join the Faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Education](#)

10/06/2015 - 10:05am

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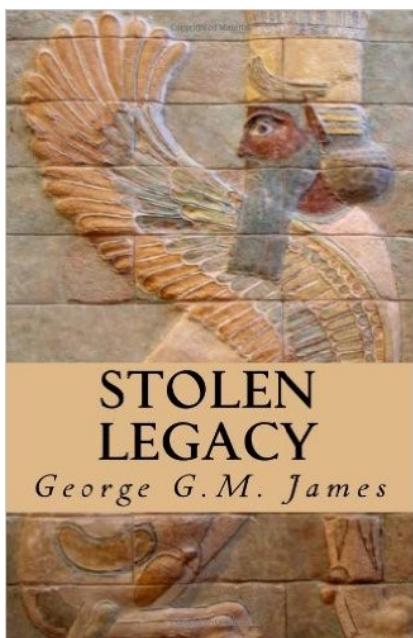
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***Stolen Legacy* Book Review**

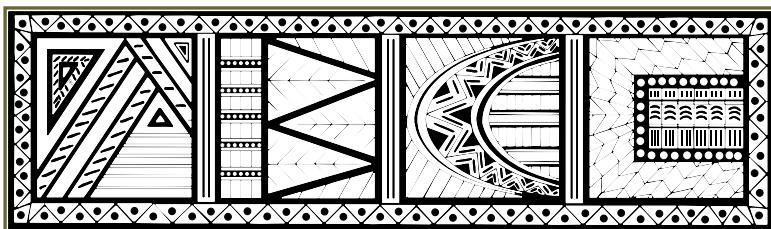
By Stephen Samuels

M.S.Ed. Counseling, Adult and Higher Education, Northern Illinois University



In this brief book review, I will discuss one of the most courageous and important books of the 1950's when it comes to Afrocentric scholarship. It was written and published during a time that such writing could incite threats from the likes of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) or even death. Some may say that is what occurred after the publishing of the great book *Stolen Legacy* in 1954 by Dr. George G.M. James, who met his death under very suspicious circumstances not long after the book was released. Through his work, James sets out to inform and prove who are the original authors of Western philosophy while illustrating the widespread influence of African thought and culture on Greece. It has been noted that Dr. James felt a lot of the racial problems in America and around the world were due to the lack of knowledge pertaining to Africa's contribution, so a partial part of his mission was to educate the world and promote

equality by bringing African history to light. Also, Dr. James set out to paint a picture of the status of African civilization in ancient times, and debunk the myths of Eurocentric superiority when it came to worldly contributions to civilization. Dr. James shocked many when he laid out the information with supported research and pointed out that most of the foundations of Greek philosophy that are widely thought to sprout in the Classical Age, actually can find its origin and roots in African culture and civilization. This means African philosophy, in all actuality, predates Greek civilization. The oldest European civilization is Greece, and Greece was highly influenced by Africa, especially pertaining to philosophy, medicine, religion, education, art, literature, and social structure. In the book, Dr. James covers some of these areas such as in chapter one and two where he illustrates the African origins of Greek philosophy. Then again, in chapters three and seven, he illustrates how Greek and Western religious ideology can find its roots in Afrocentric spirituality. Also, in chapters 4 and 5, Dr. James lays out how Greeks were educated by the African Kemetic people (Egyptians) and even adopted a lot of their educational structure and ideology. It does not come as a surprise that most books written by Afrocentric authors and scholars have difficulty being accepted by a Eurocentric dominated educational curriculum, but that does not mean Afrocentric scholars should not continue to separate fiction from fact. Still to this day, when physicians receive their white coats, they take the Hippocratic Oath, but when one studies Hippocrates, they will learn that Hippocrates credits Africans for his teachings, i.e. The Edwin Smith Papyrus. Dr. George G. M. James was a great writer, scholar, and teacher, and *Stolen Legacy* is his most well known work. That is for a great reason; *Stolen Legacy* should continue to be read, and is considered a classic by many. I must say I am proud of Dr. James's courage, and modern day scholars should build upon his works so that we continue to shed light on what some have called the Dark Continent, Africa, the Mother of civilization.



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