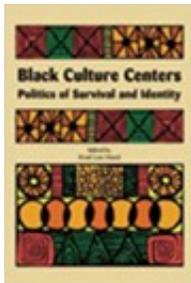


Spring 2016

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

Book Power

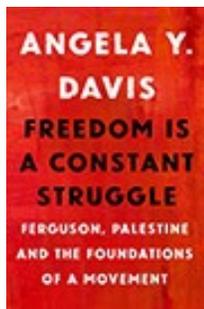
Recent releases in literature, history and culture.



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



The Obamas and a (Post) Racial America?
Edited by Edited by Gregory S. Parks and Matthew W. Hughey



Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement
By Angela Y. Davis
Haymarket Books

More books on page 2

LSU to Co-Host 26th Annual ABCC Conference

By LaKeitha Poole
Louisiana State University
Assistant Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs
Coordinator, African American Student Affairs



Degree candidate receives Kente stole at Louisiana State University Robing Ceremony

The Louisiana State University African American Cultural Center will co-host the 26th annual ABCC national conference, October 27 – October 30. This year’s theme is “Culture Centers: Campus and Community Organizing to Make Lives Matter.”

As LSU prepares to co-host the conference, the African American Cultural Center will hold its 20th annual Robing Ceremony on May 12 for African and African American students who will be receiving an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Degree candidates receive the traditional African Kente stole, woven in LSU colors, to signify the completion of their academic journey. The patterns and colors woven into the Kente represent distinctive qualities exemplified by LSU graduates. The colors purple and gold not only represent the great tradition of the university, but also royalty and precious metals.

Continued on page 12...

UMass Boston Launches Consortium of Asian Americans, Native Americans, Latin Americans and African Americans

By Dr. Barbara Lewis
University of Massachusetts Boston
Director, the Trotter Institute

Given how rapidly the nation’s demographics are shifting, it’s hard to believe, but the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) is the single east coast institution of higher education with a complement of four free-standing racial and ethnic research institutes. The west coast only has one such institution as well, the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA). UMB joined UCLA in representing the nation’s major population groups on its campus in 2009 when the Institute for New England Native American Studies (INENAS) opened.

Continued on page 15...

ABCC President's Corner: Strengthening Centers and Campuses

By Dr. Rodney T. Cohen
ABCC President



Critical Perspectives on Afro-Latin American Literature
Edited by Antonio D. Tillis
Routledge



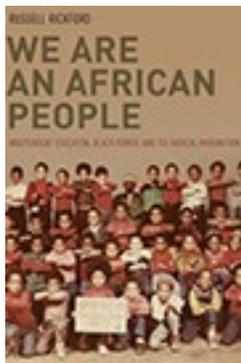
Greetings to all members, affiliates and supporters of the Association for Black Culture Centers (ABCC) as we enter an exciting period of growth and development. Since our last conference at Northeastern University, we have been busy enhancing the outreach of ABCC to other ethnic communities and fostering formal relationships with several national educational associations. We are also excited about our affiliation with Northern Illinois University as our new host site for national headquarters. We look forward to cultivating our partnership with NIU, as we continue to strengthen the future growth and sustainability of our association. The ABCC board is wrapping up critical next steps as we prepare for our 2016 national conference to be held at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The team at LSU is partnering with ABCC national headquarters to plan what we hope to be an exciting and informative conference.

As the nation continues to struggle with issues around race and race relations, ABCC is at the forefront of helping to address these challenges on America's college campuses. Now almost 50 years removed from the establishment of our first Black culture centers, the question of what the future will look like remains. Higher education, like other institutions related to race, culture, ethnicity and diversity, is experiencing aspects of retrenchment. There continues to be a discussion around the existence of our Centers: do they remain true to their original mission or have they fallen victim to a culture of marginalization and complacency?

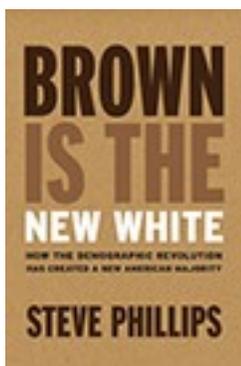
ABCC's accreditation process allows Centers to access a review process which will help them to strengthen their sustainability and outcomes through benchmarking and future trend projections. With changing student demographics and increasing developmental needs, including mental health, self-identity, retention and community outreach, Culture Centers are positioned to address these challenges.

No longer can the lone director provide the adequate support required to impact relevant outcomes. She or he will require the appropriate resources and professional support needed in cultural education and student development. We have in our midst ABCC member Centers that are stellar examples of this and provide an excellent model for benchmarking. In addition, other institutions have undergone extensive reviews in order to think about the future of their Centers and how to best support their work, impact and sustainability.

At this year's conference you will have the opportunity to hear from some of our leading practitioners, scholars and leaders on Culture Centers. This will be an excellent opportunity for new and seasoned Center professionals to exchange ideas and share best practices. As always, thanks to all of you who are dedicated to this work. As Asa Hilliard reminds us, one can be academically excellent, but one must also be culturally relevant. May the true spirit of our Centers continue to sustain institutions for our current and future generations.



We Are an African People: Independent Education, Black Power, and the Radical Imagination
By Russell Rickford
Oxford University Press



Brown is the New White: How the Demographic Revolution Has Created a New American Majority
By Steve Phillips
The New Press

More books on page 3

Executive Director's Report

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

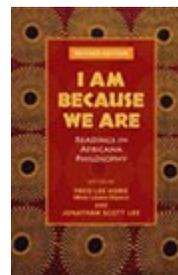
As the ABCC moves closer to completing its first 30 years, for the first time this summary covers only three months. Yes, our new plan is to produce a quarterly newsletter of 20 pages; this represents an annual addition of 56 pages on Culture Centers. In this second enlarged newsletter, we'll focus on four key initiatives of the organization — with our underpinning philosophy — and foreground the 26th conference.

The framework for the following summary and for understanding the growth of the ABCC is our current philosophy of having each ethnic-specific Culture Center connected to African-descended people through its historical and contemporary experiences, while deepening understanding of its own history and culture. The writer was in the office of a brown physician from India who identified with the current political struggles of Black people, pointing out his genetic origins in Africa, while exhibiting pride in his Indian ancestry. He rejected the notion of people of color being a minority, as well as the negative stereotypes surrounding them. After the writer indicated he was African American, he referred to me as “brother” a few times in the remaining exchange.

Latinos, Asian Americans and Native Americans have a rich — though sometimes conflicted — historical relationship with Black people, and the physical admixtures are becoming increasingly known. And, the possibilities of coalitions among them are being recognized by some. Perhaps, as well, some are also recognizing the cost of conflicts among disenfranchised groups, and are trying to sort out which of these have external origins. These ethnic specific Centers on college campuses, thus, play a potentially critical role in interrogating these issues. As the ABCC prepares these Centers for more effective synergy, we are developing ongoing book and article bibliographies as resources for such initiatives. They focus both on the relationships among them, as well as on each ethnic group. In adding three ethnic group Centers, the ABCC wanted to make the point of historical hybridity, and put students especially in a position to use the past to make viable decisions about how to integrate in the future. So much of the racial/ethnic hostility on college campuses might be avoided or at least mitigated by a clearer view of the past.

As the ABCC views the campus as a microcosm of society, necessarily that larger community beyond ivy walls seeking to cut through myths/stereotypes that pass as history, it also collaborates with mainstream student activity national organizations, including their ethnic components. At this point, the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) have extended their hands most often to us. We have conducted webinars and created videos with ACPA and NASPA and explored publication possibilities for ABCC members in their journals, as well as publications for their members in our quarterly newsletter and book series.

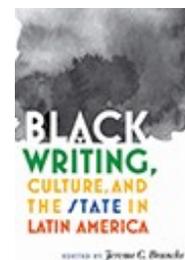
Continued on page 14...



I Am Because We Are
Edited by Fred Lee Hord (Mzee
Lasana Okpara) and Jonathan
Scott Lee
University of Massachusetts
Press



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

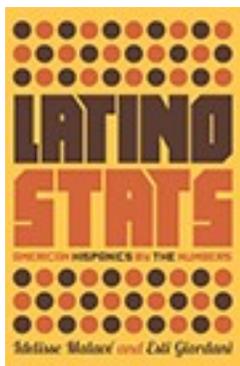


**Black Writing, Culture,
and the State in Latin
America**
Edited by Jerome C. Branche
Vanderbilt University Press

More books on page 4

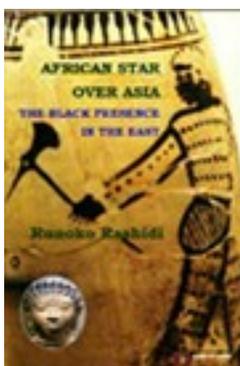
Celebrating 25 Years of African American History and Culture at NC State University

By Dr. Frances D. Graham
NC State University
Interim Director, African American Cultural Center



Latino Stats: American Hispanics by the Numbers

By Idelisse Malavé and
Esti Giordani
The New Press



African Star Over Asia: The Black Presence in the East

By Runoko Rashidi
Books of Africa



Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political and Cultural Connections between African Americans and Asian Americans

Edited by Fred Ho and
Bill V. Mull
Duke University Press

As the NC State University African American Cultural Center (AACC) celebrates 25 years of educating and serving the NC State University community, we honor the contributions of Dr. Lawrence M. Clark and Dr. Augustus M. Witherspoon. They were at the vanguard of a generation of African-American scholars that broke the color line which existed at NC State University. Clark and Witherspoon served as examples of academic excellence and achievement, while working tirelessly to open doors for a new generation of scholars.

In January 1991, the African American Cultural Center opened in the Student Center Annex, housed in a space which included a multipurpose room, student offices, a gallery and library, and was dedicated to Dr. Augustus M. Witherspoon on April 1, 1995. The Witherspoon Student Center is located at 2810 Cates Avenue and is the only building on NC State's campus named in honor of an African American.

The African American Cultural Center's mission is to provide educational events, cultural activities, leadership initiatives, advocacy, outreach and comprehensive programming focused on African American and other cultures of African descent. Moving forward through the 21st century, student organizations such as the AYA Ambassadors and the African Student Union and Society of Afrikan American Culture (SAAC) have emerged as AACC residential organizations and serve as an integral part of our campus culture. They are extremely instrumental in influencing future African American students and university leaders, and their efforts uphold Dr. Clark and Dr. Witherspoon's strong legacy of leadership.

Continued on page 16...

By the Numbers: Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the U.S.

435 — the number of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) currently in the United States and Puerto Rico. Twenty-seven institutions have become HSIs since 2013-14.

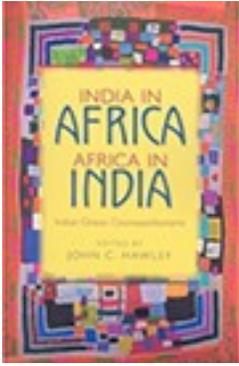
310 — the number of Emerging HSIs, defined by Excelencia in Education as colleges that enroll between 15 and 24 percent undergraduate equivalent Hispanic students.

68 — the percentage of HSIs that are public institutions. Overall, about 50 percent are two-year institutions and 50 percent are four-year institutions.

Information Courtesy: Diverse Issues in Higher Education and Excelencia in Education

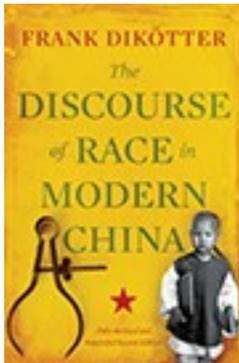
UIC African-American Cultural Center at 25: An Exhibition Series, Oral History and Archival Project

By Dr. Lori D. Barcliff Baptista
University of Illinois at Chicago
Director, African-American Cultural Center
Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Theatre & Music
Faculty Affiliate, Museum and Exhibition Studies



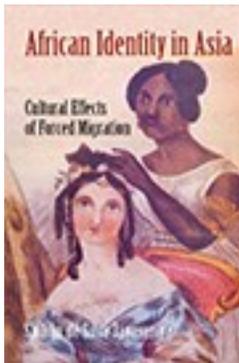
India in Africa, Africa in India: Indian Ocean Cosmopolitanisms

Edited by John C. Hawley
Indiana University Press



The Discourse of Race in Modern China

By Frank Dikötter
C. Hurst & Co.



African Identity in Asia: Cultural Effects of Forced Migration

By Shihan de S. Jayasuriya
Markus Wiener Publishers

More books on page 6



Long before it was formally established, the African-American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago (AACC) served as a catalyst for activism, artistry and scholarly analysis of Black diaspora experiences. Established as a result of decades of campus and community advocacy and activism, in 2016 the AACC will mark its 25th anniversary through a retrospective exhibition series, archival and oral history projects supervised by AACC Director Dr. Lori Barcliff Baptista. Anchored by rigorous engagements with the Center's archives and stakeholders, this project invites campus and community partners to participate in the labor of reflecting upon the desires, narratives, programs, practices and historic events that have influenced the scope of the Center's work to date, with an eye towards future endeavors.

Project parameters include facilitated dialogues and story circles with faculty, staff, alumni and current student activists, film screenings, arts workshops, and other focused activities that highlight the historical and contemporary issues, events, programs and experiences that have contributed to furthering the Center's mission and purpose.

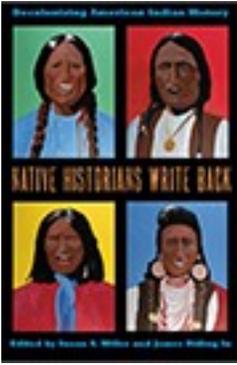
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AACC Director, Dr. Lori Barcliff Baptista, with Irvin 'Pop' Ivey at his Pembroke farm in July 2014. The AACC brought UIC Heritage Garden interns, Chicago Public Schools' After School Matters students and Roseland area community partners to discuss agriculture and sustainability issues with members of the African-American farming community in Hopkins Park, IL as a part of the Heritage Garden Summer Internship program.

“A Day On, Not a Day Off”: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance at Coe College

By Dr. Brie Swenson Arnold, Associate Professor of History
 Nina Johnson, Community Engagement Program Coordinator
 Kayla Lyftogt, Director of Community Engagement
 Brendan McLean, Religion and Music major ('16) and MLK Day Planning Committee Student Representative
 Patrick Naick, Associate Professor of English
 Kristin Hutson, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Director of Religious Life & College Chaplain
 Steven Shelby, Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs



Native Historians Write Back

By Susan A. Miller
 Texas Tech University Press

This year’s Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebration at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, centered around the theme “A Day On, Not a Day Off.” While Coe has been celebrating Dr. King in various ways since his visit to Coe in the fall of 1962, in the past few years the college has made service and reflection increasing-

ly central and concerted parts of its King commemorations. Service and volunteerism have joined the more long-established elements of the day such as lectures, discussions, meals and film screenings. The service element was inspired by Dr. King’s example as well as broader initiatives through the United Way and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

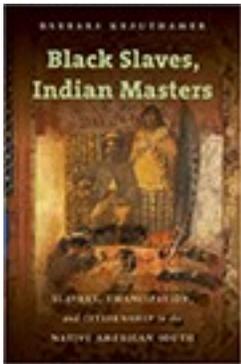


Coe College Associate Professor of History Brie Swenson-Arnold gives keynote address at Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebration.

Our MLK Day service projects have included working with organizations

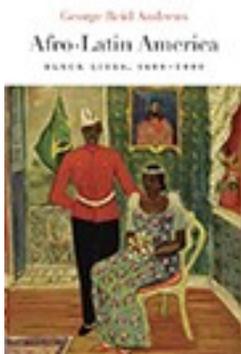
such as Kids Against Hunger, Boys and Girls Club and Ronald McDonald House. Dr. King avidly worked to make real the connections between ideas and practice, vision and action. This year’s MLK Day celebration at Coe, like those of years past, sought to emphasize and promote those connections by linking classroom content, community involvement and social justice. The celebration included a keynote address from a faculty member on Dr. King and his legacy, gospel music performed by singers from local churches, remarks from a community organizer, poetry by Coe students, 100 hours of volunteer service, a soul food dinner in the student cafeteria, and a screening and faculty/student-led discussion of the movie Selma. The events offered multiple ways in which various constituencies could learn about and reflect on the ideals and legacies of Dr. King.

More than 60 Coe community members were in attendance, with dozens of additional students participating in the dinner and film screening. We hope as our “a day on, not a day off” celebration continues to grow and develop that the event will reach even more participants from our campus and our community. In doing so, we hope our campus will continue to reflect on and put into action the spirit of education, action and service that were so fundamental to Dr. King.



Black Slaves, Indian Masters. Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South

By Barbara Krauthamer
 University of North Carolina Press



Afro-Latin America Black Lives, 1600–2000
 By George Reid Andrews
 Harvard University Press

Black Lives Matter vs. All Lives Matter

By Wintlett Taylor-Browne, Interim Director of Luther College Diversity Center
Michelle Boike, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Programs at Luther College

In January and February, Luther College had the opportunity to bring two distinguished speakers to campus, Professors Angela Onwuachi-Willig from the University of Iowa College of Law and Tricia Rose from the Africana Studies Department at Brown University. Both addressed the issue of #BlackLivesMatter albeit from different perspectives.



Professor Angela Onwuachi-Willig, University of Iowa College of Law

Professor Onwuachi-Willig compared the deaths of Emmett Till and Trayvon Martin within and across their historical contexts and concluded that the reasons behind their deaths were very similar even though they occurred several years apart. Both of these young men were killed because they were perceived as being out of place, black bodies in “white” spaces. They were killed because they were black and had dared to enter the physical and psychological white spaces. Their black lives did not matter in those spaces.

Till was visiting relatives in the Jim Crow south, a region that many whites viewed as theirs. In addition, the accusation that he was disrespectful to a white woman during his visit compounded the issue. Trayvon was visiting a relative in Sanford, Florida where George Zimmerman, a member of the neighborhood watch, stalked him because he looked as if he did not belong. Zimmerman’s response to Trayvon’s presence prompted the events that led to Trayvon’s murder. It is very probable that Zimmerman would have ignored Trayvon if he was white. He would not have been perceived as a threat.



Professor Tricia Rose, Africana Studies Department at Brown University, with Professor Novian Whitsitt, Africana Studies and English at Luther College and Jorge Lopez, Luther College student ('17)

Tricia Rose’s focus was on the backlash against the Black Lives Matter movement best exemplified by “All Lives Matter” response to the movement. She argued that #BLM exposed the lies embedded in the story being told of an America that is democratic, egalitarian and a meritocracy. It is a story that many believe to be true and so are uncomfortable when presented with the counter narrative about the reality of peoples’ lives, especially black and brown people. Belief in the myth allows individuals to occupy a false moral high ground, to ignore the role

of public policies and institutions in creating the unhealthy environments within which black and brown people are being murdered. This belief also makes it easier to blame the victims for their victimization. By emphasizing that black lives matter, one is automatically saying that all lives do not matter.

The Black Lives Matter movement is a call for justice for all, holding the country accountable for its failure to value all of its citizens equally.

Kwanzaa at Luther College

By Wintlett Taylor-Browne, Interim Director of Luther College Diversity Center

Some of you may be surprised to learn that a predominantly white college holds a campus and community wide Kwanzaa celebration each year. By making Kwanzaa a multicultural event, the Diversity Center has been able to appeal to a broader audience beyond its small group of African American students. The first event is a special chapel, planned in collaboration with College Ministries, that speaks to the seven principles of the Nguzo Saba. Participants are drawn from across all groups. This chapel is always the last one before finals week.

On the Saturday following the chapel there is the Karamu that lasts for 2.5 hours on the day that the college sets aside as Reading Day. Kwanzaa is the only official event allowed on that day. The Karamu is open to the public; performers and talents are diverse and the foods are from around the country and world.

It is a delicate dance, working to keep as many of the Afrocentric elements as possible while allowing for other cultural influences. To date we have managed to do this and do it well, based on the feedback we receive each year. To learn more visit: <http://www.luther.edu/diversity/>

Gullah/Geechee Culture Comes to the University of West Georgia

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



The Darien Geechee Rain Shouters

An event at the University of West Georgia Center for Diversity and Inclusion explored a population of African people who provide a living link to Africa in the United States. The Gullah/Geechee live mainly in coastal areas from southeast North Carolina to northeast Florida. Jim and Pat Bacote, founders of Geechee Kunda in Riceboro, Georgia, spoke about Gullah/Geechee culture, dialect and traditions. Historian Bethany Campbell reenacted the Middle Passage with a discussion of tribes, kings and queens. She emphasized the skill set and resources Africans brought to the Americas and the Caribbean, including carpentry, sugar production, rice, cotton and metal. The Darien Geechee Ring Shouters performed traditional songs and historian Dr. Jamal Toure addressed the important role of the griot in sharing the history of Carroll County, Georgia. The intriguing educational experience gave the University of West Georgia campus a chance to become immersed in the Gullah/Geechee culture.



Gullah educational exhibit

We're Always Online for Your Center

By Donnie Forti
ABCC Web Expert

The ABCC website is more than just our organization's home page. It's a resource to help you in every day on-the-job moments, whether you're faculty, staff or a student. From posting career opportunities to getting the word out about a campus event, or getting started on the accreditation process for your center, start at ABCC.net.

Latest Career Opportunities at ABCC Institutional Members

- [Indiana State University, African American Cultural Center Director](#)
- [Knox College, Academic Counselor](#)
- [Cornell College, Assistant Director for Intercultural Life](#)
- [University of West Georgia, Senior Diversity Officer](#)
- [University of Southern Indiana, Assistant Director, Multicultural Center](#)

[More career opportunities](#)

As an ABCC institutional member, you can post positions for free on our website. From an opening at your center to a faculty position in the Chemistry Department, we welcome your job postings. A block on the ABCC homepage shows the most recent positions posted. To learn how to post a job or view all of the current openings, visit <http://www.abcc.net/career-opportunities>. You just might find your next career move!

While you're on ABCC.net, browse to the events tab. When you have an event you want to get national attention, email events@abcc.net and we'll post it to <http://www.abcc.net/events>. We'll also post your event to our Facebook page and Tweet it to our followers. Don't forget to take some pictures of the event. We're always looking for photos and articles about events on your campus for the Nommo newsletter.

A big step toward strengthening your center is accreditation, and the ABCC website is the place to start. At <http://www.abcc.net/accreditation>, you'll find the outline for the accreditation process to help you evaluate your center's institutional commitment and responsibilities; center's conditions of eligibility; initial membership; center's missions and purpose; center's effectiveness; and staff qualifications and performance. Once you complete the outline, contact us and we'll get started on the formal accreditation review by ABCC headquarters, explaining the full process and cost.

Above all, we're thankful your institution is a member of our organization. To applaud your great work, look for your college/university to be the featured institutional member of the week on our website. We feature a different institutional member each week, so visit ABCC.net when you can!



Featured Institutional Member of the Week: Kent State University

Kent State University is our featured institutional member of the week. The university has a long history with the ABCC, including serving as our conference co-host in 1994. Kent State is home to the Student Multicultural Center, enriching cultural diversity identity and empowering students to build strong communities. In addition, the Center of Pan African Culture offers social and cultural enrichment through local, regional, national and international programs and initiatives.

Berea College Sponsors Carter G. Woodson Diversity Weekend

By Monica Jones
Berea College
Director of Black Cultural Center

Berea College was proud to sponsor the Carter G. Woodson Diversity Weekend, which was held February 19-21, 2016, on the campus in Berea, Kentucky. As part of the events, over 100 high school students (all prospective and/or admitted students) joined the 150 students, faculty and staff for an evening of celebrating across the spectrum of diversity. The annual banquet has been officially occurring since 1995 and has become an evening of recognizing the academic achievements and leadership developments of students of color. The Cleo and Rosa Charles Award was presented to Adrian Walker and Iliana Lomeli. The staff of the Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education and the Black Cultural Center awarded the Above and Beyond Award to Carl Thomas for his relentless work to increase the diversity of both African American and Hispanic students for the past three decades. The keynote speaker was Glenis Redmond, an award-winning performance poet, praise poet, teacher and writer. For the past 12 years, she has traveled both domestically and abroad, performing and teaching.

Dialogue on Race and Education in the 21st Century

The Berea College Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education invites you to join its inaugural Dialogue on Race and Education in the 21st Century on April 6 – 8.

Featured speakers include bell hooks, Tim Wise, Peggy McIntosh, Eudardo Bonilla-Silva, Saida Grundy and Shaun King.

Please visit the website <https://www.berea.edu/cgwc/> for conference registration.



Shanita Jackson, Glenis Redmond and Starry Walker at the 2016 Berea College Unity Banquet

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

Purdue University Black Cultural Center Establishes Collaborations

By Renee Thomas
Purdue University
Director, Purdue Black Cultural Center

The Purdue Black Cultural Center has established two noteworthy collaborations this spring. The first was with the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, *Ambiguous Reflections of Race and Identity: A Question of Color*, exhibiting the artwork of Gerald Griffin. The second is a partnership with Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, *Gospel Meets Symphony* (April 9), featuring the BCC Black Voices Of Inspiration choir and the Lafayette Symphony. These three organizations represent the cultural fabric of our community and bring together artistically talented individuals. The collaborations that have been created are a logical extension of our missions. A goal of the BCC was to expand our footprint in Lafayette. The LSO and art museum wanted to engage more audiences of color in their program offerings. Partnering the BCC with these mainstream organizations created a win-win situation for all involved.

Through conversations with art museum Executive Director, Kendall Smith, we envisioned an exhibition during Black History Month that would feature the works of African American artists. As a result of this collaboration, we have introduced to the community a variety of renowned visual artists including Preston Jackson, Joyce Owens, Robert Peppers and others. We are grateful the art museum has been deliberate in efforts to showcase African American artists by providing vital gallery space. The BCC and the art museum are institutions of kindred spirit and common purpose.

Continued on page 18...



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(703)385-2400

LSU to Co-Host 26th Annual ABCC Conference Ceremony ...Continued from page 1

By LaKeitha Poole



Parents, faculty members or significant persons to the graduate participate in the ceremony by robing the students with the stole.

In 1996, Gwendolyn E. Snearl and Tayarikwa Salaam developed the Robing Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of African American students graduating from LSU. A special segment at the Robing Ceremony this year will honor Snearl and Salaam. To date, more than 1,800 graduating seniors have participated in the 19 previous ceremonies.

LSU Vice Provost for Diversity Dereck Rovaris will give the welcome address and President and Chancellor F. King Alexander will make special remarks. A Karimu, or Feast of Joy, reception will follow.

Since 1996, more than 1,800 graduating seniors have participated in the Robing Ceremony at Louisiana State University

Northern Illinois University Student to be Inducted into the John Henrik Clarke Honor Society



A new group of Northern Illinois University students will be inducted into the John Henrik Clarke Honor Society in April. Jordan Brown, an ABCC student worker and sophomore majoring in engineering and manufacturing technology, is among the inductees. The John H. Clarke Honor Society was established in 2002 at NIU by a group of African-American students to recognize those with high academic standards and an ongoing commitment to community service. Students with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average were invited to apply, and with the principle motto of “Always do your best, what you plant now will harvest later,” the society was founded. John Henrik Clarke was a writer, historian, professor and pioneer in field of Africana Studies. He founded the African Heritage Studies Association and was highly regarded for his lifelong devotion to studying and documenting the histories and contributions of African people.

Jordan Brown, ABCC student worker and NIU sophomore majoring in engineering and manufacturing technology, will be inducted into the John Henrik Clarke Honor Society in April.

With headquarters at Northern Illinois University, 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>.

African American Cultural & Resource Center at the University of Cincinnati Celebrates 17th Annual Kuamka Week

By Aaryn L. Green
University of Cincinnati
Graduate Assistant, African American Cultural & Resource Center



Juniors Satra Taylor and Josh Williams, moments after being crowned Mr. & Miss Kuamka 2016.
Photo credit: Whitney Withhans Photography

In January 2016, the African American Cultural Resource Center (AACRC) at the University of Cincinnati celebrated its 17th Annual Kuamka Week and culminating Red, Black, Green and Gold Ball. Kuamka is one of the AACRC's many signature events. Dating back to 1999, Kuamka (Swahili for "in the beginning") is a weeklong series of cultural programs, events, and activities that involve the coronation of the newly crowned Mr. and Miss Kuamka. The 2016 Kuamka pageant week, themed #RespectMyRoots16, was comprised of a poster forum, a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program, a question and answer session, talent competition, and skating party—all culminating with the Kuamka Red, Black, Green and Gold Ball, where juniors Josh Williams, a marketing major from Columbus, OH, and Satra Taylor, a psychology major from Cincinnati, OH were announced as the new Mr. and Miss. Kuamka also serves as the graduation ceremony for the new-student rites of passage program titled Transitions, which graduated 65 first-year students. Kuamka highlights the academic accomplishments and significant contributions of various students, faculty, and staff. This year's ball hosted more than 700 guests including student organizations, graduate students, alumni, parents, community members, and a visit from the University of Alabama's Black Student Association from Huntsville, Alabama. Kuamka 2016 continued the AACRC's rich legacy of providing a sense of belonging and support for UC's most accomplished and engaged students.



The Red, Black, Green and Gold Ball 2016 hosted more than 700 guests, including student organizations, students, parents, alumni, and community members.
Photo credit: Whitney Withhans Photography.

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

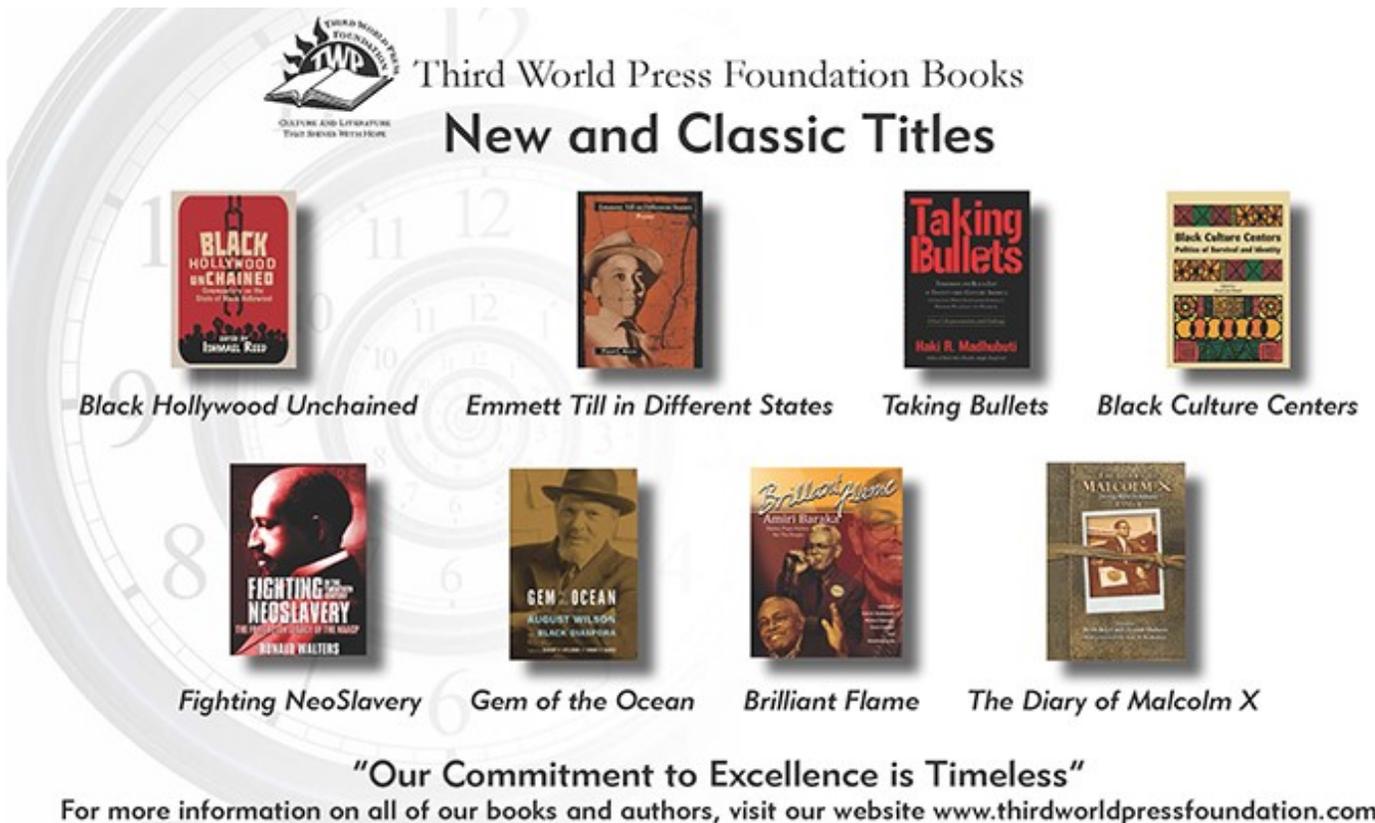
By Dr. Fred L. Hord

With Northern Illinois University's Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden, making contact with other campus CDOs at the very recent conference of the National Association of Chief Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), we hope to soon know how many Culture Center directors report to CDOs. In terms of reporting systems for those directors, this will be as important as knowing whether they report to academic administrators or those in student activities.

ABCC collaborations with national Black academic organizations are also moving ahead. Since the 2015 national conference in Boston, we have contacted new Presidents in those organizations and, in the face of our budget impasse, have tried to arrange for at least one Board member to represent us at their annual conferences. At this juncture, we have made the most progress with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the American Association for Blacks in Higher Education, and the African Heritage Studies Association. Presenting at each other's conference, publishing in the other's journal, and discounted co-memberships are the issues most frequently addressed.

As Culture Centers increasingly come under fire, including grappling with ongoing campus racial conflicts, the issue of accreditation is back in the forefront of questions we are asked. What is the process, how costly is it, how much time will it take, how much will it increase Center credibility, and how much will it reduce Center vulnerability are the five questions most raised. Our accreditation booklet will serve as a basis for the process. We shall report on where we are with accreditation at this year's conference, if not before.

The 2016 national conference will be the first time a co-host has seamlessly combined another major conference of its own with ours. Vice-President LaKeitha Poole is taking LSU's annual student conference and developing it as part of the ABCC 26th confab. The conference theme, itself, reminds us of the increasing need for Centers to contribute to community on and beyond campus.



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UMass Boston Launches Consortium of Asian Americans, Native Americans, Latin Americans and African Americans ...Continued from page 1

By Dr. Barbara Lewis

The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black History and Culture, founded in 1984 by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, was the first ethnic institute at UMB. The Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy and the Institute for Asian American Studies followed, with support from the caucus.

The four UMB ethnic institutes represent the face, voice and needs of an increasingly diverse country in which the hyphenated American is gaining numeric ground, but inequality remains acute. Segregation thrives in Boston under the term, racially concentrated areas of affluence (rcaa), according to an Atlantic Monthly article from April 2015. With no city in the country outpacing Boston in that regard, wealth is doing well in the City on a Hill, with its Ivy League predispositions, but poverty is being banished out beyond the urban edge and the collective sense dwindles against a backdrop that is increasingly atomized by technology and scarce resources.

Reading the writing on the wall, in 2015, the directors of the four UMB racial and ethnic research institutes saw that working together might help counteract a divide and conquer mentality. So they agreed to meet regularly and plan programs and activities under the name, CANALA, Consortium of Asian Americans, Native Americans, Latin Americans and African Americans. Currently, the four directors, Paul Watanabe of the Institute for Asian American Studies, Cedric Woods of the Native American Institute, Maria Idali Torres of the Gaston Institute and Barbara Lewis of the Trotter Institute are planning an inaugural CANALA conference in fall 2016 to explore the demographic strength of each.

California Newsreel has released

BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez

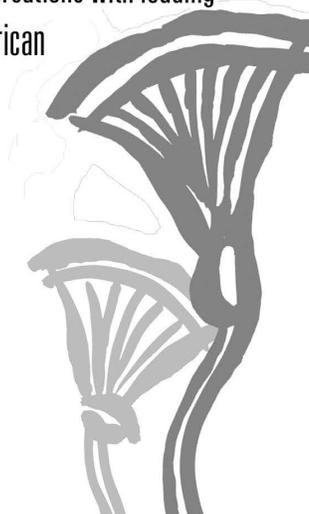
a new feature length documentary on the legendary poet, activist and Black Studies trailblazer, Sonia Sanchez.



California Newsreel is releasing

Furious Flower III

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



DIRT & DEEDS MISSISSIPPI

Narrated by Danny Glover, *Dirt & Deeds in Mississippi* uncovers the largely unknown and pivotal role played by Black landowners during the Freedom Struggle of the 1960s in the country's most segregated and violently racist state.



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



Celebrating 25 Years of African American History and Culture at NC State University ...Continued from page 4

By Dr. Frances D. Graham

As a unit of the Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity, the African American Cultural Center, Art Gallery and Library are indispensable components of NC State's community, building a diverse and inclusive campus environment by fostering demographic and intellectual diversity, as well as internal and external partnerships.

Dr. Clark and Dr. Witherspoon enhanced the lives of others by mentoring and encouraging students, faculty and staff in the NC State University community. In honor of their enduring legacy, the North Carolina State University African American Cultural Center is pleased to thank these incredible men for their commitment, their time and talents shared with the hundreds of African American students who have come through the doors of the AACC, soaking up all the brilliance each has offered in their respective careers and lives. "Until lions have their own historians, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center at East Carolina University Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Ledonia Wright Cultural Center at East Carolina University

East Carolina University celebrated the 40th anniversary of what is now the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center. The Center has served as a focal point for creating community and fostering intercultural leadership skill development at East Carolina University. Social equality activist and author, Angela Davis, delivered the keynote address at a celebration in February marking the 40th anniversary.

The Center's history dates back to 1975 when the Afro-American Cultural Center at East Carolina University was established. The Center's first director was Ledonia S. Wright, a popular and respected Associate Professor of Community Health. In the early 1990s, Eastern Carolina University developed a plan for a larger Center to serve the university community. On October 22, 1995 the new Center reopened in its new home and was renamed in honor of Ledonia Wright.



ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURE CENTERS
Includes African American, Latino, Native American, & Asian American Centers

26th Annual ABCC National Conference
Call for Proposals
"Culture Centers: Campus and Community Organizing to Make Lives Matter"
October 27 – 30, 2016
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA
Proposals Due August 1
www.abcc.net/conference

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UIC African-American Cultural Center at 25: An Exhibition Series, Oral History and Archival Project ...Continued from page 5

By Dr. Lori D. Barcliff Baptista

The AACC is actively reaching out to members of our campus and extended communities to participate in anniversary programming in the following categories:

1. Exhibitors whose work was previously showcased as a part of the Center's Visiting Artists' Series (1991-2012) to display original, handcrafted art;
2. Alumni and current members of Mojo's Pen, one of Chicago's longest running spoken word series to participate in the Oral History and Archival Project and National Poetry Month programming in April, 2016
3. Current UIC undergraduates or students from other institutions interested in participating in the Oral History and Archival Project. A number of paid and credit-bearing research opportunities are available for students to be trained in archival research and oral history methods that will prepare them to conduct interviews with UIC alumni, past and present students, community area artists, faculty and staff.
4. UIC alumni, faculty, staff and allies interested in being interviewed for the Oral History and Archival Project.

To participate, please visit the African American Cultural Center website for additional details: www.aacc.uic.edu



Mojo's Pen, with featured poet South African Poet Laureate Keorapetse Kgositse

Dr. Michael R. Williams
Cleveland State University
Director of Black Studies
m.williams@csuohio.edu

Larry Williamson, Jr.
Ohio State University
Director, Frank W. Hale Jr.
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Purdue University Black Cultural Center Establishes Collaborations...Continued from page 11

By Renee Thomas

The collections committee of the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette voted unanimously to purchase a piece of artwork by Gerald Griffin, *Black Friday*, for their permanent collection and put it on a long term loan at the BCC. As a result of this partnership, BCC visitors can see this magnificent piece of artwork on exhibition.

Gospel Meets Symphony was created to build bridges and bring people together. The intergenerational multi-racial collaboration of musically talented individuals is designed to uplift and unify the community. The concert will fuse mesmerizing orchestral sounds with powerful vocal melodies for an unforgettable evening of song.

Our collaborations with the art museum and the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra have generated positive outcomes. We discovered that collectively our organizations could reach more constituents by working together, could demonstrate artistic excellence and position ourselves to satisfy multiple goals, artistic, social and civic. Working in partnership we have achieved more than each of us working independently. These types of collaborations are meaningful, creative and enduring. This partnership enabled us to bring strong community values, networks and diversity of experience into environments where they are most needed.



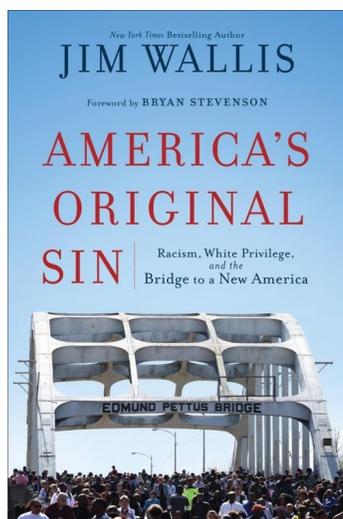
Gerald Griffin – Artist; Renee Thomas – Purdue Black Cultural Center, director; Michael Crowthers – curator of collections; Kendall Smith, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, executive director

appears to be self-conscious of her nudity and is covering her body. The athletic woman, in traditional braids, is gazing to the lush plantation that represents the reason she is being auctioned. The third woman represents the antebellum south. She appears to be unconscious of her nakedness. While in the middle ground a man is lynched for attempting to escape. Finally, in the background we see a scene of a lush countryside.

This piece, “Black Friday,” strives to connect the habits we adhere to today to our historical experiences as Black people in America. Today when we hear the term Black Friday, we immediately think of amazing discounted department store sales. However, only six generations ago, Black Friday would mean the weekend auction of Black men, women and children and the vast amounts of wealth that could be gained from their free servitude. This painting shows 3 women in the foreground chained to the auction block. The young girl ap-

Book Review of *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*

By Donnie Forti
ABCC Web Expert



The central theme of *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* is that racism is America's original sin. Author Jim Wallis explains the phrase was first used in a 1987 cover story for *Sojourners* magazine and helped him "...understand that the historical racism against America's Indigenous people and enslaved Africans was indeed a *sin*, and one upon this country was founded." To honor victims of racial sins, such as those who died in the Charleston church shooting in June 2015, Wallis says America must "...repent from our original sin of racism by repairing our racialized policing and criminal justice system, by restoring voting rights to all Americans, by striving to undo the profound inequities in our education system, and by ensuring that the same economic opportunities are available to people of all races."

Wallis addresses America's original sin with a discussion of white privilege and whiteness. Even if a white person has fought against racism and discrimination, he or she has benefited from the racial sins of America's establishment. Wallis goes on to say whiteness is an idol that perpetuates injustice and oppression, blinding people to their true identity as the children of God. White people have a responsibility to change oppression by taking "responsibility for a new and better future—especially for our children." He calls on America to die to "whiteness."

Culture is at the heart of this book. Just as culture centers on college and university campuses recognize and celebrate ethnic diversity, each person must embrace the demographic shift that's happening in America. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the majority of U.S. citizens will be descended from African, Asian and Latin American ancestors by 2045. Wallis poses the following question: "Will we be willing and able to cross the bridge to a new America, from a majority white culture with minorities, to a *majority of minorities* society, with white people as one of the minorities?"

To cross the bridge to a new America, Wallis calls on Americans to have a new conversation about race. "The *old talk* is the one that black and brown parents still have with their children about how to behave in the presence of police—to protect themselves from them—an almost universal conversation that white parents know little about..." The *new talk* Wallis puts forth "...is to make that old talk known to white parents and to together have a new conversation about the kind of country we want for all our children." Wallis recommends this *new talk* happen at schools, sporting events and congregations.

The book is dedicated to Wallis' mentor, professor and civil rights leader Vincent Harding, who died in 2014. Harding taught Wallis about a "cloud of witnesses," such as Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King Jr. and Sojourner Truth. The leaders are a great cheering squad to support the liberation theology of people working to create what Harding refers to as a new multiracial "beloved community" and the "more perfect union." The "cloud of witnesses" serves as encouragement for the difficult work of crossing the bridge to the new America.

Wallis offers an "altar call" to change America's racial story. "Racial healing is a commitment at the heart of the gospel," Wallis writes. He challenges Christians to make churches "safe spaces" for racial dialogue and unity, while challenging the "geography of race" that keeps Americans in different neighborhoods, schools, and churches. It's a message that challenges the reader to "walk across the bridge to a new America," as Wallis so powerfully describes.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Association for Black Culture Centers

(Includes African American, Latino,
Native American, & Asian American Centers)

26th National Conference

October 27th - 30th, 2016

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA



“Culture Centers: Campus and Community Organizing to Make Lives Matter”

Suggested Topics:

- ♦ Retrieving Black Core Culture
- ♦ Synergy of Centers and Community
- ♦ Centering of Women in Leadership
- ♦ All Lives Matter
- ♦ Synergy Among Ethnic Specific Centers
- ♦ Making First Generation Students Matter
- ♦ Community as Source of Centers
- ♦ Centers Making Gay Lives Matter
- ♦ Centers Making Culture Matter
- ♦ Opposing the Racist Past in the Present
- ♦ Community Making Centers Better
- ♦ Afro Latino Centers' Fit with Black Centers
- ♦ Asian American Centers' Connection with Blacks
- ♦ Academic Work to Make Lives Matter
- ♦ Centers Fixing Ethnic Splits
- ♦ Understanding Class Matters

Proposals Due:

Monday, August 1st

www.abcc.net

Co-sponsored by the Louisiana State University African American Cultural Center
For more information, please visit www.abcc.net or www.lsu.edu/aacc

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