

UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA - TC

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

THE VILLAGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICAN
& AFRICAN STUDIES ALUMNI COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR	1
STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS	1
BUILDING TOMORROWS LEADERS	2
WE WANT 2 KNOW	2
ALUMNI PROFILE	2
BLACK PARIS	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	4
QUOTE OF THE MONTH	4

FROM THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

I'm delighted to welcome you back to *The Village*. I encourage you to browse this issue to learn about the many ways to reconnect with the Department of African American & African Studies and our global alumni community. Discover the latest developments of the Department, such as new K-12 partnerships, updates on the *40th year long* events, and faculty research. Connect with former classmates through Alumni Profiles, and show your support through The John S. Wright Fund, which provides critical funds for scholarships abroad.

I look forward to seeing you in

the months ahead at the exciting African American & African Studies events happening on campus and around the world.

Scott Redd
Community Outreach Coordinator



STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

To commemorate the 40 year history of the founding of the African American & African Studies Department and the historic Morrill Hall student takeover; the University of Minnesota's Department of African American & African Studies will host a Youth Leadership Conference titled *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants*. This will

be an intergenerational youth conference that will inspire today's youth to organize for tomorrow's change. The day will be integrated with a panel discussion, intergenerational fishbowl, peer networking, cultural performances, and more.

The conference is organized by Dr. Rose Brewer. Dr. Brewer has invited some of the Twin Cities most

accomplished youth workers, and community activists to participate as guest presenters, panelist, and facilitators. The conference will take place Friday, November 7, 2008. For more information contact Dr. Brewer at (612)624-9305 or email: breww001@umn.edu



BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

A winning situation. That's how the Department describes its new mentorship program. The Department of African American & African Studies at the University of Minnesota is partnering with Minneapolis South High School and Blame It On Hip Hop to mentor African American males at South HS. The program is called "Building Tomorrow's Leaders. University students will help aspir-

ing college students make important decisions about future career plans and the future of our community.

Mentors will work one on one with an African American male student between the ages of 14 to 16 to develop key skills around leadership, community, and college preparation. The Department believes this is a win-win situation for University students and South HS stu-

dents. University students will develop transferable skills needed in today's competitive job market while high school students will receive individualized attention regarding college preparation and community engagement.

WE WANT 2 KNOW

If you have news about your personal or professional life, honors, or other activities that you would like to share with fellow alumni in future issues of THE VILLAGE please send to :

[redd0002@umn.edu](mailto:red0002@umn.edu)

ALUMNI PROFILE

This month *The Village* caught up with Terry Addison Class of 71.

What is your current occupation?

Associate Dean in the office of Student Life at Brown University, Providence, RI.

How has AA & AS help you to achieve success in your career?

The AA&AS gave me the foundational knowledge base to view the world, and especially the United States, from many lenses--politically, socially, economically, and psychologically. It is this knowledge base that has help shape my interactions professionally and personally.

Why did you choose AA&AS as a major?

Because it was the one academic discipline that allowed me to integrate my values, culture, and sense of self/history in the classroom environment, while giving me a sense of direction outside the classroom.

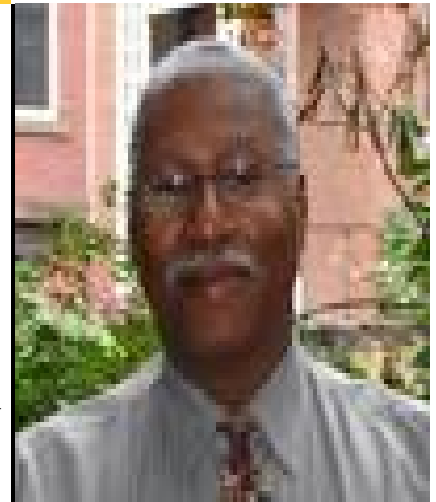
What about AA&AS inspires you? While inspiring scholarship it allows one to see the potential that exists based on history. AA&AS provides the platform that motivates and inspires.

What is your fondest memory of AA&AS? The wonderful instructors/professors who really were pioneers in establishing a

academic center full of spirit and optimism, while fully engaging the politics of the time, both at the University, in the Twin Cities, and in the world in general.

What do you do in your free time?

Read, relax, attend my son's soccer games at Connecticut College, help mentor my 8 year old godson who is playing Pop Warner football for the first time, and attempt to stay in touch with friends and mentors who are at a distance.



African American & African Studies
Alumnus Terry Addison Class of 71

BLACK PARIS: THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN THE CITY OF LIGHTS

"France is not Utopia," wrote Mercer Cook (1938: 673) in his keynote address, "The Race Problem in Paris and the French West Indies," delivered at Atlanta University on December 1, 1938. Nevertheless, France's allure is ever-present, and nowhere is this more apparent than in its famed City of Light, Paris. Indeed, Paris is considered one of the most beautiful places in the western world. During May session 2008, I and 13 students embarked on a journey to discover not merely this City of Light, but to uncover another Paris, *Black Paris: the African Diaspora in Paris, France*. For over three centuries, African Americans have (im)migrated to Paris, and in so doing, are part of a broader narrative of immigrant upward mobility typically associated

with European and certain post-1965 newcomers to the United States. France has, however, reserved a very different reception for other African Diaspora peoples, with notable exceptions. Through a variety of literature, jazz and hip-hop workshops, and tours students not only studied a topic, but also lived an extraordinary adventure. One student described her impressions of the course in the following way, which captures well the group's perspective: "I want to say that this course has opened my mind and has changed so many of my perceptions. What you gave to us was truly a gift, a gift of knowledge that we can apply to so many different things for the rest of our lives. And of course, being in Paris made it almost fairy-tale-like, but it also made all of the issues all the more real. I want to say that you did an

outstanding job at presenting this material and also at just being like one of us, as one of our friends (not every professor busts out the moves to African music or hip-hop!) So thank you for offering this experience that I will for sure remember for the rest of my life!"

Dr. Trica Keaton is an Associate Professor in the Department of American Studies and the Institute for Global Studies

There is no Black Belt in which a Negro must confine his domicile. Paris is racially a free city.

Richard Wright, 1951

I am the voice of the ghetto. I am the voice of the hood. I'm not talking about the Bronx or Soweto--Ghetto, children of the ghetto--but about our neighborhood . . . We've suffered enough in these projects.

Pit Baccardi and Jacky Brown (Hip Hop Artists), 1992



Prof. Keaton with class in Paris at Josephine Baker's Chateau. Baker's eldest son, Akio, pictured in the center!

Two loves have I, my country and Paris

Josephine Baker, 1931

UPCOMING EVENTS

Somali Refugees in Europe

10/22/2008 4:00PM

Location: 125 Nolte Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: Institute of Advanced Study
(612)626-5054

During the summer of 2007, Abdi Roble and Doug Rutledge of the Somali Documentary Project (SDP) traveled to places in Europe that have proven very difficult for Somali refugees: Germany, Greece and Malta. They discovered that Europe is using its border countries to create a fortress against refugees attempting to enter the European Union. Moreover, the border countries are making no distinction between economic refugees and refugees who are fleeing armed conflict. They will compare the conditions for Somali refugees in the U.S. and Europe, with specific information on each European country.

Paul Rusesabagina

11/3/2008 7:30PM

Location: Northrop Memorial Auditorium

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: Serena Wright (612) 624-0430
wright103@umn.edu

Can one person make a difference? Join author Paul Rusesabagina, inspiration for the 2004 story of courage and compassion in the opening days of the Rwandan genocide. His example, demonstrates how each of us can change our world. A reception will follow the event.

Intergenerational Youth Conference: Today's Youth Organize for Tomorrow's Change

11/7/2008 9:30AM-1:30PM

Location: Coffman Memorial Union Theater

Cost: Free open to selected middle school, high school and college students

Contact: Prof. Rose Brewer
(612)624-9305
brew001@umn.eduSee *STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS* ON page 1 for more information

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - TC

267 19th Avenue South
808 Social Sciences Building
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-624-9847
Fax: 612-624-9383
E-mail: red0002@umn.edu

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In Paris, I lived in all parts of the city—on the Right Bank and the Left, among the bourgeoisie and among les misérables, and knew all kinds of people, from pimps and prostitutes in Pigalle to Egyptian bankers in Neuilly...I love to talk to people, all kinds of people, and almost everyone, as I hope we still know, loves a man who loves to listen.
James Baldwin, 1954

The Department of African American & African Studies plays an important role in the University's rich liberal arts tradition. The department's beginnings in the Morrill Hall takeover of 1969 by students demanding change demonstrate that the academy—and society—often move forward by challenging traditional boundaries and practices.

Today, the department offers students opportunities to explore American cultural diversity and the wide diversity of the African continent. An undergraduate major in African American & African Studies provides students with a systematic and comprehensive understanding of the cultural and historical experiences of African American & African peoples from a multidisciplinary perspective including history, political science, sociology, psychology, literature, music, and art. Courses and faculty are drawn from the department as well as from other units of the University.