

THE VILLAGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICAN & AFRICAN STUDIES ALUMNI COMMUNITY

APRIL/MAY 2009

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A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

Welcome to the April/May edition of *The Village* Newsletter. During the course of the year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Morrill Hall Takeover which led to the founding of the Department of African American & African Studies. As we embark on the next 40 years, the Department stands ready as it has always been to prepare women and men to excel in academics, their community, and prepared to meet the challenges of our times. With Alumni and friends like you, the Department has a long list of educated, honorable, and steadfast leaders, a list that will continue to grow far into the future.

As the Department approaches the close of another wonderful academic year,

we want to remind you "To whom much is given, much is required." We encourage all of you to allow this mantra to guide your thoughts, words, and deeds. The Department is hoping that you will take the time to make a difference in the lives of others. To learn more about making a difference contact Scott Redd at redd0002@umn.edu and remember the more you assist and encourage others, the more you will come to appreciate what you have and the resources that are available to you.

Be well.

Scott Redd



FIRST IMPRESSIONS: SHAPING THE PATH

First Impressions is an initiative started by the department to increase the enrollment of African American and African students at the University of Minnesota. Currently African American & African students represent 4.5 percent of the undergraduate student body on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus. This initiative investigates why many qualified black students are choosing to attend college elsewhere.

With help from the Office for Equity and Diversity, the Black Student Union, and department faculty, African American & African Studies organizes campus visits for high school students, parents, K-12 staff, and community members. All groups receive a guided tour, meet Board members of the Black Student Union, and sit in on a lecture by department faculty. The visit to campus allows groups the opportunity to see the University from

an afro perspective. At the end of the day groups participate in a focus group centered around their impressions of the University. The department will present the initiative findings to key University administrators interested in increasing the enrollment of African American & African students.



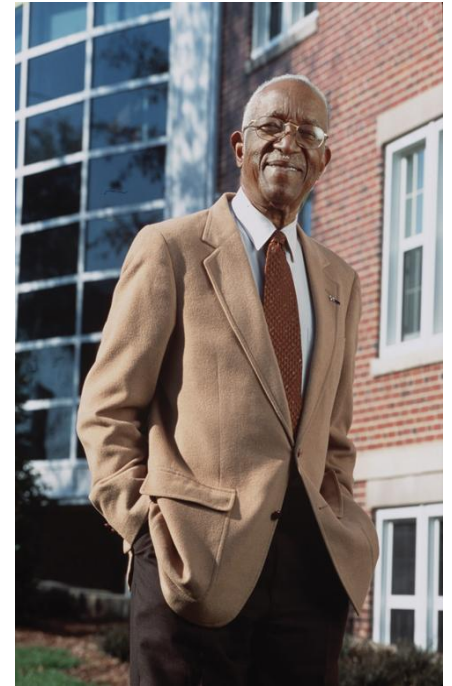
KEN BURNS REMEMBERS JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

The following is an excerpt from the New York Times, Opinion by Ken Burns

After Pearl Harbor, Dr. Franklin tried to enlist at a Navy recruiting office. “I volunteered,” he recalled, “in response to the call that they made specifically for men to man the offices.” All regular officers had reported for active duty. “The recruiter for the Navy said, ‘What can you do?’ I said: ‘Well, I can run an office. I can type. I can take shorthand if that’s needed. And oh yes, I have a Ph.D. in history from Harvard.’ “I wondered what he was

going to say. He said, ‘You have everything but color.’ And I said, ‘Well, I thought there was an emergency, but obviously there’s not, so I bid you good day.’ And I vowed that day that they would not get me, because they did not deserve me. If I was able — physically, mentally, every other kind of way, able and willing to serve my country — and my country turned me down on the basis of color, then my country did not deserve me. And I vowed then that they would not get me.” Dr. Franklin would keep that pledge, and for far

too long, our country did not deserve him — his scholarship and wisdom and kindness to everyone set a standard far beyond the narrow bigotry that segregated not only our military barracks but also our Bibles, bowling alleys and blood supplies as well. But John Hope Franklin, ever true to his middle name, did not give up, eventually living long enough to see an African-American become president, a moment he told us, of signal importance in the long and complicated history of the country he loved and lived.



CLA: OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD CHARLENE HAYES

Congratulations to Charlene Hayes, the 2007-2008 winner of the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Service Award. The Outstanding Service Awards are presented annually by the College of Liberal Arts to recognize and reward outstanding service to the college by civil service, bargaining unit and academic professional and administrative employees and work groups. Char was only one of four Civil Service CLA staff to receive the coveted award.

Char was a shoe in for the award considering her consistent high level of performance in her position as Department Administrator. In this role Char has managed to increase efficiency that lead to cost savings, improve quality of service to the department, and continue to raise the bar of excellence in the department.

The award includes \$1200 and a certificate of recognition.



NOMMO AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS SERIES

On Thursday, April 23, the NOMMO African American Authors series concluded its 2008-2009 season. Professor Alexs Pate hosted fiction writer and cultural commentator Ntozake Shange at Cowles Auditorium. Ntozake Shange is author of the play *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*: a choreopoem, which won an Obie and was nominated for Tony, Grammy, and Emmy awards. Shange has also published four novels, including Pen-Faulkner nominee *Indigo*. Her poetry collections include: *A Daughter's Geography*, *Nappy Edges*, *Ridin' the Moon in Texas*, and *The Space Love Demands*.
April 14th, 2009



Class of 2009

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2009

Devon Arkadie

Adeniyi Ayinde

Patrick Evans

Modupe Osire

Isaiah Potts

Noah Sims

Antoni Tang

Andrea Thompson-Amarteifio

Roshaunta Williams

COURSE SPOTLIGHT - AFRO 3592W: INTRO TO BLACK WOMEN WRITERS IN THE U.S.

This upcoming fall semester Professor Njeri Githire will offer Introduction to Black Women writers in the United States. In this course students will read personal essays and memoirs written by Black women writers living in the U.S.A. In these nonfiction works, writers such as bell hooks, Audre Lorde, and Lisa Jones will address art, education, family, hair, motherhood, politics, sexism, sexuality, skin color and intra-racial prejudice, socio-economic class and

classism, spirituality and religion, racial/cultural identity and racism. For more information regarding this offering contact Professor Njeri Githire at jgithire@umn.edu or (612)625-1687.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT ENID L. LOGAN

SPECIALITIES

- sociology of law
- historical sociology
- race and ethnicity
- family, marriage, and gender
- nationalism
- social theory
- Latin America & the Caribbean
- sociology of the media
- cultural sociology
- political sociology
- race & gender in 2008 presidential campaign

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- B.A.: Sociology & African American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 1994.
- Grad Certificate: Latin American & Caribbean Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2001.
- M.A.: Sociology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 1997.
- Ph.D.: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2005.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Invited Speaker. St Cloud State University.: Lecture Series on Race and Gender
- Invited Contributor. Social Science Research Council.: "From King to Obama: Race in America."
- Keynote Speaker: African-American Academic Achievement Awards. Central High School, St. Paul MN

PUBLICATIONS

- *The Wrong Race, Committing Crime, Doing Drugs, and Maladjusted for Motherhood: The Nation's Fury over 'Crack Babies'*: Logan, Enid Lynette, *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order*, 1999.
- *Conspirators, Pawns, Patriots and Brothers: Race and Politics in Western Cuba, 1906-1909*: Logan, Enid Lynette, *Political Power and Social Theory*, 14 3-51, 2000.
- *El apóstol y el comandante en jefe: Racial Discourses and Practices in Cuba 1890- 1999*: Logan, Enid Lynette, Feagin, J. and Batur-VanderLippe, P, *The Global Color Line: Racial and Ethnic Inequality and Struggle from a Global Perspective*, 195-213, 1999.
- *The 1899 Cuban Marriage Law Controversy: Church, State and Empire in the Crucible of Nation*: Logan, Enid Lynette, *Journal of Social History*, 42 469-494, 2008

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member, American Sociological Association
- Member, American Historical Association
- Member, Latin American Studies Association
- Member, Association of Black Sociologists
- Member: Sociologists for Women in Society

COURSES TAUGHT

- American Race Relations
- Social Problems
- Race, Class & Gender

AWARDS

- Latin American Studies Library Travel Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida 2002
- Student Academic Multicultural Initiatives Grant, Office of the Vice President, University of Michigan 1999, 2002
- Sims Award. (\$5000) School of Social Work, University of Michigan, 1996
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1993
- Joseph H. Fitcher Award for Research on Women, Gender & Religion 2002
- Magna Cum Laude, Yale University, 1994
- D'Arms Travel Award for Humanities Research, University of Michigan 2000
- International Predissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research - 1998-1999
- Constant H. Jacquet Award for Research on Religion 2002
- President's Faculty Multicultural Research Award, University of Minnesota, 2008 - 2009
- McKnight Research Fellowship. University of Minnesota 2006



UPCOMING EVENTS

3 on 3 Basketball Tourney

My Brother's Keeper

5/1/2009 Friday

7:00PM-10:00PM

Location:

University of Minnesota

Field House

Cost: Free

Sponsored by:

My Brothers Keeper.

Race, Citizenship, & the End(s) of Black Politics: The Case of Kanye West's Di-monds (Are from Sierra Leone)"

5/6/2009 Wednesday

12:15PM–2:30PM

Location: B15 Ford Hall

Cost: Free

Presented by:

Roopali Mukherjee, Associate Professor of media studies at CUNY-Queens. She writes on race and racial discourse in US public and political culture and is the author of *The Racial Order of Things: Cultural Imaginaries of the Post-Soul Era* (UMN Press 2006).

The 5th Annual Power of the People Conference

5/8/2009

8:30 AM –4:30PM

Location:

Golden Valley Country Club

Cost: \$345 Individual or

\$2150 table of (8)

Contact: Theresa Olson

(763) 535-5711

Dr. Verna has created a day long professional development seminar called "Roadmap for Change" This seminar will help you face the many changes with courage and confidence. You will leave with doable strategies on how to deal with and create positive change even in difficult times.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise I rise I rise."

Maya Angelou

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.