

Ubuntu

Ubuntu: an age-old African term for humaneness – for caring, sharing and being in harmony with all of creation. As an ideal, it promotes co-operation between individuals, cultures and nations

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am pleased to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Black American Studies (BAMS) Newsletter, *Ubuntu*. *Ubuntu* will appear bi-annually and will bring you

information and news about BAMS. We will feature activities and accomplishments of our faculty, progress and promise of our students, and ongoing scholarly and community activities of the program. Let me begin by discussing the Newsletter's name – *Ubuntu*.

Ubuntu is a product of the Nguni group of languages. Nobel Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu discussed the concept of *Ubuntu* in his book, *No Future Without Forgiveness*, his account of the Truth and Reconciliation process that enabled South Africa to transition from Racial Apartheid to Post-Apartheid peace. For Bishop Tutu, *Ubuntu* is "the essence of being human." To say that a person has "*Ubuntu*" is as if to say, "My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours." It expresses the belief that "I am human because I belong, I participate, and I share." It is a universal concept of sharing, corporation and inclusion. *Ubuntu* is the spirit of BAMS and the message our work, commitment and dedication is meant to convey, hence the title of this newsletter.

Current highlights include profiles of BAMS faculty, a dynamic student-faculty research project directed by Dr. Yasser Payne, Study Abroad opportunities in African and Barbados, and the BAMS/Paul R. Jones Summer Scholars program. BAMS is growing a dynamic core of faculty that is augmented

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SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Yasser Payne and James Jones, Principal Investigators:

The Lived Experiences of Black Students and Faculty at The University of Delaware



Participatory Action Research (PAR) project students: back row, Dr. Payne; third row, Mamawa Fofana & LaMar Gibson; second row, Carl Suddler and Thea Ogunusi; first row Brittany Battle

This study is guided by the following research questions: (1) What are the dominant lived experiences or phenomenological perspectives of Black students, staff and faculty at UD?; (2) What are the major issues facing Black students, staff and faculty at UD?; and (3) What are Black students, staff and faculty expectations of the BAMS program?

It is a Participatory Action Research (PAR) project, inclusive of a set of undergraduate students selected from the Black American Studies Program. This study has been organized to document the lived experiences, basic interests and expectations of Black students, staff and faculty at the University of Delaware. In an age where the experi-

ences of student and faculty life are being examined more closely, this study seeks to more accurately frame the standpoint of Black students, staff and faculty through the use of PAR.

It should be noted that Participatory Action Research is when the principal investigator(s) include members of the population of interest on the research team, to play a direct role in all phases of the research project (i.e., development of research questions, theory, method, analysis, presentation, publication, etc.). One assumption of PAR work is that the group under investigation holds the foremost "expert" knowledge on how particular social

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Faculty Profiles CORE FACULTY

Howard B. Johnson

Francis H. Squire Professor of History & Black American Studies

Howard B. Johnson is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and received his doctorate from the University of Oxford. His ongoing research interests focus on the Chinese and Lebanese as trading minorities in Jamaica and their relationship with the Creole population. Professor Johnson is the author of *The White Minority in the Caribbean*, *The Bahamas from Slavery to Servitude, 1783-1933*, *The Bahamas in Slavery and Freedom*, and *After the Crossing: Immigrants and Minorities in Caribbean Creole Society*.

Wunyabari O. Maloba

Associate Professor, Black American Studies

Dr. Maloba earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Nairobi and his doctoral degree in African history from Stanford University. He is currently the Assistant Vice President for Affirmative Action and Multicultural programs at the University of Delaware. He holds appointments as associate professor in Black American Studies and Women's Studies. Maloba is the founding director of the African Studies Program at UD. He is the author of *Mau Mau and Kenya: An Analysis of a Peasant Revolt*, as well as *African Women in Revolution* and a number of articles on nationalism and decolonization.

Yasser A. Payne

Assistant Professor, Black American Studies

Yasser A. Payne joined the Black American Studies program in the Fall of 2006. Dr. Payne is interested in exploring notions of resiliency with street life oriented Black men using an unconventional methodological framework entitled: Participatory Action Research. Dr. Payne has worked on several book chapters and journal articles looking at notions of resiliency, racial identity, urban education, and participatory action research as well as co-authored a book publication entitled: *Echoes of Brown: Youth Documenting and Performing the Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education* (Teachers College Press, 2004).

Maggie R. Ussery

Assistant Professor, Black American Studies

Dr. Ussery earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Texas and her doctoral degree in Sociology from Temple University. She joined the Black American Studies program in the fall of 2006 and teaches courses related to dynamics of race and work and intersectionality in black culture. Her current research interests include the attitudes and influences that affect the employment of black youth, as well as stigmatized identity of black workers.

Black American Studies names an Associate Director



In September of 2007, Dr. Carol Henderson-Belton joined the Black American Studies Program as Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate

Programs. Dr. Henderson-Belton is an Associate Professor in the University's Department of English and also serves as an affiliate faculty member to Women's Studies. She is the author of *Scarring the Black Body: Race and Representation in African American Literature* (University of Missouri Press, 2002) and has won numerous awards including the *Richard "Dick" Wilson Community Award* from the Center for Black Culture (2002) and the *Excellence in Teaching Award* in 1996.

BAMS announces first Post Doctoral Researcher



Dr. Amani Marshall joined the Black American Studies Program as its first a Postdoctoral Researcher in the fall of 2007. As part of her appointment, Dr. Marshall will be

offering the course, "Gender and Slavery" during the spring semester of 2008. Dr. Marshall joins us from Indiana University-Bloomington where she earned her Ph.D. in African Diaspora History. Her dissertation, *Female Fugitives: Enslaved Women's Resistance in South Carolina and Georgia, 1820-1865* examined the resistance efforts of female runaway slaves in the antebellum South using a multidisciplinary approach through the lens of an intersectional analysis.

2007 Lectures

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007

Dr. Howard Stevenson, University of Pennsylvania
Playing with Anger: Appreciating the Cultural Strivings of African American Boys

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

Dr. Bill E. Lawson, Michigan State University
Derrick Bell, the Permanence of Racism, and Hope

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

Dr. Tracy Sharpley-Whiting, Vanderbilt University
'Beautiful': Video Vixens, Beauty Culture, and Diasporic Sex Tourism

OPEN HOUSE: BAMS held its annual fall open house in September 2007 at the Newark home of James Jones. Alan Smith received an award of recognition for his teaching.

Spotlight on faculty



The Black American Studies welcomes new faculty member Arica Coleman. Dr. Coleman joined the Black American Studies Program in the Fall of 2007 as an Assistant

Professor. Dr. Coleman earned her Ph.D. in American Studies with a concentration in African American-Native American Relations in 2005 from The Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has previously been a Lecturer of History at Johns Hopkins University, as well as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Delaware in both Black American Studies (2005-2006) and the Writing Program (2001-2006). Her research interests examine the intersections of marginalized groups beyond the Black and white dichotomy in relation to their effects on race and identity.

Student News



Black American Studies program awarded its first study abroad scholarships to Antonia De Luz and Melissa Morris for Winter Session 2007. Each received \$1,500 scholarships, to

participate in the study abroad program. Antonia traveled to South Africa to study the history and political culture of that country through courses taught by Francis Kwansa, professor of hotel, restaurant and institutional management, and Ted Davis, professor of political science and international relations, both at University of Delaware. Melissa traveled to Barbados to study experimental learning and music and culture through courses taught by Norma Gaines-Hanks and Nyasha Grayman, both assistant professors of individual and family studies at UD.

Community News

Dr. Micah McCreary, associate professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, will be presenting a workshop on his research project IMPACT (*I Must Pause Pray Analyze Chill and Take Action*) at Bethel Church in Wilmington, Delaware, in March. Dr. McCreary research focuses on family, spiritual, and cultural issues. He is a family therapist, and he has developed interventions to promote effective parenting within a spiritual and cultural context.

Paul R. Jones Initiative

In the summer of 2007, six students representing the University of Delaware, North Carolina A&T, and Warsaw University participated in an intensive 4-week BAMS Summer Scholars Program. Each student scholar completed the 3-credit course "Images of Harriet Tubman: A Visual Study" in the Black American Studies Program taught by Professor Amaila Amaki. The course explored Harriet Tubman as a historical figure and as the subject of works of art by African Americans John Riddle, Norma Morgan, Jacob Lawrence, Charles White and Elizabeth Catlett. Classroom discussions focused on how Harriet Tubman is interpreted in the art created by the artists as well as explorations of the possible motives of the artists. Each student completed a final project that included an oral presentation as well as a written version of the presentation that will become a part of the Paul R. Jones Collection archives.

In 2008, the Black American Studies program will host its third annual Summer Scholars Program in support of the Paul R. Jones Educational Initiative. The Paul R. Jones Initiative supports the Paul R. Jones Collection of African American Art through educational programs, exhibitions, leadership training, and scholarly research. The Summer Scholars Program is a four-week program that consists of faculty-student teams conducting research, in various fields, related to the Paul R. Jones Collection. Our aim is to enhance the utilization of the Collection for scholarship and training. The program will be held from June 9 to July 3, 2008. The four weeks includes orientation, research, and weekly field trips to area cultural institutions. At the end of the term, the students make a formal PowerPoint presentation of their projects at a colloquium. The student's expenses will be covered (travel, housing, meals). The student will also receive a weekly stipend.

Faculty News

Arica Coleman – will be presenting the paper *Indian in a Black Body? The Dilemma of Race and Recognition in Indian Country* at the *What's the Use of Race?* Conference: April 25-26, 2008 Center for the Study of Diversity in Science, Technology, and Medicine Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Erica Armstrong Dunbar – has a new book *A Fragile Freedom: African American Women and Emancipation in the Antebellum City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008).

Carol Henderson, James M. Jones, Antonia Randolph, Yasser Payne, Maggie Ussery and David Wilson will be participating on a panel at *Theorizing Blackness: A Conference* at the Africana Studies Group of the CUNY Graduate Center, April 2008. Their titles are: Carol Henderson, *Boxing on paper: Authenticity in the preservation of a Black self*; Yasser Payne, *Street Life Black Men: A Culture of Honor, Respect and Resilience*; Maggie Ussery, *Not Just any Job: The Development of Work-related Identity in Young, Black Workers*; Antonia Randolph, *Retreating from Race: The Social Cost of Erasing Black Ethnicity*; James M. Jones and David Wilson, *Black enough? Dimensions of Blackness and Attitudes toward Black Leaders*.

James M. Jones was the co-recipient of the 2007 *Association of Black Psychologists Distinguished Psychologist Award*. The award was announced at the organization's national conference in Houston, Texas.

Maggie Ussery has been selected to attend the Salzburg Seminar in Austria April 13-18, 2008. She will be attending the session "Innovation in Knowledge-based Economies: Accelerating the Benefits."

Summer Scholars



2007 Summer Scholars Participants: back row, Professor Amaila Amaki; second row, Wesley Morris, Christina Board, Lungile Nyathi, Danielle Porter, LeVar Bell; front row, Morgan Aird.

BAMS Joint Faculty

In addition to the BAMS core faculty, there are twelve joint faculty whose primary appointment is in another academic unit but who devote at least 25% of their time to BAMS. Here is a list of the joint faculty:

Margaret L. Andersen

Edward F. & Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Sociology

Erica Armstrong-Dunbar

Associate Professor, History

Theodore J. Davis

Associate Professor, Political Science & International Studies

Benjamin Fleury-Steiner

Associate Professor, Sociology and Criminal Justice

Elizabeth Higginbotham

Professor, Sociology and Criminal Justice

Ikem S. Okoye

Associate Professor, Art History

Antonia Randolph

Assistant Professor, Sociology and Criminal Justice

Timothy A. Spaulding

Associate Professor, English

Leland Ware

Louis J. Redding Professor for the Study of Law and Public Policy, Department of Urban Affairs and Public Policy

David C. Wilson

Assistant Professor, Political Science & International Studies

Experiences

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phenomena affect the lived experiences of that particular group (McIntyre, 2000; Wakeford & Pimbert, 2004), thus we seek to organize a group of Black undergraduate students to document the lived experiences of Black people at the University of Delaware.

Specifically, the goals of this study are two-fold: First, develop an empirically based composite of the dominant profiles or perspectives of Black students, staff and faculty at UD. Second, document, from the standpoint of students and faculty, how UD more generally and the BAMS program specifically, supports the basic needs, interests and/or satisfaction of Black students and faculty at the University of Delaware.

From the Director

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by many talented scholars across the University who have been appointed to Joint Faculty Positions. Read further in this issue for the details.

Two major developments need to be highlighted. First, in the Spring of 2007, the University Board of Trustees approved the creation of a MAJOR in Black American Studies. This milestone will open new possibilities for student and faculty involvement in BAMS content and programs. To learn more about the requirements and opportunities, consult the second development, the new BAMS website (www.bams.udel.edu). Stay tuned to future editions of *Ubuntu*, and please joins us in the unfolding programs and opportunities in BAMS.

Calendar of Events

BROWN BAG SERIES SPRING 2008:

The Black American Studies Program announces its Spring 2008 Brown Bag Series. All talks are in 206 Trabant from 12:15 - 1:10pm, and are open to the public. Talks are usually about 30 minutes followed by spirited dialogue between and among presenters and audience. All are welcome to attend.

FEBRUARY 18TH:

"Patterns of Public Opinion Among Blacks: A Question of Consensus in the Socioeconomic Economic Transition of Black Politics," Ted Davis, Associate Professor; Political Science and International Relations and Black American Studies, University of Delaware

MARCH 17TH:

"Hip-Hop at the Crossroads: The Logic of Hip-Hop Literacy" and the "Invisible Tradition of Reading and Writing in Hip-Hop Composition." Shuaib Meacham, Associate Professor, School of Education, University of Delaware

APRIL 14TH:

"Virginia's Racial Integrity Fight: The Du Bois - Garvey Debate" Arica Coleman, Assistant Professor, Black American Studies, University of Delaware

APRIL 21ST:

Topic to be announced, Collette Gaiter, Associate Professor, Art Department, University of Delaware

MAY 12TH:

Topic to be announced, Elizabeth Higginbotham, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware