

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH  
CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
STUDIES PROGRAM  
SPRING 2012  
NEWSLETTER**



**Director, Dr. Tara T. Green**

*"We are preparing leaders whose studies of race, class, and gender through their historical, literary, political, and cultural studies will prepare them for success in an increasingly diverse world."*

Director's Welcome

Dear Reader:

It is time to look back on another memorable year. During the spring semester, a record number of AFS graduating seniors were accepted into graduate schools. The list includes UC-Berkley, Rutgers, Vanderbilt, and Duke. In addition, more students were accepted to study abroad and to make presentations at the Honor College's Symposium and NC university conferences. We are very excited about their accomplishments and remain impressed with their commitment to developing their intellect. This issue of the AFS Newsletter is dedicated to our fabulous students.

Despite challenging economic times, we continued to welcome more students to the major. They were joined by minors and other UNCG students who attended the Spring Conversations with the Community and the talk by Dr. E. Patrick Harris on Black Performance and Queer Studies. Students also enjoyed the opportunity to meet African American elected officials, Senator Gladys Robinson, Reps. Brandon Marcus and Alma Adams, and Vice-Chair of Gilford County School Board, Amos Quick, III who came to discuss matters related to politics and education. AFS Ambassador, Charles Chavis Jr. organized this event.

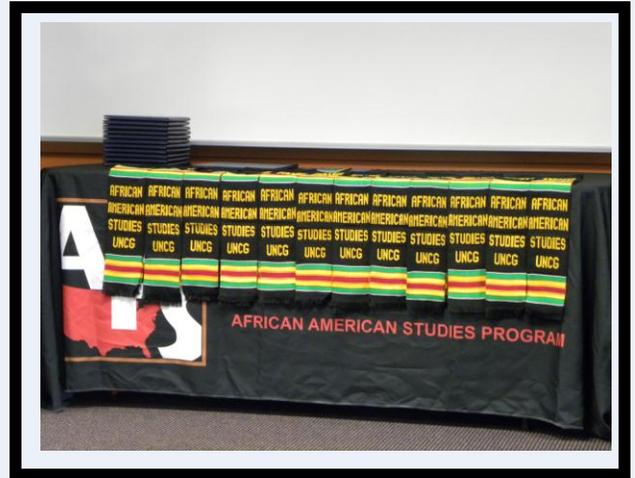
I close by inviting you to party with AFS! Why? The 30th year anniversary of the AFS Program and the 10th year anniversary of the degree is a reason to celebrate. October 18-19th will not only be the time of our annual conference (CACE) it will also be the time that we recognize the achievements of our alumni, faculty, and students. I encourage all readers to visit our website in order to learn more about the AFS Alumni Awards and the annual conference.

As we prepare to say good-bye to another graduating class and to move into our new suite of offices in 349 Curry, we will remember the students and faculty who were committed to the growth and development of AFS. We're not just a Program, we're a community.

My best to all,

Tara T. Green, PhD  
Associate Professor and Director

## Spring 2012 African American Studies Program Graduates



Congratulations to our spring 2012 graduates: Dwayne Barnes, Tavarshia Batts, Charles Chavis Jr., Yasmeeen Chism, Jessica Elliott, Jordan Gomillion, Randy Griffin, Gabrielle Hughes, Nola Jenkins, Zhayawna Johnson, Paul Knox, Stephanie Miller, Jeffrey Pulliam, Ke'Andre Stevenson, Brittany Webb, Jaheera White, Valerie Whitley, Kashina Wilhite, Ashlee Williams, and Brittany Willis.

## AFS Students Present at Symposiums

On Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, six of our African American Studies majors, Valerie Whitley, Yasmeeen Chism, Jazzmin Moore, Charles Chavis Jr., Ashlee Williams, and Katrenia Shelly, presented at the Lloyd International Honors College's Symposium.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual African Diaspora Studies Symposium hosted by North Carolina Central University featured a panel with two of our brightest AFS Majors, Charles Chavis Jr. and Valerie Whitley. Dr. Tara T. Green also presented.

## *Words from Our Seniors*



*Yasmeeen Chism*

*Accepted into Rutgers, George Washington, Louisville, San Diego State, and Florida Atlantic Universities*



Hello! My name is Yasmeeen Chism a senior (soon to be graduate) in the African American Studies Program. As I sit here a mere 3 weeks before graduation, I reflect back on my three years at the University, and more importantly my time as an African American studies major. Like most freshmen, I felt as though I had my whole educational plan mapped out and I was sure of what I wanted to do. I, however, was neither happy nor intellectually stimulated in my major, or should I say majors as I changed my major nearly half a dozen times, which left me feeling greatly disconnected from the University community. One spring semester, however, I would stumble upon Black Masculinity, a class listed in the African American Studies program, which would greatly change my life. When I enrolled in this class, I had no idea of the personal and intellectual transformation that I was going to experience. It would be through this class that I was introduced to Black feminist writers such as bell hooks and Audre Lorde. In this course I was able to critically analyze terms such as “gender,” “queer,” and “homoerotic”, words I was previously oblivious to both meaning and the implications they had on my life. It is obvious for me that this class did more for me than just convince me to change my major; it gave me some of the tools needed to help me change my life. And while I could write pages about the way that the class material was presented to aid in my development as a critical thinker, the relationships that I have developed with every professor in this program has been valuable in my progress as a person. Close mentorship from Dr. Green and Dr. Cervenak has allowed me to develop my research and personal love of Black feminist theories, which I plan to study in graduate school. These women have been foundational in my understanding of how to navigate academia and what it takes to succeed. Taking courses from such a distinguished group of scholars has really shaped the way that I go about my goals and future educational pursuits. With a fully funded award offer accepted for the University of Louisville, I am excited to engage in Black Feminist Theories in the Fall.

I have never questioned the quality of the education that I was receiving in the African American Studies program and this notion was furthered when I realized the level of confidence I had when applying to graduate school. All of the faulty members were available for advice and guidance throughout this stressful application process. Critical thinking, intensive writing skills, and an understanding of my research goals allowed me to be accepted into all of the graduate programs that I applied to, something I am not sure would have happened if I had stuck with my original plan of study.

The hardest part about writing this piece for the newsletter is the realization that my time with the program is over. This fact is one of the hardest realities I have had to face, only because I have grown so much in my time here. I can only hope that the students reading this decide to immerse themselves in this wonderful program because it will truly be one of the best experiences one will have.

“Kente Cloth and cummerbunds”—the standard dress for church in my childhood. This is the first memory that comes to mind when I think of the beginning of my Christian and academic journey, a journey of differences. The Kente Cloth and the Cummerbunds capture this diversity: both are of different origins and both are fabrics that interweave like my experiences. They capture the synopsis of my Christian and educational life, an experience of diversity and self discovery. Over the past four years in college I sought to learn more about my African American Heritage, as well as continue to develop my role in Christian ministry and outreach. In May of 2012, I will become the first person on either side of my family to graduate from a four-year college. Growing up in a predominantly white school system and Church environment, I developed an independent interest in African American Studies and the Black Church.

At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) I learned new skills that helped me deepen my understanding of how men and women of African descent navigated their societies. Dr. Tara T. Green, the Director of the African American Studies Program at UNCG, taught me literary theory—how to read between the lines and critically interrogate texts by asking both historical and philosophical questions. In March 2011, I traveled with her to Cincinnati, Ohio to present a paper titled, “Black Leadership of the 21st Century: Obama, Brazile, and West,” my research on Black political leadership and the influence of Christianity on these leaders at the National Council of Black Studies Conference; I was subsequently inducted as a charter member of the organization’s Honor Society.

I received additional training working with Dr. Coleen Kriger, Professor of History at UNCG. Dr. Kriger opened my eyes beyond the traditional stories of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, in addition to grounding me in the works of Phillip Curtin and Joseph Inkikori. I gained an understanding of the dehumanizing and economic dynamics of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade and their role in creating the economic basis for the modern world.

My work with Dr. Omar Ali, Associate Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies at UNCG, broadened my understanding of the African Diaspora to include East Africa and the Indian Ocean world. He taught me about the importance of Islam in the making of the African Diaspora and the possibilities for upward mobility in the Indian Ocean that did not exist in the Atlantic world. I would describe my experiences with Dr. Ali as a time of intellectual grooming and refinement. After studying about Ethiopia’s long history of Christianity, I researched more and published an article for Black Past: titled “Remembered & Reclaimed.” I wrote about one of the most influential members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, a seventh century pioneer of musical notation, Saint Yared. With Dr. Ali’s support and mentorship, I was invited back by the publisher to write other articles. In March of 2012, I presented my work on Saint Yared and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and its modern correlations to the Black Church at North Carolina Central University’s Annual African Diaspora Studies Symposium.

The lessons that I have learned from my professors and Christian experiences have positioned me for graduate study at Vanderbilt University. Over the span of my undergraduate career I was able to develop both a diasporic and holistic perspective on Christian people of African descent. The Masters in Theological Studies at Vanderbilt University is only fitting in further preparing me and will allow me to extend and build upon my undergraduate foundation. On April 4th 2012, I received a letter from Vanderbilt University letting me know that I was a Brandon Scholar and that I was awarded a \$55,000 scholarship. I can’t wait to represent the African American Studies Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as I continue on my academic journey in life.



*Charles Chavis Jr.*

*Attending Vanderbilt*

*Accepted into Duke and Syracuse Universities*





*Dwayne Barnes*

*Accepted into UC Berkeley, Temple,  
and Ohio State Universities*



I was accepted into three graduate programs for African American Studies at UC Berkeley, Temple University and Ohio State University. I decided to apply to graduate school not just for accomplishments but an opportunity to “cast my net as far as I could.” Thank you, Mr. Randolph. My encouragement comes from my professors at UNCG who challenged me to look at the narrative of the African American experience through numerous lenses while critically analyzing that experience with an objective method. Furthermore, this can be a demanding task because so much information tends to bring out different emotions like anger or sadness. However, I plan to continue climbing the educational mountain until I obtain my PhD so I can be a part of a legacy of scholars that teach African American history. Therefore, to be successful in any atmosphere takes great dedication and determination to make a difference. I feel you must concentrate on your academics and be involved in your community. This can be simple in the eyes of some people, but think about how much time is devoted to social networks. That time spent on those sites could be used more productively towards reading, research, or creating consciousness about AFS. I would say respect the discipline, because many have said that AFS courses are easy A’s, but that is not accurate. Take a class with Randolph, Ali, Cervenak or Green and tell me if they were stress-free. Lastly, I want to share part of my personal statement; this reflects my hard work and support that I obtained from many faculty members in the program. Thank you Cervenak, Ali, and Randolph.

I never knew Black cowboys existed until I saw the 1993 film *Posse*. During the movie I asked my parents about Black cowboys in America. The only cowboy they knew of was African American country singer Charley Pride. Our dinner conversations were often about film, politics or key figures in African American history, such as Ella Baker and Dr. John Hope Franklin. My parents reminded me about the struggles of Black people, and how race defined one’s success or failure in the United States. I understood that people of color were lynched, murdered and raped by white supremacy and that people like Bayard Rustin, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Huey P. Newton responded to violence by fighting for social change. In short, the inspiration for my decision to study African American history came from my mother. While discussing the Civil Rights Movement, my mom showed me the cover of an old issue of *Jet Magazine*. Inside was the picture of a young boy named Emmitt Till; I was shocked and then curious to find out more about his life and murder. She said, “This was part of a darker time in our history where whistling at a white woman could get you killed.”

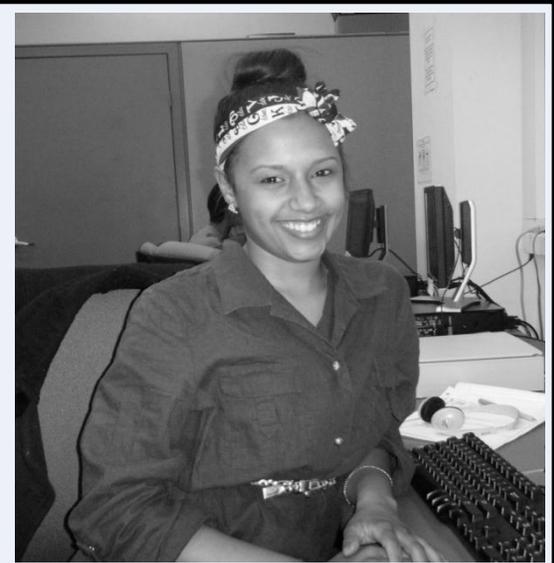
Thank You African American Studies Program for all the support through the years and never letting me give up.

## AFS in South Africa

Ashlee Williams of Richlands, NC came to UNCG in hopes of finding a career path and most importantly herself. Over the past four years, she has completed various courses in pursuit of a dual degree in African American Studies and Communication Studies. These courses have allowed her to see the world as having multiple truths, in which ethics of love and spirituality act as agents of positive change. In addition, these courses have provoked a view of the self that is ever-evolving. She hopes that every person who encounters both of these majors in the future will be encouraged to view the pursuit of identity as a continual process that provides the greatest knowledge and epistemology of all.

On April 24, 2012, Ashlee was inducted into the National Honor Society of Communication Studies (Lambda Pi Eta) on April 24, 2012. She hopes that her initiation into the Omicron Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 2010 will provide the necessary experience, maturity, and organizational experience she will need to be a contributing member of Lambda Pi Eta.

As a member of the Lloyd International Honors College, Ashlee has applied to study abroad in the fall as she finishes the requirements for her Communications degree. She hopes that a sustained international experience will prepare her to pursue a graduate degree in Gender/Cultural Studies and a Master of the Arts in Teaching in Fall 2013.



*Ashlee Williams*

*Study Abroad*

*Stellenbosch University*

*Stellenbosch, South Africa*



## *An Inside Perspective*



*Zhayawna Johnson*

*Study Abroad*

*The University of Cape Town*

*Cape Town, South Africa*



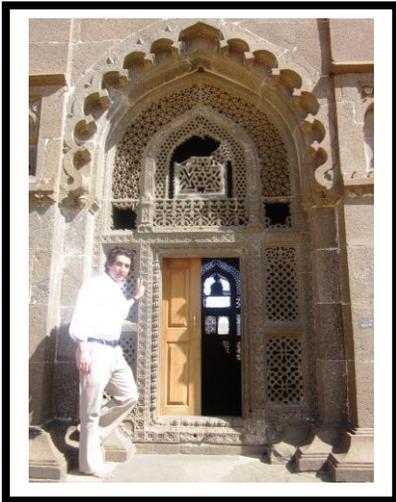
It was not until I was a freshman here at UNCG that I actually had the chance to take a class that taught material specific to my heritage. Up until January 2009, I was only subjected to the mere surface of topics dealing with African American Studies. I remember very vividly the first day of my second semester of my freshman year, where I attended my first African American Studies class with Mr. Michael Cauthen. This introductory course to AFS would be the course to spark my journey to becoming an African American Studies major. My involvement in the AFS program started small, but increased more and more throughout my time at UNCG. I decided to become an AFS minor at the end of my freshman year, and upon that decision, I applied for a student worker position in the program. Therefore, my time in the AFS program was spent not only in the classroom but in the workplace as well.

My involvement in the office also contributed to my declaration of AFS as a second major (Psychology is my first) the summer before my junior year. Not only did I make AFS my second major, I also pursued disciplinary honors work as well. My work inside the office allowed me access to a lot of the professors before I had even taken a class with them. Through taking various AFS courses I am able to recognize the missing pieces that are present in a lot of the courses that I've taken in other disciplines. It has had an immense impact on my ways of thinking about "race" and gender and how the combination of these aspects of my identity will influence how the world views me. I would rather be equipped with the knowledge of the road ahead through the courses and conversations that I've had, than be oblivious to the world outside of UNCG. My experience with the AFS program has been everywhere from learning from professors in the classroom to learning from my supervisor in the work place.

Over these past three years as an AFS student worker, my supervisor Mr. Bruce Holland has served as not only a work supervisor but also a life mentor. One thing that Mr. Holland has always stressed to me was to get out and see how life is outside of the United States. As my senior year crept closer and closer, I came to realize that I wanted to have that international experience to add to my undergraduate experiences. I decided to follow his advice and I am now completing my last undergraduate semester at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in Cape Town, South Africa in Fall 2012. At UCT, I will take classes that will complement my previous UNCG coursework. The AFS program highly encourages its students to study abroad. The amount of accessibility and support that comes from the AFS faculty: Dr. Ali, Dr. Cervenak, Dr. Woods, Mr. Cauthen, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Meachum, and staff; Mr. Holland and director Dr. Green is one that I feel exceeds many other departments.

# AFS Core and Affiliate News

**Dr. Omar Ali** traveled to India to do archival work and to give a lecture. His article, "The Mu'azzin's Song: Islam and the African Diaspora of the Indian Ocean" appeared in the NC Humanities Councils journal. He provided political analysis and historical commentary on "The State of Things," Channel 2 in the Triad, and WBAI 99.5 FM in New York. He was also invited to join the board of directors of the All Stars Project, a national non-profit focused on cultural and educational developmental programs.



Dr. Ali at the tomb of Malik Ambar, India

**Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak** (WGS & AFS) gave a lecture on David Walker and Sojourner Truth at the University of New Hampshire in April. Her co-written article with Dr. Bouchard titled, "Eat, Pray, Love," is forthcoming in *Women's Studies Journal*.

In March, **Dr. Tara T. Green** was re-elected to the position of Vice President of the Langston Hughes Society and elected to serve as a member of the College

Language Association's Executive Committee as English Area Representative. She also presented with AFS Ambassadors at North Carolina Central University's African Diaspora Conference. Her book on Oprah Winfrey's film projects will be published in December.



Dr. Green with Valerie Whitley and Charles Chavis Jr.

**Mr. Michael Cauthen** gave a lecture for the Multicultural Resource Center on the book *Race and the U.S. Prison System: the new Jim Crow?* His talk examined the role of American Prison systems in contemporary race relations.

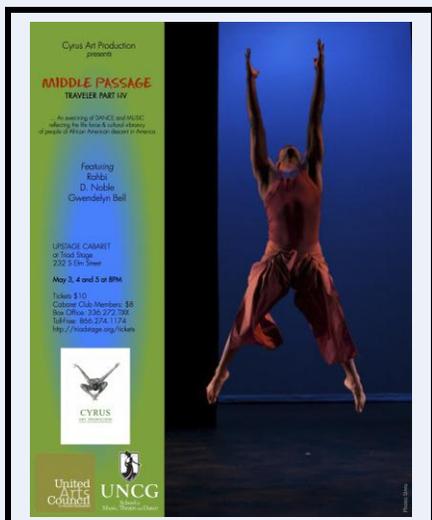
**Mr. Logie Meachum** was featured on Frank Stasio's WUNC program, "The State of Things," and kicked off a blues celebration reception with the Friends of the UNCG Libraries.

**Dr. Frank Woods** and Dr. Mark Elliott (History) spoke on North Carolina carpetbagger judge, Albion Tourgée, for Campus Conversations sponsored by Human Resources Services and the Black Faculty and Staff Association. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

invited Dr. Frank Woods and Dr. George Dimock (Art History) to lecture in conjunction with their current exhibition, "Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit." They also participated in a special day devoted to Tanner scholars from around the world. He also had, "Blade: Vampire Hunter, Tragic Mulatto, and Diminished "Son of Shaft" accepted for publication in *The Journal of Black Masculinity*. Dr. Woods was the recipient of a certificate of recognition for his participation in the "Campus Conversations" series sponsored by the Black Faculty and Staff Association and Human Resource Services.

**Mr. Robert Randolph** moderated our Politics and Black Leadership Panels. In the Fall, Robert will begin his doctoral studies in UNCG's School of Education's Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations. His article on the film adaptation of *Beloved* will appear in Dr. Green's book.

**Mr. Duane Cyrus Art Production** Dance *MIDDLE PASSAGE: Traveler Part I-IV* is a cabaret performance reflecting the life force and cultural vibrancy of people of African descent in America. It premieres in the Triad Stage's Upstage Cabaret in May.



# AFS Event News

## Conversations with the Community

On February 21, Dr. William Hart led a discussion inspired by his third book, *Afro-Eccentricity: Beyond the Standard Narrative of Black Religion*. He emphasized that black people often construct a tight relationship among racial identity, religious affiliation, and political commitment. He examined the assumption that religious affiliation is or ought to be constitutive of black identity and the assumption that black identity equals political progressivism. Finally, he explored the differences between the political orientation of the civil rights era Black Church (some at any rate) and the "prosperity gospel" orientation of the contemporary post-civil rights Black Church.

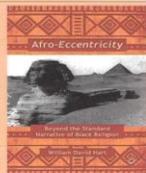
**Conversations with the Community:**  
***Afro Eccentricity: Beyond the Standard Narrative of Black Religion***  
 Sponsored by  
**UNCG's African American Studies Program**

**Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Petty Bldg Room 136**

**Discussion led by:**  
**Dr. William D. Hart**

**"Relations among racial identity, political commitment, and religious diversity among African Americans"**

Contact [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) for more information



William David Hart is professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. He is a critical theorist of religion whose interests encompass religion, ethics and politics, as well as African American religious thought. His latest book is *Afro-Eccentricity: Beyond the Standard Narrative of Black Religion*.





On March 13, 2011, Patrick Alexander (Duke University) presented "A Prison Industrial Complex Context for Morrison's *Beloved*," a talk based on his reading of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The talk was drawn from a chapter of his dissertation that examines ways in which late twentieth-century African American fiction cast a light on the underrepresentation and misrepresentation of sexual victimization in the contemporary women's prison. In the talk, he argued that the abuse narratives of female slave ship captives in Morrison's 1987 novel *Beloved* are haunted by contemporary stories of women prisoners' abuse. Drawing from Brenda Smith's legal scholarship and Avery Gordon's conception of haunting as the lingering after-effects of abusive systems of power, he discussed how the novel's recurring depiction of rape on slave ships alludes to a condition of gendered punishment that began with the Middle Passage and persists in contemporary women's prisons. The talk was well attended by students, some of whom met with Alexander prior to his talk to discuss their interest in his graduate school experiences.

**A Conversation with the Community:  
"A Prison Industrial Complex Context for Morrison's *Beloved*."**  
Sponsored by  
UNCG's African American Studies Program

**A Discussion**  
led by  
**Patrick Alexander**  
Tuesday,  
March 13, 2012  
**Elliott University Center,  
Kirkland Room**  
6:00-7:30 pm



Contact [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) for more information

Patrick Elliot Alexander is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at Duke University, where he specializes in 20<sup>th</sup>-century African American literature, 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature, and critical prison studies. In Spring 2011, Alexander designed and taught an advanced literature course at Duke titled, "Prison and the Literary Imagination." Alexander is currently completing a dissertation on stories of prisoner abuse in contemporary African American literature under the direction of Dr. Maurice O. Wallace.

Alexander's talk will explore a chapter from the acclaimed novel *Beloved* in relation to Morrison's personal meditations on/with imprisoned women, and also situates its depictions of routinized sexual violence in the context of prisoner abuse in the contemporary US women's prison.



## AFS Special Events

On April 13<sup>th</sup> 2012, the African American Studies Program partnered with the University Libraries and the Student Alumni Ambassador organization to host a memorable and moving event. The African American Legacy Society composed of African American Students from the 1960s shared their experiences as students shortly after the university was integrated in 1956. They described how they participated in the sit in movement, rallies for cafeteria workers wages to be increased, and the protest to integrate Tate Street. The majority of the students in the audience consisted of AFS majors and minors, several of whom asked questions during the discussion period.

*Student Alumni Ambassadors presents...*

**Bridging the GAP between  
Students & Alumni**

--An interactive session between  
African American Students and the  
African American Student Society



**Friday April 13, 2012**

**1:30pm-2:30pm**

**Elliott University Center:  
Multicultural Room**







## Black Leadership

UNCG's African American Studies Program  
Presents:  
"Where Do We Go From Here?"

Senator Gladys Robinson	Representative Marcus Brandon	Representative Alma Adams	Vice-Chairman GSC Board of Eds. Amos Quick, III
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**BLACK LEADERSHIP FORUM 2012**

University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Elliott University Center, Alexander Room  
Thursday, April 5th, 2012  
6:00-8:00pm

The African American Studies Program desires to provide a platform for students, members of the Greensboro community, and elected officials to engage in conversation regarding various issues within the African American Community. This year there are various topics that will be discussed: Homelessness, Dropout Prevention, Education, Racial Profiling, Health Disparities, College Tuition, Violent Crime, Homelessness....

For more information, please view our website:  
[www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)  
or friend us on Facebook: [afs@uncg](https://www.facebook.com/afs@uncg)

Co-Sponsor  
**AFS Club**



Black Leadership is alive and well, at least it was on the campus of UNCG on April 5th, 2012. The Black Leadership Forum 2012 was a tremendous success; students, faculty and campus staff as well as members of the community came out to the informative event. Various issues were addressed, but the most pressing issue of the evening was the murder of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin and the relationship his murder has to the North Carolina Castle Doctrine (North Carolina's version of "Stand Your Ground"). AFS Advisory Board Member and Vice Chairman of Guilford County Schools addressed the treatment of Black public school students. State senator Gladys Robinson and Representative Alma Adams addressed racial profiling, stressed the importance of voting, and emphasized the political power of NC's university students. Rep. Marcus Brandon explained Amendment 1 and called for more transparency in the political process." They reminded us all why it is important to vote!



Students Stephanie Orosoco, Charles Chavis Jr., Yasmeeen Chism with Sen. Robinson



E. Patrick Johnson's talk, "What is this 'Black' in Black Studies?: What Performance Has to Do with It," interrogated the various ways "blackness" has been constructed as a concept within black culture from slavery to the present and within the field of Black Studies. In tracing that history, Johnson contended that performance was key to how blackness was defined by people of African descent and how it played a role in notions of black authenticity. From cultural rituals to plays to ways of speech, Johnson discussed how black performance was and is key to understanding how black culture and politics are sustained. Johnson, a black queer studies specialist, gave a short performance from his work, "Sweet Tea," which focuses on the personal stories of black queer men in the South.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro's African American Studies Program  
Presents... **E. Patrick Johnson, PhD**



**"What is this 'Black' In Black Studies?: What Performance has to do with It"**

Until fairly recently, African American Studies has been slow to examine class, gender, and sexuality as a mode of analysis. Moreover, the concept of blackness has typically been defined very narrowly. In this talk, Johnson examines the history of why this has been the case and then provides examples of how black artists and scholars have pushed back against such a narrowly defined field, forcing African American Studies to include gender, sexuality, and class as identity markers around which race interconnects.

Thursday,  
March 22nd, 2012  
EUC, Claxton Room,  
6:00-7:30pm

Email us at [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) or find us on Facebook

E. Patrick Johnson is the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University. He is also an Artistic Fellow at the Ellen Stone Belle Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at Columbia College, Chicago. A scholar, artist, and activist, Johnson has performed nationally and internationally and has published widely in the area of race, gender, sexuality and performance.

Co-Sponsored by ...










**Independents, African Americans, and the 2012 Election: Will there be another 'Black and Independent Alliance'?**

Sullivan Science Bldg, Rm. 200  
Thurs., January 26th  
6:00-7:30 pm

Sponsored by UNC-Greensboro's African American Studies Program, Department of Political Science, Black Student Union, and North Carolina Independents

Contact: Dr. Omar Ali, [ohali@uncg.edu](mailto:ohali@uncg.edu) Tel. 334-5507 200 Foust Bldg.  
Use McIver Parking Deck

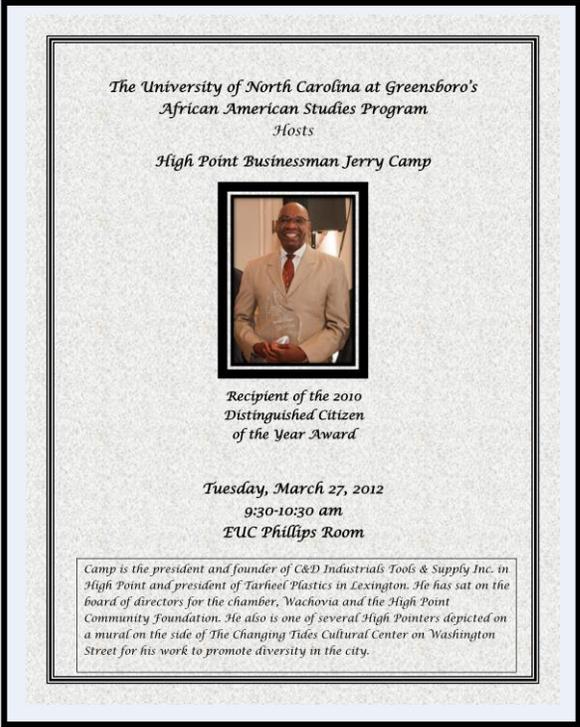





Dr. Omar Ali, Brittany Rodman, NPR host Frank Stasio, and Donna Moser

On January 26, Dr. Omar Ali led a public forum at UNCG on independents, African Americans, and the 2012 election. Joining Dr. Ali, author of the critically-acclaimed book *In the Balance of Power: Independent Black Politics and Third Party Movements in the United States*, was Brittany Rodman, a recent UNCG graduate who majored in Political Science and minored in African American Studies. The forum was sponsored by AFS with the Department of Political Science, the Black Student Union, and North Carolina Independents as co-sponsors. Currently two out of three new voters in North Carolina are registering as 'unaffiliated'--that is, neither Democrat nor Republican. While most African Americans continue to register as Democrats, approximately 30 percent of black voters now self-identify as independent. In the nation as a whole, upwards of 40 percent of all voters self-identify as independents, with North Carolina boasting the fastest growth among independents. The independent political forum, which was attended by over eighty people--students, faculty, staff, and people from the wider community--included presentations by Dr. Ali, Ms. Rodman, and Donna Moser of North Carolina Independents, followed by a lively discussion with the audience. All three presenters appeared earlier in week on the NPR's affiliate, "The State of Things" at a live interview held at the Triad Stage in downtown Greensboro.

## Entrepreneur Visits AFS



On the first annual University Entrepreneurship day, Jerry Camp shared his tips for success with AFS students and faculty. Camp started off as a machinist and took courses at Guilford Tech, and has since transformed into a successful businessman and business owner. He took questions from students and reminded them of the importance of planning, staying focused, and maintaining a good credit record.



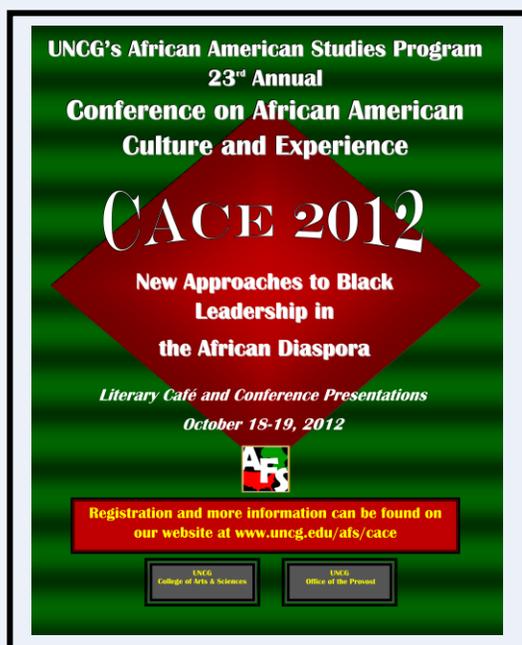
## AFS in the Community

AFS faculty and students have become even more present in Guilford County Schools. In February, the Director made a Black History Month presentation, “Langston Hughes and the Blues” at the Triad Math and Science Academy. She was joined by AFS Ambassadors, Katrenia Shelly and Yasmeen Chism, who assisted the student participants. On April 23, Dr. Omar Ali and the Director read books on African American historical figures to first grade students at Rankin Elementary. AFS used remaining funds from the National Council of Black Studies grant to purchase and donate books to the schools. On April 27, Dr. Green participated in the Self-learning Youth Summit held at Dudley High School. AFS hopes to continue its developing relationship with local schools.



Students Katrenia Shelly and Yasmeen chism at the Triad Math Academy

## Upcoming Fall 2012 Events



23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE), Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 19, 2012.

CACE Theme: “New Approaches to Black Leadership in the African Diaspora”

30<sup>th</sup> Year African American Studies Program Anniversary and Alumni Reception, Thursday, October 18, 2012

Alumni Awards Banquet Friday, October 19, 2012

**Register at [www.uncg.edu/afs/cace](http://www.uncg.edu/afs/cace)**

## AFS Relocation from Foust to Curry Building



The first AFS director that occupied the current office space in the Foust building was Dr. Angela Rhone. Next, Dr. Frank Woods served in Foust as the Director from 1994 until 2008. The current Director, Dr. Tara T. Green took the reigns July 2008 and will move the program to the third floor of the Curry building in May 2012. AFS now has two tenured faculty, one tenure-track faculty shared with WGS, one visiting professor, and several adjunct lecturers.

# Post Baccalaureate Certificate in African American Studies

## Online or On Campus

### About the Program

While earning a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in African American Studies at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, students will engage the significance of race, gender, and class in America, and develop theoretical, historical, and political foundations in the study of African Americans. Emerging and leading scholars from various academic backgrounds teach each course. The program provides support to students wishing to pursue African American Studies at the advanced graduate level.

### Who Should Apply?

- Currently enrolled graduate students at UNCG
- People with undergraduate or graduate *degrees in any field*
- Those with careers or seeking careers in education, business, non-profit organizations, and social services are encouraged to apply.



### Admission Requirements

*All documents must be sent to UNCG's Graduate School.*

- At minimum, must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and must have been admitted by The Graduate School.
- Students already enrolled in a UNCG graduate program do not need to reapply for graduate admission, but must apply for admission to this program.
- All applicants must complete a two-page statement (approximately 500 words) describing why they are interested in pursuing a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in African American Studies, fill out an application form, send two letters of reference, and pay the non-refundable application fee.
- GRE is not required.

For more information, visit: <http://www.uncg.edu/afs> or <http://www.uncg.edu/grs>

University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
African American Studies Program  
200 Foust Building  
P.O. Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402  
(336) 334-5507

## SUPPORT UNCG'S AFS PROGRAM

We hope that you will support our Program by making a tax-deductible donation. Your gift to AFS allows us to build our scholarship fund, to support students in need, or provide funding for our students to study abroad and/or attend conferences.

**To support AFS, please send your donation** to Advancement Services 1100 W. Market Street P.O. Box 26170 Greensboro, NC 27402 clearly marked for UNCG African American Studies Enrichment Fund or give on-line at [http://www.uncg.edudur/studentsfirst/give\\_now.html](http://www.uncg.edudur/studentsfirst/give_now.html).

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

No donation is too large or too small!

### Can't give money, how about your time?

We are expanding our internship program. If you own a business, especially a law office or a non-profit, that serves a significant number of African Americans and are interested in sharing your professional expertise with AFS majors, please contact Dr. Tara T. Green at [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) or 336-334-5507.

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Join us on  
FACEBOOK!!!

### AFS's Mission

The African American Studies Program (AFS) advances the university's commitment to diverse perspectives and inclusive learning environments through course offerings, programming, and community involvement. It fosters interdisciplinary study for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students by examining how people of African descent have shaped our world. As a program located in a city with a history of Black sociopolitical movements, we provide a forum to engage the complexities of Black life across African diasporas.  
Visit: [www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)

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TO: