



Director, Dr. Tara T. Green

*"We are preparing leaders. Their knowledge as African American Studies majors and as citizens in a rapidly changing world prepares them for success and to achieve the American Dream."*

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## Director's Welcome!

Greetings AFS Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Supporters!

The year 2009 is coming to a rapid close, and I remain as excited as ever to direct the African American Studies Program at UNC-Greensboro.

This past semester we welcomed Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak, our joint hire with Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Cervenak's research in race, gender, culture, and performance, both compliments and expands the scholarship of Dr. Frank Woods and me. We are pleased to have her.

With support from our Dean,

we are also in the process of hiring another new colleague who will start teaching in a tenure-track position this fall.

But, with the incoming there must be an outgoing. We said farewell to eight students last spring and are preparing to give our best wishes to six more in December. Some of these graduates have gone or are preparing to go to medical school, law school, or graduate school.

Further, we continue to develop our ties with the Greensboro community. As a result of our expanding relationships with alumni and interested persons, we were able to form several successful

collaborations, including a judge's panel discussion (October), joint CACE conference with the NAACP-Greensboro Branch (November), and a law firm internship. Our most anticipated collaboration will be with the new International Civil Rights Museum, scheduled to open on February 1, 2010. I also look forward to speaking at the Class of 1960's reunion in April 2010. This was the first class to graduate African American women at our university.

Happy Holidays to All,  
*Tara T. Green, Ph.D*  
Program Director

## AFS Spring Convocation – Celebrating Students

On May 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, AFS's students, faculty, graduates, and their family members gathered for our Spring Convocation. "This is the time of year that I love. I enjoy meeting proud parents and grandparents and seeing the look of accomplishment on the graduates' faces," stated Dr. Green, AFS Director.

The Program began its "Standing Forth Ceremony," where graduates receive their specially designed stoles and a handshake from their AFS professors. Before taking their seat, they stand while highlights of their career and their hopes for

the future are read to the audience. "This is a crossing-over ceremony from one phase of life to another," explained Dr. Green.

In addition, the Program gave awards of distinction. Tiffany Watson received the "2009 African American Studies Student of the Year" award for her demonstrated record of service to the AFS Program.

Cameron Wynn received the "2009 African American Studies Outstanding Graduating Senior" for his competitive GPA, work in the community, and his pending plans to work with

a health agency in Botswana during the summer of 2009.

Graduate Natasha Myrie read "Reflections from a Graduating Senior," her description of why she became an AFS major after transferring from another local university.

Following the program, attendees enjoyed the music of Logie Meachum and great food.



## AFS Featured Events



**"CACE provides an opportunity for faculty, students and the community to engage in discussions that may not take place on campus otherwise"**  
**– Dr. Willi Coleman**



**AFS ambassador Tiffany Watson with two of the "Greensboro Four" Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil**



**Conference attendees interact with panelists**



**Keynote speaker Dr. Tony Bolden**

## Fall Conversations with the Community

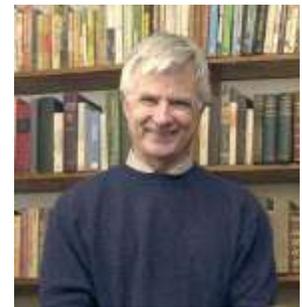
This Fall semester, AFS hosted two stimulating "Conversations with the Community." On September 8<sup>th</sup>--to a standing-room only crowd-- Dr. Loren Schweninger discussed the life and career of the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, a renowned scholar of African American history. Dr. Schweninger, Professor of History at UNCG, co-published with Dr. Franklin, his mentor and friend.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> the Program hosted a

"Conversation" titled, "Michael Jackson: An African American Cultural Icon?" Dr. Frank Woods and Professor Duane Cyrus (Dance) lead the discussion. The professors helped students and community members to think critically about the musical talent and public image of Michael Jackson and his impact on culture.

The AFS's "Conversations with the Community Series" take place the second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm. The series provides members of the

Greensboro and UNCG communities with opportunities to converse with faculty and students about contemporary issues impacting people of African descent.



## CACE 2009 Focuses on Black Activism

In collaboration with the Greensboro Branch of the NAACP, this year's Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE) focused on the theme: "100 Years of African American Activism: Looking Back While Moving Forward," took place Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>.

CACE kicked off with a "Literary Café" on Friday evening. Local poet D. Nobel, as well as senior AFS major Ronald Haynes presented poetry and Dr. Anjail Ahmad's AFS 305-Black Poetry class performed.

Saturday featured two panels and the keynote speaker. The first panel consisted of Black activism scholars from various fields. The panel included UNCG's Dr. William Hart from Religious Studies and Dr. Tom

Jackson from History. Ms. Tiffany Quaye, a doctoral candidate in the History department and lecturer of History at N. Carolina A&T, and Professor Faith Rivers-James from Elon University's School of Law also presented.

After lunch, an intergenerational panel of activists gave their perspectives on the current state of activism in black communities and how to inspire today's youth to become activists. The highlight of the activists' panel was the surprise appearance by two of the Greensboro Four, who started the sit-in movements in 1960. Joseph McNeil and Franklin McCain, who were invited by panelist and International Civil Rights Museum Executive Director, Amelia Parker, encouraged the activists to continue their work.

"It was an honor to be in the presence of those who

have made such a big impact on history," stated freshman AFS major Jarrod Rudd.

The day concluded with remarks from keynote speaker Dr. Tony Bolden, (University of Kansas' African and African American Studies Department) on "What Is Blackness, What Is Activism?: The Truth about (the Lack of) Change in the Age of Entertainment." The audience was very engaged by Dr. Bolden's presentation as he made references to the popular TV sitcom *Girlfriends* and movies such as *Hustle and Flow*.

Tiffany Watson organized the conference for an AFS internship project. The conference was supported by funding from Undergraduate Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Women's and Gender Studies.

For links to newspaper coverage of the event visit: [http://www.uncg.edu/afs/in\\_the\\_news.html](http://www.uncg.edu/afs/in_the_news.html)

## Upcoming events

This Spring, AFS will host two additional "Conversations with the Community." On February 9<sup>th</sup> the series will begin with a community book discussion of Barack Obama's *Dreams from my Father*. On March 16<sup>th</sup> the discussion will focus on the national attention that has been given to Michelle Obama's body.

AFS is partnering with the Department of History, the Women's and Gender Studies Program, Multicultural Affairs, and student organizations to **commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Greensboro Sit-in Movement**. A panel discussion will take place on January 28 and UNCG students and faculty will attend the grand opening of the International Civil Rights Museum on February 1.

## New Topics Course

**Sarah Jane Cervenak, Ph.D.**

**AFS: 305/WGS 450: Race, Gender, and Performance: Enactments of (UN) freedom**

**Course Description:** Race and gender are inextricably tied to performance. The way one moves and acts in the

## Panel on Gender and the Law

Excerpt reprinted with permission from the *Carolina Peacemaker*  
By Yasmine Register

"Ask any of the judges in Guilford County, and they will all tell you, times have changed. Out of the 14 District Court judges in Guilford County, 11 are female. Six out of the 14 are African Americans. According to Greensboro Attorney Thomas Johnson, 40 percent of his graduating law class was female. "Things have changed so much since I've graduated," said Johnson, "That is the progression now. We have to have the best leaders and best judges."

The University of North Carolina Greensboro African American Studies Program held a forum this past Monday (October 5), where a panel of Guilford's male and female judges spoke to a room full of students about gender and the law.

Superior Court Judge Patrice Hinnant said, "During my time I've seen the population change and I've seen the issues change, but we have a good group of talent on the district court bench." Judge Hinnant was elected to the Guilford County

Court by Gov. Bev Perdue last month. Also in attendance was Judge Sherry Alloway who became the second female judge in Guilford County in 1984, succeeding Judge Elreta Alexander-Ralston who was the first African American female to serve as a judge in Guilford County. District Court Judge Avery Crump credits Alexander-Ralston and Hinnant as two women who helped pave the way to the bench for other Black women. "For me it was about working my way up. I made it known to colleagues that I was capable of the job and deserved respect." Crump previously worked as a prosecutor in Bronx, New York before moving to Greensboro and becoming a judge."

The panel, co-organized with the help of UNCG Alumnus, Attorney Thomas Johnson, consisted of 6 judges from Guilford County. Over fifty students gathered in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House and listened to the judges tell why they went to law school, how they prepared for law careers, and what they do as judges.

During her comments, Judge Michelle Fletcher, UNCG Alumna, invited students to shadow her and many have

world is shaped by the complex intersections of race, gender, and desire. In this course, we will think about the history of a relation between race, gender and performance, particularly as it concerns the enactment of and resistance to (neo) colonial, patriarchal control and captivity. **Art and Media from the course includes:** "Guarded Conditions" [photography] by Lorna Simpson; "How to Rent a Negro" [performance art] by Damali Ayo; "Bamboozled" [film] by Spike Lee.

## Hiring A New Colleague to begin Fall 2010

The successful candidate must have a PhD in African-American Studies, History, Political Science or a related field, with research and teaching competency in comparative aspects of the African diaspora. Preference will be given to candidates with research backgrounds in Black leadership (i.e. study of leaders or liberation and freedom movements) The successful candidate will be expected to teach core undergraduate courses and contribute to new curriculum development, engage with organizations fostering Black leadership in the Greensboro community, supervise internships, and work with graduate students earning the Program's graduate certificate.

taken her up on her offer. After the panel discussion ended, the judges remained behind to talk with eager students.

## Faculty News

AFS Faculty affiliate, **Dr. Carlina de la Cova**, (Assistant Professor, Anthropology) teamed up with the Guilford County Sheriff's Department to investigate human skeletal remains found in northeast Greensboro on November 17, 2009. Along with her team, she was able to discover imperative information about the skeletal remains, finding that it was a man by the name of Henry Wilson, who had been missing since 2004.

## Dr. Colleen E. Kriger

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor, Department of History, and AFS Affiliate presented a paper called "Commodities, Culture, and 'Value' in the Guinea Trade" at the conference *Rethinking Africa and the Atlantic World*, held at the University of Stirling, Scotland in September 2009. She also has a chapter called "'Guinea Cloth': Production and Consumption of Cotton Textiles in West Africa before and during the Atlantic Slave Trade" in the book *The Spinning World: A Global*

*History of Cotton Textiles, 1200-1850* published by Oxford University Press in August 2009.

AFS lecturer **Michael Cauthen** published a book *The Student-Athlete's College Recruitment Guide: How to find the best program for your academic and athletic needs* has been released.



## Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak

(WGS & AFS) will publish "Dignity, the Sacred, and the Ends of Black Performance" in the Fall 2010 issue of *Spectator*.

**Dr. Tara T. Green** published a critical biographical article titled "Richard Wright" in a *Companion to Twentieth-Century American Literature*. She was also invited to take part in a roundtable discussion on fatherlessness by the NPR-affiliate in Durham (June 2009) and a call-in radio interview for a Madison, WI station (May). In December, she was invited to discuss "The State of Black America Going into 2010" on a local radio show.

## The AFS Club



## Students Attend Conferences

On November 12, 2009, Dr. Tara T. Green took three AFS students with her to North Carolina Central's African American Autobiography conference. She was there to present a paper on Malcolm X.

The students, Jarrod Rudd (freshman), Tiffany Watson (senior), and Tonya Doane (Graduate Certificate) were able to learn what happens at conferences devoted to an area of African American Studies. They listened to professors and graduate students present their research on African American autobiographies. They also heard a presentation by cultural critic, Dr. Mark Anthony Neal.

Freshman Jarrod Rudd stated, "The conference showed me how the academic world writes and views African American writers and provided a different perspective on how these authors wrote about life experiences.

"I hope to take several students with me to conferences at least once a year," said Dr. Green. "Learning occurs in and out of the classroom."

With donor funds made to the AFS Program and the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Green plans to take two students from her Black Women in the US class to the National Council of Black Studies Conference in New Orleans this Spring.

The revived African American Studies Club allows AFS majors, minors, and other interested students to regularly meet and discuss pressing topics of the day. It also enables club members to create structured forums where persons with expertise in relevant issues are constructively engaged.

The African American Studies Club has hosted various activities

throughout the semester.

In November 2009, the club put on the panel discussion "The Disembodiment of a Race." This event consisted of a discussion led by community activists and faculty member/club advisor Michael Cauthen. In December, the AFS club co-hosted a forum with the Sociology club, which featured Jorge Cornell who is working to end gang violence and to build community strength.

## AFS Major Receives Top University Honor

Senior Jaimey Howard was inducted into the Golden Chain Honor Society on November 1, 2009.

The Golden Chain Honor Society recognizes UNCG students for outstanding achievement and service to the university. Founded at UNCG in 1948, the organization's seven "links" are leadership, scholarship, service, tolerance, magnanimity, judgment and character. Candidates must be juniors or seniors and have a minimum grade point average of 3.25. They must also receive

the nomination of a UNCG faculty or staff member.

In addition to her competitive GPA, Jaimey has exhibited outstanding leadership qualities as president of ELITE. Jaimey is also a University Student Marshall.

She aspires to attend law school when she graduates in the Spring with degrees in AFS and English.

## Congrats AFS Graduates & Students!

### Congrats Graduates:

Majors: Ronald Haynes, Kenyatta Lowery, Whitney Manns, Branden Reid, Tiffany Watson

*With the exception of Ronald who plans to attend law school, they all have plans to attend graduate school in 2010.*

Congratulations to Eugenia Brown who was chosen to serve as an AFS Ambassador this fall.

Congratulations to Tiffany Watson, Fall 2009 AFS Graduating Senior.

Congratulations to Ciara Head, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, who became our first Junior AFS Ambassador. She plans to attend UNCG and major in African American Studies.

## Alumni Notes



Tiffany and John talk to Students

On October 7, alumni John O'Neal (Political Science) and Tiffany Dyson (AFS and Political Science) returned to campus to talk with interested students about how to achieve their dreams of becoming lawyers. John is a practicing attorney and Tiffany is in her second year at Elon Law School.



Students listen to the alumni

Natasha Myrie (May 2009) has begun her first semester at Southern University Law School.

Please e-mail [afs@uncg.edu](mailto:afs@uncg.edu) with an update on your life so we can include it in our next newsletter!

Also, please become our friend on Facebook by searching for [afs@uncg.edu](https://www.facebook.com/afs@uncg.edu)

The *News and Record* and the *Carolina Peacemaker* covered the Gender and the Law event.



For more pictures off our events, see the photo gallery at [www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs).

## Major in the Spotlight

Ronald Haynes is a graduating senior who transferred from UNC-Charlotte last fall.

Ronald describes his decision to major in African American Studies as personal: "I've always been exposed to the culture and history of the status quo with disregard to my own history, so I decided to study about my history."

Upon graduation in December, Ronald plans to attend law school. His goal is to represent low-income people.

Undoubtedly, his degree has inspired him to make this decision: "I hope to use my skills learned in AFS to advance the ideas of equality and social reform," says Ronald.

To help him to meet this goal, Ronald worked as an intern of

Attorney Thomas Johnson in his law firm this fall. "As a result of my internship, I have learned that the key to success in the field of law is organization."

Ronald is also a talented poet.

We know this gifted and motivated AFS major will make a positive impact on the world.

Congratulations, Ronald!



**UNCG African American Studies Program**

200 Foust Building  
P.O. Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC  
27402-6170

**Phone**  
(336) 334-5507

**E-mail**  
afs@uncg.edu

**Also find us on Facebook!**



**We're on the Web!**  
Visit us at:  
[www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)

## Support AFS's Students

If you like what you have read, help us to further support our students.

Your gift to AFS allows us to build our scholarship fund 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.edu/dur/studentsfirst/give\\_now.html](http://www.uncg.edu/dur/studentsfirst/give_now.html).

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

No donation is too large or too small!

## About UNCG's AFS Studies Program

The mission of the UNCG African American Studies Program is to provide undergraduate and graduate students with an opportunity to engage in the study of

people of African descent. AFS is an interdisciplinary program that is student-centered. Students are encouraged to not only engage in

academic study, but to broaden their knowledge by getting involved in community-projects, participating in conferences, and/or studying abroad. Visit: [www.uncg.edu/afs](http://www.uncg.edu/afs)

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27402-6170



**TO:**