Hello. My name is Dr. Sharon Austin and I would like to welcome you to the spring 2013 edition of the African American Studies Program newsletter. We have included information in this issue about the many programs and activities we have been involved in this semester. We are also updating our African American Studies website to include information about the major, the minor, student internships, scholarships, and careers for African American Studies graduates among other things. First, we are pleased to announce that undergraduate students can now declare a major in African American Studies! We also offer the African American Studies minor. The major requires 30 hours of African American (AFA) coursework. Students must take 12 hours of core courses which include AFA 2000 Introduction to African American Studies, AFA 3110 Key Issues in African American and Black Atlantic Though, AFA 4936 Senior Seminar Part I and AFA 4937 Senior Seminar Part II. They must also take 15 additional hours of AFA coursework at the 3000 or 4000-level. Second, undergraduate students will soon be able to receive 3 hours of credit for AFA 4940 The African American Studies Internship if they receive an approval of their internship from an AFA faculty member and from me as director of the program. Students must fill out a form in which they describe their internship and get the necessary signatures. Our new website also includes several examples of the types of internships African American Studies students can apply for. I also strongly encourage you to seek the assistance of the UF Career Resource Center in finding an internship. Third, three of our faculty members (Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, Dr. Zoharah Simmons, and I) are involved in a project entitled “Building a Civil Rights Monument/Memorial at the University of Florida.” Recently, it was selected as a finalist for a Catalyst Grant from the Office of the Provost. If it receives the grant, Dr. Paul Ortiz of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) and an advisory board composed of AFA faculty members, African American Studies Librarian Jana Ronan, Professor Carl Van Ness (University Historian for Smathers Library) and Professor Charlie Hailey (School of Design, Construction and Planning) will lead discussions of the civil rights movement with the hope that eventually a civil rights memorial or monument will be erected on campus. Fourth, the newsletter discusses some of the activities our program has either sponsored or co-sponsored such as the “Integration of the University of Florida and the Challenges that Remain” panel that took place during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week in January as well as the Dr. Ronald Foreman Lecture by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill and the “Education and Identity of African American Males” Conference that took place in February. We also co-sponsored a lecture by Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, the “Hats Off to Women” Awards dinner, the James E. Scott Leadership Conference, and the 41st Annual African Student Union Showcase “The Awakening: Past Glory to New Beginnings.” Fifth, I want to congratulate our faculty for their many successes that are detailed in the Faculty Profiles section and our one of our alumni Ms. Brittany McCants who is a graduate of UF and the Howard University Law School. Currently, she is an attorney in New York City. Her career accomplishments demonstrate one of the many career options for students of African American Studies. Finally, during the summer and fall 2013 semesters, we will be expanding our course offerings. Mr. Vincent Adejumo, a doctoral student in political science, will teach the first online AFA course when he teaches the AFA 2000 Introduction to African American Studies course. He will also offer it online during the fall semester. Four other doctoral students will also teach AFA courses with the assistance of a faculty mentor – Anthropology student Justin Dumnava (Panafricanism), Anthropology student Karen McIlvory (Archaeology of African American Life), Health Services Research, Management, and Policy Student Kevin Jenkins (Race, Law, and Public Health), and Anthropology student Justin Hosbey (Race & Global Cities). If you would like to receive more information about the major, the minor, the internship, or any other aspect of the program, please contact me at polssdw@ufl.edu or 273-3060.
African American Studies Major Information & Requirements

Any student entering UF as a freshman or transfer student will be able to declare African American Studies as their major. In order to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies, students must complete 30 credit hours of AFA course and fulfill all of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information on these requirements, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/liberalarts/school_pages/degrees.aspx.

The following courses are required to fulfill the 30-hour requirement. Students maintain a cumulative UF GPA of 2.0 and earn the grade of C or better in:

- AFA 2000 Introduction to African American Studies
- AFA 3110 Key Issues in African American & Black Atlantic Thought
- AFA 4936 Integrative Senior Seminar
- AFA 4937 Integrative Senior Seminar

3 credits of applied, experiential, or research methods. Can be statistics, service-learning, field research, or qualitative research methods (inside or outside of AFA).

15 credits must be obtained from AFA courses at the 3000 level or higher.

(Pictured from left to right) Dr. Joe Glover, Provost; Dr. Sharon Austin, African American studies Program Director and Dr. Bernard Mair, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs at faculty Senate meeting in February 2013.

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Inductees

Congrats to African American Studies Minor’s Breanne Palmer and Caitlin Edwards for their induction into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation’s oldest and most prestigious academic honor society. Election to the Society recognizes the high quality and liberal breadth of Breanne and Caitlin’s scholastic achievements. The University of Florida is one of only six institutions in Florida, and one of 284 throughout the US, which meet the Society’s criteria of academic excellence and can elect students into Phi Beta Kappa. Nationally, only one of every hundred students earning degrees from colleges of arts and sciences is elected to PBK.

Ms. Breanne Palmer
Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons

Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Senior Lecturer in African American Studies and Religion and affiliated faculty in the Women Studies Department at the University of Florida's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has had an illustrious career that has spanned several decades. Currently, Dr. Simmons has been working on several projects and served on numerous panels this school year at UF and around the country. She was featured in the production of Firelight Media's documentary film, "Freedom Summer", which is about the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer. The film will air in June of 2014, the 50th Anniversary of Freedom Summer as a part of PBS’s The American Experience series. Dr. Simmons was tapped for this project because she was part of the Freedom Summer of 1964, serving as Project Director in Laurel, Mississippi, organizing black people to secure the vote and help build freedom schools and libraries in black communities in Mississippi. I recently spoke with Dr. Simmons about her experience during the 1964 Freedom Summer and the impact that it has even to this day on American history. “How did the idea of Freedom Summer come about?” “The idea of Freedom Summer came from Robert Moses who was a Field Secretary in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and later went on to become co-director over the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which directed Mississippi Freedom Summer. This project was intended to put the nation’s eyes on Mississippi with the purpose of ending the laws that disenfranchised blacks and enabled violence against those blacks who attempted to vote. The project also was designed to register black citizens to vote in the face of this violence, establish the “Freedom Schools” as an alternative to Mississippi’s totally segregated and underfunded school system, and establish the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.” I then asked Dr. Simmons how SNCC and SCLC collaborated during the Freedom Summer. “The SNCC style for organizing was traditionally very different from the SCLC’s. SNCC’s style was to develop at the base level to build a grassroots movement while SCLC’s style was more grandiose with big press conferences and marches to bring to light specific events. Nevertheless, SNCC, CORE, the NAACP and SCLC collaborated under the COFO umbrella and all of the various groups got along quite well” In the last question, I asked Dr. Simmons about the impact of the Freedom Summer ‘64 project and her general thoughts on the progress of Civil Rights. “The aftermath of SNCC was the passage of the Voter’s Rights Act of 1965 which immediately impacted areas in Mississippi such as Laurel where I was assigned. The 1965’s Voting Rights Act specifically impacted these areas by protecting the voting rights of those citizens and bringing to light the continued struggle for suffrage, even after 1965.” Dr. Simmons went on to state that for the future, she hopes that the grassroots activism that SNCC displayed during the Freedom Summer of 1964 is not forgotten and it is her hope that present and future generations continue to mobilize at the grassroots level to effect change. In addition to teaching African American Religions and Race Religion/Rebellion this semester, Dr. Simmons also participated on a panel in McComb, Mississippi with UF Oral History’s Dr. Paul Ortiz to discuss the history of Voting Rights Acts and its impact on McComb. Over the course of the two days that they were there (Feb. 21st & 22nd, 2013), Dr. Simmons presented on her experiences when she was in McComb during the height of the 1960’s Civil Rights Movement and she toured with a group of High School students around McComb, who were studying and documenting on film the history of the McComb Civil Rights Movement. These students completed a documentary on the Movement which won first place at a recent State-Wide History Studies contest, which will be entered in the National History Studies contest, being held in Baltimore Maryland in April 2013. Reflecting on the vaunted task of registering voters in that area, Dr. Simmons states “To have spent two days with dozens of children from the McComb School District sharing their city and county’s Civil Rights History side by side with the local people who had made that history was an immensely gratifying experience.”

By Vincent Adejumo
Dr. Faye Harrison was featured in Jacksonville, Florida’s Museum of Science and History’s “MOSH after Dark” lecture series on February 28. The registration for the lecture, “Race in the New Millennium and the Age of Obama,” exceeded the number of available seats in the Planetarium, reflecting the high level of interest in the topic and the exhibit that the museum is hosting over a three-month period ending on April 28. “Race: Are We So Different?” is an award-winning exhibit that has been traveling around the country since 2007. The American Anthropological Association initiated the interdisciplinary public education project to make scholarly knowledge on race and racism accessible to the public. Dr. Harrison was among the small group of anthropologists who went from brainstorming to proposals that generated about $1.5 million of funding from the National Science Foundation and the Ford Foundation. The 5,000 square feet exhibit approaches race through the lenses of history, human variation, and lived experience. Dr. Harrison’s lecture focused on the dynamics of culture, power, and political economy that have shaped the structural locations and identities of racially-marked people, primarily African descendants in the United States and in other parts of the Americas.

Dr. Harrison also organized and presented a paper in the session, “Black Studies and Anthropology in Dialogue,” for the National Council for Black Studies meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana; March 14-16. The session, which integrated multi-media formats, generated excellent discussion. In early April, she will deliver a lecture at the University of Texas at Austin on feminisms and the politics of knowledge in the African diaspora.

Dr. Marilyn Thomas-Houston

White House with the President of the United States, Barack H. Obama. Dr. Thomas-Houston, who joined other dignitaries, was invited to attend the observance on February 27th in her capacity as Senior Editor of the groundbreaking new journal FIRE!!!: The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies. The first of its kind in Black Studies, the digital journal is published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), founders of Black History Month, and distributed through JSTOR.
In January the AFA-2000-Introduction to African American Studies class visited the Historic Haile Homestead at Kanapaha Plantation (HHH). The field trip was meant to enhance course lectures addressing the history of enslavement of Black people in North America. The Kanapaha Plantation, was a 1500 acre cotton plantation and the 6200 square foot home, completed by Black artisans in 1856, is one of the oldest homes in Gainesville/Alachua County and one of a few antebellum homes still standing in Florida. It is located less than 8 miles from the University of Florida.

The field trip allowed AFA-2000 students to contextualize the historical information about the enslavement of Black people. It is one thing to read and hear about history, and quite another to visit a space where people were held against their will and forced to labor for the benefit of others. Alachua County had the 7th largest number of enslaved Africans in the state of Florida and descendents of both the enslaved laborers and plantation owners still live in the county.

Nii and Ayoka SowaLa of Ayoka Gifts joined 53 students who went on the field trip. Mr. SowaLa played his drum in the bus on the way to the site and poured a libation to in memory of the enslaved laborers who lived, worked and died at the plantation. Karen Kirkman, director of the HHH, led a guided tour of the house that included a photo exhibit with information about the enslaved laborers.

Students shared their observations about the experience in response papers. Most expressed surprise that a plantation with enslaved laborers existed in a place so close to campus. Students were also interested in learning more about the lives of the Africans who were enslaved on the plantation.
Faculty Profile


Dr. Hilliard was a master teacher and multi-disciplinarian who made contributions in Education, Psychology, Sociology and African/African Diaspora History. He did not teach in an “African American Studies” department, but his work uncovering and presenting data on ancient African civilizations, particularly in the Nile Valley, was significant. He also influenced the fields of Black Psychology and Education, particularly assuring effective pedagogy for training teachers to raise achievement in diverse populations. Dr. Hilliard taught on the faculty at San Francisco State University before serving as a consultant to the Peace Corp for on site staff development of volunteers in Liberia, West Africa. While in Liberia, he also served as a school psychologist, the Chief of Party for the San Francisco State advisory team and Superintendent of Schools in Monrovia. Upon his return to San Francisco State University, he became a Department Chair and then the Dean of the School of Education. He later served as the Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University in Atlanta where he held joint appointments in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education. Dr. Hilliard has made thousands of professional presentations for school districts, universities, professional and community based organizations, businesses, and government agencies in the areas of socialization, teaching, learning, testing, assessment systems, child development, African and African American history, African content in curriculum, anti-racism, public policy and culture. Dr. Hilliard was a Board Certified Forensic Examiner and Diplomat of both the American Board of Forensic Examiners and the American Board of Forensic Medicine. He served as lead expert witness in several landmark federal cases on test validity and bias, including Larry P. v. Wilson Riles in California, Mattie T. v. Holliday in Mississippi, Deborah P. v. Turlington in Florida, and also in two Supreme Court cases, Ayers v. Fordice in Mississippi, and Marino v. Ortiz in New York City. Dr. Hilliard has authored over 1000 journal articles, chapters in books, magazine articles, and books some of which include, The Maroon Within Us: Selected Essays on African American Community Socialization (1995), Black Classics Press; SBA: The Reawakening of the African Mind (1997), Makare; and African Power: Affirming African Indigenous Socialization in the Face of the Culture Wars (2002), Makare. His popular slide show, Free Your Mind Return to the Source: African Origins of Civilization has been presented around the world. Some of the many awards that Hilliard received include: Morehouse College "Candle in the Dark Award in Education;" National Alliance of Black School Educators "Distinguished Educator Award;" American Evaluation Association President’s Award; Republic of Liberia Award as Knight Commander of the Humane Order of African Redemption; New York Society of Clinical Psychologists Award for Outstanding Research, Scholarly Achievement, and Humanitarian Service; Association of Black Psychologists Distinguished Psychologist Award; Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Leadership Award; DePaul University Doctor of Humane Letters; American Psychological Association, Fellow; Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society Laureate Chapter; American Educational Research Association Committee on the Role & Status of Minorities in Education, Research & Development Distinguished Career Contribution Award. His chapter, “Race,” Identity, Hegemony and Education: What Do We Need To Know Now? in The White Architects of Black Education: 1865-1945 (2001), William H. Watkins, Ed. outlines his view of the systematic oppression of Africans via the education system and strategies for resistance.
Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, AFAM Foreman Lecture Recap

On Thursday February 21st at the Friends of Music Room, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill lectured on “Black Men in the age of Obama”. His lecture was for the annual Dr. Ronald C. Foreman Honorary event and was part of “The Education and Identity of African-American Males Conference” which started on February 19th and concluded with the Dr. Marc Lamont Hill’s lecture on the 21st. Some of the issues that Dr. Hill covered in his talk include the incarceration rates of black males, black male high school dropout rate, black male masculinity, and the implication of President Obama’s election as it relates to the perception of black males in the United States and globally. The event was well attended with every seat in the Friends of Music Room filled and concluded with a brief question and answer session.

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, BGSO MLK Lecture Recap

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, on January 29th, spoke about the life, work, and impact of the late, great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK). The speech which served as a commemoration of Martin Luther King day, and simultaneously as an opener for Black History Month, highlighted the speakers views on how the past and current socioeconomic conditions have impacted and shaped the racial, and ethnic situation in America. Throughout the speech, he constantly made reference to the work that Dr. King did when he was alive and how important it is for us to adhere to MLK’s views in our lives. After announcing the title of the presentation as “Living the Legacy of An American Radical,” Dr. Dyson went on analyze what it meant to be a “radical” and also “living the legacy.” He referred to MLK as a “radical” because he went to the foundation of American ideals of freedom and advocated the best ideas that would relieve the suppressed, while being strongly invested in democracy. “Living the Legacy” meant that it was not enough to study the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., but we should live the life of the legend that MLK was. We cannot limit Martin Luther King Jr. to the “I Have A Dream” speech because that is not all he did. After the passage of the Civil Rights Acts in 1964 and 1965, people thought that it was over, but MLK made it known that that was the easy part and now the nation has to now attack poverty; however, this is not the MLK that we celebrate presently today. The five years between the speech and his death, he organized the “Poor People’s campaign”. After making this point Dr. Dyson asked the question of “why do we define our American identity by how many guns we have? And then we go on to blame violence on games and hip-hop. American ideology continues to contradict itself”. Martin Luther King Jr. dealt with what Dr. Dyson referred to as the “Three Evils.” The three were racism, nepotism, and poverty. Dr. King fought against these issues, but society still struggles with them today. Dr. Dyson exclaimed that it is expensive to be poor. People act as if poor people are from some other planet, and often categorize them as lazy and unmotivated, when poor people work two to three jobs just to make ends meet. They do jobs that no one else want to do, so they are not stealing jobs as often mentioned by conservative lawmakers that despise the poor. Working so many jobs keep them away from their children because they do not have to time to nurture them. They have to focus on where to get the next dollar from to keep the food on the table. The issues of jobs bring up the point of gender inequality. Dr. Dyson asks the question of “Why is it that men and women are not paid equally? There is nothing a man can do that woman cannot, so some reform needs to take place in that area to bring about equality amongst genders”. Dr. Dyson’s presentation was one of the most interesting, and captivating speeches I have ever heard on the life on the work of Dr. King. The clever use of popular music and current affairs kept his audience of mostly students and youth attentive to his challenge, which was for us to live our lives similar to Martin Luther King Jr. It was not a presentation to be forgotten the minute you left the venue, but it plagued the mind to continue fighting against inequality, poverty, injustice, among other issues that America faces. Social inequality, racial inequality, vicious forms of patriarchy in our country, gender distress are all issues that if we are going to live the Martin Luther King Jr. dream, we have to actively fight and speak up against these issues. "Living the Legacy of an American Radical," is not just studying the works of Dr. King, but also living it daily.
Alumni Spotlight: Attorney Brittany McCants

In the alumni corner, the African American Studies Program spotlights our former students and gives updates about their current endeavors. This semester, we are highlighting Ms. Brittany McCants. In 2008, Brittany graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Leadership and African American Studies. Brittany received several honors and awards as an undergraduate at the University of Florida. In addition to Florida Blue Key she served in the Student Government Senate, as a member of the 2006 Preview Staff, on the J. Wayne Reitz Union Board of Managers, on the President of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Student Council, as a founding member of Lead UF, and as a member of the Lambda Psi chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In May 2011, Brittany earned a Juris Doctor cum laude from the Howard University School of Law. Currently, she is a Corporate Associate for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLP in New York City where she drafts transaction and ancillary agreements in relation to securities offerings, merger transactions and employment agreements. She also conducts other corporate research. “My coursework in the African American studies program gave me a deeper insight into my own cultural position in the world and a clearer understanding of our contributions to society as a whole. As a well-versed scholar in the African Diaspora from my experiences with the program, I’m able to think critically about the images and presentation of African Americans and work to shift closed mindsets in my surroundings. I feel like the rich curriculum gave me a sense of pride, pushed me to explore my cultural boundaries and granted me a coat of armor to enter the workplace both through developing my skill set and personal development. It would be my wish that the program continues to expand and students continue to be exposed to African American history and culture.”

Introduction to African American Studies: Online

Greetings, my name is Vincent Adejumo and I am a 2nd year Ph.D student in the Department of Political Science and graduate assistant to Dr. Sharon Austin. I am excited to teach the online format of the Intro to African American Studies class. The first class will be offered in summer session C and subsequently in the Fall 2013 semester. The summer session C class will be 10 weeks long and consist of intense learning and discussion of the Black experience in America and globally. Some of the technological tools that will be used to engage students include messageboards, various social media, youtube, and skype. Students can register for this class beginning on March 25th and search for the class under the African American Studies Summer 2013 schedule of courses at http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/. In addition to creating the online format for the Intro to African American studies class, I am also a recipient of the 2013 Barbara Roth Award given by the UF Department of Political Science for my service to the Gainesville community and academic excellence in the classroom. I am honored to have received such a prestigious award and it is my mission for the upcoming Summer and Fall semester as lecturer of the Intro to African American Studies class to ensure that students are not only successful in completing the course, but also have a better understanding of the black experience from before they completed the course. For more information regarding the course or the African American Studies Program, please do not hesitate to contact me at va-dejumo3@ufl.edu
On March 20th, the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations’ hosted its 10th annual Spring Lecture & Panel Discussions, “At Close Range: The Curious Case of Trayvon Martin.” They keynote speaker for this event was New York Times visual op-ed columnist Charles Blow.

Participants included UF faculty and graduate students from history, journalism, African-American studies, sociology, anthropology, law, education, political science, English, philosophy and health services research. They discussed a range of topics including racial bias and media perspectives and recommended policy changes.

Blow joined The New York Times in 1994 as a graphics editor and quickly became the paper’s graphics director, a position he held for nine years. Blow then went on to become the paper’s design director for news before leaving in 2006 to become the art director of National Geographic Magazine.

He often appears on CNN’s Piers Morgan Tonight, Starting Point and AC360. He has also appeared on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, the Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell and Hardball with Chris Matthews, Headline News’ The Joy Behar show, Fox News’ Fox and Friends, the BBC and Al Jazeera, as well as numerous radio programs.

African American Studies Program Honors the Memory of MLK Jr.

On January 25, 2013, the African American Studies Program sponsored a panel discussion entitled “The Integration of the University of Florida and the Challenges that Remain.” Approximately 80 students, faculty, and staff attended the event that was held during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week. Dr. Sharon Austin, Director of the African American Studies Program; Dr. Eric Castillo, Director of the Institute for Hispanic/Latino Cultures; and Ms. Leah Villanueva, Director of Asian Pacific Islander Affairs discussed the historical efforts to integrate UF, current efforts to attract minority students and faculty, the integration of graduate and law schools, and the problems that remain for students of color on campus. Also, Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn gave the introduction for her riveting short film, “First Footsteps: The Struggle for Racial Desegregation at UF.” It provided a visual account of the efforts to integrate the university beginning with a lawsuit by Virgil Hawkins that ultimately resulted in the desegregation of the university’s graduate programs, and the experiences of W. George Allen as the university’s first African American student.

Mr. Virgil Hawkins at Levin College of Law
The Institute for Black Culture hosted the 11th Annual Dr. James E. Scott Black Student Leadership Conference on February 2, 2013. Since 2002, students, faculty, and staff have participated in this conference by giving a number of presentations to UF students. The main purpose of the conference is to improve their leadership skills, but the conference also give students the opportunity to interact with faculty, staff, graduate, and law students. Dr. Sharon Austin and Vincent Adejumo represented the African American Studies Program on a panel that advised students about the graduate and law school process. The conference is named after Dr. James E. Scott, a native of Albion, Michigan, who served as Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Florida for several years before his untimely death in 2003. Scott first came to UF in 1981 as Dean of Students and held this position for 12 years. After working in Georgia for a brief time, he returned to UF in 1999 and served as Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Scott was an excellent mentor and a friend to all he met. He also counseled students and served as a role model during one of the most difficult periods in the university’s history - the 1990 murders of five local college students, four of whom were enrolled at UF. Dr. Scott received a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in guidance from Eastern Michigan University. He later earned a doctorate in higher education from the University of Michigan and was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University. If you would like to honor his memory and legacy, you can contribute to the James E. Scott Professional Development Fellowship at the University of Florida. For more information, see http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/news/comments/james_e_scott_professional_development_fellowship_application_now_available.

On Thursday March 21st 3:30 PM, the University of Florida Board of Trustees approved the African American Studies Program to officially allow students to MAJOR in African American Studies. Congrats to the Faculty and Staff in the program who were essential in getting the Major approved!!! For more information regarding the major, please contact Dr. Sharon Austin Director of the program at polssdw@ufl.edu.

Pictured here are Dr. Austin along with the students that were at the Board of Trustees meeting after the major was approved.
Introducing Ms. Vee Smith

Ms. Vee Smith
IBC Director

In January 2013, Ms. Veleashia (Vee) Smith became the new Director of the Institute for Black Culture (IBC). Vee earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Kentucky at Lexington and will earn a Master of Arts in Education and Counseling from Western Kentucky University in 2014. Before joining us at UF, Vee worked as the Assistant Director of Student Development in the Office of Diversity Programs at Western Kentucky University. She also previously worked at Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center (MLKCC) at the University of Kentucky. Vee has won many awards during her professional career such as the University of Kentucky Evelyn J. Black Staff of the Year Award in 2008, the Vanderbilt University Staff of the Year Award, and the University of Kentucky’s President’s Award for Diversity in 2004 and 2008. Because of her outstanding record of service and her commitment to diversity, the university is optimistic that she will serve in an excellent manner as Director of the IBC. In February 2013, Vee organized the 2013 James E. Scott Leadership Conference. Each year, this conference provides student leaders with knowledge and skills that can help them become more effective leaders on campus and beyond through several interactive workshops, discussions, presentations and guest speakers.

Unsung Heroines

Dr. James Davidson

Kingsley Plantation: Occupied by circa 1792, this plantation derives its name from Zephaniah Kingsley, who occupied the site between 1814 and 1839. Kingsley was a slave trader and ship’s captain. Defying convention, he took as a wife Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, an enslaved girl from Senegal. Objecting to the harsh laws regarding interracial marriage and biracial children when Florida became American territory, Kingsley and his family moved to Haiti in 1839. The plantation was subsequently owned by a number of individuals into the early 20th century. The entire field of African American archaeology can actually trace its origin back to Kingsley Plantation, where in 1968 Dr. Charles Fairbanks (former professor at UF) conducted the first-ever scientific excavation of a slave cabin. Excavations have been conducted in slave Cabins W-12, W-13, W-15, and E-10. Through archival and archaeological data, it was established that the west cabins were occupied between 1814 and 1839, or only during Zephaniah Kingsley’s occupation of the island. Cabin E-10 was occupied from circa 1814 to the beginning of the Civil War. Amazing finds include French gun flints (from flintlock pistols and muskets) and lead shot in the cabins, and a chicken sacrifice and deliberate burial of the remains beneath the floor of Cabin W-15, presumably as part of an African religious ritual. We have also uncovered previously unknown or “lost structures,” including cottages along Cedar Avenue destroyed in the 1850s or 1860s, and the Sugar Mill, an octagonal, tabby-walled industrial complex not seen since the 1880s. In 2010 and 2011 we discovered and excavated previously unknown water well associated with the slave cabins, and found the long lost Kingsley-era African Burial Ground. In 2012, we began an exploration of the greater yard areas of the west cabins, excavated at the Tabby Barn to determine its origin and chronology, and conducted the first steps in a greater exploration of the yard associated with the detached Kitchen House, otherwise known as the Anna Kingsley House. 2013 Research goals: Building on the 2012 excavations, we plan to archaeologically explore the yards of Cabins W-14 and W-15, and more fully explore Anna Kingsley’s House and yard.

Dr. James Davidson, Associate Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies

Also, under her leadership, the IBC recently honored “Unsung Heroines” Dr. Angeleah Browdy, Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, Dr. Sharon Austin, Dr. Brandi Pritchett-Johnson, Mrs. Tarena Stanley, Ms. LaToya Hunter, Ms. Breanne Palmer, Ms. Monya Sharp, and Mrs. Ruby Mae Moore (posthumously). These women were honored because of the positive examples they set at the University of Florida as women of color.

From Left to Right: Ms. LaToya Hunter, Mr. Johnny Moore (Ms. Ruby Mae Moore’s Husband), Dr. Angeleah Browdy, Mrs. Tarena Stanley, Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, Dr. Brandi Pritchett-Johnson, and Dr. Sharon Austin
### Summer 2013 AFAM Schedule

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#### Summer C

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## Fall 2013 AFAM Schedule

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Questions? Contact John Saunders at 202-659-2831 or jsaunders@i4rc.org

Program Highlights

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- Paid internship or stipend
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- Exposure to influential leaders
- Rigorous academic training
- Leadership development seminars
- Activities that promote strong bonds

Program Details

- All majors welcome
- Must be a college sophomore to apply
- Must commit to two summers

Deadline: Friday, February 8, 2013
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CLEO recruits students from diverse and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds who plan to apply to law school in the near future. Most of the participants will begin the application process during the fall after their summer program ends. CLEO also has a Sophomore Summer Institute for students who have completed their sophomore year of college and would like to receive additional preparation for law school. In addition, it conducts several academic seminars which provide instruction about the LSAT, law school process, financial aid, etc.

In order to be selected for the 6 week institute, applicants must be able to meet eligibility requirements for an ABA-approved law school at the completion of the program. They must also have obtained a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university prior to the start of the summer institute. Third, they must submit a personal statement that explains why they wish to be selected and must pay a nonrefundable $30 application fee. For more information, see www.cleoscholars.com or email the CLEO Admissions Administrator Bernetta Hayes at Bernetta.Hayes@americanbar.org.

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