

INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Summer/Fall 2005

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For up to date information on the IAAR,
please consult our website:
www.unc.edu/depts/iaar

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Mission Statement:

The central mission of the IAAR is to promote and advance scholarly investigation of the history, social experience, culture, and thought of people of African descent throughout the Diaspora, with particular emphasis on Black Americans.

Message from the Director:



Dr. William Darity Jr.
Director

Greetings! In this the second annual IAAR fall newsletter, marking the beginning of the academic year at Carolina, we pause to reflect on the past year and look ahead to exciting, upcoming activities.

Q: What do you believe are your major accomplishments during the past year?

Dr. Darity: The full list of the Center's activities throughout the course of the year actually surprised me after I began to catalogue them. First, we completed an edited publication of the papers presented by a group of scholars based primarily in Japan, led by historian Hayumi Higuchi, whose work focuses on various dimensions of diasporized African peoples. I was able to carry copies of the edited publication with me to Japan in June 2004 when I attended a reciprocal conference and presented my own research on Japanese immigration to the USA and the lateral mobility hypothesis. We anticipate a sustained relationship between our Institute and this group of Japanese scholars doing research on the African diaspora.

Second, October 22-23, 2004 we held a Youth and Race Conference, featuring as keynote speaker Dr. Margaret Beale Spencer from the University of Pennsylvania. We had collaborative support from Duke's African and African American Studies Program, the Jordan Institute at UNC, The Sanford Institute's Committee on Black Affairs at Duke, and North Carolina Central University's Business School. This was such a successful conference, attended by scholars, local activists, parents, and young people themselves, that we have decided to make it an annual event. Our theme for Fall 2005 will be the subject of "Acting White," which will permit us to explore the issues surrounding the late anthropologist John Ogbu's controversial explanation for the racial achievement gap. In fact, the research that IAAR fellow Carolyn Tyson and I have done, providing a critique of Ogbu's work, was featured in the *Year in Ideas* issue of The

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New York Times Magazine (December 12, 2004, p.52), and our full study is forthcoming in the American Sociological Review. In November 2004 we presented our work at the annual meeting of the African American Success Foundation in Florida.

In addition during October 2004, we held a Workshop on Multiracialism and the US Census. Census 2000 was the first in which respondents were invited to self-identify themselves in more than one racial category. In fact, only 2 percent of respondents did mark more than one racial category. We held a conference at UNC jointly with the Roy Wilkins Center at the University of Minnesota to explore the demographic characteristics of that 2 percent group and to speculate about whether that proportion is likely to increase in future censuses.

We also continued our seminar series, *Race-ing Research, Researching Race*, which we organize on behalf of the Carolina Post-Doctoral Program for Faculty Diversity. One of the speakers for the series, Ashwini Deshpande at the Delhi School of Economics, also participated. Deshpande's lecture on affirmative action in India is part of wider research activity that is part of IAAR's agenda on the comparative application of affirmative action internationally. On February 9, 2005 we held a videoconference in conjunction with the Institute of Dalit Studies in Delhi,

India at the behest of their director, economist Sukhadeo Thorat. Our discussion focused on similarities and differences in affirmative action in India and the USA. And on April 11, 2005. I gave a presentation in Brasilia, Brazil at a seminar sponsored by the Inter American Development Bank and by the Brazilian government's Secretariat for Racial Equality on affirmative action in India, the USA, Brazil, Northern Ireland, and Malaysia.

Earlier during the academic year we participated in a videoconference with Penn State University and Northwestern University on the construction of race in Latin America. This was an ideal segue into the subject matter of our annual International Scholars Conference (ISC) for 2005 which was held April 1-2 -- "Negotiating Spaces: Black Identity, Culture and Politics in South America." The distinguished scholar of Afro-Argentine history and Afro-Latino history, George Reid Andrews, was the keynote speaker.

Also in April (Friday the 22nd) we held an important one day conference, "Finding Common Ground," in which we opened a discussion of the implications of the recent Leandro court decision for school quality, equity, and closure of the racial achievement gap in North Carolina.

The success of the past year's program and scholarly activities have allowed us to build on that momentum in the upcoming year. We are excited to have the UNC-Chapel Hill and larger university community join us in what promises to be an exciting year!

NEWS & UPDATES

Chandra Guinn has been named director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture. Her appointment begins October 3. Guinn, a Ph. D. candidate in sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill, was a program coordinator for the IAAR from 2002-04.



Dr. Robin Vander has been appointed the Assistant Director for the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History. Vander was a former fellow in the Carolina Post-Doctoral Program for Faculty Diversity.

IAAR Fellow Arthur Kempton recently had an article on Billie Holiday, entitled *Street Diva*, featured in the New York Review of Books, July 14, Volume 52, Number 12. Go to <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/18114> to read the full article! Kempton is also the author of *Boogaloo* (Random House, 2003)



Dr. Michele Berger of the Curriculum in Women's Studies, has been awarded the 2005 American Political Science Association *Best Book on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* for her book, *Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS* (Princeton

University Press, 2004). Dr. Berger participated in an IAAR booktalk this past March.

SILENT AUCTION

The Institute of African American Research and eDUCA CONSULTING will host a Silent Auction Gala on the campus of UNC - Chapel Hill. The event will take place Wednesday, April 5, 2006. All proceeds from the event will benefit IAAR's endowment for faculty funding and scholarly research.

Attorney Kenneth W. Lewis, a partner in a Durham, North Carolina based Burford & Lewis, PLLC will keynote the event. He is also an instructor with the American Institute of Banking.

If you wish to learn more about the upcoming Silent Auction Gala, please contact Kimberly Harris 919.451.6155. Additional information will be available November 2005.

MOTT GRANT UPDATE

The research project evaluating the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's Intermediary Support Organization program is in its final stages. Last summer the IAAR was awarded \$225,000 for the project to study the efficacy of community organizations participating in the program. While the main goal of the project is to provide information to the Mott Foundation and its grantees about community organizing resources, the project represents an important opportunity to understand political strategies used by marginalized grassroots groups.

Dr. Jocelyn Sargent, project director and IAAR research fellow, leads the evaluation research team. Prior to coming to UNC, Dr. Sargent led national and international research studies and also directed major philanthropic funding projects. Last spring, as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Duke University, she taught a senior seminar on racial justice in public policy. Dr. Sargent holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

The research project examined the work of 93 sub-grantees in 35 states. The sub-grantees represent a racially, ethnically, and geographically diverse set of grassroots community groups across the country. These sub-grantees received small grants and technical assistance from six Mott Foundation-designated intermediary support organizations (ISOs): Center for Community Change; Community Training and Assistance Center; National Council of La Raza; National Training and Information Center; Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development

; and Southern Echo. Small grants for the program ranged from \$2,500 to \$15,000 with an average size of \$7,400.

While the sub-grantees' work varies across a wide range of issue areas (i.e. youth development, immigrant rights, education, economic development), nearly all (86%) of the sub-grantees reported using community organizing as their major tool for advancing their organization's goals. The program defines community organizing as: The process of building a powerful, community-controlled, democratically run, inclusive, grassroots organization capable of developing leaders and effecting social change for its constituent members.

Preliminary findings suggest that while access to foundation funding and technical assistance are strongly associated with organizational efficacy, alternative strategies, such as peer-to-peer training and network building, encourage leadership development and strengthen organizational capacity. Though less costly, grassroots organizations are less likely to find financial support for these alternative methods. A final project report documenting the research results will be released early 2006.

FRIENDS OF THE IAAR GIFT FORM

YES! I WANT TO MAKE A GIFT OF \$ _____

(Please make your check payable to the Institute of African American Research. Indicate the gift designation number 0751-- "Unrestricted Gift"-- on the memo line.)

I PREFER TO MAKE A GIFT WITH ANNUAL PAYMENTS OF \$ _____ FOR _____ YEAR(S)

How frequently would you like reminders sent to you?
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Gift Benefits Include:

- Receive the IAAR Newsletter twice a year
- Receive free invitations to regional events

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MURAP 2005

This past summer, the MURAP program continued in its tradition of excellence with the recruitment of 21 students representing universities from across the nation. Student fellows conducted research projects in such fields as economics, history, sociology, psychology, English, and Latin American studies. Some project titles included: "The Legacy of the Haitian Diaspora in the United States, 1791-1896," "Expanding the Responsibilities of the Educational Outcomes of Adolescents in Foster Care: Implications for Coordinating the Child Welfare and Education Systems," "But What if Something Goes Wrong? Childbirth in a Hospital Setting," and "Does Race Matter? An Exploration of the Factors Influencing Intensity of Racial Identification."

The summer program culminated with the annual MURAP Conference, entitled this year, "Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together? Spaces of Racial & Ethnic Engagement in the 21st century." Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, Scholar and President of Spelman College, keynoted the event. Inspired by Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum's book of the same name, this year's conference considered the various forms and models of engagement within and around racial and ethnic groups in the contemporary period. Focusing on two contexts, the educational sphere and the residential sphere, conference panelists examined the variety of ways in which people create spaces marked off by race and ethnicity as well as the motivations and explanations for this type of organizing.

Each summer, the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (MURAP)--the premier training program



under the aegis of the IAAR designed to encourage talented undergraduates from underrepresented minorities to pursue doctoral studies in the social sciences and humanities--brings a cohort of 18-22 undergraduates to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus for an intensive, ten-week research project under the guidance of a university faculty mentor with whom they are paired according to areas of study and research interest. They meet individually and regularly with their faculty mentors, attend weekly seminars, present their research to faculty and students in the program, receive weekly courses in preparation for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and participate in a variety of informative workshops designed to prepare students for the graduate school experience. For more information on the MURAP program please access their website at www.unc.edu/depts/murap

THE MATRIX PROJECT:

CLOSING THE SOCIAL ORGANIZING & ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Community organizers know that there is what Joan Ecklein called way back in 1972, "an underlying tension between a service-oriented approach and a social-action orientation" to advancing the interests of those who are disadvantaged. As she put it, "Services focus on individual need, whereas organizing focuses on the location of common problems and joint efforts at their solution." In a sense, each may be considered a correction of the other. Although her book *Community Organizers* has had many revisions over the years, the tension between approaches still remains. This tension still wastes time and resources and is, ultimately, unnecessary.

The IAAR's Matrix Project, funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, combines service and social action in order to begin to correct grievous inequities in public education. The project's after-school and Saturday tournament program provides intensive mathematics and mathematical foundation training in game settings. The object of the training is to provide a basis for closing achievement gaps by leaping over them instead of by remediation. The project is located in Halifax and Northampton counties in Eastern North Carolina--historically poor school districts

with predominantly African-American students. Their achievement gap at the middle and high school level is more a chasm than a gap. Additionally, the Matrix project's strong service component provides a platform for social action. Parents who have children involved in the project will learn how the education system can be made responsive to their children's needs. Training will be provided that demystifies the education system. These parents will be very involved in the Matrix project's service component, and the energy derived from the common goal of helping their children succeed in mathematics can be leveraged to help them institutionalize these gains and work toward others.

The breach between social action and service has been used and will, as long as it persists, be used to slow the progress of real help for the disadvantaged. The IAAR's project can show how that breach can be mended while having a real and permanent effect on the communities served.

-Gail Corrado, Project Director and IAAR Fellow

FALL PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

All seminars will take place in the Hitchcock Multipurpose Room of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, at 12pm. Pizza and beverages will be provided. All events are free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 14--*Black Sounds of Freedom: Black Internationalism and African Diaspora Consciousness in the Fiction of Henry Dumas*

Delivered by Carter A. Mathes, Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, Duke University

My paper examines two short stories, entitled "Echo Tree" and "Strike and Fade," composed by the Black Arts Movement writer Henry Dumas in the mid to late 1960s. My central contention is that Dumas utilizes a notion of sonic textuality in these narratives to depict visions of African Diaspora consciousness and black resistance re-emerging in the 1960s United States. For Dumas, sound is not only an aesthetic tool, but also represents an important modality of black radical critique. By incorporating certain details of Dumas' sonic, creative partnership with the musician and theorist Sun Ra, my analysis will examine how Dumas situates the convergences of the textual and the sonic within the political trajectory of 1960s black life in the U.S. I will focus specifically on Dumas' mobilization of sound as a means of elucidating ideological formations of black radicalism, and of conveying levels of inter- and intra- racial conflict in the stories.

In summation, my paper will examine the politics of Dumas' project within the realms of African American and African Diaspora creativity through addressing the following questions: How does sound help Dumas to depict an alternate, increasingly politicized rendering of the African Diaspora? How might locating the political at a sensory level enable alternate modes of radical resistance and critique in the context of 1960s black America? Finally, to what degree is Dumas' focus on the sonic expressive of black internalist formations emerging during these pivotal years of black struggle?

OCTOBER 5--*Born/e in Blood: Haiti and the Development of Regional Caribbean Consciousness*

Delivered by Tanya Shields, Post-doctoral Fellow in the Curriculum of Women Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

Haiti's image, as a site of devolution and despair, obscures its pivotal role within the Caribbean. To truly understand the potential and pitfalls to regional nation building Haiti needs recuperation as real place and imagined space. Reading "Haiti" as constructed by non-Haitian Caribbean artists and politicians becomes a rehearsal toward greater understanding, framing, and actualization of Caribbean citizenship. Rehearsal here invokes the sense of tactical adjustments. Through an analysis of three creative texts (Alejo Carpentier's *Kingdom of this World*, Aimé Césaire's *The Tragedy of King Christophe*,

and CLR James' *The Black Jacobins*), I examine how rehearsal as an epistemological and political tool disrupts the trope of pathetic Haiti and re-tools that nation as a site critical to Caribbean development—psychologically and politically.

OCTOBER 28-29, 2005

2nd Annual Youth & Race Conference:
"Acting White"

Building on the enormous success of the first Youth & Race colloquium in October 2004, this year's 2-day colloquium "Acting White," will direct its attention to the acting white stigma, its influence on racial identity formation, academic achievement, and policy implications. The 'acting white' phenomenon—the argument that when smart black kids try hard and do well, they are picked on by their less successful peers for "acting white"—an idea popularized in 1984 with the work of Signithia Fordham and John Ogbu in *Black students' school success: Coping with the burden of 'acting white.'* Following its publication, Fordham and Ogbu's hypothesis emerged as a contentious explanation for the persistence of the educational achievement gap in the post-Civil Rights era. The joint IAAR-Duke AF & AFAM conference brings together educational researchers, policy analysts, and educators to revisit the question of 'acting white' more than two decades after the initial publication of Fordham and Ogbu's research. Conference presenters will examine what new trends are emerging from more recent scholarship on the question. Additionally, the conference will take up the two questions that divide educational researchers and their perspectives on the 'acting white' hypothesis: Are internal mechanisms and attitudes the main reason for the persistence of the educational achievement gap? Or are structural mechanisms the source of educational outcome disparities? For further information and to pre-register, please email jennifer@unc.edu or call 962-6810.

NOVEMBER 9--*African American Internationalism in the Era of the First World War*

Delivered by Adriane Smith, Post-doctoral Fellow in History, UNC-Chapel Hill

This talk uses the experience of African American soldiers serving in France as a starting point for discussing African American men and women's developing national and international perspectives during and immediately after WWI. How did African Americans give meaning to a "War for Democracy" championed by a presidential administration firmly committed to Jim Crow? What did the notion of nation mean to black troops and their supporters, and how did African Americans move from arguing for their place in the nation to imagining their place in the world?

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INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

The International Scholars Conference provides an opportunity to explore the work of scholars who have done extensive work focused on African American studies specifically and the African Diaspora more generally. Past conferences have taken on a comparative perspective: *Interrogating the African Presence in Mexico* (2002), *Engaging North America: Black Canada* (2003), and *From Hispaniola to Brooklyn: Exploring the Caribbean and Antillean Diaspora* (2004). Following the successful international exchange featured in these past conferences, we sought to further the global exploration of African experience in the Diaspora by interrogating the Afro-Latino presence in South America for the 2005 International Scholars Conference on April 1st and 2nd.

Negotiating Spaces: Black Identity, Culture and Politics in South America marks the seventh annual International Scholars Conference hosted by the Institute of African American Research. The two-day conference examined the political, cultural and historical aspects of the black experience in South America. A selection of Latin Jazz from the students of Durham High School for the Arts kicked off the conference, followed by a keynote address by George Reid Andrews from the University of Pittsburgh. Andrews, using the research gathered for his recent book, *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (Oxford Press), reviewed the broader economic, political, and social trends affecting Black communities in the Spanish and Portuguese speaking Americas.

A panel of scholars exploring Black Activism and Public Policy in Latin America opened the second day of the conference. Presenters included Ollie Johnson (Wayne State University), Sonia Beatriz Dos Santos (U of Texas-Austin), and Athayde Motta (U of Texas-Austin). Robin Kirk of Duke's Human Rights

Initiative served as a discussant for the panel. The next conference panel was entitled Race and Culture in Another America. Lyneise Williams (UNC-Chapel Hill), Antonio Tillis (Purdue University), and Lolita Gutierrez-Brockington (UNC-Chapel Hill) presented papers on Latin American art, Afro-Colombian literature, and Afro-Bolivian culture, respectively. Tanya Golasch-Boza from UNC-Chapel Hill served as a discussant for the panel. The final panel, Afro-Colombia under the Gun, examined the grave problems affecting Black communities in Colombia. Juan Richardo Aparicio (UNC-Chapel Hill), Judith Morrison (Inter-American Dialogue), and Luis Gilberto Murillo (Lutheran World Relief) provided insight into how the civil war in Colombia impacts Afro-Colombian communities. John French of Duke's History department provided commentary on the papers.

The ISC 2005 provided an opportunity for the Carolina community to become more familiar with the Black communities of South America. The conference illuminated the history of Black settlement in the region along with the current issues faced by Afro-Latinos.

The upcoming ISC will be a special, 3-day conference held April 6-8, 2006 and will investigate *Reparations Across the Americas*. Day one of the conference will be dedicated to new scholarship (including research conducted at IAAR) on the Wilmington Race Riot of 1898 and other acts of racial terrorism elsewhere in the United States. Day two will focus on reparations for African Americans and more generally in the United States. Finally, day three will consider reparations elsewhere in the Americas and throughout the African Diaspora. Please consult the IAAR website for future information.



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