

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE CENTER FOR  
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN  
AMERICAN STUDIES OF  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT  
NEW ORLEANS

# Akuko

*Akuko* is an Igbo word for “good news” or “story”. The Igbo people are located in Western Africa.

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

FALL 2007

## From the Director's Desk

*Dr. Romanus Ejiaga*



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The 2007/08 academic year started off with two new additional staff members. Let me warmly welcome Ms. Melonee Griggs, Outreach/Program Coordinator, and Ms. Durinda Nealy, Administrative Assistant to the Center for African and African American Studies. The Africanist community had plenty of reason to rejoice, as two new faculty members joined the SUNO family and three of our colleagues received tenure and/or promotion. Our program continues to grow and thrive. Each semester, the Black Studies Program coordinates over 21 core courses in 5 departments with total enrollments of over 280 students. Currently, the Center has 5 staff members and 17 core and affiliated faculty members. The Center's faculty continues to display an impressive record of achievement in terms of publications, conference participation, awards and recognition. The role of the Africana Studies Program in teaching and mentoring of students that are enrolled in our courses each semester is crucial and it is encouraging that many core faculty are willing to go beyond the call of duty in assisting the students.

We maintain a collection of specialized books, encyclopedias, and videos on Africana

studies and related fields, as well as extensive holdings on African artifacts. Several research guides with access to electronic resources are being developed and will be available to the SUNO community and the general public in spring 2008.

The Center's extra-curricular and outreach programs are exceptionally active. We provide services to the following constituencies: K-12 teachers/educators, students, the elderly, parents, community colleges, the media, and the business community. Due to the dedication and commitment of our Center staff, and of course the cooperation of Black studies faculty and students, we were able to organize over 35 events in 2006/07. As part of the 2007 Black History Month celebration, we organized a major colloquium in collaboration with the Political Science Club entitled "Honoring Political Empowerment through African American Women's Influence in Government" that featured Donna Brazille as a keynote speaker. The range of activities and events organized by the Center compares quite favorably with those of programs and departments at other colleges and universities across the country. Our outreach program not only enjoys success in service pro-

vision, but also deals with many challenges with relative success throughout the year.

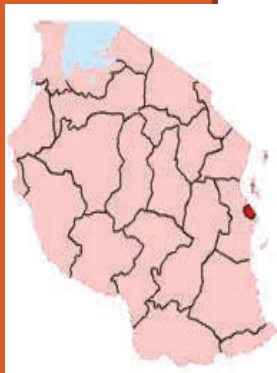
Much of our work in the Center involves raising funds from internal and external sources to finance our various activities and programs. In addition to various grants, including the Title III grant from the Department of Education, we received a new grant from the Getty Foundation for the stabilization and restoration of our African antiquities collection.

This year, the Center is planning to strengthen its programming in several ways. We plan to expand the Africana Film Series and the Cultural Diversity Workshop started last academic year. They will become an annual fall event, and jointly with the Student Development Center, we hope to enhance public knowledge and understanding of Africana history and culture. During my visit to Leiden in the Netherlands over the summer, I made contacts with officials of the Institute of African Studies and Nordiska African Institute, all of whom expressed interest in the Center's extra-curricular programming

*(Continued on page 10)*

## CAAAS Director Travels to Tanzania in Summer 2006

By Theresa Butler



Dar es Salaam is a small province in Tanzania in Eastern Africa.

For more information about the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, visit their website at [www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa](http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa) and [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps).

The University of Dar Es Salaam is considered the leading teaching and research institution on the continent of Africa.



In July 2006, Dr. Romanus Ejiaga, Director of The Center for African and African American Studies traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in Eastern Africa. Formerly known as *Mzizima*, is considered to be the largest city in Tanzania. Ejiaga was on a mission to forge institutional collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam and to develop a Kiswahili Summer Language and Culture Program for students, faculty and administrators under the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad which is apart of the U.S. Department of Education. The program provides grants to support overseas projects in areas such as training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies by teachers, undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty engaged in a common, endeavor.

Dr. Ejiaga met with top administrators from the University of Dar es Salaam: Vice Chancellor Professor Mathew Luhanga, Chief Academic Officer Professor M.H.H. Kunya, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences Professor A. Lihamba, Director of The Institute of Kiswahili Research Dr. J.G. Kiango and Director of International Academic Program and Coordinator of Kiswahili as a

Foreign language, Dr. Y.M. Kihore.

The University of Dar es Salaam is considered to be the continent of Africa's leading teaching and research institution. Established in 1930, it is entrusted with the responsibility of researching into all aspects of Kiswahili: Language, Literature and Culture. The institute is divided into four sections: Terminology and Translation; Lexicography; Linguistics, and Literature. Also, the Institute provides consultancy services which relates to Kiswahili language issues such as language planning and language choice, language in education, Kiswahili for specific purposes, and Kiswahili as a Foreign Language.

It is a public university, with an urban setting whose motto is *Hekima Ni Uhuru* ("knowledge/wisdom is freedom"). The student-body enrollment is a total of 13,000, with faculty and staff ranging at about 900 and over 400 courses taught within 6 colleges; students from other countries can obtain both an undergraduate and graduate degree.

Talks about collaboration between University of Dar es Salaam and Southern University at New Orleans were of interest during a meeting Dr. Ejiaga had with Professor Luhanga. Dr. Ejiaga also met with professors of the Institute of Kiswahili Research who

discussed their institution and program. The Institute of Kiswahili Research is now an integral part of the University of Dar es Salaam.

Gladly Dr. Kianga is interested in the CAAAS programs and activities. Both Dr. Kianga and Dr. Ejiaga agreed to explore collaborations among students and faculty within programs and believed their programs need an exchange agreement, in which they select a faculty each year to deliver a series of lectures. Delightfully, Dr. Ejiaga, agreed that the CAAAS would write a grant proposal under the Full-Bright Hays Group Project Abroad in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam in which 15 SUNO students would travel to Tanzania during the summer to study Kiswahili language and culture.

Overall, Dr. Ejiaga was extremely impressed with the programs and facilities and the idea of collaborating with the University of Dar es Salaam. He strongly suggests that SUNO take consideration in encouraging faculty, students and administrators to participate in the exchange program He believed that the trip was extremely productive on a number of levels:

*Story cont'd. bottom of page 4*

# The CAAAS Collection Moved to Mandeville

By Linda Hill

Significant museum collections from the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) located on the campus of Southern University at New Orleans required immediate removal, packaging, transportation, and storage after the damages from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The ethnographic collection was in danger of irreversible damage due to contamination from polluted water and mold growth as a result of being exposed to extremely humid conditions for over five months. The mold growth was extant and actually accelerated from August 29, 2005 until removal in February 2005. The clean up activities on the SUNO campus were scheduled to begin the week of December 12, 2005 and the collections were to be removed from the campus location into proper storage for implementing remediation. The proper storage situation changed from an initial freezing standpoint to stabilization using a clean room facility and eventually anoxic remediation. Certain procedures and materials were required to perform the move without damaging the collection, and contractors who performed the move required expertise in collections management particularly with ethnographic antiquities.

Once it was safe to enter the buildings in September 2006, a preliminary tour of all areas was set forth by the curator and a conservator provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the American Institution of Conservation. Before the artifacts were moved, a photographic documentary was made of the condition of everything in both the curator and archivist offices. The curator and conservator photographed the condition and structural damage,

making certain that the photographic images completely revealed visible impairments. The decisions concerning a rescue of the artifacts was controlled by Southern University at New Orleans administration, FEMA, and the State of Louisiana's Office of Risk Management; however the decision regarding salvageable artifacts was determined by the curator and the conservator(s) sent by FEMA between September and November 2005.



**Linda Hill, CAAAS Collections Curator, and Gus Bennett, SUNO's Electronic Digital Media Specialist, have been working together to digitally archive the collection.**

The CAAAS collection has been successfully remediated and is now located at 3037 East Causeway Approach in Mandeville, LA. Conservation measures began at the end of summer 2007 and will be managed by Conservator, Susie Seborg.

The Center for African and African American Studies has received funding assistance from the Getty Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 and an obligated project work sheet from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) worth \$95,000. All funds will be used to support the goal of preservation and cataloging the African antiquities collection.

Linda Hill, curator, is committed to restoring the collection and believes it is central to the program's purpose. "The goal of our African antiquities preservation project addresses our mission to audiences, program delivery, staffing, governance, marketing, communications, and resource development in an effort to maximize information distribution concerning the collection. This will facilitate student professional training focused on education, arts, social studies, and museum studies," she says. She also believes that the collection will also provide opportunities for travel related to innovative developments promoting new and expanded information materials about severely compromised artifacts, the value of our African heritage, and the cultural significance of African and African American contributions to world cultures. This collaboration also allows extended organizational effectiveness with improvements by conducting studies in relationship to reorganization efforts and crisis preparedness for anthropological collections.

*"Already the Negro sees himself against a reclaimed background, in a perspective that will give pride and self-respect ample scope, and make history yield for him the same values that the treasured past of any people affords." —from Arthur Schomburg's "The Negro Digs Up His Past" (1925)*



**Hill and Bill Louché, from the Smithsonian and creator of the anoxic remediation chamber, examining compromised artifacts after Hurricane Katrina.**

## CAAAS hosts Jena 6 Roundtable



On September 20th, over 50,000 people came to Jena, Louisiana to march in support of the Jena Six.

The Center for African And African American Studies hosted a roundtable discussion on the Jena Six and the prospects of a burgeoning, new millennium Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Romanus Ejiaga and Dr. George Amedee served as moderators for the discussion. The room was filled to capacity with students, faculty/staff, local and national media, and local residents who were eager to hear the reactions to those who went to the Jena 6 Protest on September 20, 2007 in Jena, LA.

Yolanda Mims, Director of Disability Services, coordinated a trip for students and faculty/staff to travel to Jena, LA and discussed SUNO's continued role in making others aware of the Jena Six. Nikkisha Napoleon, student leader, discussed the history of the Jena 6 and vocalized her feelings of being a part of such a profound movement. Dr. George Amedee discussed the historical context of the Jena 6 and how such injustices are prevalent throughout the history of African Americans in this country. He likened it to being the "Selma of our time" which was the location of Bloody Sunday: in 1965 protestors were beaten bloody by Alabama State Police on the Edmund Pettus Bridge; eventually, marchers were able to complete their peaceful march for civil rights to Montgomery, Alabama with more than 25,000 participants.

The roundtable discussion rounded out with personal testimonies from students and local elders. More events are planned for the future to keep the dialogue open and to develop solutions for social injustices.

*"So it is better to speak/ remembering/ we were never meant to survive." —from*

**Audre**

**Lorde's "A**

**Litany for**

**Survival"**

## Ejiaga's trip (continued)

1. A Group Projects Abroad proposal under the Fulbright-Hays program will be developed and submitted to the US Department of Education in October 2006 to support our overseas projects in-training, research, curriculum development or such other projects as short term seminars, and language study for students, faculty, staff and K-12 teachers;
2. A grant proposal on collaborative research is being developed.
3. The University of Dar es Salaam is developing a Memorandum of Understanding which describes the purposes and goals of the collaboration. The draft agreement will be sent to Southern University at New Orleans for review and approval.

This would definitely be a great opportunity for the Center for African and African American Studies and as well as for the SUNO community. The study abroad program will cause faculty, administrators and students to be opened to a window of new experiences. Therefore, for those who participate in study abroad programs would culturally enrich themselves in every possible way. The outcome from the collaboration between SUNO and the University of Dar es Salaam will produce future projects that would continue to build up both universities with greatness.

TB & MG (ed.)

# CAAAS Welcomes New Staff

By Theresa Butler

Southern University of New Orleans' Center for African and African American Studies wants to welcome and introduce three new staff members to the SUNO community. These individuals were chosen to be apart of the CAAAS family because they possess superior qualities; they are committed to the Center and have large amounts of energy and passion for it. We hope you will join us in making them feel welcome!



Melonee Griggs

**Mrs. Melonee Griggs** is the CAAAS' Program Coordinator at Southern University at New Orleans. Mrs. Griggs is a native of Pica-yune, Mississippi. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and her Master of Arts in English Literature from the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. Mrs. Griggs' scholarly research and interest areas include literary theory, pop culture, and African American literature from the following eras: Antebellum and Post-bellum, early Jim Crow era (1885-1915), and the Harlem Renaissance.

Contact: [MGriggs@suno.edu](mailto:MGriggs@suno.edu)

**Ms. Durinda Nealy** is a 15 year employee at Southern University at New Orleans. Ms. Nealy, who's a New Orleans native, worked mostly with the Purchasing department and Public Relations before coming to the CAAAS.



Durinda Nealy

Contact: [dnealy@suno.edu](mailto:dnealy@suno.edu)



Susie Seborg

**Ms. Susie Seborg** is the CAAAS' Conservator at Southern University at New Orleans. Ms. Seborg, who's a native of Santa Barbara, California, earned a bachelor's of Arts in Fine Art from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and a Master of Arts with a Certificate of Advanced Study Art Conservation from Buffalo State College. Aside from being conservator for the CAAAS, Ms. Seborg is president of *Susie Seborg Art Conservation (LLC 2006)*, which specializes in the conservation of artworks and artifacts.



## *Interested in the African American Studies Minor?*



African American Studies minor provides an interdisciplinary study of the Black experience in Africa and the Americas. The minor is designed to bring together students from diverse backgrounds and curricula who share a common interest in the global experience of African people. It is intended for students interested in exploring aspects of the Black Experience in ways that relate to their own major field of study. Students who declare a minor in African American Studies need to complete 18 credit hours of course work covering at least two different disciplines and including the following:

### **Required Courses (12 credit hours)**

- ✦ African American History (HIST 351)
- ✦ African American History (HIST 352)
- ✦ History of Africa (HIST 354)
- ✦ Introduction to African and African American Studies (HUMA 110)

### **Elective Courses**

**Category A: *Three hours*** may be selected from the following 100 or 200 level courses or other approved courses from various departments in consultation with program director. (ENGL 255, ENGL 256, ENGL 257, EDGN 276, ENGL 258, MUSC 244, SOCL 221, HUMA 314, HUMA 315, GEO 111, SOWK 270)

**Category B: *Three hours*** selected from upper division courses in consultation with program director (FIAR 354, FIAR 450, FIAR 489, FREN 440, HIST 306, HIST 351, HIST 352, HIST 354, HIST 355, HIST 356, HIST 359, HIST 375, HIST 405, HIST 407, HIST 409, HIST 411, HIST 412, HIST 416, HIST 470, HIST 475, HUMA 451, HUMA 453, INTL 460, PHIL 314, POLI 310, POLI 390, POLI 430, POLI 432, PSYC 344, SOCL 320, SOCL 340, SOCL 346). The sequence of lower- and upper-division courses gives the student a well-balanced analysis of the varied aspects of the Black past.

For more information, contact Dr. Romanus Ejiaga,  
Director of the Center for African and African American Studies, at 504-286-5006.

## Annual Kwanzaa Celebration to be included in the 2007 Ma'afa Awareness Week Itinerary

This year, the annual Kwanzaa festival will be incorporated with SUNO's first ever Ma'afa Awareness Week. Ma'afa is a Kiswahili term that means "great catastrophe", "injustice", "terrible occurrence" and typically refers to the tragedy African peoples endured during the Middle Passage and the years expanding beyond. This year, the CAAAS is hoping that we all observe the legacy and struggles of African peoples across the World and understand the relevance of our programming and festival offerings:

Monday, November 26 (9am-11am)

- Genealogist Antoinette Harrell will present a lecture and cultural activity with the students of Sophie B. Wright Middle School. Transportation will be provided for SUNO faculty, staff, and students interested in attending this outreach event.

Tuesday, November 27 (11am-12:30pm)

- "To Be Black: Reflections from African and African American perspectives" featuring Royce Osborn's short film "Spirits of Congo Square" (reception to follow).

Wednesday, November 28

- Cultural Diversity Day Forum—**THEME:** *The Posture of Responsibility Relating to Cultural and Political Interpretations and Representations of Cultures, Especially African Americans Today;* in Bldg. 43 from 9-11am
- Local author, Deborah Cotton, to do a presentation on her new book, Notes from New Orleans, "a first person comic-tragic account of life in New Orleans post Katrina."

Thursday, November 29 (9am-1pm)

- 2007 Kwanzaa Festival (food, vendors, activities, displays, blood drive, and gifts)

**For more information, contact Melonee Griggs, Program Coordinator for CAAAS, at 504-286-5004.**

## 2008 Black History Month Proposals



**SUNO's 2008 Black History Month will be memorable!**

The planning for 2008 Black History Month has already begun but we can make this year even more memorable with your help. Featured speakers include Amiri Baraka, Molefi Asante, and Maxine

Waters; artistic and afrocentric photo displays by SUNO's very own, Gus Bennett; a discussion with local personality "Uptown Angela" Watson of Q93 on what it is like to be a Black female in the radio industry; and entertainment and revelry with The Rebirth Brass Band. Food, fun, and knowledge will be packed in this exciting month.

We are also commissioning a local artist to fashion a commemorative poster that will be distributed to the

SUNO community. On the back will be the 2008 Black History Month Calendar.

So, if you are interested in proposing and/or submitting ideas to our Black History Month calendar, please contact Melonee Griggs, Program Coordinator for the Center for African and African American Studies at 504-286-5004 or stop by the Center in Building 16B. Deadline for Proposals is **December 17, 2007.**

# CAAAS Affiliated Faculty Activities

By Theresa Butler

Spring 2007 was very busy for the affiliated faculty of the Center for African and African American Studies. The faculty, which is comprised of professors from diverse disciplines, took the time to discuss their academic activities outside the SUNO classroom.

**Dr. Romanus Ejiaga**, Associate Professor of Africana Studies/History and Director of the Center for African and African American Studies is currently formulating a new book project, titled *"Dynamics of Diplomacy and War in Pre-Colonial Africa"*. The book manuscript which has been accepted by the Edwin Mellen Press for publication examines the importance of military affairs in pre-colonial Igbo-land of Southern Nigeria within the larger framework of African history, society, and culture. His article on *"HBCUs in New Orleans After Hurricane Katrina"* has also been accepted by the editorial board of the *Africana Studies Review* for publication. He was a panelist on "Making and Mediating Diasporas" at the Diasporic Counterpoint Conference, sponsored by Northwestern University in Chicago, April 20-21, 2007. He attended the AEIGIS European Conference on African Studies in Leiden, Netherland from July 9-16, 2007 and led a discussion on the "dynamics of cross-border regionalism in Africa". He was named to the editorial review board of the *Academy of Educa-*

*tional History Journal* of Abia State University, Nigeria in fall 2006. He is founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Africana Studies Review* (ISSN 1555-9246), an annual scholarly journal which welcomes research on important issues that transcend the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines. As the first volume of the *Africana Studies Review* goes to press, board members are already looking toward the next edition. He also serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of New Orleans Historical and Cultural Review*.

**Norbert Davidson**, Associate Professor of Print Journalism and English, spent his time during the spring developing The Center of Comprehensive Communication, which is located in building 28C on SUNO's north campus. At the Center for Comprehensive Communication, students can get tutored in writing, reading, and mathematics.

**Dr. Lenus Jack**, Associate Professor of History, and **Dr. Jean Belkhir**, Associate Professor of Sociology, held the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Race, Gender, and Class conference in conjunction with American Sociological Association Sociologist for Women in Society (SWS). The focus was on natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina and the devastating tsunamis in Asia. Also, at the students' requests, Dr. Jack has also coordinated a study abroad program to the Caribbean, which will be held Decem-

ber 16-23, 2007. Additional information can be found at

[www.caribbeanhistoryabroad.net](http://www.caribbeanhistoryabroad.net). Dr. Jack also has a project called *New Africa Project*, which deals with the anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade.

**Dr. George Amedee**, Professor of Political Science, submitted two papers for publication: "Lessons from Katrina: Assessing Governmental Responses from a Public Policy and Administration Perspective" to *Africana Studies Review* (Summer 2007) and "The Relevance of the Social Sciences Instruction to the Praxis" to *Journal of Urban Education* (Summer 2007). On March 2, Dr. Amedee made a presentation at the Louisiana-Mississippi Political Science Association Conference in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His presentation was titled, "Chocolate City: Why the Political Pundits could not foresee Mayor Ray Nagin's Victory?". On April 25, he was a participant in a roundtable discussion called "Cultural Perspective of Africans and African-Americans in America" which focused on the obstacles and contributions within the African and African American community.

**Dr. Felix James**, Professor of History, prepared an article to be published in the *Africana Studies Review* entitled, "Origins of Southern University at New Orleans." He continues to work on the History of SUNO project. He also attended the Race, Gender,

and Class Conference, February 1-4, 2006 in New Orleans. Dr. James found time to serve on the following boards: the Center for African and African American Studies Faculty Advisory Board; Southern University at New Orleans Board of Directors; the Leadership Council of the Southern Poverty Law Center; Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Louisiana; Scholarship Foundation of New Orleans Board of Directors; Community Education Advisory Board; Editorial Boards of the following journals: *Africana Studies Review*; *Journal of Race, Gender and Class*, and *New Orleans Historical & Cultural Review*. For his tremendous contributions to the community, SUNO's Academic Affairs gave him its Community Service Award and was again selected to receive the Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. James holds membership in the following organizations: Lifetime member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History; Member, Southern Historical Association; and 33<sup>rd</sup> degree, Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons.

**Dr. Jean Ait Belkhir**, Associate Professor of Sociology, is currently working on a book entitled *The Struggle for Social Justice: Understanding the Intersection of Race, Gender and Class*.

**Dr. Sara Hollis**, Professor and Director of Museum Studies, had four art works in an exhibition at the Stella Jones Gallery featuring the Beecher Memorial Quilt Group in December 2006-January 2007. She was a speaker for Women's Day on Southern University at New Orleans



## Faculty Activities (cont'd.)

north campus in March. Her topic was the *History of Women in Art*. Dr. Hollis wrote and submitted a grant to the Community Outreach Grants Program sponsored by The Jazz and Heritage Foundation in the spring for an exhibition to be held in the fall at the New Orleans African American Museum.

**Dr. Rose Duhon-Sells**, Professor of Education and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, attended both The National Association of Multicultural Education and National Association for Peace Education conferences. She is also both founder and the first president for both associations. Dr. Duhon-Sells presented two papers for publication to *The Journal of Urban Education* and *Education Journal* from Albany State University; topics for the papers Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Duhon-Sells also has two books that were published: [The Devastating Impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Health and Education: Voices of the Children](#) (March 2007) and [Cancer: My Gift Self Actualization Changing the Diagnosis of Cancer from Tragedy to a Gift](#) (May 2007). She also organized two book reviews on John Joseph's "A Country Boy Becomes Mayor" and Tony Clayton's "Eyes on You."

**Dr. Igwe Udeh**, Dean of Business and Public Administration, presented a research paper (published proceedings) in January titled "Centralized vs. Decentralized Disaster Management System: Preliminary Assessment of College Student's Perspective on Hurricane Katrina," at The International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines in Orlando Florida.

With accreditation, Dr. Udeh attended the 2007 AACSB Deans Conference, in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 7-9. He and **Dr. Samuel Eweni** attended the Southwest Regional HBCU Business Deans Roundtable, in Houston, Texas on February 15-16. Dr. Udeh was National Judge at the 2007 Miller Urban Entrepreneur' Business Plan Competition in Chicago, Illinois February 23-26. On Southern University at New Orleans' north campus, he helped to coordinate the spring 2007 College of Business Student Assembly on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Udeh and Frank Martin met with AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) Pre-Accreditation committee Chair (PAC), Dr. Mark Rice, in Tampa Florida on April 23 to discuss the status of SUNO's AACSB Eligibility Application; as a result, Dr. Udeh and Martin would later submit a revised application to the AACSB. While there, he also attended the "AACSB International Conference & Annual Meeting".

**Dr. John Penny**, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and one of the founders of the Crime Summit, met twice in February with the Crime Summit Committee to discuss their ongoing efforts in continuing best practices as they relate to police, courts and corrections. He serves as co-chair of this committee and is local consultant/expert on topics such as criminal matters. Because of his activism with this local organization, Dr. Penny had an interview by telephone with "60 minutes", a CBS televised show. The Crime Summit also brought in National Consultants to work on decreasing the incarceration rate and crime

statistics in the city of New Orleans. He attended the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Race, Gender and Class conference and presented on culture and crime. In March, Dr. Penny gave an interview with Channel 8 on Criminology and the Crime problems in the city of New Orleans. He published an article entitled "Mentoring African American Women in Higher Education Administration" which was submitted to the *Journal on Race, Gender and Class*. Another publication in which he published was "Impact of Culture and Violence on Delinquency." Dr. Penny attended three seminars on issues regarding the Universities Rebuilding America Program (URAP) grant. In April, Dr. Penny presented at the African and African American Forum and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual NAPE conference. He also received an award from Mayor Ray C. Nagin, declaring this particular day, "Men of Social Work Day." In the month of May, along with members of Entrepreneurship Program for Released Inmates, they were awarded a grant of \$124,000.00. He was appointed a member of Odyssey House Advisory Board and called upon FOX 8 channel news to discuss the recent raid on a local gun shop and how it would impact crime in the metro area of New Orleans. From the Crime Summit, they developed the Literacy Learning Center, which is located on Tulane and Broad Avenue. Also, the committee developed a group called The Day Reporting Center, which helps inmates with their individualistic and personal needs, instead of demarcating them into a stigmatized category. When asked what education means to him, Dr. Penny stated, "It's an alternative,

**It's a fact: Faculty who are involved in research and networking! professional activities outside of their classroom add to the improved quality of education for their students and reputation of their institution.**

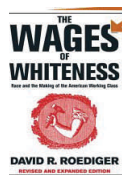
gives you alternative; provides options and alternatives. [If you] redirect the educational focus, then the crime would decrease incredibly. Conflict-Resolution should be taught in all schools; it should be required. Therefore, with knowledge of conflict resolution in grade schools: students can be able to speak with each other without being physical and students can talk in a civilized manner." We, here at the CAAAS, couldn't agree more.





# CAAAS Book Recommendations

## Social Studies/History



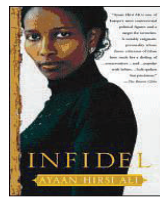
- The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class by David Roediger

- America,

Amerikka: Elect National and Imperial Violence by Rosemary Radford Ruether

- Forced Into Glory: Abraham Lincoln's White Dream by Lerone Bennett

• The Paradox of Loyalty: An African American Response to the War on Terror by Julianne Malveaux and Regina Green (eds.)



- Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- Swing the Sickle for the Harvest Is Ripe: Gender and Slavery

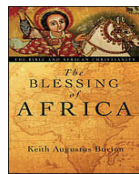
in Antebellum Georgia by Daina Berry

- Being a Black Man: At the Corner of Progress and Peril by Washington Post, Kevin Merida, and Edward P. Jones

• Blue-Chip Black: Race, Class, and Status in the New Black Middle Class (George Gund Foundation Imprint in African American Studies) by Karyn R. Lacy

- Once You Go Black: Choice, Desire, and the Black American Intellectual (Sexual Cultures) by Robert Reid-Pharr

## Religion



- The Blessing of Africa: The Bible and African Christianity by Keith Augustus Burton

- Preaching With Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African

American Sermons, 1750 to the present by Gardner C. Taylor, Martha Simmons, and Frank A. Thomas

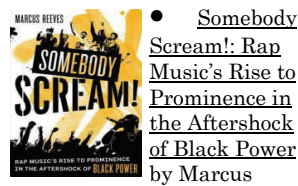
- African Americans and the Christian Churches (1619-1860) by Lawrence Neal Jones

• Diaspora Conversions: Black Carib Religion and the Recovery of Africa by Paul Christopher Johnson

- After Redemption: Jim Crow and the Transformation of African American Religion in the Delta, 1875-1915 by John M. Giggie

## Music

- Cross the Water Blues: African American Music in Europe by Neil A. Wynn



Reeves

- Slave Songs and the Birth of African American Poetry by Lauri Ramey

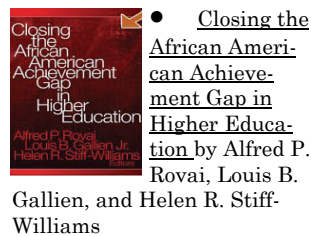
• Feeding the Soul: Black Music, Black Thought by Diane Turner

• Where Did Our Love Go?: The Rise and Fall of the Motown Sound by Nelson George and Quincy Jones

- Bob Marley by Kwame Dawes

• Western Music and Race by Julie Brown

## Education



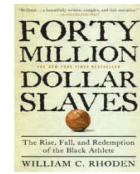
- Closing the African American Achievement Gap in Higher Education by Alfred P. Rovai, Louis B. Gallien, and Helen R. Stiff-Williams

• Religious Education in the African American Tradi-

tion: A Comprehensive Introduction by Kenneth H. Hill

- Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture) by Heather Andrea Williams

## Sports



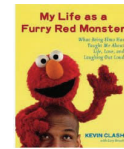
C. Rhoden

- Forty Million Dollar Slaves: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Black Athlete by William C. Rhoden
- The Black Aces: Baseball's Only African American Twenty-Game Winners by Jim "Mudcat" Grant, Tom Sabellico, and Pat O'Brien

## Literature

- Fear of the Dark by Walter Mosley

• Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai



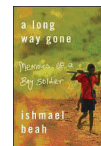
• My Life as a Furry Red Monster by Kevin Clash and Gary Brozek

• Daughters of Men: Portraits of African American Women and their Fathers by Rachel Vassel

• Like Trees, Walking by Ravi Howard

• The King of Colored Town by Darryl Wimberley

• The Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah



List compiled by Melonee Griggs and Theresa Butler

October 2007

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Black History Facts for October

- } Oct. 2—Alexander T. August is the first Black Major and surgeon in the Civil War.
- } Oct. 4—*New Orleans Tribune* first published in 1864 in both French and English.
- } Oct. 9—Morgan State College founded in 1869.
- } Oct. 11—Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- } Oct. 19—Paul Robeson premieres as *Othello* in 1943.
- } Oct. 29—The Supreme Court orders schools to end segregation immediately,

November 2007

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Black History Facts for November

- } Nov. 7—Supreme Court outlaws the segregation of recreational facilities
- } Nov. 15—The African American Episcopal Church founded in 1787
- } Nov. 20—Discrimination outlawed in federally funded housing
- } Nov. 28—In 1958, the African Republics of Chad, Congo, and Mauritania gain autonomy within the French Union, one step closer to independence.
- } Nov. 29—The first issue of the *Chicago Defender* published.

December 2007

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Black History Facts for December

- } Dec. 1—Montgomery bus boycott starts in 1955.
- } Dec. 3—*The North Star* first published by Frederick Douglass in 1847.
- } Dec. 7—Antonio Maceo y Grajales dies as a martyr in the fight for Cuban independence from Spain in 1896.
- } Dec. 11—P.B.S. Pinchback is elected as acting governor of Louisiana in 1872
- } Dec. 24—African American platoons hold position in the Battle of New Orleans.

# Black Web Resources

**AFRICAN AUSTRALIAN ONLINE RESOURCE**

<http://www.africanoz.com.au/>  
 This website is what it says: "African Australian Online Resource"! It is for anyone from any background regardless to come and share and learn the rich heritage of the African Australian down under!

**ALL AFRICA**

<http://allafrica.com/>  
 This website covers topics such as economics, politics, health, education, entertainment, and religion

within the African continent.  
**BBC AFRICA**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/africa>  
 This website is a guide to political, economic, and cultural topics covering the African continent.

**BBC CARRIBEAN**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/>  
 This website is about the issues and topics with the everyday Caribbean life.

**BLACK AMERICA WEB**

<http://www.blackamericaweb.com>  
 A website devoted to news that matters most to African

Americans and home to the Tom Joyner Morning Show.

**Black Britain**

[www.blackbritain.co.uk/](http://www.blackbritain.co.uk/)  
 This website is a guide to the social, political, and artistic activities of Blacks in Great Britain.

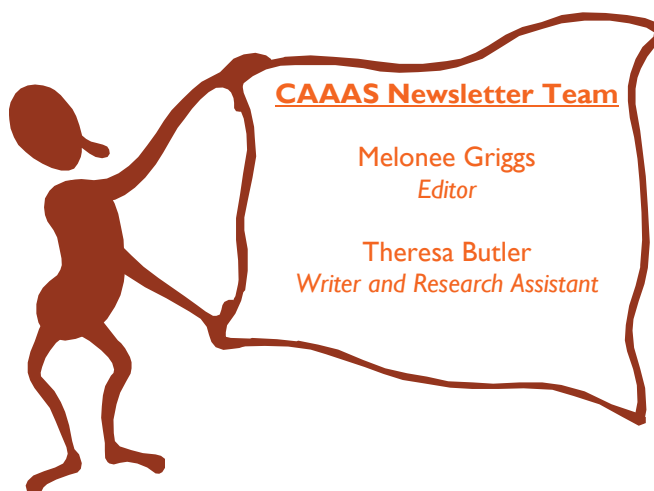
**Yale University Library AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS ONLINE**

<http://www.library.yale.edu/african/newspapers.html#yale>  
 This is an online resource guide to 40 African newspapers.

MG & TB (eds.)

The official newsletter for The Center for African and African American Studies of Southern University at New Orleans

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## From the director's desk

*(from page 1)*

and in working collaboratively with the Center on matters of mutual interest.

I am also pleased to announce the various programs and events that the Center has put together this academic year: they include a special roundtable on Jena 6 scheduled for October 2, 2007; the annual Kwanzaa and Black History Month activities that are planned for November 29, 2007 and February 7-28, 2008 respectively; Africana film series; curriculum workshops for K-12 schools; and several Center publications.

Let me take the opportunity to thank the Center staff and members of the CAAAS Faculty Advisory Board particularly, Dr. Rose Duhon-Sells, Dr. George Amedee, Dr. Brenda Jackson, Dr. Felix James, Dr. Sara Hollis, Mr. Charlie Johnson, Mr. Norbert Davidson, Dr. Chester Mills, Dr. Simeon Okpechi, Dr. Igwe Ude, Mr. Sam Eweni, Ms. Evelyn Harrell, Dr. Lenus Jack, and Dr.

## CAAAS Archives Update

The archives have been successfully removed from the Leonard Washington Library (SUNO's South Campus) and is now housed in a trailer on the North Campus. The Center for African and African American Studies has submitted requi-



sitions to start negotiations, and a contract for beginning remediation procedures.

CAAAS continues to invite faculty and staff of SUNO to deposit their papers in the Archives. We will appreciate published and unpublished works.