

Director

Dr. Stephanie Y. Mitchem

Faculty

Dr. Andrew Billingsly

Dr. Bobby Donaldson

Dr. Kent Germany

Dr. Todd Shaw

Dr. Kimberly Simmons

Dr. Patricia Sullivan



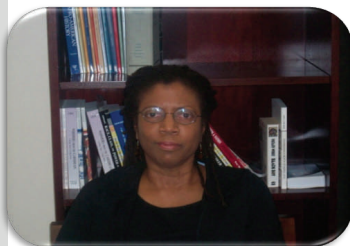
University of South Carolina

African American Studies
202 Flinn Hall
Columbia, SC 29208

THE VOICE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Director's Notes



In the five months since I began as Director of the African American Studies Program, I find more ways that the Program might grow, more people with ideas to develop, and more projects that need finishing. With that said, I believe that the future of the African American Studies Program is exciting, with new horizons to reach.

African American Studies is itself a discipline that looks at all aspects of African American life with particular theories and methodologies that have developed since it began forty years ago. It is not simply a study of race or racism. While African Americans are at the center of the studies, it is not just about or for black people. Instead, African American Studies works to locate black people in the real contexts of their lives. African American Studies is a full American story.

Certainly, there is much to learn here in the state of South Carolina. Black people have significant roles in the life of the state, across history, in both the past and the present; these people with South Carolina roots have influenced life across the United States. There are many stories yet to tell. Over the years, the research aspects of African American Studies have expanded to include studies of the African Diaspora, the other lands where Africans were taken during the Middle Passage. There are more stories to tell.

African American Studies is a discipline but it is interdisciplinary. Ideas from literature, sociology, education, music, anthropology, art, or history (to name just a few disciplines) become opportunities to explore the contributions or conflicts of black lives in other ways.

So, I mentioned the future of USC's African American Studies Program. Here are a few things to expect. The core faculty of the Program and I are working together to improve and expand our class offerings. We are looking for more ways to

involve more students in research or other events.

The Annual Robert Smalls Lecture will continue and we hope to improve it. This year the lecture is scheduled for March 25, 2009 and the invited speaker is economist and currently the President of Bennett College, Dr. Julianne Malveaux. We are hoping to have other events scheduled around the time of the lecture itself. Because we are interdisciplinary, we are working to build collaborations across the campus and the state. In this same way, we are finding more ways to work in and with the community of Columbia and across South Carolina. We are working to bring other programs to the University community. More information coming on these soon, so stay tuned.

The "core faculty" I mentioned are: Dr. Andrew Billingsley, Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Dr. Kent Germany, Dr. Todd Shaw, and Dr. Kimberly Simmons. (Dr. Patricia Sullivan is on sabbatical.) Two other faculty members have adjunct status but are important to the Program and these are Dr. Chris Leevy Johnson and Dr. Larry Watson.

“The professors cared about my academic, social and professional growth. The personal connections I made with them and my classmates were genuine and life long”



-Lonnesse Williams, Senior, Political Science

If Pots Could Talk: The Life of Dave the Potter

If pots could talk, they would tell a story of a man named David Drake who was more affectionately known as “Dave the Potter”. Most researchers and scholars claim Dave was born a slave in Edgefield sometime around 1800. He was a man with such a bold and courageous spirit and the proof shines through pottery. He practiced and mastered his skill by the 1820’s and now his stoneware is widely sought after because his distinctive pieces are some 25 - 40 gallons in size.

Although it was illegal and punishable by law for slaves to learn to read and write, Dave did both. Some of his most precious pieces are inscribed with his own personal words of poetry. As of date, thirty poems have been documented. Dave died in the 1870’s, and since his works have been selling to large bidders including collectors and admirers of his pottery.

Dave was the most valuable and productive potter during his times. His pots were sold throughout South Carolina and into Georgia. Dave’s work reveals some about himself and more about the culture of African Americans. His work has survived not only because of the nature of the material he used but because of the care, craftsmanship and detail

In 2000, the McKissick Museum first curated and organized a traveling exhibition honoring the master potter called *“I made this jar...The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-*

Today, the McKissick Museum houses an amazing collection of Edgefield pottery and one of Dave’s large stoneware jars made on August 24, 1857.

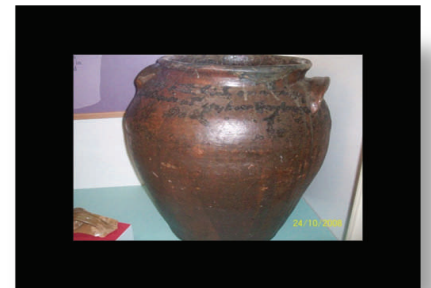
On October 23rd, the African American Studies Program and the McKissick Museum proudly welcomed Leonard Todd to the university. Todd, popularly known as a historian, ceramic enthusiast and author, soon became fascinated by Dave and his wondrous pottery creations and, too, with his own family history and relationship with the potter.

Todd’s great-great grandfather, Lewis Miles, owned Dave. His curiosity has inspired him to write a book he entitled *Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave* released from press just this October. He spoke to an enthusiastic crowd about his new text. In an interview afterward, he said, “I knew if I was to tell his story accurately, I needed to have the stories assessable to me...I have been stunned by the adventure my research has taken me on.” When asked why such a book and museum exhibition about Dave’s life and pottery is so important, Todd remarks that all the time and energy invested in understanding Dave and his pottery is a way of honoring him. Todd went on to say, “Dave’s bravery and

artistry will go abroad because he is a great African American hero.” More information about Dave and Mr. Todd’s research efforts can be found by searching the internet at www.digitaltraditions.net/ and www.leonardtodd.com/index.php?page_id=288.



Mr. Todd addresses audience at McKissick Museum



Dave’s pot believed to have been made in 1858.



Dave’s pottery shown here on display during Todd’s book signing session. His work is soon to be on display at the McKissick Museum.

Historic Foundation Honors Faculty and His Students

Who ever knows what secrets lie in a book? Well, when Dr. Bobby Donaldson received an autographed book and the personal papers of Celia Saxon, he uncovered more than a few secrets. Celia Saxon was born into slavery in 1857 but went on to pursue a career as a teacher. Her career spanned over 57 years, many of which she taught at Booker T. Washington high school.

In 1974, a school named in honor of Saxon was torn down as a result of the university's ambitions to expand. The school was built on the same grounds that now serves as home to the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Canter. This past spring faculty member Dr. Bobby Donaldson led a group of dynamic students on a research project that brought light to Columbia's own historic Ward 1 neighborhood. The Ward 1 Reunion Organization members collaborated with the students to provide them with insights that could not be

found in any research text. The neighborhood has mostly been described as "displaced", but the students were able to gather valuable information and materials. Their oral histories and photographs helped to bring much deserved recognition to the neighborhood. Their efforts even helped to install a historic maker at the former Saxon School here on campus.

This past October, Dr. Donaldson and his students were honored with the Helen Kohn Hennig Award by the Historic Columbia Foundation. The award is presented to an individual or group who has made significant contributions to our understanding of the rich and diverse history of Columbia or Richland County through research and scholarship reflecting the highest standards of excellence.



Dr. Bobby Donaldson and his students



Dr. Donaldson and his students



Dr. Donaldson and the Ward 1 Reunion Organizers

Extra Credit Opportunity Reveals Family History

Freshman Jordan Cooper found Minuette Floyd's exhibit "This Far By Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, An African American Tradition" at the McKissick Museum to be much more than an extra credit opportunity.

This exhibit showcases black and white photos of African American campgrounds in rural South Carolina. These campgrounds, established by slaves, served as religious safe havens well after the Emancipation. While visiting the exhibit, Cooper found himself shocked to see that his family's church, St. Paul's Camp-

ground in Harleyville, South Carolina featured in the exhibit. The church is now pastored by Cooper's uncle.

Cooper remarks that seeing this exhibit made a very "powerful statement of religion in African American life." He also notes that while these photos were in black and white, knowing that he was viewing a part of his personal history made the photos "shine like a rainbow."

Cooper's experience at Floyd's exhibit highlights the types of connections African American Studies courses help students make in order to have a better understanding of the

historical value African American history and tradition has on America and its identity. As a student in AFRO 202, Cooper was able to connect his scholastic endeavors to his personal life. In his final remarks, Cooper notes that he is "finally able to understand what Sankofa is really about."



St. Paul AME Campground

“The function of the university is not simply to teach breadwinning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a centre of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.”

*-W.E.B. DuBois,
Educator, Activist*

The election of Barack Hussein Obama to the Presidency of the United States of America is a historic moment for Americans. The fact that a black man will now live in a white house where once black men were only permitted as servants is a strong sign for how far America has come in the more than a hundred years since slavery, and only a generation or two removed from the civil rights movement of the 1960's.

The expectations of many Americans that this election will abruptly end racial prejudices and cure the racial injustices that have perpetrated much of our history are overly optimistic. His post is limited in power. He is only constitutionally able to do so much, and without much leeway to deal with the problems of society. The government can only do so much to provoke change in

society. It has been great men like Dr. King who have prompted much of the needed changes in legislation to incite many of these positive transformations. The rest of the work needs to be done outside the halls of government and on the streets of our communities, changing the personal attitudes and opinions of some Americans, both black and white. This is where the most important work needs to be done to finally close the racial disparities, and it is likely outside the scope of an Obama administration.

There is a lot of hope that the Obama presidency will be able to effect positive change within American society, and I hope he does; however, I feel that if people are looking to their president to end society's problems they are looking in the wrong place. Obama needs to focus on responsibly ending the wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan helping to fix our current financial crisis, and making a college education a more realistic goal for more American high school students. These are problems that can potentially be helped with better legislation and effective executive leadership.

I believe that ending America's racial issues is outside the reach of further presidential action. Obama's election was not a confirmation of the end of racism. Obama is the first President to self identify as African American. He was elected to be America's president, and it would be a shame if the most important part of his legacy is simply being the first African American president.

Hopefully, he will be remembered for skillfully steering our country into a new era of prosperity, and stand in history as a great president, not simply the first African American president.

President Barack Obama: The Face of a Newly Defined Nation

When Junior Illinois Senator, Barack Obama, stepped onto the scene as a Democratic candidate for the nation's highest office, many asked, "Who is he?" Well, some 13 months later, we now have our answer.

November 4th was the day the news rang from coast to coast as the news broadcasted across every major cable news network and most local channels. He is our next president, and the nation's first African American ever to hold the office. People from all over— Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and even Kenya - danced and cried with joy and probably some relief. As much as our on to the nation may differ in race, age, national origin, religious practices and beliefs, millions rallied around the new contender and supported him along this rough journey, past all the controversy onto the White House. It is a title,

an office, an honor given by a grateful nation of citizens to a man who gave us the courage to believe and to chant "Yes, we can". Over 65,000,000 million Americans voted for Obama and such a mark on history speaks of the love for our nation, belief in America's goodness and our own strength.

With a 70% approval rate, President (elect) Obama and Vice- President (elect) Senior Senator from Delaware, Joe Biden, will surely become the faces of our newly defined nation and continue make decision that define America in the 21st century.



President-Elect Barack Obama

Untitled

Look into the eyes of a panther (BLACK)
 You can see the heart of a martyr
 Behind him are his wife and his daughters
 And in front... is the **Black Culture** that the **Social Contract** slaughtered
 Talkin 'bout **Natural Rights** and **Natural Order**
 Look where their ideas of inferiority brought us
 Look at what the lack for TRUE black history taught us
 To sell our souls, so our teeth are gold
 Live only for today, cuz we won't make 'til we old
 No push for education
 Now look...its devastation
 Welfare and Affirmative Action
 Another perpetual Hook-A-Black Man-Transaction...and they got you
 So now your grandkids', grandkids will OWE them too
 But it's hard to see the truth through the veil
 Pudding diggin' for the proof can be hell
 Sensory overload of the youth leads to jail
 Cuz all a BLACK MAN can do is shoot or sell
 And the women just reproduce and weigh the scales
 But I propose a new REVOLUTION of the mind
 Seeing through a new resolution and time
 Because the cycle can be broken if WE try
 To uncover the truth beneath the lies
 And live our lives as if tomorrow never dies
 And stop continuing to fuel the FIRE of our demise
 Lift our heads high and look into the skies
 To understand that in our hearts and minds lives the prize

Denver Murphy, Freshman, African American Studies

Local Elementary Students Offers President-Elect Obama Helpful Advice

There was a roaring enthusiasm among the student body population at Meadowfield Elementary School this past Tuesday. The students just returned from a two day break for Election Day.

One 5th grade teacher encouraged students to write a letter to President-Elect Barack Obama as a way to become actively involved in this historic happening in our country's history. Some wrote letters of advice, suggesting President-Elect Obama create a plan of action for the "homeless that are barely surviving" nationwide. Others suggested "good jobs should be brought back" to our home soil. One artistic student just wrote a warm "Good Luck!" along with a picture of the future president of our nation.

Many people across the nation and the world have applauded Obama for his efforts to gain the presidency because he was able to successfully rally young voters to support his call for change. The nation's new president has the support of the younger students at Meadowfield, too. Obama won by an overwhelming margin in a school wide election that took place a week before he won the bid for the presidency.

Located in Richland County District 1, Meadowfield offers a unique learning environment to its students and their families. In January, the school will become South Carolina's first Padeia academy.

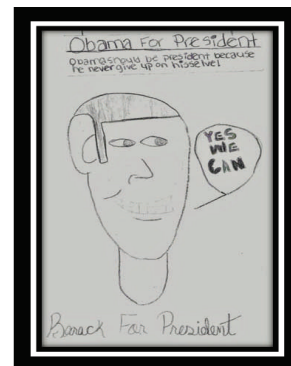
The Grace Jordan McFadden Fellowship Fund

The African American Studies Program is pleased to announce the establishment of The Grace Jordan McFadden Fellowship Fund in honor of Dr. Grace Jordan McFadden. Dr. Jordan McFadden was the first African American woman to be hired here at the university as a fulltime professional. Her legacy of research, service and teaching is one the program honors by presenting two (2) \$500 awards to students based on their academic excellence and scholarly growth.



All nominees must:
 — provide evidence of financial
 — need have a GPA of at least 3.5 (in two AFRO courses)
 — be in their 3rd year of study
 — fill out award application

*Note: Nominee does not have to be AFRO major; however, majors and/or minors will be given first consideration. Applications are available at the African American Studies office, 202 Flinn Hall.



"It is because of this program and its supportive faculty, I am as driven as I am today. The program gave me a solid academic foundation, I am grateful that they challenged me to stretch my thinking and grow in the process."



*-Crystal Felima, 2008,
African American
Studies*

CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

"This Far by Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, An African American Tradition"

August 23, 2008 – March 14, 2009

www.cas.sc.edu/mcks/

Location: McKissick Museum

University of South Carolina
816 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

The exhibition is one of the museum's newest fall display focusing on the photography and video footage captured the one of the university's art faculty member, Minuette Floyd. The presentation captures portrays the religious traditions and folk culture of both South Carolina and North Carolina.

"Forgotten Stories: South Carolina in the Great War"

November 9, 2007 - December 5, 2009

Times: Tuesday - Saturday 10 am- 5 pm, First Sunday 1- 5 pm

www.crr.sc.gov/exhibitions/current/

Location: SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum

301 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 737-8095

The exhibit focuses on the often overlooked aspects of South Carolinians in WWI, including involvement of African Americans and women.

"From Here to Timbuktu"

January 20, 2007 - January 31, 2009

Times: Tuesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday Noon - 5 pm

www.edventure.org

Location: EdVenture Children's Museum

211 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 779-3100

This exhibition takes visitors on a journey through West Africa's spectacular and diverse geographic regions. Along the way children and adults are immersed in an adventure of discovery as they learn about the rhythm of West African life.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

University of South Carolina College of Education presents**“So their voices will never be forgotten”**

Public readings of works by Septima Clark, J.A. DeLaine, and other educators who fought for civil rights and social justice.

1st Wednesdays of each month, 3:00 P.M.

College of Education- Wardlaw Building

Greene and Sumter Streets

Columbia, SC 29208

Institute for African American Research Program present**“Whiting Up: Whiteface Minstrelsy and Stage Europeans in African American Performance”**

Dr. Marvin McAllister, Department of English Language and Literature

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 3:30 P.M.

Thomas Cooper Library

Conference Room 218

1322 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208

Women’s and Gender Studies Program presents**“Reflections on the 2008 Election”**

Dr. Todd Shaw, Department of Political Science

Dr. Laura Woliver, Department of Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Thursday, November 13, 2008, 3:30 P.M.

Currell College, Room 107

1305 Greene St., Columbia, SC 29208

The Institute for African American Research Co-Sponsored Lecture Series**“The Banjo in and Atlantic Context”**

Dr. Laurent Dubois, History and Romance Studies, Duke University

Monday, November 17, 2008, 2 P.M.

Currell College, Room 107

1305 Greene St., Columbia, SC 29208

2009 Civil Rights Tour: From Columbia to Montgomery to Selma to Birmingham to Atlanta

Date: January 7-10, 2009

Cost: \$75.00 (*transportation, lodging, admission fees, and daily breakfast*)

Application Due: December 1st, 2008

Applications can be picked up in the West Wing Russell House 115

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

P: 803-777-7716

E: saomsa@mailbox.sc.edu

South Carolina Council for African American Studies (SCCAAS)

Second Annual Conference: African American Studies: Remembering the Past, Relevance for the Present, Sustaining the Future”

February 6-7, 2009

SC ETV Telecommunication Center

1101 George Rogers Boulevard

Columbia, SC 29201

We Are Now Institutional Members!

FEATURED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Minority Pre-Health Students (AMPS)

Webpage: <http://web.sa.sc.edu/amphs/>

President: Aisha Martin

Meeting Schedule: Monday at 7 P.M., RH 205

Minority Assistance Peer Program (MAPP)

Webpage: <http://www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/map/index.htm>

President: Natasha Hopkins

Association of African American Students (AAAS)

Email: afam@gwm.sc.edu

President: Randy Rashad Gaines

Meeting Schedule: Wednesday, 6 P.M., RH Theater

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Email: naacp@gwm.sc.edu

President: Langston Ross

Meeting Schedule: Every other Monday, 5 P.M., RH 305

The African American Studies Program is pleased to announce that we now have an institutional membership for the South Carolina Council for African American Studies (SCCAAS).

Currently, the council president is our program's own adjunct faculty member, Dr. Larry Watson. The SCCAAS main focus is on increasing awareness of the interdisciplinary study of African American studies. Since it was first organized in 2006, the SCCAAS continues to increase its mem-

The SCCAAS has announced the theme for its 2nd annual conference: "African American Studies: Remembering the Past, Relevance for the Present, Sustaining the Future". The conference will be hosted at SC ETV Telecommunication Center here in Columbia. The keynote speaker is to be announced very soon. Please, stay tuned for more details outlining this exciting event. Online registration has already begun. Anyone interested should visit the council webpage at www.sccaas.org/index.html.

THE VOICE

University of South Carolina

African American Studies
202 Flinn Hall
Columbia, SC 29208



The mission of the African American Studies Program is to provide students with the best possible understanding of race and the African American experience, as well as the dynamics of the African Diaspora. Through the use of broad-based interdisciplinary approaches, the program will develop a student's ability to engage in analytical reasoning and critical inquiry and will prepare them to become agile thinkers and top-performing leaders in a wide range of vocations, professional programs, and academic graduate programs.

The African American Studies major offers interdisciplinary approaches to the history, culture and contemporary situations of African Americans in South Carolina, the South, the United States, and beyond. Students learn about the African background of New World black communities; the consequences and implications of the African slave trade; and the social, cultural, economic and political life of black people in the United States, from the seventeenth century to the present.

www.cas.sc.edu/afra