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Acknowledgments



To the Gathering for the Afro-Am House 35th Anniversary:

On behalf of the University, I welcome you all to this wonderful 35th celebration and to its inspiring program.

Thirty-five years ago, when the Afro-American Cultural Center was founded, Yale was caught up in the activism and tumult of the age. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 galvanized black students, and The Bobby Seale trial focused the eyes of the world on Yale during May Day weekend 1970. The issue of apartheid led to public dissent and ultimately even to arrests. The black community at Yale was caught up in a sea of societal change, and the disruptions and even tragedies that surrounded it.

Amidst all of this tumult, the Afro-Am House was created as a place where black students could develop a safe, nurturing, and vital environment where cultural diversity would be understood and respected.

Thirty-five years later, the House still provides this environment. But thirty-five years of work on the part of the House's directors and its student community have allowed a more stable and mature center to emerge. Today students still find nurture and support at the House. But they also find a wide range of highly developed cultural activities that they share with other Yalies, a well-constructed counseling program, and the opportunity to engage with students and adults from campus and community on myriad well-planned and spontaneous occasions. The House is deeply integrated into the fabric of Yale and the community as a whole.

You who are returning to Yale this weekend are responsible for making the House what it has become. Years of your work have fashioned it and set it on its present course. And the life you found here has helped you to become the people you are.

Yale is proud of its black community. It also needs your help to keep that community strong. Please allow me to welcome you here this weekend, to express my joy and satisfaction that you find the House worth celebrating, and to pledge my support in helping to sustain the House, and the African American community that cherishes it, into the next chapter of its future.

With best wishes to you all for a joyous weekend.

Richard C. Levin
President, Yale University



Greetings Yale Black Alumni and Students:

You matter. And we forge ahead to guarantee that your interests and concerns will always matter to your alma mater. Thus, it is with great pride that I welcome the alumni back to New Haven as the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale celebrates 35 proud and strong years of accomplishment.

The theme, *At the Center! Celebration, Reflection and Action*, is meant to focus on our advancement and authority at Yale and beyond; in New Haven, our own communities, the nation, and globally. We seek to pay tribute to the prolific legacy and generative influence of the Afro-American Cultural Center, (affectionately known as ‘the House’); exemplify the integrity of black thought and culture; and, as a people with an expanding diversity among us, we aspire to increase our value and resources in an interdependent and complex world.

I came to Yale in 1999 and it has been a glorious journey working with such talented students and gifted alumni and faculty. In the past five years we have strengthened alliances within and outside of the University and attempted to break new ground, which makes the House more viable, visible, vibrant, and efficient.

Currently the House works with over 25 student and community resident groups – each of them fully functioning and effective – ranging from political/ethnic, performance, Greek-lettered, and pre-professional groups. Daily, the Af/Am House is full of festivities and serious business. Each week, we accommodate approximately 320 students and New Haveners who are using the House Monday through Sunday for meetings, performances, lectures, teas, and just a place to hang and relax with friends. Activity in the House has increased exponentially due to our diversity in staffing, collaborations and inspiring programming. The House’s staff are some of the most prodigious, loving, exceptional and committed undergraduates and graduate students whom I’ve had the pleasure to work with and we pay homage to all of you who are former directors and House staff. You have brightened our path. There isn’t a moment that passes where we are not humbled by all you have created, defined and refined. With your help, our focus for the next five years is to develop stronger mentoring relationships with alumni and undergraduates, increased partnerships with graduate students, and effective community initiatives.

We have anxiously awaited this moment, the 35th Anniversary, as we take stock of our accomplishments and fortify our resolve. We have been blessed with the capable assistance of the anniversary co-chairs, Caroline Jackson-Smith, ’74 and Victor Cheers, ’74; the dedication and ingenuity of Lia Bascomb, ’05, Françoise Hamlin, ’04 PhD, Ruramisai Charumbira, GRD, ’07, Woody Brittain, ’70, Ernest Osborne, Craig Foster, ’69, Elizabeth Alexander, ’84, Brian Hodge, ’98, and Bennie F. Johnson, ’95, as well as many others who served on the alumni planning committee, the Af/Am House advisory board, House staff & undergraduate volunteers. Our gratitude is abundant for the generous monetary support, guidance and facilitation from Susan Adler and Roberta Hudson of Yale Conference Services, Jeff Brenzel and Alisa Masterson of the AYA, Nina Glickson in the President’s Office and Betty

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Trachtenberg in the Yale College Dean's Office. All of our cohorts in this endeavor have attended to extensive details to ensure that this weekend optimally combines reflection, community building, discourse, and renewal. It will also be an invaluable opportunity for participants to form, rekindle and strengthen lasting relationships among themselves, with students, the House, and the University.

We are pleased with what has been realized in the last thirty-five years and we look forward to decades more prosperity, well-being and longevity. It is an honor to serve you.

Happy Anniversary!

Pamela Y. George
Assistant Dean of Yale College;
Director, Afro-American Cultural Center

Dear Returning Alumni,

Welcome back for the 35th Celebration of the House! Over the past three years, the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) has worked with Dean and Director Pamela George, campus administrators and African-American alumni volunteers to increase the ways and means for black alumni to connect with each other and to engage with Yale. One immediate goal was increased dialogue. To that end the AYA undertook a substantive focus group research project in 2003, the results of which are included in your conference materials. The AYA has also taken steps to update Yale's alumni records, host regional gatherings, assist the Center with promotion for this celebration, and cosponsor receptions at Yale College reunions. We recognize and value your Yale connections and see this weekend's gathering as a continuation and deepening of a dialogue that will be a catalyst for additional engagements to come.

With an estimated 3,500 undergraduate, graduate and professional school members, Yale's black alumni community undoubtedly constitutes a unique network of friendship and mutual support as well as a source of strength and insight for the University.

Have a great celebration and a wonderful return to New Haven.

Sincerely,
Jeff Brenzel '75
Executive Director, Association of Yale Alumni

As we gather to commemorate the thirty-fifth year of Yale's Afro American Cultural Center, we also need to reflect on the contribution of those whose initiative and leadership were instrumental in bringing "the House", once called Afro-America, into existence. Three of those individuals are no longer with us. Most of you reading this know of whom I refer: Armstead Robinson, Donald Ogilvie and Glenn DeChabert. Certainly, it's important to honor and preserve the memory of their names and accomplishments in and of itself. But it's equally important to remember them as a way of reminding ourselves that each of us has a contribution to make. And in making our own personal contribution, however modest it may appear, we are still nevertheless adding our weight to the collective process culminating in an end result that is exponentially greater than the sum of its parts.

Thirty-six years ago, the notion of having "the House" was nothing more complex or expansive than some "brothers" working to have a place on campus "to hang" and "do our thing". Now after thirty-five years, the House is as much a Yale institution as any other.

Don, Robbie and Glenn made their contribution by planting the seed. They did not perceive at that time what would take root and grow.

Thirty-five years later, while established and mature, "the House" is also in need of care and revitalization. Let's think about the contribution each of us can make to its reinvigoration, both physically and spiritually. I have no doubt that Glenn, Don and Robbie would have expected nothing less. Let's remember and honor them by seeing ourselves in them, by taking the initiative and making our own contribution. In so doing, we will remind and reinforce within ourselves that as a people, we can accomplish whatever we choose to when each of us acts to make his or her contribution to the chosen cause.

Given what it's become after thirty-five years, imagine what "the House" can be in another thirty-five years if we make the commitment and investment now.

Craig Foster, '69

Returning Sisters & Brothers,

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35 years of the Afro-American Cultural Center is a lifetime. The world has evolved in incredible ways since the inception of the House. We imagine that a lot of life has transpired for many of us while for others, it is just beginning. Those of us who represent older vintages of Black-Yale have undoubtedly weathered an array of experiences through marriages and children, death and dying, health challenges, job changes, financial ups and downs – you name it. Others of us are just beginning the journey of life as adults – first jobs, first loves, idealism, and dreams of what is to come.

So what do we all have in common? Is it Yale? Is it our blackness? Is it intellectual curiosity? Is it our drive for creating strong communities? Or, perhaps, it's political ideology? Whatever the case, assuredly, we offer each other a full breadth of vivacity, awareness, experiences, and strength as we gather to celebrate the legacy of our unique institution that is woven into the complex fabric of Yale.

This weekend we come together to honor a proud and diverse history of being black and blue in an ever-changing Yale, and world at large. We conjecture that Yale was/is a mixed-bag experience for most of us – sometimes wonderful, and other times not. That being the case, each of us can perpetuate ideals that will strengthen each other and the communities that matter to us. We hope that your being here signifies that this community bears meaning to you.

All of us bring the richness of our African-based culture and spirit, our home city, our families and experiences to bear in many ways – all good and all worthy of expression. So, together, let's share and exchange, laugh and cry, reflect and plan, and in the end, through our presence, know that we will have continued to bring our collective voice to bear sending a loud and powerful message to Yale and New Haven. Through that voice we can ensure that Yale not only stays true to "blue," but is equally true to "black."

Peace & Love,

Caroline Jackson-Smith '74

Victor E. Chears '74

HISTORY

Whose House? Our House!

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In September of 1964 a record number of Black males matriculated to Yale: 14. Along with black upperclassmen, these freshmen launched the first Spook Weekend, a huge social weekend that brought hundreds of Black students to Yale from throughout the Northeast. The next year, these socially active students metamorphosed into the more politically conscious, Yale Discussion Group on Negro Affairs. From this fledgling organization emerged the Black Student Alliance at Yale, (BSAY), in 1966. BSAY students had four major concerns that remain the cornerstones of Black student activities to date:

- Increased Black enrollment
- The development of Afro-American Studies
- Better relations with the Black New Haven community
- An Afro-American Cultural Center

To address these concerns, Black students involved themselves with the community on the one hand, hosting Black Panthers during May Day, establishing the Urban Improvement Corps tutoring program; and on the other hand engaged Yale to see the implementation of the Afro-American Studies department in 1968 and the creation of a cultural center in the same year. In the spring of 1968 the Yale Corporation approved the establishment of a center for Black students and community members. Afro-America, a home away from home for the ever-increasing numbers of Black Yale students, and a locus for political, cultural, and social activities, opened in the fall of 1969 at 1195 Chapel Street. The name reflected the sentiment that the House (which quickly became its nickname) was more than a mere building. From its inception the Afro-American Cultural Center, which it was later renamed to, has always represented the vital and vibrant presence of African-Americans within Yale's walls. At the same time, the location on the edge of Yale's campus provided access to the New Haven community. In many ways, the House was a continuation of the Spook Weekends started in 1964, which brought black students from Yale together with students from other schools in the Northeast and included speakers and discussion on issues pertinent to the black community. With the Spook Weekends, the isolation black students experienced in the late fifties and early sixties gave way to the vigorous exchange of ideas now seen at the House.

From its inception, students played a major role in the administration of the Center. Roger Collins, '69, acted as the first student coordinator of Afro-America. In 1970 the Center moved to its present location at 211 Park Street, where Raymond Nunn, '69, provided leadership as student coordinator. During Nunn's tenure as coordinator, the Center was awarded a grant from the Cummins Foundation. By 1971, the Center had been renovated, a Board of Directors designated and rules of governance implemented. The two-year grant that had been acquired the year before helped fund travel, speakers, internships, and a student-run publication, Renaissance II. In the next three years the Center grew, along with the number of black and female students at Yale (the class of 1971 had 25 female graduates).

After several directors between 1971 and 1974, Khalid Lum became Director of what was now officially known as the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale. Under Khalid's leadership, the Center acquired the stability necessary to allow for a student staff to be hired and for the Center to sponsor a variety of events ranging

from Black community picnics to programs aimed at forging a strong link with the New Haven community.

Dr. Patricia Romney took over the reins as Director of the Center from 1979 to 1981. She continued the Center's commitment to the social, cultural, and political events, aimed not only at providing black students with a "home away from home" but also giving the larger Yale community an opportunity to tap into a tradition which represents the Black and African imagination realized.

In the summer of 1981 Caroline Jackson, a freshman at Yale in 1970 when the Afro-American Cultural Center began operations at 211 Park Street, was installed as director. Under Caroline's leadership, the Center continued in the tradition of providing the means for "black community" to be a reality. The House flourished as Caroline and the staff raised the quality and quantity of cultural and social programming to a new level. Weekend activities expanded greatly and the yearly social scene thrived, anchored by highly successful cabaret weekends. The artistic life of Yale and New Haven was deeply enriched by the Center's collaboration in the partnership between Lloyd Richards, Dean of the Drama School, and the playwright August Wilson.

Melvin Wade served as director of the Center and Assistant Dean of Yale College from 1989 to 1991, a period of continued growth and achievement, particularly with respect to community-wide events. Melvin Wade was replaced at the helm of the House by Assistant Dean of Yale College, Kim Goff-Crews, an alum of Yale College and the law school. Under Kim's leadership, from 1992 to 1998, the role of Assistant Dean was greatly enhanced and the Center worked diligently to improve retention rates of Black students, particularly in the sciences, and increase career planning with a series entitled "Life after Yale". During Kim's tenure, BSAY also began the Black Solidarity Conference in 1995.

In the summer of 1999 Pamela George succeeded the interim director, Frank Mitchell, to become the present director of the Afro-American Cultural Center. Like Kim, Pamela is an Assistant Dean of Yale College where she serves as a freshman and sophomore academic advisor and directs science research programs as well as the ethnic counselor program. Like her predecessors, Pamela quickly rejuvenated the Black community and the quality and quantity of programs offered through the Center by collaborating with many organizations and departments throughout Yale and New Haven. The Urban Improvement Corp, (UIC), which closed earlier in 1999, was reopened and Pamela has expanded the student staff to include graduate student assistants. She has worked with the 25 student and New Haven community groups associated with the House to broaden the scope of programming and better serve the diverse group of Black, West Indian, African and mixed-race students. With a small assembly of alumni volunteers, she supervised the restoration of the House's facade and has helped to raise over \$600,000 for interior renovations and leadership development programs.

As we look back over the thirty-five years we are proud of the legacy that has taken us from being beneficiaries to becoming benefactors. The common thread that runs throughout is the commitment, confidence, competence, and consciousness that students, faculty, New Haven community and the University administration have shown in making the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale an institution vitally essential to Yale, New Haven, and beyond.

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

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REGISTRATION

11:00am-3:00pm *Yale Law School, Dining Hall*

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

11:00 – 2:30 pm

Tour of Af/Am House Renovations

Afro-American Cultural Center

Collection of Af/Am House Memorabilia, and Black Faculty Exhibit.

African American Art Exhibit, Af/Am House Gallery

Portraits of our Early Leaders by: Charles Yawson, '05

Portraits are located in Founders Room (aka MP room)

Armstead Robinson

Donald Ogilvie

Glenn DeChabert

Prof. John Blassingame

Prof. Sylvia Ardyn Boone

Blacks at Yale Exhibit

Sterling Memorial Library, Memorabilia Room

CONFERENCE

OPENING SESSION

3:00-3:30 pm

Welcoming Remarks

Yale Law School Auditorium, 127 Wall Street

Peter Salovey, Dean, Yale College

Pamela Y. George, Assistant Dean, Yale College; Director,

Afro-American Cultural Center

Jeff Brenzel, Executive Director, Association of Yale Alumni

Caroline Jackson Smith, '74 and Victor Cheers, '74

35th Anniversary, Co-Chairs

3:30-5:15 pm

The Politics of Power: Public Policy and Justice in the Black Community

Yale Law School Auditorium, 127 Wall Street

Exactly one month before a crucial presidential election, this session can not come at a more opportune time. There are many issues at stake for African Americans in the twenty-first century. Here we gather illustrious alumni who have individually forged groundbreaking paths in the field of politics. The session will assess and problematize the current political landscape and each panelist will elucidate their present projects with the ultimate goal of mapping an agenda for the future of African American politics.

MODERATOR: Khalilah Brown-Dean,

Yale Professor of Political Science and African American Studies

PANELISTS: Judge Barrington D. Parker, State Senator Toni Harp, '78 MED; Maxim Thorne Esq. '89, 92 JD, Assemblyman William Dyson, Hon. Denise Page Hood, '74, Llewellyn Miller, '70

5:30-7:00 pm **Reception hosted by President Richard Levin, '74 PhD**
43 Hillhouse Avenue, President's House
Open only to alumni, faculty and staff

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A BUS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE GUESTS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL TO THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

7:00-8:55 pm **Dinner on Your Own**

9:00-11:00 pm **Our Literate Soul: Readings and Performances**
Yale Law School Auditorium

Listen to our many voices in this unconventional literary event. Alumni and current students will perform poetry, prose, drama, dance and step in this celebration of Black Yale talent.

HOSTED by Elizabeth Alexander, '84 and Lia Bascomb, '05 including readings and performances by, Forrest Hamer, '78; Lisa Jones, '83; Rohan Preston, '89, Rosemary Bray, '76, Yolanda Joe, '84, Erica Simone Turnipseed, '93, Victor Kwansa, '08, Kameka Dempsey, '99, Konjo African Dance Troupe, Steppin Out, Greg Serebuoh, '06, "Attic", '07, Keris Niles, '04, Camelle Scott, '07.

8 pm – 12 am **Books authored by alumni writers will be sold by black owned business: a walk in truth bookstore, bea dozier-taylor, proprietor,**
Yale Law School, Room 122.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

7:30-8:45 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
Yale Law School Dining Hall

PLENARY SESSION

8:45-10:15 am **The Black Print*: Black Wealth through Educational and Economic Power**
Yale Law School Auditorium

*The Black Print taken from the book by Cora Daniels, *The New Black Power*

Fifty years after the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, this session is dedicated to the link between educational attainment and economic development in African American communities. The eclectic group of esteemed alumni will address many issues embedded in this link. For example, how is the struggle for economic power rooted in education and what are the changes in the way African Americans utilize corporate America to realize community goals? After discussing the current

situation, the session will address how black peoples should forge ahead to secure better educational opportunities and thus create a stronger economic infrastructure.

MODERATOR: Alondra Nelson,

Yale Professor of Sociology and African American Studies

SPEAKERS: Prof. Hazel Carby; Cora Daniels, '93; Hugh Price, '66 LLB; W. Dwight Raiford, '71; Rev. Eric Smith, '95 Div; Prof. Dr. James Comer, '75 MAH, Fred Terrell, '82 MBA

10:15-10:30 am

Coffee Break

ROUNDTABLES/WORK SESSIONS

10:30-12:30 pm

The Black Aesthetic and the Politics of Hip Hop

Yale Law School Auditorium

What is Black student life at Yale like in the 21st Century? How do they define the “Hip Hop Generation?” Has globalization turned into ‘Post Blackness’ among this current generation of Ivy leaguers? Join us in discussing topics such as the politics of hip hop culture, the commercialism of the black aesthetic, and changing images of ethnicity and power.

FACILITATOR: Michael Veal,

Assistant Professor of Music and African-American Studies

SPEAKERS: Thomas DeFrantz, '84, Peter Furia, '05, Dexter Upshaw, '06, Ameer Kim El-Mallawany, '05, Valerie Idehen, '04, Prof. Terri Francis

Journey to Wellness: Empowerment, Knowledge, Advocacy, and Collectivism

Yale Law School, Room 120

Discussion of physio-psycho-social issues affecting Black youth and students; review of effective orientation and retention programs at the House and Yale College Dean’s Office.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Ezra Griffith,

Deputy Chairman and Clinical Affiliate in Psychiatry,

Yale School of Medicine and Professor, African American Studies

SPEAKERS: Dr. Chester Pierce, Professor Emeritus, Harvard School of Medicine; Dr. Iona Black, Dept. of Chemistry, Yale; Dr. Howard Blue, University Health Services -Yale, Dean Pamela Y. George; Stephanie Donald, '05 – Freshman Ethnic Counselor

12:30-2:45 pm

“A Family Reunion” Cookout

Old Campus, Lanman Wright Courtyard

Enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, watermelon, peach cobbler and reunite with your Yale family. Catered by Joe Grates

Music by People of Goodwill

Melvin Jackson, '71, Flute; Judd Watts, Saxophone; Bill Mocarsky, Keyboards; Steven Muse, Bass; Leon Alexander, Percussion; Peter George, Drums/Percussion; David Pepka, Drums/Percussion

Black Greek fraternities and sororities ‘stroll’ during lunch

Free 15 Minute Massage By Kath Robinson

ACTIVITIES RUNNING CONCURRENTLY

1:00–4:00 pm

The Living Memory Historical Project, (LMHP)

Afro-American Cultural Center, Library

A two-pronged initiative aimed at preserving the history of the House and the Black experience at Yale. The first part encompasses the collection and preservation of manuscripts and archives on the Black experience at the House and at Yale; while the second will be an oral history project aimed at collecting oral histories from and about alumni.

COME BY FOR A 30 MINUTE VIDEOTAPED INTERVIEW OF YOUR YALE EXPERIENCE.

3:00–3:45 pm

Artist's Voice: Talk & Discussion

Afro-American Cultural Center, "E" Room

"Kanye West and the African Roots of Hip Hop"

Afro-American Cultural Center, E Room

SPEAKER: Robert Farris Thompson '55, '65 PhD, Col. John Trumbull Professor History of Art and Master, Timothy Dwight College

HOSTS: Brian Hodge, '98; Bennie F. Johnson, '95; and Robert Steele, '71 MPH, '75 PhD

3:45–6:00 pm

The Reel: Films by Black Yalies

Afro-American Cultural Center, Game Room and Gallery

Come watch Yalies do their thing on the big screen at the anniversary's mini-film festival. Black Yalie Filmmakers such as Charlene Gilbert, '87; Andrea Williams, '98; Damani Mangum, '94; Lisa Collins, '89, Monique Walton and Andia Winslow, '04 and many more will screen their works for the viewing public.

FILM SCREEN 1

"Homecoming: Sometimes I am Haunted by Memories of Red Dirt and Clay"

by Charlene Gilbert 56 min

Homecoming is the story of Southern Black farmers told through the personal history of family. The film explores the struggle for Black people to own the land that they once worked as slaves. From Reconstruction to the present Gilbert weaves together a tale of struggle in this "story of land and love"

"Spoonful of Sugar"

by Andrea Williams 18 min

Losing your virginity takes on a whole new meaning when you're a teen born with HIV.

"Solution"

by Damani Mangum 20 min

A young man participates in a brutal experiment in this cautionary tale about a world in which improvement is a euphemism for the extermination of Black men.

“Tree Shade”

by Lisa Collins 29 min; produced by Diane Lloyd, '89

Shame and embarrassment propel Savannah, a gifted high school student, to embark on a journey through space and time to witness the prison convictions of her great-grandmother Etta Mae, her grand-aunt Olive, and her aunt Denise. The fanciful and chilling tales of a delightfully vain maid in the 1920s, a hopelessly depressed nanny in the 1950s, and a mother frustrated during the holiday season in the 1980s, help Savannah reconcile her feelings about her own past in this touching coming-of-age story. An imaginative, thoroughly engaging drama that speaks volumes about identity and self-worth, “Tree Shade” will have special appeal to teenage viewers and delight audiences of all ages.

FILM SCREEN 2**“Still Black at Yale”**

by Monique Walton and Andia Winslow”

Historically perpetuated misrepresentations have become an institution by which institutional discourse intellectually subordinates and mythicizes the other, its people, customs, and destiny. By officially recognizing blacks as students and affiliates, an institution attempts to see said populations as imitations of itself, although they remain abstract others bound by socially constructed paradigms of difference. We have created a documentary film that demystifies the idea that black affiliates at Yale are a cohesive community despite their institutional categorization as such. We examined the ways in which affiliates, students in particular, stylize themselves to explore the notion of “conditional citizenship” within black communities at Yale. By challenging participants to reassess their own experiences, “Still Black, At Yale” serves as a visual meditation of notions of identity and belonging within the historical racial hegemony of the institution that is Yale University.

“Cosmic Slop”

produced by the Hudlin Brothers (Warrington and Reginald Hudlin)

“Space Traders” 32 min

Aliens have contacted the U.S. government and offered to heal all national ills and all they want in return is the entire Black population.

“First Commandment” 24 min

A young priest must decide between his responsibility to the Catholic Church and his allegiance to the people of his neighborhood.

“ATHOUSANDWORDS”

by Jamal Caesar 18 min

Set to the rhythmic tunes of original electronic music, this short narrative film tells the story of a young woman wondering through the cluttered thoughts of her mind after entering a train platform with her fiancé. Seemingly trapped in time and space, Niya tries to understand why the train just won't come, why she remains so confused, and why a mysterious woman across the tracks keeps taking her photo.

- 4:30–6:00 pm **Business Meeting: Establishing a Stronger Infrastructure**
Afro-American Cultural Center, Founders/Memorial Room (aka MP Room)
- A discussion on alumni relations, structure, programming and fundraising for the House. Presentations by director, student staff, Yale Black Alumni Network and alumni fundraising committee.
- 7:00–10:00 pm **35th Anniversary Celebration Gala Awards Dinner and Keynote Address**
 (There is no cocktail hour with dinner. Dinner begins promptly at 7 p.m. Wine served with dinner.)
Woolsey Hall, Commons
- Performance: SHADES
- DIALOGUE:** Henry Louis Gates, '73 and Kathleen Cleaver, '83, '89 JD
HONOREES: The Late John Blassingame, Calvin Hill, Arthur L. and Bernice Cosey Pulley, Robert Farris Thompson, and Caroline Jackson Smith
ALUMNI SPIRIT AWARD TO NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY ARTISTS: Paul Huggins, Crystal Emery
- 10:00–2:00 am **“Party Like it’s 1969” (and ’79, ’88, ’99...)**
 Afro-American Cultural Center, “E” Room
 Dance Party in E Room is open to all
 Wine and Beer Lounge (must be 21 to enter bar) located in Game Room,

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 11:00 am **Black Church At Yale**
Afro-American Cultural Center “E” Room
- PRESIDING:** Rev. Joan Burnett, '04 MDiv, Pastor of Black Church at Yale
SERMON: Rev. Dr. Dwight D. Andrews, '77 MDiv, '83MPhil, '93Ph.D
CO-CELEBRANTS; Rev. Samuel Slie, '52 BD, '63 STM, Hon. Denise Page Hood, '74 BA, Rev. Ian Straker, '78, '85 MDiv
MUSIC: Yale Gospel Choir and virtuoso cellist, Patrice Jackson, '03 M.M.; violinist, Kersten Stevens '06
- 1:00 pm **Farewell Brunch**
 Menu: baked chicken, fried chicken, collard greens, vegetarian lasagna, dirty rice, yams, tossed salad, coffee, tea, water, banana pudding, sweet potato pie.
 Catered by Joe Grates

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHIES

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Henry Louis Gates is the W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, and Chair of the Department African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is also the Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University.

Professor Gates is co-editor with K. Anthony Appiah of the encyclopedia *Encarta Africana* published on CD-ROM by Microsoft (1999), and in book form by Basic Civitas Books under the title *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (1999). He is the author of *Wonders of the African World* (1999), the book companion to the six-hour BBC/PBS television series of the same name. With Cornel West, Professor Gates co-authored *The African American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Century* (2000). Most recently, Professor Gates edited *The Bondwoman's Narrative by Hannah Crafts*, (2002)

Professor Gates is the author of several works of literary criticism, including *Figures in Black: Words, Signs and the 'Racial' Self* (Oxford University Press, 1987); *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* (Oxford, 1989), 1989 winner of the American Book Award; and *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars* (Oxford, 1992.) He has also authored *Colored People: A Memoir* (Knopf, 1994), which traces his childhood experiences in a small West Virginia town in the 1950s and 1960s; *The Future of the Race* (Knopf, 1996), co-authored with Cornel West; and *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man* (Random House, 1997). Professor Gates has edited several anthologies, including *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (W.W. Norton, 1996); and *The Oxford-Schomburg Library of Nineteenth Century Black Women Writers* (Oxford, 1991). In addition, Professor Gates is co-editor of *Transition* magazine. An influential cultural critic, Professor Gates' publications include a 1994 cover story for *Time* magazine on the new black Renaissance in art, as well as numerous articles for the *New Yorker*.

Professor Gates earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge. He received a B.A. summa cum laude from Yale University in 1973 in English Language and Literature. Before joining the faculty of Harvard in 1991, he taught at Yale, Cornell, and Duke universities. His honors and grants include a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" (1981), the George Polk Award for Social Commentary (1993), Chicago Tribune Heartland Award (1994), the Golden Plate Achievement Award (1995), *Time* magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans" list (1997), a National Humanities Medal (1998), and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1999).



Kathleen Neal Cleaver is a gifted educator, lawyer, writer, and activist. She has spent most of her life participating in the human rights struggle. From Dallas Texas and reared in Tuskegee, Alabama, Professor Cleaver's father was a sociology professor at Wiley College and Tuskegee University and her mother held a degree in Mathematics having worked at the Department of the Interior for many years. With her father's work in the Foreign Service, the family spent much of her early years abroad in Liberia, India, the Philippines, and Sierra Leone. Professor Cleaver completed H.S. at the Georgia School in Philadelphia in 1963.

As a college sophomore, Professor Cleaver dropped out of Barnard College in 1966 to work full-time with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee where she served in the Campus Program. From 1967 to 1971, Cleaver was the communications secretary of the Black Panther Party, the first woman member of their Central Committee. She married Eldridge Cleaver in 1967. After sharing years of exile with her former husband, she returned to the United States in late 1975. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in history from Yale College in 1984, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

After receiving a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1989, Professor Cleaver became an associate at the New York law firm of Cravath, Swain and Moore. Afterwards, she served as a clerk for the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. While an assistant professor of law at Emory University, she served on the Georgia's Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts and became a board member of the Atlanta-based Southern Center for Human Rights. She has devoted many years to the defense of Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, a former Black Panther Party leader who won his habeas corpus petition in 1997 after spending 27 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Cleaver has been a visiting faculty member at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City, the Graduate School of Yale College and Sarah Lawrence College, where she was the Joanne Woodward Professor of Public Policy during 1999. She has taught legal ethics, litigation, torts, a legal history seminar entitled "The American Law of Slavery and Anti-Slavery," and a course on Women in the Black Freedom Movement. Currently, she is a Senior Research Associate at the Yale Law School and Senior Lecturer at Emory School of Law and Yale's African American Studies Department. Professor Cleaver is the executive producer of the International Black Panther Film Festival.

Cleaver has won fellowships at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, the W.E.B. DuBois institute of Harvard University and the Center for Historical Analysis at Rutgers University. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Center for Scholars and Writers of the New York Public Library also gave her fellowships to complete the book of memoirs that she is working on, *Memoirs of Love and War*.

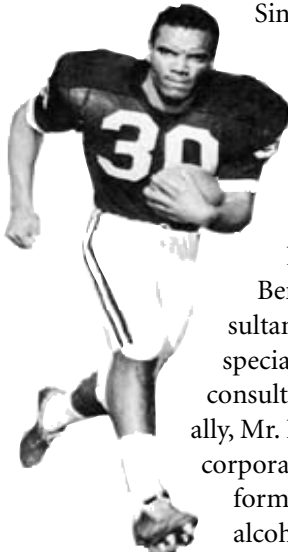
Her writing has appeared in many magazines and newspapers, including *Ramparts*, *The Black Panther*, *The Village Voice*, *The Boston Globe* and *Transition*. She has contributed essays to several books, including *Critical Race Feminism*, *Critical White Studies: Looking Behind the Mirror*, *The Promise of Multiculturalism: Education and Autonomy in the 21st Century: A New Political Science Reader* and *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*.

Cleaver has co-edited a collection of essays entitled *Liberation, Imagination and the Black Panther Party* (Routledge, 2001).

HONOREES

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CALVIN HILL



Since April 1997, Mr. Calvin Hill has been a consultant to Jerry Jones and The Dallas Cowboys Football Club.

After leaving the Baltimore Orioles in February 1994, Mr. Hill continued several consulting activities he had pursued over the previous twelve years. In addition, he developed several entrepreneurial projects in sports and sports marketing.

Mr. Hill was appointed Vice President of the Baltimore Orioles in November 1987. He initially joined the Orioles in July 1987, when Edward Bennett Williams appointed him to the Board of Directors. Mr. Hill is a consultant to the Mental Health Management, Inc. of McLean, Virginia, a company specializing in the treatment of psychiatric problems and chemical abuse, and a consultant with Fleet Financial Services of Providence, Rhode Island. Additionally, Mr. Hill is a consultant to Alexander & Associates, Inc., a Washington, D.C. corporate consulting firm. As a consultant with the Cleveland Browns, he helped form a group of Cleveland Brown's players to control and eliminate drug and alcohol-related problems. Mr. Hill has written several articles on sports and academia for national publications. Mr. Hill makes appearances at university campuses and business firms throughout the United States, addressing several topics including the problem of drugs and alcohol and the work needed in this area, and the important relationship of sports and academia and sports and society.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Hill is an alumnus of the Riverdale Country School in New York City. He attended Riverdale on a Schenley Wholesalers Foundation Scholarship. He completed his education at Yale University graduating in 1969 with a major in History. While at Yale, he was a member of Battell Chapel Deacons, Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, St. Elmo's Society, and Black Students at Yale. Mr. Hill attended Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.

The same year Mr. Hill graduated from Yale, he was selected in the first round of the NFL College Draft by the Dallas Cowboys. He earned NFL Rookie of the Year and All-Pro honors that year, a first for the Cowboys. After spending six years in Dallas, where he became the team's first 1000 – yard rusher, Mr. Hill's athletic career continued with the Hawaiian Football club of the World Football League, and the Washington Redskins and Cleveland Browns of the NFL. He was selected to participate in the NFL Pro Bowl in 1969, 1972, 1973 and 1974. He also played in Super Bowls V and VI.

Other honors include Texas Pro Athlete of the Year in 1970, Miami Touchdown Club Fame NFL Player of the Year in 1969, a member of the Dallas Cowboys All – Time Team, and a member of the Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame and the Connecticut Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 1994, Mr. Hill received the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award and in 1998 he received the

Walter Camp Football Foundation's Man of the Year Award.

Concurrent with his professional athletic career, Mr. Hill has served as Special Assistant to Senator John Glenn (D – Ohio); Special Assistant to the Director of the Peace Corps; Public Relations Representative and National Good – Will Ambassador for the Dr. Pepper Company; Commercial Loan Officer and Assistant Vice President of Dallas Bank & Trust, Dallas Texas; Development Director of the Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas; and Labor Relations Representative for Bethlehem Steel Company.

Mr. Hill has always been active in civic community and academic affairs. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Calvin Hill Day Care Center at Yale University and has worked with the National Association for Retarded Citizens as the organization's National Sports Chairman. He served as a board member of the Fairfax County Park Authority. He also served on the Board of the Cuyahoga County Hospital Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Board of Visitors of Case Western Reserve University. Mr. Hill was a member of the Yale University Council (1984- 1988) He served on the Executive Committee of the Yale University Development Board, and on the Board of the Yale Club of Washington, D.C. Additionally, he is an Associate Fellow of Pierson College, Yale University and served as a member of the board of the Riverdale Country School in New York City (1971-78).

He is a member of the following Boards: Toy's R Us, Inc; the Rand Corporation Drug Policy and Research Center; the NCAA Foundation; the Duke Divinity School; the International Special Olympics. He served on President Clinton's Council on Physical Fitness from 1993-2000.

Mr. Hill resides in Great Falls, Virginia, with his wife, Janet, who is a corporate consultant. Mrs. Hill has a BA in Mathematics from Wellesley College and an MA in Mathematics from the University of Chicago.

The Hills are parents of one son, Grant, age 30. Grant received a BA in History from Duke University in 1994. He is a professional athlete with the Orlando Magic of the National Basketball Association. His wife, Tamia, is a Grammy - nominated recording artist with Elektra Records.

The Afro-American Cultural Center establishes the Calvin Hill Excellence In Athletics And Community Service Award to be awarded annually to a student in the junior and senior class.



Robert Farris Thompson received his B.A. degree from Yale in 1955 and his Ph.D. in 1965. Professor Thompson is the Colonel John Trumbull Professor of History of Art, Professor of African American Studies, and Master of Timothy Dwight College. A member of the Yale faculty since 1965, he has taught and written extensively on the visual traditions of West and Central African, and on Black Art in the Americas. As the longest continuous member of the African American studies faculty, Thompson has devoted an abundance of energy and creativity to the advancement of the field.

His publications include *Black Gods and Kings* (1971); *African Art in Motion: Icon and Act* (1974); *The Four Moments of the Sun: Kongo Art in Two Worlds* (1981); *Flash of the Spirit: African and African-American Art and Philosophy* (1983); *Pygmies* (1991); *The Face of Gods: Art and Altars of Africa and the African Americas* (1993); *Mbuti Design: Paintings by Pygmy Women from the Ituri Forest.* (1995). *Art from Africa : Long Steps Never Broke a Back* (2002) and *Tango: The African and South American Origins of the Dance* (2001)

Thompson's articles on the influence of African art on American sports, dance and drama have been anthologized in more than 17 books. He has designed and organized five major exhibitions: *African and Afro-American Art: The Transatlantic Tradition* at the Museum of Primitive Art, New York, 1968; *Black Gods and Kings*, Museum of Ethnic Arts, UCLA, Los Angeles, 1971; *African Art in Motion*, National Gallery of Art, 1974; and *The Four Moments of the Sun*, National Gallery of Art, 1981. In 1994 *Faces of the Gods: Art and Altars of Africa and the African Americas* opened in New York City and traveled to museums throughout the country. A major exhibition on African-Atlantic altars that constituted twenty-five years of research by Professor Thompson, *Face of the Gods* marked an important moment in the ongoing investigation of African art forms and legacies.

In 1995 Thompson received the Leadership Award of the Arts Council of the United States African Studies Association for his contributions to scholarship in African and African-American arts. He has recently taught *From West Africa to the Black Americas: The Black Atlantic Visual Tradition*, and *New York Mambo: Microcosm of Black Creativity*, two of Yale's most popular and original courses.

The Afro-American Cultural Center establishes the Professor Robert Farris Thompson Award For Outstanding Research In The Advanced Study Of Africa to be awarded annually to a student in the senior class.



John Blassingame first joined the faculty in 1970 as a lecturer, and was made a tenured associate professor of history in 1973. A year later, he was promoted to full professorship. Professor Blassingame was noted for his industrious scholarship. He published three books almost simultaneously: an edited book, “New Perspectives on Black Studies” (1971); “The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South” (1972); and “Black New Orleans, 1860-1880” (1973).

These books broke new ground in the emerging field of African American studies and were hailed by critics for replacing erroneous and highly stereotypical histories with rich, complex portraits of emerging African-American societies before and after the Civil War.

Professor Blassingame also became a major force in the recovery of the African-American documentary heritage. He assumed editorship of the “Papers of Frederick Douglass” in the mid-1970s and published six volumes of Douglass’ papers and manuscripts between 1979 and 1999. He also pioneered the recovery of autobiographical materials by former slaves, which he collected in his massive and highly acclaimed collection “Slave Testimony: Two Centuries of Letters, Speeches, Interviews, and Autobiographies,” published in 1977.

His Yale colleagues credit Professor Blassingame’s mentorship with energizing scores of undergraduate and graduate students in his years at Yale, many of whom are now teaching in colleges and universities across the nation. He was an early member of Yale’s then fledgling African American Studies Program, where he served as acting chair in 1971-72 and in 1976-77 and then as chair between 1981 and 1989. He held these posts while continuing an active affiliation with both the Department of History and the American Studies Program.

“John Blassingame’s personal warmth and elegance of scholarship transformed African-American history and American history generally,” said Jon Butler, chair of the history department. “His achievements at Yale and in the historical profession will live on in the vigor of his original scholarship, in the legacy of his pioneering documentary publishing, and in the strong focus on African-American history that for more than 30 years he brought to Yale’s history department, the American Studies Program and the African American Studies Program.”

Among Professor Blassingame’s greatest scholarly contributions were his works that provide accounts of slaves’ lives, says David Brion Davis, Sterling Professor of History.

“Beginning in 1970 he was one of the leading pioneers in the study of American slavery,” Davis commented. “His books, such as ‘The Slave Community’ and ‘Slave Testimony,’ were among the first works to provide us with the perspective of slaves themselves. For the latter work, Professor Blassingame collected an unparalleled assortment of slave letters, interviews and other materials that convey what it really meant to be a slave.

“Professor Blassingame also launched the Frederick Douglass Papers project, illuminating the life of the most important and influential African American of the 19th century,” Davis adds.

Mr. Blassingame was born in Covington, Georgia, in 1940. He received his B.A. at Fort Valley State College in 1960, an M.A. at Howard University in 1961, and his Ph.D. at Yale in 1971. He served as an instructor at Howard University from 1961 to 1965 and then was an associate at the Carnegie-Mellon Foundation until he began his doctoral studies at Yale.

Professor Blassingame passed away on February 13, 2000. He is survived by his wife, Teasie; a daughter, Tia; a son, John.

The Afro-American Cultural Center establishes the Professor John Blassingame Award For Outstanding Research In Black American History And Culture to be awarded annually to a student in the senior class.



Caroline Jackson Smith (director) is currently the Acting Chair for the African American Studies Department at Oberlin College as well as an Associate Professor of theater and African American Studies. After receiving her BA with distinction and graduate training in Afro-American Studies at Yale University, Jackson Smith went on to serve as the Director of their Afro-American Cultural Center for eight years. When she was associate editor of *Black Masks* magazine in New York, she published one of the first interviews with August Wilson and later wrote a piece which followed the two year development process of *The Piano Lesson*. Since coming to Oberlin 1989, Jackson Smith has directed more than twenty plays. In 1993 she received a fellowship for early-career directors from the Theater Communications Group and the NEA and subsequently made her New York debut at the Public Theater in 1995 when she directed Adrienne Kennedy's *Funnyhouse of a Negro* for the Signature Theater Company. Her recent productions include: *Jar the Floor* by Cheryl West for Karamu House; *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* for Triad Theater (Greensboro, NC); and a staged reading of *Achidi J's Final Hours* by Oberlin College alum Amy Evans at the Immigrant Theater in New York City. In addition to ongoing dramaturgical work on African American theater and performance, she is currently the Creative Consultant to Dianne McIntyre, director of *Crowns*, for the upcoming production at the Cleveland Playhouse.

The Afro-American Cultural Center establishes the Caroline Jackson Smith Leadership Award for dedicated service to "The House" to be awarded annually to a student in the senior class.



Arthur L. Pulley, New Rochelle attorney, is one of three persons selected from the Ninth Judicial District, to become the fifth Black lawyer ever elected to the 207 member House of Delegates, governing body of the 2,000 member New York State Bar Association, founded in 1877 and considered one of the most important bar associations in the nation. Pulley was born in New Rochelle, N.Y. attend the public schools and graduated from its high school in 1936. He is a Veteran of World War II, serving as the last first sergeant of Company K, 372nd Infantry where he was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Medal and Expert Infantryman's Award.

His specialty in the armed services was administration.

After World War II he entered Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA. at age 30, on conditions, due to inadequate high school preparation, and graduated in 3 years Summa Cum Laude; and was cited in Richmond newspapers for having attained the highest scholastic average of any student graduating from any college in the State of Virginia in 1950.

He was admitted to Fordham, Boston University, University of Pennsylvania and Yale University Law Schools. He received his LLB from Yale Law School in 1953.

Pulley has been active in civic affairs, serving from 1962 to 1966 as chairman of the New Rochelle Board of Equalization and Review where he presided over three hundred tax assessment hearings. In 1961 he was the first Black person nominated by a major political party to run for countywide office in Westchester. In 1961 he was Democratic candidate for Children's (now

Family's) Court Judge. In 1965 he was the first Black nominated by a major political party to run for City Council in New Rochelle.

He served 42 years as trustee of Bethesda Baptist Church and was chairman of the expansion committee from 1957 to 1963. Pulley further served from 1968 to 1974 as president of the New Rochelle Council of Churches, and was the first president of the Inter-religious Council of New Rochelle, which he helped found in 1975.

He was also a founding member and first president of the Association of Black Lawyers of Westchester County which he served from 1978 – 1986, when the organization grew from some 20 to over 125 members. He has served on the Board of Directors of Meals-on-Wheels of New Rochelle and continuously contributes legal services since he incorporated that body in 1982.

Pulley and his wife were supporters and participants in the 1963 March on Washington and the Memorial March in 1983. As a team, for decades they have worked vigorously in the struggle for civil and human rights, and racial justice.

Bernice Cosey Pulley received her M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1955 as the second African-American and the first black Baptist woman graduate. She received her B.A. from Ohio State University in 1950. After being involved in the student movement of the YWCA during her college years, Pulley took on numerous leadership positions in the National Board of YWCA of the U.S.A. from 1964 until 1976, including Chair of the College and University Division, Chair of the Scholarship and Loan Committee, member of the Executive Committee, and member of the National Board Nominating Committee. She remains a member of the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester.

A member of Bethesda Baptist Church in New Rochelle, New York, for more than 35 years, Mrs. Pulley has played a significant role in ecumenical and inter-religious efforts. She has been a leader for Church Women United in the U.S.A. for more than 20 years. Her activism is apparent in her history: she participated in the March on Washington and the Poor People's Campaign, both in 1968; the United National Disarmament March in 1982, and the Peace Ribbon Around the Pentagon in memory of the 40th Anniversary of Hiroshima in 1985. Mrs. Pulley served on the American Civil Liberties Union Equality Committee from 1970-1974, and in 1974 she helped found the Yale Alumni Association of Afro-America, (Y4A.) She holds life memberships in the Yazoo City, Mississippi branch of the NAACP, the World Service Council YWCA-USA, the National Council of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. and the Ohio State University Alumni Association, and is a frequent speaker at colleges, churches, synagogues and public forums. In addition, Mrs. Pulley has served Yale Divinity School in many volunteer capacities including as a member of the National Capital Campaign Committee.

The Pulleys raised two sons: Arthur, Jr. and Nicholas. Their eldest son, Arthur, died tragically in Upstate New York in March 1986 and their nephew, the Late Federal DEA Agent Everett Emerson Hatcher, while at his post, was assassinated in February 1988. These events have only led Mr. and Mrs. Pulley to deepen their resolve and commitment to service and the public good. The family maintains the home founded by their son in Upstate New York as "The Arthur L. Pulley Jr. Memorial Center for Creativity." The 30+ acre rural facility in the Catskill Mountains was dedicated on May 28, 1988. At that time a Posthumous NAACP membership was completed. In cooperation with the Ellenville NAACP, a scholarship award is given annually by the Center to an area graduating senior, "who completes high school against the greatest odds" and continues education by entering college. A similar adult award is given each

year to “one whose actions advance the cause of social justice.” These are made possible by the spontaneous support of family and friends to the Arthur L. Pulley Jr. Memorial Fund. Annually on the last Saturday in May an all day program, “Let Freedom Ring” is sponsored at the Center.

The Center is available year round to artists, scholars, writers, and other creative persons, as well as churches, YMCA, YWCA, Scouts, and for family gatherings. Scholars exploring the Black experience, the creative use of leisure, or reparations, are particularly encouraged to apply. The Center is meant to encourage peaceful enjoyment of the natural beauties of the Greenfield Park area of upstate New York, in this drug free environment, as a living tribute to their beloved son and nephew.

The Afro-American Cultural Center establishes the Arthur L. Pulley And Bernice Cosey Pulley Award For The Advancement Of Peace And Justice awarded annually to a student in the junior and senior class.

Recipients of the Yale Black Alumni Spirit Award for Community Arts and Activism



Crystal Renee Emery brings more than 20 years professional experience in the entertainment industry to her current work, having directed film, video, and theatrical productions throughout the United States and Europe.

She has polished her craft under the tutelage of industry giants Suzanne de Passe, as her assistant on “THE JACKSON STORY: AN AMERICAN DREAM,” and Bill Duke, as his assistant on “RAGE IN HARLEM.”

She is one of a select group of young directors to work extensively with directing icon Lloyd Richards (“PIANO LESSON”), and has worked in major regional theater such as Chicago’s Goodman Theatre; D.C.’s Kennedy Center; Los Angeles’s Dolittle Theatre; and New Haven’s Long Wharf Theatre. As a producer, Crystal has also mounted numerous works as Artistic Director of the Heritage Theater Ensemble at Yale University.

Crystal graduated with a BFA from the University of Connecticut and traveled to France for post-graduate work at the Sorbonne in Paris. She also attended NYU film school and intensive cinematography classes with Brianne Murphy.

Since then, Crystal has continued to rebound from many adversities to shape a successful personal and professional life. She was a Freelance Production Coordinator or event manager and traveled throughout the United States teaching an intensive film workshop dealing with script breakdown, production strip boards and budget concepts entitled “No Money Films.”

In 1993, Crystal was voted one of 10 finalists for the Sundance Institute’s Screen Writing Conference. Previous honors include being selected as one of New Haven’s 1992 Women Building The Future awardees, and being chosen one of 1991’s Outstanding Women of the Year by the National Council of Negro Business & Professional Women.

As Executive Director of Upper Room Unlimited, Inc. (URU), Crystal headed a thriving non-profit organization that used the arts to foster communication and understanding among

diverse racial, social and economic groups about issues that affect urban communities. Among these are race relations, HIV, disability rights, and world ecology.

In 1999, Crystal developed a URU program called “This Is Where I Live, Don’t Dump On Me” designed to inspire environmental responsibility and to cultivate problem solving skills among inner city children. This play and workshop series reached more than 5,000 children in 28 urban schools and community centers throughout Connecticut.

In 2000 she produced the Sankofa Cultural Art Festival bringing together Native Americans, Latinos and African-American artist to celebrate “The Right To Be”.

In 2001 Crystal and URU launched “Woman to Woman: Helping Ourselves” a highly successful national series of breast health education outreach and screening conferences targeting underserved women in urban communities. Using innovative approaches, partnering with health institutions, medical professionals, municipal and state governments, community and civic groups, Woman to Woman reached unprecedented numbers of women within demographics that the medical profession admits are difficult to tap.

In 2002 Crystal was honored by the North Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in accepting its “Trailblazer” award in recognition of her “outstanding contributions in the areas of arts and/or media, and for active support of community projects.”



Paul Huggins was born and raised in New Haven, CT., May, 1937 where he lived for many years at Goff and Speary Streets. Paul has played African drums since he was eight years old. Growing up, he was a member of the Dixwell Avenue Community Center, (“Q House”.)

Paul graduated from Troupe Junior High School and attended Hillhouse High School before joining the Army for three years in the 1950’s.

In his youth, Paul spent a great deal of time at Yale assisting his grandfather and father who managed the Fence Club and Zeta Xi Club, respectively.

Since 1969, when he first came to the House with Michael Mills to play for the Nzinga Dancers, and play with the Kika Ese Drummers, Paul Huggins and Friends have been a part of the Afro-American Cultural Center. In addition, Paul has played for various schools and musical groups including the Bowen Peter Dance School, Dee Dee’s Dance School and many local musicians. Each and every Saturday for 35 years, Paul has taught drum classes at the House, free of charge, as a service to the community. He indeed raises the positive spirit of the House and is a joy to be around. He has trained countless local youth who have made a profession of African drumming, including Brian Jarawa Gray now one of our lead drummers for House resident group, Konjo.

Paul is the cousin of John Huggins, a member of the Black Panther Party, who was gunned down in Los Angeles in 1969.

Paul has been married for 46 years to Joan Huggins and they have three children: Mark, Pamela, and Bridgett.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR PANELISTS

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PLENARY SESSION: POLITICS OF POWER...

Moderator:

Khalilah Brown-Dean, Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2003, is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Political Science. She received the Henry R. Spencer Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2002, and the Graduate Associate Teaching Award in 2003. She is a specialist in American Politics with a particular focus on the issues of race, ethnicity, and urban politics. She is also interested in social and fiscal policy, public opinion, and criminal justice. She has two forthcoming publications, "Stolen Democracy: African Americans and Election 2000," to be published in *The Black Urban Community*; and "Toeing the Party Line, Toeing the Color Line: African American Women in Congress and the Clinton Impeachment Process," to be published in *The African American Political Woman: A Reader*. Currently, she is working with The Sentencing Project -- a national criminal justice reform advocacy organization -- to explore the political origins and consequences of felon disenfranchisement laws. Professor Brown-Dean will be teaching courses on African American politics, voting rights, and representation in the upcoming academic year.

Panelists:

State Representative **Bill Dyson** has been serving the members of the 94th Assembly District in the House of Representatives since 1976, and he is currently House Chair of the appropriations Committee. He also serves on the Education Committee and Legislative Management Committee, and is the Treasurer for the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

His past legislative positions include membership on the Human Services Committee, two terms as Assistant Majority Leader, and one term each as Assistant Minority Leader and Chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. He has held the position of Vice Chair of the International Affairs Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

Representative Dyson served as Chair of the Legislative Management's Day Care for Capitol Employees Subcommittee, and was instrumental in the founding of the Capitol Child Development Center in 1988. He is the Chair of the CT Commission on National and Community Service and is on the Board of Directors for numerous non-profit organizations including Drugs Don't Work! And the New Haven LEAP.

He received a Sixth-Year Degree in Administration & Supervision and an MS in Urban Studies from Southern Connecticut State University. He received a BA in Social Studies from Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina. He presently works for the New Haven Public Schools System.

State Senator **Toni Nathaniel Harp** is currently serving her sixth term as the Connecticut State Senator from the 10th Senatorial District cities of New Haven and West Haven. She is the Senate Chair of the Legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee. Senator Harp is also a member of the Executive and Legislative Nominations and the Program Review and Investigations Committees. She also chairs the Medicaid Managed Care Council.

For five years Toni Harp served as the Alderwoman for the Second Ward in New Haven. During her term, she served as President Pro Tempore, Vice Chairwoman of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, Chairwoman of the Select Committee on Homelessness, a member of the Human Resources Subcommittee on Discrimination and Harmony, and the Public Service and Substance Abuse Committee. On behalf of the Board of Alderman, she also served on the Affirmative Action Commission. She is a member of Links, Inc., the New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated, a public service sorority, and The Coalition of 100 Black Women.

During her tenure as State Senator, Toni Harp has championed many initiatives important to her constituents, including managed care reform, providing insurance for uninsured children, raising the minimum wage, advocating economic development for cities, encouraging an early detection system for child abuse, prohibiting drive-through deliveries, supporting truancy court, and ensuring the safety of children in child care. Senator Harp has worked hard to bring state resources to local small businesses and to open the legislative process to constituents.

As a result of her hard work in 2002, Senator Harp was recognized by End Hunger Connecticut! for her effort to redistribute food and get it onto the plates of those who struggle to afford it, and she also received the 2002 Legislative Award from the Connecticut Psychological Association for her leading role in maintaining access to mental/behavioral health services for state residents. Other awards include Legislator of the Year for 2001 by the American Lung Association of Connecticut; Distinguished Citizen Award from the Connecticut Psychiatrists Society; Clarence Daniel Advocacy Award from the Connecticut AIDS Residents Coalition; The NAACP Clarence Mitchell Political Action Award and the Phoebe Bennett Award from the Connecticut Association of Mental Health Clinics for Children. In 1998, she was selected by the Council of State Governments for its prestigious Toll Fellowship Program. In 1997, Senator Harp was named Legislator of the Year by the Connecticut Psychological Association for her work on managed care legislation; the National Association of Social Workers, the New Haven Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the New Haven Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated. She was also honored as one of New Haven Business' 20 Noteworthy Women. Senator Harp received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois, and a Master of Environmental Design from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Senator Harp has lived in New Haven for 24 years and is currently employed as the Homeless Service Director at the Hill Health Center. She is married to Wendell Harp, an architect, and she is the proud mother of three children – Djana, Jamil, and Matthew.

United States District Court Judge **Denise Page Hood** was born in Columbus, Ohio, on February 21, 1952. After attending high school at the Columbus School for Girls, Hood earned a bachelor's degree from Yale College in 1974. She went on to graduate from the Columbia University School of Law in 1977.

In 1982, after working as a lawyer for the city of Detroit Law Department for five years, Hood began her career behind the bench. As a judge, she has served Detroit's 36th District Court, Recorder's Court and Wayne County Circuit Court.

Her reputation in the legal community garnered her a nomination to the United States District Court from President Bill Clinton. On June 16, 1994, Hood was officially appointed to the

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. In this role, she continues to preside over both criminal and civil cases.

Over the course of her career, Hood has participated in nearly twenty professional organizations. She became the first African American female president of the Detroit Bar Association in 1993 and has also acted as the president of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan. In addition, she has contributed her energies to numerous community organizations, and has served as a board member for the Lula Belle Stewart Center, the Cyprian Center and the Interim House. These efforts have earned Hood such honors as the Damon J. Keith Community Spirit Award, the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church Woman of Distinction Award and the Columbus School for Girls' CSG Alumnae Award. Hood resides in Detroit with her husband, the Reverend Nicholas Hood III, and their two sons, Nathan and Noah.

Llewellyn Miller is serving his first term on the Claremont City Council after being elected to the council in March 2001.

This is Councilmember Miller's first position as an elected local government official. In addition to being on the City Council, Llewellyn represents the community as a member of the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Council, the Governing Board of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. He is also a Board Member of the National League of Cities' National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

His community involvement includes past service on the Ways and Means Committee for Sycamore Elementary School and as Chair of the Finance Committee of the Village Nursing Home in Greenwich Village, N.Y.

Councilmember Miller attended Yale University where he received a bachelor of arts degree and then went on to earn a master's degree in engineering-economics systems from Stanford University. He currently works as an investment counselor and independent consultant in financial risk management for government and private sector clients, with past work experience with a variety of banking and financial institutions.

Mr. Miller is married and has one child.

Barrington D. Parker Jr. graduated from Yale College in 1965 and earned the L.L.B. degree from Yale Law School in 1969. President Clinton appointed him U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York in 1994.

A distinguished twenty-three-year career as an attorney preceded Judge Parker's judicial appointment. He practiced general commercial litigation in New York City as a partner with Morrison & Foerster from 1987 to 1994 and with Parker Auspitz Nesemann & Delehanty, P.C., from 1977 to 1987; he was associated with Sullivan & Cromwell from 1970 to 1977. Following his graduation from Yale Law School he served as a clerk for the Honorable Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr., United States District Court in Washington, D.C., the city where he was born and educated in the public schools.

Judge Parker comes from a family with a long connection to the law. His grandfather, George A. Parker, had his own law firm and founded the Robert H. Terrell School of Law in 1931, which, until 1951, was a night school in Washington for African-American law students. His father, Barrington Sr., practiced at his father's firm before being appointed to the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia by President Nixon in 1969. Judge Parker and his father are the first African-American father and son to be appointed to the federal judiciary.

His mother, Dr. Marjorie Holloman Parker, was for many years a professor in Washington and is a scholar and author who has held a variety of civic and charitable positions.

His leadership as an alumnus has reflected both his law school and undergraduate affiliations. Judge Parker was named Successor Trustee of the Yale Corporation in 1999. From 1979 to 1982 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Yale Law School Alumni Fund and on the board of the School's Yale Alumni Fund. He was a volunteer for the University's Campaign for Yale. As an undergraduate, Judge Parker resided in Ezra Stiles College and majored in history.

Judge Parker was also involved in a variety of professional and civic activities during the time he was in private practice. For a number of years he was the President of the Board of the Harlem School of the Arts as well as Vice-President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. He continues to serve on the boards of the New School for Social Research, where he formerly served on the Executive Committee and chaired the Institutional Policy Committee; Greenwich Academy; the Governance Institute; and the South Africa Legal Services and Education Project. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His former activities include leadership positions with the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and board membership at St. Paul's School, the Visiting Nurse Service, and the American Arbitration Association.

Judge Parker is married to Toni Trent Parker. Mrs. Parker runs Black Books Galore, a firm that promotes and distributes African-American children's books. Her father, Dr. William J. Trent, Jr., was a founder and for many years the Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund. Judge and Mrs. Parker have three daughters: Christine (Yale College '00), Kathleen, and Jennifer, and the family lives in Stamford, Connecticut. The Yale Corporation's ten Successor Trustees are those appointed as successors to the original trustees of the University. The Corporation also has six Alumni Fellows, one of whom is elected annually by Yale alumni; each Fellow serves one six-year term.

Maxim Thorne is an advocate for the poverty community. He has focused on the complex interplay of factors affecting low-income communities, including non-profits and private enterprise, Educational opportunity, health and childcare, Technology and the Internet, and supportive legal and political infrastructure. He has also worked in the area of International Relations and Justice

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Thorne has combined legal and policy approaches to capacity building in communities. He gained litigation experience as an associate with a premier corporate law firm and Deputy Director of the Legal Aid Society. He served as legal advisor to the transition team of Jose "Joey" Torres, Mayor of Paterson, and consultant to the Federated States of Micronesia at the United Nations, where he worked to increase trade relationships, improve the global recognition of small island nations and to protect the environmental and economic rights of indigenous peoples. During his tenure, Mr. Thorne represented the Federated States of Micronesia in multilateral governmental negotiations, and authored numerous papers for the Pacific Islands as well as for the United Nations Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Mr. Thorne is active in public service. He serves on numerous boards, including: Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey and the Barnert Hospital Foundation, Paterson City Council Cable Television, Paterson Alliance, New Jersey Head Start Association, NJ EASE and NJ NAACP. Additionally, he is an active member of the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) and

maintains ties to the university. He sits on the Advisory Board of the Yale Law School's Public Service Program and has been a Graduate Mentor in Residence at the Yale Law School since 1997.

Mr. Thorne joined the Passaic County Legal Aid Society in 1996, and has served as Deputy Director since June 1998. He brings to the Legal Aid Society extensive legal experience at both the international and local levels. Dedicated to the economic empowerment of historically neglected communities, Mr. Thorne created the Community and Economic Development law unit in Passaic County in 1997 and started the Economic Empowerment Partnership Initiative (EEPI) at the Legal Aid Society.

Among many innovations, Mr. Thorne created and is Executive Producer of two Cable TV programs: *Know Your Rights*, *Working Together for Equal Justice*, and *Education in Your Neighborhood*.

Mr. Thorne's childhood was spent in British Guyana and the Bahamas, before he relocated to the United States. He speaks three languages, and is a devotee of salsa dancing, classical and reggae music, and Indo-Chinese and Caribbean cuisine.

PLENARY SESSION: THE BLACK PRINT...

Moderator

Alondra Nelson, Ph.D., New York University, 2003, is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Sociology. She is the co-editor of *Technicolor: Race, Technology and Everyday Life* (2001). She is presently expanding a recently edited special issue of *Social Text* on technology and black culture, which will be published by Duke University Press as *Afrofuturism: Speculative Imagery, Futurist Themes, and Technological Innovation in the African Diaspora*. She is also at work on a manuscript about late-twentieth African American health advocacy around issues of genetic disease, medicalized models of social unrest, and reproductive rights, as well as a related project on the bioethical and social implications of the commercial use of genetic technologies to trace human genealogies. Her research and teaching interests are in the areas of the sociology of health, illness and the body; the sociology of knowledge; social inequality and stratification (race, class, gender); health social movements; black protest traditions and strategies; "race" and racialization in biomedicine and technoculture; and new media and digital culture.

Panelists:

Hazel V. Carby, Ph.D. Birmingham University, England, 1984, is the Charles C. and Dorothea S. Dilley Professor of African American Studies and Professor of American Studies. She is author of *Reconstructing Womanhood: The Emergence of the Afro-American Woman Novelist* (1987), *Race Men: The Body and Soul of Race, Nation and Masculinity* (1998), and *Cultures in Babylon: Black Britain and African America* (1999). Recent essays include, "What is this Black in Irish Popular Culture?" forthcoming in the *European Journal for Cultural Studies* and "African American Studies Promoting Blackness in the Marketplace of Black Celebrity" forthcoming in Manning Marable (ed.), *The Black Intellectual in American Life*. She teaches courses on race, gender and the culture industry and theories of racial formations and is currently working on Black Britain.

James P. Comer, M.D., M.P.H., the Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Study Center, has been a Yale medical faculty member since 1968. During these years, he has concentrated his career on promoting a focus on child development as a way of improving schools. His efforts in support of healthy development of young people are known internationally.

Dr. Comer, perhaps, is best known for the founding of the Comer School Development Program in 1968, which promotes the collaboration of parents, educators, and community to improve social, emotional, and academic outcomes for children that, in turn, helps them achieve greater school success. His concept of teamwork is improving the educational environment in more than 500 schools throughout America.

A prolific writer, Dr. Comer has authored seven books, including *Beyond Black and White*, 1972; *Black Child Care* (with Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint), 1975; paperback revision, *Raising Black Children*, 1992; *School Power: Implications of an Intervention Project*, 1980; the autobiographical *Maggie's American Dream: the Life and Times of a Black Family*, 1988; *Rallying the Whole Village*, (edited with Dr. Michael Ben-Avie, Dr. Norris M. Haynes, and Dr. Edward T. Joyner), 1996; *Waiting for a Miracle: Why Schools Can't Solve Our Problems, And How We Can*, 1997; and *Child by Child* (edited with Dr. Michael Ben-Avie, Dr. Norris M. Haynes, and Dr. Edward T. Joyner) 1999. Between 1978 and 1994, Dr. Comer wrote more than 150 articles for *Parents* magazine and more than 300 syndicated articles on children's health and development and race relations.

In addition to his writing, teaching and research activities, Dr. Comer has served as a consultant to the Children's Television Workshop, which produces *Sesame Street* and *Electric Company*. He was a consultant to the Public Committee on Mental Health chaired by Rosalyn Carter as well as a member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy (1987-1991). Since 1994, Dr. Comer has served as a member of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. In addition, he has been associated with the National Launch Committee for Americorps and the National Campaign to Reduce Youth Violence. He has provided testimony before state and congressional legislative bodies.

Since 1971, Dr. Comer has served as Director or Trustee of the following Boards: Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (1978-1984); Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT (1989-2000); Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY (1999-present); the Hazen Foundation, New Haven, CT (1974-1978); the Field Foundation, New York, NY (1981-1988); the Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York, NY (1990-1994); Connecticut Savings Bank (1971-1991); the Connecticut Energy Corporation, Bridgeport, CT (1976-2000); and the National Academy Foundation, New York, NY (1993-1998).

For his work and his scholarship, Dr. Comer has been awarded 41 honorary degrees and has been recognized by many organizations. In 1996, he won both the prestigious Heinz Award in the Human Condition for his profound influence on disadvantaged children, and the Healthtrac Foundation Prize. Other honors include the Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Education, 1991; the James Bryant Conant Award, presented by the Education Commission of the States, 1991; the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education given by McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1990; a Special Presidential Commendation from the American Psychiatric Association, 1990; the Rockefeller Public Service Award, 1980; and the John and Mary Markel Foundation Scholar Award in Academic Medicine, 1969-1974.

In 1993, Bill Cosby served as the Master of Ceremonies for the 25th Anniversary Celebration

of the School Development Program. In 1998, Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at the Program's 30th Anniversary Symposium.

A native of East Chicago, IN, Dr. Comer received an A.B. degree in 1956 from Indiana University, an M.D. degree in 1960 from Howard University College of Medicine, and an M.P.H. in 1964 from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Between 1964 and 1967, he trained in psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine and its Child Study Center. He also completed one year of residency training at the Hillcrest Children's Center in Washington, D.C.

Cora Daniels is an award-winning journalist. She is currently a staff writer for Fortune Magazine and a contributing writer to FSB: Fortune Small Business magazine. Her work has been published in the New York Times, USA Today, Savoy, and Honey and her saucy op-ed pieces appear frequently in New York Newsday. She has also been a commentator on ABC Morning News, CNN, BET, and NPR as an expert on workplace issues and minority business. In 2002 she spearheaded Fortune's first ever search for the 50 most powerful Black executives in America.

Cora is a native New Yorker and lives in Brooklyn. Her first journalism gig was writing and editing her high school paper, the Brooklyn Tech Survey. She is a graduate of Yale University with a BA in History and has a masters degree in Journalism from Columbia University. Black Power Inc. is her first book but will not be her last.

Hugh Price, a leading spokesman for African Americans, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League. He was born and raised in Washington, the son of a Howard University trained doctor. During his childhood he witnessed and became a part of many changes in Washington, as the schools and neighborhoods became integrated. Price graduated from Amherst College and Yale Law School. He then moved on to public broadcasting as Senior Vice President of WNET in New York, and in 1988, moved into the world of philanthropy, as Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation. Price has led the National Urban League since 1994. Founded in 1910, the League is the nation's premier social service and civil rights organization serving African Americans and others who are striving to enter the economic mainstream.

Dwight Raiford, Financial Planner, has nearly 30 years experience in the financial services industry. At Citigroup and a predecessor to JPMorgan Chase, he served as banker and financial advisor to some the world's largest corporations. At MetLife Securities, he focuses his practice on affluent professionals and business owners. His clientele include a number of highly respected, successful individuals and entrepreneurs.

With his wife, Iris, he founded Harlem Little League and Harlem Soccer. In 2001, he was elected Chairman of the International Board of Directors of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, the world's largest youth sports organization. Locally he chairs the Board of Trustees of Convent Avenue Baptist Church. He also serves on the boards of Collegiate School and the City Parks Foundation. Previously he served on the Boards of the Cathedral School, the East Harlem Tutorial Program and the ML Wilson Boys and Girls Club of Harlem.

Dwight is a graduate of Yale College, Class of 1971 (Davenport). He majored in African-American Studies and History. He holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

The Raifords are long term residents of Harlem and have three children and two grandchil-

dren. Daughter, Leigh Raiford, is Assistant Professor of African-American Studies, University of California – Berkeley. Leigh received a Ph.D. from Yale in African-American Studies and American Studies in 2003. She and her husband, Michael Cohen (Ph.D. Yale, 2004) have two children, Maya and Maceo.

Joshua, 23, graduated with Honors from Morehouse College in 2003. Andrew, 16, is a high school student and professional model.

Reverend Eric B. Smith is the Pastor of The Adoni Spiritual Formation Center in New Haven, CT. He has also served as the Pastor of Community Baptist Church in New Haven, CT from 1997 to 2004. As a Pastor, Reverend Smith emphasizes a spirituality that leads to involvement, not only in the church, but also in one’s community. Reverend Smith has been President of the New Haven Reparations Coalition since 2001. Reverend Smith has also served with New Haven Fighting Back to fight substance abuse, the Newhallville Neighborhood Management Team to set the direction of the Newhallville neighborhood in New Haven, on the Board of Directors of the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund to develop low-income housing, and in a host of other community-based organizations. Reverend Smith also created the Community Baptist Development Corporation, which emphasized youth development in New Haven from 1998 to 2004, and the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in New Haven, that provided affordable afterschool and summer programs for children from 2000 to 2004. Reverend Smith also serves as a Lecturer in Homiletics at Yale Divinity School. Before entering ministry, Reverend Smith worked at Cigna Corporation in Bloomfield, CT, Aetna Life & Casualty in Hartford, CT, and Command Systems in Farmington, CT. Reverend Smith has a BSBA in Computer Information Systems from Western New England College in Springfield, MA, a certificate from the Black Ministries Certificate Program from Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT, and is on schedule to receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Hartford Seminary in 2004.

Frederick O. Terrell is managing partner and chief executive officer of Provender Capital Group, LLC, a New York City-based private equity investment firm he founded in 1997. Provender invests in emerging and established companies within the financial services, consumer and retail products, business services, and media sectors on behalf of major public and private institutions. In addition to its core strategies, Provender actively seeks to invest its capital and resources in minority-owned enterprises.

Mr. Terrell has been active in several corporate governance settings. He is a director of New York Life Insurance Company, the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States, and WellChoice, Inc., a major provider of health insurance, both Fortune 500 companies. He is also chairman of Carver Bancorp, Inc., the largest African American-based financial institution in the U.S., which was founded in 1948 to provide community banking services to New York City’s African American population. During his tenure as chairman and investor, Carver’s performance has been widely hailed by industry analysts as outstanding, representing a remarkable turnaround.

Prior to founding Provender, Mr. Terrell was a managing director and partner with Credit Suisse First Boston, where he began his investment banking career in 1983. During his fourteen-year tenure he worked with financial institutions that were industry leaders in the origination of mortgage, small business, and consumer assets. His innovative work won “Deal of the Year” recognition from *Institutional Investor* (1985) and *Investment Dealers’ Digest* (1993).

Mr. Terrell also served as financial adviser to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives on the subjects of small business loan securitization and capital markets strategies. Prior to attending the Yale School of Management, he was a Fellow with the Coro Foundation, a nationally recognized leadership training institute, and served as deputy to Los Angeles City Council President John Ferraro.

He has given particular civic attention to New York City, where he is an active member of the Partnership for the City of New York, a network of New York City business executives committed to enhancing the City economy. He is also a former chairman and current board member of the Coro Foundation's New York Center. He supports the Harlem community as an active sponsor of the Harlem Little League, the Studio Museum of Harlem, and the Safe Haven Basketball League.

Mr. Terrell was the Commencement speaker at the Yale School of Management in 2002 and has been a member of the SOM Advisory Board since 1997. He is a frequent lecturer and panelist there in connection with a range of topics including investment banking, finance, and private investment. He assists SOM with the recruitment of students of color and works to identify placements for SOM students on Wall Street and beyond.

Before graduating from SOM in 1982, Mr. Terrell earned his B.A. from La Verne College and completed his M.A. at Occidental College. He and his wife Jonelle Procope live in New York City and have two children.

OUR LITERATE SOUL

Elizabeth Alexander: As a student at Yale Alexander was on House staff and edited *Ritual and Dissent*. She went on to author *The Antebellum Dream Book*, *Black Interior*, *The Venus Hot-tentot*, and *Body of Life*. She also wrote a verse play *Diva Studies* which premiered at the Yale School of Drama in May 1996. Alexander is the recipient of countless awards and has lectured across the United States and abroad. She currently teaches English and African American Studies here at Yale University, and works with the Cave Canem Poetry Workshop.

Attic has released a full-length studio album, taught poetry classes to underprivileged NYC youth and maximum-security inmates, and shared the stage with performers like Miguel Algarin, Willie Perdomo, and platinum rapper Kanye West. He is a two-time Nuyorican Poets Café Grand Slam Semi-Finalist, a two-time NJ Poetry in the Park Slam Champion, and as the top-scorer of the UrbanWordNYC Grand Slam, is (unofficially) the top poet under 20 in New York City. More info at www.EdgeEcho.com. Attic is a member of the class of '07.

Rosemary Bray McNat: As a student Bray worked on design for the House publication *Renaissance 2*. She went on to become editor of *The New York Times Book Review*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Ms.*, *Glamour*, *Essence*, *Redbook*, and the *Village Voice*. She is widely known for her inspirational memoir *Unafraid of the Dark* and has also written a children's book entitled *Martin Luther King*. She is now a Unitarian Universalist minister serving the Fourth Universalist Society in New York City.

Kameka Dempsey has performed in film, television and on the stage. Dancing since the age of two and performing professionally since the age of seven, some of her performance credits include the Harry Chapin Benefit Concert, First Earth Run at the United Nations where she was a guest speaker and a featured artist in the accompanying Lee Ritenour video. Kameka opened for the Grammy-nominated group Lucy Pearl at the House of Blues. She has performed with a long list of greats including Stevie Wonder, Shaggy, Tatyana Ali, Pat Bentar, Kenny Rogers, Bruce Springsteen, Gregg Burge, Savion Glover, Alfonso Ribiero, Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson to name a few. Kameka has also performed at a number of world famous venues such as Carnegie Hall (NYC), John Houseman Theater (NYC), Lincoln Center's Avery Fischer Hall (NYC), New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Prudential Hall (Newark), Mark Taper Forum (LA), the United Nations (NYC), and Yale Repertory Theater (New Haven). Kameka has choreographed for a number of different productions, as well as for the acapella singing group 'Shades'.

Forrest Hamer is the author of two books of poetry: *Call and Response*, which won the Beatrice Hawley Award, and *Middle Ear*, winner of the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award. His work has appeared in journals such as *Callaloo*, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly*, *Best American Poetry 1994*, and *ZZZZYVA*. He is also a psychologist and currently lectures in psychology and social welfare at UC Berkeley.

Yolanda Joe began writing at a very early age. After graduating from an all-black Chicago high school Joe came to Yale. She went on to spend a summer studying at Oxford and graduated from Columbia University's School of Journalism. She worked as a newswriter for CBS in Chicago and has authored many novels including the hits *Bebe's By Golly Wow*, *This Just In*, and the recent *My Fine Lady*.

Lisa Jones: As a student at Yale Jones founded and edited the House publication *Ritual and Dissent*. She went on to write the acclaimed column "Skin Trade" for the Village Voice. Her work speaks on racism, classism, sexism, and multiculturalism. She has co-authored three books with Spike Lee and is best known for her solo effort *Bulletproof Diva: Tales of Race, Sex, and Hair*.

Konjo! was founded in the fall of 1998 by Yetsa Tuakli-Wosornu, Eyi Tuakli-Wosornu and Yemi Getahun, class of 2001. Along with four other students they made their debut at the Black Solidarity Conference Talent Show. Since then Konjo! has been a mainstay in the Yale and New Haven communities. Tonight's performance is written by Konjo! alum Desiree Gordon '02 who is now an artist in residence at Tribeca Performing Arts in New York City.

Victor Kwansa: Victor Kwansa is a member of the class of 2008 and a resident of Trumbull College. He has performed spoken word at high school events and plans to continue writing and reciting poetry whenever and wherever possible.

Keris Niles: Hailing from Boston, Massachusetts, Keris first got involved in theater in high school where she both performed onstage as well as worked backstage on a number of performances. Keris graduated from Yale in May of 2004. She currently resides in Philadelphia where she works as an Account Manager for Procter and Gamble.

Rohan Preston began writing poetry at a young age. His education spans from Jamaica, to Brooklyn, to New Haven where he was editor in chief of the Yale Observer and founder of the Caribbean Club now known as YWISO (Yale West Indian Student Organization.) Preston has read throughout the Midwest and the East Coast. He has taught at Wellesley College and written for Chicago's *Star Tribune*. In 1992 Preston authored his first book of verse, *Dreams in Soy Sauce*, and four years later co-edited *Soulfires: Young Black Men on Love and Violence*. His work also appears in *Wheel and Come Again: an Anthology of Reggae Poetry*.

Greg Serebuoh is a junior in Berkeley College majoring in Music and Theater Studies. He has been singing, acting, and writing from a very young age, and hopes to one day pursue a career in the arts. Greg is currently the musical director of Shades, an a cappella group at Yale founded to sing music of the African-American tradition.

Erica Simone Turnipseed: After graduating from Yale, Turnipseed went on to get an M.A. of anthropology from Columbia University. She is the Director of Development at The Twenty-First Century Foundation which is a national organization that promotes black philosophy and supports efforts on community empowerment. Turnipseed sits on the board of directors of the Black Ivy Alumni League and has founded the "Five Years for the House" Fundraising Initiative. She is author of the acclaimed novel *A Love Noire*, and her work has been anthologized in *Children of the Dream: Our Own Stories of Growing Up Black In America*.

Jook Songs is an Asian American writing and performance workshop founded in 1999 by David Lin, a former faculty member at Yale-New Haven hospital and member of the New York-based Asian American men's performance group, Peeling the Banana. The group meets weekly for writing workshops based on trust and honesty. What they perform is autobiographical monologue, and what they strive to do is keep it real, so that their specific experience may touch those who hear them.

Steppin Out was founded in 1997 and is Yale's first and only non-Greek step team. In this relatively short period of time, members have distinguished themselves as talented, dedicated, and fun-loving performers. Their performances are well known for the levels of excitement and adrenaline brought to the stage. This organization is dedicated to the celebration of "stepping out" within the Yale University community and beyond.

Camelle Scott was born in El Paso, TX and is currently a sophomore at Yale University. She plans to major in English and Theater Studies and has been active in theater at Yale.

THE BLACK AESTHETIC AND THE POLITICS OF HIP-HOP

Facilitator

Michael Veal, is an Assistant Professor African American Studies and Music, focusing on music history and ethnomusicology. He has taught courses on Traditional and Popular Music in Sub-Saharan Africa, Jazz, Popular Music and Hybridity, and music cultures of the world. In addition to being thoroughly grounded in the literature on Nigeria, African music, and the

world music scene, he played as a guest saxophonist with Fela and his band Egypt 80, and has conducted interviews with Fela himself, and with his colleagues and other Nigerian musicians. Prof. Veal is author of the book *Fela: The Life and Times of a Musical Icon* (2000)

Discussants

Thomas DeFrantz holds degrees from Yale, the City University of New York, and earned his PhD from the Department of Performance Studies at NYU. He has taught at Stanford, NYU, and at MIT, where he is Associate Professor and holds the Class of 1948 Career Development Professorship, and serves as Acting Associate Director of the program in Comparative Media Studies. He teaches courses on Hip Hop, African American Performance, Theater and Cultural Diversity, Dance History, and Dance Theory and Composition. He has published widely, including recent essays on breakdancing and afro-futurist filmmaking. A director and choreographer, he has affiliations with the Drama League of New York, the Theater Offensive of Boston, and the performance research group Slippage: Performance Interventions in Culture and Technology, in residence at MIT. His recent original plays include *Queer Theory! A Musical Travesty*, slated for production in Boston in 2005; *Ennobling Nonna*, produced at MIT in 2004; and *Monk's Mood: A Performance Meditation on the Life and Music of Thelonius Monk*, produced at Stanford University in 2002. His books include the edited volume *Dancing Many Drums: Excavations in African American Dance* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2002) and *Dancing Revelations: Alvin Ailey's Embodiment of African American Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Terri Francis earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. She specializes in the history and aesthetics of African American filmmaking in a broad cultural context, in addition to teaching close analysis of film. Her current research examines the stardom of Josephine Baker, the American-born dancer who became a Paris sensation in the 1920s and 30s. This work foregrounds her concerns with interdisciplinary relationships between films and black aesthetic traditions in other art forms. Related research and teaching interests include "race" and ethnicity in American cinema, avant-garde cinema, black documentaries and home movies, and black women's writing and performance.

Peter Furia manages independent record label *NorthBest Records* (est. 2003), and emcees for the bi-coastal hip-hop group *The Sky Beneath*. In 2003, he started *BudgetBooth Productions & Recordings*, an organization that provides hip-hop artists at Yale a means to record and distribute their music on a campus-wide level. One notable project Furia organized and produced through BudgetBooth last spring was the international posse cut "United Nations." It features Yale students from seven countries across the globe, rapping in four different languages and addresses issues such as racism, political injustice, and destruction of the environment. Furia is also a member of Yale's first break dance group, *Freestyle eXpressions Crew*.

Valerie Idehen has been interested in the arts, entertainment & culture from as far back as she can remember. She graduated in May 2004 with a degree in African-American Studies where she studied as a research assistant to Elizabeth Alexander. While at Yale she served as a programs director, newsletter editor and senior staff manager of the Afro-American Cultural Center. Valerie also danced with Rhythmic Blue, Yale's premiere hip hop dance troupe and sang with Shades, for which she served as the publicity manager, alumni coordinator, choreog-

rapher and toured with the group across the US, Puerto Rico and South Africa. In the spring of her senior year, Valerie conceived The Next Phase Entertainment Group, a talent management & production company with plans to expand into television, publishing, fashion and philanthropy. This past summer, Valerie produced FIRE!!! Summer in the City Introducing LITERATI, a hip hop extravaganza, at the world-renowned Knitting Factory New York. She currently works in advertising & marketing at Comedy Central and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Ameer Kim el-Mallawany aka ab original (amongst other names) is a second generation Korean/Egyptian raised on hip hop in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. Though he has been rapping since first grade, he and his cousins, the desert crew, just dropped their first full-length album, Facing East, in January of 2004. Ameer graduates from Yale in 2005.

Dexter Upshaw is a junior in Morse College. He is an African American Studies major with a concentration in History, and a Teacher Prep distinction. As a Pastoral Assistant for the Black Church at Yale, Dexter has served on the BCAY Church Council for two years. He is currently the chartering president of the Kappa Kings Chapter of Gamma Phi Delta Christian Fraternity, Inc., Yale's only Christian fraternity, and is a member of the Yale Men's Basketball Team.

JOURNEY TO WELLNESS

Moderator

Ezra Griffith, M.D., University of Strasbourg, 1973, is Director of the Connecticut Mental Health Center and Professor of African American Studies. He has broad consultation experience in the area of mental health service systems and has written extensively in the areas of cultural and forensic psychiatry. Dr. Griffith has co-authored and co-edited three books: *Clinical Guidelines in Cross-Cultural Mental Health* (1988); *Suicide and Ethnicity in the United States* (1990); and *Racial and Ethnic Identity; Psychological Development and Creative Expression* (1995). He is the author of *Race and Excellence; My Dialogue with Chester Pierce* (1998). Dr. Griffith teaches Comparative Approaches to Recounting Stories of Black Lives and The Psychosocial Study of Black Autobiography.

Discussants

Chester Pierce, M.D. graduated from Harvard College and in 1952 he was a graduate of the Harvard Medical School. He went on to become president of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and president of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences and had an annual research seminar named after him by the National Medical Association. Founding chair of the Black Psychiatrists of America, Pierce has profoundly affected American psychiatry and the thinking of African American psychiatrists during the last two decades. While recognized for his substantive scholarship on coping with extreme environments such as the South Pole, he is probably best known for his theories regarding how blacks cope with racism in the United States.

Iona Black, Ph.D is an educator and researcher, currently holds the position of lecturer and researcher at Yale University, Chemistry Department. She received a Masters and Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Duquesne University, a Masters degree in Biochemistry and edu-

cation from Boston University, and a B.S. degree from Marymount College in chemistry and mathematics. She also has held summer research positions at Aluminum Company of America, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Naval Research Laboratory, and the Atlantic Environmental Group. She is deeply involved in the Yale University community. This is best evidenced by her position as residential fellow in Silliman College, Academic Director of the Science, Technology and Research Scholars Program (STARS), special student admissions committee, reaccreditation committee member for programs and instruction, chemistry department freshmen placement committee, and various university scholarship and fellowship committees of which she is a member (Edward A. Bouchet, Mellon Foundation, Morris A Udall, Churchill, Fulbright, and STARS I and II). She has also designed and taught courses for Yale College (Introduction to Experimental Scientific Reasoning, Advanced General Chemistry Laboratory, General Chemistry, and Freshmen Physical Chemistry Laboratory, Advanced General Chemistry Laboratory and Chemistry in the Popular Novel), and Minority Medical Education Program at Yale Medical School (Introduction to general chemistry, and Introduction to general and organic chemistry, and Introduction to biochemistry). Her research interest involve potential anti-cancer, anti-viral complexes and the interactions of various indigenous compilations with biological and environmental metals. She has received the following National and local awards during her Yale career: the Elm and Ivy Award, outstanding teacher award from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers, the Yale College Prize for Teaching Excellence by a lector or lecturer, and the National Academic Advising Association Certificate of Merit. She is the faculty mentor of the Rotaract Club a Yale.

Pamela Y. George: Dean George has been at Yale since 1999. As assistant dean of Yale College, she serves as a freshman and sophomore academic adviser to students of all backgrounds and is director of the Beckman Science Scholars Fellowship and the Ethnic Counselor Program, and co-director of the Science, Technology and Research Scholars Program. She also serves on admissions and fellowship committees at various times of the year. As director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, George oversees 25 student organizations and develops programs year round that serve undergraduates, graduate students, black alumni and New Haven youth.

Dean George has extensive background in education, public health, maternal/child health, and marriage, family and child counseling, with a special emphasis on black and Latino populations. Prior to coming to Yale, she was director of the Adolescent Family Program, a prize-winning model in perinatal health, and then served at the Center for Academic Advising and Support Services, where she was director of the Office for Black Student Programs at Saint Mary's College of California. For 10 years she was also adjunct professor in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University, where she taught community/clinical psychology, African philosophy and black family studies. She trained for more than a decade at the Institute for Advanced Study of Black Family Life and Culture under the renowned Africanist and social experimental psychologist Wade Nobles of Stanford University. With Nobles, George has two publications *African-American Families: Issues, Insights and Directions* and *Mental Health Impact of Drugs and Drug Trafficking on Black Families and Children in Oakland, California*.

Dean George has also won several awards for outstanding leadership and pioneering work within therapeutic practice. And, she is the first recipient of the Richard H. Brodhead Award for Excellence in Academic Advising in 2004.

Dr. Howard Blue is Director of Clinical Services in the Division of Mental Hygiene at Yale University Health Services and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Blue is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and he completed his training in Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Stephanie Donald is a senior in Morse College majoring in the History of Science and History of Medicine. She is an Ethnic Counselor, serving over 40 freshmen of African descent, primarily for Ezra Stiles College and she also has students in Morse, Jonathan Edwards, and Davenport Colleges. Having always been very involved on campus, Stephanie is currently President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Pi Alpha Chapter and previously served as a Student Recruitment Coordinator for the Office of Admissions. In her sophomore year, Stephanie received the prestigious Bouchet Fellowship allowing her to conduct scientific research during her junior and senior year. Upon graduation, Stephanie plans to attend medical school.

THE REEL

Charlene Gilbert is an independent documentary film and videomaker whose award winning film, *Homecoming, Sometimes I am haunted by memories of red dirt and clay*, premiered nationally on PBS and won the NBPC Prized Pieces Award for Best Documentary. Ms. Gilbert also co-authored, with Quinn Eli, a companion book to the film entitled *Homecoming: The Story of African American Farmers* published by Beacon Press. Her most recent documentary, *Children Will Listen* premiered at the AFI Silverdocs Documentary Festival this past June and will have its national broadcast premiere on PBS this fall. Her films and videos have been screened in numerous international and national festivals including: The Women in the Director's Chair Festival, the Chicago International Television Festival, FESPACO, the Athens International Film and Video Festival and the Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema. Ms. Gilbert is also the recipient of several awards and fellowships including the Rockefeller Media Fellowship, Harvard University's Bunting Fellowship, and the Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship award. She is currently working on an experimental documentary on bioethics which she hopes to complete in 2005. Ms. Gilbert currently resides in Washington, DC where she is a professor in the School of Communication at American University.

Jamal Caesar is originally from New York City. He attended The Dalton School after participating in the rigorous academic program Prep for Prep. Following his 2003 graduation from Yale University with a double Bachelors degree in American Studies and Film Studies, Jamal has spent the past year working as an undergraduate admissions officer for his alma mater. He hopes to continue his passion for film as a graduate school student, and subsequently as a director.

Lisa Collins earned her Masters in Screenwriting and Directing from Columbia University Film School after graduating from Yale University in American Studies/Photography, for which she was a Fulbright finalist. While at grad school, Lisa held multiple positions ranging from Producer to Actress to Grip on many student films, industrials and independent shoots.

She wrote/directed and executive produced two short films: *Miss Ruby's House*, a mockumentary in which she plays five roles; and *Tree Shade*, a surreal black comedy that participated at many competitive festivals: Sundance, Atlanta, Seattle, Cannes and Newport, to name a few. When broadcast, it headlined PBS' "Reel New York" series. The film garnered several prizes, including: the DGA's East Coast Student Filmmaker Award for Best African American Student Filmmaker; Best American Short Film at the Avignon Film Festival; and in 1999, the Gold Medal for Best Alternative Film at the Student Academy Awards from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. The film also was awarded a NYSCA grant.

Warrington Hudlin graduated from Yale in 1973. He is the Founder and Chief of dvrepublic.org and president of the Black Filmmaker Foundation. He is best known as the producer of the box office hits *House Party*, *Boomerang*, *Bebe Kids* and the HBO classic *Cosmic Slop*. Hudlin has been a martial arts practitioner since 1968 and got his black belt from Ju Jitsu Master Lil John Davis. He is also a closed door disciple of Chinese martial arts master and herbalist Grandmaster Doo Wai

Andrea Williams is founder of the Yale Black Solidarity Conference and is currently at NYU

Williams recently received her MFA in Film Directing from NYU and received her BA in Political Science from Yale. Her latest film, "A Spoonful of Sugar" received production grants from Showtime Networks and Warner Bros. Pictures and ranking as a Student Academy Award Regional Semi-Finalist. The film will be screening at top festivals here and abroad including: Toronto International Film Festival, London Film Festival, Hampton's International Film Festival and UrbanWorld. Williams is currently developing several screenplays, including a feature-length version of "A Spoonful of Sugar."

Monique Walton was born and raised in Long Island, New York. She majored in Latin American studies at Yale, focusing on Brazilian racial and socio-economic disparities in the public and private sphere. During her college career she developed a strong interest for documentary film, and *Still Black, at Yale* is her first endeavor as a filmmaker. She hopes to pursue documentary film professionally in the future, and is also interested in working in the field of international human rights law.

Andia Winslow graduated this past May 2004 with a degree in Sociology and interdisciplinary focus in Film Studies. *Still Black, at Yale* is her first documentary film effort. In addition to her filmic pursuits, Andia – the first African American female to play varsity Ivy League golf-- aspires to become a touring member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association and would be the fourth African American female in the entire history of the game to ever accomplish this feat.

HOUSE STAFF, 2004–2005

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Ralph Labossiere, '05

Senior Staff Coordinator and Ethnic Counselor

Kahina Robinson, '06

Project Coordinator, Literary Project
(former MLK Day Coordinator)

Shaundra Harris, '07

Cultural Caravan Coordinator, Program Coordinator
(former office manager and membership coordinator)

Adrian Hopkins, '06

Publications Manager
(e.g. 211 Park Street, all flyers and posters)

Jihad Beachman '06

Academic Programs Coordinator

Elaine Rene, '07

Membership and Resident Group Coordinator

Natalie Paul, '07

Theatre Arts Program Coordinator

Paa Kwesi Imbeah, '05

Web Manager

Ruramisai Charumbira, GRD, '07

Graduate Assistant and Director, Living Memory Historical Project

Glenn Rowe, GRD, '07

Graduate Assistant and Coordinator, Graduate/Undergraduate Relations; President, Black Graduate Network

(We look forward to two freshmen, Class of 2008, joining our staff soon.)



House Staff, 2003–2004

Valerie Idehen, '04 Senior Staff Coordinator
 Ralph Labossiere, '05
 Adrian Hopkins, '06
 Shaundra Harris, '07
 Rashayla Brown, '04
 Namik Minter, '04
 Kyle Brooks, '05
 Kahina Robinson, '06
 Taiwo Stanback, '06
 Mattias Ottervik, '04
 Francoise Hamilin, '04 PhD
 Ruramisai Charumbira, GRD, '07

House Staff, 2002–2003

Ronald Mackey, '03, Senior Staff Coordinator
 Renee Reynolds, '03 Senior Staff Coordinator
 John K. Johnson, '03
 Christopher Jordan, '06
 Valerie Idehen, '04
 Ralph Labossiere, '05
 Nicole Thompson, '03
 Namik Minter, '04
 Kyle Brooks, '05
 Rashayla Brown, '04
 Adrian Hopkins, '06
 Kyle Brooks, '05
 Francoise Hamilin, '04 PhD

House Staff, 2001–2002

Renee Reynolds, '03 Senior Staff Coordinator
 Eliada Nwosu, '02
 John K. Johnson, '03
 Valerie Idehen, '04
 Christopher Jordan, '06
 Ronald Mackey, '03
 Kyle Beckham, '02
 Albert Quashie, '02
 Taneika Taylor, '02
 Ejeris Dixon, '02
 Lyneise Williams, '04 PhD
 Ralph Labossiere, '05

House Staff, 2000–2001

Eyi Tuakli-Wosornu, '01,
 Senior Staff Coordinator
 Naima Baker, '01
 Taneika Taylor, '02
 Renee Reynolds, '03
 Eliada Nwosu, '02
 John K. Johnson, '03
 Ronald Mackey, '03
 Eliada Nwosu, '02
 Kyle Beckham, '02
 Ejeris Dixon, '02

House Staff, 1999–2000

Charla Hall, '00, Senior Staff Coordinator
 Eyi Tuakli-Wosornu, '01
 Akobe Sandy, UGRD
 Tamika Brandon, '00
 Melanie Wilson, '00
 Sharmeen Premjee, '02
 Ronald Mackey, '03
 John K. Johnson, '03

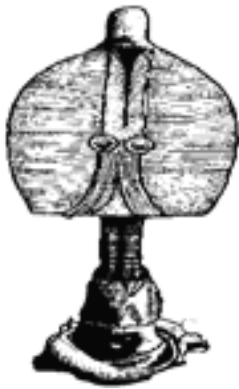
*NB: We will eventually construct a plaque to hang at the House listing all staff, directors, and administrative assistants from 1969 to present.

AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Symbolizing “home” for those who aspire to a greater understanding and appreciation of African-American, African-Caribbean and African culture, the Center and its student organizations provide a wide range of academic support and advisement, leadership skills training, and cultural/socio-political programming. Events such as lectures, poetry slams, cultural center teas, political forums, tutoring and mentoring of youth in New Haven, and a host of stimulating activities take place regularly. Among the annual events are:

Black Student Welcome Reception and Open House, Black Solidarity Conference, Parents Weekend Classical Music Recital, Yale/Harvard Game Activities, Alumni Career Panels, Films, Study Breaks, Art Exhibits, Martin Luther King Commemoration, Black History Month Celebration, Achievement Awards Banquet and Black Graduates’ Celebration.



In the last few years we’ve hosted and co-sponsored such speakers as Bobby Seale, Mutabaruka, Branford Marsalis, Paule Marshall, Nikky Finney, DJ Renegade, Kate Rushin, Thomas Glave, Warrington Hudlin, ’70, Spike Lee; Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Amiri Baraka, Aaron McGruder, Kathleen Cleaver, ’83, YLS, ’89, Henry Louis Gates, ’73, Kurt Schmoke, ’71, Hon. Walter Fauntroy, YDS, ’59, Sister Souljah, Danny Glover, Dr. Marion Wright-Edelman, YLS, ’63, Julian Bond, Randall Robinson, Maurice Ashley, St. Clair Bourne, David Dinkins, Judge Myron Thompson, ’69, ’YLS, ’73, and Willie Perdomo.

The Black undergraduates at Yale comprise 7.4% of the undergraduate population (approximately 465 students). 87% of Black students graduate from Yale within 4 years (national average of black student graduation is 36%.) There are 130 Black students in the class of 2008 – the largest class of Black students in the history of Yale. An increasing number of Black students engage in study-abroad programs during term-time and summer, and have won prestigious research fellowships and full-scholarships to graduate, medical, and law schools. Approximately 75% of all African American undergraduates engage in some capacity with the Afro-American Cultural Center. Over 300 students utilize the Center each week

Ethnic Counselor Program - The ethnic counselor program is a component of the freshman counselor program. There are 3 African American counselors who work with over 38 freshmen apiece, spanning 4 separate residential colleges. Such a system of counseling provides freshmen of color with a group of counselors who have coped successfully with similar issues or difficulties and have optimally maximized their resources at Yale.

Academic Support Services– The Center provides academic support in conjunction with the Science, Technology, and Research Scholars program (STARS) and is also creating new initiatives and programs beginning 2004-2005 through a series of dinners and workshops on time-management, writing skills, plagiarism/cheating policies, and problem-set help sessions for economic classes. In addition, Dean George officially serves as an academic adviser for a number of freshmen and sophomores.



Career Panels – The Center provides career panels with Black alumni and also works in coordination with Undergraduate Career Services whereby representatives from JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, SES, InRoads, etc. come to the Center for presentations to students of color.

Mental Pabulum – Monthly teas with African American faculty at Yale.

Leadership Skills Training – Holistic approach to leadership development provided in a series of workshops by David Asomaning, '81.

Literary Project – A new program at the Center to include writing workshops, open-mic sessions, performances, and guest lectures with renowned black writers, poets, and dramatists. Original works by students will be included in our arts and letters magazines, Black Ivy and the new Literate Soul. A highlight of the Project will be oratorical contests for New Haven youth.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS –

Urban Improvement Corp (UIC), is a student-run program providing one-to-one tutoring for New Haven Youth. Sessions are held at the Center 4 days a week. A Saturday school and rites of passage program is also being developed as a new component of UIC.



Visions of Virtue is a student organization. It is an opportunity for Christian women at Yale to nurture, support and encourage teenage ladies in New Haven and neighboring communities. Visions pairs young women (13-16) with Yale mentors for a 12-week mentorship. Each week, this Christian sisterhood meets for sessions on different topics such as sex, nutrition, education, and relationships. However, unlike existing Yale programs, Visions addresses these issues in a biblical context. Visions of Virtue is an opportunity to share a vision with little sisters in Christ, create lasting bonds with fellow Yalies and enhance personal growth. The Undergraduate group is establishing a male counterpart of this program in 2004-2005:

Men and Jesus in Connection (MAJIC)

All of the Black greek-letter organizations provide a number of community service programs throughout the year.

A new community initiative is currently being established for 2004-2005 to include sustained collaborations among community agencies, the House staff and the Black Graduate Network.

Health and Wellness Project – A new program introduced in 2004-2005 designed to enhance students' physical, mental, and spiritual health through workshops, activities, discussions: yoga classes, stress reduction, workshops on relationship, nutrition, etc.

211 Park Street Newsletter – An in-house publication that thrives on insightful submissions from undergraduate and graduate students, as well as community members. The newslet-

ter provides an effective medium through which the relevance of campus, local and national events to our community is explored.

“Da Hump” Study Breaks – It’s “take a break – procrastinate time” at the House every other Wednesday night. The food and beverages, game tables, TV and VCR draw people to the game room who are looking for an escape (however temporary) from their grueling schedule.

African Film Series – In conjunction with the Council of African Studies, films are shown twice a month and are chosen to represent the diversity of the Motherland and the varied film genre represented.

Cultural Caravan – An ensemble of dance, song, and historic skits by several resident groups that illustrate the story of African-Americans’ struggles and triumphs from past to present. Designed to balance energy and fun with education, it presents an intriguing/virtual Black history which caravans to local elementary and middle schools.

Classically Black – a recital of African American students on piano, voice, cello, violin, and flute held during Parents Weekend. The event has become a favorite for parents of all races.



OTHER PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

Black History Month

Black Student Achievement Awards Dinner

Black Graduates’ Celebration

Steel Drum Lessons

African Dance and Drumming Classes

Black Solidarity Conference (sponsored by BSA)

AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER RESIDENT
GROUPS AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Xi Omicron Chapter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Zeta Chapter

Black Church at Yale

Black Graduate Network

Black Ivy - Arts and Letters Magazine and 211 Park Street

Black Student Alliance at Yale (BSAY)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Pi Alpha Chapter

Gamma Phi Delta, Kappa Kings Chapter (Christian Fraternity)

Heritage Theater Ensemble (re-introduced 2004-2005)

Klib Kreyol - Haitian Student Organization

Konjo! - African Dance Troupe

MAPS - Minority Association in Pre-Medicine

NSBEY - National Society for Black Engineers at Yale

Pan, Jam and Lime Steel Pan Group

PRISM - Gay/Lesbian Students of Color

SHADES - A Capella Vocal Group

Steppin' Out - Yale Step Team

UIC - Urban Improvement Corp Tutoring Program

Visions of Virtue - Mentoring for Young Girls in Christ

Yale Gospel Choir

Yale African Student Association (YASA)

Yale West Indian Student Organization (YWISO)

**Community Affiliates: Paul Huggins and Friends; New Haven African
Dance and Drumming; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

FIVE YEARS FOR THE HOUSE INITIATIVE

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In April, 1999, Erica Simone Turnipseed, '93 founded the "Five Years for the House Initiative" during the 30th Anniversary Celebration. Realizing that the House serves as the focal point of student life for many during their undergraduate years and symbolizes recognition by the University of the importance of the black cultural experience, a group of African-American alumni launched a major fundraising effort with the goal to secure the House's physical and programmatic future as the thriving home for the black experience at Yale.

The committee: Erica Turnipseed and Don Roman, '71 co-chairs. Kurt Schmoke, '71 who secured University funding; Vera Wells, '71, Dwight Raiford, '71, Ralph Dawson, '71, Victor Cheers, '74, Rosalind Wiggins, '81, and Brian Hodge, '98.

The Initiative seeks to provide:

- Physical renovation of the building's interior space; including technology-driven enhancements
- Support of artistic, intellectual and social pursuits of resident groups, special student initiatives and community outreach programs
- Endowment funds for a special speaker series, leadership forums and annual student events

In addition, President Levin announced in January, 2001, that the University will match, dollar for dollar, all gifts and pledges to the Five Years for the House Initiative, up to the amount of half of the cost of the full renovation of the building. We were given \$500,000 from the University for the exterior renovation. With the match, we have currently raised through gifts and pledges, \$670,000 for interior renovations and programming.

The following enhancements will ensure the vitality of the House for generations to come. With over 75 alumni contributing to the fund, along with University funding and resources:

- A new roof, repair and cleaning of the stone and brickwork, and new windows throughout the entire building was completed in November 2001 for a total of \$500,000.
- In just the past few weeks, interior renovations have been completed for the kitchen, gallery and game room, with partial refurbishing in the multi-purpose room and library for a total cost of \$200,000.
- Another \$30,000 is earmarked for furnishings and art work.
- To date, approximately \$50,000 has been used to support student organized conferences, program funding for Black Graduates' Celebration and ten steel drums for Pan, Jam and Lime Steel Pan Ensemble.

- An architect was hired in 2003 to develop plans for a complete restoration of the “enormous” room. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$350,000 to include audio-visual equipment. It is scheduled to commence in the summer, 2005.
- In October 2003, Ernie Osborne convened a group of alumni (Woody Brittain, Craig Foster, Dwight Raiford, Ralph Dawson) to establish an endowed forum in memory of Donald Ogilvie, Armstead Robinson and Glenn DeChabert, (ORD Forum.) The purpose of the forum is for the discussion and exploration of timely economic, political and cultural issues relevant to the black community and the larger Yale community; use approaches that enhance the student experience by encouraging issue oriented interaction between all parts of the University – black, white, Asian, Latino, international, etc.; use approaches that encourage students to be active with an issue beyond discussion and analysis.

The ORD Forum has been approved by President Levin and will be part of the Afro-American Cultural Center programming. The University match will be used for the renovations. The goal is to raise \$ 1,000,000 with the first event slated for Spring, 2005.

We are forever grateful to Erica for her foresight and to all of the alumni who have volunteered to assist with fundraising. A special thanks to the ORD committee and most importantly, we thank all of the alumni who have contributed to the Five Years for the House Initiative.

To learn more about the Initiative and ways to get involved, further discussion of fundraising will take place during the Business Meeting, Saturday October 2, 4:30–6 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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For Yale University

Richard C. Levin
University President

Nina Glickson
Assistant to the President

For the Association of Yale Alumni

Jeff Brenzel,
Executive Director

Alisa Masterson,
Assistant Director for University Relations

For the Yale College Dean's Office

Peter Salovey
Dean

Betty Trachtenberg,
Dean of Students

Penelope Laurans,
Associate Dean &
Special Assistant to the President

Sharleen Sanchez
Administrative Assistant

For Conference Services

Susan Adler
Director

Roberta Hudson
Conference Manager

Joanne Dupee
Administrative Assistant

For Reprographic and Imaging Services

Frank Savino
Manager, Offset Printing and Production
Control Manager

Peter W. Johnson
Design Director

For Sterling Memorial Library —Manuscripts and Archives Library

Christine Weideman
Assistant Head Archivist

William Massa
Archivist

Raman Prasad
Digital Imaging

Richard Szary
Head MSSA

Stephen E. Cohen
Archivist

Renee Cawley
Assistant Archivist

For Office of Public Affairs

Thomas Conroy
Deputy Director

LuAnn Bishop
Editor, Yale Bulletin and Calendar

For the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale University

Pamela Y. George
Assistant Dean of Yale College and
Director

Caroline Jackson-Smith, '74
Victor Cheers, '74
Anniversary Co-Chairs

AACC Advisory Board 2003–2005

Senior Members

Otherine Neisler, Chair
Elizabeth Alexander, '84
Kathleen Cleaver, '83, '89 JD
Al Lucas, '90
Robert P. Jackson
Evelyn Streater Frizzle
Sheila Saunders

Junior Members

Abena Asare, '05
Mark Henry, '04
Tianna Jackson, '06
Lianne Labossiere, '06
Bakari Matthews, '05
Danielle K. Smith, '06

Anniversary Committees Program

Francoise Hamlin, '04 PhD
Ruramisai Charumbira, GRD, '07
Lia Bascomb, '05 (our fabulous full-time staff person during the summer!)
Elizabeth Alexander, '84
Brian Hodge, '98
Bennie F. Johnson, '95
Dwight Raiford, '71
Vera Wells, '71
Jesse Rhines, '83 MA
Erica Simone Turnipseed, '93
Maria Ramos

Pioneers and Early Leaders' Portraits

Charles Yawson, '05

Ogilvie, Robinson, and DeChabert Memorial Committee Planners

Williard W. Brittain, '70
Craig Foster, '69
Ernest Osborne
Erica Turnipseed, '93

Dwight Raiford, '71
Ralph Dawson, '71
Vera Wells, '71

Living Memory Historical Project

Ruramisai Charumbira, '07 Director
Francoise Hamlin, '04 PhD
Lia Bascomb, '05
Florine Miller, Assistant Archivist
Monique Walton, '04, Videographer

AACC House Staff

Ralph Labossiere, '05
Kahina Robinson, '06
Adrian Hopkins, '06
Shaundra Harris, '07
Elaine Rene, '07
Jihad Beauchman, '06
Natalie Paul, '07

Yale Black Alumni Network

Christopher Rabb, '92

Anniversary "Ambassadors" (Volunteers, Publicists, Interviewers and Presenters)

Taryn Anderson, '07
Lauren Booker, '06
Whytne Brooks, '07
Louis Daniels, '07
Erica Davis, '07
Shani Harmon, '06
Marianne Ince
Sherrise Pond, '06
Michelle Reid, '07
Whitney Sparks, '07
Beth Scott, '05
Danielle K. Smith, '06
Michael A. Smith, '05
Aaisha Tracy, '03
Nnenna Ukwu, '05
Dexter Upshaw, '06

THE LIVING MEMORY HISTORY PROJECT

Celebrating 35 Strong Years of the Afro-American Cultural Center



After the Egyptian and Indian, the Greek and Roman, the Teuton and Mongolian, the Negro is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil, and gifted with second-sight in this American world - a world which yields him no true self-consciousness, but only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world. It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others... One ever feels his twoness - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings, two warring ideals in one dark body; whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

The enigmatic Luba mask from Zambia (right) is an immediate vision of the intricate of new world. The Texas Mask from Nigeria (left) presents a mysterious counterpart of that same intention. The drawing was the inspiration for our original logo by writer and artist Abner DeTroy. It has been further developed and refined by graphic designer Nathan Proctor. From the vague outlines of the bones to the pure geometrical abstraction of the Luba, these masks represent the multi-faceted visual traditions that is so much a part of our African-American heritage.





The Living Memory History Project is a two-part project of the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale. It is aimed at preserving the history of the Center and the Black experience at Yale through the collection and preservation of manuscripts and archives and with oral and video testimonies of alumni. This effort thus far documents the history of Black undergraduate activity at Yale and in the New Haven community since 1969. It also sheds light on the activities of Black graduate students, faculty and staff, as well as the New Haven Black community. Finally, the project seeks to collect and preserve documentation of the Black experience at Yale before the Center's establishment in 1969.

How to get involved

1. The records of the Center are preserved in Manuscripts and Archives in the Yale University Library. Photographs in the records have been digitized, but many need to be identified and we need your help.
2. If you are a Black graduate you are invited to participate in the oral history project and donate materials documenting your Yale experiences.
3. If you are a member of the faculty or staff at Yale, you are invited to participate in the project.
4. If you are related to a Black graduate you are invited to donate materials documenting his/her Yale experiences.
5. If you are a member of the New Haven Black community and have been an active affiliate member of the Center please do sign up to tell your story.

How to reach us

Afro-American Cultural Center

211 Park St.
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-4131

www.yale.edu/afam

Manuscripts and Archives

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735

www.library.yale.edu/mssa



Afro-American Cultural Center
est. 1969

