

LHC Newsletter

Langston Hughes Center Newsletter

Friday, October 1, 2010

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- 1. Upcoming Events:** Third Annual Tuttle Lecture (Oct. 7); MAASA (Oct. 8-9); Jesse B. Semple Brownbag (Oct. 11); 40 Years of Africana Studies: Reflection and Visualization (Oct. 20 & 27); Roundtable on Philosophy and Race (Oct. 29)
- 2. In the News:** Oral History Project; Johnny's Death; Ronald Walters
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Sincerely,

Shawn Leigh Alexander
Assistant Professor of African and African-American Studies
Interim Director, Langston Hughes Center
University of Kansas

Upcoming Events

Third Annual Tuttle Lecture

What: "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery" - Eric Foner, Columbia University

When: Thursday October 7 @5:00 – 7:30 pm

Where: Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: American Studies, Hall Center for the Humanities, Department of History, African and African American Studies, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Chancellor, and CLAS

For more information see: <http://www.hallcenter.ku.edu/~hallcenter/cgi-bin/index.php/calendar/event/eric-foner-the-fiery-trial-abraham-lincoln-and-american-slavery>

Mid-America Alliance for African Studies Conference

What: "Africana Studies: Celebration, Reflection, and Visualization"

When: Friday and Saturday, October 8 & 9, 2010

Where: Kansas Union (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: Registration: <http://www.kasc.ku.edu/maaas/maaas-conferences/2010/2010.shtml>

Sponsors of this Event: Mid-America Alliance for African Studies, Kansas African Studies Center, and Langston Hughes Center

For more information see: <http://www.kasc.ku.edu/maaas/maaas-conferences/2010/program.shtml>

Jesse B. Semple Brownbag Series

What: "After Lunch Poems" - William J. Harris, University of Kansas

When: Monday October 11 @11:30 am - 1:00 pm (11:30 -12:00 social period and brownbag lunch)

Where: Kansas Union, Alcove A (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Langston Hughes Center

About The Jesse B. Semple Brownbag Series: The Jesse B. Semple Brownbag, every second Monday of each academic month, is an informal forum for the African Americanist community and those who are interested in the general study of race, culture, and American society. The forum discusses activities on campus, historical and current issues related to race, and culture and social relations in America. It offers opportunities for visiting scholars, KU faculty, and KU students to present their ongoing research.

Langston Hughes' character Jesse B. Semple, or Simple first appeared in the *Chicago Defender* on February 13, 1943. Semple became a voice, often in comic or satirical fashion, through which Hughes could comment on international relations, current events and the everyday concerns of the African American community.

"40 Years of Africana Studies" Reflection and Visualization

What: "Black Studies in the Fourth Decade: Triumph and Challenges" - Ernest Allen, Jr., University of Massachusetts - Amherst

When: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 @3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: Kansas Union, Pine Room (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Langston Hughes Center and Kansas African Studies Center

For more information see: http://www2.ku.edu/~lhcaas/LHC_KASC%20Seminar%20Series.html

"40 Years of Africana Studies" Reflection and Visualization

What: "Making Short-Films/Video: The Battle for Hearts and Minds" – Madison D. Lacy
University of Kansas

When: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 @3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: Kansas Union, Centennial Room (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Langston Hughes Center and Kansas African Studies Center

For more information see: http://www2.ku.edu/~lhcaas/LHC_KASC%20Seminar%20Series.html

Roundtable on Philosophy and Race, Part I

What: "Dialogues on Race, Leadership, and Human Rights" - Derrick Darby, University of Kansas and Thomas McCarthy, Northwestern University

When: Friday, October 29, 2010 @ 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Where: Hall Center Conference Hall (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information see: <http://www.hallcenter.ku.edu/~hallcenter/cgi-bin/index.php/calendar/event/roundtable-on-philosophy-and-race-dialogues-on-race-empire-and-human-rights-derrick-darby-philosophy-and-thomas-mccarthy-philosophy-northwestern-university>

Roundtable on Philosophy and Race, Part II

What: "Dialogues on Race, Leadership, and Solidarity" - Robert Gooding-Williams, University of Chicago and Tommie Shelby, Harvard University

When: Friday, October 29, 2010 @ 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Where: Hall Center Conference Hall (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information see: <http://www.hallcenter.ku.edu/~hallcenter/cgi-bin/index.php/calendar/event/roundtable-on-philosophy-and-race-dialogues-on-race-leadership-and-solidarity-robert-gooding-williams-ralph-and-mary-otis-isham-professor-of-political-science-university-of-chicago-and-tommie-shelby-philosophy-and-african-and-african-american-studies-ha>

In The News

Oral History Project Records Elderly Blacks on the Horror of Lynchings

Sam Hodges | September 18, 2010 | *Dallas Morning News*

WACO – Gwendolyn Hill grew up in Mineola during the 1930s, hearing her grandmother and other elders talking about how black men faced the constant threat of being kidnapped and hanged by vigilante gangs.

"We were just overwhelmed with fear," said Hill, an Oak Cliff resident, in a 2009 oral history interview collected at Baylor University in Waco.

As an 8-year-old in Hazelhurst, Ga., Wallace Hartsfield saw the body of a hanged black man dragged through the streets by white men in a truck.

"I couldn't get it out of my mind," said Hartsfield, a retired pastor and civil rights activist in Kansas City, Mo., in another recent interview collected at Baylor. "I think for a long time I hated white people."

Hill and Hartsfield are two of more than 75 people interviewed by Angela Sims, a professor at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, to collect memories of lynching.

Read the full article at the following link: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/0919dnmetlynchings.2717aff.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Johnny's Death: The Untold Tragedy in Birmingham

Carrie Johnson | September 15, 2010 | *NPR*

The twentieth-century economic adage that when America sneezes the rest of the world catches pneumonia has a tragic domestic counterpart in the relative economic condition of African-Americans. What for white Americans is a Great Recession amounts to a virtual depression for a substantial number of African-Americans. Unemployment rates stood at 15.5 percent in May, compared with the overall national rate of 9.7 percent. For black men the situation is almost as desperate as during the nadir of the Great Depression of the 1930s: more than one in six is unemployed, compared with the national average of 9.8 percent; among black teenagers, many of whom are out of school and seeking full employment, the rate stands at a shocking 38 percent.

Read and listen to the full article at the following link: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129856740>

Scholar Ronald W. Walters led what is Considered to be the first lunch-counter sit-in

Matt Schudel | September 12, 2010 | *Washington Post*

Ronald W. Walters, one of the country's leading scholars of the politics of race, who was a longtime professor at Howard University and the University of Maryland, died Friday of cancer at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda. He was 72.

Dr. Walters was both an academic and an activist, cementing his credentials with his early involvement in the civil rights movement. In 1958, in his home town of Wichita, he led what many historians consider the nation's first lunch-counter sit-in protest. Later, he became a close adviser to Jesse L. Jackson as one of the principal architects of Jackson's two failed presidential campaigns.

"Ron was one of the legendary forces in the civil rights movement of the last 50 years," Jackson said Saturday.

Read the full article at the following link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/11/AR2010091104528.html>

General Information

ASALH 95th Annual Conference - "The History of Black Economic Empowerment"
Raleigh, NC
September 29 – October 3, 2010

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is soliciting papers for its 95th Annual Conference. The conference theme, The History of Black Economic Empowerment, acknowledges one of the most significant elements of black life. After centuries of slavery, people of African descent in the Americas gained their freedom and found themselves in the struggle to make a living. In America black codes often prevented blacks from owning land, organized labor shut their doors to their fellow workers, and even the white philanthropist who funded black schools denied them opportunities once educated.

Refusing to accept sharecropping and day labor as the only ways of making a living, African Americans became landowners, skilled workers, businessmen and women, and professionals. They eventually created their own unions and professional societies and organizations that promoted racial or collective uplift. In 1910 black and white reformers came together and created an organization that became the National Urban League. Through the years the National Urban League has been at the forefront of the continuing rise of black economic development and empowerment throughout the Americas.

For more information about the Conference visit: <http://www.asalh.org/95thconvention.html>

Art & Power in Movement: An International Conference Rethinking the Black Power and Black Arts Movement
University of Massachusetts - Amherst
November 18-20, 2010

The Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies will host a major gathering of scholars and activists, writers and artists, youth and elders, both to mark our 40th year on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, as well as to support the exchange of knowledge about the dynamic period in which academic Black Studies units like ours were established.

Our conference will be held at the UMass Amherst Campus Center from November 18, 2010 to November 20, 2010. It will begin on Thursday with Melba Boyd on the Broadside Press Collection at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library followed in the evening with Randy Weston in concert. Friday and Saturday will be filled with keynote presentations, readings, panel sessions, film screenings, and scholarly presentations. You do not want to miss it.

Please click the poster to go to the conference website and use it to help us make the Art & Power in Movement Conference the best that it can be.

Conference Participants include, among others: Amiri Baraka, Melba Boyd, Haki Madhubuti, Eugene Redmond, Judy Richardson, Sonia Sanchez, and Randy Weston

For more information about the Conference visit: <http://www.umass.edu/afroam/>

Call For Papers - "The State of African American and African Diaspora Studies: Methodology, Pedagogy, and Research"
New York, NY
January 6-8, 2011

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean at the City University of New York extend a call for papers for their regular conference on the state of scholarship in African American and African Diaspora Studies. Entitled, *The State of African American and African Diaspora Studies: Methodology, Pedagogy, and Research*, the conference will take place on January 6-8, 2011 at the Schomburg Center, located at 135th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem, and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, located at 365 Fifth Avenue.

The conference is designed to bring together scholars, students, and the general public to assess the current state of African American and African Diaspora Studies as an intellectual field

address the current state of African American and African Diaspora Studies as an intellectual field of inquiry. It will provide an opportunity for scholars to examine ways in which the study and teaching of the Black experience have evolved since the 1960s.

Proposals should be submitted electronically and must include your name, title of the paper, panel, or roundtable, and an abstract of 150 words. They should also include the institutional affiliation of each presenter, phone numbers, and email addresses. Submit proposals by November 1, 2010 to:

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Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship – University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Since 1977, this visiting professorship has attracted prominent or emerging ethnic minority scholars to KU – from a broad range of disciplines and academic departments/schools. This one-semester appointment provides the recipient a stipend appropriate to the candidate's rank, a small travel allowance, and a furnished apartment near the KU campus. The recipient will teach two courses during the semester of their appointment and deliver a campus-wide symposium on a topic or issue related to their discipline.

To find out more about the Visiting Professorship visit KU's Diversity and Equity site: www.diversity.ku.edu <<http://www.diversity.ku.edu>>

If you would like to unsubscribe send an email to lhcaas@ku.edu to let us know, and we'll remove you immediately.

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