

LHC Newsletter

Langston Hughes Center Newsletter

Monday, December 6, 2010

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Sincerely,

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

Presidential Politics, Civil Rights, and the Road to *Brown* – Summer Seminar for Teachers

July 24-30, 2011

University of Kansas

http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/seminar.php?seminar_id=144

We are pleased to announce a special summer seminar for teachers to be held at the University of Kansas. The Langston Hughes Center and the Kansas Collection at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library are collaborating with the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Park, the Brown Foundation, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to hold a seminar entitled "Presidential Politics, Civil Rights, and the Road to *Brown*." This seminar will explore the road to *Brown v. Board of Education (1954)* and the fight for social and political equality in the years before the modern Civil Rights Movement. Participants will learn about this struggle at the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Park Service site, one of the five locations for the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court decision, and at the Presidential Libraries of both Eisenhower and Truman, who were uniquely involved in the road to *Brown*. Moreover, the participants will learn about the struggle from a number of experts, including plaintiffs from the Supreme Court case and Jack Greenberg, the former president and direct-counsel of the NAACP Legal and Defense and Educational Fund and a member of the legal team that prepared and argued the *Brown* case. Finally, the seminar will provide educational resources and professional training to secondary teachers interested in exploring the struggle for civil rights in America.

The seminar will be held from July 24-30, 2011 on the University of Kansas campus in

Lawrence, KS.

Secondary teachers interested in participating in the seminar visit <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/seminar.php?seminar_id=144> for application information.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1, 2011.

In The News

France honors 'beloved' US Novelist Toni Morrison

Jenny Barchfield | November 3, 2010 | *Philadelphia Tribune*

Toni Morrison is "beloved" in France, the country's culture minister said Wednesday, as he inducted the celebrated U.S. novelist into the elite Legion of Honor society.

In a ceremony in a gilded hall in the ministry, Frederic Mitterrand pinned a red and gold medal onto the celebrated author's jacket as a scrum of photographers snapped away.

Mitterrand called Morrison — a Nobel laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize — "the greatest American novelist of her time."

Read the full article at the following link: <http://www.phillytrib.com/tribune/entertainmentheadlines/15569-france-honors-beloved-us-novelist-toni-morrison-.html>

Author Ernest Gaines Comes Home to Where his Ancestors were Enslaved

Wayne Drash | November 9, 2010 | *CNN*

A thick gray smoke shrouds the road. The asphalt turns into gravel, and rocks kick up beneath the car. Sugar cane fields stretch to the horizon.

The fields are being harvested and burned. A crumbled shack from the "quarters," once home to slaves, then sharecroppers, still stands amid overgrown trees and weeds.

This is home to some of the great characters of American literature, from books such as "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "A Gathering of Old Men." To author Ernest Gaines, it's his home and the home of "my early heroes" -- the aunt who raised him, his brothers, his neighbors, his friends.

"Without them, I would have nothing to write about," Gaines says. "This is my source of writing."

Read the full article at the following link: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/11/09/ernest.gaines.cemetery/index.html?hpt=C1>

Margaret T. Burroughs, Archivist of Black History, Dies at 95

William Grimes | November 27, 2010 | *New York Times*

Margaret T. Burroughs, a founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago, one of the first museums devoted to black history and culture in the United States, died on Sunday in Chicago. She was 95.

Her death was confirmed by her grandson Eric Toller.

Mrs. Burroughs, an artist and high school teacher, shared with her husband, Charles, an interest in history and a desire to celebrate the achievements of black Americans. In 1961, using their own collection of art and artifacts, Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs established a small museum in three rooms on the first floor of a large house they had recently bought on South Michigan Avenue. Originally called the Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art, it was renamed in 1968 to honor Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the black settler considered the first permanent citizen of what would become the city of Chicago.

Read the full article at the following link: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/28/arts/28burroughs.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=Margaret%20T.%20Burroughs,%20Archivist%20of%20Black%20History,%20Dies%20at%2095&st=cse

Celebrating Secession Without the Slaves

Katherine Q. Seelye | November 29, 2010 | *New York Times*

The Civil War, the most wrenching and bloody episode in American history, may not seem like much of a cause for celebration, especially in the South.

And yet, as the 150th anniversary of the four-year conflict gets under way, some groups in the old Confederacy are planning at least a certain amount of hoopla, chiefly around the glory days of secession, when 11 states declared their sovereignty under a banner of states' rights and broke from the union.

The events include a "secession ball" in the former slave port of Charleston ("a joyous night of music, dancing, food and drink," says the invitation), which will be replicated on a smaller scale in other cities. A parade is being planned in Montgomery, Ala., along with a mock swearing-in of Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederacy.

Read the full article at the following link: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/30/us/30confed.html?_r=2&pagewanted=1&hp

General Information

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>>

Call For Papers – NCBS Cincinnati, OH March 16-19, 2011

NCBS is accepting abstracts for individual paper, poster, panel, session, roundtable discussion, workshop, town hall meeting that explore the Black experience locally, nationally, and/or globally from a variety perspective. Of particular interest are presentations that comparatively explore these experiences, as well as those that examine the discipline of Africana/Black Studies using multi-layered frameworks and methodologies. Papers that incorporate various combinations of race/nationality, class, gender, and sexuality, through the lens of but not limited to Afrocentric, cross and multicultural, diasporic, feminist, postcolonial, postmodernist

or transnational interpretative schemes are welcomed. Send a 150-400 word abstract for a panel (one for the panel subject and one for each panelist), and/or individual paper and poster presentations. For roundtable discussions submit a 500 word abstract that explores the discussion topic. For town hall meetings submit a 500 word abstract specifying the roles of the facilitator(s) and recorder(s).

Submission Deadline: **December 1, 2010**. For more information see: http://www.ncbsonline.org/conference_call_for_papers

**Call For Papers – ASWAD "AFRICAN LIBERATION AND BLACK POWER: THE CHALLENGES OF DIASPORIC ENCOUNTERS ACROSS TIME, SPACE, AND IMAGINATION"
Pittsburgh, PA
November 3-6, 2011**

In 1954, novelist and intellectual Richard Wright published *Black Power*, a provocative book in which Wright offered his reflections on his travels to the Gold Coast as it was in the process of becoming the independent nation of Ghana. The term "Black Power" that Wright used to signify the possibilities of freedom and development for Africans, as well as Pan-African cultural connections, would become a familiar notion to people of African descent around the world, who identified with its potent message for liberation and cultural revitalization. In so doing, Wright opened a new chapter in the long history of political and intellectual dialogue across the African Diaspora—one that revealed both the convergences and ruptures between people of African descent on the continent and in Diaspora.

For its sixth biennial conference, to be held in Pittsburgh, ASWAD explores the theme "African Liberation and Black Power: The Challenges of Diasporic Encounters Across Time, Space and Imagination." This conference intends to appreciate the Diasporic dimensions and articulations of Black Power, with special emphasis on Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Asia by tracing the genealogies of the concept and challenging localized limitations of Black Power scholarship.

Though the term "Black Power" is most frequently associated with the political and cultural movement of the 1960s and 1970s in the United States, the drive to valorize blackness and Africanity/Africanité was broadly shared throughout Africa and the African Diaspora. Black Power was a transnational phenomenon; in addition to the U.S., organizations, activists, artists, and politicians in Canada, Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica, Bermuda, UK, South Africa, Zaire, and elsewhere explicitly identified themselves as adhering to Black Power. Each of these local movements responded in unique ways, but remained in dialogue with peoples of African descent and other peoples seeking creative responses to oppressive regimes. At the same time, 1970s black feminist organizations such as the Combahee River Collective (USA) and the Southall Black Sisters (UK), as well as writers such as Claudia Jones, Audre Lorde and Bessie Head, openly contested the masculinist, heteronormative tendencies within Black Power. Indeed, Diasporic feminists often imagined freedom in far more expansive political and aesthetic terms than their male counterparts.

In exploring Black Power as a global phenomenon, ASWAD encourages the submission of papers that interrogate the elements that define Black Power, its multiple locations, and articulations, its gendered and sexual contours, the transnational connections that informed and nurtured it as well as global and local cultural and political projects that revitalize it in the twenty-first century. In addition, we seek to identify the antecedents of Black Power, and historicize it within the trajectories of African and African Diasporic literature, culture, media, philosophy, politics, and the academy itself, as well as its relationship to health and environmental issues. The cultural and ideological foundations of Black Power had deep roots in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries and, as such, ASWAD encourages papers that excavate the origins of the cultural, intellectual, and political expressions that gave birth to the liberation struggles of the 20th century. All geographic areas will be represented, including Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Paper and panel proposals that incorporate women, gender, and sexuality as categories of analysis are encouraged.

Please send a two-page abstract (for with or without presentation) and a one-page

Please send a two-page abstract (for either a single presentation or a panel) and a one-page CV (or multiple one-page CV's) by **MARCH 15, 2011**. They can be sent prior to submitting the registration fee, and are to be sent electronically via email attachment to: aswad2011@osu.edu

For more information see http://www.aswadiaspora.org/ASWAD_2011_CFP_01.html#registration

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

Contact Information:

Langston Hughes Center
1440 Jayhawk Boulevard
Room 9 Bailey Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574, USA
Phone: (785)864-5044
Fax: (785)864-5330

Interim Director:
Shawn Leigh Alexander
Assistant Professor of African & African American Studies
lhcaas@ku.edu

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