

**John P. Myers, Sociology Department**  
*Publications/Professional Presentations*  
Dominant-Minority Relations in the Americas: Convergence in the New World. 2007. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, Second Edition.

Family Background Research Project: A Lab Manual. 2007. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

**Corann Okorodudu, Psychology**

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Intergenerational Consequences, Resistance, Transformation, and Unfinished Business, Introduced and Co-Moderated this symposium in Commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the British Abolition of Slavery and the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, United Nations, New York, March 29, 2007.

The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Children and Families, Introduced and Co-Moderated the Program of the NGO Committee on Children's Rights, in commemoration of World AIDS Day, December 7, 2006.

The Convention of the Rights of the Child: Evolution of the most widely ratified human rights instrument and Its Importance today, Panel Presentation, NGO Committee on Children's Rights, UNICEF House, United Nations, New York, November 2, 2006.

A Position Statement and Suggested Strategies for NGO Action on Darfur, co-author with an alliance of NGOs, United Nations, New York, February 2007.

Racism and Discrimination as Causes of Poverty and Hunger, Introduced and Moderated the Midday Session at the 2006 United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Conference, September 6, 2006.

**Lourin Plant, Department of Music**

*Professional Performances*

Performed four concerts of African-American Spirituals (baritone) with pianist Veda Zuponic at conservatories in Ukraine (Kharkiv, Poltava and Sumy) — March 2007.

Gala Concert for Marian Anderson Guild Scholarship Fund — February 2007.

Concert recital of African-American Spirituals (baritone) with pianist Veda Zuponic at State Meeting of New Jersey National Association of Teachers of Singing (NJNATS) at Westminster Choir College — November 2006.

Two concert recitals of African-American spirituals (baritone) with pianist

Veda Zuponic at the Northern Lights Music Festival in Aurora and Ely, Minnesota — July 2006.

Opera on Rittenhouse Square, with Rittenhouse Orchestra, Eight performances with The Philadelphia Singers/Philadelphia Singer's Chorale and the Philadelphia Orchestra, Two Multimedia-Performances with The Philadelphia Singers and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and other critically acclaimed performances.

**Diane Turner, Adjunct Faculty, African American Studies**

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Francis Johnson: American's First International Superstar. 2007. Exhibition, West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Free Library of Philadelphia, PA.

Look Again: African American History is American History. 2007. Rosenbach Museum and Library, Philadelphia, PA.

Feeding the Soul: Black Music, Black Thought. 2007. Chicago, IL: Third World Press.

Documenting Local Communities Through Oral History. Lecture, Black History Conference, Lincoln University, April 14, 2007.

African History: New Reflections, 7<sup>th</sup> Nubian Kemetec Conference, Cairo, Egypt, August 2006.

The Interview Technique as Oral History in Black Studies. 2006. In The Handbook of Black Studies, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

**Exciting New Africana Related Languages Offered Fall 2007 and Spring 2008**

Elementary Arabic I, Course Number: ARAB12.101.1; CRN Number: 43821. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, Robinson 211. Professor: Salwa Shishani.

Zulu I, Course Number: AFRI16.101.1; CRN Number: 41965, Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:00 PM, Bunce 347. Professor: Jabulani Moyo.

Both courses can be used to fulfill Elective Requirements in General Education and (at the same time) Elective Requirements in the Concentration in African American Studies.

For additional information or an academic advising appointment, please contact the Office of African American Studies:

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**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER**

Rowan University  
 Robinson Hall, Room 215H  
 (856) 256-4793

June 2007

A Publication of the Office of African American Studies

**ANNUAL BREAKFAST RECEPTION IN HONOR OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

At a festive Breakfast Reception on May 8, 2007, held in the Rowan University Library Tower, the African American Studies Program honored students scheduled to graduate with successful completion of the African American Studies (AAS) Concentration. Following welcoming remarks by Crystal Beckwith, Graduate Student in the Office of African American Studies and host of the program, Dr. Corann Okorodudu also welcomed the participants on behalf of the African American Studies Steering Committee and Advisory Board. In his Opening Remarks, Dr. Jay A. Harper, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, applauded the graduates for their accomplishments in the AAS Concentration and the work of the faculty and professional staff who have contributed to the development and maintenance of the program. His remarks were followed by a presentation by Dr. Z. Benjamin Blanding, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services and Assistant Vice President for Student Development, who emphasized the growing recognition by current employers of the critical importance of multicultural knowledge and competencies, such as those that had been acquired by graduates with the AAS Concentration, to successful job performance in a variety of occupational contexts.

Dean Harper, Dr. Okorodudu, and Crystal Beckwith presented African American Studies Certificates to the following students;

- Christopher Barton, History
- Jon M. Bouchard, History
- Michael T. Cucci, History
- Kevin T. Foster, History
- Norma Garcia, History
- Justin Hall, Sociology
- Yma Kabia-Williams, Psychology and Sociology
- Daniel Kloza, History and Education
- Lacy Brittany Lupi, History
- Danielle Moore, Law/Justice
- Matthew Repsher, History
- Stephen R. Stieg, History
- John T. Still, History
- Ryan Tierney, History

Daniel Kloza and Yma Kabia-Williams were also recipients of Medallion Awards for Excellence in African American Studies.

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**2007 MEDALLION AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

For the first time in its history, the African American Studies Program gave its Excellence in African American Studies Medallion Award to two students with extraordinary performance in the African American Studies Concentration: **Daniel F. Kloza** and **Yma Kabia-Williams**. Both students achieved Grade Point Averages of 3.7 or higher in the Concentration and graduated with degrees in two majors.

Daniel F. Kloza received a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Throughout his studies at Rowan, he maintained excellent Grade Point Averages and was on the Dean's List every semester. During the Spring of 2006, Daniel worked as a teacher's

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assistant at Bowe Elementary School and during the 2006-2007 academic year, he served as a student teacher of First-Year World History at Woodstown High School. In recognition of his exceptional academic performance and leadership ability, he was selected by the College of Education to serve in March 2007 as the Student Representative of the Social Studies Education Program for the National Certification for Accreditation in Teacher Education site visit.

Yma Kabia-Williams majored in Psychology and Sociology, was featured on the Dean's List, and was a recipient of the Annie Singleton Award. She has a distinguished record of co-curricular leadership and service including the following: President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (2002-2007), Vice President of the Black Cultural League (2003-2007), Vice president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (20502007), Mentor to First-Year Females in the Harley E. Flack Ujima Mentoring Program, participant in the Carroll F.S. Hardy National Black Student Leadership Development Conference and the Governor's Conference for Women (2004), and Missionary Assistant in a Refugee Amputee Camp in Sierra Leone, West Africa (November 2003 and December 2004).

## 2007 Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration: A Call to Re-Affirm the Dream

Crystal Beckwith

Graduate Assistant, Office of African American Studies

On January 15, 2007, Rowan University held its 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Breakfast. About 450 participants from various communities and representing religious, political, and civic organizations attended and contributed to the William H. Meyers Scholarship Endowment Fund, which benefits high achieving minority students.

Rowan University's President, Dr. Donald J. Farish, gave a passionate, thought-provoking introduction to the occasion, in which he emphasized that we have lost sight of Martin Luther King's Dream and reminded us of the significant and unfinished work that remains to challenge us today. Here are a couple of excerpts from his remarks:

If Dr. King were alive today. I think he would be decrying how wealth discrimination has become the substitute for race discrimination. Young people who are from families in the highest twenty percent of family income are seven times more likely to earn a college degree than young people from

families in the lowest twenty percent of family income. It is outrageous for people to claim that we live in a meritocracy. Do they believe that rich people are seven times smarter than poor people? ... Where is the willingness to address poverty once and for all so the young person is not effectively doomed just because he or she was born into a family of limited funds? Why are we as a nation so quick to throw away all that unutilized potential?

We have the highest rate of incarceration in the world, but are ranked only seventh in the (list of countries with the highest investment in) college education. And it is a lot more expensive to put someone in jail than in college. Do those figures suggest we have our priorities in the right order? Are we proud as a nation that we have more young Black men in jail than in college? No, I think Dr. King would give us an incomplete on the work that he left us to do.

Dr. Farish's awareness-raising remarks provided an effective framework for the stirring address of the keynote speaker, Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie who is no stranger to advocating for social change. She is the first female bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She has written three books: *Not Without a Struggle*; *Strength in the Struggle: Leadership Development for Women*; and *Journey to the Well*. As a social advocate, she has done much work in Maryland and South Africa including building schools, homes, and churches, as well as establishing scholarships and community service programs. Among her many accomplishments and responsibilities, McKenzie is also the founding president and organizer of the Collective Banking Group of Baltimore, a member of the NAACP, and National Chaplain for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

In her address, Bishop McKenzie challenged us to acknowledge that we are all connected and emphasized the importance of perseverance. Here are a few highlights from her remarks:

Miles Monroe writes that every human heart cries and yearns for the same thing: a chance to fulfill his or her dreams and desires. Even the poorest man or woman has a dream. All humans possess the same desire: to be free to pursue the vision and dream in their heart, free to pursue freedom.

Freedom is our destination, but we engage in merry-go-round activities, never really arriving at our destination. Have we so soon forgotten about Martin's dream? Isn't that our destination?

Freedom is more difficult than oppression, because freedom demands more. It is easier to

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### Joan L. Bryant, History Department

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Manuscript: Reluctant Race Men: Black Opposition to the Practice of Race, 1830-1900. Under contract with Oxford University Press.

Suffering Politics in Early US Civil Rights Activism, Collegium for African American Research Conference, Madrid, Spain, April 2007.

Nineteenth-Century Black Reformers and the Science of Humanity, Nineteenth-Century Studies Association, March 2007.

Humanology: Antebellum Reformers Confront the Science of Race, American Historical Association, January 2007.

### William D. Carrigan, History Department

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Forgotten Dead: Mob Violence against Mexicans in the United States, 1848-1928, with Clive Webb. Under contract with Oxford University Press, funded by a \$100,000 National Science Foundation Grant.

Lynching Reconsidered: New Directions in the study of Mob Violence. Annual Meeting, Organizations of American Historians, Minneapolis, MN, March 2007.

Lynching, the Law, and Mexicans in Texas, 1848-1926. Annual Meeting, Southern Historical Association, Birmingham, AL, November 2006.

### Tanya Clark, English Department

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Joanne Braxton. (2007). In Yolanda Williams Page (Ed.), Encyclopedia of African American Women Writers (2 volumes), Pgs. 46-48.

Journalism, Gender, and Power: Pauline Hopkins and the Colored American (Machine) Magazine. Lecture during Women's History Month, March 2007.

### Mark Chapell, Psychology Department

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Cyberbullying in High School and College, with Amanda Nasr, Lauren Norcorss, Dana Seigfried, Melissa Fenske, Danielle Luppino, Erika Sulkowski, & Maite Reyes (Students), Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC, May 2007.

Sex Differences in Door Opening Behaviors, 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Eastern Psychological Association, Philadelphia, PA, March 2007.

### James Coaxum, Department of Educational Leadership

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Coaxum, J., & Mack, C. (2007). Refocusing the Mentoring Dialogue: Best Practices for Retaining Students of Color. Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association, Orlando, FL

Coaxum, J., Ingram, T., Alavi, H., Laguer, I., McCargo, D., Ohen, G., & Gunter G. (2007). Preparing the Generation of African American Male Students Affairs Professionals. Panel Presentation, Annual Conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Orlando, FL.

### DeMond Shondell Miller, Sociology Department

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Setting the stage: Roots of social inequality and the human tragedy of Hurricane Katrina. In R. S. Swan & K. A. Bates (Eds.), Through the eye of Katrina: Social justice in the United States. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press (with J. D. Rivera) in press.

Continually Neglected: Situating Natural Disasters in the African American Experience, Journal of Black Studies, March 2007. 37 (4), 502-522 (with Jason David Rivera). Guiding principles: Rebuilding trust in government and public policy in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Journal of Public Management and Social Policy, 2006, 12 (1), 37-48 (with J. D. Rivera).

A brief history of the evolution of United States natural disaster policy. Journal of Public Management and Social Policy, 2006, 12 (1), 5 -14 ( J. D. Rivera).

### Scott Morschuser

*Publications/Professional Presentations*

Biblica: The Bible Atlas-A Social and Historical Journey Through the Lands of the Bible, "Creation and Fall", pp. 94-97; "Noah and his Descendants," pp. 98-101; "Moses," pp. 134-139; "The Plagues of Egypt," pp. 140-145. Lane Cove, Australia: Global Publishing, 2006. Dives and Divorce: On the Composition and Concerns of Luke 16:14-31, Journal of Higher Criticism, 2007, 12, 68-90.

Exemption, Execration, and Exodus, Presentation, Society of Biblical Literature, Washington, DC, November, 2006.

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Ms. Julie Mallory Church, Assistant Director of Counseling & Psychological Services, served as Mistress of Ceremony during the buffet style luncheon and keynote presentation. Dr. Patricia Mosto, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs gave welcoming remarks on behalf of the University followed by welcome on behalf of the Council of African American Studies by Ms. Danielle Moore, its President. Student performances included the Negro National Anthem by Chanelle Wilson and Sherman Benjamin, musical presentations by Blake and Brent Cole, a praise dance by Tonya Howard, and poetry by Anwar Counts, entitled "Birth of a Poet Conceived: The Womb of Difference."

Dr. Mary Fances Berry, the Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, served as the keynote speaker, following an informative introduction of her by Mr. Saleem Wright, President of the Black Cultural League. In keeping with the theme, "*Whatever Happened to the Civil Rights Movement*," her address highlighted the achievements of many of the foremothers and forefathers of the Civil Rights Movement but reminded us that "We are still not saved" and that there is still much work to be done to address the "headwinds", including the following: Millions of people including children without health insurance, the health care crisis and HIV/AIDS, outsourcing of jobs, the mixed results of globalizations, the growth of the prison industrial complex with money going to prisons – not families, the decline of affirmative action, lack of protection and relief for citizens in disasters, access to quality education, and the effects of the war effort on civil rights.

Dr. Berry concluded that there is continuing need for a rights-based movement and pointed out how wasteful it is to think that one person cannot make a difference. She gave examples people who once felt helpless, but ended up finding ways to make a significant difference in society. Her words encouraged people to seek changes instead of simply thinking, "Someone should do something about that." She reminded us of the importance of not allowing ourselves to feel or be treated as if we are insignificant and powerless. Change comes when we persevere toward a brighter future.

At the conclusion of her address, Dr. Berry was honored for her many achievements to advance civil rights in the tradition of Rosa Parks. During her tenure as Chairperson of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the Commission issued several significant reports on the 2000 Florida Presidential Elections, police practices in New York City, environmental justice, affirmative action, church burnings, and conditions on Indian reservations. Dr. Berry was one of the founders of the Free South Africa Movement and was arrested and jailed several times for this cause. She is one of the pioneers of Black Studies and has been elected as Vice President of the American Historical Association and President of the Organization of American Historians. She has received

numerous honors for her scholarly achievements and activism on behalf of social justice.

Other features of the luncheon were a Rosa Parks Photo Exhibit, courtesy of Dr. Diane Turner, adjunct faculty in African American Studies, and Denise Williams of the History Department, a book signing by Dr. Berry, and an interview of Dr. Berry by Dr. Tanya Clark, Assistant Professor of English, for African American Profiles on the Rowan University Radio Station.



### A SAMPLING OF FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2006-2007

#### Susan Browne, Reading Department

*Publications/Professional Presentations:*

Browne, S.; Amanda, J.; Billups, P.; Parthum, M.; Richardson, L.; & Roberson, J. (2007). *Teaching For America, Teaching as Inquiry*. Discussant at the American Educational Research Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Browne, S. & Brooks, W. (2007). Reading and Responding to Culturally Relevant Historical Fiction in a Community-Based Literary Club. In W. Brooks & J. McNair (Eds.), *Embracing, Evaluating and Examining African American Children's and Young Adult Literature*. Maryland: Scarecrow Press Inc.

Browne, S., Madden, M. & Stuzbach, I. (2007). Using Multiple Literacies to Create a Multimedia Product, *Journal of Educational Technology*, 3, 51-53.



exist in slavery than it is to live in freedom...Freedom demands backbone and guts. You cannot wimp your way into freedom... We are free to pursue the pursuit of happiness and we are free to be passionate about that pursuit.

Freedom demands character. Freedom says you must be strong enough to reach the ones who are of different hues and from different (racial/cultural backgrounds). Freedom demands a responsibility to do something of significance to make people and families and communities live better and make it better for everybody else. As Coombs and Posner put it, it is not how big a campfire you build for yourself or your crowd but how well you keep others warm who linger on the fringes; how well you illuminate the night to make them feel safe; and how beautiful you leave the campsite for those who come after you to build the next fire. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Don't use your freedom to indulge in sinful nature, rather serve one another in love."

In conclusion, the breakfast was not simply about remembering Dr. King, or raising funds. Those were important goals, yet they were secondary to the call issued by Dr. Farish and Dr. McKenzie to a recommitment to the fulfillment of Dr. King's Dream. I hope that those present came to a full realization that there is still much work to be done. We cannot continue to selfishly look after our own interests or idly talk about making a change from time to time as the mood hits us. We should not hope for change if we are not willing to work together to make these changes. Now is the time to act! As Dr. Farish strongly emphasized:

(Dr. King warned that) "this is no time to engage in the luxury of putting off or to take the tranquilizing



drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy." His words still ring true today and the challenge has not yet been mapped. Let us resolve today to reaffirm his dream and to continue the work towards its realization.



### Announcements of Conferences and Other Events

August 1-5, 2007, **39<sup>th</sup> Association of Black Psychologists Annual Convention and The 3<sup>rd</sup> ABPSI International Congress on Licensure, Certification, and Proficiency in Black Psychology**, Hilton-Americas Hotel, Houston, Texas. Theme: *Reclaiming and Revitalizing Our Communities*. Website: <http://www.abpsi.org>. Phone 202/72-0808.

October 3-7, 2007, **92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History**, Hilton Charlotte University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina. Theme: *From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas*. Events include the Carter G. Woodson Luncheon with Dr. John Hope Franklin. For further information: Contact ASALH at [info@asalh.net](mailto:info@asalh.net) or 202/865 or search the website: <http://www.asalh.org/92ndconvention>.

October 9-12, 2007, **4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)**, in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the British and American Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Theme: *Interrogations of Freedom: Memories, Meanings, Migrations*. Hosted by the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, at the Hilton Barbados. For information on membership and conference registration, check the website: <http://www.aswadiaspora.org>. For hotel accommodations, check the website: <http://www.hiltoncaribbean.com/barbados> or call 246/426-0200.

November 1-3, 2007, the **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy**, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Alain L. Locke Society. Theme: Harlem Renaissance – Aesthetics, Values, and Identity. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Arnold Rampersad, Stewart Center, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47906.

For further information, email: [aaarc@purdue.edu](mailto:aaarc@purdue.edu) or [farr@mailhost.sju.edu](mailto:farr@mailhost.sju.edu). Website: <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/idis/african-american>.

Call for Papers for a **March 2008 Special Edition of the Journal of Pan African Studies (JPAS) on the Dynamics of Africology** (Pan African, African American, Black, Afro-American, African Diaspora Studies) in Academia, focused on (but not limited to) its intellectual influences, theory-practice formation, challenges, nomenclature, research methods, and assumptions. Will also accept reviews of recent and new publications within Africology. Deadlines: September 2007 for abstract; December 2007 for paper. For further information, email: [jpanafrican@yahoo.com](mailto:jpanafrican@yahoo.com), or visit the website: <http://www.jpanafrican.com>.

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June 23-25, 2008, **Head Start's Ninth National Research Conference**, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Theme: *Creating Connections: Linking Policy, Practice and Research across Early Childhood Development, Care and Education*. Deadline for submissions: September 12, 2007. For further information, contact Allison Buck, email: [hsrc@xtria.com](mailto:hsrc@xtria.com) or call 703/821-6161.

## THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

**Corann Okorodudu, Professor of Psychology & Coordinator, African American Studies, Rowan University**

On November 28, 2006, the General Assembly (GA) unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by the Caribbean Community of Missions to the United Nations (CARICOM), which called for the Commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on March 25, 2007 ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)). On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of Trans-Atlantic Slavery Bill. A few weeks earlier, on March 3, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed a similar bill prohibiting the importation of slaves into any port or place within the United States. This new legislation did not immediately end the continuation of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade by either country. In fact, 20 years earlier, the US Constitution had articulated that slavery could not be banned before 1808. Accordingly, the British and American acts went into effect on January 1, 1808. However, in spite of the legislation banning slavery, the enslavement of Africans continued legally to Brazil and the French and Spanish colonies and illegally to the US and the British West Indies. It is estimated that of the 12.5 million men, women, and children uprooted and trafficked under horrific conditions by the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 93 percent of them to South America and the Caribbean, 3.5 million were transported across the Atlantic between 1801 and 1867.

The General Assembly resolution recalled that the brutality of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, an international commercial enterprise between the fifteenth and the nineteenth centuries, was among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity. The resolution also recalled that it took almost 200 years for the international community at the 2001 World Conference

Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance to declare that slavery and the slave trade were a crime against humanity and should have always been so considered. The resolution acknowledged that the slave trade and the legacy of slavery are at the core of social and economic inequality, hatred, racism and prejudice which continue to affect people of African descent today; yet there is a continuing knowledge gap and denial that exist regarding these linkages. Therefore, the resolution urged member states that have not already done so to develop education programs, including school curricula, designed to inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Further, it requested the Secretary-General to submit at the next session of the GA a special report on initiatives taken by various countries to counteract the legacy of slavery and to contribute to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of the slave trade.

Two sets of activities to commemorate the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade took place during the week of March 25<sup>th</sup> at the United Nations in New York. The first set of events began on March 26 with a General Assembly Commemorative Session in the morning, which culminated in a keynote address by the eminent scholar Professor Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and Chair of the UNESCO Slave Routes Project. A panel entitled *Acknowledging the Tragedy, Considering the Legacy* followed in the afternoon and focused on the development and impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in various regions of the world.

The Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, reserved March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the UN Calendar for a second set of commemorative events. These events began with a Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Morning Briefing in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21). The briefing featured Ambassador Philip R.A. Sealy, Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Ngonlardje Mbaidjol, Director, New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Dr. Sylviane A. Diouf of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, whose recently published book, *Dreams of Africa in Alabama* (Oxford University Press), documents the story of 110 Africans brought to Alabama in 1860 50 years after the US legally abolished the international slave trade.

The Sub-Committee also organized an afternoon session on March 29 with the title: *The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Intergenerational Consequences, Resistance, Transformation, and Unfinished Business*. In addition to educating about the causes, factors involved, and outcomes of the slave trade and slavery, an important objective of this session was to remember and honor the

memory of those who suffered and died, and those who struggled against slavery and racism and left legacies of survival, transformation, and creative contributions to world culture. Presentations were made by the following panelists: Dr. Chima Korieh, Professor of History, Rowan University, *Historical Overview of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Its Impact on Africa*; Ms. Jennifer Frank, Politics Editor, the Hartford Courant, *Complicity: How the North Promoted and Profited from Slavery*; Dr. Colin Palmer, Dodge Professor of History and the African Diaspora, Princeton University, *Africans in the Americas*; Dr. Yael Danieli, Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and Their Children, *Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma: Some Implications and Preventive Suggestions*; and Dr. James S. Jackson, Professor of Psychology and Director, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, *Intergenerational Social-Psychological Consequences of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Remaining Challenges, and Unresolved Issues*.

While the space constraints of this report preclude a summary of these very substantive contributions, a number of observations are possible: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade was systemic both nationally and internationally. All aspects of the economic, social, and political systems of the participating countries were involved. The slave trade and slavery underdeveloped the economies and disrupted family systems and communities of Africa, while enriching the imperial powers. It provided the economic foundation of the British Empire. The slave trade also supported the creation and development of the United States. According to Jennifer Frank: "Slave labor was this country's slingshot, its economic catapult... (It) helped jump-start this entire country... At the nation's birth and into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, tens of thousands of enslaved people lived throughout the Northern states... In fact, Rhode Island – not Virginia, not South Carolina – was the national leader in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade... The centrality of slavery to the Northern economy – and hence, to the growth of the national economy – has long been a fact that has been hidden in plain sight."

Both James Jackson and Colin Palmer pointed out that the consequences of the international slave trade have persisted over the centuries to the present time, and are reflected in contemporary forms of individual, interpersonal and systemic

racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and resultant social, economic, and political inequality. Although the British Government and the United States passed acts abolishing the international slave trade in 1807, for the past 200 years there has largely been silence about and denial of responsibility for slavery and correspondingly denial of responsibility for the racism and terrible social problems to which 400 years of slavery are directly linked. This conspiracy of silence and denial contributes to the intergenerational impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade because, in part, according to Yael Danieli, "What cannot be talked about cannot be put to rest."

The afternoon session concluded that much needs to be done to cope with the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and to bring about reconciliation, reparations and healing, but that our hope of being able to do that depends on our willingness to being open to understanding and confronting the past. Helene Marie Gosselin reported that a significant step in this direction was taken in 1994 when UNESCO launched the Slave Route Project at the initiative of Haiti and several African countries. The Project aims to work with universities and research centers to make known the slave trade's causes, implications and modalities and their consequences in contemporary societies, to promote historical sites and places of remembrance, and to develop relevant curricula and educational materials including curricula and materials about the contribution of Africa and its Diaspora ([www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute](http://www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute)).

## Continuing the Struggle For Civil & Human Rights in Honor of Rosa Parks

Crystal Beckwith

Graduate Assistant, Office of African American Studies

On February 19, 2007, the Rowan University African American Studies Program held its Second Annual Commemorative Luncheon for Rosa Parks, Mother of the Civil Rights Movement. Approximately 130 persons attended including staff, faculty, students, and community members. In addition, approximately 200 students came to listen to the speaker.

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