

SANCOCHO

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND
AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

SPRING
2011

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Center for African and African American Research (CAAAR) takes the best of on-campus scholarship on Africans and people of African descent and makes it available to the general public, not just for the sake of information but also in service to society. Thus, CAAAR is consciously interdisciplinary and international, engaging the African-descended populations of Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Asia through the humanities, the social sciences, and the medical arts.

and Michaeline Crichlow, Chairs.
See more on page 2.

The **Cultural Competency in Health-Care Education Program.** Brenda Armstrong, Chair.
See more on page 2.

We are still lobbying actively for the **African Languages Program.** Julius Nyang'oro and J. Lorand Matory, Co-chairs. *See more on page 3.*

A **Monthly Lecture Series** and an **Annual Scholarly Conference**, which are free and open to the public, in addition to being made available online.

Dr. Karen Fields will be the **CAAAR Distinguished Visiting Scholar** for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The **Newsletter** enters its second year, with Michaeline Crichlow as the Executive Editor, and we have a new **Website** at <http://caaar.duke.edu>. Both feature events, images, video documents, and incisive scholarly analysis.

The **Film Initiative**, which endeavors to make innovative theory and research available to the general public. **Dante James, Chair.**
Continued on page 6

A visually annotated film of last

PEOPLE

CENTER FOR AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH

J. Lorand Matory, Director
Michaeline Crichlow, Associate Director
Charles Piot, Associate Director
Bernice Patterson, Administrator

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Michaeline A. Crichlow, Co-chair
David Stein, Co-chair
Karen J. Hunt
Jan Riggsbee
Rosemary Simpson

CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN HEALTH-CARE PROGRAM

Brenda E. Armstrong, Chair
John A. Bartlett
Gary G. Bennett
Maureen D. Cullins
Christopher L. Edwards
Chandra Y. Guinn
Charles D. Piot
Benjamin D. Reese Jr.
Adedoyin Soyibo
Orin Starn
Keith E. Whitfield

AFRICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAM

J. Lorand Matory, Co-chair
Julius Nyang'oro, Co-chair

MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES

Vincent A. Brown, Co-chair
Bruce S. Hall, Co-chair

FILM INITIATIVE

Dante James, Chair
Vincent Brown
Bruce S. Hall



J. LORAND MATORY

This year, the seven major programs of the Center have continued to flourish:

The **John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program.** David Stein



THE JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Amid budget cuts and the demands of standardized testing, the teaching of history has suffered in the public schools. The John Hope Franklin Young Scholars Program recruits talented sixth-graders and, for three years, mentors them in the conduct of their own original historical research. They read books, but they also examine archival documents and learn the techniques of other historical eras. Last year's entering cohort studied the international phenomenon of plantation slavery through the example of North Carolina's famous Stagville Plantation. They explored documents related to plantation slavery at the Duke University Library's John Hope Franklin Collection and discovered their meaning in dialogue with Duke professors and student mentors. They also learned the carpentry techniques employed in the building of Stagville in a hands-on effort to identify the African and the European sources of those techniques. Along with this year's incoming cohort of sixth-graders, the rising seventh-graders will focus on the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural south to the urban north, and its recent reversal, using this history as a springboard to understanding the momentous effects of migration on global history and in the lives of their own families. **Michaeline Crichlow and David Stein, Co-Chairs**



For more information see <http://caar.duke.edu/jhfys>

CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN HEALTH-CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM



The aims of CCHCEP are (1) to enhance the pipeline of underrepresented minorities into health care professions and (2) to raise care-givers' sensitivity to the perspectives, resources, and needs or disadvantaged populations. In the service of the large community of Duke students and faculty working among these populations, CCHCEP focuses on Africa and its diaspora, with their unique and historically related array of genetic, epidemiological, linguistic, and other cultural conditions. By definition, the nature of cultural competency varies from one health-care client population to another. One element of the Program is the promotion of African-language instruction on campus, whereby health-care trainees and professionals can intervene more intelligently and effectively in the continent's underserved communities. The CCHCEP is among the sponsors of a summer course in health-care skills and management in Togo, West Africa.

Our ultimate aim is to create a center of excellence in cultural competency that coordinates the diverse existing efforts of the Duke hospitals with the existing expertise in the College of Arts and Sciences and with the training needs of faculty, staff, and students, including undergraduates and service learners.

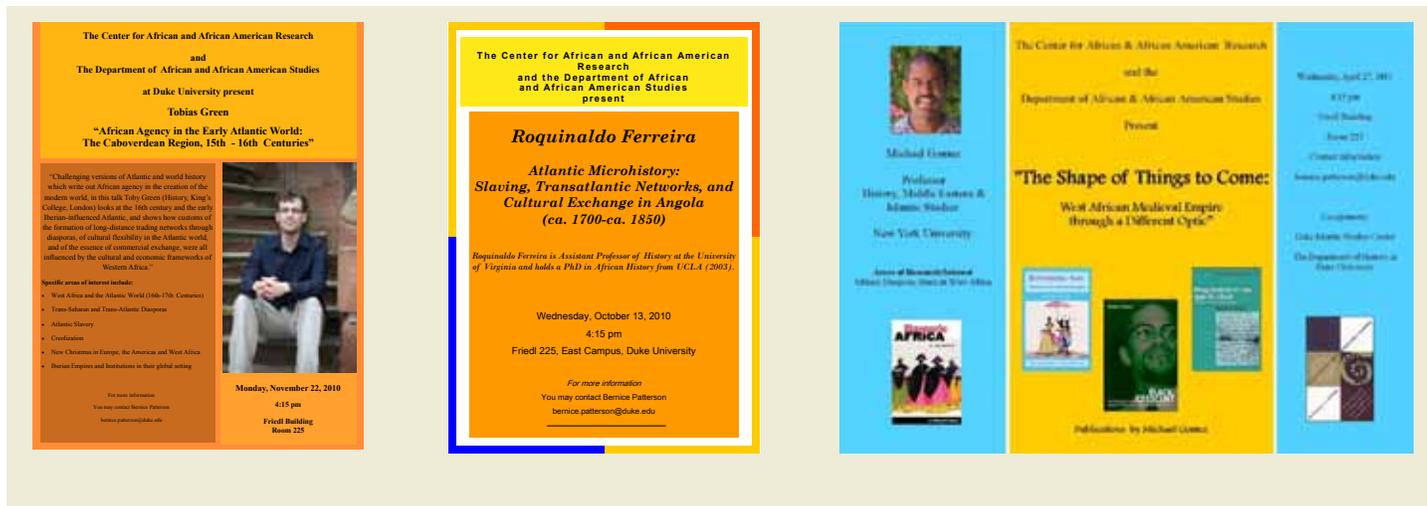
Brenda Armstrong, Chair

AFRICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Department of African and African American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, we are designing an African Languages Program to facilitate high-quality research in Africa and to enhance the effectiveness of undergraduates, health-care professionals, and divinity school students who wish to serve that continent. Languages under consideration for this effort are Kiswahili, Wolof, Lingala, Yoruba, Afrikaans and Chichewa.

J. Lorand Matory and Julius Nyang'oro (UNC-Chapel Hill), Co-Chairs

MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES



Various flyers advertising lectures throughout the year, including lectures by (L to R) Tobias Green, Roquinaldo Ferreira, and Michael Gomez.

The 2010-11 lecture series, chaired by Professors Vincent Brown and Bruce Hall, began with a multimedia presentation by Academy Award-winning producer and director Lee Daniels, who examined in autobiographical terms the moral and aesthetic dilemmas of depicting unbearable lives. The broader theme of this year's series was "Breaching Boundaries: Re-Narrating the Black Atlantic." The year's monthly lectures and sponsorships were also rich in discussions of Islam in Africa and diaspora, as well as the forms of cultural and economic exchange that link the greater Islamic world to the greater African world. Historians, anthropologists, a political scientist, and two film directors addressed transnational phenomena that require us to re-think conventional geographical, historical, and disciplinary categories.

For example, the University of Virginia historian Roquinaldo Ferreira's lecture addressed *Atlantic Microhistory: Slaving, Transatlantic Networks, and Cultural Exchange in Angola (ca. 1700-ca. 1850)*. Tobias Green, King's College in London, spoke on *African Agency in the Early Atlantic World: The Caboverdean Region, 15th-16th Centuries*. And NYU's Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies Professor Michael Gomez presented *The Shape of Things to Come: West African Medieval Empire through a Different Optic*.

Vincent Brown and Bruce S. Hall, Co-Chairs

For summaries of these and other lectures, go to <http://caaar.duke.edu/lecture-series>

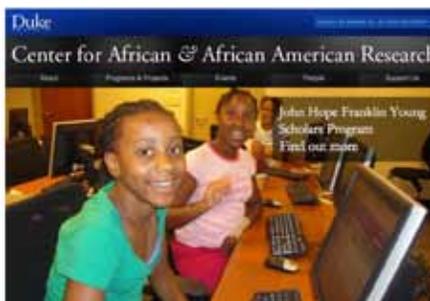
The fall 2011 Lecture Series—"Black Gods and Kings"—will focus on the nexus uniting black religion and music with worldly power. See page 6.

DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR AND PROFESSOR

Each year, CAAAR hosts one Distinguished Visiting Scholar in African and/or African diaspora research. Ideally, s/he teaches one or two courses at Duke, advises students, and makes major progress on a scholarly publishing or film project.

Adedoyin Soyibo was the Distinguished Visiting Scholar in 2010-2011. He is an eminent economist of development, banking and health care. He has served as both Chair of the Department of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He currently directs that university's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, as well as its Health Policy Training and Research Program.

The CAAAR Distinguished Visiting Scholar of 2011-12 will be the eminent sociologist **Karen Fields**, whose influential research and publications span the United States, Europe, and Africa. She is especially noted for her work on religion and classical social theory, and her 1995 translation of Emile Durkheim's *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* remains the standard. She is also a filmmaker and memoirist. Dr. Fields' fellowship is co-sponsored by the Provost's Office, the Departments of Sociology, African and African American Studies, and Religion, and the Center for European Studies. She will simultaneously serve as Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Franklin Humanities Institute.



Homepage of CAAAR website.

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Our newsletter and website feature events, images, incisive scholarly analysis, and resources of interest to the general public and to other center programs.

Michaeline Crichlow, Executive Editor
Bernice Patterson, Managing Editor
Libby Cole, Designer

Please visit our website at <http://caaar.duke.edu/about>

FILMS

CAAAR produces films intended to invigorate public debates about African and African-diaspora life using vivid imagery and the best of scholarly theory and research. Under CAAAR sponsorship, the Lambda Omega Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority shot *The Legacy of Lagos*, documenting the lives of their Nigerian-American peers. CAAAR is currently completing the editing of *Can We Talk? Bridges between the Humanities and the Social Sciences*, which documents and amplifies on the Center's spring 2010 scholarly conference. Scenes from popular films and footage of real-world crises will illustrate our debates and conclusions. The film is intended especially to make the lessons of the humanities and the social sciences available for a more thoughtful public policy. Under development is *Orisha: A New World Religion*. This ninety-minute documentary will tell the story of the international community of people, including US Americans, who worship the orisha. These worshipers include the members of the Brazilian Candomblé religion, the Trinidadian Shango religion, the Cuban Ocha religion, and the Orisha/Vodou religion of the USA. Our film will focus on the Nigerian, Brazilian, Cuban, and US traditions. We have worked with the Office of Research Support at Duke University to solicit major production funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Our next major film project, based on the scholarship of Duke historian Bruce S. Hall, will concern racial hierarchy in the Sahel region of West Africa and the broader Islamic world. Also in the planning stage for the 2011-12 academic year are a series of video essays by campus scholars who place the issues of the day in a novel context of race, class, politics or culture—nationally or internationally. These two-minute video essays will be shot on location and posted on the CAAAR website and possibly YouTube. CAAAR Artist-in-Residence Dante James will be directing these projects. If you would like to make a video essay, please contact him at dante.james@duke.edu

Youthful Futures Conference

Seven out of ten Africans south of the Sahara are under thirty, and four out of ten under the age of fifteen. What comparisons might be drawn with the Caribbean, a region that is transitioning from youthful to aging?

CAAAR hosted this conference in order to discuss the age-related demography of sub-Saharan Africa—the only part of the world which will continue to grow younger over the next two decades—and in the Caribbean. Also explored were the broad social, cultural and political implications of

youth demographics for large-scale political change. The Youthful Futures conference addressed these issues during five sessions on Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30. The number of participants was purposely restricted to permit direct and lively exchanges. The conference included academics, policy-makers, NGO field workers and journalists.

Check out our conclusions at <http://caaar.duke.edu/lecture-series/conferences>



The conference was organized by Stephen Smith, committee chair (left), anthropologist Charles Piot (center), and sociologist Michaeline Crichlow (right).

Human Traffic: Past and Present, October 13-15

Today, millions of people are involuntarily displaced and held in bondage by force or by fear. On October 13-15 in the Smith Warehouse, a group of internationally renowned scholars, artists and activists will discuss the global phenomenon of human trafficking and the specific lessons of Africans' cruel but historically momentous incorporation into global capitalism. Co-sponsored by the Franklin Humanities Institute, the Kenan Institute of Ethics, the Department of African and African American Studies, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, this conference aims to tell the stories of the people who have been tricked, coerced, and manipulated, of the criminals who profit from their suffering, of the state officials who at times challenge and profit from their suffering, and of the whack-a-mole efforts of the NGOs.

We will also explore the more general questions that these stories raise about freedom, human rights, and the agency of the downtrodden. For example, is prostitution inherently coercive? Should children be compelled to labor, and, if so do they have a right to compensation? Who is responsible for the bad choices of people who feel they have no good choices? When does the collectivist ethic of "family obligation" become a "human rights" violation, when do debt and apprenticeship become slavery, when does a contract become a yoke, when does private enterprise become criminality, when does migration become trespassing, and who has the right to decide? "Through the prism of 'Human Traffic: Past and Present,'" summarizes CAAAR Associate Director Michaeline Crichlow, "we must, of necessity, re-examine the meaning of 'freedom,' 'citizenship,' and 'agency' for every human being."

CAAAR and the University of Malaya to Host Global Affirmative Action Conference at Duke

The Center's fall 2012 scholarly conference will examine affirmative action and its counterparts around the world. This international gathering will be the first fruit of a historic Memorandum of Understanding between the Center and the University of Malaya. Scholars from the US, Malaysia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Fiji—among other key settings of affirmative action—will address the diverse experiences and effects of these policies, and their changing fates, as national development policies give way to neo-liberalism and globalization. The organizers intend to produce a public policy paper and to publish the proceedings as an edited volume.

CAAAR Lecture Series, Fall 2011

<p>OCTOBER 5, 2011 Richard Werbner <i>Professor Emeritus of African Anthropology</i> University of Manchester Fellow of the National Humanities Center, 2011-2012 “Holy Hustler” (2009) film about Christian Prophecy in Botswana</p>	<p>OCTOBER 19, 2011 Marie Maude Evans <i>High Priestess of Haitian Vodou</i> Boston, Massachusetts “Vodoun, Culture and Healing”</p>	<p>OCTOBER 26, 2011 Steve Quintana <i>Priest of Afro-Cuban Santería/Ocha</i> Hyde Park, Massachusetts “How a Yoruba Priest in the New World Practices His Faith”</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 9, 2011 Christopher Dunn <i>Professor, Department of Spanish & Portuguese and of African and African Diaspora Studies</i> Tulane University “Doces Bárbaros: Candomblé, Counterculture, and the Idea of Bahia”</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 16, 2011 Amilton Costa <i>Chief Priest of the Vodunzo Candomblé Temple</i> Salvador da Bahia, Brazil “Jeje: the Dahomean Gods of Brazil”</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 30, 2011 Adedoyin Faniyi <i>Head Priestess of the goddess Oshun</i> Oshogbo, Nigeria “Gods and Kings: the Orisha of Nigeria”</p>

All presentations will be held in Friedl 225 on Wednesdays at 4:15 pm. Refreshments served after each presentation.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED

year's scholarly conference—“Can We Talk? Bridging the Humanities and the Social Sciences”—is in production as we make progress on our first feature-length documentary, “Orisha: A New World Religion,” which concerns Africa's most influential indigenous religion. *See page 4.*

Indispensable to the continuing growth of the Center have been the support and the advice of Provost Peter Lange, outgoing Dean Al Crumbliss, Dean of the Social Sciences Angie O'Rand, and Friedl Building Business Manager Susan Ryman. The full complexity and ambition of the CAAAR's operations, though, are known only to the Center's outstanding professional staff—Bernice Patterson and Dante James—whose long hours are evident in every one of the Center's successes. I thank them and the entire Duke community for sharing in the Center's commitment to excellence in the study of the greater African world and to knowledge in the service of society. —J. Lorand Matory



Icons & Industry: New Yoruba Atlantic Art

Organized by the Center for African and African American Research, this major traveling exhibition and its online counterpart will showcase the beautiful liturgical objects made by contemporary Nigerian, Brazilian, Cuban and US worshipers of the African-inspired gods known as the orisha. These gods are typically ancient kings and queens, who also personify the great forces of society and nature. For example, Ogun commands iron, war and revolution, Shango is seen in thunder, lightning and the ambiguous nature of sovereignty, Yemoja represents water and motherhood, and Oba embodies both water and the self-sacrificial nature of women who love too much. These beings, their virtues and foibles, and their power to possess and heal are given visual form in music, dance, and a highly diverse array of sartorial and plastic arts. The show will feature a sampling of the antique masterpieces for which the West African devotees of the Yoruba gods are world-famous but will focus on the new aesthetic inventions that entail the re-working of industrial manufactures, such as plaster, plastic, cement, sheet metal, rebar, Czech and Chinese beads, glue, synthetic cloth, and factory-made ceramics. The exhibition makes the point that tens of millions of our neighbors in the industrial and post-industrial world re-arrange the stuff of our own daily lives and conjure spiritual forces that most of us never even knew were in our midst. In an African idiom, these gods--who sometimes take over the heads and dance in the bodies of their worshipers--dramatize the multiple nature of the self in a post-modern world. Indeed, these beautiful objects themselves will dance in the eyes and in the souls of the museum visitor.

Duke undergraduate and graduate students in the AAAS course "Black Gods and Kings" are currently assembling the online exhibition. If intrigued, check out the Center's fall 2011 lecture series on the same topic.

From top to bottom: Cuban-style oars beaded in honor of the goddess Ochún; crown for the god Xangô Airá from Brazilian Candomblé; and Brazilian Candomblé headgear, ofá (bow and arrow), iruqueré (flywhisk), armllets and bracelets for the god Oxossi, worn by that god's possession priests in Rio de Janeiro.

Projects and Programs Co-sponsored by CAAAR, 2010-2011:

Professor Michaeline Crichlow represented the Center at the November 2010 “Global Affirmative Action Programs” symposium at the University of Malaya in preparation for the Center’s 2012 annual scholarly conference. *See page 6.*

Professor Charles Piot’s Duke-in-Togo Project received financial support from the Center For African and African American Research, the Duke Global Health Initiative, the Dean of Trinity College, and the Department of Cultural Anthropology.

Lecture by Randall Robinson hosted by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Planning Committee of the Office of Institutional Equity.

Symposia for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, hosted by the Franklin Humanities Institute.

“Dhow Cultures of the Indian Ocean: Histories of Cosmopolitanism, Commerce and Islam,” a lecture by Abdul Sheriff, hosted by Duke Islamic Studies.

“Challenging Social Inequality and Debating Islam: Ethnicity, Belonging and Muslim Politics in Mauretania,” a lecture

by Zekeria ould Ahmed Salem, hosted by Duke Islamic Studies.

Lecture on Tiger Woods by Orin Starn, hosted by the Department of Cultural Anthropology.

British Studies Symposium, hosted by the Department of History.

Santería and Capoeira Dance Program, hosted by the Program in Dance.

The following Duke entities generously supported CAAAR events:

Program in Literature
Duke Islamic Studies Center
Department of Theater Studies
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program
Duke Department of English
Duke Department of History
Department of African and African American Studies
Art of the Moving Image Program
Center for Documentary Studies
Franklin Humanities Institute

The following events were hosted by CAAAR:

Welcome Reception for Jennifer Thompson, February 9, 2011. She is the newly appointed Director of the John Hope Franklin Research

Center for African and African American History and Culture.

Luncheon & Discussion with Author Edwidge Danticat, February 15, 2011.

CAAAR invited Graduate Certificate students in the Department of African and African American Studies, the Haitian Studies Association (a student group), and the memberships of the Black Students Alliance, the Caribbean Students Association, Duke Africa, and DESTA (the Ethiopian students’ association) to exchange ideas with Haitian author Edwidge Danticat.

African Studies Dinner, April 13, 2011. This event was jointly sponsored with the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute. In attendance were Srinivas Aravamudan, Ian Baucom, Ellen Davis, J. Lorand Matory, Michael Merson, Eric Mlyn, Stephen Nowicki, Noah Pickus and Charles Piot. The group discussed the role of Africa in Duke’s 21st-century mission, as well as the best ways of coordinating Duke’s vast existing resources in Africanist scholarship and the University’s 35 Africa-based service projects for the benefit of both the University and the continent.

As a result, Provost Peter Lange has established an Africa Initiative intended to complement Duke’s East Asia Initiative. CAAAR Associate Director Charles Piot will serve as head of this new initiative. Congratulations, Charlie!