

PROPOSAL: MELLON 23 FACULTY WORKSHOP

THE FUTURE OF BLACK/AFRICANA STUDIES AT LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Diverse and dynamic, interdisciplinary programs in Black/Africana Studies enrich the educational content of the small liberal arts colleges in which they are housed. Twenty-first century students are drawn to the elasticity of interdisciplinary programs that fuse multiple fields of study allowing them to find both new answers to old questions and pose entirely new questions. On the leading edge of conversations involving critical race theory, the global implications of the struggle for civil rights and political analyses of popular culture, Black/Africana Studies programs appeal to a wide variety of students and often serve as an intellectual home for minority students at predominately white institutions. Yet, the programs themselves are often strained, a result of too many competing demands upon faculty, limited academic resources and institutional isolation. Designed to address Black/Africana Studies at small liberal arts colleges, this workshop seeks to bring together six (6) of the Mellon 23 schools to discuss institutional challenges, study alternative pedagogical and administrative alternatives and develop effective strategies for best meeting the needs of our students in the future.

The goal of this workshop is to examine both the pitfalls and the promises of Black/Africana Studies programs at liberal arts colleges, and we hope to address the following questions: How do we best expand our programs given our constrained faculty, thin resources and limited course relief? How do we best address a growing interest, among both scholars and students, in the African Diaspora? How do we best collaborate with black cultural themed houses (Oberlin's Afrikan Heritage House, Swarthmore's Black Cultural Center etc.) in order to strengthen the mutual support between them and Black/Africana Studies programs? Lastly, how do we best share our resources (including faculty) among liberal arts colleges to develop collaborative pedagogical and research initiatives, thus allowing us to become "more than we are" as individual institutions?

Swarthmore College
October 17-18, 2008

Day 1

Morning Session 10:00 – 11:30

Distribution of literature (syllabi, description of program requirements)

Analysis of the programs at the individual colleges (number of faculty teaching in the program, enrollment, majors/minors, special majors, study abroad programs)

Lunch break 11:30 -12:45

Faculty Discussion of student projects (An opportunity to discuss the work Black/Africana Studies students are producing at liberal arts colleges)

Afternoon Session 1:00-3:30

Wish list discussion (Goals of individual programs, suggestions for intercampus collaboration)

Day 2

Morning Session 9:00 -12:00

Presentations from senior scholars in the field of Black Studies

Dr. Claudine Michel (UC Santa Barbara) confirmed

Dr. Herman Beavers (University of Penn) confirmed

Dr. Hazel Carby (Yale University) confirmation pending

Lunch break 12:00 -1:00

Afternoon Session 1:00 – 4:00

Strategic planning (How to achieve our goals?)

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List of confirmed workshop participants

Faculty workshop leaders: **Swarthmore College**

- Allison Dorsey - Associate Professor History
- Anthony Foy - Assistant Professor English, Coordinator Black Studies
- Sarah Willie - Associate Professor Sociology, Associate Provost

Other faculty member workshop planners:

- Swarthmore College - Syd Carpenter - Professor of Studio Art, Chair and Studio Art Coordinator
- Swarthmore College - Timothy Sams, Assistant Dean and Director of the Black Cultural Center
- Haverford College – Tracey Hucks, Associate Professor Religion
- Haverford College – Susanna Wing, Assistant Professor Political Science
- Bryn Mawr College – Kalala Ngalamulume, Associate Professor Africana Studies/History
- Scripps College – Shelia Walker, Associate Professor, Chair Black Studies
- Pomona College – Sidney Lemelle, Professor History and Black Studies
- Wesleyan College – Renee Romano, Associate Professor History/African American Studies
- Wesleyan College – Gina Ulysee, Assistant Professor Anthropology/African American Studies
- Oberlin College - Caroline Jackson-Smith, Associate Professor Theater & African American Studies, Chair African American Studies
- Oberlin College – Johnny Coleman, Associate Professor, Art and African American Studies

External Senior Experts:

These three senior scholars are renowned experts in area of Black and Africana Studies. We have solicited their participation because they are widely recognized and published in the field and they chair respected university programs where our students may later undertake graduate work. As the centerpiece of this workshop, Mellon 23 faculty from the Black/Africana Studies programs of at least six colleges will present their strategic plan to strengthen and grow the program at their individual institutions. We are looking to our senior experts for their rigorous, constructive, and galvanizing evaluation of these strategic plans.

- Claudine Michel, Professor, Director of Black Studies Center at University of California - Santa Barbara
- Herman Beavers, Associate Professor Director of Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania
- Hazel Carby, Yale University, Charles C. and Dorothea S. Dilley Professor of African American Studies, Professor of American Studies, and Director of the Initiative on Race Gender and Globalization (commitment pending)