

The Black Oaks Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

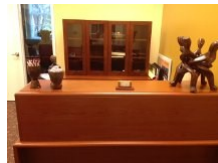
Fall 2012

The K. Wilhelmina Boyd Office of African & African-American Studies Opens

On Tuesday, August 21st, 2012, Elon University President, Dr. Leo Lambert, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Steven House, African & African-American Studies Coordinator, Dr. Prudence Layne and Ms. Kay Boyd, daughter of AAASE's Inaugural Coordinator, Prof. K. Wilhelmina Boyd cut the ribbon and officially declared the new office suite, named after Prof. Boyd, officially open.

Throughout the evening's dedication ceremony, faculty, staff, students and other guests listened to speakers reflect on Boyd's contributions as a "builder." In her remarks, current AAASE coordinator, Dr. Prudence Layne, described Prof. Boyd "as a builder of bridges of cooperation and of relationships. Prof. Boyd was particularly keen on building knowledge, understanding and respect in the Elon community for African-descended peoples and cultures through her love of literature." This latter task continued in earnest when the program in African and African-American Studies was founded in 1994 and she assumed leadership as its first coordinator, seven years after arriving at Elon in 1987. Prof. Wilhelmina Boyd's reputation for demanding excellence from her students was unparalleled. She ended her career with a strong network of friends, among them former students, but particularly in the Department of English, where she worked for 18 years following a long professional career that included teaching assignments at

Howard University, the University of Rhode Island, and Livingstone College.

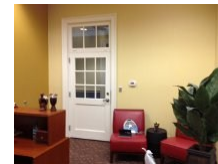


It is highly appropriate, therefore, for the new K. Wilhelmina Boyd

Office of African & African-American Studies to be located in Alamance 302, anchored by the department that supported Prof. Boyd and her work. Prof. Boyd's importance to Elon, its growth, and as a key figure in shaping the institution's racial integrationist history cannot be overstated and like all good builders, she worked among what was and remains a great team.

In addition to a reception area, the office houses the Coordinator's office and a conference room. Overseeing the project were Tari Maynor, Project Manager, and Holly Hodge, Interior Designer, both from the Office of Planning, Design and Construction Management. Ethan Moore, Coordinator of University Art Collections, curated some of the items from Elon's African Art collection found in the Boyd Office Suite and the adjoining classroom in Alamance 304.

This is the first designated space and home for the interdisciplinary minor's inception in 1994, which will allow the program to expand its event offerings for all faculty, students, and staff, provide a meeting space for our affiliated



student organizations, including the Black Cultural Society the Elon

African Society, STAND: Students Take Action Now: Darfur, Invisible Children, and Friends of Ghana. The office will also accommodate small class seminars (up to 16 students), with priority given to African & African-American Studies courses, workshops for students, faculty, and staff development, meetings, and other events. For a partial list of AAASE activities for Fall 2012, visit http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/clon_college/African_AfricanAmerican_Studies/calendar.xhtml.



The Boyd Conference Room

Members of the Elon community who were unable to attend the official opening and dedication ceremony for the new space should stop by the Open House on September 6th from 4-6 pm for refreshments.



Inside this issue:

Whistling Vivaldi 2
& Stereotype
Threat

News from Boyd 2
Scholar Justine
Davis '08

Dr. Naemah 3
Clark on *Diversity*
in US Media

75th Anniversary 3
Milestones in Af-
Am Literature

Event Series hon- 4
ors Mandela

A 'Knight' + 4
'Grace' = Musi-
cal Magic!

AAASE Diversity 5
Initiatives

Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us & What We Can Do

Nearly 200 Elon faculty and staff have signed up to read Claude Steele's *Whistling Vivaldi* since Spring 2012 and more than half have completed the reading as of this summer. They can't stop talking about "stereotype threat" What is it and why are they finding Steele's theory so compelling? Steele suggests that stereotype threat "[a]s an unrecognized factor in our lives, [...] can contribute to some of our most vexing personal and social problems and doing quite feasible things to reduce this threat can lead to dramatic improvements in these problems" (p.11). In his introduction, Steele, a well-respected psychologist and current Dean of the School of Education at Stanford University, introduces readers to his own experience of "whistling Vivaldi" tunes as a way of diffusing some of the negative stereotypes people held about him as an African-American male. Elon faculty, staff, and administrators have

found the language of stereotypes accessible in grappling with issues of identity that may include, but certainly spread well beyond, issues of race, and affect us all.

In addition to the many reading groups sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, African & African-American Studies, and a Fund for Excellence grant, the campus community will also have the opportunity to work with one of Steele's protégées, Dr. Josh Aronson, a noted psychologist in his own right and associate professor at New York University. Aronson will spend September 14th on campus engaging faculty, staff, administrators and students on issues of stereotypes and identity.

Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital, Assistant Professor of Psychology and one of Aronson's mentees, has been instrumental in brining her former professor

to the campus. The hope is that the campus community's engagement with stereotype threat theory will be ongoing throughout the year and each person will find practical ways to apply Steele's theories to their work and own lives.

One of the highlights of Aronson's visit will be a free, public lecture in Whitley Auditorium on September 14th from 2:15-3:15 pm. For a full schedule of the visit or to sign up for a *Whistling Vivaldi* reading group, visit the CATL website at www.elon.edu/catl or contact Dr. Peter Felten at pfelten@elon.edu.



News from Boyd Scholar Justine Davis '08



Justine Davis '08 was one of the first AAASE minors selected as a Boyd Scholar in 2008. Since then, she's been doing us proud! Read the news story from the Fulbright website at <http://fulbright.state.gov/grants/fulbright-public-policy-fellowship/2012-public-policy-fellows/justine-davis#.UC6ZA8THPbk.facebook>

Justine Davis will serve in Cote d'Ivoire's Ministry of Education, Teaching and Continuing English Branch. Ms. Davis holds a

dual-language Master's degree in International Affairs, Conflict Resolution and Civil Society Development from the American University of Paris and the Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Originally from North Carolina, Ms. Davis graduated from Elon University with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies, African concentration. She then worked in the French education system as an English instructor for two years. She has spent considerable time in West Africa, studying abroad in Ghana and Senegal, and completing field research for her Master's thesis in Côte d'Ivoire.

Her thesis examines the Commission Dialogue Vérité et Réconciliation in post-conflict Côte d'Ivoire and its relationship with civil society actors.

During her fellowship, Ms. Davis plans to continue working on the reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire, by collaborating with the Ministry of Education on the development and implementation of national curriculum initiatives to promote democratic values and a culture of peace. She anticipates developing a repertoire on education policy that incorporates civic values as a form of conflict resolution in Africa.



Fulbrights 2012 pose with Secretary of State Hilary Clinton

Diversity in the US Media, A Faculty Publication by Naeemah Clark



Dr. Naeemah Clark
Assistant Professor
Communications

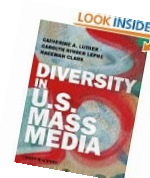
Naeemah Clark, an assistant professor in the School of Communications, has made it a personal mission to open her students' eyes to uneven and often problematic portrayals in the United States media. In particular, gender, racial, and economic disparities are often represented in stereotypical ways that harm the real-life perceptions of members of disenfranchised groups. Perhaps even worse is the symbolic annihilation that leads to the virtual invisibility of these groups in magazines, films, and on television.

While she believes it is ethical for communications students to find real and meaningful ways to increase the diversity reflected in the media, it is also economically viable to reach out to the widest audience possible through responsible depictions.

To help facilitate this process, Clark and co-authors Catherine Luther from the University of Tennessee, and Marist College's Carolyn Ringer Lepre, collaborated on a textbook that examines the media representations of groups such as the poor, women, African-Americans, and the LGBT community from historical, theoretical, and economic perspectives. They found that while none of these groups is monolithic, there are startling similarities in the ways they have been treated across the media.

Dr. Clark plans to share more of her findings and detail the process of her writing collaboration as part of the AAASE author-of-

the-month series. The events will take place during the noon hour (12:15—1:30 pm) on select third Wednesdays of the month in the K. Wilhelmina Boyd Office of African & African-American Studies, Alamance 302B. Discussions on Black Studies-related topics will take place with the authors who will present their recently published work or work-in-progress. October's featured author is Dr. Naeemah Clark who will talk about her book, *Diversity in US Mass Media* (Wiley-Blackwell, October 2011), paying special attention to the history of African Americans in entertainment media. She hopes all who attend are prepared to participate in a lively discussion about the impact these portrayals have on the whole of society. Faculty and staff interested in sharing their work should send an email request to aaase@elon.edu, indicating the month they'd like to present, the topic/title and a brief description of their work.



Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Milestones in African-American Literature

September 18th, 2012 will mark the 75th anniversary of the publication of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. It will also mark the 75th anniversary of Richard Wright's seminal essay "Blueprint for Negro Writing."

The discipline of African-American Studies has changed significantly since Wright's and Hurston's seminal works appeared in 1937. Dr. Tara Green, Director and Associate Professor of African-American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro will discuss the contributions of Wright and

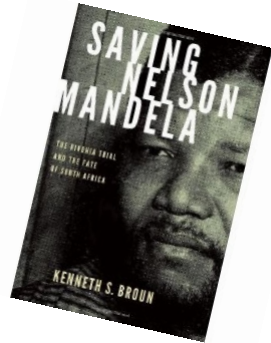
highlight the impact of their work, and developments in the field.

Hurston's novel was not well received when it was first published because it was thought to reject the prescribed racial uplift theme ascribed to African-American literature. Similarly, Wright's essay reflected his discontent with writing that focused too much on the humanity of Blacks and argued that it was more important for Black writing to articulate more useful directions and play an imperative role in the overall consciousness and uplift of the Black masses.

This event, dubbed "From Eatonville to Elon: 75th Anniversary Milestones in African-American Literature," will begin with a 4:15 pm in the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Elon University with a screening of the film adaptation of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* featuring Halle Berry as Janie Crawford and Michael Ealy as Vergible Woods, who goes by the nickname "Tea Cake." Dr. Green's talk will follow the screening. The event is free and open to the general public and all members of the Elon University community. Secure your seats for what will be a highly engaging evening!



Of Law and Struggle: Kenneth Broun Speaks on the Rivonia Trial



As part of Oxford University Press' Pivotal Moments in World History series, UNC-Chapel Hill Law professor Kenneth Broun's *Saving Nelson Mandela: The Rivonia Trial and the Fate of South Africa* was released this year. Broun comes to Elon University on Monday, November 12th to discuss his new book as part of a week-long series of activities coordinated by AAASE faculty member, Dr. Gerald Knight and culminates in the world premiere of a musical tribute honoring Mandela (see story below). Broun, whose discussion will be moderated in a

fireside-chat format with Dean of Elon University Law, Dr. George Johnson, will reflect on the impact of the Rivonia Trial, the support Mandela and his co-defendants received that saved their lives and eventually allowed Mandela to save his country. The book is an excellent resource in South African legal history and on the role of the law in social change.

Broun is also the author of *Black Lawyers, White Courts: Soul Of South African Law* (2000). has long enjoyed a long relationship with South Africa, sharing his

nearly 50 years of experience in the practice, theory, and teaching of trial law. Broun was director of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy from 1976 to 1979. He served as dean of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law from 1979 to 1987; and as chairman, Board of Trustees, National Institute for Trial Advocacy in 1991. He has been coordinator and faculty member, Trial Advocacy Training Programs, Black Lawyers Association of South Africa since 1986 and mayor of Chapel Hill from 1991 to 1995.

Of Dance and Struggle: A Musical Tribute to Nelson Mandela



The week-long series of events celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically-elected President will culminate with the world premiere of the original composition entitled "Of Dance and Struggle: A Musical Tribute to the Life of Nelson Mandela." The piece, composed by Howard University Associate Professor of Piano, Dr. Karen Walwyn, will be performed on Thursday, November 15th at 7:30 pm by the Elon University Chorale,

under the direction of Dr. Gerald Knight, Assistant Professor of Music at Elon University. The performance will also incorporate original dance numbers choreographed by Elon University Assistant Professor of Dance, Jason Aryeh.

Dr. Walwyn, an accomplished concert pianist, composer, and recording artist for Albany Records, has performed at the Kennedy Center, appeared on NPR, and around the world, including

Spain, Austria, France, London and the Canary Islands. *The Washington Post* describes Walwyn's work as "virtuosic, meditative, energetic . . . and vividly evocative . . ." Dr. Walwyn travelled to South Africa to conduct research for the piece, including extensive conversations with Alf Kumalo, Mandela's personal photographer and consultation with the Nelson Mandela Foundation. For additional information about the concert, email gknight2@elon.edu

A Knight + 'Grace' = Musical Magic!



Dr. Gerald Knight

When Dr. Gerald Knight met the legendary Ms. Grace Bumbry several years ago while he was attending Salzburg College in Austria and she was teaching a summer master class at the Mozarteum, he capitalized on her invitation to contact her should he ever return to Europe, and the rest, as they say, is history, or in this case, musical magic. In 2008, with the help of a Faculty Research Grant, Dr. Knight returned to Austria to study singing, the German language,

and pedagogy. Four summers later, Knight reflects on the life-changing experience, noting, "My lessons with her are like recitals; the level of preparation and performance must be excellent." Ms. Bumbry is recognized as one of the greatest singers of the twentieth century. She has been acclaimed in every major opera house in the world and has received the highest honors bestowed on artists from several countries, including the United States, which inducted her as a

2009 Kennedy Center Honoree. Ms. Bumbry was the student of another legendary singer and teacher, Lotte Lehmann. Each of Knight's summer experiences with Ms. Bumbry has resulted in performing opportunities in Salzburg, Austria. This past year, he was invited to sing a recital in the Salzburg International Chamber Music Concerts. Knight performed a recital of music by American composers with LaVonte Heard, tenor, and Dr. Gregory Thompson, piano.

Some of AAASE's Campus-Diversity Initiatives



Cheryll A. Albold, Ph.D.

Dr. Cheryll Albold holds a B.S. from Alfred University, MS.Ed., from Fordham University, and a Ph.D., in Educational Studies, with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration and a minor concentration in Education Research Methodology, from University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Throughout her career, she has held a number of diversity management and education administration positions at several colleges and universities. Most notably, she was the Associate Director and Curriculum Coordinator for Upward Bound (TRIO) and Math/Science Upward Bound for Bronx Community College in New York, Assistant Director of Student Life for Multicultural Affairs at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Central Programs Coordinator for the Office of Residential Life at Macalester College, the SEEDS Diversity Program Manager, in the Office of Workforce Equity and Diversity, and later she served as the Special Assistant to the Division Director for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

In 2000, Dr. Albold began working in biomedical science education at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. First, as the Program Manager for Diversity Recruitment, responsible for managing the activities of the NIH-funded post-baccalaureate program which provided strategic recruitment for the Mayo Clinic Medical Scientist Training Program, a combined M.D.-Ph.D. program of the Mayo Graduate School and Mayo Medical School. In a dual role, she also coordinated the Minority Medical Student Career Development pipeline programs for the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education. In 2003, she became the Director for Health Sciences and Graduate Education with administrative oversight for the activities of the School of Health Sciences, Graduate School, and Academic Support Center on Mayo's Arizona campus. In 2008, she left Mayo to pursue her doctoral degree full time.

In 2010, she received the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) Graduate Student Enrollment Management Research Grant for her research on Strategies for Countering Attrition and Prolonged ABD ("all but dissertation") Status in Doctoral Students and in that same year was awarded the North Carolina College Personnel Association's (NCCPA) Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Her doctoral dissertation dealt with the identification of socio-cognitive predictors affecting the development of an independent researcher identification in education Ph.D. students.

Returning to Mayo Clinic in 2011, she currently serves as the Operations Manager for the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education, for the College of Medicine, on Mayo Clinic's campus in Jacksonville, Florida where, in partnership with physician Deans, she provides administrative leadership and oversight for 42 Graduate Medical Education Residency and Fellowship Programs.

Dr. Albold is passionate about increasing the numbers of diverse students in STEM education programs and career fields. In her presentation, Dr. Albold will outline historic trends and contemporary developments in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority groups in STEM majors. Her discussion will focus on the career fields of medicine and biomedical research.

AAASE Reading Groups

This year, join AAASE for readings of Claude Steele's *Whistling Vivaldi* and Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* in the Fall and Toni Morrison's *Home* in the Spring and Summer. For further details, visit the "Events" page of the AAASE website www.elon.edu/aaase under the "Quick Links" section.

AAASE Author-of-the-Month Lunch Series

Every third Wednesday from noon to 1:15 pm, (excluding December and May), join us in Alamance 302B, the Boyd Conference Room, for a discussion of work related to Black Studies and the writing process. September's featured author is Dr. Naeemah Clark, Assistant Professor, School of Communications, followed in October by Dr. Jean Rattigan-Rohr, Associate Professor, School of Education. Faculty and staff interested in sharing their work with the Elon community should send an email to aaase@elon.edu with the desired month, topic and brief description of the work.

AAASE Course Development Initiative

AAASE invites proposals from all full-time, tenure track faculty for new courses that focus on African, African-American, or Africana experiences from specific disciplinary perspectives. Priority consideration will be given to courses emerging from schools, departments, and programs not traditionally represented in African & African-American Studies here at Elon. Faculty in the Schools of Business and Communications, and those in Fine Arts, Philosophy, Foreign Languages, Religious Studies, Human Services, Psychology, and the sciences are especially encouraged to apply. However, all proposals will be considered and evaluated by the selection committee. For more information, visit the AAASE website at www.elon.edu/aaase or email aaase@elon.edu for an application.

Mission Statement



The mission of the program is to promote the production and dissemination of knowledge about African and African-descended peoples through advocacy, learning, research, scholarship, service and teaching

K. Wilhelmina Boyd
Office of African & African-
American Studies
Elon University
Campus Box 2338
Elon, NC 27244

Phone: (336) 278-5631
Fax: (336) 278-2014
E-mail: aaase@elon.edu
Facebook: Elon Africana

Visit our website:
www.elon.edu/aaase



The Coordinator's Corner

K. Wilhelmina Boyd was by all accounts, fearless, bold, and a tower of strength. Unfortunately, she and I never met, but I feel her presence and spirit in my work at Elon as I continue to honor and build upon her legacy. I've brought my own shoes for the journey (several pairs in fact), but I certainly know what it's like to take a few steps in hers. By nature of her position as the program coordinator, she undoubtedly assumed the role of a dean, the beacon to whom African-American students, staff, parents and faculty gravitated for advice on navigating tumultuous waters or a sympathetic ear. She knew that as the only faculty member of color in 1987, she served on more committees than she should, too often for that very reason. She knew she would be called upon to be the expert in all things related to Black lives

and cultures. She opened her home to friends and students whom she embraced as family, and she knew she was watched by all for her reactions and actions in easing her community's fears around issues of race. We will never know the full extent of the "stony road she trod" or the thankless and selfless acts that went unrecognized, or that she may not have wanted acknowledged publicly. While several people can speak more intimately about the nature of her resilient and tenacious spirit and the change that Prof. Boyd engendered. I hear her, feel her. Perhaps she is humming the Sam Cooke version of the 1945 classic "It's Been a Long Time": There's been times that I thought/I wouldn't last for long/But now I think I'm able to carry on/It's been a long, long time coming/But I know a

change is gonna come./Oh, yes it will

Like every good builder, Prof. Boyd had a design plan, a vision, and tools

that might not have included the Internet, social media, or other modern technologies, but she made it and her accomplishments are even more remarkable. The Elon community owes her a debt of gratitude. The honor conferred upon her by the Board of Trustees in issuing a resolution to name the new suite in her honor reflects a giant step in making sure her dream for this program doesn't die! Rest now Prof. Boyd, at last change is here.



Dr. Prudence Layne
AAASE Coordinator