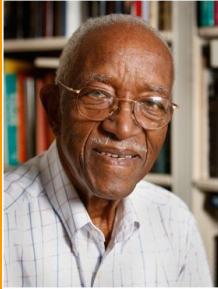


The Black Oaks Newsletter

Volum 3, Issue 2

Spring 2009



**Dr. John Hope
Franklin
1915-2009**

Inside this issue:

- SA: Building a Legacy of Service** 2
- Neal performs AAASE External Review** 2
- Malveaux & Lambert's Fireside Chat** 3
- Kinobe & Soul Beat Africa Perform** 3
- Burundi'a Forgotten Story** 3
- Salute to the 2009 AAASE Graduates** 4
- Faculty & Student Award Recipients** 5

'Mirror to America': The Legacy of Dr. John Hope Franklin

Former Duke University professor, historian, and scholar John Hope Franklin, who championed better race relations in the U.S. for decades, died on Wednesday morning, March 25th. He was 94. Franklin died at Duke University Hospital of congestive heart failure, university officials said. He is survived by his son, John Whittington Franklin, and other family members. A memorial service will be held in Duke Chapel on June 11, which would have been his and his late wife's 69th anniversary.

Franklin's story began in the tiny, all-black town of Rentiesville, in eastern Oklahoma, where his father was a lawyer and his mother taught elementary school. They taught him the value of hard work and diligence, but he learned the lessons of racism from the segregated South. When he was six, he and his mother were removed from a train because they refused to move to a compartment for blacks. Later, he tried to help a blind, white woman cross a street in Tulsa, Okla.homa "Can you imagine being rejected by a blind, white woman in the middle of the street while I was helping her across?" he said. "When she heard that I was black, she told me to take my filthy hands off her." When he was 19, he was threatened with lynching in Mississippi because he had the audacity of walking into an ice-cream parlor and asking to be served.

Franklin received a bachelor's degree from all-black Fisk University in Nashville, TN in 1935 – he was denied admission to the University of Oklahoma because of his race – and he went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard University. History fascinated him because it provided a chance to confront the past while at the same time creating future opportunities. Before joining the faculty of Howard University in Washington, D.C in 1947, he published his seminal book, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, which has sold millions of copies and been translated into six languages. While teaching at Howard, Franklin joined the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team that helped develop the sociological case for the Brown v. Board of Education case that led to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1954 that ended the legal segregation of black and white children in public schools. He also took part in civil rights marches with Martin Luther King Jr. in Montgomery, AL in the 1960s. "I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live," he said. In 1956, he was named chairman of the all-white history department at Brooklyn College, becoming the first black to head a major history department. He spent eight years there before moving to the University of Chicago, where he again chaired the his-

tory department and held an endowed faculty position.

The National Endowment for the Humanities selected Franklin in 1976 for the Jefferson Lecture, the government's highest honor for achievement in the humanities. His three-part lecture became the basis for his book *Racial Equality in America*. Franklin was named the James B. Duke Professor of History at Duke in 1983, and taught legal history at the Duke law school for seven years. His relationship with Duke spawned the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies and the Franklin Humanities Institute.

Clinton tapped him in 1997 to chair a seven-member panel for the president's Initiative on Race. The effort tried to promote a dialog about lingering racism in American in an effort to breach divides and bring the country together. "We have to get to know each other in a way we don't," Franklin said. "I'm not suggesting that this, in itself, is a final healing process, but it certainly is the beginning."

John Hope Franklin lived for nearly a century and helped define that century," Duke President Richard Brodhead said. Gov. Beverly Perdue noted, "He personified giving and his work, which advances the understanding of African-American contributions was unmatched by any other. He will be sadly missed."



South Africa Winter Term Course Builds a Legacy of Service

Since 2007, Elon students enrolled in the "Call of South Africa" winter term study abroad course have embarked on journeys of personal, cultural, and historical discovery. In their comparative analyses of forms of protests and reconciliation movements in the US and South Africa. Following the numerous calls from students after their return "to do something," the course adopted service-learning pedagogy and developed the Adopt-a-Student program and the Global Links Library and Liter-

acy Initiative. Adopt-a-Student asks U.S. sponsors to contribute \$40 to support a child's education for one year, and began with the modest goal of sponsoring 25 students and donating a few children's books to the empty shelves of the library at the Ekukhanyisweni Primary School in Alexandra, South Africa. Elon students in the 2008 program surpassed the initial goal by sponsoring 73 students with school and gym uniforms and supplies and some books were donated to the school. Helped by an ex-

change rate that favored the United States dollar and the continued support of Elon students, family, and friends, the 2009 class doubled its impact, sponsoring more than 155 students as they helped open the school's library with an array of books, most of which were donated by Dan & Laurel Woods of the Tennessee-based Sapphire Foundation (and parents of Amber Woods '10, who participated in the program). For more info., visit the class blog at <http://idd.elon.edu/sasa> or email playne@elon.edu

Unprecedented cross-disciplinary research and scholarship collaborations taking place among AAASE students and faculty and across campus.

Broader Disciplines & Departments Engaged in A/AAS-Related Research

Research topics related to Black life and culture have always been well represented at Elon's Student Undergraduate Research Forum, but the 2009 program saw presentations from a wide array of disciplines, including Political Science, Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Foreign Languages, and Business. Also noteworthy is the fact that many of the students performed their research

in locations spanning the globe, including: Alison Brooks' "Using Waste Stabilization Ponds to Improve Water Quality: A Case Study of the University of Dar Es Salaam Campus, Tanzania;" Amanda K. Brown & Megan A. Prilutski's "Understanding the Relationship between National Healthcare and Malaria in Ghana;" and Kristin R. Schulz & John R. McGreevy's "The Prospects of

Sustainable Energy Solutions in Ghana." Amber L. Christino's presentation "Les Relations Contemporaines Entre la France Et L'afrique : ¿De Quelle Façon Est-Ce Que Sarkozy est en Train de Changer la Politique Gaulliste?" was delivered entirely in French and Megan L. Dempsey conducted "An Analysis of the Introduction of Gender Quota Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Duke Professor Mark Anthony Neal Performs AAASE External Review



Since its previous evaluation in 2003 by Dartmouth professor J. Martin Fowler, renowned scholar Dr. Mark Anthony Neal, Professor of Black Popular Culture in the African/African-American Studies program at Duke University performed the program's second

external evaluation. Duke is one of Elon University's aspirant institutions. Dr. Neal arrived on campus on Thursday, May 7th, 2009 to chat with students, faculty, staff, and administrators about their experiences and desires for the program. Dr. Neal is the author and co-editor of several books. A frequent commentator for National Public Radio's News and Notes with Farai Chideya, Neal also contributes to several on-line media outlets, in-

cluding NewsOne.com. Neal's blog "Critical Noir" appears at *Vibe Magazine*. Dr. Neal will provide a copy of his report of the program by June 2009, and a copy will be made available to program faculty and staff, the Dean of Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost. The suggestions from the report will be used to advance the program's mission, objectives, and goals of its current five-year plan (2006-11).

AAASE Sponsors Presidential Fireside Chat with Malveaux & Lambert

On April 8th, 2009, President of Bennett College for Women, economist, author, and commentator Dr. Julianne Malveaux, joined Elon University President, Dr. Leo Lambert for a historic Presidential "Fireside Chat." The event spearheaded by AAASE and cosponsored by W/GS at Elon, the Elon University Members of Phi Beta Kappa, and the offices of the presidents solicited questions from both campus communities that dealt with the challenges of higher education. Malveaux and Lambert

discussed the common challenges and differences between Elon and Bennett, a historically black all-women school that enrolls 689 students at its campus in Greensboro, N.C. Both presidents said they are interested in increasing student diversity, but face economic challenges in providing scholarships to students from varied socioeconomic backgrounds. They also talked about the importance of maintaining strong global studies and study abroad programs, even as colleges look for ways to reduce

expenses. "The goal must be to have students feel at home in the world," Malveaux said, while Lambert noted that Elon graduates no longer assume that their first job will be in the United States. The two presidents discussed the financial pressures on students in the wake of the world economic crisis. "Public universities are being gutted," Lambert said, while Malveaux noted that government funding is going to bail out major corporations while spending on education is falling at all levels . . .



**Julianne Malveaux,
President, Bennett
College for Women**

The two presidents agreed to explore ways that Elon and Bennett can cooperate and build partnerships, perhaps establishing academic exchange programs for students and faculty, or linking community outreach programs. The event concluded with the two presidents exchanging gifts as tokens of the occasion.

Kinobe Headlines AAASE Banquet & Brings Uganda to Life

Famed Ugandan musician Kinobe Herbert and his band *Soul Beat Africa* made Elon a stop as part of their three-month American tour. The quintet, provided musical entertainment at the AAASE Graduating Seniors Banquet on Monday, May 4th in McKinnon Hall and performed a free concert for the Elon community the following evening. Punctuating their major performances were class visits, workshops and discussions with students studying

African literature, those enrolled in Global Studies classes, and those simply curious about the music and Ugandan life. Kinobe Herbert, the leader of the band, is a prodigy himself. Considered a master musician and the premier authority in his country on traditional music and instruments, all of which he builds himself, Kinobe demonstrated their use for Elon students. Fluent in 7 languages, including Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, Kinobe's



dream is to visit every country in the world and to settle eventually in the Caribbean. He is well on his way to achieving that goal having traveled to more than 50 countries.

Burundi: A Forgotten Country, A Forgotten People

When Goretti Kurgat returned to her native Burundi last summer, she didn't expect to meet a five-year-old boy who makes his living digging through garbage for charcoal, which Burundians use in cooking, and selling it on the street. For many Burundian children, these experiences are a way of life. Kurgat spoke to Elon students on April 27th about her experiences in Burundi and what she plans to do to help the children there. Kurgat noticed most people

going about their lives while children are suffering, and ". . . somehow the country is moving on as if it's acceptable." Kurgat said the government has likely not taken much action because they don't have enough money. Burundi is currently one of the poorest countries in the world. The problems there stem from the conflict between the Hutus and the Tutsis, the two main ethnic groups in Burundi, and the same groups responsible for

the Rwandan genocide in 1994, which Americans are more familiar with because of media attention and films like "Hotel Rwanda." According to freshman Frank Stiefel, president of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, "Everyone knows about Rwanda and its genocide, but Burundi is right next to it, "What people don't realize is that genocide has affected Burundi, too." Kurgat is in the process of starting a non-profit organization to help them.



**Goretti Kurgat
Burlington Resident,
Burundi Citizen**

Congratulations to the AAASE Graduating Minors, Class of 2009

The thirteen members of the Class of 2009, graduating with a minor in African/African-American Studies, will leave an indelible mark on the program. Their interests and talents are diverse, but their curiosity about, advocacy and passion for Black life and culture will continue long after they have left Elon.

Cherisse Armour received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Hailing from Waxhaw, NC, Cheri has been accepted to pursue a Masters in Social Work at NC State University, beginning in Fall 2009.

Michael Blake will be pursuing a Masters in Music Education at the University of Mississippi in the Fall. He has secured a graduate assistantship working with the Ole Miss Band and an African-American Fellowship.

Christopher Briggs hails from Durham, NC and graduates with a degree in Philosophy. In his own words, Chris says he is "in the process of pursuing beneficial and worthwhile experiences during the fall." For Spring 2010, however, he has a plan. He will be applying to law school.

Carolyn Byrne from North Branford, CT, will assume the post of Volunteer Coordinator in the APPLES Service-Learning Program through Americorps VISTA. She plans to return to graduate school within two years, possibly to pursue a degree in community development. She received a degree in Sociology.

Tiffany Carter is originally from Gaitersburg, MD. She plans to pursue a career with the Smithsonian Institute, and would love the opportunity to work with the staff at the National Museum for African-American History and Culture, ultimately securing the position as Museum Curator. Tiffany will enroll in graduate school in the next year or two and has her eye on the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University where she hopefully will pursue a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Federal Policy, Politics and Management.

Deborah Felton is from Rochester, NY. She graduated with a degree in Political Science and specialties in Criminal Justice and AAAS.

Bonnie Harvey the residents of Grafton, West Virginia are extremely proud of their hometown girl, who will spend the next two years in Malawi with the Peace Corps, coordinating AIDS prevention education programs. After her stint ends in 2011, Bonnie plans to pursue a Masters in International Community Development. Bonnie graduated with a degree in International Studies. **(Wilhelmina Boyd AAASE Scholar, 2009)**

Jessica Henson majored in International Studies and French with a minor in Anthropology.

Courtney Latta is a local girl, from Winston-Salem, NC. She will be interning for a year in Leogane, Haiti, helping to run a guest house and collecting and analyzing data about the Hearth Model of the Children's Nutrition program being enacted there. After, she plans to attend UNC's School of Public Health in the Fall of 2010. Courtney's degree is awarded in International Studies.

Evan Ross from Warwick, RI graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies and majors in Biology and Geography. Evan was a Periclean Scholar in the class of 2009 and spent a semester abroad in Kenya.

Jacqueline Seidel from West Chester, PA graduated with a degree in Corporate Communications with a minor in International Studies.

Laura Veno received her degree in International Studies with a minor in French. She hails from Columbia, TN and plans on joining the Peace Corps to serve in Africa.

Maggie Zimmerman was an Honors Fellow and graduated with degrees in International and Environmental Studies and an additional minor in Geography. She hails from St. Charles, IL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WILHELMINA BOYD AAASE SCHOLAR 2009 MISS BONNIE HARVEY, '09



The award recipient writes: "My interest in African studies began early during my freshman year of college. A new world of cultures and histories opened up to me through books and cultural events. Solidifying my passion was the reading of the year: *Escape from Slavery* by Francis Bok. Seeing him and hearing his story first hand made the continent real, connected to my life through this one very impressive man. From there it became a sort of passion as I took just about every class Elon had to offer with 'Africa' in its title. Then, bringing everything closer to home I took a Civil Rights course my sophomore year which showed a cross over in freedom struggles and just how similar people's lives really are. . . . I hope to continue working with minority groups and help in giving them a fighting chance. I don't know for sure where I will be in five years, but I do know I will still be working with this passion. My freshman year interest has turned into a life dedication that I am overly excited about and can't wait to see unfold. Congratulations to Bonnie Harvey who will be stationed in Malawi in the next two years as a member of the Peace Corps.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AAASE FACULTY MEMBER OF 2009 DR. CHARLES IRONS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



The AAASE Faculty Member of the Year award goes to a person who has shown meritorious service and contributed significantly to the program's growth in the past year and is awarded at the discretion of the Program Coordinator. This year's recipient has taught courses such as: the United States through 1865, Jefferson's America, America's Civil War, Slavery in British North America. In 2008, our recipient published his first book, *The Origins of Proslavery Christianity: White and Black Evangelicals in Colonial and Antebellum Virginia* from the University of North Carolina Press, which answers the question of how early American white plantation owners justified slavery when they worshipped every Sunday in the same churches alongside the black men and women whom they claimed to own. He continues to distinguish himself in his field and has been named one of ten Young Scholars in American Religion by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, the premier research institute in the nation working in American religious studies. Finally, as a CATL Scholar, our faculty member of the year bridges his research with his teaching and mentoring, and has created an invaluable database entitled "Other Souths," a digital archive containing thousands of searchable records about Alamance County residents during the Civil War. The site allows researchers and the general public to sort through Census data and Confederate military records to glean a better understanding of the county before and after the war. In the next two years, he will continue to share his expertise with his lumen scholar, Amber Woods, whose project will look at Ecclesiastical tensions in Kentucky, 1790-1854.

African/African American
Studies
Elon University
2338 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244

Phone: 336-278-5618
E-mail: aaase@elon.edu

Visit our website:
www.elon.edu/aaase



The mission of the program is to provide imaginative and productive spaces that foster excellence, nurture the scholarly and cultural pursuits of our students and faculty, bring global exposure to the program, and expose a wider cross-section of the Elon University community to the histories, societies, politics, languages, cultures, and economies of Black people within the United States, Africa, and throughout the world. In addition to its principle aim of stimulating teaching, research, scholarship, and service, the program will also serve as a national and international forum for individuals and organization with an interest in and concern for African-Americans, Africa, and the rest of her Diaspora.

The Coordinator's Corner (In Memoriam to John Hope Franklin)

Dr. John Hope Franklin last visited Elon on April 19th, 2006 to deliver the lecture "Stalking the Historian." He plotted the challenges he faced as a young scholar developing in racially-charged America to rescue one man's life-story from obscurity while fighting simultaneously to become 'visible' in a society that tried to render him invisible. Like his life, his passing again turns a 'mirror to America.' Just how far have we come? The following excerpt taken from chapter 1, "No Crystal Stair," of his text *Mirror to America, the Autobiography of John Hope Franklin*, suggests we still have a long way to go: "Living in a world restricted by laws defining race, as well as creating obstacles, disadvantages, and even superstitions regarding race, challenged my capacities for survival. For ninety years I have witnessed countless men and women likewise meet this challenge. Some bested it; some did not; many had to settle for any accommodation they could. I became a student and eventually a scholar. And it was armed with the tools of scholarship that I strove to dismantle those laws level those obstacles and disadvantages and replace superstitions with humane dignity. . . . Slavery was a principal centerpiece of the New World

Order that set standards of conduct including complicated patterns of relationships. These lasted not merely until emancipation but after Reconstruction and on into the twentieth century. Many of them were still very much in place when beginning in the late 1950s, the sit-ins, marches, and the black revolution began an onslaught of some of the antediluvian practices that had become a part of the very fabric of society in the New World and American society in particular. Born in 1915, I grew up in a racial climate that was stifling to my senses and damaging to my emotional health and social well-being. Society at that time presented a challenge to the strongest adult, and to a child it was not merely difficult but cruel. . . . The climate touched me at every phase of my life. I was forcibly removed from a train at the age of six for having accidentally taken a seat in the "white people's coach" . . . I was called a "Harvard nigger" at age forty. At age forty-five, because of race, New York banks denied me a loan to purchase a home. At age sixty I was ordered to serve as a porter for a white person in a New York hotel, at age eighty to hang up a white guest's coat at a Washington club where I was not an

employee but a member. To these everyday, ordinary experiences during ninety years in the American race jungle should be added the problem of trying to live in a community where the economic and social odds clearly placed any descendant of Africans at a disadvantage. . . ." So at his death, Dr. Franklin saw us elect the nation's first African-American President, but the problems of the 'race jungle' he described persists. The mission of his work by his own words and standards was to "replace superstitions with humane dignity." We choose here to honor the legacy of John Hope Franklin because in the AAASE mission to ' . . . expose a wider cross-section of the Elon University community to the histories, societies, politics, languages, cultures, and economies of Black people within the United States, Africa, and throughout the world," we continue his work to use the "tools of scholarship" and service to honor Africa's peoples. (R.I.P. JHF)



AAASE Program
Coordinator
Dr. Prudence Layne