

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in collaboration with the Departments of Africana Studies, English, and History,
the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Office of Diversity and Equity Programs,
the office of Alumni Affairs, the Graduate Students Organization,
and the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Program,
presents the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Africana Studies at Brooklyn College*

Department of Africana Studies Graduate Alumni Symposium

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Symposium, Part I: Africana Studies, the Humanities, and the African Diaspora

Moderator: **Prof. Régine Latortue**

Martine Jean, Ph.D. “Atlantic Diaspora: Contesting the Boundaries of African and Latin American History”

Guirdex Massé, Ph. D. “Tracing the Shadow of an Amerindian Presence: The Function of Marvelous Realism in Jacques Stéphen Alexis’ *Les Arbres Musiciens*”

2:15-3:30 p.m.

Symposium, Part II: Africana Studies, Performance, Culture, and Identity Formation

Moderator: **Prof. Dale Byam**

Asantewa Sunni Ali, Ph.D. “Performing New Afrikan Childhood: Agency, Conformity, and the Spaces in Between”

Trina Yearwood, Ed. D. “Rethinking My First Choice: Africana Studies and the Educational Success of Black Students”

4-6 p.m.

**Reception and Roundtable
Occidental Lounge, 5th Floor**

“Africana Studies and the Graduate Experience”

Cocktail reception and roundtable featuring symposium guests who will talk informally on challenges and strategies for academic success

Thursday, October 23, 2014

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Jefferson-Williams Lounge, 4th Fl
Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

To RSVP: Prof. Lynda Day LDay@brooklyn.cuny.edu or Ms. Jezra Matthews jmatthews@brooklyn.cuny.edu

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Dale Byam is an assistant professor of performance studies and the literatures of the African diaspora. She holds a Ph.D. in music and the performing arts professions and an M.A. in educational theater from New York University. Since joining the Africana Studies Department in 2005, she has spearheaded a programmatic series on Race and Performance, featuring Spike Lee and Lynn Nottage, as well as performance-based courses and study abroad programs.

Martine Jean (B.A., Brooklyn College, '02; Ph.D., Yale University, 2010) holds a Ph.D. in history and African-American Studies from Yale University with a dissertation entitled "Guardians of Order: Police and Society in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1907-1930." She is an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Martine has contributed entries to the *Encyclopedia of Free Blacks and People of Color in the Americas: the African-American Heritage of Freedom* (2011), and *Brazil Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic* (2010), and has contributed book reviews in the *Canadian Journal of History* and *History: a Review of New Books*. Martine is currently revising her book manuscript entitled *Policing Freedom: Workers, Vagrants, and the Penitentiary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1880-1930*. Martine's research explores the link between state formation, post-emancipation, race and citizenship in Brazil and in the African Diaspora.

Régine Latortue is professor emerita of Francophone literature and literatures of the African diaspora. She holds a B.A. from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. and a Ph. D. in Romance languages and literatures as well as comparative literature from Yale University. A native of Port au Prince Haiti, Prof. Latortue has taught and mentored thousands of Brooklyn College students since starting her career in the Africana Studies Department in 1978.

Guirdex Massé (B.A., Brooklyn College, '05; Ph.D., Emory University, 2014) specializes in twentieth-century African American and African diasporic literature and culture - more specifically, the transnational engagements of black writers and intellectuals in the latter half of the twentieth century. His research explores issues relating to racial and cultural identity, citizenship, and freedom. A Research Fellow at Williams College (Africana studies and comparative literature), he is currently working on a book manuscript based on his dissertation project, "The Politics of Race and Culture at the First International Congress of Black Writers and Artists."

Asantewa Sunni-Ali (B.A., Brooklyn College, '06; Ph.D., Arizona State University, 2014) is a recent graduate of Arizona State University's Theatre for Youth doctoral program. In addition to a commitment to academic excellence and student-centered teaching, she is passionate about performing, writing, and directing socially relevant works. Sunni-Ali is a published scholar whose research explores intersecting constructs of childhood, cultural identity, performance and power. As Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, she is currently revising her dissertation, "Performing New Afrikan Childhood: Agency, Conformity, and the Spaces in Between", for publication.

Trina Lynn Yearwood (B.A., '00, Brooklyn College; Ed. D., West Virginia University, 2011) is a product of the NYC public schools. She received her B.A. in English and Africana studies from Brooklyn College, her M.Ed. in education from Cambridge College, and her doctorate in educational leadership from West Virginia University where she was a Chancellor's Scholar. Her research and teaching interests are teacher preparation, culturally responsive pedagogy/culturally relevant teaching, urban education, Black student success, and student engagement. She is currently a curriculum consultant with the NYC Department of Education and an adjunct professor in the Brooklyn College School of Education and the Department of Africana Studies. Trina is committed to equity in education for all students.

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