

Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library Newsletter



LIBRARIES

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Dr. Lorie Roy on Native American Heritage Month

Dr. Lorie Roy, Past President of the American Library Association Answers a Few Questions on Native American History Month. Interview by Bergis K. Jules.

BKJ: Name and Position?

LR: I'm Lorie Roy, Professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin. I am also an affiliated professor with the Center for Women's & Gender Studies. I am the Immediate Past President of ALA. I direct "If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything," a national reading club for Native Children. I am an advisor and consultant for WGBH-Boston and a national library program related to "We Shall Remain," an American Experience series that will air on PBS in April 2009. I am the General Editor for Greenwood/ABC-CLIO's American Indian Experience.

BKJ: What tribe are you a member of?

LR: I am Anishinabe, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation.

BKJ: Why is it important for Americans to recognize and celebrate Native American Heritage Month?

LR: Native people are somewhat invisible to many others. Heritage Month is an opportunity to learn about the history and cultures of tribal communities and also to understand that these sovereign nations exist to this day.

BKJ: What can libraries do to help join in the celebrations?

LR: There are many ways that libraries can work with their patrons to celebrate. An events planning kit on American Indian history and cultures will soon be posted <http://www.pbs.org/weshallremain>. These program ideas range from organizing displays to coordinating activities and discussion questions for reading clubs.

BKJ: Of all the programs you planned and carried during your ALA presidency, which one are you most proud of or you think was the most successful?

LR: I think that we helped renew connections to indigenous cultures over the past year. I was proud of the inaugural events including the

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Fall 2008

Upcoming Events: at NMBCC

- ◆ Exhibit: Black Political Thought Sept. 15th-Nov. 5th, 2008
- ◆ Exhibit: Pre-Kwanzaa 2008: Celebrating Arts in the African Diaspora Dec. 1st-12th
- ◆ Stress Less Event Dec. 9th

Upcoming NMBCC Library Art Exhibit

Katie Dieter on her Upcoming Exhibit December 1-12, 2008.

My artwork, which consists mostly of paintings, explores the notions of skin tone hierarchy among African American women. More particularly, a lot of my pieces represent the ways that black women have resisted skin tone hierarchical issues during the Black Power Movement. My current pieces also reflect the intersections of race, gender,

and sexuality. Although these three identity markers are often thought of as separate entities, they all work together inextricably. Being an artist as well as an academic, my art often manifests itself within the worlds of academia and art. Art has become a way to showcase my academic interests to a wider audience.



Hierarchies of Race by Katie Dieter

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Marilyn Vann Lecture

Marilyn Vann Lectures on the Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes .

Marilyn Vann, President of the Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes Association, discussed the history of the Cherokee freedman from slavery to the present at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center Library on November 11th. Ms. Vann addressed key legal issues and actions regarding the expulsion of the freedmen from the Cherokee Nation.

The Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes Association is a non-profit corporation based in Oklahoma comprised of African Americans whose ancestors were former slaves of the five slave holding Indian tribes: the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation, Seminole Nation, Choctaw Nation and the Chickasaw Nation.

In 1893, President Cleveland appointed the Dawes Commission; this commission was established to prepare citizenship rolls for each Native American Tribe. These rolls are known as the Dawes Rolls and are used by "the Five Civilized Tribes" to determine tribal membership. Freedmen were enrolled as tribal citizens; however in 2007, the Cherokee nation revoked their tribal citizenship.

The Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes Association educates the public

on the history, culture, and political rights of the African Indian peoples of the Five Civilized Tribes and is a leader in the battle to reinstate freedmen's tribal citizenship.

"Many people do not know anything about the Descendants of Freedmen" states Vann. "I am delighted to have the opportunity to come to Indiana University and educate people about our history and who we are as a people." Marilyn Vann is a descendant of Joseph Vann and Rider Fields, native Cherokee citizens by blood, who immigrated to what is now Eastern Oklahoma prior to 1860.

Marilyn Vann graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering with Distinction. She is the first known woman having African Descent to graduate from that discipline at the University of Oklahoma. She has been employed with the Federal Government as an engineer for the past 27 years.

For more information please visit Marilyn's site: <http://www.freedmen5tribes.com/>



Marilyn Vann, a descendant of Joseph Vann and Rider Fields, native Cherokee citizens by blood, who immigrated to what is now Eastern Oklahoma prior to 1860.



Dr. Loriene Roy on Native American Heritage Month, cont.

Honor Dance held at the National Museum of the American Indian and the inaugural banquet in DC. I was proud of the many people who helped me—including Henry Stokes and Siobhan Champ-Blackwell's work on the Wellness Fair, Joe Sanchez's work on the education forum, and the work we continue to do.

BKJ: Do you have confidence that ALA will continue to honor Native American heritage after your presidency?

LR: Diversity is one ALA's key action areas. The association is supportive of efforts to create a more diverse workforce and to support librarians' efforts to support the information interests of all community members.

BKJ: What are your thoughts on ALA diversity efforts in general?

LR: ALA has a strong Office for Literacy and Outreach Services. ALA also works with five ethnic library associations affiliated with ALA. The Spectrum Scholarship Program remains vital. Over 400 students have received financial support and fast-tracking in the profession through Spectrum Scholarships .

BKJ: What programs are you taking part in this year for Native American Heritage Month or which one are you looking forward to the most?

LR: Austin hosts the largest free one-day powwow in the US on November 1. I'll be in Montana from 4-8 November, attending the work meeting of the Hopa Mountain Storytellers literacy initiative. ALA is hosting its first meeting on traditional knowledge in Washington, DC from 12-14 November. I'm also attending the National Council for the Social Sciences in Houston where I'm assisting in a film screening of We Shall Remain, the largest American Experience series produced. We Shall Remain will air nationally on PBS in April 2009. And, I'm hosting a Maori librarian for a week in Austin.

Library School Scholarships for Minority students

In the last ten to fifteen years, the library profession has made some great strides in promoting diversity within the field. Through the American Librarian Association (ALA) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), there have been a number of very creative and generous scholarships created minority students to attend library school and also to enhance the careers of minority librarians already in the profession.

State library associations and divisions of ALA have also begun to invest heavily in the education on minority librarians but for the most part these scholarships are not very well known to students. Another issue is that many minority students never think of

librarianship as a profession but that is another story all together. Here is a list of three of the best known scholarships for students seeking education and careers in librarianship. The good news is these scholarships are available because people generally do not know about them.

1. Association of Research Libraries Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce. (\$10,000 plus all expenses paid to attend Library Student Institute for Scholarship recipients) www.arl.org
2. American Library Association Spectrum Scholarship. (\$5,000 plus all expenses paid

to the ALA National Conference and Spectrum Scholars Institute) www.ala.org

3. Indiana's Librarians Leading in Diversity Student Scholarship. (Full tuition for 36 credit hours plus \$15,000 stipend and all expenses to conferences and workshops).

<http://in.webjunction.org/663>

APPLY TODAY!!!!!!



Professor Spotlight: Dr. Vernon J. Williams Jr.

BKJ: What department do you teach for and what courses are you teaching this semester?

VW: I teach in the African American and African Diaspora Studies department. This semester I am teaching courses on race, culture, and politics in the social sciences in the African Diaspora.

BKJ: Other than teaching at IU, what other positions do you hold nationally and internationally?

VW: I am the Co-editor of Black Diaspora Studies and I am a Contributing Editor to Transforming Anthropology. I also serve on the Editorial Boards of The Western Journal of Black Studies, The Journal of African American Studies and the Board of Directors of the Alain Locke Society .

BKJ: Why do you believe African American History is an important area of study?

VW: African American Studies' importance lies primarily in its potency in nudging the traditional disciplines to become more inclusive and ecumenical.

BKJ: What was the subject of your last book project and what motivated you to write on that subject?

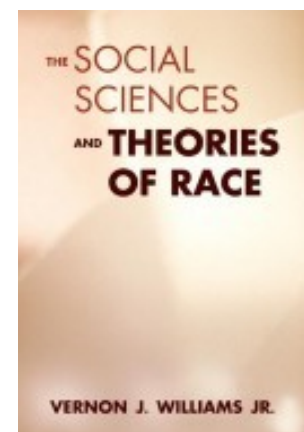
VW: *The Social Sciences and Theories* (2006) was the culmination of my work in the history of the social sciences that I have worked on for the past thirty odd years. I published this set of essays in order to address myself to the criticisms of my *From a Caste to a Minority* (1989) and *Rethinking Race* (1996); and to lay to rest questions that had bedeviled me for the past forty years.

BKJ: Why are libraries and archives important to researchers and authors such as you?

VW: Archives and Libraries are of paramount importance for the researcher—primarily because the confidential manuscripts, correspondence, and other non-printed and extant materials that they contain enable one to get at what institutional, emotional, and personal factors that motivate individuals of significance or potential significance.

—Bergis K. Jules

“African American Studies’ importance lies primarily in its potency in nudging the traditional disciplines to become more inclusive and ecumenical.”



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Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library**Mission and Vision Statements****MISSION STATEMENT**

The Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library supports and promote awareness and understanding about the African American experience, history and culture, through library collections, display, exhibits, facilities, and programs.

VISION STATEMENT

The Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library (NMBCCCL) serves as a cultural resource for all Indiana University Bloomington students, faculty, and staff and to be a center of campus cultural activity that highlights Black Culture and the inter-change between it and all American culture. This will be achieved by developing collections, educational experiences, resources, and services that bring together the campus community to share and communicate their experiences.

Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Join the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library's Advisory Group. Sign-up by emailing bcclib@indiana.edu; type NMBCC Library Advisory Group in the Subject line. See DeLoice Holliday for details.

Herman C. Hudson Symposium 2009**A Call For Papers 2009**

The sixth annual Herman C. Hudson Symposium, hosted by the African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society at Indiana University, invites abstracts for papers exploring "Constructions of Race and Identity in Diasporic Communities" from interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspectives. These papers will be presented at our annual conference on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center.

Papers should explore persons or groups who comprise and/or continue to reconstitute Diasporic communities. The research should engage the chosen community from a cultural, intellectual, social, historical, or political vantage point, engaging constructions of race and identity from a distinct

perspective. The African Diaspora should be referenced but does not have to be paramount in this research. We are also interested in expanding our scope this year to include presentations that employ and give voice to the performing and visual arts, as these are instrumental forms of expression found within the Black Diaspora.

Interested graduate and undergraduate student presenters should submit a one-page abstract. Panel proposals should include a description of the panel's theme, the name of the panel chair, and a one-page abstract from each participant. All materials and questions should be sent to the attention of Heather Essex, chair of Abstracts and Panel Development, at hchs@indiana.edu. All abstracts are due by January 16, 2009.



Sonia Sanchez Reading Some of Her Poetry at 2008 Herman C. Hudson Symposium.