

# THE CHRONICLE



*A Newsletter for the Department of English and Foreign  
Languages at Texas Southern University/Spring 2007*

*A philosopher who is not taking part in discussions  
is like a boxer who never goes into the ring.....Uttering  
a word is like striking a note on the keyboard of the imagination.*

Ludwig Wittgenstein

## **The Black Church Responds: "Ye are the Light of the World...."**

The Minerva Literary Association under the auspices of the Department of English at Texas Southern University hosted the 2007 J. Marie McCleary Symposium on "The Black Church Responds: "Ye are the Light of the World..." at the University Museum on March 29-30.

The 2007 McCleary Symposium included presentations from scholars and others from around the country that incorporated such various approaches as the black church as a social, cultural and political transformational edifice; literary interpretations of the church; music and song in and outside the church; architectural interpretations; the church in painting; the role of the minister and ministering; and other topics. Of special note, Mayor Bill White of Houston was on hand to address the conference attendees, as were TSU President J. Timothy Boddie, Jr., and other dignitaries from the University. This was the Eighth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Arts. Dr. Shirley Walker Moore, Department Chair and event founder and coordinator, received a proclamation from Mayor White proclaiming March 30, 2007 as J. McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium Day. The complete program is published at the end of this issue of the newsletter, beginning on page 10.

*The Minerva Literary Association  
under the Auspices of the  
Department of English  
Texas Southern University*

Presents

9<sup>th</sup> Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium  
**The Black Church Responds: “Ye are the Light of the World...”**



**Thursday, March 29, 2007 and Friday, March 30, 2007**

**Texas Southern University  
University Museum  
3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004**

## The Black Church Responds: “Ye are the Light of the World....”

The image of Light has long been associated with knowledge, understanding, and enlightenment, both in the physical and spiritual realms. The church and the arts have long enjoyed a close affiliation; such an association is made evident by the “coming together” of the black church and the printed word(s) of a people of African descent challenged by seemingly impenetrable obstacles specifically designed to thwart their attempts to attain and/or practice literacy. In the face of such horrendous circumstances, the black church positioned itself to implement Psalm 119:130 (NIV): “The unfolding (publishing) of your words gives light.” Accordingly, the African Methodist Episcopal Church published the works of black writers during the early nineteenth century. Many of the works of those 19<sup>th</sup> century black women writers are presently located in **The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth Century Black Women Writers**. The black church is a house of light to those in its community, as the lighthouse is to those traveling on the ocean seeking a safe passage ashore. As a lighthouse, the church sits on a rock solid foundation, its beam is available to everyone, and the light remains ever-present. As this source of light, the church becomes a center of community, culture, society, music. Through prayer, song, poetry, and music, church members raise up their arms and their hopes to a spiritual light. The Department of English’s logo incorporates the image: “Lighting the Way.” One of our goals is to bring enrichment in the full spectrum of colors, ideas, and possibilities to students, visitors, and the community. One central part of this commitment is carried out through the annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium. The word “Interdisciplinary” is definitive in the title because the conference strives to reveal how various disciplines and perspectives contribute significantly to our understanding of the world. This year with the theme of Black Church TSU takes the opportunity to look at the role the church plays not only in literature, painting, music, song, and architecture, but also in sermons, community enrichment, and spiritual transcendence. The first poet wrote, “Let there be light: and there was light.” A much later poet sang: “This little light of mine - I’m going to let it shine.”

Dr. Michael Sollars  
Dr. Shirley Walker Moore



(l-r) Mayor Bill White, Chair Shirley Walker Moore

## Tribute to Dr. J. Marie McCleary

During her decades-long association with Texas Southern University as professor of English and as chair of the English Department, Dr. J. Marie McCleary, the honoree of this annual literary symposium, compiled a truly outstanding record of superb teaching and exemplary scholarship as well as timely, valuable services and contributions to the university and to the profession. Genuinely passionate in her commitment to mentoring students and to the teaching of English and in her insistence on requiring high-caliber scholarly work, Dr. McCleary consistently encouraged and exhorted both her own students and her English Department colleagues to model their very best critical thinking compasses, excellence in their oral and written expressions, and indubitable intellectualism in all of their endeavors. And, fittingly, many of her former students and co-workers who followed her pedagogical advice and example would go on to achieve local, statewide, national, and even international honors, awards, and acclaim in successful careers as teachers and scholars of English. It is no wonder, then, that her rich legacy of teaching, scholarship, and professional service continues—perhaps most notably here at Texas Southern—more than a quarter of a century after her retirement.



Professor *Billy Joe Turner*  
*TSU, Class of 1967*

*The Minerva Literary Association  
under the Auspices of  
The Department of English  
Texas Southern University*

*Presents*

The Ninth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium

**The Black Church Past, Present, and Future**

**Thursday, March 29, 9:30 A.M. – 3:45 P.M.**

**Friday, March 30, 9:00 A.M. – 3:15 P.M.**

Location: University Museum, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas

**Symposium Steering Committee**

Chair: Dr. Shirley Walker Moore, Chair, Department of English, Texas Southern University

**Program Committee**

Ms. Kimberly Barron Brown  
Dr. Alexis Brooks de Vita  
Dr. Thorpe Butler  
Ms. Cathy Clay  
Mrs. Joyce Conerly  
Mr. Kevin Daniels  
Ms. Josie Decatur  
Ms. LaToya Douglas-Butler  
Ms. Quianna Glapion  
Ms. Marsha Herold  
Ms. Neshon Jackson  
Ms. Earnice Jenkins

Ms. LaFonda Johnson  
Ms. Melba McCoy-Johnson  
Ms. Serlena Martin  
Dr. Shirley Walker Moore  
Ms. Gustiallia Renee Piper  
Dr. Rhonda Saldivar  
Dr. Ronald Samples  
Mr. Jorge Santos  
Dr. Michael Sollars  
Dr. Betty Taylor-Thompson  
Mr. Billy Joe Turner  
Mr. Vaughn Venters  
Mr. Gary Wilkins  
Dr. Michael Zeitler

# *2007 J. Marie McCleary Symposium*

## Program

Thursday, March 29, 2007

**Ms. Cathy Clay, presiding**

### **Music**

### **Greetings:**

- 9:30-10:00 Mayor Bill White – Houston, Texas  
J. Timothy Boddie, Jr. – President, Texas Southern University  
Dr. Bobby Wilson – University Provost  
Manson B. Johnson - Shepherd and Teacher  
Dr. Merline Pitre – Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. Richard Pitre – Associate Provost/Dean of Graduate School  
Deacon Raymond Bennett – Director of Christian Education, Antioch  
Missionary Baptist Church, 500 Clay Avenue  
Dr. John B. Sapp – Poet Laureate for the Department of English, Texas  
Southern University  
Mrs. Thelma Scott Bryant – The Methodist Church
- 10-10:30 Ms. Neshon Jackson, Moderator  
Panel Members: Ms. Cathy Clay, Ms. Lafonda Johnson, Ms. Quianna  
Glaption, Mr. Jorge Santos
- 10:30-11:00 Ms. Josie Decatur, Moderator  
Dr. Zandra Jordan, “The Black Church as a Research Institution:  
Negotiating Language, Identity and Faith Traditions”  
Dr. J. D. Youngblood, “That Ol’ time Religion”: Black Church Rhetoric  
Of the Past and Present  
Reading – Ms. Monique Bryan – Texas Southern University Debate Team



Manson B. Johnson

- 1:00-2:15 Dr. Linda A. Johnson, Moderator  
Ms. Tonya Sanders, “Community Organizing through the Black Church: A.M.E. Zion Experience”  
Mr. Larry Menyweather-Woods, The Black Church Responds: “It’s Time for a Change”  
Dr. Herman O. Kelly, Jr., “The Black Church: A Liberating, Identifying, and Prophetic Institution”
- 2:15-3:45 Visiting Instructor Ms. Michon Benson, Moderator  
Professor Lerone A. Martin, “Binding the Straw Man”: Hip-Hop, African American Protestant Religion and the Dilemma of Dialogue”  
Dr. Rebekah Hamilton, “Re-presentation: Biblical Archetypes in the Poetry of Lucille Clifton”  
Dr. Leslie Wingard, “As Seen through Stained Glass: Images of Black Women, Christianity, and Political Activism in Alice Walker’s MERIDIAN
- 4:00-5:30 Reception Room 111 – Martin Luther King Building



Shown (l-r) DeLloyd Parker, Pastor Gusta Booker, Asa Sampson, Deason Leonard Lockett, and Dr. Karen Kossie Chernyshev

## *2007 J. Marie McCleary Symposium*

### Program

Friday, March 30, 2007

#### **Visiting Instructor Iris Lancaster, presiding**

- 9:00-9:45 Dr. Ronald C. Samples, Moderator  
 Dr. Elias Bongmba, “African American Christian Missionaries to Africa”  
 Cardinal Aswad Walker, “Sanfoka: Learning from the Past to Build a Better Tomorrow”
- 10:00-10:45 Visiting Instructor Ms. Lana Reese, Moderator  
 Mr. Hank Neal, Minister of Music – Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston, Texas  
 The Reverend Doctor Marcus D. Cosby, Senior Pastor, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston, Texas
- 1:00 – 1:45 Visiting Instructor Ms. Kimberly Barron-Brown, Moderator  
 Dr. Louis Lee Woods II, “From King to Dollar: How Social Justice Gospel Evolved in Prosperity into Preaching”  
 Mr. Terrazo Gray, “The Black Church, Global Warming and Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice”

## Panel

1:45-2:45 **Dr. Shirley Walker Moore, Moderator**  
**Confirm or Deny: “The Black Church has lost its ‘salt’”**

**“Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Matthew 5:13 (NIV)**

## Panel Members

Pastor Gusta Booker, Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, Deacon Leonard Lockett, Minister Robert Muhammad, Mr. Deloyd Parker

Closing Remarks – Dr. J. Marie McCleary



J. Timothy Boddie and Dr. Shirley Walker Moore

## Presenters, Contributors and Officials

**Bennett, Deacon Raymond.** Director of Christian Education Antioch Baptist Church, Houston, Texas

**Benson, Ms. Michon.** Visiting Instructor in the Department of English. She is completing her dissertation at Rice University

**Brown, Ms. Kimberly Barron.** Visiting Instructor of English at Texas Southern University. She received the M.A. in English from Texas Southern University

**Bryan, Ms. Monique.** Texas Southern Debate Team

**Bryant, Ms. Thelma Scott.** Local historian specializing in black history

**Clay, Ms. Cathy.** Second year graduate student in English at Texas Southern University

**Conerly, Ms. Joyce.** Administrative Assistant in the Department of English at Texas Southern University

**Cosby, Rev. Marcus D.** Pastor Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. He holds the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and English from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee; the Master of Divinity Degree in Homiletics and Christian Education from Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia; and the Doctor of Ministry Degree in Homiletics from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary of the Associated Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS)

**Daniels, Mr. Kevin.** Visiting Instructor in the Department of English. He received the M.A. from Texas Southern University.

**Decatur, Ms. Josie.** First year graduate student in English at Texas Southern University

**Glaption, Ms. Quianna.** First year graduate student in English at Texas Southern University

**Gray, Mr. Terronza.** Received the B. A. Degree from Trinity International University and the M. Div. from the Interdenominational Theological Center

**Hamilton, Dr. Rebekah.** Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Texas PanAmerican

**Herold, Ms. Marsha.** Administrative Assistant in the Department of English

**Jackson, Ms. Neshon.** First year graduate student in English at Texas Southern University. She is currently president of the campus chapter of Lambda Iota Tau

**Johnson, Ms. LaFonda.** Second year graduate student in English at Texas Southern University

**Johnson, Dr. Linda A.** Assistant Professor of English at Texas Southern University. She received the Ph.d. from the University of Missouri-Columbia

**Johnson, Rev. Manson.** Pastor of Holman Street Baptist Church, Houston, Texas

**Johnson, Mrs. Melba.** Instructor of English at Texas Southern University. She received the M.A. in English at Texas Southern University

**Jordan, Dr. Zandra.** Assistant Professor in English at Spelman College

**Kelly, Dr. Herman O., Jr.** Adjunct Instructor Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Kossie, Dr. Karen C.** Professor of History at Texas Southern University. She received the Ph.d. in history from Rice University

**McCleary, Dr. J. Marie.** Retired professor of English. Served as chair of the Department of English at Texas Southern University between 1955 and 1977. She taught for 37 years.

**Martin, Mr. Lerone.** Former Program Fellow and Visiting Lecturer for the Programming African American Studies at Princeton University. He is a Ph.d. candidate at Emory University in American Religious Cultures.

**Menyweather-Woods, Mr. Larry.** Instructor in the Black Studies Department at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln

**Moore, Dr. Shirley Walker.** Chair of the Department of English. She received the Ph.d. from Rice University

**Neal, Mr. Hank.** Minister of Music at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, Texas

**Pitre, Dr. Merline.** Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences at Texas Southern University

**Pitre, Dr. Richard.** Associate Provost/Dean of Graduate School at Texas Southern University

**Reese, Ms. Lana.** Visiting Instructor in the Department in English. She received the M.A. in English from Texas Southern University

**Sanders, Ms. Tonya.** Doctoral Student in Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago

**Sapp, Dr. John B.** Chair and Professor of Chemistry. He is the current poet laureate representing the Department of English at Texas Southern University

**Snell, Mr. Ernest.** Local artist, Houston, TX

**Venters, Mr. Vaughn.** Second year graduate student in the Department of English. He holds the B.A. from Rice University and J. D. from Southern Methodist University

**Walker, Cardinal Aswad.** Pastor, Shrine of the Black Madonna #10 of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church in Houston, Texas. He is also Senior Writer/Editor for Texas Southern University

**White, Mr. Bill.** Honorable Mayor of the City of Houston

**Wilkins, Mr. Gary B.** Executive Director Community Music Center of Houston and owner of Imagination for the Arts, an arts marketing company.

**Wilson, Dr. Bobby.** University Provost Texas Southern University

**Wingard, Dr. Leslie.** Mellon Post doctoral Fellow in Visual Culture English Department and African Studies Program at Williams College Williamston, M.A.

**Woods, Dr. Louis L. II.** Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Texas at El Paso. He received the Ph.d. from Howard University

**Youngblood, Dr. J.D.** Assistant Professor of English and Communications at SUNY-Potsdam

*The Minerva Literary Society*

*The J. Marie McCleary Symposium Series*

- 2006 Blues II
- 2005 Ralph Ellison
- 2004 Langston Hughes
- 2003 Blues
- 2002 Perception and Reality
- 2001 Identity: Lost, Stolen, and Reclaimed
- 2000 Empowerment Through Art
- 1999 Fragment of Light
- 1998 Shattering the Silence

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## Lambda Iota Tau Holds 2007 Initiation



Dr. Rhonda Saldivar, Sponsor  
Photo by Arbolina Jennings



Yvonne McCree  
LIT Chapter Founder

On Wednesday, February 28, 2007, the Delta Alpha Chapter of Lambda Iota Tau held its annual initiation program for new members of the international honor society for students of literature. Dr. Rhonda Saldivar, the sponsor for Texas Southern University's chapter, welcomed the gathering of students and faculty members. A literary DVD video montage about LIT and its members at TSU was presented. Dr. Fennoye Thomas, Associate Dean, delivered greetings on behalf of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences. Ms. Neshon P. Jackson, President of the Delta Alpha Chapter, delivered the occasion which was followed by the candidates' presentations. This year's program included a sizable number of inductees. Student initiates and their papers for 2007 included:

Natalie Baker, "Implications of Race, Class, and Sex in *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*"  
Cathy Clay, "The Earrings"  
LaFonda Johnson, "What Is True Art?"  
Gustiallia R. Piper, "Images of Imprisonment in *Invisible Man*"  
Rocquelle Porch, "Methods of Enslavement in Victorian Literature"

Faculty initiates included:

Michael Zeitler, "Drummer Hodge, His Country: The War-Time Poems of Thomas Hardy"  
Linda Johnson, "An Africana Womanist Reading of Naylor's *Mama Day*"  
Khallah T. Watson, "Ellisonian Culture, Identity Formation and the Narrator in Toni Morrison's *Jazz*"

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to those who contributed towards the newly formed "The Lambda Iota Tau Yvonne McCree Literary Scholarship Program," and special thanks was offered to Professor Melba Johnson for catering the event.

As an unexpected honor, a special recognition of Texas Southern University's Delta Alpha Chapter was received from Lambda Iota Tau's international headquarters ( March 2007). Dr.

Bruce W. Hozeski, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of Lambda Iota Tau, commended the Delta Alpha Chapter's "...marvelous job with the DVD, both with the content and with the technical part of actual production. The students have captured the essence of LIT very accurately...You can be very proud of your students and your chapter. Please accept my deepest gratitude and my most sincere congratulations!"

*Contributed by Dr. Rhonda Saldivar*

## LIT Gallery



(l-r) Donna Kilgore, Cathy Clay



Khalilah Watson-Ansari



(l-r) Rosalind Hubbard and Roquelle Porch  
Photos by Arbolina Jennings



(l-r) Donna Kilgore, Michael Zeitler

## Conferences and Presentations

### Activity Abounds

#### At SCASSI

Many Department faculty members and students were represented at the Southern Conference of African American Studies, Inc. (SCASSI), held in Baton Rouge, February 2007. These include Professors Ronald Samples, Rhonda Saldivar, Rita Saylor, Thorpe Butler, and Michael Zeitler. Dr. Samples was honored with the Leonard Slade Award for the best poem of the year entitled "Poem for Common Fathers" (see page 7 below).

Majors in English from TSU represented the University and the Department professionally at the conference. Funded in part by a \$350 contribution from members of the Department and the Dean, and two close friends of the University, Natalie Baker, LaKeisha McBride, and Toni Walker (in absentia) formed a panel "The Literary Nexus of Sex, Race, and Class" at SCASSI. Their papers included the titles "Implications of Race, Class, and Sex in the Life of Olaudah Equiano," "Wade N d'Water Chillun," and "On the Surface," papers developed earlier in a class taught by Dr. Alexis Brooks deVita. Thanks are due to professors Arbolina Jennings, Billy Turner, and Browning M. Samples, retired professor at St. Philips College in San Antonio, and to Drs. Thorpe Butler, Shirley Walker Moore, Merline Pitre, Rhonda Saldivar, Gwendolyn Samples, Ron C. Samples, Rita Saylor, and Michael Sollars for their prompt response to funding requests on very short notice.

#### Department Represented At College Language Association

Two members of the Department presented papers at the College Language Association meeting in April 2007. Dr. Linda Johnson delivered her research on "A Spiritual Journey: The Significance of the Veil and Biblical Numerology in Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*."

Dr. Betty Taylor-Thompson presented her work on "Sidetracked Spirituality and Christian Symbols in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*." Dr. Thompson also serves as Co-Chair of the Black Studies Committee of the College Language Association.

#### Steinbeck Presentations

Dr. Michael Zeitler has presented papers at various venues, including "Steinbeck, Ricketts and the Deep Ecology of *The Grapes of Wrath*" at the Conference of the College Teachers of English in College Station, March 2007; and "Uprooted: Narrative Accrual, Community and the Deep Ecology of *The Grapes of Wrath*" at SCAASI, Baton Rouge, LA, February, 2007.

## Publications

■ Dr. Michael Zeitler has two new publications. The first is his book on *Representations of Culture: Thomas Hardy's Wessex and Victorian Anthropology*, published by Peter Lang, April 2007. The second work is "Zora's Jook: Blues Approaches to Teaching *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," appearing in the Winter 2007 issue of *Teaching American Literature: A Journal of Theory and Practice*.

■ Dr. Betty Taylor Thompson has served as a referee for the African American Studies section of *Resources for College Libraries*, a new reference work being published by Choice for the Association of College and Research Libraries. This new work will be a successor to the highly regarded *Books for College Libraries*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (1988). RCL, like its predecessors, is an enumerative

bibliography – a list of approximately 50,000 core titles in all disciplines which all undergraduate libraries should hold in their collections. For further information about RCL, visit the publication’s website at <http://www.rclweb.net/>.

■ Dr. Bhikkhu Basnagoda Bahula has published his book *Beautiful Living: Buddha’s Way to Prosperity, Wisdom, and Inner Peace*, a work that represents a “vital phase in the study of Buddhism.” Sir Arthur Clarke, who wrote the foreword to the book, comments, “I welcome the publication of this book, which aims to rediscover the principles and values of Buddhism that have been obscured by centuries of culture and history.”

## English Research Week Panel Headlines General Session

An English Department panel, Curriculum Design and Instructional Strategies in English, was selected to headline the introductory general session of TSU Research Week on April 2, 2007 in the Education Building Auditorium. Iris Lancaster, Donna Kimble, Arbolina Jennings, and Rita Saylor presented papers, accompanied by power-point presentations, illustrating how recent innovations in freshman and sophomore programs, creative writing, and the Capstone Seminar speak to the theme of Research Week, “Balancing Research, Teaching and Service.”

Iris Lancaster spoke on “*In the Zone with the Urban Student: Collaborative Learning inside the Engaged Contact*,” using Mary Louise Pratt’s ideas about the contact zone and bell hooks theory of the engaged pedagogy as the ideal theoretical approaches to reinventing the urban classroom.

Donna Kilgore’s talk on student collaboration in creative endeavors offered a five-step approach to writing, critiquing, and performing student creative work both in the classroom and in writing workshops.

Arbolina Jennings applied the results of two research grants, a 2001 Houston A+ (formerly Annenberg) Partnership grant and a Title III E-Learning Development Grant from Texas Southern University in 2004, to the redesign of ENG 231 World Literature II combining classical inquiry with the latest effective e-Learning applications.

Dr. Rita Saylor discussed the process by which English faculty planned the ENG 432 Capstone course as a way of improving the program for majors. She explained how technology is being used to create a library of lectures and materials for student learning as well as to develop student projects and pre-professional portfolios.

These presentations opened Research Week activities, which were sponsored by the Graduate School.

RESEARCH	WEEK	2007	PANELISTS
			
Iris Lancaster	Donna Kilgore	Arbolina Jennings	Rita Saylor

## **NEH GRANT FILM AND LITERATURE WORKSHOP**

The National Endowment for the Humanities film and literature grant recipients at Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern University will attend a workshop May 21-25, 2007, to study approaches to incorporate film in ways that complement existing pedagogy in history, publish affairs, and literature in order to help our students become aware of the way film alters understanding of texts, master narratives, and societies.

The NEH project supports collaborative work among faculty members (especially among those in History, Political Science, Spanish, and English). The project leader at TSU is Dr. Haiqing Sun. Other grant recipients from TSU include Professors Cary Wintz, Rita Saylor, Arbolina Jennings, and Donna Kilgore.

## **E-Learning Grant For ENG 430**

Arbolina L. Jennings has been awarded a Title III e-Learning Course Development Grant for 2007 to re-design ENG 430 History and Theory of Language Study. The scope of the course re-design is to organize the components of linguistics into introductory learning units readily accessible on line; to research best-practice methods of teaching the various aspects of language, such as models to teach diagramming sentences both in the older format and the more recent generative tree formation; and to find and make available to students audio examples of dialects both historical and geographical.

English 430 is ripe for e-learning elements because of the senior level of the course, and the maturity of the students who are at or near professional positions or preparing for graduate school. These students often have a hard time attending on site classes but are usually able students and, with some instruction, very capable of on line instruction, communication, and collaboration. The wide scope of the course material, comparative and historical linguistics, lends itself to pre-packaged learning units, which can be approached quickly but can offer research depth for the individual student. Resources are not only written texts, but also include web based interactive studies and computer generated graphics, as well as recordings of phonetic, semantic, and idiomatic variance.

## **National Endowment Fellowship Award**

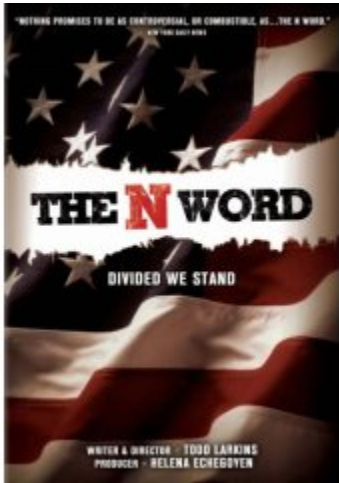
Dr. Michael Zeitler has received a stipend to attend the 2007 NEH Summer Institute "Western World Literature: Homer, Dante, Christine de Pizan, Shakespeare" at Grambling State University.

## **New Editor For Faculty Newsletter**

Dr. Ronald Samples has been elected Editor for the Faculty Newsletter at the April balloting for officers of the Faculty Senate at TSU. Other election winners include L. Alex Swan, Chairperson; Lalita Sen, Vice Chair; Dianne Mosley, Secretary; Rambis Chu, Treasurer; and Christopher J. Tymczak, Parliamentarian. Dr. Thorpe Butler had previously served as Editor for many years.

## **Panel Discusses The "N" Word**

The University of Houston's African American Studies Department. invited Professor Michon Benson to sit on a panel which led a discussion about the "N" word. Panelists and an audience of 40 students and faculty screened Todd Williams's documentary, *The 'N' Word: Divided We Stand* (2004), and each panel member presented his/her side, fielding questions from the audience. The event was extremely successful. Rather than attempting to prescribing definitive guidelines for who can and who cannot use the "N" word, the open forum modeled the ideal alternative approach to federally regulating Americans' freedom of speech.



## **Appointment Made to the Presidential Search Committee**

At their February meeting, the Board of Regents appointed Dr. Rita Saylor to the Presidential Search Committee. Dr. Saylor, Dr. Della Bell of Mathematics, and Dr. James Beard are the faculty representatives on the committee that is charged with helping to select a new leader of TSU. Last fall, each college and school had elected two candidates, which the Board chose from in making its final selection. The committee is conducting a nation-wide search and hopes to present candidates to the Board during the early summer.

## **Civil Rights Activist's Legacy Lives On**

Dr. Adam Clayton Powell IV--grandson of Civil Rights activist Adam Clayton Powell Jr. --spoke on March 2 in MLK 104. His talk centered on his grandfather's legacy and ways in which today's youth can participate in this legacy. Dr. Powell also addressed educational and career opportunities available for students in technology. This event was coordinated by Professor Michon Benson.

## Poem for Common Fathers

Few poems there are  
for common fathers,  
real ones, that is, their  
fidelity  
in worlds of gleaming opportunity,  
integrity  
in facing threat and temptation,  
industry  
in building cabins,  
backyard batting cages, wooden  
walks and vined gazebos, jungle gyms,  
baseball fields and bedroom suites to rival Odysseus,  
courage  
in raising sons,  
timely in ferrying same  
to school, scouting, sports engagements,  
first one,  
then two,  
three, if need be,  
with breakfast,  
gear,  
and fragile egos intact,  
their own in check  
against the flood of adolescent rage,  
squabbles soothed  
with composure, kindness, patience,  
and,  
above all,  
the ears of genuine lovers,  
hence,  
understanding  
all,

except  
(starting from afar,  
outside the facts of home, the case,  
but echoing in its halls,  
heedless of odyssean presence)  
the inevitably contradictory complaint  
about  
the lawn,  
the neglect of  
dishes, dusting, dancing,  
hanging clothes in usurped spaces  
and growing sons for insolence,  
neatness on the dining table  
and career advancement,  
while others,  
aged and incognizant children of abuse,  
heedless of loss, offense, and the constant hero,  
languish,  
near –  
in personal pursuit

and bedroom perusal of romance novels –  
and far –  
fathers chief among them,  
press for spousal prostitution,  
park their cars in remote garages  
for days beyond confessed returns,  
rule their own with guile and guns  
and knives and personal force,  
allege with passion a father's fortune  
in deferring the long wished for divorce,  
conspire to program a modest patricide,  
plot assassination of the first born,  
seduction of the second,  
requesting thus  
the recreated acrimony of their own regretted lives.

There is, for fathers,  
no time for like complaint.  
There is no time  
for dancing,  
for vision,  
not even for death –  
heaven forbid  
that uninsured indulgence.  
Too good for this world,  
too busy for the next,  
time, at best, for trojan wars,  
for living's creative issue,  
like this,  
poetic, at least, in that.

*Winner of the 2007 SCASSI Leonard Slade Award*

the grandson  
(Ron C. Samples)

## **Books of Note**

*The Search for Origins*  
*In the Twentieth-Century*  
*Long Poem: Sumerian,*  
*Homeric, and Anglo-Saxon*

In this new, scholarly text—an ambitious study of contemporary poetics—Joe W. Moffett deciphers the twentieth-century long poem, searching for a better understanding of why long-poem writers are preoccupied with a search for origins.

Moffett focuses on issues like postcolonialism, nation, modernism, and postmodernism. He conceptualizes his theories by using what he calls “originary moments”: historical periods or specific events from which a poet contends our culture descends. These moments enlighten and inspire the modern poet to use origin or “source” as a way to examine present culture and social conditions. The poems also encourage modern readers to question, revise, and repudiate. Moffett organizes his argument by arranging specific examples into three categories of originary

moments: Sumerian, Homeric, and Anglo-Saxon.

According to Moffett, the long poem is appealing because it “lacks strict conventions that govern other genres.” Using a wide variety of poems to support his arguments, Moffett asks many stimulating questions and also provides provocative answers.

*“Questions of when and where It All Began have been off the critical agenda for some time now, embargoed by poststructuralism. Undeterred, Joe Moffett boldly revisits the search for cultural origins, which preoccupied major poets throughout the twentieth century. Capacious in his scope, eclectic in his choices, Moffett rounds up unusual subjects, including long poems by Armand Schwerner, Derek Walcott, Geoffrey Hill, and Judy Grahn, with excursions into Charles Olson, Seamus Heaney, and others. Nowhere will you find clearer, more intelligent, or better-informed readings of these poems than Moffett’s. If you care at all about the long poem in English in the twentieth century, you need to read this book.”*

Brian McHale, The Ohio State University author of *The Obligation Toward the Difficulty Whole: Postmodernist Long Poems*

## Last thoughts

The Pygmalion effect, Rosenthal effect, or more commonly known as the "teacher-expectancy effect" refers to situations in which students perform better simply because they are expected to do so.

(Please continue on to the next page for the 2007 McCleary Symposium program.)

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