



GAAAH Spring 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Letter from the President

The Graduate Association for African American History is a non-profit student organization. We are dedicated to producing a comprehensive network of graduates who are interested in African American history, and the concerns in the world of higher education which echo the challenges



to the nation at large. It is a pleasure to welcome you all!

Sincerely,
Sheena Harris
GAAAH President

Current Officers

- President: Sheena Harris
- Vice President/ Secretary: James Conway
- Business Manager: Le'Trice Donaldson
- Public Relations Coordinator: Shirletta Kinchen
- Parliamentarian: Armanthia Duncan
- Faculty Advisor: Aram Goudsouzian

Membership

The Graduate Association for African American History (GAAAH) is free to join and open to all history graduate students who share an interest in African-American history.

Even if African-American history is not your major area of study you are still welcome!





Brief History of GAAAH

The Graduate Association for African American History was founded in 2004 by Professor Arwin Smallwood who served as the first advisor. The organization facilitates, encourages, sponsors and develops programs designed to accomplish the following purposes: Strengthen the graduate curriculum of the University; Serve as a liaison between students, faculty

members and the administration; Develop a sound relationship within the campus community; Develop a sense of professionalism among the students enrolled in the University. Since its founding, the organization has sponsored four conferences on African American history which attracted students nationwide and from foreign universities. We organized and

participated in a series of roundtable discussions on history and professional development and created a number of programs to aid the Memphis community. GAAAH members are active in other organizations within the history department such as Phi Alpha Theta and Graduate History Association. We also contribute to events sponsored by the Marcus C. Orr Center for the Humanities.

GAAAH Conference News—How can our students present?

Presenting at the Graduate Student's Conference on African American History is a great way to prepare for speaking at larger academic conferences. Our conference is student friendly with many professors from

the history department serving as chairs. GAAAH welcomes papers from students within our history department on any topics related to African American history such as local, gender, historiographies, race relations, etc.

In addition to presenting, GAAAH welcomes and encourages history graduate students to aid in conference planning, introducing panels, and organizing activities for conference participants.

"I really enjoyed the conference and was very impressed by the level and quality of papers and presentations."

*William Sturkey
The Ohio State University*

Why Should I Join GAAAH?

~Make friends! Being a member of GAAAH can help you feel more at home within the history department. Planning sessions, meetings, and the camaraderie of the organization will help you feel more in touch with other history students, as well as with members of the department.

~Reach out to the community! For three years GAAAH has hosted a canned food/penny drive to benefit MIFA and the Memphis Food Bank.

~Gain valuable experience! Every year GAAAH hosts a Conference on African-American history here at the University. The conference is an amazing opportunity for learning and

networking with scholars and students from across the globe. Even if networking is not your idea of bliss, you can still become involved in the planning stages of the conference and gain valuable professional experience.

Current Activities

Every year the Graduate Association for African-American History hosts and participates in a number of scholarly and philanthropic ventures. Since 2005, GAAAH has hosted an annual Conference on African American History. In 2007 the conference went international. Continuing the trend, in 2008 there were participants from thirteen U.S. states and one from the U.K. With the theme "From Slavery to Freedom: The African American Experience," the 2009 conference is currently

in the planning stages. GAAAH also hosts an annual film series for Black History Month. In the past the film series has included films by Spike Lee, as well as films of resistance. In 2009 the films focused on blaxploitation and the evolution of the black man in film. GAAAH was also a co-sponsor of the Richard Wright Centennial which took place this last October. Since 2006, GAAAH members have hosted an annual Canned Food Drive in the Fall semester. In 2008 about

400 pounds of canned food and close to \$200 in donations were collected for the Mid-south Food Bank and MIFA's Meals on Wheels program.

In January, GAAAH also participated in Kappa Alpha Psi's Presidential Inauguration Panel Discussion.

This Spring, GAAAH will sponsor the March of Dimes' Memphis March for Babies, work with Habitat for Humanity and hold a clothing drive for Goodwill.



2008 Conference Photos



Daphne McFerren Director of the Benjamin Hooks Center for Social Change and Reverend S. Billy Kyles pastor at Monumental Baptist Church participate in a roundtable discussion.

"I thought the conference was great."

*Jason Manthorne
University of Georgia*



2008 Conference: Keynote speaker Dr. Wilma King with GAAAH Parliamentarian Armanthia Duncan



2008 Conference: Memphis State Eight Paper Prize Winners with Dr. Aram Goudsouzian and Armanthia Duncan

Graduate Association for African American History

History Department
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Memphis, TN 38152



Visit our website!

<https://umdrive.memphis.edu/g-gaaah/www/>

Member List

James Conway

Le'Trice Donaldson

Armanthia Duncan

Malcolm Frierson

Sheena Harris

Shirletta Kinchen

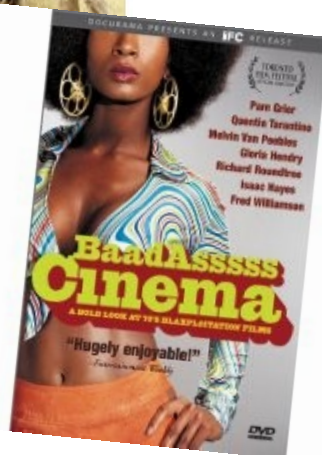
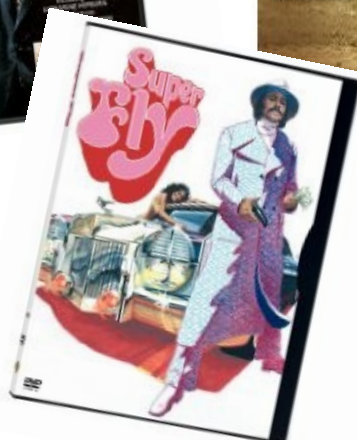
Jack Lorenzetti

Tammy Prater

"After watching this documentary I found myself saying to my friend that I wanted to watch a couple of films that were discussed."

*Jordan Boyle
University of Memphis*

Annual Film Festival



In celebration of Black History Month the Graduate Association for African American History Presented:

From Sidney to Superfly: The Transformation of the Black Image on Film