

TRUTH

The newsletter of the Association of Black Women Historians



DECEMBER
| 2015 |

ABWH @ ASALH

Highlights of the
ASALH Centennial
and the 35th Annual
ABWH Meeting and
Luncheon

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ABWH PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to the
ABWH winners of the
Brown, Houston, and
Williams prizes

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AFRICANA STUDIES & SOCIAL MEDIA

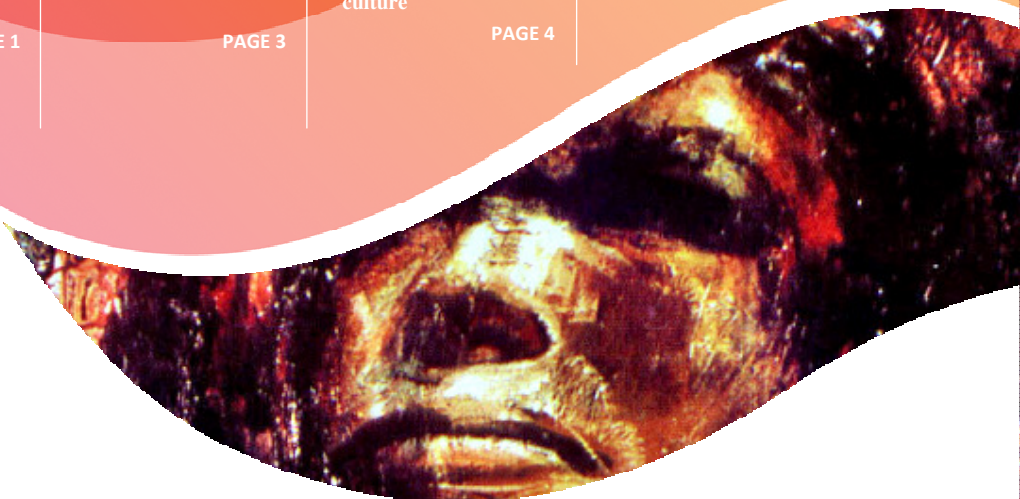
Africana Women's
Studies and 21st-
century popular
culture

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JOIN ABWH

Become a member of
ABWH

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ABWH members speak out about child brutality in South
Carolina and ask members to stay involved

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Look for events of interest to scholars of Africana women's
studies near you

...and more!

Image: Malkia Roberts, "Spectrum" (acrylic on canvas, 1972)
<http://theshowtellproject.com/2013/08/05/artists-of-color-malkia-roberts/>

"This image, according to the artist, represents acceptance of the
present and anticipation of the future. The woman is the past,
and the expressionistic style and upward gaze symbolize the
future. The flame-like palette 'eliminates the possibility of
negative space and ensuing objectivity'" (quote from Henkes,
Robert, *The Art of Black American Women*, 203)

ABWH @ ASALH ABWH Luncheon

As ASALH celebrated its centennial, ABWH celebrated its 35th Annual Luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Atlanta Sheraton Hotel in high style! The luncheon was a great success, in part due to our generous sponsors. Thanks so much to the Africana Studies Program at Lehigh University; Arch Dalrymple III Department of History and the African American Studies Program at University of Mississippi; Comparative Black History Program at Michigan State University; Department of African American Studies at University of California at Berkeley; Department of History at University of Texas at Austin; Departments of History and American Studies and Ethnicity at University of Southern California; Departments of History, Gender Studies, and African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University; and National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. In addition to a financial donation, the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity donated free, one-year individual memberships to luncheon ticket holders. Finally, more than



Speakers at the 35th Annual Luncheon:
Kali N. Gross, Brenda Stevenson, and
Rhonda Y. Williams

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The ABWH's four organizational goals are: to establish a network among the membership; to promote black women in the profession; to disseminate information about opportunities in the field; and to make suggestions concerning research topics and repositories



ABWH National Director, Francille Rusan Wilson

National Director's Message

The Year in Review

On behalf of the Executive Council of ABWH, I would like to wish everyone health, happiness, and a continued collective commitment to our research on the lives of black women and to the ongoing struggle for racial and social justice in 2016.

In our first year in office, your elected board and our committees worked hard to reinvigorate our regions; supported a wonderful Chicago ASALH Centennial keynote speaker; held a successful business meeting and luncheon and launched a graduate student reception in Atlanta; renewed the website; and published two editions of TRUTH. Luncheon participants received a year's membership to the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. With your help, we issued public statements on the horrific treatment of black women, girls, and children by law enforcement.

Kudos: To all of our members who received awards, tenure, or promotions and all who published articles and books in 2015. Congratulations also to all of our members on the front lines of racial justice movements, including Rhonda Y. Williams, Kali Gross, and Keona Ervin. We salute your courage and steadfast insistence on speaking truth to power.

Promises: We promise to continue to work transparently and inclusively for the good of our organization. In 2016, with the appointment of a new membership director as called for in our new Constitution, we promise to be in touch with each of you about your membership status. In the meantime, you can still renew your membership via PayPal or mail on our website www.abwh.org.

Finally, I just want to say how thankful and grateful I am for each member of the ABWH and for the talents that each of you brings to our organization.

In friendship and solidarity,
Francille

ABWH National Director and Associate Professor, American Studies & Ethnicity and History, University of Southern California



From left to right: ABWH National Director Francille Wilson; ABWH Midwestern Regional Director LaShawn Harris; keynote speaker, Brittany Hall; co-editor of *The Black History Bulletin*, LaVonne Neal; 2013 National Humanities Award winner Darlene Clark Hine; and Marshanda Smith

ABWH Co-Sponsors the Harsh Lecture

Ms. Brittany S. Hall, an ABD at Rutgers University, was the keynote speaker for Chicago's celebration of ASALH's Centennial. Ms. Hall spoke on September 10, 2015, on "Librarian as Cultural Broker: Vivian Gordon Harsh and the Creation of an Archive." The event featured a special exhibition of artifacts from the Harsh Collection at the Carter G. Woodson Library. ABWH co-sponsored the event along with the Chicago Chapter of ASALH and the Woodson Regional Library's Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection. (Photo courtesy of LaShawn Harris.)

Life Members

ABWH thanks its newest life members for 2014-2015 (as of August 30, 2015)

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| TaKeia Anthony | Premila Nadasen |
| Eola Dance | Donna T. Ray |
| Erica A. Dunbar | Camesha Scruggs |
| Crystal Feimster | Lakisha Simmons |
| Francoise Hamlin | Filomina Steady |
| Sandra Jowers | Tamara Thorn |
| Jennifer Morgan | Margaret Washington |
| Tiyi Morris | Diana Williams |
| Premila Nadasen | Kidada Williams |



Want to order a 35th Anniversary ABWH tee or tote? Now expanded shirt sizes (3X and 4X). Look for more information in an upcoming ABWH post and Facebook.

ABWH @ ASALH ABWH Luncheon

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a dozen scholars donated signed copies of their works and Nell Irvin Painter donated a print for our auction.

Each of our three speakers—Kali N. Gross, Brenda Stevenson, and Rhonda Y. Williams—spoke eloquently on the challenges and joys of what it means to be black women scholar-activists in the increasingly neo-liberal university system. They highlighted the unique contributions of black women historians to speak truth to power. Each spoke to the issues of black women and girls in the U.S. justice system. Dr. Williams roused the crowd with a spoken word/performance piece. We look forward to seeing everyone at 2016 ASALH in Richmond!

2015 ABWH Prize Winners

Congratulations to our 2015 prize winners

Brown Memorial Book and Article Prizes

The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize and Article Prize are awarded annually for the best book or anthology and article about Africana women's history. The competition is open to all books and articles published before June of the award year. Works written by members and non-members of ABWH are eligible for nomination.

The 2015 winner of the Brown Memorial Book Prize is Dr. Talitha Leflouria, Associate Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University. She is the author of *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015).

When Brown Prize Committee Chair Dr. Sharon Harley called Dr. Leflouria to inform her she won the book prize, she could not believe it. "I couldn't believe the words that were coming out of her mouth," Dr. Leflouria recalls. "I was in disbelief for a second. Then, once I realized what was happening, I started crying like a baby." The moment was extra special because Dr. Harley's work was one of the inspirations for Dr. Leflouria's own research interests. "Having Professor Harley, someone who I admire so much and whose scholarship has literally served as praxis for my own work, deliver that news was extra special. I'll never forget that moment."

Dr. LaShawn Harris, Assistant Professor of History at Michigan State University and author of the *Journal of Social History* article "The Commonwealth of Virginia vs. Virginia Christian: Southern Black Women, Crime & Punishment in Progressive Era Virginia," never suspected she won anything. "When Dr. Harley phoned me, I thought she wanted to discuss ABWH business. I was completely surprised and excited by the news."

Both winners are honored to be recognized for telling such important stories about black women and the carceral state. Dr. Leflouria's great-grandmother inspired her story. Though never incarcerated herself, her grandmother lived near one of the worst chain gangs in the

state. Dr. Leflouria describes her great-grandmother as "a master of dissemblance." She says, "*Chained in Silence* is really my attempt to excavate the memories my great-grandmother dared to forget, while also giving voice to the women in this study who were still waiting to be heard." Dr. Harris also excavates important voices. "Stories like the 1912 Christian case illuminate black women's encounters with white violence and the American criminal justice system," she says. These stories are important because they complicate and nuance our understandings of African American life and history.

The Brown Book Prize Committee's praised *Chained in Silence* as an "original, well-researched, brilliantly articulated, and timely study of African American women, incarceration, and Jim Crow [that] will have a significant impact on how we study and understand black women's history." The Article Prize Committee had equally high praise for Harris's work: "She shows how one case can shed light on the multiple Progressive Era agendas for white and black reform.... This is important scholarship."

Drusilla Dunjee Houston Memorial Award

The Drusilla Dunjee Houston Memorial Scholarship Award recognizes an emerging female scholar of African descent. It fosters scholarly research in Africana Women's history. It recognizes the best unpublished original essay from either a graduate course or a chapter from a thesis or dissertation for the award year. The essay must be wholly focused on some aspect of history on black women from the United States and/or African Diaspora. The paper must involve the interpretation of primary sources, focus on the ideas or actions initiated among black women, and make a significant contribution to Africana women's history.

This year's winner, Kenja McCray, is an ABD at Georgia State University. Her award-winning dissertation chapter, "Education Didn't Mean Having a Degree; It Meant Serving All of Humanity," is from her dissertation "Complementing the Struggle:



Brown Memorial Book Prize
Talitha Leflouria
Florida Atlantic University
Chained in Silence



Brown Memorial Article Prize
LaShawn Harris
Michigan State University
"The Commonwealth of VA vs. Virginia Christian"



Houston Memorial Award
Kenja McCray
Georgia State University



Williams Leadership Award
Elizabeth Murrell Dawson
Meek-Eaton Black Archives
Research Center and Museum of
Florida A & M University

Prize Committees

Thank you to the scholars who served on our prize committees

Brown Book Prize Committee

Dr. Sharon Harley
University of Maryland, Chair*

Dr. Elsa Barkley Brown, University of Maryland
Dr. Erik McDuffie, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Dr. Joe Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University
Dr. Margaret Washington, Cornell University

Brown Article Prize Committee

Dr. Wanda Hendricks, University of South Carolina
Dr. Cheryl Hicks, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Dr. Michelle Scott, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Committee Coordinator

Houston Award Committee

Dr. Sonya Ramsey
University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Chair
Dr. Robyn Spencer, Lehman College
Dr. Deirdre Cooper-Owens, Queens College, CUNY
Dr. Darryl Scott, Howard University

* Dr. Harley also chaired the Brown Article Prize Committee.



ForHarriet.com

<http://www.forharriet.com>

"For Harriet is an online community for women of African ancestry. We encourage women, through storytelling and journalism, to engage in candid, revelatory dialogue about the beauty and complexity of Black womanhood. We aspire to educate, inspire, and entertain."

"For Harriet seeks to raise the level of discourse surrounding Black women. Founder and Editor, Kimberly Foster, launched the blog in June 2010 while still an undergraduate at Harvard University to provide a thoughtful, collaborative alternative to mainstream media representations of Black womanhood. Thus, For Harriet seeks to explore all parts of who we are and who we hope to be. For Harriet continues to grow into a multifaceted platform for Black women's storytelling and journalism."

CrunkFeministCollective.com

<http://www.crunkfeministcollective.com>

"The CFC aims to articulate a crunk feminist consciousness for women and men of color, who came of age in the Hip Hop Generation, by creating a community of scholars-activists from varied professions, who share our intellectual work in online blog communities, at conferences, through activist organizations, and in print publications and who share our commitment to nurturing and sustaining one another through progressive feminist visions."

"This collective is a forum where we seek to speak our own truths, and to both magnify and encourage the feminist credos that shape and inform our lives and that we use to engage and transform our world. Crunk Feminism is the animating principle of our collective work together and derives from our commitment to feminist principles and politics, and also from our unapologetic embrace of those new cultural resources, which provide or offer the potential for resistance. Crunk(ness) is our mode of resistance that finds its particular expression in the rhetorical, cultural, and intellectual practices of a contemporary generation."

CFC was co-founded by Brittney C. Cooper, Ph.D., and Susana M. Morris, Ph.D.

Racialicious

<http://www.racialicious.com>

"Racialicious is a blog about the intersection of race and pop culture.... A certified media junkie, owner and editor Latoya Peterson provides a hip-hop feminist and anti-racist view on culture with a special focus on video games, film, television, and music. Skilled in interviewing and creative non-fiction, Latoya Peterson spends her time editing the award winning blog Racialicious.com—the intersection of race and pop culture. She is a Contributing Editor for The Root.com and Content Producer for the Online News Association."

TheFeministWire.com

<http://www.thefeministwire.com/>

"The mission of The Feminist Wire is to provide socio-political and cultural critique of anti-feminist, racist, and imperialist politics pervasive in all forms and spaces of private and public lives of individuals globally. Of particular critical interest to us are social and political phenomena that block, negate, or limit the satisfaction of goods or ends that humans, especially the most vulnerable, minimally require for living free of structural violence. The Feminist Wire seeks to valorize and sustain pro-feminist representations and create alternative frameworks to build a just and equitable society."

Tamura A. Lomax is the founding editor. Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Aimee Meredith Cox, Duchess Harris, and Tanisha C. Ford are contributing editors.

2015 ABWH Prize Winners

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Women's Gender Roles in Kawaiida-Influenced Organizations, 1966-1987." In it, she explores women who were a part of the Black Power movement, specifically those in Kawaiida-based cultural nationalist organizations. Ms. McCray felt invigorated by the news she won the award. "After the disbelief wore off, I became excited and energized about finishing my dissertation."

Ms. McCray draws connections between her scholarship, the women she studies, and today's student activism: "Reflecting on the experiences of women who have gone before is instructive, as we have a chance to hear their motivations and challenges, glimpse their organizing and resistance methods, and glean their use of agency. Some of the women seasoned in the long struggle for Black liberation continue to directly instruct and mentor younger activists."

Lorraine A. Williams Leadership Award

The Lorraine A. Williams Leadership Award honors a black woman in education or related area, such as archives, libraries, historical societies, and museums. This year's winner is Elizabeth Murrell Dawson, the Research Associate Archivist and Curator—and student advocate—at the Meek-Eaton Black Archives Research Center and Museum, Florida A&M University. The award committee recognized her as "an innovative leader in the archival and museum profession."

Dr. Dawson reflects on her personal and professional inspirations: "The first women who were inspirational to me were my mother, aunts, and older sisters. In regards to my professional inspiration, there were women like Dr. Thelma Thurston Gorham, a pioneering journalist and educator at FAMU; Dr. Elfreda Chatman, a trail-brazing researcher and educator who studied the information-seeking behaviors of underserved populations; and Dr. Darlene Clark Hine, who is one of the world's leading authorities on the history and experiences of women of color." Other inspirations include Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells Barnett, and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune as well as "students and women whose names will never be in the annals of history books."

Dr. Dawson sees finding and securing financial resources as one of the most daunting challenges of preserving and promoting Africana women's history. She says, "Groups like ABWH continue to be an invaluable medium that supports scholars, students, and collaborative educational programs that explore and share information about the African Diaspora, especially then experiences and contributions of women."

Congratulations to our 2015 prize winners!

Latest ABWH Statement on Youth Brutality

The ABWH Executive Board, with the assistance of life member Kali Gross, wrote a statement concerning the horrific incident at Spring Valley High School in October 2015. You are encouraged to stay vigilant and continue to call attention to this event through your own Facebook, Twitter, and other social media contacts. See the statement on the ABWH site for the names and email addresses of school officials and for links to the online petitions at change.org and colorofchange.org.



The community protests the brutal takedown of a black female student at Spring Valley High by School Resource Officer Ben Fields

Join the ABWH

The ABWH, founded in 1979, is a dynamic network of scholars representing every region of the U.S. and beyond. Membership is open to anyone interested in the research and teaching of Africana Women's Studies. Our organization is comprised of professors, students, archivists, public historians, and others who value the study of African American women.

Life Membership

Life membership dues may be paid in three ways: (1) one payment of \$300.00, (2) three payments of \$100.00 in three calendar years, or (3) six payments of \$50.00 in three calendar years.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Regular Membership | \$40.00 |
| Student Membership | \$20.00 |
| Retiree Membership | \$10.00 |
| Institutional Membership | \$100.00 |

Dues are paid annually and valid for one calendar year (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016). To join the ABWH, visit www.abwh.org and click the Membership tab. Payment available online through PayPal and via mail by check or money order.



Mary Ashley Robertson signs her new book *Mary McLeod Bethune in Florida* at Bethune Foundation-National Historic Landmark



Keisha Blain receives the 2014 Huggins-Quarles Award from former OAH President Alan M. Kraut



Rosalyn Terborg-Penn shares a picture from the 2004 ASALH conference in Pittsburgh

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eastern Region

The Womanist Mystique: A Symposium on Scholarship and Activism

Princeton University, February 6, 2016

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-womanist-mystique-a-symposium-on-scholarship-and-activism-tickets-18724035093>

Emerging Scholars Workshop: New Perspectives on Racial and State Violence in the African Diaspora

Pennsylvania State University, April 1-2, 2016

Keynote: Kidada Williams

<http://richardscenter.psu.edu/news-events/call-for-papers-new-perspectives-on-violence-and-recolon-in-the-african-diaspora>

Launch of Philadelphia Area Writing Group in Spring 2016

Reception at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting in Providence, RI April 7-10, 2016

Undergraduate Mentoring Program for Underrepresented Students

Penn State University, June 26-July 1, 2016

<http://richardscenter.psu.edu/programs/undergraduate-mentoring-program/>
Undergraduate%20Mentoring%20Program
(Review of undergraduates' applications began December 18, 2015)

Farwestern Region

Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

MFA Acting Repertory, Scene Dock Theatre
February 6-March 6, 2016

<https://dramaticarts.usc.edu/twilight-los-angeles-1992/>

Look for ABWH Night Out dates on listserv

Scholarship & Mentoring: Black Women's History Meet and Greet hosted by African American Studies Program

Loyola Marymount University, March 31, 2016

4:00-6:00 pm

Look for ABWH Night Out dates on the listserv

Southern Region

"Undoing the Norms," 16th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference

University of Mississippi, March 2-4, 2016

Keynote: Brittany Cooper

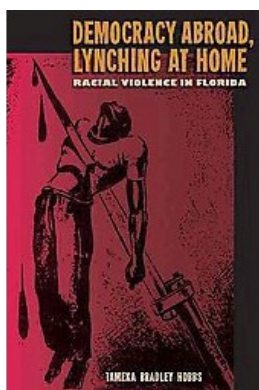
(Undergraduate and graduate student CFP through January 26, 2016)

<http://sarahisomcenter.org/16th-annual-isom-student-gender-conference-undoing-the-norms-march-2-4-2016/>

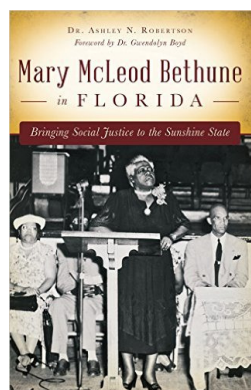
Second Biennial Rethinking Mass Incarceration Conference 2015

University of Mississippi, April 14-16, 2016

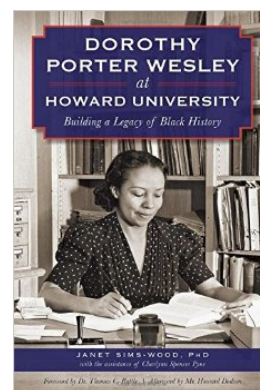
Keynote: Talitha LeFlouria



Tameka Bradley Hobbs, *Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home: Racial Violence in Florida* (Florida UP, 2015)



Mary Ashley Robinson, *Mary McLeod Bethune in Florida: Bringing Social Justice to the Sunshine State* (The History Press, 2015)



Janet Sims-Wood, *Dorothy Porter Wesley at Howard University: Building a Legacy of Black History* (The History Press, 2014)

TRUTH Editorial Board

abwhtruth@gmail.com

Shennette Garrett-Scott
Chair and National Publications Director

Siobhan D. Carter-David
Tameka Hobbs
Ishwanzya Rivers

COMING NEXT ISSUE

- ★ National Humanities Medal Winners Spotlight
- ★ International Africana Women's Studies
- ★ Graduate Student Corner
- ★ More!

JOIN THE EMAIL LIST

If you would like to receive emails about ABWH news and events, sign up at
<http://tinyurl.com/ABWHListSignUp>

We Want to Hear From You

Please tell TRUTH about your publications, defended dissertations, pictures, promotions, events, and more at
abwhtruth@gmail.com

Association of Black Women Historians

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🌐 Web: www.abwh.org

✉ General information email: info@abwh.org

✉ Google Groups (Listserv): abwh1979@googlegroups.com

📘 Facebook: [Association-of-Black-Women-Historians/144633183100](https://www.facebook.com/Association-of-Black-Women-Historians/144633183100)

🐦 Twitter: @ABWHTruth