

The Black Oaks Newsletter

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- AAASE Curriculum Undergoes Important Changes
- AAASE & Belk Library Launches New Online Research Database
- AAASE Recruitment & Career Fair: "Preparing to Serve Minority Populations."
- New Program Logo Unveiled

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The AAASE Curriculum Undergoes Important Changes

The sense of renewal with which readers were greeted in the Fall 2006 remains strong as we welcome a new year and semester. On Wednesday, October 11th, 2006, Elon's Curriculum Committee approved changes to the AAASE curriculum, which were later ratified at the Elon Faculty meeting on November 2, 2006. The changes called for students to engage in more connected study between the African and African-American experiences. Students will now have to take one course in each area to satisfy program requirements. While these changes will take effect in the Fall of 2007, students currently enrolled will have the opportunity to choose whether they wish to graduate under these new program structure.

To further enhance the development of the AAASE curriculum, we partnered with the Office of the Dean, Elon College, the College of Arts & Sciences, and

the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning to fund two new courses.

The initiative, which solicits proposals from all full-time faculty for new courses that focus on African, African-American, or Caribbean experiences from specific disciplinary perspectives, is designed to develop and expand the program's scope in areas not traditionally represented in African/African-American Studies here at Elon.

Dr. Frances Ward-Johnson, Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Corporate Communications, received one of the 2006 AAASE Course Development grants for her course "African Americans and the Mass Media," which will be offered for the first time in Spring 2008, and again in either Fall 2008 or Spring 2009. The course will be designed to introduce students to some of

the complexities of the relationships between race & culture, popular culture and mass media.

Sandra L. Reid, Lecturer in the Department of Human Services, received the second grant for her course, "The African American Family," which will be offered during the winter semesters of 2008 and 2009. The course will focus on the cultural and social dynamics of the African American family from a historical and current perspective, and will introduce students to the supports and stresses that affect this unit as well as the social and political issues important to its well being.

We will continue to improve, expand, and move towards a more structured AAASE curriculum.

Preparing to Serve Minority Populations

As part of the Career Center's Professional Discovery Week's series of events, AAASE sponsored a recruitment and career program entitled "Preparing to Serve Minority Populations." Sowande' Mustakeem '00, the first Elon student to craft an independent major in African/African-American Studies, was the keynote speaker. Mustakeem

received an M.A. in African-American and African Studies at the Ohio State University. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in history at Michigan State. Her dissertation, "Ripples of Infinity: Gender, Health, and Violence in the Middle Passage 1721-1808", conducts a social history of the slave ship experience during the legal slave trading period. Elon

students attending the event also benefited from the expertise of the other invited panelists, whose jobs bring them into contact with minority populations.

Jim Allison of the Career Center offered students important preparation tips for the job & internship opportunities the program provided.

Dr. Heidi G. Frontani to Lead 2010 Periclean Scholars



Dr. Heidi Frontani
Associate Professor,
Geography

Heidi Frontani, Associate Professor of Geography, will serve as faculty mentor for the 2010 class of Periclean Scholars, who will partner with communities in Ghana and engage in development projects. Frontani's publications examine human and natural resource management on the outskirts of terrestrial and marine parks in East Africa and Eastern North America to the analysis of Kenyan memoirs to understand authors' ideologies of land and place and perceptions of human-environment relations.

For the past two summers, Dr. Frontani has mentored Elon students in independent research projects. The collaboration has resulted in one student having her research on Ethiopian Jews published in *Jewish Quarterly*. Another student co-authored a piece with Dr. Frontani, which was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Geographical Bulletin*. The 2010 Periclean Scholars program will provide students the opportunity to collaborate on research and to publish scholarly articles.

Dr. Frontani has been teaching at Elon since 1998. Her courses include, "The Worlds Regions," "Africa's People and Environments," "Ghana Abroad," and "Development and the Environment." Dr. Frontani was a WorldTeach volunteer, Fulbright Scholar, and Social Science Research Fellow in Kenya; she has served as a grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation and Fulbright-Hays, a manuscript reviewer for several academic journals, and received multiple grants for Swahili language

Pierson notes, "I consider myself a nomad - Home is wherever there are people that I love, friends, family, and mentors."

Meet Jenn Pierson, '06

Jenn Pierson maximized her Elon University experience. Pierson graduated with a degree in international studies, and lots of minors, including African Studies, French, and Women's/Gender Studies. Pierson writes, "My passions are African studies and the fight against HIV/AIDS. I am involved in two organizations that concentrate on fighting AIDS and have been active in supporting Amani Foundation

and New Life since Jane Stephens inspired me in my Freshman year (2002/2003). My interests have taken me to Kenya, Ghana, and Senegal for study abroad.

Pierson's commitment to fighting global issues and her love of travel can be traced back to her early life. She writes, "I am not from any one particular area in the US but my family currently lives in Northern

Virginia and I have a special place in my heart for Ohio because I spent those meaningful four years of high school in Hudson, Ohio. I still have a lot of friends and connections there. Other than that, I consider myself a nomad - Home is wherever there are people that I love, friends, family, and mentors."

Meet AAASE Minor Janice Sackey, Class of 2008



Janice Sackey, '08
Biology Major &
AAASE Minor

Janice Sackey is a junior Biology major from Gaithersburg, MD. She is a member & secretary for the Executive Board of the Elon University Gospel Choir, a Housing Assistant in the Oaks Apartment and member of the Lincoln Pre-Med society.

With aspirations of working in the medical field, and enhancing and giving back to the black community, Sackey decided that a minor in African/African-

American Studies would be an enriching course of study for the significant historical lessons about African Americans today and in years past.

Thus far, she has taken "African Film," "African Art," and "African American Literature since 1945." She says, "All three classes have provided me with knowledge of past and current African descendants, in addition to exposing me to the wonderful writ-

ings of many African American authors."

Sackey remains appreciative of the knowledge and admiration she has continued to gain for Black people!

AAASE & Belk Library Launch New Research Database

This Spring, African/African-American Studies at Elon University and Belk Library launched a new online research database.

Over a period of several months, Belk Collection Development Librarian, Shaunta Adams, in consultation with the AAASE program coordinator, worked to organize hundreds of materials related to all aspects of African, African-American, Caribbean and other Black diasporic experiences. In the final phase, Elon web site man-

ager David Morton digitally arranged the resources for access by scholars and researchers. To access the database, visit www.elon.edu/aaase.

Students and faculty may find information on African and African-American Studies Departments, archives, bibliographies, courses and syllabi, databases, directories, discussion lists, e-books, films, government publications, slavery, libraries, magazines, newspapers, online journals, references, regional databases, and

research centers. They will also be linked to the African/African-American Study Guide on the Belk Library website.

The database is a work in progress, so if there are any additional resources you wish to see added, please let us know. We also want to hear about the ways you have used the database or found it helpful.

Send your comments and suggestions to Dr. Prudence Layne, the program coordinator at aaase@elon.edu.



Shaunta Adams
Belk Collection
Development
Librarian

Diversity Development Expert Dr. Christine Stanley Visits Elon

On March 2, 2007, AAASE partnered with the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs to bring Dr. Christine A. Stanley, Executive Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professor of Higher Education Administration in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University to spearhead a series of events that focus on diversity.

In her role as Executive Associate Dean and with research expertise in faculty development, Dr. Stanley is primarily responsible for faculty development, faculty recruitment and retention, promotion and tenure, diversity, and administrator development in the College of Education and Human Development. She is a Past President of the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education, the North American organiza-

tion dedicated to human development in higher education through faculty, instructional, and organizational development. Prior to joining the faculty at Texas A&M University, she was Associate Director of the Office of Faculty and TA Development at The Ohio State University where she received the Distinguished Staff Award in 1999. During her visit, Dr. Stanley held workshops with administrators, faculty, students and staff.



*“Elon University
Students expand
their knowledge
of African
nations.”*

Elon Welcomes Fulbright Scholar in Residence Dr. Francis Amedahe

In August 2006, Dr. Francis Kodzo Amedahe, a native of Ghana arrived at Elon as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence for the 2006-2007 academic year in the Department of Education. Dr. Amedahe is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana. Dr. Amedahe obtained his bachelor of education and master of education degrees at the UCC and a Ph.D. in education at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Amedahe has

over fifteen publications to his credit and attended a number of professional conferences in Ghana and in the U.S. Administratively, he was the chair of the Department of Educational Foundation, the vice dean (academic) of the School of Education at the UCC, and served as the director of the Ghana Doctoral Initiative, a joint educational leadership program between Florida A & M, Tallahassee and the UCC. In fall 2006, Dr. Amedahe

taught a Capstone Seminar on “Critical Issues in Education.” This spring, he is teaching a 300-level general studies course on “Education in West Africa.” He is scheduled to lecture at Ursinus College in March on “Education as part of the triple heritage of Africa.” “I am happy to be at Elon. I have seen Elon as having all it takes to educate the youth for the 21st century.” In my Ghanaian language, “I say ‘ayekoo’ (well done) to Elon.



**Dr. Francis
Amedahe**
Elon’s Fulbright
Scholar in
Residence

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The mission of the program is to provide imaginative and productive spaces that foster excellence, nurture the scholarly and cultural pursuits of our students and faculty, bring global exposure to the program, and expose a wider cross-section of the Elon University community to the histories, societies, politics, languages, cultures, and economies of Black people within the United States, Africa, and throughout the world. In addition to its principle aim of stimulating teaching, research, scholarship, and service, the program will also serve as a national and international forum for individuals and organizations with an interest in and concern for African Americans, Africa, and the rest of her Diaspora.

Visit our website:
www.elon.edu/aaase



The Coordinator's Corner

As the first year of my appointment as the AAASE Program Coordinator draws to a close, it has been a whirlwind, but several significant changes have occurred since I have taken on this new position, and I want to share a few of those with our readers. You will note that we have a new logo. With input from several members of the AAASE Advisory Board, and the creative direction of staff members in the Office of Media Services, Morgan Lasater, multimedia developer and graduating senior, Ben Hanna '07, we bring you the final design, which features the acorn and the oak, with Africa at its center. The maroon and gold are traditional Elon University colors, and the founding date of the program, 1994, is also included.

In addition to the new brand and look, the AAASE Curriculum is also being overhauled, undergoing several of the changes that have been highlighted in our lead cover story.

Equally as exciting has been the launch of the AAASE Research Database, available on the program's website. The database is a collaborative effort and follows months of hard work that began last summer. The database provides a freely, accessible resource for emerging, and established scholars of Black Studies, and is complemented by the Elon University Belk library's African/African-American Research Guide compiled by Belk librarian Jamane Yeager.

Finally, I am thrilled at the increasing number of students

who are using our program to enhance their major fields of study.

These students will be recognized during our Black Oaks Legacy Celebration this semester, which honors our graduating seniors. Several other exciting events are planned, so stay tuned . . .

Please visit our website at www.elon.edu/aaase for more updates and send me your comments, suggestions, and ideas. Have a great semester and an even better summer.



AAASE Program
Coordinator
Dr. Prudence Layne