A New Beginning
Brian L. Moore, Director

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of History and Africana & Latin American Studies

This year, 2013, the Africana and Latin American Program (ALST) celebrates its thirtieth anniversary. ALST was founded in 1983 to satisfy a growing demand for courses related to Africa, African America (US), the Caribbean, and Latin America that Colgate departments had routinely omitted from their curricula. For many years then ALST filled a gaping lacuna in the general curriculum of Colgate, and was in the vanguard to encourage departments to pay more attention to those neglected areas. Today, few departments do not offer such courses, though ALST still remains the only academic unit that enables students to do in-depth study through selected concentrations.

Despite that, it remains an irony that more students do not seem inclined to develop concentrations in these areas. Ethnic and area studies appear to have have lost some of their earlier appeal in favor of more global thematic studies. Most students now take just one or two ALST courses simply to satisfy distribution requirements rather than to concentrate for a major. This trend runs counter to the reality that they cannot enjoy a truly diverse intellectual experience without delving deeper into one of these fields of study. The ALST Program is thus putting greater effort into advising students about the intellectual richness that accrues from the study of the diverse areas and ethnic groups covered in its curriculum, and to relate its value to the working world beyond campus. It will also emphasize the importance of the interdisciplinary skills that are acquired from our courses and their immense value for working and living in an increasingly complex multicultural world.

I am pleased to announce that the Program has physically relocated to the second floor of Alumni Hall (rooms 216-219). The new facility provides offices for the director and program assistant, as well as a multi-purpose reading room where students and faculty can mix and mingle informally. The ALST Program will also share a lounge (the former Writing Center) with the Peace and Conflict Studies Program.

The program has just benefited from a major donation of books on the Caribbean and Latin America by Charles A. Dana Professor Emeritus Nigel Bolland who was one of its founding members. These are housed in both the reading room and are available for general use there. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come and use our new facilities, whether you want to work or just to “hang out” quietly. There are computer workstations, as well as coffee on offer to keep you going.

It is with regret that in this change we have lost Pat Kane, our Administrative Assistant. She has been with the program for the past seven years, and has proven herself to be a very enthusiastic, industrious and efficient AA who brought a high level of organization and structure to our administrative office. She worked exceedingly well with our diverse faculty and students, and will certainly be missed. She will be replaced by Aaron Solle who comes with a tremendous reputation. We welcome him fulsomely and look forward to many years of great service from him.

As usual, there will be a full slew of activities sponsored by ALST this semester. This month we celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, followed in February by Black History Month events. In late March, in collaboration with the Caribbean Students Association, there will be events to celebrate Caribbean Week. Details of these events are announced elsewhere in this Newsletter, and will be advertised by our Program Assistant via posters and email.

The Program also has three active off-campus study groups this semester. Professor Kezia Page is currently directing a study-abroad group to the University of the West Indies campus in Jamaica. That group will spend the entire semester there. The next study group to Jamaica will be in Spring 2015. Students who would like to find out about it should contact me in the ALST director’s office (Alumni 216). Next month Professor Mary Moran will take a group of students to the annual Model African Union event at Howard University in Washington, DC; and during the week of Spring break in March, Professor Mahadevi Ramakrishnan will direct another student group to the French Caribbean island of Martinique.

I hope you will join us in participating in the many events we have planned for this semester.
Alumni Spotlight

Rebecca L. Upton
Colgate University Class of 1992
Greencastle, IN
Edward Myers Dolan Professor of Sociology & Anthropology, DePauw University

I am currently a medical anthropologist and work in southern African on issues of (in)fertility, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. I am a college professor in Sociology and Anthropology at DePauw University in Indiana. I was both an Africana studies major (the first student actually with the name of the major on my degree and not just as an independent study as it had been prior to that point!) and a dual major in Sociology and Anthropology. I knew as an undergraduate that I wanted to return to the continent — I had been in Kenya and Tanzania prior to college and had grown up overseas in the South Pacific, but it was through my Colgate experience and study abroad in Nigeria in 1990 that I began to hone my interest and career goals working in academia and cross cultural contexts. In the Africana studies program I focused primarily on African philosophy as a means to grapple with epistemological questions about personhood and identity with a particular focus on Ifa divination in West Africa. The courses I took, the study abroad experiences I had in ALST at Colgate led me to the Anthropology graduate program at Brown. My interests in material culture, sparked in part by the SOAN department museum at Colgate, was further refined in graduate school and throughout my career - this is something I think of often as I teach my own students in Anthropology and African cultures courses — the significance of having exposure to myriad aspects of African lives, thought and interdisciplinary perspectives as an undergraduate is fundamental to how I do my job and something I learned at Colgate in ALST.

America Changing

Pete Banner Haley
Professor of History and Africana & Latin American Studies

The recent re-election of President Barack Obama indicates that there is a profound realignment occurring in the American political landscape. In many ways similar to the political shifts of the mid-1930s when African Americans overwhelmingly voted for FDR and a new coalition was formed by Roosevelt from minorities, labor and business, the 2012 election also saw a new formation of groups allied to pursue change. Women, Blacks, Latinos, LGBT people, and labor as well as young whites have formed what may be a very long lasting coalition. What is important to note about this new coalition is that it mirrors a sharp American demographic change. Women make up a majority of the population and many of these young women are single mothers or rising professionals. There can be no doubt that in the near future the nation will witness the election of a woman as President. Then there is the increasing population of Latinos, who while not a monolithic group, nonetheless voted largely for the Democrats and seem most likely to do so for the foreseeable future. Finally, labor is making a strong comeback as the nation’s workers now recognize that a livable wage is necessary for well-being in a nation that is slowly recovering from a very severe recession.

If the demographic shifts mentioned above have been profound for American politics they are no less so for the look of the political parties. The Democrats have an advantage as they are now clearly representative of the diversity which is the new America. The Republicans will have to undergo massive changes in order to compete with the Democrats and not just in terms of diversity but also ideology. If the Republican Party wishes to remain a conservative party it must re-fashion a conservatism that looks at people in a different fashion. That will be nigh on impossible given the standard conservative belief that “progress” is detrimental and that humans are flawed by nature. Economically, Conservatism must find a way to provide individuals with opportunities that will in turn benefit the common good. That will be difficult as Conservative thought is far too elitist and individualism is seen as applying only to those who are fit. In the end, the Republican Party’s best hope for reform is that they will have to moderate the more extreme forms of Conservatism and seek inclusion of groups that at this point left out.

Barack Obama’s reelection has demonstrated that America is changing and that the American people for the most part are open to and welcome that change. For Peoples of color and women the good news is that in the future they will have the opportunity to be more invested in the future direction of the country. And that is best news for future generations as well as my generation which fought and struggled for the elimination of social injustices that have long plagued the nation.

SPRING 2013 COURSES

ALST 201: Africa
ALST 202: Intro to African-American Studies
ALST 212: Politics of Race & Ethnicity
ALST 220: The Black Diaspora
ALST 230: Intro to Latin American Studies
ALST 281: Slavery & Slave Trade Africa
ALST 290: Model African Union
ALST 322: Soul, Funk & Civil Rights
ALST 330: Race & Crime
ALST 355: Rwanda since 1994 Genocide
ALST 363: Globalization/ Social Change-Latin America
ALST 377: History of Culture-Caribbean
ALST 377L: Culture, Language, Identity-Martinique
Getting into Black History

Graham Russell Gao Hodges

George Dorland Langdon Jr. Professor of History and Africana & Latin American Studies

Until the recession of 2008 blasted down new basement levels in the job market for Ph. Ds in history, the consensus was that the year 1982 was the worst for tenure-track hires at American colleges and university. I received my doctorate from New York University in 1982, winning a prize for the best dissertation, a study on New York City Cartmen, drivers of two-wheeled carts who controlled transport in the early city. My dissertation became my first book, published in 1986 and reissued in a revised edition in 2012.

Happiness turned soon to frustration. My family came to New York for a glorious celebration of my new Ph. D. with a splendid graduation ceremony on a sunny afternoon in Washington Square Park. After the dinners and parties, I learned that the academic world was largely indifferent to my accomplishments. One response to my eager job applications informed me that the committee had read my application and were not interested in me. I threw an angry fit before my advisor who listened impatiently to my complaints about the world before shoving his hand in my face, ordering me to knock it off and telling me: “Isn’t that a bankrupt attitude?”

He was right. No one wanted to hear my whining. I considered returning to cab driving or working as a household mover. Fortunately, that same advisor had a plan. I would work for him as an Associate Editor on the Revolutionary War Papers of William Livingston, New Jersey’s first American governor. The pay was barely adequate but the job allowed me a university home, stationary, and a respectable if somewhat inflated job title. There were two other Associate Editors at the time; the numbers rose occasionally to five. Each of us was to annotate letters to and from Livingston during the war. We had to identify each character, place and event in the letter and lay down scholarly references for all. Julian Boyd of Princeton University established this method in 1950 for the Thomas Jefferson Papers and it had become standard ever since.

One letter assigned to me required more than the usual research. Sent from Monmouth County Court House on June 9, 1780 by David Forman, a colonel in the New Jersey militia to Governor Livingston, the letter described how “a party of Negroes about 30 in Number did this afternoon attack and Take Captain Barnes Smock and a Small party that were collected at his house for there Mutual Defense…” The letter reported that a day before the same of band of black raiders murdered Joseph Murray, a farmer who had denounced local Loyalists to the King. Forman beseeched Livingston to establish martial law in Monmouth County to defend against the invaders. (David Forman to William Livingston, in Carl Prince ed. The Papers of William Livingston, 5 vols. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1979-1988, 3:423).

The letter raised a host of questions for me. What was this “party of Negroes”? Why were they attacking New Jersey Patriots? Who led them? What effect did they have on New Jersey history? And, as many people observed later, why were there black people in the state then anyway?

As I researched the letter, I learned that Colonel Tye, a self-emancipated slave from Shrewsbury, New Jersey, led the black raiders. He had escaped from John Corlies, a Monmouth County Quaker farmer, who had refused to free Tye, then known as Titus, when the enslaved man turned twenty-one years old. The Society of Friends, striving to cleanse their faith of the sin of slave holding, had ordered Corlies to emancipate Titus on his twenty-first birthday. The farmer refused and the church excommunicated and shunned him, thereby cutting Corlies off from all sacred, personal and business contacts. Titus ran away on November 5, 1775 to join Lord Dunmore’s Ethiopian Regiment in Virginia, a fighting force Dunmore and local African Americans organized to fight American Patriots in exchange for immediate freedom. Titus excelled and, when the Regiment moved north to fight for the English in and around New York City, received from the British the honorific title of Colonel.

Now my interest began to balloon. What did it mean to be a slave in New Jersey? How many self-emancipated blacks fought for the British? When and how did slavery develop and later end in New Jersey? I found that there was very little scholarship on such questions. Using the long term chronological approach I had developed for my study of the cartmen, I decided to write about the history of African Americans in New Jersey from the beginnings of the colony in the 1680s to the end of slavery in the state, a slow process that I found did not really finish until the Civil War. For example, masters in Monmouth County were still advertising for self-emancipated slaves in 1857. To understand fully this history, I pushed my research into a similar study of New York.

Since that first glimpse into a forgotten history, I have published five books and many articles on early black life in New Jersey and New York. Colonel Tye’s exploits have fascinated other writers and filmmakers. In the documentary film, Slavery and the Making of America (PBS, 2005), the distinguished actor, Morgan Freeman, reads from the fugitive slave notice for Titus, later Tye, and from my own analysis of this Black Loyalist hero. My efforts are part of a powerful reappraisal of slavery in the history of the Northern colonies and states and, building upon that an understanding of slavery in America as a national system. For me, this scholarly investigation all started one day in 1983 when I found David Forman’s letter.

Graham Russell Gao Hodges is the George Dorland Langdon, Jr. Professor of History and Africana Studies at Colgate. To learn about his many books on black life go to www.colgate.edu/ghodges

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**RUN away from the subscriber, living in Shrewsbury, in the county of Monmouth, New Jersey, a NEGRO man, named TYTE, but may probably change his name; he is about 27 years of age, not very black, near 6 feet high; had on a grey homespun coat, brown breeches, blue and white stockings, and took with him a wallet, drawn up at one end with a string, in which was a quantity of clothes. Whoever takes up said Negro, and delivers him to any one of the persons named below, shall be amply rewarded for their pains; payable at New 9, 1775:

*JOHN CORLIS*  

**Pennsylvania Gazette, November 12, 1775.** Titus fled south to join Lord Dunmore’s Ethiopian Regiment, then returned to New Jersey the following year as Colonel Tye to begin his guerrilla war against the state’s slave masters.
Celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation
Date: February 06, 2013
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Place: ALANA Multipurpose Room
About: Hosted by Pete Banner-Haley (Professor of History & ALST) & Graham Hodges (George Dorland Langdon Jr. Professor of History & ALST)

South Africa Now: Current issues for the country and its role on the continent
Date: January 31, 2013
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Place: ALANA Multipurpose Room
About: Hosted by Jon Hyslop (Professor of Sociology & ALST), Max Rayneard (Visiting Assistant Professor of English & ALST) and Ryan Solomon (Assistant Professor in Writing & Rhetoric)

Rwanda, the Great Lakes region and the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo
Date: February 07, 2013
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Place: ALANA Multipurpose Room
About: Hosted by Susan Thomson (Assistant Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies)

Gabon, Guinea and the role of Francophone countries in ECOWAS
Date: February 14, 2013
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm
Place: ALANA Multipurpose Room
About: Hosted by Dominika Koter (Assistant Professor of Political Science)

We moved!
Visit us in our new office location
on the 2nd floor of Alumni Hall
(Rooms 216-219)