

LION

A MAGAZINE WHERE BEING **THE FIRST** MATTERS | WINTER/SPRING 2015



FROM THE PRESIDENT

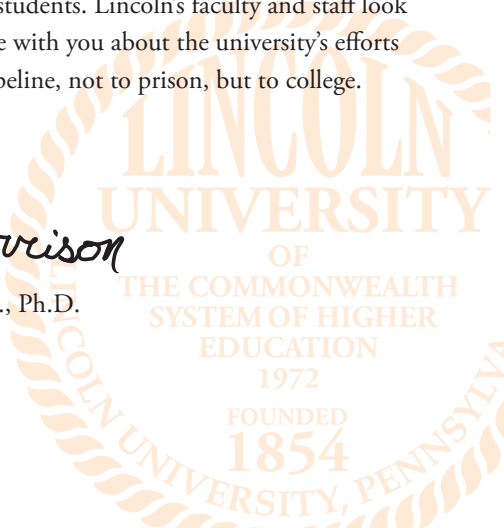
A challenge – and an opportunity – for institutions of higher education is to find creative ways to respond to the unfortunate reality that many K–12 public schools do not have the financial resources to adequately prepare their students for a college experience. Many public high schools have no labs, no basic supplies, and no assistant principals and counselors, leaving principals to cover tasks associated with discipline and counseling. Other public schools, however, boast state of the art facilities and advanced educational opportunities for their students. There are a number of reasons for the inequity, but one thing is certain: African American students are disproportionately relegated to the under-resourced schools. This issue is significant because it gets to the heart of a major cause of poverty and other quality of life issues, particularly for African Americans. Studies continue to confirm that higher levels of education result in a greater likelihood that an individual will be employed. And individuals with higher levels of education generally get higher paying jobs than individuals with less education.

Much has been said in the media about the school to prison pipeline for African-American males. In addition, the media very often portrays negative and limiting stereotypes about African Americans, particularly African American males. Institutions of higher education are finding creative ways to stand in the gap for public school students who have been disadvantaged and to counter these negative images. For example, colleges and universities are developing dual enrollment programs with local school districts. High school students are taught by university professors, have access to university labs and facilities, and can earn both advanced high school and college credit. Lincoln University has developed programs with both the Coatesville and Philadelphia school districts. These types of programs counter negative and limited images by exposing young people to a cadre of African American scholars and students. Lincoln's faculty and staff look forward to sharing more with you about the university's efforts to create an effective pipeline, not to prison, but to college.

Hail, Hail, Lincoln!

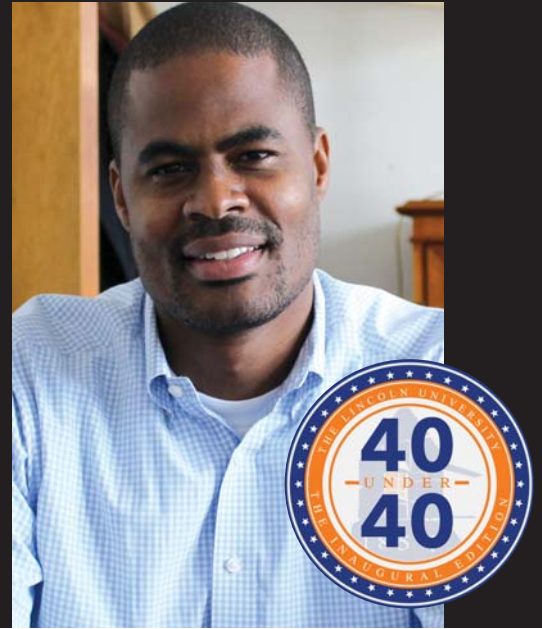
Valerie Harrison

Valerie I. Harrison, J.D., Ph.D.
Acting President

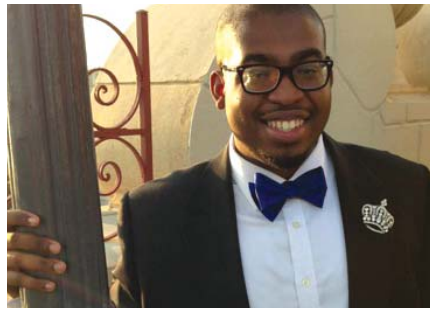


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LION *Magazine*

A MAGAZINE WHERE BEING **THE FIRST** MATTERS | WINTER/SPRING 2015

YOUNG LIONS RULE

FROM THE EDITOR

When one thinks of Lincoln University's list of distinguished alumni, most rattle off the names of historic figures like Langston Hughes '29, Thurgood Marshall '30, Kwame Nkrumah '39, Nnamdi Azikiwe '30 or others who have spent nearly the last 30 years or more amassing terminal degrees, professional titles, accomplishments and fortunes.

Rarely, do we identify and recognize those young lions on the path to rule their respective corporate, nonprofit or academic jungle. In actuality, these alumni will ultimately win the championships, set the trends, produce the award-winning films, lead the social or artistic movements, establish or overturn the pivotal policies or laws, make the revolutionary scientific discoveries, perform the groundbreaking procedures, or launch the paradigm-shifting companies for the next half century.

So, this issue of *LION* highlights the youngest and most successful among the pride. Our special *40 Under 40* cover feature showcases Lincoln's young professionals who are thriving in their respective fields of sports, media/entertainment, education, science, law/government, medicine, religion and business.

In addition, we celebrate the historic performance of our women's basketball team as CIAA Tournament runner-ups and its coach as CIAA Coach of The Year as well as examine preservation efforts at the Langston



Hughes Memorial Library to safeguard its namesake's bequeathed private collection and other archival documents among its Special Collections.

We also revisit the history of the Mr. Lincoln pageant since its inception nearly 25 years ago and look at what motivated the first as well as most recent Lincoln man to pursue and wear the crown. We also get a taste

of culture, history and fine dining as one alumnus establishes a new trendy restaurant among Harlem's collection of chic and trendy eateries and lounges.

As always, our departments dedicated to the university and its alumni's contributions to literature and film does not disappoint.

This issue's *Literary Lincoln* offers us a glimpse at the newly-published "Selected Letters of Langston Hughes," a newly-released edition of Hughes' "The Weary Blues" and a collection of new books by other alumni.

In *Lincoln In The Lens*, a journalist and documentarian offers a retelling of the contentious story behind Lincoln's relationship with the priceless Barnes Collection and its subsequent move to Philadelphia while an alumnus, whose made a living doubling for one of Hollywood's top leading men, makes his own impact on the silver screen.

And finally we close, revisiting and exploring a sensitive and pivotal point in the university's history—the adoption and move to coeducation.

Hail, Hail Lincoln!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Christopher Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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TRAVEL AND DIVERSITY: KATRINA SPRINGER'S FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

By Carl Vulcain '15

For Lincoln junior Katrina Springer, a love of travel and the opportunity to help diversify the Foreign Services drives her activities and ambition.

Springer, who participated in the Semester At Sea (SAS) program in Fall 2013, is serving as an intern with the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia, where she works in the education and travel department to facilitate the Junior Model United Nations. The Syracuse, New York native was also recently awarded an internship for this summer with the United States State Department in its Bureau of African Affairs in Washington, D.C.

"During the Semester at Sea, I met current Foreign Service officers in almost all of the sixteen countries that I visited," Springer says. "One of the things that I noticed was that there was little female representation and almost no people of color. I (see) this as a big opportunity to help represent the United States and its diversity."

SAS, part of the Institute for Shipboard Education and sponsored by the University of Virginia, is a floating residential college with up to 700 students providing a global study abroad program from which Springer earned 15 credits.

"Once I had an affirmed interest in Foreign Services, I began to Google and do research," the Political Science and International Relations major says. "...I learned that many Foreign Service officers know multiple languages so I decided to learn Arabic. The Foreign Services field is very competitive and languages such as Arabic and Chinese are coveted. I thought it would give me a leg up on the competition."


Last year, Springer was one of the HBCU scholarship recipients for the



Middlebury Language Schools' Summer Arabic Language program. The \$10,990 comprehensive scholarship covered tuition and room and board for the two-month program held at Middlebury's Mills College in California. That same research into the Foreign Services also led her to the State department internship, which she now hopes will allow her to learn directly from some of the most experienced people in the Foreign Services field.

"It is my hope that I can meet and network with people and get tips from them," she says. "I would (especially) like tips on how to study for (the Foreign Services exam) and things like that."

While Springer looks for more opportunities to be mentored, Connie Lundy, Director of International Programs and Services at Lincoln, says she believes Springer's example and efforts will also help other students.

"Katrina came into the university with a preformed commitment to international development," says Connie Lundy, Director of International Programs and Services at Lincoln. "Katrina is a very focused person and does not stray from the path. I believe she will serve as a leader here at Lincoln and encourage other students to pursue similar paths." 

PRESERVING THE *Legacy*

LANGSTON HUGHES MEMORIAL LIBRARY RECEIVES SECOND NEH GRANT

By Maureen O. Stokes

When many think of celebrated African American repositories or archives, New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem or Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in Washington, D.C. often come to mind.

But housed in Lincoln University's Langston Hughes Memorial Library, which includes a collection of more than 185,000 volumes and annually subscribes to approximately 700 periodicals, are literary and historic treasures of no less significance or deserving of protection and preservation. And the recent award of the library's second National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) grant in as many years to assist with the preservation of its collections proves that.

"We were ecstatic," says Sophia Sotilleo, an Assistant Professor and Access Services Librarian there. "Receiving the second grant indicated our work would continue."

The first grant identified the needs of the library while the second grant focused more on specifics like archival supplies, equipment and training to make preservation of items, specifically a part of its Special Collections, a reality.

Special Collections, most significantly, is home to many of the original poems, manuscripts, first edition books and one of the writing desks of the library's namesake, Langston Hughes '29 – all from his personal collection that were bequeathed to the university at his death in 1967. In addition, the archive includes the African Collection, Horace Mann Bond papers, Lincolniana – historic university, student and alumni

documents, photographs and books, the Larry Neal Collection – representing the personal library of the 1962 alumnus and writer often credited as the co-founder of the Black Arts Movement in the 1960s and 70s as well as other collections relating to Kwame Nkrumah '39, Thurman O'Daniel, Pan African, Special Negro, nearly every Lincoln yearbook printed-to-date as well as the recently acquired collection of Waverly B. Woodson, a decorated World War II veteran and 1950 Lincoln graduate, who was the recent subject of a Humanities convocation last month.

Other items housed as part of the University's legacy are records management (which includes the timeframe when the University was known as the Ashmun Institute), several Digital Collections (accessible online), signed documents from visiting dignitaries and photos dating back to the University's inception.

Another component of the new grant is ongoing training in preservation education, and as part of that, roughly 40 staff and faculty gathered for its first session in late February with one of the foremost authorities on the subject, Tom Clareson. Clareson, who worked closely with Sotilleo on the NEH grants, is a senior consultant for Digital & Preservation Services at LYRASIS, the largest national library and cultural heritage support network. His conversational presentation was robust with anecdotal stories related to both good and bad preservation efforts.

"It's rare for an institution to receive consecutive grants," he says. "However, when I look around and see the work

that's been done to preserve such historical gems, I understand why."

And due to acquisitions over the past eight years, which includes the ongoing inventory and archival of the Charles Seifert Collection received before the library's 2007–08 reopening from its renovation, library staff is busy and committed.

That collection, acquired through alumnus, Mjavi Brathwaite '96, from the Charles C. Seifert Estate, is a treasure trove of books, manuscripts, papers and other literature about Africa, African art, the African American experience, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and more. Seifert's collection, which numbered in the thousands, was widely used by many within New York's African American community in the 1920s, when it once filled a 3,000 sq. ft. house located at 313 West 137th Street.

Currently, the library is also in discussions with the estate of the late Emmy-winning actor and director Roscoe Lee Browne, a 1946 Lincoln graduate, who also taught French, English and comparative literature at Lincoln from 1946 to 1952, to acquire various artifacts and documents. After teaching at the university, Browne pursued his acting career, but returned on several occasions for performances and visits. **L**

(Editor Eric Christopher Webb '91 contributed to this story.)

"We were ecstatic...
Receiving the second
grant indicated our
work would continue."

Sophia Sotilleo



HEAD COACH KERN AND LADY LIONS STAGE HISTORIC BASKETBALL SEASON

By Eric Christopher Webb '91 and Jason Pompey

For Lincoln University women's basketball head coach Jessica Kern, the team's successes were more about the whole institution coming together through a period of change and transition than about women's basketball or athletics.



Pam (Syracuse, NY/Monroe CC) and junior Amani Clark (Middletown, DE/ Appoquinimink HS) were also named to the 2015 CAA women's basketball all-tournament team. No Lincoln women players were selected the previous season.

Pam averaged 8.0 points per game and 8.3 rebounds in three tournament games for the Lady Lions. Pam had a double-double scoring a tournament-best 17 points with ten rebounds in a quarterfinals win over Virginia Union. She was 7-of-8 from the free-throw line and 5-of-10 from the field. Against Livingstone she grabbed ten rebounds and scored seven points in the semifinals win and then grabbed five rebounds in the championships against Virginia State.

Clark scored in double-figures in all three tournament games averaging 11.3 points and was a defensive leader with seven total steals. Clark scored a tournament-high 12 points against Virginia Union to go along with four steals. Amani then scored 11 points in back-to-back games against Livingstone and Virginia State leading the Lady Lions in scoring with 34 points during their run at the CAA Championship.

In mid-March, the team was also selected as the No. 1 seed in the 2015 ECAC Division II Women's Basketball Championship, which consisted of a four-team field with a semifinal round, followed by a championship round. The previous year, the team failed to make the tournament at all.

Lincoln, who served as tournament host, offered an equally impressive performance, but unfortunately fell in overtime in the ECAC Championship game on March 15 with Bluefield State College. Senior Pam scored 22 points while junior Courtney Smith (Milwaukee, WI/Nicolet HS) had 18 points for the Lady Lions. **L**

The Lady Lions ended an historic season as Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) and Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) runner-ups, its head coach clinching top CIAA honors and two of its players selected to its all-tournament team.

"These weren't just wins for women's basketball or athletics, but for the institution and the change that we've gone through to give faculty and staff something to hold onto."

When Kern arrived at Lincoln in 2011, the team had a 2-25 record. This year, the team topped its record with 10 wins over the 12-16 record its previous season to 22-9 this season.

"I was adamant that it takes four years to build a program from scratch," she says. "This wasn't overnight. This is the result of the girls having chemistry with each other and building a system of winning. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case prior to my tenure."

During the CIAA tournament, Guard Amani Clark scored a layup and made a key steal in the final 24 seconds allowing Lincoln to power past Livingstone College in a thrilling 57-55 semifinal victory.

They later fell in the championship game to Virginia State University 73-49.

"...Well, honestly, whatever could have went wrong tonight did...I did enjoy seeing that the fight never stopped from these ladies," Kern said shortly after the championship game. "I'm proud of them and I know we wanted it to end differently, but they never gave up."

It was the first time in university history that the team reached the finals.

The Lions overall coaching and performance earned Coach Kern the 2015 CIAA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year title. Kern led her team to an overall 19-7 record and Co-Northern Division title. Last year, the Lady Lions finished sixth in the division but enter this year's tournament as the number one seed in the North.

"It's extremely humbling to know when your body of work is being respected," she says. "When I got here, I was determined Lincoln would become the team to beat. We've kind of changed the mindset of what it means to play Lincoln women's basketball."

Kern will be formally recognized at the annual Coach of the Year Awards Luncheon held in the Spring. In addition, two of her players, senior Zephrah



From Christian Fleetwood, an 1860 graduate, one of the nation's first Congressional Medal of Honor recipients to Dr. E. Reggie Smith '92, the first African American president and board chairman of the United States Distance Learning Association, Lincoln University alumni have always risen to positions of power, prestige, and leadership.



Maya K. Watson '00
Attorney, Bodman PLC



Amen Ra Mashariki, D.Eng. '98
Chief Analytics Officer of New York City



Albert Cooke '07
Artist Development Def Jam Records

Sports

1. Darrel "Shady" Lewis '00
Professional Basketball Player Euro League
2. Derrick Washington '14
Professional Basketball Player Euro League
3. Kendall Peace '00
Varsity Head Coach Poly Tech
High School, Baltimore, MD
4. Roland J. Whiting '00
Head Track & Field Coach Methodist College
5. Andre Noble '00
Head Basketball Coach
Imhotep Charter, Philadelphia PA

Media/Entertainment

1. Albert Cooke '07
Artist Development Def Jam Records
2. Lamar Chase '02
TV Producer/Director
3. Greg Corbin '01
Poet/Activist
4. Dray Clark '00
TV News Anchor
5. Deon Kipping '01
Gospel and Christian Songwriter and Producer

Education

1. Nina Brevard '02
CEO & Principal of Discovery Charter School
2. Kimberly Bassett, Ph.D. '02
Associate Dean of African American
Affairs, University of Virginia
3. Eric Pritchard, Ph.D. '02
Professor University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. Danyell Wilson, Ph.D. '03
Chemistry and Biology Professor, Bowie State University
5. Curtis O. Durham '02
Principal of Cross Country
Elementary School, Baltimore, MD

Science

1. Charles Fleming '04
Software Engineer, Data Computer Corp of America
2. Duane O. Caesar '01
Project Lead Scientist
3. David A. Greaves '02
Biologist, EPA
4. Amen Ra Mashariki, D.Eng. '98
Chief Analytics Officer of New York City
5. Mihayo Wilmore '00
Telecommunication and Information Systems

Over the years, however, the university has neglected to identify and recognize the youngest and brightest among us. So, this year, Lincoln University introduces its first 40 Under 40 list of young alumni who are thriving in their respective fields of endeavor. The inaugural Class of 2015 recognizes five young alumni in each of the following categories: sports, media/entertainment, education, science, law/government, medicine, religion and business. And while many are not yet household names, their accomplishments and efforts are no less dynamic or important. (Nominations for the 2016 Class are now being accepted through June 30, 2015).



Greg Corbin '01
Poet/Activist



Sonia Smith, DDS '02
Showtime Family Dentistry



Isaac Boateng '08
Owner, Faces2Faces Africa

Law/Government

1. Rachel Branson, Esq. '99
Corporate Counsel at SunGard Data Systems Inc.
2. Maya K. Watson '00
Attorney, Bodman PLC
3. Otis Freeman '06
Attorney for the State of Maryland
4. Shari J. Fleming, Esq. '03
Healthcare Attorney
5. Babatunde Akowe, Esq. '00
Attorney, New York State

Medicine

1. Brooke Womack-Elmore PT, DPT '09
Physical Therapist
2. Tarron Herring, DVM '02
Chief of Staff Veterinarian at Banfield
3. Sonia Smith, DDS '02
Showtime Family Dentistry
4. Vannie Taylor, DDS '00
Largo Bright Smiles
5. Justina O. Benson, DDS '02
Dentist, Benson Dental Care

Religion

1. Rev. Paul Thomas '04
Senior Pastor AME Union Church, Philadelphia, PA
2. Rev. Jovan Davis '02
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Englewood, NJ
3. Rev. Edmund T. Sherrill '02
Mt. Enon Baptist Church Philadelphia, PA
4. Rev. Staccato Powell Jr. '06
5. Pastor Korey Grice '03
First Baptist Fairview

Business

1. Isaac Boateng '08
Owner, Faces2Faces Africa/ Entrepreneur
2. Brucelee Sterile '12
Financial Analyst, Vanguard
3. Dawn Holden '00
CFO, Turning Points for Children
4. William F. Dunbar '05
Director of Undergraduate & University Affairs at Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
5. Tehma Smith '00
Entrepreneur, Attorney & Business Developer



SEITU STEPHENS '00

Interim Campus Director

The Lincoln University – Coatesville

Start Date: 2/2/15

NEW FACES AT LINCOLN

BACK TO OUR ROOTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



The Lincoln University Advancement Division inaugurated the new Lincoln Society with Gregory C. Miller, Sr. '77 as the chair and it is very exciting to share the information with all alumni. Alumni, Faculty, Staff and friends who contribute \$1,000 and more are included in the Lincoln Society and are invited to a special reception at the President's home on Saturday, October 10, 2015 during Homecoming Reunion. Contributions to the Lincoln Society are annual and need to reach the University before June 30.

Numbers are a constant focus for any Alumni Director; number of alumni reached, number of alumni who attended an event, number of alumni who contribute to the University ... every once in a while I get to sit down with individuals who make up those numbers and have found out that this experience is a reward for all the times I spend with numbers and lists.

The passion Lincoln Alumni have for their alma mater is often similar in intensity and that is where the similarity ends. I have found each alumnus and alumna comes to this passion and dedication by their own path.

In my recent visits I've met extraordinary individuals; an alumna, who was born in the US, raised overseas and returned to her

country of birth through Lincoln. Dr. Donna C. Jones '78 has acquired a truly international outlook and is planning exciting programs for Lincoln alumni. Kenneth Hall, Esq. '69 whose dedication has made him a beacon in his own community of East Orange NJ; this former Captain of the Lincoln Basketball Team is now leading young men to the Lincoln family. His classmate, the Hon. Ronald Freeman '69, a distinguished Omega, who is a member of the Black Lawyers Association of Rutgers law School, speaks fluent Spanish and takes his mandate as a Lion very seriously. Each story would make a book; how Dr. Jones navigated the pathways of financial aid; how Judge Freeman navigated (and set right) law enforcement in Cherry Hill and how Mr. Hall's deep abiding faith in Islam helps smooth out discrimination in today's society. When I mentioned honors and recognition to these individuals their answer was best summed up by Mr. Hall who told me, "Lincoln can honor me when I have done what I am capable of doing."

What does the Lincoln experience mean to you? How has it shaped you? These questions bring to mind the concept of Sankofa from Ghana. Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move

forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone, or been stripped of can be reclaimed, revived, preserved, and perpetuated. Visually and symbolically, Sankofa is expressed as a mythic bird that flies forward while looking backward with an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth.

An alumnus who has not returned to campus in 60 years continues to be among Lincoln's most generous contributors; it was an honor to meet Donald Coaxum '57 who has kept Lincoln in his heart and in his legacy. When asked what he got from the Lincoln experience he said, "I learned what I could not do and that allowed me to excel in what I can do." I look forward to many more visits with alumni, spending time with accomplished people who realize how much more they can and will do for Lincoln rejuvenates all our efforts and allows us to realize our value.

Rita M. Dibble
Director, Alumni Relations



LINCOLN COMES TO HARLEM

NEW HARLEM BESAME RESTAURANT SERVES UP HISTORY, CULTURE & FINE DINING

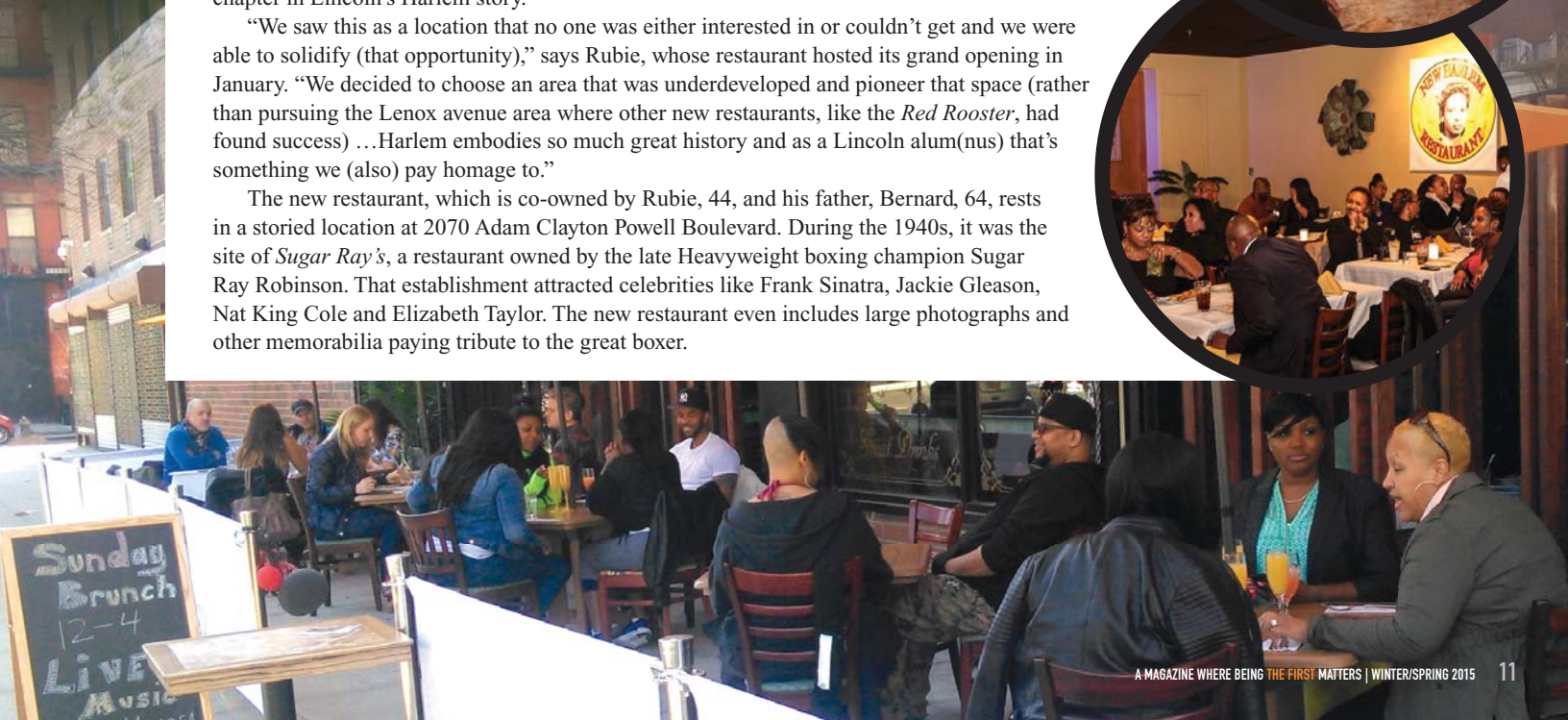
By Eric Christopher Webb '91

From legendary bandleader Cab Calloway who left Lincoln after a year to pursue his entertainment career in Harlem to world renowned poet, Langston Hughes '29, a major figure of the Harlem Renaissance, Lincoln alumni have long been drawn to the celebrated community and made it their own.

Now, another alumnus, Osei Rubie, whose journey from Lincoln University student in the late 80s and early 90s to entrepreneur and co-owner of the *New Harlem Besame* – the latest addition to the community's chic and trendy collection of restaurants, bars and lounges, is beginning a new chapter in Lincoln's Harlem story.

"We saw this as a location that no one was either interested in or couldn't get and we were able to solidify (that opportunity)," says Rubie, whose restaurant hosted its grand opening in January. "We decided to choose an area that was underdeveloped and pioneer that space (rather than pursuing the Lenox avenue area where other new restaurants, like the *Red Rooster*, had found success) ...Harlem embodies so much great history and as a Lincoln alum(nus) that's something we (also) pay homage to."

The new restaurant, which is co-owned by Rubie, 44, and his father, Bernard, 64, rests in a storied location at 2070 Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard. During the 1940s, it was the site of *Sugar Ray's*, a restaurant owned by the late Heavyweight boxing champion Sugar Ray Robinson. That establishment attracted celebrities like Frank Sinatra, Jackie Gleason, Nat King Cole and Elizabeth Taylor. The new restaurant even includes large photographs and other memorabilia paying tribute to the great boxer.



“Everything about the restaurant is attempting to convey our culture and history from the menu to the aesthetics of the restaurant,” says Rubie, whose family is from Costa Rica and Liberia. “It’s part of our direct heritage. I think our value will be the authenticity of our approach.”

From the Guava-marinated ribs to the authentically-prepared mojitos, the restaurant, whose name literally means “New Harlem Kiss Me,” takes painstaking care to provide both an authentic and unique experience for its customers, also featuring a live Caribbean or Latin band on Saturdays.

Rubie explains that it took a year alone to craft the menu which promises “the best of Latin and Caribbean food with Soul Food flair.” Entrees, like the “Chicken in Garlic Sauce” to the “New Harlem Guava-BBQ Ribs,” range from \$17 to \$24 while appetizers, like the “New Harlem Jerk Wings” or the “Tacos Mixto Carnita”, range from \$8 to \$10.

Inside, a 9-by-20 foot West African mahogany relief frames the handcrafted bar, which was created by an Ebanista (master carpenter). The relief, itself, tells the story of pre-slavery, slavery and African’s post slavery experience.

“We exported that from Liberia,” Rubie says. “It had been in a bed & breakfast (our family once owned). It’s an astonishing piece.”

And while Rubie, himself, never planned to be a restaurateur, he says his family does have a history in the business, and as entrepreneurs, in general.

His grandparents, Denis and Clara Francis Rubie, had a restaurant called *Dennie’s* in San Jose, Costa Rica as well as a hotel. From there, the family moved to Liberia, where Osei’s father, Bernard, started multiple businesses, including a restaurant. In the 1980s, the family moved to Harlem, where his parents also

established a grain export firm, *H.I.T.*, whose *Golden Ribbon Food Products* once sold to 17 nations throughout Africa, European and the Caribbean, according to earlier published reports.

That company, which in 1984 grossed \$14 million, ultimately provided the seed money to launch his mother, Yvonne’s *Golden Ribbon Playthings, Inc.*, the pioneering manufacturer of the Huggy Bean doll line – the first mass produced-African American character doll founded in 1985. The doll maker had been highlighted in feature articles in *Black Enterprise, Ebony, Jet, The Crisis, Time, U.S. News & World Report* and *The New York Times*, etc.

In 1991, however, Rubie left Lincoln and returned home to help with his mother’s then-faltering business, which had initially shown promising success, having also engaged in promotional partnerships with major companies, such as *Kraft Foods*, etc.

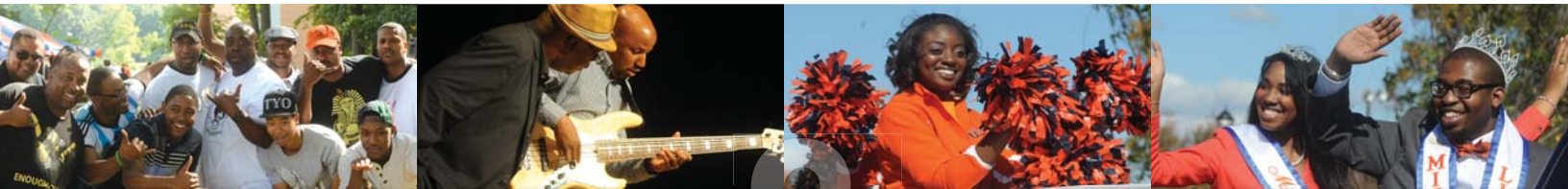
“Business had taken a turn and I was trying to help the business stay afloat,” he says. “It was my responsibility to fly down to *Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Kmart, Target* and *Caldor* and meet with the buyers and... It was very important to have a hands-on approach. It had a good run.”

Since then, Rubie has worked in pharmaceutical sales to the title insurance industry, where he says he has had his largest financial success, working on and closing what he calls mostly, “small residential deals” – one in excess of \$91 million, reaping equally impressive commissions.

And while he’s committed to the new restaurant venture, Rubie does subtly hint at another business start-up, in the works.

“Transferable skills are the common thread, being able to sell something, build relationships and quantify those results,” he says. “It’s about those foundation skills not so much the product lines themselves.” **L**

The restaurant, whose name literally means “New Harlem Kiss Me,” takes painstaking care to provide both an authentic and unique experience for its customers.



ALUMNI PICNIC & HOMECOMING

Alumni Picnic
Saturday, July 18
Fitness Trail, 1 PM – 7 PM

Homecoming Reunion
Friday, October 9, 2015 –
Sunday, October 11, 2015

SAVE THE DATE



THE MEN BEHIND THE Crown MR. LINCOLN PAST & PRESENT

By Dominique Youngblood '15



For most, Historically Black College & University (HBCU) pageants have been about beautiful coeds modeling sequin gowns and swimsuits, answering an issue-oriented question and showcasing their talent, ultimately culminating in a feature in *Ebony* magazine's highly-anticipated 'Campus Queens' issue.



At Lincoln, all that changed nearly 25 years ago with the first Mr. Lincoln, Vaughn Foster '91, crowned in 1991, as well as at other HBCUs, who held pageants to select and formally recognize their campus kings in the same way as their female counterparts.

"Pageantry has no gender," says Frederick V. Roberts, pageant director of the Mr. Collegiate African American Scholarship Pageant (MCAASP) on its website, which added that the early Egyptians used pageantry as a ceremony of ascension and coronation. W. E. B. DuBois also produced the "Star of Egypt" pageant back in the early 50s.

The Mr. Collegiate Pageant was the first of its kind and was established in 1990 to empower Black college men and to counteract the negative imagery of them as perpetuated in the society. Lincoln's second Mr. Lincoln, Charles Clemons '92, was selected as the first Mr. Collegiate at its inaugural pageant in April 1992. Clemons went on to represent the pageant at the Miss Collegiate Black America pageant and was featured in *Ebony Man*, *Black College Today*, *Class* and *Black Excellence* magazines.

That pageant ran from 1992 to 1997 in Texas, and in its absence, the Mr. HBCU Pageant began in 2004. This year, however, the Mr. Collegiate Pageant is set to return April 2-5 in Houston and Prairie View and is being sponsored in conjunction with a National Conference on Black Males set for April 3-4 at Prairie View A&M University. The founders of the pageant have also expanded it to Black men on all college campuses, no longer limiting it to HBCU title holders.

While the acceptance and popularity of male pageantry has increased over the years, Rev. Dr. Foster, now a motivational speaker, counselor and pastor at Christ's Community Church in Steubenville, Ohio, recalls that his reluctance to participate in the first Mr. Lincoln pageant was more so based on his own self-doubt and lack of popularity.

"Unlike the other men I ran against, I was not Greek," Dr. Foster says. "I had no huge support group in the audience."

At the time, the Plainfield, New Jersey native was 23 years old and a member of Lion Media, the Gospel Ensemble and the Militants For Christ, a student Christian fellowship organization as well as worked as Resident Advisor (RA). He had even thought that the latter might cause him to lose support from his freshmen residents because of his strict enforcement of the residence hall rules. But still, after months of praying about it, he decided to do it.

Foster felt there was a void in male leadership on the campus and he thought the Mr. Lincoln title would grant him a leadership role. In addition, he had fallen in love with the idea of being a representative and immediately felt qualified.

"It had always been a struggle," he says. "Most of the people you would look at as leaders (on campus) were women. I had the urge to change that."

Foster, who performed a poetry skit during the pageant, says he was shocked when his title was announced. Since then, he says, the crown has made him more confident and more humble though he does recall a mistake during his first Family & Friends Day at Lincoln, where his nervousness got the best of him.

"I remember using the word *conversate* instead of *converse*," he says. "I was completely embarrassed at the fact that I had made such a sloppy mistake in front of very honorable people such as (actor) Malcolm Jamal Warner's family, the mother of (Rev.) Jessie Jackson, Debbie Turner and (actor) Clifton Davis. That was not acceptable. I was represent(ing) my school, my professors,

and my fellow students. I will never forget how much I beat myself up over that."

For the reigning Mr. Lincoln, Brian Fenderson '15, it was that same desire to lead he says motivated him to enter the pageant. And ironically, he too, says he lacked the confidence and self-esteem at first.



"I never fit the stereotype of one that was worthy of holding a crown," he says. "I was never skinny or tall or attractive to others. I am not an extrovert and I have never been outgoing. I was always just a calm spirit focused on myself and my love for music."

Fenderson, who graduated from Arts High School—the first performing arts school in the country to specialize in vocal music, had performed with its advanced choir and is now a member of Lincoln's celebrated choir. He says it was the previous Mr. Lincoln, Dustin Fowler '14, and another upperclassman, Carlton Wilhoit, III '14, who encouraged him to pursue the crown.

"They saw something in me," Fenderson says. "They saw a leader. They saw business, and they saw humility."

While the Newark, New Jersey native ran unopposed for Mr. Lincoln, his biggest obstacle, he says, was himself.

"Because I was raised by a single mom and my dad was married to someone else, I never felt complete," Fenderson says. "I had several siblings on both sides and I always felt a sense of detachment. God already had it in his plan to remove that feeling when I decided to run for Mr. Lincoln. I swallowed

the millions of doubts I had inside of me and put my all into that pageant."

Now as Mr. Lincoln, he believes he can help restore a culture at Lincoln he feels is changing.


"I refuse to let Lincoln lose the idea of family," he says. "The definition of family is a group of souls who step in to support each other and those same souls are selfless."

He says he feels a warmth in his heart when he is approached by freshmen, who say they want to be an inspiration like him.

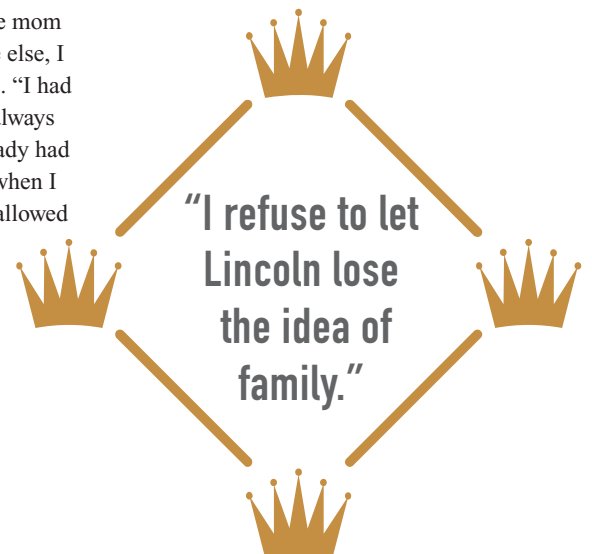
"They are the change we need," says Fenderson, who hopes to help make leaders out of the men from the Class of 2018.

For Foster and Fenderson, who hopes to pursue a career in vocal performance as a well-known musical baritone and travel the world, both agree the pageant has made them better men and better human beings.

"Being in any pageant will highlight your gifts, build your confidence, and give you the ability to see the world as being way bigger than you," Foster says. "I looked out (into the audience) and there were more than just students supporting me. There were faculty and staff supporting me as well. At the second (I held) my crown, I knew I was officially a leader and a trendsetter."

Fenderson, who won second runner-up in the 11th annual Mr. HBCU Pageant in January, making him the very first Mr. Lincoln to place, says: "Pageantry is not always what people make it out to be. It is not meant to flaunt or be flashy. It is to focus on your content, your product, and your soul. It is a reflection of your morals and foundation as a human being." 

(Editor Eric Christopher Webb '91 contributed to this story.)



CALL TO SUMMIT

Alumni Association of Lincoln University
 May 15–17, 2015
 Lincoln University, PA



2nd Annual AALU Alumni Summit and Life Member Banquet Building and Sustaining The AALU As A 21st Century Organization

The purpose of the summit is to bring together ALL alumni from ALL decades to discuss, communicate, collaborate, brainstorm, and share ideas and issues that affect alumni and Lincoln University as a whole. Our mission is to empower attendees with information and tools to help them become better leaders within the AALU, as well as better alumni on behalf of the university and all of its facets. We seek to demystify the process of engaging and sustaining an active alumni base for our alma mater.

TICKETS \$60

Available at
www.aalupa.org/aalu-summit

SUMMIT REGISTRATION FEE \$85

Includes The Life Member Banquet

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY LIFE MEMBER BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY

**ALL LIFE MEMBERS WILL BE
PINNED FOR THEIR DEDICATION
AND SERVICE TO THE AALU**



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OFFICERS 2013 – 2015

Mr. Robert Ingram, '76
President

Mr. Kenny Poole, '73
Vice President

Mr. Darrell Braxton, '92
Treasurer

SPECIAL AWARDEES INCLUDE:

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr. Mack A. Cauthen, '75
Mrs. Karen E. Cauthen, '74

HORACE MANN BOND AWARD

Mr. Gregory C. Miller, '77

JOHN MILLER DICKEY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Ms. Tehma H. Smith, '00

LION LEGACY AWARD

Dr. Thomas O. Mills, '57
Mr. Kwame O. Ulmer, '96

ALUMNI TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

Honorable Cherelle L. Parker, '94

AALU CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Philadelphia Chapter

AALU CHAPTER PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Carol A. Black, '67

ALUMNI FACULTY PERSON OF THE YEAR

Dr. Levi A. Nwachuku, '67

ALUMNI STAFF PERSON OF THE YEAR


Mr. William M. Barber, '74

AALU AWARDS NEED-BASED STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alumni Association of Lincoln University (AALU) recently presented seven Lincoln students with need-based scholarships for the 2015 Spring semester.

The Alumni Association of Lincoln University (AALU) recently presented seven Lincoln students with need-based scholarships for the 2015 Spring semester.

They include: **Raheem Ali** '15, \$500; **Enaisa Bell** '16, \$500; **Saquan Jones** '16, \$500; **Bradley Martin** '16, \$500; **Julisa Pender** '15, \$500; **Derwayne Henry** '16, \$586; and **Brianna Simmons** '16, \$500.

“Though not much in the grand scheme of things, these funds have (made an) impact as they bridge the gap in keeping students in school who’ve demonstrated that they have what it takes to matriculate, graduate and ultimately join us in the ranks of the proud alumni of our august alma mater,” says Robert Ingram '76, national president of the AALU, who also thanks it membership for its generous contributions to the scholarship fund over the last year. 



Chairlady's GARDEN PARTY

 SAVE
THE
DATE



Saturday, June 20, 2015

*The Lincoln University Alumni House Lawn
Time: TBD*

CLASS NOTES

00s

AMBATA POE '09 recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a Ph.D. in Polymer and Organic Chemistry.



CURTIS DURHAM '02 was recognized for the Outstanding Educator – School Administrator award by the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education. At their annual “Celebrating Gifted and Talented Education in Maryland” reception on Wednesday, Feb. 25. As a recipient, Durham, who has been a principal at

Cross Country Elementary/Middle School for five years, was recognized for showing leadership in expanding/improving programs and services for gifted and talented students, allocating resources to expand and improve gifted and talented education programs and services as well as leading the expansion or improvement of parent, community, and/or business partnerships that directly supported the education of gifted and talented students. Durham graduated from Lincoln with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and master’s degree from University of Maryland – Baltimore County (UMBC) in science education. He is currently completing his doctorate in science education at Morgan State University.



KEVAN L. TURMAN '01, MSR '08 & KALISHA Y. TURMAN '02, who met 15 years ago at Lincoln, renewed their vows at the university’s Mary Dod Brown Chapel on Saturday, Jan. 10 in celebration of their 10 year wedding anniversary.

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER T. CURRY '92 of Ezion Fair Baptist Church presided over the service. The couple continued their celebration with Lincoln friends and family at a reception at the International Cultural Center, where the alumni couple had purchased two seats in support of the new building prior to its doors opening in 2009.

90s

INGRID HARRELL '91 was accepted into the Elevate! 12-month growth program for ‘early stage’ businesses. Harrell’s Thickness Tees clothing company was initially created to showcase the beauty, confidence and style of “thick” women. Now, the company celebrates women of any size. The ELevate! program is designed to propel emerging businesses into well-managed, profitable, and sustainable companies. The Enterprise Center brings its expertise in entrepreneurship to early stage businesses to orient ELevate! Entrepreneurs to the principles of sales, marketing, accounting, finance, leadership, planning and relationship-building. For more information, visit: thicknesstees.com

ERIC CHRISTOPHER WEBB '91, *National Black Authors Tour* bestselling author and 2013 Phillis Wheatley Book Award For First Fiction Finalist, has two poems featured in the new anthology, “The Spirit Speaks: A Writers Wordshop Anthology” published by Poem Sugar Press. The collection, which includes his poems, *The Isle of HER* and *Missing & Abducted: The Garvey Protocol Theme*, is available on Amazon.com and communityartsink.org. Webb, who has contributed to numerous other anthologies, is the author of five books, including his critically-acclaimed, debut urban conspiracy novel, “The Garvey Protocol: Inspired By True Events.”

70s



GREGORY C. MILLER '77, former Board of Trustee member, had a chance to meet up with **DR. NOSAKHERE GRIFFIN-EL '05** during a recent vacation in Cape Town, South Africa. The two first met while Dr. Griffin-El was an undergraduate student at

Lincoln serving as president of the Student Government Association (SGA). Currently, he is a professor at the University of Cape Town’s Graduate School of Business while Miller is retired from GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical.

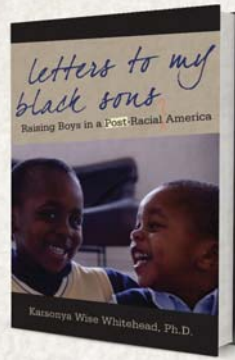
VERNON J. SMITH '73*, was the recipient of the Laurel Highland Council of the Boy Scouts of America’s Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award. The Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award is a national recognition for those individuals and organizations providing exceptional service for disadvantaged youth by developing Scouting and other opportunities in challenging urban and rural areas. Smith has been a volunteer with Boys Scouts of America for almost 20 years.

60s

REV. GEOFFREY BLACK '69 was nominated as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ (UCC) pending approval by the General Synod. Currently, he serves as Conference Minister of the New York Conference and is a member of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Syracuse. Previously, Rev. Black was a program staff member in the UCC’s Office for Church Life and Leadership. During his career, he has served as assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans (N.Y.) Congregational UCC, pastor of Congregational UCC of South Hempstead (N.Y.), lecturer in the Field Education Department of Union Theological Seminary in New York and protestant chaplain at Adelphi University. Rev. Black has also ministered in local UCC congregations for over 15 years and has worked for the Nassau Coalition for Safety and Justice, the Long Island Interracial Alliance for a Common Future, and the Amistad Cultural Center of Long Island, which he co-founded, and Caring Communities of Shaker Heights, Ohio. Rev. Black, who received his B.A. from Lincoln in 1969, earned an M.A.R. from Yale Divinity School in 1972. He and his wife, Patricia, and daughter, Makeda, live in Dewitt, N.Y.

*Did not graduate from university.

LITERARY LINCOLN



LETTERS TO MY BLACK SONS: Raising Boys In A Post-Racial America

By Dr. Karsonya Wise Whitehead '91
Apprentice House
168 pages
\$16.99 paperback; \$3.99 Kindle
ISBN-10: 1627200584
ISBN-13: 978-1627200585
Letters/Non-fiction
apprenticehouse.com

“Dear boys: I found out today that I was going to be a mommy. It took some time for me to believe this because there is nothing that I have done in my life that has prepared me for this moment. I am not sure if I can be the mommy that you deserve to have. How can I mother you when I have not been able to mother myself? How can I give you the tools to survive this brutal world when I have not been able to craft these tools to save myself? How can I stand up for you when my whole life has been spent trying so hard to stand up for myself? I am not perfect. I am flawed. And now, I am pregnant.”

And so begins Dr. Karsonya Wise Whitehead's poignant and heart-wrenching letters to her sons. For 14 years, she has been charting every step of their development, from the womb through their toddler years and now as teenage boys. She has used their lives as a lens through which to examine and deconstruct the world.

From her fears about 9-11 to her conversations with them about the protests in Ferguson, every moment allows the reader to have unique insight into what it means to be a black mother raising black boys in a race-conscious, post-racial America.

Since this is her love for them poured out onto the page, she chose to publish them exactly as they were written—without any edits or corrections. “Letters to My Black Sons” traces her (and her husband's) journey to try and raise happy and healthy black boys in a post-racial America.



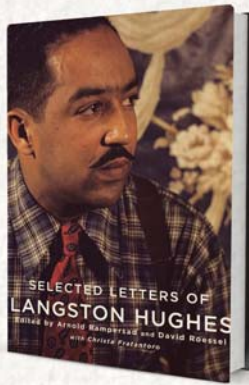
WHAT'S WRONG WITH US?

By Ronald Duane Crawford '89
Imaginar, Inc.
343 pages
\$25.00 paperback; \$12.00 Kindle
ISBN-10: 0982626800
ISBN-13: 978-0982626801
Social Criticism
amazon.com

What if a manuscript that explains scientifically why we lie and others lie to us landed on your desk? How about a work that shows the true faces of jealousy and envy? How would words revealing why and how people judge be received? How much would a text that not only questions and challenges our sense of right and wrong, but also proves that they do not exist be worth? What if a manual addressed understanding every relationship whether at work, home or school? What if a work not only examines why we seek sexual pleasure, but also detailed how to achieve sexual satisfaction. What if a book showed how to control fear through rational thought? What if the same work offered a road map on how to love unconditionally?

“What's Wrong with Us?” is one-stop shopping and by doing all the above. It's “Freakonomics” mixed with the “Autobiography of Malcolm X” and Ghandi stirring the pot. The book presents a study of the complexities of human/animal nature and interaction. Paying special attention to the emotions that might drive certain types of behavior, Ronald Duane Crawford combines personal observation with detailed research. The book also draws upon an understanding of certain political, philosophical, and sociological principles, using a generally straightforward approach in an effort to create a thorough yet accessible overview.

This tell-all makes the reader laugh, cry, and shake their heads at the same time. The manuscript is for those who enjoy provocative writing, sex and shared personal experiences delivered through honest anecdotes. The work also addresses a multitude of current events (homosexuality, race, drugs, relationships, immigration, sex, Iraq, politics, etc). If you are not careful, you may learn a great deal about the human animal's behavior and yourself.



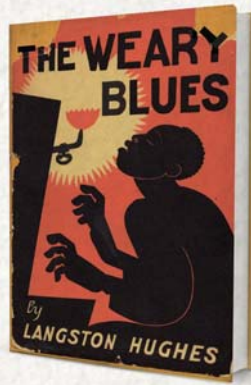
SELECTED LETTERS OF LANGSTON HUGHES

By Langston Hughes '29
Edited by Arnold Rampersad & David Roessel
With Christa Fratantoro
Alfred A. Knopf
442 pages
\$35.00 hardcover; \$18.99 Kindle
ISBN-13: 978-0375413797
ISBN-10: 0375413790
Biography/Literary Criticism
knopfdoubleday.com

This is the first comprehensive selection from the correspondence of the iconic and beloved Langston Hughes, offering a life in letters that showcases his many struggles as well as his memorable achievements.

Arranged by decade and linked by expert commentary, the volume guides us through Hughes's journey in all its aspects: personal, political, practical, and—above all—literary. His letters range from those written to family members, notably his father (who opposed Langston's literary ambitions), and to friends, fellow artists, critics, and readers who sought him out by mail.

These figures include personalities such as Carl Van Vechten, Blanche Knopf, Zora Neale Hurston, Arna Bontemps, Vachel Lindsay, Ezra Pound, Richard Wright, Kurt Weill, Carl Sandburg, Gwendolyn Brooks, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King, Jr., Alice Walker, Amiri Baraka, and Muhammad Ali. The letters tell the story of a determined poet precociously finding his mature voice; struggling to realize his literary goals in an environment generally hostile to blacks; reaching out bravely to the young and challenging them to aspire beyond the bonds of segregation; using his artistic prestige to serve the disenfranchised and the cause of social justice; irrepressibly laughing at the world despite its quirks and humiliations. Venturing bravely on what he called the "big sea" of life, Hughes made his way forward always aware that his only hope of self-fulfillment and a sense of personal integrity lay in diligently pursuing his literary vocation. Hughes's voice in these pages, enhanced by photographs and quotations from his poetry, allows us to know him intimately and gives us an unusually rich picture of this generous, visionary, gratifyingly good man who was also a genius of modern American letters.



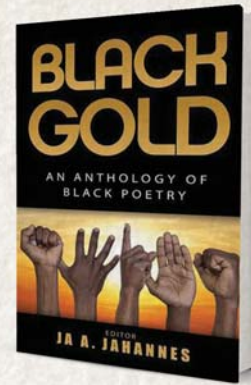
THE WEARY BLUES

By Langston Hughes '29
Alfred A. Knopf
128 pages
\$26.00 hardcover – Deckle Edge
ISBN-13: 978-0385352970
ISBN-10: 0385352972
Poetry
knopfdoubleday.com

Nearly ninety years after its first publication, this celebratory edition of *The Weary Blues* reminds us of the stunning achievement of Langston Hughes, who was just twenty-four at its first appearance. Beginning with the opening "Proem" (prologue poem)—"I am a Negro: / Black as the night is black, / Black like the depths of my Africa"—Hughes spoke directly, intimately, and powerfully of the experiences of African Americans at a time when their voices were newly being heard in our literature.

As the legendary Carl Van Vechten wrote in a brief introduction to the original 1926 edition, "His cabaret songs throb with the true jazz rhythm; his sea-pieces ache with a calm, melancholy lyricism; he cries bitterly from the heart of his race ... Always, however, his stanzas are subjective, personal," and, he concludes, they are the expression of "an essentially sensitive and subtly illusive nature." That illusive nature darts among these early lines and begins to reveal itself, with precocious confidence and clarity.

In a new introduction to the work, the poet and editor Kevin Young suggests that Hughes from this very first moment is "celebrating, critiquing, and completing the American dream," and that he manages to take Walt Whitman's American "I" and write himself into it. We find here not only such classics as "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" and the great twentieth-century anthem that begins "I, too, sing America," but also the poet's shorter lyrics and fancies, which dream just as deeply. "Bring me all of your / Heart melodies," the young Hughes offers, "That I may wrap them / In a blue cloud-cloth / Away from the too-rough fingers / Of the world."



BLACK GOLD An Anthology of Black Poetry

Edited by Dr. Ja A. Jahannes '64
Turner Mayfield Publishing
\$27.00 hardcover
ISBN-10: 0990555119
ISBN-13: 9780990555117
Poetry

"Black Gold," edited by playwright and composer Ja A. Jahannes, is a highly-original anthology of poems. Featuring works by a collective of nearly 100 authors who span multiple generations and represent voices from throughout communities of the African and Latino Diaspora, the contributors include noted veteran authors of the historical Black Arts Movement as Sonia Sanchez, Marvin X, and the late Gil Scott-Heron to such celebrated contemporary voices as those of Evie Shockley, Opal Palmer Adisa, and Aberjhani. Unlike the Norton Anthology Series 2013 offering of *Angles of Ascent*, the *Black Gold* anthology dares to step outside the canon of officially-recognized academic black poets to spotlight individuals who are as unflinching in their bold literary gaze as they are fierce in their passionate dance with language.

With its mixture of multigenerational, gender inclusive, and intercontinental voices, "Black Gold" in some ways accomplishes through poetry what various government, educational, and community institutions have not. That is to say it successfully replicates the principle of unity, or Umoja, which many celebrate on the first day of Kwanzaa (December) and then generally ignore throughout the rest of the year. This should not be taken to mean the poets presented in the book are without their own brand of diversity.

LINCOLN IN THE LENS

BARNES AND BEYOND: IN THE END, TRUTH PREVAILS

Photo: Carl Van Vechten



Journalist and Documentarian Art Fennell delves into the controversial saga surrounding Albert C. Barnes, his priceless art collection, Dr. Horace Mann Bond '23 and Lincoln University

By Eric Christopher Webb '91

For journalist and documentarian Art Fennell, the saga of Albert C. Barnes, including his relationship with Lincoln University and its first African American president Dr. Horace Mann Bond '23 as well as the subsequent controversy surrounding control of Barnes' priceless art collection was a story he could not refuse to explore.

So, three years ago, when the Barnes Foundation approached him about a new documentary offering the foundation's side of the controversial relocation of its priceless art collection from suburban Philadelphia to a downtown museum, he seized upon it. The result is the hour-long film, *Barnes and Beyond: In the End, Truth Prevails*, a response to the 2009 documentary *The Art of The Steal*, which argued Barnes' intent for his collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces was violated by later generations of the foundation's board, Philadelphia politicians, the Pew Trust and Annenberg Foundation.

"They (the Barnes Foundation) contacted me and they said that they felt it was time for their side of the story to get out and they wanted a journalist to comb through the facts and present a clear retelling," he says.

"...I think it's one of the great stories in Philadelphia. Has been and continues to be. I was excited about the opportunity."

In January, the Barnes Foundation hosted a premiere of its commissioned documentary, which included a question and answer session featuring the documentarian and current Barnes board members. The university even sponsored a bus for administration, faculty, staff and students to attend.

To date, distribution plans for the documentary is unclear, but Fennell says the Barnes Foundation has had conversations with PBS and already has relationships with HBO. In addition, he believes the documentary may be represented at various upcoming film festivals as well.

"People are receiving the documentary extremely well and the overwhelming theme for people is that this clears up some misconceptions prior to the screening (as far as) what really happened between the Barnes Foundation and the Friends of the Barnes (Foundation), the mediation process between the Lincoln Board (of Trustees) and the Barnes (Foundation) board," Fennell said. "They went through a lengthy period of

intense mediation. There are a lot of different facets to this saga."

He added that another misconception, which he says is contradicted, that Lincoln failed to benefit from the change in board structure and art collection's move when former University president Ivory V. Nelson points to the additional state funding for new construction and campus wide improvements, ultimately transforming the now 161-year-old campus.

Still, not all have been swayed by news of the new documentary or its goal.

According to published reports, a longtime member of Friends of the Barnes Foundation – the advocacy group who opposed the collection's move and connected to the *Art of the Steal* documentary, scoffed at its premise.

Fennell, however, contends that all sides were given their say.

"We interviewed a great number of people on all sides – some are represented in the documentary while others were for background," he said. "It was important to me as a director of the film and as a journalist that we get it right." **L**

DAVID T. HAINES '93 IS IN FOCUS

By Eric Christopher Webb '91

Some may be seeing double, but David T. Haines '93 is in focus.



Haines, who broke into the acting world as a photo double for actor and entertainer, Will Smith, a fellow Philadelphian, is featured in Smith's highly-anticipated new movie, *Focus*.

Focus is about veteran con man Nicky (Smith) and where a woman from his past, now an accomplished femme fatale, shows up in the midst of his latest scheme and throws his plans for a loop. Haines plays Tommy, a member of Nicky's crew. In the scene, he is the lookout guy as Margot Robbie's character, Jess, is being initiated into the con crew.

"I have been acting for over 20 years and I've had the pleasure to work with Will Smith for 18 years now," says Haines, who got his break after missing a radio contest casting call for a Will Smith photo double for the movie, *Enemy of the State*, but called the casting director and left a bold message.

That message said: "I know you think you found the guy, but that's the wrong guy. I'm the one you are looking for, call me in the morning, and let me know what time I need to be to work."

At the time, Haines was attending graduate school at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Haines says the casting director called him back laughing hysterically and said: "I don't know if you are or not, but I need to meet you!" So, they met at her office and she took him to the set to see if he fit, but as soon as they walked in, the assistant director walked up and said they needed the photo double right then. The quick-witted casting

director turned to Haines and said, "here he is!"

And the rest is history.

Since relocating to Los Angeles in 1998, Haines has acted in films such as *Ali*, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, *Seven Pounds*, *Streets*, *Anything is Possible* and *American Justice*.

His first acting role was as a student at Lincoln University in the play, *Raisin In The Sun*, in which he played the role of Walter Lee Younger.



"Acting is my true passion and that expression of ART makes me feel alive," says Haines, who gratefully credits Smith's mentorship and friendship. "Will has been a mentor and a true friend to me. Along my journey with (him), I have been blessed to learn so much from him. (And) working on Blockbuster movies for the past 18 years, I have also discovered a strong interest for producing."

The SAG-AFTRA member has also produced music videos and films, such as *The Abduction of Jesse Bookman*, which won the ABFF's (*American Black Film Festival*) Grand Jury Prize. He was also executive producer for the documentary, *Tyson*, that was a "Festival de Cannes-winner-knockout prize-un certain regard" and an official selection at the *Sundance Film Festival 2009*. In addition, he has produced the Latino-themed films, *Scavengers* and *Gone Hollywood*, which was also released on DVD.

Haines, a father of three daughters, is engaged to Denmark-born fashion designer, Nathanaelle Hottois, who together own the company, Nathanaelle Couture. His oldest daughter, 18-year-old Egypt is pursuing music, Amira, 7, is an aspiring fashion designer, who has already presented a collection at LA Fashion Week under the mentoring Haines' fiancé, and two-year-old Daniela, whose creative personality is blossoming.

Currently, he is filming, *Her Little Secret* in Philadelphia, starring Haines, Diana Lovell and Taysha Brinson. However, Haines is somewhat closed-mouth about another upcoming project in which he will not only star, but is also writing and producing.

"I am very excited about this project as I am pouring into it a profound part of myself," he says. "I can't say too much about it at this point, but stay tuned for this amazing story to come." **L**

LIONS AT REST

Ms. Katheryn C. Allen
mother of Crystal K. Allen '92
ex-mother-in-law of
Eric Christopher Webb '91

Dr. William M. Bridgeford, Jr. '50

Dr. Vincent Bridgewater '64

Mrs. Callister Dailey
mother of Nanote Dailey '92

Ms. Alexis McKinney-Echols '76

Mrs. Janie Marie Hall
mother of Janie Hall '91

Mr. Ronald Jones
nephew of Leona Williams,
Compliance Officer
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Compiled by Carl Vulcain '14 & Eric Christopher Webb '91

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WHERE BEING **THE FIRST** MATTERS



Left: Judge Herbert Millen, '10, vice president of the Board of Trustees, congratulates Mrs. Ruth Fales at commencement.



Right: A 1962 Lincoln University yearbook photo of the Women Students Association. Pictured from left to right: T. Vakos, K. Suthern, C. Freedlove, P. Redd, V. Jones, M. Rivero, P. Mitchell, D. Wheeler, M. Walls, E. Burrs

Today, Lincoln women are a welcomed and critical part of the Lincoln University student body, currently holding all the principal posts in the Student Government Association, but the history of coeducation at the once all-male institution tells another somewhat sketchy tale of omission, contention and discrimination.

While the university graduated its first woman, Mrs. Ruth Fales in 1953, the widow of Dr. Walter Fales, who had been a professor of philosophy at the university, and its first African American woman, Mrs. Gladys W. Walls in 1955, it was not until early to mid-1960s that coeducation truly became a reality. Sadly, the 1953 Lincoln yearbook didn't mention Fales' distinction or include her class photo, while a 1955 yearbook copy was unavailable to determine if Walls was mentioned.

During those early years, the coeds, who were referred to as "day students" despite the fact most were full time students, required to attend evening assemblies and paid room and board fees, were forced to reside at faculty homes and in the homes of families in the Lincoln University area.

In the fall of 1965, nearly 50 years ago, the first women's residence hall was established, Alumni House. That

building had previously been used as a faculty residence, guest house and special meetings venue.

"These (earlier female) students were handicapped in comparison to the coeds at the Alumni House," wrote then-former student Veronica Jones Bufford in a letter-to-the-editor responding to a Lincoln Bulletin article, entitled, "Tradition Topples," which had criticized Lincoln's coeducation. "Some of them had to walk up a main highway, travelled by massive trucks and tractor trailers, without pedestrian walks. They had to persevere during heavy snow storms and rain, and they had to make their way around and through campus without the new 140 light posts."

*Two years later, Lucy Laney Hall, the first official women's residence hall, was completed and opened. The building was named after the founder of Georgia's Haines Institute. Laney had also been a recipient of an honorary degree from the Lincoln in 1901. **L***