

Special Thanks & Recognitions

This conference would not have been possible without the support of the following individuals and organizations:

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Leonard Harris
Joseph Osei
Gregory Rich
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Tanya Williams, Executive Assistant
and

ALL OF OUR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Thank you for your time and dedication!



Philosophy Born of Struggle XVI



Sixteenth Annual Conference
*Theme: Race, Religion, and
Social Transformation*

October 23 - 24, 2009
Fayetteville State University
&
**Fayetteville Technical
Community College**

Keynote Speaker:
John McClendon, III

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Philosophy Born of Struggle

Philosophers: Past & Present

1994.....

Sharna Gilbert Thomas Slaughter
Howard McGary J. Everet Green
Leonard Harris Lucius Outlaw
Blanche Radford-Curry Patricia Williams
Garth Baker  Peggy Davis
William Jones Marshanda Smith Frank Kirkland
Linda Cornish John McClendon III

.....2008

"If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation...want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightening. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.... Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." Frederick Douglass, 1857



ABOUT FSU

Chancellor: James A. Anderson

Fayetteville State University is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina and the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state. Founded in 1867 as the Howard School for the education of African Americans, FSU today serves a growing student body of nearly 6,000 and

ranks among the nation's most diverse campus communities. In addition, there are new graduate programs that offer the master's of arts in teaching and the master's of science in criminal justice. Altogether FSU boasts 43 undergraduate programs, 23 master's degree programs, and one doctoral program in educational leadership. These programs vary in areas of the arts and sciences, business and economics, and education.

ABOUT FTCC

President: J. Larry Keen

Fayetteville Technical Community College provides affordable vocational-technical, general education, college transfer, and continuing education programs, which meet the needs and desires of its students and community. FTCC provides instruction in the basic life skills needed to contribute effectively to society. From its beginning in 1961 to the present, FTCC has received funding for building projects and introduction of technology that will aid in the success of their students.



ABOUT FAYETTEVILLE, NC

The Fayetteville area is rich in history and culture. From touring unique buildings and homes on the National Register of Historic Places to visiting Fort Bragg, the country's largest military installation, or playing golf on one of our twenty courses.

Fayetteville is located in the scenic Cape Fear River Valley of North Carolina, between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. Centrally located just off I-95, Fayetteville is exactly halfway between New York and Florida.

Residents of Fayetteville enjoy mild temperatures, four distinct seasons, a low cost of living, and easy access to beautiful Carolina beaches.



WELCOME

FSU Philosophy Born of Struggle Planning Committee

Welcome to Fayetteville State University and the 16th Annual Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference (PBOS). As the first State University in North Carolina and one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country, FSU is extremely honored to host this first PBOS in the South.

Judging from our Conference theme, the panels, plus the quality and diversity of presenters we have assembled, you can be sure that this Conference is going to be intellectually rewarding and socially beneficial as we critically examine obstacles to our progress, the most effective values and strategies for improving the educational as well as the socio-economic opportunities of Blacks and all other struggling people within the context of globalization.

It is therefore our privilege to welcome Dr. J. Everet Green and Dr. Leonard Harris and to thank them for their foundational ideas that have sustained PBOS at this level. We also take this opportunity to welcome our distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. John McClendon, III.

As the founding members and the senior members will acknowledge, it has not been easy taking the PBOS on its historic journey to date. Accordingly, we would like to congratulate PBOS for realizing and progressing it to the 16th Annual Conference and for exceeding all expectations in projecting Black Philosophy into mainstream philosophical discourse, and for implementing it in more institutions of higher education.

A schedule of events for Friday, October 25th, and Saturday October 26th has been included in the Program for your convenience. We have also made suggestions for places for dining, shopping or visiting in the Greater Fayetteville Area with maps to guide you. Campus maps for both FSU and FTCC have also been attached for your convenience.

For further assistance we encourage you to ask any members of the Planning Committee, FSU/FTCC Faculty and staff as well as our volunteer students from the FSU Chapter of the Africa Caribbean Students Organization, (ACSA), FSU National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and FTCC Student Ambassadors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Blanche Radford-Curry, Planning Committee Chair
Dr. Gregory Rich, Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Program Coordinator,
Dr. Gregory Sadler, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Dr. Joseph Osei, Associate Professor of Philosophy & Religion

WELCOME

Dr. Blanche Radford-Curry, Professor of Philosophy and
Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

This year marks the 16th anniversary of the Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference. It is also remarkable for being not only the first PBOS Conference held in the South, but also the first ever PBOS Conference held with the first African American President and First Lady in the White House.

To match these milestones in our history, we have assembled for this Conference, some of the best minds in the field of African American Philosophy, African Studies, and cognate fields under the theme: **RACE, RELIGION, and SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**. It is our hope that the presentations as well as our deliberations will build on the foundational vision of Dr. J. Everet Green and the reality articulated by Dr. Leonard Harris that African American Philosophical traditions were essentially “Born of Struggle,” and elevate them to the next level of development.

This great hope is reflected in the structure, intellectual depth, and diversity of the Conference Panels: (1) Identity and Social Transformation (2) Religion and Social Transformation (3) Ethics and Social Transformation, and (4) Politics and Social Transformation. Leading us in deliberating these issues, we have besides Dr. William Jones a variety of engaging philosophers, theologians, and other scholars esteemed in their respective fields. It is our pleasure therefore to invite all of you to join our forums and panels as we once again continue our struggle toward a Philosophy of Liberation.

On behalf of the Office of the Provost, College of Arts and Sciences, the Philosophy Program, the and the Department of Government and History at Fayetteville State University, we welcome you to the 16th Annual Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference.

Sincerely,
Blanche



ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Philosophy Born of Struggle Online

www.pbos.com

"Philosophic texts, if products of social groups doggedly fighting to survive, are texts born of struggle." Leonard Harris, 1983

"...philosophic texts by Afro-Americans, taken as a group, attest ...to ways of explaining and interpreting the way the world is despite a hostile environment of veiled contempt." Leonard Harris, 1983

Fayetteville State University College of Arts and Sciences
www.unctsu.edu/cas

Fayetteville State University Department of Government and History
www.unctsu.edu/ghp/

Fayetteville State University Philosophy Program
www.unctsu.edu/ghp/philosophy.htm

Fayetteville Technical Community College
www.faytechcc.edu/

Comfort Inn
1922 Skibo Road
Fayetteville, NC, 28314, 910-867-1777

Congratulations to Joseph Osei

The Challenge of Sustaining Emergent Democracies: Insights for Religious Intellectuals and Leaders of Civil Society. Xlibris Press, 2009



Keynote Speaker:
John McClendon, III

Dr. John H. McClendon III, is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Michigan State University and former Director of African American

Studies. He holds a Bachelors degree in Black Studies and Political Science from Central State University and the MA and doctorate in philosophy from the University of Kansas. McClendon has taught at State University of New York at Binghamton, University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana, Eastern Illinois University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Bates College. McClendon’s areas of expertise include African philosophy, Philosophy of African American Studies, Marxist philosophy, and the history of African American philosophers.

He is the author of C.L.R. James’s *Notes on Dialectics: Left Hegelianism or Marxism-Leninism* (Lexington Books 2005) and several monographs, reports, booklets and articles in noted anthologies. He has published widely in a number of journals including *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, *Socialism and Democracy*, *The AME Church Review*, *Explorations in Ethnic Studies*, *Sage Race Relations Abstracts*, *Freedomways*, *American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Philosophy and the Black Experience*, and *Ethnic Studies Review* among others. He is currently the Editor of the *American Philosophical Association Newsletter Philosophy and the Black Experience*, he serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal *Cultural Logic*. He also is an Ex Officio Member of the Committee on Blacks in Philosophy—American Philosophical Association. McClendon has lectured widely throughout the country and abroad including in Toulouse, France and at the University of Havana in Cuba. Most recently this year, he was the keynote speaker for Black History Month at Mississippi State University, the Charles Phelps Taft lecturer for the 35th anniversary of the African-American Studies Department at the University of Cincinnati and served as a faculty member for the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute.



Friday, October 23, 2009
Shaw Auditorium – SBE Building
Fayetteville State University
1200 Murchison Rd.
Fayetteville, NC 28301

8:15 AM Registration – FSU - African-Caribbean Students Association
FSU - National Council of Negro Women

9:00AM - 9:50 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Jon Young, Fayetteville State University Provost
- J. Everet Green, The New School/Purchase College, Philosophy
- Leonard Harris, Purdue University, Philosophy
- Blanche Radford-Curry, Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

10:00AM - 10:50 AM Ethics and Social Transformation

Chair: Michelle Darnell, Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

Joseph Osei, “United Methodist Women and Social Transformation: Is Talking to the Enemy Careless Ethics or Care Ethics?” Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

Richard Hall, “Samuel Hopkins and Slavery,” Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

11:00AM - 12:00PM Keynote Address

Chair: Stanley Johnson, Fayetteville State University, History

John H. McClendon, III, “Plummeting from Paradise to Plantation: A God Centered Philosophy of History and the African American Experience,” Michigan State University, Former Director of the African American and African Studies Program

12:00PM - 12:50 PM Lunch

1:00PM - 1:50 PM Politics and Social Transformation

Chair: Thomas Hennessey, Fayetteville State University, History

Zay Green, “The Power and the Glory: Christianity and the Perpetuation of the Caste System in America,” *Humanitas* Independent Scholar

Douglas Ficek, "The Pitfalls of Petrification: Fanon and the Politics of Philosophical Archaeology," John Jay College, Criminal Justice

2:00PM - 2:50 PM Politics and Social Transformation II
Chair: Blanche Radford-Curry, Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

William R. Jones, "Race, Religion, and Social Transformation" Florida State University, Professor Emeritus and Former Director of African American Studies

3:00PM - 3:50 PM Identity and Politics
Chair: Kelli Cardenas Walsh, Fayetteville State University, History

Micki Nyman, "Gateways of Difference in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Jamaica Kincaid's *Annie John*," Fayetteville State University, English

Shannon Gibson, "Empowering African Americans: Politics or Economics?" Fayetteville State University Philosophy Student

10:00AM -10:50 AM Identity and Social Transformation
Chair: Ella Keller, Fayetteville State University, Sociology

Tommy J. Curry, "Birthed from Africa: The Role of African Civilization in the Reclamation of Racial Spirit," Penn State University

Steven Ferguson II, "Hurricane Katrina Postmortem: Issues of Theodicy, Divine Racism, and Bourgeois Hegemony, a Materialist Philosophical Perspective," North Carolina A&T University, Liberal Arts

11:00AM - 11:50 AM Religion and Social Transformation
Chair: Bradley Kadel, Fayetteville State University, History

Gregory Rich, "Religion in The Secret Life of Bees," Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

Greg Moses, "Jesus as a Race Leader," St. Edwards University

12:00PM - 1:30 PM Lunch

1:45PM-2:35 PM Ethics and Social Transformation II
Chair: Linda Tomlinson, Fayetteville State University, History

Tom Smythe, "Advocating the Moral Point of View," North Carolina Central University, Philosophy

Gregory Sadler, "By the Content of their Character: Christian Love and Virtue Ethics in Martin Luther King's Writings," Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

2:45PM-4:45 PM Wrap-Up Session
Chair: Blanche Radford-Curry, Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

William R. Jones, Florida State University, Professor Emeritus and Former Director of African American Studies,

J. Everet Green, The New School/Purchase College, Philosophy

Leonard Harris, Purdue University, Philosophy

Saturday, October 24, 2009
Multi-Purpose Room – Tony Rand Student Center
Fayetteville Technical Community College
2201 Hull Road
Fayetteville, NC 28303

9:30AM - 9:50 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Barbara Tansey, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Vice President of Academics and Student Services
- Blanche Radford-Curry, Fayetteville State University, Philosophy

