THE HAITIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Haitian Studies Association (HSA) is a tax-exempt educational organization. HSA promotes research on Haiti and Haitians, identifies and disseminates information on Haiti, and has an international network of competent experts to address Haitian issues, both from disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. HSA serves as a resource for various institutions and policy makers in and out of Haiti, encourages discussion and debate on all aspects of Haitian society in Haiti and in the diaspora. HSA seeks to foster linkages and working relationships with educational, research, and civic institutions in Haiti.

Membership in the association is open to all persons interested in advancing its goals and objectives, regardless of ideological persuasion, ethnic origin, occupation, residence, gender, or academic discipline. HSA is led by a Steering Committee which is responsible for establishing the organizations' policies and orientation.

Steering Committee:
Carole Berotte Joseph, President
Robert Fatton Jr., Vice-President
Anthony V. Catene, Treasurer
Carrol F. Coates, Secretary
Marc Prou
Edwidge Balthancy
Eddy Bayardelle
Rose-Marie Chierici
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Florence Etienne Sergile

H.S.A. Student Caucus Representatives:
Sophia Cantave and Charlene Desir

Alix Cantave, past-Director
Leslie Desmangles, past-President
Marc Prou, Executive Director

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the new Executive Director for H.S.A. Many of you have known and worked with me while I served on the Steering Committee. As one of the founding members, I am very excited by the opportunity to direct my energies and commitment toward the future of H.S.A and its mission. I am grateful to the Board and the staff at H.S.A for their confidence in me.

Having worked at UMass Boston over the years, and served on the H.S.A Board of Directors, I know the excellence with which this organization carries out its mission. As I move into the position of Executive Director, I join a highly knowledgeable, dedicated and dynamic staff. I look forward to working with them as we address the many tasks of administering the H.S.A office and daily activities, and move H.S.A into the future.

Also, at this time of transition, I recognize the great skill and leadership with which my predecessor, Alix Cantave, directed this organization. I hope to carry on this tradition as I follow him into this position. I also need to recognize and thank Dr. Carole Berotte-Joseph, President of the Board and Dr. Leslie Desmangles, past-President, for the invaluable help and support they provided me while I began making this transition.

Finally, I look forward to working with all of you and thank you for your continued support as we address the many challenges facing H.S.A— as well as Haitianists— to foster linkages and working relationships with educational, research, and civic institutions at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc Prou
Executive Director

Below, Session during Atlanta 1999 Conference
Call for Papers
Twelfth Annual Conference

October 26-28, 2000
Crowne Plaza Hotel
West Palm Beach, Florida

Theme:

The conference explores many of the educational issues and challenges affecting the Haitian society and the Haitian diaspora. These issues include, but are not limited to, formal learning, education and development, health, civic education and governance as well as the role of education in the process of economic and political reconstruction. Effective practices, at all levels from early childhood to post-graduate work, will be discussed and disseminated.

The conference further calls for Haitianists and other scholars to explore the role of education in Haitian social reconstruction and in the process of establishing democratic governance. Especially, we welcome papers and panel proposals that examine the broader role education plays in Haitian society and diasporic communities. Examples might include:

- Education and development
- Formal and informal learning
- Immigration and education
- Language and education
- Technical education
- Health and education
- Politics and education
- Education in the formation of identity
- Education and cultural preservation
- Education in a global political-economy
- Education in the scientific, information, and telecommunication age
- Culture, religious beliefs and their effects the learning styles of Haitians.

If submitting a panel proposal, you must include a title for each paper within that panel. In addition, panels should include no more than 3 papers and a chair/discussant. Roundtable proposals should include no more than 4 participants plus a chair/moderator. When submitting any type of proposal, it is essential that the contact information be listed for all those designated in the proposal. All program participants must register for the conference. Pre-registration will begin in July. Only members of the HSA are admitted at the conference, but we encourage your enrollment. To be considered, proposals must be postmarked by May 15, 2000. Please mail or e-mail your proposals to HSA.

Thanks to members of HSA who have expressed interest in hosting the Annual Conference of 2001 and/or 2002. Place and date to be determined in Florida! Please bring a draft proposal in West Palm Beach for discussion.

Transportation: Directions and maps will be sent with registration materials. Delta Airlines, as the official airlines for HSA, is offering a discount rate. Call Delta Meeting Network Reservations at 1-800-241-6760 weekdays 7:30 am-11:00 pm or weekends 8:30 am-11:00 pm EST. Have your travel agent refer to File Number DMN161097A.

Accommodations: A limited number of rooms have been set aside at the hotel located at 1601 Belvedere Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Tel: 561/689-6400, Fax: 561/683-7150. For reservations, call 1-800-2CROWNE. Identify yourself as a participant in the HSA conference. Rate: $69.00 per night for standard/deluxe (double or single) or $84.00 per night for suite (multiple occupancies). Complimentary transportation is available to and from the Airport.

Send in your registration early.

NOTES to MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership in order to receive the new membership card, which will be issued shortly in addition to other pertinent literature from the Association. Following an audit of our files, our records indicate that in 1998, checks were not deposited for a few members who paid their membership dues and conference fees. These members have received a letter to that effect with a copy of the check in question. Please issue a new check right away in order to close the books and balance our budget. Thanks for your understanding.

Members should support the JOHS by subscribing and encouraging their institutions to subscribe in order to help defray the cost of printing. See page 5 for information.

We are launching an aggressive membership drive. Please help us recruit by recommending or forwarding the names, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail of potential individuals to the HSA office and we will contact them so they can join the Association.

Information is currently being collected for an updated edition of the Directory of Haitians 2000, which was completed in 1994. Please fill out the necessary information in order to help us update our data.
Cultural Connections
by Barbara Nesin, Fort Collins, Colorado

Haitian culture is above all an infusion of influences from within and from outside of Haiti. Haitians of every generation have adapted, adopted, and reinvented the flavors and forms brought by Africans, native Antillean, North and South Americans, and Europeans, to name but a few. This column will invite contributions from Haitians living everywhere who have melded cultural forms ranging from food to art as a means of savoring the richness of Ayiti Cherie.

To begin, this first column will respond to a craving for "Peas and Rice" recently expressed by the editor of this newsletter, an American who has devoted much energy and talent to Haitian culture. Talking with her about her memory of this dish, I discovered that it matched my own memory of the dish I know as Pois Congo, a name that honors our African roots. I first enjoyed Pois Congo in the mountains of LaBoule, and have ever since experimented with trying to recreate it. In gratitude for Lear's many gifts to Haitian culture, I offer my version.

1 small onion, chopped
4 cups water
2 cups long grain rice
1 pound dried pigeon peas
soaked overnight; drained
2 Tablespoons butter
½ tsp. Thyme (or 1 fresh sprig)
1 tsp. Each salt and black pepper
1 bay leaf
2 cloves garlic, minced

In a large pot, melt the butter and sauté the onion and garlic over low heat until soft. Add water, thyme, bay leaf, salt and pepper, and bring to a boil over high heat. Add the soaked, drained peas and stir well. Bring back to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer, covered, for 45 minutes, or until the water has been absorbed and the peas are tender.

The classic Haitian cookbook, _Recettes Simples de la Cuisine Haïtienne_ by Mrs. Niniche Gaillard, calls for the addition of a slice of jouroumou (butternut squash), which is cooked and mashed, then mixed to cook with the peas.

Bon appetit!
Tomorrow’s Haitianists:

Who, what, where?

Nadège Clitandre is a Haitian-American Honors student dedicated to scholarly research in Haitian literature. She received her Bachelor’s degree at Hampton University, and recently completed her Masters at the University of Chicago. The following excerpt is taken from her Masters thesis paper, which will be presented at HSA’s annual conference in Florida. Nadège Clitandre is a new member of the Haitian Studies Association and is currently a research associate for the organization. She is also taking an advance course with the Kreyol Language Institute program, and will be participating in this year’s Haiti Today Program. Nadège Clitandre will enter into a PH.D program of her choice in the fall of 2001.

Reframing Haitian Literature Transnationally: Identifying New and Revised Tropes of Haitian Identity in Edwidge Danticat’s Breath, Eves, Memory

Haitian Literature has always been a committed literature. Its commitment is twofold: on the one hand the writer assumes the duty of defending his country which has always been systematically vilified and ridiculed by foreign visitors, journalists, and filmmakers, and on the other, he denounces without indulgence, the flaws which lay Haitian society all too open to those attacks. Until recently, the novelist expressed his commitment with total directness: he did not hesitate to interrupt the progress of the action in order to interject directly or through a protagonist, a detailed criticism of the mentality of his fellow citizens, of the general situation of the country, or of one or another social injustices that he found particularly intolerable. He did not hesitate to integrate harangues, diatribes, pleadings, and denunciations, even political essays in the fiction.

Leon-Francois Hoffman, Haitian Literature in the past 10 Years

We must now pay attention to the entrance upon the Haitian Stage of a new political and social actors who are no longer writers or intellectuals in the traditional mold. These new people identify themselves neither with the old will to identity nor with Marxist principles. Identity and solidarity are hewing out other forms of expression for themselves now.

Yanick Lahens, Haitian Literature after Duvalier: An Interview with Yanick Lahens

I. Introduction: Articulating the Dual Topoi of Haitian Literary Practices

The sociological and political imperatives informing Haitian literature since Haiti’s formation as a nation-state after its independence in 1804 have tended to limit Haitian writers to the public and ideological spaces of literary discursive practices and have positioned at the periphery, if not made invisible, narratives of the personal and lived experiences of Haitian individuals. Hoffman, in the above, suggests that Haitian writers and intellectuals were almost always perceived in their relationship to a committed literature, one that interpellates individuals within two problematic categories of subjecthood, citizen-subjects and non-national subjects. This committed literature maintained a key role in overcoming a continuous tendency by outsiders (i.e., those in the United States) to sensationalize and stereotype Haitians through various images of seductive or repulsive and rebellious black (female) bodies. Such public, nationalist literary narratives privilege not only the generic masculine writer and the male protagonist in the literature, but also the author-subject’s theoretical, philosophical and political position. The second quote in my thesis's epigraph, taken from an interview with Haitian literary critic Yanick Lahens, presents a new wave of Haitian writers who are calling for various forms of literary expression that eschew an “old will to identity.” Lahens asserts that these writers are embracing unrestricted artistic (literary) expressions that allow room for complex issues that move beyond what Michael Dash describes as a nation's attempt to define itself within a traumatic relationship with the north. These two quotations are connected by the Haitian writer's incessant concern and confrontation with the question of Haitian identity and literary expression within the larger social and political context of Haitian society and its people. Moreover, these two quotes also reveal the ways in which Haitian literature and its writers are examined under reductive and binary approaches. While Hoffman's discussion reduces Haitian writers to one category of expression, Layens' assertion of a new literature implies an opposition to the traditional modes of literature as well as an erasure of
nationalist tendencies and its associated ideologies and rhetorical strategies.

Certainly, the overwhelming imposition of Haitian politics and ideology on Haitian literature cannot be contested. From the indégeniste movement (associated with Jean Price-Mars) in the early 1900's, to Negritude and Marxism (associated with Jacques Roumain) in the 1930's, and to Duvalierism (associated with Jean-Claude Duvalier) in the 70's, a committed literature was indeed privileged over any other forms of literary expression in Haiti. Seeking to define Haitian identity nationally, writers and intellectuals asserted the political and social ideologies of the moment. Specifically, while asserting strong political arguments and positions in their works, novelists were recognized for creating protagonists who represent ideal national subjects and other characters who signify the devastating consequences of those who don’t.

Interestingly, the intricacies of exile and emigration during and after the Duvalier regime, which ended in 1986, as well as the urge to redefine Haitian identity within a developing global and transnational society, have now created a recognizable space from which to convey the complexities of Haitian individual lives and identities within larger social concerns; a literary space which, in effect, allows writers to center their attention on new, experimental, and dynamic literature. Thus, Lahens is certainly right in introducing a shift in Haitian literary discursive practices, in introducing new writers who do not fall in this traditional mold. Yet, at stake in my thesis essay is the necessity of allowing unrestricted forms of literary expression and new modes of analysis and criticism to surface within Haiti’s transnational situation (i.e., Haiti’s diasporic communities outside of the land, its relationship with other communities in the Caribbean, and in “Third World: nations) while acknowledging not only the social imperatives that continue to produce nationalist narratives, but also the continuous use of traditional strategies and rhetoric.

The larger aim of my thesis essay is to present Haitian literature today as not one that is divided between the two binaries Hoffman and Lahens describe, but instead, as one that blurs the two as it oscillates between new and conventional modes of presenting Haitian identity. One of the major questions my paper aims to answer is how are migratory movements’ today informing transnational subjects who must face their contradictions. My thesis also raises the question: how does the ideal of nationhood act as an instrument of sexual oppression and gendered identity formation? It is the immediate task of my thesis essay to explore how an exemplary narrative of the personal and quotidian experiences of Haitian women’s lives presents a critique of nationhood as it focuses on the complexities of gender and sexuality in various constructions of national subjects.

My thesis provides a critical analysis of Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat's first novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, a highly acclaimed novel (in both the U.S. and in Haiti) published in 1995, nine years after the end of the twenty-nine year Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti, a xenophobic reign, which had silenced its writers or forced them into exile if they did not comply with its rigid nationalist ideal or governmental rules and policies. In examining the novel's narrative techniques, themes, and literary formula, I believe that the ensuing discussion will support the argument that Haitian writers today call into question traditional public and ideological spaces of Haitian literary practices while negotiating between established and new literary strategies and forms of expression. In calling into question conventional spaces, they are also revising, in their narratives, literary strategies that have been geared towards the production of both a national consciousness and an essentialized homogenized Haitian identity.

While such practices are not exclusive to Haitian women's literature, my thesis paper further suggests that Haitian women writers, in their acknowledgement of the problems of nationalist discourse, articulate the complex and oppressive realities of Haitian society through narratives of the personal and day-to-day lived experiences of Haitian individuals. Furthermore, they use these narratives as literary mediums wherein Haitian women's own gendered and historical specificities and concerns are not subverted or distorted by nationalist discourses, but attended to head on. It should be noted that women were writing personal narratives at the time public nationalist literary narratives were flooding the literary market. Yet, it was not until the now recognized and rediscovered works of Marie Chauvet did people come to the realization that there were women writers who spoke of significant issues and that their use of personal narrative structures to explore the psychological self (the "I" not in opposition to the "we," but distinct form it) were worth investigating. *Breath, Eyes, Memory* is exemplary of the ways in which Haitian women writers use personal narratives to develop the intimate and private spaces of the body and psyche as expressions that not only complicate and problematize traditional nationalist discourse, but also revise literary themes and pertinent issues that have been isolated within a masculine expression and explored through male lenses.

In this volume, a new feature is being introduced. This new rubric titled: **Tomorrow's Haitianists: Who, What, Where?** will be dedicated to a young scholar's Masters or Doctoral Thesis focusing on any aspect of Haitian studies. Please identify and send us your information on future scholars/Haitianists.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Promotions

Dr. Carole Berotte-Joseph has been promoted to Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Maria Eugenia Hostos Community College in New York. Congratulations!

Alix Cantave, former Executive Secretary and a founding member of HSA, has accepted a new position as Program Officer at LICSC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation). We wish him success in his new position.

Announcements

Haitian Creole Institute at UMASS/Boston:
The Haitian Language & Culture Institute will offer a four-week intensive program in three different levels of Haitian Creole to be held from Monday, June 26 through July 20, 2000 at the University of Massachusetts, Boston Campus. The Haitian Creole Summer Institute has been offered in Massachusetts for the past fifteen years. Since the summer of 1995, the Institute has been conducted at the Harbor Campus of UMass Boston under the joint collaboration of the Africanas Studies Department, the Haitian Studies Project, and the Division of Continuing Education. This year, the Creole Institute will have three components. There will be a four-week intensive program in different levels of Haitian Creole. Also offered is a course in Techniques of Haitian Creole Translation for advanced students. In addition to class work, all courses make use of a language laboratory and cultural activities to enhance the study of the language.

Haiti Today: Culture and Politics at CUC/UMB:
This program will take place at the L'Universite Caraibes in Montrouis from July 24 through August 14, 2000. The program will explore the history, politics, culture and economy of Haiti from both an external and internal perspectives. It will facilitate the understanding of Haiti through total immersion into its culture, environment, language, and the country’s economic, political, educational and social realities. In addition to attending daily classes, field trips to museums and historical sites, participants will work in small field projects. L’Universite Caraibes occupies a modern facility with room and board. Participants register for two three-credit courses: Blksty 480 Haiti: Culture & Politics and Blksty 478 Independent Study. The fee for this Program is $1,795. This fee covers all instruction, field trips, room and board, and all local transportation in Haiti. The fee does not include insurance or transportation between the US and Haiti. For more information and application materials, please contact:

Kathleen FitzPatrick
Division of Continuing Education
Tel 617-287-7913
e-mail: Kathleen.Fitzpatrick@umb.edu

Dr. Marc Prou
Africanas Studies Department
Tel 617-287-6796
E-mail: marc.prou@umb.edu

Program in Haiti at Florida International University:
This program focuses on Haiti through an interdisciplinary approach. It is designed for graduate and undergraduate students, teachers, and the general public. The Institute offers the opportunity to develop knowledge of Haitian Creole structure, gain a better understanding of the social, historical and political development of Haitian society, and discover various aspects of the Haitian culture. The program includes three weeks (July 3-21) of intensive courses in Miami and an optional two weeks (July 28-August 13) of study and travel in Haiti. For more information, contact:

Dr. Jean-Robert Cadely
Florida International University
3000 N.E. 151 st street
Miami, FL 33181
Tel: 305-919-5968
Fax: 305-919-5964
Email: cadelyj@fiu.edu

Or
Latin American and Caribbean Center
Florida International University
University Park, DM 333
Miami, FL 33199
Tel: 305-348-2894
Fax: 305-348-3593
Email: lac@fiu.edu

Program in Haiti at Tulane University:
The Tulane University is offering a three-week summer program in Haiti, to be held from June 26-July 17, 2000. The program will be based in Jacmel, on Haiti's southern coast. Students will take courses in Haitian history, and Caribbean literature (in translation). For further information, contact Prof. Monique Guillory at guillory@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu or at their website at http://www.tulane.edu/~guillory/haiti2000.html

Ninth Annual Haitian Youth Congress
The Haitian Studies Project at UMass Boston was pleased to host the 9th Annual Haitian Youth Congress. The Haitian Youth Congress brings together Haitian students from the greater Boston area for a day-long conference on the
various issues facing Haitian youth today, including concerns around violence and means of prevention. The theme for this year’s conference was: Be Aware! Atansyon pa Kapon! The theme expressed our hope that through awareness and education Haitian youth will be able to make informed decisions about their lives and their actions. The congress was sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/AIDS Bureau, and it is organized by the Mobilizing Haitian Youth Collaborative which consists of the following organizations: Haitian-American Public Health Initiatives, Inc., Haitian Teens for a Positive Change, Haitian Teens Confront Aids, and the Haitian Studies Project at UMass Boston. The Congress was held at the University of Massachusetts Boston on Friday May 12, 2000, 8:30 am-2:30 pm, in the Lipke Auditorium, Science Building. An evaluation report of the youth congress is available. Contact the HSA office for copies.

Dr. Fritz Daguillard Visited HSA Office at UMass Boston
During his official invitation to open an historical exhibit at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, Dr. Fritz Daguillard visited the Haitian Studies Association office at UMass Boston. On April 19, 2000, the Africana Studies Department and the Black Student Center sponsored a lecture entitled: Senator Charles Summer and the Struggle for Haiti’s Recognition during the Era of Slavery and Reconstruction in America. Dr. Daguillard has long been interested in Massachusetts Senator Charles Summer and the struggle of the Boston gentry on behalf of Haiti since his days as a student at Harvard University. In his recently published book, En Causant d’Haiti, he highlights this fascinating chapter in Haiti’s history. More than 50 students, faculty and staff attended this thought-provoking lecture followed by a reception and a question/answer period. Dr. Daguillard will work with H.S.A in helping the association to obtain some important historical and archival documents of the Slavery and Reconstruction era pertaining to the relations between Haiti and the African-American community.

Recent Publications of Interest


Newsletter
Send materials to be published in this newsletter to:

Leara Rhodes, Ph.D.
College of Journalism and Mass Communications
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602 USA
ldrhodes@arches.uga.edu
(706) 542-5025
(706) 542-2183 (fax)
THE HAITIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

E-mail ________________________________ Telephone _________________________

Academic Discipline _______________________________________________________

Fields or Topics of Research ________________________________________________

I would like to serve on the following committees:
   Editing   Events Planning   Finance   Nominations (Elections)   Institutional Relations
   HSA Annual Award (Memorial Lecture) _______________________________________

Membership fee: $35.00 ____
Student Membership: $20.00 ____
Journal of Haitian Studies (JOSH): $30.00 ____
The annual membership fee includes the HSA Newsletter.

Please make your annual dues cheque payable to: The Haitian Studies Association and send it to the following address:

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