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 policymakers 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 organization’s policies and orientation.

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ISSUES: A Note from the Editor

Beginning in 2002, the newsletter will take a more proactive stance on issues important to the members. As an organization designed to foster linkages and working relationships with education, research and civic institutions in Haiti and in the Diaspora, the newsletter encourages articles about any projects or programs of its membership as a way to inform policymakers and various institutions of the work members of the Haitian Studies Association continue to do. People other than members need to know what the membership might be doing to further the goals of the projects and programs initiated by the Haitian Studies Association. Activities of the organization fall within the following three project areas: environment and development, governance, and education.

In this issue of the newsletter, we will focus on how various programs and initiatives by members are fostering the linkages and relationships within these project areas. The environment and development area is addressed with Carole M. Berotte Joseph’s article on the Dominican Republic and Haiti’s initiative for agribusiness and agri-tourism and with an update on the SEED project. Jairo Lanao addresses the governance area with a review on Leara Rhodes’ book, Democracy and the Role of the Haitian Media. The education area is addressed with an interview of Franz-Antoine Leconte by Jacques Alexandre, reporter for the Famous Poets Society, and with Amy Cornish’s article on art. Additionally, a summary of the last conference keeps members who were unable to attend, current on what happened.

14th Annual Conference
October 17-19, 2002
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
“Communicating: Images and Realities of Haiti”
UPDATE FROM SEED

Information provided by Louise Bowditch, Executive Director of SEED

As we approach the third anniversary of the founding of SEED: Haiti Community Development Loan Fund, we bring news from the co-ops in Haiti, sharing both the triumphs and disappointments of the past year with our friends at HSA.

Conditions in Haiti require increasing sacrifice and determination from our partners. SEED co-ops now number thirty, working in 6 of the 9 departments of Haiti, with over 7500 members. The majority of the enterprises are agricultural, producing food for local and regional markets. Increased agricultural production remains the highest priority for SEED; in Haiti where 75 percent of the population is peasants less than 40 percent of the food consumed is produced in that country. There are many reasons for diminishing food production, most important structural adjustment policies imposed on Haiti. But another is the historic struggle in Haiti for land, ongoing since colonial times. If peasants struggle to clear, improve and cultivate the land to create farms for agricultural production they must have rights to that land, to control that land for the present and the future. During the past year the loan fund has loaned to several co-ops to acquire land. Currently SEED borrower co-ops control hundreds of acres of land in a country where most peasants are landless.

SEED strengthens the coops with grants for technical assistance in sustainable agriculture, management, responsible fisheries, scientific care and breeding of animals and solar powered irrigation. The long-term sustainability of the cooperatives depends on the hard work of the members but also on new skills needed to build enterprises that can succeed and endure. In 2001, Semence staff began training co-op members in the principles and laws that govern co-ops in Haiti with the goal of achieving legalization of all the cooperatives in the next two years. These training sessions, usually lasting 3-4 days, allow the groups to learn from each other, to work together with staff to find appropriate solutions, to create economic democracy.

In 2001 SEED invested $100,000 in three responsible fishing co-ops in the South (Cayes, Wochabato, Ti rivye Sen Jan). Responsible fisheries provide coastal communities with improved nutrition, economic opportunity and resource enhancement. An engineer employed by Semence teaches the co-ops the science of responsible fishing, which protects the marine environment through the use of appropriate techniques and technology, avoiding over-fishing and ensuring sufficient reproduction to maintain supply. Responsible fishing partners fishermen with peasants to protect the marine environment with good agricultural practices of soil conservation and reforestation.

Konbit At KOPADYANN December 2001

continued on page 3
Haiti and the Dominican Republic: Working together for more literate populations

Update on the trip to the Dominican Republic in May 2000. Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph, Dean of Academic Affairs at Dutchess Community College seeks to position Dutchess globally and establish international ties for DCC’s students, faculty & staff.

During the week of May 25th this year, Dutchess’ Academic Dean, Dr. Carole M. Berotte Joseph traveled to the northern border of the Dominican Republic (DR) to participate in a seminar on Study Abroad and International Collaborations in Dajabon, one of the 29 provinces that make up the DR. This initial seminar was co-sponsored by the Instituto Tecnologico Fronterizo (INTECHFRON) and Facultad Latino Americano de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) DR; the Haitian Studies Association at UMASS at Boston; Hostos CC (CUNY) and Dutchess Community College (SUNY) in NY. This collaborative effort to establish study-abroad exchange programs with the DR as well help establish a technical community college on the northern border of the DR and Haiti received a great deal of publicity in the DR. The mayor of Santiago, the DR’s second largest city, Dr. Hector Grullon Moronta held a press conference to announce this visit and the potential collaborations that may develop from this partnership. In addition to being a presenter herself at the seminar, Dr. Berotte Joseph met with the mayor; Ambassadors from the DR and the Consul of Haiti; college administrators; and faculty representatives from four colleges, Pontifica Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra, Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo (UASD), La Universidad Autonoma para Adultos (UAPA), Universidad Tecnologica de Santiago, (UTESA) and the Proyecto de Produccion y Capacitacion Agroecologica (PROCA).

She also visited several high schools including Colegio La Altagracia where the seminar was held and the Liceo Manuel Arturo Machado as well as two elementary schools, a special education center, Escuela de Educacion Especial and an organic farm during that week.

“As Spanish becomes more of a second language in the United States, it is to the advantage of our students to travel and live in another country to prepare them to use the language and develop communicative skills in Spanish, not just study Spanish here at DCC,” says Dr. Berotte Joseph. “At the same time our students will become culturally literate, a skill that will help them excel in the competitive global marketplace.”

Dr. Berotte Joseph hopes that this initial contact will grow into a larger consortia partnership that will involve Dutchess Community College students, faculty, and staff in cutting-edge collaborative relationships with several SUNY & CUNY community colleges as well as other professional agencies in the Dominican Republic as well as in Haiti. Already several SUNY schools have expressed an interest in this project. Dr. Berotte Joseph met recently with Dean Walter Poland at Tomkins-Cortland to further explore this collaborative effort among the several SUNY community college campuses. Dr. D. David Conklin, the president of Dutchess will be working with Dean Berotte Joseph to develop and strengthen these international efforts.

During the last eight years Tomkins-Cortland Community College has positioned itself as a leader in international education. They now have 21 partnerships in 12 different countries and Dutchess Community College is interested in joining these collaborative initiatives. Dutchess plans to also include Orange Community College in these efforts, as well.

The Chronicle of Higher Education (May 2000) discussed how community colleges are becoming more involved in exchange programs, and explores why more and more developing countries want to emulate the US Community College model. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in its current Mission statement (2001) also listed international and intercultural education, as one of its six (6) strategic action areas. This venture provides an excellent opportunity for Dutchess to excel in yet another innovative area and for H.S.A. to continue its collaborative work in Haiti as well as serve as a facilitator of dialogue with the Dominican Republic.
HAITIAN ART IN NEW YORK CITY

By Amy L. Cornish

Two notable art shows recently took place in New York City; the Tenth Annual Outsider Art Fair followed by the National Black Fine Art Show. Haitian art and artists fit ideally into the context of these two phenomenal exhibitions that awed the art-loving public.

The title of the first show, Outsider Art, takes its name from the artistic concept loosely applied to artists that have neither formal training nor adherence to artistic trends or mimicry. At this art fair, Galerie Bourbon-Lally (Montréal), Galerie Bonheur (Saint Louis), Galerie St. Etienne (New York), and Worthington Gallery (Chicago) each included Haitian works. Haitian artists such as Pierrot Barra, Louisiane St. Fleurant, Georges Liautaud and Lyonel St. Eloi were exemplary representations of outsider artists by any definition. This festival of Haitian creativity included painted market scenes, metal cuts, sequined plastic dolls, and heroic scrap metal mermaids projecting from the walls. The public seemed overwhelmingly intrigued by the sequined flags that displayed both traditional Vodou iconography as well as diverse secular scenes.

At the National Black Fine Art Show, Galerie Bourbon-Lally once again showcased traditional and contemporary Haitian art. The stunning display included Edouard Duval Carrie, Barbara Prezau, Constant, Cybil Vladimir, Marie-Louise Fouchard, and many others. This provided an excellent opportunity to show off the wide range of Haitian artistic visions and visionaries. Contemporary media included a six minute excerpt from the video documentary entitled “The Gods Called for Me” Lwa yo te voye tele’m in which directors Anne Lescot and Laurence Magloire explore the world of Haitian Vodou and homosexuality.

Both art shows offered superb venues in which the public was exposed to the wonder, originality and beauty of Haitian art. For many patrons, both shows offered a scenario not unlike the proverbial kid in a candy store—decadent high quality goods at reasonable prices.

(Clockwise, from left)

Lyonel St. Eloi
Louisiane St.
Fleurant
Constant
Interview de Frantz-Antoine Leconte par Jacques Alexandre.

1-Professeur Frantz-Antoine Leconte, Vous détenez un doctorat en lettres depuis 1989. Avez-vous jamais pensé à une autre discipline?

Dans le passé, j’ai pensé à avoir une carrière en communication. J’ai suivi des cours dans cette discipline et je dois dire que le résultat avait été très encourageant. Ensuite, vers la fin de mon cycle d’études (de bachelier), j’ai eu des invitations et des tentations vers la psychologie et la psychanalyse. Mais depuis, les cours de littérature ont tout balayé. La fascination qu’ils ont exercée sur moi, m’a fait oublier Freud, Young, Pavlov, Maslow, Piaget et leur profonde aventure de la psyché.


2-La publication de votre première étude en 1995 “La tradition de l’ennui splénétique en France” vous a sans doute encouragé. Ce coup d’essai a merveilleusement réussi. Quelles ont été vos réactions après ce premier texte?


3-Un an plus tard en 1996, vous décidez de prendre la direction d’un collectif “1492: le viol du nouveau monde.” Quelles sont les difficultés que vous avez éprouvées avec les autres écrivains? Pourquoi ce refuge dans l’histoire et révéler le chat qui dort?

La colonisation de l’Amérique a été l’un des plus grands génocides de l’histoire. Il fallait dénoncer et condamner ce vaste complot séculaire entre pays, gouvernements, institutions et chercheurs, ce matraquage idéologique qui a réussi à perpétuer une mythification autant qu’une mystification dans le tiers monde, de la maternelle à l’université. Cette stratégie visant à faire croire que la colonisation, et l’esclavage, son corollaire, ne formaient qu’un mécanisme d’Épuration, ou un exercice lustral pouvant conduire au ciel, s’est révélée une des plus grandes aberrations imaginables. L’enfer terrestre n’était pas une voie de passage au paradis céleste; il n’a servi qu’à éliminer une centaine de millions d’âmes sur le sol africain et américain.

Il faut reconnaître que les relations interpersonnelles et d’ordre organisationnel atteignent un niveau de dangerosité incomparable dans les communautés haïtiennes de l’extérieur. On ne fait que reproduire le babilisme qui se perpétue sur l’échiquier politique du pays haïtien. Dieu merci, je n’ai pas été trop victime par les épreuves maximalistes traditionnelles attachées aux collectifs. Elles sont, croyez-moi, de nature excessivement épipède: duel incroyable et insaisissable pour un simple titre de l’étude qu’on veut publier, inadmissible retard de soumission des textes, procrastination inacceptable, refus pathologique d’accepter des corrections, menaces de poursuite en justice, réelles ou utopiques, pretention inouë de savoir mieux gérer les projets de ce genre, même quand on n’en a jamais fait l’expérience. On rencontre autant d’hommes et de femmes chaleureux et simples que
de mégalomanes, autant de gens sincères et fervents que d’affables cannibales et de véritables brutes. Heureusement que le bonheur de la publication transcende toujours les péripéties des étapes préparatoires du manuscrit. On dit avoir relevé un peu de masochisme chez les éditeurs ou organisateurs de texte collectif, c’est peut-être vrai. Pourtant, cette détermination irréductible évoque plutôt pour nous un concept particulier, celui d’une faute heureuse, une sorte de “felix culpa” inévitabile.


4-Compte tenu de cette excellente initiative d’écrire la vraie histoire, pensez-vous que les générations montantes auraient intérêt à donner suite à cette rencontre sensationnelle de l’ancien et du nouveau monde?

Après l’an 2000, la planète gagnerait, si les gens issus de civilisation différente se rapprochaient, s’entendaient et se comprenaient un peu plus. Plus de justice politique et économique, plus de partage technologique et une solidarité plus manifeste feraient un monde bien meilleur. Ce serait une façon peut-être géniale d’avoir moins de misères, moins de déracinus, plus d’harmonie et de bonheur. Collectivement.

5-Quelle a été votre source d’inspiration pour cette pièce de theater “La République” publiée et jouée en partie depuis 1998?


6-“La République” a connu beaucoup de succès. Allez-vous autoriser ou travailler à une version française ou anglaise à l’avenir?

Bien que la version originale soit en français, je n’objecterais pas à une adaptation anglaise ou créole. Je serais très flatté d’ailleurs si les adaptations ou conversions étaient réussies. Si la traduction pose déjà problème, la création d’une pièce dans une culture différente de l’originale en crée un autre… Peut-on vraiment retrancher une langue d’une culture? Il en découle toujours des implications et des considérations concernant la capacité d’absorption des spectateurs. Les Français, Haïtiens et Américains naissent vivent et évoluent dans des traditions historiques et culturales différentes sans oublier la particularité des schèmes conceptuels et de la vision du monde…

7-Après “1492: le viol du nouveau monde,” vous publiez en 1999 “En grandissant sous Duvalier.” Est-ce le succès du premier collectif qui vous a encouragé ou est-ce le désir d’encourager d’autres écrivains à s’exprimer?

Je suppose qu’il y a un peu d’altruisme sinon de générosité même à un niveau minimal chez presque tous les écrivains. “1492, le viol du nouveau monde” a connu un vif succès. Cela a été une sérieuse incitation à produire “En grandissant sous Duvalier.” Il fallait surtout mettre en perspective la triste aventure de ce méga-pouvoir qui a transformé une terre en un paysage d’apocalypse en excluant toute dynamique de liberté, de démocratie et de décente. Cette étude a eu un plus grand succès que la précédente.

8-Pensez-vous faire à l’avenir une étude comparée des dictatures qui ont enseigné le tiers monde et Haïti?

Je ne veux pas exclure une tentative aussi complexe. Cependant, quelques grandes que soient les affinités entre les dictatures, on en relève toujours des différences fondamentales. Il faudrait pouvoir comparer et contraster à la fois et dresser une arithmétique de malheurs et de douleurs et inventorier ces argumentats d’horreur. Il est indispensable de comprendre que chaque dictature prend naissance et évolue dans une perspective historique différente, engendre ses spécificités, sa machine répressive, développe ses propres mécanismes coercitifs et atrocités.


“Haïti: le vodou au 3e millenaire” est un texte pluriel qui
interpelé plusieurs catégories de lecteurs à la fois. C’est un devoir de mémoire qui répond au grand défi explicatif que pose le vodou comme religion majoritaire en Haïti. Il était impératif de faire le point sur le vodou et les rapports de domination qu’il sait énger, éclairer certaines mystifications attachées à cette religion, comprendre sa métaphysique, lui assigner son rôle et sa place dans la cité, la politique, la littérature, la migration récente des boîte-people haïtiens et en histoire, à la cérémonie du Bois-Caïman par exemple.

Eddy Magloire, Gérard Ferere, Yves St-Gerard, Réginald Crosley, Carrol Coates, Marie-Jose N’Zengou-Tayo et moi, nous sommes convaincus d’avoir écrit un bon texte objectif et utile. D’autres l’ont trouvé excellent et lumineux. Il faut dire aussi que les religions appartiennent à la culture et qu’elles occupent une place centrale et non périphérique en Haïti. Même si leur influence semble décliner, cela n’empêche-ce qui est paradoxal-une incessante prolifération. Faut-il vraiment toujours opposer sciences, technologie et religion, en n’en pas certain. Cependant la foi, les croyances religieuses et les certitudes scientifiques n’appartiennent pas aux mêmes champs réflexifs. Elles connaissent chacune de sérieuses limites et ne peuvent de manière séparée combler l’existence de l’homme.

10-Avez-vous des projets d’avenir, d’autres collectifs et des pièces de théâtre?

Nous avons déjà entamé plusieurs projets qui ont pour titres: “Depeste entre le chaos et la cohérence,” “L’actualité de Jacques Roumain,” “Sur les traces de Baudelaire” et “Haïti: fête et défaits d’un pays.” Je crois certainement qu’il y aura aussi d’autres pièces de théâtre. S’il y a d’un côté la joie d’écrire, on ne peut passer sous silence les innombrables difficultés auxquelles on est confronté. C’est vrai que la créativité de l’écriture nous préserve du prosaïsme du quotidien et de la veuverie... Par dessus tout, il faut cette vocation ce besoin irréductible de s’engager, d’étudier même les mythes fonctionnels et les utopies mobilisatrices, de jeter un profond éclairage sans prolixité sur les zones d’ombre de notre vie de peuple, de notre histoire et de notre mémoire.

11-Professeur Leconte, je vous remercie pour cette interview.
C’est à moi de vous remercier.

(1) Frantz-Antoine Leconte est essayiste, dramaturge et enseignant à l’université d’État de New York.

14th Annual Conference in Haiti

As we approach the bicentennial of Haiti’s independence, we face a challenge in communicating Haiti’s present reality while also communicating Haiti’s unique contribution to world revolutionary history. The purpose of the 14th Annual Conference of the Haitian Studies Association is to foster discussion and intellectual interchange; therefore, we go to Haiti in 2002 to examine the problematic nature of representation and self-representation. This conference is a way to help us prepare to celebrate 2004 and Haiti’s contributions. Look for the call for papers.

La Troupe Makandal
with Master Dummer Frisner Augustin
Performed at 13th Annual Conference
Book review by Jairo E. Lanao

"Democracy and the Role of the Haitian Media" by Leara D. Rhodes, Ph.D.

The scope of "Democracy and the Role of the Haitian Media" is described early on in the book by the author as a need to write on the "effects of [Haitian] media on society and how that impacts political policy". This need arises from the little protagonism attributed to this small-impoverished Caribbean country and the lack of literature on the history and development of its political and social institutions, particularly, the Haitian media.

"Democracy and the Role of the Haitian Media" fills this void. It provides the reader a complete panorama of the early developments of the media and how it has been manipulated throughout its history of more than three centuries by local governments, mainly military regimes.

The book contains two hundred pages broken down into ten chapters. The information is based on thorough research of primarily books and specialized journals. The author also includes personal interviews of founders and directors of broadcast and print media in Haiti and abroad.

In her very scholarly style, Rhodes very refreshingly combines arid fundamental academic concepts of journalism and the press with a pleasant historical description of the origin and development of the power struggle in Haiti.

She advances the notion that the Haitian society is somewhere in between a period of transition to a democracy and in a state of legacy of authoritarian tradition. Throughout the book, one can easily evidence her optimism and her affection for the culture and the people, which contribute to the perception at the end of the book that its society will someday overcome its adversities and play an important role in Caribbean policy.

Though she is quick to confirm the perennial nature of the Haitian media as a political resource in whose system even the most arduous advocates of democracy in the country are reluctant to defend the concept of a completely free and independent press.

Her analysis of the media institutions is thorough as she examines the media abroad, especially the existing Haitian outlets in the U.S., and holds them as contributing factors in the eventual democratization of the country and strengthening of the local media.

It is not difficult to detect the underlying premise of the book. Conditions for a genuine transition to a true democracy - even today amidst the so-called democratic governments - are nonexistent. Notwithstanding, she views the media as key players to pave the way towards democratization.

Rhodes simply puts it into perspective, the Haitian press, just like other local democratic institutions on paper, needs to assume its leadership role but lacks a strong tradition. Political, economic and social transformations must take place for the media to begin carrying out its primary functions as agents of change: being a watchdog, educator, provider of information and an advocate of the truth.

Finally, the book exposes emerging trends of the media as well as hinting the future of media and makes plausible suggestions as to what course of action the media should undertake to reach the final destination: be instrumental in the consolidation of a democracy.

This book is a necessary item for the specialized collector or reader.

(Jairo Lanao is the Attorney for the Chapultepec Project at the Inter American Press Association in Miami, FL.)

Other new book titles:

by Mary A. Renda.
University of North Carolina Press. ISBN: 0807826286

Walking on Fire
Haitian Women's Stories of Survival and Resistance
By Beverly Bell
Foreword by Edwidge Danticat
Forthcoming from Cornell University Press
Available through Center for Economic Justice
144 Harvard Drive, S.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Book is available through The Edwin Mellen Press. e-mail: emp@mellen.demon.co.uk. In U.S. & Canada (716) 754-2788. In U.K. (01570) 423-356. ISBN: 0-7734-7314-9.
Summary of
H.S.A. Board of Directors’
Meeting / Annual Conference
St. Michael’s College, Vermont
October 2001

A summary of the Board of Director’s Meeting and the Annual meeting held during the October conference in Vermont is as follows:

Then president, Carole M. Berotte Joseph, offered her suggestions for a strategic plan designed for H.S.A. In developing a strategic plan, Carole suggested that H.S.A. needed to have a vision, where was it going. She suggested that H.S.A. is the premiere organization for development of Haitian Studies. The organization encourages scholars, students, and leaders to promote the interests of Haiti. She reiterated the mission of H.S.A. Then she outlined four goals and objectives. These were as follows:

1. enhance organization
2. advocate public policy
3. develop and nurture strategic alliances
4. seek outside funding

Part of her initiative to develop and nurture strategic alliances, Carole began an educational collaborative between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Carole attended a conference in the Dominican Republic as a representative of her college. The “Perspectivas de la Educacion Superior en la Frontera,” was held May 25-27, 2001. The purpose of the event was to have a community college and technical school in the Dominican Republic teach Haitians in the areas of agri-business and agri-tourism. Even though funds were made available for the Haitian consul to attend (Jean-Baptiste Buien-Aime), there was no Haitian representative. There was a document presented to the Minister of Education whereas Dominicans wanted to partner with Haiti to teach Dominicans to speak Kreole and Haitians to speak Spanish. Carole summarized the project and her visit to an organic farm. Her article on the initiative is in this edition of the newsletter.

During the Board Meeting three sections of the bylaws were amended. These amendments are as follows:
Page 3, Article VI - Committees, Section 3, 2nd sentence: Chairman shall be changed to Chairperson.
Page 5, Article VIII - Staff, Section 1. Added to the first sentence, “shall be employed by the Board of Directors to

the extent that funds are available.” (The Director’s time is currently compensated through arrangements with the host institution. Whereas the current director is not paid, his host institution gives him a course release to enable him to carry out the activities of H.S.A.)

Page 5, Article XII - Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution, first line should read, “Section 501 c (3).”

New Business: Patrick Bellegarde-Smith requested H.S.A. to issue a resolution for a commemorative stamp requesting that the U.S. Postal Service issue a special first-class stamp honoring the Republic of Haiti’s Bicentennial in 2004. A letter on behalf of H.S.A. is posted below for members to send to their Congressional Representatives.

Resolution for Commemorative Stamp to Celebrate Haiti’s Bicentennial

Whereas the Republic of Haiti will commemorate Two centuries since its Independence was proclaimed, on January 1, 2004

Whereas Haiti, before its creation, had contributed handsomely to the freedom and the aggrandizement of the United States of America, by sending hundreds of its sons to the battle of Savannah, Georgia, in 1779, and through the sale of the Louisiana Territory to the U.S. in 1803

Whereas both Haiti and the United States are the two first states of the Western hemisphere to have achieved their independence, both the result of a widespread Revolution, in 1776 and 1791

Whereas Haiti celebrated the American Bicentennial by issuing a stamp

BE IT RESOLVED that the Haitian Studies Association, assembled in the City of Burlington, State of Vermont, urges the United Postal Service to issue a stamp honoring the Republic of Haiti as close as practicable to January 1, 2004.

CC: The Postmaster General
The President of the United States
The Congressional delegation of the State of Vermont
The Congressional Black Caucus
The Congressional delegation of the State of Massachusetts
Notes from the Executive Director

THANKS to the Haiti Solidarity Task Force and Dr. Marc A. vanderHeyden, President at St Michael’s College in Vermont for the warm hospitality and the logistical support to organize HSA’s 13th Annual Conference last October 11-13, 2001. BRAVO!

On October 11-13, 2001 HSA held its 13th Annual Conference along with KOSANBA’s 4th Annual Colloquium at St. Michael’s College in Vermont. The event was particularly momentous as it marked the 14th anniversary of HSA. In addition to HSA’s Board of directors, founding members and long time members, attendees at the conference included many Haitianists who have made tremendous contributions to the research agenda of Haitian studies.

Another highlight of the conference was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health (PIH), a long time associate of HSA. Dr. Farmer, while a student at Harvard Medical School, went to Haiti for an internship felt in love with the rural environment, and started a health clinic in Cange, located in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Dr. Farmer’s keynote focused on his work in Cange and the health experience in rural Haiti and particularly his thoughts on the fight against infectious diseases in least developed countries. As Paul farmer reassessed the challenges in rural Haiti, he acknowledged the critical work that lies ahead for Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora. We were honored to have Dr. Paul Farmer join us for this event.

We were proud to present HSA’s 2001 Outstanding Service Award to Dr. Carrol Coates at SUNY Binghamton, in recognition of many years of dedication as a board member and as the first editor of the Journal of Haitian Studies. Also, the HSA 2001 Award of Excellence went to the keynote speaker Dr. Paul Farmer, in recognition of his many years of dedication and service to the Haitian people. Both recipients deserve such recognition since they have made extraordinary contributions in their works to help advance the cause of Haiti and the Haitian people. HSA is very proud to have had the honor of recognizing the work of our award recipients.

HSA is grateful to the attendees and to our many friends, supporters and members who came as far as Jamaica, Haiti, Canada, and throughout continental U.S to help make this conference special. Hope to see you all in Haiti at our 14th Annual Conference on October 16-19, 2002.

Ann vanse pou pi devan!

Marc Prou, Executive Director

New books of interest


Bryant Freeman and Jowel Laguerre, HAITIAN-ENGLISH DICTIONARY. (3RD ED) 46.000 MO AK Epresyon. 763 p.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Haitian Creole Language and Culture — June 23-July 12, 2002-
The Haitian Creole Summer Institute will offer an intensive summer program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston Campus. Also offered is a course in Techniques of Haitian Creole Translation for advanced students. In addition to class work, all courses make use of language laboratory and cultural activities to enhance the study of language. For more information about the Haitian Creole Summer Institute, please contact Professor Marc Prou at the Africana Studies Department (617) 287-6796; email: marc.prou@umb.edu

Haitian Summer Institute at Florida International University — July 9-August 11-
The Institute will feature intensive introductory language training as well as lectures and discussions on Haitian culture and history conducted by distinguished specialists. The program includes 3 weeks in Miami and 2 weeks of travel and study in Haiti. Students may register for one or both portions of the program and credit hours may count for graduate and undergraduate levels. The program is open to regular and non-degree seeking students. For information, contact: Dr. Jean-Robert Cadely, Director. Phone: 305-348-2894; E-mail: picardll@flu.edu
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