

A ThRiVing Summer of Service!

During the summer of 2011, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Social Work, at York College of The City University of New York was actively engaged in community service in the boroughs of Queens and Brooklyn with the ThRiVe organization.

Felisha Michelle Bell is the Founder and Executive Director of ThRiVe, *an organization committed to empowering people of color through cultural awareness, health and wellness, education and the rebuilding of families and communities.* As a prelude to an initiative aimed at promoting the health and wellness of girls and women of African descent, this summer ThRiVe, launched *The Stronger Awareness Series* to discuss strategies and solutions to issues affecting Black families and communities and to build public awareness about the campaign. Black Women's BluePrint, Inc. and Queens Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center hosted the awareness forums.

In support of ThRiVe's *Stronger Awareness Series*, the planning committee: Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor/York College), Farah Tanis (Co-Founder/Black Women's BluePrint), Fatima Friday (Artistic Director/FreeLaavéSól), along with ThRiVe volunteer Tiffany Cudjoe (Student/York College) assisted Felisha Michelle Bell (Founder/ThRiVe) to



successfully plan and promote the summer events.

Black Women's BluePrint, Inc. hosted the first awareness event in July. *Blueprint is a human rights and civil rights membership organization of women and men. Its purpose is to take action to bring Black women into full and equal social, economic and political participation in the mainstream of American society now.* Approximately 60 participants attended the forum. The documentary *Very Young Girls* was followed by a panel discussion, and a question and answer session with, Dr. Scyatta Wallace, teen expert and psychologist and Kalima De-Suze (a survivor of sexual abuse and prostitution and Harlem G.E.M.S. youth outreach coordinator). The dialogue focused

on sexual abuse and the exploitation of girls lured into a life of prostitution. www.gems-girls.org

In August, York College African-American Resource Center (AARC) Interdisciplinary



Selena Rodgers and Andrew Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako). Photo: Tiffany Cudjoe

Committee members, Dr. Rodgers and Professor Jackson along with Felisha Michelle Bell, Founder of ThRiVe, collaborated on *The Stronger Awareness Series 2nd* event titled, *Everyone's Sun: Helping Our Black Boys Shine*. Queens Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center served as the site for the panel discussion geared towards informing community members and constituents of strategies, best practices and solutions aimed at reversing the plight of black boys in our community. Located at 100th Street and Northern Boulevard in Corona, the Queens Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center *founded by activists from the Corona-East Elmhurst neighborhood as part of the Anti-Poverty programs of the 1960's, it is the first public institution named for the "Poet Laureate of Harlem."*

Professor Jackson posits "throughout the 1960's and 1970's it was not unusual to see a commodity of community activist unite for the collective vision of the Black communities - family day care and head start programs that served and educated multiple generations. Today, that level of activism has died and Black boys are the commodity of the criminal justice system through the rising presence of unlicensed guns,



high levels of crimes against other Black community members, drug sales and chemical dependency. The loss of unprecedented Black youth to the criminal justice system depletes our community foundation that becomes dysfunctional year after year."

Moderated by Mychal Sledge, the nine-panel discussion, which included Black male community mentors, program directors, and activists from Queens, Brooklyn, New Jersey, Philadelphia and upstate New York was a frank, poignant, engaging and honest conversation. It was a great networking opportunity for the estimated 70 participants to identify and discuss obstacles and solutions. "The Langston Hughes Community Library is invested in hosting similar events on this and other critical issues involving the Black Family" stated Langston

Hughes Executive Director Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako). For most of the panel and participants, this was their first visit to the Hughes Library.

As we prepare for the official launch of the campaign, the series will continue to build community and public awareness with programming designed to both educate and empower. The vision for *The Stronger: Redefining and Reinventing the Strong Black Woman Campaign and Conference* is a 3-day intergenerational conference focuses on the physical, social and emotional wellness of Black females through dialogue, workshops, demonstrations and health screenings. "Stronger" employs a holistic approach that is aligned with the notion that healthy women create healthier families and communities.

Photo l to r: Thomas Sapp (Founder, Kareem D. Sapp Foundation), David Jenkins (Founder, Order of The Feather - Queens Chapter), Dr. Umar-Abdullah Johnson (Psychologist, African-American Psychological and Educational Service for Children), Matthew P. Stevens (Founder, Empower Today's Youth), Bernard Gassaway (Principal, Boys and Girls High School), Felisha Michelle Bell (Founder, ThRiVe), Clifford B. Simmons (Executive Director/Co-Founder, The Blue Nile Passage, Inc.), Mychal Sledge (CEO, The Sledge Group, Inc.), Kenneth Braswell (Executive Director/Founder, Fathers, Inc.), Dennis Rahiim Watson (President/CEO, Center for Black Student Achievement - not in photo).

For additional information about the conference, please email Stronger2012conference@gmail.com

The Minority Reporter Comes to York College

By Elgin Klugh



Frederick Gooding, a.k.a. the "Race Doctor"

On Wednesday evening, April 6th 2011, Frederick Gooding, Esquire (a.k.a) "The Race Doctor," entertained and inspired the York College community with his *Minority Reporter* presentation. The *Minority Reporter* (www.minorityreporter.com) is a media literacy enterprise that provokes critical thinking concerning common racial character patterns or archetypes in mainstream movies. Gooding's presentation quickly drew the attention of students by the use of media images, humor, and eventual progression to the more serious and immediately relevant issues that demand a critical analysis of race. Through careful use of his minority character archetypes, Gooding explained how seemingly harmless, but persistent, media images lay the ideological foundation for continued social inequalities. Additionally, he explained that destructive stereotypes are exported throughout the world and therefore much more comprehensive when implanting negative ideas concerning minority populations (particularly African Americans). Students sat mesmerized throughout Gooding's presentation and were highly interactive during the time for question and answer. Truly, as Gooding stated, they will never see movies the same way again!

Dr. Rodgers Presents Research on Child Sexual Abuse

On April 8, 2010, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, Assistant Professor of Social Work, presented her research paper titled, Imani Dream: Posttraumatic Growth and Spiritual Well-Being in African-American Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse at *The National Association of Black Social Workers "Keepers of the Village: The Role for Community Organizers" 42nd Annual Conference*. The annual forum was hosted in Philadelphia, PA. The National Association of Black Social Workers Inc. is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research www.nabsw.org/

On September 26, 2010, Dr. Rodgers was an invited panelist at *The International Black Women's Congress (IBWC) 26th Annual Conference*, "Weaved in the Fabric: A Wholistic Perspective on Violence Against Black Women." Unmasking Secrets of Childhood Abuse: *The Middle Passage* to Spiritual Well-Being among African-American women with experiences of Childhood Sexual Abuse was the focus of Dr. Rodgers' talk. The yearly conference was held in Norfolk, VA. The IBWC's vision is, to bring forth exemplary models of African Womanhood by defining ourselves and improving ourselves through social, political and economic empowerment www.ibwc.us/

Some of the new classes in the new major are: The Unforgiving Mirror: Race and Racism in Contemporary Society; Intersections: Black Women in the Atlantic World; Contemporary Legacy of Slavery in the U.S.; Environmental Justice in North America; Africa and the Columbian Exchange; Heritage, Culture, and Memory; Race, Housing, and Community; and Boys to Men: from Black Macho to Black Male Feminist

Black Women of Great Worth



L to R: Monica Pringle (Deputy Chief of Staff for New York State Senator Honorable Shirley L. Huntley), Vivian Cook (New York State Assemblywoman), Grace Ogiehor'enoma (Nurse Educator, Elmhurst Hospital), Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor of Social Work/York College of the City University of New York. Photo courtesy of Lelio Dalencour/Rochdale Bulletin



L to r: Ruben Wills (NYC Council Member, 28th District), Selena T. Rodgers (AARC Member/Assistant Professor of Social Work), Anthony Andrews Jr. (AARC Member/Assistant Director of Student Activities and Campus Programming/Queens District Leader). Photo courtesy of Lelio Dalencour/Rochdale Bulletin

On March 26, 2011, Dr. Rodgers, a member of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the African American Resource Center Committee (AARC Committee) and Assistant Professor of Social Work at York College, School of Health and Behavioral Sciences, was an invited distinguished panelist for the Rochdale Village Women History Month Forum. She had the honor to sit at the Dais with Black women trailblazers. They discussed the legacy, struggles, social issues, and collective vision for *Black Women of Great Worth*.

Among the distinguished panelist was Dr. Maria Hubbard of the Greater Bethel Community Development Corporation. Dr.

Hubbard is a descendant of Mary McLeod Bethune-Cookman. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune-Cookman (1875-1955), African American great educators, distinguished adviser to several American presidents, and a pioneer and ambassador of racial equality. Honorable New York Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, a champion for York College of the City University of New York and the Queens community, is recognizable for her major role in the opening of the AARC in 1985. Honorable Assemblywoman Vivian Cook and Monica Pringle, Deputy Chief of Staff for New York State Senator Honorable Shirley L. Huntley bestowed Mrs. Elizabeth Singleton, age 103, with a proclamation and

citation for her great worth as a prominent Black women and the oldest resident in Rochdale Village. Dr. Grace Ogiehor'enoma, President of the Nigerian Nurses Association of USA, Inc. and nurse educator at Elmhurst Hospital, Queens NY has over 22 years of expertise in the health-care field. She discussed the staggering rate of diabetes and high blood pressure in the Black community and offered recommendations to promote healthy habits and living. She graciously spoke about her journey from Nigeria, West Africa to the United States of America and the significant role of her family, particularly her husband during the transition.

Dr. Rodgers discussed her research on child sexual abuse in the Black Community, confirming national statistics that children between 8-9 years of age are most vulnerable to child sexual abuse. Results from Dr. Rodgers' research also concluded that 80 percent of participants identified their perpetrator as a family

member, or someone they considered family. If we can birth a nation, then surely we can eradicate child sexual abuse!

New York City Council Member, Rubin Wills along with AARC Advisory Board member Anthony Andrews were also distinguished panelist at the *Women of*

Great Worth forum. Mr. Andrews, Queens District Leader and Assistant and Director of Student Activities and Campus Programming, affirmed the importance of men joining women in the discussion and collective vision.

York College Students reaching greater heights

Since Spring 2009, the Resource Center has hosted a conversation between faculty and students about graduate school. Since that time hundreds of students have heard advice about choosing schools, writing the applications, writing personal statements, and have gotten information about funding opportunities.

Faculty members from diverse educational backgrounds continue to share their experiences with students:

Kathariya Mokruue (Psychology)
Mychel Namphy (English)
Selena Rodgers (Social Work)
Mark Schuller (African American Studies/Anthropology)

Xiaodan Zhang (Sociology)

On March 1, 2011, faculty were joined by Stephen Smith, graduate student at the Graduate Center. Smith talked about the CUNY Pipeline. York College students who went through the program also shared their experiences, who have worked with Prof. Namphy.

The CUNY Pipeline Program is administered by the Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity Programs (OEODP) at the Graduate Center – CUNY. The program is designed to provide educational and financial support to students who are cur-

rently underrepresented in our nation's Universities. Undergraduates from underrepresented groups interested in pursuing the Ph.D. in preparation for college-level teaching and advanced research in any discipline except law and medicine are encouraged to apply.

This greater interest paid off: Five York College students attended the Pipeline Program this year.

For information about the CUNY Pipeline program, visit <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/oeodp/pipeline.asp>

York College and Haiti: an Ongoing Engagement

The African American Resource Center hosted several events on Haiti in 2010-11, since the devastating earthquake that killed as many as 316,000 people. York is one of the few colleges with a Haitian Creole program, coordinated by Dr. Jean François. York serves a large Haitian student population and the neighborhood, Jamaica Queens, has a large and growing Haitian community.

On November 16, 2010, two days before the anniversary of the final battle of the Haitian Revolution in 1803 that ended slavery and established the world's first free black republic, York invited several activists to discuss the on-the-ground earthquake response. Because the event had over 200 people, it was held in the Atrium. Prof. François began the event and moderated the discussion that

included Prof. Mark Schuller and several Haitian activists in New York City: Ray Laforest (WBAI, Pacifica Radio, AFSCME), Lily Cerat (Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees), and Lionel Legros (Kingsborough Community College and also the host of the first Haitian radio program in New York), and solidarity activist Lisa Davis (MADRE, CUNY Law School). The discussion focused on the conditions in the

vis Staples, Buddy Guy, Mos Def, Angelique Kidjo, many jazz artists, performed at Nelson Mandela's 70th Birthday Tribute, worked with Toni Morri-

son in her production *N'Orleans-A Storyville Musical*. He performed in Broadway's *Death and the King's Horseman*; co-wrote the composition

"Divining"-Judith Jamison's first ballet for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and at Radio City Music Hall in the "Salute to the Blues".

Langston's Tribute to Gil Scott-Heron

By Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) and Selena T. Rodgers



l to r: **Herb Boyd** (activist/author/journalist), **Tony Medina** (Associate Professor of English of Creative Writing/Howard University), **Sonia Sanchez** (author/poet/activist), **Camilla Gilyard** (Elementary School Teacher/Daughter of Dr. Keith Gilyard), **Nana Camille Yarbrough** (musician/actress/poet/activist/television producer/author) and **Atiba Kwabena-Wilson** (musician/poet/storyteller/Djeli)

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Executive Director Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) of the Queens Library's Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center hosted *Good Vibrations...A Tribute to Gil Scott-Heron* on Saturday, April 7, 2012. *Good Vibrations...* is the fourth installment of Jackson's creation for the Langston Hughes Community Library's

Tribute Series. Over the past two years, photo journalist/filmmaker Gordon Parks, actor Frank Silvera and activist playwright August Wilson were featured. The tribute to Scott-Heron (April 1, 1949 - May 27, 2011) began following his transition. Scott-Heron is a great influence and favorite performing artist of Jackson's, who admired Scott-Heron for having his mind and hand on the politi-

cal pulse of America and Black America. Scott-Heron is a self-proclaimed "Bluesologist" through his Afrocentric spoken word and poetic lyrics, stage presentation, blues-funk rooted music, political commentary, comedic narration and charismatic style. In Jackson's eyes, Scott-Heron was a constant thorn in the side of America who engaged the mind, body and spirit.

The first hour of the day's events opened with the playing of a cross section of Scott-Heron's recordings from his early albums, *Pieces of A Man* (1971), through his last recording *I'm New Here* (2010). In all, twenty-five recordings of his work are now available. While the audience enjoyed listening to Scott-Heron, they viewed the table display from Jackson's personal collection of posters, vinyl albums, cds, dvds and books from Scott-Heron's four-decade career. The afternoon continued with the viewing of the walking tour documentary of Washington, DC and the city's black wax museum—*Black Wax Gil Scott-Heron* (1982). Queens poet David Mills followed the film with a free flowing, five poem recitation to Gil Scott-Heron's poems reflecting the turmoil in the civil rights awareness years of America (*The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*, *Winter in America*, *In The Bottle*) and two that personalized the demons within Scott-Heron, (*Spirits Past* and *The Other Side I, II and III*).

Next, **Dr. Aldon Nielsen** of Pennsylvania State University, gave a PowerPoint presentation of his ongoing research on Scott-Heron and his personal remembrances as a student of Scott-Heron's at Washington D.C.'s Federal City College in the early 1970's. "My professor was but two years older than me, but had already had two books published" said Dr. Nielsen (*The Vulture* (1970), *The Nigger Factory* (1972)). In short order Professor Nielsen gained a high level of respect

for the depth and strength of Professor Scott-Heron's mind.

The core of the day's tribute was an engaging panel discussion moderated by **Herb Boyd**, a Harlem based activist journalist, on the life and contributions of Gil Scott-Heron. The panel included:

Dr. Tony Medina, a product of and student activist at New York City College in his undergraduate years. A talented poet, Professor Medina published childrens' poetry storybooks include *Love to Langston*, *Bob Marley* and *DeShawn Days*, as well as spoken word volumes, *Bum Rush the Page*, with the late, activist poet, Louis Reyes Rivera, and *Roll Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature and Art*. **Sister Sonia Sanchez**, Poet, Mother, Educator/Temple University (1977-1999) is one of America's greatest activist poet/scholars of the 20th Century with over 16 books; national and international lecturer on Black Culture and Literature, Women's Liberation, Peace and Racial Justice; lectured in over 500 colleges and universities; contributing editor *Black Scholar* and *The Journal of African Studies*. **Nana Camille Yarbrough**, Professor of Black Studies Department at the City College (CUNY), award winning poet/author (Cornrows, 1979), cultural activist and performer from the Village of Harlem. Founder of Ancestor House "It's our story... more than 500 years of tradition." **Djeli Atiba Kwabena-Wilson**, is one of the most multifaceted

cultural warriors based in New York City's Village of Harlem today. Wilson is an Africana historian, storyteller, vocalist, musician (djembe drum, harmonica, flute, piccolo), composer, lecturer and political activist. **Ms. Camilla Gilyard**, a South Queens elementary school teacher and daughter of Dr. Keith Gilyard, read her father's prepared comments and spoke to Scott-Heron's legacy in her generation as usefulness in the teachings to engage her fifth grade students in their English lessons. Dr. Gilyard is a Professor of English at Pennsylvania State University and a published poet and author of *John Oliver Killens A Life of Literary Activism* (2010). Gilyard was a former Corona resident and friend of Scott-Heron's before his rise to stardom. The event ended with music by Atiba's blues ensemble, *The B fo' quo'tet*, with a guest horn player and the poetry of David Mills and Tony Medina.

Located at 100th Street and Northern Boulevard in Corona, the Queens Library's Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center was founded by activists from the Corona-East Elmhurst neighborhood as part of the Anti-Poverty programs of the 1960's. It is the first public institution named for the "Poet Laureate of Harlem." Visit: www.queenslibrary.org and www.libraryactioncommittee.org.

Tiffany Cudjoe thanked her mentor and poetess, Professor Selena T. Rodgers for encouraging her to attend the tribute to



l to r: **Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako)** (Executive Director, Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center/York College), **Tiffany Cudjoe** (York College Student) and **Sonia Sanchez** (author/poet/activist);

Scott-Heron. Tiffany also extended a heart-felt thank you to Professor Andrew Jackson for introducing her to Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Yarbrough as a rising star at York College and for granting her permission to photograph the event. Dr. Rodgers and Tiffany had the tremendous opportunity to engage in three-way dialogue with Ms. Sanchez about her journey as a poet, au-

thor and activist. “My experience at the Langston Hughes Library was beyond amazing. I used my camera to capture participants’ tributes to Mr. Gil Scott-Heron. I also absorbed the profound wisdom, poetry and stories offered by Ms. Sonia Sanchez and other distinguished guests” stated Tiffany.

Tiffany Cudjoe is a Cardinal Crew member and York College Ambassador, helping to create a student-friendly environment for incoming freshmen. Mr. Michel Hodge, Executive Director of Enrollment Management at York College is also the York Cardinal Crew Director and a Rising Star Honoree. Hosted by Metropolitan Hospitality, Rising Star Awards are presented to young professionals who exemplify outstanding leadership skills. On January 26th, 2012, Mr. Hodge introduced Tiffany to award winning domestic and international photographer Michelle Kawka of Michelle’s High Heel Studio. Tiffany is currently interning with Ms. Kawka at the “Rising Star Awards Ceremony”. Tiffany is also a Change Agent Intern with

CUNY Creative Arts/Project Change, educating to inform and empower high school and college students about health issues HIV/AIDS and obesity through facilitation, drama, mentorship, and advocacy.

Her interests include graduate studies as a Photo Essayist, combining her passion for research, photography, social work and sociology with a focus on social and health-related issues impacting people of African ancestry. She was a featured photographer in the March 2012 Rochdale Village, Inc. Bulletin. The Newspaper is issued monthly to over 25,000 residents living in the world’s second largest housing cooperative.

Tiffany Cudjoe, a Percy E. Sutton SEEK student, is graduating in 2012 from York College of The City University of New York with her BA in Sociology, Social Sciences Program/School of Health and Behavioral Sciences.



Photo: Attendance at Langston Hughes Library and Cultural Center. Front row: : **Dr. Aldon Lynn Nielsen** (Department of English/Pennsylvania State University) and **Sister Sonia Sanchez** (retired professor/Temple University)

*Some of the new classes in the new major are: **The Unforgiving Mirror: Race and Racism in Contemporary Society; Intersections: Black Women in the Atlantic World; Contemporary Legacy of Slavery in the U.S.; Environmental Justice in North America; Africa and the Columbian Exchange; Heritage, Culture, and Memory; Race, Housing, and Community; and Boys to Men: from Black Macho to Black Male Feminist***

CUNY political scientist speaks to York about Haiti's elections

Michael Sharpe, Behavioral Sciences

On October 18, 2011, Dr. François Pierre-Louis, Associate Professor of Political Science Queens College/CUNY gave a presentation on "Haiti, Elections, Cholera and the International Community" at the African American Resource Center. The event was cosponsored by the York College Political Science program. In 2010, President René Préval of Haiti reluctantly agreed to call for presidential and legislative elections to renew the members of parliament and elect a new president.

Since Préval was the only president in recent years to have been elected twice to the presidency and successfully completed his two terms, he was seen as the leader that would usher Haiti into an era of stability and economic growth. Instead, the 2010 elections were overwhelmingly rejected by the population and the country once more faced a long period of violence and instability. In his talk, Pierre-Louis argued that the international community, through MINUSTAH and CARICOM, failed miserably in Haiti to support the transition to democracy because their agenda

is in contradiction with the wishes of the Haitian people.

Prof. François talked about the election of Haiti's new president, singer Michel Martelly a.k.a. "Sweet Micky," who had recently spoke at York, the short lived candidacy of hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean, and the events surrounding the cholera outbreak that many think was inadvertently brought to Haiti by United Nations peacekeepers from Nepal. The event was attended by York students, faculty, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations working in Haiti.

"A New Era of Social Justice and Civil Rights"

By Selena T. Rodgers, Social Sciences



On April 4th, 2012, Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (Assistant Professor of Social Work at York College/CUNY) and Tiffany Cudjoe (student research assistant/York College/CUNY) commemorated

the 44th anniversary of Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination and 38th day after the killing of Trayvon Martin by co-presenting at The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) 44th Annual Conference. The annual forum was hosted in Atlanta, GA. Aligned with the conference's theme "A New Era of Social Justice and Civil Rights," their presentation, "Rise Up Social Workers: From Vicarious Trauma to Posttraumatic Growth" focused on the preliminary findings of past personal trauma, the presence of vicarious

trauma symptoms, and coping strategies in a national sample of social workers. Social workers encounter and respond to unprecedented trauma-related experiences, including youth violence, unconscionable killings of Black males—including Trayvon Martin—and the pandemic of HIV/AIDS predominately affecting Black women in metropolitan areas. The presenters' preliminary research findings revealed the need for competent training of social workers in areas of trauma, using strength-based approaches.

Approximately 700 participants attended the NABSW national conference. Twelve students previously enrolled in the Social

Research Methods for Social Work course taught by Professor Rodgers at Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York along with Professor Elaine Reid (Social Work Program/MEC) were present and highly engaged in the workshop. Ms. Cudjoe, a first time presenter at a national conference, received positive feedback from attendees. Tiffany was selected as a featured speaker for the lunch session at York College's 3rd Annual Student Undergraduate Research Day on April 19th, 2012. She engaged in a conversation with her research advisor Dr. Selena T. Rodgers, highlighting her research experience. Tiffany is grateful to SEEK and the Academic Affairs office for her travel to the conference.

In remembrance of the civil rights leader, Tiffany and Dr. Rodgers visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, GA on Thursday, April 5, 2012. The historic site was established in 1980 to pre-

serve and honor "M.L.K.'s" birthplace, work, worship, life and legacy. The gravesite of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King and statue of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi "The Mahatma" (1869-1948) were among the photographs taken by Tiffany. Her future plans for "New Era of Social Justice and Civil Rights" include connecting her enthusiasm for research, photography, social work and sociology.

While at the conference, Rodgers talked at length with NABSW National Conference Co-Chair Melissa Smith-Haley about the need for student, as well as academics/practitioners and student joint presentations. Ms. Smith-Haley recalled the first time she presented as a student with her father Dr. Fredrick E. Smith in Houston at a NABSW conference nearly 20 years ago—"That experience helped me tremendously in starting my career and cementing my love for the organization" stated Ms. Smith-Haley,

NABSW New Orleans Chapter. The National Association of Black Social Workers Inc. is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research www.nabsw.org/



On April 9, 2012, Sharika Holloway, a baccalaureate social work student at Medgar Evers College, won the NABSW Office of Student Affairs Secretary. Sharika is member and President-elect for the ABSW student chapter at MEC and a former research student of Dr. Rodgers.

Resource Center hosts graduate school discussions

Michael Sharpe, Behavioral Sciences

October 3, 2011, the Political Science Program and the African American Resource Center cosponsored an event entitled "A Talk about Graduate School in International Affairs". The guest speaker was Ms. Leigh Morris Sloane, Executive Director, the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA). APSIA has some 60 full and affiliate member schools including the University of Maryland, University of Texas at Austin, University of Pittsburgh,

Duke, Georgetown, George Washington, Tufts, Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, and Sciences Po (France). The event was held at the African American Resource Center. Ms. Sloane talked graduate study in preparation for careers in international affairs. She spoke extensively about the process of applying to graduate schools of international affairs including personal essay, GPA, GRE, and internships. The event was attended by students with interests in diplomacy, interna-

tional development, and humanitarian assistance.

Since 2009, the African American Resource Center has held at least one graduate school workshop per semester. Since 2011, we partnered with the CUNY Pipeline Program. This year, Graduate Center Writing Fellows led workshops on writing personal statements. For information about the CUNY Pipeline program, visit <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/oeodp/pipeline.asp>