

BIOGRAPHIES



BONNER, ANDRENE MS.Ed., M.A., B.A., is an educator, writer, producer, singer, songwriter, poet, folk life specialist, and an accomplished actress. She teaches English Language at Mount Vernon High School in Westchester County where she also serves on the Curriculum Planning Team and Hall of Fame committee. Ms. Bonner is the Founder and Artistic Director of *Caribbean World Arts and Culture, Inc.*, a non-profit organization dedicated to research, advocacy, preservation, and exhibition of works that reflect the Caribbean experience. As a Folk Life Specialist, Bonner's scholarship and research addresses linguistic variations in Caribbean languages and cultures, African retentions in Caribbean culture, Caribbean orality, literacy, and dramatic performance. Andrene has performed throughout the United States and the Caribbean under the auspices of several theatre companies. Her soon to be published first in a series of young reader's books titled, *Olympic Gardens*, tells the story of a Jamaican boy's displacement, migration, literacy, family, friendship, and hope. She has written a trilogy of seminal female contributors to the development of Jamaica, which includes, *Beyond The War and The Warrior*; a story of Nanny of the Maroons, *Laugh A Revolution*, a historical drama, based on the life of the Honorable Louise Bennett-Coverley, Litt.D., and *Golden Pen*, A slice of the life of Una Marson.

DEVONISH, HUBERT, Ph.D. is Professor of Linguistics and Chair of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus: Kingston, Jamaica, Caribbean. He is an internationally recognized expert in linguistics particularly in the areas of Caribbean Creole languages and varieties of English. He is the author of numerous articles on Creole languages, socio-linguistics and language politics in the Caribbean and many books that include: *Language and Liberation: Creole Language Politics in the Caribbean* (2007); *Talking Rhythm, Stressing Tone: Prominence in Anglo-West African Creole Languages* (2003). Examples of works in progress are: *On the Re-writing of Caribbean History by way of Linguistic Evidence, Reanalysis of the Theory of Diglossia as it Applies to the Caribbean* (coauthor) and *Tonal Analysis of Berbice Dutch*. He is currently the coordinator of The Jamaican Language Unit which supports the development of instructional materials, conduct research on language use in Jamaican classrooms and provide professional development in educational applications of sociolinguistic research.

DE KLEINE. CHRISTA, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Education at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland, where she coordinates the MA TESOL program and teaches linguistics courses at the MA and PhD levels. Dr. de Kleine holds degrees in linguistics from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands (M.A.) and the City University of New York (Ph.D), where she specialized in language contact issues, including creolization. She has recently published a book on Surinamese Dutch and has published on other creole-influenced and creolized language varieties, including Afrikaans and Negerhollands (a Dutch-lexifier creole language once spoken in the Virgin Islands). Dr. de Kleine's current research, conducted in public schools in the Baltimore- Washington metropolitan area, examines the acquisition of Standard American English by West African immigrant students in ESL programs who are native speakers of English-lexifier creole language varieties.

EDWARDS, WALTER F., Ph.D. *Professor of English, Director of Humanities Center, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI* Born in Guyana, South America, Dr. Edwards earned a BA in English at the University of Guyana in 1969. He continued his education in England, earning an MA in Linguistics in English Language Teaching at University of Lancaster, England, 1971 and his Ph.D. in Language and Linguistics at University of York, England, 1975. At Wayne State University Dr. Edwards teaches several courses in linguistics. His research interests and publications include Guyanese Creole studies, African American Vernacular English, the sociolinguistics of rap lyrics and language and culture. Dr. Edwards was formerly Director of the Linguistics program, Assistant and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs, chair of the English Department at WSU. As the Humanities Center Director, Dr. Edwards manages all aspects of the Center's work and chairs the Advisory Board.



FRANÇOIS , JEAN, Ph.D. (Nom de plume A20), is an assistant professor of French at York College. His main interests are the Haitian novel in the 20th century and the Haitian Creole. He is the co-founder of Rivarti collection, a house of publishing in New York, and SOS Patrimoine, a Haitian organization whose objective is to protect the architectural heritage. His latest article “Habiter la terre”, is a rereading of the Declaration of Independence of Haiti through a semiotic point of view. It has been published in *Ethnologies* (peer review), Quebec : Université de Laval, June 2006 ; Vol. 28,1, pp.119-135. He authored three Books: *Marasa*, novel, Rivarticollecion, NY, May 2004, *Lettres à Martine*, poetry, Rivarticollecion, NY, 2001, *La suzannade*, short stories, Rivarticollecion, NY, 1999; and coauthored several others. The play *Elles*, tryptique de l’absence, he co-wrote with Gerty Dambury and Maria-Luisa Ruiz, was performed in Avignon, in July 2006, and in Guadeloupe, in March 2006. The DVD was released by Axe Sud and La compagnie Taxibrousse, in December, 2006. The same year, he published “Mourir sucé”, a short story, in *La Nouvelle Revue Française*, Paris : Gallimard, June 2006 ; 576, pp.176-179. For the century of Jacques Roumain, the most famous Haitian writer, he published “Les fausses Annaïses”, a short story in *Mon Roumain à moi*, Port-au-prince, Presses nationales d’Haïti, May 2007 ; pp. 9-15.

IRISH, GEORGE J A., Ph.D. is *Professor* of Caribbean and Latin American Studies in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Medgar Evers College, CUNY where he is also Executive Director of the Caribbean Research Center. Simultaneously, he is Co-Founder and *Chancellor* of the Peoples of the Americas Consortium of Research Centers and Universities for Sustainable Development, / Fundacion Universidad Popular de Las Americas, and Co-Founder of the International Institute for Technology Exchange and Capacity Building in Panama. (Instituto Superior Internacional de Intercambio Tecnológico y Capacitación — ISI) He is the author/editor of 25 books, including: *Nicolas Guillen: Growth of a Revolutionary Consciousness; Visions of Liberation in the Caribbean; Perspectives for Alliouagana; and Further Perspectives for Alliouagana; Discourses from Alliouagana and the Diaspora Life in a Colonial Crucible: Labor and Social Change* Founder/Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal, *Wadabagei - A Journal of the Caribbean and its Diasporas*.

NOGUERO, PEDRO ANTONIO, Ph.D. is a professor in the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University, the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and the co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS). An urban sociologist, Noguera’s scholarship and research focus on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. He has done research on issues related to education and economic and social development in the Caribbean, Latin America and several other countries throughout the world. His extensive publications include topics on urban school reform, conditions that promote student achievement, youth violence, the potential impact of school choice and vouchers on urban public schools, and race and ethnic relations in American society. He is the author of *The Imperatives of Power: Political Change and the Social Basis of Regime Support in Grenada (199?)*, *City Schools and the American Dream* (2003 — winner of Forward Magazine Gold Award), *Beyond Resistance: Youth Activism and Community Change*, (coeditor with Shawn Ginwright and Julio Camarota - 2006) and his most recent book is *Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation’s Schools* (with Jean Yonemura Wing 2006). Dr. Noguera was a K-12 classroom teacher for several years and continues to teach part-time in high schools.



MARIA-LUISA, RUIZ, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of French and Spanish at Medgar Evers College of CUNY. She has specialized in Francophone studies. Her research centers on two main points: literature and cultural connections between France and its colonies at the beginning of the 20th century and contemporary Francophone women writers. She is the cofounder of Rivarticollecion (see web site www.rivarticollecion.com) the publishing branch of a non for profit organization that promotes Francophone books and writers in the US. In 2005-2006, she co-authored a play that was presented at the Avignon Theater Festival in July 2006. She is the author of two books: *Parole d’Alberta* (2001, poetry) and *Làoùelle devient Méla* (2004, novella)

SPEARS, ARTHUR K., Ph.D. is affiliated with The City University of New York (CUNY). At The City College, he is Professor and Chair in the Anthropology Department and Director of the

Black Studies Program. At The Graduate Center, he is professor in both the Linguistics and the Anthropology Programs. Dr. Spears is currently President (2007-2009) of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, the largest international body devoted to promoting the study of contact languages. Prof. Spears works in four languages (English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese), conducting research in the areas of (1) African-American English; (2) pidgin and creole languages, focusing on Haitian and other French-related creoles (3) language and education; and (4) race and ideology. Prof. Spears's recent books include *The Structure and Status of Pidgins and Creoles* (co-editor with D. Winford; John Benjamins, 1997), *Race and Ideology: Language, Symbolism, and Popular Culture* (editor; Wayne State University Press, 1999), *Black Linguistics: Language, Society, and Politics in Africa and the Americas* (co-editor; Routledge, 2003), *Black Language in the English-Speaking Caribbean and U.S.: History, Structure, Use, and Education* (editor; Lexington/ Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), and *The Haitian Creole Language: History, Structure, Use, and Education* (co-editor, 2008). Prof. Spears's most recent book manuscript, *Increasing Diversity in Introductory Linguistics Courses* (co-edited), is in the final stages of review.

