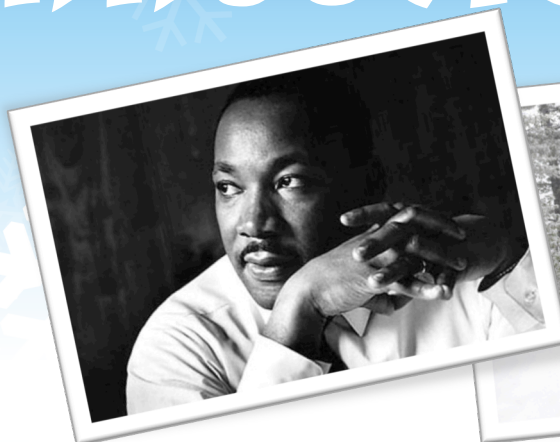


Black Faculty and Academic Professional Alliance

# Connections



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## Add BFAPA to your New Year's Resolutions

For most the start of a New Year has been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a convenient time to reflect on the changes we want to make and resolve to follow through on those changes. What type of resolutions made your list? Perhaps it was to exercise more often, eat healthier, and spend more time with family and friends. Any of those sound familiar? Hopefully, we can persuade you to add another non-selfish New Year's resolution to your list. **Get more involved in BFAPA!**

You can get more involved by volunteering to serve on a committee such as laws, social/networking, communications, professional development and training or recruitment and retention. Also, tell your colleagues about BFAPA and invite them to the next event. Finally, please contact Deidre Weathersby for formal membership in BFAPA at [daweath@illinois.edu](mailto:daweath@illinois.edu).

### Monthly Lunch Connection

Thursday, February 17, 2011

11:30AM ~ 1:30 PM

General Lounge, Illini Union

Discussion begins at 12 PM

Topic: What Next after the President Hogan lunch

## Guiding Vision

The mission of Black Faculty Academic Professional Alliance (BFAPA) is to serve as advocates for equitable and accessible opportunities, programs, services, and governance for Black faculty, academic professionals, and students through connections with administration, internal and external partnerships, social networks, and by leveraging both financial and human capital resources to effect change.

### Welcome New Faces to Campus



Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

#### Rory James

**Director of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American**

**Cultural Center Education:** M.P.H. (public health, epidemiology), Tulane University; B.S. (biology), Tuskegee University, Alabama.

**Why Illinois?** “I can truly say this move was great for me professionally and personally,” James said. “I was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, so I am a ‘native son’ of Illinois. The UI is a highly ranked public institution, and I desired to be in this setting of excellence. Furthermore, the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center is one of the oldest black cultural centers in the Midwest and nation. It is an honor to be director and forge a legacy with the current African American students and staff.”

James’ goals for the center include creating and implementing a retention program that focuses on first- and second-year African American students, increasing student traffic and utilization of the cultural center by the collective campus community, and fostering a relationship with science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the UI to help increase the number of African American students majoring in these fields.

“Rory brings a wealth of experience and a new vision of culture centers to the UI,” said Renee Romano, vice chancellor for student affairs. “He will take the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center to the next level in serving our students and community.”

Obtained from Inside Illinois, December 2010

<http://news.illinois.edu/ii/10/0902/newfaces2010.html#james>

New to campus and want to introduce yourself? Contact the BFAPA Communications Chair at [csolomo@illinois.edu](mailto:csolomo@illinois.edu)

### Third Thursdays Social Event

The BFAPA Social Planning Committee invites you to attend  
“**Third Thursdays**”

**Check us out on facebook**  
for more information

You can also contact Angela Black [arblack1@illinois.edu](mailto:arblack1@illinois.edu)

## Featured Faculty of the Month

### Dr. Jennifer Hamer

**Associate Professor in the African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:** Ph.D. (Sociology), University of Texas-Austin; M.S. (Sociology), Texas A&M University; B.A. (Sociology with Magna Cum Laude), The University of Texas at San Antonio



Dr. Hamer joined the University of Illinois faculty in 2004 as an Associate Professor in LAS. During that time she also served as a former Head of the Department of African American Studies. She recently led a 3-campus collaboration with The HistoryMakers, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating students and the public about contemporary African American makers of change.

In this past year, she served as Associate Dean in the Graduate College and led efforts to build a more equitable graduate community. She launched the unit's Common Ground Initiative to broaden the participation of minority students, developed I-Mentor, a faculty/alum-mentoring network designed to support underrepresented racial minority graduate students, and other equity initiatives. She is a member of the campus Diversity Initiatives Committee, Gender Equity Committee, and the University of Illinois Diversity and Access Task Force.

She has published in varying sociology and Black Studies journals and is the author of *What it Means to Be Daddy: Fatherhood for Black Men Living Away from Their Children* (Columbia University Press, 2001). Her most recent manuscript, *Abandoned in the Heartland: Decline and Family in a Black Industrial Suburb*, is due for release by the University of California Press, Fall 2011. She is former editor of *Race & Society*, the official journal of the Association of Black Sociologists and is presently the founding Editor of *Black Women, Gender and Families*, a new Black Women's Studies journal published by the University of Illinois Press. Dr. Hamer joined the BFAPA executive team in summer 2010 to support the sabbatical leave of colleague, Chris Span as co-chair of BFAPA.

Remember to  Like  
BFAPA Social and  
Networking  
Committee  
on 

[http://go.illinois.edu/BFAPA\\_facebook](http://go.illinois.edu/BFAPA_facebook)

**Know a wonderful African  
American faculty member and or  
Academic Professional everyone  
else should know more about?**

**Contact the BFAPA  
Communications Chair at  
[cnsolomo@illinois.edu](mailto:cnsolomo@illinois.edu)**

# Upcoming Events

## Monthly Lunch Connection

February 17, 2011

11:30AM ~ 1:30 PM

General Lounge, Illini Union

Discussion begins at 12 PM

Topic: What Next after the President Hogan lunch

## Campus Connections

### 10<sup>th</sup> Black Sacred Music Symposium and Concert

Symposium: February 17 -19, 2011

Concert: February 20, 2011

The Black Sacred Music Symposium is an exciting and innovative four-day- conference dedicated to the study of Black sacred music traditions.

In commemoration of 42 years on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and 20 years of the biennial Symposium conference, the Black Chorus is pleased to host the Tenth Black Sacred Music Symposium from February 17-20, 2011. In recognition of this milestone, the Symposium X weekend will include the participation of Black Chorus alumni, friends of the Black Chorus, a Commemorative Program Booklet, and a Symposium Luncheon.

For more information contact: Ashley Davis  
[adavis2@illinois.edu](mailto:adavis2@illinois.edu) 217.244.2801

## Inclusive Illinois Diversity Roundtable: February 24, 2011

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, present 'Just Skin? A Conversation on African & African American Relations.' Panelists & student facilitators will explore resolution & relationship-building.

Illini Union, I-Rooms A&B.  
Boxed lunches will be provided.  
RSVP by Feb. 18 to  
[inclusiveillinois@illinois.edu](mailto:inclusiveillinois@illinois.edu).

## Community Connections

### “Bringing Back the Good Ole Days” Friday, February 25, 2011

Basement Blues – Steppin’ by the Stage –  
Networking – Raffles and Give-aways

9PM – 2AM  
Clark Bar 207 W. Clark St  
Champaign, IL  
\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

## SAFE House

**Substance Abuse Free Environment**

14<sup>th</sup> Annual SAFE House Benefit  
Concert  
Sunday, February 27, at 4 P.M.

First United Methodist Church  
210 W. Church Street Champaign, IL



# Get Involved

ESLARP partners with a broad group of residents and organizations in East St. Louis. We encourage your involvement and appreciate any learning opportunities our students are afforded through our partnership with the East St. Louis community.

There are several ways you can get involved. We encourage you to work with a non-profit organization in your local community to formulate a request for assistance such as a neighborhood or faith-based group. If you do not know of any groups you can work with we might be able to help you make the appropriate contact for your idea/need. Email us at [eslarp@illinois.edu](mailto:eslarp@illinois.edu) or call our campus (217/265-0202) or East St. Louis office (618/397-4973).

Examples of ways we work with partners:

- Outreach Weekends - students work side by side with neighborhood residents on beautification and clean up projects.
- Community Engagement Projects - several Professors at the University of Illinois work with local agencies and neighborhood groups to address needs in the community ranging from grant writing to design work and other projects as needed.

## BFAPA Executive Team

Dr. Christopher Span, Faculty Co-Chair  
Associate Professor (Department of Educational Policy Studies)

Regina Stevenson, Academic Professional Co-Chair  
Manager of Professional Training and Development (CITES)

Rebecca Kornegay, Secretary  
E-Commerce Coordinator (OBFS-Treasury Operations)

Dr. Deidre Weathersby, Treasurer  
Clinical Counselor (Counseling Center)