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Johnson and Mugo Celebrated

AAS Honors Dr. John L. Johnson and Micere Mugo

+ Dr. John L. Johnson, first chair of the African American Studies program and Professor Micere Mugo, AAS faculty, were celebrated this past spring for contributions to both Syracuse University and their respected fields.

Johnson, who was spotlighted in the previous issue of the Dream keeper, was an immensely focused chair who championed not only the rights of African American students during his tenure but, others from various points beyond the margins that he inspired with his passion for social and political activism.

Professor Mugo was celebrated as an author, playwright, orator, and activist during festivities in honor of her retirement. Appropriately entitled “the Tireless Pursuit,” as an acknowledgement to Mugo’s perseverance in the face of adversity for her then, unpopular and yet, moral stance on human rights issues. The well attended events included a panel discussion, poetry, music, dance and reflections on Mugo’s career.

Guests represented various aspects of her career and ranged from fellow writers spanning the American and African literary cannon to diplomats from her native country of Kenya. A highlight of the weekend long acknowledgement of Mugo’s impact on academia as well as the role she played in political activism and other causes of social justice, was an elegant dinner at the Community Folk Art Center. The dinner culminated the celebration that honored her struggle, resistance and perseverance.
The Department of African American Studies hosted a conference on the occasion of the 50th anniversary since the publication of African writer and scholar Chinua Achebe’s Arrow of God. The conference, which coincided with the announced retirement and chaired by AAS professor Dr. Micere Githae Mugo, provided a foray into the various representations of Achebe’s influence. Nana Ayebia Clarke and James Currey, editors of the newly released Chinua Achebe: Tributes and Reflections, were among invited guests to celebrate the African Writer's legacy. Clarke holds the distinction of being Heinemann publishing’s first and last African woman editor and from 1991-2002 served as lead for their African writers series. She was honored by HRM the Queen and bestowed the title Member of the Order of British Empire (MBE) for her advances in publishing in the UK. The Ghanaian born publisher immigrated to the UK and upon completion of her education, embarked on a career in publishing. She now serves as managing director of Ayebia Clarke Publishing Limited. During her visit to SU, Nana Ayebia Clarke toured the MLK library and noted its “presence of history” while describing it as “creatively inspiring”. Clarke donated editions of their titles including the latest work on Achebe from the imprint to the MLK Library. Ayebia Clarke publishers are highly regarding for their specialty in African and Caribbean writers. Also, in attendance were the children of Chinua Achebe who autographed copies of their father's works for display in MLK. (See Acquisitions to learn more)

MLK Videos Now Available in Streaming Format

Select films in the library’s holdings are now available in a streaming format. While only accessible for use in course management software such as Blackboard, these titles offer access to films at the end users convenience. The new format will enable faculty to devote more classroom time to instruction while offering opportunities for research at any time. The technology is a growing trend in library resources and is a welcomed addition to AAS classes.
New Arrivals

*Killing Trayvons: An Anthology of American Violence

A hard hitting discussion that addresses the various reasons why in today’s society the random act that brought both Trayvon and George Zimmerman face to face combined with its resulting outcome, is viewed as symbolic for a host of issues ranging from social injustice to privilege and police power.

Aaron Henry of Mississippi

Minion (K.C.) Morrison, Former Chair of SU Department of African American Studies, offers his analogy of the Mississippian. From his service in World War II to pharmacist and prominent citizen, whose activism led to a political office and national attention, Morrison explores the man as a motivating force in the state’s history. As the leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegation, Henry led an unsuccessful effort to integrate the all-white delegation from Mississippi at the Democratic National Convention in 1964.

Generations in Black and White: Photographs from the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection

*Brown Sugar: Over 100 Years of America’s Black Female Superstars

Heralded as an essential resource for women who are dating as well as those exploring the reality of what constitutes a real versus abusive relationship, the author offers tools for identifying the psychology.

*But He Says He Loves Me: How to Avoid Being Trapped in a Manipulative Relationship

Not only does clothes make a man but apparently the lives of women as discussed in Liberated Threads. Author Tanisha C. Ford draws a parallel between fashion style and activism as witnessed in women of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. (Ford Environmental Justice Collection)

*Florynce “Flo” Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical

Lauded for her activism in both the Black Power and Feminist Movement and known for her signature cowboy hat often accompanied by a defiant middle finger, Kennedy “Flo” is celebrated here for her impact on her passions as well as the lives of other activists of her time. (Ford Environmental Justice Collection)

Why You Can’t Teach United States History without American Indians

The Class of ’65: A Student, a Divided Town, and the Long Road to Forgiveness

*Prince of Darkness: The Untold Story of Jeremiah G. Hamilton, Wall Street’s First Black Millionaire

Grant Park

The Knight and His Shadow

Written by the master of Senegalese literature, Boubacar Boris Diop, this story tells of Lat-Sukabé whose search to find Khadija , his former lover is a powerful novel that shifts from dreams to reality and the distinction between the two.

The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy’s Journey into Manhood

*Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and The Global Politics of Soul
**Friend of MLK Rosa Bogar, Receives Recognition for her Efforts**

The Orangeburg South Carolina native and former resident of Syracuse was honored for her work through a proclamation establishing October 2 Rosa Bogar Day in her hometown. Bogar has been a champion for Civil Rights in both Orangeburg and Minneapolis, Minnesota where she relocated to following her residence in Syracuse. Her work was instrumental in assisting the late Orangeburg Mayor Martin C. Cheatham in the creation of Civil Rights Remembrance Day on May 4, 1997. Rosa Bogar worked 31 years as an educational assistant until retirement in the Minneapolis school system. Over her career as well as currently, Bogar has worked to support awareness of African American history in student scholarships and libraries including the MLK Library.

**Donations**

An autographed copy of Leveling the Playing Field: The Story of the Syracuse 8, signed by the surviving members of the “8” along with accompanying memorabilia from their celebrated returned to SU. Special thanks to Dr. John L. Johnson, Dana Harrell and the other courageous members known as the 8, Gregory Allen, Richard Tyrone Bulls (1951-2010), John Willie Godbolt (1942-2012), John Lobon, Clarence “Bucky” McGill, Abdullah Alif Muhammad, Duane “Spoon” Walker (1949-2010) and Ronald J. Womack. Special thanks to Nana Ayebia Clarke’s donations in honor of Dr. Micere Githae Mugo.

**Branding Our Space**

MLK library’s new student worker, Collin “CJ” Robinson is utilizing his major in Communications Design to reinvent its public image. Robinson is learning about the importance of branding and is eager to apply his knowledge to publicity for the library. His designs are featured in this edition of Dream Keeper, the updated website at [www.mlklibrary.syr.edu](http://www.mlklibrary.syr.edu), an MLK Hours of Operation flyer on the AAS electronic monitor and special events publications.

**Special Thanks**

Thanks Amy Manley, Sarah Scalese, Jesse Menn, and a very sincere heartfelt best wishes and happy retirement to our dear lady Maribeth Schoeneck. Despite an often hectic pace as the Coordinator of the Electronic Publishing Center (EPC) especially during occasions like finals and special events, Maribeth always had a bright smile, keen eye for graphics, and an incredible ability to multitask. She was a special and kind heart to all who knew her. We’ll miss you! Now go have some fun!

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Love,
MLK Library