

November 7, 2008

Dear Alumni:

The Department of Africana Studies was established in 1969. The dedicated efforts of the Department's faculty have fostered significant departmental and student achievements over the past thirty-nine years. The Department's graduate program has ranked second in this country for the past five years in graduate degrees conferred. The Department recently instituted an Honors Program for students majoring in Africana Studies. The Department's Study Abroad Program in Africa was instituted eight years ago and continues to attract a large number of student participants.

We are inordinately proud of our graduates. Within the past three years, three former Master's students have earned the Ph.D. degree. This past May, one of our bachelor's degree students graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

I am delighted to inform you of the launching of the Department's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, The Department hosted the visit to our campus of The Most Honorable Professor Sir Kenneth O. Hall, Governor-General of Jamaica, who delivered his keynote address on "Caribbean Development within the New Global Economy." His address can be accessed at [www.albany.edu/africana.html](http://www.albany.edu/africana.html). The Department's Reunion Planning Committee will host a series of exciting and significant events to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Anniversary theme is "Serving Students, Serving the Community, and Serving the World." The Gala Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Please visit The Department's website for information on the Anniversary events, including the special Alumni Reunion activities.

We will need your financial support to ensure the success of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities. Please address your check to the University at Albany Foundation and use the check memo space or accompanying note to instruct that your gift be restricted to the Department of Africana Studies. Alumni also may opt to make their pledge by credit card. For more details, please visit the University's website at: <http://www.albany.edu/giving/>.

We are thrilled that our alumni will be returning to UAlbany's campus to participate in The Department of Africana Studies' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities in September 2009.

Sincerely,

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Chair and Associate Professor  
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