MICHAEL STEELE  
(A&S ’81)  
New RNC Chair

DR. MICHAEL HANCHARD  
SOBA Presidential Professor

CLASS OF 1984  
REUNION  
Year Spotlight

UPDATED TIMELINE: AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT JHU
Welcome to the Spring 2009 issue of SOBA News. I wish a warm welcome on behalf of the SOBA Executive Committee to all of our black alumni from each of the divisions of the university. I would also like to extend an invitation to each of you to participate and to become involved in SOBA, your Johns Hopkins Alumni Association.

In this issue you will find ....

• A timeline of African-Americans at Johns Hopkins
• Interesting news—and a recipe—from alumni around world
• Updates on African-American faculty and their current research
• Information on how to become involved with SOBA and the Alumni Association

I am excited about the activities and interests of the SOBA membership. For comments and questions, please feel free to write to me at soba@jhu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Robert B. Clayton (A&S ’84)
President, Society of Black Alumni
FREDERICK I. SCOTT (ENG ‘50), a student at Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore, applies to Johns Hopkins and is admitted as a freshman, becoming the first African-American undergraduate student.

REGINALD G. JAMES, an African-American physician from Washington, DC, is admitted to the entering Master’s of Public Health class in the School of Hygiene (Bloomberg School of Public Health).

CLIFTON WHARTON (SAIS ‘48) is the first African-American admitted to the School of Advanced International Studies. In 1970, Wharton becomes the first African-American to lead a major, predominantly white university as president (Michigan State University), and later becomes the first African-American to lead a major foundation (Rockefeller Foundation) and the first to be Chairman and CEO of a Fortune 500 company (TIAA-CREF).

In 2003, Steele achieved an historic first by winning the election for Maryland’s Lieutenant Governor – the first African-American elected to a statewide office in Maryland and the first Republican elected as Lieutenant Governor. From 2005 to 2007, Steele was the highest ranking elected African-American Republican in the United States.

“It’s time for something completely different and we are going to bring it to them,” Steele said after his RNC victory. “This is our opportunity. My election sends the appropriate message that at this hour the Republican Party gets it. And, I cannot do it by myself.”

Steele was born in 1958 in Prince George’s County, Maryland, and raised in the Petworth neighborhood of Washington, DC. He won a scholarship to Johns Hopkins, where he was elected freshman class, junior class and student body president. He received his bachelor’s degree in international relations from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Steele is married to fellow Johns Hopkins alumnus Andrea Derritt Steele (A&S’81), and the couple have two sons. "We must create legacy wealth, something of value for future generations, ... and that means giving our kids the kind of education that can help them get a good job and have a good life.”

**F R E D E R I C K I. S C O T T (E N G ’50)** becomes the first African-American to earn an undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins.


**E R N E S T A. B A T E S, M. D. (A & S ’58)**, the first African-American on the Johns Hopkins football team, becomes the first African-American student to room on the Homewood campus. In 1958, he graduates with a B.A. degree in Biology, becoming the first African-American to graduate from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.
Although Jessica Turral (A&S ’09) will be leaving Homewood upon graduation this May, she won’t be going very far from campus. Thanks to her involvement with the Mentoring Assistance Peer Program (MAAP) and the Senior Leadership Consultants at Johns Hopkins, Turral will be staying in Baltimore after she earns her degree in Psychology and Writing Seminars.

While many seniors are preparing to learn what the world can offer them after graduation, Turral plans on showing Baltimore what she can offer it. She is firming up plans that involve establishing a non-profit organization whose goal will be to help families of troubled youth get their lives back on track. Turral said she wants to focus on families that have children who have been incarcerated to help them pursue internships and educational opportunities.

Turral said her mother is one of the biggest reasons she wants to give something back to the Baltimore community. “My mom is a social worker and has always given to the community,” Turral explained. “I remember how people helped me and my mother over the years and I feel like I have truly been blessed in my life. There is no way that I can turn my back on my community now.”

One of Turral’s proudest achievements at Johns Hopkins is the Welcome To My City Fair event she started this year along with the Baltimore Scholars and Senior Leadership Consultants. She said that she grew tired of hearing all the misconceptions about Baltimore, so she wanted to do something to show incoming freshmen and prospective students what the community and the university have to offer. She got local businesses and organizations to come to the Homewood campus for an all-day event that fostered community pride.

Turral said that the reason she was so driven to create the Welcome To My City Fair is because she used to be one of the many teens in the Baltimore area that longed to get out of the city. She said while she was growing up that she had heard all too often the negative misconceptions about Baltimore that seemed to be running rampant – it’s not a safe city, there’s nothing to do unless you have money and many more.

It wasn’t until she arrived on campus and became involved in the MAAP and the Senior Leadership Consultants that Turral began to realize that Baltimore is a special city that has much to offer its youth.

“I didn’t originally plan on going to Johns Hopkins,” Turral admitted. “I wanted to go to Davidson College in North Carolina because I thought I wanted to get out of Baltimore. Once I got to Johns Hopkins and experienced the environment and everything it has to offer, though, I realized just how attracted to Baltimore I really am and how much I love the city.”

By Jeff Dickinson

| TIME LINE |

1963

WADE HORSEY (A&S ’65) becomes the first African-American player on the men’s lacrosse team.

1964

M. ALFRED HAYNES, M.D. joins the faculty in the Department of International Health and becomes one of the first African-American faculty members at Johns Hopkins. In 2005, Dr. Haynes is elected into the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars.
Eight African-Americans Serve on the Johns Hopkins Board of Trustees

The Johns Hopkins University Board of Trustees oversees the management of nine academic divisions, including the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, the G.W.C. Whiting School of Engineering, the Carey Business School, the School of Medicine, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and The Peabody Institute. Currently, there are eight African-American alumni and friends who serve on the Board of Trustees.

Paula E. Boggs (A&S ’81) is executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of Starbucks Coffee Co. Boggs holds a B.A. degree in International Studies from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and a J.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt School of Law.

N. Anthony Coles, M.D., M.P.H. (A&S ’82) is president, chief executive officer, and a director of Onyx Pharmaceuticals. Coles holds a B.A. degree from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, a M.P.H. degree from Harvard University, and an M.D. degree from Duke University. He trained in cardiology and internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and was a research fellow at Harvard Medical School.

Helene D. Gayle, M.D., M.P.H. (SPH ’81) is president and chief executive officer of CARE USA. She holds a B.A. degree from Barnard College of Columbia University, an M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and an M.P.H. degree from the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Robert L. Johnson is founder and chairman of the RLJ Cos., which holds interests in companies operating in the hospitality, restaurant, real estate, financial services, gaming, recording and professional sports industries, including the NBA Charlotte Bobcats. Johnson holds a B.A. degree from the University of Illinois and an M.A. degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Kweisi Mfume (A&S ’84) is former president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and former U.S. Congressman (MD-7th District). Mfume holds a bachelor’s degree from Morgan State University and a Master of Liberal Arts degree from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Westley W.O. Moore (A&S ’01), is a senior associate with Citi Investment Banking and a U.S. Army Reserve captain, who in 2005 served a combat tour of duty in Afghanistan as director of information operations. Moore holds a B.A. degree from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins and an M.Litt. in international relations from Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar.
Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D. (A&S ‘82; MED ’86) is Jay Phillips Professor and Chairman of Surgery at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center. Vickers holds B.A. and M.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins, where he also completed his surgical residency, a surgical oncology fellowship and served on the faculty.

EMERITUS TRUSTEES
In addition to the eight current trustees, three distinguished African-American alumni serve as Emeritus Trustees:

Ernest A. Bates, M.D. (A&S ‘58) is a neurosurgeon, the founder, CEO and chairman of American Shared Hospital Services, and a co-founder of African-American Coyote Chateau LLC, a Napa Valley winery. Bates holds a B.A. degree from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and an M.D. degree from the University of Rochester; he did his internship and residency at Albert Einstein College Bronx Municipal Hospital Center.

Randolph W. Bromery, Ph.D. (A&S ’68) is Commonwealth Professor, Emeritus, and former chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Bromery holds a B.S. degree from Howard University, an M.S. degree from American University, and a Ph.D. degree in geology from the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Frank Savage (SAIS ’64)—the first African-American to serve on the Board of Trustees—is chief executive officer of Savage Holdings LLC and former chairman of Alliance Capital Management International, a subsidiary of Equitable Life Assurance Society. Savage holds a B.A. degree from Howard University and an M.A. degree from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

Mellasenah Morris (PEAB ’68) began her tenure as dean of the Conservatory and deputy director of The Peabody Institute in July 2008.

“I am thrilled to ... return to the institution in which I was privileged to study and grow musically, intellectually, and personally,” said Morris, who holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from Peabody. “Peabody prepared me for the career that I have enjoyed thus far as a performer, educator, and music executive. It is amazing for my life to come full circle as I embark upon new, exciting experiences at this great place.”

Morris is an active recitalist, solo artist, chamber music performer, lecturer, and adjudicator and made her New York debut recital in Carnegie Recital Hall. The former dean of the School of Music at Alabama State University, Morris is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and serves on the Executive Committee and Executive Board (Treasurer) of the National Association of Schools of Music.

PERCY A. PIERRE (A&S ‘67) earns his Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins and is recognized as the first African-American to earn a doctorate in electrical engineering.

RICHARD N. SCOTT, M.D. becomes the first African-American surgical intern at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

THE BLACK STUDENT UNION (BSU) is established, and later recognized by the University in 1969. BSU’s Bruce Baker (A&S ’71, SAIS ’74), president, and John Guess (A&S ’71), chairman, offer in the Johns Hopkins News-Letter: “(The BSU will) attempt to deal on the student level with the problems of race relations at Hopkins and within the Baltimore community.”
I first meet SOBA Presidential Professor Michael Hanchard at a distinctly Johns Hopkins wedding. Notable physicians, a prominent attorney, well-known professors, Wall Street types, good-looking women, a few ex-jocks, two or three recovering nerds, a military man and a visionary trustee populate the predominately African-American crowd.

“Hi, my name is Mike Hanchard.” A tall man with a distinguished air of scholarship extends his right hand. My initial vibe is that this guy is cool, smart and sounds like music.

“This is Dr. Hanchard! The new SOBA professor,” the groom, a popular Johns Hopkins alumnus and volunteer, shouts over high-fives and well wishes. It’s ironic that I meet the first SOBA Presidential Professor at this particular wedding party. The title of Dr. Hanchard’s book, Party/Politics: Horizons in Black Political Thought (Oxford University Press, 2006), is a play on the different meaning of party, as festivity and as political organization, the formal and informal dimensions of black politics in various parts of the world.

Fast forward to a wintry Saturday afternoon. The phone rings. It’s Mike Hanchard.

“We are at a pivotal moment in U.S. history,” notes the accommodating professor when asked his thoughts about Barack Hussein Obama’s election. “The symbolism of electing a black person to lead the United States at this juncture has led to an increased sense of optimism in this country, but we should also be wary of focusing solely on the symbolism of the moment. President Obama faces multiple challenges at home and abroad, challenges which a president cannot address single-handedly.”

This past December, The American Philosophical Association (APA) hosted a special “Author Meets Critics” Session at one of their annual meetings in Philadelphia, focusing...
on Dr. Hanchard’s *Party/Politics: Horizons in Black Political Thought*. Princeton University Professor Cornel West was the featured discussant and led a lively discussion on the book, which focuses on formal and informal modes of political expression in black communities in various parts of the world. The session devoted to Dr. Hanchard’s book was one of the best attended sessions at the APA meeting.

Dr. Hanchard joined the Johns Hopkins faculty from Northwestern, where he was a professor of political science and African-American studies and director of the Institute for Diaspora Studies. He received his Ph.D. degree from Princeton University and earned his fieldwork pedigree on assignments in Brazil, Cuba, Colombia, Ghana, Great Britain, Italy and Jamaica. Dr. Hanchard’s first book, *Orpheus and Power: Afro-Brazilian Social Movements in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo Brazil, 1945—1988*, was recently listed in Brazil as a “Top 10” book by foreign researchers on the topic of racism in Brazil.

“Problems with racism will not disappear because of the Obama election. In the United States, we still have many challenges ahead of us. As the economy tightens, access to higher education may exclude those who need financial assistance. At Hopkins, we are working to address some of these larger concerns,” comments Dr. Hanchard. “I chair Provost Kristina Johnson’s Action Committee, an advisory group of faculty members and senior administrators who are designing a long-range plan to encourage the institution to become more inclusive, to attract diverse talent across disciplines. We expect to have our recommendations made available to the Hopkins community by April 2009.”

I ask Dr. Hanchard about his day-to-day experiences at Johns Hopkins. “The difference here is that we have a smaller faculty than our peer institutions, and our faculty has much more time to do scholarly work. I find the undergrads and graduate students to be curious, engaged and possess an eagerness to learn. I enjoy working with my colleagues in political science, my co-director of the Racism, Immigration and Citizenship Program, as well as faculty in other divisions and departments. I have good working relationships with several of the board members of the Center for Africana Studies, including Ben Vinson, Katrina Bell McDonald and Nathan Connolly. My wish for myself and Hopkins at this point is to attract and nurture a larger, more diverse faculty and graduate students to further establish and render visible Hopkins’ unique niche in the academy.”

We wrap up our Saturday afternoon conversation with Dr. Hanchard’s ideas for the future. “I look forward to further dialogue with SOBA members and, specifically, to the alumni and administrators who had the vision to create and fund the SOBA Presidential Professorship. I am honored to be the first, and as I mentioned in my inaugural lecture, want several SOBA professors to follow me when my time as SOBA professor expires. I hope to play an active role, along with SOBA and other interested alumni, administrators and faculty, in shaping the future of the institution.”

By Milton Simpson
The Johns Hopkins Class of 1984 celebrates its 25th Reunion with a celebration on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at Nolan’s on 33rd. SOBA News asked three members of the Class of 1984 (a Washington, DC doctor, a West Coast business executive, and an East Coast college administrator and chef) to contribute to this issue.

Appointed Deputy Director of the Office of Research on Women’s Health

JANINE AUSTIN CLAYTON, M.D. (A&S ’84)

Janine Austin Clayton, M.D. (A&S ’84) has been appointed Deputy Director of the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH), National Institutes of Health (NIH). In her new role, Dr. Clayton provides scientific and technical leadership and direction to the ORWH’s programs related to women’s health and assists the ORWH Director in administration of research programs, policies on inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research and coordination of other programmatic initiatives across the NIH.

Prior to joining ORWH, Dr. Clayton was the Deputy Clinical Director at the National Eye Institute (NEI), NIH. A board certified ophthalmologist, her research interests include immune-mediated diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva, women’s eye health and the standardization of outcome measures for diseases of the anterior segment.

“I am honored to have this opportunity to help lead women’s health research efforts at NIH and to work with accomplished physicians. Sex and gender factors are critical aspects of health and disease; in fact, most of the eye diseases I’ve studied are more common in women,” observes Dr. Clayton.

A native Washingtonian, Dr. Clayton received her B.A. degree with Honors from Johns Hopkins and her M.D. degree from Howard University College of Medicine. She completed a residency in ophthalmology at the Medical College of Virginia and fellowship training in Cornea and External Disease at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital and in Uveitis and Ocular Immunology at the National Eye Institute.

Recognized as a leader by her peers, Dr. Clayton is the author of more than 60 scientific publications, journal articles and book chapters and is a 2008 recipient of the Senior Achievement Award from the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

FRANK SAVAGE (SAIS ’64) becomes the first African-American elected to the Board of Trustees. Today, Savage serves as a Trustee Emeritus of the University and Chief Executive Officer of Savage Holdings LLC, a global financial services company.

JOANNE JULIUS (A&S ’78) is elected the first African-American captain of a women’s athletics team, leading the fencing team.

FRANKLIN W. KNIGHT, LEONARD AND HELEN R. STULMAN PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, becomes the first tenured African-American professor in the School of Arts and Sciences.
Notes from Beijing

ANTON MACK (A&S ‘84)

Anton Mack (A&S ‘84) is the managing director of diversity and global talent at Paul Hastings, an international law firm with offices in Asia, Europe and the United States. His responsibilities include overseeing attorney talent acquisition and management, community and university relations and diversity and inclusion programs across the firm’s offices.

As part of his work, Mack travels often to China. His last trip was something different...something very special. A former competitive gymnast, local and national gymnastics coach and one of only three African-American international brevet gymnastics judges, Mack attended the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

“It was a great experience in many ways. It was like old home week. I ran into Ron Galimore, vice president of USA Gymnastics, and Miles Avery, Ohio State’s coach and the coach of Olympic Champion Paul Hamm, who are driving forces of men’s U.S. gymnastics, but are often overlooked for their contributions as African-American pioneers,” notes Mack in reflecting on his Olympic experience.

Everywhere Anton went throughout the city of 15 million people he encountered amazing experiences. He was fortunate to have studied Mandarin for about a year, just enough to help navigate the city with some ease and make a few friends along the way. “Every day brought new reunions with old friends, from members of the medal-winning world and Olympic teams to former high school teammates.”

Mack attended a special event at the Republic of Slovakia’s hospitality house, where Slovakian President Ivan Gasparovic emerged from a back room to greet one of Slovakia’s gold medalists and shake hands with everyone in the room.

“The experience was truly surreal,” comments Mack.

During his two-week Beijing visit, Mack also had a chance to visit with gymnastics icons like Mary Lou Retton and the former ‘Lord of the Rings’ Italian Olympic Champion Yuri Chechi.

“Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our careers and our future that we forget about our passions and what brings us joy. My trip to Beijing turned out to be a way to recapture my passion for the sport of gymnastics and to experience Chinese culture and international goodwill all at once,” shares Mack.

Mack says that he will not soon forget the thrill of cheering on Nastia Liukin, watching Michael Phelps swim, Usain Bolt fly and the joy of meeting so many people from so many different nations.

While testing a little of his Mandarin in an interview with a local independent Chinese TV station, the 1984 Johns Hopkins graduate encountered goodwill and congeniality shown every day by all people that could surely spare us from disaster and war if employed all the time.

We ask Mack if he plans to attend the 2012 Olympic Games. “I’ve started making arrangements and look forward to meeting up with other Johns Hopkins alumni in London.”

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY is established, the first predominately African-American male Greek letter organization at Johns Hopkins.

DR. LEVI WATKINS, JR. (PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, AND ASSOCIATE DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE) becomes the first African-American to serve as chief resident in cardiac surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He would later be recognized as the first African-American professor of cardiac surgery at the Hospital and as the first African-American dean of the School of Medicine.

PAULA BOGGS (A&S ‘81; TRUSTEE) is a co-founder of the women’s cross-country and track and field teams, the first African-American to co-establish a NCAA competition sport at Johns Hopkins.
Savory Salmon Cakes

A few years ago I put together a menu for an Easter brunch that featured salmon cakes. Not confident that they would have broad appeal, I played it safe by balancing the salmon with a roast turkey breast.

The salmon cakes were a hands-down favorite. A soulful compliment of “Girl, you put your foot in these!” was all the confirmation I needed to hear. Now I never hesitate to let them be the centerpiece of a party menu. Entertaining my guests usually includes having them in the kitchen while I am cooking. This works well for salmon cakes because some dinner guests expect to have them plated soon after cooking. But salmon cakes are just as good sitting at room temperature. The more they sit, the more the flavor seeps in and the more addictive they become. I’ve caught plenty a guest hovering over the platter, scouring for crumbs. If you can manage to hide a few, the cakes make an awesome breakfast treat. Forget hot, warm, room temperature, I have eaten them cold right out of the fridge!

Salmon cakes are a great addition to a brunch or casual evening menu. I have served the cakes with sweet potato fries, balsamic and garlic grilled asparagus, red pepper and Portobello mushroom frittata, and a corn, onion and sweet pepper relish. Prepare your coconut, pecan, Bailey’s chocolate chip cookie dough ahead so that you can treat your guests with warm, gooey cookies right out of the oven for dessert.

The salmon cake recipe below is meant to be played with… I cook to taste and my cakes would definitely have more than a teaspoon of cayenne. Kosher salt is subtler than table salt but the grains are larger so be careful not to oversalt.

Combine flaked fish, peppers, onion and bread crumbs in a large bowl. Add egg, mayonnaise, worcester sauce, kosher salt and cayenne pepper. Mix lightly. Shape into patties.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Season salmon with prepared fish seasoning and drizzle with olive oil. Bake for 15 minutes or until done. (Fish can also be grilled.) Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. Chop red pepper, green pepper and onion. Heat 2 tblsp. Olive oil and sauté peppers and onion. Sprinkle with kosher salt.

To submit recipe ideas and suggestions, feel free to write to Chef India Jacobs (A&S ’84) at soba@jhu.edu.
Percy A. Pierre, Ph.D. (ENG ’67), recipient of SOBA’s 2003 Frederick Scott Award, has been elected to The National Academy of Engineering (NAE). Election to NAE is one of the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

Pierre, vice president and professor emeritus, department of electrical and computer engineering at Michigan State University, was honored for his “service as assistant secretary of the Army, contributions to engineering education, and leadership in creating the national minority engineering effort.”

“I am honored by this award, but also grateful for the education I received at Johns Hopkins. This is more than I would have hoped for as a student in Ames Hall,” notes Pierre, recognized as the first African-American to receive a doctorate degree in electrical engineering.

Chenault-Fattah has received numerous awards for her civic and professional contributions. For several years, Chenault-Fattah served as a board member of The Caribbean American Mission for Education Research and Action (CAMERA) and continues to serve on the board of trustees for the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Chenault-Fattah received her B.A. degree from Johns Hopkins, M.A. degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri and her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She lives in the Philadelphia area with her husband, Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA), and two daughters.

Renee Chenault-Fattah (A&S ’79) is a rare Hopkins alum: she is a popular news anchor and attorney. Chenault-Fattah co-anchors NBC 10 News at 11 PM with Tim Lake, Monday through Friday on WCAU-TV (Philadelphia).

In March 1995, she began co-anchoring the 6 and 11pm newscasts for WCAU. She joined the station in September 1991 after reporting and hosting a public affairs program for WXIA-TV (Atlanta). From 1982 to 1986, Chenault-Fattah practiced law in New York City and remains a member of the New York Bar.
Kyle Harrison (A&S ’05) is one of the contributing lacrosse choreographers for the upcoming film, “Warrior.” One of the most prolific lacrosse players in Johns Hopkins history, Harrison led the Blue Jays to the 2005 NCAA Division I National Championship and was named the NCAA Player of the Year. Harrison currently plays for the Los Angeles Riptide in Major League Lacrosse (MLL) and has appeared in the MLL All-Star Game in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

“Warrior” is a coming of age tale starring Kellan Lutz (90210, GENERATION KILL) and Ashley Greene (TWILIGHT). Lutz plays Connor Sullivan, a star lacrosse player who loses his father and pesters his mother (played by Gabriella Anwar) while he tries to make sense of the detours of his life. The movie began filming in January 2009 in Southern California. The distribution date has not been released.

Harrison is working with the cast of “Warrior” to implement actual lacrosse plays in the action scenes. Harrison is working with fellow lacrosse star Xander Ritz and other MLL players on the film. In addition to his choreography, Harrison will also be on-screen in some of the lacrosse scenes in “Warrior.”
Designing a Computer That Works Like the Human Brain

KWABENA BOAHEN, PH.D. (ENG ’89)

Kwabena Boahen, Ph.D. (ENG ’89) uses the human brain as the blueprint for designing radically more powerful and energy-efficient computers. In a You Tube demonstration, Boahen describes how his Brains in Silicon lab at Stanford University has created computer chips with “synapses” and “neurons” – and how these chips might revolutionize computing. A clip of Boahen’s demo can be found at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mC7Q-ix_0Po.

Boahen has helped to develop a silicon retina that is designed to one day restore sight to the blind and a self-organizing computer chip that copies the way a brain is wired. Boahen’s current research has involved building a simulation platform that will allow the cortex of a brain to be modeled in detail. Boahen’s work in his Brains in Silicon lab at Stanford University is detailed at www.stanford.edu/brainsinsilicon/.

Boahen is Associate Professor of Bioengineering, Stanford University. He received his B.S.E. and M.S.E. degrees from the Whiting School of Engineering and his Ph.D. degree from the California Institute of Technology. Boahen and his research group’s work have been recognized in more than 60 professional publications, one of those a feature story in Scientific American (May 2005).

Leads New Jersey State Assembly Campaign

GEORGE DREDDEN (A&S ’77)

Former SOBA Executive Committee Member George Dredden (A&S ’77) has been named campaign manager for Morris County Freeholder Doug Cabana’s run for New Jersey’s District 25 Assembly seat. A respected political and public relations consultant, Dredden is the former executive director of the National African-American Republican Council of New Jersey and former vice president of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Republican Club.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, XI TAU CHAPTER is established.

ROBERT B. CLAYTON (A&S ’84) leads the Johns Hopkins men’s basketball team in points scored, points per game, field goals made, field goals attempted, free throws attempted, blocks and rebounds, the first African-American player to achieve this feat.

ANTON MACK (A&S ’84) AND MILTON C. SIMPSON (A&S ’84) become the first African-Americans to jointly direct and produce the University’s annual main stage theatre production. “Hair,” which ran for a string of sold-out performances, was profiled in the Baltimore City Paper, Baltimore Sun and Johns Hopkins Magazine.
From her childhood in New York City, to organizing a sit-in at Vassar College to protest a lack of funding for an African-American Studies program, to becoming the first African-American female orthopedic surgeon in the United States, School of Medicine Professor Dr. Claudia Thomas’ (MED ’75) life is an inspiration to all.

God Spare Life: An Autobiography, winner of the 2008 AAOS Award, chronicles Thomas’ life and offers anecdotes and stories on how to overcome adversity.

“My life can be perceived as a series of three major storms. As a young adult, I rode out the squalls of my coming of age as a college student in the 1960s.

... While trapped in the jaws of a demonic hurricane, [the Category 5 Hurricane Hugo on the island of St. Thomas in 1989] I clung to the arms of a sofa and prayed repeatedly, ‘God spare life! ...’

... But as awful as Hugo was, it could not match the storm of the desperate illness that threatened my very life ... kidney disease so severe, only a transplant or dialysis would save my life.” (In 1991, Dr. Thomas survived bilateral renal cell carcinoma when she received a donor kidney from her sister.)

“Dr. Thomas was determined to help minority women enter orthopedics, and has been responsible for scores of minorities and women entering our profession,” said AAOS President James H. Beaty, M.D. “Dr. Thomas has provided orthopedic care to inner city residents, and has encouraged colleagues and protégés to do exactly the same. For the past 30 years, her tenacity and social activism have been responsible for extraordinarily diverse residency programs in institutions across the country.”
Celebrating Another Year

BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) celebrates another year and provides a support network whose ultimate aim is to promote the academic success of African, African-American and Afro Caribbean graduate students at Johns Hopkins University.

For the 2008 - 2009 academic year, please contact Mindelyn Buford, External Relations Chair, at mbuford@jhu.edu and Jennifer Claiborne, co-President, at jclairborne@jhu.edu.

The mission of the Johns Hopkins Black Faculty and Staff Association is to be a visible and viable agency dedicated to promoting and enhancing identity, sense of community, professional welfare and development among African-American faculty, staff and students of the Johns Hopkins University.

The organization’s goal includes exerting influence and participation of the African-American community at JHU, both in terms of African-American concerns and the total structure of the university; advocating for the employment of a more representative number of African-American faculty and staff (in particular at the senior staff level); advocating for the admission of a more representative number of African-American students (undergraduate and graduate); and promoting professional excellence, scholarship and cooperative research among African-American faculty, staff and students.

JELANI RUCKER (ENG ’95), a defensive lineman, is named an All-American (Third Team) by Champion-SIDs, one of only 11 players in Johns Hopkins football history to earn All-American status.

WILLIAM L. JEWS (A&S ’74) is elected into the Athletic Hall of Fame Charter Class, becoming the first African-American to be inducted. A standout basketball player, Jews holds the all-time Johns Hopkins single season records for scoring average, field goal attempts and field goals made (1972-1973).
Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Professor of History Franklin W. Knight, the first African-American to receive tenure at Johns Hopkins, celebrates his 36th year on the Homewood campus. Recognized as one of the world’s top scholars on Latin American and Caribbean social and economic history, Dr. Knight joined the faculty in 1973.

As part of The African-Americans at the Johns Hopkins Institutions Project, Dr. Knight was asked by a student interviewer to reflect on his tenure at Johns Hopkins and African-American students:

“There should be something that when you leave here, should make you a Johns Hopkins graduate first and foremost, rather than a black graduate of Johns Hopkins…..It should because you come in as that. I mean you’re black…..You don’t need Johns Hopkins to reinforce that—and it can do that very well—but what Johns Hopkins can do is orient you to the true meaning of diversity and then get you to meet people who are not like you and to relate to them.”

In 2008, Dr. Knight was appointed a lifetime National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academies, where he serves as chair of the Associate and Fellowship Programs Advisory Committee. He has published more than 82 articles, chapters, and forewords, as well as more than 140 book reviews in professional journals. Dr. Knight has appeared on National Public Radio, the Voice of America, the British Broadcasting Corporation, the McNeil/Lehrer Report, C-Span, and many local programs on radio and television stations across the United States.

THE SOCIETY OF BLACK ALUMNI (SOBA) hosts its first meeting on February 17th. More than 60 alumni and their guests meet on the Homewood campus with administrators and students to discuss and share ideas about the role of African-Americans at Johns Hopkins. After years of discussion, SOBA became a reality due to the persistence of BSU President Henry Boateng (A&S ’93, SPH ’99) and the support of Jerome D. Schnydman (A&S ’67), then Director of Alumni Relations and today Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Executive Assistant to the President. N. Anthony Coles, M.D. (A&S ’82) is elected SOBA’s first President.

STEVE EADDY (A&S ’78) is elected SOBA’s second president. During his tenure, SOBA attracts growing university support and begins strategic planning for the future.
Ben Vinson, III (Professor, History) directs The Center for Africana Studies in the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and seeks to promote a greater understanding of the commonalities and contrasts among the historical and contemporary experiences of Africans, African-Americans, and African Diasporans in local and global contexts.

Now in its fifth year, the Center offers an undergraduate major and minor and provides teaching and research opportunities for graduate students. With an executive board of 10 faculty members and a list of affiliated faculty, the Center has infused the Homewood campus with new intellectual vitality.

An important collaboration with area universities and the AFRO newspaper (supported by Mellon Foundation funding) has resulted in the recovery of scores of previously unknown documents about African-American history in Baltimore and throughout the United States. The Center has also launched an Oral History Project designed to help preserve the historical memory of East Baltimore.

The Center has hosted a score of conferences, including a recent commemoration of the centennial of the NAACP, and international conferences in Texas and Mexico on the African diaspora. Over the next several years, a cohort of postdoctoral fellows will visit Johns Hopkins to work on the broader conceptual framework of the Diaspora, to understand better its global and comparative dimensions. The Center recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to host a month long summer institute for 25 college and university professors. The seminar is entitled “Slaves, Soldiers, Rebels: Currents of African-American Resistance in the Tropical Atlantic, 1760-1888.”
WESLEY W.O. MOORE (A&S ’01) is selected as a Rhodes Scholar; the first African-American Rhodes Scholar from Johns Hopkins.

2001

NANTHAN CONNOLLY

Nanthan Connolly (Assistant Professor, Political Science) is an expert on 20th-century America, Race and Real Estate, Tourism, and the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States. His research will be published in "Timely Innovations: Trains, Planes, and the ‘Whites Only’ Economy that Made Miami a Pan-American City,” Urban History (Special Issue on Transnationalism in the Americas, August 2009) and “Sunbelt Civil Rights: Urban Renewal and the Follies of Desegregation in Greater Miami,” in Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Space, Place and Region in the American South and Southwest, Darren Dochuk and Michelle Nickerson, Eds. (University of Pennsylvania Press).

Connolly joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 2008. He received his B.A. degree, magna cum laude, from St. Thomas University (Miami, FL), M.A. degree from the University of Chicago, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan.

2008

IEEE Senior Member
RALPH ETIENNE-CUMMINGS

Ralph Etienne-Cummings (Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering), achieved IEEE Senior Member Status in December 2008. IEEE, organized as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, is the world’s most prominent professional association for the advancement of technology.

A National Academies of Science Kavli Frontiers in Science Fellow, Etienne-Cummings focuses his research on mixed signal VLSI systems, computational sensors, computer vision, neuromorphic engineering, smart structures, mobile robotics, legged locomotion and neuroprosthetic devices. He has been recognized for his activities in promoting the participation of women and minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Etienne-Cummings received his B. Sc. degree in physics from Lincoln University and completed his M.S.E.E. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania.

36

37
Poli-Sci Professor Offers Ideas For Obama

Lester Spence

Lester Spence (Assistant Professor, Political Science) offers in his online blog a list of ideas for President Barack Obama and his new presidency.

“My motto ... is “40 is the new 40.” So in that spirit I’m going to present 40 ideas for Obama. Some of these ideas are ones Obama is already promoting. Some of these ideas are technically not within the federal government’s purview. Some of them are unworkable,” writes Dr. Spence.


Dr. Spence has appeared regularly on National Public Radio, has served as a source for news stories and offered commentary in such media outlets as the Washington Post, the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch, Africana.com and Salon.com. His blog can be found at www.blacksmythe.com/blog/.

Senior Lecturer Recalls African-American Power Movement

Floyd W. Hayes, III

Floyd W. Hayes III (Senior Lecturer, Political Science and Coordinator of programs and undergraduate studies, Center for Africana Studies) became interested in the political climate in Africa in the late 1950s and early 1960s, an era in which Africans were struggling to overthrow the European colonialism that had plagued them for centuries.

“In the summer of 1960, I saw a picture in the Los Angeles Times of an African leader who was tied up in the back of a truck,” Hayes said. “I wanted to find out who this person was. It turned out that it was Patrice Lamumba, the recently elected leader of the Congo.” Hayes’s fascination with Lamumba’s plight and the Congo helped to shape his academic career and activist efforts. He became involved in the African-American Power movement when he attended UCLA in 1969.

“We had three major goals. We demanded that there be more African-American students, more African-American professors teaching on campus and more focus on African-American studies,” notes Hayes.

As for the reality on today’s college campuses, Hayes offers, “Racism and racial chauvinism exist, but there is a relative silence among young people in the face of these evils.”

THE CENTER FOR AFRICANA STUDIES opens and Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison serves as the inauguration’s keynote speaker.

The JHU Diversity Leadership Council establishes The Diversity Recognition Award to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments of faculty, staff and students whose efforts foster greater appreciation, advancement and celebration of diversity and inclusiveness in the Johns Hopkins culture and environment.

THE AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS INSTITUTIONS PROJECT (http://afam.nts.jhu.edu) begins recording oral histories of some of Johns Hopkins’ renowned African-American alumni, faculty, researchers and staff. Librarian Sharon D. Morris coordinates the effort.
Lisa A. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H. (SPH '93 and Professor, School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health) is the principal investigator of a 2009 Johns Hopkins diversity study.

“...enhancing racial and ethnic diversity in medicine in general, and in academic medicine in particular, remains a challenge,” notes Cooper whose survey results appear in Academic Medicine (January 2009).

At the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, whites make up 74.6%; Asians, 18.6%; African-Americans, 3.8%; Hispanics, 2.9%; and Native Americans, 0.8% of the overall faculty. Only 12% of underrepresented minority faculty who participated in the survey were satisfied with the School of Medicine’s racial and ethnic diversity (compared to 47% of majority faculty) and were also three times less likely to believe that networking opportunities included minorities.

The recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “genius grant,” Cooper focuses her research on patient-centered strategies for improving outcomes and overcoming racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare. She received her B.A. degree from Emory University, an M.D. degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and an M.P.H. degree from the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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The Society of Black Alumni invites nominations for its two prestigious awards to honor deserving individuals. The awards are:

- **The Society of Black Alumni President’s Award** — Honors an African-American alumnus who has typified the Johns Hopkins tradition of excellence and has brought credit to the University by their personal accomplishment, professional achievement, or humanitarian service.

- **The Frederick Scott Award** — Honors an alumnus, university administrator, professor, or friend of Johns Hopkins who has contributed outstanding service over an extended period to the progress of African-American alumni of the University and to the activities of the Society of Black Alumni.

If you would like to nominate an individual for either The Society of Black Alumni President’s Award or The Frederick Scott Award, please visit alumni.jhu.edu/soba. The deadline for nominations is May 1st, 2009.

In 2007, the Society of Black Alumni announced the start of a fundraising effort for the formation of the “SOBA Undergraduate Scholarship.” The scholarship is designed as a four year scholarship to benefit an incoming freshman. To date, we have secured $110,050 in pledges and an additional $14,140 in gifts.

Of the amount pledged, $25,085 (23%) has been paid, leaving a pledge balance due of $84,965. We expect that all pledges will be honored and paid in full by 2012.

Once the SOBA Scholarship Fund has received $100,000 in gifts and pledge payments, then scholarship monies can be disbursed to qualifying students. To date, we have received $39,325 for the SOBA Scholarship Fund ($14,140 in gifts, and $25,085 in pledge payments).

If you would like to make a contribution to the SOBA Scholarship Fund, please contact the Alumni Relations office. You can make a donation online at www.jhu.edu or by mail: SOBA Scholarship Fund, Steinwald Alumni House, 3211 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218.

**Nominations for SOBA AWARDS**

**Scholarship Appeal SOBA**
KATRINA BELL MCDONALD (Associate Professor, Sociology, and the second African-American woman to be awarded tenure in the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences or the Whiting School of Engineering) is appointed Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, a new position.

THE BLACK STUDENT UNION (BSU) celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a host of on-campus events using the theme “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Taking Charge of Change.”