The Department of Media Studies is welcoming experienced broadcast professional, Nicole Watson as the newest member of their faculty. The veteran journalist brings a wealth of knowledge from her work at many of the top organizations in the news, sports, and entertainment industry, which includes ESPN, Turner Broadcasting, CBS, BET and HBO.

Watson started her career at BET where she was the co-creator of The Sports Report, a program that introduced many sports commentators to a national audience including, NBA analyst David Aldridge, veteran journalist, Bill Rhoden, and the host of PTI on ESPN, Mike Wilbon. ESPN copied the program and called it The Sports Reporters.

Dr. Marcus Tillery, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs for Paine College, stated: “Nicole is experienced on both sides of the camera as an executive producer in news, public affairs, entertainment and sports programming. Her ability to share those experiences with our students will contribute immensely to our media program’s quest for 2013 accreditation.”

Residing in Atlanta, GA, Watson has traveled the world while working for Turner Broadcasting covering the NBA, NFL and Olympic style sports. She was a feature reporter/producer on HBO’s Inside the NFL and spent three seasons as the sideline reporter for the Atlanta Falcons. The famed journalist specializes in image consulting and media training, which involves work with the reigning NCAA National Champions, UCONN Huskies men’s basketball team, along with many current and former pro athletes, several individual clients, and organizations.

Most recently, Watson covered the Black College Football Hall of Fame 2012 Enshrinement Ceremony. Paine College Media Studies major Quashon Walker assisted Watson as a student intern production assistant.

Quoting Watson, “Media Studies is one of the fastest growing curricula in the country. Students need first-hand knowledge of what the industry demands. I’m grateful for the opportunity to make a contribution to such a prestigious HBCU as Paine.”
Career & Grad School Fair
by Shakira Reid

Paine College’s Office of Career Services and Undergraduate to Graduate Program hosted a campus wide Career and Graduate School Fair March 15, 2012. Students, alumni, and Augusta community members were provided a fee free opportunity to network with corporate business and collegiate organizations.

April Ewing, Director of Career Services, said, “The event was a huge success. I am extremely excited by the establishment of significant business relationships that will facilitate student career goals.”

Brandon Walker, Director, Undergraduate to Graduate Programs, commented, “The Career and Grad school Fair exposed students to varying career path options inclusive a continuation of their academic studies on a postgraduate level.”

Held in the Candler Memorial Library second floor Ballroom, a few of the more than fifty schools and companies attending the Fair included: Doctor’s Hospital, FBI, U.S. Coast Guard, International Paper, Cintas, Waffle House, Century 21 Jeff Keller Realty, Dublin County Schools, Burke County Schools, Richmond County Schools, Enterprise, Georgia Teaching Fellows, and Wells Fargo.

Also participating were WFXG-TV, Augusta Staffing, GA Health Sciences University, Career Personnel, WRDW, Air Force, Georgia Department of Labor, Cambridge, Central Michigan, Webster University, Emory University, and GA State University School of Law.
Prior to *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* (1954), there was a group of young, gifted and Black individuals collectively fighting for civil rights as early as 1938. Historically, the Wings Over Jordan Choir is one of the earliest Black entertainment enterprises to achieve national acclaim.

The Dr. Samuel Barber Wings Over Jordan Collection is considered by scholars to be the world’s most comprehensive and definitive compendium on the historic group. The Samuel Barber Collection, encompassing more than 10,000 items inclusive of contemporary newspaper articles, photographs, vintage records and 1930s and 40s CBS Radio Network recordings is now archived on the campus of Paine College at Collins-Callaway Library.

Responsible for facilitating Paine’s acquisition of the Wings Over Jordan Barber Collection is Dr. Gary Flanigan, Department of Media Studies, Chair. Dr. Flanigan said: “The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had negotiated a seven year agreement to maintain the Wings Collection. Upon the UNC agreement’s termination last year, and my joining the Paine community, Dr. Barber embraced the proposition that Paine College become the new archivists for Wings over the next five years.”

Thirty-five years before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream, Rev. Glen T. Settle, Wings Over Jordan Choir founder, had a vision of ushering American social change through the spirit of song. Politically challenged by the low socio-economic plight of the era’s Black population, Settle believed radio should be used to focus attention on the injustices of segregation and racism. Utilizing music as an angle for cultivating commercial interest, Wings Over Jordan became the first African-American group to proclaim over America’s airwaves that “Black is Beautiful.”

Broadcast weekly to a national audience via the then fledgling CBS Radio Network, the 15-minute Wings Over Jordan program became a milestone for Black American communication. And, with CBS studio guest appearances by many of the era’s African American celebrities, the choir’s tour performances were standing room only events which witnessed, “Free at last; free at last. thank God almighty, we’re free at last,” as Rev. Settle’s customary closing.
The Departments of Africana Studies at Notre Dame and Media Studies at Paine College joined forces March 15, 2012 in order to produce a film documentary on the late Erskine A. Peters.

Dr. Peters (1948-1998) was a 1969 graduate of Paine College who went on to become a renowned educator at Notre Dame, as well as legendary for his commitment to scholarship, community service, and graduate education in the College of Arts and Letters.

The Notre Dame/Paine collaboration was formed to produce a short feature on Dr. Peters that can be used at a Notre Dame March 29, 2012 conference on the state of the discipline of Africana Studies. The conference is a coda to the Erskine Peters Fellowship, a pre-doctoral fellowship that was supported by the University of Notre Dame for the past 11 years, but that is slated to end with the 2011-2012 class of fellows.

According to Dr. Maria McKenna, Peters Fellowship Coordinator, “With the end of the fellowship, the Notre Dame conference serves to bring all those interested in the state of Africana Studies as well as all former ‘Peters Fellows’ together for learning and fellowship in highlighting Professor Erskine A. Peters’ life and legacy.”

Ms. Bianca Tirado, who heads the Black Faculty and Staff Association at Notre Dame, coordinated the collaboration with Dr. Gary Flanigan, Paine’s Media Studies, Chair.

Notre Dame students Aubreanna Bobb and Joseph Haskins, worked with Paine Media Studies majors and principal producers Ja’mee Mann and Kiisha Wiggins in filming interview segments with several Erskine Peters family members, and Paine College administrative officials and faculty. Paine College Media Studies major Quashon Walker was principal photographer, along with Mr. Roosevelt Bridges, Paine’s Information Services Assistant. When asked how he felt about his visit to Paine College, Joseph Haskins said, “It’s a very intimate setting here. It is very cool; it has a rustic feel. You have leaves on the trees here as well, and that’s something we don’t have this time of year.”

Also, supporting the effort as production assistants were Media Studies majors, Patrice Simpson, Shakira Reid, Rondel Hickson, Valentino Dorsey, Derric Miller, Anthony Fann, and Robin Williamson.

Ms. Danielle Francisco, Augusta Chronicle, was on site to assist as a photo journalist.

**Did You Know:** The Notre Dame Erskine A Peters Fellowship was one of the preeminent fellowships of its kind in the nation. Off the Notre Dame campus, the fellowship had created a buzz among rising young African American scholars. Each fellow was provided with a home department, a faculty mentor in the fellow’s specialization area, office space with use of a personal computer, health insurance, and forum discussions on professional development. The fellowship period extended from August to May and carries a stipend of $30,000 plus a $2,000 research budget. The Peters Fellowship ran from 2001-2010, awarding more than 40 Black scholars a sum total of more than $1.2 million dollars.
THE ERSKINE A. PETERS ART GALLERY
ESTABLISHED IN HONOR OF
DR. ERSKINE A. PETERS, CLASS OF 1969
1948-1998
FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT
OF HIS ALMA MATER

DR. SHIRLEY A. R. LEWIS
ATTORNEY ROBERT L. BELL
PRESIDENT
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
FEBRUARY 7, 2003
The Paine of Victory ...

*by John Harris, III*

Latasha Colander Clark joins the Paine College community as head coach for the Athletic Department’s entire Track and Field Program. The native Virginian is a sprint champion who was awarded a gold medal for the 4x400m at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

At a March 13, 2012 press conference held on the campus of Paine College, Ms. Clark stated, “I see great potential for a competitive track and field program here at Paine. Together, we’ll make Paine College track and field the best it can be.”

Clark is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, receiving a B.A. in Mass Communications.

Additionally, Clark is a member of the Virginia Hall of Fame Hall of Stars, and the UNC Hall of Fame. She established the LC Treasures Within Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening children, families, and the world through education, sports, and spirituality.

Having appeared on a variety of television programs such as the *700 Club* and the INSP Network, Ms. Clark is the author of the autobiography, *Fighting for Destiny: The Final Destination*, and *Yes I Can*, a children’s book. She is married to Kris Clark, a graduate and former athlete at the University of South Carolina.

The Thrill of Defeat ...

*by Chase Campbell*

The Paine College Men’s Basketball Lions roared past the Clark-Atlanta Panthers in the quarterfinal round of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). But, LeMoyne-Owen ended Paine’s run in the SIAC Tournament, turning back the Lions 64-61 in the semifinals.

Even though Vince Lombardi gets credit for borrowing the cliché from Red Sanders that, “Winning isn’t everything; it’s the only thing,” the Paine College Lions’ new Head Coach Jimmy Link and his entire staff are due proper respect. Unquestionably, they gave Paine fans everything that could realistically be expected during a year of and transition growth.

The “everything” given this 2011-2012 season was the fun-filled excitement that winning is prospect, and not suspect. Looking forward to 2012-2013, the PC Lions will even be capable of borrowing from the MEAC’s Norfolk State Spartans’ playbook. The thrill has only just begun.
Everyone who participates in the music industry as a performing artist has a certain image by which they’re known. The genre of music by which they are known, however, plays a huge part in determining the image that they have either personally or professionally created.

For example, you won’t see country singers wearing sagging pants. And, you won’t see rap stars wearing cowboy boots and hats. But, according to last month’s Paine College Conference on the Black Experience, celebrating Black women in American history and culture, the image of women in the rap/hip-hop world is disturbing.

What is the cause of this socio-cultural disturbance? The Conference seminar I attended took a hard look at Lil’ Kim. Her role in the movie Notorious is illustrative of rap, and its typically hard portrayal of Black women. The relationship between Notorious B.I.G., aka Biggie, aka Biggie Smalls, and Lil’ Kim was largely and graphically sexual. Kim was forced to only rap about things that would stir up sexual tension within the communities that bought into her style of music. And, because of the things she had to rap about, her clothing consistently reflected the sexuality she both sold and was told to sell.

The speaker presenting the seminar asked the obvious, “Why do the women in the world of rap present the images that they do?”

If I hadn’t seen Notorious, maybe the question wouldn’t be so obvious. Maybe I would have never known that there is a “calculated” reason behind the skimpy dresses and the frequent references to sexual intercourse in the coarsest of socially defined un-ladylike terms.

When a person is trying to make it “BIG,” regardless of what it is, there is an unfortunate willingness to do whatever, whenever to get wherever. In the case of Lil’ Kim, it is apparent she sacrificed her sacredness, her dignity, and even her self-respect to become a mega star. She wanted to fit in by doing whatever, whenever, wherever with whomever in order to get in. Since her sex sold, her sex was the currency she used to sell herself.

The Paine Conference on the rap/hip-hop aspect of the Black experience was painful. This particular seminar taught me more than I wanted, but intellectually needed to know. It also spiritually reminded me of a song that says, “You don’t know my story, or the things that I’ve been through. You can’t feel my pain, what I had to go through to get here.” This means that in the interest of truth, we have to go deep; that’s if we want to find meaning beyond the level of one’s skin.

Naia Williams’ article appears courtesy of Dr. Catherine L. Adams’ Comp II class.
Pre-Registration for Summer 2012 and Fall 2012

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