

GuyFolkFest.org

Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage

Symposium
2007

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GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL SYMPOSIUM

Origins, Identity and Influence - "Oii"

PROGRAM

Saturday, September 1, 2007

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

All sessions take place in the Conference Room.
Displays and sales of materials are in areas designated.
Light refreshments are available during the day.

Floor Coordinators: Mr. Maurice Braithwaite; Mr. Godfrey Chin

9:00 AM - 10: A.M.
Registration
Registration continues throughout the day

Registrar: Lorna McKenzie

Registration fee is \$10:00.
Registration fee is waived for all presenters.
Registration badges must be worn by all persons throughout the Symposium.

All media, including photographers and videographers, must have the permission of the Symposium Committee/GCA and/or GCA.

For clearance, call: **GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL COMMITTEE @ 718 -209-5207**

Media must sign in at Media Desk.

10:00 AM THE SYMPOSIUM BEGINS

Introduction: **Vibert Cambridge, Ph.D. Professor, School of Telecommunications, Ohio University, Ohio.**

Homage and Libation

A reading of **Kakum**: a ballad composed by **Dr. Erwin Brewster** to pay homage to his great grandmother, Sarah Millington, whose roots were traced back to the Fante people of Ghana.

Introduction: **Ms. Muriel Glasgow**
Performance artist: **Sister Georgina Ama Ohene.**

10:30 AM The Symposium Address

Introduction: **Juliet Emanuel, D.A. BMCC/CUNY**

Click for past events:

- [Symposium 2003](#)
- [Symposium 2004](#)
- [Symposium 2005](#)
- [Symposium 2006](#)
- [2007 Symposium
Brunch Theater](#)

**Symposium
2011**

Tributes

**Upcoming
Events**

Vendors

The Address

Dr. Cyril Dabydeen, 2007 Guyana Prize co-winner for Literature: *Drums of My Flesh*.

The Response

11:00 - 11:10 AM

Coffee Break

11:10 AM - 12:40 PM

The Hinterland, The Heartland and Oii

Section A

Barbara Josiah, Ph.D. John Jay College/CUNY, NY, Department of History.

Searching for Eldorado: African Diaspora Migration and Mortality in the Development of Guyana's Gold and Diamond Industries, 1890 - 1956.

Peter Lauchmonen Kempadoo, United Kingdom; Guyana. Independent Scholar.

A History of African Religions.

Prem Misir, Ph.D. Head Presidential Press and Public Affairs Unit, Office of the President, Government of Guyana, Pro-Chancellor, University of Guyana.

Sustaining The Social and Economic Relations of Slavery.

Five minute break

Section B

Simone James Alexander, Ph.D. Seton Hall University, NJ. Department of Africana and Diaspora Studies.

To Heed or Not to Ancestral Calling: City Limits and Village Values in Jan Carew's Black Midas.

Roslin Khan, Ph. D. Suffolk Community College/SUNY, NY, Chair, Foreign Language.

Poet of the Heart, Mind and Revolution: Martin Carter.

Discussion

12: 40 - 1: 30 PM

Lunch Break

On your Own.

List of restaurants provided in the Registration Package.

1:30 - 2:50 PM

IN MELODY AND WORD: An examination of Music and the Guyanese Diaspora

Panel Chair: **Dawn Forde Arno, Ph.D. Director, Ed-Zone, Teachers College, Columbia University, NY.**

Panelists

Vibert Cambridge, Department of African America Studies, Ohio University, Ohio.
Music and the Guyanese Diaspora.

Ronald H. Lammy, CEO, eCaroh Caribbean Emporium

Oii Revisited: An Examination of Contemporary Lyricists

Juliet Emanuel, Department of Developmental Skills, BMCC/CUNY, NY

The Invidious Influence on Church Music in Guyana

Discussion

2:50 - 3:00 PM

Ten Minute Break

3:00 - 5:30 PM

Roundtable

A Legacy to Mould: Restoring Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham to History

Moderator: Ivelaw L. Griffith, York College/CUNY, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Participants

Aubrey Bonnett, Ph.D. SUNY Old Westbury, Professor, American Studies.

Thomas Cope, Esq., Columbia University, NY.

Guyana and the JFK Affair.

David Hinds, Ph.D. Arizona State University, African and African American Studies.

This Damned Nonsense Must Stop: Eusi Kwayana and Political Contrariness.

Linden F. Lewis, Ph.D. Bucknell University, Lewisburg Pa., Department of Sociology/Anthropology.

Mr. Halim Majeed.

Shakoor Manraj, Esq., Q. C.

Eric Phillips, Guyana.

African Guyanese and Politics.

Maurice St. Pierre, Ph.D. Morgan State University, Maryland.

Burnham and the Politics of Nationhood and Nation Building.

Robert Waters, Ph.D. Ohio Northern University, History. (abstract read by J. Emanuel)

Discussion.

THE SYMPOSIUM ENDS.

Post Symposium

Participants may engage in Heritage Trails: Walks through Harlem, NY.
Self guided tours are provided in Registration Packages.

Heritage Trails Coordinator: **Ms. Isabel Cummings**, Community and Cultural activist, Harlem, NY.;
Assistant Director, Office of Student Activities, BMCC/CUNY.

Remember to visit the Cotton Club
666 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
Telephone: (212) 663-7980

THE FIFTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2007

Theme: "Oii" (Origins, Identity, and Influence)

Saturday, September 1, 2007

9 am to 4 pm.

Columbia University, Edmund Gordon Campus at Theresa Towers,
8th Floor, 2090 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd, New York, NY10027

(Corner of 125th and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. ... obliquely opposite the State Office Building)

This year, 2007, is the bicentennial of the abolition of the trade in African captives. With this anniversary as part of its focus, Symposium 2007 has as its theme Origins, Identity and Influence (Oii). The concept of Oii was introduced during Symposium 2006, Celebrating Our Caribbean Heritage, Carifesta '72 Revisited, by Ron Lammy of eCaroh and GCA in his presentation. Participating in Symposium 2007, Origins, Identity,

Drs. Cambridge and Emanuel were interviewed on WBAI Radio August 29, 2007. [Download the](#)

Influence, (Oii), are Dr. Vibert Cambridge, Dr. Aubrey Bonnett, Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Dr. Dawn Arno, Dr. Prem Misir, Mr. Cyril Dabydeen, Mr. David Michael Rudder, Dr. Shakoor Manraj, Dr. (sister) Ama Ohene, Mr. Peter Kempadoo, Dr. Calvin Brutus, Dr. Indrani Rampersad, Mr. Ron Lammy, Dr. Erwin Brewster and Mr. Malcolm Hall, among others.

[entire interview here.](#)
(2 hrs; 21MB)

Papers, performances and discussions will reflect on the multiple expressions of Oii in all aspects of Guyanese life: the arts, church and religion, commerce and industry, education, science and technology, politics, language, literature, music, history, the Diaspora and interracial relations. In keeping with the theme for 2007, **Mr. David Michael Rudder**, the acclaimed calypsonian will be one of our panelists.

Registration for Symposium, 2007 is \$10.00.

Symposium Organizers:

- Dr. Dawn Arno, Director, TC EdZone, Teachers College, Columbia University
- Dr. Aubrey Bonnett, Professor, SUNY/College at Old Westbury, New York
- Dr. Vibert C. Cambridge, Professor, School of Telecommunications, Ohio University, Athens, OH
- Dr. Juliet Emanuel, Professor, Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY, New York
- Dr. Prem Misir, Pro-Chancellor, University of Guyana, Guyana

Co-hosts for the symposium

- Center for Multiple Languages and Literacies.
Co-directors, Drs. Ofelia Garcia and Jo Anne Kleifgen
<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/cml/>
- Center for African Education. Director, Dr. George Bond <http://www.tc.edu/centers/cae/>
- Institute for Urban and Minority Education. Director, Dr. Edmund Gordon
<http://iume.tc.columbia.edu/>

- TC Education Zone Partnership. Director, Dr. Dawn Arno
<http://www.tc.edu/edzone/index.asp>

INTRODUCTION

This year, 2007, is the bicentennial of the abolition of the trade in African captives and the working theme of the symposium will be "Oii" (Origins, Identity, and Influence). "Oii" is a word that is used in Guyanese dialect to say hello, hey there, how are you doing, stop, let's have a chat---all rolled into one expression. Using the bicentennial as a starting point, the goal of the symposium will be to reflect on the multiple expressions of "Oii" in all aspects of Guyanese life--the arts, church and religion, commerce and industry, the diaspora, education, science and technology, politics, religion, language, literature, music, history, and interracial relations.

Topics for panels, papers, performances, or other forms of expression include, but are not limited to:

■ Science and Technology

- The effect of orality on the development of media and vice versa
- Roots, cures and current recognition/experimentation of indigenous plants
- Botanical considerations from the country of origin, Africa
- Current developments in science via people of Guyanese descent
- Current developments in technology via people of Guyanese descent
- Necessary use of the environment

■ Church and Religion

- Mythologizing the origins
- Myth as memory
- Creating religiosity in a foreign land

■ Commerce and Industry

- Considerations of the plantations, settlement and resettlement
- The history of transportation within an agricultural society
- Examining the productions of sugar and bauxite and other products in Guyana
- Sugar as king: Booker and its salve to the conscience
- Box-hand and informal saving systems
- The Porkknocker, the Bowman, and the Timberman
- Voluntarism and National Development in the Host Society /Diaspora

■ Language, history and literature

- The Fine Arts (Music, Painting and Sculpture)
- Proverbs as a keyhole into Oii
- Dramatizing Guyana
- Writing Guyana
- Examining the history of Guyana
- Where to Guyana: a place of mind? Memory?
- The poetry of Guyana

■ Education in Guyana

- Considerations of education in Guyana, formal and informal
- "Bottom-House" schools and School teachers?
- The effect of the terrain on education in Guyana
- Broadcasts to Schools: Terrain, technology and the role of radio in the development of distance learning

■ Creation of State and Government

- The village, the village hall; the town, the town hall: denotations of grouping in Guyana
- The emergence of nation in Guyana
- African Guyanese and national politics

- A Map still being drawn, Guyana as experiment
- Great Minds of the Guyana nation and the diaspora

■ **The Fabric of Guyana**

- The land as director: the seawall; breaking and containing man in Guyana
- Clothes as symbols of restraint/oppression/ rebellion
- Who is Guyanese?

THE PROCESS

Panels, Papers, Performances

Persons interested in participating are invited to register by proposing a provisional topic by May 30, 2007. Abstracts, not exceeding 300 words in length must be sent in an electronic form to Dr. Vibert C. Cambridge at cambridg@ohio.edu by June 30, 2007. A short biography, a photograph, and technology needs (if any) must accompany the abstract.

GUYANA FOLK FEST

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK
1368 E. 89 STREET SUITE 2, BROOKLYN
NEW YORK 11236, U.S.A.
TEL: 718.209.5207 FAX: 718.209.6157
WEBSITE: www.guyfolkfest.org
E-MAIL: info@guyfolkfest.org



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