

APA Committee on Black Philosophers

2008 Report

Submitted by Anna Stubblefield

This year the committee made progress on the project of establishing a web site that will include a directory of black philosophers in North America, information about conferences and new publications, calls for papers, historical material on black philosophers, and a blog. We secured permission from the board to use committee funds to pay for the design of the site. Initial controversy over hosting the site at a location other than the APA web location has been resolved, as the recent upgrades to the APA site make it possible for the APA to host the pages the committee has envisioned.

The site design is currently underway. The need to secure permission from each philosopher who we would like to include in the directory will slow down the process, as once the site is designed, we cannot make it publicly accessible until we have all the permissions on file. The site should be publicly available later this fall, however. We are simultaneously creating a listserv, which, along with the blog on the web site, will facilitate communication among people who have interest in Africana philosophy and the status of blacks in philosophy.

The committee campaigned on behalf of grant proposals that were approved by the board last year to support: the Collegium of Black Woman Philosophers, the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy, the Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute, and the Diversity Essay Project.

The idea was raised last year of reviewing and revising the committee's mission statement. We will proceed with this project during the coming year.

Finally, the committee sponsored: a session at the 2007 Eastern Division Meeting entitled "Beyond Alain Locke: The Problem of Interpretation in the History of African-American Philosophy" (a second session, on Bernard Boxill's Blacks and Social Justice, was postponed until the 2008 meeting due to illness); a session at the 2008 Central Division Meeting on "Philosophical Readings/Interpretations of bell hooks"; and a session at the 2008 Pacific Division Meeting on "Aesthetics and Race."