Project Director: Dr. Bill Lawson

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy

Department of Philosophy

University of Memphis

We are seeking funds from the American Philosophical Association to support the 4th annual Ida B Wells conference which will be held at the University of Memphis in October of 2010.

Project purpose:

The Ida B. Wells Forum was founded in 2002 by African American graduate students in the department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate mentoring relationships between philosophy graduate students and undergraduates in the humanities and social sciences. In addition to its purpose of mentoring, the forum aims to keep the university community abreast of trends in the humanities and social sciences through the sponsorship of lectures, colloquia, and workshops.

In 2007, the Council of Graduate Studies honored the University of Memphis with its prestigious Peterson’s Award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community. This award was given in recognition of the Philosophy Department’s success in recruiting, graduating, and placing African American graduate students. No other department in the country has come close to our record of graduating six African American doctoral students in four years, with another 12 (at that time) pursuing their Ph.D.

After winning this award, the Department of Philosophy and the Ida B Wells forum decided to extend their mentoring to aspiring African American undergraduates outside of the University of Memphis. We inaugurated an annual conference that provides senior undergraduates from colleges around the country with the opportunity to visit the University of Memphis and participate in a scholarly philosophical dialogue. In addition to inviting aspiring young philosophers to campus, we also invite an established philosopher and a former philosophy graduate student, who has received his or her PhD from Memphis, to speak at the conference. The first Ida B Wells conference had Professor Lucius Outlaw and Professor Donna Marcano (University of Memphis, PhD, 2002) as keynote speakers. They shared their experiences and expertise with a new generation of Memphis students and a select group of African American undergraduates drawn from around the country. The invited undergraduates and University of Memphis graduate students presented papers. In 2008, we hosted a second conference and were honored to have Professors David Marriot and Brad Stone (University of Memphis, PhD, 2003) share their expertise and experiences. As in the prior year, both the invited undergraduates and University of Memphis graduate students presented papers. The 2009 conference will have Professors
Sybol Anderson and Kristie Dotson (University of Memphis, PhD, 2008) as keynote speakers. This year’s conference and all future conferences will be available via podcast. We are requesting funding for the 2010 Ida B Wells conference which will take place in October of 2010.

**Project benefits to the profession:**

This conference benefits the profession in a number of ways that *go beyond advancing philosophical discussion*:

1. Programs like ours contribute to making the profession more diverse by actively recruiting diversity students to Philosophy.
2. The mentoring students receive at our conference and the relationships they build provide them with the long term support they need in order to succeed in the profession.
3. The intergenerational nature of our conference is unique in providing meaningful experiences for Philosophers at different stages of their career.
4. Conferences like ours expose the University community and the local community to the issue of diversity within the profession and the academy. The experiences students and Professors share with each other and the audience bring to light the very real difficulties facing diversity students and professionals.
5. Students who participate in this conference come to understand the value of these mentoring experiences and when they receive their PhD they will take these experiences with them to other colleges and Universities. Fostering an inclusive environment at the University of Memphis helps to propagate this atmosphere in the profession.
6. The Ida B. Wells Philosophical Forum and its conference can serve as a model for other Philosophy departments interested in fostering an inclusive environment. The forum’s constitution and all material related to the conference can be made available to members of the American Philosophical Association. The podcast of the conference will also contribute to making the Ida B Wells conference accessible to the profession.

**Budget**

The following is an estimated budget. All funds would be allocated by the end of October 2010. The designated fiscal agent for this project is the Department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. Connie Diffee, Philosophy Department Administrative Associate, will be responsible for the allocation of funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keynote speaker travel</td>
<td>2 x 800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel for keynote speakers (3 nights)</td>
<td>3 nights x 120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 speakers x 360.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel for 4 students (undergraduate)</td>
<td>4 x 600.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hotel for 4 students (3 nights @ $120.00) & 4 x 360.00 & 1,400.00 \\
Food (3 days, 3 nights—4 students; & 3 days, 3 nights-2 keynote speakers) & 2,000.00 \\
Total for Ida B Wells 2010 & & 8,120.00 \\

**Other sources of funding:**

For the past two years the Ida B Wells conference has been supported by Dr. Karen Weddle-West, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies at the University of Memphis, and the Philosophy Department. We are hoping to fund the 2009 conference with stimulus funds. The economic crisis, however, threatens our chances of being able to fund the conference in the future. In addition to the APA grant, we will apply for a Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity Grant in the fall of 2009 to help fund the conference in 2010.
BILL E. LAWSON  
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
327 Clement Hall  
University of Memphis  
Memphis, Tennessee 38152-3530  
Office: 901 678 5312  
Fax: 901 678 4365  
blawson@memphis.edu

EDUCATION:  
Ph.D., (Philosophy) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1981  
MA, (Philosophy) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1977  
BA, (Philosophy) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1975

MILITARY SERVICE:  

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:  
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
University of Memphis, 2005  
Professor, Michigan State University, 1997-  
Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Delaware 1994-1997  
Associate Professor, University of Delaware, 1992-1997  
Visiting Professor, Macalester College, Saint Paul Minn. Spring Semester, 1989  
Assistant Professor, University of Delaware: 1986 to 1992  
Assistant Professor, West Virginia University: 1984 to 1986  
Assistant Professor, Montclair State College: 1982-84  
Assistant Professor, Spelman College: 1980-82

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:  
African-American Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS  
1999 Alain Locke Excellence Award, Howard University, Department of Philosophy  
September 18, 1999.

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award, Black Student Alliance, Michigan State University  
April 23, 1999.

The Richard Wilson African American Administrator Award, Center for Black Culture  
University of Delaware, 1996-97.
Participant, NEH Seminar, "Justification and Proof in Ethics": Summer 1983
Ford Foundation Fellow 1978-80

National Fellowships Fund Dissertation Award: 1980
Alumni Graduate Fellowship, University of North Carolina: 1975-76
BA with Honors in Philosophy, University of North Carolina: 1975

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES
Research Coordinator, APA Grant to Support Philosophical Explorations of Science
Technology and Diversity, 1997-1999
Member of the Advisory Committee, Eastern APA Program Committee 1994-1996
American Philosophical Association: member 1974 to present
Chair 1998-1999
The Society for the Study of Africana Philosophy: member 1983 to present
Reviewer for Choice
Reviewer for Gender and Society
North American Society for Social Philosophy: member 1983 to present
New York Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs: member 1982 to present
Consultant, Clark College and the Georgia Endowment for the Humanities: 1982

UNIVERSITY AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS
University of Delaware Research Grant, 1986
Provost Research Grant, 1988
General University Research Grant, 1989

Administrative Experience

Chairperson: Department of Philosophy
University of Delaware, 1994-1997

President of the Arts and Science Senate
College of Arts and Letters, University of Delaware
1993-1994

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:
Pragmatism and the Problem of Race (Eds.) Bill E. Lawson and Donald Koch
(Indiana University Press, 2004)

My Bondage and My Freedom (Introductory essay to Frederick Douglass Biography)
(Humanity Books, 2002)

Faces of Environmental Racism 2nd edition (Eds.) Laura Westra and Bill E. Lawson
(Rowman & Littlefield, 2001)
Frederick Douglass: A Critical Reader (Eds.) Bill E. Lawson and Frank Kirkland (Blackwell Publishers, 1999)

The Underclass Question (Ed.) Temple University Press, 1992


ARTICLES:


"Uplifting the Race: Middle-Class Blacks and the Truly Disadvantaged” in The Underclass Question, Edited by Bill E. Lawson, Temple University Press, 1992, pp. 90


**Encyclopedia entries**

“Compensatory Education” and “Vouchers” in the African American Encyclopedia of Education (Forthcoming)

**BOOK REVIEWS and NOTES**

Myers, Peter C. Frederick Douglass: Race and the Rebirth of American Liberalism reviewed Perspectives in Politics forthcoming


Alejandro, Roberto. The Limits of Rawlsian Justice reviewed Choice (October, 1998)


Moses, Greg. Revolution of Conscience: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Philosophy of Nonviolence reviewed for Ethics (October, 1998)

Hord, Fred. I Am Because We Are reviewed for Ethics (June, 1996).


Gray, John. Isaiah Berlin reviewed for Choice (October 1996)

Gordon, Lewis. Fanon and the Crisis of European Man reviewed for Choice (1996)

Oliner, Pearl M. Towards a Caring Society reviewed for Choice (February 1996).


Foster, Lawrence and Patricia Herzog, eds., Defending Diversity: Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives on Pluralism and Multiculturalism, reviewed for Choice, March 1995, vol. 32, no. 7


**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

**Books:**

Contractual Inequality: African American, Citizenship, and the Social Contract

The Value of Environmental Justice

Ziffin on a Riff: Thinking about Jazz

**Articles:**

"Racist Property Holding and Environmental Justice"

"To be is to be Perceived: "Bill Clinton and African Americans"

"The Stories We Tell about Race and Social Justice"

**LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:**

“Teaching Social and Political Philosophy and Teaching about Frederick Douglass” Liberating Sojourn 2 Programme –Institute of Latin American Studies University of Liverpool, Liverpool England, April 2009

“Deceptive Hope or Despair: King and Bell on the Ending of Racism” American Philosophical Association Pacific meetings, April 2009

“Toward a More Perfect Union: Obama and Color-blind Public Policy” Race Conference, Michigan State University, April 2009


“Race Consciousness and Environmental Justice” Smith College, March, 2009

“Boxill, Obama, and Colorblindness” American Philosophical Association Eastern Meetings December 2008

"Racial Consciousness and Racial Solidarity” Philosophical Collaboration SIU March 27, 2008

"Frederick Douglass among the Romantics" American Philosophical Association Eastern Meetings December 2007

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

"King and Bell on Hope and Trust" University of Delaware March 21, 2007


Presentation: Becoming An African American Philosopher” Alain Locke Conference, Howard University April 7, 2006

Presentation: “Derrick Bell, Hope, and the Permanence of Racism” Spelman College February 7, 2007


Presentation: “Troublemakers for Justice” Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration Guest Speaker. Michigan State University January 16, 2006


Television Presentation: The College Hour, one-hour interview program on UMKC’s educational television station, April 16, 2004

Radio Presentation: Up To Date, a live radio call-in talk show hosted by Steve Kraske on KCUR, 89.3 FM, April 15, 2004

Presentation: Community Forum, "Why are We Divided and Why Should We Care?," Westminster Hall of the Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City Missouri, April 17, 2004
Presentation: "Racist Property Holdings and Environmental Coalitions," Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, Kansas City Missouri, April 16, 2004.


Presentation: “Reparations, the History of an Idea” Department of Philosophy, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, Mi, November 12, 2003

Presentation: “Living the Resistance Tradition” Philosophy Born of Struggle, Rethinking the Intellectual Life, Philosophy Born of Struggle 10th annual conference, Rutgers University, Newark New Jersey, October 25, 2003


Presentation: “Philosophy, Race, Liberal Theory” Minority Undergraduate Research Program (MURAP) "Representing: Underrepresented Minorities in Philosophy and Archaeology" University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, July 25, 2003

Presentation: "The Potential Role of Community Psychology in the re-design of Urban Centers", 9th Biennial Conference on Community Research and Action. Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico, June 5, 2003


Presentation: "Racist Property Holding and Environmental Justice” at Fourth Annual Joint Conference on Applied and Urban Ethics: Our Homes, Our Environment: Sustainability and Justice Where We Live and Work, The Public Health Research Institute at the International Center for Public Health, Newark, NJ, March 1, 2003

Presentation: “Racist Property holdings and Environmental Coalitions” Society for the study of Africana Philosophy, New York City, June 2002

Presentation: “Environmental Justice and Future Trends” Environmental Justice Conference, University of Michigan, April 2002

“Reparations and the Master Narrative “at Nation conference on Race Michigan State University, April 2002
Television Presentation: WLAJ’s To the Point News segment
Discussed: The Case for Black Reparations, July 2002

Presentation: Black American and the War on Terrorism
Michigan State University, November 28, 2001

Convocation Speaker, Charles Lecture Series, Rethinking Political
Obligations in the 21 Century”, Earlham College, October 3, 2001

Prestigious Speaker Series: Panel Discussion with Clarence Major
Iowa Room MSU Student Union, September 11, 2001

Presentation: “The tollgate Drain Project and Environmental Restoration” Urban
Environment Ethics, Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University,
April 14, 2001

State University, April 5, 2001 to be published in Race in the 21 Century vol. 2

Presentation: “Reparations and Social Justice” Pacific Division APA, San Francisco,
March 30, 2001

Presentation: “Black libertarians and Black Solidarity” Pacific Division APA, San
Francisco, March 30, 2001

Presentation: “The Role of the Master Narrative in Public Policy” Black
Philosophy for the 21st Century, University of Illinois Chicago, March 9,
2001

Presentation: “Reparations and the Master Narrative” Emory University, Afro-American
Studies Program, February 15, 2001

Presentation: “Liberal Theory and Urban Environmental Justice”
University of North Texas Center for Environmental Policy, February 23,
2001

Presentation: “Rethinking Urban Environmentalism” Conference sponsored by ISEE, the
Global Integrity Project, Sarah Lawrence College and Notre Dame University. San Jose,
Costa Rica - June 24, 2000

Presentation: “Jazzin’ the Critic: Evaluating and Appreciating Jazz” Valparaiso
University, April 13, 2000

Presentation: “Liberal Theory and Urban Environmental Justice.” Sarah Lawrence


Presentation: "Parenting, Violent Crime, and Political Obligations” at Calvin College,
September 23, 1999


Presentation: "Parenting, Violent Crime, and Political Obligations" at The University of Windsor, April 4, 1999

Presentation: "Ex-Felons and the Right to Vote" Eastern Division of the APA, December 30, 1998

Presentation: "Environmental Policy and Racism" at Binghamton University, November 13, 1998.

Presentation: "Microphone Commandos" at Alaine Locke Conference at Howard University, September 19, 1998.

Scholar in Residence: WEB DuBois Scholar Institute, William Patterson University, July 21-24, 1998

Presentation: "Microphone Commandos" at WEB DuBois Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, April 14, 1998

Presentation: "Environmental Policy" at North Carolina State University, February 20th, 1998.


Presentation: "Philosophy and Black Manhood" at Bazzel Creek Baptist Church, Fuquay, NC. September 28, 1997

Presentation: "Philosophy and Black Manhood" at Terrell Hill Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, NC. June 15, 1997

Moderator: "Plessy v. Ferguson Session" at Eastern American Philosophical Association meeting, Atlanta, Ga., December 1996.

Presentation: "Jazz ain’t nothing but soul," Radical Philosophers Conference, Purdue University, November 1996.


Presentation: "Between Slavery and Freedom" at Austin College, Sherman, TX, January 1995.

Presentation: "Race and Space" at Radical Philosophers Conference in Des Moines, IA, July 1994.

Presentation: "Frederick Douglass and African American Social Progress" at Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, April 22, 1994.


Presentation: "Frederick Douglass and African American Social Progress" at Earlham College, Richmond, IN, July 1993.


Presentation: "DuBois, Natural Law and Social Progress" at Penn State University, State College, PA, March 21, 1992.


Presentation: "Black Philosophy It's Past and Future," University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, February 1985

Presentation: "Groups and Individuals in American Democracy," Symposium on Poverty, Law and Justice, University of Santa Clara, February 1985; West Virginia Philosophical Association, November 1984


