

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

2225 GEORGIA AVE., NW, SUITE 331, WASHINGTON, DC 20059

P 202.238.5910 | F 202.986.1506 | W www.asalh.org | E info@asalh.net

Nov. 12, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Roy Betts
202-256-4174 (Mobile)

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History Announces New National Officers

WASHINGTON — The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) today announced the election of new officers, including Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham as the association's 28th national president.



Higginbotham is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She is the former chair of Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies.

On Sept. 10, President Barack Obama presented Higginbotham with the 2014 National Humanities Medal for "illuminating the African-American journey." "In her writings and edited volumes, Higginbotham has traced the course of African American history, and deepened our understanding of the American story," said President Obama when making the award presentation at the White House.

"I believe that the next few years will be a crucial period for ASALH. Working in a close and collaborative way with the Executive Council and ASALH staff, I am committed to a forward-looking presidency, one that seeks to be visionary, optimistic and steadfastly attentive to the scholarly and the community character of our mission," said Higginbotham.

An author and editor of historical publications, Higginbotham is the author of *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church: 1880-1920*. She also updated and revised the late John Hope Franklin's African American history survey, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*.

She served as the editor-in-chief of *The Harvard Guide to African-American History*, and was co-editor, with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., of the expanded, 12 volume, *The African American National Biography*, which includes over 5,000 entries.

Spanning four decades, Higginbotham is a lifetime ASALH member. The association honored her with the Carter G. Woodson Scholars Medallion in 2008 and the Living Legacy Award in 2012.

She succeeds ASALH's immediate past president Daryl Scott. Other past ASALH presidents include Mary McLeod Bethune, Andrew Brimmer, Samuel DuBois Cook, Sr., John Hope and Charles Wesley.

Other Elected ASALH National Officers

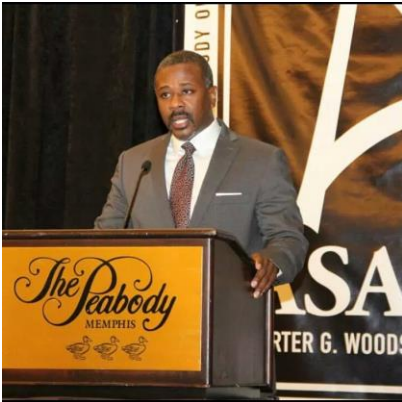


Greer Stanford-Randle was elected ASALH's national vice president for membership. Stanford-Randle has had extensive experience in Human Resource Management in the federal government, social service agencies and community action organizations.

Retired from the U.S. Department of Justice, Stanford-Randle is currently enrolled as a third year PhD Leadership and Change student at Antioch University in Yellow Springs, OH. She earned a Master of Arts degree in African American Studies from Georgia State University, a Masters in Criminology at Kent State University, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Welfare from The Ohio State University.

As an accreditation manager, she supervised and guided 20 mid-level managers and 250 staff in achieving American Correctional Association Accreditation standards for a medium security federal penal facility in the mid-1990s. She is also a member of AAUW, ABWH, ASCAC, Golden Key International Honor Society, Ankh Maat Wedjau National African American Studies Honor Society, and NAACP.

Stanford-Randle is the president and historian for ASALH's Paul Laurence Dunbar Branch in Dayton, OH. She is a member of ASALH's Executive Council and spearheaded the ASALH National Recruitment Plan, which was adopted by the Executive Council in June.



Dr. Jim C. Harper, II was elected Vice President for Programs for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). As Vice President for Programs he has oversight over all programs of ASALH. This includes the Annual Conference and Luncheon as well as all of the publications for ASALH which include the *Journal of African American History*, the *Black History Month Bulletin*, *FIRE: The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies*, the ASALH Press, the Black History Month Kit and all grants.

Harper currently serves on ASALH's Executive Council and as a member of the Wesley-Logan Prize Committee. He has been a member of the association for 15 years.

He currently serves as chairman of the Department of History at North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C. Harper has served in various teaching positions within the university, as well as interim Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Harper received his doctorate in history from Howard University and M.A. and B.A. degrees in history from North Carolina Central University.

He was the recipient of numerous awards, including the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society as well as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He is an active member of the African Studies Association. He has presented papers and taken part on panels at ASALH, the Helen G. Edmonds Lyceum, Duke University, and the Phoenix Society for African American Research.

Harper's research interests include connections between Africans and African Americans during the 19th and 20th centuries and African students in the United States. In 2006 he published his book entitled *Western Educated Elites in Kenya, 1900-1963: The African American Factor with Routledge*.

Harper is currently working on a manuscript for publication covering the life of John Harding Lucas a nationally renowned education administrator who was an integral part in the integration of Durham Public Schools as well as Teachers Associations throughout the country. In 2011 he published two articles. The first article is in *Synergy: Public History at Howard University* edited by Elizabeth Clark Lewis entitled "The Obama Effect: Educated Elites and Kenya's Quest for Higher Education in Africa."

The second article entitled “Education for Black Liberation: The Kenyan Student Experience” was published in *Africalogical Perspectives*, vol. 7 no. 1. November/December, 2011. In addition, Harper is completing a full length documentary on the Civil Rights Movement in Durham, NC.

Harper received the North Carolina Central University Excellence in Teaching Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Research Award in the Department of History. He was also listed as one of the Outstanding Faculty members under 40 at North Carolina Central University and recognized as one of NCCU’s Best Teachers in the campus newspaper, the *Campus Echo*. In 2010 he was named the Spectacular Man of the Year in Education. Recently, he received the 2012 Chairman’s Choice Letitia Woods Brown Article Award from the Association of Black Women Historians.



Dr. Karsonya (Kaye) Wise Whitehead was elected National Secretary of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). She is an associate professor of Communication and African and African American Studies at Loyola University Maryland; an award-winning author; a K-12 master teacher in African American History; an award-winning curriculum writer and lesson plan developer; an award-winning former Baltimore City middle school teacher; and, a three-time New York Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker.

For the past three years, Whitehead has been selected as one of only four experts to participate in the White House's Black History Month Panel co-sponsored by President Obama and ASALH on topics ranging from the Emancipation Proclamation to the president’s policies on women and girls. In 2014, she was one of the featured speakers at the Youth Mentoring Summit at the U.S. Capital in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington.

In 2015 her book, *Notes from a Colored Girl: The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emilie Frances Davis I*, was awarded the Darlene Clark Hine Book Award for Best Book in African American women’s and gender history from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and in 2014, it received the Letitia Woods Brown Book Award for Best Edited Book in African American History from the Association of Black Women Historians. In addition, Dr. Whitehead was awarded the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC); was selected as one of the top 25 women professors in Maryland by Online Schools Maryland; and in 2013, she was the recipient of Loyola University Maryland's Faculty Award for Excellence in Engaged Scholarship for her work documenting the stories of women who are temporarily experiencing homelessness.

She is the author of three books: *Letters to My Black Sons: Raising Boys in a Post-Racial America*; *Notes from a Colored Girl*; *Sparking the Genius: The Carter G. Woodson Lecture*; and, the co-editor of *Rethinking Emilie Frances Davis: Lesson Plans for Teaching her 1863-1865 Pocket Diaries*. Her forthcoming book, *The Emancipation Proclamation: Race Relations on the Eve of Reconstruction* is due out in May 2016 and her encyclopedia collection, *Coming Through the Storm: 50 Key Events that Shaped African American History* (ABC-CLIO) is due out in 2017.

Whitehead is a motivational speaker, a prolific blogger, and a frequent guest host on The Marc Steiner Show (WEAA 88.9 FM). Her website is <http://kayewisewhitehead.com> and she lives in Baltimore with her family.



Gilbert A. Smith was elected ASALH's National Treasurer.

Smith holds a bachelor of science degree in Accounting from Howard University and an Executive MBA degree from George Washington University. He is a Certified Public Accountant a Certified Project Management Professional and holds a Public Trust security clearance.

Smith is a member of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Project Management Institute.

Prior to becoming Treasurer, he served on the ASALH's Executive Council and chair of the Finance and Audit committee.

Smith served as Chair of the Trustee Board of Shiloh Baptist Church, Chair of Howard University Accounting Advisory Counsel. He also formerly served as President of the Metro Washington, DC Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., Treasurer for Emmaus Services for the Aging, Inc., Treasurer of Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, member of the Greater Washington Urban League Finance Committee, and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committees for Shiloh Baptist Church.

In 2008, Smith was recognized as the Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year by the Metro Washington, DC Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc.

The new officers assume their duties and responsibilities Jan. 1, 2016 and serve three-year terms.

In addition to the new national officers, joining ASALH's Executive Council (Class of 2016) are Atty. John Ashley, Copyright Office, Library of Congress; Jeffrey Banks, Bank of Georgetown; Barbara Spencer Dunn, Forestville, MD.; Dr. Sharon Harley, University of Maryland; Corneilius Scott, Farmers Insurance; Alicestyne Turley, Berea College.

For more information, contact: Sylvia Cyrus, executive director, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 202-238-5910 or email her at executivedirector@asalh.net. To learn more about ASALH, visit www.asalh.org.

Established on September 9, 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, we are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of our founder, the Father of Black History. We continue his legacy of speaking a fundamental truth to the world--that Africans and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, "The Kingdom of Culture." ASALH's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History, to be, in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public. We labor in the service of Blacks and all humanity.