Letter from the Director: Professor Paul E. Lovejoy

The Tubman Institute has been undertaking major initiatives over these last several months. The activities reported in this Newsletter are representative. Thanks to Janelle Belgrave and Brendon Best for editing this Newsletter and thereby recording our ongoing development as a research centre devoted to the study of the global migrations of African peoples, past and present. Their collaboration captures the spirit of the Tubman Institute in our innovative exploration of the African past and the emergence of the global diaspora of the twenty first century.

A major initiative of the past several months has been the development of the new face of the Tubman website (www.yorku.ca/tubman). Under the leadership of Rafael Carvalho Slobodian and with the assistance of Usman Mahmood, Yacine Daddi Addoun, Katrina Keefer, and Vanessa Oliveira, we have completely revamped our presentation. The expanded contents will be featured in a forthcoming Newsletter. Our more robust platform can now host more services, including SHADD (Studies in the History of the African Diaspora – Documents) and websites devoted to specific projects, such as Equiano’s World and the MCRI site, Slavery, Memory, Citizenship, soon to be launched.

I wish to thank Jeff Packman for his contributions to the Tubman Institute during his tenure as post-doctoral fellow associated with the MCRI Project, “Slavery, Memory, Citizenship,” funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Jeff assumed principal responsibility for organizing Performing Diaspora 2010, and as reported in this Newsletter, coordinating a workshop on “The Culture Industries in the African Diaspora.” Jeff has been the second post-doctoral fellow with the MCRI Project. The first scholar to hold this fellowship, Ana Lucia Araujo, now Assistant Professor, Howard University, is featured in this Newsletter. We are pleased now to welcome the third scholar to be awarded this fellowship, Dr. Yvonne Brown.

Finally, we are pleased to report that Dr. Don Simpson, who has been Innovator in Residence at the Tubman Institute for the past two years, has elected to devote his attention to Renaissance Innovation Network. Dr. Simpson joined the Tubman Institute at a time when his skills in leadership development and collaborative engagement were essential in transforming a newly founded research institute into a functioning institution. As a result of his mentoring, the Tubman Institute is now well established. We wish him well in the next challenge that he encounters on his odyssey. Dr. Simpson’s personal papers have been donated to the Clara Thomas Archives at York University, and his path-breaking Under the North Star, holds pride of place in the Harriet Tubman Series on the African Diaspora, Africa World Press.
Professor Paul E. Lovejoy receives Distinguished Africanist Award

Professor Paul E. Lovejoy, Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute for the Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, was recognized for his invaluable contribution to the discipline of African History including his work as series editor of the Harriet Tubman Series on the African Diaspora.

The award was presented to the Canada Research Chair by former Dean at University of Austin, Ed Dorn. In his congratulatory speech, Dorn highlighted that; “his research and publications have had a major impact on African history and African Diaspora studies, including cultural studies, anthropology, and demography.”

Lovejoy emphasized that this accolade was by extension a win for the Tubman institute; "The award is important because it recognizes what we are doing at the Tubman Institute and it shows that Canada is not peripheral to the history of Africans in Diaspora."

Lovejoy trumped ten other nominees to secure the award. Ed Dorn also sighted that Professor Lovejoy’s role in mentoring students and junior colleagues is an integral ingredient of his research conducted at the Harriet Tubman Institute.

Congratulations Professor Lovejoy from all of us here at the Harriet Tubman Institute

Editors of this issue:

Janelle Belgrave is currently a Teacher Candidate in her final year in the Faculty of Education, Concurrent Program specializing in Music and French Studies. Janelle is currently working at the Harriet Tubman Institute as a Work/Study student and assistant curator of Performing Diaspora.

Brendon Best is an international student and is currently a teacher candidate in the Faculty of Education, Concurrent Program specializing in English and French.
Melanie Newton

On April 9th, several Melanie Newton specializes in the researchers and members of the Caribbean History Reading Group (CHRG) gathered at the Tubman Institute to postslavery societies in the count-discuss Melanie Newton’s paper; trials of the Atlantic World. Her "This Island's Mine: Indigeneity in the recent publications include ‘The Anglophone Caribbean Atlantic Children of Africa in the Colonies': World." Her latest research project Free People of Color in Barbados examines how the impact of the aboli-

Professor José Curto

In addition to his fellowship at The Tubman Institute, Professor Curto is an Associate Professor in History at York. He specializes on the alcohol-slave trades, historical demography and slavery in Angola. He has published over thirty scholarly articles and authored and co-edited several books. He is currently President of the Canadian Association Of African Studies.

Professor José Curto presents at the Portuguese Consulate

Tubman fellow, Professor José Curto on April 1st was the guest speaker at the Consulate General of Portugal in downtown, Toronto. He delivered a presentation on "Africans in Portugal 1444-1910: Inconvenient Stories." Through a series of photographs, Professor Curto was able to substantiate the claim that there was an African presence since the early fifteenth centuries in Portugal. Through his research he was able to even disapprove the claim that there was hardly any scholarly works on the Africans living there in that epoch. Most of the work though has been produced by non-Portuguese historians.

- Brendon Best

- Brendon Best
International Congress on the Legal Structures and Local Practices of Slavery

From the 13th –15th April, the International Congress on the Legal Structures and local Practices Congress was held at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal. Support was provided by the University, the International Project AFRODES, and the Harriet Tubman Institute for research on the global migration of African peoples.

María Elisa Velázquez, coordinator of a seminar on African and Afro descendant peoples in Mexico as well as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project for UNESCO, participated with a presentation entitled, *Comply, But Do Not Obey: Laws and Ordinances Concerning African Slaves in Colonial Mexico Compared to Their Everyday Lives.*

The aims of the conference was to analyze and compare experiences of slavery in various countries in Europe, Africa, and America and their interplay with the legal and local practices. In total, 23 papers were presented. During the three day congress, groups of participants approaches and methodology were seated at tables according independent of linkages to the following topics: Trends and Legal Practices of Slavery, The Writings and Legal Practices of Slavery, Interactions, and Confrontations, Structure and the Legal Organization of Trafficking and Conditions and Legal Status of Slaves Ruptures and Resistance.

A rather interesting aspect of the Congress was the presentation of slavery topics by African researchers. To date, little is known in America, particularly in Mexico, on the results of studies conducted by colleagues from African countries. It is academically vital to be appraised of their approaches and methodology independent of linkages to European and American interpretations. The discussions touched on different periods and experiences in Cameroon, Saudi Arabia, France, Spain, England, Portugal, Senegal, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Martinique, and Cuba.

It must be highlighted that the work of the African researchers is especially noteworthy because their papers were both intentional and analytical with interesting internal reflections on the nature of the practice of slavery and the impacts on contemporary societies.

- Brendon Best
The Culture Industries in the African Diaspora: A Research Workshop

Back Row: Dr. Marlon Bailey (Indiana University), Dr. Jeff Packman (The Harriet Tubman Institute, University of Toronto), Dr. Xavier Lemon (Wayne State University), Mark Laver (University of Toronto-PhD Candidate), Dr. Steve Pond (Cornell University), Dr. Juliet McMains (University of Washington), Dr. Modupe Olaogun (York University)

Front Row: Dr. John Thabiti Willis (University of Virginia), Dr. Danielle Robinson (York University), Dr. Lucia Suarez (Amherst College), Laurence Robitaille (Ryerson/York University-PhD Candidate)

Post-Doctoral fellow of The Harriet Tubman Institute and Curator of Performing Diaspora 2010 calls it “the best endeavour” he has done thus far at the Institute. The Culture Industries in the African Diaspora workshop gathered 11 invited scholars and researchers from across Canada and the United States for 2-day intensive sessions to engage in discussions which centred on various issues speaking directly to the implications of Afro-Diasporic expressive forms and its linkages within contemporary cultural industries worldwide.

These well-established visiting scholars and emerging researchers, all from very diverse disciplines, took ample opportunity to share papers that provoked discussion around issues within Afro-Diasporic expressive practices such as the commodification of practices in Jazz, Hip Hop and Samba. Speakers looked at the various transformations the practices have taken to and the various implications these transformations have on the practices themselves. The exchange of discussions also challenged any common understandings while also reaffirming any misunderstandings or misrepresentations.

Currently in the works as an overall outcome for the workshop, Dr. Packman and his colleagues plan to collaborate in the production of a publication of all papers given in the workshop to various scholarly journal sources. These pieces dealing with various issues around citizenship, social inquiry, injustice, creativity, transformation and commodification within the realm of Afro-Diasporic expressive culture conveyed theories and ideas that have only begun to spark a whole new vision into the evolution of the arts culture within the African Diaspora.

Prepared by: Janelle Belgrave
The Slave Voyage Database and African Economic History Workshop
May 3, 2010

On May 3rd 2010, Professor Paul Lovejoy was pleased to conduct the Slave Voyage Database and African Economic History Workshop which featured papers from Professors, Researchers and PhD candidates from Canada and abroad. Papers spoke directly to the current Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, the various questions that surround it and the overall implications the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade has had upon African Economic History.

This all day workshop, which was organized in 4 sessions, began with an opening address by Professor Lovejoy who clearly outlined the various misconceptions and possible misunderstandings about the Slave Voyage Database making suggestions as to how we can research more in depth, in an attempt to clear any lines of confusion. This was followed by a paper by Professor Ivana Elbl of Trent University who brought forth a paper which dealt with the “The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database and the Sixteenth-Century Portuguese Slave Trade”. Following Dr. Elbl, from Old Dominion University, Professor Jelmer Vos presented, “The Growth of the Atlantic Slave Trade on the Windward Coast of Africa” which then meshed seamlessly with the question of “What Happened to the Upper Guinea Coast in the Voyage Database?” presented by Professor Paul Lovejoy. And finally to wrap up Session A, PhD candidate Azmat Boukari Yabara presented “Traite a-t-elle eu un impact Économique dans la région du Cap?”.

Session B began with papers from PhD candidate Nielson Bezerra who spoke on the “Transatlantic Slave Trade from Bight of Biafra to Brazil, 1750-1850” and in the place of Daniel Dominiques da Silva, Carlos da Silva JR delivered the original intended paper entitled, “The Supply of Slaves from Luanda, 1768-1806: Records of Anselmo da Fonseca Coutinho”. Closing session B was PhD candidate, Stacey Sommerdyk of the University of Hull who delivered her paper on “Re-examining the Slave Trade on the West Central African Coast: Looking behind the Numbers”.

Session C, which concluded the workshop, began with papers that spoke directly to the database itself. First up, “Extending the Database of African Names: New Evidence from Sierra Leone” delivered by Professor Suzanne Schwartz of Liverpool University and finally, “The Juan Francisco Cascales Shipping Registries: Methodological Problems with the African Names Database” given by PhD candidate, Henry Lovejoy of the University of California, UCLA.
Africa Matters: Celebrating 40 Years
Canadian Association of African Studies
May 5, 6, 7, 2010

There was much to celebrate at Carlton University this month. With the grand opening of the new Institute of African Studies and also celebrating the Canadian Association of African Studies’ 40th year anniversary, May 5th launched the beginning of this 3-day intensive conference. In collaboration with the University of Ottawa, the conference was said to have had approximately 500 individuals in attendance throughout the entire weekend. Organizers, Participants and Spectators were all very content with the turn out and outcome of the conference which has left a buzz of the conference lingering for the next one to follow.

In attendance at the conference this year from the Harriet Tubman Institute were:

- Professor Paul Lovejoy
- Professor Jose C. Curtó
- Katrina Keefer
- Jeffery Gunn
- Nadine Hunt
- Carlos da Silva Jr.
- Nielson Bezerra
- Vanessa Oliveira
- Leidy Alpizar
- Feisal Farah
- Mariana P. Candido
- Karlee Sapoznik
- Rafaela Jobbitt

Round Table
"The African Presence in the World: Cultural Interactions between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean"
A Tribute to Rex Nettleford

June 1st, 2010 in Paris, France, gathered scholars and panelists to participate in a round table entitled "The African Presence in the World: Cultural Interactions between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean." While this round table commemorated the independence process of Latin America and Caribbean countries, this event also observed the 15th anniversary of the independence of African countries. In honour of the late Rex Nettleford who made significant contributions to the work of UNESCO, the round table closed with a special tribute ceremony to celebrate his life and lifetime achievements. The late great Honourable Ralston ‘Rex’ Nettleford of Jamaica, was former Chairperson of the International Scientific Committee for the UNESCO Slave Route Project.

Panelists to this event included:

Professor Andreas Bansart and Professor Barry Chevannes
University of the West Indies

Dr. Nelly Schmidt and Professor Paul Lovejoy of the International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project

Mr. Doudou Diène, former Director of Intercultural Projects.
Exciting New Projects

The Tubman Institute was very pleased to receive the news of the recent grants awarded to the Project **“Breaking the Chains: Presenting a New Narrative of Canada’s New Role in the Underground Railroad.”** with Principal Investigator Professor Paul Lovejoy, Program Manager, Professor Karolyn Smardz Frost and Professor Caitlin Fisher.

Professor Annie Bunting was also awarded grant funding for her project entitled, **“Forced Marriage in Conflict Situations: enslavement or other inhumane act?”**. The project is well underway and Professor Bunting and her team are very much looking forward to the positive outcomes and awareness the project will bring forth with regards to such a crucial and fundamental issue.

PhD Defences and Successes

Yacine Daddi Addoun and Nielson Bezerra most recently went through their PhD defenses and the results were a great success.

Yacine Daddi Addoun, received his PhD on March 26th, 2010 at York University, Toronto. The title of his dissertation, **“L’abolition de l’esclavage en Algérie: 1816-1871.”**

Nielson Bezerra received his PhD on April 15 2010, at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil. The title of his dissertation, **“Mosaicos da Escravidão: identidades africanas e conexoes atlanticas do Reconcavo da Guanabara, 1780-1840.”**
More Congratulations!...

We’d also like to congratulate Stacey Sommerdyk (Right), PhD Candidate at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation at University of Hull, UK, who recently received a SSHRC doctoral award.

Stacey is in her fourth and final year of her PhD candidacy. Her provisional thesis title is ‘Trade and the Merchant Community of the Loango Coast in the Eighteenth Century’ (supervised by Professor David Richardson and Professor Simon D. Smith). Her primary fields of interest are African History, Merchant Communities, the Dutch Trading Empire, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Atlantic History, and Diaspora Histories.

Welcome New Members to the Tubman!

The Harriet Tubman Institute would like to take the opportunity to welcome its newest members to the Tubman Team.

Professor Modesto Amegago
Theatre Arts Diploma (University of Ghana), MFA, PhD (Simon Fraser)
Assistant Professor: Dance Ethnography
Department of Dance and Graduate Program in Dance, York University

Professor Amegago is a specialist in West African performance arts, with broad interests in the fields of cultural studies, interdisciplinary music, theatre and dance performance, and arts and education philosophy.

International Student and now Summer Work Study Student, Edrica Dominique Demeritte (Right) joins us at the Harriet Tubman Institute! Dominique is a Business Economics major and brings with her to the institute a shining smile and tons of laughs. We welcome you Dominique, best of luck with your studies!!!!
FEATURE FOCUS: Ana Lucia Araujo  
Recent Report - “Slavery in Modern Day Brazil”

This section is dedicated to featuring and spotlighting past and current affiliates with The Harriet Tubman Institute, recognizing their recent publications, presentations, seminars, papers or articles.

Ana Lucia Araujo. Assistant Professor at Howard University, Department of History at Washington, DC, continues to make waves in academia and the Harriet Tubman Institute is pleased to introduce you to a recent report by Ana Lucia.

To read Ana Lucia’s full report entitled: “Slavery in Modern Day Brazil”

Please visit our website at: http://diaspora.homelinux.net/tubmanNew/report_slavery_in_modern_day_brazil_by_ana_lucia_araujo

Ana Lucia Araujo is a historian. She completed a joint Ph. D. in History (Université Laval, Quebec, Canada) and Social and Historical Anthropology (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France). Her thesis dealt with the public memory and heritage of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery in Brazil and the Bight of Benin. Dr. Araujo has also completed a Ph. D. in Art History. Her thesis examined the representations of Brazil in the engravings of French travel accounts of the nineteenth century. She analyzed the elements that constituted a particular French vision of Brazil and South America, in which the civilized Europe is opposed to the representation of Brazilian native groups, as well as enslaved Africans and Afro-Brazilians. Dr. Araujo first single-authored book Romantisme tropical : l’aventure illustrée d’un peintre français au Brésil was published in 2008, by the Presses de l’Université Laval (Canada). Dr. Araujo also edited the volume Living History: Encountering the Memory of the Heirs of Slavery (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009). Her second single-authored book, entitled Public Memory of Slavery: Victims and Perpetrators in the South Atlantic is being published by Cambria Press in 2010. Her next book project is a global study of the public memory of slavery and the Atlantic slave trade and its intersections with the public memory of the Holocaust.

(*Ana Lucia’s BIO and publication information sourced from the Howard University Website)
Celebrations!

May continued to have many occasions to celebrate, I celebrated my birthday for the first time with my new colleagues and friends at the Tubman Institute on May 20th, 2010 and what a pleasure it was. Thank you so very much to all of you for making my day such a wonderful one. A special thank you to Asif Mohammed who made the beautiful cake, and Jeff Packman and Danielle Robinson for the beautiful flowers.

Upcoming Events

JULY: 5th-9th, 2010: The Harriet Tubman Summer Programme, York University

For a full list of events please visit our website at: www.yorku.ca/tubman


Artwork & Textile Collection: The Cloth

For me these are important because they show the centuries old artistry of textile production in West Africa. - Professor Paul E. Lovejoy

One of the many pieces of West African textiles that make up the personal collection of Professor Paul Lovejoy, this beautiful piece is a recent new addition hanging in Professor Lovejoy’s office. On showcase in the office of Professor Paul Lovejoy, this piece is one of the many West African cloths that Professor Lovejoy has gathered for his collection. Originating from Sierra Leone this piece of fabric is locally made on local looms.

Although no story was said to have been given with the cloth, it presents a wonderful image giving us a closer sense of Sierra Leone. Up close, the detailing is astonishing and it is evident that a great deal of work has gone into the production of this lovely cloth. These cloths have now made a home in Professor Lovejoy’s office, also housing other various gems, such as an Igbo cloth from Nigeria, a doll from Sierra Leone, various calabash all bringing warmth and a rejuvenated spirit that brings West Africa to life in the office.

Professor Lovejoy’s collection does not only begin in the office but extends to his home where he has mentioned he has various textiles that are very close to his heart. Seeing these fabrics up close is an experience that is eye opening and there is a great deal of appreciation for it in the office. A sense of tranquility, unity and humility all settle in when one comes to observe them. We look forward to many more pieces of beautiful artistic and significant gems Professor Lovejoy brings back from his travels from around the world.
The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples at York University is proud to be part of an international network of research centres committed to overcoming injustice and inequity as a result of slavery. Our leading-edge research focuses on the forced and voluntary movement of African peoples around the world. As a social innovator, the Institute's mandate is to promote a greater understanding of the history of slavery and its legacy. The Institute fosters debate, informs public policy and strives to resolve current social injustices. Digital archiving technology enables the preservation of documents and other materials for easy access to historical records. The Institute is named for the spirit of Harriet Tubman, liberator of her people, feminist, and humanist (c.1820-1913).