



DELAWARE  
Humanities  
FORUM

VOL. 27 | NO. 2 | SPRING 2002

# ON THE WAY

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware Humanities Forum

## American Innovators to Visit Rehoboth

Chautauqua is back for a third annual presentation in Rehoboth Beach. The theme this year is "American Innovators," and features portrayals of Benjamin Banneker, Thomas Edison, Clara Barton, and Zora Neale Hurston over four nights. Admission and parking are free. The Chautauqua will be held under a big tent on the grounds of Rehoboth Elementary School, just off Route 1 South, past the Rehoboth Beach bypass at 500 Stockley Street. The Chautauqua begins at 7 p.m. each night from June 23 through 26, with opening performer Christy Lynn Taylor and friends taking the stage at 6:30 p.m. Light food concessions will be available.

A Chautauqua is a unique event featuring reenactments of historical characters and musical performances. The multi-night event is held outdoors under a tent, just like it was in 1874 during the original gatherings on the shores of Lake Chautauqua in New York. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions and interact with the characters.

Through the experiences of four American Innovators, you will hear similarities in their ability to overcome obstacles, find creative solutions, and be undeterred by societal pressure.



**Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806)**

Without Benjamin Banneker, our nation's capital may not exist as we know it. After a year of work L'Enfant, the Frenchman hired by George Washington to design the capital storied off the job, taking all the plans. Banneker, part of the survey team, reproduced from memory a complete layout of the streets, parks, and major buildings.



Zora Neale Hurston, as portrayed by Phyllis McEwen

But it was not his sharp memory alone that distinguished him. Despite the popular prejudices of the times, Banneker was quite unwilling to let his race or his age hinder his thirst for intellectual development. In fact, after the survey team completed its work on the Federal Territory (later Washington, D.C.), Banneker returned to his home and wrote a long letter to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson excoriating the tyranny of slavery, and challenging the premise of racial inferiority.

A farmer of modest means, Banneker nevertheless lived a life of unusual achievement. Born into freedom because his mother was free, Banneker's grandmother taught him to read. Eventually, Banneker's conversations with his Quaker neighbors opened his mind to many new subjects, and the books they lent him on astronomy became the beginnings of the "Benjamin Banneker Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Almanac," which was published from 1792 to 1797.

Learn more about Banneker as a skilled observationist, inventor, and social critic during Chautauquan Bill Grimmette's first-person portrayal on Sunday, June 23.

**Thomas Edison (1847-1931)**

Thomas Alva Edison is one of America's most famous inventors. A brilliant scientist and clever businessman, Edison was responsible for many of the huge changes that took place during his lifetime. His inventions created and contributed to modern night lights, movies, telephones, records and CDs. Recognized for his

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## CHEER TO HOST Award-Winning Literary Artists

Nine internationally known and award-winning literary artists are visiting Sussex County May through February as featured guests of an intergenerational literary series. Guest readers who will share their work with the audience will include a Pulitzer Prize winner, a Newbery Medal winner, two Guggenheim Award winners, the Poet Laureate of Delaware and Israel's premier poet.

Sussex County Senior Services, Inc./CHEER, with support from the Delaware Humanities Forum, will host the *Sharing Literature, Sharing Life* intergenerational literary series at the Warren L. and Charles C. Allen, Jr. CHEER

Community Center in Georgetown, Del. Each reading will begin at 3 p.m. with the works of a promising college student leading off the program. A question and answer session will follow the featured reader and a private reception to meet the featured artists will conclude each event.

Tickets for the readings are \$10 per person. For more information call (302) 854-9500 or (302) 856-5187. Sussex County Senior Services, Inc./CHEER is an independent non-profit agency providing services to senior citizens in Sussex County, located at 546 S. Bedford Street, Georgetown. ♦

The series kicked-off with award-winning poet Lola Haskins on May 5, and Kim Addonizio, Pushcart Prize and NEA Fellowship recipient on June 9. The remaining calendar of artists include:

July 14 - *Booker Prize Winner, Pulitzer Prize recipient, and recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts*

August 11 - *United States Poet, 2002 Guggenheim Award winner*

September 8 - *Newbery Medal, 1996-1997 Poet Laureate of Delaware*

October 6 - *Author of *When Did I Stop Loving You?**

November 3 - *Poet Laureate of Delaware*

January 12, 2005 - *Robert Lowell Guggenheim Award winner*

February 2, 2005 - *1997 Pulitzer Prize, Guggenheim Award winner*



Immediate past Council Chair Jeffrey Mask with  
Dover Post Marketing Director Mary Kaltreider

## Dover Lecture Series a Success

The first annual "People You Should know" series was a great success this winter. With the Dover Post coming on board as presenting sponsor, the series drew about 500 people over six nights to the new Schwartz Center for the Arts in historic Dover. The series included first-person reenactments, pictorial histories, and engaging conversations to help mark Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Each presentation was offered free to the public. ♦



DELAWARE  
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## ANNUAL REPORT 2001

### Letter from the Chair

As the Delaware Humanities Council approaches its 30-year anniversary, we are reminded of how the scope and direction of our work has changed and grown to reflect the interests and diversity of our state. From our beginnings as a pass-through grant maker, we have matured over the years to offer a range of programs that complement the original grant program. As a sapling, our small roots stretched out to the citizens of Delaware, and as our roots grew deeper and our limbs stronger, we have continued to connect more and more people throughout Delaware.

Since the National Endowment for the Humanities requested the formation of independent, nonprofit state humanities councils, the Delaware Humanities Council has taken its responsibilities very seriously. In part, the NEH charged us to promote public understanding and appreciation of the humanities, building community by bringing the public together with humanities scholars regardless of geographic impediment, or economic challenge.

Through our Speakers Bureau, that reached 13,000 people in every corner of the state, to our Visiting Scholars, that touched 15,000 school children, and our Grants program that enabled 54 diverse organizations to develop and present their own programs, the Delaware Humanities Council works every day to reach a broad range of people. In 2001, we reached more than 100,000 Delawareans in every county with free or moderately priced humanities programs. Our 2001 Annual Lecture and Chautauqua remained popular and were again offered to the public for free.

In 2001, we experienced incredible growth in demand for our Speakers Bureau, which has led us to re-evaluate and re-structure this program for the future – much like we have done in years past when your interests helped us decide what direction we needed to go. Whether restructuring our Speakers Bureau program to make sure it remains available to the greatest number of Delawareans, to redesigning our Visiting Scholars catalog to make it easier for teachers to incorporate into their lesson plans, or rewriting our Grant Guidelines to make it more clear how best to apply for a grant, we grow stronger with experience.

As the Delaware Humanities Council moves forward into the next year, our 50th, we will welcome a new Executive Director, continue to evaluate our programs, listen to your experiences with us, and incorporate the information we gather into a new long-range plan. The Council encourages you to share your experiences with our programs – we intend to be guided by the input of project directors, program participants, scholars, donors, and our partners in the state's cultural, educational and other communities.

With informed change and repositioning, our roots grow deeper and our limbs stronger. But one thing remains certain: just like when we were founded, the Delaware Humanities Council still believes in the power of ideas to open minds, spark creative imaginations, and nurture a sense of community. We remain committed to that vision.

The Delaware Humanities Council was created to disseminate public humanities programs to the citizens of Delaware, and we have done so for almost 30 years through our operating arm, the Delaware Humanities Forum. We hope you will celebrate with us in the year 2003 when we commemorate our 50th anniversary with a Del Tulo Award in the Humanities, Annual Lecture and Dinner.

Our success is your success. We thank you for your support and offer congratulations on what we have achieved together. We offer this annual report as a record of the Council's programs in 2001.

Marilyn P. Whittington  
Chair, Delaware Humanities Council

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES 2001

The Delaware Humanities Forum awarded \$139,853 for 34 grants in fiscal 2001 (November 1, 2000 through October 31, 2001). The grants projects, together with the Speakers Bureau, Visiting Scholars Program, and other Council-sponsored activities, reached more than 100,000 people throughout Delaware.

### REGULAR GRANTS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>African American Education in Delaware</b><br>Highly Museum and Library                | \$ 5,875 |
| <b>Annual Celebration 2001</b><br>YWCA of New Castle County                               | \$ 5,050 |
| <b>Books Build Bridges</b><br>Delaware Discussion   | \$12,000 |
| <b>Drama Pedagogy and Multi-Culturalism</b><br>University of Delaware                     | \$12,350 |
| <b>An Evening with Paula Vogel</b><br>Delaware Theatre Project                            | \$ 8,000 |
| <b>Races</b><br>Savestra Races  | \$ 8,000 |
| <b>Mortality in the 21st Century</b><br>Philosophy Department, University of Delaware     | \$ 4,201 |
| <b>Poetry Festival</b><br>Grand Opera House   | \$ 6,750 |
| <b>Adin Kervidjar: A Cuban Septuagint Journey</b><br>Savestra Races                       | \$ 4,000 |
| <b>Almost Forgotten: Delaware Women Artists 1900-1950</b><br>Biggs Museum of American Art | \$18,000 |
| <b>If All New Castle County Read the Same Book</b><br>Seawark Library                     | \$ 4,100 |
| <b>Southern Delaware Maritime Series</b><br>Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation     | \$11,000 |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>African-Americans in New Castle History</b><br>New Castle Historical Society                  | \$ 5,525 |
| <b>Whispers of Angels Educational Initiative</b><br>Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation | \$ 5,000 |

### SMALL GRANTS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Redeem the Dream</b><br>Bethel A.M.E. Church   | \$ 2,100 |
| <b>Freedom Seekers</b><br>Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation                            | \$ 1,900 |
| <b>Storming Heaven, Stealing Innocence:<br/>Victims and the American Dream</b><br>Pacini in Trees | \$ 750   |
| <b>New Castle's 550th Anniversary</b><br>New Castle Historical Society                            | \$ 1,900 |
| <b>Constitution and the Environment</b><br>University of Delaware                                 | \$ 1,200 |
| <b>The Finishing Touch</b><br>Biggs Museum of American Art  | \$ 1,350 |
| <b>DMEC Multicultural Education</b><br>Delaware Multicultural Education Council                   | \$ 3,000 |
| <b>Remember and Celebrate</b><br>Spencer Heritage Hallway Commission                              | \$ 2,050 |
| <b>Old Time Camp Meeting</b><br>Whitcomb United Methodist Church                                  | \$ 1,200 |
| <b>Educators Workshop 2001</b><br>Delaware Theatre Company  | \$ 3,000 |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Seacoast Falls Inheritance</b><br>Delaware Press Association                  | \$ 3,000 |
| <b>Great Authors with Betty Jean Steinbocker</b><br>Bethel Bethel Public Library | \$ 3,000 |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Powder Heritage Day</b><br>Delaware Academy of Science<br>Iron Hill Museum | \$ 2,200 |
|---|----------|

### OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>Victorian Tea</b><br>Mid-Country Senior Center                                  | \$ 400   |
| <b>From Besie to Roosevelt</b><br>South Coastal Library                            | \$ 300   |
| <b>Delaware Festival of the Word</b><br>University of Delaware School of Education | \$ 400   |
| <b>Unlacing the Victorian Woman</b><br>Middleton Historical Society                | \$ 500   |
| <b>Distant Voices</b><br>Temple Beth El  | \$ 437   |
| <b>Kwanzaa Summer Camp</b><br>Price Spencer Family Life Foundation                 | \$ 1,000 |
| <b>Freedomseekers II</b><br>Quaker Hill Historic Preservation                      | \$ 500   |

### COUNCIL SPONSORED EVENTS

#### Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau provides lecture and discussion programs to nonprofit groups throughout the state. The current catalog contains 58 talks by 41 academic specialists on a wide range of subjects. Audience: 338 presentations reached 12,660 Delawareans.



#### Visiting Scholars Program

The VSP allows teachers at all grade levels, and all school districts, to give their students the benefit and expertise of scholars from local colleges and universities at no charge to the schools. Audience in calendar year: 150 programs reached 15,000 students.

#### Scholar in Residence Program

An outgrowth of our Visiting Scholars Program, the Scholar in Residence Program allows a humanities scholar to spend an entire day at a school, talking to small groups of students or making presentations in an assembly setting.

This year, the Delaware Humanities Forum was pleased to offer the Twin Poets, Albert Mills and Naomi Chukwouocha, for a portion of the school year. The twins' interactive program of "hip" poetry garnered enormous positive reactions from teachers and students. The poets made 49 presentations in 36 schools, reaching 7,800 students.

#### The Old West Chautauqua

Our fourth annual Chautauqua tent show featured scholars portraying Meriwether Lewis, Sacagawea, Dr. Yee Fuung, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and Seminole Negro Scout G.W. Bowman. Five performances and seven workshops at local venues reached more than 1,200 adults and children.

#### Annual Lecture

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright Wendy Wasserstein spoke to 500 people during the Annual Lecture in October at the Playhouse Theatre.



#### Special Programs

The Forum periodically offers a special package of presentations to nonprofit organizations at no charge. We were pleased to offer three such packages in fiscal year 2001, which reached 800 people.

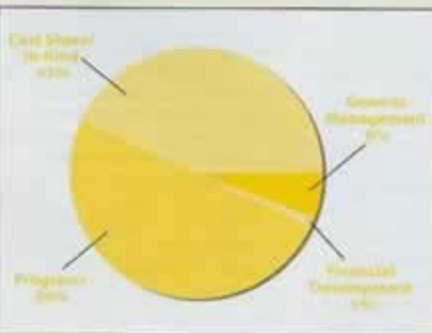
The Forum made available a first-person presentation for Black History Month, "Charlotte Forten Grinke: African American Abolitionist" and "Unlacing the Victorian Woman" for Women's History Month. "Distant Voices," which explored the experiences of a Japanese American during the World War II Internment and beyond, was made available throughout the year.

### Fiscal Year 2001 Summary Statement of Financial Position

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>  |                   |
| Cash   | \$ 9,976          |
| Grants receivable  | 26,048            |
| Accounts receivable                                      | 2,376             |
| Property and equipment<br>Less: Accumulated depreciation | 14,843            |
| Investments  | 526,013           |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                      | <b>\$ 579,256</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                       |                   |
| Grants Payable   | \$ 81,434         |
| Accounts payable   | 200               |
| Accrued expenses   | 5,501             |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                                 | <b>\$ 88,227</b>  |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                                  | <b>\$ 291,059</b> |

### Fiscal Year 2001 Summary Financial Report

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Support</b>                        |            |
| National Endowment for the Humanities | \$ 469,256 |
| State of Delaware                     | 58,580     |
| Private Contributions                 | 7,346      |
| Interest/Investment Income            | 9,841      |
| Cost Share/ In-Kind                   | 996,934    |
| <b>Expenses</b>                       |            |
| General Management                    | \$ 75,139  |
| Financial Development                 | 9,982      |
| Programs                              | 581,191    |
| Cost Share                            | 496,934    |



## 2001 DONORS

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Benefactor</b>  | \$1,000 and over |
| <b>Patron</b>      | \$100-\$999      |
| <b>Sponsor</b>     | \$250-\$499      |
| <b>Supporter</b>   | \$100-\$249      |
| <b>Contributor</b> | \$50-\$99        |
| <b>Friend</b>      | \$25-\$49        |

They generously supported our mission to connect people, cultures, and ideas by making humanities programs available and accessible to the people of Delaware. Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy however in compiling such a list, omissions and inaccuracies sometimes occur. Please accept the apology and advise us of any errors by calling (302) 457-8050. Donors listed made contributions between December 1, 2000 and October 31, 2001.

#### ANNE M. STEVENSON

Individual  
Contributions

#### CHRISTOPHER J. WATSON

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#### ALAN W. WATSON

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## Speakers Bureau Auditions

The Speakers Bureau is one of the Delaware Humanities Forum's most popular programs. Through a variety of informal lectures/discussion presentations, our speakers promote a better understanding of the world in which we live. Speakers Bureau programs are utilized by all types of community groups including school and civic associations, service clubs, churches and synagogues, historical societies, senior centers, and libraries.

We are always interested in enhancing our program by adding new and exciting presentations. In the fall of 2002, we will begin a search for additional speakers for our 2003-2004 Speakers Bureau Catalog. Individuals who are interested in becoming a Speaker need to submit an application by September 20, 2002 consisting of a resume and a supporting narrative. Auditions will be scheduled for early October with the catalog to be published by January 2003.

If you would like to submit an application to be a Speaker or would like more information, please contact Program Officer Valerie Hailley at (302) 657-0650 or (800) 752-2060.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Delaware Humanities Forum helps Delawareans reach a fuller understanding of the connections among people, cultures, and ideas through project initiatives, grant making, and educational outreach. Through the Forum's grants to nonprofit organizations and by its own direct initiatives, programs in the humanities build bridges to connect the daily life and work of people to the universe of human experience, thought, and imagination. As an advocate and catalyst for the humanities, the Forum brings together the public and humanities specialists to focus on issues of public interest and concern, and links cultural, educational and civic institutions into a network serving people throughout the entire state. The Forum promotes the humanities as a resource for all Delawareans.*

## Delaware Humanities Forum Welcomes New Council Members

The governing Council of the Delaware Humanities Forum recently elected new officers and four new members, while bidding "farewell" to several valued members whose terms had expired. Thanks to **Jeanine Carello**, **Sig Ettinger**, and **Jean Bonner** for their many years of dedicated service to the humanities in Delaware.



*Pictured from left, Akwasi Osei, Marilyn P. Whittington, Michael E. Miller*

Welcome to **Marilyn P. Whittington** of Wilmington, and **Michael E. Miller** of Felton, who were each elected by unanimous vote to Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, and to the following new Council members:

**Teresa Mason, J.D.**, Executive Vice President for MBNA America, Professional

Recruiting and Resource Allocation. Ms. Mason graduated in 1979 from St. John's University with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice, and received her law degree in 1982 from Howard University School of Law. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics, Del.

**R. Thorpe Moeckel**, Principal and Vice President of Moeckel Carbonell Associates Inc. Architects in Wilmington, Del. Mr. Moeckel is a 1979 graduate of the University of Delaware with a B.A. degree in Art History, and is President of the Board of Directors of the University of Delaware Alumni Association. He is an active member of the Delaware community, and is a past



*Council member Teresa Mason*

Director of the Committee of 100, the Rotary Club of Wilmington, the Executive Committee of the Wilmington Country Club, Past President of the Lincoln Club of Delaware, and past Board Chairman of the Tamm School where he was a Trustee for 14 years.

**Akwasi Osei, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of History and Political Science at Delaware State University. Educated at Oberlin College, Ohio University, and Howard University. Dr. Osei's areas of expertise are African Politics, International Politics, African American History and Politics, and Multicultural Education. He previously taught at Oberlin (1988-89), and The College of Wooster (1989-1993).

**Chan Lee Pow, C.P.A., M.B.A.**, Senior Tax Analyst with the DuPont Company and Chairperson of the Delaware Multicultural Education Council, a non-profit organization that brings Delaware cultures together to improve cultural understanding. Mr. Lee Pow also serves as a corporate sponsor and mentor for the Public Allies youth training program, and a mentor for high school students in the Opportunities for Empowerment program.

### Call for Nominations

The Delaware Humanities Council invites nominations for Council membership. The Council is the governing board of the Delaware Humanities Forum. Council members advocate for the humanities in Delaware, help the Forum seek funding for its programs, and oversee Forum management. The volunteer Council meets four times a year to determine policy and make grant awards. For more information, call (302) 657-0650.

www.rehoboth.org

perseverance, his statement, "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration" is still quoted today.

Edison is most famous for his development of the first electric light bulb, and although born into a world where electricity had not been developed, by the time he died entire cities were lit by electricity. Throughout his life, Edison tried to invent things that everyone could use, and most of his inventions are devices still used in some form today.

Edison was a home-schooled, self-educated person that expounded the value of responsibility, perseverance, and creativity. His persistence and leadership qualities are evidenced in his success in creating the "invention factory" production model, which he used to build a science laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J., and his patents, which were issued to Edison more than to any other individual in U.S. history.

Don't miss Chautauquan Fred Krebs' portrayal of Thomas Edison on Monday night.



**Clara Barton (1821-1912)**

Clarissa Harlowe Barton's long career of public service included work as a teacher, battlefield nurse, lecturer, and finally, organizer and president of the American Red Cross. Throughout her career Barton overcame prejudices against women's participation in affairs outside the home. In the 1850s, she opened the first free public school in Bordentown, N.J., which enrolled 600 students in its first year. Just when the school seemed a resounding success, a male

principal was hired to take over the school at more than twice Barton's salary. Later she took a job with the U.S. Patent Office as clerk, but was dismissed along with other women when President Buchanan decided women did not belong in government.

Barton remained undeterred, however, and after witnessing the disastrous results of inadequate medical care on the battlefield during the Civil War, she successfully lobbied the War Department to allow her to go with the troops to care for the wounded. Barton would later become known as the "Angel of the Battlefield." After the war, she organized the search for missing soldiers and helped locate 22,000 in four years.

She later volunteered for the International Red Cross during a stay in Europe, and after her return to the U.S. established the American Red Cross. She served as its president for the next 23 years.

Meet Clara Barton in 1862 as a battlefield nurse with Chautauquan Mary Ann Jung, an award-winning performer, on Tuesday.

**Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)**

Probably best known for her novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," Zora Neale Hurston lived an eclectic life that included residency in the rural South and in the industrialized North, professions from manicurist to librarian, and a saucy reputation that preceded her.

Hurston got her first taste of published work while a student at Howard University. By 1925, Hurston had moved to New York City,

and quickly became part of the "Negro Movement" – later referred to as the Harlem Renaissance. She apparently made quite an impression in Harlem society, attending parties with other notable African American writers such as Langston Hughes. Hurston wore her hat perched jauntily on her head, and regaled groups with her childhood tales of life in Eatonville, Fla. She shocked others with her "outrageous" behavior, which included smoking in public.

**American Innovators Chautauquo**

Chautauquo Night! Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 PM

June 23, Benjamin Franklin

June 24, Thomas Edison

June 25, Clara Barton

June 26, Zora Neale Hurston

Hurston's academic experience and interest concentrated on Anthropology, particularly folklore, and she spent several years traveling in the south interviewing storytellers, all of which would feed into her writing. She went on to become the most prolific African American women writer of her time, and can count Alice Walker as one of her greatest admirers.

On Wednesday, Chautauquan Phyllis McEwen will introduce you to Hurston as she was in 1938. Hurston had just returned from Haiti and completed her second book of folklore, "Tell My Horse." ♦

**Experiencing History First Hand**

Outreach Director Sidney Jacobs has been awarded a grant from the Delaware Heritage Commission to document the Civil Rights speeches, memorabilia, and previous interviews of Littleton P. "Lit" Mitchell, former Tuskegee Airman and Civil Rights icon. Sid is working under the guidance of Dr. James Soles, former Chair of the Delaware Humanities Forum and emeritus professor of political science at the University of Delaware.

In May, Sid and Dr. Soles met with Lit Mitchell and his wife, Jane, at their home in Polktown, Delaware City. "As a social-historian, I have been trained to take a detached, disinterested, and objective approach to the subject matter. Well, formality tends to bow in the presence of greatness," Sid said.

Sid also noted that his recent conversation with Mr. Mitchell allowed him to reflect on his own life as an African American and to contemplate just how, and when, Mr. Mitchell's life would leave the same etched impression within the hearts and minds of other students of history and the humanities. ♦



Littleton P. "Lit" Mitchell

# PEOPLE, CULTURES & IDEAS

## Welcome Our Newest Staff Member

The Forum welcomed its newest staff member, Zony Foma, who joined us in August as bookkeeper. Zony is originally from Cameroon, Africa, and has lived in Delaware for the past nine years. Before joining the Forum, he worked as grant accountant for the U.S. AID program, which supports international development. Administered from the University of Delaware in Newark, Zony worked on grants to Croatia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and other countries. Previously, he worked for Easter Seals of Delaware, and currently owns and operates Xasus Inc. Tax Services.

Since joining the Forum, Zony has upgraded accounting processes for grants and projects administration, interfaced with the National Endowment for the Humanities on compliance projects, and worked with the Council's Finance Committee.

## Getting Acquainted with Wilmington's Jazz Scene

The JazzReach Consortium, with support from the Delaware Humanities Forum, presented its first program in April at the Delaware Art Museum. "Wilmington's Jazz Scene: Roots to the Future" featured three different panel discussions and musical presentations that highlighted different periods in Wilmington's

rich jazz history.

The first panel talked about the early days of jazz greats such as Clifford Brown and Lyn Winchester, and the social experience of the jazz scene at that time. The noon panel explored the contemporary jazz scene, which included Boisey Lowrey's impact on musicians such as Toney Smith, Fostina Dixon, and others. Tina Betz, Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Wilmington, presented a popular documentary on Wilmington's Jazz scene history.

The last part of the daylong event featured a discussion with jazz critic Elliot Bratton and Linda Williams from Bates College, who gave a womanist perspective on jazz. Grammy award winner and scholar Donald T. Byrd spoke on the preservation of jazz and its future, and followed it with an innovative performance that blended hip-hop and jazz, with the aid of a laptop. The members of the JazzReach Consortium, which include Outreach Director Sidney Jacobs, were pleased to find the event a cathartic one that blended good music and good knowledge.

The Consortium, developed to promote and explore jazz education in Wilmington, hopes to make "Wilmington's Jazz Scene" an annual event. This year, its first, the event attracted more than 200 people. ☺



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