Twentieth Annual Conference
Re-Union: Manifesting the Collective Power of Haitian Ingenuity

November 6-8, 2008
Club Indigo Resort Hotel (Côte des Arcadins)
Montrouis, Haiti
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Haitian Studies Association, I would like to welcome you to the association's 20th Annual Conference, Re-Union: Manifesting the Collective Power of Haitian Ingenuity. Twenty years ago, a group of scholars and activists, concerned with the future of Haiti, came together to create a forum for understanding and analyzing the social, economic, political, and cultural forces that have shaped contemporary Haitian society. For twenty years, HSA's annual conference has convened over 150 established and emerging scholars who study Haiti and Haitians; and through our collective effort, we have created an emerging field of study that is finding its place in the academy in the United States and abroad.

This year, we thought it fitting to celebrate this important anniversary in Haiti, the land that fuels our intellectual pursuits, feeds our souls, and spurs us to act. In the wake of the economic, humanitarian, and environmental catastrophes that Haiti has experienced this year, we come in solidarity with the people of Haiti who are struggling to rebuild their lives, and in support of the myriad efforts being undertaken by the government, the private, and civil society sectors to reconstruct the country for the short and long-term. Indeed, as suggested by the theme of the conference, the effort to rebuild Haiti calls for ingenuity, human agency, and the deployment of our collective strengths. It is our hope that the conference will inspire us to do our part in rebuilding Haiti through the ideas presented in the panels, the plenary session on Haiti’s reconstruction, the courageous and talented individuals and institutions we will honor.

A conference never comes together by fiat, but by the hard work of many people. As such, we owe a great debt of gratitude to the conference Co-Chairs, Guerda Nicolas, Josiane Hudicourt-Barnes, Kesner Pharel and Rachel Doucet; to Marc Prou, the Executive Director of HSA and to Shauna Marie Murray, Conference Coordinator extraordinaire. Our deepest thanks to all of the members of the Twentieth Anniversary Conference Committee listed in the back of your program.

Again, welcome and we look forward to a great conference!

Guitele Nicoleau, Ed.D
President, Haitian Studies Association
Conference Program

Thursday, November 6, 2008

3:00 – 6:30 pm  Registration
                Entrance at Club Indigo

6:30 – 8:30 pm  President’s Opening Reception
                Location: Le Gargantua
                Musical Performance:
                *Mizik Savant Ayisyen: A Performance of music by Twentieth Century Haitian Composers*
                - Mary Procopio, Mott Community College, Lainsburg, Michigan
                - Rebecca Dirksen, University of California, Los Angeles, California
                - Père David César, Saint Trinity Trade School and Music School, Port-au-Prince
                - Bernadette Williams, Saint Trinity Trade School and Music School, Port-au-Prince

Friday, November 7, 2008

7:00 – 9:00 am  Breakfast
                Location: Le Gargantua

7:00 – 8:30 am  Board Meeting  Haitian Studies Association Board Members Only
                Location: Le Gargantua

8:00 am – 4:30 pm  Registration
                    Entrance at Club Indigo

9:00 – 9:30 am  Opening Ceremony
                Location: L’Amphigouri
                Speakers:
                - Guitèle Nicoleau, President, Haitian Studies Association
                - Guerda Nicolas, Vice-President, Haitian Studies Association

9:30 – 10:30 am  Opening Keynote Address
                Presenter:
                - Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph, President, MassBay Community College, Wellesley, Massachusetts
                Keynote Speaker:
                - Dr. Mirlande Manigat, Vice Rector, Université Quisqueya, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Coffee Break
Location: Passage du Vent

Concurrent Sessions: 1

Session 1-A:
ROUND TABLE: Activating the Haitian Diaspora through
International Inter-Institutional Collaboration
Location: Salle Délugé
Panelists:
• Michele Anglade, Florida International University College of Law
• Marisol Floren-Romero, Florida International University College of Law
• Margaret Maisel, Florida International University
• Roxane Dimanche, Ecole Supérieure Catholique de Droit de Jérémie
• Troy Elder, Florida International University
• Brooke Wooldrige, Digital Library of the Caribbean

Session 1-B:
Global Policies in Haiti
Location: Salle Saut D'eau
Chair: Tatiana K. Wah, New School University, New York
Panelists:
• Jana Evans Braziel, University of Cincinnati, “Klowox, se asid bateri”: Haitian Hunger, Food Economies, Global Divides
• Pierre Minn, McGill University, The Coordination and Un-coordination of International Medical Aid in Northern Haiti
• James Eliscar, UMass Boston, Haitian Refugees and Protections: How the United States have undermined the Humanitarian Purpose and Failed to Protect them
• Patricia Cedeño-Zamor, Wheelock College, Boston, MA, Adaptation Experiences among Haitian Immigrant/Refugee Women Living in Boston

Session 1-C:
Patrimony of Haitian Ingenuity: A Necessity for Development
Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: LeGrace Benson, Arts of Haiti Research Project
Panelists:
• Gerdès Fleurant, Foundation Gawouginou, Mirebalais
• Frederick Mangonès, Mangones Architecture
• Florence Sergile, Florida University
• Lois Wilcken, Troupe Makandal
Session 1-D:  
School, Language and Society in Haiti  
Location: Salle Lanzac  
Chair: Marc Prou, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Panelists:  
- Pierre Enoque François, Université Paris X Nanterre, Système éducatif, les enfants et les jeunes de la rue et inégalités sociales en Haïti  
- Pierre Michel Laguerre, Ministère de l’éducation, Histoire de l’éducation et inégalités des chances scolaires en Haïti  
- Harry Dumay, Harvard University, L’évolution et le rôle de l’Université du 21ème siècle dans un pays en voie de développement  
- Albert Valdman, Indiana University, Geneviève Auguste and Vilaire Chéry Editions Haïtiennes, Vers l’élaboration d’un dictionnaire bilingue scolaire

12:00 – 1:30 pm  Lunch  
Location: Le Gargantua

1:30 – 2:45 pm  Concurrent Sessions-2

Session 2-A:  
Yon brase lide sou kriz lavi chè a koz konsekans ak solisyon  
Location: Salle Saut D’eau  
Chair: Mark Schuller, York College, CUNY  
Panelists:  
- Georges Werleigh, University of Fondwa  
- Fritz Deshomme, Université d’Etat d’Haïti  
- Bernard Ethéart, Institut national reforme agraire (INRA)  
- Camille Chalmers, Université d’Etat d’Haïti

Session 2-B:  
1793: The Crucial Year of the Haitian Revolution  
Location: Salle Déluge  
Chair: Dominique Rogers, Université Des Antilles et de la Guyane  
Panelists:  
- Jeremy D. Popkin, University of Kentucky A New Look at the Events of 20 June 1793  
- Elizabeth Colwill, San Diego State University, Gendering the June Days: Race, Masculinity and Slave Emancipation in Saint-Domingue  
Session 2-C:
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Hervé Jean-Charles, USAID
Panelists:
- Alix Cantave, Trotter Institute, University of Massachusetts, Boston
- Florence Sergile, University of Florida
- Marie Carline Merisier, INAGHEI
- Patrick Guilbaud, Virginia Tech
- Patrick Attié, École Supérieure d’Infotronic d’Haiti
- Audalbert Bien-aimé, Faculté d’Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire
- Francel St. Hillien, INAGHEI
- Bruner Clotaire, Université Quisqueya
- Nii Adote Abrahams, Missouri Southern State University

Session 2-D:
ROUNDTABLE: Remittances for Development
Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: Katleen Felix, Project Manager Remittance Enhancement program (USA) Fonkoze
Panelists:
- James Edwin Woolley, USAID Haiti
- Jempsy Fils-Aimé, IDB
- Father Philippe Joseph, Fonkoze and UNIF

2:45 – 3:00 pm   Coffee Break
Location: Passage du Vent

3:00 – 4:15 pm   Concurrent Sessions-3

Session 3–A:
Enseigner, traduire, communiquer l’ingéniosité haïtienne: Texte, image, technologie au service de la culture haïtienne
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Carolyn Shread, Mount Holyoke College
Panelists:
- Carolyn Shread, Mount Holyoke College, De l’ingéniosité de la traduction: Les Rapaces/The Raptors de Marie Vieux-Chauvet
- Nicole Vaget, Mount Holyoke College, Digital Story Telling: A New Way to Study Poetry, Art and History
- Dieulermesson Petit-Frère, L’Université d’Etat d’Haïti, Reconstruire l’identité haïtienne: entre individualisme et collectivisme
- Maurice Joseph, Lycée Lamennais de Saint-Louis-du-Nord, Narrativité et fictionnalité dans La dance sur le Volcan de Marie Vieux-Chauvet
Session 3–B:
**Governance and Haiti’s Challenge**
Location: Salle Saut D'eau
Chair: François Pierre- Louis, Queens College, CUNY
Panelists:
- Raymond Valcin, *University of the West Indies*
- Jean Victor Généus, *LESPWA*
- François Pierre Louis, *Queens College, CUNY*
- Ariel Azael, *Quisqueya University and Ministry of Agriculture*
- Jean Palerme Mathurin, *Premature*

Session 3–C:
**Haitian Youth and Ethnic Identity Abroad**
Location: Salle Délugé
Chair: Rachelle Doucet, *Independent Consultant*
Panelists:
- Erin Leigh Durban, *University of Arizona, Madivinez, Masisi, and Queer: Articulations by Haitian Immigrants to the United States of Sexuality and Liberation*
- Charlene Désir and Anasthasie Liberiste, *Nova University, Mirror Reflections: Impressions of Haitian Student Identity in Haiti and the U.S.*
- Patrick Sylvain, *Brown University, American Exports: Deportees, Bling Bling and Gang Banging*

Session 3–D:
**Education Reform**
Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: Carole Berotte Joseph, *MassBay Community College, Wellesley, MA*
Panelists:
- Adam Silvia, *Florida International University, Haiti’s School for Bitter Rivals: Tensions over Education Reform, 1924-46*
- Marc Prou, *University of Massachusetts, Boston, Attempts at Reforming Education System: The Challenges of Mending the Tapestry, 1979-2004*

**Concurrent Session-4**

Session 4–A: Video (Fine-Cut)
**“Poto Mitan: Haitian Women Pillars of the Global Economy**
Location: Salle Tigodet
Project of the University of California, Santa Barbara's Center for Black Studies Research
- Renée Bergan, *Tèt Ansanm Productions, New York*
- Mark Schuller, *York College, CUNY*
Session 4-B: Conversations with Emerging Scholars
Location: Salle Délugé
Chair: Charlene Désir, NOVA University, Miami, FL
Panelist:
- Daphnie Bruno, Howard University, Bridges that Lead Us Home: A Comparative Look at Haiti Students Perceptions of Language, Haitian Ethnic Identity and Psychosocial Adjustments in US and Haiti

Session 4-C: ROUNDTABLE: Rebuilding and Modernizing Haiti’s Education System to Support Growth and Development – Presidential Task Force on Education
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Claire C. Pierre, Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School
Panelists:
- Jacky Lumarque, Chair of the GTEF and Rector of University Quisqueya
- Rosny Desroches, GTEF and Executive Director of the Civil Society Initiative
- Cary Hector, GTEF Member and Dean of the Faculty of Administration Sciences at Université Notre-Dame d’Haiti

6:00 – 8:00 pm  **Board Meeting**  Haitian Studies Association Board Members Only
Location: Le Gargantua

8:00 – 10:00 pm  **Cultural Event:** Sponsored by FOKAL
Location: L’Amphigouri
Mistress of Ceremonies: Nadège Tanite Clitandre, *University of California, Berkeley*
Introduction by: Lorraine Mangones, *Director of Fokal*
Performance by: Ayikodans Company with artistic director Jean Guy Saintus

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**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

7:00 – 9:00 am  **Breakfast**
Location: Le Gargantua

8:00 am – 4:30 pm  **Registration**
Enterance at Club Indigo
Concurrent Sessions-5

Session 5–A:
Haitian Students of Florida: United for a Purpose
Location: Salle Délugé
Chair: Stanley Jean, Haitian Students of Florida, Advisor
Panelists:
• Ruth Georges, Haitian Students of Florida, Vice-Chair
• Sonide Simon, Haitian Students of Florida, Administrative Assistant
• Malacia Nicolas, Haitian Students of Florida, Regional Director

Session 5-B:
Center for Plantation Propagation – A best Practices Model for Grassroots Collaboration and Food Security
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Leonie M. Hermantin, Deputy Director, Lambi Fund of Haiti
Panelists:
• Raoul Henry, Coordinator (President) AGPGM
• Micheline Cedieu, Member AGPGM
• Ferry Pierre-Charles, Field Director Lambi Fund of Haiti
• Paul Rodney Henry, Assistant Field Director Lambi Fund of Haiti

Session 5–C:
Haiti’s History Yesterday and Today
Location: Salle Saut D’eau
Chair: Marie Lourdes Elgirus, MassBay Community College, Wellesley, MA
Panelists:
• Marlene L. Daut, University of Miami, The Baron de Vastey’s Testimonia of Haitian Revolution
• Yveline Alexis, UMass Amherst, Charlemagne Péralte in 20th Century Newspapers and 21st Century Interviews

Session 5-D:
Landscape, Ecology and Environment
Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: Tatiana K. Wah, New School University, New York
Panelists:
• Crystal Andrea Felima, Cornell University, Haiti’s Disproportionate Casualties After Environmental Hazards
• Hortense Dossous-Parris, Environmental Specialist, Haiti’s Fragile Ecosystem in the time of Global Warming
• Paul Bick, University of Illinois, Chicago, Embracing Complexity: Projects and the Making of Socio-Ecological Landscapes in Southwestern Haiti

10:00–10:15 am
Coffee Break
Location: Passage du Vent
Concurrent Sessions-6

Session 6-A:
**Restavek or Not? Haitian Children Under Siege**
Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: Guerda Nicolas, *University of Miami*
Panelists:
- Patrick Sylvain, *Brown University*, *Sentaniz in the Sixtonian Lens: Subaltern Culture and the Language of Subjectivity*
- Diane M. Hoffman, *University of Virginia*, *Learning to Survive: Questions Dilemmas and Considerations for Ethnographic Research with Haiti’s Restavek*

Session 6-B:
**Colonial History and Race in Haiti**
Location: Salle Délugé
Chair: Yveline Alexis, *University of Massachusetts-Amherst*
Panelists:
- Deborah Jenson, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, *A Reconsideration of the Haitian Declaration of Independence as Text*
- Regine O. Jackson, *Emory University*, *Between American Racism and European Colonialism: Haiti and the Paleonomy of Nègre*
- Hugues Mathurin, *Ak chandel kilti nap konbat fè nuwa divizyon*
- Julia Gaffield, *Duke University*, *“Let that Nation Come”: Race and Nationalism in Perceptions of Dessalines’s Massacre, 1804*

Session 6-C:
**Religious Manifestations, Arts and Transnationalism**
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Barbara Nesin, *Spellman College*
Panelists:
- Eugenio Matibag, *Iowa State University*, *The Floating Homeland: Haitian Art in the Transnational Social Fields*
- Allison E. Francis, *Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii*, *Serving the Spirit of Dance: A Study of Jean-Leon Destiné and Lina Mathon Blanchet and Haitian Folkloric Tradition*
- Grete Viddal, *Harvard University*, *Transnational Vodou in Haiti and Boston, USA*
Session 6-D:
Teyori sou ras, klas, ak relasyon pouvwa ant fann ak gason : Ayiti denojou e rechèch kole zepòl ant nouvo antwopològ ayisyen e ameriken
Location : Salle Saut D’eau
Chair: Jean Yves Marie Blot, Faculté d’Éthnologie
Panelists:
● Lynn Selby, University of Texas at Austin, Kote konesans matwòn ak relasyon sosyal yo avèk mas katye popilè anfòs lanmè gwo ONG k ap nave nan pwòje santé?
● Louise Carmel Bijoux, Faculté d’Éthnologie, Kesyons ras nan reyalite sosyo-ekonomik peyi Dayiti
● Roseline Lamartinère, Faculté d’Éthnologie, Fenomèn grimel bobistò : Poukisa nan dènye tan sa a moun yo chwazi dekale kò?

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
Location: Le Gargantua

1:15 – 2:30 pm PLENARY SESSION: Can Haiti move from Environmental Disaster to Development?
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Josiane Hudicourt-Barnes, Secretary, Haitian Studies Association
Invited Speakers:
● Jean Marie Claude Germain, Ministre de L’Environnement
● Joanas Gue, Ministre de l’Agriculture
● Gérald Mathurin, CROSS
● Florence Sergile, University of Florida
● Lorraine Mangones, Fokal

2:30 – 2:45 pm Coffee Break
Location: Passage du Vent

2:45 – 4:00 pm Concurrent Sessions-7

Session 7–A:
Manifesting the Collective Power of Haitian Ingenuity through Art and Performance at the Grand Rue – A Roundtable and Film Screening of the New Documentary “Atis-Rezistans: the Sculptors of Grand Rue” by Leah Gordon
Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: Myron Beasley, Bates College
Participants:
● André Eugene, Grand Rue sculptor
● Celuer Jean Hérard. Grand Rue sculptor
● Jacques Frantz Guyodo, Grand Rue sculptor
● Claude Sentilus, Grand Rue sculptor
Session 7–B:
**Developmental Strategies for Local Empowerment**
Location: Salle Délugé
Chair: Carolle Charles, Baruch College, New York
Panelists:
- Doumafis Lafontant, Springfield College, Ayiti e faz devlopman li
- François Pierre-Louis, Queens College, CUNY, Building Empowerment and Local Autonomy from the Bottom Up: An analysis of the Haitian Government’s Initiative to Empower Local Communities through the Communal Impact Program
- Mark Schuller, York College, CUNY, Enfrastrikti sivik, yon zouti pou konprann jwèt ONG a nan peyi Dayiti

Session 7–C:
**Haitian Revolutionary Studies and its Global Impact**
Location: Salle Saut D’eau
Chair: Jemadari Kamara, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Panelists:
- Jerry Wever, Spelman College, A Taste of Freedom: Deserted Plantations & Revolution in St. Lucia 1791-1803
- Cilas Kemedjio, University of Rochester, Mémoires des esclavagistes: une lecture d’Haïti et la France. Rapport à Dominique de Villepin, ministre des Affaires étrangères par Régis Debray

Session 7–D:
**Haitian Letters from Anathema to Dialogue**
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo, University of the West Indies, Mona
Panelists:
- Nadève Ménard, École Normale Supérieure Université d’État d’ Haïti, Livres en liberté : la caravane des possibilités
- Adam M. John, Albright College, The Prospect of Connecting Hearts and Minds in Lettres de loin en loin by Lyonel Trouillot and Sophie Boutaud de la Combe
- Sarah Davies Cordova, Marquette University, Que peut un poète pour la mondialisation? : le métier à métisser de René Depestre
- Christiane Ndiaye, Université de Montréal, George Anglade et Gary Victor : La Narré en Liberté
Concurrent Sessions-8

Session 8–A:
ROUNDTABLE: On Leadership in Haiti
Location: Salle Saut D'eau
Chair: Chantalle Verna, Florida International University
Panelists:
- Guitèle Nicoleau, UNCF Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, Leadership and Social Change: Theories of transactional and transformational leadership
- Matthew J. Smith, University of West Indies, Mona, Haiti as an anomaly? Haitian Leadership in Historical Perspective
- Representative from the HELP Board of Directors/Administration, Shaping Future Haitian Leaders: Testimonies from the Haitian Education Leaders Program
- François Guillaume, Jr., Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Emerging Leadership in the Haitian Diaspora

Session 8–B:
L'Ecole en Haïti Aujourd'hui
Location: Salle Délugé
Chair: Josianne Hudicourt-Barnes, TERC, Cambridge, MA
Panelists:
- Guy Serge Pompilus, Project OLPC en Haiti
- Ronald Jean-Jacques, Projet d'Education de Base, LEFACP à l'Ecole Haitienne
- Roller Saint Pierre, MENJS, Le Nouveau Secondaire Haitien
- Guerda Prévilon, Projet IDEJEN

Session 8–C:
Sound, Beats and Musical Narratives of Haiti
Location: Salle Lanzac
Chair: Florence Bellande Robertson, Foundation Hope of Haiti
Panelists:
- Manoucheka Céleste, University of Washington. Negotiating Diasporic Identity through Music: Wyclef Jean and Haiti
- Rebecca Dirksen, University of California, Los Angeles, Everyday Constructs of Power and Potential in Contemporary Haitian Music: The Modern Face of Mizik Angaje and Rasin
- Mary Procopio, Matt Community College, Challenging Ambivalence Through Musical Performance: The Educational Contributions of Twentieth Century Haitian Composers
- Chelsey Louise Kivland, University of Chicago, Of Bands and Soldiers: The Popular Performance and Politics of Bann a Pye in Contemporary Haiti
Session 8–D: Role of Technology in Learning

Location: Salle Tigodet
Chair: Adam John, Albright College
Panelists:
• Sole O. Adeyemi Adekoya, International Society for Technology Education and Alexandrine Policar, UMass Boston, Maintaining Equilibrium in Accessibility to Special Education in Haiti: The role of Technology
• Patrick Guilbaud, Virginia Tech, Mobile Cayes Community Healthcare(MCCH): PDAs in a Rural Caretaking Context
• Rebecca Raab, Virginia Tech, Bridging the Digital Divide: Preparing Five Haitian Students to Study Computer Science at Virginia Tech

5:30 – 6:00 pm Business Meeting Open to All
Location: Salle Lanzac
Election for HSA Board Membership

8:00 pm Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony
Mistress of Ceremonies: Guitèle Nicoleau, President, Haitian Studies Association
• Award for Excellence: Le Nouvelliste and Max Chauvet
  Presented by: Guitèle Nicoleau, President, Haitian Studies Association
• Award for Service to HSA: Claudine Michel
  Presented by: Carolle Charles, Board Member, Haitian Studies Association
• Award for Outstanding Service: LeGrace Benson
  Presented by: Marc E. Prou, Executive Director, Haitian Studies Association
Performance by: Troubadour Musician Ti Koka and Wanga Neges

Awardees’ Biographies

Award of Service  Le Nouvelliste/ Max Chauvet

Founded in 1898, Le Nouvelliste is Haiti’s oldest and largest daily newspaper. For over a century, Le Nouvelliste has been at the forefront of the Haitian print media. The Following is a brief excerpt from their website regarding the creation of the paper:

In 1898, after three attempts, Guillaume Chéraquit, founded “Le Matin” which becomes fifteen months later “Le Nouvelliste.” The first issue of “Le Matin” appears on May 2, 1898. Things do not go as planned, on 29 April 1899, Guillaume Chéraquit took the painful decision to suspend the publication of the newspaper. Louis Boutin, a major newspaper advertisers and large trader showed buys the newspaper.

The new director enlisted the brilliant poet Oswald Durand, the author of the immortal poem Choucoune, as editor in chief. With this remarkable new marriage, Le Matin changed its’ name to “Le Novelliste” the first
Claudine Michel holds a B.A in Education from Ecole Normale Supérieure, Faculté d’Etat d’Haiti (1980) and a degree in Early Childhood Education from the Ecole Normale de Jardinières d’Enfants (ENJE) (1978). In the late 70s, she also studied Ethnology at the Faculté d’Ethnologie in Port-au-Prince. She holds an MA (1982) and a Ph.D. (1985) in International Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara. While in Haiti, she taught kindergarten and secondary school and served as an adjunct faculty at the ENJE in the early 80s. At the same time, she produced two television series, Dodo Titit and Pawol Ti Moun, totaling over 150 hours of children’s educational programs for La Télévision Nationale d’Haiti.

Dr. Michel is currently Professor in the Department of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Director of the Center for Black Studies Research. She formerly served as Chair of the Department of Black Studies, Acting Chair of the Department of Chicana/o Studies and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, College of Letters and Science. Her research has appeared in many scholarly journals and other academic venues. She is the author of Aspects Moraux et Educatifs du Vodou Haitien (1985) and a forthcoming volume with Oxford University Press, Offerings: Continuity and Transformation in Haitian Vodou (in press, 2009). She has co-authored Etude Comparative des Théories du Développement de l’Enfant (1994), and has co-edited a number of volumes, including Black Studies: Current Issues, Enduring Questions (2001), The Black Studies Reader (2004), Haitian Vodou. Spirit, Myth and Reality(2006), Vodou in Haitian Life and Culture: Invisible Powers (2006), and Brassage: An Anthology of Haitian Poetry(2005).

Other forthcoming work are two edited volumes, Re-Reading Disney and an anthology on Haitian American author Edwidge Danticat, Crossing Waters and Re-Membering and two other co-edited volumes on Vodou (God in Every Woman and Dr. Gede). She is currently editor of the only peer-reviewed journal on Haiti, The Journal of Haitian Studies, the premier journal published by the UCSB Center for Black Studies Research for the Haitian Studies Association.
LeGrace Benson holds an interdisciplinary PhD in Visual Perception, History of Art and Philosophy of Education from Cornell University; an interdisciplinary M.F.A. in Art, Philosophy and Education Theory from the University of Georgia; and an A.B. in Art and English Literature from Meredith College. She also did studies in theology, comparative religion, and history of Christianity at the Episcopal Divinity School of Philadelphia; and special courses in film production and film history in various institutions and museums. Currently she is Director of the Arts of Haiti Research Project, Associate Editor of the Journal of Haitian Studies, and a member of the Board of the Haitian Studies Association.

She was Visiting Researcher in the Center for Black Studies Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2005-2006. In 2000, 2001 and 2003 she taught the History of Art and English as a Second Language at the Faculty of Education of Regina Assumpta in Cap Haitien for the Sisters of the Order of Holy Cross. She held a Cornell University Civic Fellowship in 2003-2004 to do special research in local currencies and has been an invited presenter at local currency economy conferences in Italy, Germany and the United States and in several films on that topic. Benson Served as Assistant Professor of history of art at Cornell University and subsequently at Wells College. During that period she also served as Chair of the City of Ithaca Planning Board, Vice Chairman of the Southern Tier Regional Planning Board and Representative to the Tompkins County Legislature. She was Associate Dean at Wells College and Empire State College of the State University of New York. At the Center for Distance Learning of Empire State College she directed the program in Arts, Humanities and Communications, and led a faculty and administrative group in the design of a program for adults returning to college. She is Professor Emerita from that institution.

Author of a number of articles in scholarly journals she has also contributed chapters to books concerning arts, environmental and educational issues in Haiti and the wider Caribbean. A book (How the Sun Illuminates Under Cover of Darkness) concerning the environmental, historical and religious circumstances of imagery in Haitian art is to be published by Ian Randle Publishers in 2009.
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