

Hurston Conference & Related Activities: Brag Points

Prepared by Dr. Regennia N. Williams -- Revised 1/16/13

- **Excellent Pre-Conference Audience Development Activities (2011-2012)**
 - Hurston Book Discussions
 - Cleveland State University
 - Warrensville Heights Public Library
 - Guest Lecture by Oberlin's Dr. Gillian Johns on "African American Autobiography as Humor" (With an emphasis on Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road*).
 - Hurston Film Series at Cleveland State University
 - Hurston Birthday Party at Cleveland Public Library (featuring new play, lecture-demonstration, punch, and birthday cake)
 - Received in-kind contributions (books and staff time) valued at more than \$2,000
 - Books (*Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Dust Tracks on a Road*) distributed to discussion leaders in Ohio, including members of the Cleveland Chautauqua Planning Committee and the Novelettes Bridge Club in Shaker Heights, Ohio
 - Book Distribution (*Their Eyes Were Watching God*) at the University of the Free State (Bloemfontein, South Africa) during the Global Leadership Summit (GLS)
 - Special 90.3 FM - WCPN Radio appearance by keynote speaker and conference director on Dee Perry's "Around Noon" Show
 - Program averages over 30,000 listeners (live)
 - Show available online in program archives / podcast
- **Amazing Online Library Research Guide Created and Updated** (Michael Schwartz Library, Fall 2012)
- **Successful September 2012 International Conference with Approximately 300 Participants**
 - More than 20 scholars and artists gave formal presentations
 - Students in HIS 216 and HIS 305 read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and related information on Zora Neale Hurston and the Harlem Renaissance, participated in the conference, and wrote papers about these activities. (Student assignments available on Turnitin.com and Blackboard.)
 - Worked with GCEDC and College of Education to offer graduate credit to participating teachers
 - More than \$12,000 raised on campus and in the surrounding community
 - All of CSU's conference-related bills paid by December 24, 2012
- **Post-Conference Activities**
 - Guest Lecture (Dr. Regennia N. Williams) at John Carroll University on Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston
 - Distributed copies of *Dust Tracks on a Road* to John Carroll University students in audience
 - Secured verbal commitment for support of Hurston reading and mentoring initiative in the city of Cleveland
 - Copies of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* will be distributed to Cleveland City Council members
 - Special Fall 2012 Hurston issue of *Traditions & Beliefs Newsletter* published
 - Special Fall 2013 issue of *The Journal of Traditions and Beliefs* planned
 - Call for Papers: January 2013
 - Submission Deadline: March 2013
 - Target Publication Date: December 2013
 - **Linking Hurston activities — via Library Special Collections and University of Rouen WWII course and conference paper — to 2013 in-class and community discussions of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s, Duke Ellington's sacred jazz (World War II era and beyond — "1943," Part II), Toni Morrison's *Home* (Korean Conflict and beyond), and Wole Soyinka's *Ake***
 - **Encouraging students to participate in the following extra-credit / co-curricular activities under the banner "African Diaspora: Discourses on Diversity"**
 - January 2013 Spiritual Gifts Performance at Severance Hall
 - March 2013 Morrison book discussions for Women's History Month
 - April 2013 Duke Ellington birthday presentation in the Gallery at Trinity Cathedral
 - September 2013 Soyinka book discussions for Anisfield-Wolf event