FINDING AID TO
THE PHILOSOPHY BORN OF STRUGGLE
CONFERENCE RECORDS

Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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Processed by: Jamillah R. Gabriel, October 21, 2013
Descriptive Summary

Creator Information  Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference

Title  Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference records

Collection Identifier  MSP 140

Date Span  1994-2012

Abstract  Records document the Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference programs, abstracts, speakers, lectures, interviews, and publicity. Types of materials include brochures, flyers, other printed material, and video DVDs.

Extent  2.5 cubic feet (4 CD boxes, 1 mss box)

Finding Aid Author  Jamillah R. Gabriel, 2013

Languages  English

Repository  Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:  HR

Access Restrictions:  Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection.

Acquisition Information:  Donated by Dr. Leonard Harris, transferred from the Black Cultural Center Library November 13, 2012 and September 20, 2013

Accession Number:  20121113.2, 20130920

Preferred Citation:  MSP 140, Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference records, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

Copyright Notice:  Copyright is held by the donor, Leonard Harris
Subjects and Genres

Persons
Harris, Leonard, 1948-
Green, J. Everet

Organizations
Purdue University
Philosophy Born of Struggle

Topics
African American philosophy
African Americans
Africana studies
Africana thought
Black studies
Philosophy

Form and Genre Types
Brochures
DVDs
Printed ephemera
Programs (documents)
Publicity

Occupations
African American college teachers
African American philosophers
College teachers
Intellectuals
Philosophers
Purdue University--Faculty
History of the Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference

The impetus for the Philosophy Born of Struggle (PBS) conference began on February 17, 1974 when students and faculty at Rockland Community College in Suffern, New York, gathered for a philosophy discussion entitled “The Search for Alternatives: African American Perspectives on the Human Situation” for the purpose of bringing awareness of the African American experience to the campus. While Roy D. Morrison III, professor of Black Philosophy of Culture and Scientific Method at Wesley Theological Seminary, and Frank Kirkland, professor at Hunter College, were both asked to speak, only Kirkland was able to attend. The discussion still garnered great interest on campus, resulting in the creation of a full-day conference to be held on October 21 of the same year, at the same campus.

The conference (and all subsequent conferences) would be named “Philosophy Born of Struggle,” after a text authored by Leonard Harris, and featured a keynote address by the late Shanara Gilbert, professor of law at Queens College CUNY, entitled “Owning the Self in a Disowned World.” From then until today, the purpose of Philosophy Born of Struggle has been to “bring together philosophers who share an interest in the philosophy of the Black experience and in the public philosophy concerning issues of racial justice and human liberation.” PBS has become the gathering place for many pioneers in Africana philosophy including Leonard Harris, Lucius Outlaw, Howard McGary, John McClendon III, and the late William R. Jones. Over the years, the conference has attempted to address the “continual struggle of African people” by highlighting relevant topics as evidenced by the following conference themes:

- Legitimation Crisis in American Philosophy
- Harlem Renaissance and the Black Enlightenment
- Black Enlightenment and the Future of the Race
- Family and the Intellectual Life
- Civil Liberties in the New Millennium
- Slavery and Reparations
- Race Reparations and Restoration
- Race and the United States Constitution
- Rethinking the Intellectual Life
- Black Aesthetics and the Politics of Recognition
- Philosophy and Liberation
- Philosophy and the Scientific Spirit

Under the direction of Dr. Leonard Harris, professor of philosophy at Purdue University, a collection of materials documenting the activities of the Philosophy Born of Struggle conference was amassed and donated to the Purdue University Libraries’ Archives and Special Collections in 2012-2013.
Collection Description

Scope

The Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference records (2.5 cubic feet) document the proceedings and promotion of each annual conference, as well as interviews of select attendees of the conferences for the purpose of documenting the African American philosophy movement. Types of materials include DVDs, brochures, programs, and publicity materials.

Arrangement

The records are organized into two series:

1. Conference Videos, 1996-2010 (Boxes 1-4, 2 cubic feet). This series contains DVDs of recorded proceedings and interviews conducted at each conference. Materials in the series are arranged chronologically.

2. Conference Brochures, Flyers, and Printed Materials, 1994-2012 (Box 5, .5 cubic feet). The second series consists of promotional materials, conference programs, abstracts, a historical overview, and other miscellaneous materials documenting the conferences.

Descriptive Rules

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Series 1. Conference Videos, 1996-2010
(2 cubic feet)

Box 1

Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 1 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 2 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 3 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 4 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 5 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 6 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, Harlem Renaissance, 10/17/1996 (DVD 7 of 7)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 1 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 2 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 3 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 4 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 5 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 6 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 7 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle, 10/16/1998 (DVD 8 of 8)
Philosophy born of struggle VI, 1999 (DVD 1 of 2)
Philosophy born of struggle VI, 1999 (DVD 2 of 2)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/20/2000 (DVD 1 of 4)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/20/2000 (DVD 2 of 4)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/20/2000 (DVD 3 of 4)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/20/2000 (DVD 4 of 4)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/21/2000 (DVD 1 of 3)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/21/2000 (DVD 2 of 3)
Philosophy born of struggle VII, 10/21/2000 (DVD 3 of 3)

Box 2

Philosophy born of struggle, 2003 (Interviews 1 of 2)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2003 (Interviews 2 of 2)
Philosophy born of struggle, J. Everet Green, 2003
Philosophy born of struggle, Frank Kirkland, 2003
Philosophy born of struggle, Lewis Gordon, 2003
Philosophy born of struggle, Sonia Sanchez, 2003
Philosophy born of struggle, Conference, 2004
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 1, part 1)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 1, part 2)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 1, part 3)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 2, part 1)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 2, part 2)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 2, part 3)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 3, part 1)
Philosophy born of struggle, 2004 (Tape 3, part 2)

Box 3

Philosophy Born of Struggle, 2005
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 1, 10/28/2005, 1 of 2)
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 1, 10/28/2005, 2 of 2
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 2, 10/28/2005, 1 of 2
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 2, 10/28/2005, 2 of 2
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 3, 10/28/2005, 1
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 4, 10/29/2005, 2 of 2
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 5, 10/29/2005, 1 of 2
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 5, 10/29/2005, 2 of 2
Philosophy born of struggle, Panel 6, 10/29/2005, 1
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 1 of 7
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 2 of 7, Panel 1
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 3 of 7, Panel 2
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 4 of 7, Panel 3
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 5 of 7, Panel 4
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 6 of 7, Panel 5
Philosophy Born of Struggle, 10/27/2006, 7 of 7, Panel 6
Greg Moses, Judith Green, 2007
Albert Mosely, 2007
Panel 1, Albert Mosely, 2007
Panel 4, Kermit Harrison, 2007
Philosophy born of Struggle, Panel 5, 10/27/2007
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Paul Taylor, 2008
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Tracy Edwards, 2008
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Kwasi Wiredu, 2008
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Rose Cherubin, 2008

Box 4

Philosophy Born of Struggle, Richard Jones, 2009
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Joseph Osei, Richard Hall, 10/22/2009
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Tommy Curry, Steven Ferguson, 10/24/2009
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Gregory Rich, Greg Moses, 10/24/2009
Philosophy born of struggle, Zay Green, Douglas Flcek, 10/24/2009
Philosophy born of struggle, Gregory Sadler 10/24/2009
Philosophy born of struggle, Maulana Karenga 10/23/2010
Philosophy born of struggle, Nkolo Foé 2010
Philosophy born of struggle, Mathew Hutcherson, 10/23/2010
Philosophy born of struggle, Leonard Harris, Maulana Karenga, 10/23/2010
Philosophy born of struggle, Alejandro Caceres, Lyndon Wilburg, Sara Mokuria
10/23/2010
Philosophy Born of Struggle, Joe Feagin, William R. Jones, 10/23/2010
(19 folders, .5 cubic feet)

Box 5

Folder