

Editorial

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This volume marks the official start of my tenure as Editor of the prestigious *Journal of African American Studies* (JAAS). Now in its 13th year under the current name, the Journal was initially founded as the *Journal of Black Men* in the 1990s up to the early 2000s. The name change was accompanied with tremendous excitement and a wide array of opportunities for scholars in a plethora of fields. Dare I say that neither that excitement nor those opportunities have abated since that time; if anything they have increased. In fact, the evolution of the Journal is a tell-tale sign of the vibrancy and the ever-increasing interest in African-American studies.

Last year, the *Journal of African American Studies*' family suffered a tremendous loss when Dr. Anthony J. Lemelle Jr. died unexpectedly, leaving many of us both shocked and saddened. Under Professor Lemelle's stewardship, JAAS has become one of the premiere publishing outlets in Black studies. The Journal is read by scholars around the globe; it subscribes to no particular methodological bent or ideological thrust. The research that appears in the JAAS is some of the most intellectually charged, creatively argued, and innovatively thought-provoking articles in the field of African-American studies. Indeed the articles contained in this volume reflect the interdisciplinarity that is a hallmark of the field of African-American studies.

Published four times a year, the Journal and those associated with it have earned a reputation for producing volumes that are prompt, highly professional in appearance, and germane to those interested in all matters pertaining to African-American life.

Having said that, in the wake of Professor Lemelle's passing, the Journal has experienced a backlog—something that the editor and the Journal's staff have been successfully working to reduce over the past several months.

When one peruses the list of names on the Journal's editorial board, one finds a bevy of renowned scholars. The JAAS owes its success in part to the hard work undertaken by the members of its editorial board. In the coming weeks and months, I will be calling on members of the Journal's editorial board more frequently than perhaps has been the custom.

In order for the JAAS to maintain its reputation as a top-notch journal in the field, it is imperative that members of the Journal's editorial board are more vigilant than ever

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in their willingness to review articles in a timely fashion. We understand the pressures that scholars find themselves under, especially those who teach at institutions that put a premium on scholarship; hence, we endeavor to review articles within two to three months of receiving them.

In addition to faculty, we welcome submissions from graduate students. In the highly competitive world of academia, graduate students who show scholarly promise by way of a published refereed journal article are well positioned to vie for the seemingly shrinking number of faculty openings each year. In this globalized academic market, the value of a published article cannot be overstated.

Finally, unlike some other journals, authors whose work has been accepted by JAAS have the added bonus of accessing their articles online well in advance of the hardcopy that appears both on university library shelves and in our mailboxes.

I am honored to serve as the JAAS' Editor, and I look forward to building on this publication's legacy with the expressed purpose of sustaining the level of excellence to which our readers have become accustomed.