

The Conference: 21st All African Students' Conference (AASC)**The Date: June 25th-27th 2009****The Place: University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago****The Theme: "Thought and Action: redressing the challenges and (re)visioning the possibilities for the African community"****About the 21st All African Students Conference**

On January 20th 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the first President of the United States of America of African descent. This memorable event – according to Obama himself – is taking place some sixty years after a man like his father might have been refused service at restaurants in the same country that now proclaims his son as their leader. This inauguration follows in spirit, movements such as L'ouverture's, Garvey's, Nkrumah's, Mandela's and so many others throughout the post-colonial African world, and is seen as a monumental accomplishment. The unrelenting message of hope, possibility, achievement and transformation, birthed in the very fact that the occasion of his ascent is the realisation of what was up until very recently unfathomable, gives us at once, a time for reflection and projection. In keeping with the outlook of this moment, this 2009 conference's theme "***Thought and Action: redressing the challenges and (re)visioning the possibilities for the African community***", seeks submissions that generally:

- ✓ bear testimony to the work being done in African communities to address our common challenges; and
- ✓ propose/dream ways forward for the ongoing restitution and advance of the African self and community.

The conference therefore welcomes **academic papers, artistic and creative presentations and workshops from youths, secondary school, undergraduate and post-graduate students from any discipline**, that address the aforementioned issues through the following sub-themes:

- ✓ "***Confronting the Skin I'm In***" - debate issues surrounding identity (e.g. skin-colour, shade, mixed-race, Creole, the loss of identity in modern societies, choosing/rejecting identity, traditional religion, class, continent versus Diaspora etc.), the African man and his woman, the African family, gender relations in the African community;
- ✓ "***Arresting Community Genocide***" – intra/inter-community violence, especially among African males; the trauma resulting from these and other types of upheavals and how these are being rectified;
- ✓ "***Responding to the Pandemic***" – responses to HIV/AIDS;

- ✓ **"Managing the Community's Wealth"** – demystifying economics and money management for the African family/community, Black business, building/managing the 'wealth' of/for African nations and communities; poverty eradication
- ✓ **"Performing Pan-Africanism"** – arts and culture initiatives that promote African community regeneration, education, development and knowledge-making/sharing

Schedule:

- ✓ Mon. 16th March 2009 – deadline for submission of abstracts and proposals
- ✓ Thur. 16th April 2009 – notice of acceptance
- ✓ Thur. 25th-Sat. 27th June 2009 – conference dates

Guidelines for Submissions

- a. presentation of papers – limited to 15 minutes
- b. workshop/interactive sessions, drama, short plays – limited to 45 minutes
- c. film, art, craft or audio exhibition – limited to 15 minutes
- d. music, poetry, spoken-word, dance items – limited to 15 minutes
- e. poster sessions – limited to 1 metre x 1 metre

Please note that abstracts and proposals must state:

- the issue/sub-theme with which the submission finds association;
- the presentation type (as per a, b, c, d or e above);
- the resources that would be required for the presentation.

In addition, these abstracts should be between 250-500 words, and should include as well a short profile/bio (100-150 words) of the presenter (contact information such as name, address, nationality, email and telephone contacts should form part of this document). In instances where there are co-presenters, a profile for each presenter must be submitted. Proposals/abstracts should be in Microsoft Word or PDF formats and can be emailed to 21staasc@gmail.com or uwiafrikanaasc@gmail.com and titled "21st AASC Submission".

Conference Fees

- ✓ **Registration, lunch, ground travel and conference events – US\$275.00**
- ✓ **Registration and lunch only – US\$150.00**
- ✓ **Registration only – (full conference) US\$75.00; (per day) US\$25.00**

- **For further information, or special packages contact Ms. Nadia Whiteman at uwiafrikanaasc@gmail.com**
- **For information on UWI, St. Augustine visit www.sta.uwi.edu**
- **For general information on Trinidad & Tobago visit <http://www.gotrinidadandtobago.com/home/home.php>**