

Radford University 1990

a CON
FUSION OF LIGHT

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RADFORD UNIV.

RADFORD UNIVERSITY OPENS A NEW DECADE
WITH A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK FORWARD
AT THE CALL AND RESPONSE OF BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE

a CON FUSION OF LIGHT

CONFLICT AND UNIFICATION IN BLACK LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND SELF

*Clearly we must remember
just at that moment —
the confusion of light
of first star and first sun.
Every appearance
rises in its clarity of bones,
flesh, leaf, trunk and skin,
turns toward its proper placement of light,
the space it places clearly about its body.
Each moment lives two lives in its act.*

The dialogue of art is
sometimes too much to
endure. To some, the idea

of art conjures notions of
the beautiful, the graceful,
the decorative. But art, if it
has meaning, must enter
into the constant struggle
toward truth, toward self-

an act caresses
moment it remembers,
and the moment it desires.

Jay Wright
Explications/Interpretations

Friday, March 30, 1990

8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Registration, Heth
Party Room. Opening
reception, Muse
Penthouse

6 p.m.
Performance: The
Jazz Ladies, Banquet
Hall, Muse Dining
Room

6-8 p.m.
Dinner, Keynote
Address, Maya
Angelou, Banquet
Room, Muse Dining
Hall

**Saturday, March 31,
1990**

8-8:45 a.m.
Coffee for
participants, Heth
Ballroom

8:45-9 a.m.
Greetings, opening
remarks

9-11 a.m.
First session: "On
Language"
Presenters:
Daryl Cumber Dance,
Pinkie Gordon Lane

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lunch Break*

1-3 p.m.
Second session: "On
Truth"
Presenters:
Houston A. Baker Jr.,
Vertamae Grosvenor

3-3:30 p.m.
Break

3:30-5:30 p.m.
Third session: "On
Image"
Presenters:
James Haskins,
Woodie King Jr.

6-8 p.m.
Dinner break*

8:30 p.m.
Readings, Artists to
be announced

*Saturday's lunch and
dinner are not included
in the registration fee.

Sunday, April 1, 1990

8-9 a.m.
Coffee

9-11:15 a.m.
Panel: "On
Education"

The Workshops

Suggested topics:

On Language:

"Low' Language, 'High' Art:
The Politics of Choosing our
own Voice"

"Cultural Imperialism,
Cultural Fusion: The Denial
and the Embrace of the Black
Oral Folk Tradition:

On Truth:

"Graven Images: Inventing
the Truth, and other Lies"

"The Visionary Artist, the
Self-Conscious Audience"

On Image:

"From *Dutchman* to
Checkmates, from *Cotton
Club* to the Movies: Making
Art, Making Money"

"Who is This Art for Anyway?:
Art, Audience, and the
Dissident Voice"

The Panel —

On Education:

"Private Worlds, Public Texts:
Bringing Black Art into the
Academic Mainstream"

The Panel will consist of all
six conference speakers.

affirmation. It is never static,
but an interactive product
of conflicting voices,
conflicting truths.
That warring may spark
a confusion of lights,
what we remember
and what we desire
must rise up and clash.

All events will
take place on the
Radford
University
Campus: Heth
Student Center,
Muse Hall.

**Please respond early.
Space is limited.**

For more information,
call (703) 831-5203

To be a part of "Con/Fusion of Light,"
mail this form and your registration fee to:

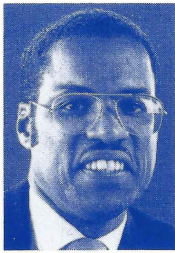
Opal Moore
English Department
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142



Maya Angelou

American poet, playwright, bestselling author, actress, director and civil rights activist. Has written ten books including: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *"And Still I Rise,"* *Gather Together in My Name* and *Heart of a Woman*. Holds the Reynolds Chair in American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and the Chubb Chair at Yale.

Currently serving as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Radford University in Radford, Va.

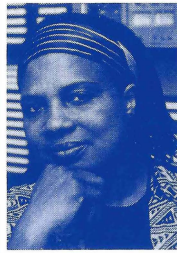


Houston A. Baker

Distinguished literary critic and published poet. B.A., Howard University, Washington, D.C., 1965; M.A., University of California at Los Angeles, 1966; Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles, 1968.

Publications include: *Long Black Song: Essays in Black American Literature and Culture*, *The Journey Back: Issues in Black Literature and Criticism*, co-ed *English Literature: Opening Up the Canon*. Poetry has appeared in *Ante*, *Yale Literary Magazine*, *Southern Review* and *Black American Literature Forum*. Distinctions and honors include John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, Mellon Resident Scholar, Tougaloo College; Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for Teachers.

Currently serves as director for the Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture, at the University of Pennsylvania.



Vertamae Grosvenor

Poet, actress, culinary anthropologist and writer. Host of National Public Radio's *Horizons* a series of documentaries including "Slave Voices: Things Past Telling."

Best known for commentaries on the newsmagazine *All Things Considered*.

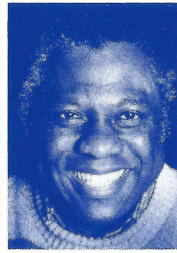
Has been awarded the Robert F. Kennedy and Ohio awards for "Never Enough Too Soon," a documentary about Dafuskie Island, S.C., and a Cindy Award for a profile of writer Zora Neale Hurston. Publications include *Thursdays and Every Other Sunday Off*, *A Domestic Rap*, *Vibration Cooking* or *the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl*. Former contributing editor to *Essence Magazine*. Has written for *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *The Washington Post*, *Ms.*, *Redbook* and *Life Magazine*.



Daryl Cumber Dance

Folklorist and scholar. Has earned A.B. and M.A. in English from Virginia State College; Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia.

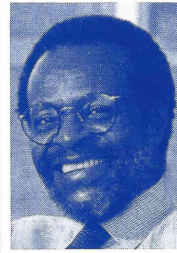
Publications include: *Shuckin' and Jivin': Folklore from Contemporary Black Americans*, 1978; *Folklore from Contemporary Jamaicans*, 1985; *Fifty Caribbean Writers: A Bio-Biographical and Critical Sourcebook*, 1986; and *Long Gone: The Mecklenburg Six and the Theme of Escape in Black Folklore*. Currently professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.



Woodie King Jr.

Producer, film and theatre director, playwright. Currently director of the Federal Theatre in New York. Has and continues to produce the most important black writers in theatre including: Ron Milner (*Checkmates*), Samm-Art Williams (*Home*); Ntozake Shange (*For Colored Girls Who have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*).

Has edited seven anthologies including: *A Black Quartet*, *Forerunners: Black Poets in America*. Has been a drama critic for *The Detroit Tribune* and has authored feature articles in numerous publications. Teaching experience includes: Oberlin College (Distinguished Visiting Professor), Yale University, Columbia University, Penn State University and others.



James Haskins

Author of more than 80 books for adult, trade and young adult audiences. Titles include: *The Cotton Club* (which inspired the Francis Ford Coppola motion picture of the same title); *The Story of Stevie Wonder* (winner of the Coretta Scott King Award); *Scott Joplin: The Man who Made Ragtime* (winner of the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award) and *Count Your Way* (a four-book series of the Alabama Library Association award for best work for children in 1987). Currently professor of English at the University of Florida, Gainesville.



Pinkie Gordon Lane

Named poet laureate of Louisiana, Lane has authored and edited numerous books including: *Wind Thought*, *Discourses on Poetry*, and most recently, *I Never Scream*. Her poetry has appeared in *Phylon*, *Pembroke Magazine*, and *Louisiana Review*.

Recently concluded her career at Southern University in Baton Rouge after more than 20 years of teaching.

Project Director: Opal Moore
Assistant Professor, English, Radford University. M.F.A. in English, University of Iowa, 1982. Teaches Fiction Writing and Black American Literature.

Has published fiction and poetry in *Callaloo*, *Black American Literature Forum*, *Obsidian II* and elsewhere. Critical essays on children's literature have appeared in *The Black American in Books for Children*, (Scarecrow Press), *Writers for Children*, (Macmillan) and *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* (co-authored).

a CON/FUSION OF LIGHT

Friday, March 30
Saturday, March 31
Sunday, April 1, 1990
Radford University, Radford, Virginia

Speakers:

Maya Angelou, Daryl Cumber Dance,
Pinkie Gordon Lane, Houston A. Baker Jr.,
Vertamae Grosvenor, James Haskins,
Woodie King Jr.

LOCAL HOTELS FOR CON/FUSION OF LIGHT CONFERENCE

Best Western Radford Inn (4 mi.)
(I-81, Exit 35)
P.O. Box 1008
Radford, VA 24141
(703) 639-3000
(703) 628-1955 (toll-free)

Super 8 Motel (4 mi.)
1600 Tyler Ave.
Radford, VA 24141
(800) 843-1991
(toll-free for reservations)

Hampton Inn (12 mi.)
50 Hampton Inn Blvd.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(703) 382-0261
(800) 426-7866 (toll-free)

Days Inn (15 mi.)
P.O. Box 768
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(703) 382-0261
(800) 325-2525 (toll-free)

Blacksburg Marriott (18 mi.)
900 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(703) 552-7001

*Shuttle services will be made
available upon request.*

DETACH AND MAIL TO REGISTER

Fee for registration: \$15 per person

Name _____

Address _____

Institutional Affiliation _____

Number of persons registering: _____

(Please provide above information for each registrant)

My check or money order for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Hotel accommodations must
be secured by individual
registrants. Contact
nearby hotels directly.

**Please respond early.
Space is limited.**