

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Student Government Association
Lecture Series

EMPOWERING

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr., Chancellor

*Mrs. Dovie Burl, Dean of Student Involvement and
Leadership*

Mr. Randall W. Walker, SGA President

Mr. Michael Washington, SGA Advisor

Every year each Student Government Association focuses on a central theme or plat form. This year our theme is the progressive movement. The progressive movement is a plan of action that aids in the continuous development of our university. The movement consists of four components that will help ensure progression in academic strengths, social development, professional awareness, and community outreach. Out of this movement... "Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders" lecture series was born. It is through this series of lectures we hope to inspire, motivate, and captivate the minds of our people. It is students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters like you who will be empowered to reach for what society deems as impossible. It is our prayer that people are not only inspired but become determined to step-up to the plate and evolve as the next generation of leaders and take the world by storm. It is our goal to plant seeds today, which will provide fruit for those to come tomorrow.

Mrs. Susan L. Taylor November 12, 2009

The first speaker to open the "Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders" Lecture Series Susan L. Taylor and she is sponsored by the Student Government Association "The Progressive Administration".

SUSAN L. TAYLOR



EDITOR EMERITA OF ESSENCE MAGAZINE / FOUNDER, NATIONAL CARES MENTORING MOVEMENT

Susan L. Taylor is synonymous with *Essence* magazine, the brand she built—as its fashion and beauty editor, as editor-in-chief and editorial director. For nearly three decades, as the driving force behind one of the most celebrated Black-owned businesses of our time, Taylor has become a legend in the magazine publishing world. And, for 27 years, she authored one of the magazine's most popular columns, "In the Spirit."

She was the first and only African American Woman to be recognized by the Magazine Publishers of America with the Henry Johnson Fisher Award—the industry's highest honor—and the first to be inducted into the American Society of Magazine Editors Hall of Fame. She is the

recipient of the NAACP President's Award for visionary leadership and has honorary degrees from more than a dozen colleges and universities.

A fourth-generation entrepreneur, Taylor grew up in Harlem working with her father in his women's clothing store. She founded her own cosmetics company, a first for Black women, which led to the beauty editor's position at *Essence*. She is the author of four books: *In the Spirit: The Inspirational Writings of Susan L. Taylor*, *Lessons in Living*, *Confirmation: The Spiritual Wisdom That Has Shaped Our Lives*, which she coauthored with her husband, Khephra Burns; and her most recent, *All About Love, Favorite Selections from In the Spirit on Living Fearlessly*. A much sought-after speaker, Taylor inspires hope and encourages us to reclaim our lives and create sustainable communities.

She is an avid supporter of a host of organizations dedicated to moving the Black community forward, but her passion and focus today is the National Cares Mentoring Movement, a call to action, which she founded in 2006 as Essence Cares. The Cares Mentoring Movement is a massive campaign to recruit one million able adults to help secure our children who are in peril and losing ground. "Not on our watch!" Taylor says. "Our children are the mothers and fathers of our tomorrows, and their future is in our hands." The goals of the Cares Movement are to increase high school graduation rates among African American students, end the violence in Black communities and the over-incarceration of our young. "Creating safe, top-tier schools in every underserved community in this nation is the mandate—and it's doable," notes Taylor. Taylor is a cofounder of Future PAC, the first national political action committee devoted to providing a network of support and sources of funding for progressive African American women seeking federal and state-level political offices. She is co-chair with Danny Glover of Shared Interest, a capital campaign to raise money to build housing in the rural areas of South Africa, and serves on the boards of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. She has worked passionately to help restore the lives of people in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region who were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Dr. Jamaal-Harrison Bryant February 4, 2010

The second speaker is Dr. Jamaal-Harrison Bryant and he is being sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership.

Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant Biography



Radical, Revolutionary, Innovative, Anointed, and Cutting Edge are some of the words often used to describe **Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant**. This ministry driven vanguard has inspired thousands of believers around the nation. He has an unprecedented prophetic mantle that distinguishes him as a remarkable visionary who has made a powerful impact in the Christian Arena. Stepping out on faith, with the support of Lady Gizelle Bryant and 43 people who believed that God was going to do the unexpected, Dr. Bryant founded The Empowerment Temple. The first service was held on Easter Sunday, April 22, 2000, in a Baltimore City banquet hall. In just seven short years, God has directed the paths of over 10,000 members to Empowerment Temple, the fastest growing church in the A.M.E. denomination.

Dr. Bryant is a pastor with a global mission, which is to *"Empower the World through the Word."* He believes that the body of Christ should be empowered in every area of life. His preaching and teaching focuses on empowering believers spiritually, developing them educationally, exposing them culturally, activating them politically, and strengthening them economically.

Prior to his role as pastor, Dr. Bryant served as the director of the NAACP's youth and college division. A dynamic motivational speaker, he was responsible for over 650 youth councils and college chapters, representing over 68,000 young people in the United States, Germany, and Japan. Today, his ecumenical messages have been heard on the far shores of South Africa, Belgium, England, and India. His contributions have been highlighted in numerous publications, including Ebony Magazine, Hope Today Magazine, Gospel Today Magazine, Emerge, Sister To Sister, USA Today, and The Source. In addition to his many prestigious highlights, Dr. Bryant has appeared on BET's Meet the Faith, CNN, C-Span, and Politically Incorrect. He also served as a panelist on the National town hall meeting entitled, "The State of Black America", and "The State of the Black Church", hosted by renowned author and talk show personality Tavis Smiley. According to Ebony Magazine, he is one of America's future leaders.

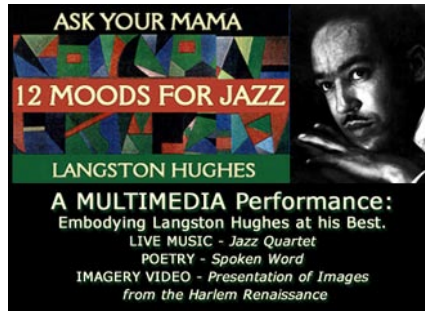
While Dr. Bryant has distinguished himself and attained great accomplishments, it is noteworthy to mention that he failed the 11th grade and dropped out of high school. However, he later obtained a GED certificate and went on to further his education. He received a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Studies, from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. In 2005 he received his Doctor of Ministry Degree.

With a mission to "Empower the World through the Word", the "Power for Life" broadcast is heard weekly across the United States, the Caribbean, England and throughout the continent of Africa. In 2003, The Empowerment Academy, an elementary school for grades Pre-K through 2nd, and The Empowerment Temple Family Life Center opened its doors to serve the community. The church has also registered more voters than any other church in Baltimore City. After three years of worshiping in several locations, a banquet hall, a college campus and a high school auditorium, on February 15, 2004, the Empowerment Temple congregation triumphantly marched into its new 2,000 seat sanctuary located in Baltimore City. In spite of the awesome anointing on his life, Dr. Bryant is still modest enough to "keep it real." His humility allows him to connect with those from age seven to seventy.

He is the proud father to his precious little ladies, Topaz, Grace, and twins Angel and Adore. No matter how he is described, Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant is "Empowering the World through the Word."

Langston Hughes Project February 24, 2010

This is a Black History Month educational initiative sponsored by the UAPB John Browne Watson Memorial Library and co-sponsored by the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership and the Student Government Association.



Jazz Montage: A Multimedia Concert Performance of Langston Hughes's Ask Your Mama: Twelve Moods for Jazz

The Langston Hughes Project is a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes's kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite. Ask Your Mama is Hughes's homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom at home and abroad at the beginning of the 1960s. It is a twelve-part epic poem which Hughes scored with musical cues drawn from blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie woogie, bebop and progressive jazz, Latin "cha cha" and Afro-Cuban mambo music, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso, and African drumming -- a creative masterwork left unperformed at his death.

Jazz was a cosmopolitan metaphor for Langston Hughes, a force for cultural convergence beyond the reach of words, or the limits of any one language. It called up visual analogues for him as well, most pointedly the surrealist techniques of painterly collage and of the film editing developed in this country in the 1930s and 40s, which condensed time and space, conveyed to the viewer a great array of information in short compass, and which offered the possibility of suggesting expanded states of consciousness, chaotic remembrances of past events or dreams -- through montage. "To me," Hughes wrote, "jazz is a montage of a dream deferred. A great big dream -- yet to come -- and always yet to become ultimately and finally true."

By way of videography, this concert performance links the words and music of Hughes' poetry to topical images of Ask Your Mama's people, places, and events, and to the works of the visual artists Langston Hughes admired or collaborated with most closely over the course of his career -- the African-inspired mural designs and cubist geometries of Aaron Douglas, the blues and jazz-inspired collages of Romare Bearden, the macabre grotesques of Meta Warrick Fuller and the rhythmic sculptural figurines and heads and bas reliefs of Richmond Barthe, the color blocked cityscapes and black history series of Palmer Hayden and Jacob Lawrence. Together the words, sounds, and images recreate a magical moment in our cultural history, which bridges the Harlem Renaissance, the post World War II Beat writers' coffeehouse jazz poetry world, and the looming Black Arts performance explosion of the 1960s.

Ask Your Mama was dedicated to Louis Armstrong, "the greatest horn blower of them all," and to those of whatever hue or culture of origin who welcomed being immersed in the mysteries, rituals, names, and nuances of black life not just in America but in the Caribbean, in Latin America, in Europe and Africa during the years of anti-colonial upheaval abroad and the rising Freedom Movement here at home. Not only the youthful Martin Luther King, Jr. but the independence leaders of Guinea and Nigeria and Ghana and Kenya and the Congo fill the chants and refrains of Hughes's epic poem.

Originally, Langston Hughes created Ask Your Mama in the aftermath of his participation as an official for the five-day Newport Jazz Festival of July 1960, where he shared the stage with such luminaries as Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Horace Silver, Dakota Staton, Oscar Peterson, Lambert, Hendricks, & Ross, Otis Spann, Ray Charles, and Muddy Waters. The musical scoring of the poem was designed to serve not as mere background for the words but to forge a conversation and a commentary with the music. Though Hughes originally intended to collaborate with Charles Mingus, and then Randy Weston, on the full performance of his masterwork, it remained only in the planning stages when Langston Hughes died in 1967. Its recovery now in word, music, and image provides a galvanizing experience for audiences everywhere.

Mr. Jeff Johnson

March 31, 2010

Mr. Jeff Johnson is the final speaker to close the "Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders" Lecture Series and he is sponsored and hosted by the Student Government Association "The Progressive Administration".

Jeff Johnson



TV Personality, BET's "Cousin Jeff," and Activist

Jeff Johnson is a Washington, DC-based award-winning journalist, social activist, and political commentator.

From his celebrated conversations with marquee world figures in the political, business, and entertainment arenas to his grass-roots trench work to inspire the next generation of leaders; investigative journalist, political correspondent, and activist, Johnson continues to be a trailblazing social entrepreneur

and authentic voice for change.

Currently, Johnson is a commentator on the nationally syndicated *Tom Joyner Morning Show* tackling issues on politics, entertainment and social policy issues, sharing the microphone with Harvard Law lecturer, Stephanie Robinson.

Johnson has spent the last decade merging the worlds of politics and popular culture including his work as senior advisor for Media and Youth Outreach for People for the American Way, national director of the Youth & College division of the NAACP, and an appointment by Russell Simmons as the vice president of the Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN).

The only American reporter to receive an exclusive post-inauguration interview with Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state and Liberia's first elected female president. Johnson is also one of only two news correspondents to receive an exclusive interview with Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir, who has not granted interviews with American media outlets for 13 years.

Recently, he won a 2008 NABJ Salute to Excellence Award for BET's *Life & Death in Darfur*, *Jeff Johnson Reports* series. A source of information quoted in *Newsweek*, *Upscale*, *LA Times*, *National Journal*, and *Boston Globe*. He regularly contributes commentary and analysis about issues related to race, politics, popular culture and socio-economics for news broadcasts and publications such as MSNBC's *Dayside* and *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, CNN Headline News, CNN International, *Larry King Live*, FOX News Channel, *Huffington Post*, CNN.com, The Root.com, EbonyJet.com, *Upscale*, *J'Adore*, *N'Digo*, *Monarch Magazine*, and more.

Johnson is one of 30 young leaders, joining together from Europe and America and selected by the British Council to be apart of its Transatlantic 2020 team to begin a new cross-border dialogue to reinvigorate traditional alliances and mend transatlantic rifts.

Since August 2008, Johnson has served as managing editor and chief correspondent for *The Truth with Jeff Johnson*, a hard-hitting, talk show that delivers a varied and vibrant view of the news, while examining issues to engage BET viewers in front of a live studio audience. Recognized for his socio-political influence and media adeptness, Johnson has earned a reputation as the "conscience voice" of BET Networks for his positive force among youth and young adults.

Johnson's commitment to fostering broad-based communication about issues related to race, politics, popular culture and socioeconomic on a national and international level have led to hundreds of speaking requests, as he travels the nation addressing large crowds speaking truth to power

Johnson consistently challenges audiences to weigh innovative solutions to resolve historic and systemic social imbalances and inequalities.

In September 2009, Johnson released his first book *Everything I'm Not Made Me Everything I Am* (Smiley Books/Hay House).

He is also CEO of Jeff's Nation, LLC.