

Institute for the Study of the African American Child (ISAAC)

Progress Report and Plans

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Organization Building Activities

Web Site Design, Launch, Custom Features

The focal point for the period from January 2011 through May 2012 was the design of the ISAAC web site www.isaac.wayne.edu. The Director worked intensively with the Marketing and Communications web design division during that period to supply the content and approve every aspect of the design.

Several features were added over and above the initial contract for the web site design to eliminate the need for human handling of registration payments and submissions of proposals and manuscripts. The Director secured donations from ISAAC supporters who underwrote the cost of these features. Donors who contributed were: Dr. V.P. Franklin, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Yvonne Jackson and Monica and John Pearson.

Membership

A button "Become A Member of ISAAC" was added to the lower section of the Home Page of the web site. The user clicks the button and indicates whether they want to join as a new member; renew a membership or make a donation. Payments can be made using the 4 major credit cards or electronic check. Once payment is made, the user receives an automatic receipts for the dollar amount that was paid. They also receive a colorful, "thank you" message and an email "thank you" message.

There is a Manager for all of the home page buttons. For memberships, information is archived for each member and a complete membership can be exported. The web site provides an automatic email renewal reminder 30 days before the expiration of memberships. The email renewal reminders can be manually clicked for additional reminders.

Donations.

Donations can be made through the “Become a Member of ISAAC” button on the web site. There is a separate listing in the manager that records donations made. A person who makes a donation receives a receipt, a “thank you message” that is tailored for a donation and an email message.

Manuscript Submission for the Journal

A Manuscript Submission Button appears on the lower portion of the Home Page. This button allows the author who wishes to submit a manuscript to the journal to do so by submitting a separate cover letter and manuscript to maintain the anonymity necessary for a blind peer review. When a manuscript is submitted, an email automatically is sent to the Managing Editor and the 2 journal Co-Editors-in Chief. The author receives a colorful automatic receipt for the manuscript apprising them of the procedure and time frame for the review. In addition to the automatic receipt, the author receives an automatic, personalized, “thank you” email. A record of the authors, manuscripts and dates of submission is archived in the web site Manager.

Conference

There is a red button on the lower portion of the Home Page that is labeled Conference Proposals and Registrations. By clicking that button, the user can avail themselves of three functions:

Proposals. The user can submit a proposal to make a presentation at the Conference on Research Directions (CORD), the biannual conference that is held at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The user receives a colorful automatic receipt for the proposal and a personalized “thank you” email. An automatic copy of the submission is sent to the Director and the 2 Co-Editors of the Conference Proceedings. A copy and record of each proposal submitted is contained within the web site Manager.

Registrations. Once the user enters the Conference page, they can pay the conference registration using 4 major credit cards, electronic check or purchase order. They are also required to submit the Presenter Registration form or the Participant Registration form, as appropriate. These forms are required for the completion of registration because they require agreement with rules of the conference such as attending the entire conference for presenters, submission of registration fees by a particular deadline and the refund policy that must be agreed to by all.

Each user receives an automatic receipt for payments, an automatic “thank you” message and a personalized email “thank you” message. All payments are listed in the web site Manager.

Conference Proceedings Manuscript Submissions. Manuscripts that are by definition more extensive than conference proposals must be submitted for inclusion in the *Conference Proceedings*. There is provision for separate submission of cover letters and manuscripts to provide for blind peer review of manuscripts. The author will receive an automatic “thank

you” receipt for the manuscript. They will also receive a personalized “thank you” email message. Manuscripts that are submitted will automatically be sent to the Director and the 2 Co-Editors of the Conference Proceedings. This receipt of the proposals in the fall will enable the Co-Editors to begin planning and communicating with authors regarding the Conference Proceedings. Our goal is to publish the Conference Proceedings in conjunction with the beginning of the conference. A copy of each manuscript with the date of its submission will be archived on the web site Manager.

Manager for all features:

There is a web site Manager that archives by category all documents and payments made through the web site. There is a listing of donations, memberships, proposal submissions, conference registrations, manuscript submissions for the journal, manuscript submissions for the Conference Proceedings and reprint journal articles purchased. A link has been created so that the Wayne State University Development Office can capture for their records all monetary contributions to ISAAC. The Development Office has listed ISAAC in the drop down menu of the College of Education so that donors can select ISAAC as a destination for donations and contributions as is possible for other entities within the college.

Journal

Considerable work was done this year in providing structure for *African American Learners*, the peer reviewed Journal of ISAAC. Contained within the Research/journal page are: the Aim, Scope, Submission Guidelines, Review Form for use for evaluation of manuscripts; Call for Papers flier that can be downloaded; automatic receipts that the author receives when manuscripts are submitted; and the text for personalized “thank you” emails has been created.

Additionally, the Director secured the guidelines for listing the journal in the major indices and guides to periodical literature in the field of education. One index will list the journal following the release of the 1st issue. The rest will list the journal and articles following the release of the 3rd issue.

Reprints of Journal Articles. Readers will be able to read the journal free of charge without payment of any fees associated with subscription. However, they must pay a \$10 fee to download a single article reprint. They will receive a colorful reprint that contains a listing of the names, titles and professional affiliations of the 2 Editors-in-Chiefs, the Editorial Board and Managing Editor. They will receive an automatic receipt for this donation to ISAAC and a personalized “thank you” email.

Each time a reprint of a journal article is purchased, the Managing Editor and the 2 Co-Editors-in Chief will receive automatic email notification. A record of the names of articles purchased will be archived in the web site manager.

Online Communities

The Director has created 13 Listservs who comprise our constituency. They are occupationally identified with umbrella titles such as Community Professional, Activists. They are comprised primarily of people who have attended our conferences and events. To date the listservs total 417 persons. The Director has added members who pay for their memberships to the Listserv so that they can receive email messages and announcements from the Institute.

Facebook

The Director has created a face book page for Wayne State ISAAC and a separate page for *African American Learners* Journal of ISAAC. She has made herself and the two editors-in chief administrators of the journal face book page. To date, both pages have 14 likes.

Google Analytics

The ISAAC web site visits are tracked by Google Analytics. Information was obtained for the number and distribution of visits since the launch of the journal in November 2011 through the writing of this report on May 18, 2012.

Some key summary data for a six month period:

- Visits: 2,439
- Pageviews: 8,951
- Pages per visit: 3.67
- Average visit duration: 00:03:35
- Returning visitors: 51.70 % (1,261 visits)
- New visitors: 48.305 (1,178 visits)
- Cities around the world: 415
- Countries throughout the world: 41

Data for 1 month from April 18, 2012 to May 18, 2012

- Visits: 591
- Pageviews: 2,520
- Pages per visit: 4.26
- Average visit duration: 00:04:35
- Returning visitors: 57.70 % (341 visits)
- New visitors: 42.30 % (250 visits)
- Cities around the world: 147
- Countries throughout the world: 16

- United States
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Brazil

- Switzerland
- Ethiopia
- Hungary
- Libya
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Portugal
- El Salvador
- Turkey

Readership of the Research Page will be captured once the journal is launched to provide a number of readers of the journal and the average amount of time spent on that page.

As of the writing of this report, information obtained prior to the launch of the journal revealed that 303 visitors viewed the research page. No other pages recorded landings.

Events

Even though ISAAC has no budget or funding, we have hosted events that reflect forward movement of our Mission. These events are sponsored by making a way out of no way to maintain the allegiance of our constituency and the new memberships, renewal of memberships and donations that are critical to making a way forward.

Described below are 3 events that were held in the past year:

Conference on Research Directions (CORD)

Our biannual conference was held from May 2nd through May 4th at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The Conference Program is archived on the Research Page of the ISAAC web site. Dr. Gloria Boutte and Dr. Susi Long served as honorary conference co-chairs and represented the University of South Carolina College of Education which served as a co-sponsor for the second consecutive conference. Their financial donation was essential in meeting the requirement that the conference break even with registrations paid by attendees.

The conference registrations in 2011 were very similar to the number of registrations in 2009. The attendance including presenters and staff was around 55 persons. There were approximately 35 repeat attendees. A goal is to build the number of attendees, not substitute them. We need a faithful constituency that returns while we build new attendees. An extensive two-way direct mail campaign was the strategy used to generate registrations. A mailing list was purchased that encompassed all of the College of Education and Liberal Arts Deans in the United States. Additionally, education, psychology and social work department chairs were targeted. The direct mail campaign encompassed a flier sent with a personalized letter describing ISAAC and the purpose of the conference in the spring of 2010. This was followed-up with a flier-only mailing in the fall of 2010.

Every presenter was required to commit to attending the entire conference. Everyone paid their own way, thereby absorbing the cost of the conference. All presenters who met the criteria were inducted as ISAAC Fellows. The keynote speakers, Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, Dr. Vincent G. Harding, Dr. Hakim Rashid, Moderator and Dr. Gloria Boutte, Dr. Susi Long, Honorary Co-Chairs were inducted or thanked (with plaques) as ISAAC Senior Fellows. There were 31 presenters, 2 keynote speeches, 25 panelists on 15 panels and 6 poster presentations. A direct mailing targeted 7,124 K-12 schools in Michigan and South Carolina. However, there was minimal response to the attempt to attract practitioners. Practitioners attended the conference, but not as result of the direct mail campaign. They came as a result of networks they participated in with presenters.

One purpose of the conference was to bridge the gap between research and practice. Our intent is to involve school district personnel in the dialogue with researchers about solutions to the achievement gap that affects African American children. CORD presenters and participants will constitute the Research Arm of ISAAC. Two meetings each of 3 committees were built into the conference schedule for a total of 3 hours to plan for the implementation of the goals of the ISAAC Research Component. Those committees were:

- Publications
- Grantsmanship
- Research Collaboration

Co-chairs for each committee were designated prior to the conference and scripts were provided for conducting the meetings. Notes were taken by laptop computers and committee reports were immediately available.

Overall goals of the committees were to:

1. Plan the 2013 conference and publicize.
2. Establish an online community for networking and information sharing.
3. Plan a research agenda related to issues affecting African American children
4. Engage in collaborative research studies
5. Plan collaborative grant seeking. Secure the attendance of Foundation Executives at future conferences.
6. Serve as a support group for scholars interested in topics related to the African American child in school. This support group will increase the numbers of scholars working in this area who pursue doctoral degrees, attain tenure and establish academic careers. This is the key to building an intellectual infrastructure that can provide intellectual leadership for the protection and nurturance of African American children in the area of education.

Conference Proceedings. Each CORD conference program is archived on the ISAAC web site. Contained therein are the abstracts for each past conference presentation. For the first time in 2013,

we will publish edited manuscripts of all presentations made at CORD. Two members of the Publications Committee have agreed to serve as Co-Editors of the *Conference Proceedings*. They are: Dr. Marisha Humphries, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology, University of Illinois, Chicago and Dr. Erika D. Taylor, Evaluation Specialist, Research and Evaluation Department, Prince Georges' County Public Schools Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

ISAAC Round Table at NBCDI in October 2012.

The ISAAC Round Table on African American Education was held at the annual meeting of the National Black Child Development Institute. The meeting was held at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel and Convention Center in Tennessee on Sunday, October 9th at 2:00 in the afternoon. The Round Table consisted of a scholarly presentation by Janice E. Hale, Ph.D. of her current scholarship. The opportunity was provided for conferees to purchase memberships to ISAAC and sign-up for the Online Communities. Making a presentation at this conference enhances the visibility of ISAAC among an established constituency of advocates for African American children. All of the feedback on the session was that it was Excellent.

Public Policy Think Tank, online April 28, 2012.

The Think Tank that is described below was held online. We were able to use the Microsoft Lync free trial for the event. Each presenter and attendee was able to participate on a Saturday afternoon from the comfort of their homes. Everyone could enter and depart the meeting according to their own schedules without disruption of the meeting. Each speaker appeared on screen when they began to speak. An especially valuable feature of the software is that we were able to **automatically record** the presentations which are published instantly. The presentations will be posted on the ISAAC web site for the review of our constituents, free of charge.

The Director worked with Microsoft to master the technology associated with conducting an event of this type. She then, translated what she gleaned from the training into instructions for the presenters and the attendees. Prior to the Think Tank, she assisted each presenter in successfully downloading Microsoft Lync and becoming adept at operating the various features of the software. This was extremely time consuming and encompassed a month long effort prior to the Think Tank. However, it was a giant step forward because we now have a vehicle through which to meet and work that involves little or no cost.

The Think Tank was excellent. There were glitches in the recording such that the Director re-recorded 3 of the presentations subsequent to the Think Tank. Two presentations were successfully recorded on the day of the Think Tank. Two have not been rescheduled to date. We have 5 presentations that we can archive. Twenty-six persons registered as Attendees for the Think Tank. Including the presenters, the official attendance count is 36 persons. We were satisfied with that number of participants for this, our first use of Microsoft Lync. There were several glitches in getting people into the meeting.

It was a mistake for the Director to serve as the contact person for people having difficulty joining the meeting. For the next meeting, a support person will assist with that responsibility. It was very hectic and the technicians at Microsoft were very slow in troubleshooting the difficulties.

There are some exciting features that come with this software. One is called “OneNote”. It is a note taking device that could be activated while a speaker was presenting. The user can take notes, record thoughts, preserve comments or frame questions during the presentations. Those notes can be saved, shared and printed out without affecting the flow of the presentation. When they are printed out, the name of the presenter and those attending the meeting are automatically recorded in the notes. It is a very nice feature. It is a nice way to collect your thoughts and preserve your questions while listening to a presenter.

Another feature that was very helpful was instant messaging wherein the presenters or attendees could communicate with each other in writing while the speaker was making his presentation. When the recordings are saved, the organizer can indicate whether the instant messages should be preserved or not.

In the Fall issue of *African American Learners*, the Director will provide a report on the Think Tank in her column, The Director’s Corner.

<i>Institute for the Study of the African American Child</i> Think Tank Agenda <i>Creating a Cultural Prism for African American Children</i> <i>Research with Meaningful Instructional Implications</i> ISAAC		Online	
		isaac.wayne.edu	
		Microsoft Office 365/Lync	
		April 28, 2012	
		1:00 – 5:55 pm	
Meeting called by: <i>Institute for the Study of the African American Child</i>		Type of meeting :	Think Tank
Facilitators: Dr. James Young and Dr. Hakim Rashid			
Notetaker:		The meeting will be recorded by Microsoft Live Meeting 365 Office/Lync and will be posted on the ISAAC web site at: www.isaac.wayne.edu	
Attendees:		Open Registration; Voluntary request to secure ISAAC membership on web site:	

Please read:

Epilogue to the 3rd Edition of *Black Children: Their Roots, Culture and Learning Styles* by Janice E. Hale, The Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming 2013.

Special notes:

The intent of ISAAC is to effect in the words of Asa Hilliard, “*meaningful*” change in the educational fortunes of African American. Our intent is to have an impact. Too many organizations that purport to help Black children are collectors and be moaners of the statistics. However, they have been in existence for decades and have not presented a meaningful solution as the statistics get worse and worse. We intend to create some meaningful solutions by creating coalitions and harnessing the contributions of volunteers. For example, much of the scholarship that is produced by African American scholars that focuses upon the achievement of African American students comes in the form of master’s theses and doctoral dissertations.

One of the goals of ISAAC is to create a collaborative research agenda – a blueprint, if you will. This will provide graduate students with meaningful topics in line with our Mission to draw from when they matriculate in white universities and don’t have mentors to guide the selection of research topics. Another goal related to collaboration is to identify mega research projects that scholars of this area of research can work on together in securing funding for large scale data collection.

Some significant projects have emerged from places such as Howard University which is a Mecca for African American scholars and graduate students. The rest of us work in isolation in universities that feel that one scholar of African American education is sufficient. Modern technology has opened the door through “go to meeting” technology, Skype and other media that enable us to meet, network

and collaborate as if we were in the same place. ISAAC is 100% virtual. So, we can mitigate our lack of funding and proximity of space by utilizing the tools that are available to us through modern technology. ISAAC provides an opportunity for collaboration between scholars, practitioners and activists across university walls and geographical boundaries.

Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman and John Brown did not wait for the Emancipation Proclamation to make something happen. Likewise, African American children cannot wait for foundation executives to embrace our Mission. We have to create self-funded research institutions to move forward toward the educational liberation of African people of the world.

Objectives of the Think Tank;

1. *Creating a plan of work from the Report of the Collaborative Research Committee of CORÐ 2011*
2. *Creation of a blueprint for educational research related to African American children*
3. *Creating a collaboration between practitioners and scholars for the purpose of designing research that has meaningful instructional implications*
4. *Creating a collaboration between practitioners and scholars for the purpose of model development*
5. *Creation of a plan for creating culturally appropriate research instruments for data gathering*
6. *Respond to the concept of the Cultural Prism*
7. *Familiarize the ISAAC constituency with Microsoft Lync Technology as a vehicle for future Collaboration*

Documents

Hale, Janice. (2013). Epilogue to the 3rd Edition of Black Children: Their roots, culture and learning styles. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Johnson, George and Waddell, Lanette. (2011). Report of the Collaborative Research Committee of ISAAC CORÐ meeting at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, May.

Speakers

Dr. Dalton Conley, Dean for the Social Sciences, New York University, New York City

Dr. V.P. Franklin, Distinguished Professor and Presidential Chair, University of California, Riverside

Dr. Janice E. Hale, Professor of Early Childhood Education and Founding Director of the Institute for The Study of the African American Child, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

Dr. Robert Martin, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, West Bloomfield Public Schools, Michigan

Dr. Hakim Rashid, Associate Professor of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Erika D. Taylor, Evaluation Specialist, Research and Evaluation Department, Prince Georges' County Public Schools Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Dr. Lanette Waddell, Assistant Professor of the Practice, Peabody College of Education, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Dr. Ernest Washington, Professor of Children, Families and Schools Department of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Dr. James C. Young, Professor of Early Childhood Education, Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia

Journal

The suggestion was made by Dr. Hakim Rashid to create an online journal at the first CORD conference in 2009. At the 2011 CORD conference, the Publications Committee created the Editorial Board and scope of the journal. The journal was named by consensus, *African American Learners Journal of ISAAC*. Numerous distinguished scholars volunteered to serve on the Editorial Board. All journal articles will be peer reviewed. **Dr. Gloria Boutte, Professor at the University of South Carolina and Dr. Hakim Rasheed, Associate Professor at Howard University** agreed to serve as Co-Editors-in-Chief. We also are pleased to have **Dr. V.P. Franklin, ISAAC founding sponsor and editor of the *Journal of African American History* and Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, ISAAC Senior Fellow and editor of the *Journal of Negro Education* on our Editorial Board.**

We will use the papers that are presented at CORD as a source for articles in the journal. There will also be Calls for Papers and Special Themed issues. Volume 1, Issue 1 was launched on June 6, 2012. The acceptance rate for articles for the 1st issue is 20%. The issues will contain: The Editor's Corner, The Director's Corner, upcoming events, invited articles and guest editors. There was discussion at the Think Tank of creating a feature in which we chronicle dissertations completed in each calendar year related to the education of African American learners.

We launch this journal as a second step (after the CORD conference) toward building an intellectual infrastructure within the African American community that can give solutions for, in the words of Dr. Asa Hilliard, “the most stubborn pedagogical problems” facing the education of African American children. This is the primary objective. We, as educators must reclaim the turf we have ceded to psychologists, lawyers, physicians, business men – even former Presidents to craft solutions to problems that should be solved by educators. In the words of Dr. James C. Young, “everyone feels that they can do education.”

In order to build this intellectual infrastructure, we need to enhance the ability of scholars who work on issues related to African American children to publish their work – hence the journal. We have created the CORD conference as a place where they can network, present their work, obtain guidance, nurturance and collaboration. Our goal is to create collaborative research projects through which we can amass data bases, design accurate instruments for data collection and overall improve the science for research on African American educational issues. The complement to those efforts will be to collaborate on grantsmanship to ensure that African American children receive their fair share of research dollars to resolve the achievement gap that affects them.

The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPSY) was created in the 1970’s. The creation of that organization enabled a stellar group of African American psychologists in that generation to obtain tenure in some of the most prestigious universities in the country. ABPSY launched the *Journal of Black Psychology* and held numerous Conferences on Empirical Research in Black Psychology. These initiatives enabled African American psychologists to sustain careers in the academy. There is a need for a comparable infrastructure to likewise enable *educational* scholars to complete doctoral degrees, obtain tenure and sustain academic careers.

Furthermore, even though we have a collection of scholars and graduate students at Howard University who have produced exemplary research and scholarship, the reality is that most scholars of African American research are spread out throughout the country. There is a need for an entity such as ISAAC to be a well that they can draw from in identifying topics for graduate and post-doctoral research that are on the cutting edge of African American thought. Hopefully, CORD and *African American Learners* are first steps in that process.

**Pearlie C. Dove Colloquium in Atlanta, Georgia, April 19, 2012.
Clark Atlanta University, College of Education co-sponsor for CORD**

The Director of ISAAC, Janice E. Hale, Ph.D., was invited to deliver the lecture for the Pearlie C. Dove Colloquium at Clark Atlanta University (CAU) on April 19, 2012. Dr. Pearlie C. Dove, a graduate of both Clark College and Atlanta University in the 1940’s was chair of the education department at Clark College from 1949 until her retirement in the 1980’s. Dr. Dove hired Janice Hale in 1974 for her first professorial appointment as assistant professor of education. It was extremely gratifying to be able to serve as Colloquium speaker in her presence. She was vibrant and glowing at the age of ninety when she presented me with the Pearlie C. Dove Colloquium Award.

Dr. James C. Young, Professor of Early Childhood Education at Clark Atlanta University was instrumental in the invitation extended to Janice Hale to deliver the lecture. The most important outcome of the experience was the connection he made that resulted in the agreement that the **College of Education at CAU will become a co-sponsor for the 2013 CORD conference which includes making a financial contribution and sending faculty and student attendees. We look forward to cultivating this relationship that is an important building block in our journey.**

Plans for the Coming Year

In the coming year, we intend to continue to move forward on our Mission as we seek funding for the Institute. The activities that we will engage in are as follows:

CORD Conference. The 3rd biannual conference will be held on May 5th through May 8th 2013 at the OmniOceanfront (formerly Hilton) Resort on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The keynote speakers will be:

Dr. Brenda Townsend Walker, Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of South Florida in Tampa. **Topic: School Discipline and African American Males: Deconstructing Pipelines from the Schoolhouse to the “Big House”** and

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Trinity United Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois. **Topic: A Revolution of Values.**

At the CORD conference, we will continue to work along the dimensions of the 3 standing committees in the areas of: collaborative research, publications and grantsmanship.

Conference Proceedings. As mentioned above, for the first time, we will publish the edited manuscripts from the CORD presentations made in 2013.

African American Learners Journal. The online peer reviewed journal will be published twice a year – in the Spring and Fall. We are compiling information from the Wayne State University Press related to creating a print version of the journal with subscriptions being a component of memberships. We also will achieve the listing of the journal and articles in the leading indices to periodical literature in the field of education. As mentioned above, 1 index will list the journal after the release of the 1st issue. Several require release of the 3rd issue before it will be indexed.

Proposals for Funding. During the academic year 2009 – 2010, the Director wrote proposals to achieve funding for ISAAC as a research institute and for each individual component of ISAAC. A priority for the coming year is to match those proposals to funders.

Contact Dr. Antoine Garibaldi, President of University of Detroit as co-sponsor for CORD. The Director intends to contact Dr. Garibaldi and enlist the support of the University of Detroit College of Education as a co-sponsor of the CORD conference. I also intend to contact Dr. Leslie Fenwick, Dean of the School of Education at Howard University and ISAAC Founding Sponsor as a co-sponsor of the CORD conference.