

**AFROFUTURIST  
DESIGN:  
FROM ANCIENT DOGON  
TO WAKANDAN FUTURES**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 – NOVEMBER 23, 2019

## **CREDITS:**

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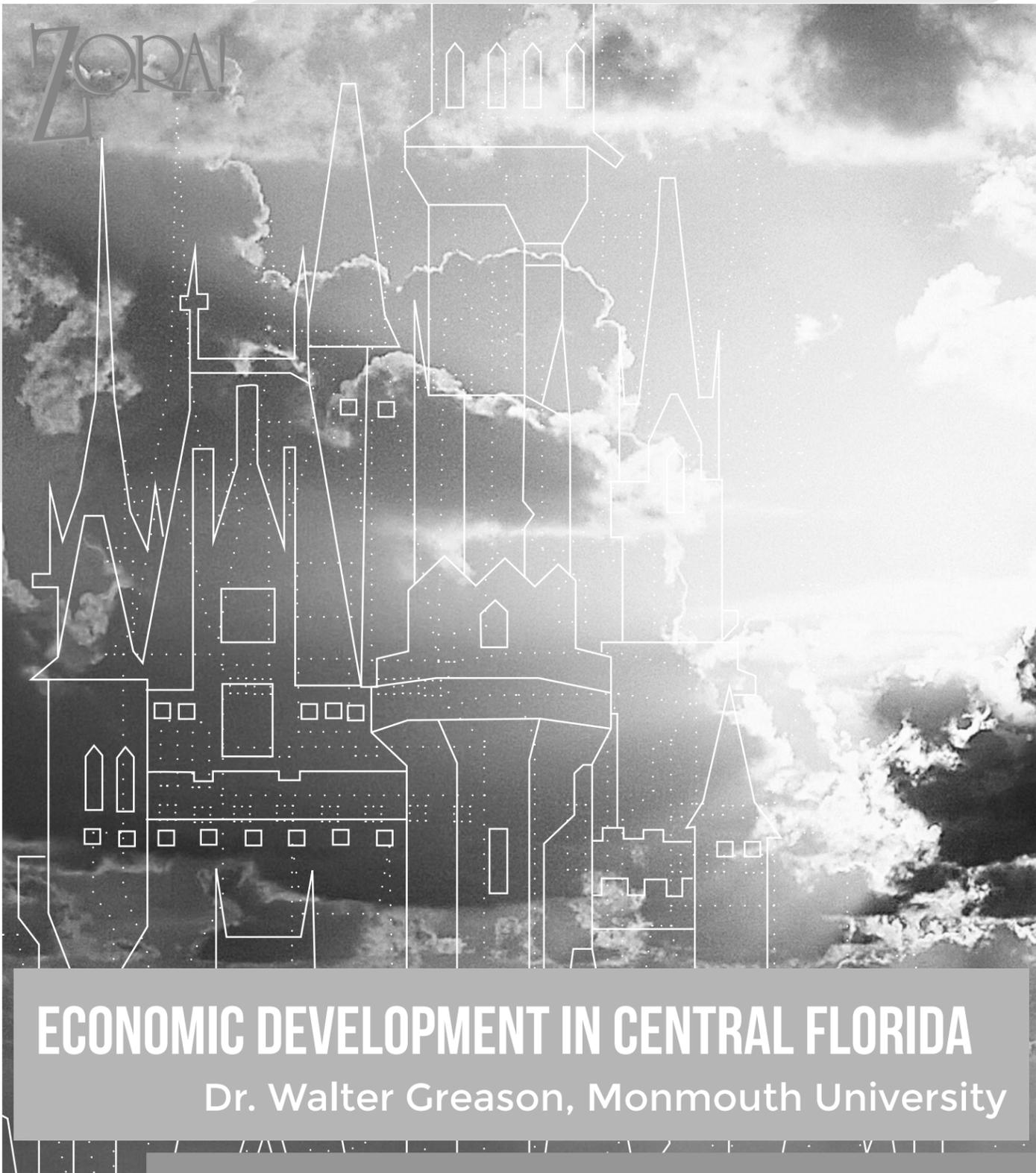
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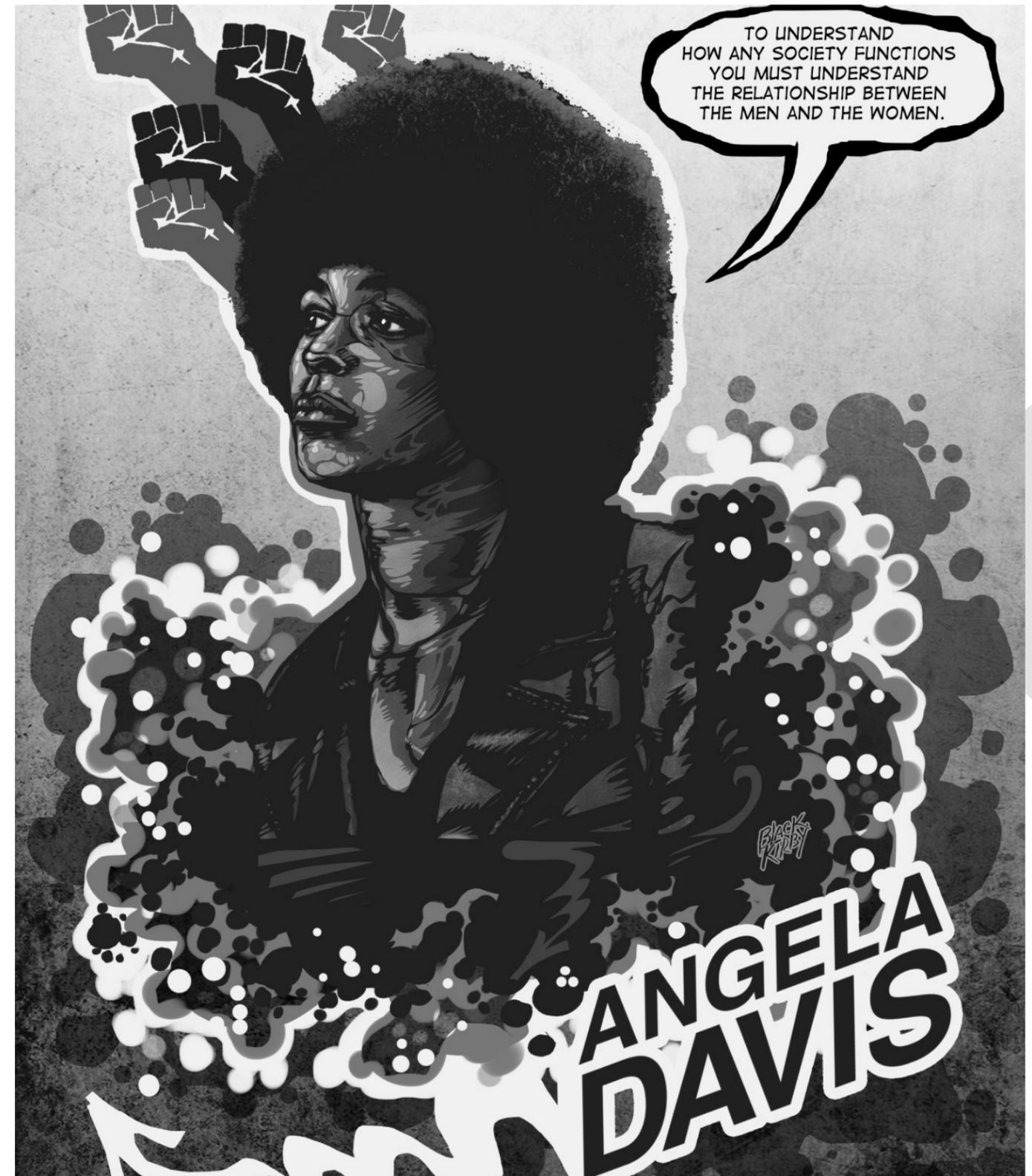


## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

Dr. Walter Greason, Monmouth University

**Rupa DasGupta** created a series of promotional images about Walter Greason's academic work that attracted global attention to his "Worldprofessor" platforms on Facebook and Twitter, 2012-2017. These projects showed how digital media created new audiences for intellectual content.

**John Jennings** and **Stacey Robinson** produced new content with a style and grace that derived from the urgency of the historic moment with the furious pace of a hip hop freestyle. Their images tapped into the power of black history in ways that inspired a new generation of scholars, activists, and artists around the world.



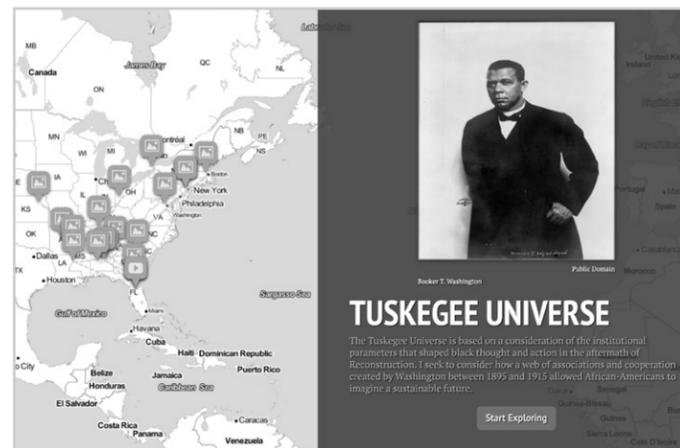
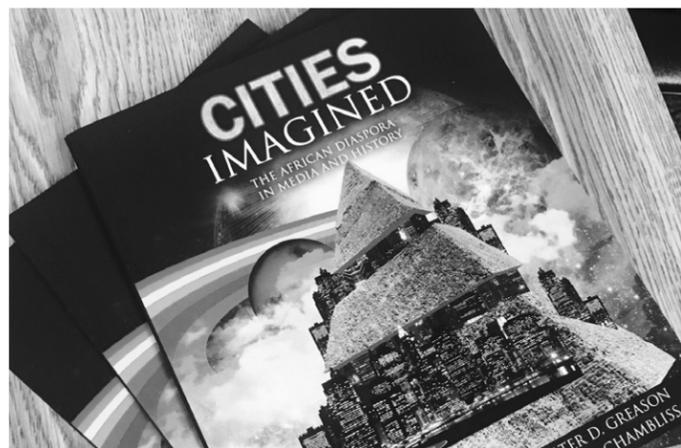


## THE BLACK SPECULATIVE ARTS MOVEMENT: BLACK BRAIN BELT

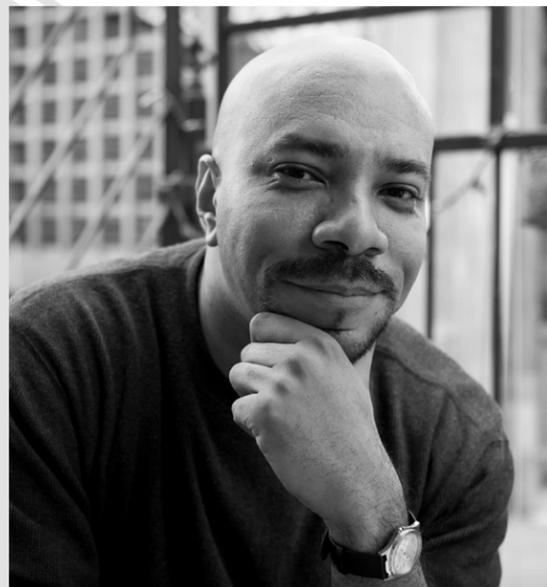
symposium will be on Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 10am-6pm. Between 1945 and 1995, more than 1000 African-American scientists, engineers, and technicians made their homes between Middletown and Belmar, New Jersey. Their work created the global communications networks we use today.

The Opening Reception for the **Afrofuturist Design: From Ancient Dogon to Wakandan Futures** exhibit will be on Saturday, September 7, 2019, at 6pm. The Murry and Leonie Guggenheim Library at Monmouth University hosts this unique and powerful exhibition of famous artists, writers, and scholars.

Dr. Julian Chambliss, Department of English at Michigan State University, will offer the keynote remarks at this event, based on his groundbreaking book, *Cities Imagined*. The concept of the 'Tuskegee Universe' illuminates this moment when the Black Speculative Arts Movement empowers thousands of innovators to show the connections between history, literature, music, and art.



Most notable among this legion of brilliant minds was Dr. Walter McAfee. McAfee was a physicist whose work on Project Diana successfully proved that radio signals could be reflected off the moon's surface. This breakthrough laid the foundations for the network of satellites that now orbit the Earth. President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized McAfee for his outstanding scientific contributions. Dr. McAfee was a faculty member at Monmouth University for fifteen years, receiving an honorary degree in 1985. McAfee was the brightest light in a galaxy of stars, recognized by historian Lenora Walker McKay as "the Black Brain Belt."



## JOHN JENNINGS

Professor of Media and Cultural Studies and a Cooperating Faculty Member in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside. His work centers around intersectional narratives regarding identity politics and popular media. Jennings is co-editor of the Eisner Award-winning essay collection *The Blacker the Ink: Constructions of Black Identity in Comics and Sequential Art* and co-founder/organizer of The Schomburg Center's Black Comic Book Festival in Harlem.



## STACEY ROBINSON

Assistant professor of graphic design at the University of Illinois and an Arthur Schomburg Fellow with an MFA from the University at Buffalo. As part of the collaborative team "Black Kirby" with John Jennings, he creates graphic novels, gallery exhibitions, and lectures that deconstruct the work of artist Jack Kirby to re-imagine Black resistance spaces inspired by hip-hop, religion, the arts, and sciences.



## DAMIAN DUFFY

Cartoonist, scholar, writer, curator, lecturer, teacher, and a Glyph Comics, Eisner Comics, and Bram Stoker Award-winning, #1 New York Times bestselling graphic novelist. He holds a MS and PhD in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he is on faculty, teaching courses on computers & culture, and social media & global change.



## DR. STANFORD CARPENTER

Comic Book Artist, Anthropologist, and Professor.



## DR. REYNALDO ANDERSON

Currently serves as an Associate Professor of Communication and Chair of the Humanities department at Harris-Stowe State University in Saint Louis Missouri. Reynaldo is currently the executive director and co-founder of the Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM) a network of artists, curators, intellectuals and activists. Finally, he is the co-editor of the book *Afrofuturism 2.0: The Rise of Afro-Blackness* published by Lexington books.



## YTASHA L. WOMACK

Award-winning author, filmmaker, independent scholar, and dance therapist. She is a leading expert on Afrofuturism, the imagination and its applications and frequently lectures on the subject across the world.



## WALTER GREASON

Among the most prominent historians, educators, and urbanists in the United States. He is a Dean Emeritus of the Honors School and an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership at Monmouth University. He has spent the past 30 years speaking to audiences in dozens of states, on over 100 college and high school campuses, at dozens of professional and academic conferences, and to community groups across the country. His work is available every day on Twitter, @worldprofessor.



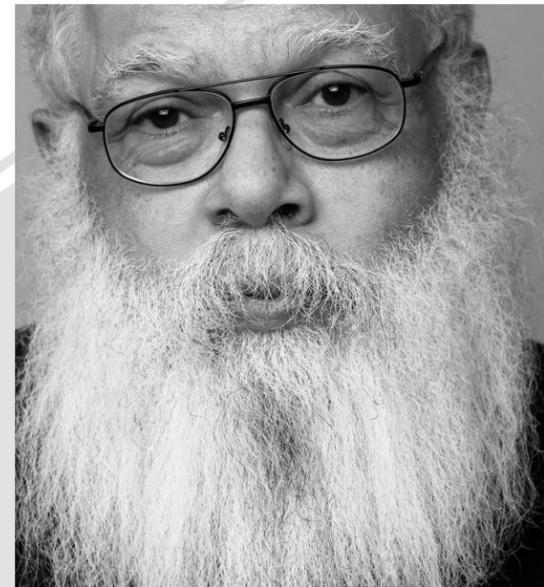
## JULIAN CHAMBLISS

Served as Professor of History with a joint appointment as core faculty in Critical Diversity in a Digital Age Initiative. He teaches courses exploring critical making, comics, and culture in the United States. He has been recognized for his community engagement work with a Rollins College Cornell Distinguished Service Award (2014-2015) and Florida Campus Compact Service Learning Faculty Award (2011). Chambliss is one of the producers of “Every Tongue Got To Confess,” a podcast exploring the experiences and stories of communities of color.



## QIANA WHITTED

Associate professor in the Department of English and African American Studies. She is a graduate of Hampton and Yale Universities. In her professorial role, Whitted specializes in 20th-Century African-American literature, cultural studies and American comic books. She is the co-chair of the International Comic Arts Forum (an annual conference in comics studies) and later this fall she will begin working as editor-in-chief of *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*. In March 2019 her book titled *EC Comics: Race, Shock, and Society Protest* will be published by Rutgers University Press.



## SAMUEL DELANY

Writer, literary critic and professor was born and raised in Harlem, New York City and first rose to prominence in the mid 1960s with his experimental and genre-deviating science fiction novels and short stories including the Nebula award winning *Babel-17* (1966) and *The Einstein Intersection* (1967), and what many consider to be his master work in this genre, *Dhalgren* (1975).



## OCTAVIA E. BUTLER

Studied at several universities and began her writing career in the 1970s. Her books blended elements of science fiction and African-American spiritualism. Her first novel, *Patternmaster* (1976), would ultimately become one of the installments in the four-volume *Patternist* series. Butler went on to write several other novels, including *Kindred* (1979) as well as *Parable of the Sower* (1993) and *Parable of the Talents* (1998), of the *Parable* series. A multiple recipient of both the Hugo and Nebula awards, she became the first science-fiction writer to receive a MacArthur Fellowship.



## TANANARIVE DUE

Written nine novels, ranging from science fiction work which focuses on African immortals who have healing powers, to a novel based upon interviews with her mother regarding her involvement in the Civil Rights movement. Due has been honored with several awards including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Image Award in 2001 for *The Black Rose*, the 2002 American Book Award for her novel, *The Living Blood*, and the Black Issues Book Review Award in 2003 for the “Best Civil Rights Memoir” for *Freedom in the Family*.



**HOAHOA TAKETAKE**