

Against the Grain

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Preserving History and Demonstrating Library Excellence at Historically Black College and Universities

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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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Preserving History and Demonstrating Library Excellence at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

by **Shanesha R. F. Brooks-Tatum** (Project Coordinator/Writer, HBCU Library Alliance, 1438 West Peachtree Street NW, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30309) <sbrooks-tatum@hbculibraries.org>

The success stories of the more than 100 participating Historically Black Colleges and Universities’ libraries involving nearly 300,000 students in 22 states are being captured through the Atlanta-based **Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) Library Alliance’s** “Preserving Our History” project. The two-year effort is funded by a \$70,000 grant from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, the first grant awarded directly to **Alliance** in January 2011. The goal is to document and disseminate the **Alliance’s** history, highlight member success stories, contribute to the literature about libraries and **HBCUs**, and provide a model of collaboration for other libraries, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean.

The **HBCU Library Alliance**, the center for academic library growth and reflection, was established in 2002 with support from

LYRASIS, then **SOLINET**, and has continued to provide an array of training and development opportunities for member institutions, including photographic preservation, reports, assessments, and leadership workshops.

The project involves nine success stories. We will focus in detail on seven: **Claflin University** (Orangeburg, SC); **Delaware State University** (Dover); **Fayetteville State University** (NC); **Savannah State University** (GA); **Southern University and A&M College** (Baton Rouge, LA); **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** (Princess Anne); and **Virginia State University** (Petersburg). The other two stories feature the **Atlanta University Center** and the **University of the Virgin Islands**, and are printed in the January/February 2012 edition of *American Libraries*.

For more information, visit hbculibraries.org.

Shanesha R. F. Brooks-Tatum is project coordinator/writer for the HBCU Library Alliance in Atlanta, GA. She holds a doctorate from the University of Michigan and is a former postdoctoral fellow at Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library, where she taught research methods and writing. She is the author of several scholarly articles and co-editor of a collection of scholarly essays, Reading African American Experiences in the Obama Era: Theory, Advocacy, Activism (Peter Lang Press, 2011). She is currently a visiting scholar at the Interdenominational Theological Center (Atlanta, GA) where she is working on a book on Christian hip-hop music and will teach a graduate course on gender, race, and religion in hip-hop.

If Rumors Were Horses

The awesome and fantabulous and smiling **David Nicholas** has been appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of Information Sciences, College of Communication and Information, at the **University of Tennessee Knoxville**. The new adjunct professor of merit will work with SIS faculty and the Center for Information and Communication Studies on research studies, especially those focusing

on scholarly communication, mobile information, and behavior in the digital space. **Dave**, who will continue to be based in the UK, will be seeking grants in partnership with people like the incredible how-does-she-publish-all-that-she-

does **Carol Tenopir**. <http://www.ciber-research.eu>

Wonder what happened to the vivacious, enthusiastic **Diane Kerr**? Just found out via the **Bookseller** that **Diane** has been appointed Managing Director of **Blackwell Library Services** as of 11 July. **Diane** has been “tasked with making **Blackwell Library Services** more customer-focused while accelerating its eBook strategy.”

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/kerr-new-md-blackwell-library-supply.html#>

Was talking to the energetic and vibrant **Vicki Cohn** (Executive Vice President & Managing Editor, **Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.**, publishers) the other day. She reminded me that her son, **Kevin Cohn**, works at **Atypon** as Director of Operations. **Kevin** has spoken at the **Charleston Conference** several times!

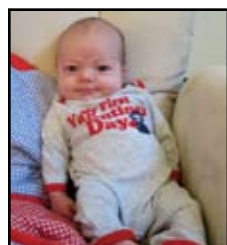


Photo of **Kevin Ricords** and **Jackie LaPlaca Ricords’** new baby, **Easton Matthew**.

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