

GIC SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER BIOS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH - KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Stephen Black C'93, Director of The Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama

Stephen Black is the Director of The Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama. Black studied American history at The University of Pennsylvania where he completed his bachelor's degree in 1993, graduating magna cum laude, before attending Yale Law School where he graduated in 1997. Following law school, Stephen moved to Birmingham to become involved in public affairs and to practice law at the firm Maynard, Cooper & Gale. After three years in private practice, he spent a year serving as an assistant to the Governor, where he researched policy issues and worked on economic development projects. In 2004, he created Impact: An Alabama Student Service Initiative, the state's first nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and implementing substantive service-learning projects in coordination with select universities and junior colleges throughout the state. In 2008, Black was selected as one of ten recipients nationwide for the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award, out of more than 800 nominations, for creating and developing the FocusFirst vision screening initiative. The award is given annually to individuals who demonstrate creativity and commitment in addressing society's most pressing health issues. In April 2009, Black received the 2009 Children's Advocate Award from Childcare Resources.

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill GR'05, Associate Professor of Education at Teachers College at Columbia University

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill is one of the leading hip-hop generation intellectuals in the country. His work, which covers topics such as hip-hop culture, politics, sexuality, education and religion, has appeared in numerous journals, magazines, books, and anthologies. Dr. Hill has lectured widely and provides regular commentary for media outlets like NPR, Washington Post, Essence Magazine, and New York Times. Dr. Hill has been a regular guest on Fox News Channel, CNN, MSNBC, and CourtTV. A nationally syndicated columnist, his writing appears weekly in Metro Newspapers. His award-winning daily blog is updated on his website, [ww.MarcLamontHill.com](http://www.MarcLamontHill.com).

In Fall 2009, he joins the faculty of Columbia University as Associate Professor of Education at Teachers College. He will also hold an affiliated faculty appointment in African American Studies at the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University.

Since his days as a youth in Philadelphia, Dr. Hill has been a social justice activist and organizer. He is a founding board member of My5th, a non-profit organization devoted to educating youth about their legal rights and responsibilities. Dr. Hill also works closely with the ACLU Drug Reform Project, focusing on drug informant policy. In addition to his political work, Dr. Hill continues to work directly with African American and Latino youth. In 2001, he started a literacy project that uses hip-hop culture to increase school engagement and reading skills among high school students. He also continues to organize and teach adult literacy courses for high school dropouts in Philadelphia and Camden.

In 2005, Ebony Magazine named him one of America's top 30 Black leaders under 30 years old.

Dr. Hill is the author of *Beats, Rhymes, and Classroom Life: Hip-Hop Pedagogy, and the Politics of Identity* and the co-editor of *Media, Learning, and Sites of Possibility* and *The Anthropology of Education Reader*. He is currently completing two manuscripts: *Knowledge of Self: Race, Masculinity, and the Politics of Reading*; and *You Ain't Heard It From Me: Snitching, Rumors and Other People's Business in Hip-Hop America*.

Trained as an anthropologist of education, Dr. Hill holds a Ph.D. (with distinction) from the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on the intersections between youth culture, identity, and educational processes. He is particularly interested in locating various sites of possibility for identity work, resistance, and knowledge production outside of formal schooling contexts. Particular sites of inquiry include hip-hop culture, urban fiction, and African American bookstores.

Kenric Tsethlikai, Director of Language & Culture Programs at Penn Lauder CIBER (Moderator)

Kenric Tsethlikai is the Director of Language & Culture Programs at the Lauder Institute. The Institute is committed to preparing global business leaders in advanced language and cross-cultural training. He oversees the Institute's eight language programs on campus and abroad, and works as a consultant to the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business.

A native of the Zuni Pueblo (NM) tribe, he earned his degrees in French from Dartmouth College (B.A.) and Stanford University (M.A. and Ph.D.) and regularly trains instructors in teaching for language proficiency through several professional organizations. At the University of Pennsylvania, Kenric oversees the language programs of the Title VI Penn Lauder CIBER Program of the Department of Education. He also serves on the NAGPRA committee for the Penn Museum and other advisory committees.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

Panel Title: “Art and Change: The Cultural Aesthetics of Community Transformation”

Tracy Broyles, Executive Director of SpiralQ

Tracy Broyles brings a unique blend of experience in creating and managing community-based arts programs. For the past ten years, Tracy has worked with disadvantaged and adjudicated youth in Cleveland, OH, Northeastern PA, and Washington, D.C. Her work began when she created an after-school and summer arts program for youth in Charlottesville, Virginia. This work was complemented by the founding of Tiny Town Theatre Troupe, work inspired by her contacts with Bread and Puppet Theatre. Broyles is also a visual and performing artist whose work has been seen in Cleveland, NYC, and here in Philadelphia's Fringe Festival.

Louis Massiah, Founder and Executive Director of Scribe Video Center

Louis Massiah is an independent documentary filmmaker whose films often explore historical and political subjects. A MacArthur Foundation fellow, his works include *W.E.B. Du Bois - a Biography in Four Voices* and *Louise Thompson Patterson: In Her Own Words*, a biography of the activist and organizer. His current project for public television, *Haytian Stories*, examines the complex relationship between the United States and Haiti. He has used the documentary as a tool for exploring community histories in *The Bombing of Osage Avenue*, on the 1985 Philadelphia police bombing, and as a producer/director of *Power!* and *A Nation of Law?*, two films for the PBS series *Eyes on the Prize II*.

Massiah is the founder, and executive director of, the Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia, a media arts organization that provides low-cost workshops and equipment access to emerging video/filmmakers. Currently, he is conducting the *Precious Places Citywide Community History Project*, a series of short documentaries produced collaboratively with 40 neighborhood organizations in and around Philadelphia. Massiah has received awards from Columbia-DuPont, the Global Village Documentary Festival, the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, and fellowships from the Pew Trust and the Rockefeller Foundation. Aside from teaching at Scribe, Massiah has been a lecturer and resident artist at the Princeton University Atelier, Haverford College, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Ali Richardson, Co-founder and Director of Music Education of the CODA Program

Born and raised in Newark and East Orange, New Jersey, Ali Richardson spent his childhood participating in various activities such as local choirs, African drumming, debate, and television production. He credits his parents with first exposing him to the art of storytelling and notes that he learned early in life the value of art and music as healing forces. Ali would go on to graduate from Lehigh University, where he studied English Literature and participated in musical theater and began to hone his skills as a performance poet.

Ali Richardson went on to teach English Literature to middle school students in Newark, New Jersey and subsequently lead an After School program at the Free Library in Philadelphia. In the Summer of 2004, Ali Richardson teamed up with Nathan Lee Jones, a local producer and friend, to found the CODA Program, a Philadelphia-based company dedicated to providing quality youth music workshops and educational solutions to students at schools, museums, libraries, and

community centers. The CODA (Community Outreach, Development, and Achievement) Program has serviced thousands of youth throughout the East Coast for over four years.

Inspired by Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, KRS-One and John Coltrane, Ali notes that African concepts of community and the works of authors like Na'im Akbar have also provided him with an important cultural framework he then integrated throughout the CODA Program. As importantly, Richardson understood the value of documenting these experiences for students—connecting youth with the creative processes for developing music.

Mr. Richardson has created and hosted a variety of events including “The Family Vibe” at Doc Watson’s and “The World Music Jam Session” at Dahlak. He has worked as a guitarist for Ronin Ali in a soul vocal performance band, Toni Blackman, a published poet and emcee who would ultimately go on to tour the East Coast and Germany with, and serves as Musical Director for Aaron Mingo and the AskForMercy Orchestra.

Ali Richardson also serves on the Board of Directors with OnTrackAmerica, a non-profit company working to improve economic disparity through the efficient utilization of railroads. He is also working on the Hip-hop project, Universal U, a joint musical venture between himself (as his alias Text Rich) and Industrial Death, drawing on diverse musical influences to channel poetry and hip-hop-styled verse.

Hazami Sayed, Executive Director of Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture

Hazami Sayed is the Founder and Executive Director of Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, a Philadelphia-based organization dedicated to educating youth about Arabic language, arts, and culture.

Through a variety of artistic media, Al-Bustan provides forums for Arab American youth to develop greater knowledge of their heritage, creatively express themselves, and navigate their identity within American society; while exposing non-Arab youth to Arabs and Arab culture and promoting cross-cultural awareness and exchange among youth, families, educators and the general public.

Sayed, an Arab-American and graduate of Columbia University and Stanford University, is an architect and has worked in the fields of architecture and urban development in Philadelphia and New York City. She is also a photographer and has exhibited her work in Philadelphia. She is the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 11 years.

Maori Holmes, Co-Founder of Black Lily Film & Music Festival (Moderator)

Maori Karmael Holmes is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and producer. An original member of the Freddie Hendricks’ Youth Ensemble of Atlanta, she has produced short documentaries and music videos about underground hip-hop and contemporary pop art. Her films have been screened internationally at festivals, museums, and universities, as well as broadcast throughout the US. She has taught at Scribe Video Center, Temple University, and Villanova University. As a curator, she has presented programs at Painted Bride Art Center, Swarthmore College, and International House (Philadelphia). She is a recipient of the Leeway Foundation’s Art and

Change Grants and Transformation Award as well as grants from Independence Media, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Women's Way. Maori is a co-founder and producing artistic director of the Black Lily Film & Music Festival and in 2009 was named a Creative Ambassador by the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation. Born in Los Angeles, her fascination with popular culture and fashion is the result of being raised in a post-Hippie household with limited access to television and a secret stash of Barbie dolls.

Panel Title: "Race, Class and Invisibility: Communities Confronting Inequalities"

Tina Pierce Fragoso, Regional Director of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Pennsylvania and Member of Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Indians Of New Jersey

Tina Pierce Fragoso (Nanticoke Leni-Lenape) is the Regional Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania. Her designated area includes Nebraska, Kansas, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Western Pennsylvania and Morris, Union and Warren Counties in NJ. Beyond her region, Tina plans to provide leadership and expertise to her fellow admission officers in Indian recruitment and has begun by planning a southern Kansas-northern Oklahoma meeting in early October. Tina received her BA from Princeton University. While at Princeton, Tina worked in the Admissions office on recruitment related projects. She did her graduate work at Stanford University and was involved in programs related to the Stanford American Indian Organization and the Native American Cultural Center there. Tina is the daughter of the Co-Chief of her tribe in Bridgeton, NJ and has most recently served as tribal manager where she successfully wrote and received numerous grants.

Bill Price, Organizer for the Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program

Bill Price was a resident of the southern West Virginia coalfields for more than 30 years. He has experienced the feelings of anger and helplessness that invariably occur when irresponsible coal-mining methods bring economic and environmental devastation to communities in the coal-producing region of Central Appalachia.

Bill became active in the environmental movement in 2001 after flooding heavily damaged the community where he lives. The failure of a large sediment pond on a mountaintop removal mining operation directly above this small community contributed to the severity of the flood, which destroyed and damaged several hundred homes in the valley downstream. Shortly afterward, he became a member of Coal River Mountain Watch, a local citizens' activist group dedicated to ending this destructive mining practice.

In 2003, Bill had the opportunity to begin working with the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program. The program works in coal-producing areas of six states (West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee) with members of grassroots organizations involved in various coal-related issues.

Bill is also involved in co-facilitating diversity and Dismantling Racism workshops. He now lives in Cleveland OH and continues to work on justice issues in Appalachia and throughout the Country.

Pallavi Shinde

Pallavi Shinde-Khairnar, with years of experience working with children, youth, women and marginalized people in India, currently works in the mental health field in Philadelphia. With a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Mumbai (Bombay) in India, she is committed to social interventions with a rights-based approach. She is a board member of the Omni Development Relief Fund (ODRF), USA (www.odrf.org).

Andrew Lamas, Professor at the University of Pennsylvania (Moderator)

Andrew Lamas began teaching at the University of Pennsylvania in 1990. His primary appointment is in the School of Arts & Sciences' Urban Studies Program, where he focuses on the theoretical and practical dimensions, as well as the philosophical and religious bases, of social justice and economic democracy—in the context of urbanization. He also lectures in other schools and programs at Penn, including the School of Social Policy & Practice, where he teaches courses for students pursuing degrees and careers in economic development, community development finance, NGO/non-profit leadership, and related fields. He participates in the Global Gender Group sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, and he is an Affiliated Faculty of Women's Studies and the Alice Paul Center as well as a Faculty Affiliate of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center.

He was a founding board member of the Center for Community Self-Help (which, since 1980, has provided \$5.57 billion in financing to more than 62,000 small businesses, nonprofits, and homebuyers in North Carolina and California, with a particular focus on low-wealth minorities and women), and he was a co-founder of The Reinvestment Fund -- TRF -- (which provides financing—with more than \$480 million of capital under management—for affordable housing and community development in the Greater Philadelphia region). He has also served on the boards of several arts and educational institutions, including Big Small Theater, InterAct Theatre, Miquon School, and Allens Lane Art Center. In the 1980s, he served as the Managing Director of PACE, a non-profit organization based in Philadelphia, PA, which was one of the nation's leading providers of technical assistance for cooperatives and was the developer (in collaboration with the United Food & Commercial Workers union) of the O&O Supermarkets, the nation's first network of employee owned and operated supermarkets. For more than twenty years, he has volunteered as the coordinator of a cooperative, feminist, softball league for girls and young women (grades K-12) in the Philadelphia neighborhood of Mount Airy.

In 2007 and 2008, he was on the National Urban Policy Committee of the Presidential Campaign of Barack Obama. He currently serves on the board of the Bread & Roses Community Fund (which has distributed more than \$6 million to groups in the Philadelphia area working for access to health care, economic justice, a clean, safe environment, civil and human rights, and peace) and, on a project basis, is a senior consultant with Praxis Consulting Group—working with employee owned firms, community development financial institutions, and non-profit institutions. He is the website editor of the International Herbert Marcuse Society <http://www.MarcuseSociety.org> .

Recent conference papers and publications include the following: “From Slavery to Liberation: The Critique of Wage Employment and the Shared Ownership Alternative in Nkrumah's Africa and Lincoln's America,” Central Pennsylvania Consortium African American Studies

Conference, 2004; “From Black Bottom to Baghdad: Shared Ownership for Addressing Urban Poverty,” Urban Affairs Association Conference, 2004; “Thinking Critically about Microfinance: Lessons for the Middle East,” Middle East Economics Association / American Economics Association Conference, 2005; “Race, Poverty, and Shared Ownership,” in Chester Hartman, ed., *Poverty & Race in America: The Emerging Agendas* (Lexington Books, 2006). In 2007, with support from the Provost’s Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program at the University of Pennsylvania, he launched a research project on alternative currency in communities across the globe.

He is the recipient of the Katz Award for Teaching Excellence in Urban Studies (2000) and the CGS Distinguished Teaching Award (2005). Professor Lamas received a B.A. in Humanities and Political Science from Davidson College (Phi Beta Kappa), an M.A. in Economic Development from the University of London [SOAS/LSE], and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Panel Title: “Innovations in Education Reform: New Solutions for Philadelphia”

Chris Bower, Director of Community Schools - Netter Center

In 2002, Christopher Bower, Director of Community Schools at the Netter Center, began working at Sayre High School where he was responsible for coordinating tutors and other student partnerships to support their out-of-school time programs. In 2004, I wrote a Beacon grant on behalf of the University to keep Sayre open until 9PM and on weekends (started the Sayre Community School), which we secured. I continued the work full time upon graduation in 2005, and as a result of various fundraising efforts, I currently supervise 12 full time Penn staff across seven schools around the Sayre and West Philadelphia High feeder patterns (we call these schools "university-assisted community schools"). These individuals are responsible for coordinating the various university resources that interface with the school (school day and after school) as well as managing the school during out-of-school time for after school, summer, and various other programs. The FT and PT staff are supported by students (CSSP), faculty (academically based community service), and staff of the university, as well as various community partners who work through the community schools to support children, teachers, parents, etc in the West Philadelphia community.

Johnny Irizarry, Director of the Center for Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina at the University of Pennsylvania

Johnny Irizarry holds a Masters Degree in Urban Education from Temple University and a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from Philadelphia College of Art (University of the Arts). In 1996 he received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, from Swarthmore College.

For seven (7) years before coming to the University of Pennsylvania to serve as Director of the Center for Hispanic Excellence: La Casa Latina, Irizarry served as Executive Director/CEO of The Lighthouse, a 115-year-old multi-service community based Neighborhood Center located in North Philadelphia.

Irizarry has served as an educator in various community-based charter schools (Eugenio Maria de Hostos and Esperanza HS). Prior to that he worked as Program Specialist for Puerto Rican and Latino Studies for the School District of Philadelphia's Office of Curriculum Support from 1997-2000. Before joining the Philadelphia School District Irizarry served for twelve(12) years as Executive Director of Taller Puertorriqueño (Puerto Rican/Latino arts & cultural center located in North Philadelphia). During this time Irizarry was a founding board member of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture and is currently serving another term as board member of NALAC.

Irizarry has served as adjunct faculty at La Salle University and currently at Temple University teaching Latino and Puerto Rican Studies courses. He lectures and facilitates workshops on the development of Puerto Rican and Latino history, arts and culture, community arts, culturally inclusive education, arts education and arts and non-profit management.

In April of this year the Mayor of Philadelphia, Michael Nutter appointed Irizarry to the Philadelphia School Reform Commission to serve a 4 year term.

Marc Mannella, Founder of KIPP Philadelphia Charter School

Marc Mannella founded KIPP Philadelphia Charter School (KPCS) in 2003, and served as its School Leader for five years. Prior to founding KPCS, Mannella taught middle school science in Baltimore as a Teach For America corps member, and then taught high school biology and environmental science at a charter high school in Philadelphia. Seeing very bright children in his high school classes struggle to do basic mathematics and read science textbooks, he decided to take on education reform on a larger scale, which led him to KIPP. Because of KPCS' initial success, Mannella has taken on a new challenge as CEO of KIPP Philadelphia Schools. In this role he has laid forth a plan for KIPP to grow from one high performing charter school to a cluster of ten high performing charter schools, by 2019. At full enrollment this cluster of schools will serve grades K-12, and increase the number of minority students in North and West Philadelphia who are prepared to matriculate to college by 36%. Mannella holds a BA in Psychology and Biology from the University of Rochester, and an M.Ed. in Education Leadership from National Louis University.

Sheyla Medina C'10, West Philadelphia Recess Initiative - Netter Center

Sheyla Medina is completing her Bachelor's Degree in Health and Societies from the College of Arts and Sciences in May 2010. During her time at Penn, Sheyla has worked closely with the undergraduate latino community through the Latino Dialogue Institute and the Latino Ivy League Conference and with the LGBTQ community at Penn through Allies Gay-Straight Alliance. Her most recent involvement has been serving as a medical interpreter and translator for Penn Language Link, a Research Peer Advisor for the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF), and a past leader of the West Philadelphia Recess Initiative Undergraduate Leadership Team since late Spring of 2008. Sheyla is excited to see the Recess Initiative grow to serve elementary school students at Lea and Wilson Schools.

Tracee Thomas, Executive Director, Ase Academy (Moderator)

Tracee Thomas is the Executive Director of Ase Academy, a mentoring program that provides academic and cultural enrichment for secondary students in the Philadelphia area. Tracee is an

educator at heart and is dedicated to education in its most genuine forms. She is a certified Rites of Passage instructor and adult literacy tutor, and a member of the Philadelphia Teaching Fellows, which allowed her the opportunity to teach English as well as Biology and Science to students with special needs in the School District of Philadelphia. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she earned Bachelors Degree in Africana Studies and English. Tracee is a 2005 recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Colors. She is passionate about education, community building, and ensuring that young people have the necessary tools to transition into being healthy, balanced citizens of the world.

Panel Title: “Public Health Disparities: Local and National Communities”

Gilbert Gee, Associate Professor, UCLA School of Public Health

Gilbert C. Gee, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his bachelors in neuroscience from Oberlin College and his doctorate in public health from the Johns Hopkins University. He has postdoctoral training in sociology from Indiana University. Prior to coming to UCLA, he was on the faculty at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Gee has published over 50 refereed articles and book chapters on how stressors at multiple levels may contribute to racial/ethnic health disparities among Asian American and other ethnic groups. A focus of his work is on the measurement of racial discrimination and its associations with chronic illness. His current research includes studies in the United States, Japan and the Philippines. His work also examines how neighborhoods and environmental exposures may contribute to health disparities.

His research has received several awards, including the “Best Published Paper of 2007” from the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus of the American Public Health Association; two Scientific and Technical Achievement Awards (STAA) in 2008 from the Environmental Protection Agency; and a Merit Award from the NIH in 2008 in recognition of his work with the Multicultural Survey Methods Group to develop measures of racial/ethnic discrimination.

Brian Green, Executive Director of the Safeguards Project

Bio will be available shortly.

Susie Lee C'97, Senior Programme Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation with the GAVI Alliance Secretariat

Ms. Susie Lee has been working professionally in the public health field for over ten years. Currently, she is Senior Programme Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation with the GAVI Alliance Secretariat. The GAVI Alliance is a global health partnership representing stakeholders in immunization from both private and public sectors (partners include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, vaccine manufacturers and donors). The mission of the GAVI Alliance is to save children’s lives and protect people’s health by increasing access to immunisation in poor countries. At the Secretariat, she has managed non-country specific grants, worked on leveraging the technical expertise of partners in new program development and currently works on issues around monitoring & evaluation. Prior to joining GAVI, Ms. Lee

worked at community-based organizations and the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene in New York City, developing and administering public health programs for low-income, at risk communities. She has also worked at national and local domestic policy and advocacy organizations addressing a range of issues around children's health and well being including health insurance access, State maternal and child health programs, and child care. She received her Master of Public Health degree from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania.