

March 2015

11th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium Wrap Up

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WALTER RODNEY SYMPOSIUM ---- REPORT

The 11th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium

March 21st - 22nd, 2014

“Africa: The Gateway”

The Symposium explored economic development, policies, governance, relationships, social justice and the arts as they relate to the continent.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The keynote speaker for the Eleventh Annual Walter Rodney Symposium was *Dr. Shelby F. Lewis*, Professor Emeritus at Clark Atlanta University, Executive Director of The Lewis Foundation and international development consultant.

The distinguished guest speaker for the Symposium was *Dr. Robert (Bobby) Hill*, Professor Emeritus of History and Research Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), renowned Marcus Garvey Scholar and a Visiting Fellow at The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), University of the West Indies at Mona, Jamaica, W.I.

HIGHLIGHTS

REMARKS from *Her Excellency, Ambassador Tebelelo Mazile Seretse*, Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the United States

A CONVERSATION with *Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o*, University of California, Irvine

PRESENTATIONS BY

Dr. Akanmu Adebayo (Kennesaw State University), *Dr. Chapurukha Kusimba* (American University), *Dr. Guy Martin* (Winston-Salem State University), *Dr. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja* (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), *Friends of the Congo* incl. *Kwame Lyndon Wilburg* (Host/WRFG Beyond Borders/Atlanta FOTC), and *Maurice Carney* (Founder/Executive Director FOTC National)

GROUNDINGS SESSIONS facilitated by *Attorney Mawuli Mel Davis* (Davis Bozeman Law), and *Dr. Makungu Akinyela* (Georgia State University)

CULTURAL LINEUP featuring *Amkoullel* (Mali), *Bocafloja* (Mexico/NYC), *Keur-Gui* (Senegal) and *Vox Sambou* (Haiti)

Held at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, 111 James P. Brawley Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA.

THE 11TH ANNUAL

WALTER RODNEY SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 21 - 22, 2014

AUC ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY
111 JAMES P. BRAWLEY DR. SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314



Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library





Dr. Jacqueline Royster, Dr. Shelby Lewis, Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall and "Able" Mable Thomas, State Representative, sitting as representative members of our legendary audience.



Mawuli Mel Davis, Esq., Asha T. Rodney, Esq., Dr. Patricia Rodney and Dr. Makungu Akinyela pose for a post-Groundings photo.



Friends of the Congo (L to R: Kwame Wilburg, Nia Mitchell, Dr. Sam Livingston and Dr. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja) panel "Breaking the Silence: Why Global Solidarity with Congo Matters."



Vox Sambou, Thiat and Kilifeu participate in the Groundings session by sharing their experiences with hip-hop and social movement in their countries.



Dr. Robert Hill recalls his time with Dr. Walter Rodney.



Dr. Jesse Benjamin, Dr. Kanini Z. Rodney-Phillips and Asha T. Rodney, Esq., pose with WRF comrade BocaFloja.



Ras Kofi and Dr. Ward Churchill in the hip hop Groundings session.



The audience directs their attention to a question during a Q&A session.



Dr. Robert Hill and Dr. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja greet each other.



Kennesaw State University students and alumni, Carlton Kweku Duncan, Njoki wa Ngugi and Manny Berry.



Dr. Jesse Benjamin, WRF board member, with Dr. Chapurukha Kusimba.



Mawuli Mel Davis, Esq., initiates the Groundings sessions.



Her Excellency Dr. Tebelelo Mazile Seretse, Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the US, poses with Dr. Patricia Rodney during a break in the lectures.



A standing ovation for Dr. Robert Hill.