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**Delmore "Buddy" Daye  
Africentric Learning Institute**

Community Update – Volume 2, Spring 2014

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**Introducing - Our New Logo**



*The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Africentric Learning Institute is dedicated to improving  
the educational experiences, opportunities and outcomes for African Nova Scotian  
learners and educators.*

5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
902-407-3200 • [www.dbdali.ca](http://www.dbdali.ca)

## Justine Colley strikes a fine balance



Since she was eight years old, Saint Mary's Basketball player extraordinaire, Justine Colley has been a student of the game of life. A native of East Preston, she has figured out how to balance her passion for the game of basketball and academic studies. She attributes much of her success to her family and friends and an amazing supporting cast of people made up of her team mates, coaches and professors.

Justine became the all-time scoring leader in Canadian Interuniversity Sport women's basketball with an astonishing 2,376 points. She finished her brilliant university career with five selections as a first-team AUS all-star, four as an all-Canadian (including three first-team nods), one on the CIS all-rookie squad, as well as three CIS scoring crowns. The 22-year-old led the Huskies to a 20-0 league season and a program-best silver medal in the CIS 2014 title game.

Her academic journey has been equally spectacular. A graduate of the Halifax Grammar School's International Baccalaureate program, Justine established a work ethic that complemented her athletic practice forcing her to stay grounded. This year, she was the award winner of the Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) Award as CIS female athlete of the year, earning her a scholarship prize of \$10,000 to attend a Canadian University graduate school.

As she begins the next phase of her journey, Justine looks forward to starting her career in finance, while travelling and connecting with youth through coaching. She has a deep understanding that her success is hers to define.

We're certain there's nothing but greatness ahead for this all-star!

## Chair's Message



Jocelyn Dorrington

On behalf of the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Africentric Learning Institute, I am pleased to share this Spring update with you after a very productive winter.

Over the past several months, we undertook the work of connecting our service offerings to a new logo – an image that reflects the services that we provide, and captures the essence of what we represent from an organizational perspective. I am pleased to officially unveil our new logo, as seen on the cover of this update.

The Pan-African colors - red, yellow, black and green - represent the African Community. Each color is illustrated by a different page in a book, which represents the connection to learning, research and education. The Symbol in the middle symbolizes a source of light and inspiration. The literal meaning is "Chief of the Adinkra symbols" – the symbol of greatness, charisma and leadership. It is said to have played an inspiring role in the development of other African Adinkra symbols.

### *Message from the Chair cont'd...*

These traits are integrally important as we continue to advance our primary goal of helping African Nova Scotia learners and educators achieve academic excellence.

In keeping with the theme of leadership, we are working hard to staff the DBDALI with a full time Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The search is on and we are confident that in the coming months we will be successful in engaging a competent, passionate

and skilled professional. We are also encouraging members of our community to consider joining our Board of Directors.

As a Board Member, you have an opportunity to help guide our organization as we acquire new knowledge, explore and support new ways of learning, deliver innovative programs, engage in educational research and provide learning opportunities for the growth and development of African Nova Scotia learners and educators.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

### **Melinda Daye receives 2014 Education Week Partners Award:**

Elected to the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) in October 2012 for a four-year term as the African Nova Scotia representative, Melinda Daye has over three decades of experience as an educator. She is a long-time advocate for children, women, and those less fortunate. Congratulations Melinda – you embody the spirit of this award.

**Recognized by Canada Post:** Africville is one of Nova Scotia's oldest black communities in Canada and remains an enduring symbol of the need for vigilance in defense of African-Canadian communities and institutions. Hogan's Alley was the first concentrated community of people of African descent in Vancouver; while geographically small, it was culturally significant as a vibrant destination for food and a hotbed of jazz and blues.

**Rising Stars:** Nova Scotia celebrated this year's 30<sup>th</sup> African Heritage Month, awarding the African Heritage Month plaque to six youth who have and continue to demonstrate leadership in communities across N.S.



## Meet the DBDALI Board of Directors



### Board Member Profile: W. Dean Smith, Board Secretary

Dean Smith is currently employed as legal counsel with the Federal Department of Justice. Prior to joining the Federal Public Service, Dean was employed as legal counsel to the Provincial Department of Justice. He has litigated civil matters on behalf of the Attorney General at all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada, Federal Court of Appeal, and the Courts of

Appeal for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. He is co-chair of the Dr. P. Anthony Johnstone Scholarship Committee for human rights sponsored by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame Society, and if that's not busy enough, he volunteers as a certified hockey instructor to the Black Youth Ice Hockey Initiative. He is co-writer and narrator of the audio presentation "*Africville: Not For Sale*". From Whitney Pier, Cape Breton, Dean has lived and worked in Halifax since 1985.

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## The Black Youth Ice Hockey Initiative:

*A partnership with the Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame Society (BIS), & Sport Nova Scotia's Support 4 Sports Initiative and sponsored by the DBDALI*

The Black Youth Hockey Initiative was inspired by brothers George and Darril Fosty, Canadian researchers and authors of *BLACK ICE: The Lost History of the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes, 1895 – 1925*. This 18-week program introduces hockey to African Canadian youth between the ages of 4 and 12 years old, who may not otherwise consider hockey a sport in which to participate. They learn the basic skills of skating and hockey, in a controlled family environment and taught by skilled and caring hockey instructors who are certified by Hockey Nova Scotia.

"This program encourages black youth and their families to consider ice hockey as a sports option helping them to overcome the high costs and stereotypes they have traditionally faced," says Wilfred Jackson, President of BIS. "Although there is no cost to participate, each player must have a complete set of hockey equipment. If required, Hockey Nova Scotia helps support participants by supplying as much equipment as possible."

To date, this program has helped over 100 young players learn basic ice hockey skills with peers of the same background and skill level. About 20% of program participants have continued to pursue hockey at the Minor hockey league level. In 2013, the Black Youth Hockey Initiative Program won the Sport Nova Scotia "Sport Makes a Difference" award.

## What is our Role

At the DBDALI, our primary goal is simple: to enable African Nova Scotian learners reach their full potential by ensuring our education system meets their needs and those of the province's educators.

We are passionate about putting more Africentric resources into the hands of Nova Scotia educators and learners.

"We have a deep commitment to improve educational outcomes for African Nova Scotian students from pre-school to adulthood," says Yvonne Atwell, DBDALI Director. "To do that, we need to improve education for African Nova Scotia life-long learners through educational research, informed policies and practices."



This requires a balanced, collaborative and relevant approach to Africentric education which involves working with our regional partners, the provincial government, educators, learners and the African Nova Scotia community to build more Africentric content into the school curriculum. It means engaging in research and best practices, and developing policies and programs that can be put into practice.



## An Honourable Retirement



**The Hon. Dr. Donald H. Oliver, Q.C., B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., LL.D. (Hon.)**

Donald H. Oliver was born in Wolfville Nova Scotia November 16, 1938. The son of the late Helena and Clifford H. Oliver, he grew up in a devout Baptist family of five children. The life of his family was largely governed by work, religion and music – values which would later define the nature of his achievements and those of his brother and sisters. The family's devotional practices also focused on community and the service of others.

After graduating from Wolfville High School in 1956, Donald Oliver majored in history at Acadia University and completed a minor in both philosophy and English literature.

He graduated with honours in 1960, earning the Ralph M. Hunt Prize in Political Science and delivering the valedictorian address. In 1961, he enrolled in the Faculty of Law at Dalhousie University as a Sir James Dunn scholar.

He graduated three years later, receiving the G.O. Forsythe Prize for Scholarship and Character.

### *Senator Donald Oliver cont'd...*

Over his long and illustrious career he has been a lawyer, developer, farmer, author, lecturer and a professor but perhaps most importantly, an advocate for his community.

Called to the Bar in 1965, Oliver began practicing law in Nova Scotia and became active in the professional community, serving on the board of several legal committees. He was a partner in the firm Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales, practicing mainly in civil litigation, from 1965 to 1990, and subsequently at two other law firms for a total of 36 years.

He taught at Dalhousie University Law School as a part-time professor for 14 years, and taught law courses at the Technical University of Nova Scotia and St. Mary's University.

A long-time activist in the Progressive Conservative Party, Oliver served as the party's director of legal affairs through six federal elections.

He also served as a federal vice-president of the party and director of its fundraising wing, the PC Canada Fund. Oliver also served as Constitution Chairman and member of the Finance Committee for the PC Association of Nova Scotia, and is a former Vice President of the Party.

Appointed to the Senate on Sept. 7, 1990, at the recommendation of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Oliver became the first African Canadian to be appointed to the Senate and has served as a member of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, and as the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Transport and Communications. In March 2010, Oliver was named Speaker pro tempore of the Senate of Canada. Donald Oliver retired from the Senate of Canada last November; his work in advancing the interests of visible minorities in Canada and around the world continues.

Thank you for your honourable and tireless leadership.

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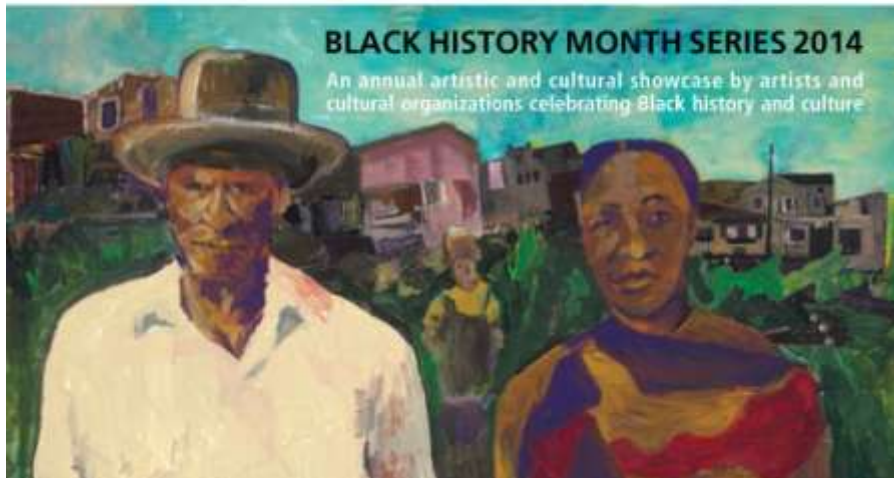
## DBDALI Graduate Research Fellowship Program

The DBDALI engages and empowers members of African Canadian and Nova Scotian communities with opportunities to create the necessary changes that improve educational experiences, opportunities, and outcomes. We support both emerging and established research on topics, models, and practices that advance the academic achievement of African Canadian learners, and conduct research on topics and issues related to the lifelong learning achievements of learners of African descent.

This Program will assist students of African ancestry to complete post-secondary education at the graduate level while providing an opportunity for DBDALI to strengthen its relationship with 'up and coming' researchers in the African Nova Scotian community. Selected students are required to actively participate in regularly scheduled research sessions at the DBDALI office (in person or through distance technology) during which students will discuss research issues, share their research, provide peer support to other Graduate Research Fellows, receive mentorship from established academics, and provide mentorship to undergraduate students of African ancestry. Selected students are awarded up to \$5000 in one academic year for a maximum of two years to use towards tuition, textbooks, and supplies.

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## An Expression of Art, Culture and Education



Kim Cain, educator and artist for over 20 years, has been creating Africentric works of art that capture the essence of African Canadians. At a young age, Kim realized she saw the world differently. With sketchbook in hand, she began her journey to capture her views of the world through art. By the time high school came around, Kim had realized that if she could be connected to the past and affect the future through art it would allow her to pursue a life of work that she would find most pleasurable as both an artist and an educator.

Always drawn to figurative work, she drew inspiration from the African American Artist, Ernie Barnes "Sugar Shack" piece. His work would impact her exploration and the development of her own style. Growing up in Toronto, Kim was part of a multicultural community that gave her a unique perspective on the Canadian Diaspora. Her blend of traditional African styles, colors with modern imagery has become a trademark of her work.

In 1995, Kim came home to her Nova Scotian roots, where her parents are from originally and have retired. Her formal training began a year later at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design where she obtained both her Bachelor of Arts degree and a degree in Art Education. She has always been an artist and an educator who immerses herself in what her art represents. Teaching has given Kim the means to provide her students with the ability and tools to express themselves in their own art.

"In my work I strive to reveal the diverse communities of Canadian Blacks in an attempt to open up a different dialogue around issues that relate not just to African Canadians but to all Canadians."

This year, as part of Black History Month, Kim was recognized by the Black Artist Network Dialogue (band) for her work. Her piece entitled "Diasporic Remix" was selected as the official artwork for the TD Bank 2014 Black History Month Series, *Then and Now* Poster that was displayed in all of the TD branches.

## Dr. Noma LeMoine: Coming to Halifax

This August, the DBDALI and the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education are pleased to host Dr. Noma LeMoine at a seminar where she will speak on language acquisition as it relates to children of African descent.

Participants will benefit from Dr. LeMoine's extensive knowledge on the positive impact a respectful knowledge of home language has on learning for students of African descent.

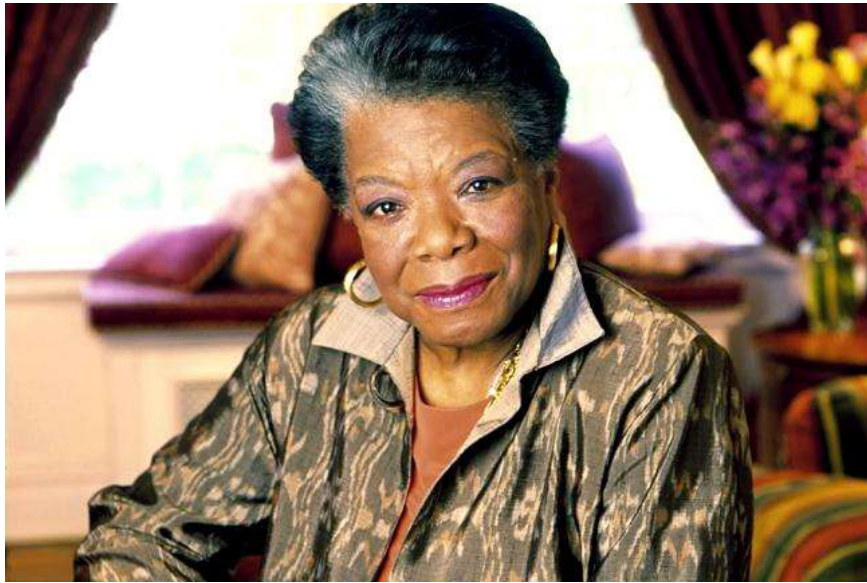
She is widely recognized as an expert in language, literacy acquisition and learning in North American populations of African descent. Dr. LeMoine will share culturally responsive instruction strategies - built on cultural and cognitive learning styles and share research-based methodologies that support language acquisition and learning.



We are honored to welcome Dr. LeMoine for this three-day event; it's an exciting opportunity for Nova Scotian educators to learn from her expertise.

To register call 902.424.5996 or visit <https://edufest.ednet.ns.ca>.

## A Phenomenal Woman



**1928-2014**

So much has and can be said about the phenomenal Maya Angelou - humanitarian, brilliant and award winning author and poet, civil rights activist, friend and warrior for equality and peace, Presidential Medal of Honour and National Medal of Arts recipient, speaker of six languages, a radiant spirit.

Maya Angelou often said: "The greatest agony is a story untold." She experienced great struggle in her life that left her silent for several years. But over time, she found her voice and with courage, grace and tenacity, overcame those struggles to become a prolific and eloquent storyteller of truth.

She left a lasting contribution to literature with works that included 'Still I Rise', 'Phenomenal Woman', and 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'. But more than that, what she has left behind is a legacy that lives in all who have heard or read or experienced her powerful words - a responsibility to use her autobiography as a tool to overcome our own challenges, to find the power and beauty in ourselves and help others to do the same.

Halifax's Poet Laureate El Jones said in a Global Maritimes interview, "You hear Martin Luther King in her voice. You hear James Baldwin in her voice. You hear the black church in her voice."

She taught us how to find our own voices. But not just our voice, she taught us how to use our voice to action. She has given people permission and acceptance to be honest and speak the truth - to not be ashamed but rather see the truth as a source of power and beauty.

Angelou's quotes are many and to pick only one that exemplifies this remarkable human being is virtually impossible. To close, in her words: "If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."

And amazing she was.



# Board Recruitment

## A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Africentric Learning Institute is run by a volunteer group of dedicated and passionate community members from various backgrounds, all respected professionals in their disciplinary areas of expertise.

We welcome community members who are interested in guiding our vision and mandate. Please contact Sheila Lucas-Cole for more information about the application and selection process and to discuss this exciting opportunity further.

## ABOUT OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The DBDALI Board of Directors consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Board Secretary and Directors at Large and is comprised of members from all regions of Nova Scotia.

Current Board Members include: Jocelyn Dorrington, Chairperson; Yvonne Atwell, Vice-Chair; Sheila Lucas-Cole, Treasurer; Paul Ash, Director; Susan M. Bringham, Director; Ed Matwawana, Director; Martin Morrison, Director; W. Dean Smith, Secretary.

The Board will be fully supported by the organization’s Chief Executive Officer and administrative staff.

Directors are responsible for the overall administration of the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Africentric Learning Institute and are key decision makers in the policy, procedure and overall general health of the organization.

The Board meets monthly and Directors are required to participate on a Standing Committee. Committee work takes additional time, which varies depending on the committee and time of year.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

In Swahili, a ‘Council of Elders’ or Board of Directors is referred to as the “Tyee” who are guided by Africentric philosophy and employ the key principles of integrity, respect, professionalism and collaboration. At the DBDALI, our “Tyee” focus on Africentric strategic leadership in a spirit of humanity, collectivity, and kindness.



If you have a passionate interest in knowing more about the DBDALI and what role you can play in helping to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia students and educators, let us know.

Call us at **902.407.3200** or visit us at **5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax.**

Check out our website at [www.dbdali.ca](http://www.dbdali.ca)