

Call for Papers, Panels & Posters

W. E. B. Du Bois 50th Anniversary Commemorative Conference

W.E.B. Du Bois and the Wings of Atlanta: A Commemorative Conference at Clark Atlanta University

The year 2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of the passing of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois. On his birthday in February of that year, it is fitting that Clark Atlanta University (CAU) celebrate his life and scholarship: Dr. Du Bois wrote his most influential works in the 23 years he spent as a professor at Atlanta University. Serving as faculty of the Departments of History and Economics, he taught at Atlanta University from 1897 to 1910, and then returned from 1934 to 1944 as chair of the Department of Sociology. Dr. Du Bois also had impact in the area of social work and as a novelist, poet and short story writer. The *W.E.B. Du Bois and the Wings of Atlanta Conference* will serve as a meeting at the crossroads of various paths of Du Bois's work. Conference participants will engage in an interdisciplinary and international introspection of the life, scholarship and activism of one of the most influential intellectuals of the 20th century.

In a four-day conference, beginning on February 20, 2013 and concluding on Du Bois's birthday of February 23, Clark Atlanta University will host panels that highlight his countless contributions, especially those produced in the 23 years of his tenure. Central works to be discussed include the *Phylon* journal (founded in 1940) and the Atlanta University Publications (which he directed 1898-1914), where he covered topics including African Americans in higher education, art, the Black church, urbanization, health, business, economics, and race relations in Georgia. Books published while in Atlanta are also central to the CAU discussion: *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), *Black Reconstruction* (1935) and *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept*, the second of his three autobiographies (1940).

The *Wings of Atlanta* conference seeks to bring together local, national and international scholars to explore themes in Dr. Du Bois's publications and collected papers in order to illuminate his experiences at Fisk University, Harvard University, University of Berlin, Atlanta University, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, New York, Chicago, Ghana and other areas where Du Bois lived and worked. Especially welcome are panels addressing the multitude of Du Boisian intellectual legacies and implications of his myriad research agendas.

This conference will be held as a conclusion to the year-long W. E. B. Du Bois Major Works Seminar Series hosted by the Clark Atlanta University Office of the President, Office of the Provost, School of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of History. The *W.E.B. Du Bois and the Wings of Atlanta Conference*, held on CAU's campus, offers a uniquely significant locale from which to commemorate, interrogate, and celebrate the life and work of this exquisitely educated and distinctly complex man.

As interest is wide but space limited, individual conference papers will be considered, but panels of 4-6 papers will be given preference. Panel proposals should be no more than 4 pages long and individual paper proposals no more than 2 pages. Panel submissions must identify the panel chair, names, phone numbers, email addresses, and institutional affiliation information for the chair and all panelists.

One-page proposals for undergraduate and graduate student posters are also encouraged.

Send proposals to Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans at sevans@cau.edu.

For questions or additional information, call Dr. Evans at 404-880-6352.

Conference proposals will be accepted between January 1, 2012 and July 1, 2012.

Acceptance notification: August 15, 2012.

Excerpt from "Of the Wings of Atlanta," chapter five in *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

The function of the university is not simply to teach bread-winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools, or to be a center of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.

