

# W.E.B. DU BOIS COLLEGE HOUSE



The House motto is the African-inspired phrase "It Takes a Village." The House coat of arms was designed in 1999 by resident LeAndra Marcelle.

**W.E.B. Du Bois College House** provides a vibrant, supportive environment for the pursuit of African American scholarship and culture. Inasmuch as African American life is a distinctive and rich area of the American experience, Du Bois provides a collegiate prism through which every facet of life might be observed and celebrated. In addition, the residents reflect the diversity of the American demographic as well as the international character of the University. The House is the center of activities sponsored by African American faculty, staff, students, and the West Philadelphia community. One of the oldest College Houses on campus, Du Bois is also distinguished by being the only House to offer its own endowed scholarship, made possible by more than 600 Black alumni and friends. In summer 2009, the House will get an exciting renovation that will include modern new windows, all new kitchen/bathroom appliances and furniture in student rooms, and upgraded flooring and lighting throughout the building.

Du Bois residents actively participate in creating House programs. The House Council and the GAs offer debates, lectures, panels and workshops having to do with current events, history, art, literature, music and politics, along with access to research, service, business, and important social networks. Co-sponsorships with campus organizations include the Center for Africana Studies, Black Student League, Pan-Asian American Community House, Six Directions (Penn's American Indian student group), Muslim Students Association, Greenfield Intercultural Center, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center, and Penn's Black Cultural Center, Makuu. The Faculty Master and senior staff support these partnerships and the initiatives they engender. They also provide intellectual and personal advising to residents while facilitating the academic support services. Freshman residents, in particular, appreciate this assistance.

Formal activities include art exhibitions in the Amistad Gallery; the *Souls of Du Bois Conference*, featuring lectures by prominent scholars; and the popular *Thanksgiving Gala and Food Drive*. Community service and research opportunities are supported by the House's *Paul Robeson Library and Research Center*, which comprises 2,500 books, periodicals, and tapes.

## Consciousness in Black Film and Theatre

Through monthly viewings and discussions, this program provides an historical and contemporary overview of issues pertaining to Blacks in film, video and theater, while addressing such questions as "What makes a film Black? Is it the characters or the audience?" A popular outing to see the Broadway production of *The Color Purple* inspired members to take a closer look at the various mediums of expressions regarding this important American novel. [Comprises 12% of House population.]

## Politics and Cultural Pluralism

One hundred years ago, W.E.B. Du Bois stated, "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line." In the 21st century, the "color line" is still a problem. This program explores contemporary relations among Blacks, Whites, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans. Topics include Affirmative Action, immigration, and racial profiling, along with their effects on these groups. Racial equity and injustice, locally and globally, is a major focus of the program. This program's existence recently led to the creation of the campus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. [Comprises 15% of House population.]

## American Indian Cultures in the Politics and Cultural Pluralism Program

One module of Politics and Cultural Pluralism is the American Indian Cultures program. Taking advantage of a network of Penn faculty within education, history, anthropology, linguistics, art history and law, this program sponsors a range of activities around American Indian issues, past and present, including speakers from different American Indian nations, a visit to the American Indian Smithsonian in D.C., a moderated film series, a student research forum, and spring pow wow organized in collaboration with the Lenape Nation of PA. (Note: Applications should be made through the Politics & Cultural Pluralism Program.)

*Du Bois is more than just a house, **it is a home.** There is a great sense of community and family, in which everyone is accepted and supported by others no matter what their beliefs, religion, or race may be. — NEIL ASSUR, COLLEGE '09*



Left: Patricia C. Williams  
Right: Rev. Will Gipson

FIVE UNIQUE THINGS ABOUT US

- Smallest College House, offering every resident a strong sense of belonging
- Unique standing in the West Philadelphia community, linking Penn students with area residents
- Most diverse House with events and activities for all ethnicities
- Every resident and faculty member contributes to the sense of community
- Proudly gives students the help and resources that foster success

3900 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6138

House Office  
215.898.3677

<http://dubois.house.upenn.edu>

2008-09 Faculty/Staff:

**Faculty Master**  
William Gipson  
*Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Access*

**House Dean**  
Patricia C. Williams

**College House Fellows**  
Dr. Audrey Mbeje  
*Director, Program in African Languages,  
African Studies Center, School of Arts  
and Sciences*

Prof. Duane Thomas  
*Assistant Professor of Education,  
Graduate School of Education*



**Undergraduate Residents: 169**  
(excluding GAs)

**Number of Freshmen: 40**

**Number of GAs: 7**

**Room Types**  
Singles; 2-bedroom doubles; 3-bedroom triples; 3 and 4-bedroom quads; suite style; carpeting; kitchenettes (in all but singles)

**House Amenities**  
4 floors, library, seminar rooms, computer lab, 1 large multipurpose room, 2 lounges with large screen TVs, 2 pianos, kitchen, cardiovascular exercise and weight training rooms, art gallery

**Dining Location**  
Class of 1920 Commons



>>> To view room layouts: [www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/rooms](http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/rooms)