

Pierce Freelon
Musician, Professor, Blogger
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EDUCATION

2008 - M.A. in Pan-African Studies (Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY)
Masters Thesis: *Sankofa: Pan-African Migrations in Hip-Hop Music and Culture*
2006 - B.A. in African and African American Studies *awarded with distinction and highest honors (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC)
Honors Thesis: *Blackademics: the Development of a Hip-Hop Curriculum Based on the History of the African American Experience and Struggle for Freedom and Equality*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2009 - Present *Adjunct Professor*, UNC Chapel Hill, African and African American Studies Department - (Chapel Hill, NC)

Professor, North Carolina Central University, Political Science Department - (Durham, NC)
Courses:

AFAM 259: Blacks and Popular Culture

POLS: It's Bigger Than Hip-Hop: Music and Political Movements

2010 - *Board Member*, North Carolina Arts Council

2008 - 2009 *Professor*, Piedmont Community College, Music Department - (Roxboro, NC)

Courses:

MUS 112: Intro to Jazz

HUM 210: Hip-Hop: The Cultural Movement

2008 - *Director*, Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz' Bebop to Hip-Hop Program - (Los Angeles, CA)

2007 - *Teaching Assistant*, Syracuse University, Department of African American Studies (Syracuse, NY)

Courses:

AAS 207: A Survey of African Music

AAS 409: History of Jazz: 1940-present

SELECTED LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCES

2010

Sound Sessions (Providence, RI)

Institute for Emerging Issues Forum (Raleigh, NC)

Masculinity in Hip-Hop and Beyond: Duke University Panel (Durham, NC)

The Center for the Study of the American South (Chapel Hill, NC)

LEAF in Schools and Streets (Asheville, NC)

StepN2theArts (Roxboro, NC)

2009

100 Black Men of American, Inc. National Conference (New York, NY)

Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)

Elon College (Elon, NC)

Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD)

Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA)

Sonja Hanyes Stone Center for Black Culture and History (Chapel Hill, NC)

2008

Deepalaya School Gusbethi (New Dehli, India)
Don Bosco Shelter for Street Children (Mumbai, India)
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (Washington, DC)
National Black Caucus (Atlanta, GA)
Fullerton College (Fullerton, CA)
Piedmont Community College (Roxboro, NC)
George Washington Preparatory High School (Los Angeles, CA)

2007

The University of Ghana, Legon (Legon, Ghana)
Maryland College Institute of Arts (Baltimore, MD)
Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)
NCLM Diversity Conference (Fayetteville, NC)
Martin Luther King Jr. Arts Complex (Columbus, OH)
Nottingham High School (Syracuse, NY)

2006

The Williston Northampton School (Easthampton, MA)
North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)
Durham Academy (Durham, NC)
East Chapel Hill High School (Chapel Hill, NC)
North Carolina School of Science and Math (Durham, NC)

2005

North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC)
100 Black Men of America Inc., Triangle Chapter (Raleigh, NC)
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)
The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (Washington, DC)
Durham Arts Council (Durham, NC)

2004

Durham School of the Arts (Durham, NC)
Voices for Working Families (Durham, NC)
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)
Duke University (Durham, NC)
St. Joseph's Historic Hayti Heritage Center (Durham, NC)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010 - *Columnist*, The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC)
2009 - *Consultant*, Hip-Hop Symposium - Movement of Youth (Durham, NC)
2008 - *Consultant*, Vote for Change - North Carolina Democratic Party (Raleigh, NC)
2008 - *Consultant*, UNC Hip-Hop Conference - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)
2008 - *Director*, Hip-Hop to Bebop Program - Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (Los Angeles, CA)
2005 - *Road Manager*, Nnenna Freelon - US State Department Jazz Tour (Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam)
2003 - 2005 - *Consultant*, 1st and 2nd Hip-Hop and Spoken Word Festivals - St. Joseph's Historic Hayti Heritage Center (Durham, NC)
2004 - *Hip-Hop Coordinator*, Voices for Working Families *a national voter registration/education/mobilization initiative (Durham, NC)
2004 - *Co-founder/Host*, "Fantastic 4" elements of Hip-Hop showcase (Durham, NC)

2002 - present - Emcee/educator in the Hip-Hop groups: *Language Arts* -languageartsmusic.com and *The Beast* - thebeastmusic.com (Durham, NC)

PUBLICATIONS

Book/Journal Contributions:

“Interfaith Dialogue” in *Imagining Heaven*, edited by Linda Matney. Roxboro, NC: Central Piedmont Community College Press, 2010.

“Baby Love,” “One Incredible Weekend,” and “God Bless the Child” in *The News and Observer*. Raleigh, NC: April-June 2010 (a monthly column).

“Gwendolyn Brooks,” “Eldridge Cleaver, Soul on Ice,” and “Martin Luther King, Jr. Strength to Love” in *1,000 Key Moments: Books*, edited by Lucey Daniel. London, UK: Cassell Illustrated, 2007.

“The Biotech Century: Eugenics in the 21st Century” in New York State African Studies Association Conference Journal, edited by Dr. Jean Ouedraogo and Dr. Tracie Church. Buffalo, NY: SUNY Press, 2007.

Selected published interviews: (www.blackademics.org/interview-archive)

Dr. Maya Angelou, “A Pledge to our Youth” (September, 2006)

bell hooks, “Off the hook” (October, 2006)

Angela Davis, “The New Struggle” (November, 2006)

Reverend Jesse Jackson, “Vote or Die” (February, 2007)

Paul Mooney, “Race and Rhetoric” (March, 2007)

Nikki Giovanni, “Reclaiming your History” (April, 2007)

Tommie Smith, “Struggling for Human Rights” (May, 2007)

John Singleton, “Black Representations in Film” (June, 2007)

Rakim, “Spirituality and Hip-Hop” (September, 2007)

Amiri and Amina Baraka, “Revolutionary Initiatives” (November, 2007)

Sonia Sanchez, “Black Liberation in the Academy” (January, 2008)

Herbie Hancock, “Bebop to Hip-Hop” (February, 2008)

Doug E. Fresh, “The Hip-Hop Connection” (May, 2008)

James Moody, “Race and Music” (August, 2008)

Raphael Saadiq, “Respecting the Old School” (December, 2008)

Gil Scott Heron, “I’m New Here” (February, 2010)

Danny Glover, “Haitian Revolution” (March, 2010)

9th Wonder, “North Carolina Hip-Hop” (April, 2010)

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

2008 - DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/National Endowment for the Arts: American Masterpieces Grant Award (Washington, DC)

2007 - TA Assignment/Award, Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)

2007 - OMA Diversity Programming Grant, Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)

2007 - Chancellor’s 2007 Research Grant, Syracuse University/University of Ghana, Legon (Accra, Ghana)

2006-2007 - AAS Graduate Fellowship, Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)

AWARDS/HONORS

2007 – Sankofa Bird Award for Community Leadership (Syracuse, NY)

2007 – Certificate of Achievement for serving as a fellow in the Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)

2006 - Highest Honors, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)

2006 - Chi Omega Award for Scholarship and Leadership, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)

2004 – 2006 - Dean's List, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)

2002 – 2004 - Dean's List, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)

DISCOGRAPHY

2010

Freedom Suite, Chakra Con Music

2009

Silence Fiction, Chakra Con Music

Catalyst, Chakra Con Music

V.S.O.P. presents: The Finest in Music, DJ Eeazzee/Nanci-O, Mixtape

American Hustlaz, DJ Frostee Freeze, Mixtape

2008

The Black Candle: The Soundtrack, Asante Filmworx

In the Belly of The Beast: BELLY, Chakra Con Music, LLC

2007

Undergrad, Language Arts Entertainment

Southern Slur vol.4, DJ Pillzbury, Mixtape

Blackademics Mixed Tape, Blackademics.org, Mixtape

2006

Language Arts House Party vol.2, Language Arts Entertainment

Just Listen, DJ Pillzbury, Mixtape

Bull City Clothes, Innercore Studios, Mixtape

2005

Language Arts House Party vol.1, Language Arts Entertainment

A Holiday Tribute, DJ Skaz, Flavorfriut Records

2004

Language Arts, Language Arts Entertainment

Smashin' Fashion, NC State University, Mixtape

FILMOGRAPHY

The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration, 2008. A film by MK Asante, Jr.; Narrated by Maya Angelou; Produced by Walter Lomax and Kenny Gamble; Music by Nnenna Freelon and Derrick Hodge; Featuring Maulana Karenga, Chuck D and Dead Prez; Directed by MK Asante, Jr. Digital HD. 75 minutes.

Sankofa: From Ghana to Hip-Hop and Back, 2008. A film by Pierce Freelon; Produced by the Department of African American Studies and the Pan-African Studies Masters program at Syracuse University; Music by Reggie Rockstone, A-Plus and Pierce Freelon; Featuring Amiri Baraka, Dr. Kwabena Nketia and MzBel. DVCAM. 120 minutes.