

FALL 2008

Stephen R. Kelly

US Foreign Service Officer in Residence hosted by the Center for International Studies. With a career that spans over 25 years, Mr. Kelly is a member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor. He is currently the U.S. Department of State Diplomat in Residence at Duke University.

Prior to this assignment Mr. Kelly was Director of the Senior Level Assignments Division at the State Department in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw the counseling and assignments of the most experienced and high-ranking career officers in the U.S. diplomatic service, including Ambassadors, Deputy Chiefs of Mission and Deputy Assistant Secretaries.

From 2004 to 2006, Mr. Kelly was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to Mexico. With a huge Embassy in Mexico City and nine consulates around the country, Mission Mexico counts more than 2,000 employees, making it one of the largest U.S. Missions in the world. Mr. Kelly focused in particular on the myriad border issues with Mexico, growing law enforcement and immigration problems, and on efforts to further North American integration under the banner of the Security and Prosperity Partnership between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

From 2000-2004 Mr. Kelly was Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Mission to Canada, which includes the Embassy and seven consulates from Halifax to Vancouver. Border issues again were one of Mr. Kelly's key interests, especially after September 11, and he participated in the drafting of the U.S.-Canada Smart Border Accord in late 2001. Mr. Kelly also served as Consul General in Quebec City from 1995-1998, where he was the chief U.S. reporting officer on the Quebec Sovereignty Referendum of October 1995.

Other overseas postings include the Netherlands as political counselor, Indonesia as human rights officer, Belgium as a political and consular officer, and Mali, in West Africa, as a management officer. His early domestic assignments included the State Department Operations Center, special assistant to the Deputy Secretary, and desk officer for Senegal, Mauritania and The Gambia.

Mr. Kelly has received four Senior Performance Awards, two Superior Honor Awards, one Meritorious Honor Award, and the Charles E. Cobb Award for Innovation and Success in Trade Promotion for his work in opening a commercial section at the U.S. Consulate General in Quebec City. He is a graduate of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and holds a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College in Washington, D.C. His foreign languages are French, Spanish, Dutch and Indonesian. He served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Zaire and as a journalist for various U.S. newspapers before joining the Foreign Service, notably the Charlotte Observer, for whom he was the Raleigh and later Washington correspondent.

BLACK COMMUNITIES IN CANADA series

Monday, October 6

4:00 PM

KAROLYN SMARDZ FROST, YORK UNIVERSITY

DISCUSSES HER AWARD WINNING BOOK:

I'VE GOT A HOME IN GLORY LAND

a special thanks to African & African American Studies for their cosponsorship.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN CENTER, ROOM 130

Smardz Frost is a Toronto-born archeologist and historian whose work on Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, fugitive slaves who escaped to Canada on the Underground Railroad, led to a book *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* (Thomas Allen Publishers), which won the 2007 Governor General's Prize for history. This fascinating book follows Thornton Blackburn and his wife Lucie as they escape to Canada on the Underground Railroad. Thornton plans a successful daylight escape once he learns that his new bride is to be sold "down the river". The couple reach Michigan, only to be caught by slave catchers. Once the Black community in Detroit heard of the Blackburns plight, the first racial uprising in Detroit's history occurred. The couple was able to escape again, this time to Canada, where they settled in Toronto and started the city's first taxi business. Then the US government insists that they be extradited back to the States. This was the first serious legal dispute between Canada and the US regarding slavery. Ultimately Canada's Lieutenant Governor's impassioned defense saves the Blackburns from the US. Thornton and Lucie resolved to assist as many other slaves as possible and made their home a refuge for escaped slaves. Smardz Frost spent two decades piecing together this incredible story from artifacts that are almost two centuries old. I enjoyed reading Smardz Frost book not only for the Blackburn's story but also for the wealth of information regarding the Underground Railroad. (Bronwyn Addico).

Monday, November 3

4:30 PM

"African-Canadian Literature: What makes it unique?"

GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

225 Friedl Building (formerly Art Museum and Science before that)

George Elliott Clarke was recently named Officer of the Order of Canada by Governor General Michaëlle Jean with the following citation:

"For his contributions as a poet, professor and volunteer who has brought his original voice and his perspective on the Black experience to contemporary Canadian literature, and who has generously shared his time and talents with young and emerging writers."

We are thrilled that George Elliott Clarke will be returning to Durham. He was a highly popular Professor of English and Canadian Studies while at Duke from 1994-1999.

Canadian Studies is a proud supporter of this year's American Council for Québec Studies (ACQS) biennial conference, November 13-16, 2008 to be held in Québec City, Québec. This will be a joint conference with the Association for Canadian Studies in the US (ACSUS)

