Preface

This collection of working papers represents the activity and scholarship of a group of researchers affiliated with the Center for Citizenship, Race, and Ethnicity Studies (CREST) at The College of Saint Rose, located in downtown Albany, New York. Those faculty members and administrators who helped to establish CREST in late-spring 2006 conceived of the institute as a place where Saint Rose faculty members, visiting dissertation fellows, regional scholars, and community members would come together to share and discuss new ideas about one of today's most dynamic fields of intellectual inquiry – the interdisciplinary study of citizenship, race, and ethnicity. These papers are the result of research efforts supported by CREST, as well as the discussions that occurred at informal colloquia and more formal paper presentations sponsored by CREST during the academic year, 2006-2007. An interdisciplinary outlook when examining these issues was one of CREST's founding principles. The broad range of topics and methodologies set forth in the following essays makes it clear that CREST has taken a rather capacious approach to the study of citizenship, race, and ethnicity. Although the following papers pursue wildly varying topics, one thing does link them together, and that is a commitment to high quality scholarship that rests on a firm foundation of disciplinary expertise.

We have put together this collection of working papers primarily to stimulate discussion on the topics and ideas raised by the authors of these works, as well as to receive feedback and suggestions for further revisions. Instead of standardizing citation methods and terminologies throughout the collection, we have decided, instead, to retain specific disciplinary organizing principles. I would urge you to directly contact the authors of these essays after having read the papers in this collection. It is CREST's intention that the works of the CREST Fellows and Saint Rose faculty members contained herein serve as a beginning of inquiry, not the culmination. (Although finally getting a collection of essays published often does feel more like a finish line than a starting line.)

The first paper in *The CREST Working Papers Collection* is by Dr. May Caroline Chan, an assistant professor in The College of Saint Rose's English Department, who studied English Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Chan's research examines British Victorian travel literature through a close analysis of Rudyard Kipling's early narratives of his 1889 tour to Southeast Asia and East Asia. Chan points out that these are regions scholars rarely address in postcolonial theory and travel literature criticism.

Next, Dr. Wandia Njoya, who was one of CREST's inaugural Diversity Dissertation Fellows, examines the experiences of African migrants to France in contemporary African novels. Njoya's work helps to reveal the ways that African immigrants have had to contend with Europeans' derogatory images of the continent that are facilitated by a long history of European imperialism. Perhaps an even more original contribution to the interdisciplinary study of race and citizenship, however, is Njoya's nuanced examination of how African migrants making return visits have interpreted their experiences of the West for compatriots inculcated in the idea that life in the West is a bed of roses. Njoya spent two semesters at The College of Saint Rose finishing her dissertation and

earned her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University where she studied in the Department of French and Francophone Studies. She currently writes a blog for *The Zeleza Post* – an online journal devoted to news and commentary concerning the Pan-African world.

The third contributor to *The CREST Working Papers Collection* is Dr.

Ryane McAuliffe Straus, who studies urban education policy and is an assistant professor in the Department of History and Political Science at The College of Saint Rose. Straus completed her dissertation in political science at the University of California, Irvine. Her essay in this collection examines how two Los Angeles newspapers including the *Los Angeles Times*, the region's major daily newspaper, and the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, a Black-owned weekly, framed the issue of school desegregation during the 1970s. Her central questions center on how these papers' reporting of school desegregation influenced both citizens' understanding and development of school desegregation policy during this time.

Dr. Chandra Wells, a visiting assistant professor in the English

Department at The College of Saint Rose, contributed the next essay. Wells received her Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. Her current research constitutes an engaging study of the relationship between a black and a white woman in Sherley Anne Williams' novel *Dessa Rose* (1986). The tensions in the relationship between Dessa and Rufel also help to reveal the interaction between the neoslave novel and second wave feminism.

Christina Violeta Jones, a Ph.D. candidate in history from Howard
University was also one of CREST's first Diversity Dissertation Fellows. Jones'

dissertation is entitled "Revolution and Reaction: Santo Domingo during the Haitian Revolution and Beyond, 1791-1844." Her paper in this collection, "Together Once Again: An Attempt at Haitian Unification, 1822-1844," includes individuals whose voices concerning unification had previously been silenced and marginalized in the Dominican and Haitian historiography that assesses the period.

The sixth contribution to *The CREST Working Papers Collection* is Bridgett Williams-Searle's essay that examines from a variety of viewpoints the gendered nature of property rights and labor control in the post-revolutionary trans-Appalachian frontier. This research has evolved from a larger manuscript entitled, *Intimate Empires: Sex, Race, and Law in the Old Northwest*. Williams-Searle is an associate professor in the Department of History and Political Science and the Director of the Women's Studies Program at The College of Saint Rose.

In the collection's penultimate essay, Bernadette P. Njoku, an assistant professor in the School of Business, helps to demonstrate CREST's commitment to examining issues of citizenship, race, and ethnicity from new perspectives. Njoku's contribution to this collection is a case study firmly rooted in the field of business marketing. Her work recognizes a new paradigm shift in global business marketing and attempts to account for the cross-cultural effects of interdependence/asymmetry on consumer relationships. Njoku is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Marketing, Nance College of Business Administration, Cleveland State University, Ohio.

Finally, Dr. Angela D. Ledford, an associate professor in the Department

of History and Political Science, expands the scope of her recently completed dissertation in an essay entitled, "The Razor's Edge: Group Representation, Feminist Theory, and the Promise of Justice." This essay examines the meanings that social class and cultural difference have on political representation in the United States. Ledford's research will help to correct oversimplifications stemming from scholars' neglect of the importance of social class and cultural difference by seeing them as secondary to the primary concerns of gender, race, and ethnicity.

I would like to thank Dr. Mark Sullivan, President of The College of Saint

Rose, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr.

David Szczerbacki for first suggesting that we create an ongoing collection of working papers to cultivate the interdisciplinary questions that help to fuel CREST. I would also like to thank the fellows and faculty members who generously offered to contribute their work to this new endeavor: May Caroline Chan, Wandia Njoya, Ryane McAuliffe Straus, Chandra Wells, Christina Violeta Jones, Bridgett Williams-Searle, Bernadette P. Njoku, and Angela D. Ledford. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Saint Rose Community – students, faculty, administrators, staff, and the public – who have enthusiastically attended CREST events during the last two years. Your questions, active engagement, and support have contributed in a critical way to the success of the

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