



Dr. Stephen Middleton, Professor and Director of African American Studies, History

Making the Case for African American Studies

Over the last several decades, numerous public and private entities have made distinguished contributions to the study of race in America. Some of the most important work has come from university scholars affiliated with African American studies programs. Last year, MSU launched an African American Studies (AAS) program - an interdisciplinary community of scholars who pursue research, teaching, and service on various aspects of the black experience.

Dr. Stephen Middleton, Director of MSU's AAS program, envisions a strong cadre of MSU faculty in the field. During his October 25, remarks, Dr. Middleton discussed the AAS Program's intellectual focus, curriculum, and structure. "We're forming an AAS Advisory Board to do some bigger things," Dr. Middleton said. He challenged us to consider a broad range of actions. "Talk to parents with students at MSU about the AAS program," Dr. Middleton said. "If you think the AAS

program is a good idea, let the MSU president know."

It has been said that of all the challenges that confront America, none is more profound than the struggle to achieve racial equality and understand the impact of race on our lives and American institutions. "An exposure to African American studies is one way for our MSU students to broaden their horizons on the subject of race, ethnicity, and religion," Dr. Middleton said."