

Irene Smalls

Vernon Smith



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

10TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017 | 7:00 p.m. | Foster Ballroom, Colvard Student Union

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the African American Studies Program at Mississippi State University. To kick off the yearlong celebration, the program will host **IRENE SMALLS** and **VERNON SMITH** as part of a 10th Anniversary Speaker Series panel. Smalls and Smith are trailblazing figures of the 1960s African American Studies movement in higher education. Dr. Donald M. Shaffer, associate professor of African American Studies and English, will moderate, and a question and answer session will follow.

(RE) TELLING OUR STORY: READING AND DISCUSSION

IRENE SMALLS, MBA, is the founder and first president of the Cornell Black Alumni Association and the founder and first President of Wari House Cornell University's Black women's residence. Smalls initiated and directed the first sit-ins and demonstrations that led to the takeover of Cornell's Student Union, Willard Straight Hall. Born and raised in Harlem, New York, Smalls is the award-winning author of 15 Black children's books. A storyteller she has twice been invited to the White House to perform her stories.

"ON STRIKE, SHUT IT DOWN"-- THE 1960'S CALL FOR BLACK STUDIES

VERNON SMITH was born in Natchez, MS, and studied Journalism and Radio-TV Film production at San Francisco State College (now University), and was a member of the Black Student Union and a participant in the student-led strike that led to the founding of the nation's first Black Studies Department, and School of Ethnic Studies. After completing the Summer Program for Minority Journalists at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1969, he began his journalism career as a reporter for the Long Beach, *California Independent Press-Telegram*.

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