

MEET THE LINGUISTS & THE PRODUCERS

John Baugh, Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts and Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis. Baugh has pioneered research in a number of descriptive studies and applications related to AAL, and has led the investigation of housing discrimination and linguistic profiling. He has served as a key advisor on issues of language discrimination and education.

Renée A. Blake, Associate Professor of Linguistics, Director of Africana Studies, New York University. Blake's research examines language contact, race, ethnicity and class with a focus on AAL, Caribbean English Creoles, and New York City English. She served as a contact person for the collection of footage in New York City and consulted on the interface between Caribbean English and African American English in New York.

Patricia Cukor-Avila, Professor of Linguistics and Technical Communication, University of North Texas. Cukor-Avila has conducted formative research on rural African American speech in Texas and the differences between urban and rural speech in the South. Her input guided our presentation of urban versus rural speech.

Danica Cullinan, Producer and director. Cullinan produced and directed *Spanish Voices* (2011) and *Cedars in the Pines: The Lebanese in North Carolina* (2012), and with Hutcheson, won an Emmy for her recent production, *First Language: The Race to Save Cherokee* (2015). She has a background in sociolinguistics, information and library science, and film production, uniquely combining the diverse expertise needed for this project.

Walter F. Edwards, Professor of Linguistics, Wayne State University. Edwards specializes in pidgin and Creole linguistics, particularly Guyanese Creole studies. He has also focused on AAL and the sociolinguistics of rap lyrics.

Lisa J. Green, Professor of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Green's research on the formal structure of AAL and the acquisition of language by African American children provided an essential guide for our presentation of language development in early childhood and the linguistic structure of AAL.

Neal Hutcheson, Director and producer. Hutcheson has produced documentaries on topics that range from the regional cultures of Russia, South Asia, and South America to a series of documentaries on language diversity in the Southeastern United States. Among his documentary productions are *Indian by Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2001), *This is the Last Dam Run of Likker I'll Ever Make* (2002), *Mountain Talk* (2004), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), *The Queen Family: Appalachian Tradition and Back Porch Music* (2006), *The Last One* (2008), *The Carolina Brogue* (2009), *The Outlaw Lewis Redmond* (2009), *Core.Sounders: Living from the Sea* (2013), *Popcorn Sutton: A Hell of a Life* (2014), and *First Language: The Race to Save Cherokee* (2015). Hutcheson has won numerous awards for his productions, including two Emmys for cultural documentaries, a third Emmy nomination, the Brown-Hudson Award from the North Carolina Folklore Society (2011), and the North Carolina Filmmaking Award from the Carolina Film Festival. His work has appeared on PBS, the Sundance Channel, the History Channel, A&E, and the Documentary Channel.

Sharese King, Ph.D. Candidate in Linguistics, Stanford University. King's research focuses on AAL and identity construction.

Sonja L. Lanehart, Breckenridge Endowed Chair in Literature and Humanities, University of Texas at San Antonio. Lanehart is a nationally recognized sociolinguist who specializes in the study of English literature and linguistics, humanities, education and African-American studies. She advises the production team on defining and embracing diversity in AAL.

Salikoko S. Mufwene, Frank J. McLoraine Distinguished Service Professor in Linguistics and Humanities, University of Chicago. Mufwene currently studies language evolution with a focus on language speciation such as the emergence of creole varieties, AAL, and indigenized Englishes. He has also studies structural aspects of Gullah, Caribbean English creoles, and AAL.

John R. Rickford, J.E. Wallace Sterling Professor of Linguistics and the Humanities, Stanford University. Rickford has extensive research and applied experience in both creole languages and AAL. He has assisted the team in facilitating meetings with educators involved in controversies and innovative educational programs related to AAL.

Jeffrey L. Reaser, Professor of Linguistics, Director of the Teacher Education Program in English, North Carolina State University. Reaser has extensive experience and expertise in material preparation for school-based and public audiences, and helped develop online materials for the documentary.

John Singler, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, New York University. Singler has conducted extensive research on Liberian English and its relationship to English in the African diaspora. He guided the production team on the connection between African American speech in the United States and in the African diaspora, particularly West Africa.

Arthur K. Spears, Professor of Linguistics, Professor of Anthropology, City University of New York (CUNY). Spears is a specialist in AAL and pidgins and creoles, as well as race and ideology. He has consulted on the notion of Standard African American English, and provided general input on diversity within AAL varieties.

Tracey L. Weldon, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina. Weldon has conducted research on Gullah in South Carolina, and currently examines language use among middle-class African Americans. Her input on language variation for the socioeconomic spectrum of American Americans and audio-recorded illustrations of code-switching from her conversations and presentations were essential for representing language differences and style shifting within African American communities.

Walt Wolfram, Executive Producer, William C. Friday Distinguished University Professor of Linguistics, North Carolina State University. Wolfram has pioneered research on social and ethnics dialects since the 1960s, including AAL. He is interested in disseminating sociolinguistic information to the public via documentaries, museum exhibits, books, and other materials on language diversity. Wolfram has extensive experience in public outreach and the production of audiovisual materials to complement his sociolinguistic research. He has now served as executive producer for 12 nationally and regionally distributed broadcast programs under the Language and Life Project at North Carolina State University.