



***Balance: Advancing Identity Theory by Engaging the Black Male Adolescent***

**By David Wall Rice '95  
Published by Lexington Books**

IN A NATION where African American males are often viewed negatively and identified narrowly, personality psychologist David Wall Rice '95 has written a book, *Balance: Advancing Identity Theory by Engaging the Black Male*

*Adolescent*, that seeks to broaden the understanding of identity.

“The book really does work at filling gaps in understanding the function and form of identity, so this is novel. But so, too, is the use and exploration of black males through a normalized lens and within context,” said Rice, who is an assistant professor at Morehouse. “Pop-culture and the sciences really do paint us into a corner of stereotypes and this book looks at alternatives and successes in the face of stereotypes that we are fortunate enough to see daily here at Morehouse.”

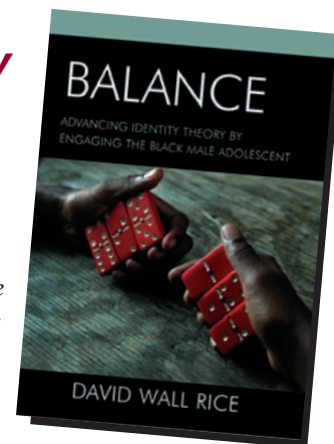
Rice, who holds degrees in psychology, journalism and personality psychology, has provided criticism on pop culture, music, psychology and

politics for newspapers such as *The Washington Post* and *The Dallas Morning News*, and magazines that include *VIBE*, *The Source*, *Code* and *Blaze*. He also provides commentary for MSNBC, NBC and National Public Radio.

Rice is the principal investigator for Morehouse’s Identity Stasis Research Laboratory and is linking the College’s work with identity stasis research at Princeton University, where he is a visiting fellow.

With *Balance*, Rice wanted to get new ideas out in respect to theory and understanding of identity.

“Within both popular culture and the social sciences, identity is frequently a catch-all phrase,” he said. “I wanted to push myself toward understanding the phenomenon more fully by writing about it and by incorporating the unique experiences of black males in a way that is common, strengths-based and non-pathological.” ■



***21st Century Guide to Leadership and Professional Development: Life Success Tools and Strategies for Emerging Leaders of Color***

**By Belinda White  
Published by McGraw Hill/Irwin**

BELINDA WHITE HAS DONE something she said no one else has done: pen a book about leadership studies, with an added focus on diversity in corporate America. The book is titled *21st Century Guide to Leadership and Professional Development: Life Success Tools and Strategies for Emerging Leaders of Color* (McGraw Hill/Irwin, 2007).

“There were no textbooks out there for this class,” said White, an assistant professor of leadership studies at the College. “I always had to hodge-podge. I got tired of trying to hodge-podge.”

She also presents her own theories and teachings on the topic, focusing on five areas: leadership, professionalism (“That’s the fifth language of business,” she said), ethics,

global awareness and public service. The book is currently sold in the College bookstore. The second edition will be available next year and will be marketed to higher education institutions across the country, especially other Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

White also uses actual quotes from some of the nation’s most renowned business leaders, including Time Warner CEO Richard Parsons, Morgan Stanley managing director Carla Harris and media pioneer Ted Turner, culled from their talks on campus. ■



FOOTNOTES

***Africa After Modernism, Transitions in Literature, Media and Philosophy***  
**By Michael Janis**  
**Published by Routledge Press**

Images of famine, poverty, disease and war in the African continent are real, but they are



only one side of a much larger story, says Michael Janis, assistant professor of English. Janis has written a book titled *Africa After*

*Modernism, Transitions in Literature, Media and Philosophy* (Routledge Press, 2006) to give a broader and more colorful picture of the mother continent.

During a career that spans his work in West Africa as a journalist and an educator, Janis has first-hand knowledge of how the African continent has evolved. He also worked for the international wire service, Reuters, as a journalist in the mid-1990s.

His book is a collection of his work and his experiences in the mother continent.



***Dynamic Locomotion: Maneuvering with Hexapedal Legged Robots***  
**By Arthur J. McClung III '98**  
**Published by VDR**



Mechanical engineering, specifically hexapedal legged robots, is the subject of *Dynamic Locomotion: Maneuvering with Hexapedal Legged*

*Robots* (VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, 2007) a textbook by Arthur J. McClung III '98. The basis of his study is biomimetics, which means imitating or mimicking life systems.

The work by McClung, who earned his master's degree from Stanford University, focuses on developing a new class of biologically-inspired robots, which would be far more advanced and life-like than current robotics. McClung talks about the Sprawl family of hand-sized, hexapedal robots, which are some of the fastest and most robust robots around. ■



***Leaders in the Labyrinth: College Presidents and the Battleground of Creeds and Convictions***  
**By Stephen J. Nelson**  
**Published by American Council on Education**

Former Morehouse President Walter E. Massey '58 and some of the challenges



during his successful 12-year tenure at the College were chronicled in Stephen Nelson's book, *Leaders in the Labyrinth:*

*College Presidents and the Battleground of Creeds and Convictions* (American Council on Education, 2007).

Nelson looked at the way various college presidents dealt with issues of political correctness and how they kept their campuses together during contentious times. Nelson talked to Massey about those issues and said he found the College's ninth president to be

very forthright and fair when dealing with various constituencies across campus.

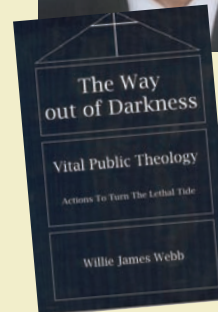


***The Way Out of Darkness: Vital Public Theology***  
**By the Rev. Willie James Webb '61**  
**Published by Author House**

In *The Way Out of Darkness: Vital Public Theology* (Author House, 2007), The Rev.



Willie James Webb '61 outlines the idea that a thorough knowledge of religion and Christianity is essential to a



stronger future for this nation and the world. Webb says basic theological beliefs form the foundation for solid working relationships – even in the midst of

cultural and religious differences – and can allow citizens and their leaders to make sound and fair decisions for all.

Webb is pastor of Foundation of Community Church, Atlanta, Ga., and president of the Christian Association of Public Theologians and the Christian Institute of Public Theology.



Editor's Note: *This column is open to Morehouse alumni, faculty and staff who have recently published books. Please contact Add Seymour Jr. at aseymour@morehouse.edu to submit your work.*