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In this issue of *Islas*, we have the opportunity to examine black Cuban Life, past and present, in a most unlikely place – Tampa, Florida (USA). Through articles, pictures, and a book review we follow the struggles and challenges of Afro-Cubans in Tampa. Also in this issue we welcome several new writers to *Islas*; we look forward to reading their perspectives and experiences in this and future issues. Of course, we welcome the return of some of our regular authors, whose thoughts and opinions have helped shape our discussion of race and race relations.

On a sad note, we say a sorrowful farewell to one of our writers, Ngashu Maurine Nangah, who passed away in February 2007, in her home in Cameroon, Africa. Ngashu was a gifted writer, translator, singer, and President of a not-for-profit organization: Network for Sustainable Development, Poverty Reduction, and the Empowerment of the Cameroonian Rural Woman. She authored two articles for *Islas*: “What the Cameroonian Woman Needs,” published in our December 2006 issue and “The Cameroonian Rural Woman and Agriculture,” published in this issue. We will miss her and send condolences to her family.