Students have rewarded Dr. Fred Johnson's engaging approach to teaching with honors including the Faculty Appreciation Award, selection as the Commencement speaker and the Hope Outstanding Professor Educator Award by that year's senior class. He has written three novels: A Few Years Later (2002), A Man Finds His Way (2001) and Other Men's Wives (2005). He contributed a chapter to book The United States and West Africa: Interactions and Relations (2008), and is currently working on a book titled U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa, 1945-present. In January, he and New York-based author Tayari Jones published a book A Man Finds His Way, a fictional story about a man who returns to face what he left behind. Dr. Johnson takes seriously the challenge of making the most of his time, of living his story in the same way in which he encourages his students to live theirs. "All you get to leave behind is your story," he said. "You need to carefully manage how you write it."