

# **THE HABARI: THE JOURNAL OF AFRICANA STUDIES**

**The Department of Africana Studies  
University at Albany (SUNY)**

**Spring 2022, Volume 10, Issue 1**

**“Serving Students, Serving the Community, and Serving the  
World”**



**AYA**

**Fortitude, Endurance,  
Resourcefulness**

**A Publication of the Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany,  
State University of New York**



### **Message from the Chair**

**We are delighted to feature the achievements of our alumni graduate students and current graduate students in this edition of The Habari. The Department of Africana Studies has an excellent track record of a disproportionate number of our Master's students admitted to Doctoral programs in this country and in other countries. We are extremely proud that our alumni are emerging scholars who are producing books and research articles. Several alumni are the recipients of prestigious research fellowships and are Fulbright Fellows. Crystal Campbell, who is featured in this Journal, is a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in Fine Arts. In the alumni's narratives there are details on other significant achievements, including leadership positions, the creation of organizations and exhibits, academic and professional activities, and community initiatives. I do hope you enjoy reading the narratives of our alumni and current graduate students.**

**It is also important to feature the leadership of our Department since 1968 beginning with the first Chair, Dr. Nathan Wright. I was fortunate to have met the second Chair, Dr. Seth Spellman, and the third Chair, Dr. Frank Pogue. I knew and worked with all subsequent Chairs, including Dr. Julius Thompson, Dr. Vivian Gordon, Dr. Kwadwo Sarfoh, Dr. Allen Ballard, Dr. Leonard A. Slade, Jr., and Dr. Oscar R. Williams. These Chairs made significant contributions to the development, growth, and sustainability of this academic unit.**

**At this important point in history, it is essential that we recognize the contributions of the students of the late 1960's and early 1970's who were strong activists for the establishment and development of the Department of**

**Africana Studies, which was officially established in 1968. We recognize the significant contributions of the late Mr. Norman Rowe McConney, Jr., who was enrolled in our Master's program in 1971 and the late Dr. Joseph E. Bowman, Jr., who earned his bachelor's degree in Africana Studies in 1972. These gentlemen lived and worked in Albany and were always dedicated to our Department.**

**I am saddened to report the unexpected death on September 13, 2021, of our beloved colleague, Dr. Oscar Williams. We hosted a Remembrance Ceremony in his honor on April 21, 2022, that was held in the Campus Center Ballroom, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It is also important to recognize the recent passing of two adjuncts who worked in our Department some years ago, Dr. Gariba Al-Abdul Korah and Dr. Maurice Thornton. May all our departed colleagues' souls rest in eternal peace.**

**Special recognition to Mrs. Tracy-Ann Stewart-Suleiman, who is featured among our alumni. She is one of the major and consistent donors to the Department's Foundation account. I do hope that others will consider being consistent donors to the Department of Africana Studies. Your financial contributions are used to provide book vouchers and scholarship awards to our majors, to fund graduate students attending conferences, and to provide academic stipends to incoming graduate students who are without funding.**

**My gratitude to the full-time faculty members and part-time lecturers for their significant contributions to the intellectual growth of our undergraduate and graduate students. Your commitment to the Department's mission and programmatic initiatives is deeply appreciated. Through the efforts of full-time and part-time faculty members, we anticipate the approval of our new Advanced Certificate Program in Africana Studies.**

**Finally, my gratitude to the contributors to this issue of The Habari. A special thank you to our alumni and current students who submitted their photos and narratives. My gratitude to the faculty members who contributed the abstracts of their published articles and books.**

## **Message to Donors**

**It is the current Departmental policy to utilize the foundation account funds to provide book vouchers and scholarship awards to majors. We also use these funds to assist graduate students who are presenting at conferences. We recently initiated an academic scholarship award for outstanding incoming graduate students to be funded through the foundation account. Due to limited funds, this award is for one academic year.**

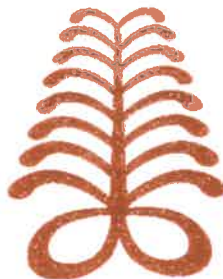
**To donate, please address your check to the University at Albany Foundation and use the check memo space or an accompanying note to instruct that your donation be restricted to the Department of Africana Studies. You may also make your donation by credit card. For more details on donating, please visit the University's website at: <http://www.albany.edu/giving/>.**

**With your donations, the Department of Africana Studies will be better able to meet the financial needs of majors and graduate students. The Department's financial contributions to students are restricted to the purchase of textbooks and conference presentations to enhance the intellectual growth and professional development of our majors and graduate students. Graduate students who are funded through our department's academic scholarship are encouraged to assist a professor with his or her courses.**

**With gratitude for your continued support,**

**Marcia E. Sutherland, Ph.D.**

**Chair**



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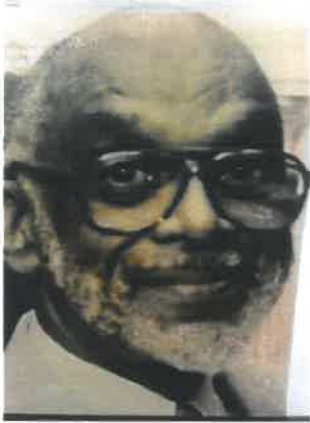
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**DR. OSCAR R. WILLIAMS, III**  
**10TH CHAIR**

## Alumni Spotlight

### Araba Aidoo-Apau:

**“As a graduate of the Africana studies program at UAlbany, I am grateful for the culturally rich and powerful courses I took while in my graduate program. Those rigorous courses made me believe that I could potentially pursue my Ph.D. I am now currently a doctoral student in the Department of African studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C. My research focuses on education systems in Ghana and examines the need for an African-centered school model that accurately represents the cultural needs of Ghanaians. I am currently in my third year of my program and anticipate defending my dissertation proposal this fall. I also work as an educator in the D.C. public and charter schools. I’ve taught grades K-12, and currently am working in education administration. After receiving my doctorate, I plan to become a professor at a Tier 1 university and continue developing my studies in education reformation in Ghana.”**



### Dr. Ifetayo M. Flannery

*Assistant Professor of Africology & African American Studies  
Temple University*

**Dr. Ifetayo Flannery is a proud alumna of the Master's program in Africana Studies at SUNY Albany. She graduated with honors in 2011 and was the recipient of the award for Outstanding Academic Performance and Service to the Department of Africana Studies. While at SUNY Albany she was fortunate to have been a student during the celebration of the Department's 40th Anniversary of the Master's program and honored the Department by presenting for the student research symposium.**

**Currently, Dr. Flannery is Assistant Professor in Africology and African American Studies at Temple University. She earned her Ph.D. from Temple University in Africology in 2016 and was the recipient of the Molefi Kete Asante Founders Award. Dr. Flannery served for five years as an assistant professor at the founding institution for Black Studies and the only College of Ethnic Studies in the world, San Francisco State University. In 2018, she was awarded the W.E.B. DuBois Research Fellowship and was a visiting scholar with the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, until 2019. Dr. Flannery is also a 2020 recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award from San Francisco State University for innovative scholarly research. She currently serves as the Executive Director for the DISA (Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement) International Conference and is an active national member of both NCBS (National Council for Black Studies) and ABPsi (Association of Black Psychologists). Dr. Flannery's research specializes in applying and advancing research methodology unique to Africology and African American Studies. Her publications can be found in a**





variety of journals and texts, in addition to her latest edited book titled *An Introduction to Black Psychology*.

### **Aminah Mitchell (formerly Wallace)**

**“I am currently an English teacher and Academic Advisor at the French American International School, an independent/private K-12, in San Francisco, CA. I am also advanced to candidacy and completing my dissertation for my Ph.D. in Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies at the University at Albany, (SUNY) in Albany, NY. My dissertation is titled: *With Dreams of Democracy, Citizenship and Equality Came Dialogues and Resistance: The Struggles and Evolutions of Vindicationism, Pan-Africanism and Black Internationalism in the Discourses of Black Print Media, January 1914- February 14, 1925*. I hold a Master's in Africana Studies from the University at Albany, (SUNY) and Master's and Bachelor's in Sociology from California State University, East Bay. I was born in Richmond, CA, where I spent much of my childhood and young adult life. I have been a teacher in higher education and K-12 since 2010, having taught in California at John Henry High School in Richmond, CA (2020-2021), in New York at Binghamton University (2010-2014), SUNY Oneonta (2014-2015) and the University at Albany, (SUNY) (2015-2016) and in South Carolina at Midlands Technical College, among other schools (2011-2014). I live in Antioch, CA and am newly married with three stepdaughters aged 18, 15 and 7. I enjoy walking, swimming, reading, writing, listening to music, and watching funny TV shows and movies.”**



### **Semaj Campbell**

**“I was born and reared in Syracuse, New York. I obtained my Master of Arts degree in Africana Studies from the University at Albany (SUNY) (2019) and prior to that a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from SUNY Buffalo State College (2017). Currently, I am a third-year doctoral student of history in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, serving as a graduate teaching assistant. While at Syracuse, I was awarded the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Fellowship. Additionally, I serve as a member of the Future Professoriate Program Committee. Through both my research and engagement in the Syracuse community, I am interested in Black Girlhood Studies: specifically, the social realities of Black girls in Syracuse, NY, during the latter half of the twentieth century, to understand how they shaped their unique identities as they came of age in the Drug War Era. This history of Black girls demonstrates how Black girlhood's inner lives and material conditions offer richly complex additions to our understanding of American history.**



**In addition to my studies, I have a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry at various levels mentoring and advising students. I currently serve as the**

**Program Coordinator for The Image Initiative, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving girls of color in the Syracuse City School District, as well as the Academic Consultant for undergraduate students of color in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Syracuse University.”**

## **Symone Campbell**

**Symone Campbell was born and reared in Syracuse, New York. In 2017 she graduated from Buffalo State College with a bachelor's degree where she majored in Sociology and minored in African American Studies. During her time at Buffalo State, she was the president of the collegiate NAACP Chapter, as well as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, often doing research and hosting programs about inequalities and disparities Black and Brown people are faced with. Symone went on to the University at Albany, where she earned a Master's degree in Africana Studies in 2019. As a Carson Carr Diversity Fellow, she participated in different research opportunities which led to her Master's thesis focusing on how Black identities have been positively shaped throughout history by Black media that countered stereotypical representations. Currently, Symone is a third-year doctoral student in Howard University's PhD program—Communication, Culture and Media Studies. Symone's current research interrogates the critical ways in which media and technology platforms in the K-12 education system function in ways that continue to marginalize Black students and further educational, wealth, and health disparities in society. While in her doctoral program, Symone has published two book chapters, as well as presented at several conferences, including the annual National Communication Association Conference. She is also a course instructor for two undergraduate classes each semester teaching Principles of Speech.**



## **Dr. Wilbert St. Hilaire**

**Dr. Wilbert St. Hilaire originally hails from a small Ayisyen (Haitian) community in Spring Valley, New York, and is a first generation of Ayisyen descent living in the United States. Dr. St. Hilaire graduated from SUNY Oswego in the Spring of 2014 with a B.A. in History and a minor in African American Studies. He would go on to receive an M.A. in Africana Studies at the University at Albany (SUNY) in 2016 and most recently a Ph.D. from the Department of Africology & African American Studies at Temple University. His dissertation is titled “An Afrocentric Re-examination of the Historiography around the Afrikan Revolution in Ayiti (Haiti).” With his training Dr. St. Hilaire hopes to not only publish and teach about Afrikan epistemology, but to also create Afrikan institutions and programs for Black-Afrikan communities. His research interests include Caribbean culture & politics, the Afrikan Revolution in Ayiti (Haitian Revolution), the**





history of ancient Afrikan civilizations, Afrikan cosmology/spirituality, urban black politics, Afrikan leisure & sports and finally Hip-Hop culture.

## **Michael K. Wilson**

**Michael K. Wilson (B.A. Visual Art, M.A. Africana Studies: Art History Specialization - University at Albany). Michael is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Africology and African American Studies at Temple University. In 2021, he received the Department of Africology Founders Award. His research interests revolve around the relationship between ancestral memory, memorialization, and counter-archival practices throughout the African diaspora, particularly among artists of Caribbean descent. As well as being a visual artist and curator, Michael has previously been a Fulbright Fellow and two-time Nelson Mandela Museum Fellow recipient. His publication contributions include the edited volume *New Frontiers in the Study of the Global African Diaspora* by Michigan State University Press and the monogram "Visible Man: Fahamu Pecou".**



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## **Crystal Z Campbell**

**Crystal Z Campbell is a multidisciplinary artist, experimental filmmaker, and writer of African American, Filipino, and Chinese descents. Campbell finds complexity in public secrets—fragments of information known by many but untold or unspoken.**

**Select honors include the Pollock-Krasner Award, MAP Fund, MacDowell, Skowhegan, Rijksakademie, Whitney ISP, Franklin Furnace, OVAC Art 365, Flaherty Film Seminar, and most recently, the 2021 UNDO Fellowship. Exhibitions/screenings include SFMOMA, Drawing Center, ICA-Philadelphia, REDCAT, Artissima, Studio Museum of Harlem, Project Row Houses, Sculpture Center, among forthcoming screenings at Cinemigrante and Doc Lisboa, among others. Campbell has a solo exhibition of paintings opening at Microscope Gallery in NYC on October 28th.**



**Founder of [archiveacts.com](https://archiveacts.com), Campbell was a 2020-2021 Harvard Radcliffe Film Study Center and David and Roberta Logie Fellow and is currently a Distinguished Scholar at the University at Buffalo. A 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in Fine Arts, Campbell lives and works in New York and Oklahoma.**

## **Da' Vonte Lyons**

**Da' Vonte Lyons is from Houston, Texas. He received his BFA in Art from the University of Houston and his MA in Africana Studies from the University at Albany (SUNY). Currently, Da' Vonte is completing his doctoral studies in the African Studies Department at Howard University, class of 2023. His dissertation research focuses on the intersections between Africana mental health and cultural resistance, settler-colonial systems, and racial politics in the U.S. In addition to completing his studies, Da' Vonte serves as president of the African Studies Graduate Student Association (ASGSA) and as a teaching fellow for Howard University's Principles of Criminal Justice course. The course is part of a joint project between Howard University and the National Education Equity Lab (Ed Equity Lab), which offers the class for college credit to 200 eleventh and twelfth graders in five NYC Title 1 high schools. Da' Vonte's career objective is to advance interdisciplinary research and pedagogy in the field of Africology.**



## **Serie McDougal**

**Dr. Serie McDougal, III, received his B.S. in Sociology from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Additionally, he has an MA in Africana Studies from the State University of New York at Albany, NY, and a Ph.D. in African American Studies from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Serie McDougal is also the co-director of the Afrometrics Research Institute. His research interests span five basic areas: 1) Black fatherhood, 2) Black manhood studies, 3) Research methods and theorization in the discipline of Africana Studies, 4) African and African American politics, and 5) Black student engagement.**



**In 2017, Dr. McDougal was honored by the National Association for Ethnic Studies who awarded him the Robert L. Perry Mentoring Award. He is the author of the book, Research Methods in Africana Studies, which received the National Council of Black Studies' Ida B. Wells/Cheikh Anta Diop Award for Outstanding Scholarship in 2016 and the Best Scholarly Book Publication Award from the Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement in 2015.**

## **Gienabou Diallo**

**Gienabou Diallo is from New York, NY, and graduated from the University at Albany (SUNY) with an M.A. and B.A in Africana Studies and a minor in Sociology. She has just completed her first semester at Albany Law School and is currently in her second semester. Prior to entering Law School, Gienabou joined the United States Army Reserves as a 92A logistical specialist, and she wants to pursue a future as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the military to ensure that all soldiers have their basic legal rights. She is passionate about human rights and education and cares very deeply for her community. She conducted research this past summer as an Anderson Fellow with the Government Law Center on election law and worked with the Corporate Counsel at City Hall on litigation. She also serves as a voter educator and social media strategist for the League of Women Voters of Albany County and is involved in several additional community organizations, including work with the Center for Law & Justice and the Common Council President to develop alternative models for policing. Gienabou also serves as Vice President for the Muslim Law School Association and is a member of Moot Court and the Black Law Student Association. She enjoys meeting people, helping others, talking, writing, traveling, experiencing new cultures, trying new foods, public speaking, and watching documentaries.**



## **Tashal Brown**

**Tashal Brown graduated from Michigan State University with a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education in 2020 and is currently an Assistant Professor of Urban Education and Secondary Social Studies at the University of Rhode Island. Brown's scholarship is shaped by her experience as a former educator in New York City public schools, her commitment to advocating for girls of color, and changing the social conditions that impact their lives. Her work has been published in top journals in education, including the *American Educational Research Journal* and *Teachers College Record*. Through collaborations with youth, educators, and community-based organizations, Brown demonstrates an unwavering commitment to equity and cultivating critical and transformative educational spaces with an increased capacity for innovative teaching and opportunities for youth to engage critically and creatively.**



## **Charles Tolliver**

**Charles Tolliver is a December 2006 graduate of the Department of Africana Studies. He then attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate. While at McGeorge, Charles had the distinction of serving as the inaugural U.S. Department of Justice law clerk. Charles then moved to the D.C. area shortly after graduating. He is actively involved with the D.C. Bar, where he serves as a volunteer bankruptcy attorney.**



**His goal is to empower individuals to achieve financial independence. Consequently, he recently began pursuing his LLM in Taxation at the University of Baltimore. He was also promoted to a Tax Expert Lead with TurboTax where he specializes in providing high-level guidance to clients in tax compliance and audit support matters. When not at work, Charles spends a significant amount of time running his growing real estate company and law practice. The firm anticipates acquiring 20 donors by 2024 in Baltimore City with an emphasis on providing affordable housing.**

## **Tanisha Burke**

**Ms. Tanisha Burke is an educator who resides in Brooklyn, New York. She received a Bachelor's Degree ('04) and Master's Degree ('06) from the University at Albany's Africana Studies Department. Since 2006, she has been employed by the Department of Education as a Middle School teacher. While in a teaching capacity during the past 16 years, she has transitioned students who were formerly labeled as "Students with Special Needs" into the General Education Setting through culturally responsive teaching practices. By providing Black and Brown students with a curriculum that is culturally relevant, many of Ms. Burke's students were able to see themselves in a positive mindset and find value in the public education they received. Ms. Burke is an advocate for culturally responsive teaching practices as she noted that it has increased her students' overall academic performance and made a marked improvement in students' self-esteem and motivation to be in school.**



**As an advocate of the arts, she has organized countless creative outlets for her students to develop and showcase their talents on an on-going basis throughout the school year. Some of the outlets for artistic expressions include drama, dance, vocals, and drumming. Ms. Burke has performed her duties of empowering children with diligence and continues to develop inspiring relationships within her school's community. In August of 2020, Ms. Burke earned a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership. Her decision to become a School Building Leader is rooted in the belief that she can assist schools in making culturally responsive shifts to improve the academic performance of Black and Brown children in the inner-city. "As a School Building Leader, I accept the challenge of preparing all students to be 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. We will accomplish this by**



**training school communities to identify and deconstruct outdated culturally biased curricula and teaching practices that continue to assault children's psyche. We will set high expectations for children no matter what zip code they reside in, and we prepare our children to stand firm in a world that will tell them that they "Cannot" even when they can. It is important for them to know that they "Can" every day."**

## **Marquita M. Gammage**

**Marquita M. Gammage is a Full Professor and Chair of the Africana Studies Department at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). She earned her Ph.D. in African American Studies from Temple University and an M.A. in Africana Studies from SUNY Albany. Dr. Gammage's research examines the calculus of media effect on the sustainability of anti-African racist ideologies through the intersection of media, culture and technology. By analyzing current popular media productions (reality TV, television dramas, social media, etc.) paired with an Afrocentric historical and cultural lens, her research demonstrates how the continued misrepresentations of Black womanhood in the media and society in general can be predictive of future public policy initiatives that endanger the freedom and liberties of African Americans.**



**Dr. Gammage is a strong advocate for equity and inclusion in higher education. Her research explores racial equity and academic success of African American students, high impact practices, and asset-based pedagogy. She has served as an equity faculty affiliate for student success, research lead for Excelencia Leveraging Big Data for Equity in Student Success and is the research co-lead for the CSUN Identity-Based Resource Centers Project.**

**Marquita Gammage was reared in the 9th ward community in New Orleans, Louisiana, and her experiences led her to yield an unwavering commitment to researching issues impacting the Black community. Dr. Gammage first began researching the representations of Black women in the media as an undergraduate student at Howard University. Under the mentorship of Dr. Harris, Dr. Gammage published her research on "The Power of the Image: Black Women in Rap Music Videos" through the McNair Research Scholars Program. Since then, she has diligently researched media portrayals of Black women and in 2011 defended her dissertation on "Representation of Black Women in Rap Music Videos".**

**Serving as a leader in the discipline of Black Studies, Dr. Marquita Gammage is an editorial board member for the Journal of Black Studies and is an executive council member for the Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement. In Fall 2011, Dr. Marquita Gammage joined the faculty in the Africana Studies Department at CSUN, and immediately began creating courses and programs designed to engage students in original Afrocentric research on Africana communities. She has advised students through graduate school, dissertations, the research process and presentations at CSUN and at national conferences. Dr. Gammage is**

the faculty director of the *Afrocentric Student Research Conference* and *The Afrocentric Review: A Student Research Journal*.

Her highly anticipated text, *Representations of Black Women in the Media: The Damnation of Black Womanhood* applies the Afrocentric paradigm to critically analyze contemporary media portrayals of Black women and argues that these images have damned Black women to an inferior position in society. Through this work, Dr. Gammage offers a thought-provoking critique of the racist assault on Black womanhood and African humanity. In addition to contesting such portrayals, she affirms the dignity of Black womanhood and challenges media, and Black media to do the same. In 2016, Dr. Gammage was awarded the Best Scholarly Book Publication Award from the Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement.

Dr. Gammage is also the lead editor of *Challenging Misrepresentations of Black Womanhood: Media, Literature and Theory* (2019). This collection identifies the racists and sexist ideologies behind the misperceptions of Black womanhood and illuminates twenty-first-century stereotypical treatment of Black women such as Michelle Obama and Serena Williams and explore topics such as comedic expressions of Black motherhood, representations of Black women in television dramas and literature, and identity reclamation and self-determination.

Dr. Gammage has continued to publish highly referenced peer reviewed books, articles, and book chapters including “Pop Culture without Culture: Examining the Public Backlash to Beyoncé’s Super Bowl 50 Performance” which appears in the Summer 2017 issue of the *Journal of Black Studies* and “Political Terrorism against Women: Analyzing Trump’s Campaign Tactics Designed to Scare the American Public into Supporting White Male Leadership.” In *NEWSCHASER: Trump’s Hate Rhetoric, An Anthology* (2017).

Dr. Marquita Gammage’s most valued accomplishment is her family with Dr. Justin Gammage and their three children, her parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

## **Christopher Keith Johnson**

Christopher Keith Johnson is the Solidarity Center’s (SC) Regional Program Director for Africa. He has worked for the SC since 2006. He previously served as the SC Country Program Director for Southern Africa, West Africa, and Bangladesh. He also worked as a Program Officer for the SC covering various countries in its Africa region portfolio. Christopher spent several years as a trade union organizer and teaching fellow with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He has conducted training and led numerous campaigns on trade union fundamentals such as



organizing and collective bargaining. He has also co-designed and/or implemented programming in gender equity, anti-human trafficking, HIV/AIDS awareness and education, and conflict resolution. He holds a Ph.D. in African American Studies from Temple University, an MSc in International Development (Conflict, Security, and Development) from the University of Birmingham (UK), an M.A. in African and African American Studies from the University at Albany, SUNY, and a B.A. in Political Science from Elizabeth City State University. His written work has appeared in the Small Wars Journal, E- International Relations, International Policy Digest, Sahara Reporters, Face2Face Africa, the Journal of Black Studies, and the Journal of Pan African Studies.

### **Octavia J. Clarkson**

Octavia "Alonge" Clarkson is a doctoral student at Temple University in the Department of Africology & African American Studies. As a student committed to service, she was the first woman to teach African Americans in Sport, and she earned the Outstanding Service Award. She successfully completed both her B.A., as a dual major in political science and Africana Studies, and her M.A. in Africana Studies at the University at Albany (SUNY). Her primary research interests include Afrocentricity, African American Literature, Africana Womanism & Feminisms, and African Americans in Sport. Additionally, she is an educator in North Philadelphia providing high school juniors and seniors with the tools necessary for life after graduation. "Alonge" recently launched two new businesses: Box Bae, a gift box company and Road2DocOc, her blog and speaking business. "Alonge" is an educator who writes poetry, music, and narratives for the legacy she is building.





## **Shaquana Gadsden**

**Shaquana Queenie Gadsden-Wiggins (She/her/Queen) is a proud alumna of the Master's Program in Africana Studies at SUNY Albany. She graduated in 2012 while working full-time as a Resident Director in the Department of Residential Life on State Quad. Shaquana is an Assistant Dean at Columbia University in the Office of Students Affairs (OSA) in the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). She serves as an academic advisor to MIA and MPA students. She is the liaison for the issues of diversity, equity, and Inclusion (DEI), manages student life activities, and is the point person for Parent Accommodations in OSA. Shaquana previously worked at Pace University, where she managed event logistics, student leader training, office operations, and leadership development for the student engagement office there. During her time at Pace, she founded the People of Color Collective, an affinity group for staff and faculty of color. She also served on Pace's presidential advisory task force for DEI, which strove to make the University a more inclusive place. She is a proud member of the Excruciatingly Exquisite Epsilon Nu chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. In her spare time, she is an advent biker, dog lover, plus-size body champion, athlete, hiker, cook, music connoisseur, and world traveler. Her commitment to the Antiracism motto is "I am committed to dismantling systemic inequities. I want to ensure that I am pushing policies which result in racial and gender equity."**



## Major Donor to the Department of Africana Studies



**Tracy-Ann Stewart-Suleiman**

*MA - Africana Studies, University at Albany, 1995*

*MLS - Library & Information Science, University at Albany, 1998*

*MBA - George Washington University, 2012*

**"I started my journey at UAlbany in January 1994 as a non-matriculated student. My father accompanied me and together we met Dr. Sarfoh my first day on campus. I had a great semester learning about Black Psychology with Dr. Sutherland and African Studies with Dr Sarfoh. My favorite memory is Dr Sutherland asking, "Are you with me?"**

**The Department of Africana Studies is very special to me because it is really where my adult life began, and it shaped my future. The Master's in Africana Studies gave me the knowledge as a subject matter expert and coupled with my Master's of Library Science also from UAlbany, I was able to become a Librarian at the Smithsonian, supporting the African-American collections and research at the Anacostia Museum, as well as the National Museum of American History.**

**During my time in the Department, I was able to do a study abroad in Ghana with Temple University's African American Studies program, and during that time I met my husband. Dr. Sarfoh acted as an emissary for my parents and interviewed and approved of my husband. Our children consider him a third grandfather.**

**The larger life lesson of my education is the grounding in the belief that we as African people must embrace and act from our own cultural, spiritual, and historical center. This has allowed me to walk proudly into any room, be they academic or now in the corporate world, and claim my space. I am truly grateful for the support and guidance I received from the faculty in the Department.**

**I give back because I have received so much from this Department."**

## Some of Our Current Graduate Students

### Alexander G. Oda

**“I graduated from the University of Santa Barbara, California, with honors in the Black Studies Department. My focus has primarily been on mixed race studies, African and African American history, and sociology and my goal is to one day become a professor. The Africana Studies Department has always had my back and made sure that I was well taken care of, and I have even made some lifelong mentors that have helped shape my life. I’ve currently done my honors thesis on how the lack of mainstream media representation has affected mixed race Japanese and Black folks and I plan on expanding that further into all mixed-race Japanese folks and their overall experiences in life.”**



### Trae Manzili

**“I am from Syracuse, NY, and graduated from Canisius College (Buffalo, NY) with my Bachelor’s in Physical Education and a minor in Sports Psychology. Since graduating, I worked for AmeriCorps and as a teacher in multiple NY school districts. I have also protested as a foot soldier in the current Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and use social media to raise awareness. I started at the University at Albany in 2020, and now I am a semester away from graduation! During my time at UAlbany, the Department of Africana Studies has been excellent. The professors are very knowledgeable, the Department has an African-centered orientation, and pushes their students to get better and do more while being very helpful. I completed a Black Parenting study that I presented at the Department’s Annual Brown Bag Series, which went well. I am also currently working on an independent study of the African Diaspora. My focus is on African Americans who decided to live permanently in Ghana, which is an increasing trend in recent years. I plan on pursuing more research investigations on the African Diaspora at the Ph.D. level. I ultimately plan on becoming a professor. Since joining this program, I have become a straight-A student and truly figured out what I want to do in life at the next level.”**



## **Erica Green**

**“I graduated from Buffalo State University as a first student in Buffalo State history to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Africana Studies since the program was introduced in 1979. My studies have been hyperfocused on African Americans and gender identity. My primary focus and goal is to become a professor of Africana Studies and gender studies. My participation with the undergraduate research study program at Buffalo State College has led me to develop a research study based around Black Twitters and their reactions to conversations around gender, sexuality and African-Americans.”**



## **DaQuan Vidot**

**I graduated from SUNY Albany in 2019 with my Bachelor's in Homeland Security. After graduation, I worked with underrepresented students at SUNY Albany as the Program Coach of a student support service program located on campus. This job opportunity has allowed me to further my skills in higher education administration and help students like myself that struggled to navigate college life as a Black student. Thus, this led me to apply to the Africana Studies Master's Program. After I complete my Master's degree, I want to continue to assist Black and Brown students in higher education because numerous resources are not allocated to students of color such as myself and to those that are struggling to find these academic resources. There are students who are unable to access as well as utilize these resources due to a lack of knowledge of them or that they are not seen like most academic support services that are intended for Black and Brown people. Last semester was tough because it was our first semester back from COVID, but I overcame many hurdles and passed with a 3.9 GPA. I hope to continue to do well and move forward with my plans. “**



## **Keianna Noble**

**I graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with a BA in English. During my time there, I was also an Africana Studies Minor student. My goal has always been to integrate Black Studies in the Public-School curriculum. I want to be a teacher, and I want to teach things that I deemed important such as Black Studies. This is what led me to start the Africana Studies Master's Program at the University at Albany. This program has taught me tremendous things. It has also given me advisors and professors who have continuously supported me over the year and a half that I have been here. Thanks to them, I feel more aligned with my chosen career path more than ever. Post-graduation I intend to involve myself in careers such as Curriculum Writing and to seek higher positions within the NYC Educational System.**



## **Gary Simpson, Esq.**

**Gary Simpson, Esq., is a 1985 graduate of University at Albany's Department of Africana Studies. After a brief period of time as a Social Worker with LaSalle School of Albany New York, Gary was given an opportunity to begin his professional career as a New York State ("NYS") employee as a Senior Analyst for the New York State Legislative Commission on Expenditure ("LCER"). Gary also served as a mental health specialist for the Capital Region's inaugural class of the Albany County Intensive Case Management ("ICM") Program under the NYS Department Mental Health. In 1991 Mr. Simpson attended the University at Buffalo O'Brian Hall School of Law, where over a three-year period he developed litigation skills. In 1992, he was the winner of the Desmond Moot Court Award and subsequently the winner of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association Award for Trial Advocacy in 1994. After receiving his Juris Doctorate Degree, Gary was the recipient of a New York State Division of the Budget Fellowship, where he served as Budget Analyst for the State's Commission on Cable, Consumer Protection Board, and Public Service Commission. In the late 1990's, Gary served as Assistant District Attorney for Albany County, prosecuting street-level criminal offenses and narcotic felonies. During his time as an Assistant District Attorney, in his free time Gary conducted presentations for the City's urban community titled "Managing Citizen-Law Enforcement Interactions," wherein he apprised city residents of their constitutional rights and how to negotiate encounters with law enforcement. Thereafter, Gary served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York within the Criminal Prosecution Bureau, where he prosecuted white-collar criminal offenses including violations of New York's Tax Laws, Government Integrity Laws, and Environmental Laws. Gary also served as an adjunct professor, teaching Civil Rights History at the College of St. Rose and as a twelve-year Board member for the Albany County Local Development Board. Subsequently, Gary joined the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, where he administered, litigated and negotiated labor and employment contracts for New York States' labor unions including CSEA, Council 82, NYCOPBA, NYSUT, PEF, and State Troopers. For a five-year period, Gary served as Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Corrections and Community Supervision (Parole) where he led the Agency's Department of Human Resource's investigations of prisoner abuse at the State's more than sixty correctional facilities. Currently, Gary serves as General Counsel for the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation - New York's principal higher education finance agency. In addition to his Juris Doctorate, Gary has obtained advanced degrees in Public Administration and Policy, Criminal Justice from UAlbany's Rockefeller Graduate School of Public Affairs, and Policy and is anticipating his final degree in African and African American Studies this Spring. Gary is also an accomplished martial artist who has instructed youth throughout Albany County for the better part of the past two decades and has won over ten national martial arts championships over that period. Gary takes most pride, however, in his children -- his daughter Nia, who is currently enrolled in UAlbany's graduate school of Public Health, and his son Ty who currently attends Albany High School. Like their dad, both are accomplished martial artists.**





## **OBITUARY FOR DR. OSCAR R. WILLIAMS, III**

*"Celebrating The Life of Dr. Oscar R. Williams III. Saturday, September 13, 2021, Cannon Funeral Home, 2020 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12205."*

Dr. Oscar Renal Williams III, of Albany, NY passed away on Monday, September 13, 2021. He was born on February 7, 1966, in Winston Salem, North Carolina to Mrs. Marjorie Midgette Williams and the late Dr. Oscar Renal Williams Jr. He received his early education in Peoria Public Schools, Matoaca Laboratory School at Virginia State University, and Chesterfield County Public Schools. As a young boy Oscar was fascinated with trains, history, and loved to read books. As an avid reader, he was always reaching for knowledge and wanted to know how things worked. It was quite common for Oscar as a young boy to mix up various concoctions which would quite often lead to mini explosions in the living room. While in elementary school, Oscar excelled in Little League Football receiving many accolades. He attended Carver Middle School in Chesterfield County where he not only excelled in football, Track and Field, but also music. He began playing the piano and the drums. In 1980, Oscar began Thomas Dale High School. He continued his quest for knowledge, which landed him in the Honor Society and in Who's Who Among American High School Students. He would stay up late many nights to finish his homework because he knew the importance of balancing being a good student and being a good sportsman. He continued to compete in Track and Field, Wrestling and Football where he was given the nickname "Big O". He began playing the saxophone in the Jazz Ensemble and the Concert Band. After graduating from high school, Oscar attended Virginia Military Institute (VMI) where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in History then a Master's Degree from Virginia State University. Following in the footsteps of his father, Oscar attended The Ohio State University where he earned a Ph.D. in History, becoming Dr. Oscar R. Williams III.

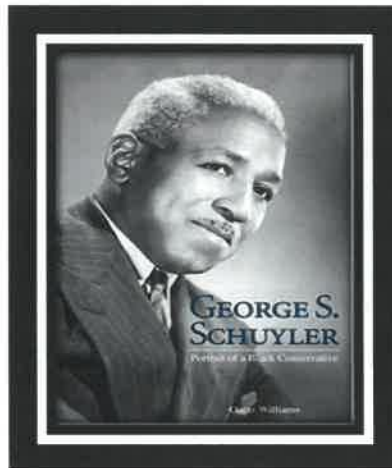
Dr. Williams specialized in 19th and 20th century African American History with concentrations in Antebellum Slavery and Intellectual History. He began his career at Clinch Valley College followed by North Carolina Central University. At the time of his passing, he was Associate Professor in the Department of Africana Studies at University of Albany-State University of New York (SUNY), where he had served as Chair of the Department and was currently the Director of Undergraduate Advisement in the Department. Throughout his career, Oscar presented his research and was an invited speaker at numerous conferences, including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association. Dr. Williams authored numerous articles, book chapters and the book George S. Schuyler: Portrait of a Black Conservative.

Oscar leaves his wife Mrs. Stephanie G. Williams; a son, Jackson Williams; his mother Marjorie M. Williams; two sisters, Teresa Williams Hicks (Leonard) and Iris Williams-Kareem (Gamal); niece and nephews Kristina and Nathaniel Hicks, Anwar Kareem; his mother-in-law Pollie (James) Stovall; in-laws Latonya McCray, April Glass, Rita (Greg) Glass, Vanessa Eason, Veronica Word, Paula Mulder-Stovall, Glenda White; Lanny

**(Alicia) McCalvin, Billie (Diane) Stovall, Freddie (Pam) Stovall; cherished friends Alonzo Lipscomb, Karen Marie Cottrell, Dr. Leonard A. Slade, Jr. and Dr. Adah (Lewis) Ward Randolph, and a host of many nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends**

**Dr. Oscar R. Williams, III,  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Africana Studies  
2001 – 2021**

Dr. Williams is the author of the text “The Making of Black Conservative: George S. Schuyler.” (University of Tennessee Press, 2007).



**Some of Dr. Williams' Publications:**

**Articles and Book Chapters**

- “Slavery in Albany, New York, 1624-1827” African Americans in New York Life and History, Vol. 34, Number 2, July 2010.
- “Memories of Hayti: The African American Community in Durham, North Carolina, 1890-1970,” published in The Urban Black Community: From Dusk Till Dawn, Palgrave Press, 2006.
- Co-authored chapter, with Haywood Farrar, “African Americans and the Civil War,” published in The Blackwell Companion to African American History, Blackwell Publications, 2005.
- “George S. Schuyler and the Civil Rights Movement,” published in Dimensions of Black Conservatism in the U.S: Made in America; Palgrave Press, 2002.
- “George S. Schuyler: Portrait of a Conservative,” Africana: An Introduction and Study, Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company, 1999.
- “From Black Liberal to Black Conservative: George S. Schuyler, 1923-1935,” Afro-Americans in New York Life and History, January 1997, Volume 21, No. 1.

### **Book Reviews**

- Book Review, "Mightier Than the Sword: Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Battle for America," published in the Journal of American Ethnic History, Volume 32, Number 2, 2013.
- Book Review, "Little Rock: Race and Resistance at Central High School," published in the Journal of African American History, Vol. 96, Number 2, 2011.
- Book Review, "A Respectable Woman: The Public Roles of African American Women in Nineteenth-Century New York City," published in the Journal of American Ethnic History, Vol. 30, 2010.
- Book Review, "In Search of the Black Panther Party: New Perspectives on a Revolutionary Movement," published in the Journal of African American History, Volume 92, No. 4, Winter 2007.
- Book Reviews, "The Atlanta Riot: Race, Class, and Violence in A New South City;" and "Veiled Visions: The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot and the Reshaping of American Race Relations," published in the Journal of African American History, Vol. 91, No. 4, Winter 2006.
- Book Review, "Inside the Nation of Islam," published in the Journal of African American History, Vol. 88, No. 1, Winter 2003.
- Book Review, "Antislavery Violence: Sectional, Racial and Cultural Conflict in Antebellum America," published in Afro-Americans in New York Life and History, Vol. 27, no. 1, January 2003.

### **Manuscript in Progress:**

- Manuscript, "John M. Gandy and the Making of Virginia State University."

### **Service to the Department of Africana Studies:**

- Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Spring 2014-Spring 2019.
- Chair, Department of Africana Studies Faculty Search Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.
- Chair, Undergraduate Committee, 2019-2021.
- Director of Undergraduate Advisement, Fall 2001-2021.
- Director and Co-Director of Black History Month Program, 2005-2021.

### **Service to the University Community:**

- University Committees: College of Arts and Sciences Council of Chairs, Spring 2014-Spring 2019; College of Arts and Sciences Academic Planning Committee Fall 2014 -2021; Committee Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Academic Committee Fall 2012-Spring 2013; College of Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, Fall 2009-Spring 2010; Search Committee for Assistant Director in the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action; Committee of Academic Standing, Spring 2008; Undergraduate Academic Council, 2005-2006; and University Life Council,



**2004-2005.**

- **Liaison, University in the High School Program, 2013-2021.**
- **Faculty Senator for University Senate, Fall 2004-Spring 2006; Fall 2012-Spring 2014; Fall 2019.**
- **Faculty Marshall, Winter Commencement 2004 and 2005, University at Albany.**

## **Faculty Research Publications**

### **Reflections on living and dying nations: Space and time in Africa Geopolitics**

**Marcel Kitissou**

*Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2021*

*International Journal of African Studies*

**Abstract:** This paper is a reflection on the influence of time and space on Africa in geopolitics. It proposes that, while history, in the long run is perceived as linear, in the short-term it is granular. To make sense of events, one must connect the dots between clusters of time. The analysis builds on the May 1898 statement of the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Lord Salisbury, assessing the geopolitics of his time as made of living nations and dying nations. He characterized the living nations as having the tendency to encroach on the territory of the dying ones. The statement

implies a combination of geography and a reference to biological processes with implication of space and the vicissitudes of time involved. The processes of living and dying take time and imply occupying a space. As the living states encroach on the territory of the dying, borders become, beyond their internationally recognized physical demarcations, breathing and living entities with expanding (or shrinking) virtual borders. This concept is referred to as pericorporal space in the paper. To test this hypothesis, the United States' international influence and the global status China now enjoys are analyzed. Also, the *de facto* Franco-African state (*Françafrique* lost its legitimacy due to a combination of events in the 1990s), as a typical case, is used to illustrate when, why, and how the expansion of one nation's virtual border reduces the margin of action of other states.

# **An Architecture of Complexity; The Challenges of Radicalization of Islam and Islamization of Radicalism in Western Sahel**

**Marcel Kitissou**

*African Journal of Terrorism and Insurgency Research (AJOTIR)*  
Volume 1, Number 1, April 2020

**Abstract:** Violent extremism and Jihadism in Western Sahel are the result of interlocking conflicts. Civil strife and regional (or global) conflict form a nexus. Conflict becomes intractable. And the inability of government to resolve normal social tensions, let alone the challenges caused by the effects of climate change, youth unemployment, poverty, and food insecurity make them open to

intervention by outside players motivated more by geopolitical calculations than local concerns. Foreign players can be divided into two main categories. Firstly, Jihadists, by exploiting local situations, can make civil strife more deadly than their own actions. Secondly, global powers use Africa as a surrogate terrain for their global power play. As this paper argues, this architecture of complexity leads to the conclusion that there is no one terrorism in the Sahel but many and each requires a different approach. By the same token, the theoretical debate about whether we are witnessing a radicalization of Islam, or an Islamization of Radicalism is irrelevant. This paper argues that there a continuum between the two extremes.

# **Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity Among African American Children and Adolescents: Risk Factors, Health Outcomes, and Prevention/Intervention Strategies**

**Marcia E. Sutherland**

*Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (2021). Volume 8(5), 1281 – 1292.*

**Abstract:** This paper examines the biological, psychosocial, cultural, and obesogenic environmental factors that might account for the high prevalence rates of overweight and obesity among African American young children (aged 2-11) and adolescents (aged 12-19).

Research findings are discussed on the practices associated with the development of childhood obesity including maternal overweight and obesity, physiological predisposition, infant feeding practices, breastfeeding, rapid infant weight gain, sleep disruption, low nutrition diets,

physical inactivity, and sedentary behavior. The psychological correlates of overweight and obesity are discussed. Consistent with the obesogenic arguments, this paper examines the development of childhood obesity as a function of socioeconomic disadvantages, social inequities, urban environmental contingencies, and media food product messages. The potential deleterious health consequences of being overweight and obese are discussed. There is an examination of the structural-level and individual-level prevention/intervention strategies necessary for sustainable declines in childhood overweight and obesity.

**Keywords:** African American children and adolescents; Overweight and obesity; Prevention/intervention strategies.

# **Cost-effective Analyses of an Urban Public School District's Classroom Breakfast Program**

**Marcia E. Sutherland**

*Journal of School Health*

*DOI: 10.1111/josh.13006*

## **Abstract:**

**Background:** We assessed the cost-effectiveness and student outcomes related to providing breakfast in the classroom (BIC) setting versus breakfast in the traditional school cafeteria (Cafe).

**Methods:** The sample included 2906 African American and Hispanic students attending urban elementary and middle schools in a city in the Northeastern United States. Teachers and other school personnel completed interviews. Teachers completed an online survey.

**Results:** School absences were lower for students in the BIC program than in the Cafe program. The school suspension rate was lower for the BIC students than the Cafe students. A larger percentage of BIC

students (80%) ate breakfast than Cafe students (30%). The BIC program was more cost-effective than the Cafe program.

**Conclusions:** Our findings demonstrate that low-income students in the BIC program showed improved attendance and increased breakfast consumption. Students who consume a healthy in-class breakfast may develop better eating habits and academic performance.

**Keywords:** Cost analyses; Elementary and Middle school students; Food insecurity; School-based breakfast programs; Student outcomes; Teacher assessment.

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**Medina Gounass:  
Constructing Extra-  
National Space in West  
African Borderland  
By David Newman Glovsky**

*African Studies Review Vol. 64. No. 3  
(2021), pp. 569 – 594.*

**Abstract:** The historical autonomy of the religious community of Medina Gounass in Senegal represents an alternative geographic territory to that of colonial and post-colonial states. The borderland location of Medina Gounass allowed the town to detach itself from colonial and independent Senegal, creating parallel governmental structures and imposing a particular interpretation of Islamic law. While in certain facets this autonomy was limited, the community was able to distance itself through immigration, cross-border religious ties, and smuggling. Glovsky's analysis of the history of Medina Gounass offers a case study for the multiplicity of geographical

and territorial entities in colonial and postcolonial Africa.

**Where There Is No Formal  
Social Welfare System for  
an Indigenous People  
Entrepreneurship, Watchmen, and  
the Reinvention of the Maasai  
Warrior**

**Eric E. Otenyo, Michelle  
Harris, and Kelly Askew**

*Social Entrepreneurship and Enterprises  
in Economic and Social Development.*  
Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
**DOI:**  
*10.1093/oso/9780197518298.003.0013*

**Abstract:** The underlying assumption of theoretical works on entrepreneurship is that entrepreneurs create opportunities and jobs that offer social security and a path toward the eradication of poverty. Entrepreneurship in the context of Kenya's national development referred to change agents taking risks and innovating for purposes of promoting development. From a sociological perspective, entrepreneurship is about individuals translating visions into successful,

productive ventures. And although social scientists have multiple ways of specifying what constitutes entrepreneurship, attention toward understanding its linkages to the provision of opportunities for economic empowerment has been successful. Schumpeter regarded entrepreneurs as innovators who sustained capitalism- they already take existing resources to produce novel

products. When thinking of entrepreneurial activities among Indigenous peoples, Hindle and Lansdowne contend that these groups create, manage, and/or develop new ventures based on “Indigenous knowledge” for the benefit of their communities as well as to the entrepreneur.

## **Award**

**Dr. Roxanne J. Booth has received the award of the Lifetime Achievement Award in Ministry from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Nu Tau Chapter at their fifth Annual Women of Color Awards November 13, 2021.**





# **Black History Month Events**

*The Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany (SUNY), presents*

## **AFRICANA STUDIES ALUMNI/ALUMNAE BLACK HISTORY PANEL**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm EST**

**(Via webinar)**

*Register in advance for this webinar:*

**[https://albany.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_c1e6PiewRtqPqLrt0mLK9w](https://albany.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c1e6PiewRtqPqLrt0mLK9w)**

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.*

### **Panelists**

***Dr. Marquita Gammage, Professor and Chair, Department of Africana Studies, California State University Northridge***

***D. Ekow King, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Director of Intercultural Student Engagement, University at Albany, SUNY***

***Dr. Ifetayo M. Flannery, Assistant Professor, Department of Africology and African American Studies, Temple University***

***Dr. Christopher K. Johnson, Regional Program Director for Africa, Solidarity Center, AFL-CIO, Johannesburg, South Africa***

***Moderator: Dr. David Agum, Department of Africana Studies***





# Exploring Black Futures

**Ayana A. H. Jamieson, PhD**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2022 | 4:30 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M.**

**ZOOM LINK :**

**[HTTPS://ALBANY.ZOOM.US/J/95139181898?PWD=WStQc0ZxTY82BEM1K2pId2F2RE1AQT09](https://albany.zoom.us/j/95139181898?pwd=WStQc0ZxTY82BEM1K2pId2F2RE1AQT09)**

Ayana Jamieson is an educator, mythologist, and depth psychologist. She is the founder of the Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network, a global community founded in 2011, committed to highlighting Octavia Butler's life and work while creating new works inspired by Butler's legacy. Ayana's essay, "Far Beyond the Stars" contains methods for curating your own archive and appears in the *Black Futures* anthology edited by Kimberly Drew and Jenna Wortham (*One World*). Her writing also appears in *51 Feminist Thinkers* (Routledge), *Uneven Futures: Strategies for Community Survival from Speculative Fiction* (MIT Press), and elsewhere. She teaches ethnic studies courses at California State University Polytechnic, Pomona and is a faculty member at the Salomé Institute of Jungian Studies.



## **Recent Coups in West Africa: Causes and Risks**

**March 9, 2022, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Dr. Marcel Kitissou** is Regional Scholar Affiliate with Cornell Institute for African Development. He serves as Adjunct Lecturer in the Africana Studies Department at the University at Albany-SUNY and contributing faculty in the PhD Program of the School of Public Policy and Administration at Walden University. **Dr. Frank Essien** has served as Adjunct Lecturer in the Africana Studies Department at the University at Albany-SUNY for over 20 years. His research areas of interest include public policy formulation and implementation and development in Sub-Saharan countries from socio-cultural, political and economics perspectives.

**Zoom Link:**

<https://albany.zoom.us/j/92704175558?pwd=QXlTbC9JRHcyak0zZWpiUWVlcmNlZz09>

## **Alumni/Alumnae, Where Are They Now?**

**“Currently, I am a third-year doctoral student at the Indiana University in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies. SUNY Albany’s Department of Africana Studies gave me a foundational understanding of the discipline’s texts and methods that I frequently refer to in my own research and in the classes that I teach. This includes my experience in courses on African American history, theory and methodology, politics, and literature. In each of these courses, my professors presented texts and methods that all contribute to my understanding of Africana Studies as a discipline that emphasizes knowledge not for knowledge’s sake, but for the sake of the community.”**

**-Samantha Horton, M.A. 2017, Doctoral program 2017, Indiana University.**

***These jobs and doctoral programs can be considered quality indicators of our Master’s Program.***

**Araba A. Aidoo-Apau, M.A. 2019, Doctoral program at Howard University.**

**Semaj Campbell, M.A. 2019, Doctoral program at Syracuse University.**

**Symone Campbell, M.A. 2019, Doctoral program at Howard University.**

**Da’Vonte Lyons, M.A. 2019, Doctoral program at Temple University.**

**Bria Young, M.A. 2019, Doctoral program at Mississippi State University.**

**Wilbert St. Hilaire, M.A. 2016, Doctoral program at Temple University.**

**John Paul Craig, M.A. 2014, Doctoral program at Temple University.**

**Chy Sprauve, M.A. 2011, Doctoral program, Department of English, CUNY Graduate Center.**

**Naaja Rogers, M.A. 2011, Doctoral program at Temple University.**

**Keadrick Peters, M.A. 2011, Doctoral program, 2012, Sociology, Howard University. Residence Hall Director, Huntley Hall and Assistant Director of Black Male Educational Programs, Residence Life & Housing, Virginia Union University.**

**Dr. Maria (Ife) Flannery, M.A. Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany, 2011, Ph.D. in Africology at Temple University. Assistant Professor in Africology and African American Studies, Temple University.**

**Crystal Campbell, M.A. 2007, M.F.A. University of California, San Diego. 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in Fine Arts. Currently, Distinguished Scholar at the University at Buffalo.**

**Marquita Pellerin (Gammage), Ph.D. 2011, Temple University, Department of Africana Studies. M.A. Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany, 2007. Full Professor and Chair, Africana Studies Department, California State University, Northridge (CSUN).**

## **Department of Africana Studies 2021-2022 Review**

### **Zoom Discussion on Recent Coups in West Africa: Causes and Risks**

**March 9, 2022**

**On March 9, 2022, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM, Drs. Marcel Kitissou and Frank Essien of UAlbany's Department of Africana Studies presented on recent political coups in West Africa. Their discussion, entitled, "Recent Coups in West Africa: Causes and Risks." This presentation was held over Zoom, and was open to the UAlbany community.**

### **Africana Studies Alumni Panel**

**February 23, 2022**

**On Wednesday, February 23, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM EST, the Department of Africana Studies at the University at Albany (SUNY), hosted an Africana Studies Alumni Black History Panel, via Zoom webinar.**

### **Documentary screening: "Searching for Timbuctoo" - Friday, November 12**

**November 12, 2021**

**Dr. Jennifer Burns spoke on a panel at the screening of a new documentary, "Searching for Timbuctoo," which highlights the history of a pioneering Black settlement near Lake Placid, named Timbuctoo. In addition to Dr. Burns, the panel featured the film's director, Paul Miller, and several other scholars and community members. It was held Friday, November 12, 2021, at Page Hall, on UAlbany's Downtown Campus (135 Western Ave).**

## **13th Annual Africana Studies Research Symposium - October 29, 2021**

**October 29, 2021**

**On Friday, October 29, 2021, the Department of Africana Studies held its 13th annual Research Symposium. The Symposium was held from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Campus Center Boardroom, Room 192. The central event of the research symposium had the faculty panel, which was held from 9:30 AM-12:00 PM.**

## **Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month Celebrated with Organizer and Alum Rosa Clemente**

**October 21, 2021**



**Organizer, producer, journalist, scholar, and activist Rosa Clemente spoke as part of the University's celebration of National Hispanic Latinx Heritage Month.**



## **Recent Democratization Trends in Africa Webinar, March 31, 2021**

**March 31, 2021**

**Guest Speaker: Professor Gilbert M. Khadiagala Jan Smuts Professor of International Relations and Director of the Centre for the Study of the United States (ACSUS), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**  
**Moderator: Dr. Marcel Kitissou, Department of Africana Studies**



## **Black Parenting Styles Webinar, March 19, 2021**

**March 19, 2021**

**Zoom Presentation by graduate student Trae Manzili; Moderated by Dr. David Glovsky. This presentation focused on black parenting styles to understand which styles relate to better outcomes for children as they get older. Some significant findings were discussed.**



**The Department of Africana Studies (518-442-4730)  
Thirteenth Annual Research Symposium**

**FREE ADMITTANCE**

**FREE ADMITTANCE**

**CAMPUS CENTER BOARD ROOM, ROOM 192  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021**

**9:00**                      **Registration**  
**Light Breakfast Refreshments Provided**

**9:15**                      **Welcome –**                      **Dr. Marcia Sutherland**  
Associate Professor and Department Chair

**9:30 – 12:00**                      **Faculty Panel**  
  
Moderator –                      **Dr. Marcel Kitissou**  
Lecturer

**Dr. David Glovsky, Visiting Assistant Professor**  
"Cross-Border Migration in West Africa:  
Tracing Family and Community Connections  
between Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau"

**Dr. David Agum, Lecturer**  
"Africana Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Challenges, Relevance, and Prospects"

**Dr. Jennifer Burns, Lecturer**  
"Defending Black Freedom:  
Three incidents at Troy, NY, Preceding the  
American Civil War"

**Dr. Marcia Sutherland, Associate Professor**

**"Nonverbal Behavior Among People of African  
Descent"**

**Closing Response –**

**Dr. Marcia Sutherland**

**12:00 – 1:30**

**Break for Lunch  
Refreshments Provided**

**1:30 – 2:00**

**Meet and Greet**

**Co-Sponsored by UAS Albany  
The University at Albany-State University of New York**



# CALL FOR 2022-2023 SUBMISSIONS!

*Africana Studies Department faculty, staff,  
students, and alumni, please submit an article, essay,  
or poetry of your original work to be printed in the  
upcoming issue of*

## **THE HABARI: THE JOURNAL OF AFRICANA STUDIES**

*Please email an abstract of your submission by  
Spring semester, February 10, 2023\* to:  
[jtburns@albany.edu](mailto:jtburns@albany.edu)*

*Subject line: 2022-2023 The Habari Submission*

**2022-2023**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Department of Africana Studies  
Fall 2022 Events Calendar**

**In December on Reading Day, we hope  
to have our Annual Kwanzaa  
Celebration**

# **DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The Department of Africana Studies at the University at Albany motivates students (majors, minors, and all who love knowledge) to learn and to enter the world to serve. Our Department enrolls students from all over the world who drink deep from our course offerings. In our nationally-ranked Department, students learn about Africa's ways of life, about African Americans' ways of life, about African languages, about black religion, about black arts, literature, psychology, black history, the law and the black community, public speaking, critical thinking, expository writing, race theory and social thought, geography of Africa, black popular culture, statistics, among many other areas concerning Africa and Black America.**



**The Habari: The Journal of Africana Studies  
2021 –2022 Editors**

**Dr. Marcia Sutherland, Chair, Managing Editor/ Advisor**

**Brenda Lewis, Administrative Assistant**

**Jacqueline Navarrete, Assistant**

**Taliah Paul, Assistant**

**Sarah Chasin, Assistant Editor**

**Dr. Leonard A. Slade, Jr., Consulting Editor**

*If you have any questions or would like to assist with  
publication of the The Habari, please email  
[jtburns@albany.edu](mailto:jtburns@albany.edu).*

**To Give!**

If you would like to make a monetary contribution to the Department of Africana  
Studies,

please visit our website at: [www.albany.edu/giving/](http://www.albany.edu/giving/)

Or contact:

University at Albany Foundation

[uafoundation@albany.edu](mailto:uafoundation@albany.edu)

(518) 437-5090



*Thank you  
for your  
continued support!*



