

Jennifer J. Thompson Burns, Ph.D.
7B Orchard Lane, Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 229-0950
jtburns@albany.edu

Education

American History, Ph.D., 2019, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, New York, 12222

Concentration: Nineteenth Century U.S. History and African American History

Dissertation Title: Black Trojans: The Free Black Community's Grassroots Abolition Campaign in Troy, New York before 1861.

Chair: Amy Murrell Taylor, University of Kentucky

Awarded the University at Albany 2018-2019 Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award.

M.A., 2005, University at Albany, SUNY

United States History

Concentration: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Social and Cultural History

B.A., 2000, University at Albany, SUNY

Major: Africana Studies Minor: English

A.A., 1997, Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC), Troy, New York, 12180

Liberal Arts and Science: Humanities & Social Sciences

Research Interests

Slavery, Abolition, Atlantic History, Nineteenth Century Political History, American Civil Rights, NYS Local History, and American Race and Ethnic Relations.

Research In Progress

Underway: Exhibition Review, "Black Experience in Saratoga County, 1750-1950." Saratoga County Historic Society and Brookside Museum, submission to *New York History Journal* by May 1, 2022.

Awaiting permissions: "Leaving Her Mark: Troy Savings Bank and the Spending and Savings Habits of Black Women in Troy, NY before the Civil War." Following permission decision, submission for peer-review to the *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History* in February 2022.

In Progress: African American Civil War Soldiers from Troy and Albany, NY.

Radio and Television Appearances

2021 **Podcast Interview: "Searching for Timbuctoo"** – WAMC, Podcast aired November 11, 2021.

2020-present **Regular Panelist** – The Roundtable – WAMC, National Public Radio (NPR).

2020 **Television Interview: "Why Black Americans Distrust the COVID-19 Vaccine and What City Leaders Are Doing About it"** – CBS News, Albany, NY. Aired February 11, 2021.

2019 **Podcast Interview: "Slavery in New York And Resistance To It / A NY Minute in History"**
– WAMC Podcast aired January 2020.

Radio Interview: "Troy's Black Community" - Sanctuary for Independent Media Radio, Parts I and II aired March 4, 5, 2020.

Presentations and Conferences

- 2021 **Featured Panelist:** “Searching for Timbuctoo”: Film screening with panel discussion – NYS Writers Institute, November 12, 2021. University at Albany, Downtown Campus.
Invited Presentation: “Reparations in Albany; Why Here, Why Now?” - Universalist Unitarian Church, Albany, NY.
Invited Presentation: “Celebrations & Commemoration: A dialogue on the ways African Americans integrated domestic and international emancipation milestones into their freedom celebrations in the tri-city area”- University at Albany, Inaugural Capital Region Juneteenth Conference.
Invited Panelist: “A Conversation About Reparations” - Capital District Showing Up For Racial Justice (CD SURJ)
- 2020 **Invited Speaker:** First Annual Black Graduation Commencement Event – Sigma Gamma Rho, University at Albany, SUNY.
Invited Presentation: “Black Woman’s Activism in Troy, New York before the Civil War” - New York State Library.
Conference Presentation: “Self-Care When (Re)Working through New Diversity and Inclusion Expectations” – Model Schools Retreat Webinar Series- Capital Region BOCES Northern Regional Information Center (BOCESNERIC), Albany, NY.
Invited Presentation: “Troy’s African American Community: Its Quest for Freedom and Equality before the Civil War” – *VOICES! A Library Lecture Series*, HVCC.
Invited Presentation: “A ‘Forwarding Agent,’ ‘Libeler,’ and an ‘Unimpeachable’ Man: The Abolition Movement Told Through the Life of Rev. Abel Brown”– Sand Lake Historical Society.
- 2019 **Invited Presentation:** “Black Trojans” – Hart Cluett Museum, Historic Rensselaer County, Troy, NY.
Conference Panelist – “Researching African Americans in New York State” - Researching NY Conference – History Department at University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2018 **Conference Presentation** - “Black Trojans in the Global Community before the Civil War” – Underground Railroad Education Center, (former Railroad History Project of the Capital Region Annual Conference (URHP)).
- 2018 **Invited Presentation:** “African American Boxers: The Deeper Meaning of Punches” - (U) Albany Underground, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2017 **Invited Presentation:** “Abolition and Suffrage in Troy, New York before the Civil War” – History Talks Series, Troy Public Library, Troy, NY.
- 2017 **Conference Presentation** - “*Gendered Racism*” - Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region Annual Conference (URHP).
- 2016 **Research Presentation** - “Acting Local, Thinking Global; The Grassroots Formation of the Abolition Campaign by the Free Black Community in Troy, New York” - 2016 Department of Africana Studies Annual Graduate Symposium, University at Albany, SUNY.
- 2012 **Invited Presentation** - “Black Abolition in Troy, New York” - Doyle Middle School, Troy, NY.
- 2009 **Invited Presentation** - “Sex, Power, and Poverty” - Sanctuary for Independent Media, Troy, NY.

Research and Publications

- 2018-2020 **University at Albany, SUNY – Department of Africana Studies**
Editor/Advisor - **The Habari**, Department publication
- 2011 **Twin Cities Public Television**, 172 East 4th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Documentary: **Slavery By Another Name** (2012), PBS Documentary
Historical Fact Checker under Sheila Curran Bernard, University at Albany, SUNY

- 2011-2012 **State University of New York Research Foundation**
 Project: **Civil War Slave Database in Virginia**
Senior Research Assistant under Dr. Amy Murrell Taylor for *Embattled Freedom: Journeys through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018).
- 2006 **Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC)**
 Article: "CASP Offers Collaborative, Holistic Support for Student Success." *Retention PIECES* 3, issue 1 (Fall 2006).

Professional Workshops and Community Partnership Work

- 2021-present **Facilitator:** "Strategies and Comfortability: Anti-Racist Teachers Workshop Series" – Collaboration with Schenectady School District and Underground Railroad Education Center (UREC). Schenectady, New York. Spring session and Summer session. Twelve-hours each.
- 2018- present **Facilitator:** New York Council of The Humanities Grant – Community Talks Library Reading Series – Troy Public Library, "Uncovering and Recovering Race in America" series. First and second sessions completed in 2018-2019. Third and fourth sessions completed in 2020-2021. Fifth session underway, fall 2021.
- 2020-2021 **Consultant:** New York State Mountain Top Historical Society – Regional African American history archives and research and site collaborative project.
- 2018 **Moderator:** ALA American Creed and Community Conversations Grant - One of the fifty libraries in the US awarded the American Library Association grant- Troy Public Library.
- 2017 **Facilitator:** Two separate sessions: "Votes For Women" and "Citizenship" - New York Council of The Humanities Grant – Community Library Reading Series, Troy Public Library.
- 2016 **Moderator:** "The Elephant in the Room", *VOICES! A Library Lecture Series* Committee, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY.
- 2019-Present Hart Cluett Museum, Historic Rensselaer County, *Executive Board Member*
- 2017-Present Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc (URHP), Albany, NY
Executive Board Member
- 2000-Present United Sisters of New York, Inc. (USNY), Rensselaer, NY, *Founding Member*

University at Albany, SUNY – Departmental Services

- 2021-Present **University at Albany, SUNY – University In the High School (UHS)**
Africana Studies Department Liaison
- University at Albany, SUNY – Department of Africana Studies**
Chair, Department Undergraduate Committee
- 2018-Present **University at Albany, SUNY – Department of Africana Studies**
Editor/Advisor - The Habari, Department publication
- 2009 **University at Albany, SUNY – History Department**
Coordinating Committee, Annual Researching New York Conference
- 2008 **University at Albany, SUNY – History Department**
Volunteer, Annual Researching New York Conference

Professional Services

Teaching Activities – 2006-Present

- University at Albany, SUNY – Department of Africana Studies**
 AAFS 612 Race Theory and Social Thought
 AAFS 490 Senior Seminar
 AAFS 435 Blacks and the American Political Process
 AAFS 432 African American Women: Contemporary Issues

AAFS 220 Black and White in America
AAFS 219 Introduction to African/African American History
AAFS 213 Civil Rights Movement

University at Albany, SUNY – History Department

AHIS 101 American Political and Social History II
AHIS 100 American Political and Social History I

Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC)

HIST 120 History of Africa I
HIST 111 Interpretations of American History II
HIST 110 Interpretations of American History I

Independent Studies Projects Supervised

2020 **University at Albany, SUNY – Department of Africana Studies**
Undergraduate Independent Research Projects – 3 students.

Other Professional Services

2001-2007 **Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC)**

Instructional Support Services & Student Retention Workshop Series – Coordinate and deliver workshops in community conversations and best practices for student, faculty, and community stakeholders. Topics:

- “Working Through Geographic Change with Student Athletes”
- “Student Athletes in the Classroom”
- “Diversity in the Classroom”
- “Student Engagement, Unengaged Topics”
- “What Students Teach Faculty”
- “Faculty Openness to Student Curiosity”
- “The Subject Outside the Course”
- “Inclusivity in the Classroom”

2000-2007 **Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) – Student Services Division - Collegiate Academic Support Program (CASP) & Minority Orientation Program (MOP)**
Counselor

- Prepared New York state grant applications annually.
- Developed best practices retention strategies.
- Implemented individual and group retention strategies.
- Compiled and completed Middle States assessments.
- Implemented student and faculty workshops.
- Maintained all program and student records.
- Tutored underprepared students in writing and research.
- Planned annual minority student orientation program for incoming freshman.

2006-2007 **Troy CEO, YouthBuild, Troy, NY**
Instructor: GED preparation courses.

Awards

2019 **Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award** – University at Albany, SUNY
2017 **Women of Empowerment Award** – SUNY Albany, ALANA & Multicultural Resource Center
2012 **Initiatives for Women (IFW) Award** - SUNY Albany
2007-2011 **Diversity Fellowship, Carson Carr, Jr. Scholar** - SUNY Albany
2006 **Women’s Enterprise Scholarship, WE@HVCC** - HVCC
2004 **NCBI Certificate of Recognition Award** (National Coalition Building Institute) - HVCC