

Jennifer J. Thompson Burns, Ph.D.

Department of Africana, Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies
University at Albany, SUNY
1400 Washington Ave
Social Science 248B
Albany, NY 12222
(518) 442-4728
jtburns@albany.edu

Earned Degrees

- Ph.D., 2019, Department of History, University at Albany, SUNY.
Concentration: Nineteenth Century U.S. History and African American History.
Dissertation: "Black Trojans: The Free Black Community's Grassroots Abolition Campaign in Troy, New York before 1861." Amy Murrell Taylor (chair), Richard Hamm, Oscar R. Williams. Awarded the University at Albany 2019 Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award.
- M.A., 2005, Department of History, University at Albany, SUNY. American History.
- B.A., 2000, Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany, SUNY.
Africana Studies, minor in English.
- A.A., 1997, Liberal Arts and Science: Humanities & Social Sciences, Hudson Valley Community College.

Educational Employment

University at Albany, SUNY

- 2023-Present Lecturer, Department of Africana, Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies.
2019-2023 Lecturer, Department of Africana Studies.
2016-2019 Adjunct, Department of Africana Studies.
2013-2014 Adjunct, Department of History.
2008-2011 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of History.

Hudson Valley Community College

- 2011-2019 Adjunct, Humanities and Social Sciences Department.

Other Teaching Experience

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

Other Collegiate Employment

- 2000-2007 Counselor, Collegiate Academic Support Program (CASP) & Minority Orientation Program (MOP), Student Services, Hudson Valley Community College.

Scholarly Activity

Research Interests

Slavery and Abolition, Nineteenth Century and Twentieth Century African American History, Black Atlantic History, American Race and Ethnic Relations, Black Migration Studies, American Politics, and Local New York State History.

Research in Progress

African American women's organizations and community-based clubs New York's Capital Region, 1900-1950s.

African American soldiers from Troy, NY, who served in the American Civil War.

Genealogical work on the Afro-Caribbean family ties of individuals living in Albany, Schenectady, and Troy, New York, before 1860.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Leaving Her Mark: Black Women's Banking at Troy Savings Bank and Their Pursuit of Financial Stability, 1823-1865." *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History* 43, no. (2022): 1-22.

Book and Exhibit Reviews

Review, *Making long Island: A History of the Grown of the American Dream* by Lawrence R. Samuel (Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2023.) Book back cover.

Review, "Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the Niagara Region during the Final Decades of Slavery," *Civil War Book Review*. Vol. 24: Iss. 3. DOI: 10.31390/cwbr.24.3.13

Exhibition Review, "Black Experience in Saratoga County, 1750-1950." *New York History*, 103.2 (Winter 2022): 431-434.

Other Publications

"The Kelley's of Troy: How the Underground Railroad Impacted Twentieth Century Racial Justice Activism in One Northern City." *The Freedom Seeker* vol. XX, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 1 & 4.

Articles In Progress

"What's a Black Woman's Life Worth? The Murder of Emma Letcher and the Pardon of Private Benjamin Lee of the Twenty-Fourth Infantry (USCT) in Oswego, New York, during the Progressive Era."

Prior Research

Slavery by Another Name (PBS 2012), Historical Fact Checker. (Sheila Curran Bernard (writer)). Executive produced by Twin Cities Public Television based on the 2009 Pulitzer Prize winning book by Douglas A. Blackmon and 2012 Sundance Film Festival selection.

Civil War Slave Database in Virginia. 2011-2012. State University of New York Research Foundation. 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) recipient of numerous awards including the 2019 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the 2019 Tom Watson Brown Award, and the 2019 John Nau Book Prize in American Civil War Era History.

External Grant Funding

Co-PI for Grant Proposal “A Multidisciplinary Approach for the Progress and Growth of the Field of Africana Studies.” \$100,000 Mellon Foundation: Affirming Multivocal Humanities grant (2003-2006). Lead on the Digital Humanities African Studies Department database and online repository project, “Africana Studies Lab,” initiative. Lead on the undergraduate and graduate student “Research Day on Gender, Sexuality, Heritage, Identity/Ethnicity: The Quest for Understanding” conference initiative.

Presentations

Media Appearances (Documentary, Television, Radio, and Newspaper)

(* = Invited)

*Interview, “How Freedom Seekers Used the Erie Canal to Escape Slavery,” part of the “Reflections on the Erie Canal Shorts Series,” wmht Public Media, Troy, NY, Full documentary, “Reflections on the Erie Canal” premieres October 2025.

<https://www.wmht.org/eriecanal/>

*Documentary Interview, “North to New York: The Great Migration in NY’s Capital Region” a companion piece to Henry Louis Gates Jr’s PBS original documentary “The Great Migration and Black Americans,” wmht Public Media, Troy, NY, premiered February 8, 2025. <https://www.wmht.org/north-to-new-york/>

*Interview, “From Slavery to Freedom in New York State,” Online Education Video and Resources Project, PBS LearningMedia, wmht Public Media, Troy, NY, April 26, 2024.

*Co-Panelist, “The Roundtable Panel – Live at the Linda – 2023 in Review,” WAMC Northeast Public Radio, The Linda, WAMC Performing Arts Center, Albany, NY, December 15, 2023. https://cpa.ds.npr.org/s297/audio/2023/12/rtpanel121523.mp3?sc=siteplayer&aw_0_1st.playerid=siteplayer

Interview, Gabe Ortis, *Two Way Talk or The Morgan News Hour*, WEAA Morgan State University Radio 88.9, Baltimore, MD, Live Radio, June 19, 2023. Part 1:

mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL2l1ZGhhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcklEPTQxNjYyOSZNRREIEPTE5NzUwMTI5Jk1EU2VIZD0xNTM5JIR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D

Part 2:

<https://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL2l1ZGhhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcklEPTQxNjYyOSZNRREIEPTE5NzUwMTI5Jk1EU2VIZD0zMzE4JIR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D>

*Documentary Interview, *Reframing an Empire Series: Discovering the Legacy of Thomas Cole*, six-part series, episode 5, wmht, Troy, NY, 2023. <https://www.wmht.org/nys-public-media/reframing-an-empire/>

Moderator, University at Albany, Department of Africana Studies Fourteenth Annual Research Symposium, Albany, NY, October 21, 2022.

Television Interview, feature story by Rachel Tiede, “Juneteenth holiday comes with vast history behind it,” News Channel 13, WNYT, Albany, NY, aired June 16-19, 2022.

<https://wnyt.com/news/celebrating-the-history-of-juneteenth/6502201/>

Documentary Interview, *Searching for Timbuctoo* (Executive producer Paul A. Miller 2021), Aired dates: wmht Mountain Lake PBS, WSKG, WNED (Buffalo, NY-Toronto, Canada), June 19-23, 2022, and wmht PBS, May 18, 2022-June 19, 2024.

- <https://www.pbs.org/video/searching-for-timbuctoo-6fzspp/>
 Newspaper Interview, “Historians show how economic freedom birthed Albany’s early Black community,” *Albany Times Union*, February 21, 2022.
<https://www.timesunion.com/business/article/How-economic-freedom-birthed-much-of-Albany-s-16927677.php>
- Newspaper Interview, “The long overdue task of uncovering Albany’s Black History,” *Albany Times Union*, February 6, 2022. <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Historic-sites-have-begun-uncovering-Black-16823229.php>
- *Live Radio Interview, “New York State Writers Institute presents screening of new Documentary Searching for Timbuctoo,” WAMC National Public Radio, Albany, NY, aired November 11, 2021. <https://www.wamc.org/podcast/the-roundtable/2021-11-11/new-york-state-writers-institute-presents-screening-of-new-documentary-searching-for-timbuctoo>
- 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.
- Regular Panelist, *The Roundtable*, WAMC National Public Radio, Albany, NY. 2020-Present.
- Radio Interview, “Troy’s Black Community,” Sanctuary for Independent Media Radio, Troy, NY, Parts I and II aired March 4, 5, 2020.
- Newspaper Interview, “Juneteenth celebrations, now as ever, celebrate freedom and push for more,” *Albany Times Union*, June 17, 19, 2020.
<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Juneteenth-celebrations-now-as-ever-celebrate-15347297.php>
- Podcast Interview, “Slavery in New York And Resistance To It / A NY Minute in History,” WAMC National Public Radio Podcasts, Albany, NY, aired January 2, 2020.
<https://wamcpodcasts.org/podcast/slavery-in-new-york-and-resistance-to-it-a-new-york-minute-in-history/>

Conferences, Panels, and Presentations

- *Keynote Speaker, “Juneteenth: An American Holiday,” Annual Juneteenth Commemoration, SUNY Adirondack Community College, Queensbury, NY, June 18, 2025.
- Co-Coordinator, SUNY-Wide Seminar on Africana Studies, University at Albany, SUNY, April 26, 2025. Funded by the Mellon Foundation grant.
- Co-Coordinator, National Conference on The Multivocality in the Progress and Growth of the Discipline of Africana Studies, University at Albany, November 16, 2024. Funded by Mellon Foundation grant.
- Coordinator and Moderator, “Research Day on Gender, Sexuality, Heritage, Identity/Ethnicity: A Quest For Understanding” Student Conference, University at Albany, November 2, 2024. Funded by the Mellon Foundation grant.
- *Co-Panelist, “The Equal Rights Amendment: A Panel Discussion” with April Land (CAUL), Melanie Trimble (NYCLU), and Barbara Bartoletti (League of Women Voters, ERA Task Force), League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County, Hart Cluett Museum, Troy, NY, October 16, 2024.
- *Keynote Lecturer, “Abolition and Troy’s Free Black Community,” “Welcome, Lafayette (Again!!); A Celebration of the Visit of the Nation’s Guest, September 18, 1824 to September 18, 2024, Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette’s Farewell Troy of the United States, 1824-1825,” The American Friends of Lafayette, Hart Cluett Museum, and Russell Sage Women’s Institute, Russell Sage College, Troy, NY, September 18, 2024.

- *Co-Panelist, “And Equity for All: Building Diverse and Inclusive Archives,” with Jasmine Bumpers and John Diefenderfer. New York History Conference, New York State Museum, New York State Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY, June 21, 2024.
- *Guest Speaker, “Juneteenth Reception Honoring Our Troy Students Participation In the Essay and Art Contest,” sponsored by Troy Teachers Association; Together We Rise Committee and CSEA, Troy Middle School, Troy, NY, June 13, 2024.
- *Keynote Speaker, “Striving For Excellence, Staying Faithful,” Commencement Address, Capital City Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Albany, NY, June 2, 2024.
- Co-Coordinator, SUNY-Wide Seminar on Africana Studies, University at Albany, SUNY, April 20, 2024. Funded by the Mellon Foundation grant.
- *Presentation, “Unsung Voices: Women’s Role in the Black Liberation Movement,” Xi Pi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., University at Albany (SUNY), Albany, NY, February 29, 2024.
- *Keynote Speaker, “Look Within,” Tenth Anniversary Banquet of the University at Albany (SUNY) Student Association National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter of the NAACP, Inc., 677 Prime, Albany, NY, February 17, 2024.
- *Co-Panelist, “The Moral Arc Toward Freedom: Lincoln, King, and the Emancipation Proclamation,” Readings & Conversation with Patricia Spears Jones and Jennifer Lemak, New York State Writers Institute, New York State Museum, New York State Education Department, and the Archives Partnership Trust. New York State Museum, Albany, NY, February 15, 2024.
- *Presentation, “Black Trojans in Blue,” “Capital District Civil War Roundtable, Watervliet Community Senior Center, Watervliet Public Library, Watervliet, NY, February 9, 2024.
- *Presentation, “The History of African American Suffrage Activism in Troy and Rensselaer County during the 19th and 20th Centuries,” League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County, NY, Hart Cluett Museum, Troy, NY, January 21, 2024.
- *Featured Co-Panelist, “Toward Racial Justice: What Role Can We Play?” with Dorcey Applrys, moderated by Gwen Wright, CapitalWomen Speaker Series, The Linda, WAMC Performing Arts Studio, Albany, NY, December 6, 2023.
- *Honored Guest Speaker, “Empowering Me,” Troy NAACP Branch #2182 Annual Breakfast. Italian Community Center, Troy, NY, October 7, 2023.
- *Presentation, “Juneteenth: Freedom Day, an American Origin Story History,” New York State Teachers’ Retirement System (NYSTRS), 10 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, NY, June 15, 2023.
- *Featured Moderator, *The Third Reconstruction*, In conversation with author Peniel Joseph, Rensselaer County Racial Justice, Troy Music Hall, Troy, NY, April 19, 2023.
- Campus Coordinator and Panel Moderator, “Highlighting Black Women Engagement in Our Democracy and Society,” with Hazel Dukes and Jennifer Jones Austin, New York State Commission on African American History (NYSCAAH) Forum, University at Albany, SUNY, Ballroom, Albany, NY, March 28, 2023.
- *Featured Co-Panelist, “Lighting the Fire of the Black Lives Matter Movement.” A discussion of *The New Jim Crow* with Michelle Alexander, Alice Green, Risa Faussette, and Angela Ledford, NYS Writers Institute in partnership UAlbany’s Office of Diversity & Inclusion and The College of St. Rose. The College of St. Rose, Massry Center for the Arts, Picotte Recital Hall, Albany, NY, October 11, 2022.
- *Featured Co-Panelist, “Waging a War at Home: High School Education for Black Girls in Troy,

- NY,” in New York State Archives Magazine *Online Speaker Series*: “Hidden in the Archives: Stories of New York’s Forgotten Female Figures,” Albany, NY, March 15, 2022. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHr5_fSPZR0
- *Keynote Speaker, “Inheritance & Legacy: What Will Your Legacy Be?” Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society 2022 New York Regional Conference, Albany, NY, March 11, 2022.
 - *Presentation, “Timbuctoo and Black Male Suffrage in New York State,” Adult Education Program, United Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY, February 27, 2022.
 - *Featured Co-Panelist, “Searching for Timbuctoo” Film screening with panel discussion, NYS Writers Institute, Page Hall, University at Albany, NY, November 12, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgjH48gO07s>
 - Presentation, “Building Community through Free Black Migration before the Civil War,” FreedomCon 2021 Annual Conference, Underground Railroad Education Center (UREC), Albany, NY, October 23, 2021.
 - *Presentation, “Reparations in Albany; Why Here, Why Now?” Universalist Unitarian Church, Albany, NY, August 29, 2021.
 - *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, Albany, NY, June 17-19, 2021.
 - *Panelist, “A Conversation About Reparations,” Capital District Showing Up For Racial Justice (CD SURJ), Albany, NY, April 13, 2021.
 - *Keynote Speaker, “Say Their Name, Say Your Name,” First Annual Black Graduation Commencement Event – Sigma Gamma Rho, University at Albany, Albany, NY, May 7, 2021.
 - *Presentation, “Black Woman’s Activism in Troy, New York before the Civil War,” New York State Library, Albany, NY, December 3, 2020.
 - *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, August 6, 2020.
 - *Presentation, “Troy’s African American Community: Its Quest for Freedom and Equality before the Civil War,” *VOICES! A Library Lecture Series*, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY, March 11, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YjT7KBssxU>
 - *Presentation, “A ‘Forwarding Agent,’ ‘Libeler,’ and an ‘Unimpeachable’ Man: The Abolition Movement Told Through the Life of Rev. Abel Brown,” Sand Lake Historical Society, West Sand Lake, NY, February 11, 2020.
 - Conference Panelist, “Researching African Americans in New York State,” Researching New York Conference, University at Albany, Albany, NY, November 21-23, 2019.
 - Moderator, University at Albany, Department of Africana Studies Twelfth Annual Research Symposium, Albany, NY, October 23, 2019.
 - *Presentation, “Black Trojans,” Hart Cluett Museum, Historic Rensselaer County, Troy, NY., June 26, 2019.
 - *Panel Moderator, *American Creed* (PBS) documentary screening, Book and Panel Discussion, American Library Association American Creed and Community Conversations Grant (awarded to only 50 libraries in the United States by the America Library Association), Troy Public Library, Troy, NY, April 22 and May 21, 2019.
 - Conference Presentation, “Black Trojans in the Global Community before the Civil War,” Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region Annual Conference, Albany, NY, March 9-11, 2018.

*Presentation, “African American Boxers: The Deeper Meaning of Punches,” (U) Albany Underground, University at Albany, April 17, 2017.

*Presentation, “Abolition and Suffrage in Troy, New York before the Civil War,” History Talks Series, Troy Public Library, Troy, NY, March 2017.

Presentation, “Gendered Racism,” LibertyCon Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region Annual Conference, Schenectady, NY, March 24-25, 2017.

Presentation, “Acting Local, Thinking Global; The Grassroots Formation of the Abolition Campaign by the Free Black Community in Troy, New York,” Department of Africana Studies Eighth Annual Research Symposium, University at Albany, Albany, NY.

Moderator, “The Elephant in the Room,” *VOICES!* A Library Lecture Series Committee, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY.

Presentation, “Black Abolition in Troy, New York,” Black History Month Event, Doyle Middle School, Troy, NY.

Presentation, “Sex, Power, and Poverty,” Sanctuary for Independent Media, Troy, NY.

Workshop Development

Creator and Facilitator, Instructional Support Services & Student Retention Workshop Series. Workshops in community conversations and best practices for student, faculty, and community stakeholders. Hudson Valley Community College. 2001-2007. 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.”

Service and Engagement

Institutional - University at Albany, College of Arts and Sciences

Liaison, University in the High School (UHS), Africana Studies Department, 2021-Present.

Departmental - Africana Studies Department, University at Albany

Co-Creator, Umoja Village, 2023-Present.

“Let the Circle [B]ead UnBroken.” Material Artisan Society. Spring 2025.

“No Cap They Wrote That!” Literary Society Event. Spring 2024.

Umoja Village initiative soft launch. Spring 2023.

Chair, Undergraduate Committee, 2025- Present, 2021-2023.

Supervisor, Social Media accounts, 2020-Present.

Editor/Advisor, *The Habari*, Africana Studies Department publication, 2018-2021.

Departmental - History Department, University at Albany

Coordinating Committee, Annual Researching New York Conference, 2009.

Volunteer, Annual Researching New York Conference, 2008.

Community Engagement - Professional Service (* = Grant funded)

*Academic Consultant, “The World of James Knapp,” Institute of Museum & Library Science (IMLS) *Inspire!* Grant (2023-2025) Historic Cherry Hill, Albany, NY.

Co-Creator and Co-Facilitator, “‘Strategies and Comfortability:’ Anti-Racist Workshop Series” Police Officer Training, Schenectady Police Department (SPD). In partnership with the Underground Railroad Education Center (UREC), Albany, NY. Four (4)

Training Sessions with thirty-to-thirty-five officers, twelve-hours each session conducted at the Schenectady Police Department and Training Academy, Schenectady, NY. Session 1 held January 8-12, 2024. Session 2 held March 18-22, 2024. Session 3 held May 13-17, 2024. Session 4 held August 12-16, 2024.

Exhibition Coordinator, “Repositories of African American History in the Capital Region area of New York State” Event. Featured Historic Cherry Hill, New York State Archives, Albany Institute of History and Art, Rapp Road Historical Association, and Underground Railroad Education Center (Albany County, NY), Hart Cluett Museum (Rensselaer County, NY), and Schenectady County Historical Society (Schenectady County, NY). Exhibition preceded the New York State Commission on African American History (NYSCAAH) third forum meeting. University at Albany, SUNY, Ballroom, Albany, NY, March 28, 2023.

*Academic Panelist, “We Carry it Within Us: Reinterpretation at Historic Cherry Hill,” National Endowment for the Humanities Museum grant (2022-2023), Project Interpretive Team Revisioning Schematic Design, the examination of local history. Historic Cherry Hill, Albany, N.Y.

*Academic Consultant, National Endowment for the Humanities SHARP grant. (2022-2024). Development of collaborative integrated local museum and site curriculum for specific K-12 immersion experiences with Ten Brook Mansion, Underground Railroad Education Center and Historic Cherry Hill in Albany, NY.

Co-Creator and Co-Facilitator, “‘Strategies and Comfortability:’ Anti-Racist Teachers Workshop Series” Teacher Training, Schenectady School District. In partnership with the Underground Railroad Education Center (UREC). Training sessions with K-12 Teachers, twelve-hours per session. New York state approved to fulfill New York State Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) credit hours. Session 1 held Spring 2021 synchronous. Session 2 held Summer 2021 in-person.

Exhibition Consultant, “Rensselaer County’s Black History,” Hart Cluett Museum, exhibit ran October 25, 2019--December 18, 2021, Troy, NY.

*Creator and Facilitator, “Uncovering and Recovering Race in America,” Troy Public Library Reading Series. New York Council of The Humanities Community Talks Library Reading Grant. Renewed 5 times. Grant supported sessions breakdown: First and second sessions held fall 2018 and spring 2019. Third and fourth sessions held fall 2020 and spring 2021. Fifth session held fall 2021. Library funded spring 2022.

Academic Consultant, Regional African American History Archives, Research and Site Collaborative Project, New York State Mountain Top Historical Society. 2020-2021.

*Facilitator, “Votes For Women” and “Citizenship,” Community Library Reading Series, Troy Public Library. New York Council of The Humanities Grant Community Talks Library Reading Grant.

Other Professional Service

Article Manuscript Reviewer. *Women, Gender, and Families of Color*. 2024.

Article Manuscript Reviewer. *New York History Journal*. 2023.

Journal Advisory Board, *New York History Journal*. 2022-Present.

Teaching

(*indicates in-person and on-line modality courses)

University at Albany, SUNY

Africana, Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Department

AAFS 612 Race Theory and Social Thought
AAFS 499 Topics in Africana Studies
AAFS 490 Senior Seminar
AAFS 435 Blacks and the American Political Process
AAFS 432 African American Women: Contemporary Issues
AAFS 401 Seminar in African American History I
AAFS 345 The Black Novel: Black Perspectives*
AAFS 325 Research Methods
AAFS 220 Black and White in America *
AAFS 219 Introduction to African/African American History
AAFS 213 Civil Rights Movement*

History Department

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

Hudson Valley Community College - Humanities and Social Sciences Department

HIST 120 History of Africa I
HIST 115 Introduction of African American History
HIST 111 Interpretations of American History II
HIST 110 Interpretations of American History I*

University at Albany

Student Supervision – Africana, Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Department

M.A. Examinations

Teneille Gordon, 2024.
James Saunder, Jr., 2024.
Alycia Bacon, 2021.
Jacqueline Hardy, 2021.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervision and Participation

Deborah Hoyte. Honors Thesis. “Chasing the Chases: A Journey to America.”
Supervisor. 2023-2024
Ashley Shields. Honors Thesis. “Animal Metaphor as Subversion in Gayl Jone’s *Eva’s Man*, Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*, and Beyonce’s *Lemonade*.” Second Reader.
(Supervisor: Vesna Kuiken English Department). 2023-2024

Undergraduate students supervised

(* = project presented at UAlbany Student Showcase Day) (+ = prize awarded)
*Simone Griffen, “Renewal of Removal? Erased Institutions.” Digital Humanities project. 2025
* Omega Barnett. “Shattering Healthcare Barriers: The Legacy of BirthNet, Inc. in Albany, New York (1994-2020)”. 2025
“Black Voices Speak About Healthcare, Is Anyone Listening?” 2024
Iliyah Faith Evans. “For Familiar-Eyes: A Successive Study on Rastafarianism.” 2024
*+Sanaa Woodley. “White Rage or Black Disengagement?: A Study of Black Businesses Before and After the Civil Rights Movement.” Third Place UAlbany Showcase Undergraduate Student People’s Choice Award. 2024

- *+Amanda Springer. “Birthing Centers v. Eurocentric Hospitals; Black Women and Maternal Mortality.” Second Place. UAlbany Showcase Undergraduate Student Choice Award. 2024
- *Alana Redick. “Redick Family Heritage Project.” 2024.
- *Aurora Flavius. “The New Jewel Movement, 1979-1983.” 2024
- *D-Lonzo Callwood. “Know thyself by ‘Looking Inward’”: Imagining an Afro-Future Through an Africana Studies Education. 2023
- Devin Lamb. “The Forgotten Soldier: The Vietnam War and Post-War Experiences of African American Soldiers in the South.” 2023
- *Yessenia Crenshaw. “The Crenshaw House: Ancestry in Black and White.” 2023
- Aanaya Rowell-Moten. “CEO’s of the Underground.” 2020

Awards, Fellowships, and Recognitions

25th Annual Resourceful Woman of the Year Award, YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Inc., 2025.

Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award, University at Albany, SUNY, 2019.

Women of Empowerment Award, ALANA & Multicultural Resource Center, University at Albany, SUNY. 2017.

Initiatives for Women (IFW) Award, University at Albany, SUNY, 2012.

Diversity Fellowship, Carson Carr, Jr. Scholar, University at Albany, SUNY, 2007-2011.

Women’s Enterprise Scholarship, WE@HVCC, Hudson Valley Community College, 2006.

NCBI Certificate of Recognition Award (National Coalition Building Institute), 2004.

Affiliations and Memberships

Executive Board Member, Underground Railroad Education Center (UREC), Albany, NY. 2017-Present

Executive Board member, Hart Cluett Museum, Historic Rensselaer County (Formerly Rensselaer County Historic Society), Troy, NY. 2019-2022

Member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Member, Organization of American Historians

Member, Phi Theta Alpha National Honor Society

Member, United Sisters of New York, Inc. (USNY), Rensselaer, NY