

# AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

Volume 12



UNC CHARLOTTE

## CHAIR'S REMARKS



The production of this newsletter was very much on my mind on September 20th as I drove south on North Tryon. It was a few minutes past 8:00 that evening. I just finished meeting with a visiting technocrat from Nigeria seeking to establish partnerships with UNC Charlotte and the State of North Carolina on archival and records management issues, research,

and international student internship (pg. 18). The meeting went very well. However, I was getting anxious that we had less than a week to complete this newsletter. The annual BMR lecture was also only about a week away (pg. 6). My heartbeat raced a little so I concentrated my thoughts on the accomplishments of the previous year, especially the great works that faculty have been doing to advance the department's mission. These activities account for most contents of this year's newsletter. We have traversed the globe over the past twelve months, from Charlotte to Xian, South Africa to Spain, and London to Lagos, searching, discovering, and sharing new knowledge on the global black experiences (pg. 10-13).

There is indeed so much to celebrate in the efforts of faculty who are exploring new pedagogical approaches, community outreach programs, and experimental courses. For example, Dr. Charles Pinckney has led the department's Hip-Hop Studies initiatives for the past seven years, and he has taken these to the larger community, including K-12 educators (pg. 14). Dr. Tanure Ojaide also received the prestigious Fonlon-Nichols award in recognition of his scholarly contributions to the advancement of democratic ideals and human dignity (pg. 7). As I cruised south on North Tryon, I recalled with deep satisfaction that our hosting of the fortieth annual conference of the National Council for Black Studies in March was a huge success (pp. 4-5). And then, there are new faculty books and articles that I look forward to reading (pg. 7-9).

But then, I felt a dark cloud hanging over these

accomplishments. I had watched, like other millions of Americans, how another black person, 40-year-old Terence Crutcher, was gunned down in cold blood by a law-enforcement officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma the previous Friday. The news coming out of Chicago about gun violence was also distressing. In late summer, the country was in uproar over the fatal police shooting of black men in several American cities and the retaliatory killing of law enforcement officers by two black men. Then, the week started with the confusion within the ranks of North Carolina's political leaders—state legislators and governor—on what to do with their HB2 legislation. They were worried, not about the morality of the law, but about its adverse economic impacts on the state. Much earlier, on July 29th, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit decisively struck down North Carolina's Voter-ID law, describing the legislation as a racially discriminatory law that violates the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. "This season of anomy," I muttered.

I used the rest of my drive that evening to wind down. Little did I know that the dark cloud that had troubled me on my way home had thickened and was hanging low on Charlotte. Later that evening, I learnt that another black person had been fatally shot, but this time closer to home. Keith Lamont Scott was killed by an undercover black police officer in the company of other policemen in uniform, a few miles from our main campus. We have since seen the demonstration of public outrage, both violent and peaceful. There have been peaceful gatherings on campus to protest and discuss the disproportional use of fatal force by police officers against their fellow black and brown citizens across the country (pg. 2).

With all of these troubling events, it has been very challenging for me to introduce this edition of AFRS Newsletter to our readers. Why should people who have given so much to this country and yet have historically suffered so much in the hands of state institutions and White Supremacists for more than 400 years continue to be treated as second class citizens in 2016?

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## CHAIR'S REMARKS *(continued from pg. 1)*

I raised a similar question in the last edition of AFRS newsletter about the racial disparities in the delivery of social justice as well as economic, educational, and social opportunities. These questions are constantly at the front burner of our teaching and scholarship in the Africana Studies Department. It has to be, especially for a discipline that was created in the hot crucibles of the Civil Rights Movement. The demands of black students to transform the U.S. academic institutions into agents of change for equity, tolerance, respect, and

appreciation of diversity not only created Africana Studies as an academic institution but also led to the creation of other academic units and programs dedicated to gender equality and multiculturalism. Africana or Black Studies has come a long way, and its affiliates are no longer the only one carrying the burden of merging academic pursuits with activist responsibility. But the enormity of our work has not diminished. Hence, my use of the metaphor, "season of anomy". I borrowed this term from the title of a novel by Wole Soyinka, Africa's first Nobel Prize winner for literature. The novel is about the reckless leaders who use state institutions to divide and conquer in order to maintain their self-serving grip on power. It is also about finding ethical solutions to the problems of inequalities and injustice; mobilizing the goodwill of the people below and in-between against irresponsible and unresponsive leadership.

There has never been a time more urgent than now for the public university to be at the forefront of creating the ethical and moral space where a new generation of leaders and citizens are groomed to destroy the edifice of inequality and injustice that are fast fossilizing along the lines of class, race, gender, and sexual orientation. I continue to believe that our quest for diversity must start with a truly diverse curriculum (pg. 20). This is what will pull down the wall of ignorance that has perpetuated racist institutions and racist practices. Our liberal arts education must develop a post-racial curriculum that decenters Eurocentric epistemology as the sole basis for understanding the global human experience. It is then that we will be able to destroy this mantra of institutionalized racism. It is this deep-seated psychology of racism that equates blackness with crime, siphons a disproportionate number of black people into the prison industrial system, criminalizes poor people, and continues to relegate Africana history and philosophy to the margins of critical humanistic inquiry. With these, it does not matter what the race of the police officer, teacher, or social worker is.



Peaceful protest of police shootings, UNC Charlotte. September 28, 2016

We are all damaged and made less human by ignorance and fear that our racist socialization and provincial education have fostered in us.

In the Africana Studies Department, our scholarship, teaching, and community engagement are guided by the quest for pedagogical renewal and ethical transformation through the infusion of liberal arts education with cosmopolitan perspectives and critical black intellectual traditions. We may be quietly working towards this goal but we must be ready to openly call out powerful people whose utterances and dealings are worse than the action of thugs and looters that they attack with racial slurs. We must speak truth to power. When elected officials pass and sign bills that seek to curtail the civil rights of black citizens, we have the responsibility to call out their racist acts. When elected officials pass laws that attack the dignity of fellow citizens on account of the latter's sexual orientation, we have the duty to call out these acts of bigotry.

Every action has a name, and our scientific and humanistic inquiry must be clinically-precise in identifying and calling out problems in order to find the best solutions possible. The dignity, citizenship, humanity, and civil liberties of no one is negotiable, not on the basis of sexual orientation, not on the basis of gender, not on the basis of religious belief. Certainly, not on the basis of color or race. It is in this spirit that we will host our eighth annual Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey public lecture on the theme of racial violence on September 29 (pg. 6). And on November 29, we will organize an artistic protest event titled "Representations of Race, Violence, Injustice, and Inequality" (pg. 16).

I hope you enjoy reading about our recent activities in teaching, research, community engagement, and service. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and academic programs.

## AFRICANA STUDIES AT A GLANCE

### VISION

The Department of Africana Studies is the primary intellectual unit at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte holistically dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of Africa and the global African Diasporas; and it shall comprehensively pursue the production, dissemination, and application of Africana-centered knowledge as the basis for seeking improvement to the multifaceted human conditions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### MISSION

The mission of the Africana Studies Department is to educate and mentor students, discover and disseminate new knowledge, and engage diverse communities on the experiences of Africa-descended populations worldwide, with emphasis on culture, history, social policy, health, environment, entrepreneurship, race and diaspora studies, sustainability, social justice, and social responsibility within the critical liberal arts tradition.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- ◆ B.A. Africana Studies
- ◆ B.A. Africana Studies with Concentration in Health and Environmental Studies
- ◆ Minor in Africana Studies
- ◆ Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies (including 4+1 Early Entry program)
- ◆ Number of undergraduate majors and minors: 100+
- ◆ Average number of Student Credit Hours (SCH) per Academic Year: 7300+
- ◆ Number of Faculty: 7 tenure-ladder and 4 part-time

### ANNUAL PUBLIC ACADEMIC EVENTS

- ◆ Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture (*fall*)
- ◆ Artist-in-Residence (*spring*)
- ◆ Africana Studies Conference (*spring*)

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American History + Culture
- ◆ LATIBAH Museum
- ◆ Juneteenth Festival of the Carolinas
- ◆ Friends of Old Westview Cemetery, Inc.
- ◆ The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflection (ESPER)
- ◆ NC National Alliance of Black School Educators
- ◆ Yoruba Language-in-Community Outreach
- ◆ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



Recent AFRS Graduates

### OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Charlotte Papers in Africana Studies
- ◆ Digital Africana Studies

### SELECTED FACULTY RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND SERVICE AWARDS

- ◆ Duke University School of Medicine Fellowship
- ◆ Fulbright-Hays Fellowship (thrice)
- ◆ Gilder-Lehrman Center Fellowship
- ◆ Kathryn T. Preyer Scholar in American Legal History
- ◆ National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (twice)
- ◆ National Humanities Center Fellowship
- ◆ Social Science Research Council Research Grant
- ◆ Wenner-Gren Foundation Research Grant
- ◆ All-Africa Okigbo Prize for Poetry (twice)
- ◆ Association of Nigerian Authors' Poetry Award (four times)
- ◆ BBC Arts and Africa Poetry Award
- ◆ Carnegie Foundation Fellowship (twice)
- ◆ Commonwealth Poetry Prize
- ◆ Certificate of Special US Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Service
- ◆ Fonlon-Nichols Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◆ Choice magazine's Outstanding Academic Title
- ◆ University of Texas Africanist Award for Research Excellence
- ◆ UNC Charlotte's Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence Finalist
- ◆ UNC Charlotte's First Citizens Bank Scholar Medal Award



## UNC CHARLOTTE HOSTED NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES IN UPTOWN



Cutting NCBS 40th Birthday Cake. From left, Dr. Maxwell-Roddey, Dean Nancy Gutierrez, Provost Joan Lorden, Dr. Akin Ogundiran, and Dr. Georgene Bess Montgomery, NCBS President

Last spring, March 16-19, Uptown Charlotte witnessed a four-day intellectual fiesta focusing on different aspects of African, African American, and African Diaspora experiences—culture, history, social policies—and emergent social issues. This was brought about by the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) whose members returned to Charlotte for their fortieth annual conference. This professional organization for Black/Africana Studies developed from the initiatives of UNC Charlotte's faculty and students led by Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, founding chair of the African American and African Studies Department (now Africana Studies). Dr. Maxwell-Roddey also served as the founding president of the National Council for Black Studies (1976-1978).

The four-day eventful conference featured 142 sessions at the Omni Hotel. Hosted by the Africana Studies Department, the conference drew more than 550 participants from all over the United States, Canada, France, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Brazil, and the Caribbean. Several UNC Charlotte faculty members presented at the conference, including Dr. Danielle Boaz and Dr. Honore Missihoun (Africana Studies), Dr. Julia Robinson (Religious Studies), Dr. Malin Pereira (English and Honors College), Dr. Cheryl Hicks and Dr. Sonya

Ramsey (History). And, Dr. Pereira organized a session on "Reading Contemporary Black Poetry" in which three of her graduate students—Kristen Reynolds, Kaneisha Gaston, and Melissa Leigh—served as presenters.

The local planning committee, co-chaired by Dr. Akin Ogundiran and Dr. Gregory Mixon, also facilitated several community outreach programs. Four Mecklenburg County commissioners—George Dunlap, Trevor Fuller, Vilma Leake, and Ella B. Scarborough—led a well-received panel discussion titled "Black Charlotte in Focus: Challenges and Opportunities." Dr. Scott Gartlan, Executive Director of Charlotte Teachers Institute, organized two sessions to give the area K-12 teachers the opportunity to present their scholarly and pedagogical works. In addition, Dr. Victor Mack, the Office of Education Outreach director, organized a poverty simulation workshop for forty-six professionals from 24 schools and organizations. The workshop, led by Dr. Lyndon Abrams (Department of Counseling) and Ms. Kimberly Turner (Director of the Multicultural Resource Center), was designed to help participants begin to understand (1) what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to

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month; (2) the socioeconomic background of some of the challenges that many students experience in the K-12 instruction environment; and (3) the needed reforms for effective learning, early intervention, social welfare, improved school funding, strong educational leadership, culturally-relevant curriculum, and innovative student-centered pedagogy, among others.

A special session honoring Dr. Maxwell-Roddey was organized by Dr. Sonya Ramsey. Titled “‘We Called Her Queen Mother’: The Impact and Legacy of Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey,” the session involved two UNC Charlotte’s retired faculty, Gregory Davis and Herman Thomas, who reflected on their supportive roles in the early development of Black Studies on campus, and the dynamic leadership provided by Dr. Maxwell-Roddey. Dr. Ogundiran also convened the 14th Annual Africana Studies Symposium as part of the NCBS conference. The symposium, organized as a two-part session, was titled “Africa’s Deep Past: Evidence from Archaeology, Linguistics, Paleography, and Visual Arts.” The speakers included Emeritus Professor Christopher Ehret of the University of California-Los Angeles, Professor Chap Kusimba of American University, Dr. S. O. Y. Keita of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Solange Bumbaugh, a recent graduate of the University of Chicago. The speakers engaged topics ranging from general historiographic, methodological, and pedagogical issues to case studies on Ancient Egypt, the Kingdom of Meroe, and the ancient commercial networks between East Africa and Asia. What’s more, Brenda Tindal, the Historian of the Levine Museum of the New South and an AFRS/HIST alum; Malcolm Graham, former North Carolina State Senator; and James Ferguson II, prominent Civil Rights attorney, spoke at the conference plenary session titled “From Charlotte to the World: Past, Present, and Future of Black Studies in the 21st Century.”

A major highlight of the conference was the host reception held at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, attended by Dean Nancy Gutierrez (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Provost Joan Lorden, Dr. Robert Wilhelm (Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development), and other senior administrators. Mayor Jennifer Roberts and Councilman Al Austin brought goodwill messages to the conferees, and Commissioner George Dunlap presented a Proclamation, on behalf of Mecklenburg County, to the NCBS president.

The Office of the Chancellor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund, the College of Education, Honors College, and J. Murrey Atkins Library, and the Harvey B. Gantt Center served as the grand sponsors of the conference. Fifteen units across campus joined as co-sponsors: American Studies, Anthropology, Charlotte Teachers Institute, Communication Studies, Dance, English, History, Multicultural Academic Services, Multicultural Resource Center, Office of Education Outreach, Political Science and Public Administration, Philosophy, Psychology, Public Policy, and Religious Studies.



Dr. Eddy Souffrant (Philosophy) and Mayor Jennifer Roberts of Charlotte



Dr. Ogundiran with Commissioner George Dunlap and Councilman Al Austin



The Harvey B. Gantt Center during reception  
Photos by Wade Bruton, campus photographer



## THE EIGHTH DR. BERTHA MAXWELL-RODDEY DISTINGUISHED AFRICANA LECTURE TO FOCUS ON RACE, VIOLENCE AND BLACK CITIZENSHIP

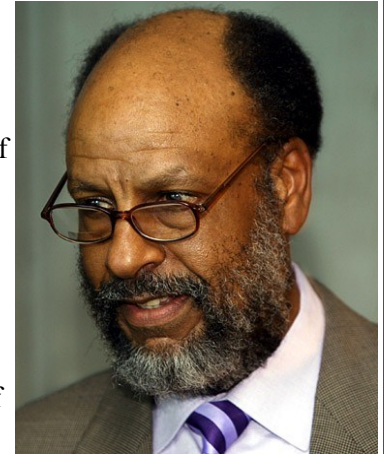
This year's Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Lecture is scheduled for September 29th at 5:30PM in Fretwell building, room 100. Titled "*On Jordan's Stormy Banks: Racial Violence and the Quest for Home in America,*" the lecture will provide historical contextualization for the recent incidents of racial violence in the United States. The guest of honor and speaker at this year's event is Dr. Bernard E. Powers, a professor of history at the College of Charleston. Dr. Powers is co-author of the recently released *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel*. His first book entitled, *Black Charlestonians: A Social History 1822-1885*, was designated an "Outstanding Academic Book" by *Choice Magazine*. Dr. Powers has appeared in several American history documentary films, including, most recently, the PBS production: *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*. He is also on the board of the International African American Museum (IAAM) being built in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Mayor of the City of Charlotte, Honorable Jennifer Roberts and the Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, Honorable Trevor Fuller, are expected to send a proclamation, recognizing the importance of the lecture for the city of Charlotte and its region. The event is free and open to the public. A book-signing ceremony and reception will immediately follow the lecture.

Named for Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, the founding chair of the Africana Studies Department, the purpose of the lecture is to facilitate a critical understanding of the multidimensional black experience in regional, national, and global spaces. The inaugural lecture, "The Future of Charlotte as a Global City: The Black Dimensions," was

delivered in 2009 by distinguished attorney and widely respected Civil Rights leader, Mr. James E. Ferguson II, president of the law firm Ferguson Chambers and Sumter, P.A. The president of the Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. Ronald L. Carter, gave the second lecture: "Avoiding the Perfect Storm: A Vision of Excellence in the Emerging New Majority."

Honorable Terry Bellamy, Mayor of the City of Ashville (NC), presented the third lecture on "Youth Empowerment: Structure for Developing Tomorrow's Workforce." Dr. Lorand James Matory, the Lawrence Richardson Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University delivered the 2012 BMR lecture on "Global Migrations and the Crisis of Identity in Black America." He was followed in 2013 by Dr. Charles V. Willie, The Charles W. Elliot Professor of Education Emeritus at Harvard University, who spoke on "African American Families in the Twenty-first Century." Dr. Yele Aluko, Senior Vice President at Novant Health and Medical Director of the Novant Health Heart and Vascular Institute, focused the 2014 edition on "North Carolina's Rejection of Medicaid Expansion: Politicizing the Health of Our Society." On the seventh year anniversary of the lecture, Dr. Paul Zeleza, Vice-Chancellor of the United States International University Africa in Kenya, spoke on the theme "Africa Rising: The Role of Higher Education and the Diaspora."



### THE 7TH ANNUAL DR. MARIO AZEVEDO AFRICANA ESSAY CONTEST

#### ELIGIBILITY

The Dr. Mario Azevedo Africana Essay Contest is open to all registered students at UNC Charlotte during 2016-17 academic year.

**Deadline for Submission:** March 1st, 2017

**PRIZE:** 1st Place (\$150.00 in value and a certificate)  
2nd Place (\$75.00 in value and a Certificate)

#### ESSAY GUIDELINES

1. Essay should focus on any aspect of the Africana

(African and/or African Diaspora, including African-American) experience,

2. Submission must be typed in Microsoft Word, using Times New Roman Font in a 12 font size, 8-10 pages in length (including references), double-spaced with one inch margins-left to right and-top to bottom.

3. Essays will be evaluated on the basis of originality, coherence, content, organization, documentation, and style.

The Essay Contest is named for Dr. Mario Azevedo, Chair of the Africana Studies Department, UNC Charlotte, 1986-2006.

**For more information, contact [ogundiran@uncc.edu](mailto:ogundiran@uncc.edu)**

## FACULTY: SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

**DR. DANIELLE BOAZ**

Dr. Boaz received a Faculty Research Grant, which she used to conduct research in Cape Town, South Africa, for her current book project examining the prosecution of spiritual practitioners as charlatans and vagrants in the Atlantic world from the 1830s-1960s.

## PUBLICATION

“Modern Legal Issues in the Practice of African Diaspora Religions,” in *Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora*, ed. Ibigbolade Aderibigbe and Carolyn Jones Medine (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS:

“The ‘Voodoo Cult’ of Detroit: the Nation of Islam, Haiti and the Legacy of ‘Human Sacrifice,’” Caribbean Studies Association, Annual Conference, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 2016.

“From European Witches to Afro-Caribbean Obeah Men: Gender and Supernatural Crimes in the Atlantic World,” University of Georgia, Invited Talk, Athens, GA, October, 2015.

“Modern Legal Constraints on the Practice of African Diaspora Religions,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Biennial Conference, Charleston, October-November 2015.

“Fraud, Vagrancy and the ‘Pretended’ Exercise of Supernatural Powers” American Society for Legal History, Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., October 2015

**DR. HONORE MISSIHOUN**

“Niger Delta Dystopia and Environmental Activism in Tanure Ojaide’s *The Tale of the Harmattan*.” Presented at NCBS 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, Charlotte, NC. March 16-18, 2016).

**DR. DOROTHY SMITH-RUIZ**

Guest Conference Lecture, African American Legacy Lecture. “Contemporary African American Grandmothers: Primary Caregivers and Conveyers of Traditional Values.” Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY.

**DR. TANURE OJAIDE**

- 2016 Recipient of Carnegie African Diaspora Program Fellowship, to mentor graduate studies in the Department of English & Literary Studies, Kwara State University, Nigeria.
- 2016 Recipient of the African Literature Association’s Fonlon-Nichols Award for commitment to democratic ideals, humanistic values, and literary excellence in Africa. Awarded on April 9 at the Association of African Literature Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- Appointed African Ambassador of *OGAZINE: International Online Poetry Magazine* (since 2015).
- Poetry Readings:
  - June 11th, 2016: the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.
  - July 23rd, 2016: the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

**DR. AKIN OGUNDIRAN**

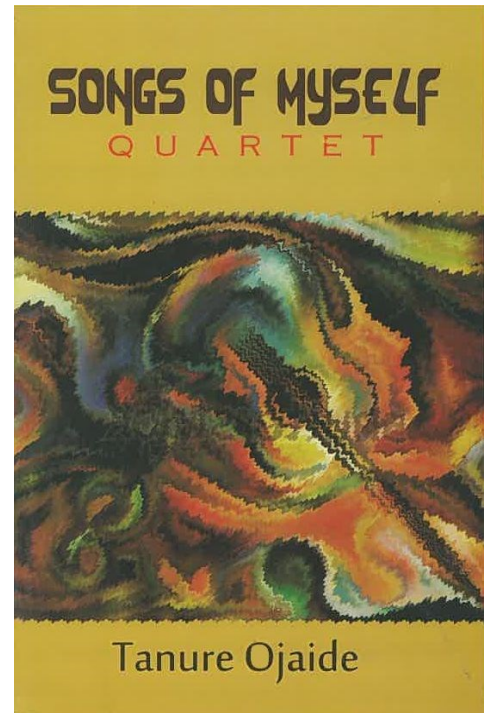
- *Materialities of Ritual in the Black Atlantic* (Indiana University Press, 2014) was named Choice magazine’s Outstanding Academic Title.
- Recipient of the Civic, Community Education & Engagement Grant of the National Council for Black Studies (with Dr. Victor Mack, Dr. Gregory Mixon, Dr. Lyndon Abrams, and Ms. Kimberly Turner).
- “A Multiplex Landscape: Explorations of Place and Practice in Osun Grove, Nigeria.” In *Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa*, John Beardsley, ed. (Washington DC: Dumbarton Oaks), pp. 293-322.
- “Pioneers of Archaeological Thought and Practice in Postcolonial Nigeria.” In *Theory in Africa, Africa in Theory: Locating Meaning in Archaeology*. S. Wynne-Jones and J. B. Fleisher, eds. (New York: Routledge), pp. 90-110.
- “‘Our Ancestors Were Material Scientists’: Archaeological and Geochemical Evidence for Indigenous Yoruba Glass Technology”. *Journal of Black Studies* 46(8): 751-772, co-authored with A. Ige.
- Appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of African Military History*, Brill, 2016.

## NEW BOOKS BY AFRS FACULTY

***Songs of Myself: Quartet***

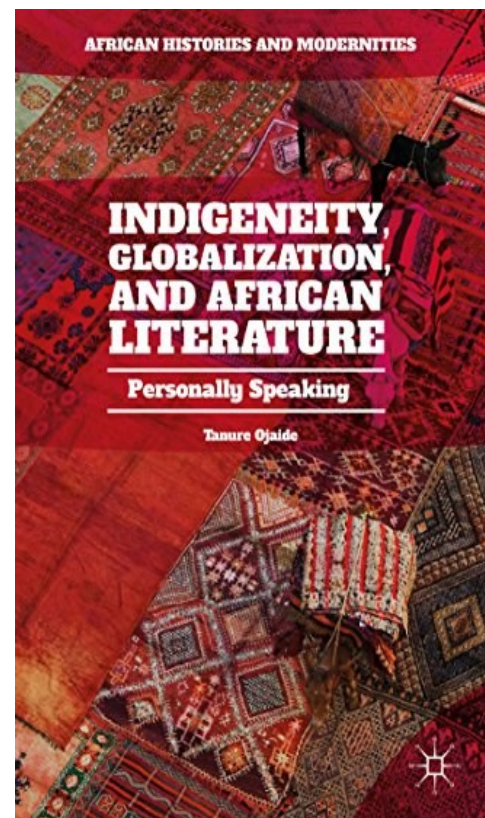
Kraft Books, Ibadan, November 2015

*Songs of Myself*, authored by University of North Carolina's most prolific poet, Tanure Ojaide, incorporates aspects of the African indigenous poetic tradition in which the poets first mock themselves before satirizing others. Here, the poet extols the virtues that the society needs for its harmony. He uses different experiences and images to reflect on individual and communal responsibilities in society, politics, and the environment as they affect his homeland, the Niger Delta.

***Indigeneity, Globalization, and African Literature: Personally Speaking***

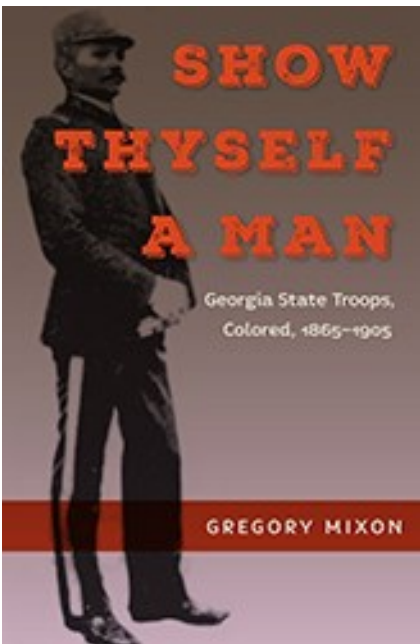
Palgrave Macmillan, New York, October 2015

Literature is one of the few disciplines that reflect the intimate experiences, sensibility, worldview, aspirations, and living realities of a people. This relationship of literature with African people's lives and condition forms the setting of Tanure Ojaide's latest reflections on the intersections of the global and the local in everyday African lives. Tanure Ojaide's *Indigeneity, Globalization, and African Literature: Personally Speaking* belongs with a well-established tradition of personal reflections on literature by African creative writer-critics. Ojaide's contribution brings to the table the perspective of what is now recognized as a "second generation" writer, a poet, and a concerned citizen of Nigeria's Niger Delta area. Niyi Osundare, Distinguished Professor at the University of New Orleans, described the book as a "frank and passionate celebration and defense of the dignity and desirability of the indigenous in an age of specious globalization... a welcome intervention by one of the most assiduous workers in the vineyard of African letters."





## BOOKS BY FACULTY AFFILIATES



*Show Thyself a Man: Georgia State Troops,  
Colored, 1865-1905*

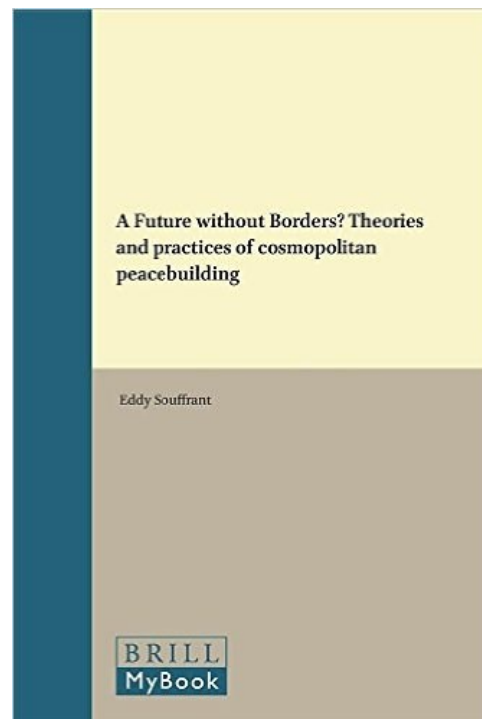
University Press of Florida, 2016

Dr. Gregory Nixon's latest book examines how African Americans formed and used independent militias in their struggle for freedom and citizenship in the aftermath of the Civil War. Independent militias not only empowered African Americans to mobilize for self-defense in the hostile post-antebellum South but also provided a path for them to get involved in politics and to work towards their financial independence. Dr. Nixon tells a compelling story of how black militias moved the country forward in the checkered but determined journey towards the principles of integration, liberty, and inclusion. His book therefore offers a new historical context for understanding the antecedents of some of the issues that have defined and challenged the ideas and ideals of American democracy, especially on the subject of state rights, individual rights, citizenship, equality and equity, opportunities, and social justice.

*A Future without Borders? Theories and  
Practices of Cosmopolitan Peace Building*

Brill, Leiden, 2016

Dr. Eddy M. Souffrant is the editor of a new book, *A Future without Borders? Theories and Practices of Cosmopolitan Peace Building*. The book uses the concept of "adapting cosmopolitanism" to offer an explanation of why the "Occupy Wall Street" activism swept across the globe. Until recently, the statal/national problems understood as politico-economic failures were conceived as isolated problems, failures of statal institutions that are particular to certain countries. *A Future without Borders?* contests the Eurocentric logic that explains these circumstances as national failures and argues instead that the conditions be assessed as extensions of the global economic and ideological failures. The book showcases how the call for civility, social justice, collective responsibility, and accountability are processes inherent to "adapting cosmopolitanism", galvanizing the young people across national borders to mobilize for a better future. The book addresses the implications of "adapting cosmopolitanism" for exploring new solutions to local and national problems.



## ON THE ROAD

## FROM CHINA TO SPAIN: DR. OSCAR DE LA TORRE'S SUMMER NOTES

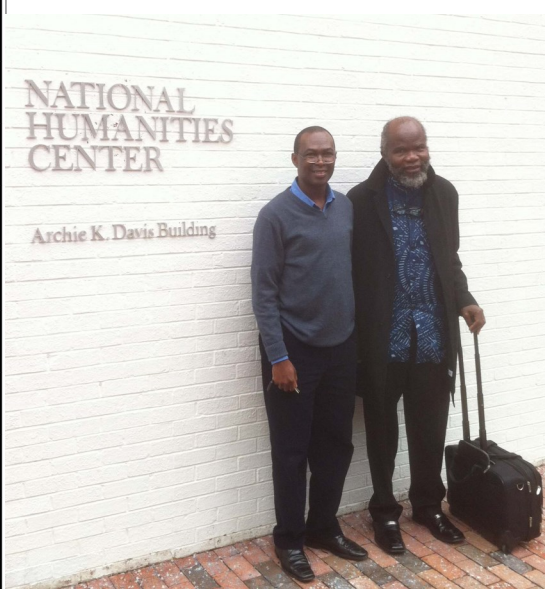
In June 2016, I taught two classes (World History and U.S. History from 1865) at Xi'an Jiaotong University, in the city of Xi'an, China. I visited the famous army of terracotta warriors of Xi'an, and had the chance to know a number of international and Chinese scholars. I publicized our university and our academic programs in Africana Studies and Latin American Studies at every chance. I also gave a lecture in Spain, at the summer school of the University of Barcelona, in Tecla Sala Cultural Center, Hospitalet. The talk was titled "Fever, Rice, and Revolution: New Perspectives on Slavery and Environment", July 6.

Photo: with Tayyab Sohail (Chinese University of Geosciences, Wuhan) *left*, and Ehsan Chitsaz (Harbin Institute of Technology) *middle*, at Huaqing Hot Springs, near Xi'an.



## FROM THE PIEDMONT TO PRETORIA: DR. AKIN OGUNDIRAN'S RESEARCH NOTES

I was on partial research leave most of last academic year, to work on a book manuscript that examines the cultural history of modernity and globalization in West Africa. Specifically, I was interested in writing the experience of the Yoruba people of West Africa into the global history of modernity between 1500 and 1800. I had the good fortune of being invited to the National Humanities Center as a nine-month resident fellow to help me offload this self-imposed burden. I was not alone. I was one of 35+ fellows from four continents, each laboring to answer questions that deal with different aspects of human experience. Our approaches are eclectic—historical, philosophical, and anthropological, as well as spiritual, artistic, and literary.



The National Humanities Center (NHC) is an independent institute for advanced study in the humanities. It is nestled in a vast grove of pine trees in the Research Triangle Area (NC), a scenic landscape that it shares with other research institutions whose interests range from pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to wildlife preservation, accounting, supercomputing, and statistics. From both the outside and the inside, the white-painted center presents an aura of monastery-like serenity. In fact, the fellows often joked that we were the reincarnation of medieval monks and ancient hermits trying to save the world from itself. Each of us had an office where we surrendered ourselves totally to meditation, reading, thinking, and writing. But there is a common area where we all gathered for lunch every day, five days a week. Those lunch meetings provided the fellows with the opportunity to test new and raw ideas, theories, and arguments on one another. We tended to be mildly boisterous at lunch as we engaged in discussions about just anything, between mouthfuls of healthy meals in a relaxed atmosphere. Our dining hall also served as the space for public lectures and events that support humanistic understanding. The center hosted several of those during the year.

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*Above*, with a distinguished visitor to NHC, General Isola Williams (retired from Nigerian army), now a Human Rights Activist, advocate for political transparency in Africa, and exponent of African cultural renaissance.



## ON THE ROAD: From the Piedmont to Pretoria *(cont'd from pg. 10)*

It was May. My nine-month sojourn at the National Humanities Center was coming to an end. In the course of writing the report of my fellowship year, the goddess, Polyhymnia, momentarily took over the task and re-arranged my prosaic prose into this soliloquy of stanzas.

These encounters, I will share  
 My visit to the temple of Ọ̀rúnmilà  
 Sanctuary of knowledge and recovery  
 In this sacred grove of towering pines  
 Tender giants in gaily gait  
 Ever present in their sprightly pose

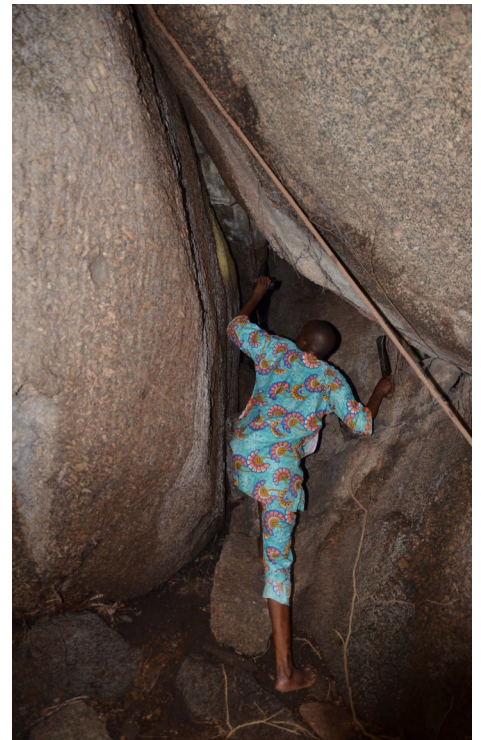
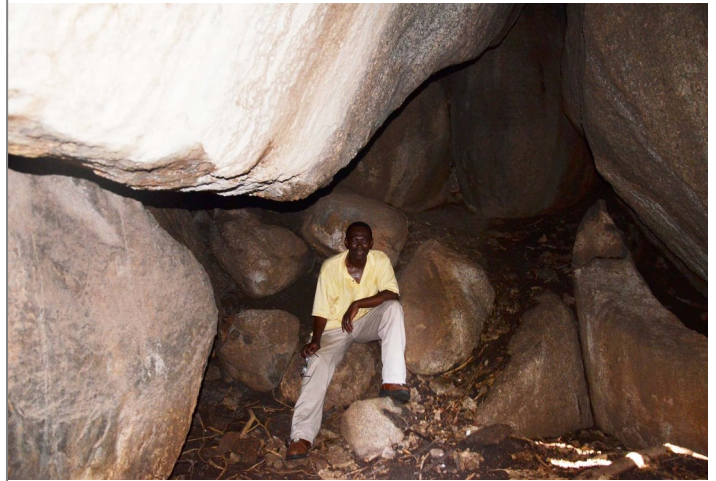
In this enchanted piney grove  
 I behold the masquerade  
 Of leafy garments a-layered masque  
 Gently waving to the whistling breeze  
 Of comely-a-calming serenades  
 On this crossroads of reflection

Muses everywhere I see  
 On padded paths of detritus  
 Drops of leaves-a-limbs of old  
 Fertile grounds for discovery  
 Of unformed thoughts sprinting through  
 Taking me deeper into the sacred grove

Happy company here I find  
 Parades of silhouettes-a-burning lights  
 Conjurers of rituals of renewal  
 Lingering and longing for right answers  
 Conclusions and new questions abound  
 But there is no final word

At this knowledge altar I dreamt  
 And dreams of yesterday do come through  
 Stepping out back into my real old world  
 Singing my ode to the masquerade  
 Till another season when we meet  
 In this sacred piney grove

It was hard to leave the National Humanities Center. But depart I must, after nine months camping in the woods. I returned to Charlotte in the middle of May, only to swap luggage. It's time to head to Nigeria, to launch a new research project. I was seeking a more comprehensive understanding of something - the deeper cultural history of the Yoruba region. The project involved documenting archaeological sites from the Late Stone Age period, 11,000 years ago; to the emergence of Iron Age villages around 300 BC- 100 AD. Some of the latter evolved into towns, city-states, and kingdoms between 700 and 1100 AD.



It was an action-packed four weeks as our research team and partners from the University of Ibadan crawled inside rock shelters and cave crevices looking for the material footprints of ancient deep-time hunter-gatherers. We climbed hilltops and descended into the valleys below, on the trails of ancient ancestors who later built towns and cities. Those ancestors also established long-distance commercial empires. Many of those ancient towns and cities are no more. Their spaces are now taken over by the woods but they hold the keys to understanding questions about resilience and sustainability.

*(cont'd on page 12)*



## ON THE ROAD: From the Piedmont to Pretoria *(cont'd from pg. 11)*

Some of the sites have been recently cleared for farming purposes, with the consequent destruction of archaeological sites and valuable chapters in human history. Our task was urgent. We must collect as much information as possible before we totally lose these records of the past. Archaeological surveys on these hallowed sites revealed vast industries of iron, cotton, textile, and dyestuff production possibly stretching back to 500 AD. It is also in the same region where we have documented a unique primary glass-making technology which we labeled “Yoruba glass”.

I took off a few days from my research to travel to Pretoria. I was invited by the University of South Africa to participate in the Sixth African Unity Renaissance (AUR) Conference as a plenary speaker. I focused my talk on the need to integrate indigenous African knowledge—especially, technology and spirituality—into the critical liberal arts education in Africa and other parts of the world. The conference was organized by the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, and the ex-president of South Africa came in person to deliver the keynote. The conference also afforded the opportunity to initiate several discussions with South African colleagues on potentials for collaborative programs. I had several conversations with the vibrant director of the Institute of Afrikology in Durban (KwaZulu Natal province). Yaa Ashantewaa Archer-Ngidi was seeking the collaboration of UNC Charlotte to develop culturally-sensitive and historically-informed Africa-centered curriculum for K-12 schools and colleges in the historic city of Durban. I told her we need to do the same for Charlotte.

In addition, the conference featured several cultural performances to showcase the rich South African heritage. The pulsating percussion of the African drum has a way of lifting me off the ground. I became an observant-participant. I joined in the dance with a group of Sotho youngsters. Their dazzling performance in traditional bark-cloth was an important highlight of my Pretoria visit. It was in the dance that history, theory and practice converged, releasing a new energy for the academic year ahead.



From the top: archaeological survey, iron furnace, iron slag, and with a Sotho youth performing group



## AFRS FACULTY AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHTS

**DR. MALIN PEREIRA**

Dr. Malin Pereira expanded her work in honors education, presenting in November 2015 at the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference in Chicago on two panels: “Making Big Plans: Growing Honors through Disciplinarily Diverse Capstone Experiences,” with honors faculty Dennis Livesay and program director Jennifer Warner; and “Implementing the Vision of UNC Charlotte's Honors College to Engage Students in Local Social Justice Work,” with honors faculty Janni Sorensen and Robert Arnold. She continues to serve on the NCHC's Diversity Committee. In the Honors College during the 2015-16 academic year, she focused her attention on developing two new merit scholar programs, the Crown Scholars and the Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars, substantially increasing diversity in both. The Honors College also was one of the Grand Sponsors of the 40th Annual National Council for Black Studies Conference, hosted by Africana Studies.

Over the summer, Malin met with Bill Keyes, president of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship in Washington, DC, to plan for a Charlotte regional institute to develop high-achieving black male college freshman, and this August she hosted a dinner in the Honors College at which five young men met with Mr. Keyes to discuss the institute. She also mentored a Charlotte Research Scholar, Thomas Simonson, who did research on poet Natasha Trethewey.



Dr. Pereira (middle) in Warsaw

On the scholarly front, Malin's essay, “Brenda Marie Osbey’s Black Internationalism,” is due to appear in *Diasporas, Cultures of Mobilities, 'Race' 3: African Americans, 'Race' and Diaspora*. Montpellier: PULM, this year. In June, she gave a talk on Wanda Coleman to students and faculty at the University of Wuppertal in Germany, and presented a paper, “Becoming a Minority Cosmopolitan: Reading Natasha Trethewey’s Mixed Race Identity from *Beyond Katrina to Thrall*” at the bi-annual conference of the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA) in Warsaw, Poland.

Malin continues to serve nationally and internationally in her field(s): Her co-authored article, “Myth-Busting the Job Search,” with Susan Miller, Kathryn Rummell, Katie Simon, and Rebecca Walsh, appeared in the Modern Language Association's *ADE Bulletin* in 2015. She was also elected to and appointed chair of the bylaws committee for the European-based Collegium for African American Research, charged with rewriting the organization's 25-year old founding document, which her committee delivered to the executive board on June 4, 2016.

**DR. GREGORY MIXON**

Dr. Gregory Mixon, professor of history and affiliate faculty in the Africana Studies Department, recorded several career milestones and professional accomplishments since last year. He served as the co-chair of the local planning committee for the National Council for Black Studies conference. His book, *Show Thyself a Man: Georgia State Troops, Colored, 1865–1905* was published in July, 2016 by the University of Florida Press, and he was promoted to the rank of full professor in spring 2016. He was also named the recipient of the Atkins Library Faculty Engagement Award. This was presented to him on September 15 in a ceremony that took place in the J. Murrey Atkins Library, Halton Reading Room. The award honors a UNC Charlotte faculty member who has engaged in innovative or exceptional work with library collections, programs, and services. The award comes with a stipend of \$2500 allocation for professional development.

## CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY AND THE CLASSROOM

**MEDIA AND VIOLENCE**

Dr. Debra C. Smith and Dr. Charles Pinckney were guest presenters at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Violence Prevention Conference in Charlotte NC in April 2016. The theme for the conference was *Media Matters: The Impact of Violent Media on Today's Youth*. Their presentations focused on the comprehensive impacts of rap music on violence in the black community and the larger society.

Dr. Smith also served on a panel discussion about solutions to media violence, and on the planning committee for the conference alongside Dr. David Jacobs, Medical Director at the F. H. "Sammy" Ross, Jr. Trauma Center for Carolinas Healthcare System. Prior to the conference, Dr. Smith and Dr. Jacobs were featured on Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins to discuss ways in which the media can be a risk factor for adolescent/adult violent behavior; the many and varied forms entertainment violence can take; and what parents, teachers, counselors, and other youth advocates can do to minimize the impact of violent media on youth.

Over 100 case managers, social workers, psychologists, nurses, health and human service practitioners, teachers, and school administrators attended the conference.

**HIP-HOP 101 WORKSHOP**

Dr. Charles Pinckney recently piloted a pedagogy-based curriculum workshop that focused on the best practices for educating the Hip-Hop Generation. Registered participants included teachers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg and other area schools. The two-day workshop focused on how to teach today's millennial student, with emphasis on approaches to pedagogy that integrate elements of hip hop and popular culture with traditional learning practices.



Fifty rising freshmen from Dr. Debra C. Smith's summer class—film criticism and education—also attended the sessions. The students talked one-on-one with teachers about perception issues, trust concerns, and feelings of inclusiveness in the classroom. "It's a conversation that I wish I had with teachers prior to graduating [in high school]," remarked one student. Teachers were able to get insight on student learning barriers and markers for success in their classrooms and called the workshops and discussion "transformative" and "eye-opening."

Guest lecturer Andre' Richardson was an additional resource to the workshop as he shared data and research on learning styles and instructional design. Richardson is currently working with the United States Department of Education in Washington DC as an Educational Specialist.

Pinckney demonstrated how the Hip-Hop Classroom can implement pedagogical tools that are familiar and comfortable for students. Thus, the elements of rap music, hip hop material culture, and student familiarity with some of the contemporary artists create an environment in which students can learn and thrive. For example, many rap artists lament the impact of poverty, joblessness, fractured family in their songs which urge students to critically examine the sociopolitical and economic implications of these issues. As part of the workshop, Dr. Pinckney produced and presented a documentary on the pedagogical relevance of Hip Hop in today's education. This can be found at <https://vimeo.com/141121252>. The workshop and the documentary were made possible by a grant from the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



Left, Hip-Hop Classroom experience with Dr. Pinckney.



## POETRY AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY

**THE WORLD WEEPS**

by

Liz Alls

The world lay quiet  
Somber grey clouds in the sky  
A tear shed by the world for each black life  
Terrence Crutcher  
Eric Gardner  
Philandro Castile  
Rekia Boyd

With every name a haunting fame carved in stone-- an unfillable void

Shot dead no explanation  
As the world ignores their cries  
Over here world can you see them Unarmed  
Black bodies die

What protects me from injustice?  
My hair, my skin, my eyes?  
What's that matter world?  
I thought my value lay inside???

Are my black friends less valuable?  
Should I tell them 'just cover your eyes'?  
Hearts beating feverishly paralyzed with fear as  
A patrolman quickly decides their demise

What made Mr. Scott threatening?  
His dark skin, dark hair, dark eyes?  
Ask his son, ask his daughter  
Open your ears and hear their cries  
Look up, feel the rain- teardrops in the sky  
The world weeps today  
A tear for each black life

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\*Liz Alls is a senior at UNC Charlotte, with a major in Religious Studies and minor in Africana Studies and Art History. She wrote this poem in the aftermath of the death of Mr. Keith Lamont Scott on September 20, 2016.

## Artistic Protest: Representations of Race, Violence, Injustice, and Inequality

Cone Center - McKnight Auditorium  
Tuesday, November 29  
6:00pm



The Africana Studies Department invites faculty, staff, students, and members of the community to share their visual, audio, or performing artwork relating to race, violence, injustice and inequality in our “Artistic Protest” project.



Submissions may address any region of the world and any time period- historical or present day. Artistic representations may take any form including, but not limited to: spoken word, dance, music, sculpture, painting, and photography.



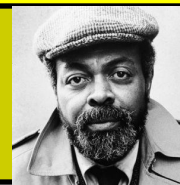
To participate in the “Artistic Protest,” submit an image, audio, or video file of your artistic work accompanied by a statement of no more than 400 words introducing yourself and your artistic piece by October 29, 2016 at 5pm to [dboaz@uncc.edu](mailto:dboaz@uncc.edu) with the subject line “Artistic Protest.”



Space is limited; participants will be notified by November 15.



**The event is free and open to the public**





## NEW FACULTY AFFILIATES

We are pleased to welcome our new faculty affiliates and members of the Africana Studies Faculty Council, a body of scholars, teachers, and professionals across the university whose academic training and expertise focus on Africa, the African-American life, and the global African Diaspora. The Africana Studies Faculty Council showcases the diversity, breadth, and depth of expertise in Africana Studies across the university.



**Dr. Jessamyn Bowling** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Health (with a focus on health behavior) from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Dr. Bowling's research applies qualitative and mixed/multiple methods focusing on the sexual health; she is particularly interested in innovative qualitative methodologies that incorporate visual methods. She utilizes community-based participatory approaches with marginalized communities, specifically sexual and gender minority populations. She examines resilience and positive health behaviors from a subjective perspective to improve health outcomes in these populations. She has worked across the U.S. as well as in Cameroon, Vietnam, Cambodia, and India. In her teaching, she connects academic topics with local and global communities. She has taught stress management, sexuality, social and behavioral foundations of health, and global health. Dr. Bowling is interested in collaborative projects dealing with sexual and community health in Africa, as well as among African immigrants in the U.S. and African American populations.



**Dr. Tracey Benson** is an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership. He earned his Ed.D. in Education Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Masters of School Administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He has served as a principal coach, high school principal, middle school vice-principal, district trainer, proficiency specialist, and elementary school teacher. His research focuses on understanding the racialized context in which educators operate; and the systems alignment and equity in access and outcomes.

Dr. Benson firmly believes that student achievement, teacher efficacy, and school success is contingent upon high quality, equity-focused school and district leaders. He has committed his career to leading for change, focusing on removing the entrenched practices that impede lifetime outcomes for students of color, and coaching leaders towards implementing anti-racist policies and curriculum in K-12 schools.

Before coming to UNC Charlotte, Dr. Benson built a contemporary approach to supporting the professional and personal growth of pre-service principals as well as sitting school leaders in the Houston Independent School District. He also prepared school leaders to use data as a means of tackling inequities and structural racism in K-12 education. To this end, he has published case studies specifically for the purpose of uncovering vestiges of structural racism in K-12 school systems.

## NEW FACULTY AFFILIATES



Tamara Williams is a newly appointed Assistant Professor of Dance in the College of Arts and Architecture where she teaches courses on West African Dance and Modern Dance, among others. A native of Augusta, GA, she earned her BFA in Dance from Florida State University and received her MFA in Dance from Hollins University in collaboration with The American Dance Festival, The Forsythe Company, and Frankfurt University. She is a certified GYROTONIC(R) Trainer, Reiki Practitioner, and Capoeirista.

In 2011, Williams created Tamara LaDonna Moving Spirits, Inc., a contemporary arts organization dedicated to performing, researching, documenting, cultivating, and producing arts of the African Diaspora. The company, under her artistic direction, has since created and presented several performance pieces including *Epic Narratives: An evening of dance, visual art, theater and social commentary*; and *Moving Spirits to Enlightenment*, part of the RESPOND series at the Smack Mellon Gallery, in response to police brutality to Black lives.

For the past six years, Williams has trained intensely in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, in Silvestre Technique and Afro-Brazilian dance. She is a 2012 recipient of the Artist Residency Fellowship at the Dance & Performance Institute in Trinidad, a 2013 recipient of the Harlem Stage/Aaron Davis Hall Fund for New Work grant, and a 2014 & 2015 Community Arts Fund Grantee by the Brooklyn Arts Council. She was the 2014 Lecturer/Emerging Artist-in-Residence at Penn State University, Altoona. Williams was a 2015 Turkey Land Grove Foundation recipient, in which she participated in a seven-day dance writing residency in Martha's Vineyard, and a 2015 Fall Space Grant recipient, awarded by the Brooklyn Arts Exchange.

## INTERNATIONAL VISITOR EXPLORED COLLABORATION WITH FACULTY AND ARCHIVISTS

**Dr. Kola Oseni**, founding Director of Records and Archives in the Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau (LASRAB), recently visited UNC Charlotte to explore partnership opportunities between his organization and the Africana Studies Department. The activities for his one-week visit included discussions with Dr. Akin Ogundiran about LASRAB's archival holdings, especially in the areas of history, culture, business, entrepreneurship, and economic development; the potentials for accessing the materials for teaching and research at UNC Charlotte; and the prospects of international internship opportunities for AFRS students in LASRAB.

Dr. Oseni used his visit to learn about some of the best practices in archives and records management on campus and in the State of North Carolina. He met with the J. Murrey Atkins Library staff - Dr. Dawn Schmitz, Associate Dean for Special Collections and University Archives and Katie Howell, University Archivist (above) to explore training opportunities for the staff of the Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau. His itinerary also included a visit to North Carolina's Archives and Records Division in Raleigh where the division's director, Ms. Sarah Koonts (left, below), gave him a tour of the state archives and discussed the operational issues pertinent to record acquisition, processing, digitalization, preservation, storage, and public access. The two directors expressed interests in future collaboration between their two institutions.

Dr. Oseni is responsible for the management of official and public documents relating to government affairs and matters of public interest in Lagos State, Nigeria's commercial and financial hub. Before assuming his current position in 2015, he was the Assistant Director and Head of Research, Publications and Documentation in the Lagos State Council for Arts & Culture.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

**Elizabeth (Liz) Alls** was a freshman when she came to the Africana Studies Department as work-study student in fall of 2013. She has worked in the department since then, assisting faculty and staff with a myriad of tasks. Faculty have always commented on her professionalism, attention to details, and commitment to excellence. She consistently exceeded expectations. Liz has enriched our department with her talents, charm, and an excellent work ethic. Most especially, her skills in graphic works and design are all noticeable around the department. The department has become a home away from home for her. In the process, she even picked a minor in Africana Studies, in addition to her minor in Art History and major in Religious Studies. What an eclectic and cosmopolitan taste! Liz shared with us her experience and take-away from the department:

I came to the Africana Studies Department my freshman year and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my college career. Working closely with the department faculty and staff has made UNC Charlotte feel like home. Getting to know everyone in the department has given me a network of support and encouragement that has no doubt impacted and enriched my experience and has inspired me in so many ways - including adding AFRS as a minor. Ms. Oweeta Shands, who supervises me, has become equivalent to a mentor. Her advice and guidance is something that I will always carry with me and appreciate very much. I am so thankful for the experiences and opportunities that this department has provided me with over the past years. I can't wait to finish my minor and use the knowledge I have gained here to thrive and make a difference in my community!

Liz graduates next May. It has been a great pleasure seeing her grow in maturity and confidence. We are all grateful to Liz for her hard work and for sharing her talents and passion with us.



**Thomas (Malik) Tillman** is one of AFRS graduates in December 2015 but he's already back on campus. This time, he enrolled in the MA public history program while also pursuing the graduate certificate in Africana Studies. He is focusing his graduate project on the Civil Rights-era black entrepreneurs and professionals in the Charlotte area. He will be working closely with the staff of Special Collections in the J. Murrey Atkins Library for his research. He is serving as a Teaching Assistant this year in the Department of History where he is "learning a great deal about the arts of teaching", according to Tillman. His goal is to become a college professor, public historian, and heritage professional. A native Charlottean, Mr. Tillman also continues his role as Africana Studies Department's community ambassador.



## PARTIAL LIST OF COURSES IN THE AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT

- AFRS 1100. Introduction to Africana Studies
- AFRS 2011. Yoruba Language and Culture I
- AFRS 2012. Yoruba Language and Culture II
- AFRS 2050. Topics in Africana Studies: Business Culture and Entrepreneurship in Africa
- AFRS 2050. Topics in Africana Studies: Introduction to African Art History
- AFRS 2050. Topics in Africana Studies: Contemporary African Art
- AFRS 2050. Topics in Africana Studies: Environmental Literature in Africa and the Caribbean
- AFRS 2103. Introduction to Hip Hop
- AFRS 2105. Black Images in the Media in the U.S.
- AFRS 2107. Global Hip Hop
- AFRS 2120. African-American Women
- AFRS 2156. African Civilization
- AFRS 2160. The African-American Experience through Civil War
- AFRS 2161. The African-American Experience: Civil War to Civil Rights
- AFRS 2170. Introduction to Health and Environmental Issues in the Africana World
- AFRS 2172. Black Sexuality and Health
- AFRS 2206. African Literature, Music, and Art
- AFRS 2207. Pan-Africanism
- AFRS 2208. Education and African-Americans
- AFRS 2215. Black Families in the United States
- AFRS 2221. Contemporary Africa
- AFRS 2225. West African Dance and Percussion
- AFRS 2301. Introduction to African-American Literature
- AFRS 3050. Topics in Africana Studies : West African Art History
- AFRS 3101. Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.
- AFRS 3150. The African-American Church and Civil Rights
- AFRS 3155. Health and Healing in Africa
- AFRS 3158. Gender and African-American Literature
- AFRS 3159. African-American Poetry
- AFRS 3179. African-American Political Philosophy
- AFRS 3190. The Political Economy of the Caribbean
- AFRS 3192. African Cinema
- AFRS 3200. Folklore of Africa and the African Diaspora
- AFRS 3210. Black Families in the Diaspora
- AFRS 3218. Racial Violence, Colonial Times to Present
- AFRS 3220. The Caribbean from Slavery to Independence
- AFRS 3230. Poverty and Discrimination in African Diaspora in the Modern Era
- AFRS 3240. African Americans and the Legal Process
- AFRS 3250. African Americans and Health Communication
- AFRS 3260. Slavery, Racism and Colonialism in the African Diaspora
- AFRS 3261. Psychology of the Black Experience
- AFRS 3265. African Economic Development
- AFRS 3270. Afro-Latin American History
- AFRS 3278. Race in the History of Brazil
- AFRS 3280. Blacks in Urban America
- AFRS 3290. Research Methods
- AFRS 3692. Colloquium
- AFRS 3830. Philosophy and Race
- AFRS 4000. Senior Seminar in Africana Studies
- AFRS 4010. African Diaspora Theory
- AFRS 4050. Topics in Africana Studies
- AFRS 4101. Modern African Literature in English
- AFRS 4105. African International Relations
- AFRS 4401. Professional Internship in Africana Studies
- AFRS 4630. Environmental and Public Health in Africa
- AFRS 4640. Environment, State, and Society in the Caribbean and Latin America
- AFRS 4652. Race, Health, and the African Diaspora

### AFRS GRADUATE COURSES

- AFRS 5050. Environmental and Public Health in Africa
- AFRS 5050. Environment, State, and Society in the Caribbean and Latin America
- AFRS 5050. Race, Health, and the African Diaspora
- AFRS 6610. Diaspora and Transnational Theories
- AFRS 6620. Advanced Readings in African Modernities
- AFRS 6630. Graduate Colloquium
- AFRS 6901. Directed Readings/Research

## AFRICA IN THE CAROLINAS: NEW JOURNAL AND UPCOMING CONFERENCES



The first issue of the *Yoruba Studies Review* was released by the Pan-African University Press on August 31, 2016. The journal is the brainchild of Dr. Akin Ogundiran and Dr. Toyin Falola, and it is sponsored by three institutions: University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Florida, Gainesville. These are also the three institutions from where the journal's co-editors are drawn—Toyin Falola (Austin), Akin Ogundiran (Charlotte), and Akintunde Akinyemi (Gainesville). The biannual journal is dedicated to the study of the experience of the Yoruba peoples and their descendants globally. The journal covers all aspects of the Yoruba transnational, national, and regional presence, both in their West African homeland and in diasporic spaces, past and present. The journal embraces all disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, and the basic/applied sciences in as much as the focus is on the Yoruba experience and the intersections with other communities and practices worldwide.

This is the second journal established by the Africana Studies faculty in the past two years. The first, *Aridon: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies*, is co-edited by Dr. Tanure Ojaide.

The 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOUTH EAST AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES FORUM will take place at Winston-Salem State University on September 30th and October 1<sup>st</sup>. The forum is a collaborative body of college professors whose primary goal is to promote the teaching and learning of African languages, as well as research and scholarship in African languages and literatures on college and university campuses across the United States. The theme of this year's conference is "Language, Literature, Education, and Liberation in Africa and the African Diaspora." The conference is co-sponsored by Winston-Salem State University, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill, and the University of Florida. For more information, visit <http://www.seallf.org/2016-conference/>.

Yoruba is the only indigenous African language offered at UNC Charlotte, and it is taught through the Africana Studies Department.

#### AFRICAN ENERGY BUSINESS LEADERS AND DEVELOPERS TO CONVENE IN CHARLOTTE

The energy policy officials and business executives from Africa and the Carolinas will convene in Charlotte for a three-day conference, October 4-6, to promote Africa – Carolinas energy trade partnerships. The conference is being organized by E4 Carolinas, the trade association for Carolinas energy companies and organizations. The association's President and CEO, David Doctor, observed that "Due to the Carolinas energy industry's size and diversity and its proximity to sub-Saharan Africa... (many) African countries and companies are increasingly seeking out Carolina-based partners and this conference will concentrate on increasing everyone's knowledge of opportunities and potential collaborators".

Inquiries about the conference may be directed to David A. Doctor, E4 Carolinas' President & CEO, at [daviddoctor@e4carolinas.org](mailto:daviddoctor@e4carolinas.org) or 704-661-8131.

**VACANCIES IN AFRICANA STUDIES**

Position #1502

**The University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
Department of Africana Studies  
Assistant Professor: African Diaspora Studies**

The Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in African Diaspora Studies to start in August 2017. Required qualifications include: Ph.D. in Africana Studies or in a closely related field by date of appointment; evidence of interdisciplinary and transnational approaches in scholarship and teaching; and demonstration of interest in the pursuit of external funding. Special consideration will be given to applicants with demonstrated interest in transnational black experience, migration, community relations, and/or environmental health.

Screening of applicants will begin **October 5, 2016** and will continue until the position is filled. Applications must be made electronically at <https://jobs.uncc.edu> (position #1502). We are asking applicants to submit a letter of interest that addresses the requirements for this position, teaching statement, curriculum vitae, names of three referees (including email, institutional affiliation, and mailing address), and a writing sample. Three letters of recommendation should be mailed, not later than October 3, to:

Chair, African Diaspora Search Committee  
Department of Africana Studies  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
9201 University City Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28223

The University of North Carolina UNC Charlotte is an AA/EOE and an ADVANCE Institution.

**Chair, Department of Africana Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Senior level twelve-month appointment** beginning July 1, 2017. Applications are invited from tenured faculty at UNC Charlotte in any disciplinary tradition whose teaching and research demonstrate a commitment to Africana Studies as an interdisciplinary enterprise and whose vision of the field embraces the experiences of peoples of African descent with emphasis on Africa, the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Candidates should (1) have a doctoral degree, (2) be a tenured associate or full professor whose credentials and experience are appropriate for a senior level appointment at UNC Charlotte, (3) have administrative experience that demonstrates their potential for success as a department chair, and (4) have a commitment to the education of the department's diverse student population. A record of success in securing program-related funding is highly desirable. The selected candidate will need to have the ability to lead an interdisciplinary department consisting of both core and affiliated faculty, to integrate the department's faculty and programs into the mission of the college, and to work productively in the community. Finalists will be asked during their screening interview to discuss how the topics of diversity and inclusion are incorporated into their teaching and research.

Applications must be made electronically at <https://jobs.uncc.edu> (position number **005161**). We are asking applicants to submit a letter of interest, including your vision for the department; curriculum vitae, and the names of three referees. AA/EOE employer: minorities, persons with disabilities, and women are especially encouraged to apply. Screening of applications will begin September 30, 2016 and will continue until the position is filled. For more information please contact the chair of the search committee, Dr. Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, [dsruiz@uncc.edu](mailto:dsruiz@uncc.edu) or (704) 687-5166.



## AFRICANA STUDIES FACULTY COUNCIL: RESEARCH INTERESTS

### CORE FACULTY

**Danielle Boaz**, Legal History, Social Justice, Human Rights in Africa and the African Diaspora  
**Oscar de la Torre**, Brazil and Afro-Latin American history  
**Veronica N. Hilliard**, African Politics, Development, and Conflict Studies  
**Akin Ogundiran**, Archaeology and Cultural History of Africa and the African Diaspora  
**Tanure Ojaide**, African and African Diaspora Literature/Culture  
**Debra Smith**, Media, Health, and Race in the US  
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