

DIASPORA CALLING

Spring 2018

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of AAAS,

As we near the end of another year since I became Director, I want to highlight some of the exciting progress and activities that we continue to make. Dr. Lori Martin has done a wonderful job as Interim Director this year, and under her leadership, we have accomplished a great deal, including:

- The addition of five new affiliates: Dr. Sarah Becker, Dr. Dari Green, Christopher Tyson, Dr. Diane Francis, and Melissa Crawford (and two others who have to be approved in the spring semester).
- Introduction of (AAAS 4800) African Americans in Sports, which will be cross-listed in the Department of Kinesiology.
- Submission of materials to create a Graduate Minor in Africana Studies.
- Secured funding from the College of Humanities & Social Science's Strategic Excellence Fund and the Office of Diversity to sponsor 10 AAAS students for the Annual Meeting of

American Association of Blacks in Higher Education in March.

- Co-sponsored events with the Ogden Honors College on Race and Charlottesville and the Department of English on Afro-Pessimism.
- Creation of committee to commemorate the program's 25th anniversary, which will produce a video, a commemorative booklet, and other anniversary paraphernalia.
- Initiated the Research Minute as an opportunity for faculty to their share ongoing research and to receive valuable during monthly faculty meetings.
- Three faculty and affiliates progressing in the promotion process from associate to full professor.

AAAS continues to be an exciting, cutting-edge unit within the college, and we appreciate everyone's contributions to making our goals reality. I look forward to returning in fall 2018. In the meantime, our AAAS25@25 anniversary fundraising campaign is gaining momentum, and we invite all of you to consider giving.

As for my own research-leave projects, my revised and expanded monograph on the Nation of Islam is now under review, and I have a number of other interesting works, including a project on Malcolm X on gender and my unpublished interview with Manning Marable on Malcolm X.

Again, Dr. Martin and the faculty have done a wonderful job with all of these accomplishments, and I wish everyone a great semester.



**AFRICAN AND AFRICAN
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*Associate Professor, African & African
American Studies Program*
*Associate Professor and Director of
Graduate Studies Department of
Sociology*

CORE FACULTY

Dari Green
Instructor, African and African American
Studies

Jas M. Sullivan
Assistant Professor, Political Science
and African & African American Studies

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Thomas Durant Jr.

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Austin Allen, Landscape Architecture
Sarah Becker, Sociology
Michael Bibler, English
Marvin Broome, English
Cassandra Chaney, School of Social Work
Melissa Crawford, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Diane Frances, Mass Communications
Angeletta Gourdine, English
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T. Wayne Parent, Political Science
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Human Resource Development
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Chief Diversity Officer
Mark Schafer, Sociology
Christopher Tyson, LSU Law
Kenneth Fasching-Varner, Education
Sunny Yang, English

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. KERRY CHANCE

By: Tameron Peden, SAAAS Secretary

Dr. Kerry Chance is originally from Philadelphia where she chose to receive her undergraduate degree at Bard College in New York, and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. After graduating, she decided to take on and was given the opportunity to research another country. She moved to South Africa in 2001, where she examined post-Apartheid movements as well as gained inspiration for her career focuses.

Out of her time in South Africa emerged her first area of focus and first book about the politics of urban ecology at the intersection of gender, race, and poverty. More specifically, her research focused on the actions of the civilians and government about the four elements of fire, water, air, and land while looking at its ties originating from apartheid. In her book, Dr. Chance showed how political spaces are redefined and new forms of citizenship- seeing the possibility of the new democracy.

Dr. Chance's second area of focus and soon to be second book is about exploring the cultural dynamics of climate and looking at their effects on differentiated bodies. She is still in the process of conducting research to complete the book, in specific, she was given the opportunity to go back to South Africa last summer through the support of a grant from LSU. At this moment, she is looking at the possible political solutions to helping the poor communities dealing with environmental issues.

Currently this is Dr. Chance's second year at LSU. She is teaching Introduction to Anthropology 1003 which unpacks human cultures looking at issues such as identity, exchange, the body, language, and the environment. Alongside instructing Political Anthropology 4909 and Anthropology and Africa 4051. These courses examine states, publics, and politics from anthropological perspectives; also, late colonization and decolonization on the African continent-respectfully.



Photo of Dr. Kerry Chance



Photo of Tameron Peden

NEW FACULTY: DR. DARI GREEN

By: Sebastian Brumfield-Mejia, SAAAS president



Dr. Dari Green is the newest member of faculty in the African and African American Studies (AAAS) program. Dr. Green was hired as an Instructor in the Fall of 2017 and is elated to be the first faculty member in history of the AAAS program to be hired as a full-time instructor. Dr. Green believes that her position is a “small win that may lead to big victories over time,” as the interest in African and African American Studies continues to grow. She is hopeful to see the program grow into a department and currently works with the Society for African and African American Studies (SAAAS) and in other capacities, to express the endless opportunities that are available to students that pursue interdisciplinary degrees and concentrations in studies like AAAS.

Dr. Green was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, but has done extensive traveling around the world. She loves Louisiana culture, but as a trained sociologist, has learned to appreciate the diversity of people, language, and cultures across the globe. Prior to moving to Baton Rouge, Dr. Green and her husband taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Dohuk, Iraq. Before she departed for Iraq, she was often reminded by family, friends, and the media, that there was an extreme danger of entering such a place. In hindsight, Dr. Green believes that “going to Iraq was one of the greatest experiences of her life.” She described the experience as being “full of beautiful and

resilient people, in one of the most beautiful places in the world.”

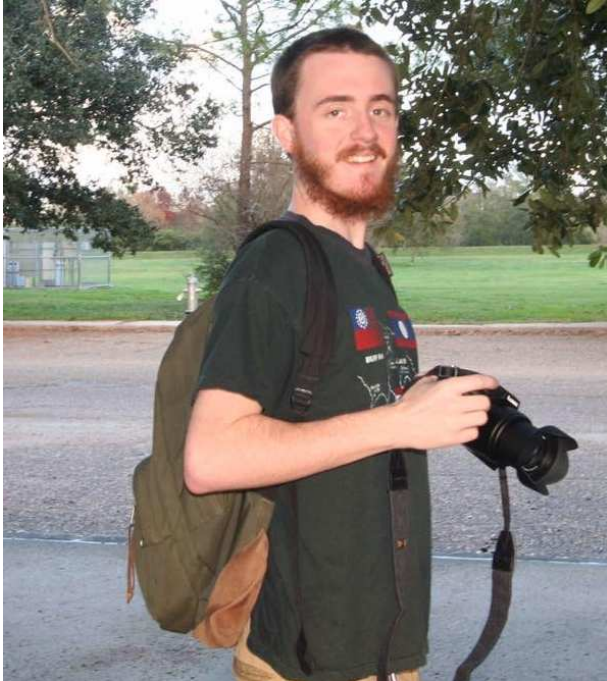
Despite many differences, Dr. Green noted similarities in the will to survive that existed in the Kurdish people of Iraq and that of Black Americans. Many citizens of Kurdistan had suffered at the hand of Saddam Hussein and experienced harsh situations that often prevented them from feeling as though they had a place to exist, much less thrive. Despite all of the oppression, these people remained resilient and steadfast. Dr. Green likened the experience to that of Black Americans, as “they relied on close family and fictive kin to remain joyful and hopeful in spite of all that surrounded them.”

Due to Dr. Green’s travels and experiences, she explained that the older she became the more she saw that “whiteness was the standard.” While the phenomenon could be seen in many places across the globe, each time she returned to her home in America’s South, she experienced striking differences in the way that *people* were treated. In an attempt to understand why certain inequities existed and why it seemed that she and others seemed to have to sacrifice some portion of themselves to succeed, she began her pursuit of a doctorate degree in Sociology. Through her experiences and studies Dr. Green has found that her “driving force is to see the liberation of all people.”

Dr. Green’s favorite part of being an instructor is her ability to share her accumulated knowledge with students and to corroborate their experiences (that they may or may not be able to articulate) with science. Dr. Green has come across exceptional students and loves developing relationships with them as they learn and grow over their college experience. She is passionate about students joining the AAAS community, whether as a major, minor, or as a participant in the student group, SAAAS. Dr. Green extends a warm invitation to all students and faculty to come to events hosted by AAAS and SAAAS and engage in conversations about race relations, identity, and empowerment!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MILES JORDAN

By: Akash Kaushal, SAAAS social chair



Pictured above is Miles Jordan, a sophomore majoring in African and African American He is a sports and opinion writer for the *Daily Reveille* and pursues his passion for photography in his free time. Miles believes that his upbringing in New Orleans has a lot to do with his passion for AAAS.

“Going to predominantly black schools, my friend group was made of predominantly black people. As I got older, I realized that I cannot legitimately tell my black friends that I love them and that they’re my brothers (and sisters) if I’m not willing to educate myself on what this world has done to non-white communities. White people have done a lot of damage in the past and I’m interested in learning more about the history.”

Miles would like to pursue a PhD after completing his undergraduate degree but has also considered taking what he has learned as a major and going into politics.

SAAAS CORNER



Sebastian Brumfield-Mejia, president of the Society for African and African American Studies, was elected as a member of the 2017 Homecoming Court at LSU. Sebastian expressed that his belief that he “embodies the values and standards of this university to the highest degree” as the reason he ran for Homecoming.

“I love LSU, so I cherished the opportunity to represent my peers as a student leader who understands the importance of empathy, integrity, and academic excellence. Attending the Homecoming week events and standing at midfield in Tiger Stadium were unforgettable moments. This opportunity was a celebration of my current and future achievements, achievements unobtainable without the support of many amazing people along my college journey. People are the driving force behind LSU’s greatness, and I am humbled that LSU chose to recognize me as someone who positively contributes to that pursuit of greatness.”

IN MEMORIAM: DEVON TYRONE WADE



Photo of Devon Wade

Devon was a recipient of multiple prestigious awards including the Truman Scholarship, the Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Fellowship.

Devon balanced his research agenda with community involvement and advocacy. His passion was youth advocacy and mentoring. He traveled across the country speaking at prisons, providing motivational and keynote addresses, as well talking about the effects of parental incarceration at various conferences.

Devon Wade, an LSU alumnus, passed from this life on December 7, 2017. Devon was a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at Columbia University. His research interests revolved mostly around race/ethnic inequality, crime & incarceration and urban education. His dissertation research examined the impact of trauma and mental health issues on students as they navigate school and its intersections, with school's responses to disruptive student behavior using punitive and reactionary strategies.

A 2010 graduate of LSU with dual majors in Sociology/Criminology and African & African American Studies, his formative scholarly interest in race studies began with courses taken in LSU's African & African American Studies Department. Prior to his passing he suggested that "courses and time spent with faculty in AAAS gave rise to his approach to sociology through a lens of racial and social inequality."

Moreover, Devon professed that "AAAS provided a personal space for exploring his identity as an African American and a unique understanding of the African diaspora, an opportunity not given to him as a high school student." He even had the opportunity to studied abroad through the department's language program (Swahili) to Tanzania, East Africa. In participating in this piece as a spotlight before his passing, he stated: "I am grateful for my time in the AAAS department at LSU. It had a fundamental impact on who I am today as a scholar and a person."

In Memory of Devon Wade



AAAS is preparing to celebrate the program's silver anniversary in 2019. As part of our efforts to commemorate the program's humble beginnings, AAAS seeks to raise \$100,000. The funds will support scholarships for students, beautification of the AAAS office suite, and operating costs. Named scholarships include, Durant Scholars and the Troy Allen Service Award. In keeping with the theme of the campaign, prospective donors are asked to consider giving \$25, or \$250, or \$2,500, or \$25,000, etc. Donations at any level are greatly appreciated. Please send checks to AAAS, 135 Howe-Russell Complex, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803. Make checks payable to AAAS. You may also visit our website (www.lsu.edu/aaas) to make a donation online.

AAAS DIRECTORS

2017-2018

Lori Latrice Martin, Acting
Director

2017-

Stephen C. Finley

2010- 2016

Joyce Marie Jackson

2004-2010

Angeletta Gourdine

2001-2004

Leonard Moore

1994-2001

Thomas Durant, Jr.

DID YOU KNOW?

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Paul M. Hebert Law Center have partnered together to launch a new 3+3 program, allowing students to receive a bachelor's and law degree in six years' time. As a student in AAAS you can take full advantage of this opportunity!



HOW TO MAJOR IN AAAS

A concentration in AAAS requires a total of 33 credit hours including:

- A required core of nine (9) hours: AAAS 2000; AAAS 3024 or 3044 (CxC); & AAAS 4020.
- In addition to 9 hours of required courses, students must complete 24 hours from at least two divisions and three different departments.
- A minimum of 6 hours must focus on a geographical area outside of the U.S.
- 3 hours in a Service Learning or Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) course
- Only 12 hours from courses numbered below 3000-level may count towards degree.

Sign up today to get started!



DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African-American female astronaut received a bachelor of arts degree in African and Afro-American along with her bachelor of science in chemical engineering from Stanford University in 1977? In 1992, Dr. Jemison flew into space aboard the Endeavour, becoming the first African-American woman in space.

Spring 2018 Course Offerings

| <i>Course #</i> | <i>Day/Time Offered</i> | <i>Instructor</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| AAAS 2000.1 | Online Course | Jas Sullivan | Intro to AAAS |
| AAAS 2000.2 | T/TH 7:30-8:50am | Dari Green | Intro to AAAS |
| AAAS 2050 | T/TH 10:30-11:50am | Gabril Cole | Contemporary Africa |
| AAAS 2410 | T 4:30-7:20pm | Dari Green | Black Pop Culture |
| AAAS 2511 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511 | T/TH 9:00-10:20am | Dari Green | Race Relations |
| AAAS 2511 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511 | T/TH 3:00-4:20 | Jahaan Chandler | Race Relations |
| AAAS 3024 | TH 4:40-7:20pm | Dari Green | African Diaspora Intellectual Thought |
| AAAS 3044 | T/TH 7:30-8:50am | Herman Kelly | The Black Rhetorical Traditions |
| AAAS 3902.3 | T/TH 12:00-1:20pm | Herman Kelly | The History of the Civil Rights Movement |
| AAAS 4020 | T/TH 7:30-8:50am | Angeletta Gourdine | Senior Seminar |

NEWS AND NOTES

- Dr. Joyce Marie Jackson was part of an important discussion, How I Got Over: The Spirit of Gospel Music on December 10, 2017, at the historic Apollo Theater in Harlem.
- Dr. Fahima Ife's work, "Perhaps a Black Girl Rolls Her Eyes Because It's One Way She Attempts to Shift Calcified Pain Throughout Her Body?" recently appeared in the prestigious Occasional Paper series, which is published by Bank Street, School of Education.
- Russell Wilder, a sophomore, double-majoring in Mass Communication and African and African American Studies, performed a piece criticizing white and male privilege for during an event in October 2017, which was sponsored by LSU Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- Dr. Roland Mitchell was on a panel sponsored by The Urban Congress on African American Males in Baton Rouge, an initiative of MetroMorphosis, Inc. The panel discussion was held at McKinley Alumni Center and addressed ways to change the conversation about black boys and black men in Baton Rouge.
- Dr. Stephen C. Finley was featured on the popular weekly podcast, BackStory. Dr. Finley was on a segment called Close Encounters: UFOs in American History. Dr. Finley discussed the unique experiences of African Americans as they relate to UFO traditions.

“Chat and Chew”



A Campus Diversity and Inclusion Lecture Series for Faculty, Administration and Staff

“Window”

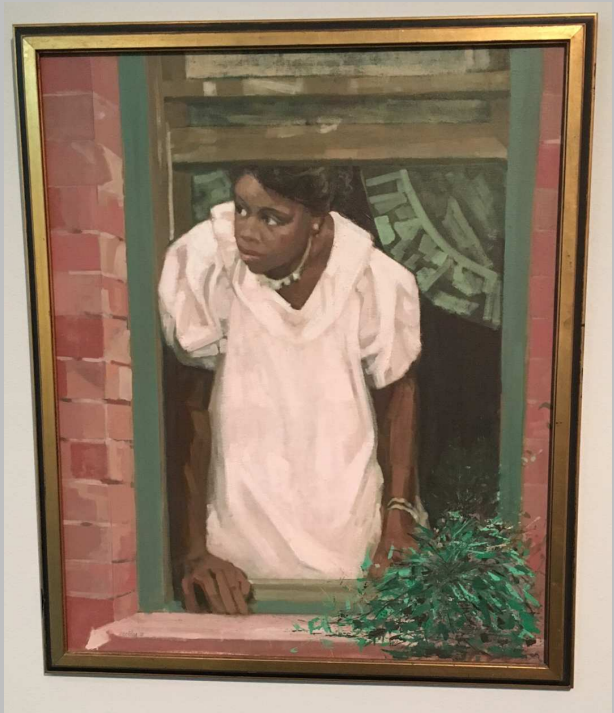
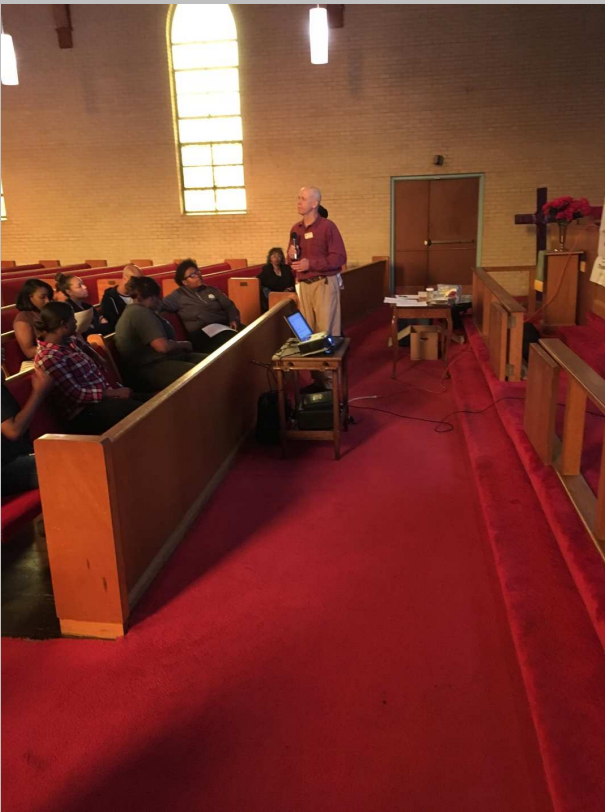


Photo from African American Exhibit at LSU Museum of Art

“Training for The Storms”



Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Dr. Herman Kelly, Pastor

“Cultural Appropriation”



A panel discussion on Cultural Appropriation hosted by the Society of African and African American Studies ‘