



COLLEGE *of* CHARLESTON

AFRICAN AMERICAN
STUDIES PROGRAM

Fall 2019 Newsletter



"Iron 'sankofa' symbol on a memorial to the enslaved workers who 'helped' build the Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC" by Spencer Means is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

From the Director



Kameelah Martin,
Director of the
African American Studies
program

Habari Gani!?! What's the news!?!

This is a traditional Swahili greeting among old and new acquaintances and it is with this greeting that I welcome you to our fall 2019 newsletter! There is plenty abuzz in the African American Studies Program this semester and I hope you will share our excitement about the new faces and new initiatives in the program.

Last spring, we proudly graduated our fifth class of African American Studies majors (4) and minors (12). Congratulations to all of our graduates! We also celebrated a number of exceptional students in the program with several awards including the Conseula Francis Outstanding Student Award, Capstone Project Award, and the Rising Scholar Award. Please see the full list of awardees on page seven.

AAST said a temporary farewell to Mari Crabtree, Assistant Professor of African American Studies, who is on leave for 2019-20. She has accepted a fellowship in the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University. To help us carry the proverbial load in her absence, we welcome Antron Mahoney as our Visiting Assistant Professor for 2019-20.

African American Studies has an ambitious fall schedule of events and programs! We hope you will join us for our annual events such as *Conseula Francis Emerging Scholar Lecture* series and the African American Studies Book Club. The fall book club selection will be Jennifer Jensen Wallach's [*Every Nation Has Its Dish: Black Bodies & Black Food in Twentieth Century America*](#), in collaboration with the Institute of Sustainability Literacy's QEP theme of food security. We will host several invited speakers and scholars to campus to discuss religion, music, genealogy, and the middle passage. We are pleased to announce Daniel Black, author of the powerful novel [*The Coming*](#), will visit our campus in October. The City of Charleston will host the bi-annual conference of the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#) (ASALH), on October 2-6, 2019. It promises to be a rich gathering of thinkers in the African American intellectual tradition and many of our colleagues are on the program. Please see our full calendar of events below.

Finally, African American Studies will get into the podcasting game with the launch of "Port of Entry: An African American Studies Podcast" this fall. We hope to keep friends of African American Studies engaged with alumni news, interviews with special guests, and cutting-edge research in the field of African American and African Diaspora Studies. To keep up with this and all other news and events for the African American Studies Program at the College of Charleston, please follow us on social media: facebook.com/AASatCofC/

Faculty News

Anthony Greene

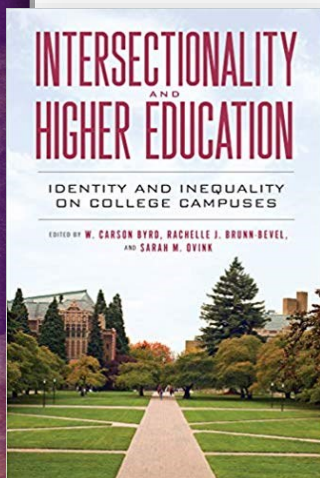
(Associate Professor) published an article in the [*International Journal of African Studies*](#):

Greene, Anthony D. (Spring/Summer 2019). "The Effects of Perceived Discrimination on the Mental Health of College-Aged Black Americans and Caribbean Blacks." *International Journal of African Studies*, 20: 66-91.

Antron Mahoney

(Visiting Assistant Professor) published a co-authored book chapter and a journal article:

Ovink, S. M., Brunn-Bevel, R. J., Byrd, W. C., & Mahoney, A. D. (2019). "Always Crossing Boundaries, Always Existing in Multiple Bubbles: Intersected Experiences and Positions on College Campuses". In W. C. Byrd, S. M. Ovink, & R. J. Brunn-Bevel (Eds.), [*Intersectionality and Higher Education: Identity and Inequality on College Campuses*](#).



Mahoney, A. D., & Harris, H. B. (2019). "When the Spirit Says Dance: A Queer of Color Critique of Black Justice Discourse in Anti-Transgender Policy Rhetoric". [*Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class*](#), 19(1), 7-43.

Mari Crabtree

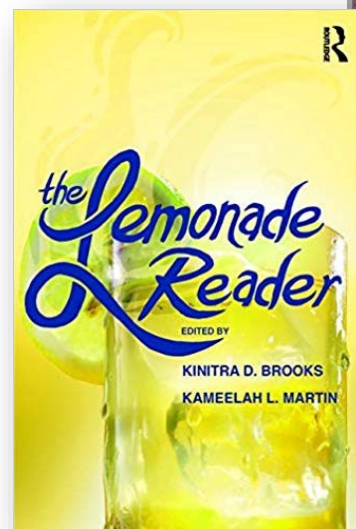
(Assistant Professor) The Department of African American Studies at Princeton University has selected Mari N. Crabtree to be an Associate Research Scholar for the 2019–2020 academic year. She will spend next year revising her book manuscript, *My Soul is a Witness: Lynching and Southern Memory, 1940–1970*, which is under contract with the New Directions in Narrative History Series at Yale University Press. The postdoctoral fellowship will also support research for her next book project, which explores subterfuge and deception as strategies for critiquing white supremacy within the African American protest tradition. In addition to participating in colloquia, seminars, and lectures sponsored by Princeton's Department of African American Studies, she will deliver a public lecture on her research.

Marjory Wentworth

(Adjunct Instructor) was appointed Senior Fellow at the Global Social Justice Practice Academy at Ohio University.

Kameelah Martin

(Professor) has been appointed Assistant Editor of the [*College Language Association Journal*](#) and published an edited collection of essays, [*The Lemonade Reader*](#), about Beyoncé's digital album, *Lemonade* with Co-editor Kinitra D. Brooks.



Alumni Spotlight



Olivia Williams '15

We are always interested in what our alumni are doing in their post-graduate lives. Our goal is to stay connected to our students and to develop a wide network of thinkers, activists, and educators engaged in the work of African American Studies! If you are a College of Charleston graduate who majored or minored in African American Studies, please contact us and let us know about your career path since leaving the College.

We share in our graduates' successes and support their endeavors to the best of our ability. We offer this Alumni Spotlight section to spread the word about our alumni and inspire our current students to "jump at the sun," in the words

of Zora Neale Hurston. For Fall 2019 we shine the spotlight on Olivia Williams. Olivia graduated from the College of Charleston in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and African American Studies. She is part of the very first class of graduates to complete the African American Studies degree program. Olivia is a Cultural History Interpretive Aide at McLeod Plantation Historic Site in Charleston, South Carolina where she interprets the history of slavery. She began her career at McLeod in 2016 and while there, became a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpretation. Olivia Williams plans to pursue a Master of Arts degree in Public History here at the College of Charleston beginning this fall. She will also intern at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

Olivia joined us for a conversation about her work at McLeod Plantation and the value of having a degree in African American Studies. Check out the full interview in our inaugural episode of *Port of Entry: An African American Studies Podcast*: <http://blogs.cofc.edu/aast/2019/08/26/port-of-entry-episode-1-olivia-williams/>

Fall 2019 Events

September

- 4th Meet the Authors of the *Lemonade Reader*!
- 12th *Traces of the Trade* film screening
- 25th Religion and Resistance: Music as Agency

October

- 24th Reimagining the Middle Passage: Daniel Black's *The Coming*

November

- 12th Conseula Francis Emerging Scholars Lecture with Alexis Wells-Oghoghomeh
- 20th Elizabeth West Lecture
- 21st Snyder Terri Lecture



AVERY RESEARCH CENTER

The Avery Research Center hosts a wide variety of lectures, brown bag discussions, art exhibits, and other programs exploring African American history and culture. A calendar of Avery's programs can be found at avery.cofc.edu/programs/.

For more information on these events or the African American Studies Program, Check out the website at african-american-studies.cofc.edu/.

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

AAST 200	Intro to African American Studies
AAST 300	ST: Ancestries of Enslavement
AAST 330	Black Images in the Media
AAST 350	Comparative Black Identity
AFST 101	Intro to African Civilization
AFST 202	ST: A Survey of Contemporary Issues in Africa through Literature, Art and Media
ENGL 315	Black Women Writers
HIST 216	African American History to 1865
HIST 272	Pre-Colonial Africa
RELS 270	African-American Religions
THTR 316	African American Theatre
WGST 320	ST: African American Women: Perspectives on Health, Beauty, and Status in the US

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

South Carolina residents who are over 60 years old are eligible to enroll in regular College of Charleston courses on a space-available basis for a fee of \$25 for the semester. Permission of the instructor is required for African American Studies courses. Call 843.953.5620 for details.

Spring 2019 LCWA Annual Awards Ceremony



Conseula Francis Outstanding Student Award
Le'Vetta Priestner

African American Studies Community Activism Award
La'Nasa Clarkson &
Quincie Proctor –Guyton

African American Studies Rising Scholar Award
Jazmine Dinkins &
Quincie Proctor-Guyton

African American Studies Outstanding Senior Scholar Award
Courtney Hicks & Ethan Davis

African American Studies Capstone Project Award
Courtney Hicks

Bernard E. Powers Writing Award in African American Studies
Karolyn Brown with
“Flags of Damballah” in AAST 300-06
Voodoo and Visual Culture

African American Studies Student Art Competition
Jamal Monroe with “Self Reflection”

Check out the great photos taken by Daniel Delgado Photography of the LCWA Annual Awards Ceremony!

AAST in Jamaica!



A group of 10 students participated in Study Abroad Program offered by AAST in June. Students traveled to Montego Bay, Jamaica to study the distinct history and culture of the African Diaspora through the lens of music. They spent a week immersed in cultural environs that gave birth to Reggae. Here is what students had to say about their experience:

“The highlight of this trip was visiting the Indigenous Rastafari Village. In this village, the indigenous people had all of the College of Charleston students join their ensemble. We sat together--different colors, ethnicities, and cultures--but we learned there in the Rasta village in Jamaica, that different rhythms mean nothing. The power comes when these rhythms come together and make harmony.”

-- Akayla Sellers (Public Health)



“We were all ready to learn about the people and culture of Jamaica, Marcus Garvey and Bob Marley; but some of us went to Jamaica in search of different parts of ourselves... It's funny how God picks and places people; just the right people in a place that's even better. If I was asked to describe my experience in word; I would simply say 'amazing'. Jamaica is a different type of free.”

-- Deja Burwell, (AAST minor)



As we begin the start of this new academic year the African American Studies program at the College of Charleston has offered its services as a clearing house for news of events relevant to African American Studies. We have created a calendar and listings-service drawing attention to African American-related events happening across the state. The calendar is on our website and will be providing information on events that we are aware of. To keep our calendar up to date with the latest events we invite you to submit events that you believe would be beneficial to this calendar. If you would also like to be added to our African American-related Events email list please contact Casey Smith at smithcn1@cofc.edu.

The **Event Calendar** can be found here:
african-american-studies.cofc.edu/events/

How Can You Support African American Studies ?

Area of Need:	Financial Goal:
Study Abroad Scholarships (\$2,750/student)	\$13,750.00
Student Research & Conference Travel	\$2,000.00
AAST Student Merit Awards	\$5,000.00
AAST General/Discretionary Fund	\$2,000.00
African American Studies Program Endowment	\$50,000.00*

Every Gift Counts! No amount is too large or small! Please consider an individual or group donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$1000 or more!

All donations are tax deductible [Donate Now!](#)

In the 'Designation' drop-down menu, select 'Other'. In the 'Other' box, note your intended contribution: **R717 - African American Studies**. Thank you for your continued support of the African American Studies program.

Or visit <https://giving.cofc.edu/ways-to-give>

*For more information on establishing an endowment in African American Studies, please contact John King, Senior Development Officer at kingj1@cofc.edu or 843-953-4374

Where Are You Now?

Let Us Know What You're Up To

For 20 years the African American Studies Program at the College of Charleston has educated students in African American history and culture. We would love to hear what those students are up to now. Let us know about the exciting professional and personal milestones you've reached since leaving the College. You can email Dr. Martin with the details at martinkl2@cofc.edu



not just in february

RELIGION AND RESISTANCE *ON FILM*



AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
SPRING 2020

FILM FESTIVAL

6:00 PM
SEPTIMA CLARK AUDITORIUM
(EDUCATION CENTER 118)

DISCUSSIONS OF THE FILMS FACILITATED BY A
FACULTY MEMBER WILL FOLLOW EACH SCREENING.

FREE POPCORN AND REFRESHMENTS.



Birth of a Nation
February 3



Father's Kingdom
February 10



**Daughters of
the Dust**
February 17



Malcolm X
February 24