

AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES NEWS

Director's Welcome

Hello Reader:

Thanks to the service of affiliate faculty member, Shelly Brown-Jeffy, I enjoyed a productive leave, but I missed a great fall semester.

The pages that follow highlight the diverse research of our faculty. Congratulations to Dr. Cervenak on the publication of her first book. Congratulations to Dr. Woods on his promotion to Assistant Professor. Many thanks to Dr. Woods and Dr. Ali who presented their research to our students, faculty, and community members through the Conversations with the Community series. Also, a big congratulations to Astrid Hacker for becoming our third Ransome scholar.

Reading the accomplishments of our esteemed alumni reminds me of why I enjoy directing this program. They recognize no limits in how they can use their interdisciplinary degree to contribute to society. Words cannot express how proud I am of them.

As we prepare for the CACE conference in February, I look forward to hearing our current students present their research. They are our future leaders.

Enjoy.

Looking forward,



Tara T. Green, PhD
Professor and Director



Director, Dr. Tara T. Green

AFS 2014 Spring Convocation

Six African American Studies majors received recognition for completing their graduation requirements in the Spring. The Spring 2014 graduates included undergraduate majors, Shaneka Bellamy, Landon Bigelow, Jasmine Childs, Brice Jordan, Stephanie Walton, and Nique Williams. Nique Williams and Stephanie Walton were the first recipients of our Whitney “Whitty” Ransome Scholarship in African American & African Diaspora Studies. Ms. Walton continues her studies at UNCG in the Masters of Communication Studies program, and Ms. Williams is studying law at North Carolina Central University.

Tiffany Atkins, attorney and AFS/AADS alumna gave the keynote address. She informed the students of how her experiences at UNCG bolstered her confidence to succeed in law school. Following her inspiring talk, the graduates received their kente cloth stole from professors in the “Standing Forth” Ceremony. In her final remarks, Dr. Tara T. Green reminded students of their duty to pay forward what they have received at UNCG. These new alumni graduated in the 32nd year of the Program and the 12th year of the major. We look forward to hearing great things about our new alumni.



**Front Row (l-r): Mr. Landon Bigelow, Ms. Nique Williams, Ms. Stephanie Walton, Ms. Brice Jordan, Ms. Shaneka Bellamy
Back Row (l-r): Mr. Demetrius Noble, Mr. Michael Cauthen, Dr. Sarah Cervenak, Dr. Omar Ali, Dr. Frank Woods, Dr. Tara Green**

Three Majors Inducted into UNCG Golden Chain Honor Society



Golden Chain Inductees, Nov 29, 2014

On November 9, 2014 three African American & African Diaspora Studies majors were inducted into UNCG's prestigious Golden Chain Honor Society. These three majors were Mr. Dominick Hand (AADS Ambassador), Ms. Latiqwa Hardy (AADS Ambassador), and Ms. Tiera Moore. There were nineteen members inducted into the society, which means that our majors account for 15 percent of new inductees in the Fall 2014 Semester. These students' achievements were recognized in the Virginia Dare Room. Alumni member, Debra Turner Bailey addressed the inductees.

The Golden Chain Honor Society was founded in 1948. It symbolizes seven "links" of the chain: leadership, scholarship, service, tolerance, judgment, magnanimity, and character. The word "Golden" was chosen for the honor to show "excellence and rarity." The word "Chain" illustrates how new members and alumni are linked together. We congratulate Mr. Hand, Ms. Hardy and Ms. Moore on their distinguished achievement.

Whitney “Whitty” Ransome Scholarship Recipient, Astrid Hacker

Ms. Astrid Hacker is a senior, double majoring in African American Studies and African Diaspora Studies and English. She minors in American Sign Language. She has been a Dean’s list student as well as a Louis & Sam Adam’s Scholarship recipient. Over the course of her four years at UNCG she has been a part of UNCG’s chapter of the NAACP and the African American Studies club. She has also worked as a Peer Academic Leader, Spartan Guide, Resident Advisor and news writer for the *Carolinian*. Her career goals include becoming an established author and working as a magazine journalist in which she hopes to report on positive images surrounding people of color. In Spring 2015, Ms. Hacker will present her paper, “Empowerment & Liberation in Black Female Sexuality,” at the 2015 CACE conference.



Astrid Hacker

Dr. Naurice Frank Woods Accepts Tenure Track Position



Dr. Naurice Frank Woods

Dr. Naurice Frank Woods, who started teaching at UNCG in 1989 as a lecturer, is now an Assistant Professor of African American Art History in African American & African Diaspora Studies. Dr. Woods was the director of the program for 13 years from 1995 to 2008. He teaches African American history, art history, music, film, and popular culture courses. He is currently writing a biography on African American artist, Henry O. Tanner. We thank Dr. Woods for his continued service to the African American & African Diaspora Studies program and congratulate him on his new position. Dr. Woods is also an accomplished artist.

***A Conversation with the Community:
The Global African Diaspora in the 17th
Century: Peru, India and Virginia***



Lucy Mason, Omar Ali, Nia Twyman, Jeffrey Potkay, Dominick Hand, and Amber Brown-Kelly

On September 9th, Dr. Omar Ali shared his research on the lives of three people of the African diaspora, San Martin de Porres, Malik Ambar, and Antonio ‘the Negro’, and their respective locations in Peru, India and Virginia during the seventeenth century. He provided attendees with a global snapshot of the African Diaspora and a way of understanding both the shared experiences of people of African descent and the different ways in which their particular historical contexts and geographical locations either enabled or deterred their freedom. This presentation was followed by a lively conversation with students, faculty and community members.

Dr. Ali is an Associate Professor in the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program.

A Conversation with the Community: *White Slavery, The Abolitionist's Crusade, and the Painter's Canvas*

On Tuesday, October 7th, Dr. Frank Woods led a conversation about two paintings from the antebellum period, *The Slave Market* (c. 1852-1860) by an anonymous artist and *The Freedom Ring* (1860) by Eastman Johnson, which involve the purchase of white slaves and attempts to delineate the motivation for presenting these images before the public. The paintings functioned similar to slave narratives of the period and abolitionists used them to provide visual evidence of an insidious, often sexually depraved side of slavery.

In Dr. Woods' analysis, he presented the argument that these images communicated the message, "They are selling people who look like your sisters, wives, and mothers and this is why you should care." They were also presented as a challenge to people who did not care because the overwhelming majority of slaves were black. These paintings ask the question, "Would it be okay if they were white?"



The Freedom Ring, by Eastman Johnson (1860)



The Slave Market, by Unknown Artist (1852-1860)

Updates from Alumni: We are proud of you!

Charles Chavis (AFS Major; AFS Ambassador) graduated in May 2014 from Vanderbilt University with a Masters of Theological Studies where he focused on the Black Church in the African Diaspora. Following his graduation from Vanderbilt, he was awarded a Graduate Assistantship by Morgan State University to pursue his Ph D. in History. Most recently, he has been awarded a Research Grant by the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum for their latest exhibit, on “The Last Lynching in Maryland, the Murder of George Armwood.” Lastly, he has been hired as an Adjunct Instructor of Black Church Studies in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. In the Spring of 2015, he will be teaching, The Black Church in the African Diaspora.

Brandy Propst (AFS Major) received the 2014 NASPA Region III William Leftwich Award for Outstanding New Professional. She also was recently appointed as the Chair of the Alumni Committee for the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUFP) Advisory Board. NUFP is a mentoring program for undergraduates from underrepresented and historically disenfranchised populations that have an interest in pursuing a career in student affairs and higher education. She has been a member of the NUFP Advisory Board for three years. Brandy currently works at UNCG as the coordinator of Academic Foundations & Mentoring in the Students First Office.

Carrie Bell (AFS Major) relocated to Miami in 2010 and joined AmeriCorps, a national community service initiative and was employed with South Florida Urban Ministries where she served as a volunteer for Branches, an after-school children and youth development program. After completing her contract, which was for one year of service, she was promoted to a full time staff member as a Program Coordinator. She ended her time with the program in 2013 when she decided to explore other fields. Since then, she has worked in event management and also as a Child Protective Investigator, among other positions. She was thrilled to celebrate her one-year anniversary on December 11, 2014 in her current position as Associate Site Director for Breakthrough Miami, a nonprofit organization aimed at bridging the gaps in education for underprivileged youth in Miami-Dade County. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science degree in Leadership from Nova Southeastern University and will graduate on June 12, 2015. She is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education.

Updates from Alumni Continued

Valery Whitley (AFS Major; AFS Ambassador) is working at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, NC. She is the Program Performance and Accountability Technologist for the College & Career Readiness (CCR) Division, where she makes sure processes, data, and technology are working in efficient and productive manners for quality assurance purposes. The CCR Division is in charge of helping students who did not complete their four years of high school and adult high school students receive their GED and Adult High School Diploma, as well as, helping students with English as a Second Language (ESL). She is also an Adjunct I.T. instructor at Community College in Graham, NC. She has been nominated as Adjunct Instructor of the Year both years, and won Adjunct Instructor of the Year for the Business and Technologies Division in 2013. She has also been a co-advisor for their chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) and lastly, has won 2nd and 3rd place for two African American Studies related papers she has written in Faculty/Staff writing contests two years in a row. Additionally, she is currently working on her Masters in Education, Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Educational Technology.

Ava Floyd (AFS Minor) graduated from UNCG in 2007 with a BA in Psychology and minor in African-American Studies. After graduation, she attended Southern Connecticut State University earning an MA in Psychology in 2009 leading her to work as a TA in therapeutic school. This led her to focus on cognitive development in children and adolescents. She began working for New York University as a Research Assistant for two and a half years administering neuropsychological assessments. Shortly afterwards, she was accepted into the Lynch School of Education at Boston College completing an MA in Applied Developmental and Educational Studies. Her thesis examined environmental factors that can affect ethnic students' academic achievement and cognitive development living in low-income communities. Currently, she is an Intensive Family Therapist in Worcester, MA at LUK Inc. working with low-income families emphasizing healthy behavioral development. Shortly after her hire, she was offered a position at the McGovern Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a lab assistant examining brain development in children with depression and autism. She is also a clinician.

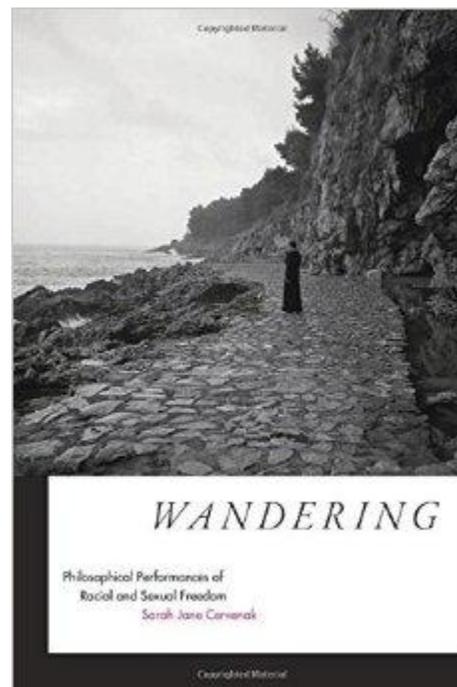
Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak Releases New Book

Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak's book titled, *Wandering: Philosophical Performances of Racial and Sexual Freedom*, was released in the fall. She gave a book talk and a short reception was hosted in her honor by African American & African Diaspora Studies and Women's & Gender Studies.

"Combining black feminist theory, philosophy, and performance studies, Sarah Jane Cervenak ruminates on the significance of physical and mental roaming for black freedom. She is particularly interested in the power of wandering or daydreaming for those whose mobility has been under severe constraint, from the slave era to the present. Since the Enlightenment, wandering has been considered dangerous and even criminal when associated with people of color.

Cervenak engages artist-philosophers who focus on wayward movement and daydreaming, or mental travel, that transcend state-imposed limitations on physical, geographic movement. Cervenak argues that their work produces an otherworldly movement, an errant kinesiology that exceeds locomotive constraints, resisting the straightening-out processes of post-Enlightenment, white-supremacist, capitalist, sexist, and heteronormative modernity. Their roaming animates another terrain, one where free, black movement is not necessarily connected to that which can be seen, touched, known, and materially valued."

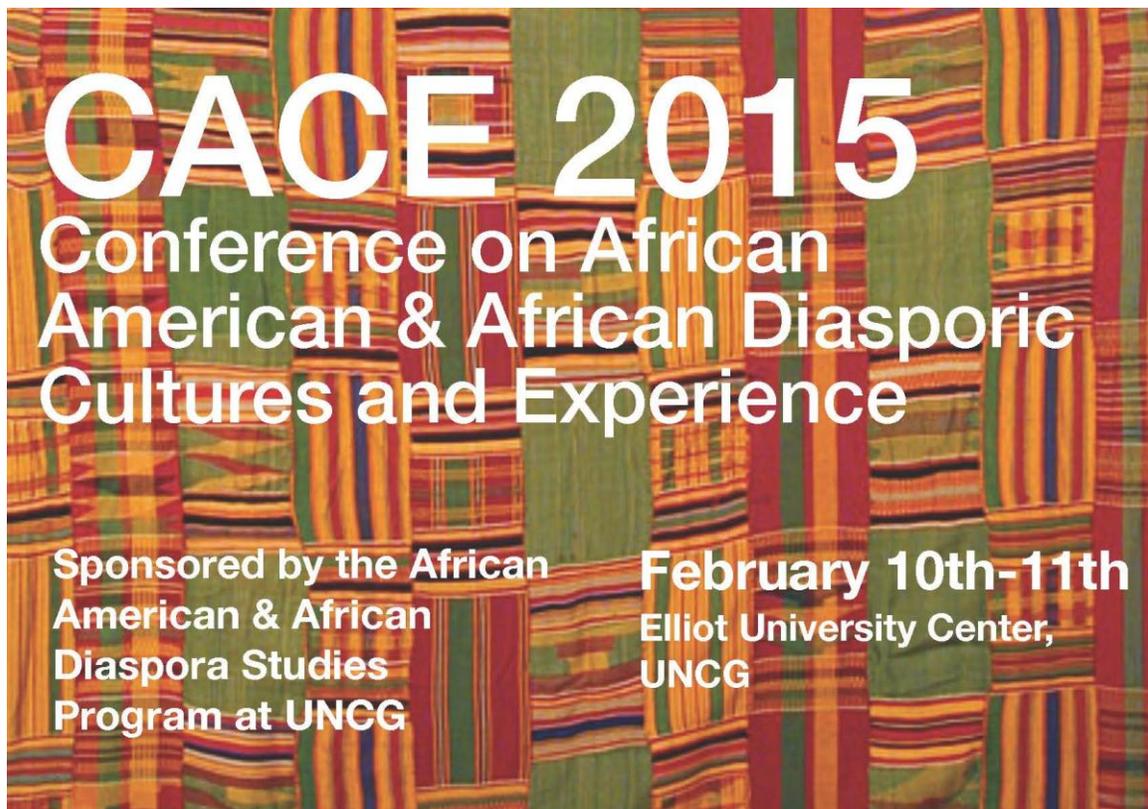
- Duke University Press website (<https://www.dukeupress.edu/Wandering/index-viewby=subject&categoryid=27&sort=newest.html>)



Wandering: Philosophical Performances of Racial and Sexual Freedom, by Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak

The African American Studies Club

This Fall the AFS Club partnered with UNCG's SIASA (or Pan African Coalition) on an event called, "Breaking the Bonds of Slavery: Blacks and Christians." It also conducted service activities, including collecting canned food for Greensboro's Urban Ministries, and decorating Christmas trees for families in need via a campus program called "Branches of Love."



**African American & African Diaspora Studies:
Then & Now**

POETRY CAFE

Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00pm, EUC Maple Room

STUDENT PANEL DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Tuesday & Wednesday, February 10th & 11th, EUC

CAREER LUNCHEON

Wednesday, February 11th, EUC 12:00pm

FREE REGISTRATION aads.uncg.edu/cace/registration

CONTACT aads@uncg.edu - aads.uncg.edu - 336.334.550

Faculty Highlights

Director Dr. Tara T. Green During her research leave, she was selected to serve on the editorial board of the Greensboro's *News and Record*. Her academic article on *Twelve Years A Slave* and the film adaptation was accepted for publication in *Palimpsest: A Journal on Women, Gender, and the Black International* journal to appear in 2015. She was also invited to facilitate two workshops at the 2014 Diversity Council of the Carolinas (DCC) in Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Omar H. Ali has been active in taking his students out of the classroom and into different parts of Greensboro to gain a better understanding of the city's rich African American history, including to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, the historically-black community of Warnersville, where he directs a series of free cultural events, classes, and workshops, and for a tour of Guilford College Forest, which served as a vital refuge for fugitive slaves and abolitionist organizing during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. His article "Afro-Perú: A Legacy of Black Labor and Culture" appeared in *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America* this Fall. He also gave the annual lecture sponsored by UNCG's Native American Student Association, entitled "Black Amerindians: African-Native American Histories Across the Americas," and a faculty seminar co-sponsored by UNC-Wilmington's History Department and Africana Studies program, entitled "Ethiopians in India: Malik Ambar and the Abyssinians of the Deccan."

Mr. Michael Cauthen chaired the Whitney "Whitty" Ransome Committee in African American and African Diaspora Studies. The committee selected its first full academic year scholarship recipient (though 3rd overall recipient) for the upcoming 2014/2015 semesters. He was also on a committee which selected a new Senior Fellow (or director) of the Warren Ashby Residential College. He currently advises the very active African American and African Diaspora Studies Club.

Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak attended the American Studies Association conference in November and moderated a panel titled "The Pain and Pleasure of Autobiographical Expression."

Dr. Frank Woods has an art piece, *In Construction*, on display in UNCG's Elliot University Center at UNCG, located in the Gallery on the first floor of the Elliot University Center. The piece is an abstract and is from a time when Dr. Woods was working predominantly with sculpture. The painting translates the 3D tactile form into paint and canvas.

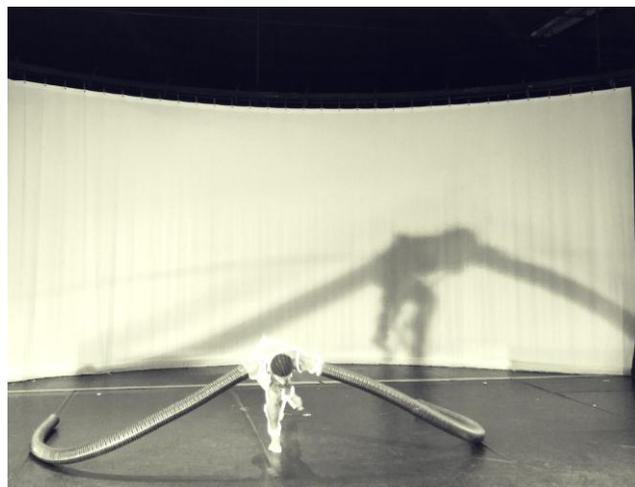
Dr. Cerise Glenn (affiliate) was named as a 2014 Spotlight on Teaching Honoree from the National Communication Association, Teachers on Teaching Series.

Faculty Highlights Continued

Dr. Colleen Kriger (affiliate) is currently a Fellow at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, finishing up a draft of her next book, *Making Money: Life, Death, and Business on the Guinea Coast*. The book is under contract with Ohio University Press as part of their Africa in World History series, edited by Joseph Miller and David Robinson. The research is based largely on the records of Britain's Royal African Company during their monopoly era in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Among her many discoveries, she has evidence showing how and why (mostly) male children from the Upper Guinea coast ended up in England as part of their growing black population in the early modern era. These captives are not 'counted' in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. In the spring, she will present an invited paper – “‘Black’ Cloth in West African Culture, 1560-1960” -- at a conference on ‘Color in the Early Modern Atlantic World’ at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Bill Hart (affiliate) was a guest editor and contributor to the current issue of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, December 2014, Volume 42, issue 4, pages i-v, 585-78. The work was titled “Focus on Race and Ethics.” He also published “Introduction: Race as Euphemism and Shorthand” and “Slaves, Fetuses and Animals: Race and Ethical Rhetoric.”

Dr. Duane Cyrus (affiliate) completed two projects this semester. The first was the Arts Entrepreneurship Mini Fair in the EUC Commons, with Students in the School of Music Theatre and Dance who showcased their arts entrepreneurship projects. The second was the Fall Dances Concert, an analysis of Shakespeare's work from the perspective of “otherness.” They focused on a departmental concert featuring a guest choreographer, Germaul Barnes along with works by Duane Cyrus, Janet Lilly, and B.J. Sullivan.



Dance image from “The Globe”, an analysis of Shakespeare's work from the perspective of Otherness.

Post Baccalaureate Certificate in African American Studies

Online or On Campus

About the Program

While earning a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in African American Studies at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, students will engage the significance of race, gender, and class in America, and develop theoretical, historical, and political foundations in the study of African Americans. Emerging and leading scholars from various academic backgrounds teach each course. The program provides support to students wishing to pursue African American Studies at the advanced graduate level.

Who Should Apply?

- Currently enrolled graduate students at UNCG
- People with undergraduate or graduate *degrees in any field*
- Those with careers or seeking careers in education, business, non-profit organizations, and social services are encouraged to apply.

Admission Requirements

All documents must be sent to UNCG's Graduate School.

- At minimum, must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and must have been admitted by The Graduate School.
- Students already enrolled in a UNCG graduate program do not need to reapply for graduate admission, but must apply for admission to this program.
- All applicants must complete a two-page statement (approximately 500 words) describing why they are interested in pursuing a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in African American Studies, fill out an application form, send two letters of reference, and pay the non-refundable application fee.
- GRE is not required.

For more information, visit: <http://www.uncg.edu/afs> or <http://www.uncg.edu/grs>

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We hope that you will support our Program by making a tax-deductible donation. Your gift to AFS allows us to build our scholarship fund to support students in need or provide funding for our students to study abroad and/or attend conferences.

To support AADS, please send your donation to Advancement Services 1100 W. Market Street P.O. Box 26170 Greensboro, NC 27402 clearly marked for UNCG African American Studies Enrichment Fund or give on-line at http://www.uncg.edu/education/studentsfirst/give_now.html. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us. No donation is too large or too small!

Can't give money, how about your time?

We are expanding our internship program. If you own a business, especially a law office or a non-profit, that serves a significant number of African Americans and are interested in sharing your professional expertise with AADS majors, please contact Dr. Tara T. Green at aads@uncg.edu or 336-334-5507.

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