

AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES PROGRAM

NEWS

FALL 2016
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DIRECTOR'S WELCOME, DR. CERISE L. GLENN



Dear AADS community,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone and express how excited I am to serve as the Program Director of the African American & African Diaspora Studies Program (AADS) at UNCG. We enjoyed a Fall 2016 semester full of engaging, thought-provoking events.

During this semester, I have been getting to know students in the AADS program through class and office visits. It's been a pleasure to begin working with such talented and bright students. The faculty, staff, and I have worked hard to enrich student experiences in a variety of ways. We've been pleased to see great turnout to our sponsored and co-sponsored events regarding emerging scholarship and current affairs across the nation and here at the university. The UNCG African American & African Diaspora Studies Program continues to advance our mission of broadening the knowledge about the African and African American experience.

This edition of the AADS newsletter showcases these accomplishments—from our distinguished guest scholars to our Speak Out About Charlotte gathering for activists and the community. It also features the great work of our students and faculty, and introduces our new student interns and ambassadors. Please see our save the date section for our upcoming events in the Spring 2017 semester. Join us for a range of great events in Black History Month and throughout the semester. I am especially excited to see what our students and faculty will present at our Conference on African American & African Diasporic Culture and Experience (CACE) conference on February 22. We welcome you to attend all of the events we will have to offer for the Spring 2017 semester!

My regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cerise L. Glenn".

Cerise L. Glenn, Ph.D.

Program Director

African American and African
Diaspora Studies



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Jonel Howard & Dr. Cerise L. Glenn



SAVE THE DATES!

DATE	EVENT
February 1, 2017	Black History Month Kickoff (co-sponsored event)
February 7, 2017	AADS Open House
February 7, 2017	Conversation w/ the Community (feat. Dr. Frank Woods)
February 11, 2017	Christopher Everett's "Wilmington on Fire" Film Screening (co-sponsored event)
February 13, 2017	Get Ready for CACE Workshop
February 22, 2017	CACE 2017 (followed by Literary Cafe)
March 22, 2017	Conversation w/ the Community (feat. Dr. Madlock-Gatison)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOSHUA LEEPER RECEIVES 2016 COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

ARTICLE BY ALYSSA BEDROSIAN, UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AT UNCG



UNCG senior Joshua Leeper was awarded the 2016 Community Impact Award at the annual CSNAP Conference (Citizenship, Service, Networking and Partnerships) hosted by North Carolina Campus Compact. North Carolina Campus Compact is a collaborative network of 36 colleges and universities with a shared commitment to educating engaged citizens and strengthening communities. The Community Impact Awards recognize one outstanding undergraduate student service leader at each member campus. Leeper was recognized for his dedication to mentoring youth and advancing civil rights.

“I was honored to nominate Joshua for this award,” said Kristina Snader, assistant director for community engagement in UNCG’s Office of Leadership and Service Learning (OLSL). “During his time at UNCG, he has worked to create positive change through his mentoring program and other organizations. I hope Joshua is an inspiration to other students who aspire to embody the UNCG motto of ‘Service.’”

Leeper—an African American and African Diaspora Studies major—is the founder of Raise ‘Em Up Mentoring, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to prepare and guide youth of diverse backgrounds to reach their full potential through mentorship, education, enrichment activities and programming. He also serves as an OLSL civic engagement fellow, president of UNCG’s Black Business Student Association and education chair for UNCG’s NAACP chapter. This fall, Leeper helped lead a civil rights pilgrimage and service trip to Atlanta and Selma and Birmingham, Alabama. The trip was organized through the Office of Intercultural Engagement.

“I have decided to dedicate my life to progressing social justice in the hopes that one day we can have a society that is equitable for all,” Leeper said. “It was heart-warming to receive this award and to know my hard work is not going unnoticed. At the same time, receiving this award makes me want to work even harder for justice and equality.”

To learn more about service opportunities at UNCG, visit olsl.uncg.edu.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TIERA MOORE

INTERVIEWED BY: JONEL HOWARD



Tell us about your undergraduate experience with AADS here at UNCG.

It's been quite transformative. I transferred from East Carolina to UNCG because I needed that diverse program that would submerge me in the history and culture of African people; here in America, and abroad. When I saw the "Diaspora" term on the program, I was sold!

I've had the opportunity to learn—on a more global context—the significance of persons of African descent and the contributions they made throughout every era of history on almost every continent. I felt understanding Africa's global contributions, helped develop a well-rounded identity for myself because people often look at African-Americans only in the context of slavery [from the perspective of African-American history] and not for the ancient civilizations, political and societal structures, or the cultural significance and values from

the large range of diverse peoples. The program encompasses all of these details that give you a "whole, interdisciplinary view" of persons with African descent.

I've always been passionate about the history of African Americans, especially, our development prior to mid-15th century. At UNCG, I was able to expand my knowledge with the help of faculty members. Dr. Omar Ali, my mentor, helped me refine my research interests and served as my adviser when I studied abroad in Nigeria, summer of 2016. When I first joined AADS, I had no clear idea about what the Diaspora meant and how that related to my life, in a larger context. Professor Michael Cauthen is very knowledgeable about the anthropological studies of African Americans and how Africans' navigation around the world impacted various groups of people they encountered. Studying African histories and cultures, particularly Igbo peoples of West Africa, have evolved into my life work and reflect my current research in graduate school here at UNCG. The relationships I have developed with colleagues and professors is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

What are some of the key principles that you have taken from your undergraduate studies that you are now using in your graduate level coursework?

Many things. Mainly, the historical components—which are heavily centered in my graduate coursework. I really enjoy looking at patterns of cultural change, and oral traditions as history, documenting African-American culture and African culture abroad. To me, African interactions with Europeans affected how our cultures are presented to the world and how we perceive our current state of existence. In class, we were always discussing and analyzing sociological theories that helped me understand how we think, how we live and have obtained certain values that are closely connected throughout the Diaspora. [It makes me ask], How did our family structure develop into its present form? From family lives to kinship ties, or the way we eat, music we enjoy, our clothes, procreation and how we fit into social communities such as the LGBTQ+ community. I learned about the social and community aspects from taking ADS 410: Seminar in AADS with Dr. Sarah Cervenak, where I wrote a research paper analyzing European beauty aesthetics with black hair, using Chris Rock's documentary, Good Hair. The paper focused on

whether black girls are relaxing their hair consciously or unconsciously, in an effort to conform to white beauty standards. It created further questions for me—who owns blackness? And, are we suffering from self-hate or simply recreating beauty from something deemed ugly? The research transformed my perspective on identity. AADS Program brilliantly incorporated different types of minds in spaces where shared personal experiences were connected to black identity on a larger context. These different dynamics somehow merged together to give me that interdisciplinary study of African-Americans as well as the Diaspora.

There is a big gap that many people experience when it comes to being an African-American and how to connect or communicate with African people abroad who do not consider themselves to be “African-American.” I feel like our mindsets are typically individualistic, but growth occurs when you have the opportunity to look at how you operate on a global and historical aspect—and begin to think collectively, as a people. AADS allows one to see a broader horizon, which is empowering. It also allows you to learn about your history beyond pre-existing slavery (which I do believe is very important for self-development) since none of this information was targeted in grade school period. To think critically about my existence as a first-generation, black female in America, creates a sense of responsibility to be a life-long learner, an innovator and an advocator. Those are the key aspects I’ve taken from the program. It felt great to know about ancient civilizations, warfare, the Indian and Atlantic Ocean slave trades, cultural transfers and social revolutions, and achievements that shaped African-Americans today.

You mentioned that you are currently a graduate student. Tell us about your Graduate Studies and what you are doing now.

I am currently enrolled in Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, with a Global Studies concentration. My research interests are focused on documenting change in traditional West African Igbo culture due to colonization and civil war, and the preservation of oral histories regarding Igbo culture. Preservation of Igbo traditions is critical at this time because the language is spoken less, even in the heart of “Igboland”, and the traditional ways are fading into the waves of westernization. If we don’t protect culture, it will be lost, and future generations will know nothing of their greatness. It’s like everything I’ve learned here except more defined and specified—such as the forced, and willing movement of African people to Latin America, like Peru, Haiti and Brazil—and how it shaped the social, economic, and political states of these regions. I wouldn’t have that eye for looking at how Africans fit into this global concept of history without being a major in the AADS Program. I was asked a thousands of times about what I would do with my degree. Currently, I serve as the Coordinator of Programming and Academic Adviser for the Lloyd International Honors College at UNC-Greensboro. In the future, I plan to pursue my Ph.D. at the University of Texas Austin in the dual African Diaspora History and Cultural Anthropology program.

And what is your immediate response to these questions?

I’m going to do with it the same that an artist or musician would do with their degree—I am going to envelope my passions and use those skills to create a pathway for myself. This degree is not set up like a specific discipline such as Biology or Chemistry, it has given me an interdisciplinary view that allows me to look at all types of theoretical paradigms involving African descendants from many different perspectives. With my skillsets, I plan to travel throughout the regions of Africa, working to develop educational programs that support growing relations between Africans on the continent and throughout the Diaspora. Longer term, I plan to keep developing my education and teach the history of the African Diaspora on a university level, studying abroad in Nigeria and visiting other international countries. I plan to keep developing my education and teach the historical topics I’ve learned by embracing how African people have made an impact on cultures all over the world as my focus. I’m looking to applying to a couple more Graduate Programs more focused on African History.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: SPEAK OUT ABOUT CHARLOTTE



On Monday, September 26th, AADS hosted an event titled “Speak Out About Charlotte” with the Office of Intercultural Engagement and the Women’s & Gender Studies Program in response to the recent Police Brutality mass protesting that took place in Charlotte, NC.

The discussion helped the UNC Greensboro community of students, faculty and staff who were affected by the events in Charlotte to come together and discuss their thoughts and feelings about the event. This event was also open to the public to attend as we encouraged individuals of all backgrounds to contribute to our open discussion. Over one hundred students attended and our event attracted local media attention. There were some emotionally powerful testimonies given, as well as critical insights on what we need to do as a community to move forward during the event.

Dr. Cerise L. Glenn, Mr. Augusto E. Peña with Office of Intercultural Engagement & Dr. Mark Rifkin with Women’s & Gender Studies Program moderated the event. Within one weekend’s worth time, we all collaborated to have this event ready to take place that following Monday. We were glad to partner with these other programs and departments to make this event happen and bring together the voices of our community.

SCHOLARLY GUEST SPEAKERS:

DR. SYLVIANE DIOUF



We had the privilege of having Dr. Diouf come to UNC Greensboro and present a lecture titled African Muslims & Southern Slavery: Omar Ibn Said of West Africa & North Carolina on September 20. Approximately fifty students attended the lecture as Dr. Diouf spoke on how Islam was able to flourish in America during slavery even though there was a popular misconception that Christianity overthrew the Muslims' faith. This event was co-sponsored with

the Islamic Studies Research Network, Department of History, Lloyd International Honors College and Muslim Student Association with support from the IPC Kohler Fund.

Dr. Sylviane Diouf—born and raised in France and has lived in Senegal, Italy, Gabon and New York—is an award-winning historian that focuses her studies on the African Diaspora. She is a recipient of the Rosa Parks Award, the Dr. Betty Shabazz Achievement Award and the Pen and Brush Achievement Award. She is currently the Director of the Lapidus Centre for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery and a Curator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of The New York Public Library.

CAROLYN L. KARCHER



Carolyn L. Karcher is a professor and the author of various books—such as *The First Woman in the Republic: A Cultural Biography of Lydia Maria Child*—and served as the editor of Tourgée's novel *Bricks Without Straw*. On October 27, she visited UNC Greensboro to present a lecture titled *Fighting Racism: Albion W. Tourgée and His Alliance with African Americans in the 1890s*, where she discussed some of the topics that were addressed

in her latest book *A Refugee from his Race: Albion W. Tourgée and His Fight Against White Supremacy*.

Karcher discussed the story of a defender of equality and civil rights from Greensboro who led a national crusade against lynching, segregation and disfranchisement. A classroom full of students engaged with Ms. Karcher as the discussion brought up many thought provoking questions about the kind of activist Tourgée was to form an alliance with African Americans and give a more in-depth analysis of their collaboration. This event was co-sponsored with the Department of History, Department of English, the UNCG Historical Society and the Lloyd International Honors College.

Conversation. with the Community



On October 4, Dr. Omar H. Ali hosted a Conversation with the Community based off of his new book, “Malik Ambar: Power and Slavery Across the Indian Ocean.” Dr. Ali took students on a journey through the life of a man who reached incredible heights in South Asian military and political affairs during the late sixteenth / early seventeenth centuries coming from slavery in eastern Africa. The fact that Ambar was able to make such powerful accomplishments during this time only shows how diversity among the culture, individuals and goods helped shape the area around the Indian Ocean during this period. Mostly well known for defending the Deccan people from the Mughals, Ambar’s creative and inventive battle tactics and land-reform policies helped contribute towards keeping the Deccan people free from the imperial rule of Mughals.

Dr. Ali is a historian of the African Diaspora who explores the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds from the early modern period to the present. Named North Carolina Professor of the Year by The Carnegie Foundation, Ali is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science and received his Ph.D. in History from Columbia University. He has been a Lecturer at Columbia University, a Fulbright Professor at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, a Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt University, and a Library Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University. The author of four books, Dr. Ali is currently working on a biography of the 17th-century Afro-Peruvian Saint Martin de Porres.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF!



Jonel Howard
Program Coordinator

Hi! I graduated from UNCG with my BFA in Art and a concentration in New Media & Design in May of 2015. I had a great time attending UNCG and working at various locations at this university—such as URSCO (Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creativity Office) and UNCG Online—while I was a student and the UNCG Dining Hall after graduating. I am excited to be a part of the AADS staff and help our students, as well as coordinate our special events. Feel free to drop in and visit us! Stop by to visit our Program at our main office in 349 Curry!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW AMBASSADORS & INTERNS!

AADS Ambassadors assist with recruitment of potential students, help with the organization of events, and represent the majors' perspectives and experiences at special events, including those where alumni, administrators, and potential donors are in attendance. More specifically, AADS ambassadors assist with both on-campus and off-campus recruiting events.

Interns in the Spring 2017 semester will assist with event planning for the program, represent our program during on-campus and off-campus events and promote our events. They will also gain valuable administrative and marketing skills (such as through social media or creating hard-copy prints). We hope that our interns will utilize the knowledge they gain from this internship to better strengthen their skill palette for future endeavors.



Khalia Carter
- *Political Science Major & AADS Minor*
- *AADS Student Intern, Spring 2017*
- *Junior Student*



Allen Walker
- *AADS & Political Science (Pre-law) Double major*
- *AADS Student Intern, Spring 2017*
- *Senior Student*



Niesha Williams
- *AADS & English Double Major*
- *President of the AADS Student Club*
- *AADS Student Ambassador*
- *Senior Student*



Bre'anie Sanders
- *AADS & Psychology Double Major*
- *AADS Student Ambassador*
- *Sophomore Student*

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS:

Dr. Cerise L. Glenn (Director)

Dr. Cerise L. Glenn is the recipient of the 2016 Feminist Teacher-Mentor Award from the Organization of Communication, Language, and Gender and the 2016 Outstanding Book Chapter Award from the African American Communication & Culture Division of the National Communication Association. She was also appointed as the Faculty Fellow for the Faculty Mentoring Program at UNCG. As well as becoming the new Program Director of AADS, Dr. Glenn has also helped introduce a new series of "Speak Out" sessions that create an open space for students, faculty, and staff to share their experiences regarding local and national current events.

Dr. Tara T. Green (Core)

This summer Dr. Tara T. Green served as a mentor to a junior faculty fellow at Duke University's Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement Program, where she also presented the following talk: "Developing a Research Agenda and Building a Teaching Portfolio." Along with the heads of the departments of sociology and anthropology, she received an Ashby Dialogue grant to "dialogue" with students on the topic, "Race, Activism, and Campus Speech." She edited a special issue of South Atlantic Review, which features a collection of essays on Langston Hughes and his global influences. It is scheduled for release in December 2017.

Dr. Omar H. Ali (Core)

Dr. Ali published his latest book, "Malik Ambar: Power and Slavery Across the Indian Ocean". He was also featured on Public Radio for the Piedmont, in an interview titled "Democracy and the Pitfalls of Party Politics." He shared his thoughts concerning the decisions of young voters in the past 2016 Presidential election. The interview can be found at the following link (please copy and paste the URL):

<http://wfdd.org/story/democracy-and-pitfalls-party-politics>

Dr. Naurice "Frank" Woods (Core)

Dr. Frank Woods completed his new biography entitled "Henry Ossawa Tanner: Art, Faith, Race and Legacy," which will be included in a new series by Routledge called Routledge Research in Race and Art in the Spring of 2017. Dr. Woods' also published an article, "Pink and the Fancy Gal: White Slavery, the Abolitionists' Crusade, and the Painter's Canvas." The article can be found at the following link (please copy and paste the URL):

<http://www.19thc-artworldwide.org/index.php/autumn16/woods-on-white-slavery-the-abolitionists-crusade-and-the-painters-canvas>



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D):

Dr. Sarah J. Cervenak (Core)

Dr. Sarah Cervenak, along with Duke University colleague Dr. J. Kameron Carter, are hosting a series of speaker and working group events titled "The Black Outdoors: Humanities Futures after Property and Possession." Also with Dr. Carter, she has two forthcoming publications, one on W.E.B. DuBois in *New Centennial Review* and the other on Saidiya Hartman in *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*.

Dr. April Y. Ruffin-Adams (Core)

April Ruffin-Adams has been selected as the Global Engagement Fellow for the 2016-17 academic year. She will assist the Office of International Programs with recruiting and connecting with other faculty about teaching, leading a faculty cohort/learning community, and providing periodic activity reports and participation at events.

Mr. Michael D. Cauthen (Core)

Mr. Michael Cauthen served as a panelist for the Pan-Black Summit (A Call for Coalition to Uplift Our Communities), on October 16. This event was sponsored by several of UNCG's African American and African student organizations, namely: The African Student Union, the Neo-Black Society, the Black Business Student Union, and the Black Graduate Student Union.

Professor Duane A. Cyrus (Affiliate)

Duane Cyrus is featured in the Fall 2016 Edition of the UNCG Research Magazine. The article is titled "A Hero in Dance", and it profiles the creative research for "Comanche: Hero Complexities (Accessing the Legacy of Charles W. David Jr.)." Mr. Cyrus will have rehearsals in New York City in December and continue to advance the research and work leading up to the premiere date of Comanche: Hero Complexities in September of 2017. The article can be found in the following link for the UNCG Research Magazine (please copy and paste the URL):

<http://research.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/web-fall-2016-research-magazine.pdf>





The African American & African Diaspora Studies Program presents:

CACE 2017

Conference on African-American & African Diasporic Culture & Experience

“Black America in the 21st Century”

February 22, 2017: 9 am - 6 pm, Elliott University Center (EUC)

Literary Café: 6 pm, EUC Claxton Room

Registration & luncheon are free!
Seating for luncheon is limited, so register early!

Our conference will feature many presentations and performances from students, alumni and faculty from various schools and universities centralized around this year's theme! We welcome the UNCG and Greensboro community to come. Faculty can also bring their classes to the conference.

All research presentations will be in various rooms in the EUC except for the CACE Networking Social and Poster Presentations, which will be in the Virginia Dare Room at the Alumni House. Here is what to expect at CACE this year:

Opening Session — 9 - 9:50 am, featuring remarks from Dean Kiss, Provost Dunn and Chancellor Gilliam and followed by an interactive performance from Community Play

Research Presentations — 10 - 10:50 am; 11 - 11:50 am

CACE Luncheon — 12 - 1 pm, featuring performances from Suah African Drummers and African Student Union Miwasi Kitoko Dance Team

Research Presentations — 1 - 1:50 pm; 2 - 2:50 pm

CACE Networking Social & Poster Presentations — 3 - 6 pm, a chance for students, faculty and participants to network with our presenters over coffee and snacks

Literary Café — 6 - 8 pm, featuring poets and spoken word performances about Black America in the 21st Century! The hosts are Tiera Moore, Dominick Hand and Demetrius Noble

Come be a part of an amazing conference!

Registration for CACE!

Please register at <https://aads.uncg.edu/cace/registration/>. Additional conference information can be found on our website: <https://aads.uncg.edu>. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail us at aads@uncg.edu or call our office at 336.335.5507.

APPLY TO PRESENT AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR BLACK STUDIES (NCBS) 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS!



The NCBS is accepting 150-400 word abstracts for individual paper, poster and panel sessions that explore various combinations of race/nationality, class, gender, and sexuality through the lens of but not limited to Afrocentric, cross and multicultural, diasporic, feminist, post-colonial, post-modernist or transnational interpretative schemes. Consider your research as a potential panel discussion at this conference if it fits into any of these topics that explore the Black Experience locally, nationally and/or globally. The conference takes place March 8 - 11, 2017.

We will provide funding to defray travel and lodging costs for **3 AADS students** who choose to present at the NCBS in Houston, Texas. We will also provide the same three students with student memberships to the NCBS. This is an exciting opportunity that can exceptionally boost your resume and gain valuable connections in many different fields.

For more information about this opportunity and the NCBS, please visit this link online: http://www.ncbsonline.org/2017_conference

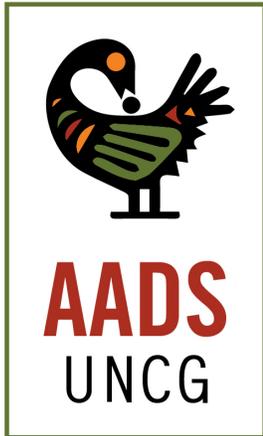
CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2016 GRADUATES!

AADS would like to congratulate the following AADS majors for completing their Undergraduate Degree program in Fall of 2016:

- Janenette Holland
- Emily McNair

We greatly appreciate your efforts to grow with our program and we hope for your future success!

WE WELCOME SUPPORT!



As we continue to reach our students and UNC Greensboro community and inform prospective members of our program about our mission and what we are about, we encourage individuals—who are business owners, non-profit organization members and administrators who service African Americans or contribute towards knowledge of the African Experience—to share their professional expertise with our interns and our students during one of our events. Please contact Dr. Cerise L. Glenn at clglenn@uncg.edu or contact our office directly via the following methods:

- E-Mail: aads@uncg.edu
- Phone: (336) 334-5507

We are also accepting donations. Any donation size helps us to continue to promote student excellence and provide our students with opportunities to further engage the African Experience and build our scholarship fund to award upcoming, bright scholars. We hope that you will support our program by making a tax-deductible donation. To send your gift to AADS, please send your donation to the following address:

The African American &
African Diaspora Studies
Program

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Please be sure to clearly mark your donation out to “UNCG African American Studies Enrichment Fund” if you choose to donate using this method. You may also donate online by visiting our website and clicking the “Give Now” link located on the homepage and under our Alumni tab. Once you get to the form, select the “African American Studies Enrichment Fund” as the program you wish to donate for!



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