Director’s Welcome

Dearest Reader:

This is my favorite time of year as Director and Professor! The week of graduation reminds me of all the work we have done to help our fabulous students meet their educational goals and of the illuminating conversations we have had with them along the way. Our graduates come to us with news of their jobs and acceptances to graduate school. And, our other majors inform us of their summer plans. Their optimism is inspiring and I am honored to stand as a witness to their progress. From bright-eyed first year students to hopeful seniors, they will always be ours: members of the AADS community.

Over two hundred students attended CACE, our annual conference this year. Read ahead to learn more about the presentations made by our majors, minors, and students enrolled in our courses. Others of them attended our Conversations with the Community. To build their leadership skills and stay engaged with issues related to African Americans, the AFS Club was visibly active again this year.

Our Special Topics courses, as usual, show our interest in educating students about a variety of issues that meet their interests. Tiffany Atkins, an alumna and practicing attorney taught a “Race and Law” class for the first time. Students had the opportunity to review law cases, write briefs, and visit Elon Law School. While she was a student at Elon, Tiffany regularly shared her experiences with hopeful law students at UNCG. I appreciate her dedication to her alma mater and that of other alumni. Lastly, in response to the movement now being called the #BlackSpring, I taught #BlackLivesMatter, a course that reached capacity within a few hours of being posted to the schedule in December.

I hope you enjoy our Spring 2015 newsletter and that you will feel encouraged to become further involved with African American and African Diaspora Studies at UNCG.

Looking forward,

Tara T. Green, PhD
Professor and Director

Not just a program, but a community.
The AADS Fall 2014 Graduation Ceremony was held on December 10th, 2014 in the Faculty Center. The program celebrated three Fall graduates, Mr. Zachary Easterling, Ms. Michaela Hicks, and Ms. Candace McMillian, and one graduate student who completed our Graduate Certificate in African American & African Diaspora Studies, Ms. Sarah Taylor Boissonneau. The Ceremony was led by Interim Director, Dr. Shelly Brown-Jeffy.

Mr. Easterling, an artist who recently had his work displayed at New York Pizza, a restaurant on Tate St. near UNCG’s campus, plans to continue creating art and to pursue it as his career. He also plans to pursue graduate school next fall. Michaela Hicks, who double-majored majored in Psychology, hopes to pursue a career in education. Candace McMillian, who also double-majored in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology, plans to attend graduate school in the future. We wish these students success as they continue to pursue their personal and professional goals.

Bill Hart, George Dimock, Michael Cauthen, Candace McMillian, Zachary Easterling, Michaela Hicks, Sarah Cervenak, Frank Woods, Shelly Brown-Jeffy
My name is Latiqua Hardy and I am from Raleigh, North Carolina and a first generation college student. Over the last four years, I have grown as a person and traveled to places that I would not have dreamed of. I came to UNCG with African American Studies major as my 2nd major because I realized that I hadn’t learned much about my culture and history. Although I have changed my major twice, added and dropped concentrations and minors, AFS now AADS has always been a constant. I have been challenged; my thoughts and beliefs have been questioned and deconstructed and torn apart and I am truly a better person for it. I am grateful for the guidance and support that the faculty has given me over the last four years and they will be truly missed. I have appreciated my time at UNCG and been fortunate enough to study abroad a semester in Gaborone, Botswana and to be involved on campus as an AADS Ambassador and as a student panelist for the conduct team sponsored by the Dean of Students Office. By being an ambassador with the program, I was able to participate in recruiting events, help out with last year’s spring graduation ceremony and the annual conference. My last semester I was a case management intern at Church World Services and after graduating I plan to continue volunteering with Church World Services and hope to begin an AmeriCorps position with the organization. After a year of service with AmeriCorps, I hope to go to graduate school and complete a Masters in Social Work.
Graduating Seniors in the Spotlight

I am from Lorton, Virginia. Over the course of my time here at UNCG I have participated in many different organizations on campus. I served as the Secretary for UNCG's chapter of the NAACP, where I served as a mentor to middle school aged girls. I have also worked as a Peer Academic Leader, Spartan Guide, and Resident Advisor. In my last semester at UNCG I received the bronze medal after completing the bronze leadership challenge and joined the international English honors society, Sigma Tau Delta. I presented an essay on Black Feminism at the 2015 CACE conference and was awarded the Whitney "Whitty" Ransom scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year. This summer I have plans to volunteer in Uganda where I will teach English to young children, if I am able to raise the funds to get there. In the fall, I will be attending NYU to pursue a degree in journalism with a focus on Africana Studies. My hope is to become a journalist that reports on social issues here in the US and abroad.— Astrid Hacker

I enjoyed building a community with African American scholars and peers. Through AADS I was able to flourish into the Revolutionary Afrikan woman of change that I am. It was an honor to participate and grow in a program that specifically studied African peoples and our history in America and most importantly abroad. I am now molded with a solid foundation of the significance of Afrikan culture on all aspects—originality, historically, intellectually, socially, politically and much more! After graduation, I am taking the first step towards opening my own independent Natural Hair salon that empowers local black entrepreneurs and works toward upward black mobility and unity. In 2016 I will attend graduate school, hopefully the African Diaspora Master’s Program at the University of Texas- Austin. I will become a teacher and lifelong scholar of African Diaspora Studies because it is fundamental that future generations have passionate teachers of Black history and its significance as I did.

Astrid Hacker and scholarship donor, Whitney “Whitty” Ransome

Tiera Moore
Two Students Study Abroad in the United Kingdom

Jessica Richmond

With support from donors, Jessica (an AADS minor) was able to study abroad in England. Here is her story:

“Last Spring I was fortunate enough to be able to study abroad in England. I attended the University of Hull, which is on the eastern side of the United Kingdom, for a whole semester. Being able to study abroad was an experience unlike any other. I made so many new friends from all different parts of the globe, with many I still keep in contact with today. I was able to travel to several different countries like France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands and view the European country side and experience big city life in major European cities. As a history major, I was excited to visit some of the best museums in the world including the Louvre, and the National British Museum. When I came home, all I could think about was how to get back to Europe and have another grand adventure. If you or anyone you know of is thinking of studying abroad I say, “Do it!” Summon up the courage and just go for it. I promise you won’t regret it.

Kiana Daniel

“Through many adventures throughout my study abroad experience, I would have to say I enjoyed meeting the different people of my host country in Staffordshire, England the best. Traveling is great and all, however, seeing the different cultures and introducing them to yours tops everything else in my opinion. I learned British slang, ate many different foods, such as fish and chips, meat pies, and curry chicken. I also heard all different types of music at the Student Union (which is like our EUC): Bollywood and Afrobeats.

While learning about their cultures, I showed them many of mine, especially because I had my own radio show for the school: Keele University. I introduced many of them to different USA music artists, and of course, to different slang that we use in the States. I really enjoyed my study abroad experience and I would encourage any and everyone to participate in it.”

Kiana is majoring in AADS.
A Conversation with the Community: 
Wandering: Philosophical Performances of Racial & Sexual Freedom

On March 24, Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak was a featured presenter for one of our Conversations with the Community. She presented from her book, *Wandering: Philosophical Performances of Racial and Sexual Freedom*. The discussion focused on black feminist theory, philosophy and performance studies. She discussed the significance of physical and mental roaming for black freedom. Specifically, the conversation focused on the power of wandering or daydreaming for those whose mobility has been under severe constraint from the slave era to the present. The discussion explored the idea of wandering as an activity that since the Enlightenment, has been considered dangerous and even criminal when associated with people of color. Dr. Cervenak engaged artist-philosophers who focus on wayward movement and daydreaming, or mental travel, that transcended state-imposed limitations on physical, geographic movement.
CACE 2015 (The Conference on African American & African Diasporic Cultures & Experience), “African American & African Diaspora Studies: Then & Now” took place February 10th-February 11th in the Elliot University Center at UNCG. 266 people attended the conference, including undergraduate and graduate student presenters from around the nation. Among the universities represented were North Carolina A&T University, Bryn Mawr College, Elon University, North Carolina Central University, Howard University, York College of Pennsylvania, The City University of New York, Ohio University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, and of course, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. 20 of the 55 presenters were UNCG students affiliated with AADS.

Our own majors were widely represented on the panels. Dominick Hand presented, “The Case for Black Nationalism,” with a panel he and other students developed. They discussed Black Nationalism in the context of the United states, as well as the history and theories that inform the ideology. They also analyzed the political benefits and drawbacks of Black Nationalism and Pan-Africanism. Our majors were particularly well-represented on a panel titled, “Representations of Black Women,” which featured majors Jacelle Cannon-Harper and Astrid Hacker. Cannon-Harper presented her paper, “Respectability Politics & The Burden of Positivity on the Black Female Actress,” which critiqued respectability politics in gender and sexuality as they impact Black women actresses. Hacker’s paper titled, “Empowerment & Liberation in Black Female Sexuality,” discussed the differences between sexual empowerment and sexual liberation in the context of black female sexuality and systemic racism. She concluded that “where empowerment does not always liberate, liberation will always empower.”

A recent alumnus of our Graduate Certificate Program in African American Studies and doctoral student in the UNCG Department of English, Armondo Collins, presented with fellow doctoral student, Anjan Basu on a panel focused on Black religion and theology. “Breaking a Slave’s Mind: A New Reading of Omar Ibn Said and Solomon Northrup,” focused on the ways religion was used to torture and strip African-Americans of their dignity and identity. To illustrate this, he used The Autobiography of Omar Ibn Said and Twelve Years a Slave. Basu presented, “Critiquing Christians: The Indictment of American Slaving and Racist Christians,” which discussed Black life in the northern United States in the 1800s, through the lens of a recently discovered text from 1859, Our Nig, or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black.
Rising senior and AADS major, Dhruv Pathak, presented, “Blacks Against Imperialism,” which focused on the fight against systemic racism at home and abroad, particularly in the anti-Vietnam War Movement. On a panel moderated and organized by affiliated faculty member Dr. Cerise Glenn, alumna and Communications graduate student Stephanie Walton discussed Lee Daniels’ *The Butler* and the cultural implications of its portrayal of African Americans. The presentation explored cultural norms regarding race, class and gender and the storylines of achievement and class status in the Civil Rights Movement.

AADS minor Andrew Byrum presented a research project titled, “Mapping Inequality: Residential Segregation and Community Asset Mapping in Greensboro” which explored issues of racial justice in Greensboro, NC as they relate to residential segregation and its social consequences (including disparities in educational and healthcare services). In this project, he created maps of segregated areas, revealing the relationship between neighborhood racial makeup and the assets available to communities’ residents. Other themes in the conference included hip hop as social critique, literature of the African Diaspora, Black women’s health and motherhood, and the experiences of LGBT African Americans with discrimination, erasure, survival and activism.

We appreciate the faculty, staff, and community members who volunteered to make CACE a success through moderating panels, setting up and advertising the event. The Career Luncheon, which featured over 40 professionals from a variety of fields, gave our students an opportunity to learn from professionals in areas they were interested in exploring and to network with professionals and fellow students. We also appreciate those who took time to come talk with our students about their professional experiences. Overall, the conference was a success, which allowed our students to network with professionals, present their research, and to learn about research in the broad field of African American & African Diaspora Studies. Major funding for CACE was provided by UNCG’s College of Arts & Sciences’s Dean’s Office.

Check out our website for next year’s Call for Presentations!
Updates from Alumni:
We are proud of you!

Eugenia Brown (AFS & Sociology Major)
Eugenia Brown, a 2011 African American Studies and Sociology double major, started a position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in November of 2014 working for the Student Health Center as the Purchasing and Accounts Payable Specialist. She has maintained her involvement in the community since finishing her African American Studies degree. She serves on the board of a Greensboro-based nonprofit, the Center for Visual Arts. She also serves as a Chamber Ambassador with the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, and just recently received a scholarship to travel to Chattanooga, TN with the Chamber on their Intercity trip. She continues to be heavily involved in the UNCG community as a member of the Communications Committee for the Alumni Association. As an inaugural member of G.O.L.D (Graduates of the Last Decade), Eugenia sits on a new board created to keep young alumni engaged. Additionally, she is a member of UNCG’s Regional Club for alumni and the Alumni Club of the Triad, which plan events for alumni in the area.

Vanessa Curtis (AFS Major)
Since earning her Juris Doctorate from North Carolina Central University, Vanessa Curtis has been appointed to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Agriculture. She was also awarded the African American & African Diaspora Studies Distinguished Alumni Award at the Spring 2015 Graduation Ceremony.

Brandy Propst (AFS Major)
Brandy Propst has received the William Leftwich Award for Outstanding New Professional for Region III of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). She won the Leftwich award for excelling in all aspects of her job and for her exemplary contributions to NASPA.

She serves as the Region III coordinator for NASPA’s Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUFP), Alumni Committee Chair for the NUFP Advisory Board and is a member of the Center for Women Board for NASPA. At UNCG she serves as the coordinator of Academic Foundations & Mentoring in the Students First Office, where she coordinates the Foudnations for Learning first-year seminar program and assists with implementing various retention and student success initiatives.

Shinika McKiever (AFS Minor)
Since graduating from UNCG with a minor in AFS, she completed a Masters in Public Administration at North Carolina Central University in 2007. She is currently employed at Wells Fargo where she works as the Client Services Manager in Philanthropic Services, a part of the Wealth Management line of business. She is a member of the Wells Fargo Winston-Salem Triad Black African American Connection and serves as the Membership and Networking Chair of the Team Member Network. She volunteers with The Susan G. Komen Foundation of Northwest North Carolina and serves as the Volunteer Management Committee Co-Chair. She is also a Board Member of the Horizons Residential Care Center.

Morgan Myers (AFS Minor)
has recently moved back to Greensboro, NC to work as a Reader Evaluator for Measurement Incorporated where she graded standardized tests and with students that have special needs. She hosts her own open mic every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Kirkwood Kitchen and Bar located at 2618 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro NC. She also hosts at various events around the city and also involved in upcoming play productions. Her website is updated with upcoming events.

www.morganmyers0.wix.com/kaizen
#Black Lives Matter: A Professor’s Reflections

Sitting in the relative safety of my home during the fall semester while I was on leave gave me an opportunity to seriously ponder the meaning of the slogan, #BlackLivesMatter. As I listened to the commentary offered by various faculty, some of whom are directors and professors of African American Studies, lawyers, and law enforcement officers, I thought of the people who had lost their lives. Both Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown were a few months shy of starting college. My reaction was to the loss of hope felt by many when it became clear that no one would be held responsible for their deaths. So focused have I been on those who made it to my classroom, I never gave a second thought to those who could have been there, but were not because they had lost their lives to senseless violence. What could I offer as a professor and scholar? In a moment of relaxation and meditation, it occurred to me to take on an extra class titled #BlackLivesMatter.

Over the winter break, I read and began to structure the class. Where would we begin and end? What would be the aims? What did I want the students to learn about Black life in America? During the first class meeting, I asked the students if there were people or issues they wanted to cover. One wanted to know more about education and another wanted to make sure women’s and LGBTQ voices were included. We were all on the same page I realized. As some students dropped and others added, I ended up teaching a class to a diverse group of students. I structured the course so that students would compare historical incidents with contemporary ones—the struggle for voting rights as seen in the film Selma as compared to recent changes in NC, historical and contemporary incidents of lynchings, class disparities as described in Richard Wright’s Native Son in comparison to today, Jim Crow and The New Jim Crow as identified by law professor Michelle Alexander. More importantly, we explored the meaning and definition of racism and explored its relationship to education and other facets of society. I ended the course by giving them a voice as part of panel discussions described on the next page and by exposing them to the work of activists in our historic sit-in movement city. Of course, students also had weekly writing assignments and are now prepared thoughtful final essays.

In some ways, I was behind the curve. The movement’s focus shifted from one incident of violence to another, from Sanford, FL to Baltimore, MD. With each one, city officials clearly made moves to not repeat the mistakes of their peers. By now, social media is reporting uprisings in other nations in retaliation of police abuse. And I can only think of the work I have read about the influences of the Civil Rights and Black Power Movement on African nations and the ripple effect the movement for liberation had on Europe and the Caribbean. Ultimately, I hope that I provided students with the tools to use history to understand the present, to educate others, and to make a difference. One day, they too will be leaders; some of them already are.

--Tara T. Green

May 7, 2015
On April 22, African American & African Diaspora Studies hosted an event titled “Black Lives Matter” in the School of Education Building’s auditorium. The event was well-attended, with 150-200 audience members. The evening featured two panels, the first titled “Race & Millennials” focused on the ways millennials define race and understand its history and implications for today. The second panel, “The #BlackLivesMatter Movement: Where Do We Go From Here?” focused on how the movement is addressing racial disparities, including violence against black people, and the directions it should take move forward. The AFS 305: #BlackLivesMatter students, taught by Dr. Tara T. Green, developed the questions for the panels.

The first panel, “Race & Millennials” featured young people of the millennial generation and was moderated by Greensboro News & Record’s editorial page editor, Allen Johnson. Panelists included students of the AFS 305: #BlackLivesMatter class, Maurice Lamberth, Jennifer Carmenate, and Shaylon Duncan. It also included AADS Ambassador, Dominick Hand, and UNCG Alumnus Christopher Peterson, who majored in Political Science. Panelists were asked thought provoking questions like “Define Racism. How do different definitions of racism affect race relations?” and “Can white students be allies in the BlackLivesMatter movement? If so, what is their role?”
#BlackLivesMatter Continued

The second panel was comprised of students (AADS Majors, Dhruv Pathak and Olufemi Shittu) as well as community members involved in the BlackLivesMatter movement (AADS Adjunct Professor, Activist & Poet, Demetrius Noble; Queer People of Color Collective Leader, April Parker; and Greensboro 4 Justice Founder, Darryl Baskerville). The panel also included UNCG Police Chief Jamie Herring and News and Record editor Steven Doyle. Panelists were asked questions such as, “What advice do you have for people who are apathetic towards the #BlackLivesMatter movement and forms of racial discrimination in general?” “How is the UNCG Police department addressing the President’s Commission on Policing Report?” “How can students get involved in the movement?” The diversity of participants and their perspectives added to the richness of the discussion. Panelists engaged in an energetic and informative dialogue with audience members following the question and answer period.
Faculty Highlights

**Director Dr. Tara T. Green**’s article, “Black Masculinity and Black Women’s Bodies: Representations of Black Bodies in *Twelve Years a Slave*” was published by *Palimpsest: A Journal on Women, Gender and the Black International* in April. She presented a paper on activist and fiction writer Alice Dunbar-Nelson at the College Language Association conference in Dallas, TX in March where she also presided as president of the Langston Hughes Society. As president, she had the memorable honor of presenting poet Everett Hoagland—a man who met Hughes and was influenced by Hughes’ tutoring— with the society’s award. She also gave a Black History month presentation on Hughes, along with performer Logie Meachum, at Franciscan Springs in Rockingham County and was accepted to participate in a summer National Endowment for the Humanities poetry seminar at the University of Kansas, titled “Don’t Deny my Voice.” She has also been contributing a series of op-ed articles to the Greensboro *News and Record* that reflect her interest in giving voice to underrepresented people.

**Dr. Omar H. Ali** was nominated by the Acting Chancellor and Provost for the Carnegie Foundation’s U.S. Professor of the Year Award. He was also appointed Interim Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College. Dr. Ali has led a series of campus-wide conversations regarding difficult, but critical issues, most recently bringing together nearly 300 students, faculty, staff, police, and members of the broader community about issues of police-community relations, especially as it pertains to younger African Americans. Afterwards, he was approached by students and the UNCG Police to help form a Student Advisory Council to the police, which has just been put into place. In addition to his teaching he has been invited by Oxford University Press to write a book, to be entitled *Race: A World History*—his fifth book project—to better understand race in the larger scope of world history.
Faculty Highlights Continued

Dr. Sarah Jane Cervenak this semester, along with Dr. Thomas F. DeFrantz (Duke) co-convened a symposium at Duke University, called "Resisting Arrest: Black Artfulness and Survival. She gave a book presentation at Rutgers University and an invited presentation on new work at Duke University, as part of the English Department's Americanist Series. Additionally, she was interviewed on Swedish public radio about her book, Wandering.

Dr. Cerise Glenn (affiliate) earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor (effective August 2015), and was awarded a Global Engagement QEP (Quality Enhancement Program) Course Development Award. She will use this award to develop CST 410: Social Identity in Popular Culture and Media as a permanent course.

Shelly Brown-Jeffy (affiliate) will formally take the position of Interim Head of the department of Sociology in the fall.

The African American Studies Club

The AFS Club has been very active on campus this semester. Their biggest event of the semester was the Black Student Leadership Summit in which they worked in conjunction with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and other minority organizations on campus. During this event they had the opportunity to work alongside the Rho Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and presented a session titled, “Drawing Your Vision.” In addition, they co-sponsored a youth led day of action against police brutality organized by The American Friends Service Committee. They supported many of the events sponsored by the AADS Program such as the Conference on African American & African Diaspora Studies and the Conversations with the Community series. They are grateful for all of their active members and the support from the AADS program for making this a memorable year.
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: aads.uncc.edu or http://www.uncc.edu/grs
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
African American Studies Program
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P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402
(336) 334-5507
SUPPORT UNCG'S AADS PROGRAM

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.edudur/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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TO: