

AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES NEWS

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME AND THANKS

Dear Member of the AADS Community:

Ours has been a wonderful journey of success. A review of our new [Wikipedia page](#) informs readers of what it means to be part of a family. There were those who came before us and planted seeds—some have borne fruit while others wait for their time to bloom.

Eight years have come and gone! In that time we have gone from the appointment of the first tenured Director in AADS to the hire of three tenure-track faculty members. We have changed the name from AFS to AADS to affirm our global mission; received the distinction of being a top 10 program; given awards to acknowledge the great work of our students, alumni, and supporters; re-visioned CACE (annual conference) to focus exclusively on our undergraduate and graduate students; garnered the support of a Woman's College alumna to establish our first scholarship and the support of others to make donations; helped to establish partnerships with two African universities and possibly a university in China; hosted approximately 20

national, international, and local speakers and activists for the Conversations with the Community series, panels, and other events; supported majors in the development of an AADS student organization; maintained relationships with AADS alumni. Well, I could go on.

Together, we have cried and held hands as we celebrated the election of the first African American President, looked at the emergence of the Occupy Wall Street Movement and later the emergence of the Black Lives Matter Movement. I have stood proudly as I have seen students engage in activism to fight for the rights of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, or sexual identity. At times, our majors and alums were leading the charge.

This newsletter issue gives voice to our students, majors, and the program as a whole—from the academic accomplishments of our majors to the visits of distinguished speakers. Our contributions to UNCG cannot be denied. We are more than just an academic program.

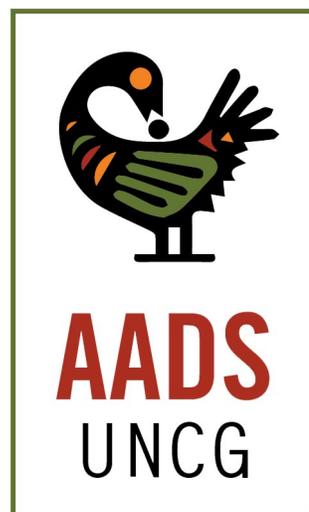
It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Director of AADS. Thanks to all who have supported us. To borrow from President Obama, "Tara T. Green Out"! *drops the mic* *places hand over heart*

All best,



Tara T. Green, Ph.D.
Professor and Director

Special thanks to graduate assistant Max Ostrowski for writing several of the articles in this issue.



WHITNEY “WHITTY” RANSOME SCHOLARSHIP



Haillee A. Mason

Haillee A. Mason is the recipient of the Whitney “Whitty” Ransome Scholarship in African American and African Diaspora Studies Program. Our newest Ransome scholar, Haillee, is a rising junior from Fuquay Varina, North Carolina and a triple major in African American and African Diaspora Studies, Women and Gender Studies, and Global Human Rights. She is a member of UNCG’s Golden Chain Honor Society and of the National Student Advisory Board of the American Association of University Women. Haillee was invited to be a University Marshal and

was selected to intern, this summer, with the Poverty Research fund of UNC’s School of Law.

Haillee hopes to pursue a career in either immigration, civil rights, or international human rights law after securing a graduate education in postcolonial theory and human rights discourses. The AADS Program congratulates Haillee A. Mason on her exceptional accomplishments as an undergraduate, a UNCG student, and, of course as an extraordinary African American and African Diaspora major.

A PRODUCTIVE YEAR FOR THE AADS CLUB

The African American and African Diaspora Studies Club (AADSC) has had a productive year! The club met every other Wednesday for general body meetings. Although the club started the year with one officer on the executive board, it ended the year with seven amazing officers! The club also has shown a significant increase in membership this year. The AADSC held a timely discussion on Colorism and had a very successful turnout with over 70 individuals in attendance. As for events, the club participated in many events put on by the Office of Intercultural Engagement, such as a member

recruiting event at the beginning of the Fall semester and a Very Spartan Holiday, which took place at the end of the Fall semester. The club also co-sponsored as well as volunteered with the Office of Intercultural Engagement for UNCG’s Tunnel of Oppression. Another event the AADS Club sponsored was with the Women of Empowerment organization. The club also partnered with other student organizations to host the Cultural Experience Day.

Aside from campus events, the African American and African Diaspora Studies Club took part

in several volunteer activities. The club partnered with Greensboro Urban Ministries to volunteer at the Greater Greensboro CROP walk. The AADS Club also participated in UNCG’s annual MLK Day of Service in which members volunteered at the Servant Center and Backpack Beginnings.

*Submitted by Jasmine Kendrick,
AADSC President*

Students Speak: **WHY I DECIDED TO APPLY FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL**

For information about graduate programs see: [the AADS Career Preparation page](#)

KIARA MCCAIN

Why did you decide to apply for graduate school?



I decided to apply for graduate school simply because I wanted to pursue higher education. I knew that in

pursuing graduate studies it would give me the opportunity to learn more, beyond what most colleges and universities can teach us in four years. I also wanted to explore and conduct research on the things that I am interested in, and graduate school is providing me with the opportunity to do just that!

What would you like to do with your graduate degree?

First, after I obtain my Master's degree, I would like to gain some experience in the field of clinical mental health by working as a counselor in the school system, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal government agencies. Secondly, once having gained that experience, I would like to start my own private practice.

What advice do you have for students who are planning or thinking of applying to attend graduate school?

My advice to students pursuing higher education would be to definitely prepare mentally, physically, and financially for the whole process, because it can be a long one. Students need to give

themselves a head-start when applying for graduate school, preferably six months to a year and here's why:

- First, students will need to do research on the schools and programs that they are considering. Be aware of the cost of tuition, length of the program, faculty, etc.

- I would also suggest that students study for and take the GRE before applying to schools. Even if that particular program or school does not require the GRE, there are other schools that do.

- Also students need to start saving as much money as possible, so that they can pay for application fees (yes applying to college actually does cost money) and keep in mind that some applications cost more than others.

- Students need to apply for as many scholarships, grants, and other funding opportunities as possible. Do your research and apply, funding is always a plus!

- Students should also seek the help of faculty, friends, family, and the writing center to provide feedback on their personal statement and other application materials. The more feedback the better, and be sure to make the necessary changes to have a clean and polished application.

- Additionally, I advise students to develop close relationships with their professors because you will need their letters of recommendation when applying to graduate school. Be a teacher's PET it will help you in the long run!

- And lastly, I would tell them to

make sure they meet the DEADLINES! Do not spend so much time doing applications that you miss the deadline. All programs have application deadlines, so make a list of the programs you intend to apply for with their respective deadlines!

How do you think AADS faculty or courses helped to prepare you for graduate studies?

The AADS program and faculty have helped me prepare for graduate school in a major way. The courses I have taken over the last two years were nothing but eye opening for me as a student and an African American woman. I have come to understand the nature of myself as an individual and as a black person living in the United States. Knowing my history will help me help others as I prepare to dedicate myself to the field of mental health, which is important for all people but especially black men and women. I can now take the knowledge I have learned from AADS and apply it to the field of social work to help our community.

The AADS program has also helped to prepare me for graduate studies, through their well-planned and detailed curriculum. By taking upper-level classes, I was able to greatly enhance my critical writing skills through research papers and through my capstone class. I am very grateful that I experienced their curriculum because there were classes that challenged me as a writer and an academic scholar which made me a better writer overall.

Kiara has been admitted into the Joint NCA&T and UNCG M.S.W. Social Work Program.

Students Speak:

MAURICE MOORE

Why did you decide to apply to graduate school?

I decided to apply to graduate school because I wanted to continue to challenge myself as an artist and an educator.

What would you like to do with your graduate degree?

After graduate school, I want to continue teaching and I hope that this experience will further prepare me for doctoral studies. Beyond pursuing a doctoral degree, I am not sure what the future holds for me. I think that creating

opportunities not only for myself but for other people in the community as well is what I want to do with my education.

What advice do you have for students who are planning or thinking of applying to attend graduate school?

My advice for prospective graduate students would be to not wait until the last minute to ask for recommendation letters! Keep in contact with the individuals you plan on asking for recommendations. If you decide to take a break after undergraduate studies, you can use the time to research graduate programs. Even if you just spend 15 minutes every weekend searching for programs,

every little bit helps.

How do you think AADS faculty or courses helped to prepare you for graduate studies?

AADS faculty and courses helped me prepare for graduate studies in a number of ways. First, professors are always willing to share their own experiences from graduate school. Secondly, I think the AADS program/courses have helped me immensely by providing a safe space to learn about people of the African diaspora.

Maurice has been admitted into the MA Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the recipient of their Advanced Opportunity Fellowship

Where are they now? **ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS**

Carrie Bell (Spring 2010) is the AmeriCorps Program Director for Breakthrough Miami. She has been with Breakthrough Miami for 3 years and received the promotion to Director in January 2016. She is charged with managing the AmeriCorps grant and supervising 8 AmeriCorps members at 5 sites in Miami Dade County.

Erika Martin (Fall 2010) has served, since June 2014, as Vice President of Business Development for Night Hawk Security and Consulting, a Raleigh-Durham, NC area private security service company.

Charles McKnight (2008) graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC with a Master of Divinity degree in May 2015. Charles was ordained and installed as the Assistant Pastor of Church Planting and Discipleship Ministries at Christ Central Church, PCA in Charlotte NC in October 2015. Charles is currently preparing to open

a multi-ethnic PCA church in the urban west Charlotte, which is due to launch in 2017. He and his wife Charlotte ('07) are expecting their fourth child, a boy, in August.

Tiera Moore (Spring 2015) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in April. The nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society, Phi Beta Kappa extends membership to those who meet high academic achievements. Since graduating with a B.A. in AADS, Tiera has been taking courses in preparation for graduate studies in African and African Diaspora Studies. Congratulations, Tiera!

Since graduating from UNCG, **Natasha Myrie** (Spring 2009) went to Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA and received a Master of Arts Degree in Social Science with an emphasis in History in May 2011. She attended the University of Maryland Francis K. Carey School of Law in Baltimore, MD and graduated in December 2014 with a Juris Doctor degree. She completed a Study Abroad program

with Brooklyn Law School and attended the University of Bologna in Bologna, Italy where she studied International Litigation during the months of May-July 2013. She is currently working as a Judicial Law Clerk for the 30 judges of The District Court of Maryland in Baltimore City.

George Steele (December 2015) had two paintings accepted for a juried art exhibition at the Delta Arts Center in Winston-Salem during Black History Month. According to Steele, his piece depicting the famous Buffalo Soldiers was inspired by his AADS Studies.

Valerie G. Whitley (2012; AFS Ambassador) was recently promoted to Colleague Systems Analyst in the ITS department at Durham Technical Community College. She was also promoted to the Social Media & Marketing Coordinator of Alamance County Realty. She is 3 classes shy of getting her M. Ed. with a focus in Educational Technology from Ashland University with an anticipated graduation Spring 2017.

CACE 2016: "SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

The Conference on African American & African Diasporic Culture and Experiences



Demetrius Noble headlined the CACE Literary Cafe

This year's CACE: "Social Justice in the 21st Century," was held February 9th-10th in the Elliot University Center at UNCG. Events included our Literary Café, student presentations, and a career luncheon. The 26th annual conference began on February 9th with the Literary Café. Joining Demetrius Noble, community activist, poet, and loyal friend of the program, were Zachary Easterling AADS Alumnus, Femi Shittu AADS major, as well as other young poets who shared their thoughts and feelings on racism in America and the social justice movements of the 21st century. Following the performances, participants engaged in dialogue which focused

on social justice in popular culture, hip-hop, and the artist's role in actively engaging in these movements.

Over 500 students registered to attend the scheduled presentations held on February 10th in the Elliott University Center. Undergraduate and graduate student presenters came from a number of universities across North Carolina and the U.S. Among the universities represented were: North Carolina State University, Duke University, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, California Institute of Integral Studies, North Carolina A&T, and of course, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Of the 39 student

presenters, 28 were current or former UNCG students affiliated with AADS. Needless to say, we are very proud of this high level of student involvement.

We are additionally very pleased with the quality of presentations and student-led panels. Topics covered the Million Man March, the Black experience in literature and digital media, religion in social justice, race and participatory budgeting, policing in African American communities, rap and hip-hop, Black political movements, social media activism, gender and sexuality, criminalization and inequality, and race in education.

AADS Majors at CACE 2016

Maurice Moore presented his current research, which offers an analysis of science fiction and literature. Focusing on the novels, *Kindred*, by Octavia E. Butler and Robert Crossley's, *Critical Essay*, he illustrated how and why "Black Speculative Fiction" and "Afro-Futurism" are sources of Black revolutionary power for Black women to explore their autonomy.

Joshua Leeper, along with fellow UNCG students, presented on their experiences at the Million Man March and how they advocated for university and student support to attend and



AADS alumna Kiara McCain, left, and AADS major Dominick Hand presented on the criminalization of African Americans at CACE.

participate in social justice movements.

Femi Shittu discussed the value of performance arts in African-American culture as a vessel for liberation and emancipation from racism, particularly focusing on artistic expression through blues, funk, and hip-hop.



AADS major Itane Coleman presented during CACE.

Itane Coleman explored the media's representation of Black female victims of gendered racism and sexual violence.

Additionally, there were a number of presentations that discussed the criminalization of Black people and inequality and race in the educational system. Jerry Brand presented with AADS alumna Kiara McCain on the topic of policing in African American communities. Dominick Hand also presented with Kiara McCain; they focused on the criminalization of African Americans. Congratulations to students on their

impressive work!

Our **Career Luncheon** registered over 150 students from various disciplines and career aspirations. Here, students were able to dialogue with professionals in their field of interest. There were 13 career professionals represented, including law, business, education, healthcare, and social work, to engage with students and to offer advice. Many of the professionals thanked Dr. Green for the opportunity to engage with UNCG students and volunteered to serve in other capacities in the future.

We would like to extend a

big thank you to members of our AADS faculty and staff, UNCG faculty, and career professionals who donated their time serving as moderators on panels and advising students at the luncheon. We also thank Dean Timothy Johnston for allocating funds to support the annual event. Lastly, of course, thank-you to our student presenters for sharing their work and playing an active role in the university community and for addressing the important issues of race and social justice.

Looking forward to CACE 2017!

DISCUSSION WITH DR. E. PATRICK JOHNSON

Dr. E. Patrick Johnson visited AADS for the third time on March 23, 2016. Dr. Johnson, Carlos Montezuma Professor Of African American Studies and Performance Studies at Northwestern University, was officially in Greensboro to give a talk at Bennett College on his collection of stories that document the lives of Black women who love women. However, he briefly stopped at UNCG to share his research experiences with UNCG students.

Johnson emphasized several key areas. First, he gave a brief overview of his life's history and its

relevance to his research interests on LGBTQ issues in the South. In this area, Johnson has produced two books including, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South—An Oral History* and co-editor (with Mae G. Henderson) of *Black Queer Studies—A Critical Anthology*. Second, he explained that a lack of attention to Black lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered women's lives brought him to collect their stories. Lastly, he described his work and encouraged students to become passionate scholars and researchers. Following his remarks, he answered questions and

inspired a lively dialogue. His book, *HoneyPot: Southern Black Women*

Who Love Women will be available soon.



Dr. E. Patrick Johnson spoke to students about his research and his upcoming book projects in the AADS library/conference room.

Conversations with the Community

Engaging African American Mothers

On March 1, 2016, as part of our Conversation with the Community series, Dr. April Ruffin-Adams presented her provocative research titled, "Engaging African American Mothers to Understand Acts of Advocacy and Resistance: Viewpoints on Race, Power, and the Politics of Special Education." Dr. Ruffin-Adams' work aimed to better understand how the nexus of power is used in schools and how African American mothers are positioned in the special education decision-making process. She interviewed six women from Winston-Salem, NC to analyze the politics of special education. The data highlight the advocacy and resistance of women and illuminates the challenges, struggles, and successes they had making educational decisions for their children. Dr. Ruffin-Adams closed her presentation with recommendations for sharing power and improving parent-school relations.

Following her presentation, Dr. Ruffin-Adams engaged in a lively and informative question and answer period with students and community members, some of whom had personal experience with the issues that she addressed.

Dr. Ruffin-Adams is Visiting Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies with a background in Social Work. She recently completed her doctoral studies in Education at UNCG. We welcome her to the AADS family.



Dr. April Ruffin-Adams, Visiting Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at UNCG

Living a Virtual Life

Our April 12th Conversations with the Community featured Dr. Irish Spencer. Dr. Spencer talked about the burgeoning trend of 'living,' and conducting business in virtual reality, especially on a website called, "Second Life." People are able to create a unique image or Avatar and their surrounding in virtual reality, hence the title of her talk, "Living a Virtual Life."

Heads of state, like President Obama, conduct international meetings in virtual reality, as do many private corporations. Dr. Spencer was among the first scholars to write a doctoral dissertation of this phenomenon. She is currently the President and CEO of Greensboro's Welfare Reform Liaison Project, which offers job training programs for the local community, e.g., Greensboro, Kernersville, Jamestown, and High Point. In 2015, President Obama honored Dr. Spencer as one of America's Champions of Change.

Students and faculty learned how people can create new identities and build business opportunities in virtual life. One student was able to create an Avatar with Dr. Spencer's help. It was truly an interactive and provocative experience for attendees.



Dr. Irish Spencer, president and CEO of Welfare Reform Liaison Project in Greensboro

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES CONFERENCE

AADS faculty-scholars and emerging scholars were able to spotlight their work March 16-19, 2016 when Professor Michael Cauthen, Dr. April Ruffin-Adams, Dr. Frank Woods, Dr. Tara T. Green and two students presented at the 40th Annual National Council for Black Studies Conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

On March 17th, Professor Michael Cauthen presented his research titled, "Dramatic but Unrecognized Changes in the Cognitive Ability of Black Americans Revealed." Professor Cauthen noted a massive change in the cognitive abilities of African Americans that has been hidden or unrecognized by scholars for nearly a century. Based on research by Psychologist James R. Flynn, Cauthen discovered that Black IQ scores have surged nearly 56 secular points in the last century. Cauthen's paper briefly

examined the unearthing of the massive change in measured Black cognitive achievement and linked it to the broader theoretical context of what has been dubbed the *Flynn Effect* and the *race and intelligence debate*.

In a later session that day, Dr. Woods presented his research on "Henry O. Tanner at the Paris Salon." His paper examined the works Tanner exhibited at the Salon exhibition in Paris from 1894 to 1914. Additionally, Dr. Woods elucidates the role Tanner's race played in his ascension to Salon greatness. Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937), according to many art historians and art critics, is regarded as the most representative African American artist in the nineteenth century. Since the late 1960s and onward, Tanner's reputation has risen to the point of inclusiveness in present

day texts on American art history and his painting, *The Banjo Lesson*, has become an iconic symbol of black artistic achievement.

Dr. Tara T. Green presented with two students who took her Black Lives Matter course in Spring 2015. Dr. Green began the panel by giving context for why she decided to teach the course, a decision that she made in December 2014 during registration. She shared that after having been on leave that semester, she had time to reflect on the need for the social movement and to consider how she could address history related to the movement in a course. AADS major (graduate as of Fall 2015) Shaylon Duncan and Maurice Lamberth (Business major) read papers they wrote in the class. More specifically, Maurice presented his response to Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright's *Native Son* and Shay illuminated the move towards inclusiveness in the movement. Following their stellar presentations, students responded to audience questions.

On Saturday, March 19th, Dr. Ruffin-Adams' presented, "Recognizing African American Mothers Acts of Advocacy and Resistance: Viewpoints on Race, Class, and the Politics of Special Education." She focused on the ways African American mothers advocate on behalf of their children and how their unique form of advocacy, which is based on survival, power and identity, is undervalued or unrecognized in schools.

We are proud of our students and the work of our faculty.



Dr. Tara T. Green with AADS alumna Shaylon Duncan (Fall 2015) and business major Maurice Lambeth, who both presented papers they wrote for the Spring 2015 Black Lives Matter class.

AWARD-WINNING POET BRENDA MARIE OSBEY'S VISIT

On March 28-29, 2016 award-winning poet Brenda Marie Osbey visited the campus of UNCG as a guest of AADS. A winner of the 1998 American Book Award and former poet laureate of Louisiana, Professor Osbey is a native of New Orleans and writes widely, although not exclusively, about her city.

She began her visit to UNCG by leading a discussion with a small group of students and faculty. In keeping with studies of African global experiences, Professor



Majors Stephanie McCloud, left, and Suquanna Butler were excited to meet with Osbey and have their books signed.



Osbey with AADS Director Tara T. Green.

Osbey shared her observations and knowledge of the Black presence in France where she has spent a significant amount of time. Students and faculty were able to engage with her about Black French writers. She ended by reading a poem in French about New Orleans musical icon, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong.

On Tuesday, March 29, she read poetry from her newest collection of poetry, *All Souls: Collected Poems* (LSU Press) to an audience of students, faculty, and community members. Members of the audience were invited to ask questions about her poetry and the art of poetry following her moving reading, which included descriptions of New Orleans, music, and an elegy. She told one student-poet that aspiring writers should "write" everyday. Writing includes reading the work of writers in all genres.

Osbey's visit was part of National Women's History Month (March) events and a prelude to National Poetry Month (April). Her visit was made possible with funding from the Provost's office, Women's and Gender Studies, and the Departments of English and Languages and Literatures.



Brenda Marie Osbey read from her newest collection of poetry.



Brenda Marie Osbey read from her newest collection of poetry.



Brenda Marie Osbey met with students during a discussion about Blacks in France.

PROFESSOR FROM CHINA SPEAKS ON LANGSTON HUGHES



In collaboration with the International Program's Office, Professor Lianggong Luo, School of Foreign Languages, Central China Normal University, visited UNCG on April 11th, 2016 and shared his most recent research, "Nature Writing as Political Expression: Langston Hughes' Poetry on Nature in the 1940s." Professor Luo's presentation was held in the Maple Room, Elliott University Center, and was well attended by students and faculty. Professor Luo shared with his audience of mostly students from AADS: Blacks in American Society that he stumbled upon the work of Langston Hughes in the 1980's and started translating Hughes' poems and essays into Chinese. Within that process, Professor Luo came to know Hughes' work more intimately and Hughes has become a central part of his

scholarly research.

Professor Luo's current research focuses on Hughes' use of nature and space, particularly his writings from the 1940s. Luo notes a shift from the radical/political expression of the 1930s to a new style in Hughes' writing, one that is more experimental, related to nature and everyday life. Despite criticism from some of Hughes'

contemporaries who charged that Hughes' reflections on nature were nothing more than "empty lyricism" and an "escape from reality," Professor Luo re-reads Hughes' work to find the answer. He believes that during this period Hughes was keenly aware of reality. Therefore nature was used as a metaphor for the harsh realities of racism, capitalism, and spatial ownership. Hughes also depicts nature in an idealized and imagined sense, his poems "Birth", "Heaven" and "Love" express harmony and equality between humans and nature, but it's clear that this relationship is imagined — a romantic and idealized expression of what *could* be an ideal world. But this is not reality. Luo also illustrates how Hughes was

influenced by African American experience, culture, history, and their flight from the rural South to the urban industrial North. Through that journey, Hughes demonstrates that African Americans are imprisoned in nature and reality, and nature served as a device for his political expression.

Luo's interpretation of Hughes' writings on nature is equally as impressive as his own scholarship and academic achievement. Luo has published over fifty academic articles on Hughes and other African American writers. It was an honor to hear an international perspective on one of our most prolific, well-known African American writers.



Dr. Lianggong Luo, from Central China Normal University, shared his scholarship about Langston Hughes' poetry.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Tara T. Green (core) was invited to participate in two campus panels: "Race and the University" (co-sponsored with Women's and Gender Studies) and "Culturally Responsive Teaching" (University Teaching and Learning Center) and two panels at the International Civil Rights Center in January and April. She has also received two invitations from local churches to present her work on African American confinement. She continued to serve as President of the Langston Hughes Society and as Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives for the College of Arts and Sciences. She was also selected to serve on the Program Committee for the Modern Language Association and nominated to serve on the Southeastern Modern Language Association's Executive Committee. Her essay, "I Wish I Knew Then, What I Know Now: How to Build a Communal Pipeline" in *Beyond Retention: Cultivating Spaces of Equity, Justice, and Fairness for Women of Color in U.S. Higher Education* has been published.

Dr. Omar H. Ali (core) has been promoted to Full Professor of AADS. He is currently Interim Dean of Lloyd International Honors College at UNCG but continues teaching his popular course "The Making of the African Diaspora" for majors and minors. Featured on the front cover of the Spring 2016 UNCG Research Magazine, Dr. Ali recently gave a TEDx talk at UNC-Chapel Hill entitled "Race: A Function of Power." An award winning scholar-teacher (selected as the 2016 Carnegie Foundation North Carolina Professor of the Year), most recently, he has been recruited by the French Ministry of Education to serve as Inspecteur Délégué for History/Geography for the International Option of the French Baccalaureate.

Michael D. Cauthen (core) served as adviser to the AADS Club and chaired the Whitney "Whitty" Ransome Scholarship in African American and African Diaspora Studies Committee. He facilitated a CACE Conference session focused on UNCG student group's participation in Washington D.C.'s Million Man March. In April he delivered a paper on improvements in Black cognitive performance over the past century at the 40th Annual National Council for Black Studies Conference. He also invited and introduced Dr. Irish Spencer to speak at the AADS's April Conversations with the Community. Last, but not least, he has been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer.

Dr. Cerise L. Glenn (affiliate) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Communication Studies. She presented a paper entitled "Off Social Media, Into the Streets!": Framing Digital and "Traditional" Forms of Activism in #BlackLivesMatter at the National Council for Black Studies conference in March 2016. This was co-authored with Christina Blankenship, a MA student in Communication Studies.

Dr. Colleen Kriger (affiliate) participated in a workshop this spring at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History at UCLA. She is a member of a ten-person interdisciplinary team of scholars who have been invited to organize an international exhibition that will open in 2018, called 'Striking Iron: The Art of African Blacksmiths'. Planning and work on the exhibition catalogue are sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Elizabeth Perrill (affiliate) has been awarded a Research Assignment for the Spring of the 2016-2017 academic year. She will be working on her monograph *Burnished: Crafting Global Markets of Blackware Pottery*, which analyzes the development of a globalized network of ceramic aesthetics and sales. Perrill has also been selected as a member of the AP Art History Development Board for 2016-2017, a position in which she will work toward the globalization of the AP standardized exam.

Dr. April Ruffin-Adams (core) moderated a session during the CACE conference, "Exploring Social Media Activism: The Good, the Bad, and What Really Happened," and moderated an Honors College Symposium session for students in African American and African Diaspora Studies. She presented her work at the departmental Conversations with the Community and at the National Council on Black Studies conference in Charlotte, NC. She has been accepted to attend the Global Engagement Summer Institute May 11-13, 2016 on campus.

Dr. N. Frank Woods presented a paper titled, "Henry O. Tanner at the Paris Salon," at the National Council of Black Studies national conference and "Edmonia Lewis: Neoclassical Sculptor" at the Women's and Gender Studies symposium, *Assemblages: Anti-Oppression Works*. He also had two paintings accepted for a juried art exhibition at the Delta Arts Center in Winston-Salem.



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SUPPORT UNCG'S AADS PROGRAM

We hope that you will support our Program by making a tax-deductible donation. Your gift to AADS 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/advancefirst/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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