

The Department of Africana Studies engages in scholarship, teaching, and community engagement that focus on the global experience of Africa-descended populations. It offers interdisciplinary academic programs that lead to the Bachelor of Arts major and minor, including a concentration in health and environment; as well as Graduate Certificate. Its comprehensive curriculum emphasizes the history, culture, social policy, health, and entrepreneurship of Africa and the African Diasporas, including African American life. The goal is to enhance global awareness, entrepreneurial thinking, and community engagement, and develop the skills needed for success in the 21st century within the critical liberal arts tradition. The curriculum is designed to provide a useful educational experience and academic skills for students who wish to consider graduate study or professional school, or pursue careers in community development, federal, state, and city civil service; social policy; business; museums and cultural resource management; and diplomatic or foreign service; as well as research; journalism; and teaching.

For more information about our curriculum, academic and outreach programs, contact:

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APPRECIATION

THANK YOU
To All Presenters, Participants, and Guests

For the planning and implementation of the symposium,
special appreciation goes to:

MS. OWEETA SHANDS
AFRS OFFICE MANAGER

THE 16TH ANNUAL AFRICANA STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

February 22 & 23, 2018

THEME

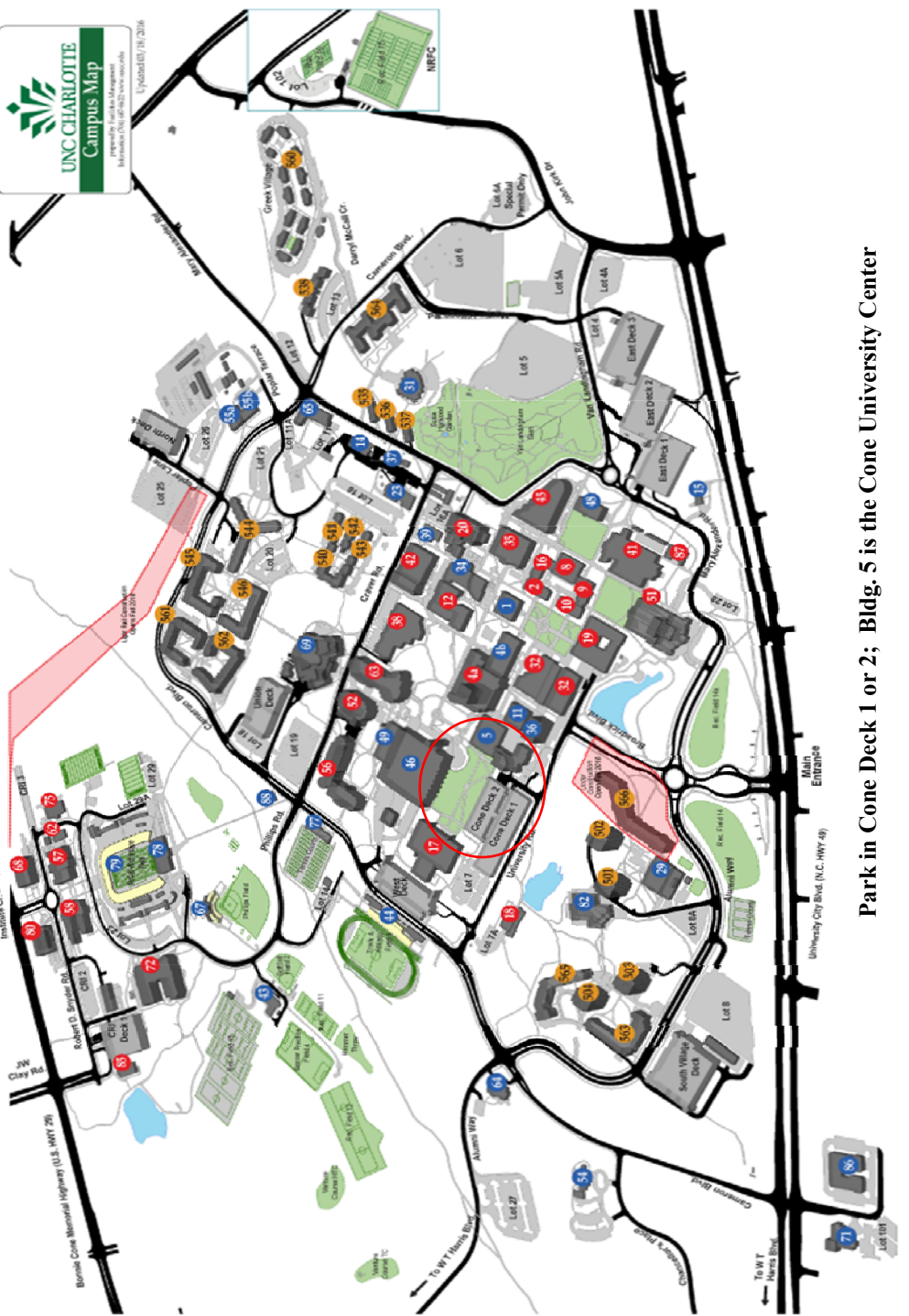
**UNC Charlotte at the Intersection of
Black Studies in the Carolinas**

**The Cone University Center
Lucas Room - Day 1
McKnight Hall - Day 2**

Presented by:



AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT



Park in Cone Deck 1 or 2; Bldg. 5 is the Cone University Center

NOTES

DAY 1: February 22

9:15-10:25

Session I: ROUNDTABLE

Building Bridges, Creating Intersectional Alliances:
Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, Ann C. Carver, and the Formation of Black
Studies and Women's Studies at UNC Charlotte

Chair: Dr. Sonya Ramsey, History and Women's and Gender Studies

Presenters

Dr. Sonya Ramsey, History and Women's and Gender Studies
Dr. Janaka Lewis, English and Women's and Gender Studies
Dr. Felecia Harris, Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies
Dr. Herman Thomas, Emeritus Professor, UNC Charlotte

10:30-11:25

Session II: PANEL

The Black Quest for Freedom and Citizenship

Chair: Dr. Debra Smith, Africana Studies

Dr. Gregory Mixon, History
Creating Black Power: South Carolina at the Dawn of Freedom

Rebecca Byrd, History/AFRS
Susie King Taylor: A Life Story

Dr. Julia Robinson Moore, Religious Studies
and
Dr. Shannon Sullivan, Philosophy
*Rituals of White Privilege: Keith Lamont Scott and the Erasure of
Black Suffering*

11:30-12:15

Session III: POSTER

Education, Health, and Historical Science

Tonderai Mushipe, Geography
*Can In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students Contribute to
Higher Graduation Rate and Income Levels?*

geared towards student success, retention, and timely graduation.

Throughout his life, Thomas has fought quietly for each North Carolina citizen's right to a quality education. He began with his own. As a rising freshman in 1955, Thomas wasn't allowed to attend the local Swain County high school, about two miles from his home. Instead, he was to be bussed 46 miles round-trip to a bordering all black school. When Thomas' parents unsuccessfully tried to enroll him in the nearby school, his family was threatened and his father was fired. Although there was no violence, they sent him to live with relatives in Ohio - where he was the only black student in his freshman class.

And as a student at N.C. A&T in 1960, Thomas played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement. When Thomas' four friends were jailed for sitting at a lunch counter reserved for whites, his role was to avoid arrest, so he could bring them and others necessities and notify parents and campus officials.

In appreciation of his multifaceted contributions to the Charlotte community's life, the Pride Magazine honored Thomas as Citizen of the Year in 1999 and as one of Charlotte's 47 Most Influential African American Leaders in 2002.

On April 11, 2005, Thomas was recognized with the UNC Charlotte 2005 Distinguished Service Award for his personal commitment to educational opportunity for all students. The annual award, presented by the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Directors, is the university's highest recognition for individuals whose exemplary career service has advanced the university and its mission to serve the state and the metropolitan region.

In May 2005, Professor Thomas officially retired from UNC Charlotte after 31 years. After that, he joined Shaw University, the oldest historically Black institution in the South, as Vice President for Academic Affairs. He retired from Shaw in 2009. Dr. Thomas is retired but not tired. He continues to be engaged with UNC Charlotte, supporting the mission of UTOP and the mission of the Africana Studies Department.

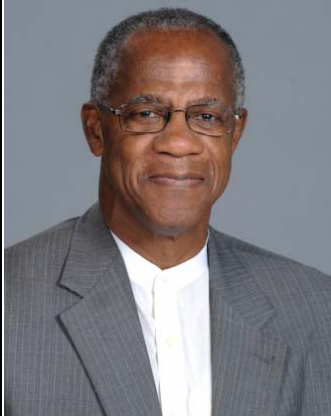
Dr. Maxwell-Roddey, the founding director and founding chair of Black Studies at UNC Charlotte, with whom Dr. Thomas worked closely, described him as "a perfect gentleman." She continues: "without Herman, our efforts to plant the seed of Black Studies at UNC Charlotte would not have been as successful. He was the one who dug the hard soil, nurtured the shoots of the planted seed, and made sure our young plant received the water, fertilizer, and the right environment needed for it to thrive. Unlike many of his contemporaries—white and black, he did not have any problem working under a female leadership. He gave me his full support. He was dependable and supportive. Anything I achieved at UNC Charlotte, I did it with Herman Thomas."

**THE INAUGURAL AFRICANA STUDIES
FOUNDERS AWARD**

Presented to

HERMAN E. THOMAS

February 23, 2018



Herman E. Thomas is the son of the late Mr. Albert M. Thomas and the late Mrs. Grace Parish Thomas, both of Bryson City, N. C. He was educated in the public schools of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Ohio and he holds four earned degrees – Bachelors of Science from North Carolina A&T University (1963), Bachelors of Divinity and Masters in Theology from Duke University Divinity School (1966), and Ph.D. from Hartford Seminary Foundation (1978).

Thomas joined UNC Charlotte in 1974 as a professor of Religious Studies. He arrived at the very time that Professor Maxwell-Roddey was developing the curriculum and vision for one of the oldest Black Studies programs in the U.S. Professor Thomas immediately joined this effort. He worked tirelessly alongside Dr. Berta Maxwell-Roddey to establish the African American and African Studies (AAAS) Department at UNC Charlotte, and to develop the curriculum that led to the baccalaureate degree in AAAS.

Professor Thomas played a leading role in organizing the first meeting that led to the establishment of the National Council for Black Studies, the official accrediting body for Black and African-American Studies.

A visionary who believed in the community engagement mission of Black Studies, he was one of the key UNC Charlotte faculty who spearheaded the establishment of the Afro-American Cultural Center, what is now known as The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African- American Arts + Culture. He served as the founding member of the center's board of directors, and later as chair of the board from 1979 to 1984 and again from 1999 to 2001.

A beloved teacher and mentor, Dr. Thomas realized the need to ensure incoming freshmen were supported and successfully transitioned into their new university environment. Hence, in 1986, Thomas founded the University Transitional Opportunities Program (UTOP), which brings incoming students to campus in the summer before their freshman year. The counseling, tutoring and social activities the students receive help them get a running start on their college experience. UTOP is one of the anchor programs at UNC Charlotte

Dr. DaKysha Moore, Johnson C. Smith University and
Dr. Elijah Onsomu, Winston Salem State University
*Using social media to tell stories about sickle cell disease:
Narratives from Nigeria*

Dr. Akin Ogundiran, Africana Studies
*Chalcedony and Glass: In Search of Africa's Silk Road, AD 900-
1450*

**12:15-1:25
LUNCH**

1:30-2:45

Session IV: ROUNDTABLE

Examining the African Diaspora: New Research by
UNC Charlotte Scholars

Chair: Dr. Gregory Mixon

Dr. Dan Cozart, University of New Mexico
Afro-Peruvians

Dr. Erika Edwards, History
*Hiding in Plain Sight: The Disappearance of the Black Population
in Argentina*

Dr. Oscar de la Torre, Africana Studies
*The People of the River: Nature and Identity in Black Amazonia,
1835-1945*

Dr. Christopher Cameron, History
African American Secular Thought

2:45-4:00

Session V: PANEL

Africa in Politics and Imagination

Chair: Dr. Veronica Hilliard, Africana Studies

Dr. Beth Elise Whitaker, Political Science and Public Administration
Voting Behavior of Diaspora Populations: The Case of Kenya

Dr. Peta Katz, Anthropology
The Danger and Power of a Fieldworker in South Africa prior to the 1994 Elections

Dr. Andrea Freidus and Lenin Caro, Anthropology
Orphanage Tourism, Protestant Students and the Affect Economy

Dr. Emmanuel K. Ngwainmbi, Communication Studies
Why all the hoopla? Fake News Reporting on Social Media Platforms and implications for Nation-State building

4:00-5:10

SESSION VI: WORKSHOP

Intersecting Minority Status of Black Gay and Bisexual Men and Gender Diverse Individuals

Chair: Dr. Darrin Johnson, Social Work

Presenters

Dr. Darrin Johnson, Social Work

Dr. Diana Rowan, Social Work

Dr. Eric Junious, Criminal Justice and Criminology

Dr. Jessamyn Bowling, Public Health

Donte Prayer, HIV Prevention Coordinator, The Powerhouse Project

Erick Jamison, HIV Prevention Coordinator, The PowerHouse Project

Allyson Jamison, Founder of #Transology

5:15-6:30

SESSION VII: ROUNDTABLE

Overcoming racialized and gendered challenges in the classroom and in research

Chair: Dr. Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, Africana Studies

Presenters

Dr. Kendra Jason, Sociology

Dr. Ritika Prasad, History

Dr. Kimya N. Dennis, Sociology and Criminal Studies, Salem College

Dr. Charles Hutchison, Middle and Secondary Education

Changes in Family Structure and New Roles for Custodial Grandmothers; (2) Health Disparities in Care and Delivery among Older African American Women; (3) How Mass Incarceration has Permanently Altered African American Family Life; and (4) The Impact of the Great Recession of 2007-2009 on the American Dream for African Americans. She has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and four books. Her books include *The Handbook of Mental Health and Mental Disorder among African Americans* (Greenwood, 1990), *Amazing Grace: Custodial African American Grandmothers as Caregivers and Conveyers of Traditional Values* (Praeger, 2004); *Contemporary African American Families: Achievements, Challenges, and Empowerment Strategies in the Twenty-First Century*, co-edited with Sherri Lawson Clark and Marcia Watson (Routledge, 2017); and, *How the Great Recession Changed African American Families* (ABC-CLIO Publishing, December, 2018).

Eddy M. Souffrant is an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He teaches Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, and Ethics and International Affairs. He has also research and teaching expertise in the areas of applied Philosophy, Francophone and Caribbean Philosophy. His current research examines the issues Transnational responsibility and International ethics, Diasporic identity, and Conceptions of Multicultural Identity. He is currently under contract for a manuscript on "Global Development Ethics."

Shannon Sullivan is Professor of Philosophy and Health Psychology and Chair of Philosophy at UNC Charlotte. She works in the intersections of critical philosophy of race, feminist philosophy, continental philosophy, and American pragmatism. She is author or editor of eight books, including most recently *Good White People: The Problem with Middle-Class White Anti-Racism* (SUNY Press, 2014), *The Physiology of Sexist and Racist Oppression* (Oxford UP, 2015), and *Feminist Interpretations of William James*, co-edited with Erin C. Tarver (Penn State Press, 2015).

Beth Elise Whitaker is associate professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research examines migration and security issues in Africa. With a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, she and several colleagues have built a dataset of rebel groups' illicit funding sources and are exploring how different funding strategies influence conflict dynamics. As a Fulbright Scholar in Kenya, she conducted research on U.S.-African counter-terrorism cooperation. She also has done extensive research on the politics of immigration in Africa, including the rise of anti-foreigner attitudes, comparative refugee policy, and the political engagement of diaspora communities. She has done fieldwork in Kenya (2005-2006, 2015, 2016), Tanzania (1996-1998, 2003), and Botswana (2005). From 2010 to 2012, she served as chair of the African Politics Conference Group, a network of political scientists who study Africa. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, *African Studies Review*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *International Migration Review*, *International Affairs*, *Studies*, among others.

(New York: Routledge, 2014) with Stephanie Newell, University of Sussex, UK) and *Global Nollywood: The Transnational Dimensions of An African Video Film Industry* (Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2014) with Matthias Krings, University of Mainz, Germany. He has published numerous essays on the Nollywood phenomenon in West Africa, the most recent include "Islam et Cinema en Afrique de l'ouest"(Tresor de Islam en Afrique (Paris: Sylvania Editoriale, 2017) and "African in Nollywood, Nollywood in Africa" in *Global Africa* (University of California Press, 2017). He researches and teaches in the areas of Anglophone African literature, critical race theory, abject literatures and postcolonial theory and criticism. He is currently working on the book length study, "Nollywood: Text, Context, Controversy." He is a recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award.

Elisabeth Paquette is Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Philosophy. Her research interests include: 1) conceptions of embodiment through the lenses of feminist and queer theory; 2) the perpetuation of colonial violence against aboriginal peoples in Canada; and 3) the intersection of poetics, humanism, and theories of emancipation. Her current research project offers an analysis of the relevance of the Négritude movement and the Haitian Revolution within contemporary French political theory, and her publications can be found in *Badiou Studies* and *Philosophy Today* (forthcoming). Dr. Paquette's pedagogy is also reflective of these research interests. Namely, in Spring 2018 she is teaching a course on Indigenous Feminisms which addresses historical and contemporary harms of indigenous peoples in U.S. and Canadian settler colonial contexts, as well as conceptions of intersectionality, solidarity, and resistance. Dr. Paquette also organizes an annual summer Feminist Decolonial Politics Workshop. More information about this workshop can be located at www.decolonialthoughtworkshop.wordpress.com.

Courtney Singleton is an undergraduate alumna of UNC Charlotte and presently a staff member at the Belk College of Business. She received her Master's in Cultural Studies from SOAS – University of London in 2016 where she focused on comparative film studies between Africa and Japan. Her research interests include comparative and transnational film, world film (specially focused on Africa and East Asia), trauma studies, and feminist studies among others. This fall, she will be teaching a topics course "Women in African Cinema," and is assisting in the coordination and curation of the African Cinema piece of the International Film Festival in March and April.

Dorothy Smith-Ruiz is Associate Professor of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. Ruiz received her PhD in sociology from Michigan State University. She has completed two NIA postdoctoral fellowships: The Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health (1981-1983), and The Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development (1998-2001). As a Fulbright Scholar, she traveled to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Senegal to study culture and health in urban populations. She has served as Interim Chair of Africana Studies at UNC Charlotte on three different occasions, and Director of Undergraduate Studies for nine years. Her research projects include: (1) Contemporary African American Families:

DAY 2: February 23

McKnight Hall
Cone University Center

8:15-8:55
BREAKFAST

9:00-10:10

SESSION VIII: ROUNDTABLE

How Students' Understanding of Being Black in America Evolved through a Study Abroad to Malawi: A Video-Supported Panel Presentation

Chair: Dr. Diana Rowan, Social Work

Presenters

Dr. Diana Rowan - faculty facilitator
Dr. Darrin Johnson
Maricus Gibbs
Dominique Howard
Delton Harris
Gerald Covington

10:15-11:10

SESSION IX: PANEL

New Directions in African Diaspora Studies Research:
Race, Religion, and Resistance in the Caribbean

Chair: Dr. Crystal Nicole Eddins, Africana Studies

Dr. Crystal Nicole Eddins, Africana Studies

Black Oppositional Thought in Action: Marronnage and the Digital Humanities

Dr. Danielle N. Boaz, Africana Studies

Dreadlocks and Discrimination: Rastafari Students in Africa

Dr. Amy M. Johnson, History

Legacies of Unfreedom: West African Bondage, Jamaican Realities and Slavery among the Maroons of Jamaica

11:15-12:30
SESSION X: PANEL
Black Critics

Chair: Dr. Honoré Missihoun, Africana Studies

Dr. Lisa Homann, Arts and Art History
Banned! Sort of: Portrait Masks in Southwestern Burkina Faso

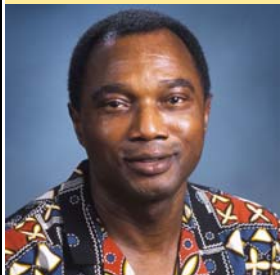
Dr. Honoré Missihoun, Africana Studies
“Changó, the Bad Ass by Manuel Zapata Olivella” and “The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave Related by Herself”: Négritude and Black Atlantic: Epic, Resistance, and Dissidence

Dr. Elisabeth Paquette, Philosophy and WGST
Dynamism and Emancipation in the Writings of Aimé Césaire

Courtney Singleton, UNC Charlotte
An Exploration of Trauma in Film: A Comparative Analysis of the Disabled War Veteran in Koji Wakamatsu’s Caterpillar and Zézé Gamboa’s O Herói

12:30-1:45
LUNCH

OJAIDE CLOCKS 70



Congratulations to our dear colleague, friend, and mentor, Dr. Tanure Ojaide, who turns 70 this year. We are proud of your accomplishments and inspiration. Since joining the UNC Charlotte faculty rank in 1990, Ojaide has authored and edited more than 30 books, and has won more than a dozen book prizes and accolades including the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, Cadbury Poetry Prize, and the Association of Nigerian Authors' Poetry Award. He received UNC Charlotte's First Citizens Bank Scholar Medal Award in 2005, and was named the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies in 2006. In early 2016, he received the African Literature Association's Fonlon-Nichols Award in recognition of his scholarly contributions to democratic ideals, humanistic values, and literary excellence in Africa. In the same year, he was decorated with Nigeria's highest academic honor, the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM).

is a long-term member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and a member of the Southern Historical Association, the National Council for Black Studies, and African American Intellectual History Society.

Tonderai Mushipe is a PhD student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has prior work experience in Local Government, Higher Education and Economic Development. His research interests include domestic and international economic development and political issues. Specific topics of interest include Foreign Direct Investment, Industrial clusters, Immigrant access to education and economic opportunities, Political Participation Africa. Currently Tonderai is in the process of co-authoring a book chapter that analyzes the conflicts surrounding for control of public assets between the North Carolina State Government and Local Municipalities.

Julia Robinson Moore (Ph.D., Michigan State University) joined the Department of Religious Studies at UNC Charlotte in 2005. She teaches courses in African American Religion, Religions of the African Diaspora, and racial violence in America. Her first book titled, *Race, Religion, and the Pulpit: Reverend Robert L. Bradby and the Making of Urban Detroit* (2015) explores how Bradby's church became the catalyst for economic empowerment, community-building, and the formation of an urban African American working class in Detroit. Her second book project, *Overcoming Race in the Faith: Black Presbyterians in the Global South* (scheduled for publication in 2020) speaks to the complexities of black and white race relations in the New South through the sacred context of the Presbyterian Church.

Akin Ogundiran is Professor of Africana Studies, Anthropology & History at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte where he has also served as Chair of the Africana Studies Department since 2008. His transdisciplinary research interests focus broadly on the cultural history of global processes in local spaces, with emphasis on the Yoruba region of West Africa. He has authored, edited, and co-edited several publications, including *Materialities of Ritual in the Black Atlantic* (Indiana University Press, 2014) which won a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2015. Dr. Ogundiran is currently carrying out a long-term field research project on commercial networks, crafts technology, urbanism, political economy, and settlement ecology in one of West Africa's largest political formations - Oyo Empire, 1570-1830. He is a 2018 Yip fellow of the University of Cambridge, and he serves on the editorial board of several journals including *African Archaeological Review* and *African Studies Review*.

Onokome Okome is Professor of African Literature and Film Studies at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada. His academic publications include the coauthored book, *Cinema and Social Change in Nigeria* (with Jonathan Haynes) and the edited volumes, *Before I Am Hanged: Ken Saro-Wiwa, Literature, Politics, and Dissent* (2000), *Ogun's Children: The Literature and Politics of Wole Soyinka Since the Nobel Prize* (2004), and *Writing the Homeland: The Poetry and Politics of Tanure Ojaide* (2002). He also co-edited two books of essays, *Popular Culture in Africa: The Episteme of Everyday Life*

health equity; I find great value in partnerships between the community and higher education because of my humble beginnings. I have worked consistently for organizations serving the homeless, chronically ill, and formerly incarcerated, often bridging research with practice. In sum, I am a researcher and educator seasoned by life experiences; the challenges I faced have prepared me for meaningful service. I believe my interdisciplinary background in health services research, social work, and community health has provided me with expertise in connecting with our most diverse marginalized communities. This arena will help me contribute to the advancement of health equity and social justice for underrepresented members of our society; and in Charlotte, North Carolina which will be helpful connecting with others on a national level. This is where issues of public health are most prevalent, and where public health professionals are most needed in the areas of practice and research to advance integrity, impact scholarship, and create healthy people, places, and communities.

Peta Katz received her PhD in Anthropology from Yale University in 2003, after previous studies at the University of Chicago, and the University of the Witwatersrand. She has taught in South Africa as well as Connecticut College and the University of Connecticut. She has been teaching at UNC Charlotte, since 2004 and is a Lecturer. While her appointment at UNC Charlotte is in the Anthropology Department she is affiliated faculty in Women's Studies and Africana Studies. Dr. Katz did three years of continuous research in South Africa at the time of the political transition to democracy. Her interests include gender studies, kinship, anthropology of the occult, political economy, and political transformations in Africa, and the myriad ways in which people interpret globalization.

Janaka B. Lewis is Director of Women's and Gender Studies and Associate Professor of English at UNC Charlotte and is a proud affiliate of Africana Studies. She is the author of *Freedom Narratives of African American Women* (2017) and teaches courses on nineteenth and twentieth century African American women's literature and African American archival and material culture. She has published chapters and essays on Elizabeth Keckley and Charlotte Forten Grimke in addition to articles on black sports culture and is currently working on a collection about black girlhood and narratives of play.

Gregory Mixon joined the History Department at UNC Charlotte during fall 1999, and has served as affiliate faculty in the Department of Africana Studies since that time. Additionally he has graduate faculty status at UNCC and is a member of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Advisory Board. He is the author of two books completed here at UNC Charlotte: *The Atlanta Riot: Race, Class, and Violence* in a New South City published by the University Press of Florida in January 2005 and *Show Thyself a Man: Georgia State Troops, Colored, 1865-1905* published by the University Press of Florida in August 2016. His current research is on "Carolina's Militiamen, 1865-1898," a study of African American militiamen in North Carolina and South Carolina. He teaches African American History, Southern History, and General Education courses at the undergraduate level and United States, African American, and Southern History at the graduate level. Mixon

1:45-3:00

SESSION XI: PANEL**The Ordeal of Globalization and the Quest for Social Justice in the Poetry of Tanure Ojaide**

Chair: Dr. Akin Ogundiran, Africana Studies

Dr. Lami Adama, Texas College, Tyler
Reinventing Female Identity through Eco-Womanism in Tanure Ojaide's The Activist, The Tale Of The Harmattan and Songs of Myself

Dr. Adetayo Alabi, The University of Mississippi
Tanure Ojaide and The Udje Quartet: Song, Satire, Social Justice, and Globalization

Dr. Onookome Okome, University of Alberta, Canada
Tanure Ojaide and the Literature of the Niger Delta

3:00-4:00

SESSION XII: FILM SCREENING**Hasaki Ya Suda**

Open Forum Discussion:
"Global Warming and Africa"

Moderators:
Courtney Singleton, College of Business
Dr. Lisa Homann, Arts and Art History

4:00-4:40

POETRY READING

"The Environment Series"

by

Dr. Tanure Ojaide, Africana Studies

4:45-6:00

SESSION XIV: ROUNDTABLE

Carolinian Cosmopolitanism: Teaching about Race Relations in Other Countries at UNC Charlotte

Chair: Dr. Oscar de la Torre, Africana Studies

Presenters

Dr. José Manuel Batista, Languages and Cultures

Dr. Erika Edwards, History

Dr. Sara Juengst, Anthropology

Dr. Eddy Souffrant, Philosophy

Dr. Oscar de la Torre, Africana Studies



6:15pm

RECEPTION AND HONORS

111, Cone University Center

Charles B. Hutchison was born in Ghana and is Professor of Education at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. With educational backgrounds in immuno-genetics and theology, he has worked as a molecular immunologist and a science instructor at both college and K12 levels. A recipient of Key to the City of Boston, he has served on national panels and as a journal editor. He has appeared on, or been featured by, several local and international news media, including CBS NightWatch, Voice of America, Boston Globe, and Washington Post. Dr. Hutchison is the author of seven books on various subjects. His latest book is *Experiences of Immigrant Professors* (Routledge, 2016), and his forthcoming book is *The Fear of Being Different: The Intangible Price of Prejudice and Misunderstanding* (Rowman and Littlefield). He is one of the seminal researchers on the international migration of professors and K-12 teachers. His research interests include cross-cultural (i.e., international and diversity) issues in education, science and education, and philosophies at large.

Kendra Jason is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her primary research interests are social inequalities, work and social mobility, and aging and health disparities. She also specializes in critical pedagogy. Her research involving the scholarship of teaching and learning can be found in *Teaching Sociology* and *The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. Her work on teaching and the classroom centers on student learning outcomes, students' racialized experiences in the classroom, teachers' challenges in the classroom based on their race and gender, and mentorship for Black female junior faculty. Most recently, her project with Dr. Kimya Dennis, titled, "Black Women Academicians: Artistic Expression through Teaching, Research, and Activism" presented a theoretical framework inspired by W.E.B. Dubois and Alan Locke and explores how Black women female junior faculty create artistry and artistic expression, handle perceived obstacles, and use their voice to enact change.

Dr. Sara Juengst is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at UNC Charlotte. She specializes in bioarchaeology and Andean archaeology, and conducts research in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. She also assists locally with field projects in the Southeastern United States when possible. Juengst is particularly interested in using human skeletal remains to investigate people's identities and social structures in the past. She has also worked with human remains to evaluate past medical practices (trepanation or skull surgery) and violence levels within past Andean populations. At UNC Charlotte, Dr. Juengst teaches courses in bioarchaeology, Latin American Studies, and biological anthropology, particularly focusing on themes of health, race, and inequality. She earned her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Eric Juinous: Currently, I am a multicultural postdoctoral scholar appointed in the department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at UNC-C. My research focus is reintegration to care for criminal justice involved persons who are living with HIV. I began this journey Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services here in Columbia as an intern, and decided to myself to this work both personally and professionally. As an advocate for social justice regarding

ness, culture, and identity in micro-mobilization processes among members of the African Diaspora – especially enslaved people’s rebellions, marronage, and the Haitian Revolution. Eddins has taught courses that include African Diaspora Theory; Inequality, Race & Ethnicity; and Gender & Inequality.

Erika Edwards is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is an expert on the black experience in Argentina and has been cited and consulted by in the New York Times and National Geographic. She has also been interviewed by La Voz del Interior, an Argentine newspaper in addition to about.com, regarding her research and experience abroad. She has published articles in the African the Black Diaspora: An International Journal, and Oxford Bibliographies. She has also given numerous talks at various institutions and organizations some of which include University of Southern Carolina, University of Massachusetts at Amherst and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her forthcoming book *Hiding in Plain Sight: The disappearance of the black population in Argentina is a gendered analysis of the erasure of blackness in Argentina.*

Andrea Freidus is an assistant professor of Anthropology at UNC Charlotte. She is trained as an applied medical anthropologist and also holds an MPH in public health. Her work has focused primarily at transnational responses to orphans and other vulnerable children in Malawi, southern Africa. This includes an analysis of development and humanitarian organizations, volunteer tourists, and state policy focused on children in relation to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She also examines international medical volunteering in rural Malawi by western volunteers, primarily medical school students between their first and second years of training. This volunteering, she asserts, is primarily made possible by an internal brain drain of locally trained health care providers associated with neoliberal reconfigurations of state-run health care programs. Her work is framed by a human rights approach to addressing inequalities that encourages transnational programs toward more sustained and collaborate engagement. She has also worked on tourism, risky sexual behavior and gender disparities in Monteverde, Costa Rica. At UNC Charlotte, Dr. Freidus teaches courses in medical anthropology, health and human rights, applied anthropology, culture and globalization, and development in southern Africa. She earned her PhD from Michigan State University.

Amy Johnson serves as the Director of the Elon Core Curriculum and is an Associate Professor of History at Elon University. As the Director of the Core Curriculum, Dr. Johnson oversees the general education requirements for every undergraduate at the university. Her areas of disciplinary expertise are early colonial Caribbean history, pre-colonial West African history, comparative slavery and the Early Atlantic world. Dr. Johnson’s current research focuses on non-traditional slaveholding and has been published by *The Journal of Caribbean History* and forthcoming in *The Jamaican Historical Review*. Prior to stepping into the director’s position, she regularly taught disciplinary and multi-disciplinary courses related to her area of academic expertise. These include: Themes in Caribbean History, The Early African Diaspora, Comparative Slavery and Slavery and Resistance.

ABSTRACTS

Session I: ROUNDTABLE

Building Bridges, Creating Intersectional Alliances: Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, Ann C. Carver, and the Formation of Black Studies and Women’s Studies at UNC Charlotte

Organized by Sonya Ramsey and Janaka Lewis

In this roundtable presentation, three current UNC Charlotte professors, Felicia Harris, Janaka Bowman Lewis, and Sonya Ramsey will discuss the history of the professional alliance between Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey, the founder of the Africana Studies Program at UNC Charlotte, and Dr. Ann C. Carver, the founder of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at UNC Charlotte, and a faculty member in the then Black Studies/African American and African Studies Program. While these two professors developed lasting academic programs and departments at UNC Charlotte, they also helped to strengthen and reconfigure the relationship between the University and the larger Charlotte community. Maxwell-Roddey and Carver also redefined the concept of diversity beyond the idea of “token” status to help develop policies and programs to ensure the growth and intellectual development of all students. As administrators, Maxwell-Roddey and Carver often faced challenges as they fought to redefine the mission of the modern day university by promoting more diversity in academic courses, faculty, and policies. Lastly, this roundtable will discuss the legacies of Maxwell-Roddey and Carver by discussing the modern-day experiences of professors working in both Africana and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Session II: PANEL

The Black Quest for Freedom and Citizenship

Gregory Mixon

Creating Black Power: South Carolina at the Dawn of Freedom is a preliminary examination of four black men who began life in humble circumstances, but were transformed by the Civil War-Reconstruction era. Two slaves, Robert Smalls and Prince Rivers, one Northern laborer, Stephen A. Swails, and one black man of the Diaspora, Robert Brown Elliott, separately rose through the ranks of the South Carolina militia and Republican Party to become leaders in both Reconstruction institutions. How did each man exercise black political power in the wake of the transformative power of civil war to become leaders in South Carolina’s post-Civil War governments as militiamen and Republicans? Was the militia their platform for leadership? This paper is based on new archival and established secondary research. It seeks to place these four men within the process of creating and defining how African Americans shaped freedom and developed Black Power.

Rebecca Byrd

Susie King Taylor: A Life Story

Susie King Taylor was by no means Sojourner Truth or Harriet Tubman. We only know about Ms. Taylor because of her diary. Susie King Taylor's account allows us to broadly contextualize her role within mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century African American history. Ms. Taylor's experience as a participant in the Civil War and the years following known as Reconstruction, gives us knowledge of the greater role black women served. This paper informs readers on Ms. Taylor's life, her contributions, the connections her story has with other, more popular African American icons, and recent historical finds regarding Ms. Taylor.

Dr. Julia Robinson Moore and Dr. Shannon Sullivan
Rituals of White Privilege: Keith Lamont Scott and the Erasure of Black Suffering

This co-authored paper examines how contexts of Christian faith impact white people's unconscious investments in racial privilege, drawing on examples from the state of North Carolina including the September 20, 2016, police killing of Keith Lamont Scott in the city of Charlotte. As we analyze elements of the historical backdrop, regional context, and immediate aftermath of the Scott shooting, we use conceptual tools from religious contexts to understand some of the rituals and informal codifications of anti-black racism. Our interdisciplinary aim is to connect religious-historical (Robinson Moore) and philosophical-psychological (Sullivan) approaches to understanding anti-black racism in the United States, simultaneously intersecting our experiences with race and racism as a black woman who is an ordained Presbyterian minister (Robinson Moore) and a white woman who has argued for the need for white soul work vis-à-vis race (Sullivan). As we argue, many forms of anti-black racism carry within them the trappings of religious structure: myth, ritual, and symbolism. We explore the unconscious ritualization of racial ideology among white evangelical Presbyterians and white Universalist Unitarian liberals in the city of Charlotte, particularly as "well meaning" white Christians (broadly conceived) sought to effect change within Charlotte's racial climate after Scott's death.

Session III: POSTER
Education, Health, and Historical Science

Tonderai Mushipe
Can In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students Contribute to Higher Graduation and Income Levels?

Twenty-one states currently extend in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. This study examines whether states with the in-state tuition policy observe spillover effects on overall graduation rates and median income. A confluence of federal laws has guaranteed undocumented immigrants a K-12 education but postsecondary education remains in limbo for immigrants. States have been proactive by passing in-state tuition laws. Using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), this study finds the 20 states with the in-state tuition policy for undocumented immigrants perform better on average. These findings should incentivize more states to adopt similar policies. However, only six of the 20 states also provide financial aid, which is a factor to consider in future research. Currently research on

well as a graduate seminar on "Dirty Wars in Latin America" at UNC-Charlotte.

Oscar de la Torre investigates slavery and the post-emancipation period in Brazil, Cuba, and the USA, with a special focus on the connections between environment, labor, and identity. He is also interested in the study of colonial and post-colonial slavery throughout the Americas; in oral history and the memory of slavery; in the present-day political movements of black peasants across the Americas; and in the comparative analysis of race relations in Latin America and the U.S. De la Torre has co-edited a special issues of Spain's *Boletín Americanista* on post-emancipation societies, and another one at *Ofo: Journal of Transatlantic Studies* on community engagement in the African Diaspora. He has served as a book and article reviewer for *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Latin American Research Review*, *Atlantic Studies*, and other journals in the field. In 2018 UNC Press will publish his first research monograph, titled "The People of the River: Nature, Community, and Identity in Black Amazonia, 1835-1945," a book completed during a post-doc at Yale University's Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. Currently embarked on a comparative study of environmental health and struggles over freedom and identity in Matanzas (Cuba) and Savannah (Georgia, U.S.), Dr. De la Torre remains engaged in a permanent dialogue and exchange of ideas with scholars and activists from the U.S., Brazil, Cuba, and Europe, and enjoys surprising the students with the unexpected features of race relations in Latin America.

Kimya N. Dennis, a Sociologist and criminologist, does community outreach, teaching, research, and consulting to reach underserved populations and address demographic and cultural variance in a range of social issues. Examples include a study conducted with Dr. Kendra J. Jason that captured how Black women junior faculty shape and express their academic goals and academic experiences. Dr. Dennis also conducted the first known study solely of childfree-by-choice people of immediate African descent (62 respondents; 6 countries; 59 women, 3 men); and created and teaches the first known college course about people who are childfree-by-choice. To further reach underserved populations, Dr. Dennis highlights demographic and cultural variance in mental health, suicide and suicidal self-harm, and criminal justice processes. Dr. Dennis collaborates with mental health organizations, law enforcement representatives, and is on the board of directors for The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County, LEAD Girls of NC, and previously on the board of directors for NC chapter of American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Dr. Dennis is Associate Professor and the creator and Coordinator of the Criminal Studies program in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Studies at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Crystal N. Eddins is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and she holds a Dual Major PhD in African American & African Studies and Sociology from Michigan State University. Eddins specialty areas of research are the African Diaspora, Historical Sociology, Social Movements, the Digital Humanities, and 18th century Haiti (Saint Domingue). She specifically studies issues of conscious-

Rights. She is also a licensed attorney in the State of Florida and the State of North Carolina. Dr. Boaz's research focuses on the legal proscription of African cultural practices in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the modern day impact of those laws on public perceptions of these practices.

Jessamyn Bowling is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She obtained her PhD in Public Health from Indiana University and her Master of Public Health from the University of Arizona where she was a U.S. Peace Corps Fellow. Her research focuses on the subjective experience of sexual health for sexual and gender minority individuals. She has conducted research studies with sexual minority females in India, bisexual parents in the U.S., migrant farmworkers in North Carolina, women in Cambodia, homeless women and Latina women in Tucson, AZ, people living with HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, and women, youth and nomadic tribal groups in Cameroon. Jessamyn's work is grounded in community approaches, which were in part informed by her work as a community health volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps in Cameroon.

Rebecca Byrd is a senior Africana studies major from Boston, Massachusetts. She transferred from Queens University in 2016 and from Howard University in 2014. Upon graduation, Ms. Byrd would like to continue her studies and research on African American Civil War history.

Christopher Cameron is an Associate Professor of History at UNC Charlotte. He is also the founder of the African American Intellectual History Society. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in American History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research and teaching interests include early American history, the history of slavery and abolition, and American religious and intellectual history. Cameron's first book, entitled *To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in Massachusetts and the Making of the Anti-slavery Movement*, was published by Kent State University Press in 2014, and his volume entitled *New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition* will be published later this year by Northwestern University Press. Cameron is currently working on a history of African American atheists, agnostics, and secular humanists from the 19th century to the civil rights era. Cameron has received fellowships from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Peabody Essex Museum, Emory University, the U.S. Department of Education, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dan Cozart completed his M.A. in Latin American Studies at UNC-Charlotte in 2011. He completed his PhD in History at the University of New Mexico last summer, 2017. His research focuses on Afro-Peruvian collective identities, their erasure in censuses and disappearance in discourses of nationalism. His dissertation is titled "Afro-Peruvian Creoles: A Social and Political History of Afro-Descended Peruvians in an Era of Nationalism and Scientific Racism." His research analyzes the African Diaspora through a comparative framework by incorporating the Black Pacific in broader discourses of race and nation in the Atlantic world. He teaches courses on Inter-American relations, colonial and modern Latin American history, Latin American film, as

US immigration mainly focuses on the Latino population, so there is an opportunity to analyze this issue in the context of other populations, including the AfricanDiaspora.

DaKysha Moore and Elijah Onsomu

Using social media to tell stories about sickle cell disease: Narratives from Nigeria

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is one of the main blood disorders in the U.S. and in Sub-Saharan Africa. One country that has a high prevalence of sickle cell patients is Nigeria. Each year more than one hundred thousand babies are born in the country with the disease (CDC, 2012). This makes disseminating health information about the genetic disorder imperative to patients and their families. One-way healthcare providers and patients have spread information about different health issues is through social media. Social media websites have not only been used as a source of health information, but people suffering from various health conditions have used the websites to help share their health experiences with the world. For the current study, the researchers will analyze video blogs of sickle cell disease patients living in Nigeria. In the past, patients have used social media sites such as YouTube to help empower themselves and others who might share similar health experiences. The researchers will type keywords "sickle cell disease and Nigeria" to find and analyze videos about the genetic disorder. Key areas that will be discussed include the content of the videos, length of stories, and the type of health information about the disease disseminated.

Akin Ogundiran

Chalcedony and Glass: In Search of Africa's Silk Road, AD 900-1450

The West African region experienced commercial revolution during the last centuries of the first millennium, and this continued till the middle of the second millennium AD. This revolution involved long-distance trade networks that connected different parts of West Africa to one another, and also to the Mediterranean world. Whereas historical sources have privileged the trans-Saharan trade as the fulcrum of this commercial revolution, recent archaeological research has revealed a different dimension. New evidence has emerged showing that some of the initiatives that drove the engine of the commercial revolution developed in deep West Africa, and was anchored on glass manufacture and chalcedony beads. This poster session will showcase the quest to understand the role of indigenous technology and social valuation in West Africa's early commercial revolution; the regional trading routes and the commodities that passed through them; and the sociopolitical consequences of the commercial revolution.

SESSION IV: ROUNDTABLE

Examining the African Diaspora: New Research by UNC Charlotte Scholars

Organized by Gregory Mixon

This roundtable seeks to showcase the work of young scholars working on African descendant peoples overtime in the Americas. The panelists work in Afro-Latin History examining nationalism in Peru(Cozart), gender and whiteness resistance, survival and accommodation in colonial Argentina (Edwards), labor and community(de la Torre), African American secular thought(Cameron), and 20th century liberalism and poverty comparing Cleveland, Ohio and Rome, Georgia's labor, racial, developmental and political history. Each presenter will talk about how they came to their topic, research methods, the topic's significance, and research joys and challenges.

SESSION V: PANEL

Africa in Politics and Imagination

Beth Elise Whitaker

Voting Behavior of Diaspora Populations: The Case of Kenya

Many countries now allow citizens living abroad to vote in home-country elections, but little is known about the political behavior of diaspora populations. Are the voting decisions of citizens abroad shaped by the same factors as citizens at home? Or do people who migrate have different priorities? This paper examines these questions in the context of Kenya, where ethnicity has long been an important (but not the only) factor influencing voting behavior. Diaspora voting was legalized in the 2010 constitution but has yet to be fully implemented, in part because politicians are uncertain about how diaspora participation will influence outcomes. The paper is based on data from two online surveys of diaspora Kenyans. The first, conducted in 2016, included a conjoint analysis in which respondents chose between hypothetical candidates for president and for governor of their home county. The second, conducted in the weeks prior to the August 2017 election, included questions about respondents' preferred presidential and gubernatorial candidates. Preliminary results suggest that Kenyans living in the diaspora are only marginally less likely than voters within Kenya to vote along ethnic lines, though they are more likely to support independent candidates.

Peta Katz

The Danger and Power of a Fieldworker in South Africa prior to the 1994 Elections

In the early 1990s before the first general elections in South Africa, rural areas were integrated into national politics in different ways. The background of this paper focuses on local forms of organization in a rural district, and local forms of understanding national goals where competing forms of identity were influenced not only by issues of ethnicity and nationalism, but also by gender and sexuality. Given this starting point I would like to examine how as the

BIOGRAPHY OF PRESENTERS

Lami C. Adama received her B.A in English & Linguistics from the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria before going to Western Illinois University where she studied English with emphasis in African Postcolonial Literature and Creative Writing. She studied English with emphasis in Environmental Literature/ Ecocriticism from Texas A&M University. She is currently an Assistant Professor of English in Texas College Tyler. Lami is a poet and her writing reflects her Igala kingdom background. She has published some of her poetry works in Journals and Anthologies here and abroad. She has also written and published articles in Shakespeare literature, African postcolonial literature and ecocriticism. Some of her areas of interests include Eco-criticism/Eco-womanism, Environmental Literature, Critical theory, Literary theory, African Post/neocolonial theory/Literature, Caribbean Literature, Women Studies, Shakespearean Literature, and 21st Century American literature.

Adetayo Alabi is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Mississippi. He teaches and researches literary theories, world literatures, and cultures, particularly African, African American, and Afro Caribbean. He is the author of *Telling Our Stories: Continuities and Divergences in Black Autobiographies* and was the editor of *The Global South*, published by Indiana University Press, between 2007 and 2013. During his tenure as the editor of *The Global South*, he edited special issues of the journal on *Nollywood and The Global South* (with others), *Latin America in a Global Age*, *The Caribbean and Globalization*, and *Africa in a Global Age*. His other publications have appeared in the *Encyclopedia of the Yoruba*, *Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Literatures*, and in *The Companion to African Literatures*. He has also published several book chapters, including those in *The Nigeria-Biafra War: An Intellectual History*; *Ogoni's Agonies: Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Crisis in Nigeria*; *The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities*; *Marvels of the African World: African Cultural Patrimony, New World Connections, and Identities*; *Yoruba Creativity: Fiction, Language, Life, and Songs*; and in journals like *Research in African Literatures*, *Liwuram*, *African Literature Today*, and *In-Between*.

José Manuel Batista is an Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies at UNC Charlotte. He earned a PhD in Romance Languages from UGA in 2003. He has taught courses on afro-Cuban and afro-Colombian literature in Spanish. His research interests include Spanish Caribbean literature and culture, and Latin American poetry. His most recent publications have appeared in *The Latin Americanist* and *Caribe*. Currently, Dr. Batista is exploring how contemporary Dominican novelists and poets contest the othering of Haitians.

Danielle N. Boaz is an Assistant Professor in the Africana Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she offers courses on human rights, social justice, and the law. She has a Ph.D. in history with a specialization in Africa, the African Diaspora and the Caribbean; a J.D. with a concentration in International Law; and a LL.M. in Intercultural Human

SELECTED CORE AFRICANA STUDIES FACULTY RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND CAREER AWARDS

- ◆ Nigerian National Order of Merit
- ◆ All-Africa Okigbo Prize for Poetry (twice)
- ◆ Association of Nigerian Authors' Poetry Award (four times)
- ◆ BBC Arts and Africa Poetry Award
- ◆ Carnegie Foundation Fellowship (twice)
- ◆ Certificate of Special US Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Service
- ◆ Choice magazine's Outstanding Academic Title
- ◆ Commonwealth Poetry Prize
- ◆ Duke University School of Medicine Fellowship
- ◆ Fonlon-Nichols Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◆ Fulbright-Hays Fellowship (thrice)
- ◆ Gilder-Lehrman Center Fellowship
- ◆ Kathryn T. Preyer Scholar in American Legal History
- ◆ National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (twice)
- ◆ National Humanities Center Fellow
- ◆ Social Science Research Council Research Grant
- ◆ University of Texas Africanist Award for Research Excellence
- ◆ UNC Charlotte's Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence Finalist
- ◆ UNC Charlotte's First Citizens Bank Scholar Medal Award
- ◆ Wenner-Gren Foundation Research Grant
- ◆ Yip Fellow, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge
- ◆ Fellow, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERS

- ◆ The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American History + Culture
- ◆ LATIBAH Museum
- ◆ Juneteenth Festival of the Carolinas
- ◆ Friends of Old Westview Cemetery, Inc.
- ◆ The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflection (ESPER)
- ◆ NC National Alliance of Black School Educators
- ◆ Yoruba Language-in-Community Outreach
- ◆ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

ANNUAL PUBLIC ACADEMIC EVENTS

- ◆ Dr. Bertha Maxwell-Roddey Distinguished Africana Lecture (*fall*)
- ◆ Africana Artist-in-Residence (*spring*)
- ◆ Africana Studies Symposium (*spring*)

ethnographer was pulled into local politics. As competition for power increased, and the potential for ostracism or assassination grew, my role of the 'cosmopolitan ethnographer' shifted. In an environment laden with suspicion locals sought me out to document their particular narratives of death threats, abduction, witchcraft accusations and reprisals, as they feared death and acts of vengeance. This paper therefore focuses on the power of documentation of secrets and power. It raises then the question of role of the ethnographer as holder of secrets and sometimes lies. This places the ethnographer in an invidious position and certainly one of power, - the ability to destroy people, their reputations, and even cause the death of certain actors. But as confidant and documenter the ethnographer may herself face death threats. This raises the question of the power of the fieldworker and of course subsequent ethics of field working.

Andrea Freidus and Lenin Caro

Orphanage Tourism, Protestant Students and the Affect Economy

This research examines young people volunteering in Protestant short-term mission trips to an orphanage in Malawi. We draw on emerging theories of affect to understand the intersections of traveler emotions, social structure, economy, and religiosity. An affect approach, the feelings and sentimentalities connected to human behavior, allow us to analyze individual conceptions of the self, emotions, and experiences. Our travelers were trying to escape the accoutrements of modernity characteristic of consumer culture and the neoliberal subjectivity to find a more authentic Christian self. They believed they could achieve this through transformational journeys and felt experiences among Malawian children. Malawi's poor are thought to express a more authentic religiosity because they have so little and thus rely so heavily on faith. In addition, we explore the relationship between an individual's affective experience with that of both the group as well as situate it within the structural milieu that creates the opportunity to travel among the destitute poor in the first place. We conclude that the burgeoning market for orphanage tourism purposefully engenders an affective response from a consumer public seeking out these experiences to bolster the self as well as find authentic connections with other travelers. This ultimately proves exploitative and detrimental to the well-being of the institutionalized children being targeted.

Emmanuel K. Ngwainmbi

Why all the hoopla? Fake News Reporting on Social Media Platforms and implications for Nation-State building

Easy access to social media platforms has created a *tsunami* of news and information flows to unwitting audiences and markets around the world, with major implications on users' consumption patterns and attitudes toward the topics shared. Using the content of social media platforms shared among African immigrants in the U.S. as well as issue agenda and the gratifications theories as its departure point, this paper shows how fake news reporting can serve as a tool for community mobilization. It examines the relationship between fear and current information and shows how the political unrest in the English-speaking region in Cameroon and police brutality against unarmed

protesters and the displacement of some 40,000 people from their homes (now refugees), hundreds killed, imprisoned and others seeking political asylum in the US, since October 2016, has only been exacerbated by the fake news activity on social media platforms. It also references social media role in promoting fake news about the excruciating presence the terrorist group Boko Haram in Nigeria and northern Cameroon.

SESSION VI: WORKSHOP

Intersecting Minority Status of Black Gay and Bisexual Men and Gender Diverse Individuals

Organized by Darrin Johnson and Diana Rowan

Over the past few years, Black gay/bisexual men and gender diverse individuals have been represented more in media on popular television shows, movies, and sports. The societal shift towards acceptance of these communities is promising. However, for many communities the lack of acceptance among Black gay/ bisexual men and genderdiverse individuals is still prevalent. Black same-gender loving and gender diverse people are subjected to heightened discrimination and stigma. These individuals sometimes have psychosocial stressors due to intersecting identities. These intersections include race, gender identity, and same-sex sexuality. Other forms of oppression come from the religious community, rejection from family when same-sex sexuality or gender diversity is publicly affirmed, and these stressors can lead to internalized negative perceptions about same-sex sexuality or gender diversity. This session will engage the audience in discussions about gender diversity, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and stigma among Black gay/bisexual men and gender diverse individuals. A panel of experts will discuss experiences engaging these communities in diverse settings, including social service programs, healthcare, and academic institutions, and explore issues related to discrimination and stigmatization of these groups.

SESSION VII: ROUNDTABLE

Overcoming racialized and gendered challenges in the classroom and in research

Organized by Dorothy Smith-Ruiz and Kendra Jason

There are many professional challenges in teaching and research for faculty members who are members of underrepresented minority groups. These include, but are not limited to, challenges to authority and legitimacy as an instructor in the classroom by students (especially white students), the devaluation of minority-focused research by colleagues, the expectation to fulfill diversity roles in the institution, lack of mentoring by senior colleagues, and challenges to recruitment, support, and execution of minority community-based research. This panel of faculty of color will address the contention they face in the classroom, resistance they confront executing their research

form grew exponentially with these two writers between 1970 and 2000. My argument is that both artists, Saro-Wiwa and Ojaide, are central to the formation of this new and exciting literary culture but it is Ojaide, more than Saro-Wiwa that gave structure and clarity to this literary form, producing the literature of the Niger in poetry, his literary forte, the short story and the novel. Since the publication of *Children of Iroko and other Poems* (1973) his concern for the region and the people who live in it has been unwavering but unlike Ken Saro-Wiwa, this concern has always been about the region, not merely about his ethnic minority. I argue that *Great Boys, An African Childhood* (1998) is quintessential in describing the idyllic landscape and people of pre-oil Niger Delta, which is only hinted at in two of his early collections of poems, *Children of Iroko* (1973) and *Labyrinth of the Delta*. The meat of my argument then is that *Great Boys* sets both the environment case that is an essential aspect of the literature of the Niger Delta and therefore it is indispensable in constructing a theory of the literature of environment and oil exploration in Nigeria's Niger Delta.

SESSION XII: FILM SCREENING, POETRY READING, AND DISCUSSION

Organized by Courtney Singleton and Akin Ogundiran

Hasaki Ya Suda

"It is 2100. In the world engulfed in chaos and war whose residents are consumed by terrible hunger, the last fertile land became the subject of fierce battles. Three warriors: noble Wurubenba, Shandaru, who wants to avenge his father's death, and Kapkaru craving for power, will face one another in a fight for life and death." Discussion will follow after the screening.

Poetry Reading from Tanure Ojaide's "Environment Series"

SESSION XIII: ROUNDTABLE

Carolinian Cosmopolitanism: Teaching about Race Relations in Other Countries at UNC Charlotte

Organized by Oscar de la Torre

In this roundtable, a group of junior and senior UNC Charlotte professors from different disciplines will interrogate the challenges and opportunities of teaching about other models of race relations in our university. How does being in a Southern city and in a Southern state shape the perspectives of our students? How do they compare race relations in the U.S. to those in other countries? How do they perceive the situation of their country in the African Diaspora? How do they receive knowledge about racism and race relations in the Caribbean, in Latin America, in Europe, in Asia, or in Africa? What are the most familiar and the most unknown aspects of those models of race relations for our students?

SESSION XI: PANEL

The Ordeal of Globalization and the Quest for Social Justice in the Poetry of Tanure Ojaide

Lami Adama

Reinventing Female Identity through Eco-Womanism in Tanure Ojaide's The Activist, The Tale Of The Harmattan and Songs of Myself

This presentation focuses on Tanure Ojaide's fiction *The Activist* (2005), and poetry collections, *The Tale of the Harmattan* (2007) and *The Songs of Myself QUARTET* (2015) in order to argue that his work on the indigenous people (especially women) of Nigeria's Niger Delta offers an important means to revise our understanding of postcolonial theory. Further, his work moves beyond the outdated notion of colonialist nations to colonialist power as seated in multinational corporations that transcend national origin. My approach incorporates images from the environmental, political, and socio-cultural setting to analyze how Ojaide's work shows the connection between environmental issues and governmental cooperation with global corporations. Ojaide seems to argue for a revolution by the Delta people to achieve a vision of environmental justice. The study concludes that the neocolonial exploitation and adventure in not only the Niger Delta but also across the continent have dangerously exposed the women to the perils of lung diseases, infertility, and spiritual alienation.

Adetayo Alabi

Tanure Ojaide and The Udje Quartet: Song, Satire, Social Justice, and Globalization

Tanure Ojaide is one of the most notable African writers of this generation. He has worked successfully on fiction, non-fiction, and poetry and won several awards, including the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM) for the Humanities in 2016, the Fonlon-Nichols Award in 2016, the Association of Nigerian Authors' Cadbury Poetry Award in 2011, and the All-Africa Okigbo Prize for Poetry in 1997. This paper will focus on the significance of Udje, the Urhobo satirical song tradition, on Ojaide's poetry. The paper will argue that the foundation of Ojaide's heavy reliance on orality stems from the Udje heritage and this provided him the background to be a most successful satirist for social justice during this age of globalization. The paper will concentrate on Ojaide's books titled *Poetry, Performance, and Art: Udje Dance Songs of the Urhobo People* and *Songs of Myself: Quartet*.

Dr. Onookome Okome

Tanure Ojaide and the Literature of the Niger Delta

Over the last sixty year, a distinct body of literature has emerged from the region in Nigeria that is now commonly referred to as the Niger Delta. I argue in this presentation that the development of the literary corpus began with the works of one of the famous triumvirate of modern Nigerian literature in the English language, JP Clark, also known as Bekederemo Clark. I put forward the point that if Clark began this stream of Nigerian writing, it was Tanure Ojaide and Ken Saro-Wiwa who gave the scholarly and literary world the aesthetic distinctiveness of this literary form and that the corpus of this literary

agenda, and the challenges they experience in their professional careers as they navigate academia. They will also offer lessons-learned and strategies they have used to overcome these challenges.

SESSION VIII: ROUNDTABLE

How students' understanding of being Black in America evolved through a study abroad to Malawi: A video-supported panel presentation

Organized by Diana Rowan

For six years, UNC Charlotte students have studied abroad in Malawi in southeastern Africa as part of a social work service-learning course. The 11-day spring break course is focused on building real-world collaborative relationships with indigenous social workers, and advancing cultural humility and anti-oppressive helping practices. About one third of the 70+ students who have participated in the course identify as African American or Black. This panel presentation will allow former students who have studied abroad in Malawi an opportunity to discuss how the experiences of working with Malawian social workers in a collaborative, anti-oppressive manner advanced their own conceptualization of being Black in America. The former students will support their perspectives using video clips filmed in Malawi and will discuss how the immersion experience has led to evolving over time.

SESSION IX: PANEL

New Directions in African Diaspora Studies Research: Race, Religion, and Resistance in the Caribbean

Organized by Crystal Nicole Eddins and Danielle N. Boaz

The participants on this panel will discuss recent research conducted by North Carolina-based scholars whose work is at the forefront of African Diaspora Studies. Spanning three centuries, these papers collectively analyze the ways in which African and African descended people navigated racist societies through developing new ideological frameworks, organizing individual and collective actions of resistance, or utilizing spiritual tools to mediate the social world. More specifically, we focus on such topics as the complexities of maroonage in 18th century Saint Domingue and Jamaica, and the struggles of Rastafari children in schools in Southern Africa. We also grapple with the influences, or lack thereof, of African identities and cultural practices in these various efforts. These papers have important implications for how we understand the role of African and African descended people in problematizing and broadening notions of freedom, religion, and racial identity.

SESSION X: PANEL
Black Critics

Lisa Homann, *Banned! Sort of: Portrait Masks in Southwestern Burkina Faso*

This paper examines artist André Sanou's individual agency in the invention and popularity of "portrait masks" in and around Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Rather than imaging abstract qualities of unseen natural forces, as masks in this region have, Sanou created the first portrait mask in a stylized, but highly naturalistic manner. It clearly imaged a specific human being, redefining the mask as a portrait of the deceased whom it honored. Sanou's act gave rise to a wildly popular but deeply controversial mask genre in the region. So contentious is it that two districts of the city have officially banned the genre...sort of. I argue the features that make André Sanou's portrait mask genre so popular—celebrating specific individuals visually identifiable by their physiognomic likeness—are the same ones that make the genre controversial. The controversy illustrates the messy business of reconciling creative differences with societal values that individual artists, patrons, organizers, performers, and audience members who serve as gatekeepers of cultural institutions maintain and at times negotiate. As the portrait mask genre demonstrates, masquerade is not necessarily a stable feature of 'culture' ostensibly agreed upon long ago. Individuals can unsettle or disrupt accepted mask practice, even while broadening its scope and invigorating audiences.

Honoré Missihoun, "*Changó, the Bad Ass by Manuel Zapata Olivella*" and "*The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave Related by Herself*": *Négritude and Black Atlantic Epic, Resistance, and Dissidence*

My interest in this work rests on Manuel Zapata Olivella and Mary Prince's creative abilities to devote *Changó, the Bad Ass* (*Changó*), and *the History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave Related by Herself* (*the History of Mary Prince*) to changing conventions. The authors value *négritude*, purge it of the Manichaeism it adopted from the dialectic of European ideologies of hierarchy of thoughts, and establish a more nuanced and complex set of relationships in it. Set in this ideological framework, the two novels are a model of *négritude* discourse which harmoniously blends *indigénisme* and *negrismo* in a historiographic metafictional intertextuality where orality, writing, history, politics, and anthropology come together in defiance of linear writing. As such, *Changó* and *the history of Mary Prince* are a discourse with social visions which do not overlook the dynamism of black political ideologies but take into consideration the recombinant qualities of black Atlantic's affirmative sociopolitical cultures. The novels use an epic framework, but they do this differently, modifying the traditional form significantly. They are a revision of epic which shifts the emphasis from birth, destiny, and oracles to a call to an historical future. In this work, I will examine how *Changó* and *the History of Mary Prince* qualify epic form, how the shape of heroism and social change are related to narrative form. I will expand my work and show that the two novels' social visions connect with other black narratives in the revision of epic writing.

Elisabeth Paquette

Dynamism and Emancipation in the Writings of Aimé Césaire

Debate about the *Négritude* movement in present-day scholarship is ongoing. In this paper, I introduce some major figures and contentions surrounding this debate, paying attention to the role of essentialist and anti-essentialist forms of argumentation. The argument that *Négritude* is essentializing presupposes that the conception of race that operates within this movement is totalizing, i.e. that one's way of being in the world (politics or culture, for instance) is wholly determined by their race. An extension of this essentialist argument is the claim that *Négritude* is merely a reactive response to a dominant oppressive structure, and therefore it cannot be useful for theories of emancipation. At the same time, however, there are various *Négritude* scholars who claim that some articulations of *Négritude*, for example that of Aimé Césaire, exemplify conceptions of pluralism, dynamism, and universality that are unambiguously anti-essentialist. I seek to extend this latter claim, which is most often situated in Césaire's poetry and decolonial theory, to his interviews and personal correspondences. Specifically, in 1956, in his *Letter to Maurice Thorez*, Césaire describes the failure of the Communist Party to address the role of race for political movements. I demonstrate that this letter is an explicit articulation of an anti-essentialist argument that conceivably has repercussions for Césaire's articulation of *Négritude* as well. As such, I argue that Césaire's discussion of Communism and his critique of the Communist Party demonstrates that his conception of *Négritude* is not essentialist and that it can offer tools for emancipatory theories in the present-day.

Courtney Singleton, *An Exploration of Trauma in Film: A Comparative Analysis of the Disabled War Veteran in Koji Wakamatsu's Caterpillar and Zézé Gamboa's O Herói*

This paper is a comparative analysis of two films: *Caterpillar*, directed by Koji Wakamatsu, and *O Herói*, directed by Zeze Gamboa. In response to Paul Willemen's call to develop a comparative film theory, my work will propose an alternative basis of comparison between two non-Western works and will show that connections can be located between two contexts that are not conventionally paired – Japan and Angola. Through a critical application of trauma theory, particularly from non-Western sources such as Frantz Fanon, I will focus on the main figure of the disabled war veteran who serves as a sort of living memorial to the lingering traumas of war in a post-conflict context. Both historical events, World War II and the Angolan Civil War, though removed from one another, have similar impacts within their contexts on the nation and, as the films reveal, on the individual and family. The social, political, and economic upheavals of the two conflicts impact both narratives, and the figure, metaphorically and physically speaking, of the disabled veteran strikingly embodies all of those aspects. In applying theory from the Angolan context to the Japanese and vice versa, this study reveals the validity of the comparative film approach and the need for further innovative and atypical case studies.