MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of the Africana Studies Program for the academic year 2016-17. An increasing number of students are selecting our program as a major, second major, or minor, and the graduate certificate is attracting students from areas such as French, Geography, Art, and English. In addition to the lecturers and our staff, we have tenure-track joint faculty in Anthropology, English, and French and affiliate faculty in various departments and programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Communication and Information Science. Their combined efforts help us to sustain a strong interdisciplinary focus that highlights the broad expanse of Africana Studies. Study abroad and community engagement and outreach remain important and attractive features of our program; we offer opportunities to study in Africa, learn an African language, and undertake service learning projects that provide strong experiential learning activities in support of the University’s Quality Enhancement plan.

The convivial and collaborative work of colleagues within the program and affiliate programs has strengthened our offerings and heightened our visibility across campus and beyond, and we welcome your support of our efforts to provide an excellent academic experience for our students.

Carolyn R. Hedges, PhD
Dr. Carolyn Hodges, Chair of Africana Studies and Professor of German—Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures received the 2017 Hardy Liston Jr. Symbol of Hope Award. This award is given to a faculty member, staff member or friend of the university. Her commitment to the university in the areas of diversity demonstrates that she is a trailblazer in recognizing and appreciating the differences in people and all cultures.

Learn more about her and the award by visiting: http://honorsbanquet.utk.edu/2017-hardy-liston-jr-symbol-of-hope-award/

Dr. Louis, Vice Chair Africana Studies was promoted to Associate Professor in 2017. During the 2016-17 academic year, Dr. Louis published two articles (one in Transforming Anthropology: the Journal of the Association of Black Anthropologists and The International Journal of Africana Studies (the journal of the National Council of Black Studies), served on seven panels, gave three book talks based on his book My Soul Is in Haiti (the University of Florida, Washington University in Saint Louis [by Skype], and the University of North Carolina, Charlotte), conducted an interview with the Islam Channel titled “Is Colin Kaepernick’s Protest for Black Lives Matter Valid?” and organized a well-attended talk by Dr. Stacey Patton titled “How Killing Black Children is an American Tradition.”

Dr. Chandra Dunn, Lecturer, Africana Studies was promoted to Senior Lecturer. She has been recognized once again by OIT, which features her use of interactive maps. She began this project in year 2011 as a result of her OIT Faculty First grant. It is great to see that OIT has returned to make note of her ongoing success with this particular useful instructional technology. If you missed the article please visit the following link: http://mailchi.mp/utk/oit-news-get-ready-for-summer-2763505?e=91d7419df3
This past June and July, Dr. Hales was an NEH Summer Institute Scholar, as part of the NEH Institute for College and University Teachers. His program was entitled, “Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative.” The program ran for three-weeks and was held at Jackson State University. His inclusion in the NEH program allowed him to undertake a series of interviews with African American leaders in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Further information can be found here: http://www.jsums.edu/hamerinstitute/

Below: Dr. Amadou Sall and student Dominique McCord-Cotton

Thank you notes are just a reminder that students here at UTK appreciate Africana Studies and it does not go unrecognized. Whether in a card or as Dominique McCord-Cotton delivered her graduation speech during the...
Africana Studies Spring 2017 Symposium

Lecture:
“Truly”: Artist Presentation by: Althea Murphy-Price, PhD
Associate Professor
School of Art

Summary
In this presentation Althea Murphy-Price shared insights into her studio practice and artistic work. Inspired by her interest in gender, race, and identity, Murphy-Price often uses hair as both the material and content of her art work which addresses ideas of beauty and cultural perception. Her presentation provided a chronological account of her art work, exploring these themes through printmaking, sculpture, and installation.

Lecture:
“Talking Place, Speaking Race: African Americans and Their English in Contested Place Identity.”

Presentation by: Jessica Grieser, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of English

Summary
In the urban U.S., place identity is enmeshed with identities of class and identities of race: to be from a place is to embody its racial makeup and class delineations just as much as its physical locale. Grieser's work looked at African Americans in a rapidly-gentrifying neighborhood to show that the ways in which speakers use features of African American English speech style are highly salient in their construction of identities of place and class.
**Bookshelf at a glance**

**Michelle Commander**

Dr. Michelle Commander’s book *Afro-Atlantic Flight: Speculative Returns and the Black Fantastic*, was published by Duke University Press in March 2017. In *Afro-Atlantic Flight*, Commander analyzes what compels Black American cultural producers, travelers, and historical preservationists to journey toward imagined Africas in Ghana, Brazil, and the U.S. South in the post-1965 moment. This book offers significant reflections on Black American flight concerning the location of Africa, the possibilities for the descendants of enslaved people to return “home”, and the significance of refiguring and democratizing U.S. master narratives about slavery. It argues for the taking up of a speculative mindset – the asking of the question “what if” and literally pursuing what may seem to be impossible – not only as a liberating mode through which an individual can truly live otherwise, but also as a radical tool of analysis to properly address the contemporary resonances of slavery that exist across the Afro-Atlantic.

**Katy Chiles**

Katy L. Chiles’s book, *Transformable Race* raises many questions. While historians have documented aspects of eighteenth-century racial thought, *Transformable Race* is the first scholarly book that identifies how this thinking informs the figurative language in the literature of this crucial period. It argues that the notion of transformable race structured how early American texts portrayed the formation of racial identities. Examining figures such as Phillis Wheatley, Benjamin Franklin, Samson Occom, and Charles Brockden Brown, *Transformable Race* demonstrates how these authors used language emphasizing or questioning the potential malleability of physical features to explore the construction of racial categories.

**Rosalind Hackett**

*New Media and Religious Transformations in Africa*, Edited by Rosalind I. J. Hackett and Benjamin F. Soares

Foreword by Francis B. Nyamnjoh

*New Media and Religious Transformations in Africa* casts a critical look at Africa's rapidly evolving religious media scene. Following political liberalization, media deregulation, and the proliferation of new media technologies, many African religious leaders and activists have appropriated such media to strengthen and expand their communities and gain public recognition. Media have also been used to marginalize and restrict the activities of other groups, which has sometimes led to tension, conflict, and even violence. Showing how media are rarely neutral vehicles of expression, the contributors to this multidisciplinary volume analyze the mutual imbrications of media and religion during times of rapid technological and social change in various places throughout Africa.
During Black History Month, Africana Studies Program welcomed visiting scholar Stacey Patton on February 28 through March 1, 2017. She engaged the students, faculty, staff and the local community in noteworthy topics that were indeed controversial yet important factors of American history. Although there were those that didn’t agree on all of the principles for which Dr. Patton stands there was a consensus among many that child abuse must end, no matter where the beginning. Her book, “Spare the Kids,” made the bestsellers list since its release in March 2017.
Above: Dr. Sall’s annual study abroad trips have assisted globally in South Africa, Ghana, and, this past summer in Senegal.
Africana Studies awarded two recipients the AFST 2017 Study Abroad Scholarship to Senegal. Congratulations!

Pictured right: Monica Brashears-English, sophomore and below: Dominique Bryson-Africana Studies, sophomore

Below: We are so pleased to announce our new student organization.

### Africana Studies Student Association (ASSA)

To promote, inform, unite, uplift, respect, motivate, and encourage communication between the ASSA and Africana Studies Faculty. Also to promote ethical leadership, academic achievement, and to cultivate responsibility and to provide the students opportunities for association and interaction with the administration of UTK and the members of the community. To learn various African languages and promote study abroad to countries in Africa in order to explore different cultures. To participate in community service and encourage students of all majors and minors to join.

The purpose of this organization is to serve as a platform for current students interested in Africana Studies, regardless of major, to network among one another, meet other Africana scholars as well as participate in opportunities to enhance our research and study within this field. This group connects students interested in Africana Studies and ensures all members are getting the resources and opportunities that can move us forward in terms of learning, research and intellectual development.

President: Monica Brashears, Junior majoring in English and Africana Studies
Vice President: Dominique Bryson, junior majoring in Africana Studies
Community Service Coordinator: Maggie Petty, sophomore majoring in Premed.
Become an Africana Studies Major or Minor

Africana Studies Major or Minor Contact Information

Full Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

UT ID: ___________________________

I Wish to be enrolled as:

Africana Studies Major: _____ Yes
OR
Africana Studies Minor: _____ Yes

(Other) Major: ___________________________

Expected Graduation Date: ___________________________

Email Address: ___________________________

Telephone: Cell Phone: ___________________________ Alternate

Signature ___________________________

Please return this form to the program at 1206 McClung Tower

Learn more about the Africana Studies Graduate Certificate at
http://catalog.utk.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=21&poid=9146
What Can I Do With a Major or Minor in... AFRICANA STUDIES?

What is Africana Studies?

An Interdisciplinary Program that helps students develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills while gaining knowledge about the lives and conditions of people from African descent in Africa, the United States, Latin America, and other communities.

What’s great about an Africana Studies Major or Minor?

- Deeper understanding of the African experience, culture, and history
- Learn about the consequences of social inequalities in the form of race/ethnicity, class, and gender
- Understand the issues of globalization and the fast changing world of science and technology
- Gain awareness of disparities in health and education and environmental problems
- View the positive impacts of social and national/civil rights movements
- Understand the importance of education, democracy, human rights, self-determination, multiculturalism, and sustainable development

Option 1: Careers Related to Africana Studies

Business Careers, Advocacy, Communications/Media, Human Services, Education, Law & Politics

Option 2: Graduate School

- Choose Africana studies based on a desire to pursue graduate education in a variety of disciplines (e.g. Business (MBA or Ph.D.), Law (J.D.), Education (M.Ed., Ed.D. or Ph.D.)

Option 3: Just Because...

- Choose Africana Studies because of interest, realizing the diversity of careers requiring “any major”
- Acquire transferable skills
- Gain relevant experience in area of interest

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Executive Committee

Dr. Carolyn R. Hodges chodges@utk.edu (Chair-Africana Studies, German)
Dr. Bertin Louis blouis2@utk.edu (Vice Chair-Africana Studies, Anthropology)
Dr. Dawn Duke dduke1@utk.edu (Vice Chair-Africana Studies, Spanish and Portuguese)

Core Faculty

Dr. Michelle Commander mcommand@utk.edu (Africana Studies, English)
Dr. Chandra Dunn cdunn11@utk.edu (Africana Studies)
Dr. Kevin Hales khales@utk.edu (Africana Studies)
Dr. Darrell Kefentse cdunn11@utk.edu (Africana Studies)
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Dr. Awa Sarr asarr@utk.edu (Africana Studies, French)

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Dr. Marianne Wanamaker wanamaker@utk.edu (Economics)
Dr. Courtney Wright cwright@utk.edu (Communication Studies)
Support Africana Studies

We thank you in advance for your generous support of the Africana Studies program. Your donations help fund lectures, research opportunities, and study abroad programs for majors, minors, and students from the UT community interested in the peoples and cultures of the African Diaspora, both in the United States and around the world.

To donate to the Africana Studies program, visit the University of Tennessee’s giving page at: https://web.dii.utk.edu/Alumni/. Select the Knoxville campus, College of Arts and Sciences, and then, Africana Studies Enrichment Fund to complete the remainder of the form online.

If you prefer, you may contact the following office by regular mail or by phone to make a donation to the Africana Studies Enrichment Fund:

Office of Development
College of Arts & Sciences
2524 Dunford Hall
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, 37996-4000
Phone: 865-974-2365