

DIASPORA CALLING

Fall 2018/Spring 2019

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Dear Friends of AAAS:

I want to thank you for your support of AAAS and its goals and initiatives.

2019 marks 25 years since our founding, and we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has served the unit and all the former Directors. The success of AAAS is cumulative; we build upon all of the accomplishments of former faculty and Directors, and the progress is substantial.

I won't innumerate all the benchmarks; I simply want to acknowledge how grateful I am to be able to serve as Director of such a great tradition and for all of you who nominated me and then voted for my second term, which will begin Fall 2019.

This semester we welcomed Ms. Ebony McDonald, as Diversity Library Resident, who is assigned to AAAS. Ebony will be working with our students. She will also be collecting data on publications of AAAS faculty over to demonstrate our stellar record of publishing that will serve our requests for resource support and highlight our high-level of scholarly output. In the fall, we will welcome Professor Nikita Carney, who will be jointly appointed in the Department of Sociology. Nikita's research shares points of contact with several other AAAS faculty members.

As this year nears the end of the regular academic terms, we look forward, with great anticipation, to next year and to bringing to fruition initiatives that we announced in our 5-year Profile Plan. We continue to have record numbers of majors and minors, and interest in our new AAAS Graduate Minor is exciting and steady.

Finally, our AAAS 25@25 campaign is gaining traction, and we invite friends and supporters to our website where they can make contributions to any of our worthy campaign objectives.

Cheers,

Professor Stephen C. Finley



**AFRICAN AND AFRICAN
AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM**
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DIRECTOR

Stephen C. Finley
Associate Professor, Religious Studies
and African & African American Studies

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Lori L. Martin
*Professor, African & African American
Studies Program*
*Associate Professor and Director of
Graduate Studies Department of
Sociology*

CORE FACULTY

Dari Green
Instructor, African and African American
Studies

Jas M. Sullivan
Professor, Political Science and African
& African American Studies

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Thomas Durant Jr.

AFFILIATE FACULTY

Sarah Becker, Sociology
Michael Bibler, English
Marvin Broome, English
Cassandra Chaney, School of Social Work
Melissa Crawford, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Annie Daniel, Veterinary Medicine
Angeletta Gourdine, English
Linda Smith Griffin, Associate Librarian
Fahima Ife, English Education
Joyce Jackson, Geography & Anthropology
Herman Kelly, AAAS
Isiah Lavender, English
Ashley Mack, Rhetoric & Culture
Bryan McCann, Rhetoric & Cultural Studies
Roland Mitchell, Education
Solimar Otero, English
T. Wayne Parent, Political Science
Petra Robinson, Leadership & Human Resource
Development
Raquel Robvais, Communication Studies
Dereck Rovaris, Vice Provost for Diversity and
Chief Diversity Officer
Mark Schafer, Sociology
Elena Fitzpatrick Sifford, Art History
Christopher Tyson, LSU Law
Kenneth Fasching-Varner, Education

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. CASSANDRA CHENEY

Cassandra Chaney is a Black families' scholar with broad interests in the formation, structure, and function of Black families. In particular, her research examines the narratives of single, dating, cohabiting, and married Blacks, as well as how religion and spirituality support these families, both historically and today. Using a variety of theoretical lenses, she qualitatively explores intimacy and commitment in Black heterosexual relationships, emphasizing how demonstrations and perceptions of masculinity/manhood and femininity/womanhood shape this discourse

In addition, her research also pinpoints factors that contribute to enduring Black marriages. Chaney also critiques the portrayal of Black families in various forms of mass media (e.g., television, screen, song lyrics). Given the unique challenges of Black families, her research provides recommendations regarding how policy can better meet the needs of Black families who experience heightened rates of incarceration, unemployment, weakened family structures, and racism.

Most important, her scholarship is rooted in a strengths-based perspective and is devoted to emphasizing the various ways that Black families remain resilient in the face of these challenges. Her work has been published in *Ethnicities*, *Family Relations*, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, *International Journal of Religion and Society*, *Marriage & Family Review*, *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, *Journal of Family Issues*, the *Journal of African American Studies*, *Forum for Family and Consumer Issues*, *Negro Educational Review*, the *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought, Religion & Society*, *Religion, Mental Health, & Society*, and *The Western Journal of Black Studies*.



Photo of Dr. Cassandra Chaney

Dr. Chaney's recent publications include:

Chaney, C. (2018). "You Can Never Kill Me": Racism and resilience in Hip Hop', *Journal of Popular Music Education*, 2(1&2), pp. 81-100, doi: 10.1386/jpme.2.1-2.81_1

Chaney, C. (2018). "Is There a heaven for a gangsta?" Hip-Hop, spirituality, and heaven. *Journal of Hip-Hop Studies*, 5(1), 35-61.

Chirilă, O., & **Chaney, C.** (2018). Hip Hop, Religion and the Youth of Romania: A Preliminary Study. *Journal of Hip-Hop Studies*, 5(1), 82-100.

Chaney, C., & Barthelemy, J. (2018). Child sexual abuse and institutional shame in Black churches. *International Journal of Pediatrics and Child Health*, 6, 7-22.

Chaney, C. (2018). Is "Precious" An Accurate Representation of Most Young, Black, Urban Teen Mothers? *Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*, 11(7), 142-168.

NEW FACULTY: NIKITA CARTER



Nikita Carney from University of California, Santa Barbara will be joining the faculty at LSU this Fall 2019. Nikita will be jointly appointment in African & African American Studies Program and the Department of Sociology. Nikita Carney is a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she is completing a Ph.D. in Sociology with a designated emphasis in Black Studies. She previously earned an M.A. in Gender/Cultural Studies from Simmons College. Though her academic interests span a range of topics, her current projects focus on the intersection of gender, migration, race, and ethnographic research methods. She is presently working on her dissertation research, a multi-sited ethnography of Haitian women in diaspora. Recent publications include “Ethnographies of Race, Crime, and Justice” (2017) in the *Annual Review of Sociology*, “Multi-sited Ethnography: Opportunities for the Study of Race” (2017) in *Sociology Compass – Race & Ethnicity*, and “All Lives Matter, but So Does Race: Black lives matter and the evolving role of social media” (2016) in *Humanity & Society*. She is an active member of the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Haitian Studies Association.

(Source: https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/news/2018/nikita_carney_hired_fall2019.php)



AAAS is preparing to celebrate the program's silver anniversary in 2019. As part of our efforts to commemorate the program's humble beginnings, AAAS seeks to raise \$100,000. The funds will support scholarships for students, beautification of the AAAS office suite, and operating costs. Named scholarships include, Durant Scholars and the Troy Allen Service Award. In keeping with the theme of the campaign, prospective donors are asked to consider giving \$25, or \$250, or \$2,500, or \$25,000, etc. Donations at any level are greatly appreciated. Please send checks to AAAS, 135 Howe-Russell Complex, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803. Make checks payable to AAAS. You may also visit our website (www.lsu.edu/aaas) to make a donation online.

AAAS DIRECTORS

2017-
Stephen C. Finley

2017-2018

Lori Latrice Martin, Acting
Director

2010-2016

Joyce Marie Jackson

2004-2010

Angeletta Gourdine

2001-2004

Leonard Moore

1994-2001

Thomas Durant, Jr.

DID YOU KNOW?

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Paul M. Hebert Law Center have partnered together to launch a new 3+3 program, allowing students to receive a bachelor's and law degree in six years' time. As a student in AAAS you can take full advantage of this opportunity!



HOW TO MAJOR IN AAAS

A concentration in AAAS requires a total of 33 credit hours including:

- A required core of nine (9) hours: AAAS 2000; AAAS 3024 or 3044 (CxC); & AAAS 4020.
- In addition to 9 hours of required courses, students must complete 24 hours from at least two divisions.
- A minimum of 6 hours must focus on a geographical area outside of the U.S.
- 3 hours in a Service Learning or Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) course
- Only 12 hours from courses numbered below 3000-level may count towards degree.

Sign up today to get started!



DID YOU KNOW?

AAAS offers a graduate minor. Students must complete 12 semester hours of course work including 6 hours at the 7000-level and 6 hours in AAAS-approved courses at the 4000-level or above. No more than 2 courses may be taken within the same department or with the same professor and no more than 1 course may be taking within the student's home department.

Spring 2019 Course Offerings

<i>Course #</i>	<i>Day/Time Offered</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Title</i>
AAAS 2000.1	Online Course	Jas Sullivan	Intro to AAAS
AAAS 2000.2	T/TH 7:30-8:50am	Eldon Birthwright	Intro to AAAS
AAAS 2025	T/TH 12:00-1:20 pm	Herman Kelly	African American Religion
AAAS 2050	T/TH 10:30-11:50am	Gabril Cole	Contemporary Africa
AAAS 2410	Online Course	Dari Green	Black Pop Culture
AAAS 2511.3 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511	T/TH 12:00-1:20 pm	Dari Green	Race Relations
AAAS 2511.1 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511	T/TH 3:00-4:20 pm	Jahaan Chandler	Race Relations
AAAS 2511.2 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511	Online Course	Dari Green	Race Relations
AAAS 3024	TH 3:00-5:50 pm	Fahima Ife-Weusi	African Diaspora Intellectual Thought
AAAS 3044	T/TH 7:30-8:50am	Herman Kelly	The Black Rhetorical Traditions
AAS 3425	3:00-4:20 pm	Dari Green	Black Women in America
AAAS 4323 cross listed with ENGL 4323	9:00-10:20 am	Eldon Birthwright	Caribbean Films
AAAS 4400 cross listed with REL 4400	1:30-2:50 pm	Stephen C. Finley	Martin and Malcolm X
AAAS 4800 cross listed w/KIN 4800	T/TH 12:00-1:20pm	Lori Latrice Martin	African Americans in Sports

Summer 2019 Course Offerings

<i>Course #</i>	<i>Day/Time Offered</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Title</i>
AAAS 2000.1	Online Course	Lori Latrice Martin	Intro to AAAS
AAAS 2511/SOC 2511	Online Course	Lori Latrice Martin	Race Relations

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

<i>Course #</i>	<i>Day/Time Offered</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Title</i>
AAAS 2000.1	T/TH	Herman Kelly	Intro to AAAS
AAAS 2000.2	Online Course	Dari Green	Intro to AAAS
AAAS 2000.3	Online Course	Eldon Birthwright	Intro to AAAS
AAAS 2410	Online Course	Dari Green	Black Pop Culture
AAAS 2511.1 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511	Online Course	Dari Green	Race Relations
AAAS 2511.2 cross listed w/ SOCL 2511	Online Course	Dari Green	Race Relations
AAAS 3024	MW 3:00-4:20 pm	TBA	African Diaspora Intellectual Thought
AAAS 3044	T/TH 7:30-8:50am	Raquel Robvais	The Black Rhetorical Traditions
AAAS 3120	MWF 2:30-3:20	Gibril Cole	Topics in History of Africa & the African Diaspora
AAAS 3901	3:00-4:20 pm	TBA	Directed Readings and Research in African and African American Studies
AAAS 4450	9:00-10:20 am	Joyce M. Jackson	African American Folklore

AAAS 4020	T 430-720pm	Jas Sullivan	Stereotypes
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NEWS AND NOTES

- Check out Dr. Dari Green's new book, *Lower Coast of Algiers (Images of America)*.
- Congratulations to Linda Smith Griffin upon receiving a Jazz Award from the Clarence Barney African American Cultural Center.
- Congratulations to Dr. Lori Martin on the publication of two new books, *Black Community Uplift and the Myth of the American Dream* and *Black Women as Leaders: Transforming and Challenging Society*.
- Good wishes to Dr. Wayne Parent on his retirement from LSU.
- Kudos to Dr. Jas Sullivan for the publication of his edited volume *Dimensions of Blackness*.
- Compliments to Dr. Stephen C. Finley on becoming Executive Director of the Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR).
- Best wishes to AAAS major, Taylor Scott. She was elected Student Government Vice President.
- Check out the article on Dr. Lori Martin's new book *Black Community Uplift and the Myth of the American Dream* in LSU's *The Reveille*.
- Congrats to Dr. Michael Bibler on receiving the 2019 Africana Service Award.
- Congrats to Dr. Eldon Birthwright on receiving the 2019 Africana Teaching Award.
- Congrats to AAAS Major Brooklen Farley. She won the Most Outstanding Executive Staff Member from LSU Student Government, 2018-2019.
- Congrats to AAAS Major Monturios Howard on receiving the Lasting Legacy Award from the LSU Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- Congrats to AAAS Major Jeremiah-Anthony Rogers on receiving the Freedom Fighter Award from the LSU Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- Dr. Joyce Jackson was recognized by HSS for 30 years of service.
- Congratulations to Jas Sullivan for receiving a teaching award from the Tiger Athletic Foundation.

Congratulations AAAS Graduates



Pictured (Left to Right): Nayyir Ransome, Dr. Stephen C. Finley, Sierra Phelps, Jeremiah Anthony Rogers