AFRICANA DRUM
The Official Newsletter of the Africana Studies Program

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We’re on the web
https://aas212.lehigh.edu/

Spring 2018 || Lehigh University | College of Arts and Sciences

Congratulations to 2018 Graduating Seniors

1) Centrella, Madeline
2) Davis, Miles
3) Mann, Quinci
4) Omona, Ashley
5) Royal, Junwan
6) Scott, Ronasia
7) Wright, Alexis
8) Buss, Tanner

Opportunities & Events

Study Abroad and Funding Opportunity

STUDY ABROAD INFO SESSIONS
- Health & Globalization in Ghana
- Student Projects
- Miles Davis “From Lehigh to Ghana: A Shea Butter Connection”

Upcoming Events:
- AAS/NEH: The Truth That I Owe You: Dr. David E. Kirkland Friday, March 2, 2018 4:10 PM Williams Hall, Room 070
- ENGL/AAS/NEH: 4th Annual Literature and Social Justice Graduate Conference Friday, March 9, 2018: 8:30am to 5:30pm Rauch Business Center
- AAS/NEH: Bethlehem High School Students: Colson Whitehead “The Underground Railroad” Meet the Author Tuesday, March 6, 2018 7:30pm Zeller Arts Center
- AAS/NEH: Martin Luther King Address: Colson Whitehead Tuesday, March 6, 2018 7:30pm Zeller Arts Center, Baker Hall
- CAS: Join the Dialogue: Queen in Africa: Challenges and Pathways to Inclusion Wednesday, March 21, 2018 8:30am Roememele Williams Hall
- http://digitalizingafrica.co.uk/
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=^07ZQzS4W7d&v=as

Students Projects

Where Our Africana Minors Come From:
The Africana Studies Program has so far attracted students from over 24 departments and program units. Africana studies has appealed to students from all of Lehigh colleges: Arts & Science, Engineering & Applied Science, Education, Business & Economics. Africana Studies students have been successful in careers in Nonprofit, Academics, Research, Human Services, Social Justice & Advocacy, Public Policy, Business, Consulting, Marketing & Sales, Government, Law, Politics, International Affairs, Entertainment and more.

To learn more about the Africana Studies Program, contact Professors Kwame Essien (kwe212@lehigh.edu) or Immari El-Burki (Associate Director) ime212@lehigh.edu.

Welcome Note
Celebrating Bill Scott
Professor in Residence
Fall 2018 Classes
Faculty News
Graduating Seniors
Student Projects

From the Desk of the Africana Studies Interim Director

Greetings to all members of the Lehigh University community, especially Africana Studies Program’s students and faculty. About a year ago, I was selected by my colleagues to serve as the Interim Director of Africana Studies effective from January 1, 2018. I am standing on the shoulders of great men and women, including Wayne Moore, Warren Scott, and W. E. Burki whose lineage could very well have come from at least the shores of Ghana. I was welcomed with open arms by the people, who emphasized that Africa was my home and that I am their sister... The anxieties that I hold on a day to day basis in the United States surrounding my skin color, hair texture, speech and culture were nonexistent for the first time in my life. I learned so much about history in regards to the transatlantic slave trade and Ghana’s economy that I would never have learned in the United States.

Since 2014, over 60 Lehigh students have participated in Africana Studies’ study abroad, internships, and independent research projects to Cuba, Ghana, and Senegal, respectively. Our objective is to reach over 100 students by 2020. It is our hope that every African Studies major and minor will travel abroad at least once, before graduation. We could not have been able to fund our study abroad programs, without the generous gift from Ronald J. Ulrich ’67.

Professors Kwame Essien, Nataley Duncan, Susan Karter and Sirry Abla led these programs.

This Volume of "Africana Drum" is Dedicated to Dr. William R. Scott, "Father" of Africana Studies,

Dr. William Scott, professor emeritus of history and the first director of Lehigh’s Africana Studies program, died last year at the age of 77. (September 22, 1940—May 7, 2017). Scott was a great scholar, whose dedication and perseverance kept the program for over a decade before retiring.

See more bluffs celebrating Dr. Scott’s life on page 2.

Two More Ronald J. Ulrich ’67 Grant Recipients

Two Africana Studies Program seniors, Frederick R. Coleman and Sidney O’Neal both recipients of Ronald J. Ulrich summer research grant graduated in fall 2017.

Two Africana Studies students go abroad: Ghana, Senegal and Cuba

The Africana Studies Global Initiatives in Cuba, Ghana, and Senegal since 2014 is shaped by a deep desire to connect faculty research and students learning. As an extension of student learning and research, our broader vision for internationalization is to provide diverse opportunities for students to immerse themselves into foreign cultures through mutual educational and social exchanges with host nations. Africana Studies’ international initiatives and engagements, is critical for enhancing students’ educational worldview, shaping their future careers, and equipping them to become global thinkers for the rapidly changing global societies of the twenty-first century. Africana Studies major, Tamara Jones ’16 says, “As a Black American, whose lineage could very well have come from at least the shores of Ghana, I was welcomed with open arms by the people, who emphasized that Africa was my home and that I am their sister... The anxieties that I hold on a day to day basis in the United States surrounding my skin color, hair texture, speech and culture were nonexistent for the first time in my life. I learned so much about history in regards to the transatlantic slave trade and Ghana’s economy that I would never have learned in the United States.” Since 2014, over 60 Lehigh students have participated in Africana Studies’ study abroad, internships, and independent research projects to Cuba, Ghana and Senegal.

Volume 1, Issue 1
I remember vividly sitting in his office in the Christmas Scaunon Annex, surrounded by hundreds of books about the history of African Americans and the people of the black diaspora. As we were talking, I was immediately impressed by Bill’s dignified manner. When he asked if I wanted to meet him in his office and work with him as he repeatedly championed the cause of black students and faculty, I was then swept away by his intellectual energy, his intense pleasure and passionate investment in African American history and culture. Bill Scott believed that by studying the past, we could understand the injustice of the present and imagine a future in which all would flourish. Bill’s intellectual energy, his intellectual integrity, his faith in the power of ideas, and his unshakeable commitment to the freedom struggle infused every aspect of the Africana Studies program that he founded here at Lehigh.

― Prof. Seth Moglen, English Department

Professor Michael A. Gomez has been selected as the first Visiting Professor in History and Senior Scholar in Residence in the Africana Studies Program for fall 2018. He will teach a one-credit course open to upper-level undergraduates and graduate students in Africana Studies History, While at Lehigh, Professor Gomez will also present a public talk and plan professional development workshops for Africana Studies faculty.

Professor Michael Gomez is currently Silver Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University, having served as the founding director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) from its inception in 2000 to 2017. He is currently the series editor of the Cambridge African Diaspora Program. Professor Gomez has chaired the History Department at both NYU and Spelman College, and also served as President of UNESCO’s International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project from 2009 to 2011.

Professor Gomez is a highly respected and well published intellectual whose research on Africa, its African Diaspora, and Diaspora Africa and African Studies. His selected publications include Pragmatic: The Age of Jhato: The Precolonial State of Bundu (Cambridge University Press, 1992); Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transfor-

Did you know…

The Africana Diaspora is huge and permeates every continent in the world.

― Half of Brazil’s entire population and around 90% in the Caribbean are of African descent; I in every 8 persons living in the United States is of African descent.

New Faculty Joining Africana Studies

Dr. Christopher Driscoll (Religion and Africana Studies) and Dr. Valerie J. Taylor (Psychology and Africana Studies) will be joining the Africana Studies Program from fall 2018. Driscoll is a scholar of postcolonial African and contemporary Chinese culture and historical and contemporary Chinese U.S. and European religious, philosophical, and theological thought and traditions, hip hop culture, and existentialisms/humanisms. Taylor’s studies includes the effects of threatening environments and situational factors on stigmatized individuals’ cognition and academic professional motivation; stereotype threat and its effect on the learning process; the emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal consequences of witnessing stereotype-confirming racial group members.

Faculty Book Publication

ULRICH GRANT

from pg 1 Coleman, a Business Information Systems, Engineering and Africana Studies senior, worked on “Digitizing Africa.” See pg 4 for details. O’Neal, a Bioengineering Senior, worked on global health and biotechnology as apply to different health systems in Ghana in summer 2017.

Falls 2018 Classes

The Africana Studies Program has very exciting and intellectually stimulating courses for fall semester. These courses include:

• AAS/HIS 090 First Year Seminar/Introduction to Africana Studies (T/H/TH 9:20-10:35)
  Prof. Kwame Essien

• AAS/HIS 043 The US Since 1939 (M/W/F 10:10-11:00) Prof. Natanya Duncan

• ART/AAS/GS 124 Arts of the Black World (F 1:30pm-2:20pm) Prof. Susan Kant

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