The Center for African American Studies (CAAS) is charged with advancing the diversification of the educational life and culture at the University of Texas at Arlington through the institutionalization of the African American Studies degree program, the recruitment and retention of African American students, the production and nurturing of African American faculty and staff, and the development and dissemination of research and scholarship in the field.

Another essential component of the center’s charter is the establishment of an active and interactive public mission and community outreach program designed to keep it engaged with the African American communities of Tarrant and Dallas counties.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Center for African American Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington is to cultivate an exceptional transdisciplinary experience through teaching, civic engagement, and community-based research focused on the diverse contextual conditions of African Americans.

Our purpose is to foster the development of student, faculty, and community capacity to create progressive solutions that address social problems.

Vision
CAAS will be an international leader of scholarship on historical and contemporary experiences and conditions of African Americans.

We hope to enlighten, inspire, and cultivate students, faculty, and community members to be an integral part of social justice advocacy and life-enhancing transformations.
CAAS CONNECTIONS

CAAS is located in the Swift Center, Suite 129. Visitor parking is on the corner of UTA Blvd and Summit.

1022 UTA BLVD., SUITE 129
BOX#19024
ARLINGTON, TX 76019

Phone: 817-272-9642
Fax: 817-272-9643
Email: caas@uta.edu

CAAS WEBPAGE:
www.uta.edu/caas

Facebook.com/groups/UTACAAS

Email to Join our listserv at:
CAAS@LISTSERV.UTA.EDU
GIVE A GIFT

Established August 2012, the mission of the Center for African American Studies (CAAS) at the University of Texas at Arlington is to cultivate an exceptional transdisciplinary experience through teaching, civic engagement, and community-based research focused on the diverse contextual conditions of African Americans. Our purpose is to foster the development of student, faculty, and community capacity to create progressive solutions that address social problems.

Endowed funding is being sought to support:

- Lectures, events, and conferences
- Student seminars
- Graduate fellowships
- Undergraduate assistantships
- Faculty and student research

For individual giving, please contact:
Michelle Gilchrist at gilchrist@uta.edu or Myke Holt at mholt@uta.edu

For foundation giving, please contact:
Shawn Farrell, Director of Foundation Relations, at shawnf@uta.edu

For more information about the needs of CAAS, please contact:
Dr. Schnavia Hatcher, CAAS Director, at slatcher@uta.edu

CAAS STAFF

Schnavia Hatcher, PhD, MSW
Director

Carter Bedford, MS
Coordinator of Special Programs

Hadis Miller, BA
Program Assistant

Christopher Dunn (Physics, Junior)
Student Employee

Chaunte White, BA (Pursuing M.Ed)
Graduate Intern

Yvonne White (Criminology & Criminal Justice, Junior)
Student Employee

AFFILIATE FACULTY

Faculty Fellows
Dr. Ifeoma Amah
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

Dr. Roger Bing
Criminology & Criminal Justice

Dr. Eusebius Small
Social Work

Dr. Sonja Watson
Modern Languages

Faculty Associates
Dr. Ben Agger
Sociology & Anthropology

Dr. Krystal Beaumon
Sociology & Anthropology

Dr. Myrtle P. Bell
Management

Dr. Joan Blakey
Social Work

Dr. Elten Briggs
Marketing

Dr. Marvin Dulancy
History

Dr. Cedrick May
English

Dr. Jason Shelton
Sociology & Anthropology
Dear CAAS family,

It is a pleasure and honor to extend greetings to you as the inaugural director of the UT Arlington Center for African American Studies. When I first saw the advertisement for the position, I immediately began to imagine the magnificent things that could be done with an entity like this. Ideas stemmed from:

- my childhood experiences in Selma, Alabama—small, historical city known for its connection to social justice;
- my mother and grandmother who raised me—they instilled in me the ideals that guide me;
- my matriculation at Spelman College where I learned more than I ever could imagine about the Diaspora and how I could create the solutions and impact positive change;
- my more recent experiences as a practitioner, scholar, and social change agent addressing systemic barriers to optimal health for African Americans and other groups in the community.

Based on my research of the position, I also began to deliberate about the 30 plus years that it took for the Center to come into fruition. What were the barriers in making it a reality then? What were the circumstances even 10 years ago?

During the October lecture, I spoke briefly about a dream deferred and postulated whether or not some people had begun to consider the Center to be like a raisin in the sun. I am certainly glad that it is not.

The ideas, the energy, the ethos—these things were born decades ago by some of you reading this newsletter, stakeholders and others in the community. The movement has been slow—sometimes not steady—but it was and still is a Movement.

I like to think of those 30+ years being utilized for research of programs that were being established and, for some, ending. It was also the time for the underpinning of an institution that would be a leader in addressing social problems related to disenfranchisement, disparities, and discrimination. Our Center for African American Studies was waiting for its time...Now.

Many African American Studies programs are celebrating decades of existence this year. I am proud that we are marking our first semester.

Sincerely yours,

Schnavia Smith Hatcher, Ph.D., MSW

Nurturing critical thinkers & global citizens
CAAS MINOR

The African American Studies (AAST) Minor is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program that prepares students for critical thinking and discourse on race and contextual factors, social consciousness and awareness, and civic engagement.

Requirements include 18 credit hours, including the three courses (9 hrs) below:
- AAST 2300 - Introduction to African American Studies (Beginning Spring 2013)
- HIST 3365 - African American History or SOCI 3338 - Contemporary Black Experience
- AAST Service Learning Capstone (Beginning Fall 2013)

Additional courses being developed in AAST and in collaboration with academic units across campus.
- History & Cultural
- Languages, Literature, & the Arts
- Behavioral & Social Inquiry

SAMPLE OF SPRING 2013 CROSS-LISTED COURSE OFFERINGS*

HIST 3366-001 African American History, 1865-Present
HIST 4377-001 African Diaspora II
POLS 4317-001 Ethnic Group Politics in the US
MANA 4325-001 Leadership in Organizations
MANA 4326-001 Diversity in Organizations
PSYC 3315-001 Social Psychology
SOCI 3337-001 Racial Ethnic Groups in US
SOCI 3339-001 Race, Sport and Media
ENGL 3345-001 African American Literature

*Email caas@uta.edu for more details

*Courses subject to change
**Special topics courses must be approved by CAAS each semester
***Other courses might qualify. Consult with a CAAS advisor
EMERGING SCHOLARS

The Center for African American Studies (CAAS) has created an Emerging Scholar Program aimed at first year men and women at UT Arlington interested in African American Studies. This program is aimed at linking students to UT Arlington and strengthening their academic and personal connection to the institution. Our purpose is to create a formal framework for supporting students by implementing meaningful academic and life-enhancing programs and activities. During its pilot stage, the CAAS Emerging Scholars Program looks to engage thirty first year men and women through programs and initiatives.

Program Objectives:

- Coordinating services with new and existing campus and community efforts that provide a foundation for academic excellence.
- Enhancing and expanding enrichment opportunities regarding leadership in all spheres.
- Developing community engagement activities that promote civic responsibility and personal enrichment.
- Creating healthy mentoring/social relationships between African American faculty/staff/alumni and students outside of the classroom.
- Increasing knowledge of societal, cultural, psychological, spiritual, economic, and historic challenges of African American females both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Providing financial support for first year full-time students.

Program Dimensions:

- Academic and Professional Development
- Civic Engagement and Global Awareness
- Personal Enrichment and Growth
- Mentoring and Social Relationships

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Myrtle Bell, Ph.D.
Management
CAAS Affiliate Faculty

Robert Bing, Ph.D.
Criminology & Criminal Justice
CAAS Faculty Fellow

W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D.
History
CAAS Affiliate Faculty

Cedrick May, Ph.D.
English
CAAS Affiliate Faculty

Jason Shelton, Ph.D.
Sociology & Anthropology
CAAS Affiliate Faculty