

CAAS Synergy

Center for African American Studies

Volume 4

Issue 3

July– December 2017

We Aim to Enlighten, Inspire and Empower!

Inside this issue:

- 6th Annual Opening Lecture featuring US Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-South Carolina) pictured below with US Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) and UTA President Vistasp Karbhari
- Black Maverick Orientation co-sponsored with the NAACP
- CAAS Visits the Lockheed Martin Career Development Center
- CAAS partners with the Dallas Holocaust Museum
- Community Mentors Dinner
- CAAS Evening of Arts and Letters
- CAAS is now a Social Work Internship Site
- Dulaney Family Scholarship
- And more!



This is the West African Adinkra symbol **EPA**, which symbolizes handcuffs. Adolph Agbo, in "Values of Adinkra Symbols" notes that handcuffs were introduced in Africa as a result of the slave trade, and later became popular among chiefs in cuffing offenders of the law. "The symbol reminds offenders of the uncompromising nature of the law. It however discourages all forms of slavery."



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A Note from the Director

Greetings,

CAAS came back from the Summer ready to work! Our Fall semester schedule began before the first day of classes: we collaborated with our campus chapter of the NAACP in hosting “Black Maverick Welcome” (or BMW). During this important event, new students were provided with information and insight from current students as well as faculty and staff on what it takes to be successful here at UT Arlington—both inside and outside of the classroom. Members from various student groups participated in this event such as the Black Student Association (BSA), A Collection of Brothers (CoB), Natural Kinks, and of course, the Divine 9. It ended with a late-evening cookout that took place in front of the Swift Center (where CAAS is housed)! What a great way to begin the academic year!

Our Fall semester included many strong events, including our Power Hours, Community Mentors Dinner, and Evening of Arts and Letters. CAAS visited UT Arlington’s new Lockheed Martin Career Development Center. Some of our students participated in a workshop aimed at developing their resumes, while others engaged in activities designed to help them determine a major area of study based on their natural talents and interests. CAAS also partnered with the Dallas Holocaust Museum in supporting “Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences During World War II.” A major thank you goes to Paula Nourse, Director of Marketing and Communications, for considering CAAS a community partner. The opening of this exhibit featured reflections by Mr. Robert T. McDaniel, one of the last surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen. He is 94 years young and lives in Fort Worth.

Finally, one of the highpoints of our Fall semester also served as a highpoint in my career. Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-South Carolina) delivered our 6th Annual Opening Lecture. He is arguably the highest-ranking African American elected official in the United States, so it was an honor to pick him up from the airport and drive him to our local ABC News affiliate where he filmed an episode of “Inside Texas Politics.” CAAS was mentioned on-air during the tv show! Later that evening he gave an inspiring and insightful talk about race relations and the state of American politics. He even brought several of his political friends with him, including US Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Dallas) and US Rep. Mark Veasey (D-Fort Worth), who is an UT Arlington alum! Many important political and civic leaders in our community attended this event! A special thanks goes to the Department of Political Science and Office of the Provost of their support.

Onward and Upward,

Dr. Jason E. Shelton



DR. JASON E. SHELTON
DIRECTOR



Student Engagement

Building A Strong Foundation!

Black Maverick Welcome

CAAS co-sponsored the 2nd Annual Black Maverick Welcome (or BMW) with UT Arlington's undergraduate chapter of the NAACP. This event was designed to introduce first year and transfer students to our campus, as well as provide information that will enhance their undergraduate experience. It was held a few days before the Fall 2017 semester began in the Lone Star Auditorium, and was immediately followed by a CAAS Cookout at the Swift Center. Everyone had a great time!



Mentor/Mentee Mixer

Student Development Specialist, Patricia O'Brien, hosted the Emerging Scholars and Emerging Leaders Mixer. This was the first event of the academic year for her program. Students were matched with their mentor/mentee and participated in fun activities designed to build their relationships.

For information on CAAS Student Development Initiatives, contact: caas@uta.edu



Student Engagement



Resume Cover Letter/My Plan Workshop

CAAS students participated in two workshops at the Lockheed Martin Career Development Center. Dr. Greg Shirley facilitated the “My Plan” workshop for our Emerging Scholars, which helps students select majors and careers based on their personal interests and talents. Hannah Hendricks guided a resume and cover letter workshop for our Emerging Leaders, which provided them with instructions and helpful tips when applying for a job. Many students attended these events!

Black Student 101

Black Student 101 was an introductory workshop for incoming freshmen and transfer students who are a part of the Emerging Scholars Program. A representative from the Office of University Tutorial and Supplemental Instruction discussed resources available to our students.



Table Etiquette Workshop

Anita Heiskell, President of the Fort Worth chapter of Jack and Jill of America, led a table etiquette workshop on the sixth floor of the UT Arlington Library. Students, staff, and faculty all benefitted from her expertise. What should you do with your napkin when you leave the table?

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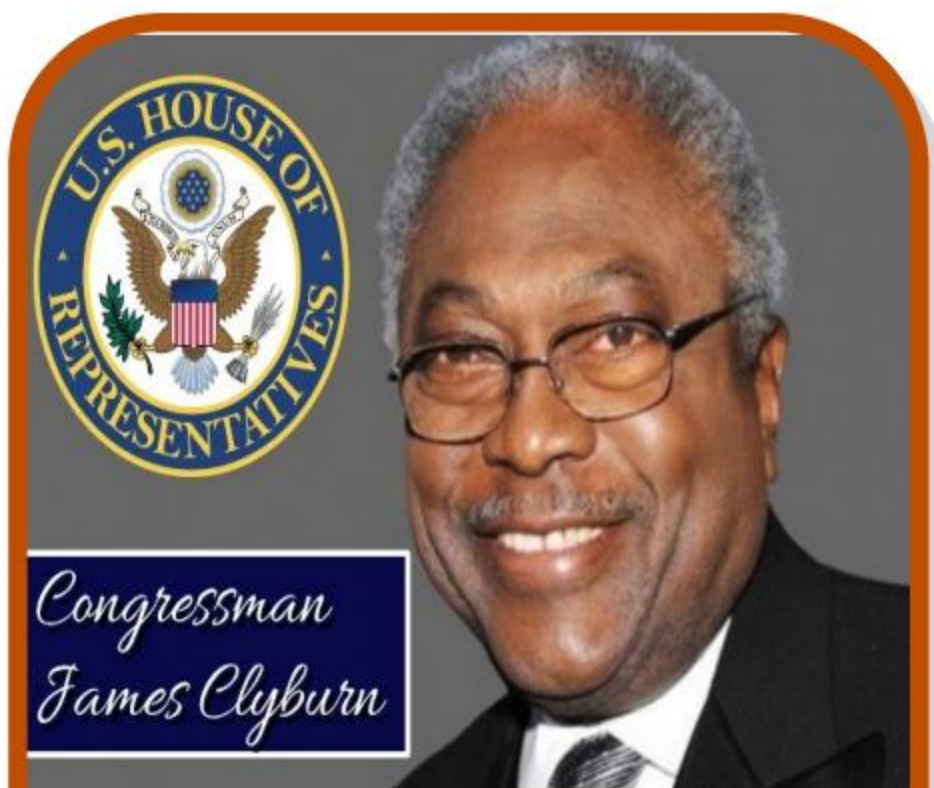


Campus & Community Engagement


6th Annual Opening Lecture October 2017

This year's Opening Lecture was delivered by US Congressman Jim Clyburn (D-South Carolina), who is currently the third-ranking Democrat in the US House of Representatives, and is arguably the highest-ranking African American elected official in our nation.

He has served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, and House Majority Whip, among other influential positions. Rep. Clyburn's talk took place in late October—when Congress was not in session—in a crowded Rosebud Theatre in the University Center. He addressed a wide range of issues including the successes and limitations of the Obama administration, debates over affirmative action, health care reform, and government assistance to the poor. He addressed many other issues during the Q&A, and when mingling with students, staff, faculty, and members of the broader Arlington community.



*Congressman
James Clyburn*



6th Annual Lecture

Join us for CAAS' 6th Annual Opening Lecture
Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Congressman James Clyburn
Location: UTA University Center
Rosebud Theatre
300 W 1st St
Arlington, Texas 76010
Date: October 19, 2017
Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm



Campus & Community Engagement

6th Annual Opening Lecture
October 2017





Campus & Community Engagement

6th Annual Opening Lecture
October 2017



Some Influential Attendees include:

- U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Dallas)
- U.S. Representative Marc Veasey (D-Fort Worth)
- State Representative Chris Turner (District 101)
 - Arlington City Councilman Michael Glaspie
 - UTA President Vistasp Karbhari
 - UTA Provost Teik Lim
- UTA Vice President of Human Resources Jean Hood





Campus & Community Engagement

Community Mentor's Dinner November 2017



Each semester CAAS invites local leaders and professionals to campus to share their experiences and advice with our students. This important event is designed to help students develop their social networks, create plans for overcoming obstacles, and celebrate their successes. This past November, CAAS welcomed the following Community Mentors:



Special guest panelists for Fall 2017 Community Mentors Dinner included:



Emerald Holmes,
BSN, RN, PMP
Electronic Medical
Record Informati-
cist/Builder
Baylor Hospital



Roy Vann
Founder,
Zenu APP



Tiara Thomas, MSW
Graduate Academic
Advisor,
UT-Arlington School



Ernest Gines
Information
Technology
Instructor,
TCC South
Campus



Anita Odom
Urban Area
Director,
Young Life -
West Dallas



**Billy Haile-
Mariam**
Software Engi-
neer,
Capital One
Financial Corp.




Campus & Community Engagement

CAAS Power Hour Lecture Series Fall 2017


February 2017

Mapping Legacies of Colonialism in Paris Noir Fiction



Dr. Amine, University of North Texas Assistant Professor in the Department of English, specializes in twentieth-century African American and African Diaspora literature with interest in the politics of race and its intersection with transnationalism, gender, sexuality, and global cities. Amine's work has appeared in *American Literature*, *College Literature*, and *Critique* among other venues. She is currently at work on a second book project titled, "The Lure of Return in African Diaspora Fiction," which examines the overlooked yet ubiquitous motif of repatriation in narratives of exile by James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, William Dombey, Edwidge Danticat, and Caryl Phillips.

Dr. Laila Amine
 Location: University Center, Bluebonnet
 Date: October 11, 2017
 Time: 12-1 pm
 *Refreshments will be served



Mapping Legacies of Colonialism in Paris Noir Fiction was a lesson offered by Dr. Laila Amine. Dr. Amine is originally from France, and is now a professor of English at the University of North Texas. Her research explains how various aspects of the black experience in Europe are depicted in works by notable authors.




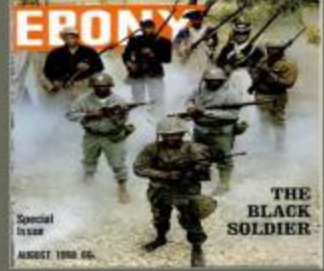


November 2017

Contributions of African Americans to the U.S. Armed Forces and the Difficult Road to Military Desegregation was presented by LTC Antwan C. Williams (retired). LTC Williams delivered expert counsel on historical data that reflected not only the hardships but also the rewarding accomplishments of African American Service members. Students and other audience members were intrigued with data such as: "There are more African American women enlisted in the U.S. Army than African American men and all other racial and ethnic groups ... and an impressive number of African Americans have attained the rank of General and other senior rank levels in the armed forces."

CAAS Power Hour

We are looking for a few good men and women to join us for a lecture presentation by guest speaker Lt. Colonel Antwan C. Williams (Retired), U.S. Army. LTC Williams honorably served as a Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Military Academy West Point Director of Marketing and Public Relations, and as the U.S. Army's Human Resources Command Inspector General. He is currently an Adjunct Professor and Manager of Communications, Community Outreach, Admissions and Recruiting for the UTA School of Social Work.

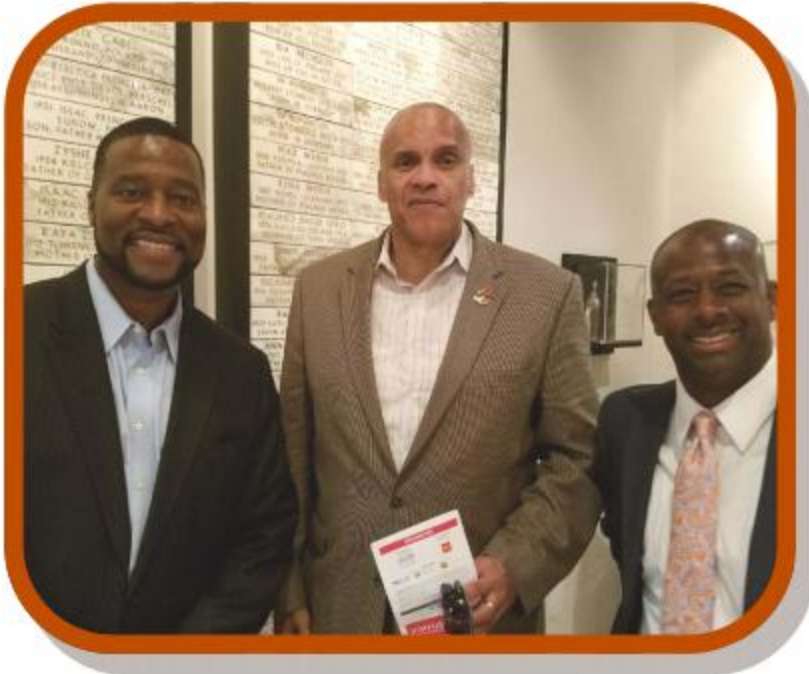
Topic: Contributions of African Americans to the U.S. Armed Forces and the Difficult Road to Military Desegregation
Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2017
Time: 12pm-1pm
Location: University Center, Bluebonnet Ballroom
 *Refreshments will be served



Campus & Community Engagement

Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in WWII



CAAS partnered with the Dallas Holocaust Museum in promoting their exhibit, “Fighting of the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in WWII.” This traveling exhibit is sponsored by the National World War II Museum, and tells the story of black soldiers who fought in segregated units during one of the most important wars in our nation’s history. It includes rare photos, heroic stories that must never be forgotten, and details on contributions by black women and men in war effort. CAAS was honored to be part of this project.





Campus & Community Engagement

Evening of Arts and Letters December 2017

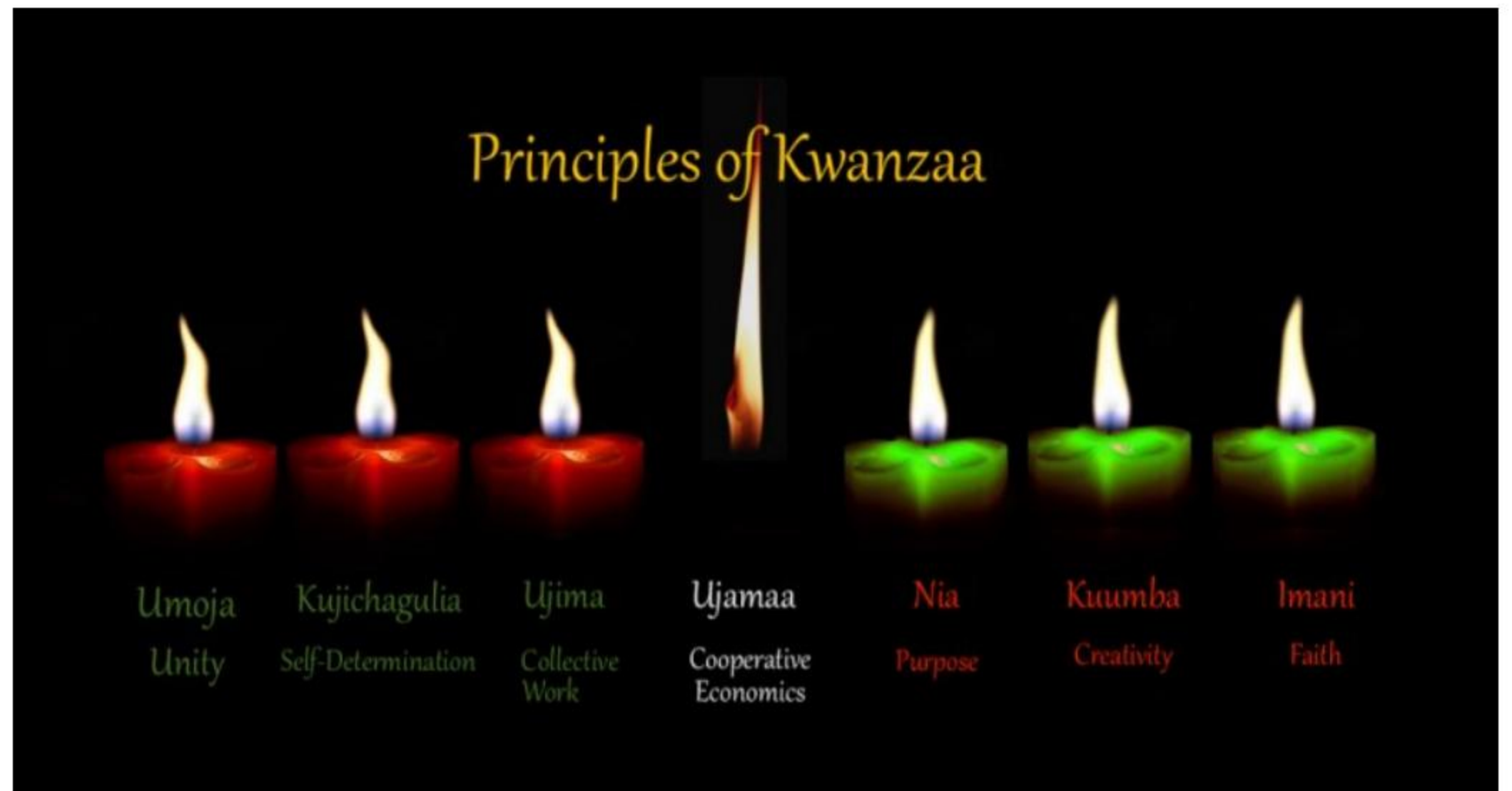
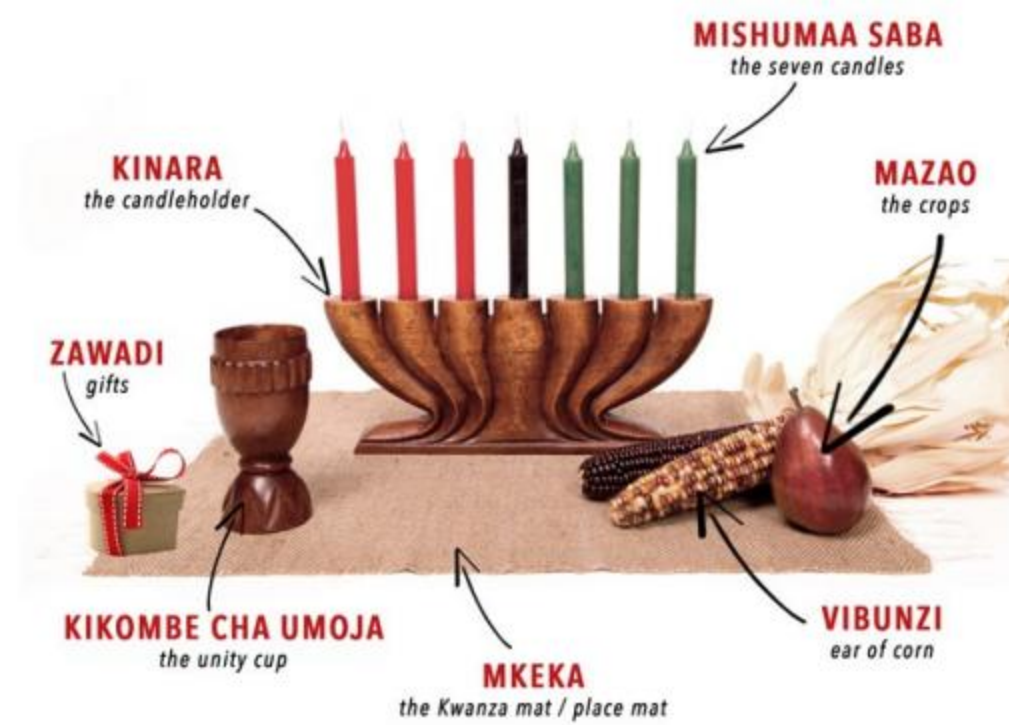


CAAS hosts its Evening of Arts and Letters near the end of the Fall semester. On this important occasion, we recognize graduating seniors, students minoring in African American Studies present their research projects, and faculty members discuss their latest scholarly contributions. Dr. Safisha Hill also lead a tour of the Nguzo Saba, or Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, which is a celebration and recognition of African cultural values. It was established by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1996.





Evening of Arts and Letters: Seven Principles of Kwanzaa





Campus & Community Engagement

CAAS Internship Opportunities for Social Work students!

The Center for African American Studies offers internship/field placement opportunities to BSW and MSW Social Work Students. Mrs. Ann Hunt-Rodgers, CAAS' Academic Advisor, received her Masters of Social Work (MSW) in Spring 2017. As a result, she now also serves as the Social Work Field Instructor, which means that CAAS is once again an internship site for students majoring in Social Work. This is a major accomplishment for Mrs. Hunt-Rodgers and CAAS!

As a Community and Administrative Practice (CAP) placement, CAAS provides opportunities to complete research, proposal writing for service learning projects and other programming events, program planning and implementation, community outreach and engagement, interagency collaboration, report preparation, and assist with other program administrative activities. CAAS Social Work interns also work closely with the Student Development Specialist to learn on-going program development and evaluation. In this CAP placement interns conduct research utilizing current literature on mental health, substance abuse issues, education, health disparities, community needs assessments, to name a few.

Meet our current Undergraduate Social Work Interns



Brittany Lightfoot



Shealyn Hardrick



Victor Allen

For more information regarding Social Work internship opportunities with CAAS, please contact Mrs. Hunt-Rodgers at 817-272-9642 or annhunt@uta.edu



Ann Hunt-Rodgers, MSW
Social Work Field Instructor



Dulaney Family Scholarship

The Dulaney Family Scholarship was established to encourage students to major in History with an emphasis on African American Studies. Preferably, the student will also minor in African American Studies and have a relationship or possibly even an internship with the Center for African American Studies (CAAS). I established the Dulaney Family Scholarship three years ago in order to support students who have an interest in the field of African American Studies and who may have a need for additional funding to pay their tuition or purchase books for their classes.

So far, two students have received the Dulaney Family Scholarship. The first student was Ahmad Foggie, a History graduate student from Atlanta who completed his undergraduate degree at Georgia State University. Ahmad Foggie has received the scholarship twice. This spring, Aineshia Washington received the Dulaney Family Scholarship. Ms. Washington is a graduate student from Dallas completing her Master's Thesis on a History of South Dallas.

Criteria for the Scholarship is as follows: The recipient of the scholarship should be either a History major or minor in African American Studies. He or she can be an undergraduate or graduate student. The student can apply directly to me or through the History Department or CAAS. Interested students should submit a letter of interest with a plan of study for completing work in the field of African American Studies and a resume of his or her academic experience.

-Dr. Marvin Dulaney, former Chair of the History and Department and Interim Director of CAAS





Campus & Community Engagement

Dulaney Family Scholarship



Ahmad Foggie, 1st scholarship recipient





Focus on Faculty

Scholarly Contributions by CAAS Affiliates

Dr. Myrtle Bell, Professor

Department of Management

- Leopold, Joy, & Bell, Myrtle. P. (2017). "News Media and the Racialization of Protest: An Analysis of Black Lives Matter Articles." *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal*, 36(8): 720-735.



Dr. Kiva Harper

Assistant Professor in Practice, School of Social Work

- Service Learning Fellow for Spring 2018
- Workshop Presenter: "Traumatic Grief: Responding to Survivors of Suicide and Homicide," National Association of Social Workers Texas State Conference (Fall 2017).
- Workshop Presenter: "Serving with the Enemy: What Therapists Need to Know About Military Sexual Trauma," Trauma Support Services of North Texas (Fall 2017).
- Workshop Presenter: "Responding to Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma," Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Conference (Spring 2018).



Dr. Brandon Respress

Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing and Health Innovation

- Respress, B.N., Amutah-Onukagha, N., Opara, I. (2018). The Effects of School-Based Discrimination on Adolescents of Color Sexual Health Outcomes: A Social Determinants Approach. *Social Work in Public Health*, 33:1, 1-16.
- Villarruel, A.M., Respress, Brandon N., and Lewis, L.M. (2017). "Health Disparities: Focus on Racial and Ethnic Minorities." A book chapter in Fitzpatrick, J.J., Wallace, M. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Nursing Research* (4th Ed.). New York: Springer Publishing Company.





Scholarly Contributions by CAAS Affiliates

Dr. Jason E. Shelton

Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of CAAS

- Shelton, Jason E. (2018). "A Dream Deferred? Privileged Blacks' and Whites' Beliefs about Racial Inequality." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 14(1): 73-91.
- Anthony D. Greene and Jason E. Shelton. (2017). "No Fault of Their Own? Beliefs About the Causes of Racial Inequality Among American Blacks, West Indians, and African Immigrants." *Issues of Race and Society* (authors listed alphabetically).
- Dr. Shelton also organized and presided over a special Presidential Panel on "Religious dividing lines: Race, class, and immigration" held during a joint session of the annual meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) and the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Montreal, Canada, in August 2017.



Dr. David M. Sparks

Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education

- Sparks, David. (2018) "The Process of Becoming: Identity development of African American Female Science and Mathematics Preservice Teachers." *Journal of Science and Teacher Education* (Advanced online publication).
- Conference Presentation: D. (2017). "Let Me Prove to You that I can be Here': Explorations of Identity and Intersectionality in Female African-American STEM students." National STEM Education and Practice Summit, Purdue University (Spring 2018).



Dr. Sonja Stephenson Watson,

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts and Associate Professor of Spanish

- Dr. Watson received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Faculty Award (HSI Institution) to prepare her book manuscript for publication, *Globalization, Transculturation, and Hybrid Identity in Panamanian Music: Reggae en Español*. The National Endowment for the Humanities is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States and is among the most prestigious awards given to scholars in the humanities in the United States.





Congratulations!

Fall 2017 Graduates

Continue to strive and give your best efforts, knowing it will result in you obtaining your greatest rewards.



- Tiffany Jones - Social Work, African American Studies minor
- Jessica Woods - Social Work, African American Studies minor





African American Studies Minor



Center for African American Studies

MINOR IN (AAST)

What can you do with an African American Studies Minor?

Careers in:

Business

Education

History

Law/Politics

Literature

Medicine

News Media

Social Work

& more

Requirements include: Only 6 classes with 3 required in AAST

- Intro to African American Studies
- African American History, Contemporary Black Experience, Or Human Behavior and Diverse Populations
 - Service Learning Capstone

Collaborations with units across campus including ANTH, CRCJ, ECON, ENGL, LING, MANA, POLS, PSYC, SOCI, SOCW.

For more information about the Center for African American Studies (CAAS)

Contact us at:
1022 UTA BLVD
Box 19024
Arlington, TX 76019
caas@uta.edu
www.uta.edu/caas



For information about the AAST Minor contact CAAS at 817-272-9642 or caas@uta.edu



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CAAS Night at the Jubilee
February 1, 2018
Jubilee Theatre, Fort Worth,

Power Hour Lecture
February 7, 2018
(TBA)
Bluebonnet

6th Annual CAAS Conference
February 17, 2018
Rosebud Theatre, Bluebonnet, & Foyer

Black History Month Program
February 27, 2018
Rio Grande A

Community Mentors Dinner
March 28, 2018
Library Atrium (6th Floor)

Power Hour Lecture
April 4, 2018
Rio Grande B

Evening of Black Excellence
May 9, 2018
Lonestar Auditorium





Give a Gift

Established in August 2012, the **Center for African American Studies (CAAS)** at the University of Texas at Arlington aims to cultivate an exceptional transdisciplinary experience through teaching, civic engagement, and community-based research focused on the diverse contextual conditions of Blacks in America and society at large. 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 enrichment initiatives
- ◆ Undergraduate and graduate scholarships

Thank you for your Gift!



2016/2017 Donors

Marvin Dulaney
Eddie Freeman
Elvira Smith

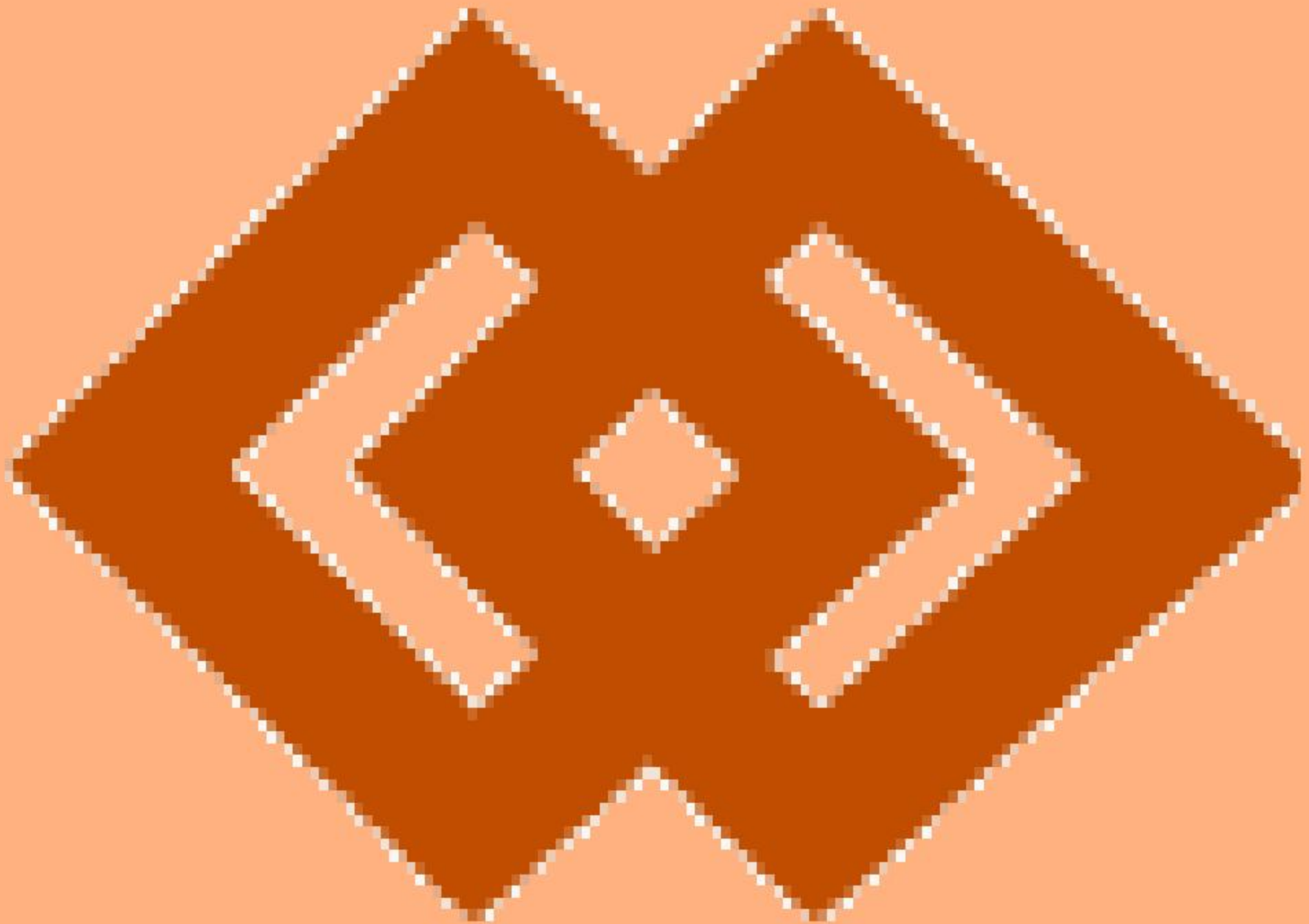


For more information on how to support CAAS, please send and email to: caas@uta.edu
To give a gift, go to www.uta.edu/caas/support.html



West African Adinkra Symbol

EPA



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"The symbol reminds offenders of the uncompromising nature of the law. It however discourages all forms of slavery."





Center for African American Studies

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Get Connected!



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