

**Volume 6
Issue 2**

**June–December
2019**

CAAS

SYNERGY

Center for African American Studies

We Aim to Enlighten, Inspire and Empower.



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A Note from the Director

Dear CAAS Community,

Great things continue to happen in the Center for African American Studies! Most importantly, I recently received approval from the Provost's Office to hire two full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members with joint appointments. One position will be split with the School of Social Work (SSW), and one will be split with the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Liberal Arts (CoLA). These new hires will be CAAS' first full-time faculty members! A special thanks goes out to Dean Elisabeth Cawthon of CoLA and Dean Scott Ryan of SSW for helping to make this happen!

Also, please check out CAAS' new website (<https://www.uta.edu/caas/>), and there have been major updates to the curriculum for the minor in African American Studies! Lastly, I served as a featured speaker for a presidential panel on "Race, Religion, and Politics" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. It was an honor to be part of the discussion on how the Black Church will impact the 2020 presidential election!

This issue of *Synergy* provides an overview of these, as well as many other great things that have happened in CAAS over the past few months. Thanks for your support!



DR. JASON E. SHELTON



Student Engagement

Black Maverick Welcome Fall 2019

As always, Black Maverick Welcome was a major success! CAAS helped to welcome hundreds of African American students back to campus at the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester!

DJ Swerve (my former student, and UTA alum) played new and classic hits, while Greeks strolled in front of the Swift Center. Everyone ate BBQ, made new friends, and caught up with folks they had not seen since Spring. What great way to begin the academic year!

NAACP INVITES YOU TO THE 

BLACK MAVERICK WELCOME

**Maverick Acitivity Center
Lonestar Auditorium
August 19, 2019**

**AT
5:00
PM**



* Meet student leaders, Faculty/Staff and organizations
* Parent Sessions available

Give aways for those who RSVP by August 9th
RSVP at uta.edu/multicultural

Kick back Cook-out afterwards at the Center for African American Studies Office
*Students only

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Collection of Brothers	Multicultural Affairs
African Student Association	Center for African American Studies
Parent & Family Center	Black Student Association

If you need accommodations to fully participate in this event, contact multicultural_affairs@uta.edu or 817-272-2099. Please allow five (5) days to arrange the accommodations.





Student Engagement

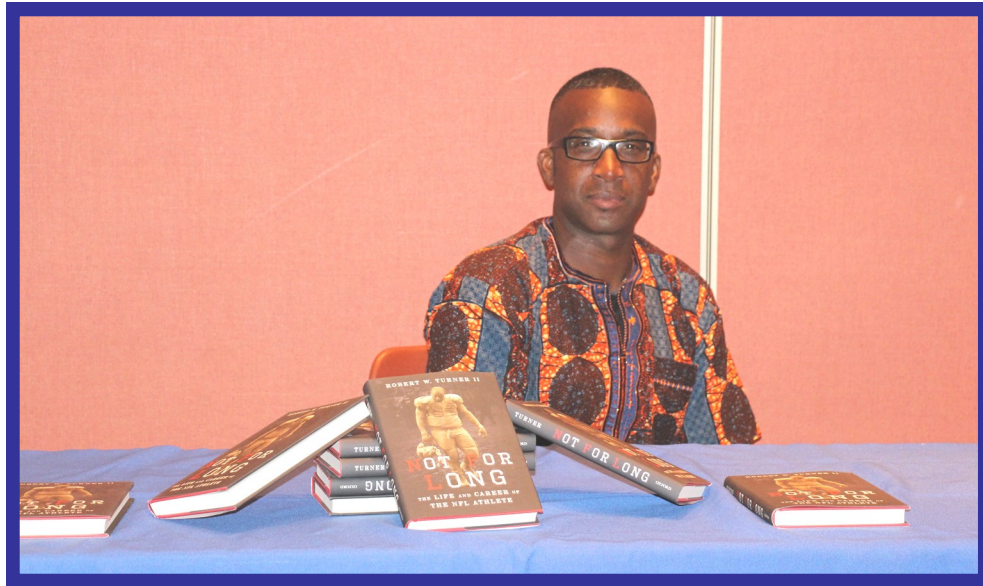
Spring 2019





Student Engagement

Volunteer Graduate Intern Fall 2019



Junichi Lockett served as a volunteer graduate intern in CAAS! He took the initiative in contacting Dr. Shelton to see if he could help out. His goal was to learn more about Black Studies programs.

Junichi is currently working on his dissertation in UTA's College of Education, and plans to build a career studying the positive role that African American Studies plays in impacting students' academic performance.





Student Engagement

Social Work Intern
Fall 2019

Talisha Simpson
Social Work Intern



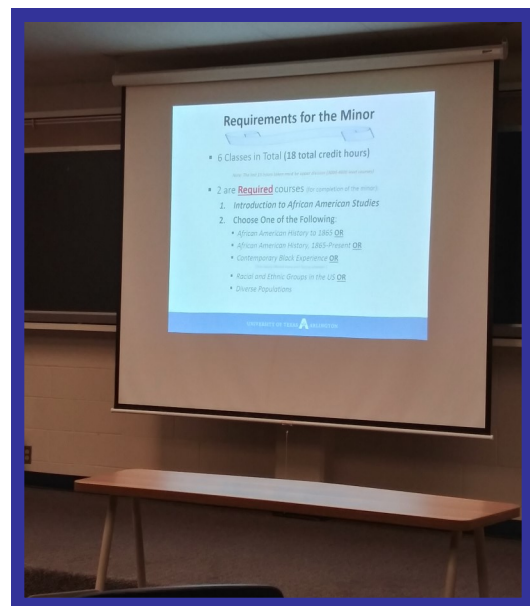
Ann Hunt-Rodgers, MSW
Social Work Field Instructor





Student Engagement

Social Work Intern



Talisha Simpson helped lead in-class presentations on campus and civic engagement. She also helped register students to vote, and assisted with planning and implementing CAAS events.



For information on CAAS' Social Work Internship, please contact caas@uta.edu





SANKOFA



Sankofa is the Adinkra symbol that recognizes the importance of learning from the past. It translates to “return and get it.”

See page 19 for more information!





Campus & Community Engagement

Empowering All Generations

Fall 2019



Once again, CAAS had the privileged of hosting Lockheed Martin's Joint Midwest Regional Conference. This year's theme was "Empowering All Generations: Breaking the Glass Ceiling." It was co-sponsored by various groups including the African American Council for Excellence (AAACE), Able and Allies, the LGBT Professional Network, Women's Impact Network (WIN), Professional Asian American Network (PAAN), Hispanic Organization for Leadership and Awareness (HOLA), Military Veterans, and Allies for Inclusion (AFI).



Several high-ranking leaders from across the US attending this year's conference, which took place in UTA's new SEIR Building and the UTA Library. The morning keynote was delivered by Raina Washington, VP of Diversity and Inclusion. The afternoon keynote was offered by Kim Cummings, Assistant VP of Human Resources at BNSF Railway.



Campus & Community Engagement

Empowering All Generations





Campus & Community Engagement

Empowering All Generations

Provost Lim welcomed the large conference of more than 150 employees of Lockheed Martin to our campus.

Special ‘Thank You’s’ go to Chante White-Taylor, Tonesha Smith, and Ashley Johnson of Lockheed Martin for helping to organize this important event!





Campus & Community Engagement

Empowering All Generations



EMPOWERING ALL GENERATIONS

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Joint Midwest Regional Conference

Sept. 19–20, 2019

You are invited to attend the
Joint Midwest Regional Conference in Arlington, Texas.

The Joint Midwest Regional Conference will offer:

Networking opportunities with Lockheed Martin leaders and peers from across the enterprise

Executive and peer-to-peer panel discussions

Professional development workshops

If you are interested in attending, please respond by using the voting option on this email by COB July 31, 2019. More details to come!

Hosted by Global Diversity & Inclusion





Students can now complete a wider selection of courses in graduating with a minor in African American Studies! The following 12 courses assist students in enhancing their knowledge of black experiences in the US and abroad:

- AAST 2303 — History and Appreciation of Hip Hop and R&B Music
- AAST 2371 — Language in a Multicultural USA
- AAST 3314— Civil War and Reconstruction
- AAST 3319— US Immigration Policy and the American Dream
- AAST 3321— The Latina Experience (includes a focus on Afro-Latinas/ Latinas)
- AAST 3329—Contemporary African Cultures
- AAST 3341—The Old South, 1607—1863
- AAST 3342—Sociology of Religion (includes a focus on the Black Church)
- AAST 3373—Archaeology of Egypt
- AAST 3378—History of the Caribbean
- AAST 4333—Comparative Civil Rights History
- AAST 4339—Topics in African American Literature



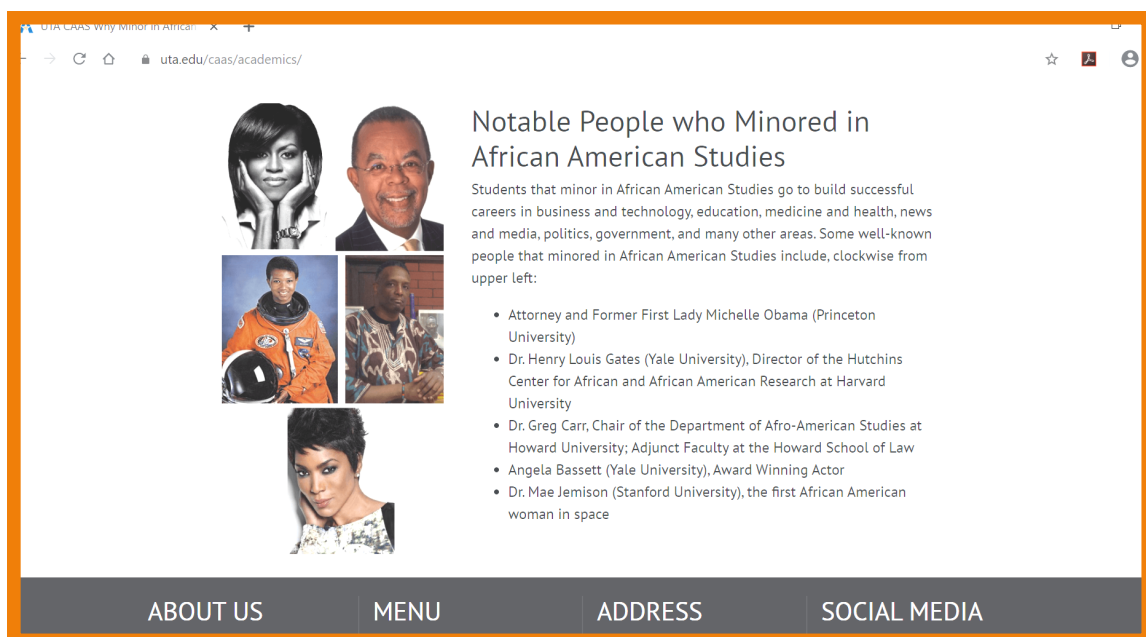
Campus & Community Engagement

New CAAS Website



Please check out CAAS' new website! It features recent news, flyers for upcoming events, photos, and profiles of CAAS Faculty Affiliates. It also includes a history of the Center, its mission, information on the minor in African American Studies and CAAS' Student Development Initiatives.

Special thanks to Andrew Leverenz of the UTA Library for his assistance with this major project!





Campus & Community Engagement

Alpha Phi Alpha Golf Tournament Fall 2019



Dr. Shelton recruited a team to play in the Arlington chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Annual Golf Tournament. This fundraiser benefits the Alpha Ambassador's Club, which aims to empower young men with social and professional skills needed to be successful in college!

CAAS sponsored the 1st hole on the golf course!



A Phi!





Campus & Community Engagement

Dallas Wings Inaugural Golf Tournament



Dr. Shelton was also invited to play in the Dallas Wings inaugural golf tournament. The Wings play their WNBA games on UT Arlington's campus, in the College Park Center. Dr. Shelton was honored to play with a team representing Tarrant County College's Trinity River Campus!



Campus & Community Engagement

October Power Hour Lecture Series

THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS A POWER HOUR EVENT:

PRIORITIZING PROMISE!

WITH TIA COLE

I was never supposed to be here and yet I am.

I almost died TWICE.

Reaching your fullest potential and helping someone meet theirs is more of an art than a science. In this world with so many distractions and distortions, it is so important for us to prioritize the promise we all have inside. Let's talk about how!



A WORKSHOP FOR LEARNING HOW TO PRIORITIZE TO REACH YOUR POTENTIAL

OCTOBER 2, 2019

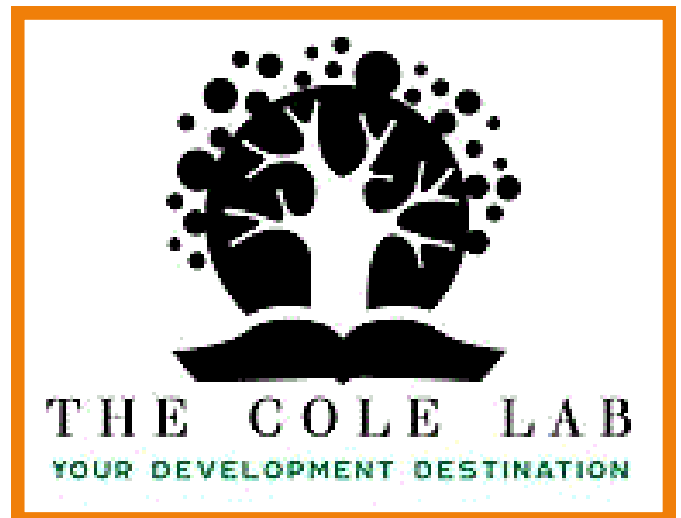
12:00-1:00 PM

UC BLUEBONNET

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



Tia Cole was CAAS' featured speaker in October. She delivered a powerful message on student development! Ms. Cole was the optimal choice for this subject because she's a professor at Tarrant County College's South Campus, AND she owns her own business—The Cole Lab—which specializes in preparing students for academic and professional success.



For information on CAAS Events, contact us at caas@uta.edu



Campus & Community Engagement

November Power Hour Lecture Series

In November, Dr. Pamela Fox spoke on past and present inequalities facing African Americans. Her presentation was titled: “Sankofa: Going Back and Getting It - A Historical and Comparative Analysis Fifty Years after the Assassination of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and after the Quadricentennial of African Enslavement in the United States.”

Dr. Fox is an Assistant Professor in Practice in the School of Social Work. She is also a licensed clinical social worker, ordained minister (retired) in the United Church of Christ; and served as a Commander (retired) in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

She shared many fascinating insights!





Campus & Community Engagement

8th Annual Opening Lecture

CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS

8th Annual Opening Lecture

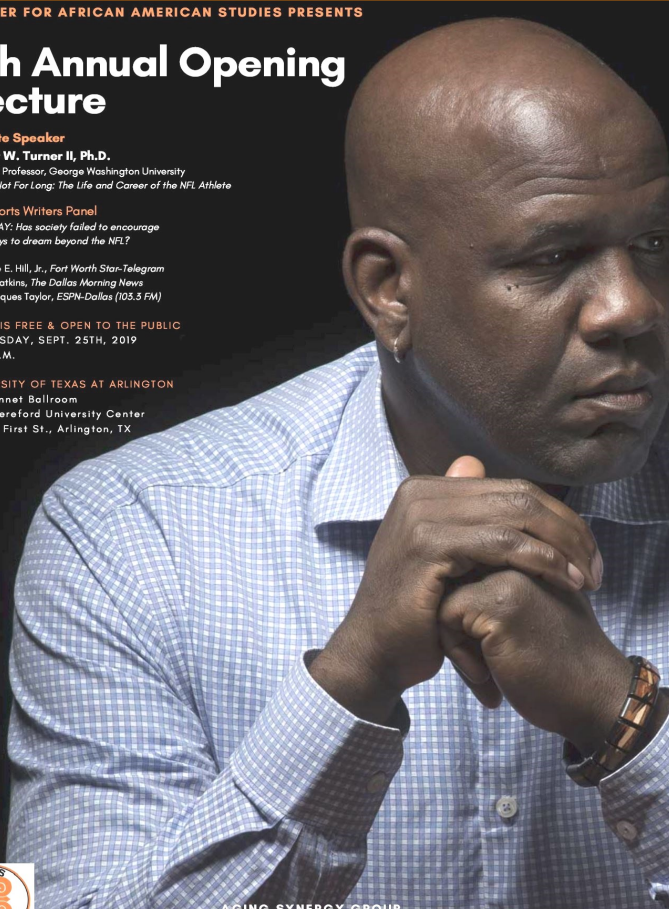
Keynote Speaker
Robert W. Turner II, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, George Washington University
Author, *Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete*

NFL Sports Writers Panel
FOUL PLAY: Has society failed to encourage black boys to dream beyond the NFL?



Clarence E. Hill, Jr., *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*
Calvin Watkins, *The Dallas Morning News*
Jean-Jacques Taylor, *ESPN-Dallas (103.3 FM)*

EVENT IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25TH, 2019
6 - 8 P.M.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
Bluebonnet Ballroom
E. H. Herford University Center
300 W. First St., Arlington, TX



AGING SYNERGY GROUP



Dr. Robert Turner II delivered CAAS' 8th Annual Opening Lecture. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership at George Washington University. Dr. Turner briefly played for the San Francisco 49ers and authored the acclaimed book, *Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete* (Oxford University Press).

Dr. Turner's presentation was followed by an influential panel of local sportswriters including: (a) Clarence Hill, Jr. of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, (b) Jean-Jacques Taylor of ESPN Dallas (103.3 FM), and (c) Calvin Watkins of the *Dallas Morning News*.

Some of the topics discussed over the course of the evening included the relationship between team owners and players, contract negotiations, the politics of race relations within the NFL, and the quality of life and employment prospects for players following their time in the league.






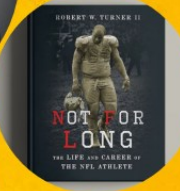

Campus & Community Engagement

8th Annual Opening Lecture




8th Annual Opening Lecture

Location: Bluebonnet Ballroom
Date: September 25th, 2019
Time: 6PM-8PM
Refreshments will be served

Center for African American Studies
Presents
**FORMER NFL PLAYER AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
ROBERT W. TURNER II, PHD**

Robert W. Turner II, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership. His book manuscript, *Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete* (Oxford University Press, August 2018) is an ethnographic project that offers a descriptive analysis of the social world of NFL athletes based on the author's personal experience as a former professional football player, interviews with current and former players.



This event was co-sponsored by the School of Social Work (SSW) and two groups within SSW: the Aging Synergy Group and the Gerontology Organization.

Special 'Thank You's' go out to Valerie Hill of SSW. She organized the panel of sportswriters! Also, Dr. Ryon Cobb of SSW helped bring Dr. Turner to campus. They are friends and colleagues!



These photos are credited to Ruben Espiricueta.



Congratulations!

Evening of Arts and Letters
December 2019

The Center for African American Studies
AN EVENING OF ARTS & LETTERS
Kwanzaa Celebration
PLEASE JOIN US FOR
FOOD, DISCUSSION, RECOGNITION OF AAST
MINORS AND THE EXPLORATION OF THE
PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA
Tues. Dec. 3, UC-Bluebonnet Ballroom, 6:00 pm
RSVP at
UTA.EDU/CAAS

As always, Dr. Hill celebrated Kwanzaa by taking students, faculty, and staff through the Nguzo Saba. This year she was assisted by Kenya Loudd, a graduating minor in African American Studies who will be attending graduate school at Yale University!





Congratulations!

An Evening of Black Excellence: Achievements and Graduation



Dr. David Sparks is a CAAS Faculty Affiliate. His presentation was titled: “Intersectionality, Identity, and African American Students in STEM Fields.” Also, Dr. Sparks was awarded the augural CAAS Faculty Travel Grant!

Keep up the Great Work!



For information on CAAS Events, contact us at caas@uta.edu



Congratulations!

Fall 2019 Graduates

Continue to strive and give your best efforts so that you will obtain your greatest rewards. We hope you stay connected to CAAS so that we may follow your growth and success!

- Cindy Bishop, AAST Minor
- Jaleesa Willis-Brice, AAST Minor
- Lyric Brooks, AAST Minor
- Troy Bunch, AAST Minor
- Dev’Von Gillespie-Carter, AAST Minor
- Alisha Sparks, AAST Minor





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
- ◆ Faculty and student community-based research

To Give a Gift to CAAS:

1. Go to: <https://giving.uta.edu/Give>
2. Specify the amount
3. In the “Designation” box, please select “other”
4. In the “Comments” box, please type “Center for African American Studies”
5. Contact CAAS to let us know about your gift

Thank you for supporting CAAS!

For more information on how to support CAAS, please send and email to: caas@uta.edu

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

News Media

Literature

Medicine

History

Law/Politics

Social Work

& more

Requirements include: 6 classes - 2 mandatory in AAST

Intro to African American Studies

AND

African American History OR

Race & Ethnic Groups in U.S. OR

Diverse Populations OR

Contemporary Black Experience

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:

817-272-9642

1022 UTA BLVD

Box 19024

Arlington, TX 76019

caas@uta.edu

www.uta.edu/caas



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



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9th Annual Opening Lecture
September 24, 2020
Bluebonnet Ballroom

Power Hour Lecture
October 7, 2020
Rio Grande

Power Hour Lecture
November 11, 2020
Rio Grande



Evening of Arts & Letters
December 1, 2020
Swift Center



Get Connected!

Center for African American Studies

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  ARLINGTON

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 UTAringtonCAAS	 UTAringtonCAAS	 UTAringtonCAAS	 817.272.9642



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

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