THURSDAY
OCTOBER 24
2019
9AM- 6PM

REFLECTING BLACK

FALL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

400 Hundred Years (1619-2019)
Of African American Life and History

University of Houston-Downtown
One Main Street
Houston, TX 77002
October 16, 2019

Dear Community Members,

Welcome to the University of Houston-Downtown and to today’s symposium.

I’ve often said that great universities host great conversations addressing important issues in Houston and our nation. Today’s event addresses such a topic.

Leading scholars and historians from noted institutions of higher education are gathered on our campus to reflect on the arrival of the first black slaves in the U.S. 400 years ago and to address the current state of race relations in America.

Today’s dialogues will no doubt provide meaningful insight into these topics, and our university is honored to host this critical event.

As both a Minority Serving Institution and a Hispanic Serving Institution, UHD strives to provide learning experiences that broaden students’ understanding of socially relevant subjects. Likewise, our institution is home to several centers of study—including the Center for Critical Race Studies, Center for Latino Studies and Cultural Enrichment Center—that address race and identity. And given UHD’s location—in one of the nation’s most diverse metropolitan areas—scholars and students have ample opportunities to explore new cultures and connect with the many historic communities that comprise Houston.

I commend the sponsoring colleges, departments, centers, and offices that made this symposium possible, and am optimistic that you will depart our campus with new knowledge to be shared with others.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz
October 24, 2019

Greetings,

As Mayor of the City of Houston, I welcome all attendees and participant scholars, especially those who have traveled from many other states, gathering for the Reflecting Black Fall Research Symposium: 400 Hundred Years of African American Life and History hosted by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) at the University of Houston-Downtown.

I commend CHSS for your efforts on the critical reflection of this marred, unconscionable period in American history and its enduring effects. While the skills and trades of the first generations of Africans were integral to the colonies’ foundation, the representative democracy that was borne out of Jamestown did not take them or their descendants into account.

For four centuries, African American heritage has been marked by perseverance through the demoralizing lows of Jim Crow and the tumult of the Civil Rights Movement, as well as inspirational achievements as African Americans both past and present have gone on to make great societal contributions in virtually all fields, including politics and law, sports, STEM, arts and entertainment.

As you gather for this auspicious occasion, please accept my best wishes for a memorable and rewarding symposium.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Mayor
Dear Reflecting Black Symposium Participants and Attendees:

Welcome to the University of Houston-Downtown. Thank you so much for joining us for this groundbreaking, transformative event. We envisioned this would be a life-changing day for everyone in attendance. It is not often that an entire conference is devoted to the history, lives, experiences, work, and education of Black people in North America, from 1619-2019, a 400 year span. This is a milestone event.

As the intellectual and creative heart of UHD, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is committed to producing and cultivating knowledge that interrogates our world and moves us toward a more progressive future. I believe that UHD changes lives more immediately than any other institution in the region.

The College realizes that the diversity of humanity and the idea that education is essential for an empowered, free, and engaged citizenry capable of individual creativity are values we must maintain. As liberal arts educators, we endeavor to cultivate in our students knowledge for their success and knowledge that they are empowered to stake claims for changing their lives and the world around us. This symposium exemplifies our commitment.

Thank you to the breadth of people across the University of Houston-Downtown who collaborated to create a fulfilling and rewarding experience for each of you. In particular, I am grateful for the tenacious dedication of Dr. Jonathan Chism who envisioned this conference would be a rich venue for scholars and emerging scholars to present their scholarship and contribute to the conversation on African American experience and historiography.

As you reflect on the Black presence in North America, let it inform your consciousness and actions going forward.

In peace,

Dr. DoVeanna S. Fulton
SESSION 1 PANELS

Session 1A, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM   I   ACAD White Oak Room

Enslaved Agency: Resistance among Enslaved and Free Blacks in the Antebellum Era

Moderator: Dr. Scott Lawrence Stabler, Grand Valley State University

Terril Hebert, University of Houston-Downtown: “Slaves, Freedmen and the Fight for Education”


Leroy Myers, Oklahoma University: “Fluidity and Environment: Free and Fugitive Blacks in Indian Territory, 1830-1860”

Session 1B, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM   I   ACAD Buffalo Bayou Room

Higher Learning: African Americans and Educational Systems

Moderator: Dr. Tabitha Morton, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Prairie View A&M University

Darrel Hughson, Delaware State University: “Odyssey of the Black Scholar”


Session 1C, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM   I   ACAD Houston Room

Communal Uplift: Analyzing Efforts to Improve Black Communities

Moderator: Dr. Jerry Wallace Jr., Assistant Dean of the College of Public Service, University of Houston-Downtown

Amelia Morrow, Luther College: “White Washed Culture: How the Hippie Counterculture of the 1960s Undermined Black Communities Amidst a Mask of Love”

Josias Parker, Greenville University: “Black Behavior and White Willingness: The Ignominious Institution of Uplift Suasion”

Autumn Raynor, University of Houston: “Africana Alumni Perceptions of Community in Houston’s Third Ward Universities”
**SESSION 2 PANELS**

### Session 2A, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM  I  ACAD White Oak Room

**Blackness beyond America: Engaging the African Diaspora**

Moderator: Daniel Peña, Assistant Professor of English, University of Houston-Downtown

Jude Okpala, PhD, University of Texas at San Antonio: "Igbo Masculinity: Lessons for the Diaspora on Okonkwo in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart"

Stephen Aisabokhae, Prairie View A&M University: "Mentoring as a Tool for Fostering Personal Development among Youths in Uganda with Emphasis on the Girl Child (Ages 11 – 18)"

Sheryl F. Means, PhD, University of New Mexico: “Bikuda: Hair, Aesthetic, and Bodily Perspectives from Women in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil"

### Session 2B, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM  I  ACAD Buffalo Bayou Room

**Black State of Mind: African Americans and Mental Health**

Moderator: Dr. Stacie DeFreitas, Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Houston-Downtown

Leah Blake, Prairie View A&M University: “The Effects of External Perceptions of Black Masculinity on Black Male Mental Health”

Tammie Grigsby, University of Houston-Downtown: "Psychotherapy and African Americans: Why African Americans Refuse to or Hesitate to Attend Therapy”

Erlanger Turner, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Pepperdine University: “The State of Black Mental Health: A Critical Reflection”
The Fine Art of Freedom: Art, Literature, and Religion as Tools of Resistance

Moderator: Dr. Erin Patten, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, University of Houston-Downtown

Diane Campos, University of Texas at Austin: “Abstracted Realities: Imagining Creation as a Form of Black Survival”

Brittany Levingston, Yale University: “Exodus Undone: Black Liberation Theology in James Weldon Johnson's God's Trombones”

Abraham Salinas, University of Texas at Arlington: “Escaping the Sunken Place: Ontological Resistance in Jordan Peele's Get Out”

LUNCHEONS

American Democracy in Black and Brown, 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM
Dr. Sonia Lee, Indiana University Bloomington
Milam and Travis Rooms

Teaching to Transgress: Critical Pedagogy in Any Classroom, 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM
Facilitated by UHD CTLE Faculty Teaching Fellows, Dr. Felicia Harris and Dr. Nina Barbieri
TDECU Tour Room
Graduate Presenters and UHD Faculty

SESSION 3 PANELS

Session 3A, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM I ACAD White Oak Room

Black Commodities: Examining the Exploitation of Black Bodies

Moderator: Dr. Creshema Murray, Communication Studies Program Coordinator and Associate Professor of Corporate Communication, University of Houston-Downtown

Michael Worton, University of Houston-Downtown: “Racism in Sports”

David Guzman, University of Houston: “Specters of Inequality: Slavery’s Capitalists”

Rachael Pasierowska, Rice University: “I wuz like a petty dog”: The Animalisation of Black Bodies and Personalities in the Nineteenth-century Atlantic World"
**Black Liberation: Post-Civil Rights Activism and Resistance**

Moderator: Dr. Jeffrey Jackson, Professor of Philosophy and Chair of History, Humanities, and Languages, University of Houston-Downtown

LeAnna T. Luney, University of Colorado Boulder: “‘We Stand on the Shoulders of Our Ancestors’: The Power of Student Activism in the #BlackLivesMatter Era, and Connections with the Black Panther Party, Combahee River Collective and Movement for Black Lives”


**Queering Blackness: Examining Intersections of Race, Gender, and Sexuality**

Moderator: Dr. Sucheta Choudhuri, Associate Professor of English and Assistant Chair, University of Houston-Downtown

Chamille Haley, Prairie View A&M University: “Life and Death in the Power of My Black Fist”

Khyree Davis, The University of Texas at Austin: “Within and Against Continuums of Racial-Sexual/ized Violence: Blackness, Queerness, Transness during the Initial HIV/AIDS Crisis”

Ashley Rosebrough, University of Houston-Downtown: “‘Our Light Shines Too’: An Analysis of the Inclusivity of Black LGBT+ People in Black Churches”

**Racing to Incarcerate: Interrogating the Prison Industrial Complex**

Moderator: Dr. Michael D. Royster, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Prairie View A&M University

Jacob Hood, University of Texas at Austin: “Looks that Kill: Blackness and Visual Ecologies of Policing”

Jonathan Zapeta, University of Houston-Downtown: “Reconstructing Humanity: The Legacy of Slavery in Modern Incarceration”

Maya Burnett, Prairie View A&M University: “Legal Attitudes, Information Processing Styles, Attribution, and Plea Bargains Among African Americans”
Session 4B, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM  I  ACAD Buffalo Bayou Room

**Televising the Revolution: Black Feminism and Social Media Activism**

Moderator: Dr. Felicia Harris, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, University of Houston-Downtown

Kimiya Factory and Taylor Waits, University of Texas at San Antonio and University of Pittsburgh: “Circuits of Agency and Black Fem Rage”


Taylor Waits, University of Pittsburgh: “Looking Back to Move Forward: #Cancelled”

Session 4C, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM  I  ACAD Houston Room

**Africa on My Mind: Celebrating African Roots and Black Culture**

Moderator: Dr. Angelia Y. Jones, Lecturer of Political Science, Prairie View A&M University

Brianna Booker, Prairie View A&M University: “The Unconventional Conventionalism of Pan-Africanism”

Saje Lewis, Prairie View A&M University: "A Sprinkle of Black Girl Magic"

Dahleah Moore, Houston Community College: “Find Your Way Back: Descendants of Kidnapped Africans Are Called Home 400 Years Later”

Black to the Future: Reflecting On African American Futures, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM W.C. Robertson Auditorium

Moderator: Dr. Darius Benton, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, University of Houston-Downtown

Dr. Rachel Quinn, Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies University of Houston

Charles Savage, Executive Director of the Urban Enrichment Institute

Nicola Springer, Vice President and the PreK Education Team Leader at Kirksey Architecture

RECEPTION AND AWARDS PRESENTATION  I  5:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
Welcome Center Lobby
PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES
PLENARY SESSION PANELISTS

Dr. Alex Byrd is the Associate Dean of Humanities for Undergraduate Programs and Special Projects at Rice University. He is also a historian of Afro-America and associate professor in the department of history. He earned a B.A. from Rice University (Sid ‘90), and received his Ph.D. from Duke University. Byrd began his career as a student of free and forced transatlantic black migration in the era of the American Revolution, and his book Captives and Voyagers was awarded the 2009 Wesley-Logan prize in African diaspora history. He is also the recipient of the 2010 Douglass Adair Award for the best article published in the William and Mary Quarterly in the preceding six years.

Byrd’s current research is focused at the intersection of urban history and the history of education. He recently presented aspects of this work-in-progress (on the efficacy of black teachers in black schools, and on diversity as a kind of white privilege) as the 54th Annual Furniss Lectures at Colorado State University. With Celia Naylor he is presently co-editing the Oxford Handbook of African American History. With Brian Behnken and Emily Straus, he is shepherding a collection of essays on the historical significance of race and place in Houston, Texas (under advance contract with LSU Press).

Dr. Sonia Lee is an Associate Professor of History at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. She was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, and has lived in various cities in the U.S. since 1992. Her research is focused on constructions of racial and ethnic identities, Puerto Rican and black freedom movements, immigration, labor, urban, and psychology/psychiatry history. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. from Harvard University. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend and the John W. Kluge Fellowship from the Library of Congress. She has been involved with efforts to preserve and rehabilitate buildings linked to the history of Black-owned businesses in St. Louis through a partnership with the Tillies’ Corner Historical Project. Her second book project explores the intersections of psychiatry and the making of the carceral state in postwar America. She lives with her husband and daughter in St. Louis.

Dr. Rachel Afi Quinn is an Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Comparative Cultural Studies at University of Houston. She received her Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan. Her transnational feminist cultural studies scholarship focuses on mixed race, gender and sexuality in the African Diaspora. Most recently, her essay “El rostro negro dominicano y la Quisqueya queer de Rita Indiana Hernández” was included in the 2016 collection Nuestro Caribe: Poder, Raza y Postnacionalismos para dinamitar el archipiélago LGBTQ, edited by Mabel Cuesta and published by Editorial Isla Negra. She was part of the team that produced the 2015 documentary Cimarrón Spirit about contemporary Afro-Dominican identities. Dr. Quinn’s essay “‘No tienes que entenderlo, solo respetalo’: Xiomara Fortuna, Racism, Feminism and Other Forces in the Dominican Republic" was published in The Black Scholar. Her 2019 essay "Spinning the Zoetrope: Visualizing the Mixed-Race Body of Dominican Actress Zoe Saldaña" was published in Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture.
Charles Savage is the Executive Director of the Urban Enrichment Institute (UEI) and is responsible for the management and development of the agency’s staff, budget, programs, curriculums, policies and procedures. UEI is a mentoring and leadership development program designed to empower inner-city boys, ages 12 to 19, with the tools to become responsible men and productive members of their family and community. Mr. Savage is celebrating his 23rd year with the agency and has been the executive director since 2007. Mr. Savage has been designated as a “visiting professor” for his years of service to the National Urban League’s Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) that mentors and advises students at historically black colleges and universities. He has served on the advisory council of “The Brutal Truth Project”, a child abuse and violence prevention documentary that originally aired on PBS Houston. He has served as vice-chair on the board of directors of Delta Sigma Theta’s One Delta Plaza Educational Center, Inc., and is currently on the advisory council of the Interactive College of Technology. Savage has received numerous recognitions and honors for his work with underserved youth and vulnerable populations. He is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, has been a resident of Houston since 1977 and is the proud father of three adult children, sons Damon and Evan, and daughter, Audra. He has been a consultant to the city of Houston, was a founding executive member of a small business firm, and is a former Shell Companies, USA, and employee with more than 20 years of domestic and international corporate experience. Mr. Savage is a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum, Houston Gulf Coast Chapter, and Community Development Class #1.

Nicola Springer is a Vice President and the PreK-12 Education Team Leader at Kirksey Architecture in Houston, Texas. Nicola received her Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Princeton University and her Master of Architecture from Rice University. At Kirksey Architecture, she oversees the team's projects, manages staff, and maintains client relationships. She is heavily involved in project design, coordination, and execution of construction documents. Nicola has spoken professionally on the influences and advances of 21st century education in design. Nicola joined the Education Team at Kirksey in 1998 as a project architect with responsibilities including project design, coordination and execution of construction documents. She has 14 years of architectural experience including several college and university projects in addition to her impressive K-12 portfolio. She is a recipient of the Houston Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 and the annual Young Architect award by the American Institute of Architects Houston Chapter.

SESSION PRESENTERS, PhDs

Dr. Sheryl Felecia Means holds a BA in English Literature from Spelman College and earned her Ph.D. in Education Sciences, Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry from the University of Kentucky in May 2018. Her doctoral research focused on Black racial identity formation at Steve Biko Cultural Institute in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. Currently, Means is a postdoctoral fellow in Africana Studies at University of New Mexico. Means’ research interests include Afro-Latin America, racial identity formation, and comparative education studies. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is originally from Newark, New Jersey.

Dr. Jude Chudi Okpala is originally from Nigeria. He studied English Literature and Philosophy with graduate degrees from Howard University. His research covers literary theory, African Literature, Logic and the interface between philosophy and literature. He has extensively studied Igbo Metaphysics in Chinua Achebe and Ethical Imagination in Ben Okri. Presently, he is working on the new aesthetics in Nigerian Literature.
Dr. Erlanger Earl Turner is a clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor of Psychology at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Turner earned his bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University, his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Texas A&M University, and completed a clinical post-doctoral fellowship through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His research and clinical interests include mental health among ethnic and racial communities, access to behavioral health services, and training therapists to work with diverse populations. He has also published his research in numerous book chapters and articles in psychology journals. Dr. Turner is the author of the new book, *African American Mental Health: Innovations in Research in Practice*.

**PANEL SESSION PRESENTERS, GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Stephen O. Aisabokhae is currently enrolled in the Doctoral program of Educational Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU). He obtained a Masters in Community Development from Prairie View A&M University. Stephen has been involved in several research and field work initiatives including a 4-month study abroad program in Uganda and Rwanda (East-Africa) where he conducted research on the effect of alternative education (mentorship) on the personal development of young girls in the area. Stephen is a researcher with the PVAMU’s Minority Achievement, Creativity, and High-Ability Center (MACH-III) whose initiative is to produce cutting-edge best practices and scholarship that will speak to the contemporary issues impacting critical populations: administration, faculty and students across the P-20 spectrum and beyond into workplace contexts.

Khyree Davis is a Black queer southerner and PhD student in African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Their research interest are in Black queer and trans studies, Black geographies, decolonial and feminist geopolitics, popular culture, and performance ethnographies. Their current research project considers grassroots organizing and artistic production to ask “how do Black queer and trans communities make sense of space and place as politically and socially informing their lives?” In addition, Khyree is also passionate home cook, poet, and creative writer.

David Guzman is currently a graduate student at the University of Houston. He received a BA degree at Texas Southern University in U.S. History and holds research interests in slavery, race, and capitalism. He specializes in social, cultural, and economic history and is interested in the antebellum financial systems that underwrote slavery, with an additional interest in public history. David is currently working on a thesis tentatively titled, "Displaced, Degraded, Discredited: The Legacy of Slavery and Its Capitalists."

Timothy Lawrence is a graduate student at Prairie View A&M University pursuing his PhD in Clinical Psychology. His research explores the influence that emotions have on decision making as well as factors impacting relationship satisfaction, parole, and juvenile certifications. His future plans are to become a psychology professor.
Brittany Levingston is a sixth year joint PhD candidate in African American Studies and English at Yale University. Her research focuses on Christianity in African American literature and her dissertation, entitled “In the Day of Salvation: Christ and Salvation in Early Twentieth-Century African American Literature,” explores the way the image of Christ and salvation is utilized by African American authors in the first half of the twentieth century.

LeAnna T. Luney is a first-generation college graduate from rural Kentucky. She earned a B.A. in Psychology and African & African American Studies at Berea College, a M.A. in Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville, and is currently a Ph.D. student in the University of Colorado Boulder’s Comparative Ethnic Studies Department. Her research interests include African American students’ perceptions of predominantly white educational institutions, and the everyday coping mechanisms African American students use in racially hostile learning environments.

Jenean McGee is a PhD Student in the Comparative Ethnic Studies program at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research interests center around Black Womanism/Feminism and social media. Currently she is studying how women of the African diaspora engage with social media platforms such as YouTube, and Instagram.

Leroy Myers Jr. is a PhD candidate at University of Oklahoma. His interests include African American migration and African-Native American relations in the Trans-Mississippi West and Southeast. His current research project focuses on black Texan migration throughout the American West and early settlement of free blacks in Indian Territory and Oklahoma.

Rachel Pasierowska is a dual doctoral degree student at Rice University and the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, São Paulo where she studies slavery in the Atlantic World. Her dissertation focuses on the relations between slaves and animals in the Atlantic World in the nineteenth century with a comparative focus on the three major slaving societies America, Brazil, and Cuba. She has published two articles: “‘Screech owls allus holler ‘round the house before death’: Birds and the Souls of Black Folk in the Antebellum South,” Journal of Social History and “Up from Childhood: When African-American Enslaved Children Learned of their Servile Status,” Slavery and Abolition.

Autumn Raynor is a professor of speech communication at Houston Community College. She has previously taught Speech courses at Lone Star College and continues to teach undergraduate African American Studies courses and attend graduate African American Studies courses at her alma mater, the University of Houston. Her TEDx Talk, Recipe for a Right Mind, discussed the intersections of hip hop, German philosophy, self-talk and Double Consciousness. Professor Raynor holds membership in the Public Relations Society of America, the Texas Community College Teachers Association, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Her research and presentation interests include themes of word choice, ontological manipulation, media structures, intercultural interactions and restorative communication.
Ashley Rosebrough serves as the Project Coordinator for the Accelerated Transfer Academy (ATA) at the University of Houston-Downtown. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and received her Master of Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her current research interest includes exploring the intersection of Black spirituality and sexuality from a historical perspective. As a graduate student, she focused her research studies on the educational experiences of Black NCAA student-athletes. In the ATA, she is involved with developing transformative educational experiences for transfer students.

Abraham Y. Salinas is a 2015 McNair Scholars Program recipient as well as a Summa Cum Laude graduate in English from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he is now pursuing his MA. His current research interests involve Marxist and psychoanalytic theory in film studies, as well as Women's and masculinity studies in American literature. He is working on his first novel alongside his Master's and plans to pursue his PhD. after he graduates in 2020.

Jeremy Small is a graduate student at Stephen F. Austin State University. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership, with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Ouachita Baptist University and a Master's degree from the University of Central Arkansas. His research agenda rests in examining critical voice specific to underrepresented populations in K-12 education. In regards to his research interest, it lies in unpacking the Black and Brown teacher's use of pedagogy--their how and why. Currently, he serves as the Assistant Principal of Center High School.

Taylor Waits is pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy for Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Pittsburgh. Her work centers the rhetoric of social media, African-American rhetoric and pedagogy while fusing her love of writing, music, mentorship, and community service to communicate the stories of groups who are often silenced in American society.

Amanda Wicks hails from Ferguson, Missouri and is currently a third-year English Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University. She obtained her B.A. in English from Clark Atlanta University and her M.A. in English from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her research interests include 20th and 21st century Black culture and literature, Hip-Hop studies, and social justice.

**PANEL SESSION PRESENTERS, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

Leah M. Blake is a sophomore at Prairie View A&M University. She is a Sociology major and a Legal Studies minor with aspirations of going to law school a becoming a human and civil rights attorney. She is also considering obtaining an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Sociology. Leah is the co-founder of Generation Justice, a youth-led, non-profit organizing organization based in her hometown but affecting change in Sacramento. She has hopes of expanding Generation Justice's impact to the rest of California, nationally, and globally.
Brianna Booker is a sophomore at Prairie View A&M University. As a Sociology/Political Science Major with a minor in African American Studies, she hopes to teach Black Studies at a high school or collegiate level. Among other things, she has had the opportunity to work the NAACP unit 6815 education chair, speak at the National Association of African American Studies, and is currently an intern with the United Negro College Fund. She owns Italkblack.com. Her goal is to show young Black people that they can be anything they put their mind to.

Diane Campos is a 4th year undergraduate student double majoring in Studio Art and Mexican American Studies with a minor in African and African Diaspora Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Being queer and Afro-Mexican, they work with painting, print-making, transmedia, and mixed media to emphasize different black identities that exist throughout the diaspora. As they explore different black identities within the art context, they challenge the historical canon of black visibility within Latinx spaces. They also conduct research on Afro-Latinx identities using their own and others' works of art as a basis for understanding.

Kimiya Factory is an undergraduate in Political Science with a minor in legal studies at The University of Texas at San Antonio. She is a leader/Co-Founder of the movement #ChangeRapeCulture. Factory challenges Title IX policies regarding structural violence and sexual misconduct at institutions around her community in San Antonio, Texas. She is a national competitor on UTSA's Debate Team as well as Former Assistant News Editor at The Paisano Independent School Newspaper. The black feminist works of Roxanne Gay, Sydia Hartman, Kimberly Crenshaw and Angela Davis inspire factory's activism, journalism and research.

Tammie Grigsby is a native of Fort Worth Texas. She is a student at the University of Houston – Downtown and will be graduating December 2019 with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology. She has a heart for equipping and encouraging young girls between the ages of 10-14 years old. She plans on owning a Counseling, Mentoring and Life Coaching Center for those young girls. Though she will work with all girls in that age bracket, her focus will be on girls that have been sexually abused. She currently holds a Certification and Associates degree in Christian Counseling and is a Certified Life Coach. Her heart’s desire is to help young girls push through their pain, discover their passion, walk in purpose, and get to the promise that God has for them.

Chamille Haley is a senior majoring in sociology and minoring in African American Studies at Prairie View A&M University. She is originally from Roselle, New Jersey but reared by Guyanese Immigrant parents. She has two brothers George (22), and Stephen (16). On her free time, she loves to dance. She won a poetry slam in her local area and numerous awards for dance. She currently serves as Minister of Dance in the Baptist Student Movement. Lastly, she plans to pursue a PhD.

Terril Hebert is a graduating senior at the University of Houston-Downtown. He is interested in the economic contexts of history. He also has a vent for creative writing with his debut novel, Scourge of God, being released in 2019.
Jacob Hood is a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin majoring in English, Sociology, and African and African Diaspora Studies alongside a certificate in Public Policy. He is currently completing his Sociology honors thesis on how Black residents of Austin, Texas perceive the use of body-worn cameras by the Austin Police Department, interpreted through the broader racial politics of policing technology writ large. He intends to begin his PhD in Sociology in the Fall of 2020 to further explore the intersections of modern policing, technology, and critical race studies.

Darrel Hughson is an undergraduate English major with a minor in Theatre Arts at Delaware State University. He is drawn to literature because he likes the study of character and identity; the inner workings of people are his passion. His goal is to continue his education through a PhD program studying English Literature with a focus in Drama and Critical Theory. Darrell dreams of being an English professor and encouraging free, artistic thought for future generations.

Mark W. Laforest is a senior at Rice University, majoring in Spanish. He is a native of Brooklyn, New York and has an Afro-Caribbean background. He has been the president of the Caribbean Student Society at Rice for the past two years and has been a committed member of the Black Student Association. Post-graduation he plans to apply to law school and focus on either policy or housing reform.

Saje Lewis is a Sophomore Communications major at Prairie View A&M University with a broad interest in the field ranging from public relations, rhetoric, journalism, and production.

Dahleah Moore is an artist, entrepreneur, and political activist currently pursuing a degree from Houston Community College. Dahleah is the oldest daughter of seven children. Her father, Wilbert Moore Jr., is a retired Army veteran. Her mother, Velicia Toliver, is a PhD candidate at Prairie View A&M University. Her journey to reconnect to the continent began with her mother teaching her the importance of her cultural identity and that blacks have an obligation to continue the work of their ancestors. Dahleah’s mission is to inspire African Americans to invest in Africa and to empower all peoples of the Diaspora.

Amelia Morrow is a sophomore at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. While majoring in Africana Studies and Political Science, her interests within these fields include African-American history and human rights policy. Prior to Reflecting Black, she presented her research of 1960s Counterculture at the Luther Research Symposium in the spring of 2019.

Josias Parker is an undergraduate student studying for his BA degree in Media Communications with a minor in History and Political Science at Greenville University. His research interest include ancient African history and culture as well as contemporary research on methods for improving the livelihood and stratum of members within the African diaspora. After completing his undergraduate career, he intends to apply to graduate programs in African American Studies.
**McKenna Samson** is a junior English and African-American Studies double major, minoring in Communications at The College of New Jersey. She is from Mount Laurel, New Jersey. She is a proud Bonner Community Scholar and enjoys volunteering weekly at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. She is the current President of TCNJ’s NAACP Branch. She is a member of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society and Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. Upon graduating in May 2021, she hopes to pursue a Master's degree in Communications and begin a career in Screenwriting.

**Michael Worton** is a history major at the University of Houston-Downtown. He plans to shape, influence and encourage the next generation by becoming a high school teacher and coach. He has been married for nine years and has two wonderful children and a third on the way. He is deeply committed to family, faith, and sports.

**Jonathan David Zapeta Xico** is a student at the University of Houston-Downtown focusing on the history of colonialism, slavery, capitalism, and imperialism. They work to highlight the recent criminalization of migration/migrants as a result of class exploitation in the age of global capitalism. Embedded in their research is an acknowledgement of the exploitation of labor and how it is informed by gender, race, and class relations. The aim of their studies are to disseminate how the exploitation of labor have created the foundation for modern prisons, detention centers, and wealth inequality never before seen in history.

*Sankofa* is an African word derived from the Akan tribe in Ghana. It means to “go back and fetch it.” This symbol portrays a mythical bird with its head turned backwards taking an egg off its back. Sankofa reminds people of African descent to look backward, to reflect on their essence, before moving forward to the future.
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The Reflecting Black Committee would like to offer special thanks to Ms. Ashley Foyle, CHSS Administrative Assistant, Ms. Joselin Escobar, CHSS Administrative Assistant, and Ms. Cherilyn Pearson, CHSS Web and Technical Support Specialist, and Ms. Myisha Williams, HHL Administrative Assistant for their administrative support.
The University of Houston-Downtown is a comprehensive four-year university offering bachelor’s and selected master’s degree programs and providing strong academic and career preparation as well as life-long learning opportunities. Located in the heart of the city, the University reflects the diversity of the Greater Houston Area, and through its academic programs, engages with the community to address the needs and advance the development of the region. UHD is an inclusive community dedicated to integrating teaching, service and scholarly research to develop students' talents and prepare them for success in a dynamic global society.

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The College of Humanities and Social Sciences provides the educational foundation of the University experience. CHSS values the diversity of humanity and the idea that education is essential for an empowered, free, and engaged citizenry capable of individual creativity and social responsibility. Students develop and apply knowledge through multiple disciplinary perspectives: historical and theoretical inquiry, critical analysis, quantitative and qualitative research, and creative cultural production. CHSS students gain crucial communication, critical thinking, and analytical skills necessary for professional success in complex global communities of the 21st century.

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This symposium commemorates the anniversary of the African presence in British North America in 1619 by featuring presentations from scholars and emerging scholars in Africana Studies.

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