DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Dear Friends of AAAS:

Thank you for your support of AAAS and its goals and initiatives. It is my pleasure to serve as Interim Director while our Director, Dr. Stephen C. Finley is on leave.

I look forward to working with each of you to continue our efforts to provide students with the knowledge and skills for success at LSU and across the course of their lives. Last year was surely challenging. Nevertheless, AAAS continued to thrive.

Here are some highlights from 2020. I anticipate many more wins in the coming year.

- Completed paperwork for an independent BA in AAAS
- Added a service-learning option to all sections of AAAS 2000
- Submitted proposal for AAAS to become a department
- Added eight new affiliates
- Offered faculty the opportunity to share their research and engage with other scholars as part of our professional development initiatives
- Created a formal mentoring program that matched instructors and junior faculty with senior faculty
- Reactivated the student organization, Society for African and African American Studies
- Met with development representatives to address fundraising needs
- Core faculty and Affiliates maintained rigorous research agendas
- Participated in on searche committees for President/Chancellor of LSU, Assistant Professor of Social Work, and Assistant Professor of Political Science
- Served on virtual discussion about the African American experience including Race and the Pandemic, LSU Science Café; The Black Vote, NAACP of LSU; Perspectives, College of Human Sciences and Education; and Diversity Presentation to the Board of Supervisors
- Participated in Diversity retreat
- Participated on Subcommittees that were created as a result of the Diversity retreat, including Subcommittees on Hiring and Retention and Diversity Course Requirement
- Cosponsored a book discussion and lecture with the Athletics Department and a lecture featuring Princeton professor, Dr. Eddie Glaude.
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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Fax: 225-578–5257
aaas@lsu.edu
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Lori Latrice Martin
Professor, Sociology, African & African American Studies

DIRECTOR (On-Leave Spring 2021)
Stephen C. Finley
Associate Professor, Religious Studies and African & African American Studies

CORE FACULTY
Nikita Carney
Assistant Professor, Sociology African and African American Studies

Jas M. Sullivan
Professor, Political Science, Psychology and African & African American Studies

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
Thomas Durant Jr.

EDITOR
Ewart Forde
Graduate Assistant, Sociology

AFFILIATE FACULTY

John Bardes, History
Sarah Becker, Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies, Director of Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership
Michael Bibler, English
Eldon Birthwright, AAAS
Cassandra Cheney, School of Social Work
Annie Daniel, Director of Veterinary Instructional Design and Outcome Assessment
Melissa Crawford, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Tina Harris, Mass Communications
Fahima Ife, English
Joyce Jackson, Geography & Anthropology
Catherine Jacquet, History and Women’s and Gender Studies
Herman Kelly, AAAS
Touria Khannous, Foreign Languages and International Studies
Ashley Mack, Rhetoric & Culture
Ruth Moon Mari, Mass Communications
Brianne Painia, Interdisciplinary Studies
Bryan McCann, Rhetoric & Cultural Studies
Roland Mitchell, Interim Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences
LaKeith Poole, Student-Athlete Mental Health
Petra Robinson, Leadership & Human Resource Development
Raquel Robvais, Communication Studies
Mark Schafer, Sociology
Elena Fitzpatrick Sifford, Art History
Christopher Tyson, LSU Law
Sonja Wiley, Business
AAAS INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. RAQUEL M. ROBVAIS

Raquel M. Robvais is an Instructor in Communication Studies and African and African American Studies at Louisiana State University. She works within the fields of the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine and African American Studies, examining the symbolic nature and persuasive aspects of bodies, medical discourses, and scientific practices. More specifically, she considers how African American bodies have often been symbolized as disposable discursive sites that are stigmatized and discriminated against.

Her most current research explores the preoccupation and durability of blackness as a “medicalized marker of difference.” She is drawn to the reification of blackness in medical discourse and scientific research, particularly in America during the 19th and 20th century, as these practices and ideologies established paradigms for understanding how race gets written onto bodies and into diseases. The historical processes of racializing diseases are the foundation for her scholarship, which focuses on Sickle Cell Anemia.

Publications

Book Reviews


Rhetoric Society Quarterly, 44:5, 502-505 (review).
Sonja D. Wiley received her Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She joined LSU, jointly in the College of Business and the Center for Computation Technology in 2002. Associate Professor Wiley is the Donald Lindley and Ruby Wright Phillips Developing Scholar Professor and the Diversity Advisor, for the Stephenson Department of Entrepreneurship & Information Systems; Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Advisor, Office of Business Student Success - E. J. Ourso College of Business.
AAAS celebrated the program’s silver anniversary in 2019. As part of our ongoing efforts to commemorate the program’s humble beginnings, AAAS seeks to raise $100,000. The funds will support scholarships for students, beautification of the AAAS office suite, and operating costs. Named scholarships include, Durant Scholars and the Troy Allen Service Award. In keeping with the theme of the campaign, prospective donors are asked to consider giving $25, or $250, or $2,500, or $25,000, etc. Donations at any level are greatly appreciated. Please send checks to AAAS, 135 Howe-Russell Complex, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803. Make checks payable to AAAS. You may also visit our website (www.lsu.edu/aaas) to make a donation online.

AAAS DIRECTORS

2021
Lori Latrice Martin, Interim Director

2016-Present
Stephen C. Finley

2017-2018
Lori Latrice Martin, Interim Director

2010-2016
Joyce Marie Jackson

2004-2010
Angeletta Gourdine

2001-2004
Leonard Moore

1994-2001
Thomas Durant, Jr.
HOW TO MAJOR IN AAAS

A concentration in AAAS requires a total of 33 credit hours including:

- A required core of nine (9) hours: AAAS 2000; AAAS 3024 or 3044 (CxC); & AAAS 4020.
- A minimum of 6 hours must focus on a geographical area outside of the U.S.
- 3 hours in a Service Learning or Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) course.
- Only 12 hours from courses numbered below 3000-level may count towards degree.

Sign up today to get started!
### Spring 2021 Course Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Day/Time Offered</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 2000.1</td>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Eldon Birthwright</td>
<td>African &amp; African American Studies</td>
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<td>AAAS 2000.2</td>
<td>T/TH 7:30-8:50</td>
<td>Herman Kelly</td>
<td>African &amp; African American Studies</td>
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<td>AAAS 2050</td>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Gabri Cole</td>
<td>Contemporary Africa</td>
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<td>AAAS 2410.1</td>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Eldon Birthwright</td>
<td>Black Pop Culture</td>
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<td>AAAS 2511.1</td>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Nikita Carney</td>
<td>Race Relations</td>
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<td>AAAS 2511.2</td>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Nikita Carney</td>
<td>Race Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 3044.1</td>
<td>Online Course T/TH 10:30-11:50</td>
<td>Raquel Robvais</td>
<td>The Black Rhetorical Traditions</td>
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<td>AAAS 3425</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Briana Painia</td>
<td>Black Women in America</td>
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<td>AAAS 4020</td>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Jas Sullivan</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
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<td>AAAS 4900</td>
<td>Online Course T/TH 1:30-2:50</td>
<td>Herman Kelly</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
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<td>AAAS 7901</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>By Special Permission</td>
<td>African and African American Readings</td>
</tr>
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NEWS AND NOTES

• Congratulations, Dr. Tina M. Harris! Dr. Harris won the Francine Merritt for Outstanding Contributions to the Lives of Women in Communication.
• Dr. Lori Latrice Martin received the Black Student-Athlete Summit Athletic Leadership Award on January 6, 2021.
• Drs. Cassandra Cheney and Sonja Wiley introduced a resolution to the Faculty Senate regarding requiring all students complete AAAS 2000 prior to graduation. The idea for the resolution was initiated by the Black Student Athlete Association at LSU and supported by AAAS and a university-wide committee on a diversity required course. Drs. Stephen C. Finley and Lori Latrice Martin were members of the university-wide committee.
• The LSU Board of Supervisors recently approved the independent BA in AAAS.
• Dr. Lori Latrice Martin is part of the LSU President/Chancellor Selection Committee.
• AAAS cosponsored an event with LSU Athletics feature Princeton professor, Dr. Eddie Glaude. Watch Dr. Glaude’s powerful commentary at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLctlNfn-E&feature=youtu.be
• Dr. Finley held the Executive Director position of the Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR).
• Dr. Martin is President of Research for ABIS. The organization, which launched in September 2020, is dedicated to addressing racial inequities in sports.

Here are selected recent publications from AAAS faculty.


Please send your news and notes to aaas@lsu.edu so we can acknowledge and celebrate you!

Emeritus Professor
Dr. Thomas Durant, Jr.