

Welcome to the Africana Studies Department

Africana Studies Newsletter Spring 2019



Greetings!

Last year the Department celebrated our fiftieth anniversary in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University. We marked the occasion with several events aimed at reflecting on our past and building bridges to the future. One highlight of the year was a symposium in tribute to Emeritus Professor Amiri Baraka. The event brought to campus prominent scholars to discuss Baraka's life of artistry, activism, and service. We were also fortunate to have Baraka's son, the Honorable Ras Jua Baraka, Mayor of Newark, present a captivating keynote speech.

As we enter our fifty-first year, we know there is much to be done, but we are ready for challenges to come. We will continue to invest in our stellar faculty who consistently demonstrate their excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. We are also committed to strengthening our program to provide a curriculum that truly prepares our students for life beyond Stony Brook. We're also proud of our mentoring program with the Tri-Community Center. We are looking forward to establishing a doctoral program and we're excited about launching an alumni-giving campaign to bolster financial support for students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

As we continue to grow as a department, we are seeking ways to build stronger relationships with our alumni. We would love to have you attend department events. We'd love to hear your stories about your time at Stony Brook as an AFS major. Also, feel free to send us an email about your experiences post-Stony Brook. The fund for excellence has enabled us to give scholarships to students in need at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background.

Tracey L. Walters, Ph.D.
Chair

Upcoming events



Summer 2020 Dr. Adryan Wallace will be bringing a group of ten students to Ghana on a study-abroad cultural exchange. We value the opportunity to allow our students to participate in this very important experiential learning experience.

Upcoming Events (continued)

Spring-Fall 2019

The AFS dept. and the dept. of Hispanic Languages and Literatures hosted the lecture series Dirty Work: The Invisible Labor of Caribbean and Latin American Domestic Workers.

The AFS department in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities has invited the academic group, Rap Sessions, to facilitate a series of panels on Toxic Masculinity.

DIRTY WORK: The Invisible Labor of Caribbean and Latin American Domestic Workers

1. Premila Nadasan: Unionization Efforts of African American Domestic Workers, Feb 28th (10am) location: Wang Lecture Hall 2
2. Nichole Murray: Gender and Migration in Contemporary Spain, March 1st (10am) Wang Lecture Hall 2
3. Tshana Nese Brown: Raising Brooklyn, April 11th (1:00pm) AFS Richard Moore Library Rm SBS #224
4. Susanna Rosenbaum: Domestic Economics: Women, Work, and the American Dream in Los Angeles, April 25th (10am) Wang Center, 209 Professor (10am) Wang Center, 209

Sponsored by the departments of Africana Studies, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, and the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, the Center for the Study of Digital Media, Social Justice, and Public Policy.

AFRICANA STUDIES 50

RAP SESSIONS PRESENTS:

Confronting TOXIC MASCULINITY
APRIL 23rd, 2019
Wang Center Lecture Hall 2
 1:00PM-2:30PM

FEATURING

Mark Anthony Neal, Chair of African and African American Studies, Professor of African and African American Studies and English and the founding director of the Center for Arts, Digital Culture and Entrepreneurship (CADE) at Duke University.

Treva Lindsey, Associate Professor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies of Women's Gender and Sexuality at The Ohio State University.

SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF MEN AND MASCULINITIES, THE DEPARTMENTS of Africana Studies, History and Psychology

AFS 2020 Graduation 8:30AM in Richard B. Moore Library SBS S224 Friday, May 24th 8:30AM



Watch our website <http://www.sunysb.edu/afs>



Student Spotlight

Our students continue to be spotlights of excellence

Kelly Smith, Spring 2020 was chosen for a Peace Corps assignment in Namibia. An outstanding student, Ms. Smith was the 2017 recipient of the Bliss Verdon scholarship which is primarily for students wishing to study in Africa.

Ms. Smith is a talented jewelry designer who uses as her materials, stones found at Stony Brook's West Meadow Beach.

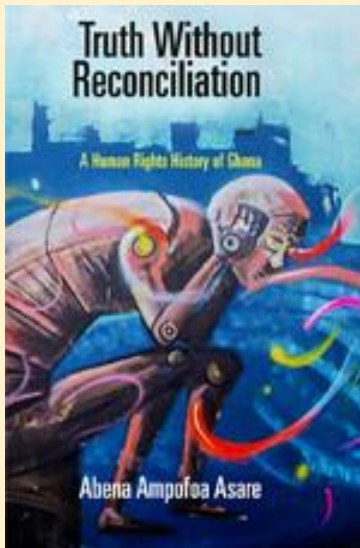


Sarah Eller, with a double Africana Studies and Political Science major graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stony Brook in the spring of 2017. Sarah was a student leader in the tri community program where she helped mentor promising high school students from underrepresented neighborhoods in Western Suffolk County

After a year of working for a non-profit in Manhattan, Sarah chose UC Irvine to study law. We just discovered that Sarah was selected for a summer internship at the ACLU!



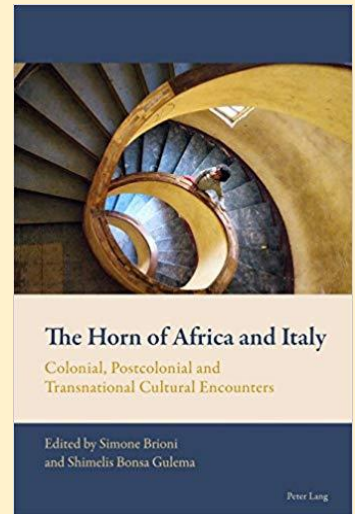
Mary Seymour, Playwright, director, actress, music publisher, community activist. CEO of Seymour Creatives Collectives (All Media Entertainment.) Mary attended Yale University (YSD) directing project. On Broadway, she performed in the original iconic musical production of the play *Hair*, and *Raisin "The Musical."* Mary and her husband Ken Williams a music publishing company and received a Grammy Award for "You Don't Know My Name." recorded by Alicia Keyes. Ms. Seymour graduated from Stony Brook University 18 '(magna cum laude), Mary is a Alumna of Alpha Sigma Lambda Phi Omega Honor Society. She is honored to be on the Board of Directors of YEP (Youth Empowerment Project) located in Central Islip New York.



Notable accomplishments of our faculty.

Abena Asare's book *Truth Without Reconciliation* was named a 2018 Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association *Choice* magazine

Shemelis Gulema co-edited (**Simone Brioni**) *The Horn of Africa and Italy*



Patrice Nganang launched the television network *Generation Change TV* in December 2018 with a televised speech by Maurice Kamto, its co-founder.

Generation Change TV focuses on news in Africa.

AFS Summer classes Session one and Session Two

AFS 370, African American Family (Session one), Dr. Mark Milton Chambers
AFS 374 Environment and Development in African History (Session two), Dr. Shimelis Gulema
AFS 388 Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean (Session one), Dr. Yalile Suriel
AFH 368 Caribbean and American Connections in Literature (Session two) Dr. Titiola Olosunde
AFH 385 French Caribbean Literature (Session one), Dr. Elisabeth Spettel
AFS 381 AIDS, Race and Gender in the Black Community, Dr. Aishah Scott

REMEMBER TO APPLY FOR THE BLISS VERDON and/or RICHARD B. MOORE SCHOLARSHIPS!

Call us with your questions! 631 632 7470