

Conference Agenda
THE 2019 UNCF/MELLON PROGRAMS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 17-19, 2019
THE GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, DC

***Scholars Transforming the Academy and Public Discourse: Curating,
Interrogating and Complicating Narratives***

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

12:00-10:00 pm | 3B Registration Desk

Conference Registration

2:00-4:00 pm | Cabinet

Pre-Conference Luncheon and Workshop for All Mentors and Coordinators

- **Lauren Eldridge, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'10)**, Assistant Professor of Music, Washington University
 - **Ada Jackson**, Senior Administrative Assistant, UNCF/Mellon Programs
 - **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.**, Director, UNCF/Mellon Programs
 - **Vincent Willis, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, The University of Alabama
-

4:30-5:30 pm | Constitution A Foyer

Conference Cocktail Reception

5:30-6:30 pm | Constitution A

Celebrating the Transformational Impact of UNCF/Mellon Programs

- **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.**, Director, UNCF/Mellon Programs & Associate Professor of Sociology, Spelman College
 - **Armando Bengochea, Ph.D.**, Senior Program Officer for Higher Education and Scholarship in the Humanities and Director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)
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6:30-7:30 pm | Constitution A

Opening Plenary

Scholars Complicating and Challenging Narratives: The Value of the UNCF Perspective

- **Kim Michelle Lewis, Ph.D., (Dillard University, '98)**, Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Programs, and Natural Sciences/Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Howard University
- **Valerie Matthews, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, '92)**, Professor of English, Georgia State University, Perimeter College
- **Howard Ramsby, II, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, '99)**, Professor of Literature, Southern Illinois University

Facilitator:

- **Shanna G. Benjamin, Ph.D., (Johnson C. Smith University, '94)**, Professor of English, Grinnell College
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7:30-9:00 pm | Cabinet

Champagne Reception and 30 Year Celebration

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019

7:45-8:45 am | Constitution A Foyer

Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:15 am | Constitution A

Morning Plenary

Scholars Contributing to Public Discourse

- **Angela E. Addae, J.D., Ph.D., (Fisk University, '11)**, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Oregon
- **Chelsea Johnson, Ph.D., (Spelman College, '12)**, LinkedIn. *IntersectionAllies: We Make Room for All*
- **Hadiya Sewer, Ph.D., (Spelman College, '12)**, Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University

Facilitator:

- **Donna Akiba Harper, Ph.D.,** Professor of English, Spelman College, UNCF/Mellon Campus Coordinator
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10:15-10:30 am | Constitution A Foyer

Break

10:30 am-12:00 pm | Constitution A

Scholars Complicating Narratives: Interrogating Citizenship, Race, Gender, and Sexuality

- **Alisha Gaines, Ph.D., (Spelman College, '03)**, Associate Professor of English, Florida State University
Black for a Day: White Fantasies of Race and Empathy
- **Trimiko Melancon, Ph.D., (Xavier University, '99)**, Associate Professor of English, Loyola University
Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation
- **Derrick R. Spires, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, '04)**, Associate Professor of English, Cornell University
The Practice of Citizenship: Black Politics and Print Culture in the Early United States

Facilitator:

- **Karima Jeffrey, Ph.D., (Swarthmore College, MMUF, '91)**, Associate Professor, African American Literature, UNCF/Mellon Campus Coordinator & Mentor, Hampton University
-

12:00-2:00 pm | Farragut/Lafayette

Luncheon and Plenary

Jamestown: Requiem and Resurgence

- **Michael Gomez, Ph.D.,** Silver Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University

Respondent:

- **Benjamin Talton, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of African History, Temple University

Facilitator:

- **Frederick Knight, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of History, UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Morehouse College
-

2:15-3:30 pm | Constitution A

HBCUs: Sites for the Curation, Celebration and Interrogation of Our Narratives

- **Sarah Clunis, Ph.D.,** Director, Xavier Art Gallery, Xavier University
- **Jontyle Robinson, Ph.D.,** Curator, Legacy Museum, Tuskegee University and The Alliance of HBCU Museums and Galleries
- **Anne Collins Smith,** Curator of Collections, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art
- **Vanessa D. Thaxton-Ward, Ph.D.,** Director, Hampton University Museum

Facilitator:

- **Medeva Ghee, Ph.D.,** Executive Director, The Leadership Alliance, Assistant Professor of the Practice of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Brown University
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3:30-4:30 pm | Constitution A

Scholars Transforming the Academy and Public Discourse: Curating, Interrogating and Complicating Narratives

Open Discussion with Table Topics

4:30-5:30 pm |

Break

5:30 pm |

Board Bus at 10th and H Street to Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

6:00-10:00 pm | **Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Conference Reception and Plenary

A Conversation with Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D.

American Anthropologist, Educator, Museum Director and President Emerita, Spelman College (1987-1997); Bennett College for Women (2002-2007)

Facilitators:

- **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.,** Director, UNCF/Mellon Programs, Associate Professor of Sociology, Spelman College
- **Beverly Guy Sheftall, Ph.D.,** UNCF/Mellon Programs Advisory Board, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies, Director, Women's Research and Resource Center, Spelman College

Featuring: Melanie Hill, Ph.D., Violinist, Post-Doctoral Associate in the Department of English, Rutgers University

(Guests will tour the museum after the plenary)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

8:00-9:45 am | Constitution A

Breakfast and Morning Plenary

UNCF Faculty Transforming the Academy through Teaching and Scholarship

- **Luis Gonzalez-Barrios, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Spelman College
- **Barbara Combs, Ph.D.**, Interim Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Clark Atlanta University
- **Mona Lisa Saloy, Ph.D.**, Professor of English, Dillard University
- **Sarah Rude Walker, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of English, Spelman College

Facilitator:

- **Leah Creque, Ph.D.**, Professor of English, Director, Honors Program, UNCF/Mellon Campus Coordinator, Morehouse College
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9:45-10:00 am | Constitution A Foyer

Move to Breakout Sessions

10:00-11:15 am | Concurrent Workshops – Bridge Rooms

Writing and Scholarly Productivity Workshop – Wilson Room

Facilitator:

- **Cally Waite, Ed.D.**, Director, Social Science Research Council Mellon Initiatives: Associate Professor of History & Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

Infusing Gender and Sexuality Studies into the Curriculum - Roosevelt Room

Facilitators:

- **Moon Charania, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of International Studies, UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Spelman College
- **Beverly Guy Sheftall, Ph.D.**, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies, Director, Women's Research and Resource Center, Spelman College

Mentoring Matters: It's Time to Share Most Effective Strategies – Arlington Room ***A Mentors' RoundTable Discussion***

Facilitators:

- **Maria Carrion, Ph.D.**, Professor, Comparative Literature and Religion, Department Chair, Religion, Core Faculty in Islamic Civilization Studies, MMUF Campus Coordinator, Emory University
- **Vivian Carter, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology and Sociology, UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Tuskegee University
- **Michelle Hite, Ph.D.**, Director, Ethel Waddell Githii Honor Program and Associate Professor of English, UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Spelman College
- **Ebony Lumumba, Ph.D.**, Chair, Associate Professor of English, UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Tougaloo College
- **Belinda Wheeler, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English, UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Claflin University

Convener:

- **Geneva Baxter, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Spelman College
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11:15-11:30 am | Constitution A Foyer

Break

11:30-12:45 pm | Repeat Concurrent Sessions

Wilson Room, Roosevelt Room and Arlington Room

1:00-2:00 pm | Constitution A

Closing Lunch & Debriefing

2:00 pm

Adjournment