

Conference Agenda

THE 2022 UNCF/MELLON PROGRAMS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 6-8, 2022
THE WESTIN BUCKHEAD HOTEL- ATLANTA, GA

Answering the Call to Transform the Academy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

12:00-4:00 pm | Buckhead Pre-Function- Lobby Level

Conference Registration

2:00-4:00 pm | Woodruff Room- Lobby Level

Pre-Conference Luncheon and Workshop for New Mentors and Coordinators

- **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Programs Director; Co-Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College
 - **Vincent Willis, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in New College; Co-Director of the Summer Institute, University of Alabama
-

4:00-6:00 pm | East/West Paces Ferry- 4th Floor

Conference Cocktail Reception

6:00-7:00 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Conference Opening: Answering the Call to Transform the Academy

- **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Programs Director; Co-Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College
 - **Renee Johnson-Thornton, Ph.D.**, Senior Program Associate and Associate Director of MMUF, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
 - **Nadrea Njoku, Ph.D.**, Director, Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute- UNCF
-

7:00-8:00 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Opening Plenary

UNCF/Mellon Programs Answering the Call to Transform the Academy: Reorienting Teaching and Learning for a Globalized, Digitalized World

- **Kassie Freeman, Ph.D.**, President & CEO, African Diaspora Consortium & Senior Faculty Fellow Institute for Urban and Minority Education
-

8:00-10:00 pm | East/West Paces Ferry- 4th Floor

Conference Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

7:45-8:45 am | Buckhead Pre-Function- Lobby Level

Continental Breakfast

ANSWERING THE CALL TO TRANSFORM THE ACADEMY: THE EVIDENCE

9:00-10:15 am | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Undergraduate Fellows and Mentors in Conversation

- **Alison Ligon, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English; UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Morehouse College
- **George Pratt (Morehouse College, C'23)**, UNCF/Mellon Undergraduate Fellow

- **Andrea Montgomery, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Music; UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Tougaloo College
- **Kailen Saddler (Tougaloo College, C'23)**, UNCF/Mellon Undergraduate Fellow

- **Adria Welcher, Ph.D.**, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology; UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Morehouse College
- **Horace Ryans (Morehouse College, C'24)**, UNCF/Mellon Undergraduate Fellow

Convener: Kathleen Phillips-Lewis, Ph.D., Division Chair for the Humanities & Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History; UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Spelman College

10:15-10:30 am | Buckhead Pre-Function- Lobby Level

Break

10:30 am-12:00 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Scholars Transforming the Academy: Ph.D. Panel

- **Beatrice Adams, Ph.D., (Fisk University, C'12)**, Assistant Professor of African American History, College of Wooster
- **Kaylina Madison Crawley, Ph.D., (Fisk University, C'10)**, Director, Community Academy of Music and Arts, Tennessee State University
- **Nafeesa Muhammad, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'07)**, Assistant Professor of History, Spelman College
- **Brittney Yancy, Ph.D., (Hampton University, C'03)**, Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, Illinois College

Convener: Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, Ph.D., Professor Emerita; UNCF/Mellon Advisory Board Member, Spelman College

12:00-1:30 pm | Woodruff Room- Lobby Level

Lunch

ANSWERING THE CALL TO TRANSFORM THE ACADEMY: MOVING FORWARD

1:30-2:45 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Answering the Call to Transform Scholarship: Introducing the UNCF/Mellon First Book Institute

- **Julius Fleming, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, C'09)**, Associate Professor of English, University of Maryland
- **V. Denise James, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'01)**, Associate Professor; Associate Dean for Assessment and Program Review, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Dayton
- **Howard Ramsby, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, C'99)**, Professor of Literature, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
- **Derrick Spires, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, C'04)**, Associate Professor of English, Cornell University

Convener: Shanna Benjamin, Ph.D., (Johnson C. Smith University C'94), Professor of African American Studies; UNCF/Mellon Advisory Board Member, Wake Forest University

2:45-3:00 pm | Buckhead Pre-Function- Lobby Level

Break

3:00-3:45 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Collaborative Efforts

Mellon Humanities for All Times: Movement Memory and Justice Project

- **Corrie Claiborne, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Director of the Movement, Memory and Justice Project, Morehouse College
- **Clarissa Myrick Harris, Ph.D.**, Professor of Africana Studies and Public Historian, Co-Founder of the Cultural Heritage Preservation and Digital Humanities Initiative, Morehouse College
- **Monique Earl-Lewis, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Africana Studies; Co-Director, Mellon Movement, Memory and Justice; Interim Chair, Africana Studies and History; Founding Director, Faculty Development, Teaching and Advising Center, Morehouse College

Convener: Michelle Hite, Ph.D., Director, Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program; Associate Professor of English; UNCF Mellon Campus Coordinator, Spelman College

3:45-4:45 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Future Projects/Partnerships

- **Patrick C. Fleming, Ph.D.**, Program Officer, Division of Education, National Endowment for the Humanities
 - ❖ *Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education*
- **Maryemma Graham, Ph.D.**, University Distinguished Professor of English & Director, Project on the History of Black Writing, University of Kansas
 - ❖ *Data Rangers Project*
- **Michael Williams, Ph.D.**, Professor of History and Director of the African American Studies Program, The University of Texas at El Paso
 - ❖ *The John Henrik Clarke Archival Research Project*

Convener: Betty Parker-Smith, Ph.D., Former Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Dillard University & Tougaloo College; UNCF/Mellon Advisory Board Member

5:00-6:00 pm | Buckhead Pre-Function- Lobby Level

Happy Hour

6:00 pm

Dinner on Your Own

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

9:00-10:30 am | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Breakfast and Morning Plenary

Faculty Career Enhancement Programs Updates

- **Karima K. Jeffrey-Legette, Ph.D., (Swarthmore College, C'94)**, Associate Professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Hampton University
- **Jontyle Robinson, Ph.D.**, Curator of the Legacy Museum, Tuskegee University & Founding Director of the Alliance of HBCU Museums and Galleries
- **Pamela Waldron-Moore, Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science and Leslie R. Jacobs Endowed Professor, Department of Political Science, Xavier University
- **Celeste Lee, Ph.D., (Emory University, C'03)**, Assistant Professor of Sociology; UNCF/Mellon Mentor, Spelman College

Convener: Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D., UNCF/Mellon Programs Director; Co-Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College

10:45 am-12:45 pm | Peachtree & Ansley- Mezzanine, 3rd Floor

Concurrent Workshops:

BREAKOUT ONE: Gender and Sexuality Studies Institute Roundtable: Peachtree- Mezzanine, 3rd Floor

- **Juan Battle, Ph.D.**, Presidential Professor, Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.
- **V. Denise James, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'01)**, Associate Professor; Associate Dean for Assessment and Program Review, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Dayton
- **Mahaliah Little, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'13)**, Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies, The University of California, Irvine
- **Trimiko Melancon, Ph.D., (Xavier University, C'99)**, Professor, Department of African American and African Studies, Michigan State University

Convener: Beverly Guy Sheftall, Ph.D., Founding Director of the Women's Research and Resource Center; Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies; UNCF/Mellon Advisory Board Member, Spelman College

BREAKOUT TWO: Faculty Seminar: Africans, Their Descendants, and Native Americans: History and Legacy: Ansley- Mezzanine, 3rd Floor

- **Lisa Bratton, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of History and Political Science, Tuskegee University
- **Sara Busdeicker, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of International Studies, Spelman College
- **Charity Clay, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Xavier University
- **Hashim Gibrill, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Clark Atlanta University
- **Leslie Clement Gutierrez, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Co-Director for the Center of Languages, Rhetoric and Cultures, Johnson C. Smith University
- **Adelia E. Parrado-Ortiz, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Spanish, Bethune-Cookman University
- **Mona Lisa Saloy, Ph.D.**, Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Professor of English; LA Poet Laureate, Dillard University

Convener: Michael A. Gomez, Ph.D., UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Program Consultant & Silver Professor, Departments of History *and* Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University

1:00-2:30 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

Closing Lunch and Debriefing

Celebrating the Poetry of Mentoring

- **Jericho Brown, Ph.D.**, (Dillard University, C'98), 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry; Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing; Director, Creative Writing Program, Emory University
- **Mona Lisa Saloy, Ph.D.**, Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Professor of English; Louisiana Poet Laureate, Dillard University

Convener: Opal Moore, MFA, Poet & Author

2:30 pm

Adjournment