



2026 UNCF/MELLON PROGRAMS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 1-3, 2026

Scholars Transforming the Academy: Centering and Stabilizing Scholar Activism in Times Like These

CONFERENCE BIOS

CAROL ANDERSON, PH.D.

Carol Anderson is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of African American Studies at Emory University. She has authored five books. *Eyes Off the Prize: The United Nations and the African-American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944-1955*, which was awarded both the Gustavus Myers and Myrna Bernath Book Awards. She followed up with *Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960*, was published by Cambridge. Her third book, *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide*, won the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism and was a *New York Times* Bestseller. Her fourth book, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy*, was Long-listed for the National Book Award in Non-Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Galbraith Book Award in Non-Fiction. Her fifth book, *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*, was a *New York Times* Editor's pick. In addition to numerous teaching awards, her research has garnered fellowships from the Ford Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

TONY BOUNDS, M.A.

Professor Tony A. Bounds is a native son of the Magnolia State. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Jackson State University in 2000 and later obtained his Master of Arts with a Public History Concentration in 2006. As Junior Archivist at Tougaloo College, he assisted researchers regarding their academic pursuits and functioned as an apprentice to the Senior Archivist. It was also amid this period he received historical interpretive orientation at the Medgar Evers Civil Rights Museum from 2000-2006. Upon obtaining his graduate degree, he became full time faculty in the Department of History & Philosophy at Jackson State University. In the fall of 2006, his career began as an instructor for Ancient and Modern Global History. In 2010, he was secured as an Instructor of American History by William Carey College. Returning to the ranks of Jackson State University's Department of History in 2013, his academic experience was further broadened by being designated Common Core courses within the W.E.B. DuBois Honors College. January of 2017 was marked by his reentry to Tougaloo College by accepting the position as College Archivist. He currently has oversight of the school's institutional history in conjunction with its widely lauded Civil Rights Collection. The development of policies and procedures to safeguard rare materials held within the archives while facilitating their accessibility to the public are the core directives of his administrative duties. In 2018, Professor Bounds was selected by Princeton University to represent Tougaloo College in its inaugural Archives, Research and Collaborative History (ARCH) Program. ARCH was conceived and implemented to explore the connections between archival study, historical narratives and variables of social justice within American culture. At his direction, in 2020, the

Archival Department was chosen to join Yale Universities Legacies of American Slavery Project. The study was sponsored by the institution's Gilder Lehrman Center. During 2023, he was appointed to the Commemorative Committee of the Tougaloo – Brown Academic Collaborative. This collegiate partnership celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2024 as the oldest between a Historically Black College and Ivy League institution within the nation's history. It was also during 2024 that he was selected to take part in the Student and Mentors Program in Technical Art History (SMITAH). This entity was co-sponsored by Yale University and the Alliance of HBCU Museums & Galleries. His past academic contributions were affirmed by peers when elected to the Mississippi Historical Society's Board of Trustees where he presently serves.

MARLA BYRD, M.ED.

Marla Byrd, M.Ed., C'1999, is a faculty development, digital learning, and academic innovation leader with nearly 20 years of experience across higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit organizations, and the educational technology industry. A proud Spelman College alumna, she currently serves as Associate Director of Spelman's Teaching Resource and Research Center (TRRC), where she supports faculty development, instructional design, academic innovation, and emerging approaches to teaching and learning. Previously, she served as Senior Instructional Technologist at Spelman, leading faculty-facing technology support, professional learning, and consultation in areas including course design, assessment, accessibility, AI literacy, digital learning, and emerging technologies. Her recent work focuses on AI-informed pedagogy, AI-resilient assessment design, responsible AI integration, and human-centered approaches to innovation that keep learning goals, not tools, at the center. Marla is also the founder of 21st Century Code, an educational innovation consultancy focused on AI readiness, digital learning strategy, instructional technology integration, professional learning, and sustainable technology implementation. Her broader professional work includes designing and facilitating faculty development, advising academic leaders on emerging technology strategy, supporting curriculum and program innovation, and helping institutions build capacity for thoughtful and responsible AI adoption. Her earlier leadership and educational technology experience includes roles with zSpace, School District 189, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is currently completing a Ph.D. focused on AI in higher education, focusing on faculty perceptions of AI innovation and the implications of emerging technologies for teaching, learning, assessment, and student success.

NOMHLE GCABASHE CANCA

Nomhle Gcabashe Canca spent 20 years of educational development in the United States but built her business career in South Africa for the last 30 years before her retirement. Nomhle Canca is known for her significant contributions in the field of business and leadership, particularly in South Africa. She is recognized as an influential figure in the corporate world, with a strong track record in finance, management, and business development. Nomhle has gained recognition for her leadership roles, particularly in the financial and investment sectors, and has been involved in various initiatives aimed at improving economic empowerment and inclusion. She has worked in executive positions for both private and public sector organizations, focusing on strategic growth, innovation, and sustainability. Additionally, she is known for her advocacy of gender equality and empowerment, supporting women in leadership and promoting diversity in business environments. Nomhle has been featured in various media outlets for her expertise and her role in shaping Africa's corporate landscape.

TANYA CLARK, PH.D.

Dr. Tanya N. Clark is an Assistant Professor of English at Morehouse College whose teaching and scholarship sit at the intersection of African American literature, Black speculative literary traditions, and Women's and Gender Studies. A member of the 1993 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship cohort, she earned her BA in English from Clark Atlanta University, her MA in English from the University of Rhode Island, and her PhD in English, with a certification in Women's Studies, from Temple University. Her scholarship explores how Black writers use genre, archives, and cultural memory to challenge injustice and imagine Black futures shaped by freedom and self-determination. Dr. Clark was recently awarded an ACLS HBCU Faculty Grant and a UNCF/Mellon Programs Faculty Residency Fellowship in support of her book manuscript, *Pauline E. Hopkins and Afrotemporalism: Time, Memory, and Black Futures*. The project introduces Afrotemporalism as a framework rooted in Sankofa—the practice of returning to the past to retrieve what is needed for the present and future—to examine how Hopkins transforms history and cultural memory into tools for Black community repair, development, and self-determination.

ANDREW J. DOUGLAS, PH.D.

Andrew J. Douglas is a professor of political science at Morehouse College. His work is concerned with theories and histories of Black radicalism and political economy. Douglas is the author of three books: *Prophet of Discontent: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Critique of Racial Capitalism* (Georgia, 2021), coauthored with Jared Loggins; *W.E.B. Du Bois and the Critique of the Competitive Society* (Georgia, 2019); and *In the Spirit of Critique: Thinking Politically in the Dialectical Tradition* (SUNY, 2013). Articles and other writings have appeared in, among other outlets, *The Du Bois Review*, *The C.L.R. James Journal*, *Constellations*, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *The Review of Politics*, *Boston Review*, *Academe*, *Money on the Left*, *Political Theory*, *Boston University Law Review*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Du Bois*. Interviews and other discussions have been featured on podcasts such as *The American Vandal*, *Millennials Are Killing Capitalism*, *Money on the Left*, and *I Mix What I Like*. Douglas is currently working on two new books: a monograph on philosophies of money in the Black radical tradition and a co-edited volume on W.E.B. Du Bois's writings on political economy. Douglas is a recipient of grants and fellowships from, among other organizations, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University. He is actively involved in the higher education labor movement as an executive council member of AAUP-AFT United Academics Local 6741, a supporting member of the United Campus Workers of Georgia, and vice president of the Morehouse AAUP chapter. Douglas received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

ANNA SOPHIA FLOOD, PH.D.

Dr. Anna Sophia Flood is a scholar of Black literary studies and visual culture as well as a proud alumna of Fisk University and the UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship. She earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, where her dissertation, *Slavery's Eerie Presence: The Graphic Gothic's Capturing of Dark Histories and Distorted Futures*, examines how Black graphic narratives pedagogically engage and relay the afterlives of slavery. Her research and teaching interests include Black comics, speculative fiction, the gothic and visual representations of history and culture. Being a UNCF Mellon Fellow and working with

program's Summer Institute allowed Dr. Flood to experience the program from different sides of the fellowship journey and because of this she holds a fierce commitment to supporting HBCUs and their students. Currently, Dr. Flood works in administration at Fisk University and remains in pursuit of academic job and fellowship opportunities.

ANDREA JACKSON GAVIN. M.A.

Andrea Jackson Gavin is an accomplished archivist dedicated to preserving and making accessible African American and HBCU history and culture. She is the Program Director of the HBCU Digital Library Trust, based at the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Woodruff Library, and previously at Harvard University. Jackson Gavin's prior leadership roles include Head of the Archives Research Center and Director of Engagement and Scholarship (AUC Woodruff Library), and Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium (University of Chicago). An alumna of Spelman College and New York University with an M.A. in U.S. History and certification in Archival Management, she was named a Fellow of the Society of Georgia Archivists in 2018. Jackson Gavin is co-author of "Funding the Future of African American Religion Archival Collections at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library" in the *Theological Librarianship Journal*.

DONNA AKIBA SULLIVAN HARPER, PH.D.

An internationally recognized Langston Hughes scholar, Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper taught English at Spelman College from 1987 to 2020. She is now Professor Emerita. Nationally, she served as President of the College Language Association from 2018 to 2020, and she was a founding member and past president of the Langston Hughes Society. She is currently on the editorial board of *The Langston Hughes Review*. Akiba Harper is the author of the only book-length study examining Hughes's celebrated Jesse B. Semple stories, *Not So Simple: The "Simple" Stories by Langston Hughes* (1995). She has also edited four volumes of short fiction by Hughes. She appears in the PBS documentary "Origin of the Dream" (2026). From 1998 to 2020 she was the campus coordinator for the UNCF-Mellon Program at Spelman College. She directed the Summer Institute from 2007 to 2016. She currently serves on the Advisory Board for UNCF-Mellon.

JULIE E. HUDSON, PH.D.

Dr. Julie E. Hudson received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin after spending her first year at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She received her M. A. in 1993 and Ph.D. in 1999 in English from the University of Texas. Her recent publications include "What Purpose Education? Anna Julia Cooper's and Booker T. Washington's Differing Views on Education" in *Freedom Schools: A Journal of Democracy and Community* (2024) and "Education, Art, Politics: The Roots of the El Paso African American Community's Commitment to Social Justice" *Freedom Schools: A Journal of Democracy and Community* (2025). Her book-in-progress is titled *Leading the Charge: African American Writers from the 18th Century through the 20th Century*. Dr. Hudson is Faculty Advisor for Sigma Tau Delta Eta Tau Chapter and Alpha Kappa Mu Kappa Xi Chapter at Huston-Tillotson University. Dr. Hudson is the planning stages of creating the Mary E. Branch Symposium at the University in honor of Miss Branch, president of Tillotson College from July 1930 until July 1944. Among Dr. Hudson's campus and community activities is the annual HTU Annual Book Club. Along with the English Area, she sponsors the annual campus Book Club featuring both non-fiction

and fiction. Past selections have included Nikole Hannah-Jones' The 1619 Project, Colson Whitehead's The Nickel Boys, Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings, and Ready from Within: Septima Clark and the Civil Rights Movement edited by Cynthia Stokes Brown.

CANDICE LOVE JACKSON, PH.D.

Dr. Candice Love Jackson is Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Operations, and Faculty Success at Lane College. A literary scholar, creative writer, and higher education leader, she has served as a professor, department chair, honors program director, assistant provost, provost, chief of staff, and acting president. Throughout her career, she has advanced academic excellence, faculty development, student success, and access to undergraduate research and national fellowship opportunities. A graduate of Tougaloo College, Jackson earned a B.A. in English as a UNCF/Mellon Fellow under the mentorship of renowned scholar Dr. Jerry W. Ward Jr. She received both her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied with scholar and author Dr. Trudier Harris. Her scholarship spans African American literature, Black popular culture, speculative fiction, film, and media studies, with particular attention to identity, history, representation, and voices pushed to the margins of dominant narratives. Most recently, she is a contributor to *Starfleet Log Entries: Influence and Interpretations of Star Trek*, edited by Craig A. Meyer and Daniel Preston and forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi. She is also co-editor of the in-progress collection, *The Black Sitcom: A Comprehensive Survey and Collected Essays*. Her creative and scholarly work brings together Black feminist thought, archival recovery, cultural criticism, and narrative craft. In recognition of her literary work, she was selected as a 2026-2027 AWP HBCU Faculty Fellow and received a FY27 Mississippi Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship to complete her poetry collection. She is the author of the romance suspense novels *Deserving Grace* (2019) and *Finding His Treasure* (2021) and is at work on her third novel, *Riding Shotgun*. Her current poetry explores memory, inheritance, family history, and the preservation of women's stories. She also directs the JXN Film Festival and co-hosts Allegedly Higher, a podcast examining higher education and popular culture through a human-centered lens.

CARILEIGH JONES, PH.D.

Dr. Carileigh Jones is a sociologist and faculty member at Salisbury University where she teaches sociology and criminology courses. Her dissertation examines publication censorship in Illinois prisons, focusing on how correctional policies and practices shape incarcerated individuals' access to information, education, and critical thought. Her broader research interests include critical criminology, adverse childhood experiences, race, education, and community violence. She is also an evaluation team member with the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint program in Champaign, Illinois, where she collects data to assess program effectiveness. Before joining Salisbury University full time, Dr. Jones worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore, where she supported program quality and youth-focused initiatives. She is passionate about mentorship, community engagement, and creating opportunities for young people to develop confidence, critical thinking skills, and a sense of agency. Across her research, teaching, evaluation, and community work, she is committed to understanding the social conditions that contribute to involvement with the criminal legal system and identifying opportunities for prevention, education, and community support. Dr. Jones received her bachelor's degree from Hampton University in 2018 and her Ph.D. from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2025.

NICOL TURNER LEE, PH.D.

Nicol Turner Lee is a senior fellow in Governance Studies, the director of the Center for Technology Innovation (CTI), and serves as co-editor-in-chief of the TechTank blog and The TechTank Podcast. Her research focuses on the intersection between technology and social justice in areas that range from universal access to communications to the design and application of artificial intelligence models. In 2023, Turner Lee developed and launched the AI Equity Lab, which is focused on advancing inclusive, ethical, nondiscriminatory, and democratized AI models and systems throughout the United States, and the Global South, including the African Union, India, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Alongside her plethora of publications, Turner Lee released her first, signature book *Digitally invisible: How the internet is creating the new underclass* (2024), which advances a roadmap toward a more just, digital society and economy. She also recently published a chapter in *The Oxford Handbook on AI Governance* (2022), among other notable publications. She has been a contributor to the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Politico, Communications Daily, National Journal, The Hill, among others. She has been seen and heard on PBS Newshour, National Public Radio, NBC, ABC, and other major and multicultural and independent media outlets and podcasts. Turner Lee is also a regularly sought out speaker, and panelist for congressional, state, and local hearings on existing and next generation technologies. Turner Lee graduated from Colgate University magna cum laude and has a M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University. She also holds a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

LEWIS MILES, PH.D.

Lewis Jasen Miles is a sociologist whose research examines migration, health, stratification, and global inequality. Miles examines migration, health, stratification, and global inequality. His book manuscript, *Black to Mexico: Mobility, World-Making, and Unfinished Freedom Migrations*, traces Black American freedom migrations to Mexico and how these expatriates navigate and contest racial, gender, and class boundaries. He earned his B.A. from Morehouse College, where he was a UNCF/Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellow, and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, where he held fellowships from the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, Rackham Graduate School, and the National Science Foundation. A North Carolina native, Miles is currently a President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, San Diego.

BRIA PAIGE, PH.D.

A proud Jackson, Mississippi native and Spelman College alumna, Bria E. Paige is the Thurgood Marshall Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of African and African American Studies at Dartmouth College. Bria recently completed her Ph.D. in the department of English at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. And she is currently at work on her first book project, tentatively titled *The Age of Exhaustion: Bodies, Being, and Black Women's Labor*, which charts the long history of Black women's exhaustion within 20th and 21st century Black women's writing and other forms of cultural production. Bria's scholarly work can be found in The Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival 50th Anniversary Special Issue of *Callaloo*.

TIFFANY R. PENNAMON, PH.D.

Tiffany R. Pennamon is an Assistant Professor of African American Literature at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. Her scholarship and teaching converge at the intersections of African American and African Diasporic literature and art, Womanist Thought, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Cultural Studies, with a particular focus on 20th- and 21st-century Black women and queer writers' liberatory worldmaking. Her research and creative work have appeared in *Callaloo*, *Black Perspectives*, *World Wildlife Magazine*, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, and *The Conversation*, among other publications.

HOWARD RAMBSY II, PH.D.

Howard Ramsby II, Distinguished Research Professor of Literature at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), is the author of *Writing Black Panther: Ta-Nehisi Coates and Representation Struggles* (2026) and co-author, with Kenton Ramsby, of *One Black Writer at a Time: How Literary Coverage Shapes Reception* (2026). He is the creator of *Remarkable Receptions*, a podcast examining responses to African American literary and artistic productions.

KENTON RAMBSY, PH.D.

Kenton Ramsby is an Associate Professor of English at Howard University and a Data Storytelling Specialist with Howard's Center for Applied Data Science and Analytics (CADSA). His research focuses on African American literature, literary history, geography, reception, and the use of data to examine patterns of cultural visibility. He is co-author, with Howard Ramsby II, of *One Black Writer at a Time: How Literary Coverage Shapes Reception* (Bloomsbury Academic, September 2026), which examines how literary coverage, cultural institutions, and influential figures shape the visibility and reputations of Black writers. His first book, *The Geographies of African American Short Fiction* (2022), examines how Black writers use place, setting, and movement to represent African American life. Ramsby is also the founder and director of the Black Data Lab, where students and collaborators build datasets and create public-facing visualizations that reveal patterns across Black literature and cultural history.

LATANYA ROGERS, PH.D.

La Tanya L. (Reese) Rogers, Ph.D. serves as Dean of the School of Humanities & Behavioral Social Sciences at Fisk University. She is also an Associate Professor of Literature & Drama and Associate Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Honors Program at Fisk. She earned a doctorate degree in English from Howard University and two bachelor's degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, where she was awarded a Mellon Mays Fellowship. In previous roles, La Tanya Rogers served as intern/translator for the United States Commercial Service and Embassy in Madrid, Spain; and Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia. To increase capacity at Fisk, Dean Rogers has served on many grant teams across the past three school years, applying for nearly \$10 million in funding for technology, Honors student development, design thinking and curriculum, and innovation. She is the proud faculty advisor to the 2022 and 2024 national Battle of the Brains championship teams from Fisk University. In 2023, her Fisk Battle team earned second place—prevailing, as with the other years, over 250+ students from 30 HBCUs in the tech and business-innovation competition. Committed to advancing her dual disciplines of English and Honors, Dean Rogers currently serves as the Vice

President of the National Association of African American Honors Programs (NAAHP). From 2019-2023, she served as President of the College English Association–Mid-Atlantic Group (CEA-MAG). Focused on global engagements, Dr. Rogers has led more than 100 students and faculty on study tours to France, Italy, the Bahamas, Spain, Mexico, Barbados, Morocco, Egypt, and Ghana. She has lived and researched in Madrid, Spain and São Paulo, Brazil, where, in the latter location, she published an essay on colorism, economic racism, and Langston Hughes. Dr. Rogers is the co-author of *The Motherhood Aesthetic in Contemporary Black American Plays*, which was published in February 2025 by the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign's IOPN Press in partnership with Afro Publishing Without Walls (Afro PWWII). Her second manuscript, which is in preparation, has support from editorial teams at Brown University Digital Publications and the University of Michigan Press. In 2004, Dr. Rogers co-founded the Edward Alexander Bouchét National Graduate Honor Society, which now has chapters at Howard, Stanford, Yale and many other prominent universities across the nation. She is currently serving as the president of the National Association of African American Honors Programs.

RYAN RUSSELL, PH.D.

Dr. Ryan Russell is a graduate of Morehouse College, where he majored in Political Science. His academic journey with the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship began in the summer of 2016, where he first developed an interest in carceral studies and prison abolitionist thought. After graduating from Morehouse, Dr. Russell began his Ph.D. in Politics at the University of Virginia, where he specialized in Black political thought. His dissertation and current book project examines the political thought of political prisoner George Jackson, focusing on anti-fascism, guerrilla warfare, and state-sanctioned death through Jackson's intellectual framework. His work situates Jackson as a political thinker in his own right, examining how his experience of imprisonment shaped his broader understanding of colonial violence, revolutionary struggle, and the state power. Dr. Russell's research also considers Jackson's enduring intellectual and political afterlife, including the ways his writings continue to be taken up by contemporary resistance movements, including Palestinian struggles in Gaza.

CYNTHIA NEAL SPENCE, PH.D.

Dr. Spence has served as Assistant Dean for Freshman Studies, Associate Academic Dean, and Academic Dean at Spelman College. As Director of the UNCF/Mellon Programs, Dr. Spence develops, manages, and oversees a range of programs focused on future faculty development and career enhancement for UNCF (United Negro College Fund) students and faculty. Under her leadership, students are prepared to enter the Ph.D. pipeline, and faculty across the UNCF consortium are supported in their growth as teachers and scholars. Dr. Spence has expanded opportunities for undergraduates and faculty through the UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship and the Faculty Career Enhancement Programs. Her teaching and research interests in sociology, law, and social justice support the Law and Criminology concentration in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Her interest in higher education access, diversity, and equity, as well as empowerment and advocacy for women and girls, informs her research, writing, community service, and public speaking. Dr. Spence also serves as the Founding Director of the Spelman College Social Justice Fellows Program. The Social Justice Program is a living and learning community that aims to connect students' intellectual interests with their passions for social justice advocacy. She served as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee

on Advancing Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in STEM Organizations. She has served as a consultant for the AAC&U Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Project, the Ford Foundation Institutional Transformation Project, the University of Chicago Provost's Office for Teaching and Learning, the Agnes Scott College Center for Teaching and Learning and the Georgia Department of Corrections. Dr. Spence served two terms as a Faculty Trustee on the Spelman College Board of Trustees and is the former chair of Men Stopping Violence. Additionally, she has served as Vice Chair of the YWCA Greater Atlanta Board of Directors and currently serves on the boards of Shared Interest and the Atlanta History Center. She is a founding member of the Center for Civil and Human Rights Women's Solidarity Society. Dr. Spence is a graduate of Spelman College and received her Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Rutgers University.

SHAWANDA STEWART, PH.D.

Dr. Shawanda Stewart is Chair of the Department of English and Communication and Professor of English at Huston-Tillotson University, a private liberal arts HBCU where she teaches writing and rhetoric courses. Her primary research interests include first-year composition pedagogy, writing transfer, and asset-based writing instruction and assessment. Dr. Stewart has a genuine interest in research and scholarship that examines and promotes writing transfer and identity authenticity through language in the college composition classroom and is currently working on her book project, *Undoing Unthought: The Writing Transfer Habits Counternarratives of Three African American Male HBCU Graduates*.

DANILLE K. TAYLOR, PH.D.

Danille K. Taylor, Ph.D. is the Director of the Clark Atlanta University Art Museum. Since her appointment the museum has increased its grant writing, attendance, and community (university and Atlanta) engagement. Under her leadership the museum has established three pillars to guide its work: stewardship, education, and sustainability. The museum is an original member of the National Museum of African American History and Culture's HBCU History and Culture Access Consortium that over the course of five years provides almost \$1 million in support. This project funds the technology and personnel to digitize the permanent collection, will be accessible on the NMAAHC's website and will feature items from all five HBCU's in the consortium in a traveling exhibition *At the Vanguard*. Works from the collection have been borrowed by major museums in America and Europe. CAUAM has received funding from Luce, IMLS, Art Bridges, Tera Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and the City of Atlanta. Dr. Taylor is professor of African American Studies, Africana Women's Studies, and affiliate faculty in the Humanities, and served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Clark Atlanta University. She is a former dean at Texas Southern University in Houston and Dillard University in New Orleans. She is a scholar of African American literature and culture having earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from Brown University in American Civilization, a M.A. in Afro American Studies from Boston University and B.A. from Princeton University. Dr. Taylor is editor of *Conversations with Toni Morrison* (1994), co-editor with Angelyn Mitchell of *Cambridge Companion to African American Women's Literature* (1994) as well as numerous presentations and articles. Dr. Taylor in her current role has participated in panels at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Stanley Museum at the University of Iowa and the AUC Art Symposium. She has just finished her first art essay, "John Biggers' Afrocentric Pedagogy at Texas

Southern University” for a companion catalogue for an upcoming John Biggers exhibition.

DORETHA K. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

Dr. Doretha K. Williams is the Director of the Robert F. Smith Center for the Digitization and Curation of African American History at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The Smith Center serves to make accessible historical collections through digitization, public programming and engagement, and by supporting educational development in the museum and archives fields. Prior to her appointment at NMAAHC, she was the Project Director for the D.C. Africana Archives Project (DCAAP), a grant-funded digitization program with the Africana Studies Program and the University Libraries at the George Washington University (GWU). From 2011 to 2013, Doretha served as the Executive Director of the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City, an educational resource and cultural center that provides access to its collections for research. Doretha received her PhD in American Studies from the University of Kansas. She is a proud graduate of Fisk University and an UNCF/Mellon fellow, class of 1998.