2013-2014
Department of Africana Studies &
Institute On Black Life

From the Chair and Director

Africana Studies majors and minors – the world is waiting for you! You are engaged in a challenging and bold program of study that is preparing you to begin the career of your choice. AFA’s interdisciplinary curriculum offers you a wealth of social, historical, cultural, and political knowledge on the diversity of the global community.

Through Africana Studies you are learning that you have a place in the competitive workforce regardless of your interests. You are also learning to challenge the status quo and question hierarchy. The world needs smart, creative thinkers who are prepared to work with the rapidly changing demographics of the globe. The world needs YOU!

Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez
Chair, Department of Africana Studies
Director, Institute on Black Life

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Africana Studies: A Year in the Life

The Department of Africana Studies at the University of South Florida is an interdisciplinary academic unit that offers undergraduate and graduate courses on Africa and people of African descent in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and throughout the global community.

Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.
Swami Sivananda

Anything and Everything!
TAMPA — For the next two years, college student Daniel Schadrac will be drilling down into two areas of health communication: how to help low-income people get colorectal screenings and how people in those communities get their health information so hospitals and doctors can best reach them. But Schadrac’s not a graduate student. He’s not even an upperclassman.

He’s a first-year student at the University of South Florida, and he represents a growing trend at USF and at universities nationwide — undergraduate research.

This has gone beyond ... a good job or a good-looking” resume, said Schadrac, who was born here shortly after his family fled genocide in Rwanda. “What undergraduate research has allowed me to do is build my character.”

USF now has at least 2,500 undergrads working with faculty mentors on rigorous inquiry. “Undergraduate research is a matter of course here,” said Richard Pollenz, director of the school’s Office of Undergraduate Research. “No matter which faculty, across every discipline, they will work with graduate students and undergraduates.”

The concept is tried and true. Especially in the sciences, faculty researchers have relied on the help of undergraduates for decades. More than 650 colleges and universities are members of the Council on Undergraduate Research.

But educators are now recognizing and documenting that the practice is a strong contributor to the engagement of younger students.

“The recent interest has been because these practices have been defined as high-impact,” said Jillian Kinzie, associate director of Indiana University’s Center for Postsecondary Research.

“When students get involved in research, they’re more likely to persist, more likely to be retained, more likely to graduate; they will likely have a higher grade point average, and they will learn more and at a deeper level.” Undergraduate research at USF was cited by Provost and Executive Vice President Ralph Wilcox last month as one of the key factors in the university’s six-year graduation rate jumping 15 percent in five years. Wilcox said research “anchored” undergraduates in the USF community, and the school was “very intentional in providing undergraduates the benefits of a top-tier research university.”

The survey concludes that first-year students who were engaged in one high-impact practice, and seniors who experienced two, reported greater gains in knowledge, skills and personal development and were more satisfied with their educational experience.

“We can surely show that students that have research experience remain in the disciplines,” he said. “One of the hypotheses I’m working on is that if we can get a student an undergraduate research experience as a freshman or sophomore, perhaps now they’re going to remain in those majors and be much more committed.” That’s significant, because in the critical science, technology, engineering and math fields, only four of 10 who start in one of those fields graduates in it.

Schadrac said his research in public health at Moffitt Cancer Center on campus has brought him out of his shell. He had been on a solid pre-med academic track but decided to change his undergraduate major to Africana Studies. He will continue to pursue osteopathic medicine.

“I may have been much more afraid to step out and major in the humanities,” he said. “But I was able to study something that is not just for the facts of knowledge, but to grow in wisdom as well.

“Not only do I have a reason to study the cultures of Africa and America, and see what it means to be black here, but I can implement that in my field,” he said. “I can go into these communities and understand just what I am assessing.”
Our continuing research included the historic Black communities of Progress Village, (1960s-present) Carver City-Lincoln Gardens, (1950s-present) and updates on the Central Avenue Business District; (1890s to present), historic churches, Civic Associations, community organizations, and written and oral histories. We are working with our community partners in Carver City-Lincoln Gardens to install a Hillsborough County historic marker this fall. And two students are continuing their work as part of their masters theses.
Focus on Africana Studies Students

Maya Brown
Maya Brown is a junior double majoring in Africana Studies and Sociology with a minor in Women's Studies. She has participated in research with the Institute on Black Life and the Sociology Department. Maya is very involved on campus by being a member of several student organizations and holding leadership positions within them. She was recently inducted into the Dean's Student Leadership Society of the College of Arts and Sciences. She plans on becoming a lobbyist.

Maya was accepted in the USF-Tallahassee Internship Program (TIP) for the Spring Term 2014. Students in TIP spend an academic term focusing on the Florida legislative process. During the sixty day legislative session, they work with officials in Tallahassee. These officials are actively involved in finding solutions to issues facing Florida such as economic development, growth management, transportation, environmental protection, education, health, and social welfare.

The Public Policy Internship Programs at USF bring a unique insight for students interested in helping formulate future legislation—a partnership which is an investment not only for participants, but a better tomorrow for all Floridians.

Graduate Assistants

Abney Henderson
Abney Henderson is completing her thesis, *An Analysis of the Artistry and Activism of Black Women in the Black Arts Movement*, and preparing for her defense this summer. Abney is a member and volunteer with the Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Library Foundation and the Haitian Association Foundation of Tampa Bay.

Brandy Langley
Brandy defended her thesis, *An Examination of Lynching and Segregation as Instruments of Genocide*, in March. She is preparing for a doctoral program in History.

Christopher Pineda
Christopher’s research project on the Hispanic influx into the historically African American community of Progress Village was completed and shared at a presentation to the Progress Village Civic Association members.
Institute On Black Life: 
The African-American Neighborhoods Project

The Institute on Black Life’s initiative, the African-American Neighborhood Project, entered a second phase when graduate students in AFA 6355 continued the work begun with the initial 2012 project. The purpose of the project is to collect community stories about historically Black communities in Tampa. The project facilitates students’ knowledge of research methods and also encourages service learning activities.

If you are interested in doing community research, please contact:
Elizabeth L. Dunham - eldunham@usf.edu

USF student researchers are involved in:
- Collecting Family & Community Histories
- Conducting Interviews
- Digital and archival preservation of ephemera & public records
- Digital and archival preservation of organizational materials pertinent to the history of the communities

Kindling bravery is a daily challenge: not hiding in safety, not settling for whatever is just good enough. - Junot Diaz
Race and Place: Cultural Landscapes of Black Life in America—
a National Conference - February 2014

The Institute on Black Life is actively engaged in a broad range of grant-funded research projects, university-based events, and collaborative projects with organizations in the greater Tampa Bay community. IBL programs include lectures by local, national and international scholars.

In February, students and scholars convened at our first national conference. Over sixty presenters shared their recent papers and research during the 3-day event.

For a copy of the program, including abstracts [www. USF Scholar Commons](http://www.usf.edu/scholar-commons)

Funded in part by: [USF Research & Innovation](http://research.usf.edu)

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it. - Maya Angelou
The Department of Africana Studies: Faculty Teaching & Research

Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez Chair, AFA, Director, IBL & the Center for Africa and the Diaspora teaches “African-American Community Research”. In 2012 she was awarded a Global Academic Partners grant for a collaborative project in Ghana and a “Research that Matters” grant for a project on Tampa’s historic Black communities. In April 2013, Dr. Rodriguez was appointed Hillsborough County Historian by the Board of County Commissioners. She is the first woman to be appointed as historian since its initiation in 1949.

Dr. Edward Kissi teaches courses on African history, genocide and human rights. He is an internationally recognized scholar on comparative genocide, and the initiator of the African Initiative on Genocide and Human Rights Education. In 2013, Dr. Edward Kissi accepted an invitation to become a Fellow of the International Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS), a think-tank in Ghana. In June 2013, he delivered his inaugural seminar as an IIAS Fellow at the University of Ghana on “Human Rights and the Debates over Dignity and Social Order in Africa.” Dr. Kiss’s talk was widely covered on radio and television and on the internet in Ghana. It also generated passionate reactions in Ghana, and reignited a national debate over gay rights, particularly his view that diverse African societies have a legal and moral obligation to respect diversity in all its forms and that sexual minorities, in particular, ought to be accorded the same dignity and respect that all minority and human groups enjoy in any modern society in the 21st Century.


Dr. Laurie Lahey joined the Africana Studies department in 2013. Currently, she is working on a manuscript about the civil rights movement in Camden, New Jersey. Her research explores how an unlikely alliance of militant African Americans, Puerto Ricans, and white Christians cooperated in their quest for social justice during the late-1960s and early-1970s. Dr. Lahey was awarded a $10,000 grant by the New Jersey Historical Commission to assist in the final research and publication on this project. Her work will also appear in the forthcoming edited collection, Beyond Civil Rights: African American and Latino/a Activism in the Twentieth Century United States, which will be published by the University of Georgia Press. Her research and teaching interests include: Race and racism in American history, the African diaspora, 20th century social movements, religion and politics.
Dr. Simeon-Jones teaches “Haiti: Legacy of Resilience” and “Afro-Diaspora Literature and Political Movements” for the Department of Africana Studies. Her academic contribution for 2013 was an entry for Blackwell Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies entitled “The Negritude Philosophy and the Movement.” She also wrote an entry on Haiti, for the Digital Library of the Caribbean. Dr. Simeon-Jones is the author of Literary and Sociopolitical Writings of the Black Diaspora in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

Dr. Abraham Khan teaches courses on race and sports and on Social Theory in Africana Studies. His first book, Curt Flood in the Media, was published in 2012 by the University Press of Mississippi. Dr. Khan is interested in investigating the discourses that influence racial politics and cultural narratives of racial justice. Dr. Khan is currently examining the civic imagination of liberal integrationism and the symbolic crises that emerge from the attempt to formulate black identity as an agency of social activism in sport.

Thank you to our adjunct instructors:
Dr. Roy Kaplan, Dr. Festus Ohaegbulam, Dr. Linda Tavernier-Almada,
Mr. Shawn Moore

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Abney Henderson, Brandy Langley, Corliss Heath, Christopher Pineda
AFA Advisor Andrew Bird

Staff
Irina Ramirez-Fuentes, AFA Office Manager
Elizabeth L. Dunham, IBL Project Coordinator

Student Assistants
Valnick Touloute
Jaida Pena
Diana Contreras
Kati Mesa
The Institute on Black Life currently administers a number of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. The scholarships were established to provide academically talented students the opportunity to study at the University of South Florida. These scholarships are based on academic talent, grade point average, financial need and a personal statement of commitment to their success at USF.

To be considered for a scholarship, APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED to complete a financial aid (FAFSA) application available from the USF Office of Financial Aid or on line at www.fafsa.edu.gov

For detailed information, see www.IBL.USF.EDU

Application deadline is January 15th

Congratulations 2014 -2015 Scholarship Recipients!

Catherine and John Lott Brown Endowed Scholarship
   Jennifer Martinez
   Vanisaben Patel

Ruth and Jerry Bell Endowed Scholarship
   Emmeline Nix

Bright House Scholarship
   Sophia Abraham

Bank of America Scholarship
   Nam P. Le
   Cassia Simpson

Robert Louis Allen Endowed Scholarship
   Omar Salaam

Ivory Club Endowed Scholarship
   Ufondu Chukwudi
   Omonigho Bubu
   Folakemi Oyewumi
   Korede Adegoke
   Chukwudi O. Ejiofor
   Adedoyin Shittu
   Oluwatobi Ozoya
   Adebukola Sangobowale
   Nnadozie Emechebe

To get lost is to learn the way.  - African Proverb
Department of Africana Studies Courses  
Fall 2014 & Spring 2015

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Culture &amp; Society in Africa</td>
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<td>AFA 2380</td>
<td>History &amp; Theory of Genocide</td>
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<td>Africa and the United States</td>
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<td>Afro-Diasporic Literature &amp; Political Movement</td>
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<td>Black Popular Culture</td>
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<td>AFA 4931</td>
<td>Haiti: Legacy of Resilience and Freedom</td>
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CERTIFICATES

Graduate Certificate - Genocide & Human Rights  
Graduate Certificate - Africana Studies

Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.
-Wilma Rudolph