

**19th Annual**

**Graduate Association for African American History Conference**



**Greetings!**

*Dear Conference Attendees:*

*Welcome to Memphis, Tennessee for this year's annual GAAAH conference! We are thrilled to meet and share experiences and scholarship with fellow graduate students, historians, and other parties. It’s an exciting time for GAAAH as we continue to grow and adapt. The field of African American History is continuing to expand in scholarship and this conference serves as a great stepping stone for those who plan to contribute. It is our hope that you will walk away from this conference with new ideas, experiences, and cohorts. Before I close, I’d like to thank each of you for attending our conference and bringing your expertise.*

*– Evelyn Jackson, GAAAH President*



*Welcome to all the participants in the nineteenth annual Graduate Conference in African American History! We are so pleased to have you with us here in Memphis. Our Graduate Association for African American History works hard to put on this conference, which attracts participants from all around the country. Some of our past participants are now scholars with national reputations, and they often point with fondness back to this special conference. We hope that you not only benefit from the ideas and experiences of the conference, but that you maintain ties with other conference participants, and keep building an intellectual and professional community.*

*– Aram Goudsouzian, PhD, Chair of the History Department*

**Honored Guests**

***Dr. Keisha N. Blain***



This year's conference will feature a keynote address from Keisha N. Blain, an

 award-winning historian who writes on race, politics, and gender. She obtained a PhD in History from Princeton University and currently teaches history at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018) and co-editor of Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism and Racial Violence (University of Georgia Press, 2016). Her work has been published in several academic journals such as the Journal of Social History and Souls; and popular outlets including the Huffington Post, The Washington Post, and The Feminist Wire. She is the president of the African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) and senior editor of its popular blog, Black Perspectives.

***Dr. Kofi Baku***



Dr. Kofi Baku is a barrister at law and senior lecturer in history at the University of Ghana. He holds a BA in History and Philosophy from the University of Ghana and an MA and a D. Phil from the University of Sussex in Brighton in the United Kingdom. He has been teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Ghana since 1987 where he also served as Head of Department from 2006 to 2014. He has held visiting positions at Boston University, the University of California, Los Angeles and the Pennsylvania State University. His current research interests include (a), intellectual resistance to colonialism in Ghana and West Africa and (b), the legal, social, political and economic statuses of persons of slave ancestry in Ghana and West Africa.

***Dr. Reginald Ellis***

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*Dr. Reginald K. Ellis earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in in United States History from the University of Memphis. In the Fall of 2011, Dr. Ellis was hired as an Assistant Professor of History at Florida A&M University and earned Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor of History in the Fall of 2017. Due to his teaching philosophy and engaging lectures, he was honored by his students and colleagues by being named the 2016-2017 Florida A&M University Teacher of the Year! In the Fall of 2018, Dr. Ellis was appointed as the Assistant Dean in the School of Graduate Studies and Research, with one of his major functions is to oversee the Graduate Feeder Scholars Program. He is the founding president of the Graduate Association for African American History (GAAAH), which currently hosts the African American History conference at the University of Memphis. Currently, he is serving as one of sixty historians with the American Historical Association Tuning Project, to revamp history curriculums in higher education. Along with his academic services, Dr. Ellis remains active in the community by participating in several capacities including his membership of the Leadership Tallahassee Class 31, also serves as member of its Board of Governors. Dr. Ellis is married to Delexis C. Ellis, a 2006 graduate of Florida A&M University and they are the proud parents of, Miss Eva Janelle Ellis.*

**Conference Schedule**

**Wednesday, October 17**

**Session One: Slavery and Anti-Slavery in the Atlantic World**

**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Mitchell Hall, Room 309**

Wyatt Stephens, The Many Faces of Slavery Within African Culture

Noelle Lorraine Williams, Black Power! 19th Century: Newark’s First African American Rebellion

Moderator: Reina Henderson

Commentator: Dr. Dennis Laumann, University of Memphis

**Introduction of Guest Speaker: Dr. Dennis Laumann**

**Guest Lecture by Dr. Baku**

**5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**University Center Iris Room, 338**

**Thursday, October 18**

**Session Two: The Longer Movement – 18th and 19th Century Activism**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**University Center Room 300**

Madison Ogletree, Direspected, Unprotected, but not Dejected: An Examination of Black Women’s Resistance in Antebellum Freedom Narratives, 1850-1861

Jasmine Daria Cannon, “Resist Steadfast in the Faith”: Macedonia A.M.E: Camden’s First Race Riot and Free Black Resistance During the Civil War

Jennifer Bennie, Say my Name, Say my Name: The Name of the First Recorded Lynching in Memphis, Tennessee

Moderator: Damarius Harris

Commentator: Dr. Beverly Bond, University of Memphis

**Session Three: Black Resistance and Urbanization**

**11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**University Center Room 300**

Samantha Averett Boyd, Racial Restrictive Covenants in Chicago, Illinois from 1940-1980

Maurice Gipson, Decentralizing Central High School: Civil Rights Activism in Arkansas After the Central High School Integration in Little Rock

Airic Hughes, Service is the Rent You Pay: Annie Abrams, A Legacy of Democracy

Moderator: Heather McNamee

Commentator: Dr. Aram Goudsouzian, University of Memphis

**LUNCH 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**(Lunch voucher provided)**

**Session Four: Resistance and Urbanization Part II**

**2:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**University Center Room 300**

Eric Steagall, Preserving the Lost Cause through Dixie’s Football Pride: The Birmingham News’ Coverage of the Alabama Crimson Tide During the Core of the Civil Rights Movement, 1961-1966

Erin Santana, Ocean Hill-Brownsville on My Mind: The Radical Possibilities of Remembering Community Control

Moderator: Brianna Harrison

Commentator: Dr. Brian Kwoba, University of Memphis

University Center Room 300

**5:30 p.m. – Reception for Dr. Keisha Blain**

**6:00 p.m. – Keynote Speaker: Dr. Keisha Blain**

**Post-Keynote Book Signing**

**Friday, October 19**

**Session Five: Intersectional Histories of Sexuality and Race**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**University Center Shelby Room 342**

Naykishia Head, I’m So GLAAD: An Examination into the Experience of the LGBTQ Student at the HBCU

Quincy Rhineheart, Bayard Rustin in the Shadows: Black Gay Men’s Bodies as Sites of Theological Terrorism

Corey Reed, What Black Art Movements Mean: An Analysis of Black Aesthetics Relationship with Identity, Representation, and Racial Fortitude

Ernest K. Davis, Black Feminism and Womanism

Moderator: Danyel Clark

Commentator: Dr. KT Ewing, Tennessee State University

**Session Six: African American Women and Intellectual Currents of Resistance**

**10:45a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**University Center Shelby Room 342**

Brett Seekford, Reappropriating the Past in Zora Neale Hurston’s Dust Tracks on a Road

Alexandria Russell, The Phillis Wheatley Brand: African American Women’s Naming Memorialization in the Early Twentieth Century

NaTosha Briscoe, The Struggle for Survival in 19th and 20th Century African American Women’s Autobiography: Black Women’s Narrative of Incarceration and Freedom

Moderator: Evelyn Jackson

Commentator: Dr. James Conway, Jr. Tarrant County College

**1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

**Pizza Talk with Dr. Reginald Ellis, FAMU**

**Memphis State Eight Awards**

**Session Seven: Communication Department**

**2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**University Center Shelby Room 342**

Johnathan Smith, Journalism as Rhetorical Activism: The Chicago Defender’s Coverage of the 1968 Democratic National Convention

Dianna Watkins Dickerson, From Jarena Lee to Jacquelyn Grant: The Legacy and Rhetorical History of Womanism in the AME Church

Laura Sullivan, Afrofuturist Pride: Black Panther’s Anti-Colonist Chronopolitics

Moderator: Heather McNamee

Commentator: Mr. Damariye Smith, Communication Department, University of Memphis

Special Thanks to You:

*Marcus W. Orr Center for Humanities*

*African and African American Studies*

*University Bookstore*

*Registered Student Organizations*

*Department of History*

*Karen Bradley*

*Karen Jackett*

Thanks also to all our honored guests, commentators, moderators, and attendees!