



Contributors:

African & African-American Studies | Kansas African Studies Center |
Langston Hughes Center | Institute of Haitian Studies | Kenneth
Spencer Research Library | Spencer Museum of Art

Thanks to:

AAAS 50th Anniversary Programming Committee:

Dorothy Pennington (Chair), Peter Ojiambo, Nicole Hodges-Persley,
Dorothy Hines, Jessica Gerschultz, Tony Bolden, and Randal Jelks.

Retired AAAS Faculty:

Naima Boussofara, Arthur Drayton, Bryant Freeman, Jacob Gordon,
and Beverly Mack

Additional thanks to:

Shelly Buerman, Peter Ukpokodu, Shawn Leigh Alexander, and
Deborah Dandridge

Contribute to AAAS:

[The Spearman Family Student Research and Support Fund](#)

For a brief history of AAAS, see Dorothy Pennington's interview of
Jacob Gordon, the founding chair, [here](#), or visit the About section of
the AAAS website <afs.ku.edu>.



April 22, 2021

- 6:30 p.m. Welcoming & Opening Remarks
Chancellor Douglas A. Girod, Peter Ojiambo & Elizabeth MacGonagle
- 7:00-8:15 **AAAS Chairpersons Speak**
Commentators: Jacob Gordon, John Janzen, Peter Ukpokodu, & Shawn Leigh Alexander (Former chairs Arthur Drayton, Clarence Lang, and Cécile Accilien are unable to attend)
Moderator: Dorothy Pennington

April 23, 2021

- 9:45 a.m. Welcoming
Dorothy Hines
- 10:00 – 11:30 **"Tilling the Soil" – Former KU Student Activists**
Commentators: Walter Bgoya, Alferdteen Harrison, Darryl Bright, Linda Loubert, John Spearman, Jr. & Brenda Vann
Moderator: Shawn Leigh Alexander
- 11:45 – 1:30 **Black Struggle and Black Study from 'More Relevant Education' to Black Liberation**
Keynote Address: Charisse Burden-Stelly
Moderator & Respondents: Amal El Haimeur, & Abel Chikanda
- 1:45 – 2:30 **Art and Activism: 50 Years of Africana Studies at KU**
Commentators: Tyler Allen, Jenny Welden, Angela Watts, Cassandra Mesick Braun
Moderator: Jessica Gerschultz
- 2:45 – 3:30 **What AAAS Meant and Means to Me**
Commentators: Maria Beg, Azja Butler, Derrais Carter, Jacoby Hawkins, Owen MacDonald, & Niya McAdoo.
Moderator: Tony Bolden
- 3:30-3:45 **Closing Remarks**
Shawn Leigh Alexander & Randal Jelks

Over the course of the two days there will be language skits between each session, highlighting our [African & African Diasporic Language program](#). Coordinated by Peter Ojiambo, Amal El Haimeur, & Brenda Wawire

We are where Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East meet.

Founded in 1970, the Department of African and African-American Studies seeks to educate students to function in a multicultural environment and in a global community. In pursuing this goal, our Department contributes in vital ways to the University of Kansas' general education requirements, providing undergraduates throughout the College as well as in other schools with courses through which they can deepen their knowledge and enrich their understanding of the history, culture and experience of African people in Africa as well as the peoples of African descent in the Americas. Our undergraduate and graduate programs recognize the centrality of Africans to the initial establishment of these United States and the continuing significance of their descendants to the nation's social, cultural, political, economic and spiritual growth and vigor. These realities our Department teaches as integral to the American experience. Our programs (minor, BA, BGS, Graduate Certificate, and MA) also seek to impart a sound knowledge of Africa and its diaspora in the Americas as a necessary, specialized preparation for effective leadership and service both domestically and internationally.

Our faculty conducts research that not only enhances our teaching of Africana but also establishes KU's leadership in Africana studies locally, nationally and internationally. Ours is the only department of its kind at a public or private University in Kansas and among the Big XII institutions. We provide general service and a specialized interdisciplinary blending of research and teaching that are critically germane to understanding the universality of human intellection, emotion, and development from a pan-Africanist perspective. Though our Department is situated within the humanities in the College, our academic wings are large enough to span a multitude of fields in the humanities, the social sciences and some professional schools. Our allied Centers, the Kansas African Studies Center and the Langston Hughes Center, and the Institute of Haitian Studies help strengthen our centrality to KU's mission.