Welcome | Karibu | Akwaaba | ንፍም ከማሽ | Dalal ak jámm | Ngiyakwemukela

Director's Note

The semester is well underway, and many of us are still dealing with the new virtual normal. Coming into the position as the Director of Graduate Studies, I continue to navigate new administrative branches on campus and work with existing and potential students.

It has been great to see so many colleagues go the extra mile in support of students and other faculty. Many of us have coordinated class sessions together, been available for colleagues needing assistance, and have shown up for students finding themselves in crisis. Our students continue to be a resource for each other, while our incoming students have already organized themselves as a cohort.

In this first newsletter of the academic year, please take the time to read through all of the information. Pay close attention to the announcement of the new community course on Blackboard for the department’s graduate program.

I look forward to meeting all of the graduate students in the program. If you need to meet with me, please feel free to schedule a phone or Zoom call via drkibonac Clark.appointlet.com.
Thank you,
Dr. Msia Kibona Clark

Important Information

The Graduate School will become stricter on graduate students timing out in the program (7 years for PhD students, 5 years for MA students). Students will be at risk of being dismissed from the university. Prior to their last year, students need to submit a program of study and a plan of completion. Students approaching their deadlines will be required to submit a petition to be completed by the Chair & Director of Graduate Studies. COVID extension: Students who began their program during or after the 2014/2015 academic year will be given an additional year to complete their program, without needing to petition for an extension.

While there is still a travel ban, the Graduate School is supporting students attending VIRTUAL conferences if their abstract has been accepted for an academic conference.

Congratulations to Dr. Krista Johnson, the incoming Director of the Center for African Studies.

Congratulations to Dr. Mohamed Saliou Camara, on receiving a grant from the Mellon Foundation and the University of New Hampshire Center for the Humanities (2020-2021). Project funded: the creation of a digital archive on “Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding in West Africa.”

Department Buzz

Congratulations to the 2019/2020 Graduates!

Masters
Blake Bass

PhD
Tefsaye Abebe
Barthelemy Bazemo
Darryl Jones
William Smith
Mesi Walton
Omar Young

Congratulations to PhD Candidate, Gamb Diagne Camara, on the publication of “Faces of Blackness: The Creation of the New Negro and Negritude Movements in Harlem and Paris” in the Journal of Black Studies.

Congratulations to PhD student, Zirra Banu, on writing the short Nollywood film Breaking, about social pressures, mental health, and friendship. Link: https://youtu.be/GnLMLtjxcZs

Editor: Alyson Haylor
The Blackboard site for the Graduate Program in African Studies is a new resource for our graduate students. The site contains important forms, information, and announcements. See the site menu for the type of information contained on the site. The course site is updated regularly, as soon as new information is received.

If you would like information posted on the course site, please send it to msia.clark@howard.edu.

All graduate students have been added to the course. If you have not been added to the course, please contact Dr. Clark. For others, the course is searchable and can be found on Howard University’s Blackboard network.
**International Women's Day 2020**

The Department of African Studies partnered with the Woman & Gender Studies Collective at Howard University for their 4th annual International Women’s Day. The theme for that year’s annual celebration was “Black Women and the Struggles for Equality”.

Invited guests were Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Dr. Thelma Phillip-Brown, Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to the US, and a special performance by Anna Mwalagho.

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**From Slavery To Pan-Africanism: A Commemoration of Resilience: 1619-2019**

The Department hosted a daylong commemoration of the Year of Return, which was a recognition of the 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in the English colonies, and the 100 years since the first Pan African Congress. The event included presentations by scholars, university leadership, and diplomats. Honored guests included H.E. Dr. Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah, Ambassador of Ghana. All reflected on the Year of Return and the legacy of Pan Africanism.


Johnson, Krista. 2020. Pioneering the Social Sciences at Howard University in the 1930s and 1940s. Special edition of *Quaerens et Sociolgia*, Paolo Parra Saiani (ed.)


