



Spring 2021 BEGINNING OF SEMESTER NEWSLETTER

Dear AAAD Family,

Welcome back! Happy 2021 and Spring Semester!

Because we have a lot to share, we share what is happening by honoring our colleagues involved in the work. We encourage other AAAD faculty to get actively involved remembering that unlike other disciplines, AAAD is a scholar, activist and service discipline.

We have a lot happening, please look out for the **semester calendar** ([send us any events you would like included](#)) and events' publicity. We introduce new Social Media intern, [Sydney Moon](#). Please follow and promote our social media spaces: [Facebook: @JMUAAD](#) / [Twitter: @aadstudies](#) / [Instagram: @aadstudiesjmu](#)

AAAD STUDIES CENTER

Update from Office of Research and Scholarship: We should have the charter certificate any time now. To help with the move into the space when it is ready and set up, we have retained the services of graduate student [Mathias Aboba](#). Mathias will also help with the archives. Thank you to the application process team [Sofia Samatar](#), [Steve Reich](#), [Robert Aguirre](#), [David Owusu-Ansah](#), [VP Anthony Tongen](#), [AVP Keith Holland](#) and their team.

AAAD Center Boards and Committees

These are being constituted in line with the charter application. Thank you for agreeing to serve:

Internal Board Members

- Conference Convener: [David Babcock](#)
- Internship Director: [Case Watkins](#)
- Two Other Affiliated Faculty: [Sofia Samatar](#) & [Steve Reich](#)
- Chair of the Partnerships and Emerging Project Committee (to be voted by committee)
- Chair of the Development and Fundraising Committee (to be voted by committee)
- One undergraduate student: [Zenobia Lee-Nelson](#)
- One graduate student: [Savannah Brown](#)

Partnerships and Emerging Projects Committee: (Rotating chair to serve on Internal Board)
[Susan Zurbrigg](#), [Josh Streeter](#), [Bayo Ogundipe](#), [Jennifer PeeksMease](#), [BJ Bryson](#), [Bill Van Norman](#)

Development and Fundraising Committee

We continue to slowly build the committee that will help with the AAAD Fund. Serving so far: (Rotating chair to serve on internal board)

David Owusu-Ansah, Bethany Nowviskie, Jennifer Coffman, Joanne Gabbin

External Board Members

We hope to fill remaining four spots slowly with people who have access to resources. **We are accepting suggestions.**

1. Greg Gill, Special Agent, Naval Criminal Investigative Service / Ole School Alumni
2. Paula Bowens, President & CEO, One Degree Consulting / President, Black Alumni Chapter
3. Lesa Moore, Health and Wellness Entrepreneur / Ole School Alumni
4. Dr. Lamont King, JMU Emeriti Faculty (History / AAAD)
5. Dr. Jackie Walker, JMU Emeriti Faculty (History / AAAD)

AAAD Fund

Following several meetings with the University Advancement team, our promotions narrative and other material for AAAD Unleashed are almost ready. We will be holding more meetings in the next couple of weeks to finalize funder target lists and priorities. We start early fundraising in February as a lead-up to Giving day. The fund will launch on Giving Day (23rd March). We will be retaining the services of graduate student to help with the process. Thank you to those who have helped with the process: Bayo Ogunidipe, Robert Aguirre, David Owusu-Ansah, Heather Coltman, Art Dean and Nick Langridge and University Advancement team. **Please see attached the document in growing the AAAD fund and send us your input.**

AAAD Studies Center Website

Having no admin support yet, we have retained the services of a graduate student who is JMU trained in the software, Megan Medeiros, to build our Center website. We thank the Cohen Center for supporting this.

AAAD Studies Center Launch

Thank you for serving on the launch event design team: Joanne Gabbin, Sofia Samatar, Lauren Alleyne

The launch is set for Giving Day Spring 2021 (March 23rd). Do send in ideas. Also, short videos on your AAAD experience to use as teasers as a lead up to the day. The Fund will launch on the same day. **Please send videos encouraging people to donate. Remember to donate and promote the event.**

AAAD Studies Center and Minor Brochures & Letterhead

Thank you to our AAAD colleagues who are designing our promotions and office materials: Hannah Sion (SADAH), Kyle Hackett (SADAH) and Morgan Smalls (SMAD). We await word on an MSC for the Center.

AAAD Conference

There are no words to thank [David Babcock](#) his team, [Ardyn Tennison](#) and [Savannah Brown](#). The conference looks amazing. [Look out for updates](#). Thank you to many of you who convened panels and who have volunteered to moderate or coordinate panels.

Also serving on the conference team: [Erica Cavanagh](#) and [Gianluca De Fazio](#)
SIS Conference conveners: [Joanne Gabbin](#), [BJ Bryson](#), [Venus Miller](#)
Cultural Celebration Evening: [Produced by CVPA](#)

AAAD Black History Month (BHM) Program

Many thanks to [Angela Carter](#) for designing the brochure.
Many thanks to [Sydney Moon](#) for managing promotion. She will need all our help.

Launch of Black Firsts at JMU Timeline: Many thanks to [Mary Beth Cancienne](#), [Dolores Flamiano](#) and [Megan Medeiros](#) for helping get this living archive ready for release.

Partners on other events:

- [Kristin Wylie](#), convener, POSC/AAAD BHM Symposium
- [Wren Stevens/Ruben Graciani/Kate Arcocchi/John Allemeier/Kathy Schwartz/Susan Zurbrigg](#), AAAD/CVPA BHM event: “Taking Action through the Arts”
- [Maura Hametz](#), Convener, History AAAD BHM Speaker event
- [Ole School Alumni](#), Conveners’ roundtable
- [Mollie Godfrey & Sean McCarthy](#), producers of the Celebrating Simms launch at HHS
- [Black Alumni Chapter](#), 30th Anniversary event
- [Africana Studies Workshop & CFI](#), two workshops

AAAD Internships

[Case Watkins](#) is directing our internship program into arguably the best program at JMU. We are international with partnerships and opportunities in several countries, discussing Smithsonian (global) MoU, and partnering with a number of JMU units, a number of regional organizations, as well as Ole School alumni and Black Alumni Chapter nationally.

AAAD Fellowships

Thanks to a AAAD and Libraries team led by [Bethany Nowviskie](#), [Besi Muhonja](#), [Mollie Godfrey](#) and [David Owusu Ansah](#), we will be ready to announce a strong first Cohort of AAAD fellows during BHM 2021.

International Model African Union

Thanks to the leadership of Melinda Adams and Biruk Haregu, our award winning team is set to attend the IMAU annual meeting on February 19-21, 2021 as the Delegation from Cameroon.

AAAD Student Symposium and/or AAAD Student Multi-genre Digital Magazine

We need more student driven projects. These are two ideas the works. [We need faculty advisors to help make them a reality](#).

In Solidarity, Besi & Mollie