

**Volume 6  
Issue 2**

**June–December  
2019**

**CAAS**

**SYNERGY**

**Center for African American Studies**

**We Aim to Enlighten, Inspire and Empower.**



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# A Note from the Director

Dear CAAS Community,

Great things continue to happen in the Center for African American Studies! Most importantly, I recently received approval from the Provost's Office to hire two full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members with joint appointments. One position will be split with the School of Social Work (SSW), and one will be split with the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Liberal Arts (CoLA). These new hires will be CAAS' first full-time faculty members! A special thanks goes out to Dean Elisabeth Cawthon of CoLA and Dean Scott Ryan of SSW for helping to make this happen!

Also, please check out CAAS' new website (<https://www.uta.edu/caas/>), and there have been major updates to the curriculum for the minor in African American Studies! Lastly, I served as a featured speaker for a presidential panel on "Race, Religion, and Politics" at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. It was an honor to be part of the discussion on how the Black Church will impact the 2020 presidential election!

This issue of *Synergy* provides an overview of these, as well as many other great things that have happened in CAAS over the past few months. Thanks for your support!



DR. JASON E. SHELTON



# Student Engagement

## Black Maverick Welcome Fall 2019

As always, Black Maverick Welcome was a major success! CAAS helped to welcome hundreds of African American students back to campus at the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester!

DJ Swerve (my former student, and UTA alum) played new and classic hits, while Greeks strolled in front of the Swift Center. Everyone ate BBQ, made new friends, and caught up with folks they had not seen since Spring. What great way to begin the academic year!

NAACP INVITES YOU TO THE 

# BLACK MAVERICK WELCOME

Maverick Acitivity Center  
Lonestar Auditorium  
August 19, 2019

AT 5:00 PM



\* Meet student leaders, Faculty/Staff and organizations  
\* Parent Sessions available

Give aways for those who RSVP by August 9th  
RSVP at [uta.edu/multicultural](http://uta.edu/multicultural)

Kick back Cook-out afterwards at the Center for African American Studies Office  
\* Students only

**CO-SPONSORED BY:**

Collection of Brothers	Multicultural Affairs
African Student Association	Center for African American Studies
Parent & Family Center	Black Student Association

If you need accommodations to fully participate in this event, contact [multicultural\\_affairs@uta.edu](mailto:multicultural_affairs@uta.edu) or 817-272-2099. Please allow five (5) days to arrange the accommodations.





# Student Engagement

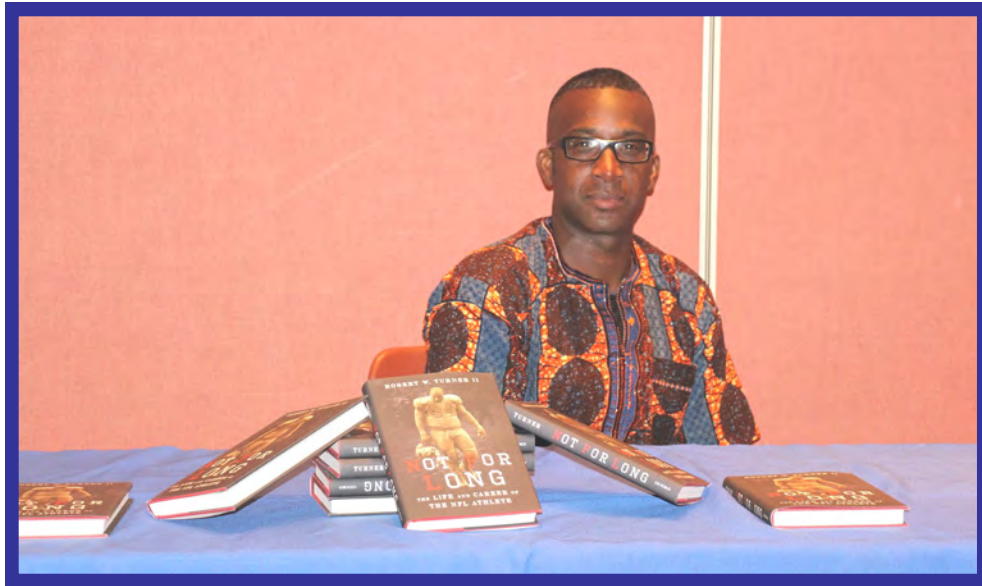
Spring 2019





# Student Engagement

## Volunteer Graduate Intern Fall 2019



Junichi Lockett served as a volunteer graduate intern in CAAS! He took the initiative in contacting Dr. Shelton to see if he could help out. His goal was to learn more about Black Studies programs.

Junichi is currently working on his dissertation in UTA's College of Education, and plans to build a career studying the positive role that African American Studies plays in impacting students' academic performance.





# Student Engagement

Social Work Intern  
Fall 2019

Talisha Simpson  
Social Work Intern



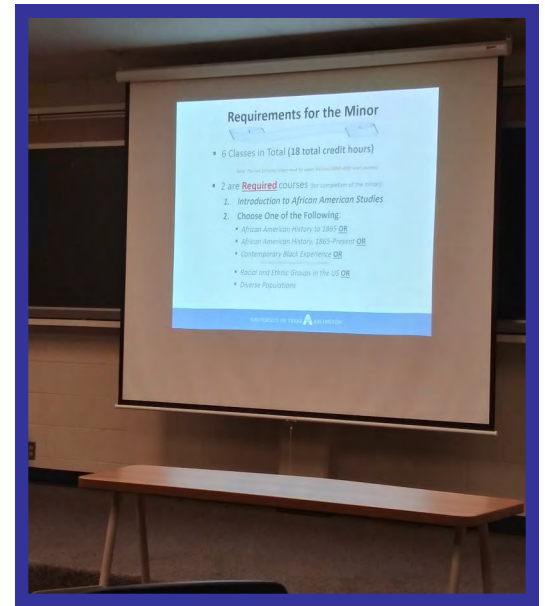
Ann Hunt-Rodgers, MSW  
Social Work Field Instructor





# Student Engagement

## Social Work Intern



Talisha Simpson helped lead in-class presentations on campus and civic engagement. She also helped register students to vote, and assisted with planning and implementing CAAS events.



For information on CAAS' Social Work Internship, please contact [caas@uta.edu](mailto:caas@uta.edu)







# SANKOFA



Sankofa is the Adinkra symbol that recognizes the importance of learning from the past. It translates to “return and get it.”

See page 19 for more information!





# Campus & Community Engagement

## Empowering All Generations Fall 2019



Once again, CAAS had the privileged of hosting Lockheed Martin's Joint Midwest Regional Conference. This year's theme was "Empowering All Generations: Breaking the Glass Ceiling." It was co-sponsored by various groups including the African American Council for Excellence (AAACE), Able and Allies, the LGBT Professional Network, Women's Impact Network (WIN), Professional Asian American Network (PAAN), Hispanic Organization for Leadership and Awareness (HOLA), Military Veterans, and Allies for Inclusion (AFI).



Several high-ranking leaders from across the US attending this year's conference, which took place in UTA's new SEIR Building and the UTA Library. The morning keynote was delivered by Raina Washington, VP of Diversity and Inclusion. The afternoon keynote was offered by Kim Cummings, Assistant VP of Human Resources at BNSF Railway.



# Campus & Community Engagement

## Empowering All Generations





# Campus & Community Engagement

## Empowering All Generations

Provost Lim welcomed the large conference of more than 150 employees of Lockheed Martin to our campus.

**Special ‘Thank You’s’ go to Chante White-Taylor, Tonesha Smith, and Ashley Johnson of Lockheed Martin for helping to organize this important event!**





# Campus & Community Engagement

Empowering All Generations



## EMPOWERING ALL GENERATIONS

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Joint Midwest Regional Conference

Sept. 19–20, 2019

You are invited to attend the  
Joint Midwest Regional Conference in Arlington, Texas.

The Joint Midwest Regional Conference will offer:

Networking opportunities with Lockheed Martin leaders and peers from across the enterprise

Executive and peer-to-peer panel discussions

Professional development workshops

If you are interested in attending, please respond by using the voting option on this email by COB July 31, 2019. More details to come!

Hosted by Global Diversity & Inclusion



MILITARY VETERANS





Students can now complete a wider selection of courses in graduating with a minor in African American Studies! The following 12 courses assist students in enhancing their knowledge of black experiences in the US and abroad:

- AAST 2303 — History and Appreciation of Hip Hop and R&B Music
- AAST 2371 — Language in a Multicultural USA
- AAST 3314— Civil War and Reconstruction
- AAST 3319— US Immigration Policy and the American Dream
- AAST 3321— The Latina Experience (includes a focus on Afro-Latinas/ Latinas)
- AAST 3329—Contemporary African Cultures
- AAST 3341—The Old South, 1607—1863
- AAST 3342—Sociology of Religion (includes a focus on the Black Church)
- AAST 3373—Archaeology of Egypt
- AAST 3378—History of the Caribbean
- AAST 4333—Comparative Civil Rights History
- AAST 4339—Topics in African American Literature



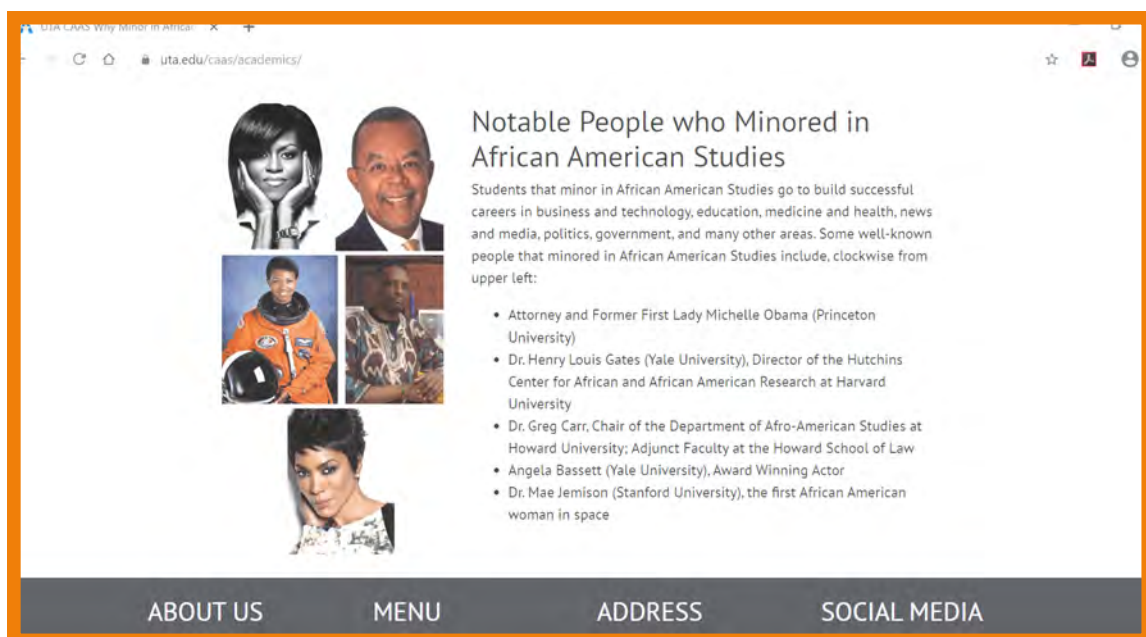
# Campus & Community Engagement

New CAAS Website



Please check out CAAS' new website! It features recent news, flyers for upcoming events, photos, and profiles of CAAS Faculty Affiliates. It also includes a history of the Center, it's mission, information on the minor in African American Studies and CAAS' Student Development Initiatives.

**Special thanks to Andrew Leverenz of the UTA Library for his assistance with this major project!**





# Campus & Community Engagement

## Alpha Phi Alpha Golf Tournament Fall 2019



Dr. Shelton recruited a team to play in the Arlington chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Annual Golf Tournament. This fundraiser benefits the Alpha Ambassador's Club, which aims to empower young men with social and professional skills needed to be successful in college!

CAAS sponsored the 1st hole on the golf course!



## A Phi!







# Campus & Community Engagement

## Dallas Wings Inaugural Golf Tournament



Dr. Shelton was also invited to play in the Dallas Wings inaugural golf tournament. The Wings play their WNBA games on UT Arlington's campus, in the College Park Center. Dr. Shelton was honored to play with a team representing Tarrant County College's Trinity River Campus!



# Campus & Community Engagement

## October Power Hour Lecture Series

THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS A POWER HOUR EVENT:

# PRIORITIZING PROMISE!

WITH TIA COLE

**I was never supposed to be here and yet I am.**  
I almost died TWICE.

Reaching your fullest potential and helping someone meet theirs is more of an art than a science. In this world with so many distractions and distortions, it is so important for us to prioritize the promise we all have inside. Let's talk about how!

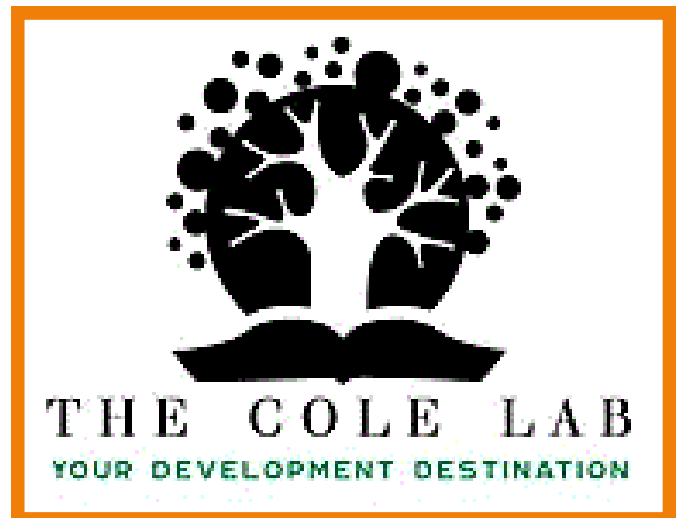


**A WORKSHOP FOR LEARNING HOW TO PRIORITIZE TO REACH YOUR POTENTIAL**

OCTOBER 2, 2019  
12:00-1:00 PM  
UC BLUEBONNET  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



Tia Cole was CAAS' featured speaker in October. She delivered a powerful message on student development! Ms. Cole was the optimal choice for this subject because she's a professor at Tarrant County College's South Campus, AND she owns her own business—The Cole Lab—which specializes in preparing students for academic and professional success.



For information on CAAS Events, contact us at [caas@uta.edu](mailto:caas@uta.edu)



# Campus & Community Engagement

## November Power Hour Lecture Series

In November, Dr. Pamela Fox spoke on past and present inequalities facing African Americans. Her presentation was titled: “Sankofa: Going Back and Getting It - A Historical and Comparative Analysis Fifty Years after the Assassination of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and after the Quadricentennial of African Enslavement in the United States.”

Dr. Fox is an Assistant Professor in Practice in the School of Social Work. She is also a licensed clinical social worker, ordained minister (retired) in the United Church of Christ; and served as a Commander (retired) in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

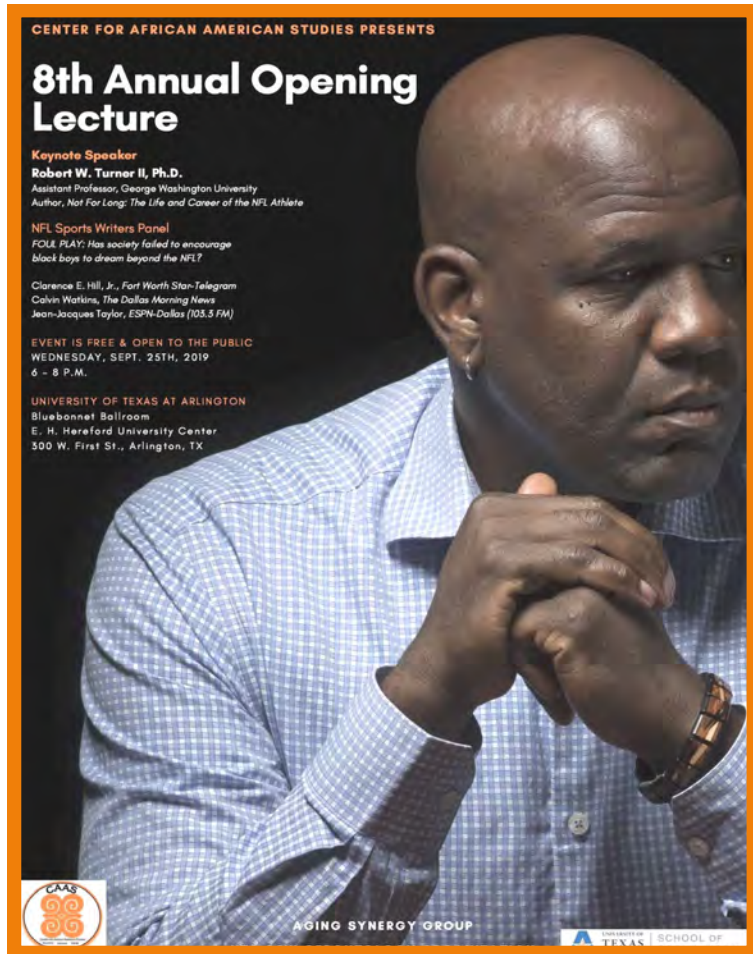
She shared many fascinating insights!





# Campus & Community Engagement

## 8th Annual Opening Lecture



CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS

### 8th Annual Opening Lecture

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Robert W. Turner II, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, George Washington University  
Author, *Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete*

**NFL Sports Writers Panel**  
*FOLE PLAY: Has society failed to encourage black boys to dream beyond the NFL?*

Clarence E. Hill, Jr., *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*  
Calvin Watkins, *The Dallas Morning News*  
Jean-Jacques Taylor, *ESPN-Dallas (103.5 FM)*

EVENT IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25TH, 2019  
6 - 8 P.M.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON  
Bluebonnet Ballroom  
E. H. Herford University Center  
300 W. First St., Arlington, TX

AGING SYNERGY GROUP

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS | SCHOOL OF

Dr. Robert Turner II delivered CAAS' 8th Annual Opening Lecture. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership at George Washington University. Dr. Turner briefly played for the San Francisco 49ers and authored the acclaimed book, *Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete* (Oxford University Press).

Dr. Turner's presentation was followed by an influential panel of local sportswriters including: (a) Clarence Hill, Jr. of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, (b) Jean-Jacques Taylor of ESPN Dallas (103.3 FM), and (c) Calvin Watkins of the *Dallas Morning News*.

Some of the topics discussed over the course of the evening included the relationship between team owners and players, contract negotiations, the politics of race relations within the NFL, and the quality of life and employment prospects for players following their time in the league.






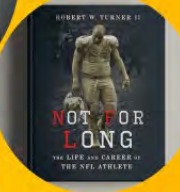

# Campus & Community Engagement

## 8th Annual Opening Lecture




**8th Annual Opening Lecture**

Location: Bluebonnet Ballroom  
Date: September 25th, 2019  
Time: 6PM-8PM  
Refreshments will be served

*Center for African American Studies*  
*Presents*  
**FORMER NFL PLAYER AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
**ROBERT W. TURNER II, PHD**

Robert W. Turner II, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership. His book manuscript, *Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete* (Oxford University Press, August 2018) is an ethnographic project that offers a descriptive analysis of the social world of NFL athletes based on the author's personal experience as a former professional football player, interviews with current and former players.



This event was co-sponsored by the School of Social Work (SSW) and two groups within SSW: the Aging Synergy Group and the Gerontology Organization.

Special 'Thank You's' go out to Valerie Hill of SSW. She organized the panel of sportswriters! Also, Dr. Ryon Cobb of SSW helped bring Dr. Turner to campus. They are friends and colleagues!



These photos are credited to Ruben Espiricueta.



# Congratulations!

Evening of Arts and Letters

December 2019

The Center for African American Studies  
**AN EVENING OF ARTS & LETTERS**  
*Kwanzaa Celebration*  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
FOOD, DISCUSSION, RECOGNITION OF AAST  
MINORS AND THE EXPLORATION OF THE  
PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA  
*Tues. Dec. 3, UC-Bluebonnet Ballroom, 6:00 pm*  
RSVP at  
[UTA.EDU/CAAS](http://UTA.EDU/CAAS)

As always, Dr. Hill celebrated Kwanzaa by taking students, faculty, and staff through the Nguzo Saba. This year she was assisted by Kenya Loudd, a graduating minor in African American Studies who will be attending graduate school at Yale University!





# Congratulations!

## An Evening of Black Excellence: Achievements and Graduation



Dr. David Sparks is a CAAS Faculty Affiliate. His presentation was titled: “Intersectionality, Identity, and African American Students in STEM Fields.” Also, Dr. Sparks was awarded the augural CAAS Faculty Travel Grant!

Keep up the Great Work!



For information on CAAS Events, contact us at [caas@uta.edu](mailto:caas@uta.edu)



# Congratulations!

Fall 2019 Graduates

Continue to strive and give your best efforts so that you will obtain your greatest rewards. We hope you stay connected to CAAS so that we may follow your growth and success!

- Cindy Bishop, AAST Minor
- Jaleesa Willis-Brice, AAST Minor
- Lyric Brooks, AAST Minor
- Troy Bunch, AAST Minor
- Dev’Von Gillespie-Carter, AAST Minor
- Alisha Sparks, AAST Minor







# Give a Gift

Established in August 2012, the **Center for African American Studies (CAAS)** at the University of Texas at Arlington aims to cultivate an exceptional transdisciplinary experience through teaching, civic engagement, and community-based research focused on the diverse contextual conditions of Blacks in America and society at large. Our purpose is to foster the development of student, faculty, and community capacity to create progressive solutions that address social problems.

## **Endowed funding is being sought to support:**

- ◆ Lectures, events, and conferences
- ◆ Student enrichment initiatives
- ◆ Undergraduate and graduate scholarships
- ◆ Faculty and student community-based research

## To Give a Gift to CAAS:

1. Go to: <https://giving.uta.edu/Give>
2. Specify the amount
3. In the “Designation” box, please select “other”
4. In the “Comments” box, please type “Center for African American Studies”
5. Contact CAAS to let us know about your gift

*Thank you for supporting CAAS!*

For more information on how to support CAAS, please send and email to: [caas@uta.edu](mailto:caas@uta.edu)

# African American Studies Minor



Center for African American Studies

## MINOR IN (AAST)

What can you do with an African American Studies Minor?

Careers in:

Business

Education

News Media

Literature

Medicine

History

Law/Politics

Social Work

& more

Requirements include: 6 classes - 2 mandatory in AAST

Intro to African American Studies

AND

African American History OR

Race & Ethnic Groups in U.S. OR

Diverse Populations OR

Contemporary Black Experience

Collaborations with units across campus including  
ANTH, CRCJ, ECON, ENGL, LING, MANA, POLS, PSYC, SOCI, SOCW.

For more information about the Center for African American Studies (CAAS)

contact us at:

817-272-9642

1022 UTA BLVD

Box 19024

Arlington, TX 76019

[caas@uta.edu](mailto:caas@uta.edu)

[www.uta.edu/caas](http://www.uta.edu/caas)



For more information about the AAST Minor contact  
CAAS at 817-272-9642 or [caas@uta.edu](mailto:caas@uta.edu)



# Save the Date

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**9th Annual Opening Lecture**  
**September 24, 2020**  
**Bluebonnet Ballroom**

**Power Hour Lecture**  
**October 7, 2020**  
**Rio Grande**

**Power Hour Lecture**  
**November 11, 2020**  
**Rio Grande**





**Evening of Arts & Letters**  
**December 1, 2020**  
**Swift Center**



# Get Connected!

## Center for African American Studies

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  ARLINGTON

 UTArLingtonCAAS	 LITArLingtonCAAS	 CAAS@uta.edu	 @UTArLingtonCAAS
 UTArLingtonCAAS	 UTArLingtonCAAS	 UTArLingtonCAAS	 817.272.9642



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TEXAS**  
ARLINGTON

CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

### Center for African American Studies

Swift Center, Suite 129  
Box 19024  
1022 UTA Blvd.  
Arlington, TX 76019  
T: 817-272-9642  
caas@uta.edu

