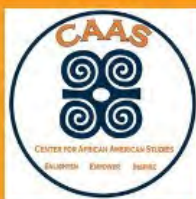




CAAS Synergy

**NEW CAAS SCHOLARSHIP!
THANK YOU, MS. BRANDENBURG!**



THE PAT BRANDENBURG SCHOLARSHIP IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Pat Brandenburg, a UTA alumni, wants to help heal our nation's racial wounds by assisting promising students who are interested in African American Studies. Up to six \$3,000 awards are available. Recipients will be announced during "An Evening of Black Excellence: Achievements and Graduation" in early May.

for more information

visit *Max scholar shop* or
<https://uta.academicworks.com/opportunities/14859>

Deadline: March 19, 2021

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ✓ Full time undergraduate student
- ✓ 3.0 cumulative GPA
- ✓ Minor in African American studies (preferred)
- ✓ Earned a B in at least one course from CAAS (AAST 2300, AAST 3310, AAST 3320, AAST 3350, AAST 4350)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Two short essays (no more than 500 words)
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation

Visit us on Social media
FB: CAAS UT ARLINGTON
IG: UTARLINGTONCAAS

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Spring 2021, Volume 1



Campus Engagement

February Power Hour

Dr. Barbara Odom-Wesley delivered CAAS' February Power Hour! She serves on the Arlington City Council, and her father—the **Honorable Elzie Odom**—was Arlington's first African American Mayor. He served from 1997 to 2003.

Dr. Odom-Wesley discussed her family's rich history here in Texas, as well as her vision for enhancing opportunities and the quality of life for all residents of our City!





Center for African American Studies 2021 Annual Conference
A Panel Discussion

IMPACT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT: SUMMER 2020 AND BEYOND

Speakers

Dr. Jandel Crutchfield
Assistant Professor of
Social Work

Dr. Frederick Engram
Assistant Professor of
Instruction
(CAAS & Criminology)

Amber O'Dell
Doctoral Student in Sociology
Texas Woman's University

March 4, 2021
11:00 to 12:00 PM
Search: BHM2021 in
Microsoft Teams

Co-sponsored by the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice and The School of Social Work

CAAS's 9th Annual Conference was shortened due to the **COVID-19 pandemic** and **Snowpocalypse of 2021** (many people in Texas were still without power during the time our conference was scheduled to take place).

This year's Conference featured **Dr. Jandel Crutchfield** of Social Work, **Amber O'Dell** of Texas Women's University, and **Dr. Frederick Engram** of CAAS. Each of them provided insightful analyses of the **Black Lives Matter Movement**, and shared their experiences organizing protests here in the DFW Metroplex last summer.



Campus & Community Engagement

City of Arlington Dr. King Celebration

Resolution No. 20-161 (June 23rd, 2020) ARLINGTON

- “A resolution creating a Unity Council to study how to improve equality in Arlington by utilizing strategies based in equity, gather community input on this topic and make recommendations to the City Council.
- WHEREAS, the Unity Council is hereby created to study equity strategies that the City of Arlington could implement to promote and encourage greater equity, gather community input on the need to use equitable measures to build equality, and to report findings and recommendations to the City Council.
- WHEREAS, the Unity Council shall expire upon the completion of the study and the transmission of recommendations to the City Council.”

In January, **Dr. Shelton** delivered the keynote address for the **City of Arlington’s Annual Dr. King Day Celebration!** As Chair of the **Arlington Unity Council**, which is a racial equity task force that reports to the Mayor and City Council, he shared new data on racial and ethnic disparities in Arlington, as well as recommendations for closing these divides.

After his talk, Dr. Shelton received the **“Advancing The Dream Award.”** A few weeks later, the City of Arlington won the **National League of Cities “City Cultural Diversity Award”** for establishing innovative diversity programs” (see page 5). **Mayor Jeff Williams** described Dr. Shelton’s leadership as follows:

“Dr. Shelton brought his researcher’s orientation to the task at hand, and the result is a report that is grounded in data but constructed from the many perspectives of the Unity Council members and the residents of Arlington. We are grateful for his work and the work of 28 members of the Unity Council.”



3/16/2021

City of Arlington's Unity Council Work Awarded National League of Cities Award for Innovative Diversity Programs - City of Arlington

City of Arlington's Unity Council Work Awarded National League of Cities Award for Innovative Diversity Programs

City of Arlington's Unity Council Work Awarded National League of Cities Award for Innovative Diversity Programs

By Office of Communication

Posted on Tuesday, March 09, 2021



The National League of Cities selected the City of Arlington as the winner of its 2021 Cultural Diversity Awards for the work of the citizen-led Unity Council.

Submissions for the awards program were grouped by size, and evaluated for creativity, impact on the community and scope of the program. The City of Arlington was awarded the top prize in the 200,001-500,000 population category.

After eight months of research and a series of community conversations, the Unity Council presented a proposed racial equity plan to the Arlington City Council on Feb. 23.

The 28-member Unity Council's mission has been to gather community input, research best practices and recommend strategies that the City of Arlington could implement to promote and encourage greater equity and to advance unity across our community. The Unity Council's work, which began in July 2020, is part of the City's commitment to equality, inclusion and the elimination of institutional racism and other forms of discrimination in its policies and practices.

Dr. Jason Shelton, associate professor of anthropology and sociology and the director of the Center for African American Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington, led the Unity Council's work.

"Dr. Shelton brought his researcher's orientation to the task at hand, and the result is a report that is grounded in data but constructed from the many perspectives of the Unity Council members and the residents of Arlington. We are grateful for his work and the work of the twenty-eight



Dr. Kirby Featured in UTA Magazine!

Faculty Focus

Mia Kirby, Assistant Professor in Practice, School of Social Work and the Center for African American Studies

MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS don't discriminate, but a person's background and identity can make access to treatment more difficult. Mia Kirby, assistant professor in practice, aims to change that. Her research explores the relationship between the "strong Black woman" archetype and the behaviors of Black women seeking mental health treatment. "I hope my research leads to greater opportunities to promote mental health treatment and wellness among people of color," she says.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

My recent interview and feature with the *Today Show* website. I shared my research findings, which focused on the challenges that Black women face when receiving mental health treatment. As a researcher and a mental health advocate, I was very excited to help bring attention to this important issue and to promote changes in treatment approaches.

What are you excited about right now?

I have recently partnered with a nonprofit as a program facilitator to provide mental health education for young Black women. I am also an advocate with the National Alliance on

Mental Illness, North Texas, and have had some great opportunities to work with them during Minority Mental Health Awareness month. I look forward to future opportunities with them and other community-based organizations that support mental health.

What are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to campus returning to normal so that I can connect more with students. Working in the Center for African American Studies, I will be leading some student engagement programs, so I look forward to meeting and connecting with students face to face within that framework.





Campus & Community Engagement

City of Arlington Wins Major Award!



Dr. Mia Kirby and **Dr. Frederick Engram** are CAAS' new full-time faculty members with joint appointments! Dr. Kirby's position is split with the **School of Social Work**, while Dr. Engram's is split with **the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice**. They are already making a major impact on our campus!

Dr. Kirby was featured in a recent issue of **UTA Magazine** (see page 6), while Dr. Engram has organized and been part of several major events.

The screenshot above features him (left column, center) and his students with **Cole Brown** (right column, center), the author of **Grey Boy**, which was nominated for an **NAACP Image Award**.



Black History Month Lecture

UTA
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
The Black Experience:
Past, Present, & Future

**THE ROOTS OF
AMERICA
IS RACISM**

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 12:00PM
SEARCH BHM 2021 IN TEAMS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RELIUS.JOHNSON@UTA.EDU

DR. FREDERICK ENGRAM JR.

MULTICULTURAL
AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

In February, **Dr. Engram** delivered a powerful lecture titled “The Roots of America is Racism.” His talk was sponsored by the **Office of Multicultural Affairs**, and included a vibrant Q&A session. Dr. Engram’s talk foreshadows a class that he will be offering for CAAS in Fall 2021 titled, **“Racism and Anti-Blackness in the 21st Century.”**





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

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

www.uta.edu/caas



For more information about the AAST Minor contact
CAAS at 817-272-9642 or caas@uta.edu



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Power Hour Lecture Series
April 7th, 2021
Dr. Kyrrah Brown
UTA Department of Kinesiology
Via Microsoft Teams

Power Hour Lecture Series
April 21, 2021
TBA (organized and facilitated by CAAS interns from
the School of Social Work)
Via Microsoft Teams

An Evening of Black Excellence:
Achievements and Graduation
May 12th, 2021
Co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs
and the African American Faculty and
Staff Association

