

CAAS
Synergy



Spring 2022, Volume 1



Campus & Community Engagement

Recognizing CAAS 10th Anniversary



This year we celebrated CAAS' 10th Anniversary! Our commemoration began in Fall 2021 with a lecture from **Dr. Henry Louis Gates**, a towering figure in African American Studies at **Harvard University**. It continued with noted journalist and thought-leader **Roland Martin** as well as Power Hours that featured scholars and professionals making major contributions to our campus and community.

This latest issue of *Synergy* documents our celebration of CAAS' birthday in Spring and Summer 2022! As you'll soon see, CAAS continues to fulfill its **mission and vision** as **"We strive to enlighten, inspire, and empower students, faculty, and community stakeholders to create progressive, collaborative solutions that drive social change within the African American community and larger society."**

I have been involved with CAAS since its founding, and have had the honor and privilege of serving as its Director for the past five years. I look forward to working with you and many other people on and off campus in helping to move CAAS forward! — Dr. Jason E. Shelton



Campus Engagement

February Power Hour

Stephone Coward

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SOLOMON PEOPLE
NAACP FOUNDED 1909

CAAS
CONCHO AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Growth - Service - Impact

POWER HOUR

The importance of Black owned financial owned institutions and the impact on the Black Community

February 2, 2022
RED RIVER // CONCHO
12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

For more information contact:
caas@uta.edu

If you need accommodations to participate, please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at multicultural_affairs@uta.edu at least seven days prior to the event date.

Stephone Coward served as the featured speaker for CAAS' **February Power Hour**. He's an alum who graduated with a **Bachelor's degree in History** in 2010 and a **Master of Science in 2012**.

Coward's presentation focused on his efforts with **BankBlack-USA**, whose mission is to promote financial advocacy in African American communities.

Coward's work with **BankBlack-USA** is impressive! He partners with scholars at various universities across the country and his work has been featured in national publications such as **USA Today**. His work highlights the importance of black financial institutions, which helps to close the wealth gap between blacks and whites.





Campus Engagement

10th Annual CAAS Conference

CAAS celebrated its 10th Anniversary during its 10th Annual Conference! The meeting featured two keynote addresses and two panels on particular topics.

Dr. Rayshawn Ray (University of Maryland) delivered the morning keynote. He presented his trailblazing research on racial disparities in policing, and shared insights on policies that can help to close this racial divide.

Dr. Angela Davis—a legendary former leader of the **Black Panthers** and highly respected law professor (**University of California at Santa Cruz**)—delivered the afternoon keynote. More than 400 people attended her talk in-person and hundreds virtually attended. Dr. Davis spoke on various issues including similarities and differences

CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Dr. Angela Davis

FEBRUARY 17, 2022
12 PM - 1 PM
UNIVERSITY CENTER, BLUEBONNET BALLROOM

Mask Up!

W/co-sponsors School of Social Work and Office of Diversity and Equity

between the Black Lives Matter Movement and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as challenges facing African American women.

Special THANK YOUs to the Office of the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the School of Social Work! These units strongly supported Dr. Davis' virtual visit to our campus!



Campus Engagement

10th Annual CAAS Conference



Center for African American Studies
PRESENTS:
10TH ANNUAL CAAS CONFERENCE:
State of the Black Community
February 17, 2022

- Morning Keynote Address by Dr. Rashawn Ray of the University of Maryland (9am to 10am)
- Panel Discussion on Mental Health in Black America (10am to 11am)
- Panel Discussion on the City of Arlington's Racial Equity Task Force (11am to 12pm)
- Afternoon Keynote Address by Dr. Angela Davis of the University of California (12pm to 1pm)

Location: University Center, Bluebonnet Ballroom



Dr. Rashawn Ray



Dr. Angela Davis

Co-sponsored by the School of Social Work and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Breakfast & Lunch will be served during the keynotes



Dr. Mia Kirby organized a panel discussion on “**Mental Health in Black America.**” This meaningful dialogue featured **Dr. Danielle Eugene** of the School of Social Work, **Dr. Jihan Woods** of the UTA CAPS program, and **Dr. Alex Colvin** of **Texas Women’s University**. They discussed a wide range of contemporary concerns facing the black community such as depression, anxiety suicide, eating disorders, and addiction.

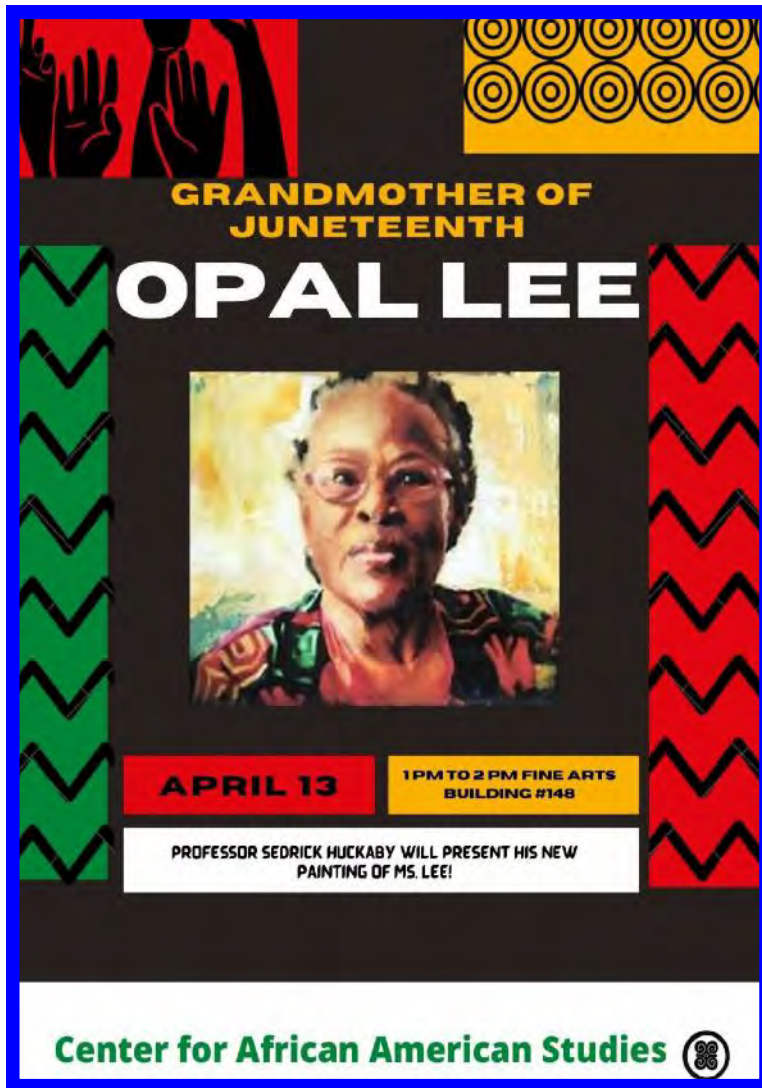
Dr. Jason Shelton organized a panel discussion on the **Arlington Unity Council**, the City’s racial equity task force that reports to **Mayor Jim Ross**. The panel featured **City Council Member Dr. Barbara Odom Wesley**, **Deputy City Manager Jennifer Wichmann**, and **Blaize Lafleur**—a **UTA student** who serves on the committee. Each shared their experiences and inspiration for helping to develop **47 recommendations** for addressing racial and ethnic disparities in the **City of Arlington**. Dr. Shelton serves as Chair of the Unity Council.





Community Engagement

Dr. Opal Lee's Visit to UT Arlington



In April, the legendary **Dr. Opal Lee** visited UT Arlington! Dr. Lee has become a national icon since **US President Joe Biden** signed legislation making **Juneteenth** a Federal Holiday.

Sedrick Huckaby of the **Department of Art and Art History** presented Dr. Lee with a draft of painting of her that will ultimately hang in the **Texas State Capitol Building** in Austin.

Special **THANK YOUs** go to **Dr. Leah McCurdy** in Art and Art History, as well as the **Office of the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion!** Their efforts helped to make this important event happen!



Campus Engagement

Pat Brandenburg Scholarship



CAAS
CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Columbus, Evander, Austin

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" on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

for more information
visit More scholar ship or
<https://uta.academicworks.com/opportunities/14859>
Deadline: March 18, 2022

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)
- ✓ One letter of recommendation

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

In May, CAAS awarded three outstanding students with the Pat Brandenburg Scholarship in African American Studies!

Ms. Brandenburg was an alumna ('49) who wanted to help heal our nation's wounds by assisting promising students. A woman of deep religious faith, she was moved by peaceful protests in Summer 2020 that called attention to human rights and racial inequality.

The following students will receive \$3,000 each for their academic achievements and ways in which they are currently involved with giving back to the African American community:

<p>Rhane Bishop Shayna Arnell Sutton Tarayja Rozia White</p>

Please congratulate them for their great works and bright futures!





Campus Engagement

Evening of Black Excellence



As always, **An Evening of Black Excellence: Achievements and Graduation** took place in early May prior to various **Commencement** ceremonies. During this important event, we recognize a wide range of our students' accomplishments!

This year's keynote address was delivered by **Mayor Rachel L. Proctor** of the **City of Desoto**. She is a proud UTA alum!

Onward & Upward!



Community Engagement

Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant



Dr. Opal Lee return to UTA in June since CAAS had the distinct honor of hosting the **2022 Miss Juneteenth DFW Scholarship Pageant!**

Five young women participated in this major event, and they were supported by a staff of professionals that helped developed their skills as public speakers, individual talents, and social skills.

Congratulations to **Madison Corzine**, our new **Miss Juneteenth DFW!**





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:

11th Annual Opening Lecture
September 21st, 2022
**(Dr. Dante Bryant, University of North
Carolina at Charlotte)**

Power Hour Lecture Series
October 10th, 2022
(TBD)

Power Hour Lecture Series
November 9th, 2022
(Dr. Mia Kirby, UT Arlington)

Afternoon of Arts & Letters
December, TBD

