

I Black Faculty and Professionals Alliance



Candice Nicole Solomo...



Faye V Harrison



Rebecca L Kornegay



Ashley M. Davis



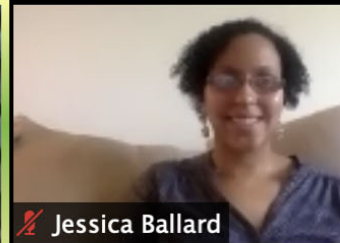
Danita M Brown Young



Kaamilyah Abdullah Sp...



Sean C Garrick



Jessica Ballard



Demetrius T Gary



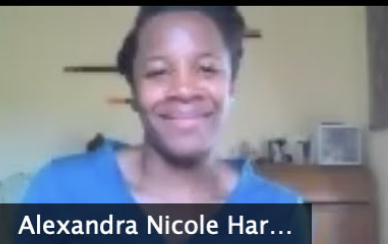
Kimberly D Otchere



Mel Fenner



Dementro Powell



Alexandra Nicole Har...



Lowa Mwilambwe



Medra Colleen Roberts...



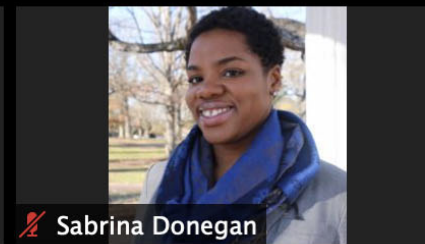
Nathan Arnell Stephens



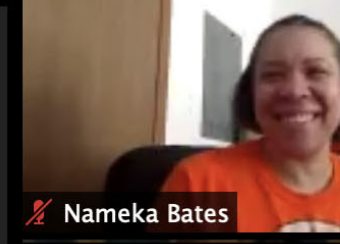
Ollie Watts Davis



Zelda Naomi Gardner



Sabrina Donegan



Nameka Bates

HAPPY TEAL TUESDAY!

#SAAM

2019 - 2020
ANNUAL REPORT

<http://go.illinois.edu/bfapa>



letter from **BFAPA** **Leadership Team**

The Black Faculty and Professional Alliance accomplished much over the last year (2019-2020). With a charge to advocate for better opportunities and services for University of Illinois Black faculty, staff, and students we have been able to forge new partnerships (i.e. Vice Chancellor's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and develop stronger social networks amongst members. Our regular social programming, student support activities, and educational outreach have led to significant growth in our membership. The hardships of COVID-19 and national acts of Anti-Blackness caused unrest for our entire Black campus community. BFAPA responded with graduation letter writing for our graduating seniors, racial trauma healing spaces for faculty and staff, and educational outreach programs with the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center and campus Racial Justice Ally and Advocate work group.

Our leadership team would like to extend special appreciation to the chairs of BFAPA, Dr. Nameka Bates and Dr. Alexandra Harmon-Threatt. Although Dr. Bates will no longer serve as BFAPA chair, we plan to honor Dr. Bates for the indelible impact she has bestowed upon our University of Illinois campus community. As such, we encourage the participation of new leaders to serve as committee leads under the leadership of our new chairs, Candice Solomon-Strutz and Dr. Alexandra Harmon-Threatt. Please look out for the forthcoming board elections and collaborations with campus departments such as the Dean of Students office. We appreciate the consistent and overwhelming participation from each of you. Your leadership has reaffirmed and strongly exemplified our commitments to the principles of Ubuntu, Sankofa, and Harambee.

In Peace & Appreciation,

BFAPA

Leadership Team

Dr. Nameka Bates
Dr. Alexandra Harmon-Threatt
Dr. Kamau Grantham
Kimberly D. Otchere
Candice Solomon-Strutz

2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Members actively writing at a Fall 2019 Meet-Up at BNAACC.

BFAPA Writing Meet-Up Summer 2019 and Fall 2019 Series

All were invited to join us for an hour of writing on the last Tuesday of the month from 5-6 pm at various locations on and off-campus. It didn't matter if you are working on an article, book, dissertation, resume, or just plain work stuff all were welcome.

No one reviewed what you wrote or gave unsolicited advice. A judgment-free zone where you could focus on writing surrounded by others for accountability.

*give yourself
time*

BFAPA Professional Development and Healing Events 2019 - 2020

During the Fall 2019 term, Tekita Bankhead, MS, BSN, RN, facilitated "Release," a debate free space, for dialogue. All were encouraged to share and find clarity about topics important to you. Multiple local wellness, counseling, and therapy resources were provided to attendees.

During June 2020, Dr. Kamau Grantham facilitated an open discussion on race-related trauma and stress for BFAPA. The focus of the hour-long session was for faculty/staff to process the killing of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other beautiful black people. The goal of the virtual meeting was for staff/faculty to express their despair, share their thoughts and feelings, and BFAPA thought we could offer a space for support.

A vertical graphic for the "Release" event. The background is dark blue. On the left, the text "JOIN BFAPA FOR" is written vertically. The word "RELEASE" is in large, bold, pink letters. Below it, the text "A debate free space for dialogue" is in pink. A lightning bolt icon is followed by the text "Share and find clarity about topics important to you. It's time to 'Release' what you have been holding." Below that, it says "Facilitated by Tekita Bankhead, MS, BSN, RN" and "BNAACC 1212 W. Nevada St, Urbana". At the bottom, the date and time "THURSDAY OCTOBER 24TH 3:30PM - 5PM" are listed. On the right, a photo of Tekita Bankhead, MS, BSN, RN, is shown. Her name and credentials are written vertically on the right side of the photo.

JOIN BFAPA FOR

RELEASE

A debate free space for dialogue

⚡ Share and find clarity about topics important to you. It's time to "Release" what you have been holding.

Facilitated by
Tekita Bankhead, MS, BSN, RN

BNAACC
1212 W. Nevada St, Urbana

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
24TH
3:30PM - 5PM

TEKITA BANKHEAD, MS, BSN, RN

2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



BFAPA Quarterly General Assembly Meetings

During 2019-2020 the Black Faculty and Professionals Alliance convened bi-monthly at the Department of African American Studies. We meet over the lunch hour to have more inclusive programming and provide plenty of opportunities for new members to get involved.

What happens at BFAPA meetings?

1. Fellowship
2. The Business of the Alliance
3. Services Updates and Event Planning
4. Open Forum for Issues & Concerns
5. Feedback

BFAPA Panels and Collaborative Events

During 2019-2020, the Black Faculty and Professionals Alliance regularly participated in panels and facilitated discussions at BNAACC Food for the Soul. Food for the Soul, part of the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations Lunch on Us series, is a weekly noontime discussion focused on topics relevant to the many communities globally within the African Diaspora and our allies.

BFAPA facilitated Kwanzaa Food for the Soul event on December 11, 2019, and provided the panelist and moderator for the Black Faculty & Staff Food for the Soul on February 5, 2020.



Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, Eric Minor, Dale Wright, Candice Solomon-Strutz, Dr. Emily Knox, and Dr. Alex Harmon-Threatt serving on Black Faculty & Staff panel sharing their experiences of being underrepresented in their respective field.

On April 28, 2020, BFAPA members enjoyed a virtual chat with Dr. Sean Garrick, Vice-Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion while wearing a splash of teal to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month #SAAM #WRCTealTuesday.

Most recently BFAPA hosted a panel for the *Structural Racism and Anti-Blackness* on July 23, 2020. This panel was the 3rd session of the Racial Justice Ally and Advocate Anti-Racism Summer Series. Participation at the Anti-Racism Summer Series averaged 200-250 people.

Thank you again to Moderator: Dr. Ollie Watts Davis and Panelists: Dr. Denise Loyd, Dr. Adrienne Dixson, Dr. Rae Lundy, Dr. Mikki Johnson, Dr. Sundiata Cha-Jua.

2019-2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BFAPA Social Committee Events

Our first social event of 2020 was at Jupiter's at the Crossing on January 24th. Throughout the year the social committee traditionally hosts monthly Munch and Mingle events.

In February 2020, Dr. Danita Brown Young hosted BFAPA during the Superbowl LIV event.

"Take time to do what makes your soul happy."



Sunday Brunch at Silvercreek | February 23, 2020

BFAPA Social Committee Events

Some of our planned in-person spring events such as roller-skating were postponed due to COVID-19.

However, in May 2020, BFAPA hosted some virtual Jackbox games over the lunch hour. Jackbox games are a variety of trivia, poll-based, and witty responses.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We are seeking interested members to join the leadership team and fill vacant positions for 2020-2021

Vacant Positions include Secretary/Communication Chair, Professional Development Chair, and Student Outreach Chair

Every engaged member strengthens our voice on campus and in the community.

Indicate interest by completing the online form <https://go.illinois.edu/BFAPA-Leadership> by August 26th.



Alex Harmon Threat
Faculty Co-Chair



Candice Solomon-Strutz
Professional Co-Chair



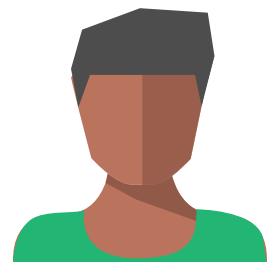
Kimberly Otchere
Membership Chair



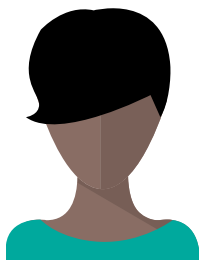
Kamau Grantham
Treasurer



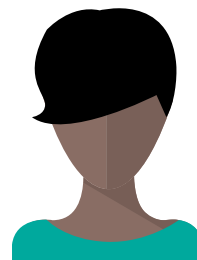
Dementro Powell
Social & Events Planning Chair



VACANT
Recording
Secretary/Communications
Chair



VACANT
Professional Development
Chair



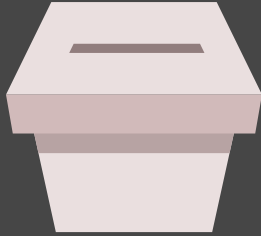
VACANT
Student Outreach Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS



BFAPA Quarterly Business Meeting Dates:

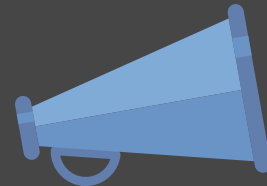
- Tuesday, September 1, 2020 - 12 PM
- Tuesday, November 10, 2020 - 12 PM
- Tuesday, February 2, 2020 - 12 PM
- Tuesday, April 6, 2020 - 12 PM



BFAPA Elections Tuesday, September 1, 2020

The primary business during September 1, 2020, quarterly business meeting will be officer selection.

Those interested in joining the BFAPA Leadership Team and filling vacant positions complete the online form <https://go.illinois.edu/BFAPA-Leadership> by August 26th.



Share Announcements with BFAPA

We want to hear about exciting faculty/staff announcements, upcoming events, and more.

Remember to post on the BFAPA Facebook Group.

If you want an announcement included in an upcoming BFAPA newsletter complete <https://go.illinois.edu/BFAPA-Announcements>

GET IN TOUCH WITH BFAPA



<https://www.facebook.com/BFAPA>
http://go.illinois.edu/bfapa_fb_group



Sign-in at
<https://lists.illinois.edu/lists/info/bfapa>



<http://go.illinois.edu/bfapa>

to join the BFAPA listserv