HOWARD UNIVERSITY
Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy

Faculty Scholars and Scholar Coaches 2021

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Dr. Sylvia H. Anderson serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Master of Science Occupational Therapy program at Howard University. She received her Doctor of Health Education degree from A. T. Still University, and her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy degree from Howard University. Dr. Anderson also completed a fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute. She has served on several research teams and has served as the research advisor and the principal investigator for several research projects. Dr. Anderson is currently the Principal Investigator of a research project - Investigating the Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy Interventions with Homeless Individuals in Transitional Housing. She specializes in the design, development and implementation of clinical programs that benefit vulnerable populations in the community. These programs not only meet the needs of the clients but also serve as educational/training opportunities for occupational therapy students.

Dr. Anderson teaches several courses in the Masters and Doctoral Occupational Therapy programs, respectively. She is responsible for coordinating clinical placements nationally for occupational therapy students and has served as the project leader for study-abroad service-learning experiences in Costa Rica.

Dr. Anderson has made scholarly presentations at the Annual American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, and the RCMI Translational Science Conference, in addition to other organizations.

Research Interests
- Community-based programming for vulnerable populations
- Health education, health literacy and health promotion for African Americans
- Strategies to promote diversity awareness and equity in clinical education
Dr. Alaina Davis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Howard University where she also received her Ph.D. She is also a licensed Medical Speech-Language Pathologist and a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer with the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists. She has expertise in neurologically based communication disorders with adolescents and adults and primarily focuses on traumatic brain injury. She directs the Cognitive-Communicative Skills Research Lab in which the team examines cognitive-communicative deficits associated with sport related concussion and return to learn/play/activity for student-athletes following concussion. Student-athletes are supported through her role on the HU Concussion Management Team. Dr. Davis’ work also addresses understanding of the cognitive and communication styles of adolescents and adults from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and identifies culturally appropriate and relevant methods for cognitive-communicative assessment and treatment. In addition, she has interests in program assessment and analyzes the effect of cognitive learning styles on significant learning in academic and clinical activities related to speech-language pathology. Dr. Davis is published in professional journals and has co-authored chapters on TBI. She also co-hosts a podcast called, Sunday Dinner with Drs. Stanford and Davis in which she leads a series called Brain Injury Chronicles with Dr. D. telling the stories of persons with concussion and its affect on their lives.

**Research Interests**
- Cognitive-communication disorders associated with sport-related concussion and return-to-learn for student-athletes
- Cognitive learning styles, communication styles, and social discourse of Black athletes and college students
- Cognitive styles and assessment significant learning of college students with and without communication disorders
Professor Nicole C. Dillard is an Assistant Professor at Howard University, the Cathy Hughes School of Communications in the Department of Strategic, Legal and Management Communications. Prof. Dillard teaches students in the Legal Communications sequence and is Assistant Coach of the award-winning Howard University Mock Trial Team.

Prof. Dillard is a graduate of The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. She has also earned her Master of Education degree in Bilingual Education from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Virginia. When she is not teaching, Ms. Dillard is the principal of Dillard Legal Consultants where her practice focuses primarily on immigration law and Labor and Employment law. Prof. Dillard, a former Fairfax County Public School English as a Second Language teacher, has spent several years representing the District of Columbia Public Schools in Labor and Employment litigation related matters as well as in the areas of foreign national teacher recruitment and nonimmigrant and immigrant visa processing. Additionally, Prof. Dillard also specializes in securing visas for foreign national artists and entertainers.

Prof. Dillard’s research interest focuses in the areas of Immigration law and Labor & Employment Law, a convergence of all of her professional backgrounds.

Research Interests
- Immigration policy and hate speech
- Workplace terminations and speech and
- Recruiting foreign-national teachers to address the U.S. teacher shortage
Angela P. Cole Dixon, Ph.D. is Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology at Howard University. She earned her BS in psychology, with a minor in mathematics, at Howard University and her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at Stanford University. She was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship and dissertation fellowship by the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). She was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research (ISR). In 2008, Dr. Dixon was selected by Stanford University as a Distinguished Alumni Scholar. Her research focuses on information-processing models of decision making, social cognition and personality, and has resulted in publications in *Health Psychology; Law and Human Behavior; Brain, Behavior and Immunity; Basic and Applied Social Psychology; Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology; Caribbean Journal of Psychology; and African American Research Perspectives*. She has received external funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She was Principal Investigator (PI) for a research grant jointly funded by NSF’s Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences Program and Social Psychology Program; was PI for the Atlantic Coast Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences Alliance (AC-SBE), funded by NSF’s Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences; and received a Faculty and Student Research Team Program Award from the DHS. She has chaired an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Health, Education and Human Services (HHS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Selection Committee and is a member of the APA Psychology Summer Institute (PSI) Selection Committee.

**Research Interests**
- Information processing models of decision making
- Social cognition
- Personality
Dr. Kwame Dixon is a tenured Associate Professor of Political Science at Howard University. His research focuses on Afro-Democracy, Afro-Civil Society, and Racialization and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. His research aims to frame the social experiences of Blacks in the Americas from a comparative and hemispheric perspective. He has published three books on Latin America and the Caribbean, *Comparative Perspectives on Afro-Latin America* (with John Burdick, 2012), *Afro Politics and Civil Society in Salvador da Bahia* (2016) and *Comparative Racial Politics in Latin America* (2019). Dr. Dixon is currently serving as an Associate Editor for Oxford University Press ‘Encyclopedia of Latin America Politics’ and his edited section is ‘Racial and Gendered Politics in Latin America.’ Video link to ‘Afro-Politics and Civil Society in Salvador da Bahia’ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79Te5sfAHaQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79Te5sfAHaQ)

**Research Interests**
- Afro-Democracy
- Afro-Civil Society
- Racialization and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean
Dr. Michelle Dovil is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Howard University in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, she has always had an interest in both the natural and social sciences. She received her baccalaureate degree in Sociology, with a minor in Women Studies from the University of Florida. Dr. Dovil later moved to Washington, DC, where she received her master’s and doctoral degree from Howard University.

Although her formal concentrations are in Social Inequality and Criminology, Dr. Dovil's personal research interests are in disaster research, environmental inequality, and gender studies. She has worked on several projects both domestically and internationally in places that include New Orleans, Louisiana; Norman, Oklahoma; Wilmington, North Carolina; Washington, DC; and Sendai, Japan. Moreover, these projects have been centered on investigating the impact of climate change on coastal communities; social inequalities of disasters; improving risk communication for vulnerable populations; examining the protective action and evacuation responses of disaster victims; as well as many other environmental inequality issues. Dr. Dovil has received research awards from both the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation.

**Research Interests**
- Severe weather/disasters
- Environmental inequality
- Criminology
- Gender studies
Hazel Ruth Edwards has been Professor and Chair of the Department of Architecture, College of Engineering and Architecture at Howard University since July 2016. Her unique career has combined place-based research with planning and urban design practice and teaching. Her research interests in livability are framed within urban contexts while focused primarily on historic campus environments. Of note is a planning study that culminated in a book that she co-authored entitled, *The Long Walk: The Placemaking Legacy of Howard University* (Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, 1996), which traced the 127-year history of the physical development of the campus. That project has led to funded research and published work on placemaking at other historically black colleges and universities in the United States.

She holds the Bachelor of Architecture from Howard University, the Master of Architecture in Urban Design from Harvard University, and the Ph.D. in regional planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and was elected to their College of Fellows (FAICP) in 2018. In June 2021, she was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts for a four-year term and was voted as their Vice Chair.

Prior to joining Howard University, Edwards taught in the graduate architecture and city planning programs at Morgan State University’s Institute of Architecture (1999 to 2007) and at The Catholic University of America’s School of Architecture and Planning (2007 to 2016), where she served as director of the Master of City and Regional Planning program.

**Research Areas**
- Livability/quality of life in urban areas
- Community health and design particularly in communities of color
- Historic placemaking at historically black college and university campuses
- Place-based research which focuses on historic and contemporary issues
Stacy Farina is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. She received her BS in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of New Hampshire and her PhD in Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University. Her research at Howard University includes the study of the evolution of form and function in marine vertebrates. She teaches courses such as Comparative Anatomy and Organismal Biomechanics, the latter of which is a Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE). She also runs a summer research internship in marine biology.

**Research Interests:**
- Place-based research which focuses on historic and contemporary issues
- Evolution of structure and function
- Respiration in marine organisms
- Fluid dynamics as it applies to physiology
Dr. Barbara Annette Fears is Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. She teaches courses in the history, philosophy, and practice of ministry. She is a religious educator and hospice chaplain and identifies as a practical theologian. Dr. Fears is attentive to race and gender inequalities rooted in God-language, therefore, her research focuses upon power, privilege and accountability in faith formation and praxis in the public square. Recent works include a book review on Critical Race Theory in Education, and an article on Race, Disability and COVID-19: A DisCrit Analysis of Theological Education.

Research Interests
- Power, privilege and accountability in faith formation and praxis in the public square
Dr. Farhana Ferdous is an assistant professor in the Department of Architecture at Howard University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Sydney, Australia in 2012 and conducted postdoctoral research in healthcare architecture at the University of Kansas (KU) until 2014. She was a Lecturer and Global Urbanism Faculty Fellow in the School of Architecture & Design at KU from 2012 to 2017. She is an educator, designer, and scholar whose teaching and research career spans the continents of Asia, Australia, and North America. She is known globally for her scholarly contributions on the topics of the design of ADRD care facilities, healthy urbanism and environmental design for the elderly, and health and wellbeing in the built and urban settings. She has published widely on urban and environmental design, environmental psychology and neighborhood walkability for the aging population. Her research has been supported by many prestigious grants and awards such as the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fellowship, Grantmakers In Aging (GI/A) Fellowship, Endeavour Postgraduate Award, Graham Foundation Grant, Toyota Foundation Grant, Academy of Architecture Health Foundation (AAHF), KU-Alzheimer's Disease Center Pilot Award and KU Strategic Initiative Grant.

**Research Interests**

- Behavior and psychology in built environments with a focus on elderly care
- Healthcare architecture, memory care and assisted living facilities
- Healthy communities and healthy urbanism
- Environment behavior and evidence-based design
- Urban morphology and spatial morphological analysis
Lenese C. Herbert, Esq. currently teaches Evidence, Criminal Procedure I and II, Criminal Law, and Social Media and the Law at Howard University School of Law. Prior to entering law teaching, Professor Herbert served as: 1) an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions under former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Eric Holder, and 2) Agency Counsel for the Manipulation and Trade Practice Unit of the Division of Enforcement, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. A graduate of UCLA School of Law, Professor Herbert has practiced before administrative law judges, military tribunals, and Article III courts on federal, local, trial, and appellate levels.

Professor Herbert co-authors CONSTITUTIONAL CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, a problem-based casebook adopted at a number of law schools across the country (6th edition, forthcoming 2021) as well as LEXIS/NEXIS Skills and Values: Criminal Law. She is published in a number of law reviews and journals (including, e.g., the Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law, Michigan Journal of Race & Law, Seattle University Law Review, the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy) and cited in books, scholarly works, and court pleadings (including, e.g., amicus briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court in Jones v. United States). Professor Herbert has written for SCOTUSblog and served as an expert legal analyst for media outlets such as C-SPAN, PBS News Hour, NPR, Bloomberg Law, The Washington Post, BBC, Al Jazeera English, NBC News Channel 4 (Washington, DC), WTTG Fox 5 (Washington, DC), News Channel 8 (Washington, DC), and Voice of America.

Research Interests
- Criminal procedure
- Criminal law
- Evidence
- Social media and the law
Amol Kulkarni

Amol Kulkarni is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy. He is a medicinal chemist with expertise in drug discovery and development. His current research is focused on the development of small molecules in the areas of immunology, virology, and green synthesis of medicinal agents. Dr. Kulkarni is investigating the pathophysiology of inflammation-associated disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, type-2 diabetes, and atherosclerosis. This line of research aims to discover small molecules that improve therapeutic outcomes of inflammation-associated diseases, which disproportionately affect the minority populations. As part of the NIH-funded U19 grant, the Kulkarni group has developed compounds with potent anti-Ebola activity and low toxicity. In addition, the Kulkarni group is also developing small molecules against HIV-comorbidities, such as dyslipidemia and HIV-associated neurocognitive dysfunction. In collaboration with Prof. Joseph Fortunak in the Department of Chemistry at Howard University, the Kulkarni group has developed a green route for the chemical synthesis of antimalarial drugs piperazine and amodiaquine. This technology, now being used in Africa, allows for large-scale production of these drugs while significantly reducing the waste generated during synthesis. Dr. Kulkarni’s research has resulted in two patents and numerous research publications. He has trained over 40 Pharm. D. students, two postdoctoral researchers, six undergraduate students, and seven high school students. In addition, Dr. Kulkarni teaches several courses in Pharm. D. and PhD program including Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Anions and Cations in Biological Systems, and Organometallic Chemistry in Drug Synthesis. He has implemented innovative techniques such as, “Flipping the Classroom” that stimulate active learning and students’ in-class participation. He was the Keystone Symposia Fellow for year 2015 and has received “Professor of the Year” award from the College of Pharmacy in 2012, 2013, 2018, and 2019. He is also the recipient of the Howard University Faculty Senate Award for “Outstanding Contributions to Africa and African Diaspora.”

Research Interests

- Immunology
- Neuroinflammation
- Infectious diseases such as HIV, Ebola
- Green synthesis
Kehbuna Langmia has extensive knowledge and expertise in Information Communication Technology (ICT), Intercultural/International Communication and Social Media. Since earning his Ph.D. in Mass Communications and Media Studies from Howard University in 2006, he has published 12 books, 14 book chapters and 9 peer-reviewed journal articles nationally and internationally. He regularly gives keynote speeches on Information Communication Technology and Social Media in prominent national and international universities, including the Library of Congress, the National Intelligence University (Department of Defense, USA) and National Defense University (Department of Defense, USA); Morgan State University (Maryland, USA); Bowie State University (Maryland, USA); Melbourne University (Australia); Buea University (Cameroon); Madras Institute of Technology (India); ICT University (Cameroon); Covenant University (Nigeria); Makerere, University Business School, MUBS, (Uganda); and Temple University (Pennsylvania, USA).

Dr. Langmia leads the Information Communication Technology Doctoral Consortium annually (under the ictforafrica.org conferences and seminars) throughout Africa. Dr. Langmia was the 2017 Maryland Communication Association Keynote Speaker holding at College of Southern Maryland, Waldorf, MD. His most recent books are: *Black/Africana Communication Theory*, published in 2018 by Palgrave Macmillan Press; *Globalization and Cyberculture: An Afrocentric Perspective and Social Media: Culture and Identity*, published in 2017 by Palgrave Macmillan Press and the latter co-edited with Tia Tyree and published by Lexington Books. Other books include: *Social Media: Pedagogy and Practice*, in which he co-edited and authored two chapters. The book was published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2014.

**Research Interests**

- Intercultural Communication
- Information Communication Technology
- Social Media
- Identity
Dr. Christine McWhorter is an award-winning professor and scholar. As an Assistant Professor of Broadcast Journalism at Howard University, she teaches Multicultural Media History, Public Affairs Reporting, and Media Production. Through her inspirational instructional style, she emphasizes the importance of storytelling through students' unique perspective in terms of culture, life experiences, and goals in order for them to create meaningful work. Prior to coming to Howard, she was an Assistant Professor at Norfolk State University where she taught graduate and undergraduate television production and journalism.

Dr. McWhorter's research focuses on the changing role of news and how educators can help students develop the media literacy skills to understand it. Specifically, she studies news literacy, critical race media literacy, and the role of news and other journalism media in audience and societal attitudes, beliefs, and behavior.

For nearly a decade, Dr. McWhorter was a national television producer. She traveled the country and interviewed people about significant inspirational events in their lives. Her favorite interviews include Christina Hopper, the first Black female fighter pilot to fly in a war, Dr. Bennett Omalu, the real-life doctor behind the movie Concussion, Gospel singer Cece Winans, and Grammy-Award-Winning Saxophone player Kirk Whalum.

**Research Interests**
- Media Effects
- Media Literacy, including news literacy and critical race media literacy
Kendall L. Moody, PhD, LCSW is currently an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Howard University. His research focuses on the mental, emotional, and behavioral health of children and adolescents diagnosed with a chronic illness, specifically youth with sickle cell disease. Dr. Moody also serves as a clinical consultant with a community mental health agency where the focus is to reduce mental, emotional, and behavioral health disparities among minority families. Dr. Moody has over a decade of experience working with childhood trauma, youth in foster care, and individuals with chronic physical and mental illness. He has published on the topic of suicide among vulnerable populations along with depression, anxiety, and quality of life within individuals diagnosed with sickle cell disease. Dr. Moody has presented at numerous conferences and serves as a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Nephrology Social Work. Dr. Moody teaches direct social work practice and field education. He holds a bachelor's in psychology, as well as a master’s degree and PhD in social work from Norfolk State University.

Research Interests
- Health equity among patients with chronic illness
- The biopsychosocial wellbeing of individuals with sickle cell disease.
- Healthcare access for low-income people of color
Shana O’Connell earned her BA in Art History and Classics with minors in Studio Art and Latin from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her PhD in Art History from Johns Hopkins University. She is an archaeologist and specializes in ancient (pre-800 CE) painting of Europe and the Middle East; her work has been supported by fellowships from the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and Johns Hopkins. Topics of her recent and forthcoming publications include illusionistic textiles in Pompeian wall painting, the misuse of a Classical text in an Italian fifteenth-century universal history, and reports on painting from the ongoing Huqoq Excavation Project. In addition to teaching her popular course, Classical Art during Summer Session II, she is working on a proposal for a manuscript on painting and consumption of luxury products in the context of Roman imperialism of the 1st century CE and an article on mimesis and abstraction in Late Antique wall painting co-authored with Vanessa Rousseau (St. Thomas).

Since 2015, Dr. O’Connell has taught on ancient archaeology (Classical Art) and culture (Classical Mythology; Slavery in the Ancient) in the Classics Department at Howard University; in 2019 she was awarded Outstanding Full-Time Lecturer in the Humanities for the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard.

Research Interests
- Ancient painting, especially makers, materials, and techniques
- Stylistic exchange and appropriation around the ancient Mediterranean Reconstruction
- The valuation of ancient art
Dr. Stacey Patton is an award-winning journalist, historian, and child advocate. Her writings on race, education, culture, and child welfare issues have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, BBC News, Al Jazeera, TheRoot.com, TheGrio, NewsOne and other publications. She is the author of That Mean Old Yesterday—A Memoir; Spare the Kids: Why Whupping Children Won't Save Black America; and the forthcoming Strung Up: The Lynching of Black Children in Jim Crow America. Dr. Patton teaches media literacy and digital journalism at Howard.

**Research interests**
- Corporal punishment
- Race and child welfare
- School-to-prison pipeline
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- African American history
- Race and media
- Reparations
Dr. Monica L. Ponder is an Assistant Professor of Health Communication and Culture in the Cathy Hughes School of Communication at Howard University. Dr. Ponder’s research interests are focused on organization-level health and crisis communication practice. She is the co-lead of Project REFOCUS (Racial Ethnic Framing of Community-Informed and Unifying Surveillance), an initiative that addresses social stigma related to COVID19 and racism. Dr. Ponder is also the creator of The Henrietta Hypothesis, an interdisciplinary model for crisis communication. It is a 16-construct model aptly named “The Henrietta Hypothesis” in honor of Henrietta Lacks’ iconic healthcare case. This scholarship offers crisis communication recommendations for public health organizations seeking to understand, reach, and engage historically marginalized and underrepresented groups during public health emergencies.

As a scholar activist, Dr. Ponder has led many successful public health initiatives including advocating for the establishment of lactation rooms (pods) at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport – the world’s busiest airport, as well as leading plans for lactation support services for the 2017 National Women’s March (Washington, DC). As a lifelong learner and practitioner, Dr. Ponder leverages, in her teaching, her 10+ year career in health communication at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Ponder views the classroom as a safe space and hopes that, through this process, students become aware of their own power as scholar activists, empowered learners, and as emerging public health change-makers.

Dr. Ponder holds BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University, a MSPH in Epidemiology from Emory University and a PhD in Communication from Georgia State University.

Research Interests:
- Critical Health communication
- Crisis communication
- Health disparities, including Black maternal health
- Interpersonal/cultural communication
Dominique L. Pritchett is an Assistant Professor of Physiology in the Department of Biology at Howard University. Prior to his current position, he obtained his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he studied the neural circuits underlying selective attention. He received his post-doctoral training at the Champalimaud Neuroscience Program, in Lisbon PT, where his knowledge of optogenetics was leveraged to dissect the neural circuit involved in Pavlovian conditioning in the cerebellum.

A central theme to the research has been on using new genetic tools to dissect neural circuits that underlie complex behaviors. Optogenetics and chemogenetics are two such tools Dominique utilizes to gain genetic access to specific cell types in neural circuits, to alter their activity with high temporal precision. In addition, his work relies on using open-source platforms and towards developing low-cost approaches to neuroscience.

His current work is focuses on understanding the neural mechanism that underlie simple associative learning behaviors. In particular, he continues to study the cerebellum, where much is understood about how mechanisms of synaptic plasticity contribute to the association of a stimulus with a behavioral response. The goal of his research is to understand how the cerebellar circuit contributes to associative behaviors more generally by exploring the functional connections between the cerebellum and the neocortex and the basal ganglia.

**Research Interests**
- Learning and memory
- Cell type specific circuit dissection
- Cerebellum
Dr. Catherine Quinlan is Assistant Professor in Science Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She graduated from Teachers College Columbia University with her doctorate in Science Education. Prior to coming to Howard University, Dr. Quinlan taught high school biology and chemistry for sixteen years and was an instructor for Endeavor STEM Teaching Certificate Project where she taught *Life in Space: NASA ISS and Astrobiology* to teachers around the United States. Currently, she prepares Howard undergraduate and graduate students in science education methods and education foundations. Dr. Quinlan was funded by the National Science Foundation to create culturally representative STEM curricula and products for the K-12 setting. She recently launched her chapter book series for early readers, *Keystone Passage*, which uses interdisciplinary approaches to create Black representation. The first book of this series, *Ta Africa and Back* makes use of her understandings from prior research on African Rock Art and her second book *Day and Night on the Space Station* takes advantage of her understandings of the microgravity environment and experiments done on the International Space Station. Dr. Quinlan is committed to creating practical curriculum products that impact the classroom, along with her research publications that highlight the cognitive resources of Black students. Her recent publication, *Creating an Instrument to Measure Social and Cultural Self-efficacy Indicators for Persistence of HBCU Undergraduates in STEM* capitalizes on her expertise in both science and education as well as captures her use of interdisciplinary approaches, such as applied cognitive approaches to understand how students learn and perform in science.

**Research Interests**

- Cultural representation in STEM education curriculum and products
- Self-efficacy indicators for persistence
- Using identity as an approach for understanding issues of culture
- Effective use of instructional technology methods in the classroom
- Use of applied cognitive approaches
- Schema theory
- Argumentation in science
- Science education pedagogy
Debra D. Roberts, Ph.D., is Founding Director of the Cultural Socialization Lab (CSL) housed in Howard University’s Department of Psychology, where she is Professor and Chair. She received her B.Sc. in Psychology/Neuroscience from University of Toronto, M.Sc. in Community Psychology from Florida A&M University, and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Temple University. Dr. Roberts’ primary area of research involves examining psychosocial well-being at the intersection of culture/ethnicity and psychosocially toxic environments, otherwise known as PTEs (poverty, discrimination, trauma, etc.) among children and adolescents. As Director of CSL, she mentors numerous undergraduate and graduate students who aspire to use cultural assets as a buffer to the deleterious impact of PTEs on child and adolescent development. She has worked with diverse populations and has unique research experience with programs that target marginalized youth. As someone who was raised in the Caribbean and Canada, she remains excited about work that can contribute to the lived experiences of minority youth and their families throughout the Diaspora. Serving as ad hoc reviewer for impactful journals in her field such as Developmental Psychology, Journal of Child and Family Studies, and Journal of Interpersonal Violence, her research has also been published in these and other outlets. Her passion for research extends to the classroom, where both undergraduate and graduate courses inspire her to utilize creative, innovative, learning-focused instructional approaches.

Research Interests
- Cultural socialization
- Child and adolescent development
- Prevention/intervention research
- Exposure to discrimination, violence, and poverty
- Cultural/ethnic Identity
August Wilson and a major scholar in the field of African American drama, she currently is Scholar-in-Residence at Pittsburgh’s August Wilson African American Cultural Center where she serves as a chief consultant for the Center’s forthcoming state-of-the-art interactive exhibit, August Wilson: A Writer’s Landscape. Dr. Shannon is the author of two book-length studies on August Wilson’s life and his American Century Cycle plays. She also served in respective roles as Editor and Co-editor of four key essay collections that explore other aspects of Wilson’s American Century Cycle. In addition, Dr. Shannon has authored numerous essays in refereed journals and book chapters on topics that span August Wilson and contemporary African American writers. For more information on her list of publications, visit https://works.bepress.com/sandra-shannon/. Under Dr. Shannon’s leadership, the August Wilson Society continues to host national colloquia on Wilson and other events related to the organization’s mission. In fall 2020, Dr. Shannon received a generous grant on behalf of the August Wilson Society from the Billy Holiday Theatre sponsored Black Seed initiative to support a two-year project titled Centering and Celebrating Wilsonian Warriors. This project will examine the roles played by an August Wilson-centered community of actors, designers, musicians, and directors in securing the playwright’s title as a major national and international playwright. In April 2018, Dr. Shannon was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre as a “distinguished achiever in professional and educational theatre,” and in July 2018, she was awarded the prestigious Winona Fletcher Award from the Black Theatre Network for her “academic excellence in theatre scholarship.” In May 2021, she was named Dean elect of the College of Fellows and is on track to become Dean of this organization of American theatre exemplars in 2022.

**Research Areas**
- Early and Contemporary African American literature
- Early and Contemporary American and African American Drama
- Playwright August Wilson and His American Century Cycle plays

Dr. Sandra G. Shannon is Professor Emerita of African American Literature in the Department of English at Howard University and a six-year veteran Scholar Coach for Howard University’s Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy. She is Founder and President of the August Wilson Society (AWS). Widely considered the leading authority on playwright
Denise W. Streeter is Assistant Professor of Finance at Howard University. She holds a Ph.D. in Finance (with an international emphasis) and master’s degree in Economics from Old Dominion University. She also holds a master’s degree in Finance from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor’s degree in accounting (magna cum laude) from Howard University. Her research endeavors began prior to her doctoral studies when in 1987 she identified and documented the First 100 Black CPAs for the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). To honor that accomplishment, Denise is listed in Who’s Who Among Black Americans (1992/93).

Dr. Streeter brings over 20 years of corporate experience in financial analysis and strategic leadership to academia. She began her career in 1984 with the former accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers). She has directed a $1 billion retirement trust, facilitated corporate trainings, and served for 14 years as Chief Financial Officer at National 4-H Council. In addition, she serves on Boards of Directors for The LIFE School of Atlanta, VITA Schools (Phoenix), and the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board to provide her business acumen and knowledge as a CPA to aid sound decision making in corporate financial management.

She utilizes her corporate and education background in both her teaching and research. Dr. Streeter teaches courses on Banking, Corporate Finance, Financial Markets and Investments to students of all ages, in various formats, and on three continents. Her research is focused on

**Research Interests**

- Banking
- Corporate and international finance
- Investments for application to business strategies
Darlene Taylor is an advocate for arts and humanities and a lecturer at Howard University. Her research interests include historical erasure, ekphrastic traditions in storytelling, and place in the Black literary imagination.

Taylor is a fiction writer who explores the emotional politics of segregation and recovers lives historical records omit in their telling of the way things were. She is developing a textile-prose collaboration for storytelling that raises awareness of violence against women and girls. Her short stories and essays and have been anthologized and published in Feminist Studies, Kweli Journal, Kinfolks, and Public History Common.

She is a recipient of fellowships and support from the D.C. Commission for the Arts and Humanities, American Association of University Women, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Community of Writers, Kweli, Callaloo, and Kimbilio. Taylor holds a BA from American University and an MFA from Stonecoast, University of Southern Maine.

Her community service is dedicated to literary citizenship. As the founder of INXPEN, she provides books to students in under-resourced schools and partners with libraries to bring stories by Black writers to readers. Taylor’s deep interest in social justice grows out of her experiences in national politics, global corporate communications, and nonprofit service. She served as a congressional aide and communications executive on loan to the World Health Organization. She has worked on global projects to promote awareness of social justice, family health, and African American art and history.

**Research Interests**
- Historical erasure
- Ekphrastic traditions in storytelling
- Place in the Black literary imagination
Tracy Whitaker, DSW, ACSW, is an Associate Professor and the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Advancement at the Howard University School of Social Work. Prior to joining the faculty of Howard University, Dr. Whitaker directed the Center for Workforce Studies & Social Work Practice at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for over a decade. Dr. Whitaker directed the national benchmark study of licensed social workers in 2004 and led the first compensation and benefits study of the social work profession in 2009.

Dr. Whitaker’s career has also included work with individuals, organizations, and community systems. She has served as the executive director of a transitional center serving women who were experiencing homelessness, substance addiction and mental health issues; as a court monitor overseeing the deinstitutionalization of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital and the simultaneous development of community-based mental health services in the District of Columbia; and as the deputy director of a federally-funded, national resource center that supported and examined issues related to the behavioral health of women across the life cycle.

Dr. Whitaker is passionate about developing the next generation of social workers and teaches across the social work curriculum. Dr. Whitaker also serves as a Board member for the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, as the Book Committee Chairperson for the NASW Press and is a co-editor for the inaugural Encyclopedia of Macro Social Work. Dr. Whitaker received her MSW and DSW from Howard University. She holds certification from NASW’s Academy of Certified Social Workers.

Research Interests

- Women
- Mental health issues
- Homelessness
Sonja D. Williams is Professor and Assistant Chair in the Howard University Cathy Hughes School of Communication’s Department of Media, Journalism and Film, where she teaches scriptwriting and audio production classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In summer 2017, she was awarded a Mellon Foundation funded, Chicago, Illinois based Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) Short Term Fellowship in support of her research for a proposed book length, longitudinal case study of affirmative action, black students and the University of Chicago. Her biography, *Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom* (University of Illinois Press, 2015), explores the life and times of pioneering National Radio Hall of Fame dramatist, journalist, and activist, Richard Durham. *Word Warrior* was a finalist in the 2016 Phyllis Wheatley Book Award.

Professor Williams also has served as a print and broadcast journalist and media trainer in Africa (South Africa and Kenya), the Caribbean (Barbados), and throughout the United States. She has written and produced numerous features and documentaries for National Public Radio (NPR), the Smithsonian Institution and Public Radio International (PRI) – including episodes for series such as *Jazz Profiles*, *Making the Music*, *Black Radio: Telling It Like It Was*, and *Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions*. For her documentary work, Professor Williams has earned multiple awards, including three consecutive George Foster Peabody Awards for Significant and Meritorious Achievement, two Gracie Allen Awards, and a DuPont-Columbia University Journalism Award. Her students’ productions have also received national recognition, including a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

**Research Interests**
- Media/mass communications history and social concerns
- African American music
- Popular culture
Dr. Andrew Yabusaki is a clinical assistant professor at Howard University College of Pharmacy and a clinical pharmacist at Howard University Hospital practicing in infectious diseases. Dr. Yabusaki received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Washington State University and completed two years of post-graduate training with a focus on inpatient pharmacotherapy and clinical and didactic instruction. In addition to classroom lectures, Dr. Yabusaki precepts 4th year pharmacy students on Clinical Specialty Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, as well as post-graduate year one pharmacy residents completing their residency at Howard University Hospital.

Dr. Yabusaki’s research focuses on two main areas. The first is the safety and efficacy associated with antimicrobial therapy in hospitalized patients. Investigations into the occurrence rates of serious adverse effects with understudied racial backgrounds are currently ongoing. This research aims to establish whether general population studies on key aspects of antimicrobial care are able to be applied to particular populations.

The second research area is instructional best practices, whether clinical or didactic. Dr. Yabusaki has presented new techniques designed to augment or increase health sciences student learning at several national conferences and continues to implement new and innovative techniques to both the classroom and the practice setting.

**Research interests**
- Safety and efficacy associated with antimicrobial therapy in hospitalized patients
- Instructional best practices, whether clinical or didactic
Jeffrey C. Stewart is the MacArthur Foundation Professor and former Chair of the Department of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University. Author of numerous articles, essays and books on African American Intellectual and Cultural History, Dr. Stewart has taught at Harvard University, Yale University, UCLA, Tufts University, Howard University, Scripps College, and George Mason University. Dr. Stewart has served as Director of Research at the Smithsonian Institution’s Anacostia Museum and curated exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery--To Color America: Portraits by Winold Reiss--and at the Zimmerli Gallery at Rutgers University--Paul Robeson: Artist and Citizen--the latter touring nationally from 1996-2000. His curatorial analysis, “Beyond Category: Before Afro-Futurism there was Norman Lewis,” appeared in Procession: The Art of Norman Lewis (Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, November 2015) that won the 2017 Alfred H. Barr Award of the College Art Association. His most recently published book, The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke (Oxford University Press), won the National Book Award for Nonfiction in 2018 and the Pulitzer Prize in Biography for 2019. His next book, The New Negro Aesthetic, will appear in January of 2022 from Penguin.
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Associate Provost of Faculty Development

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2021 Summer Academy Co-Directors

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