

SPRING 2026

NEWSLETTER

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Department of
African American Studies



SELMA

at

60

Last year, **Dr. Carol Anderson** and **Dr. Bernard Fraga's** Imagining Democracy Lab went to Selma, providing a deeply impactful opportunity for students to engage with the history of Bloody Sunday on the 60th anniversary and the Civil Rights Movement. A panel of students from the Imagining Democracy Lab (**Elizabeth Brubaker, Kamora Porter, Devyn Wong, M Egberongbe, and Paris Buren**) agreed to be interviewed for an African American Studies-produced documentary about their experience in the course and the trip to Selma.

As part of Emory's wider King Day activities in observation of the legacy of Dr. King, our interviewed students joined us as panelists following the premiere of the documentary *Selma at 60* in Convocation Hall, Room 210. In conversation with each other and Dr. Carol Anderson, these students shared the importance of the Imagining Democracy Lab and how the experience shaped their understanding of democracy as students on Emory's campus and as individuals with stakes in the project of democracy.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Carol Anderson

The Imagining Democracy Lab is a Mellon Foundation-funded initiative to link imagination, knowledge, and action to advance civic and political engagement. Engaging with academic perspectives from the humanities and social sciences on the concept of democracy, this initiative examines how these perspectives have (or have not) manifested in the experience of communities in the Atlanta area specifically and American democracy more broadly.



Dr. Chandra Ford

The PEACE Center examines how racism embedded within the public health profession may inadvertently undermine health equity research (e.g., epistemic violence) and hamper evidence-based practice (e.g., colorblind approaches that ignore the salience of racism to health inequities). There are three core projects. The Sankofa Project identifies strategies that diverse public health elders have historically used to navigate racism in the field. The Teaching Guide & Curriculum Project develops and evaluates a teaching guide, curriculum to equip practitioners, educators, researchers, and community members with knowledge and actionable tools for addressing emerging threats to health justice.



Cheyenne Ross

Georgia Historical Society Award Winner
Delores P. Aldridge Award Winner



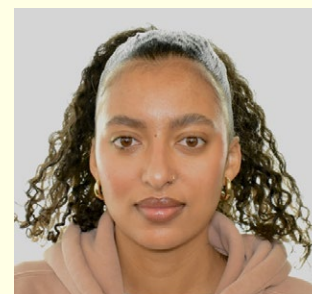
Rose Archer

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship



Alexandra St Tellien

Halle Global Fellowship Recipient



Emma Burke

Delores P. Aldridge Award Winner



Ralycia Andrews

Delores P. Aldridge Award Winner

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

SPRING UNDERGRADUATE OPEN HOUSE

The Spring Undergraduate Open House provided the space for students interested in African American Studies to meet the faculty, staff, and fellow students in the department and learn how a degree and classes in the program could further their academic and professional careers.



GRADUATE RECRUITMENT VISIT

Following a graduate admissions season that yielded more applications than the previous year, the spring semester marked the next step in a very competitive recruitment process.

In February, top prospective PhD students visited Emory's campus and engaged with our faculty and current cohorts of graduate students. This was an opportunity to learn about the program and gain insight into pursuing a PhD in Emory's Department of African American Studies. The recruitment visit also served as an opportunity for the department to learn more about prospective students and their research interests through meetings with faculty and dinner.



AMERICAN COUP

SCREENING &
DISCUSSION



AMERICAN COUP



In observance of Black History Month, the Department of African American Studies screened *American Coup: Wilmington 1898* in Harland Cinema with director **Brad Lichtenstein**, **Dr. Carol Anderson**, and **Dr. Crystal Sanders** who provided insight, expounding on the documentary's exploration of the tragic history of dispossession and disenfranchisement created by the first coup in American history.



THE BUZZ

The Buzz is an event hosted by the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship where speakers had the opportunity to present digital scholarship projects and the technologies that they utilize in them. **Dr. Jessica Stewart** presented on using Story Maps in class and how she is challenging students to think about accessibility in presenting research for broader audiences.



THE *FLOWER BEARERS*

Dr. Bettina Judd joined fellow poet, Rachel Eliza Griffiths at the Auburn Avenue Research Library for a discussion about Griffiths' new book *The Flower Bearers*. This discussion was on grief and friendship and their place in the memoir.

Following the discussion and questions from the audience, Dr. Judd joined Griffiths for book signings as event sponsor and local bookstore Charis Books & More provided copies of their books for sale.



2ND ANNUAL

GUEST INTERVIEW



Jasmine Guy
Emmy Award-Winning Actress
& Cultural Icon



Dr. Marla Frederick
Dean, Harvard Divinity School

APRIL 10, 2026

EMORY

CANDLER
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

2ND ANNUAL HBCU FILM FESTIVAL



2ND ANNUAL HBCU FILM FESTIVAL



The HBCU Film Festival directed by **Dr. Crystal Sanders** marked its second annual screening. This year's film festival boasted a special guest in actress, singer, dancer, and director Jasmine Guy (*School Daze*, *A Different World*, etc.) Jasmine Guy spoke with Dr. Marla Frederick (Harvard Divinity School) at the beginning of the festival, providing insight into the things that shaped her career and the importance of representation and culture in *A Different World*.

Following this discussion and a break for lunch, the student films were screened for the audience, showcasing the care and dedication of student participants in documenting the culture and histories of HBCUS.





APRIL 10, 2026 || 11 AM

[person] is born into the world something unique and
distinctive and if [that] it will never be done

- Dr. B

mellon

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

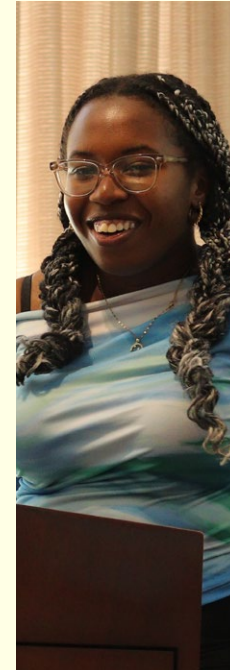
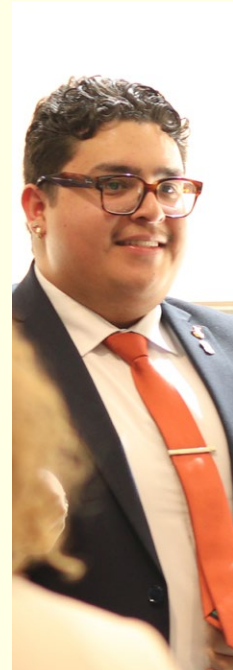
SPRING RESEARCH CONFERENCE





Senior Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows presented their research projects to faculty, peers, and Emory community members, sharing the culmination of two years' work in the fellowship. Research projects explored global solidarity through music, interconnected trans experiences across the diaspora, the complications of identity in movements for justice, gentrification

and cultural preservation through photography, and speech and language variations in children with autism. The scope of research in these projects and in the MMUF program demonstrates the scholarly ambition as these fellows graduate and expand on their research as they pursue PhDs.



A photograph of four people standing in a room with wood-paneled walls. From left to right: an older Black man with a grey beard and glasses wearing a tan blazer over a white shirt; a younger Black man with glasses wearing a tan blazer over a white t-shirt; a Black man with glasses wearing a dark blue button-down shirt; and a Black woman with her hair in a bun wearing a black top. The man in the blue shirt has his arm around the woman's shoulder. Large white text is overlaid on the image.

RAISING THE BOTTOM

**DR. ALIX CHAPMAN
BOOK RELEASE**



RAISING THE BOTTOM

The Department of African American Studies, cosponsored by the Department of Music hosted an event to honor the release of **Dr. Alix Chapman's** first book *Raising the Bottom: Bounce Music and Black Queer Performance in Post-Katrina New Orleans*. With guest speakers Dr. Jafari Allen (Columbia University), Dr. Shanya Cordis (Emory University), and Dr. Elliott Powell (University of Michigan), the scholarly engagement with this publication was thoughtful and provided exploration into the intersections of gender and bounce music in post-Katrina New Orleans.

GRACE TOWNS HAMILTON LECTURE





GRACE TOWNS HAMILTON

The annual Grace Towns Hamilton Lecture was led by *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Washington Bureau Chief **Tia Mitchell**. She shared her personal experience of being at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and her political insights. Sharing the importance of political nuance and being rooted in facts in her reporting and engagement, the audience was deeply invested, engaging her with questions about journalism and reporting in this current political moment.

