From the Director…

**Connections, Traditions, Meanings**

How have history and culture shaped the meaning of family for people of African descent? How do struggles over space and place affect community-building throughout the African diaspora? What African-centered practices and traditions remain meaningful for Black people across the globe? These are some of the questions that inspired the title of the 2017 IBL symposium, “Family, Home and Community in Africa and the Diaspora”. This broad title invited and encouraged scholars and students to consider the impacts of struggle, oppression, activism and resistance on the core structures of Black life – family, home, and community.

Our keynote speakers, Dr. Sabiyha Prince and Dr. Babajide Ololajulo, each presented unique perspectives on the ways in which Black folk are actively engaged in placemaking and self-definition in the name of family, home and community. The symposium featured research on communities in Central America, Nigeria and Washington, D.C. We also celebrated the jubilance of African culture with the Kuumba Dancers and griot, Zo Sudan.

As always, IBL had a very active calendar during the 2016-17 academic year with a host of programs, activities and a special focus on student success through the scholarship program. We are also very proud to be a part of the new **School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies** and look forward to working with new faculty and staff colleagues. Stay in touch and learn more about the Institute on Black Life by visiting [http://www.ibl.usf.edu](http://www.ibl.usf.edu). Also, look for program updates on our Facebook page USF Institute on Black Life.

Cheryl Rodriguez, Ph.D.
The Institute on Black Life was awarded the 2017—2018 Joyce Russell Kente Award for 30 years of continuous service, innovative initiatives and collaborative projects.

"KENTE" is a brilliantly colorful fabric, entirely hand-woven by Ghanaian weavers. The vivid colors and intricate designs associated with Kente have originated with the Ashanti people of Ghana. Kente dates back 375 years. Every design has a story with a proverbial meaning, giving each cloth its own distinction.

Dr. Eric Eisenberg, Dean College of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez, Director IBL
USF President Dr. Judy Genshaft

AFRICANA STUDIES TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Rosemirtha Badeau (2016)
Julisa Desir (2017)
Sabiya Prince Ph.D. is a researcher and data analyst for Houses of Worship and the Environment at the Anacostia Community Museum (Washington, D.C.). She earned her Ph.D in Anthropology from the CUNY Graduate Center and has held teaching positions at American University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and Coppin State University.


Babajide Ololajulo, Ph.D.
Is a senior lecturer in archaeology and anthropology specializing in development anthropology at the University of Ibadan, (Ibadan, Nigeria). He is the 2017 University of Michigan African Presidential Scholar.

Kuumba Dancers & Drummers
Griot, Uwezo Sudan

Mesmerizing rhythms and joyous movement, born of the hands and feet of the Kuumba Dancers and Drummers, give life to traditional African culture. Kuumba performs dances from various regions in Africa and carries the entire constellation of that particular music, ceremony, art and history. The performances include singing, audience participation and storytelling as well, rounding out the experience with the added excitement of oral history.
Panel: *Leveraging Community-Based Heritage search for Endogenous Garifuna Development Seine Bight, Belize*
Dr. E. Christian Wells, USF Anthropology
Sarita Lamboy Garcia, MBA University of Belize
Eric Koenig, M.A., Ph.D. USF candidate in Applied Anthropology

Panel: *Diasporan Communities*
Dr. Roxanne Watson, USF School of Mass Communication
Lisa Armstrong, MLA, USF Africana Studies
Laura Kihstrom, Ph.D. Candidate USF Applied Anthropology
Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez, Director IBL
Uwezo Sudan, Griot
Dr. Sabiyha Prince, Keynote Speaker

Panel: *The Anthropology of Family, Home and Community in Africa and the Diaspora (below)*
USF Department of Anthropology
Dr. Antoinette Jackson
Dr. Kevin Yelvington
Colette Witcher
Kaniqua Robinson
Deneia Fairweather
Olubukola Olayiwola

Dr. Babjide Ololajuulo, University of Ibadan (Nigeria), Keynote speaker
Dr. Simeon-Jones visited Haiti, her birthplace and region of professional study, June 2016. The photos are Citadelle Laferrière (also known as the Citadelle King Henry Christophe) which was built in 1820, on top of a 3,000-foot mountain, to keep watch for French re-invasion and re-enslavement.

KERSUZE SIMEON-JONES, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies
Africana Studies
Department of World Languages

Youth and Leadership in the Caribbean
A Study Abroad Course
USF Honors College and the Institute on Black Life co-sponsored the St Lucia study abroad program in 2016. The program introduced USF students to Caribbean history and culture while also providing an exciting service learning opportunity that encouraged a sense of responsibility to the global community. Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez was the course instructor and accompanied the students to St. Lucia.
Institute on Black Life Programs and Events co-sponsored with the College of Arts & Science, the USF Humanities Institute and the USF Contemporary Art Museum

Meshing the streets of Harlem and the Gold Coast of Ghana in the pages of one novel is a remarkable achievement. Yaw, one of the book’s 20th century descendants, teaches a class of African adolescents, whom he urges to think deeply about history: “You must always ask yourself, whose story am I missing? Whose voice was suppressed so that this voice could come forth? Once you have figured that out, you must find that story, too.”

Jean Zimmerman, author and poet, June 2016

Woke! and Black Pulp
June 2 - July 20, 2017
USF Contemporary Art Museum, West Gallery

Woke! brings together recent work by William Villalongo and Mark Thomas Gibson, artists and the curators of Black Pulp! The term “woke” is contemporary American vernacular terminology for acute awareness, particularly in reference to the socio-political contexts we inhabit. Woke! presents works made over the past two years, a time when the influence of the hyper-visuality of police violence upon Black bodies and the cultural currents of the Black Lives Matter movement informed new narratives. Woke! and Black Pulp! were organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum and supported, in part by the USF Institute on Black Life.
Dr. Vilna Bashi Treitler, University of California and Dr. Keisha-Khan Y. Perry, Brown University luncheon with USF faculty members Dr. Rachel May, (ISLAC/SIGS) Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez (IBL/AFA/SIGS) and Dr. Omotayo Jolaso (Africana Studies) and Dr. Bernd Reiter, (ISLAC/SIGS).

Feminism in the Black Lives Matter Movement

St. Peter Claver School historic marker dedication

Contesting White Supremacy in the Americas: New Approaches and Reflections

October 20-21, 2022
Grace Adams Room, Thaddeus Kosciuszko
4th Floor USF Library
3:00-4:30 pm

Moderators: Dr. Zala Highsmith-Taylor (retired), Fitzgerald Taylor, (retired) NY State Division for Youth & Family Services
Co-sponsor: USF Black Faculty and Staff

Freedom and Justice: Perspectives on Civil Rights
Second Annual Lunch & Learn Film Series
Teaching Tolerance
February 7-28

Mighty Times: The Children’s March
Moderators: Dr. Zala Highsmith-Taylor (retired), Fitzgerald Taylor, (retired) NY State Division for Youth & Family Services
Co-sponsor: USF Black Faculty and Staff
IBL Advisory Committee Outstanding Faculty Service Award 2017

Tomaro Taylor. M.A., C.A., is the USF Libraries’ liaison to Africana Studies. She has a professional and educational background in library and information science, American cultural studies, and archival practice and has worked with Africana Studies students and faculty to facilitate research projects and support and develop curricula. Additionally, Tomaro serves on the IBL Advisory Committee and since 2015 is a member of the IBL Scholarship Committee. Faculty may contact Tomaro at: Email: tomaro@usf.edu Web: http://works.bepress.com/ttaylor/

USF African Student Association provides a forum for the open discussion of topics related and relevant to people of African-descent both on the African continent and in the Diaspora. The organization provides a vital link between the students and the faculty and acts as a base for student activism on campus and in the community.

USF DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Bell for their continued personal commitment and financial support to our scholarship program. We also extend our gratitude to The Ivory Club, especially Mr. Martin Williams for the student support and encouragement. Our appreciation to our new donors, Dr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Bursack for their generous contribution to the IBL Fund. This fund supports academic and study abroad programs. We look forward to many years of supporting student success through your encouragement and assistance.

2017—2018 PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 11—AFA Alum Dialogue Series #1
Iris A. Elijah, SUS Board of Governors

JANUARY 15—IBL Scholarship Application Deadline

FEBRUARY 22—ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FREEDOM & JUSTICE FILM SERIES

MARCH 7 AFA Alum Dialogue Series
Nicole Sealey, Cave Canem Foundation

APRIL 16—KENTE AWARDS
Congratulations to Africana Studies Alums!

Nicole Sealey  
MLA, USF Africana Studies 2007

Born in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. and raised in Apopka, Florida, Nicole Sealey is the author of *Ordinary Beast* and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the 2015 Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her other honors include an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *The American Poetry Review*, a Daniel Varoujan Award and the Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem, MacDowell Colony and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere. Ms. Sealey also holds an MFA in creative writing from New York University. She is the executive director of the Cave Canem Foundation, Inc.

Reggie RJ Eldridge  
MLA, USF Africana Studies 2008

*Subterranean Politics* is RJ Eldridge’s first-ever solo show. Comprising work in painting, photography, text and more, this show deliberates on the ways in which the unconscious and the political are tied up in one another, on blackness and on yearning. It will be presented by *AMFM Chicago*.

RJ is a multidisciplinary writer, artist and educator. While at USF RJ focused on literature and critical theory. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Vinyl*, *Apogee Journal*, *Obsidian*, and others. In 2013 he made a national television debut as a performer in the NAACP Image Award series, *Lexus Presents: Verses and Flow*.

Will Southerland  
MLA, USF Africana Studies 2016

About his new position, Will writes, “I am “putting my Africana degree and experience to full use in the teaching world”. Will secured a position that “draws directly upon my degree”. Will is currently teaching in a Boston private school. He is a computer programming instructor and teaches a course he has labeled, *Integrated Humanities*! Africana Studies prepares students interested in history, policy, sociology, culture, entertainment, language, law, foreign affairs, and education, among many others. In his spare time, Will continues to write on Mound Bayou, Mississippi, the topic of his thesis.

Iris A. Elijah  
BA, USF Africana Studies/Economics 2008, J.D., FIU College of Law 2011  
Assistant General Counsel, State University System of Florida Board of Governors

In 2015, Ms. Elijah became the first African-American attorney in the history of the State University System of Florida’s Board of Governors. Ms. Elijah, assistant general counsel to the Board, is also the youngest attorney in the Board’s history.

Ms. Elijah was named the University of South Florida 2017 Outstanding Young Alumna, and was executive director of the Campus Activities Board, Student Ambassador, and organized the kickoff for Stampede of Service, 2006. In 2017, she received the Golden A.C.E Award and Tallahassee Women Lawyer’s 2014 Community Engagement Award.

Reggie RJ Eldridge  
MLA, USF Africana Studies 2008

*Subterranean Politics* is RJ Eldridge’s first-ever solo show. Comprising work in painting, photography, text and more, this show deliberates on the ways in which the unconscious and the political are tied up in one another, on blackness and on yearning. It will be presented by *AMFM Chicago*.

RJ is a multidisciplinary writer, artist and educator. While at USF RJ focused on literature and critical theory. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Vinyl*, *Apogee Journal*, *Obsidian*, and others. In 2013 he made a national television debut as a performer in the NAACP Image Award series, *Lexus Presents: Verses and Flow*.

Will Southerland  
MLA, USF Africana Studies 2016

About his new position, Will writes, “I am “putting my Africana degree and experience to full use in the teaching world”. Will secured a position that “draws directly upon my degree”. Will is currently teaching in a Boston private school. He is a computer programming instructor and teaches a course he has labeled, *Integrated Humanities*! Africana Studies prepares students interested in history, policy, sociology, culture, entertainment, language, law, foreign affairs, and education, among many others. In his spare time, Will continues to write on Mound Bayou, Mississippi, the topic of his thesis.

Nicole Sealey  
MLA, USF Africana Studies 2007

Born in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. and raised in Apopka, Florida, Nicole Sealey is the author of *Ordinary Beast* and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the 2015 Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her other honors include an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *The American Poetry Review*, a Daniel Varoujan Award and the Poetry International Prize, as well as fellowships from CantoMundo, Cave Canem, MacDowell Colony and the Poetry Project. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere. Ms. Sealey also holds an MFA in creative writing from New York University. She is the executive director of the Cave Canem Foundation, Inc.
The Institute on Black Life Scholarship administers a number of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students that were established to provide academically talented students, from diverse backgrounds, the opportunity to study at the University of South Florida. Visit the IBL webpage: http://www.ibl.usf.edu/Scholarship
TRIBUTE—The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is the subject of "King: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis," a three-hour documentary to be shown without interruptions Tuesday night at 7:30 on Channel 11.