



African & African American Studies Program

December 8, 2017

Dear Friends of AAAS:

I write on behalf of the African and African American Studies (AAAS) program at Louisiana State University, which is one of the few such programs in the State of Louisiana. AAAS will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2019. In honor of this anniversary, we initiated the AAAS25@25 Campaign in order to raise money for some very important causes, and here is how you can share with us in this endeavor.

Our goal is to raise \$125,000, between now and the end of 2019. We have faced some challenges over the past year, losing a beloved professor, Dr. Troy D. Allen, and recently, an alumnus, Dr. Devon T. Wade, a doctoral candidate in sociology at Columbia University, who lost his life tragically in November 2017. We would like to endow awards in both their names, the ***Dr. Troy D. Allen Service Award*** and the ***Dr. Devon T. Wade Excellence Award*** for a graduating senior.

There are three other important initiatives. One is to endow the ***Dr. Thomas Durant Scholars Fund***, named after the AAAS founder, which provides financial support to AAAS majors. The second and third projects address the need for beautification of the AAAS office suite and for enhancement our general operating funds, which are sorely needed. We want the office suite to be welcoming place for AAAS students and guests. With the operating funds, we recruit students, support student participation at professional conferences, provide mentoring to AAAS majors and minors, and underwrite the costs associated with study abroad programs.

In keeping with our AAAS25@25 we invite you make a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$25, \$250, \$2,500, \$25,000, or any amount including the number 25. You may send checks to "AAAS," 135 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. To donation online, please follow these steps: 1. Go to www.lsu.edu/hss/aaas/. 2. Click on Give. 3. Insert the amount you wish to give. 4. Click to choose a fund(s). 5. Select College of Humanities and Social Sciences. 6. Write AAAS and where you want your gift to go (Troy D. Allen Service Award, Devon T. Wade Excellence Award, Durant Scholars, Beautification, or Operating Fund) in the box, "Gift Comments," and 7. Complete remaining donor information.

The success of the campaign depends upon your support. Thank you in advance for your generous gift.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen C. Finley".

Prof. Stephen C. Finley, PhD

135 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex * Baton Rouge, LA 70803 * O: 225.578.5246 * F: 225.578.5257 * AAAS@lsu.edu

Dr. Stephen C. Finley, Director * Dr. Lori L. Martin, Associate Director

LSU's African and African American Studies Program presents:

AAAS

25 @ 25

1994-2019

AN ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT AAAS PROGRAMS

Checks or money orders may be sent to:
African and African American Studies
135 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La 70803



OUR GOAL OF \$125,000 WILL FUND:

- DURANT SCHOLARS FUND
- DR. TROY DUANE ALLEN SERVICE AWARD
- DR. DEVON TYRONE WADE EXCELLENCE FUND
- OPERATING EXPENSES
- BEAUTIFICATION OF THE AAAS OFFICE

Donate Today!



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO AT

(225) 578-5246

GIVE ONLINE AT:

www.lsu.edu/hss/aaas



Institute on Race, Community, and Culture in Louisiana

The *vision* of the Institute on Race, Community, and Culture in Louisiana is to become the premier institute for scholars, undergraduate and graduate students, and community partners, who are interested in studying race, community, and culture with particular focus on Louisiana and creating opportunities for community engagement and community development toward greater convivial relations. The *mission* of the Institute on Race, Community, and Culture in Louisiana is to 1) provide scholars with support to conduct research on race, community, and culture; 2) engage undergraduate and graduate students in research on race, community, and culture; 3) participate in community-based research that addresses community-identified needs; 4) train faculty, staff, students and community residents in the practice of adaptive leadership training; 5) provide opportunities for visiting professors interested in race, community, and culture to conduct competitive research; and 6) improve the overall racial climate in the state and nation through dialogue, scholarship, and research-based public policy analysis.

Department of Africana Studies

Our goal is to raise the profile of African and African American Studies at LSU through the creation of the only Department of Africana Studies in the State of Louisiana (and one of the few in the region). The Department shall offer students the opportunity to earn an interdisciplinary Bachelors Degree in Africana Studies.

Dr. Thomas Durant Scholars

Endowed merit-based scholarship for LSU students majoring in African and African American Studies established by, and in honor of, Dr. Thomas Durant, founder of AAAS at LSU.

Dr. Troy D. Allen Memorial Service Award

A competitive award distributed annually to two students majoring in AAAS, who exemplify many of the qualities Dr. Troy Allen embodied. Dr. Allen taught in the AAAS program for over two decades. The ideal recipients demonstrate commitments to AAAS, lifelong learning, civic engagement, and perseverance despite personal challenges.

Dr. Devon Tyrone Wade Excellence Award

A competitive award distributed annually to two students majoring in AAAS, who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and social justice. The award is named in honor of Dr. Devon Wade. Dr. Wade, a AAAS major, graduated from LSU in 2010. He was a change agent and brilliant young scholar completing his dissertation in sociology at Columbia University when his life ended tragically near his hometown of Houston, Texas.

AAAS Office Suite Beautification

To create a welcoming and affirming atmosphere for students and professional guests through a modest but needed refurbishment.

Operating Expenses

AAAS is in desperate need of additional resources to cover the expenses associated with the daily operation of the program, including telecommunication fees and general office supplies. Operating expenses are also used to underwrite activities, which promote the academic and professional development of AAAS majors and minors and faculty, including: travel awards for professional conferences, study abroad programs, and lectures, to name a few.