

Slavery, Race and Memory Project

2019 - 2020

Annual Report



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY



2019-2020

OVERVIEW

In May 2019, Wake Forest University announced the Slavery, Race and Memory Project (SRMP). By the fall, the university formed a Steering Committee comprised of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The Steering Committee is responsible for developing and implementing an academically-centered approach to examining the history of slavery and its implications at Wake Forest University, both on the original campus and in Winston-Salem.

**"...TO HAVE A
TRANSFORMATIVE
INSTITUTIONAL
CHANGE, YOU HAVE
TO BEGIN EXAMINING
THE PAST"**

"If you want to have a transformative institutional change, you have to begin examining the past and the root causes of underlying issues to know what you need to do in the future."

-Kami Chavis, Vice Provost

STEERING COMMITTEE

In September 2019, the Steering Committee held a strategic planning session. The Committee discussed why Wake Forest University should engage in this work, core principles to guide and inform planning and execution of the Project, and desired goals and expected outcomes. After identifying critical areas of engagement vital to the work of SRMP, the Steering Committee established the following subcommittees:

Built History/Original

Campus: This subcommittee identifies and facilitates opportunities for research, teaching, and engagement around the early history as it relates to the original campus and the town of Wake Forest.

Scholarly Engagement

(Lecture Series): This subcommittee sponsors the SRMP Lecture Series, public conversations, panel discussions, and intimate group discussions related to the mission of the Slavery Race and Memory Project.

Faculty/Student Engagement:

This subcommittee develops proposals to encourage course development and sustainable curricular enhancements (i.e., new departments, programs, targeted hiring, a conference on course development around slavery and race).

Enhancing Traditions: This subcommittee identifies campus “traditions,” and drafts proposals for suggested modifications to make these events more inclusive of the entire campus history as well as reflect the diversity of the community.

SRMP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chairs

Kami Chavis, Vice Provost and Professor of Law

Tim Pyatt, Dean of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library

Dean Franco, Professor of English, Director of the Humanities Institute

Derek Hicks, Associate Professor of Religion and Culture, Director of the Center for Research, Engagement, and Collaboration in African American Life

Mariama Jallow '22, Student Government Senator

Shonda Jones, School of Divinity Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Integrative Learning

Rogan Kersh, Provost (Ex-Officio)

Devin Kilpatrick '20, Graduate Student

Sean T. McClure, Project Coordinator

Dave McIntosh, Vice President, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer Wake Forest Baptist Health

Gigi Parent, Director of Internship Development, Business Enterprise Management Program

Tony Parent, Professor of History

Prince Rivers, Member, Wake Forest University Board of Trustees

Joseph Soares, Professor of Sociology

Kelly Starnes, President, Association of Wake Forest University Black Alumni


Mary Tribble, Senior Advisor for Engagement Strategies

José Villalba, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Corey D.B. Walker, Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities

SRMP LECTURE SERIES

"MY SKIN AS A LEGACY": TOWARD AN ETHICS OF SLAVERY, RACE AND MEMORY



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY


**THE SLAVERY, RACE AND MEMORY
PROJECT LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS:**

Dr. Corey Walker

Visiting Professor of
leadership studies
and the humanities
at the University of
Richmond

***My Skin as
a Legacy:
Toward an
Ethics of
Slavery,
Race and
Memory***

Reception with light
refreshments will
follow



**September 4, 2019
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Porter Byrum Welcome Center ·
Kulynych Auditorium**

Visit <https://about.wfu.edu/history/the-slavery-race-and-memory-project/> for more information.

On September 4, 2019, Dr. Corey D. B. Walker, who was then Visiting Professor of Leadership Studies and The Humanities at the University of Richmond and former Dean at Winston-Salem State University, delivered the inaugural lecture for Wake Forest University's Slavery, Race and Memory Project Lecture Series.

SRMP LECTURE SERIES

THE ROOTS OF UNREST: ADDRESSING POLICE RACIALIZED VIOLENCE

On June 30, 2020, the second installment of the SRMP Lecture Series convened a program entitled “A Virtual Public Conversation: The Roots of Unrest: Addressing Police Racialized Violence.” The conversation critically examined the legal, cultural, social, and historical dimensions of racialized police violence. Panelists for the evening included Brittany Battle, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Hana Brown, Associate Professor of Sociology and Gale Faculty Fellow,

Kami Chavis, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, Professor of Law and Director of the Criminal Justice Program, Derek Hicks, Associate Professor of Religion and Culture and Director of R.E.C.A.A.L., Ron Neal, Associate Professor for the Study of Religions, and Ana-María González Wahl, Associate Professor of Sociology. The panel was moderated by Corey D.B. Walker Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities.



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

THE SLAVERY, RACE, & MEMORY PROJECT:

Virtual Public Conversation:
The Roots of Unrest: Addressing Racialized Police Violence



June 30, 2020
6:00p - 7:30p
Via Zoom

SRMP Vision Statement

To guide the research, preservation, and communication of an accurate depiction of the University's relationship to slavery and its implications across Wake Forest's history.

Panelists



Brittany Battle
Assistant Professor of Sociology



Hana Brown
Associate Professor of Sociology & Gale Faculty Fellow



Kami Chavis
Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives
Professor of Law
Director of Criminal Justice Program



Derek Hicks
Associate Professor of Religion & Culture
Director of R.E.C.A.A.L.



Ron Neal
Associate Professor for the Study of Religions

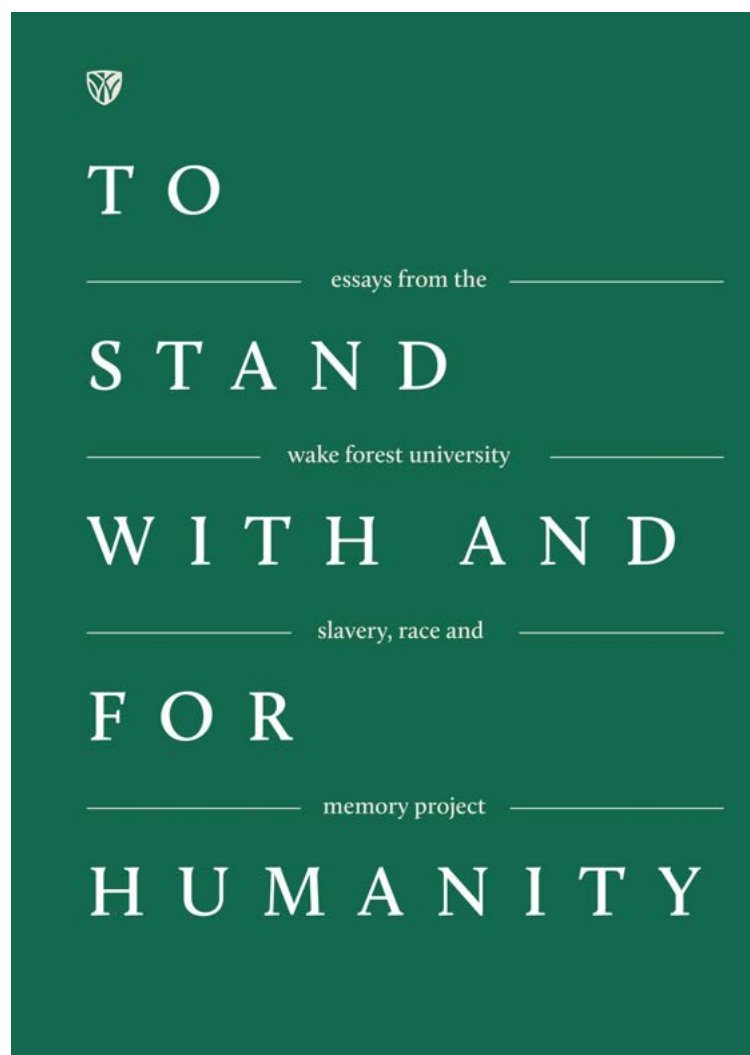


Ana-María González Wahl
Associate Professor of Sociology

To register, visit: https://wakeforest-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g6Dwl_JKR0eHtcI-z1frPg

"TO STAND WITH AND FOR HUMANITY"

The Slavery, Race and Memory project published, *To Stand With and For Humanity: Essays from the Wake Forest University Slavery, Race and Memory Project*. The essays examine the history and legacy of slavery at Wake Forest University and includes President Hatch's apology on behalf of the University for participating in and benefiting from the institution of slavery. Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities Corey D.B. Walker stated, "The publication helps us begin to understand the complex history of the university's relationship with slavery and its legacy for our present and future. As a historical and reflective document, these essays wrestle with our challenging past so that we may engage in building a better and brighter future for all of Wake Forest and the broader community." *To Stand With and For Humanity* can be viewed on the SRMP website.



"...BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE PAST AND WHERE WE HAVE BEEN WILL HELP US GET WHERE WE WANT TO BE AND HELP US LIVE UP TO OUR MOTTO OF PRO HUMANITATE"

**-Tim Pyatt
Dean of Z. Smith Reynolds Library**

SRMP FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

On February 25, 2020, the Slavery, Race and Memory Project offered faculty members the opportunity to discuss and highlight their teaching and research that intersects with the Project's mission. The Colloquium consisted of a keynote presentation by historian Andrew Canady who has been commissioned to write a peer-reviewed monograph on the history of Wake Forest University and slavery.




The colloquium featured a discussion on course resources at the University with Sarah Soleim, manager of Community and Academic Learning at the Wake Forest Historical Museum, Tanya Zanish-Belcher director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library Special Collections & Archives, and Derek Hicks, Associate Professor of Religion and Culture and director of the Center for Research, Engagement and Collaboration in African American Life (RECAAL). The panel discussed various resources available in Special Collections as well as the Wake Forest Historical Museum faculty members can utilize in designing their courses.

SRMP FACULTY COLLOQUIUM (CONTINUED)



The event also featured presentations on the scholarship and research of WFU faculty and staff including Stephen Boyd, Tanisha Ramachandran, Leann Pace, Tony Parent, Joseph Soares, Bill Leonard, Mary Tribble, and Dave McIntosh.




**WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY**

**THE SLAVERY, RACE, & MEMORY
PROJECT:
FACULTY COLLOQUIUM**

1:00 - 2:00 PM
Keynote
Dr. Andrew
Canady, Visiting
Professor

2:00 - 3:00 PM
Course Resource
Panel Discussion
Sarah Soleim,
WF Historical
Museum
Tanya Zanish-
Belcher, ZSR
Library

3:00 - 4:30 PM
Faculty/Staff
**Research, Course,
Scholarship**
Presentations



February 25, 2020
1:00 - 4:30 PM
Reynolda Hall Room 301

SRMP Vision Statement
To guide the research, preservation, and communication of an accurate depiction of the University's relationship to slavery and its implications across Wake Forest's history.

Come engage with our campus community as we explore scholarship and courses related to slavery and race in the United States.

All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

SRMP CAMPUS-WIDE ENGAGEMENT GRANTS



"Honoring Strength, Resolve, and Legacy"
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The Slavery, Race and Memory Project created a Campus-Wide Engagement Grant program for students, staff, and faculty to develop and host programs, mini-symposia, lectures, and other opportunities on campus related to the mission of the project. The Slavery, Race, and Memory project created this grant to spur collaborative, interdisciplinary projects that would pilot new ways of integrating scholarly research related to slavery, race, and memory into campus life and culture, as well as inspire more students and faculty to become interested in these subject areas.

SRMP CAMPUS-WIDE ENGAGEMENT GRANTS

GRANTS AWARDED

These programs were supported in part by SRMP grant funding.

Indigenous Land Project
Intercultural Center

*"Loveable Racists, Magical
Negroes, and White Messiahs" A
Lecture by David Ikard,*
Department for the Study of
Religion

Civil Rights Tour
Office of Civic and Community
Engagement

*A Conversation with Benjamin
Crump* Intercultural Center

Classics Beyond Whiteness
Department of Classics

*Honoring Strength, Resolve, and
Legacy*

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

How is WFU Possible?
Interdisciplinary Humanities

*Criminal Justice Through
Colorblind Lenses*

Department of Sociology

*Original Campus Archeology
Project*

Wake Forest Historical Museum



A Conversation with Benjamin Crump
Intercultural Center



Classics Beyond Whiteness
Department of Classics

SRMP COURSE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

The Slavery, Race and Memory Project created Faculty Course Enhancement Grants to support university faculty to enrich existing courses that examine universities and their relationship to slavery and enslaved persons. These grants also support enhancement efforts for courses that examine the role of universities in the Jim Crow era and relationships between universities and their neighboring communities in the modern era. SRMP Course Enhancement Grants are available university-wide. Grants support a wide range of activities including travel to historic sites, guest speakers for courses, tickets, and transportation to off-campus events, and other activities that support student learning and innovative teaching.

School of Divinity Associate Professor Derek S. Hicks received a Course Enhancement Grants this past academic year. Professor Hicks took twenty-one Divinity School students to the original Wake Forest College campus as part of his "African American Religious Experience" course.



Derek S. Hicks
Associate Professor of Religion and Culture

“In the class, we consider the ways in which religious faith becomes a cultural toolkit, through which African Americans found solace and a voice to create a language for their longings and desires to be considered full citizens...” Hicks said.

SRMP COURSE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Contemporary African-American Art: Display and Exhibition with John J. Curley, Associate Professor of Art History

"The grant allowed me to add two significant trips to my seminar on contemporary Black art in America. Students were charged with curating their own show of African-American art in the Hanes Gallery.



In early February, a group of students visited Greensboro for two stops. First, we had a tour of the International Center for Civil Rights and Museum, followed by lunch and amazing conversations with the director (lunch facilitated by Bob Winslow). Students continually referred to this experience when thinking about their own curatorial work. The students were eager to see works in person that we had discussed in class and to hear about the curator's process. The grant also allowed me to take a smaller group of students to the historic Wake Forest campus in late February, where a tour led by Sarah Soleim discussed the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow on the original campus. Since students wanted their exhibition to address Wake's own institutional histories, this context was crucial to how they conceptualized their curatorial work."

-Professor John J. Curley

SRMP PRIORITIES FOR 2020-2021

Expanding Academic Resources and Research Opportunities

- SRMP recommends the creation of an African American Studies curricular program. This recommendation has been advocated across several administrative units, and we recognize that curricular programs must undergo a standard process of College faculty review approval.
- SRMP recommends creating a program to bring African American post-doctoral fellows to Wake Forest, perhaps in coordination with existing or developing programs and research centers.
- SRMP recommends facilitating faculty access to the ZSR Library's digital and print archives relating to Wake Forest's history. This may include course development grants and the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Center (URECA) sponsored research programming.
- SRMP recommends the digitization of Wake Forest Historical Museum's collections, as well as the collections of other community organizations in the Town of Wake Forest, especially those of Wake Forest Baptist Church which include records on the church's early history and the African Chapel. Digitization projects (and even oral history projects) led in partnership by the museum and faculty will provide practice in public memory and history and build a repository for use on the Reynolda Campus and beyond.

SRMP PRIORITIES FOR 2020-2021

Expanding Academic Resources and Research Opportunities

- SRMP recommends that the internship program at the Wake Forest Historical Museum remain a priority. New opportunities for faculty and student engagement will also be created if funding is available for a GPR survey of the original campus.
- SRMP recommends supporting students who wish to pursue research related to the mission as well as faculty-student research collaborations. Additionally, SRMP should partner with URECA and the Humanities Institute to announce the availability of resources. It would be beneficial to work with the Center for Advancement in Teaching, the Office for Civic and Community Engagement, and other related units to identify faculty who might want to receive support for research and course development.

New and Enhanced Programming

- SRMP and the University should pursue resources to expand the virtual tour to connect the current Reynolda Campus with its history, especially as it relates to buildings on the current campus that are named after founders/presidents/faculty from the original campus.
- SRMP recommends identifying funding to support an archeological investigation on the original campus. By studying the built history and environment of the original campus as it relates to how enslaved people experienced it, it becomes more difficult to romanticize the narrative.
- SRMP recommends programming for Founder's Day Convocation that fully acknowledges our history.

SRMP PRIORITIES FOR 2020-2021

New and Enhanced Programming

- SRMP recommends that the Commemoration of the Enslaved be an annual event. The inaugural commemoration was held May 7, 2019; the 2020 commemoration was canceled due to the pandemic.

Community Engagement

- SRMP recommends developing programming that explores the impact on people of color from the move of the College to Winston-Salem as well as programs that share the Black contributions to the building of Reynolda and Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem.
- SRMP recommends developing a strategy to engage with descendants of Calvin Jones family's enslaved community as well as descendants of enslaved workers at the original campus. Additionally, we should create and develop support for genealogical research for the descendants of the enslaved at the Wake Forest Historical Museum.

**"...TO AWAKEN
THE CRITICAL
CONSCIOUSNESS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY"**

"The Slavery, Race, and Memory Project at Wake Forest University possesses the potential to awaken the critical consciousness of the university in fulfilling its ethical responsibility. To avoid this task is to continue the evasion of the history and reality of slavery and to leave unfulfilled the mission of the university."

-Corey D.B. Walker

Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities