

**Conference Agenda**  
**THE 2016 UNCF/MELLON PROGRAMS CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 6-8, 2016**  
**THE WESTIN BUCKHEAD ATLANTA HOTEL- ATLANTA, GA**

***#ourpresencematters: scholars transforming the academy***

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016**

---

12:00-2:30 pm | Buckhead Ballroom – Lobby Level

**Pre-Conference Luncheon and Workshop for All Mentors and Coordinators**

---

2:30-4:30 pm | Buckhead Pre Function – Lobby Level

**Conference Registration**

---

4:30-5:30 pm | Buckhead Pre Function – Lobby Level

**Conference Cocktail Reception**

---

5:30-6:00 pm | Buckhead Ballroom – Lobby Level

**Conference Opening**

- **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Programs Director & Associate Professor of Sociology, Spelman College
  - **Shanna Greene Benjamin, Ph.D., (Johnson C. Smith University, C'93)**, 2016 UNCF/Mellon Programs Conference Planning Committee Chair & Associate Professor of English (Associate Dean in 2017), Grinnell College
  - **Lee Bynum**, Senior Program Associate and Associate Director of MMUF, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- 

6:00-7:00 pm | Buckhead Ballroom – Lobby Level

**Opening Plenary**

***“Our Presence Matters- Or, How to Be Free When You Were Never Meant to Be”***

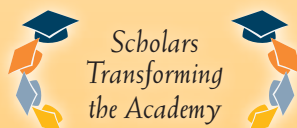
- **Trimiko Melancon, Ph.D., (Xavier University, C'99)**, Associate Professor and Co-Director, Women's Studies Program, Loyola University
- 

7:00-9:00 pm | Del Frisco's Grille – Atlanta

**Conference Reception**

**Del Frisco's Grille- Atlanta**

**3376 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, GA 30326**



## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

---

7:30-8:45 am | Buckhead Pre Function – Lobby Level

### Breakfast

---

9:00-10:15 am | Buckhead Ballroom – Lobby Level

#### Morning Plenary- #ourpresence matters in the classroom

##### *Transforming the Academy: Faculty Perspectives on Diversity and Pedagogy*

- **Sarah Willie-LeBreton, Ph.D.**, Professor of Sociology & Chair, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Swarthmore College
- **Cheryl Jones-Walker, Ph.D.**, Visiting Associate Professor and MAT Faculty Branch Coordinator, University of San Francisco School of Education

#### Respondent:

- **David Cort, Ph.D., (Oakwood College, C'99)**, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 

10:15-10:30 am | Buckhead Pre Function – Lobby Level

### Break

---

10:30 am-12:00 pm

### CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

#### Roundtable One | Woodruff Room – Lobby Level

##### #ourpresencematters in conversations about popular culture

##### *Engaging Popular Culture as a Pedagogical Platform in the Humanities and Social Sciences*

- **Shanna Greene Benjamin, Ph.D., (Johnson C. Smith University, C'93)**, Associate Professor of English (Associate Dean in 2017), Grinnell College
- **Howard Rambsy, Ph.D., (Tougaloo College, C'99)**, Professor of Literature and Digital Humanities, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- **Kenton Rambsy, Ph.D., (Morehouse College, C'10)**, Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Digital Humanities, University of Texas at Arlington
- **Ashante Reese, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Junior Faculty Development Scholar & Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Spelman College

#### Facilitator:

- **Irvin Hunt, Ph.D., (Morehouse College, C'05)**, Assistant Professor in the Departments of English and African American Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

#### Roundtable Two | East & West Paces Ferry – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

##### #ourpresencematters as we connect scholarship to teaching

##### *Reimagining Conceptual Frameworks for Teaching African American, African and Diasporic Studies*

- **Richard Benson II, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Residency Scholar & Assistant Professor, Education Studies Program, Spelman College
- **Takkara Brunson, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'05)**, UNCF/Mellon Junior Faculty Development Scholar & Assistant Professor of History, Morgan State University
- **Alisha Gaines, Ph.D. (Spelman College, C'03)**, Assistant Professor of English, Florida State University
- **Asia Leeds, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Residency Scholar; Co-Director, African Diaspora Studies & Assistant Professor of African Diaspora and the World, Spelman College
- **Michael Ralph, Ph.D., (Morris Brown College, C'00)**, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis & Director of Metropolitan Studies, New York University

**Co-Facilitators:**

- **Michael Gomez, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminars in France Consultant and Lead Facilitator; Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University
- **Maboula Soumahoro, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Scholar; University of Tours (France); Visiting Faculty, Bennington College

**Roundtable Three | Peachtree – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**#ourpresencemattersinSTEM**

**Code Switching: Black women informing discussions in STEM**

- **Ngoneh Jallow, Ph.D.**, (Clark Atlanta University, C'07), Assistant Professor in the Medical Physics Division, University of Minnesota
- **Aqueasha Martin-Hammond, Ph.D.**, (Tougaloo College, C'05), Assistant Professor in the School of Informatics and Computing, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
- **Christina McIntosh, Ph.D.**, (Spelman College, C'08), Newly Minted Ph.D.
- **Renee Moore, Ph.D.**, (Bennett College, C'99), UNCF/Mellon Mentor & Research Associate Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics; Director of the Biostatistics Consulting Center, Emory University

**Facilitator:**

- **Calandra Tate Moore, Ph.D.**, (Xavier University, C'99), Senior Data Scientist, United States Federal Government

---

12:00-1:30 pm | Buckhead Ballroom – Lobby Level

**Luncheon Plenary- Teaching to Transgress: The Radical Space of the Classroom**

- **Jericho Brown, Ph.D.**, (Dillard University, C'98), Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing, Emory University
- **Beverly Guy Sheftall, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Advisory Board Member; Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and Founding Director of the Women's Research and Resource Center, Spelman College
- **Stephany Spaulding, Ph.D.**, (Clark Atlanta University, C'00), Associate Professor of Women's and Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado

**Convener:**

- **Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Programs Director & Associate Professor of Sociology, Spelman College

---

1:30-2:45 pm | Buckhead Ballroom – Lobby Level

**# ourpresencematters as mentors**

- **Kim Green, Ph.D.** (Claflin University, C'04), UNCF/Mellon Faculty Residency Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Junior Faculty Development Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Mentor; Assistant Professor of English, Claflin University
  - ❖ **UNCF/Mellon Fellow: Amber Ravenell**, English Major, Claflin University C'18
- **Alaine Hutson, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Faculty Residency Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Mentor; Professor of History, Huston-Tillotson University
  - ❖ **UNCF/Mellon Fellow: Cale Carter**, History Major, Huston-Tillotson University C'17
- **Marco Robinson, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Doctoral Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Mentor; Assistant Professor of History, Rust College
  - ❖ **UNCF/Mellon Fellow: Janicia Mitchell**, Sociology Major, Rust College C'17

**Convener:**

- **Valerie Matthews, Ph.D.**, (Tougaloo College, C'91), Professor of English, Georgia State University, Perimeter College

---

2:45-3:00 pm | Buckhead Pre Function- Lobby Level

**Break**

---

3:00-4:15 pm

**CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

**Roundtable One | Woodruff Room- Lobby Level**

**#ourpresencematters in the tenure and promotion pipeline**

- **Herman Beavers, Ph.D.**, Professor of English and Africana Studies & MMUF Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania
- **Duchess Harris, J.D. & Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of American Studies, Macalester College, MMUF Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- **Kerry Haynie, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies; Co-Director, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender & Director, Summer Institute for Tenure and Professional Advancement (SITPA), MMUF Coordinator, Duke University

**Facilitator:**

- **Cally Waite, Ed.D.**, Program Director, Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)

**Roundtable Two | Peachtree - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**#ourpresencematters as higher education leaders**

- **Shanna Greene Benjamin, Ph.D., (Johnson C. Smith University, C'93)**, Associate Professor of English (Associate Dean in 2017), Grinnell College
- **Sherri Lind Hughes, Ph.D.**, Director, Emerging Leaders Group, American Council on Education Leadership (ACE Fellows Program)

**Facilitator:**

- **Bettye Parker-Smith, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Advisory Board Member; Former Provost of Dillard University and Tougaloo College

**Roundtable Three | East & West Paces Ferry- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**#ourpresencematters in the teaching and learning space**

- **Gwendolyn Bookman, J.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute Coordinator; UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Scholar; Associate Professor of Political Science and Interim Chair, Department of Political Science and Sociology, Bennett College
- **Karima Jeffrey, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Residency Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute Coordinator; UNCF/Mellon Mentor; Interim Chair, English and Foreign Languages, Hampton University
- **Jontyle Robinson, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute Coordinator; First Curator, The Legacy Museum, Tuskegee University
- **Shawanda Stewart, UNCF /Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute Coordinator**; Assistant Professor of English, Huston Tillotson University

**Facilitator:**

- **Valerie Ann Johnson, Ph.D.**, UNCF/Mellon Faculty Residency Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar Scholar; UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute Coordinator; Mott Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies and Director, Africana Women's Studies, Bennett College

---

4:15-5:00 pm | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

**Reconvene- Reflections from the Day**

---

5:00-6:00 pm | Buckhead Pre Function- Lobby Level

**Happy Hour**

---

6:00 pm

**Dinner on Your Own**

---

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016**

---

8:00-9:00 am | Buckhead Pre Function- Lobby Level

**Breakfast**

---

9:00-10:15 am | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

**Morning Plenary**

**#ourpresencematters in other domains: The Mellon Network**

- **Angela Banks, J.D., (Spelman College, C'95)**, Professor of Law, William & Mary School of Law
- **Lina Buffington, Ph.D., (Spelman College, C'99)**, Interim Executive Director, MISSEY
- **Meredith Evans, Ph.D., (Clark Atlanta University, C'94)**, Director, The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum
- **Aisha Francis-Samuels, Ph.D., (Fisk University, C'97)**, Director of Development for Medical Education, Harvard Medical School

**Convener:**

- **Paul Harper, Ph.D., (Fisk University, C'95)**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh
- 

10:15-10:30 am | Buckhead Pre Function- Lobby Level

**Break**

---

10:30-11:30 am | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

**Community Meeting: *The Role of the Scholar Activist Inside and Outside of the Ivory Tower***

---

11:30 am | Buckhead Ballroom- Lobby Level

**Closing Lunch & Debriefing**

---

1:30 pm

**Adjournment**

**THE 2016 UNCF/MELLON PROGRAMS CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 6-8, 2016**  
**THE WESTIN BUCKHEAD ATLANTA HOTEL- ATLANTA, GA**

***#ourpresencematters: scholars transforming the academy***

**PLENARY SPEAKERS**

**Sarah Willie-LeBreton, Ph.D.**

*Swarthmore College*

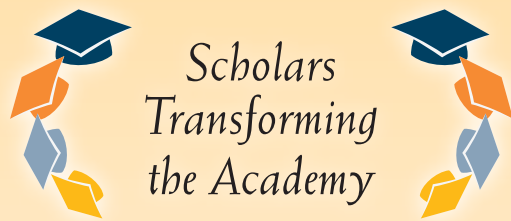
Sarah Willie-LeBreton is a Professor of Sociology at Swarthmore College, where she has served as Chair of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Coordinator of the Black Studies Program, Associate Provost of the College, and Chair of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct. She received her B.A. from Haverford College, during which time she spent a semester as an exchange student at Spelman College. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Sociology. She is the author of *Acting Black: College, Identity, and the Performance of Race* (2003) and a contributor to and editor of *Transforming the Academy: Faculty Perspectives on Diversity & Pedagogy* (2016). She is currently at work on a book project tentatively titled *Reconciling Order with Democracy: American Librarians in the Digital Age*.

**Cheryl Jones-Walker, Ph.D.**

*University of San Francisco*

Cheryl Jones-Walker is Visiting Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department, and serves as the faculty coordinator of the Masters of Arts in Teaching program at the University of San Francisco's branch campuses. She began her career as a teacher in the Bronx, NY, and continued teaching at a Boston-area independent school as well as internationally in Gabon, Central Africa. Prior to doctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Cheryl worked at the Center for Collaborative Education in Boston, a non-profit organization committed to improving urban K-12 education. At CCE she was a co-director of the Pilot School Network; in this role she worked with teacher leaders, school principals and district officials to create the conditions that would foster engaging learning environments for student success. Cheryl's research is focused on the identities and practices of teachers and learners in urban contexts. As a Principal Investigator of Blueprints, a 1.5 million grant from US Office of Minority Health, she led a partnership between Swarthmore College, the College Access Center and Crozer Hospital, to provide a network of academic, cultural and wellness support to 40 Chester youth. Her most recent publications include *Identity Work in the Classroom: Successful Learning in Urban Schools* and a chapter in *Transforming the Academy: Faculty Perspectives on Diversity & Pedagogy*. In her upcoming role as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the University of San Francisco, she looks forward to harnessing the expertise and energy of the faculty in SOE's collective efforts to strengthen their mission, programs and curriculum.





*Scholars  
Transforming  
the Academy*