

Juneteenth 2024

Culture of Resilience: Celebrating Heritage,
Amplifying Voices, and Nurturing Pride

Friday, June 21, 2024

Glass Pavilion, Levering
Johns Hopkins Homewood

www.bfsa.jhu.edu

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Program Overview

Lift Every Voice Buffet Brunch - Honoring Black Voices Through Time

- **Doors Open: 10:30am; Program Begins – 11:00am**
- **Location:** Levering Lounge & Great Hall
- **Speakers:** moderated by Dr. Jaky Banks, Ed '10 featuring Tiffany Wright, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, Dr. Lester Spence, Professor of Political Science and Africana Studies

Join the Hopkins community in celebration of Black History Month for **Lift Every Voice Brunch - Honoring Black Voices Through Time**. This event will honor the past, the present, and the future of the African American community. The past will feature a rich panel discussion, *Turning Back the Clock: Examining Integration and Affirmative Action* moderated by Dr. Jaky Banks, Ed '10 featuring: Tiffany Wright, Esq., Deputy General Counsel

Enjoy the culinary expressions of 3 Chef Caterers, a local black owned business. Jerrell Bratcher, President, Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) will emcee, along with a student performance rendered by the Melanotes.

Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB) Induction Ceremony

- **Doors Open: 1:30pm; Program Begins – 2:00pm**
- **Location:** Great Hall and Levering Lounge

We will honor and celebrate the new inductees into the Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB) Exhibit during our Annual Juneteenth Celebration, Showcase & Gala. This year marks the twenty-first anniversary of the IRB exhibition and the twenty-ninth year of the establishment of the BFSA.

Keynote: First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore, and First Black First Lady of the State of Maryland

Installation of the 2024 IRB Inductees: Honorable Judge Tameika Lunn, Adriene Breckenridge, Dr. Kenneth M Brown (posthumously), Anita Norton Dedication & Installation of First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore

Juneteenth Celebration, Showcase & Dinner

- **Doors Open: 4:30pm; Program Begins - 5:00pm**
- **Location:** Glass Pavilion and Great Hall
- **Performances by various groups**

- **1st Keynote:** Governor Wes Moore, 63rd and First Black Governor of the State of Maryland
- Dedication & Installation of Governor Wes Moore

- **2nd Keynote:** Dr. Sherita Hill Golden, Hugh P. McCormick Family Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism; Core Faculty, Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology, and Clinical Research; Core Faculty, Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality; Professor of Medicine; former Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer Johns Hopkins Medicine Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Health Equity

As you are aware, Juneteenth holds great significance as a day of remembrance and celebration of freedom for all Americans.

This year, our Juneteenth festivities, are organized under the theme - **“Culture of Resilience: Celebrating Heritage, Amplifying Voices, and Nurturing Pride”** that:

- emphasizes the importance of solidarity and collaboration across diverse communities in overcoming systemic barriers and fostering a more inclusive society.
- honors the legacy of resilience and perseverance of Black and Brown people of color throughout history, while also highlighting their ongoing contributions to shaping a brighter future.
- highlights the significance of Juneteenth as a day of remembrance and celebration of freedom, while also recognizing the ongoing struggle for equality and justice.
- underscores the power of collective action and advocacy in effecting meaningful social change and dismantling systems of oppression.
- celebrates the resilience and cultural heritage of Black and Brown communities, showcasing the beauty and diversity of their traditions and experiences.

Livestream Webinar link for all three programs:

https://jh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ELGMCtrkRRS9pzUTdVvRdg

About Juneteenth

Juneteenth: Our Other Independence Day

Two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, American slavery came to an end and a celebration of freedom was born

Kenneth C. Davis

Updated: June 12, 2020 | Originally Published: June 15, 2011



Juneteenth celebration in 1900 at Eastwoods Park Austin History Center via NMAAHC

Since this article was first published in 2011, Juneteenth celebrations have attracted increased attention around the nation. According to [the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation](#), 45 states and the District of Columbia had, by 2017, passed legislation officially recognizing the holiday. Last year, protests across the country that arose after the murder of George Floyd brought renewed attention to the holiday.

Amid all of this, not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic that has disproportionately affected the country's black population, Americans have even more reasons to continue learning about the roots of racism in American history. We must confront the great contradiction in our past—that a “nation conceived in liberty” was also born in shackles.

America's birthday is fast approaching. But let's not wait for July 4 to light the fireworks. Another Independence Day is on the horizon.

Juneteenth falls on June 19 each year. It is a holiday whose history was hidden for much of the last century. But as the nation now observes the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's onset, it is a holiday worth recognizing. In essence, Juneteenth marks what is arguably the most significant event in American history after independence itself—the eradication of American slavery.

For centuries, slavery was the dark stain on America's soul, the deep contradiction to the nation's founding ideals of “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” and “All men are created equal.” When Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, he took a huge step toward erasing that stain. But the full force of his proclamation would not be realized until June 19, 1865—Juneteenth, as it was called by slaves in Texas freed that day.



Juneteenth Commemorative Collection

Black and White image credit: Photograph of a picnic dinner at the White House Jazz Festival, 1978. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Milton Williams Archives, © Milton Williams
https://nmaahcstore.com/?utm_source=smithmag&utm_medium=Story&utm_campaign=story&utm_content=-Juneteenth

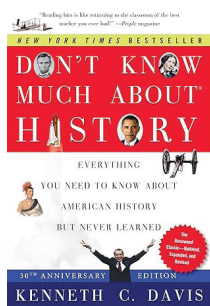
The westernmost of the Confederate states, Texas did not get news of Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomatox that April until two years after the fact. But they heard once Union Gen. Gordon Granger, a New Yorker and West Point graduate with a distinguished wartime service record, arrived in Galveston Bay with more than 2,000 Union troops. It was on June 19 that he publicly read General Order

No. 3, which began: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.”

In amazement and disbelief, the 250,000 former slaves in Texas learned that they had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, which could not be enforced until the war was over. (It applied only to the states “in rebellion” at the time it was issued.) Shocked, disoriented, most likely fearful of an uncertain future in which they could do as they pleased, the liberated slaves of Texas celebrated. Their moment of jubilee was spontaneous and ecstatic, and began a tradition of marking freedom on Juneteenth.

A grass-roots celebration highlighted by joyous singing, pig roasts, and rodeos, Juneteenth took root in many African-American communities during the late 19th century. But Juneteenth was never accorded official respect or recognition. In the bitterness of the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras, few states of the former Confederacy had any interest in celebrating emancipation. And as many African-Americans migrated north, especially in the Depression era, Juneteenth became a largely forgotten vestige of the Civil War era.

Before emancipation, America’s slaves and anyone else who prized equality, freedom and liberty knew that the Declaration of Independence only meant equality, freedom, and liberty for some. “What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?” Frederick Douglass, the abolitionist and escaped slave, asked in his Independence Day oration in 1852. “I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is constant victim.”



Don't Know Much About® History, Anniversary Edition: Everything You Need to Know About American History but Never Learned (Don't Know Much About Series)

In this revised, expanded, and updated edition of the classic anti-textbook, he debunks, recounts, and serves up the real story behind the myths and fallacies of American history.

[Don't Know Much About® History, Anniversary Edition: Everything You Need to Know About American History but Never Learned \(Don't Know Much About Series\)](#)



Photograph from Juneteenth Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900
[Public domain via Wikimedia Commons](#)

This year, let's remember Juneteenth, the holiday that doesn't mark a document, a battle, a birthday or a national tragedy, but the fundamental promise of America being more completely realized—the day on which Thomas Jefferson's rousing rhetoric finally rang true throughout America, for all Americans.

[Kenneth C. Davis](#) is the author of *Don't Know Much About History (Anniversary Edition)* and *A Nation Rising*.

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<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/juneteenth-our-other-independence-day-16340952/>

The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth



*Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900 held in "East Woods" on East 24th Street in Austin.
Credit: Austin History Center.*

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the [Thirteenth Amendment](#) did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented

in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as “[Juneteenth](#),” by the newly freed people in Texas.



Publishers throughout the North responded to a demand for copies of Lincoln’s proclamation and produced numerous decorative versions, including this engraving by R. A. Dimmick in 1864. *National Museum of American History, gift of Ralph E. Becker*

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.



Juneteenth Celebration 1880

*Source: <https://blog.newspapers.com/june-19-1865-the-first-juneteenth-celebration/>
"June 19, 1865: The First Juneteenth Celebration" June 8, 2022 Author: Jenny Ashcraft*

BFSA President Welcome Message



BFSA Executive Board

Jerrell Bratcher - President of the BFSA
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Jazmine Biggs - Caucus Representative

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(includes the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS))
Miller Simmons - Caucus Chair
Samella Koroma - Caucus Representative
Kerry Johnson - Caucus Representative

Coming soon - JHH Florida Caucus

Dear Members of the Johns Hopkins Community, faculty, staff, students, friends, and allies,

On Behalf of the **Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) at Johns Hopkins University** I/we are writing to invite you to become part of this incredible organization as an annual member or [Lifetime member](#).

The **Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA)** was first envisioned during a lunch meeting at the Polo Grill in the Colonnade Baltimore, in early 1995 as seven Hopkins employees, all Black from seven difference departments, who held positions of senior staff or faculty, discussed what they saw as the University's inadequate response to a white staff's physical assault of a Black colleague.

The mission of the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) is to help foster a culture of oneness for all by serving as an advocate that is dedicated to promoting and enhancing identity and professional welfare and growth through collaborations, community service, education, research, outreach and cultural activities among faculty, staff and students; and to be a critical resource for the continued success of Johns Hopkins in pursuit of its objectives towards an inclusive community by developing and cultivating working relationships with key administrators and operating units.

Since its founding in 1995, the **BFSA** pre-eminently stands as an active organization across this institution with a strong mission, indispensable history, and deep legacy. Our events, programs, and initiatives embody values that embrace members, people, culture, personal enrichment, professional development, advancement, institutional knowledge, resources, and a strong network for advocacy and change across the Johns Hopkins enterprise and ecosystem.

The BFSA is dedicated to serving members and the Johns Hopkins community. It is in this spirit and vein that we designed 19 foundational priorities that stand as the cornerstone of our mission, vision, history, and work, and will never change. They can be found on our site at <https://jhu.campusgroups.com/BFSA/>

Membership of the BFSA is open to **ALL!** The BFSA has 19 priorities, and **YOU** are part of everyone one of them.

With warmest regards,

Jerrell Bratcher
*President, Black Faculty & Staff Association at
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine*

Member, Johns Hopkins Police Accountability Board
2020 JHU Roadmap Task Force Working Group
2023, 2019 Recipient, Johns Hopkins Diversity Leadership Council (DLC) Diversity Leadership Award
2019 Recipient, Johns Hopkins Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Community Service Recipient
BFSA and SOBA 'Outstanding Community Service Champion Award' Recipient
2019 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award
Founder & Inaugural Committee Member, JHU Development & Alumni Relations DRIVE
Diversity Advisory Council

Program One:

Lift Every Voice

B U F F E T B R U N C H

*Honoring
Black Voices
Through Time*

Speakers



Dr. Jacqueline “Jaky” Banks, Ed ’10 hails from a rural small village called Allen, located on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. Dr. Banks is an advocate, avid reader and author with published romance short stories, articles and books. Dr. Banks is a graduate of Towson University, Salisbury University, Johns Hopkins University and Drexel University.

Over the years she has worked and had professional titles include college professor, K-12 advanced certified teacher, retail store manager, executive director, project director, consultant, director, chief, publisher, editor, columnist. Jaky has enjoyed a professional career that includes being a state level political appointee. Her books and writings all serve as tools to bring awareness, improve lives, spark dialogue, bring change.



Tiffany R. Wright, JD joined Johns Hopkins University as Deputy General Counsel in May 2023. Prior to joining Hopkins, Ms. Wright served as Associate Counsel for Racial Justice and Equity to President Joe Biden. In that position, she provided strategic and legal advice to the President, Vice President, and senior White House advisors on a wide array of legal issues, including Title IX, gender and LGBTQ+ equity, reproductive rights, clemency, and religious liberty.

Prior to her White House service, Ms. Wright directed the Civil Rights Clinic at the Howard University School of Law, and practiced in the Supreme Court and Appellate practices at two international law firms. She served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S.

Supreme Court, Judge David S. Tatel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and Judge Royce C. Lamberth on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Wright earned her law degree, magna cum laude, from the Georgetown University Law Center, and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland at College Park. Ms. Wright’s life and work have been profiled by the Washington Post, C-SPAN, USA Today, Reuters, and national podcasts.

The Johns Hopkins Melanotes

Johns Hopkins Melanotes is an all-gender a cappella group committed to celebrating the music of the African Diaspora and African-American Tradition with a focus on R&B/Soul, Hip-Hop, and Rap. The Melanotes wish to blend together a diverse array of sounds and offer a unique and enriching performance experience to Johns Hopkins and beyond. Through these performances, the Melanotes strive to authentically portray the complexity of the black experience and showcase the diversity of its members and Black music

Speakers



Dr. Lester Spence is a Professor of Political Science and Africana Studies specializing in the study of black, racial, and urban politics in the wake of the neoliberal turn, a form of liberalism that favors free-market solutions.

An award-winning scholar, author, and teacher, Spence has published two books. “Stare in the Darkness: Hip-hop and the Limits of Black Politics” won the 2012 W. E. B. Du Bois Distinguished Book Award. And “Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics” won both the Baltimore City Paper and Baltimore Magazine 2016 Best Nonfiction Book Awards and was named to The Atlantic’s 2016 “Best Books We Missed” list.

He has published over a dozen academic articles and several dozen essays and think pieces in a range of publications including The American Journal of Political Science, Political Research Quarterly, The New York Times, Jacobin, Salon, and The Boston Review. He is working on projects examining the contemporary AIDS crisis in black communities, and the growing role of police in major American cities.



Jerrell Bratcher currently serves as the President of the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) at Johns Hopkins University, a role he assumed in July 2023. Since joining Johns Hopkins in 2016 within the Development and Alumni Relations department, Jerrell has been a pivotal figure in fostering principal gifts and leadership programs, demonstrating his commitment to both institutional and community development.

In 2017, Jerrell launched the Baltimore Youth De-Escalation and Juvenile Justice Initiative in partnership with Strategies for Youth (SFY) and various Johns Hopkins entities. This volunteer-led initiative brought together youth, police officers, states attorneys, DJS, magistrates, school admin, and community leaders to forge positive relationships and educate families, stakeholders, and partners about the juvenile justice system. His efforts were recognized with the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Community Service in 2019.

Jerrell’s influence extends across numerous committees and advisory councils, including the JHU Roadmap Task Force Working Groups and collaborations with the Office of Government and Community Affairs, the Office for Economic Development, and Johns Hopkins in Action (JHiA). He also founded the Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) Diversity Advisory Council, known as DRIVE, which promotes diversity, race, inclusion, vulnerability, and equity within the Johns Hopkins community.

His exemplary community development work has earned him several awards, including the Johns Hopkins Diversity Leadership Council’s Diversity Recognition Award in 2019 and 2023, the CASE Accolades Gold Award for Marketing & Communications in 2020, and the inaugural BFSA Outstanding Community Service Champion Award. Jerrell Bratcher’s leadership and dedication continue to inspire and impact the Johns Hopkins community and beyond.

Lift Every Voice: Honoring Black Voices Through Time



Disclaimer:

The perspectives and opinions expressed by the speaker(s) during this program are those of the speaker(s) and not, necessarily, those of Johns Hopkins University and the scheduling of any speaker at an alumni event or program does not constitute the University's endorsement of the speaker's perspectives and opinions.

Annual Induction Ceremony



INDISPENSABLE ROLE *of* BLACKS



Visit bfsa.jhu.edu



Black Faculty Staff and Association

INDISPENSABLE
ROLE *of* BLACKS

Friday, June 21, 2024
2:00pm - 4:00pm
John Hopkins University
Levering - Great Hall
Baltimore, MD

Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB) at Johns Hopkins

The Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) is a digital project and traveling exhibit that recognizes the contributions of Black students, faculty, and staff to the university's history. The project is a collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), the Office of the President, Development and Alumni Relations, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The exhibit features photos and stories of people who represent the intertwined history of Black people and Johns Hopkins.

Celebrating Excellence: Welcome to Our Legacy

The BFSA at Johns Hopkins University & Medicine, take immense pride in recognizing the profound contributions of black and brown individuals throughout our esteemed history who have made contributions to the institution, community, and world at large. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is exemplified through the "*Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB)*" exhibit, is a testament to the remarkable achievements and enduring legacy of Black men and women within our institution and community. [View the profiles](#) of the profound men and women featured in this project.

A Beacon of Resilience and Achievement

As one of the nation's oldest and most prominent employee-led volunteer groups, the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) stands as a beacon of resilience and achievement. With an unwavering dedication to advocacy and change, the BFSA champions the courageous contributions of Black and Brown, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) across the Johns Hopkins enterprise.

Honoring a Storied Legacy

The genesis of the "*Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB)*" at Johns Hopkins exhibit stems from a pivotal conversation in 2012 between President Ronald J. Daniels and the BFSA. Inspired by a collective desire to elevate visibility and celebrate the multifaceted accomplishments of Black individuals, this exhibit serves as a poignant tribute to our shared heritage.

A Dynamic Showcase of Excellence

Through meticulous curation and unwavering dedication, the exhibit showcases the indelible mark that Black men and women have left on Johns Hopkins across generations. From pioneering breakthroughs in medicine and science to transformative contributions in the arts and humanities, this exhibit is a celebration of excellence and resilience. [Learn More.](#)

Exploring Our Legacy

Discover the captivating stories and achievements of the men and women featured in the “*Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB)*” at Johns Hopkins exhibit. From the halls of academia to the forefront of innovation, their contributions have shaped the fabric of Johns Hopkins University and continue to inspire generations to come.

Join Us in Celebration

As custodians of this transformative legacy, we invite you to explore the “*Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB)*” at Johns Hopkins induction exhibit and to bear witness to the resilience and brilliance of the Black community within our institution. We invite you to join us as we honor the past, celebrate the present, and pave the way for a future defined by unity, progress, and equity; during our annual induction ceremony hosted in June of every year during our Juneteenth Celebration event.

Additional Historical Note About the IRB

The “*Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB)*” at Johns Hopkins exhibit is made possible through the collaborative efforts of Johns Hopkins University President Ronald J. Daniels, Johns Hopkins & Medicine Development and Alumni Relations (*formerly known as Johns Hopkins External Affairs and Development*), and the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA). We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to this transformative project. We are also immensely thankful to John F. Guess, Jr., A&S '71, SAIS '76, Member, Fred Scott Brigade, and CEO of the Houston Museum of African American Culture for supporting the “*Indispensable Role of Blacks (IRB)*”.

When the exhibit debuted, it consisted of a free-standing, traveling display and window decals featuring the photos of men and women whose stories offer glimpses of the intertwined history of blacks and Johns Hopkins. The display and window images were supported by a website, <http://bfsa.jhu.edu/exhibits/exhibit-list/> which includes brief narratives of the individuals highlighted in the project.

In September 2017, to bring greater visibility to the IRB project, the committee worked with the various Johns Hopkins campuses to feature selected individuals from the project on the walls of the university. The project organizers thought it important for Hopkins to have images of people of color on the walls visually affirming the university's stated commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The committee and the BFSA members determined that the best way to accomplish this objective was to pick up where the BFSA left off with its "History of African Americans at Johns Hopkins" project (2003-2008) and expand it. Hence, the Indispensable Role of Blacks at Johns Hopkins is a representation of what the BFSA hoped to accomplish – to show that blacks have and will continue to play an important role in shaping Johns Hopkins.

Significant Steps in Development of the IRB Project 2003 - 2017

List of Persons Key to Early Development

Read [this article Documenting African Americans' contributions](#) from 2005 in the Johns Hopkins Magazine, for a description of the early development of the project.

2003 - 2008

- April Land, president of Black Student Union asked Joyce Mason, black staff member in the Milton S. Eisenhower Library, what the library was planning in honor of Black History Month
- Mason confers with librarian Sharon Morris and the decision was made not to have the library quickly cobble together something but to involve the BSU students in planning something meaningful and lasting throughout the year. We were cognizant of an earlier protest from the Black Student Union at the library over an exhibit of the Birney Papers during a previous Black History Month
- Mason & Morris confer with John Morris (spouse) and BFSA president (Deborah Savage). We decide a vehicle to develop a more complete record of the contributions and value provided by the presence of African Americans at Hopkins would be appropriate.

We promptly involved JHU Black Faculty (Dr. Franklin Knight, Africana Studies Center) and The Fred Scott Brigade (activist black alumni group whose chief organizer is Michael Smith and FSB member, historian Barbara Wyche) to flesh out a plan and to organize a timeline of significant events involving Black people and the University.

- Dr. Franklin Knight and Dr. Melanie Shell-Weiss recruit students who interviewed for course credit Black faculty and staff who had made considerable contributions to the university. With those research projects and the timeline, we created a website to house the material. That project was active from about 2003 to 2008.

The original website, The History of African Americans @ Johns Hopkins University. See an [additional story on the project](#) in the Johns Hopkins University Arts & Sciences Magazine Online Spring, 2008.



2011-2012

- Deborah Savage, BFSA president, asked President Daniels at our annual meeting with the president what message was being sent to prospective students and parents, visitors when they only see white males on walls around the University.
- Task force was formed and BFSA proposed to pick up where the History of African American project left off and expand it. Through the earlier project, we had stories, and names of African Americans who have made notable contributions to Hopkins and the Black community.
- From an initial list of about 45 names, decided to add individuals (inductees) each year to a new website showcasing Black excellence.

- Project named Indispensable Role of Blacks (suggested by John Morris). Sharon Morris headed the committee, asked Anita Norton, Sheridan Libraries, to co-chair. BFSA committee employed a professional writer for profiles to be available on a website. Profile writers, Dianna Spencer, followed by Tracey Reeves, followed by Mame Warren.

Also, commissioned a physical travelling exhibit and decals (Travelling exhibit was retired in 2016).



2017



- Wall images - Improve the project's visibility on all campuses through branded, attractive, easily rotated wall displays
- President Daniels asked Dean Tabb in his role as Vice Provost for the Arts to work with the BFSA Indispensable Role of Blacks at JHU Committee. Dean Tabb asked Jackie O'Regan, Curator of Cultural Properties, to join the team. The design team (Morris, Norton, O'Regan, Meredith Shelby) worked with a black designer (Tiffany Small) to create a design. Graphic design firm First Floor Graphics produces the graphics and handles the rotations.
- Jackie O'Regan works with various JHU schools to display images from the project around the University

Key Players in the early development of the IRB

Fred Scott Brigade - Activist alumni group self-formed by the Black JHU students from the 1970's. The group chose the name to honor the first Black student to graduate from JHU in 1950.

Franklin Knight - Faculty member who served as advisor and directed the students during the phase of the project when students conducted interviews and submitted projects for credit.

April Land - President of the Black Student Union whose query in 2003 about the library's salute to Black History Month sparked a new way of thinking about honoring Black history.

Joyce Mason - Milton S. Eisenhower Library staff member who received initial query from April Land and contributed to the initial project History of African Americans at JHU.

John Morris - Credited with the idea to showcase excellence of Black Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students. Suggested the name Indispensable Role of Blacks at Johns Hopkins.

Sharon Morris - Chaired the various iterations of the project from 2003-2022, Library Manager, Sheridan Libraries.

Anita Norton - Co-chaired the IRB project 2011-2023, Library Manager, Sheridan Libraries.

Jackie O'Regan - Curator of Cultural Properties, Sheridan Libraries joined the visibility design team to bring images from the project to the walls around JHU.

Tracey Reeves - Wrote the profiles 2012-2015.

Deborah Savage - BFSAs president who pushed to have persons of color represented on the walls of JHU.

Meredith Shelby - Library Staff member who provided valuable assistance in launching the Wall Panels project.

Melanie Shell-Weiss - Faculty member who along with Dr. Knight supervised students' projects.

Tiffany Small - MICA student selected to design various IRB logos for the visibility project.

Michael Smith - Host of the Fred Scott Brigade, who as a group provided insight to the history of Blacks at JHU and were early supporters of the project. '73 MA.

Mame Warren - Historian/Writer wrote the profiles of IRB inductees 2016-2022.

Barbara Wyche - '72 Sociologist, member of the Fred Scott Brigade, in the class of first Black women to enter Hopkins. Contributed and organized the timeline and research information developed for History of Blacks @ JHU.

Task Force Committee - Appointed by President Daniels, members of the 2011 - 2012 group who selected original inductees, provided vision for moving forth with IRB.

Mo Baldwin

Lizette Johnson

Debbie Savage

Bonnie Horning

Sharon Morris

Glenn Simmons

Caroline Laguerre-Brown

Annie Powell

Rita Walters

Tracey Reeves

Risha Zuckerman



**INDISPENSABLE
ROLE *of* BLACKS**

Program

Welcome

Lorraine Smith,
IRB Co-Chair and 2023 IRB Inductee

Calvin L. Smith, Jr.
*IRB Co-Chair and Past-President,
Black Faculty and Staff Association*

About the IRB and Introduction of the Keynote

Jerrell Bratcher,
*President,
Black Faculty and Staff Association*

Keynote Speaker

Dawn Flythe Moore
First Lady of the State of Maryland
Senior Policy Advisor

Induction Ceremony

Lorraine Smith,
IRB Co-Chair and 2023 IRB Inductee

Introduction of Inductees

Anita Norton
*Introduced by Sharon Morris, 2022 IRB Inductee
Joined by Jazmine Eldridge and Randall Norton*

Adriene Breckenridge
Introduced by JHU Alumni Jasmine Bridges

Kenneth Brown, MD (posthumously)
Receiving In Honor Dr. Terese Brown

The Honorable Tameika M. Lunn
*Introduced by Calvin Smith, Jr.,
IRB Co-Chair and BFSA Past-President*

Acknowledgement of Inductees

Calvin Smith, Jr.,
IRB Co-Chair and BFSA Past-President

Closing Remarks

Lorraine Smith,
IRB Co-Chair and 2023 IRB Inductee

2024 IRB Inductees

DAWN FLYTHE MOORE

**First Lady of the State of Maryland
Senior Policy Advisor**



Dawn Flythe Moore is the First Lady of the State of Maryland.

With more than 20 years of leadership experience in government relations, non-profit work, building corporate partnerships, community organizing, campaign strategy, and fundraising, she is passionate about empowering women, fostering economic opportunity, and championing the arts.

She has held positions in the highest levels of state government and has served on the board of non-profit organizations including Maryland's State Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, and iMentor, which partners with high schools in communities where the majority of students served will be first-generation college graduates.

She also served as chair of the Moore-Miller Inaugural Committee, whose inclusive efforts contributed to a reported 30 to 40 percent increase in business for Black-owned businesses during the week of Governor Moore's inauguration, supported 34 jobs with minority-, women- and locally owned businesses, and generated more than \$1.5 million in labor income.

The First Lady and Governor Wes Moore together established the Moore Family Foundation to make impact grants to local nonprofits, to provide thought leadership and organizational support and to create partnership alliances with community stakeholders, government entities and other philanthropic partners that are committed to place-based initiatives in Baltimore City. Under her leadership, the Moore Family Foundation has invested strategically in education, community enrichment, health research and development, veterans organizations, and the arts.

A graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, Dawn holds a degree in Government and Politics and a certificate in Women's Studies.

2024 IRB Inductees

ADRIENE BRECKENRIDGE **Academic Advisor and Campus Minister**



When **Adriene Breckenridge** walked into her retirement party in January 2024, she was surprised to see a row of faces from her past: former students she'd worked with closely during her 28 years as an academic advisor and campus minister at Johns Hopkins University.

The JHU alumni bestowed Breckenridge with testimonials on how she'd affected their lives and careers, with two of them performing the Gospel song "You Are My Hero."

"I was crying the whole time," Breckenridge says.

Breckenridge first joined Johns Hopkins in 1995 after finishing seminary school. Her role was one the Black Student Union had explicitly urged for a few years earlier, seeking an academic advisor on staff who could relate to them. "It's very typical for Black students to feel like they have nowhere to go in that environment, and I could provide a home," says Breckenridge, who's often called "Ms. B" or "Rev. B."

In this role, Breckenridge would meet with dozens—during some semesters, up to 150—freshmen each semester, coaching them on their academic success and future career paths.

Becoming aware of a glaring deficit in the health fields, Breckenridge helped launch the Minority Pre-Health Conference at Johns Hopkins in 1999. For 11 years, the event—considered a precursor to JUMP—offered workshops and networking opportunities for students underrepresented in jobs in health and medicine. At the peak more than 150 students were participating, and 55 schools with health programs.

In the conference's later years, Breckenridge would sometimes see students who'd once attended come back as physicians, nurses, or dentists ready to mentor. "That was the coolest thing ever," she says.

Breckenridge was also a lifetime member of the Black Faculty and Staff Association at Hopkins, participating since its 1995 inception. She held various leadership roles in the group, including Homewood caucus rep, secretary of the executive board, chair of professional development, and parliamentarian.

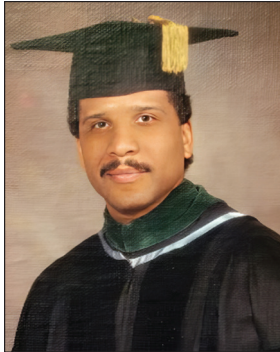
Along with her academic support Breckenridge provided a spiritual home base for Hopkins students who sought it. She served as an advisor to the JHU Gospel Choir and launched a Bible study group that eventually formalized as the Beloved College Community Fellowship, holding worship services in Shaffer Hall every Sunday. The effort lasted from the late 1990s until the COVID-19 pandemic. "We'd always do a big dinner Easter Sunday," Breckenridge says.

Born and raised in Washington, Breckenridge earned her bachelor's in psychology at the University of Washington, then her master's of divinity from Howard University. She earned her master's in clinical counseling at Johns Hopkins while working there, as well as a certificate in human-centered life design, among others. At Hopkins, she also served on the board of the chaplain and as an advisor to the JHU Gospel Choir.

Breckenridge says she didn't realize the dent she'd made at Johns Hopkins until she retired, when so many people from the past emerged to thank her. "I was thrilled at this point of my career to see this," she says. "I feel like my work was not in vain."

2024 IRB Inductees

DR. KENNETH BROWN **Mentor and Physician**



In 1966, **Kenneth Brown** was the starting defensive lineman at Johns Hopkins University, a young man from New York on his path to study medicine. He was also one of only a few Black students at the university at the time, and his attempt to get a haircut inadvertently sparked a social justice movement.

When Brown approached a barbershop in The Marylander building, the manager refused him service and used a racial slur. Inflamed by the incident, a group of about 75 Hopkins students congregated under Brown's lead. They delivered an ultimatum to the shop: Start serving Black clients, or face picketing and boycotting of the business.

The pressure led to change, with the barbershop ultimately welcoming the Black students and residents of Charles Village and hiring a Black barber. Brown's experience is considered a precursor to the founding of the Black Student Union on the Hopkins campus three years later.

"In those days there were essentially no African American faculty members at Hopkins, and Black students like me looked up to those ahead of us to lead the way," said one friend, Robert Hyde III, at Brown's 2022 memorial service. "Ken was easy to like and admire."

Born in Jamaica, Queens, in 1949, Brown aspired to become a physician from an early age. After graduating from Johns Hopkins in 1970, he studied medicine at Tufts University, where he was an organizer and president of the Student National Medical Association, a support group for underrepresented medical school students.

In his adult life, Brown settled in Washington, D.C., where he became the first Black gastroenterologist at the Washington Hospital Center, then chief of gastroenterology at Providence Hospital. He also set up his own private practice in 1981, and in the 2000s established the independent surgery center Capital Endoscopy, now operated by MedStar Health.

"There was no doubt that his compassion for the health needs of citizens of the District was not only passionate but informed," recalled mentor and friend Vivian Pinn at Brown's memorial. "All you had to do was to bring up the topic of declining medical facilities in some quarters of the District to receive... a very intense and most concerned discourse on the politics, disparities, and needs of those communities."

Brown married Terese Thomas Brown, also a physician, in 1985, and together they raised three daughters.

Family and friends remember Brown as an adventurous world traveler, amateur historian, masterful chef, engaged activist, and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. At his memorial service, several peers from Brown's time at Johns Hopkins showed up, recalling his strength as a student and an athlete (he played basketball and lacrosse in addition to football) as well as his humor and steady friendship.

Following her husband's death, Terese took over his former vehicle. "I'd never noticed before," she says, "but I realized he still had the Hopkins Blue Jay sticker on his plates."

2024 IRB Inductees

THE HONORABLE TAMEIKA M. LUNN **District Court Judge Giving Back to Baltimore**



When **Tameika Lunn** graduated with dual degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Peabody Conservatory of Music in 1999, her family’s story was featured in *The Baltimore Sun*. Born to teenage parents in East Baltimore who struggled to make ends meet, Lunn had defied all odds to earn her two degrees.

Now facing a crossroads between music and law, Lunn chose the latter, leading to a career dedicated to serving her home city of Baltimore. In 2022, then-Governor Larry Hogan appointed Lunn as an associate judge in the District Court of Baltimore City. She now serves as the presiding Judge of the Baltimore City Adult Recovery Court in the District Court (ARC).

Initially, Lunn was concerned about the emotional toll of serving in the ARC, which provides drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, and other resources to residents charged with misdemeanor crimes. “I thought it might hit too close to home,” says Lunn, who lost her brother, David Lunn Jr., to a fentanyl overdose in 2019 and whose father, David Lunn Sr., is a 30-year recovering addict.

But over a year into the job, Lunn says she “has not regretted a single day”—and has found that her personal experience only benefits her work. “I realized the recovery court needed a judge with a true understanding of addiction,” she says. “Not only someone who could be firm . . . but also someone who, in their heart of hearts, understands how addiction affects people and their families.”

Lunn emphasizes that addiction “has no face, does not discriminate and can happen to anyone.” Her brother David was a Division I college athlete who graduated and traveled overseas playing professional basketball.

“I tell my clients . . . I know this is hard, I know this is scary, but come in and be honest and we’ll get through it,” she says. “I share my story, and it helps.”

Growing up in Baltimore, Lunn attended Harford Heights Gifted and Talented Education Center and the Bryn Mawr School for Girls, which nurtured her talents in singing and classical music. Performing in the city, she found a mentor in Judge Bonita Dancy of the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, who introduced Lunn to “a circle of powerful Black women judges and lawyers who really impressed me,” she says.

As a student at Johns Hopkins, Lunn enjoyed “literally the best of both worlds,” pursuing a degree in voice performance with an opera certificate at Peabody while earning a history degree on the Homewood campus. She next studied law at George Washington University, where she served as a student attorney for domestic violence victims and participated in the Black Law Students Association.

Lunn completed her judicial clerkship with Judge Dancy before working as a civil and insurance defense attorney for firms in D.C. and Baltimore. In 2011, she was appointed as an administrative law judge in the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings.

Though she set her stakes in a legal career, Lunn, a mother of three, also remains passionate about music. “I wake up to music and go to sleep to music,” she says. “And my kids are very musical, so I get to experience it through them.”

2024 IRB Inductees

ANITA NORTON

Collaborator and Advocate



For **Anita Norton**, becoming an honoree in The Indispensable Role of Blacks exhibit at Johns Hopkins is a full-circle moment: The project is one she helped shape more than a decade ago, as part of her advocacy with the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA).

“I’m humbled by it,” says Norton, who retired in 2023 as director of the Online Services Program in the Sheridan Libraries’ Entrepreneurial Library Program. “It’s a distinguished award, and I recognize the caliber of people honored.”

When Norton first joined Johns Hopkins in 2005 as a distance learning librarian, she noticed a scarcity of Black employees in professional roles. She found her way to the BFSA, becoming a core part of what she describes as “a small, lively group of movers and shakers who had an interest in ensuring the campus was equitable for all, and who were willing to stick their necks out.”

Over time Norton took on a variety of leadership roles within the BFSA, including Homewood caucus representative, recording secretary, and parliamentarian. In her early years she steered the group’s African American Book Festival and collaborated on many other events. With colleague Sharon Morris, Norton helped organize a traveling exhibit called The History of African Americans at Johns Hopkins, acknowledging Black trailblazers of the university’s past and present. “The idea came about because the BFSA saw that when people came to Johns Hopkins campuses and looked at photos or portraits on the wall, almost none displayed African Americans,” Norton says.

Eventually, Norton and Morris saw a need to increase the exhibit’s visibility and scope, re-envisioning it as The Indispensable Role of Blacks. The project debuted in 2012 as both a free-standing and online exhibit, honoring notable Black alumni, faculty, staff, and students from Hopkins.

Growing up in Queens, New York, Norton had witnessed the effects of discrimination from an early age. When her father opened a business in a majority-white part of Long Island, its entrance was splattered with the letters KKK. “I saw the impact of lack of tolerance,” she says. “So, I’ve always wanted to do things that would break down barriers and promote greater tolerance of our differences.”

Norton attended Morgan State University, then earned her master’s in library and information science at the University of Pittsburgh. She worked in library services for Baltimore City Schools and at Harford Community College before joining Johns Hopkins, where she worked for 18 years.

In 2010, Norton became manager of the Entrepreneurial Online Library Program, overseeing an external library whose long-term contract generated revenue for the Sheridan Libraries. “I encountered educators and students from many cultures, and it was important that my staff maintained a high level of tolerance and excellence,” says Norton, who relied on her innate enthusiasm and collaborative skills.

In this role, she established the Exploring Series, a set of workshops for librarians diving into trends in the field. She also took part in the Diversity Committee at the Sheridan Libraries, and in 2018 co-curated the exhibit Freedom Papers: Black Assertions from the Archives. In June 2024, Norton takes her place among the honorees she has celebrated through The Indispensable Role of Blacks, a group now numbering over 90.

“It feels wonderful to receive my roses,” she says.

Inductees by Year

Indispensable Role of Blacks at Johns Hopkins University

2012

Bruce Baker

Catalyst for Campus Change
Black Student Union Pioneer

Paula E. Goggs

Cross Country Legal Leader

Gwendolyn E. Boyd

Engineer for Diversity

Karen Freeman Burdell

Teller of Stories and Grower
of Imaginations

Emmanuel Chambers

Benefactor of Mankind

Eileen Tate Clie

Dragon Slaying Music Maker

Lisa A. Cooper

Genius for Medical Equity

Miriam Decosta-Willis

Invincible Scholar

Shirley Dillworth

Legal Go Getter

Robert L. Gamble

Legacy-building Neurosurgeon

Fannie Gaston-Johansson

Globe-Trotting Nursing Innovator,
Researcher and Educator

Siba N. Grovogui

Justice Seeker

John F. Guess

Catalyst for Change

Black Student Union Pioneer

Joseph S. Hall

University-Community Convener

Minnie Hargow

Ambassador in the President's Office

M. Alfred Haynes

Architect of Social Justice in Medicine

Gertrude J. Hodges

Nursing Pioneer

Leslie King-Hammond

Force of Art

Thomas LaVeist

Health Care Gap Closer

Victor McCrary

Technology Innovator

Katrina Bell McDonald

Answer Seeker in Black and White

Douglas L. Miles

Perpetual Activist

Kelly Miller

Role Model for Future Heroes

Westley "Wes" Moore

Author of His Own Success

First Black Governor of the State of Maryland

James F. Nabwangu

Son of Africa, Pioneering Neurosurgeon

David G. Nichols

Medical School Reformer

Percy A. Pierre

Diversity Engineer

Edgar E. Roulhac

University Growth Leader

Frederick I. Scott

Rebel with a Cause

Ronald Thomas Smoot

Healer of People and of the Health Care System

Gil Scott-Heron

Influential "bluesologist", Voice of a Generation

Lowery Stokes Simms

Museum World Boundary-Pusher

Clifford V. Smith, Jr.

Pioneering Engineer

Yvonne Theodore

Conflict Resolver and Curiosity Quencher

Claudia Thomas

Lifelong Boundary Crosser

Daniel Gary Thomas

Front Man of Jazz Studies

Vivien T. Thomas

Legendary Surgical Partner

J. Tyson Tildon

Champion for Children Through Medical
Research and Education

James Turner

Air and Water Protector

Levi Watkins

Lifesaving Innovator and Activist

James E. West

Innovative Engineer, Electrifying Educator

Gail Williams-Glasser

University Cheerleader

2014

James Calvin

Influential Business Philosopher

Martha Edgerton

Conservator of Books and
the Black Community

Freda Lewis-Hall

Global Health Authority

Nicklaine Paul

Compassionate Pain Reliever,
Healthcare Advocate

David Thompson

Keeper of Obligations, Supporter of Dreams

Inductees by Year

Indispensable Role of Blacks at Johns Hopkins University

2015

Janine Clayton

Physician/Scientist and
Dedicated Mentor

Robert Clayton

Accomplished Litigator and
Dedicated Mentor

Ron Owens

Facilitator of Success

Clifford Smith

Pioneering Engineer

2016

Ralph Etienne Cummings

A Brilliant Mind

Eich March

Civic Minded Undertaker

Devonna Rowe

An Operatic Artist for All Ages

Deborah Savage

Fearless Fighter

2017

No Induction Held

Wall Panels Commissioned

2018

Ernest Bates

Enterpreneurial Neurosurgeon
Extraordinaire

Chance Glenn

Visionary Engineer and
Creative Futurist

Lynnise Norris

Valiant Financial Facilitator

2019

Barbara Bates-Hopkins

Connecting JHU with the Community

Ivor Benjamin

Caring for the Future

Black Students of Shriver Hall (photo 1970)

the Collective Experience of a Community

Franklin Knight

Superlative Scholar of Latin America

2020

Betty Addison

Innovative Public Health Careers Coach

Janice Bowie

Public Health Role Model: Creating
Pathways and Opportunities

David Boxer

Distinguished Scholar and Champion
of Jamaican Art

Ralph Bromery

Tireless Educator, Benefactor, Explorer

2021

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Storyteller: Humanizing Stories for
the World

Gregory Branch

Building Bridges, Blending Voices

Carlia Carter

Problem Solver: Behind the Scenes

James Cross

Engineering a Life of Service

Frank Spellman

Pioneering Retinal Surgeon,
Gracious Mentor

2022

Sherita Hill Golden

Physician Scientist Confronting
Social Inequities

Sharon Morris

Curator of Black Excellence

Sharon Solomon

Role Model for Academic Medicine

Charles Sydnor, III

Politician for the People

2023

Ethan Bartlett

Student-Athlete Leader

James Hildreth

Advocate for Diversity
in the Laboratory

Hopkins Dining Services

Nourishing and Nurturing Generations

Regine Laforest-Shairif

A Servant Leader

Lorraine Smith

Advocate for Equality

2024

Adriene Breckenridge

Academic Advisor and
Campus Minister

Kenneth Brown

Mentor and Physician

Tameika M. Lunn

District Court Judge

Giving Back to Baltimore

Anita Norton

Collaborator and Advocate

IRB Nomination Process

The IRB Project depends on and appreciates your nominations to keep our mission going and to keep notable Black figures in the spotlight. To nominate someone to be a part of the Indispensable Role of Blacks at Johns Hopkins Project, please use our form to review the criteria and to make nominations.

<http://bfsa.jhu.edu/exhibits/exhibit-nomination-form/>

All submissions must include the following details of the nominee:

- ☞ Full name
- ☞ Number of years affiliated with Johns Hopkins
- ☞ Character statement explaining the nominator's reason(s) for nominating according to the predetermined criteria

Any nominations submitted after selections have been made for the current year will still be considered for the upcoming nomination round.



Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the many people who played significant roles in advising and supporting the BFSA, the IRB project, and the many initiatives that promote the legacy, leadership, work, advocacy, history, and contributions of BIPOC members across the Johns Hopkins enterprise. In addition to contributions from BFSA members, the Office of the President, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, we wish to thank...



Dr. John F. Guess, Jr., A&S '71, SAIS '76, Member, Fred Scott Brigade; CEO, Houston Museum of African American Culture; Managing Consultant, Guess Group, Inc.

Businessman and noted arts patron John Guess emerged as a fierce and unflinching advocate for civil rights in the late 1960s, when he played a central leadership role in establishing Johns Hopkins University's Black Student Union on the Homewood campus. He was the first Black Student Union chairman and the first Black president of the university's student council. In the years since, Dr. Guess has proved to be an instrumental partner of the university in helping generations of Black students thrive, as he did, at Hopkins. He is also an enthusiastic collector of contemporary, glass, and African American art and the driving force behind the resurgence of the Houston Museum of African American Culture, where he serves as CEO.

Dr. Guess has generously sponsored the IRB project, in addition to the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and the Black Student Union (BSU), as one of the leading spokespersons and founders, alongside classmate Bruce Baker. A native of Houston, Dr. Guess became the first Black Student Union chairman and the first Black president of the university's student council. He is chief executive officer of the Houston Museum of African American Culture, managing consultant at The Guess Group Inc., a real estate services company and a Partner in the Dallas-based Access Seminars and Consulting Services. He is an active art collector whose works have been shown in museums across the country and in Europe. John Guess received an honorary Doctorate degree from the University in 2023.

Special Thank You to the IRB Nomination Review Committee

Jerrell Bratcher Calvin Smith, Jr. Lorraine Smith
Allison Seyler Dr. Katrina Caldwell

Special Thank You to the following Sponsors & Partners

The Office of the President of Johns Hopkins University
The Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Johns Hopkins University
The Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer
Johns Hopkins & Medicine Development and Alumni Relations
Office of Government, Community, and Economic Partnerships
Office of Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Johns Hopkins Medicine
Office of Human Resources, Johns Hopkins University Office of the General Counsel
And everyone who has supported this project and exhibition throughout the years!

CELEBRATING
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY: 2024

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

It has been a distinct pleasure and honor to have been a part of this year's Indispensable Roles of Blacks Induction.

The progression of the project has been amazing over the years the past twelve years. It has always been a challenge to select the final recipients of the IRB recognition each year because those nominated are stellar contributors to society.

Visit:

<https://bfsa.jhu.edu>

[https://jhu.campusgroups.com/bfsa/indispensable-role-of-blacks-\(irb\)-exhibit/](https://jhu.campusgroups.com/bfsa/indispensable-role-of-blacks-(irb)-exhibit/)

The project was managed with a lot of love and compassion, always remaining true to the original idea of highlighting, for senior leadership and our community, the value, excellence, and talent in Black faces.

We look forward to the round of inductee nominations and learning about more of the great works by our people.

Sincerely,



Calvin Smith, Jr.



Lorraine Smith



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

BFSA

IRB CO - CHAIRS LETTER



CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY: 2024

We are delighted to participate and collaborate on the Annual BFSA Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Johns Hopkins Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA). This event holds a significant place in our hearts as we gather to honor Juneteenth. This day commemorates the liberation of enslaved African Americans in the rebel states on June 19th, 1865.

Juneteenth is more than a historic milestone; it is a time of profound reflection on African Americans' relentless pursuit of true freedom, justice, and equality over the past 400+ years in the United States. This day reminds us of the courage and resilience of our ancestors, who fought valiantly against oppression, and it inspires us to continue their legacy in the ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice.

At the Carey Business School, we are deeply committed to serving our communities within and beyond our institution

Our mission is to foster an environment that supports professional development and education, empowering our members to thrive and lead. By investing in the growth and advancement of our community, we can contribute to a more equitable and inclusive society.

As we celebrate Juneteenth, let us also recommit ourselves to these values. Let us honor the sacrifices and achievements of those who came before us by continuing to fight for justice and equality. We can make a meaningful impact and build a brighter future for all.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration. We look forward to a day filled with reflection, learning, and unity.



Miller Simmons
e: msimmons@jhu.edu
Carey BFSA Caucus, Chair



Samella Koroma
e: s.koroma@jhu.edu
Carey Staff representative



Kerry G. Johnson
e: kerry.johnson@jhu.edu
Carey Staff representative





CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY: 2024

The Johns Hopkins Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) Applied Physics Lab (APL) Caucus Chair and Representatives would like to welcome you to the Annual BFSA Juneteenth Celebration. As you may know, Juneteenth is a day to commemorate the freeing of enslaved African Americans in rebel states on June 19th, 1865. It is a day to reflect on the fight for true freedom, justice, and equality that African Americans have pursued for 400+ years in the United States and continue to pursue today.

The APL Caucus Chair and Representatives are dedicated to leading this charge within the APL community. At APL, we have been both an ear and a voice for black staff by providing an open and safe space for staff to be heard and valued. We have hosted numerous career development sessions, fostered community outreach through donation drives, and advocated for Black staff to ensure that our contributions to APL are recognized and our needs are addressed.

The BFSA Juneteenth Celebration marks the ending of the 2023-2024 cycle as we transition to a new fiscal year. We look forward to continuing to create meaningful opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and growth for the 2nd half of our 2-year term. We are excited for you to join us in celebrating Juneteenth by honoring our past in order to shape our envisioned future.



Malaika Wanjihia
e: malaika.wanjihia@jhuapl.edu
APL BFSA Caucus, Chair



Julian Alford
e: julian.alford@jhuapl.edu
APL Staff representative



Amaya Butler
e: amaya.butler@jhuapl.edu
APL Staff representative



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APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY





CELEBRATING
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY: 2024

On behalf of the
Black Faculty and Staff Association, East Baltimore Caucus,
we are happy to serve you!
We look forward to collaborating and achieving great things together.



Joy Bolden
e: jbolden1@jhu.edu
East Baltimore BFSA Caucus, Chair



Lorraine Smith
e: lorraine.smith@jhu.edu
East Baltimore Staff representative



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BFSA



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CELEBRATING
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY: 2024

Dear Homewood Caucus Members,

As we come together to celebrate Juneteenth, a pivotal moment in our history marking the end of slavery in the United States, we are reminded of the enduring spirit of freedom and resilience. This day is not only a commemoration of the past but also a call to action for continued progress and unity within our communities.

In the spirit of Juneteenth, we are excited to announce that we invite you to join our caucus meeting, listserv, committees, and events – which offer a vibrant opportunity to build relationships, share knowledge, and foster in-person connections, reflecting the very essence of what Juneteenth stands for—community and togetherness.

Earlier this year, we reached out to gather your thoughts on how we can make our members feel more welcomed, heard, and excited to be part of the BFSA. The response was overwhelming, with a clear empha-

sis on relationship building, gaining knowledge, and creating safe, inclusive spaces. We are committed to ensuring that our events embody these values, providing an environment free from judgment, exclusion, and negativity.

We warmly invite you to always celebrate all of the small wins we aim to achieve together. Additionally, as we prepare for the year ahead, we look forward to hosting more in-person gatherings, networking events, and meet & greets, to connect, share our vision for the future, and continue building an authentic and honest community.

Thank you for your unwavering support and the warm welcome you have extended to us during this year of transitions. Your receptiveness to change has been truly inspiring.

Let us honor Juneteenth by committing to progress, unity, and the continuous support of one another. Happy Juneteenth! Let's continue to celebrate freedom and foster a community where everyone feels valued and included.

Jayda Pearson
Homewood
BFSA Caucus, Chair

Jazmine Biggs
Homewood
Staff representative

Whitney Biggs
Homewood
Staff representative



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BFSA



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Program Three:

*Juneteenth
Celebration,
Showcase,
and
Dinner*

Speakers

WES MOORE

63rd Governor of the State of Maryland

First Black Governor of Maryland, Black Politician, Combat Veteran, Businessman, Best-Selling Author, Anti-Poverty Advocate, Philanthropist, Rhodes Scholar, Small Business Owner, and former CEO



Wes Moore is the 63rd Governor of the State of Maryland. He is Maryland's first Black Governor in the state's 246-year history, and is just the third African American elected Governor in the history of the United States.

Born in Takoma Park, Maryland, on Oct. 15, 1978, to Joy and Westley Moore, Moore's life took a tragic turn when his father died of a rare, but treatable virus when he was just three years old. After his father's death, his family moved to the Bronx to live with Moore's grandparents before returning to Maryland at age 14.

Moore is a proud graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, where he received an Associate's degree in 1998, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Afterward, he went on to earn his

Bachelor's in international relations and economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

While at Johns Hopkins, Moore interned in the office of former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Moore was the first Black Rhodes Scholar in the history of Johns Hopkins University. As A Rhodes Scholar, he earned a Master's in international relations from Wolfson College at Oxford.

In 2005, Moore deployed to Afghanistan as a captain with the 82nd Airborne Division, leading soldiers in combat. Immediately upon returning home, Moore served as a White House Fellow, advising on issues of national security and international relations.

In 2010, Moore wrote "The Other Wes Moore," a story about the fragile nature of opportunity in America, which became a perennial New York Times bestseller. He went on to write other best-selling books that reflect on issues of race, equity, and opportunity, including his latest book "Five Days," which tells the story of Baltimore in the days that followed the death of Freddie Gray in 2015.

Moore built and launched a Baltimore-based business called BridgeEdU, which reinvented freshman year of college for underserved students to increase their likelihood of long-term success. BridgeEdu was acquired by the Brooklyn-based student financial success platform, Edquity, in 2018.

It was Moore's commitment to taking on our toughest challenges that brought him to the Robin Hood Foundation, where he served for four years as CEO. During his tenure, the Robin Hood Foundation distributed over \$600 million toward lifting families out of poverty, including here in Maryland.

While the Robin Hood Foundation is headquartered in New York City, Wes and his family never moved from their home in Baltimore.

Moore has also worked in finance with Deutsche Bank in London and with Citigroup in New York.

Speakers

SHERITA HILL GOLDEN, MD, MHS **Physician-Scientist Confronting Social Inequities**

Hugh P. McCormick Family Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism; Core Faculty, Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology, and Clinical Research; Core Faculty, Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality; Professor of Medicine; former Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer Johns Hopkins Medicine Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Health Equity



During medical school, **Sherita Hill Golden** “developed a passion for inner city medicine,” particularly relating to diabetes among people of color. When she arrived in East Baltimore for her residency in July 1994, the young doctor appreciated the presence of so many Black support staff. “They were very proud when they saw a Black doctor, even if you were an intern,” she recalled. “If you stepped on the elevator and they saw the M.D., they were like, ‘Oh, Dr. Hill, I hope you’re having a good day.’ They would walk you to your car at night to be sure you were safe. They would make sure at holidays that you had food.” In fact, it was a unit clerk who introduced her to her future husband, pediatrician and neonatologist Dr. Christopher Golden. “One of the things that makes Hopkins such a special place is not just the intellectual capital of the faculty but the dedication of the staff, it’s those human relationships that people don’t always see that make a difference for many of us here.” Golden’s principal clinical and research interest is understanding the effects of chronic psychological stress “whether it’s from racism, depression, or environmental influences, and how that increases a person’s risk for diabetes and heart disease.”

Recognizing a correlation between chronic stress and depression and the risk of developing diabetes, she employed the tools of population science to identify novel hormone risk factors as contributors to diabetes. “As a teacher, I wanted to train other physician-scientists how to study the hormonal risk factors in large populations because once you’ve figured out the risk factors, the next question is, how do you develop interventions to change hormonal responses to prevent or treat diabetes?” The system of checks and balances now in place for patients with diabetes throughout the Johns Hopkins Health System resulted directly from Golden’s clinical, research, and educational efforts.

When Freddie Gray was arrested in April 2015, Dr. Golden had been on the faculty for twenty years and executive vice chair of the Department of Medicine for two months. With her department chair’s support, she initiated a Journeys in Medicine discussion series to promote honest dialogue about everyday lived experiences of racial injustices faced by doctors, nurses, administrators, and support staff from minoritized communities. The department also welcomed East Baltimore civic leaders who directed conversations with medical faculty and staff and explained that members of the community sometimes felt they were treated with disrespect when they came into the hospital. They conveyed the community’s willingness to participate in research projects, but admonished, “don’t disappear when it’s over, take the resources, and never tell us what happened.” The series inspired major changes in the Department of Medicine. In her current role as vice president and chief diversity officer for all of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Golden partners with administrative peers on other Hopkins campuses to align their approach to diversity awareness training for all staff and students. “After the murder of George Floyd, we worked together across the university and Johns Hopkins Medicine to understand the contribution of structural racism on society,” she recalls. “Just the concepts: What does structural racism look like in health care, in housing, in education?” Similarly, she and her team collaborate with the Office of Government and Community Affairs to support workforce diversity and health equity initiatives, and frequently testify before legislative committees as content experts on various related subjects. “We need more race and ethnic diversity, but we are making progress,” Golden recognizes. “If you treat everybody the same, inequity will persist because everybody needs something different. We aren’t all starting at the same place.”

Program

Introduction of the Griot	Jerrell Bratcher, BFSA President
Call to the Ancestors	Mr. Gordon “Soorah” Parks, African American Historical Storyteller
Welcome and Introduction of Keynote	Jerrell Bratcher, BFSA President
Keynote Address	Wes Moore, 63rd Governor of the State of Maryland
Musical Selections	Singing Sensation Youth Choir
Invocation	Rev. Dr. Ivan Brooms, Word of Life International Church

Dinner catered by **Yai and Toya Cuisine**

Acknowledgment of the IRB Inductees **Calvin Smith and Lorraine Smith, IRB Co-Chairs**

2024 IRB Inductees:
Governor Wes Moore (Honorary)
First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore (Honorary)
Adriene Breckenridge
Dr. Kenneth M Brown *posthumously*
Honorable Tameika Lunn
Anita Norton

Introduction of Keynote	Jerrell Bratcher, BFSA President
Keynote Speaker	Sherita Hill Golden, MD, MHS
Juneteenth Performances	Brinae Ali and Friends
Acknowledgments & Closing Remarks	Mia Brooms, BFSA Events Director
Celebration through Dance	DJ Rod Madd Flava

Kids’ STEM activities provided by **Center for Educational Outreach**
Balloon designs by **FaceWorks (located in Levering Lounge)**

Thank you to all of the minority and black-owned businesses, vendors, partners, and sponsors for making this program a great success!

Special Thanks

*Thank You to the Small, Minority, and Black-owned businesses
who made this extraordinary program possible!*

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Xquisite Catering LLC (GS 10KSB Alum) <https://www.xquisitecateringllc.com/>
Yai & Toya's Cuisine www.instagram.com/yaiandtoyascuisine

Entertainment:

Singing Sensations Youth Choir, Inc. <https://www.sensationalsingersmd.org/>
Dr. Hollie Hood-Mincey Director
Alexandria "Brinae Ali & Friends" Bradley <http://brinaealimusic.com/>
Mr. Gordon "Soorah" Parks, African American Historical Storyteller
410-655-2118, Gormarpar1@aol.com
DJ Rod Madd Flava "Madd Flava Entertainment" <https://rodmaddflava.com/>
Face Works by Annette Abramson www.faceworksevents.com

Decorations/Florals/Awards:

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Mitchell & Sennaar Communications, Inc., (443) 630-3477, Kamau@mitchellandsennaar.com
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A/V, Communications, and Media:

JHU KIT-CATS
JHU Office of Communications, photographer Will Kirk
Kathryn Pearce freelance writer

*This Juneteenth and beyond, let's honor the past by building a better future, ensuring that the
principles of freedom and equality are reflected in our everyday actions.
Together, we can make a difference all year round.*

*Supporting Black-owned and minority-owned businesses is not just a transaction—
it's a commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.*

