

THE ADVOCATE

*promoting and supporting the recruitment and retention of
underrepresented graduate students*



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT UOFL

This February marks Black History Month. The University of Louisville, along with various affiliate organizations, will be offering related public programming throughout February and March in observation. Visit the event calendar on Page 10 for more information on the events.



Dear Advocate Reader,

The University of Louisville's School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS) is committed to diversity and inclusion. Our goal is to cultivate an enriching graduate experience for all students through education and inclusive excellence. This mission reflects the institution's shared message of "You Belong". Therefore, SIGS strives to ensure that students of all backgrounds, identities and perspectives feel welcomed, supported, and respected.

To that end, *The Advocate* newsletter will serve to inform, engage, and inspire all students, but places continued emphasis on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups. By remaining strategic and intentional about increasing diversity beyond the numbers, *The Advocate* will,

- 1) streamline graduate diversity efforts of students, staff, and faculty at the University of Louisville through research, academic programming and outreach
- 2) share internal and external community opportunities that promote diversity and inclusion in meaningful ways
- 3) centralize graduate diversity efforts to help foster a collaborative culture

We hope that all of our readers will be inspired to join the work and to remain steadfast in helping to spur change in the area of diversity with one student, one staff, and one faculty member at a time.

Latonia Craig, Ed. D.

Director
Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Retention
School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies



"This event gives our students a chance to experience drag and to learn about the artistry and creativity that go into drag from seasoned performers from our community."

*-Brian Buford,
LGBT Center*

PINK 2018 CONTINUES ONE OF UOFL'S LONGEST-STANDING TRADITIONS

Now in its 21st year, PINK is a student-directed, amateur drag show and fundraiser for the LGBT Center that has become one of the university's most established traditions. In fact, it's the longest running student fundraising event on campus.

In addition to providing entertainment, PINK is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff and the broader community to celebrate the rich culture and diversity of UofL's LGBTQ community. Seasoned professionals from Louisville's drag community mentor students who are learning the art of drag for the very first time, which creates a unique space where every performer is celebrated. Some years, faculty and staff are chosen by students to perform as special guests, with past campus favorites like George Howe and Diane Whitlock taking the stage in years past.

"Drag is such a rich tradition and celebration in the LGBT community, but it's often performed in spaces that aren't accessible to students. This event gives our students a chance to experience drag and to learn about the artistry and creativity that go into drag from seasoned performers from our community," said Brian Buford, executive director of the LGBT Center. This year, renovations in the Student Activities Center led director Lisa Gunterman to temporarily relocate the show to PLAY, 1101 East Washington Street. This venue was designed with drag in mind, so it promises to be a very special experience in 2018.

PINK is set for March 30 with doors opening at 7 pm.

For more information, visit Louisville.edu/lgbt or contact Lisa Gunterman at lisa.gunterman@louisville.edu.

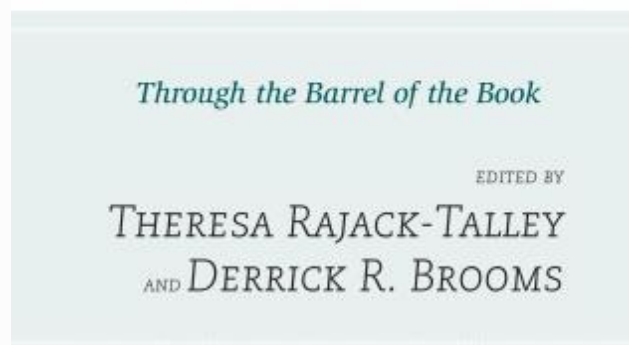
FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: DR. THERESA RAJACK- TALLEY

The Research Project

The book title is “Living Racism: Through the Barrel of the Book” and was published in January 2018 by Lexington Books/Roman & Littlefield. The book is a concrete example of the importance of mentorship in graduate programs, in this case black male mentorship and the resulting scholarship. The ideas and some of the scholarship presented are those of former UofL Professor in Sociology, Dr. Clarence Talley, who crossed over before completing and publishing his research on the nature of race and racism. Chapters in the book are written by several of the MA students he mentored and who went on to complete their own doctorate degrees in various disciplines and in universities across the country. Because of his teachings and mentorship, these scholars remain focused on issues of race and social inequality.

The Book

"Living Racism" is based on the premise that race and racism are well-entrenched elements of US society. The contributors to this volume argue that race and racism are more than mere concepts; instead, they see and treat them as part of the fabric that constitutes and organizes everyday life. Consequently, race and racism are maintained through structures such as social institutions (e.g., schools, the criminal justice system, media, etc.) and are carried by individual actors through racial ideologies and a racial etiquette (beliefs, practices, traditions, and customs) that inform how people relate to and



interact with one another (or not). As expressed throughout this book, the notion of living racism is twofold. On the one hand, living racism denotes the ways in which racism is embodied and active, much like a living organism. On the other hand, living racism connects with the ways that people must navigate racism in their individual and collective lives.

Contributors

Derrick R. Brooms, Cameron Khalfani Herman, Eric A. Jordan, Thomas J. Mowen, Oliver Rollins, Theresa Rajack-Talley, Clarence R. Talley, Willie Jamaal Wright

Editors

Theresa Rajack-Talley is a Professor of Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville

Derrick R. Brooms is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati and former Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Louisville



5 Habits for a Great Semester

*From Dr. Michelle Rodems,
Associate Director for
Graduate Student
Professional Development*

One of the great benefits of the academy is the opportunity to start fresh each semester. Even though a month has come and gone, it's not too late to establish good habits to make this the best semester yet. With that in mind, here are 5 Habits for a Great Semester:

1. MAKE TIME TO PLAN YOUR WEEK.



Set aside an hour a week, usually a Sunday or Monday morning work best, to look ahead to the coming week. Block time for important events, prioritize your biggest tasks, break them down into manageable pieces, and schedule them in. Make sure to build in self-care time as well!



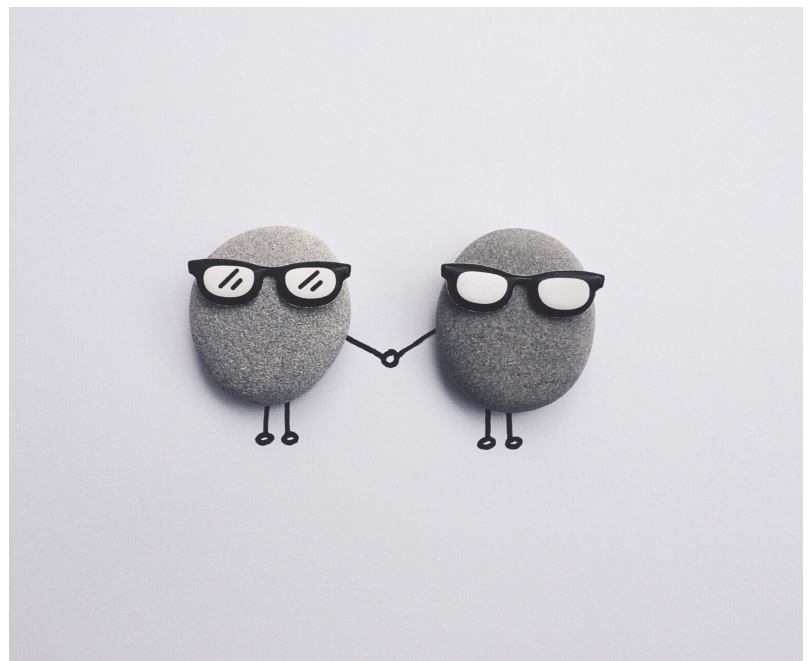
2. GIVE YOURSELF A PEP-TALK.

While it might sound a bit cheesy, there's some great evidence that suggests that being attentive to our self-talk and making sure it's positive can make a difference in our mental health. Think about what you might say to a friend or family member to help them get motivated, and use that same tone and message with yourself.

3. REACH OUT.

A network of support is incredibly important in our well-being and success. Particularly in intense environments with high-expectations, it can feel necessary to isolate ourselves to get everything done, or avoid feeling like we're burdening others.

But simply reaching out to others can help us maintain important relationships, seek out vital assistance, or even be productive. Make a list of 5 people with whom to connect regularly this semester, and contact one a week.



4. READ SOMETHING(FOR FUN).

We have plenty of information to read to keep us abreast of current research, current events, or foundational knowledge, but we all need a break to keep us fresh. Our brains respond to novelty, so don't be afraid to take a break with a comic, a favorite author, a blog or tweet-stream, or an email, letter, or message from a friend or family members.



5. JUST DO 5 (OR 10,OR 20) MINUTES.

Often, the hardest part of accomplishing any task is getting started on it. One great tip for avoiding procrastination or tackling a multi-step project is to commit to doing at least 5, 10, or 20 minutes to the task. Often, once we've begun it, it's easier to stick with it. And even if we abandon it after a short amount of time, we've refreshed our memory about it and can build self-efficacy about putting time toward the task.

The President's Corner

Dear Students,

Welcome to the spring semester! The Multicultural Association of Graduate Students (MAGS) is excited to celebrate Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. The next MAGS event titled "Career-ish" will be held Feb. 27th at 12pm in the Cultural Center Multipurpose Room. This will be a panel discussion focused on the many career opportunities available to graduate students upon graduation. Come learn about everything from applying to doctoral programs to post-docs, faculty, and administrative roles. T-Shirts are coming soon for all MAGS members. Please connect with us on GroupMe, Facebook, and Twitter for more information and events to come throughout the semester.

-Jarrod Druery, M.A.G.S. President



Multicultural Association of Graduate Students

Presents

'career • *ish*

Unsure about your career plans after graduation? Come learn about the spectrum of possibilities as a graduate student.

Panel Featuring:
Dr. Latrica Best
Dr. Adrienne Bratcher
Dr. Latonia Craig

February 27 | 12:00 PM

Cultural Center Multipurpose Room

Lunch Provided

Please RSVP @

<https://goo.gl/forms/QC2pZsv0ayF5g7Wk1>



Multicultural Association
of Graduate Students

GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Greetings! I am Tytianna Wells Smith, founder of Honey Tree Publishing, LLC, an organization that offers multicultural books and educational programs to schools and community centers across the country.

As the author and illustrator of the 4-volume children's book series, "Sweet Pea and Sugar Tea's Country Family Adventures: A Collection of African-American Poems", and "The Healing Tree: A book of poetry, prose, meditations & affirmations", I enjoy teaching and learning from culturally diverse students during our interactive and curriculum-based programs. Our programs include performative storytelling, character-education, STEAM, creative writing, and student book publishing that correspond to National Core Content Standards and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Working with children and youth of all ages have always been a passion of mine, especially when it comes to telling empowering personal stories of healing, growth, and transformation. This calling



to become an educator and advocate for children and families drives my ambition as a doctoral student in Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) where I am conducting research that explores the history and evolution of the Black homeschool movement.

When I am not in a classroom, you can find me spending quality time with family, traveling internationally, twirling on ice or jam skating at the roller rink, singing to my gypsy cat, Sirèlla, and helping my husband serve our delicious chemically-crafted liquid nitrogen ice cream, Nice Cream. I am also a member of Bridge Kids International and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. To learn more about our books, programs, and services, visit us at www.honeytreepublishingus.com

"Working with children and youth of all ages have always been a passion of mine, especially when it comes to telling empowering personal stories of healing, growth, and transformation."

4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE DIVERSITY

Given the demographic shifts in the United States over the past few decades, the population of students entering higher education has been and will be increasingly diverse. However, the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in graduate education in the United States has widely been identified as problematic. The persistent need to connect graduate students to their university community becomes crucial in the efforts to retain students of color. The School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS) has made intentional efforts to recruit, support, and retain our

underrepresented graduate student population. Some of these results have been predicated on programming that celebrates our underrepresented graduate student population. Since Spring 2015, SIGS has celebrated its underrepresented graduate student population's graduating class at their annual Celebration of Excellence in Graduate Diversity event. All underrepresented graduate students eligible to receive their Master's degree, Doctoral degree- or who have attained Doctoral degree candidacy for the 2017-2018 year (completed coursework and comps) will be celebrated at this event.



Student participants will receive University of Louisville certificates of completion, a small award acknowledging their accomplishment, and more. Additionally, Ph.D. graduates will get a unique opportunity to share their academic journey and participate in a special tribute to their mentor who helped them along the way in our Ph.D. Mentor/Mentee Pinning Ceremony. For more information, contact Dr. Latonia Craig (latonia.craig@louisville.edu) for more details.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, May 9th, 2018

4:00 pm-6:00 pm

University of Louisville

Ekstrom Library,

Chao Auditorium

Louisville, KY 40292

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Empowerment: Making and Shaping History"

*Gheens Science Hall & Rauch Planetarium
02/17, 02/18, 02/24 @ 6 pm*

"A Salute to African American Athletes: Trailblazers Who Broke Color Barriers in College Sports"

*Yearlings Club
02/19 @ 4 pm*

UofL African American Theatre: "Fabulation or the Re-education of Undine"

*Thrust Theatre Studio Arts Building
02/23 - 03/04 @ 3 pm & 8 pm*

"Empowerment: Making and Shaping History"

*Gheens Science Hall & Rauch Planetarium
02/18, 02/19, 02/25, 02/26 @ 2 pm*

Annual Conference on the Black Family

*Louisville Central Community Center
02/23 - 02/24*

"Loving"

*Main Library
02/25 @ 3 pm*

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE TO *THE ADVOCATE*?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Article length should be approximately 500 words or fewer
- Include at least one picture (with a caption)
- Include (separately) information about the author (program, department, education, etc.)
- Please submit as either a PDF or Word document
- Submit articles by April 9, 2018 to sigsdiv@louisville.edu for our May issue
- Please note that submission DOES NOT guarantee publication