Student Editors: African American Studies Public Scholarship Course

This special edition was co-edited by the spring 2019 African American Studies Public Scholarship class. Students were put in charge of procuring submissions, reviewing submissions, editing submissions and formatting them for publication. AFAM 399, Public Scholarship, is an AFAM course dedicated to student engagement with the Race & Pedagogy Institute. This semester the course dedicated its focus to creating a student edition of the Race & Pedagogy Journal that would showcase the 2018 Race & Pedagogy National Conference, the role of students in 2018 and the conferences prior, and the written work of current and past students. The following is a list of student co-editors for this special student edition.

My name is Blake Bouligny. I am currently a junior at the University of Puget Sound where I am majoring in Business Administration and minoring in African American Studies. I was born and raised in sunny Los Angeles, California, with my older brother. I was an active student on my high school campus participating in track and field, volleyball, and cheerleading. I was also a member of Jack and Jill of America Inc., Pasadena Chapter, where I assumed leadership roles for 4 years. Transitioning from LA to college has been one of the most difficult changes I have encountered in my life. Nevertheless, without this change I would not have noticed how strong and resilient I am as a student and overall person. Being a part of African American Studies 399-Public Scholarship has not only given me the opportunity to enhance my critical thinking skills, but, it has allowed me to take part in discussions that are not readily available in other classes. This course provides a comfortable space to speak freely, without judgment.

My name is Clare Byrne and I am a Junior at the University of Puget Sound. I am majoring in Communications and minoring in African American Studies. My motivation for both these areas of study is to understand how to better understand and be able to interpret the complicated social sphere in which I am a part of. I chose to minor in African American studies so I can be more informed of my positionality. As my professor, Dr. Brackett told us "you gotta do the work". So I am in African American Studies to do the work. On campus I am also a part of the Luau that preforms once a year in the spring. To learn various traditional dances.
Grace Eberhardt is a junior at the University of Puget Sound and is double majoring in African American Studies and Biology, and emphasizing in Bioethics. She came into college knowing she would pursue the sciences, but by sophomore year, she found passion and sanity in taking African American Studies classes alongside her STEM classes. She has now taken an interdisciplinary approach to her education and has earned the Richards Bangs Collier Interdisciplinary Research Grant for this summer and has helped developed a quarter unit interdisciplinary class with two professors that will be offered in fall 2019. Through African American Studies classes she has learned about her identity as a biracial woman and systemic injustices people of color face.

Jade Herbert is a multifaceted, African American Woman from Oakland, California who moved to Tacoma, Washington to continue her higher education. She is now a Sophomore at the University Of Puget Sound where she is double majoring in Psychology and African American Studies. Jade is a Posse Scholar, mentor, researcher, public speaker, and much more. She naturally fills leadership roles that demonstrate her dedication to learning, helping people, and encouraging self-growth. Jade has a lifelong passion of working closely with and for marginalized communities, such as communities of color and low-income communities. This started when she lived in Oakland, and now continues in Washington. She excels in interpersonal relationships, where she can lend her voice and strength to all. Jade is a people person and adapts to the environment she finds herself in. She learns best through creating close relationships with everyone around her, regardless of identity or background.

She has been described as having an innate empathy for all and a deep-rooted love for all, which is clearly demonstrated through her tenacity for the work she does.

My name is Jo Godgell, and I am a junior at the University of Puget Sound, majoring in African American Studies as well as Sociology and Anthropology. In my time at Puget Sound, I have learned more than I thought imaginable about myself, my potential, my power, my privilege, and my ability to make change on multiple levels, especially in my own perspectives and actions. My experience in the African American Studies program has taught me innumerable lessons, perhaps the most important of which has been learning to recognize and situate my own positionality in my scholarship, the classroom, and everyday life. Since being an AFAM major, I have had the surreal opportunities to be involved in the 2018 Race & Pedagogy National Conference, to engage with the Race & Pedagogy Institute and its community partners, to form a community through membership in the Student Association for the Race & Pedagogy Institute, and, now, to help support and lead this club as president. I am humbled, honored, and in awe of these opportunities to work with individuals and organizations that inspire me every day to hold

My name is Fiona Gredvig. I am a senior at the University of Puget Sound and double majoring in African American Studies and United States Politics and Government. I am originally from Portland, Oregon and have always called Oregon or Washington my home. In my education at Puget Sound, I have learned the valuable practice of how to think critically. I have also developed a love for research, which I’ve been able to do much of in my African American Studies courses this semester. Also in my time here, I have continued my love for music by working at the radio station on campus, KUPS The Sound. I am looking forward to graduating this May and continuing my education in the real world!
My name is Brie Williams. I am a current Senior at the University of Puget Sound, a double major in African American Studies (AFAM) and Psychology, and I am currently enrolled in the AFAM Public Scholarship course. During my time in this Public Scholarship course, I have been able to grapple with new concepts concerning public education, discrimination, and general knowledge both individually and as a class. Throughout the semester, I have worked on a public platform in which I can demonstrate the learning and work I have done to further understand public scholarship. My e-portfolio is focused on social issues concerning black women, social identity and positionality, segregation and other forms of discrimination, and how public scholarship can be used as a tool for knowledge and positive change.

My name is Sarah Putulin and I am a student at the University of Puget Sound. I am from Palo Alto, California, pursuing a major in Communication Studies and a minor in Chinese. I chose this university because it was far enough from home but close enough where the plane ticket is cheap enough if I wanted to. I love how green Washington State is compared to California, thank god the rain. The University of Puget Sound has given me an invaluable education, one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I have learned more about my identity and the world I live in through critical discussions in class than I probably would have at a bigger school. I greatly appreciate this university and all it has done to enrich my life.

My name is Gray Sorensen and I am a student at the University of Puget Sound. I am the oldest of two daughters born and raised in Portland Oregon. I spent my entire life in Portland Oregon until I moved to Tacoma, Washington to attend the University of Puget Sound. I am a Spanish and African American Studies double major with a minor in Sociology and Anthropology. My first African American Studies course was the first course I took in college in which I felt truly engaged. For the first time I was producing work I was proud of and felt engaged in a way I had never felt before. The work I was doing felt important and because of this I chose to continue my education within the African American Studies program. The African American Studies 399 Public scholarship course is an extension of this work. It is work that is important for both me, the Puget Sound community, and anyone else affected by the issues discussed. The accessibility of public scholarship ensures that the usual gatekeepers of knowledge do not have power of the work published within the field.

Issue Editor

LaToya T. Brackett, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, African American Studies, and the Race & Pedagogy Institute

Professor Brackett teaches the African American Studies Public Scholarship course. She is the first professor to teach the course since its inception in 2017. Her goal for the course is to ensure that students gain insight about public scholarship through course readings, discussions and peer collaboration. Most importantly she incorporates some hands on experience for each semester allowing for her students to engage in Public Scholarship. This semester her students became digital co-editors for the Race & Pedagogy Journal, a prime example of public scholarship.