

TULANE UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS:

THE 2ND BIENNIAL

**BLACK WOMEN'S  
HEALTH CONFERENCE**



VIOLENCE,

TRAUMA,

RESILIENCE,

RECOVERY

VIOLENCE,

TRAUMA,

RESILIENCE,

RECOVERY

VIOLENCE,

TRAUMA,

RESILIENCE,

RECOVERY



**VIOLENCE,  
TRAUMA,  
RESILIENCE,  
RECOVERY**

FACTORS IN BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH



# **Congratulations**

**To The**

**Black Women's Health Task Force at Tulane University**

**On your**

## **2nd Biennial Black Women's Health Conference**

*"When we come to it  
We must confess that we are the possible  
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world  
That is when, and only when  
We come to it."  
Maya Angelou*

**FROM**

### **THE MYSTIC KREWE OF FEMME FATALE**

#### **Board of Directors**

**Gwendolyn Rainey – President**

**Sharlayne Prevost, Esq – Vice President**

**Lisa Diggs – Treasurer**

**Bambi Hall – Corresponding Secretary**

**Joan Rainey, RN – Parliamentarian**

**Takeisha Davis, MD – Board Member**

**Yvonne Mitchell Grubbs – Secretary**

**Ann Marie Allen – Financial Secretary**

**Catherine Phipps – Chaplain**

**Kimberly Early McGinnis – Historian**

**Michele Hayes- Board Member**

*Femme Fatale - A mysterious and seductive woman whose charms ensnare her lover in bonds of irresistible desire. For  
More Information Visit [MKFemmeFatale.org](http://MKFemmeFatale.org)*

## **BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH TASK FORCE AT TULANE UNIVERSITY WELCOMES CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Four years ago, a group of faculty and staff from Tulane University and community organizers working in Metro New Orleans convened to brainstorm ways to organize conscious thought and purposeful action toward improving health outcomes for black women and girls. The group was driven, in part, by alarming disparity statistics that characterize the health and wellbeing of black women and girls in comparison with other groups. But we were also motivated by the longer history of struggle for human rights, civil rights, and equal protection under the law, which shows that strategic coordination of people working within and outside academia has always played a vital role in inspiring, supporting, and sustaining mass efforts toward changing and improving health outcomes for people of color. With the pioneering efforts of organizations such as the Black Women's Health Imperative and the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies as models, the Black Women's Health Task Force at Tulane University was founded on a philosophy of awareness-raising and results-oriented action.

Biennially, the Black Women's Health Task Force at Tulane University hosts a conference in New Orleans, Louisiana that gives practitioners, academics, community activists, and community members the opportunity to come together and formulate a common vocabulary for fostering black women's health and wellness. This year's theme, *Violence, Trauma, Resilience, Recovery: Factors in Black Women's Health*, aims to foster dialogue about the determinants and ramifications of violence as well as the implications and relevance of views on recovery and resilience for health theory, research, and practice centered on black women and girls.

While in attendance, we encourage you to sample other aspects of our culture that makes biennially convening the Black Women's Health Conference in New Orleans both necessary and divine. Outside of the Heart of the French Quarters, choice restaurants and fresh entertainment and education can be found at: *Sassafras of New Orleans*, 2500 Leon C. Simon; *Mondo's*, 900 Harrison Avenue; *Bennachin's*, 1212 Royal Street; *Snug Harbor*, 626 Frenchmen Street; *Li'l Dizzy's Café*, 1500 Esplanade Avenue; *Dish on Hayne*, 9734 Hayne Blvd; the Community Book Center, 2523 Bayou Road; and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, 925 Camp Street.

Thank you for your participation and contributions to advancing the vision and mission of the Black Women's Health Conference Task Force at Tulane University.

Carolyn Barber-Pierre, Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs/Intercultural Life  
Michael Cunningham, Associate Provost, Center for Engaged Learning & Teaching, Professor of Psychology and African & African Diaspora Studies  
L. Faye Grimsley, Associate Professor, Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences  
Catherine G. Haywood, Community Service Program Manager, School of Public Health  
Marva Lewis, Associate Professor, School of Social Work  
Nghana Lewis, Associate Professor of English and African & African Diaspora Studies  
Deborah Love, Vice President & Special Assistant to the President, Office of Institutional Equity  
Lisa Molix, Associate Professor of Psychology  
Martha Pitts, Graduate Student, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge  
Rheneisha Robertson, Executive Director, Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies  
Gian Smith, Artist & Community Activist

# VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, RECOVERY: FACTORS IN BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH

## 2014 BWH CONFERENCE SPONSORS



*Educating undergraduate women for leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



**Louise & Leonard Riggio Endowment Fund**

**Tulane University School of Social Work**

**Program for African & African Diaspora Studies at Tulane University**

**Gender & Sexuality Studies at Tulane**

**Becnel Law Firm, LLC**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



An acclaimed scholar of gender, race, and the law, and the author of five books and several dozen articles, Dorothy Roberts is currently Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is also jointly appointed in the Department of Sociology. Her research in law and public policy focuses on issues in public health, bioethics, and social justice, especially as they impact the lives of women, children, and African Americans. Among her most celebrated works are: *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (1997) and *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Crete Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2011).

A book signing in the atrium of Riverside I & II will follow Professor Roberts' address.

# SCHEDULE

**Friday, June 13, 2014**

**10:30AM-12:00PM** Registration **Atrium/Riverside I&II**

**12:00PM** Welcome **Riverside I & II**

Deborah Love, JD Vice President and Special Assistant to the President, Office of Institutional Equity, Tulane University

Michael Cunningham, PhD Professor of Psychology, Associate Provost, Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching

Judy Reese Morse, MPA Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff, City of New Orleans

## CONCURRENT SESSION I

**12:30-1:45PM**

Panel 1.

Moderator:

Lisa Molix, PhD

**Cottonmill**

Sarah Mughal, MPH “Like It Never Happened: A Critical Review of the Application of the Resiliency Concept in Preventing Longterm Effects of Child Maltreatment”

Natalie Burke “‘But Why?’: Transforming Perspectives for Action to Support Black Women and Healthy, Resilient Communities”

**1:00-2:00PM**

Workshop 1.

**Bienville**

Carey Yazeed, LCSW “Who Does She Think She Is?: African-American Women and Traumatic Relationships”\*

*\*This workshop has been approved for Continuing Education Units for social workers and counselors.*

## CONCURRENT SESSION II

**2:15-3:30PM**

Panel 2.

Moderator:

Marva Lewis, PhD

**Cottonmill**

Haile Eshe Cole “Dying to Live: Maternal and Infant Health Disparities for Black Women”  
Kellee Coleman



Nicole Deggins, CNM, MSN, MPH “Reclaiming Birth as a Rite of Passage to Prevent and Heal Trauma”

**3:00-4:00PM**

Workshop 2.

**Bienville**

Charnell Covert

“They Called Me HeLa: The Power of Herstorical and Contemporary Health Narratives and Liberation Theater in Black Women’s Holistic Healing & Recovery”

### SYMPOSIUM

**4:15-6:00PM**

**Riverside I & II**

*An Interdisciplinary Look at Racism-Based Stress & Pregnancy Outcomes for African American Women: Theory and Research\**

Moderator: Denese Shervington, MD, MPH

Dianne Dunn

“Undoing the Intersectionality of Race, Gender, & Class”

Marva Lewis, PhD

“Development of a Psychological Measure of Racism-Based Stress for Pregnant African American Women”

Katherine Theall, PhD

“Institutional and Perceived Racism and Pregnancy Outcomes: Findings from National and Local Research”

Amy Zapata, MPH

“A Public Health Agenda to Address Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality”

*\*This symposium has been approved for Continuing Education Units for social workers and counselors.*

**Saturday, June 14, 2014**

**7:00-8:00AM**

Morning Aerobics\*  
Instructor: Sallie Green

**Riverside III**

*\*This activity is sponsored by the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale.*

**8:00-9:00AM**

Registration

**Atrium/Riverside I & II**

### CONCURRENT SESSION III

**9:00-10:15AM**

Panel 3.

Moderator:

Faye Grimsley, PhD

**Bienville**

Cherise Charleswell, MPH

“The Black Female Body: A Site of Global Exploitation”



Tim Willcutts “Reading the Incest Taboo as Structural Touchstone in Light of Familial Sexual Abuse”

**9:30-10:30AM**

**Antonine**

Workshop 3.

Staci Young, PhD

“The Sisters Project: Helping Women Exit the Violence of Prostitution”\*

*\*This workshop has been approved for Continuing Education Units for social workers and counselors.*

#### CONCURRENT SESSION IV

**10:30-11:45AM**

**Cottonmill**

Panel 4.

Moderator:

Michael Cunningham, PhD

Barbara J. Haile, DSW  
Maritza Soto

“Triple Jeopardy: Impact of Race, Gender & Economics on HIV/AIDS in Africa American Women”

John Chambers, PhD  
Maritza Soto

“Violence against Latina Women: A Different Cultural Perspective”

**10:45-11:45AM**

**Antonine**

Workshop 4.

Deon Haywood

Yolande Cadore

“When the War on Drugs becomes a War on Women: Sisterhood, Strength, and the Struggle for Justice”

#### KEYNOTE LUNCHEON

**12:00-1:30PM**

**Riverside I & II**

Keynote Address: “The New Biopolitics of Black Women’s Health”\*

Dorothy Roberts, JD

George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology and the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights

*\*This address has been approved for Continuing Legal Education credit for Louisiana licensed attorneys.*

#### CONCURRENT SESSION V

**2:00-3:15PM**

**Cottonmill**

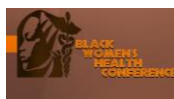
Panel 5.

Moderator:

Deborah Love, JD

Geneva Brown, JD

“Ain’t I a Victim: Intersectionality of Race, Class, and Gender in the Courtroom”\*



Stephanie S. Franklin, JD “Black Girls & the Juvenile Justice System: Literacy, Identity, and Mental Health”

*\*This panel has been approved for Continuing Legal Education credit for Louisiana licensed attorneys.*

**2:00-3:00PM**

**Antonine**

Workshop 5.

Veronica Franklin, EdD “Factors that Influence African American Women’s Decisions to Pursue Counseling”\*

*\*This workshop has been approved for Continuing Education Units for social workers and counselors.*

Workshop 6.

**Bienville**

Ashana Bigard

“Routine and Unchecked: Beyond Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—Interrogating Violence against Black Women”

Latona Giwa

Shana griffin

### CONCURRENT SESSION VI

**3:30-4:45**

**Cottonmill**

Panel 6.\*

Moderator:

Marva Lewis, PhD

Akoso McFadgion, MSW, PhD

“Innovative Strategies to Address Probable Traumatic Brain Injury & Post Concussive Symptoms among Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence”

Kimya Barden, PhD

“African American Young Adult Racial Identity: the Implications of Community Based Violence”

**3:30-5:00PM**

**Bienville**

Workshop 7.\*

Takeisha Charles Davis, MPH, MD “Step Up & Speak Out: An Interactive Workshop for Youth”

*\*This panel and workshop have been approved for Continuing Education Units for social workers and counselors.*

### EVALUATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Moderators: Black Women’s Health Task Force at Tulane

**5:15-5:45PM**

**Riverside I & II**



## BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS

**Barden, Kimya, PhD.** Kimya Barden is an Assistant professor at Northeastern Illinois University's Inner City Studies Education program. Dr. Barden earned her Ph.D. in social work at Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work. A Chicago native, she is a youth program developer and qualitative scholar. Her research interests include African American young adult development, racial socialization processes, and youth violence management. She worked as a social worker engaged in mental health consultation with both Chicago Public Schools and Head Start; and has over 10 years of participatory research experience with children, families, and schools. In addition, Dr. Barden is a co-founding board member of Whitney Young Dolphins Making a Difference (WYDMAD), a non-profit mentor organization dedicated to supporting the cultural capital advancement of students enrolled in Chicago Public Schools.

**Bigard, Ashana.** Ashana Bigard is a life-long resident of New Orleans, mother of three, social justice organizer, and a long-time advocate for the health and wellness needs of children and families in Louisiana. Ashana currently advocates for the rights of students and parents in New Orleans' complex, demoralizing, and rapidly privatizing public education systems through her leadership with the Community Education Project of New Orleans and as an adult ally and advisor to United Students of New Orleans. In addition to education equity activism, Ashana organizes with the Women's Health & Justice Initiative and for extended housing affordability opportunities for low-income families. Ashana has worked with a diverse range of youth, education, and juvenile justice-based organizations, including the New Orleans Parents Organizing Network, Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children, and Agenda For Children.

**Brown, Geneva, JD.** Geneva Brown is a Professor of Law at Valparaiso University School of Law. She directs the Domestic Violence Clinic and co-directs the Post Conviction Clinic. Professor Brown received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1993. She began her career at the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office where she represented indigent clients in the criminal justice system for nine years. She later obtained her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2004 from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Professor Brown also taught at UNLV Boyd School of Law. Professor Brown's scholarship focuses on the impact of race and gender in the criminal justice system. Prof. Brown has written on numerous topics that involve the nexus of race and gender including felon disenfranchisement, battered mothers, prostitution and sex trafficking. Prof. Brown is a member of the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, American Society of Criminology, the Clinical Legal Education Association and the American Bar Association.

**Burke, Natalie.** Natalie Burke is President and CEO of CommonHealth ACTION (CHA), a national, nonprofit public health organization. As President and CEO of CHA, Ms. Burke provides visionary leadership and effective direction of CHA's organizational development, board management, operations, capacity building, and human resources. A relationship specialist, Ms. Burke builds and sustains successful, long-term interactions with philanthropy, elected officials, corporations, community-based organizations, and public health partners. Since the mid-1990s, Ms. Burke has held leadership positions in public health organizations focused on community-based program design, implementation, and advocacy, non-profit management, development and fundraising, facilitation/strategic planning, adult education, communications,



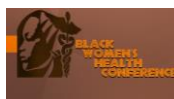
and staff development. Ms. Burke's public health experience includes technical assistance and capacity building for numerous national and local organizations/agencies—including Kaiser Permanente, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the National NAACP, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation—as well as state and local agencies. Prior to co-founding CHA, Ms. Burke managed the Turning Point National Program Office at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in Washington, DC.

**Cadore, Yolande.** Yolande Cadore, the Drug Policy Alliance's Director of Strategic Partnerships, has worked with grassroots organizations in New York City for more than ten years. Early in her career, she worked for the Working Families Party as a Brooklyn canvasser, and she later worked as an organizer with the grassroots organizing and advocacy group, ACORN. Following her time at ACORN, she spent four years as the lead organizer at New York State Tenants and Neighbors, a statewide housing organization. Recognizing the connections between poverty and environmental degradation, such as low-quality housing and poor health, Yolande joined WE ACT for Environmental Justice, where she was the director of community organizing for six years. In that position, she developed the organization's outreach and advocacy campaigns. Most recently, she was the national field director for The Praxis Project.

**Chambers, John, PhD.** John Chambers is a Professor of Psychology at Florida A&M University. He received the M.A. & Ph.D. degrees in Experimental Psychology from the University of Cincinnati and completed post-doctoral research training at the Center for Research in Human Learning at the University of Minnesota, the Menninger's Foundation Clinic in Topeka, KA, and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD. Dr. Chambers' academic training and research are in the areas of health psychology, research design and statistical analyses. His research interests, funded research, and publications are in the areas of stress management and HIV/AIDS with a focus on community intervention and education.

**Charleswell, Cherise, MPH.** Cherise Charleswell is a Biocultural Anthropologist, Womanist, author/writer, Public health Researcher/practitioner, and host & producer of the *Womanist Views* radio show, as well a Segment Producer and CoHost of *Feminist Magazine* on KPFFK 90.7/Pacifica Radio. Her primary interests include epidemiological research, particularly the analysis of health inequities, women's studies and health, social determinants of health, and Caribbean studies. Ms. Charleswell also serves as the President Elect of the Southern California Public Health Association, Membership Chair of the Epidemiology section of the American Public Health Association, the Women's Issues Chair of The Hampton Institute, and Co-Chair of the National Women's Studies Association Social Justice Task Force. She also sits on the Governing Board of the Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues. Her current book projects focus on women and marginalized populations: "*The Link between Food, Culture, & Health Inequities in the African Diaspora*" and *Walking in the Feminine: A Stepping into Our Shoes Anthology*.

**Cole, Haile Eshe.** Haile Eshe Cole is a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Austin in the Department of Anthropology. She has conducted research on alternatives to incarceration for mothers and their children and is currently researching reproductive health, access, and justice in the state of Texas. All of her research centers the experiences of mothers of color, in particular black women. She is a trained doula and birth educator and has been organizing with



Mamas of Color Rising in Austin, TX for the past four years on reproductive health and birth issues for women of color. She also is the mother of a beautiful four year old girl.

**Coleman, Kellee.** Kellee Coleman is currently an undergraduate student and coordinator of Vibrant Woman/Mama Sana prenatal clinic, a project of Mamas of Color Rising. The clinic works to provide holistic and culturally specific prenatal care, birth companions, midwifery services, prenatal fitness and nutrition services to lower income Black and Latina women in the Austin, Texas area.

**Covert, Charnell.** Charnell Covert teaches at CUNY City College and has also served as discussant in the “Narrative, Health, Social Justice Faculty Seminar” at Columbia University. She is co-founder of the *Phenomenal Women Mentor Partnership*, where she practiced social justice health education and health arts work with young teen women of African descent for several years in New York City. She is also former chair and founder of Women of Color for Health Justice in Boston; and founder of S.I.S (Sister in Solidarity) Healing Circle- Uptown Chapter. Additionally, Ms. Covert is a working artist and executive director of her own social justice and womanist performance and education consulting firm, Covert Consulting. Ms. Covert is a scholar, artist, activist, and community organizer who has dedicated her life’s work to Black women’s and Black youth’s liberation, healing, and freedom of voice and expression through Artivism and education.

**Davis, Takeisha Charles, MPH, MD.** Dr. Takeisha Charles Davis holds an MD from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and an MPH from Harvard University School of Public Health. Dr. Davis is currently Assistant State Health Officer, Medical Director at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health.

**Deggins, Nicole, CNM, MSN, MPH.** Nicole Deggins is a midwife, author, and educator with more than 19 years of experience in women's health care, advocacy, and empowerment. She has practiced as a midwife in Washington DC and Mississippi and has worked as a labor and delivery nurse in numerous public and private settings throughout the country. Ms. Deggins is dedicated to bringing transparency to childbirth education. She provides a unique insider’s view that helps women understand their rights as they navigate the medical obstetrical system. As the founder and CEO of Sista Midwife Productions, LLC ([www.sistamidwife.com](http://www.sistamidwife.com)) she acts as a virtual midwife, pregnancy coach and doula trainer providing education through one on one support, teleconferences, webinars, and live workshops. No matter where or how a woman plans to birth, Ms. Deggins ultimate goal is to help her Birth Something Beautiful.

**Dunn, Dianne.** Dianne Dunn is a core trainer and organizer with The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond. She has worked with the Institute since its inception in 1980 as one of its founding members. She was married to co-founder Dr. Jim Dunn, and worked with Jim for many years to see his dream of a training institute become a reality. For many years, she helped build the infrastructure of The People’s Institute. She now devotes her work to her first love, the organizing, training, working with people nationally and internationally and doing curriculum development.

**Franklin, Stephanie, Esq.** Stephanie Franklin is the Founder, President & CEO of Mecca’s Place, Inc, and the Franklin Law Group, P.C. Mecca’s Place, Inc, is a global empowerment



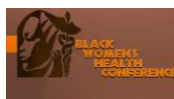
center that provides education, policy advocacy & reform and healing and empowerment services for women and children. Its sister organization, the Franklin Law Group, P.C. has provided legal representation to over 4,000 children who have been abused and neglected in five counties in the state of Maryland. Together with the Franklin Law Group, Mecca's Place understands the pressing needs of children – particularly Black girls – who are marginalized and absent from serious discussion in many venues, particularly mental health.

**Franklin, Veronica, Ed.D.** Veronica Franklin holds an Ed. D. in Counseling Education and Supervision from Argosy University, an MA in Clinical Counseling, and a M.Ed. in Kinesiology. Dr Franklin is a board certified licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) in the state of Maryland and in Washington D C. She is a member of the American Counselor Association (ACA), Maryland Counseling Association (MCA), and the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences (AABSS). She is also a Fulbright Scholar. Currently, Dr. Franklin is employed as a full-time psychotherapist in Baltimore, MD and operates a private practice in Washington, D. C.

**Giwa, Latona.** **Latona Giwa** is a birth doula, nurse, childbirth educator, and organizer. Her work centers around full spectrum reproductive justice, violence in the birth room, birth disparities for women of color, and marginalization in nursing education. Ms. Giwa cofounded Birthmark Doula Collective in 2010, which aims to empower pregnant and parenting families through doula services, advocacy, education, and by opening the first freestanding birth center in the New Orleans area. Ms. Giwa also works as a labor and delivery nurse, and is a member of the Women's Health & Justice Initiative Core Collective.

**griffin, Shana.** Shana griffin is a mother, feminist, researcher, and social justice activist. Her work explores critical issues at the intersection of race and gender-based violence; housing rights and affordability; sexual health and reproductive autonomy; climate justice and sustainable ecologies; gender and disaster vulnerabilities; art and space; and reproductive violence and population control policies. Shana is a co-founder and collective member of the Women's Health & Justice Initiative, and currently serves on the governing body of Critical Ethnic Studies Association and INCITE!'s Color of Violence 4 Conference organizing committee. Shana serves on the Board of Directors' of Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, Women With a Vision, Inc., and Gulf Coast Community Initiatives (formerly the Gulf Coast Fund). She holds a Masters of Arts in Sociology from the University of New Orleans and undergraduate degrees in Sociology and History. Over the past 7 years, Shana's activism and research has focused on challenging punitive social policies, practices, and behaviors that restrict, exploit, regulate, and criminalize the bodies and lives of low-income and working class black women most vulnerable to the violence of poverty, confinement, polluting environments, reproductive legislation, and housing discrimination.

**Haile, Barbara. DSW.** Barbara J. Haile is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at Florida A&M University. She received the D.S.W., in Social Welfare Policy from the University of Pennsylvania; the M.S.W. in Health Care Policy and Planning at Howard University; and the M.A. in Sociology at Indiana University. Her current research interests include HIV/AIDS prevention in African American women; she has conducted research, published, and presented scholarly papers in this area.



**Haywood, Deon.** Deon Haywood is the Executive Director of Women With A Vision, Inc., a New Orleans-based community organization founded in 1991 to improve the lives of marginalized women, their families, and communities by addressing the social conditions that hinder their health and well-being. Since Hurricane Katrina, she has led the organization to a vibrant locally-rooted international network addressing the complex intersection of socio-economic injustices and health disparities. In 2009, Deon oversaw the launch of WWAV's NO Justice Project, a campaign to combat the sentencing of women and trans people arrested for street-based sex work under Louisiana's 203-yr-old "crime against nature" felony-level law, which resulted in a federal judicial ruling and the removal of more than 700 women from the sex offender registry.

**Lewis, Marva, PhD.** Marva Lewis is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at Tulane University. Her program of research focuses on the development of culturally valid research methods and measures of racism-based stress during pregnancy, *Colorism* in African American families, and parental acceptance or rejection of children.

**McFadgion, Akosoa, PhD, MSW.** Akosoa McFadgion is the Project Manager for the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program at Howard University. With over 15 years experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research, Dr. McFadgion is an experienced professional committed to conducting culturally-sensitive research in the field of mental health and women of color. She is a former research fellow and research associate for the Center for Disease Control RISE program at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute in the School of Nursing. Her research project was the Afro-Caribbean and African American Women's Health Study, a National Institute of Mental Health study conducted in partnership with the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center and Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing under the direction of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell. She has also conducted research that examines the intersection of HIV, Substance Abuse, and Domestic Violence through the Women Empowered Intervention under the direction of Dr. Tricia Bent-Goodley. She has a particular interest in immunology, the central nervous system, and how these systems are impacted by trauma and affect women's mental health. Dr. McFadgion's research interests also lie at the cross-section of race, religion, trauma, domestic violence, familial experiences, and income and how these factors play a role in the health of women. Dr. McFadgion lives in Washington, DC with her husband and three wonderful children.

**Mughal, Sarah, MPH.** Sarah Mughal is a recent Masters of Public Health graduate from Simon Fraser University. In her work, she advocates for broader analyses of childhood adversity and recovery that consider these experiences in the social and structural contexts in which they occur. Currently, she works in adolescent mental health and suicide prevention in Vancouver, Canada.

**Shervington, Denese, MD, MPH.** Denese Shervington is President and CEO of the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies, a national non-profit public health organization headquartered in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Shervington has a distinguished career in academic psychiatry and public mental health. She splits her time between being the PTSD staff psychiatrist at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies, where she has created a community-based post-Katrina mental health recovery division and directs a federally-funded Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program. She is also a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Tulane University. Dr. Shervington is a graduate of the New York University



School of Medicine; she completed her residency in Psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco.

**Soto, Maritza.** An Afro-Cuban American from Miami, FL, Maritza Soto received her Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology, in 2013, from Florida A&M University. Currently, she is working on her master's degree in Community Psychology at FAMU. Ms. Soto's research interest is in violence against women. Her future goal is to be enrolled in a PhD program in Clinical-Community or Counseling Psychology.

**Theall, Katherine, PhD.** Katherine Theall is Associate Professor and holds the Cecil Usdin Professorship in Women's Health at Tulane University's School of Public Health, Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Theall also directs the Mary Amelia Douglas-Whited Community Women's Health Education Center, which supports innovative, multifaceted approaches to promoting the health of women and their families across the lifespan through community capacity building, health education and prevention, advocacy, leadership development, and research.

**Willcutts, Tim.** Tim Willcutts is a doctoral candidate in the Literature program at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he is beginning a dissertation on 20th century representations of the family and family violence.

**Yazeed, Carey, LCSW.** Carey Yazeed is a licensed clinical social worker in the State of Louisiana. A 1992 graduate of the Tulane University School of Social Work, Ms. Yazeed is a practicing therapist in the Baton Rouge area where she specializes in working with women who have experienced some type of trauma, including sexual abuse, domestic violence, divorce, and abandonment. Ms. Yazeed is also a faculty member of the Bard Early College Program in New Orleans, Louisiana. A former professor of social work at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Ms. Yazeed is a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers, and she is currently pursuing her PhD at Louisiana State University.

**Young, Staci, PhD.** Staci Young is an assistant professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Institute for Health and Society. Dr. Young has extensive experience forming, sustaining, and evaluating community-academic partnerships to improve health. She is a medical sociologist who uses qualitative methodology to investigate how health organizations and systems influence provider behaviors and health outcomes. Her research interests include health professions advocacy for vulnerable patients and populations, the organization of work among health professionals in traditional and community-based clinical settings, and the relationship between the urban environment, acute and chronic life stressors, and health status.

**Zapata, Amy, MPH.** Amy Zapata is Director of Bureau of Family Health, Department of Health & Hospitals Center for Community and Preventive Health, State of Louisiana. Ms. Zapata's work focuses on maternal and child as well as the administration of Louisiana's Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

## 2014 BWH CONFERENCE INTERNS

**Jasmine Lucas** is a rising junior majoring in psychology at Spelman College. Her research interests include investigating the relationship between socioeconomic status and parental involvement and issues of obesity in low-income neighborhoods.

**Bianca Mayo** is a rising senior at University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where she is double majoring in history and philosophy. AT UALR, Mayo serves as President of the Ethics Bowl Team, which recently qualified and competed in the national finals.

**Kathlene Molina** is a rising senior at Hunter College where is she is majoring in political science and women's and gender studies. Her research interests include exploring the limits of political representation for Asian-American and Latina women.

**Taylor Scott** is a rising senior at University of Wisconsin-Madison. A Baton Rouge native, she is the lead organizer of The BellHops, a multi-arts collective at UW that uses black feminist theory to bring together individuals from many different backgrounds to create music, namely blues and hip hop. She is majoring in communication sciences and rhetorical studies.

**Christal Sublett** is a rising senior at University of Houston-Downtown. She is majoring in sociology and is the founder of Beautiful Influence, a non-profit whose mission is to empower women from vulnerable backgrounds through education, transformation, and information.

Is your credit card rate over 10%? Then **you are paying too much.**

## The Low-Rate **Liberty Bank VISA**



---

STATE FARM  
INSURANCE COMPANIES  
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



**JAMES WAGNER, JR.**  
Agent  
299 Belle Terre Boulevard, Suite F  
LaPlace, LA 70068

phone: 985.652.1400 • fax: 985.652.1403

---

JAMES WAGNER SALUTES THE BLACK  
WOMEN'S HEALTH TASK FORCE AT TULANE  
UNIVERSITY ON ITS  
2ND BIENNIAL BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH  
CONFERENCE





# HOME MATTERS BECAUSE THE PEOPLE DO.

There is a rich heritage here in our community, and we have you to thank. It makes us proud to know we've served our neighbors in New Orleans while calling it home for more than 130 years. As you continue to build your legacy, learn how we can help build your financial future at [MassMutual.com](https://www.massmutual.com)



We'll help you get there.®

Dr. Beverly Andry  
Financial Services Professional  
Mamie Favor, JD\*, CFP  
Financial Advisor

One Galleria Boulevard, Suite 909  
Metairie, LA, 70001  
504-299-8971  
[louisiana.massmutual.com](https://louisiana.massmutual.com)

LIFE INSURANCE + RETIREMENT/401(K) PLAN SERVICES + DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE  
LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE + ANNUITIES

MassMutual Financial Group refers to Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) and its affiliated companies and sales representatives. Local sales agencies are not subsidiaries of MassMutual or its affiliated companies. Insurance products issued by MassMutual (Springfield, MA 01111) and its subsidiaries, C.M. Life Insurance Co. and MML Bay State Life Insurance Co. (Enfield, CT 06082). Mamie Favor is a registered representative of and offers securities and investment advisory services through MML Investors Services, LLC. Member SIPC. Supervisory office: One Galleria Boulevard, Suite 909, Metairie, LA 70001. 504-299-8971. \*Not practicing on behalf of MassMutual or MML Investor Services LLC. CRN201501-167901