

28 & 29
OCT, 2022



RELIGION & HBCUs:
HISTORY, MISSION & IMPACT

BLAC FALL 2022 SYMPOSIUM @ RICE UNIVERSITY
FARNSWORTH PAVILION | RMC/LEY STUDENT CENTER



BLACK LEADERSHIP ACROSS CAMPUSES (BLAC)
A JOINT-PROJECT BY CERCL AND THE VUU CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HBCUS



RICE UNIVERSITY
CERCL
*Center for Engaged Research
and Collaborative Learning*



VIRGINIA UNION
UNIVERSITY
CENTER for the STUDY
of HBCUs

Symposium **Fall 2022**

The first in a series of conferences addressing a range of themes that explore the mission and cultural world(s) framed by HBCUs. "Black Leadership Across Campuses" (BLAC) – expands our efforts to foster new generations of impactful leaders and recognizes a need to move beyond individual campuses in ways that serve to dismantle the divide between historical Black institutions of higher education (HBCUs) and predominantly white institutions of higher education (PWIs). The goal is to develop and nurture strategies for fostering generations of academic leadership equipped to address issues of justice demanding attention, and to do this in ways that entail collaboration across HBCUs and PWIs.

For more information visit <https://www.cercl.rice.edu/blac>

Symposium **Schedule**

Guests can attend any or all of the lectures.

DAY 1 | MORNING

Friday, October 28, 2022
Farnsworth Pavilion
RMC /Ley Student Center
Rice University

8:30 AM

Doors Open

9-9:15 AM

Welcome & Introduction
Greetings from VUU

9:15-10:15 AM

Dr. Melanye Price
Prairie View University

10:15-10:20 AM

Transition

10:20-11:20 AM

Dr. Jason Curry
Fisk University

11:20-11:35 AM

Break

11:35 AM -12:35 PM

Dr. Cecil Duffie
Wiley College

DAY 1 | AFTERNOON

Friday, October 28, 2022
Farnsworth Pavilion
RMC /Ley Student Center
Rice University

12:40-2:30PM

Afternoon Break

2:30 PM

Doors Open

2:40-3:40 PM

Dr. Marla Frederick
Emory University

3:40-3:45 PM

Transition

3:45-4:45 PM

Dr. Johnny Hill
Hood Theological Seminary

4:45-5:05 PM

Break

5:05-6:05 PM

Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev
TX Southern Univeristy

DAY 2 | MORNING

Saturday, October 29, 2022
Farnsworth Pavilion
RMC /Ley Student Center
Rice University

8:30 AM

Doors Open

9:00-10:00 AM

Prof. Quincy Rineheart
Morehouse College

10:05-11:05 AM

Dr. Cleve Tinsley
Virginia Union Univeristy

Symposium **Speakers**



DR. MELANYE PRICE

Dr. Melanye Price holds an Endowed Professor of Political Science at Prairie View A&M and served as the principal investigator for the University's African American Studies Initiative, which is funded by the Mellon Foundation. Price is the author of two books: *The Race Whisperer: Barack Obama and the Political Uses of Race* (NYU, 2016) and *Dreaming Blackness: Black Nationalism and African American Public Opinion* (NYU, 2009).

THE GOSPEL OF ASKING QUESTIONS: CREATING A HEALTHY CLIMATE OF SKEPTICISM AT HBCUS

In the wake of freedom, emancipated black Texans—the pioneers of Juneteenth—initiated a different kind of exchange for the unique benefit of the communities they served. They initiated an enduring intellectual and professional exchange that helped lift thousands of black Texans out of poverty. Black church leaders and members of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries took courageous steps to promote the intellectual and professional growth and development of black Texans through academic and vocational programs and institutions in local, regional, and international spaces.



DR. JASON CURRY

Rev. Dr. Jason Richard Curry currently serves as the Dean of the Fisk Memorial Chapel, Director of Religious Life, and Associate Professor of Religion at Fisk University. He has served as Dean of the Fisk Memorial Chapel at Fisk University for approximately eighteen years. Dr. Curry is the author of *Priestly and Prophetic Reflections: A Weekly Devotional from the Fisk Memorial Chapel* (Xlibris Press, 2017) and *Dear Lord Where are You? A Handbook for Students Seeking Christ in College* (Xlibris Press, 2017) among other publications.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY WITHIN AN HBCU COMMUNITY: METHODS AND MODELS OF SUCCESS

The methods of models within the field of Practical Theology as they concern the vocational discernment and spiritual development of students, the resolution of life-cycle challenges experienced by faculty and staff and the existential and spiritual needs of alumni and other off-campus stakeholders will be discussed in relation to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, in general, and Fisk University, in particular. Both the methods and models, which 1) are necessarily informed by perspectives in the natural and social sciences, and 2) have contributed to the sustainability of these institutions may provide insight on how these time-honored institutions may continue to adapt and compete in an every-changing world (i.e., move from surviving to thriving).



DR. CECIL DUFFIE

Rev. Dr. Cecil Andrew Duffie serves as the Dean of the Julius S. Scott, Sr. Chapel of Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. Dr. Duffie's research, which has been presented at Yale University, Trinity College, Howard University, and other institutions, is centered around spiritual formation, and college & university Black chaplaincy in the 21st century.

"WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH!": OUR PAST, PURPOSE & POWER

Religion is a crucial part of Black higher education, especially when it comes to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Religion was always central to the foundation of Black higher education and today that mission is perpetuated by Black religious and spiritual life leaders at HBCUs. When contemplating religion and HBCUs (history, mission, and impact), understanding the leadership of Black religious and spiritual life leaders helps to make meaning for Black leadership in higher education. This study examines the lived experiences of Black religious and spiritual life leaders (deans, chaplains, directors of religious life, and directors of spiritual life) at colleges and universities and places, in context, their past, purpose, and power.



DR. MARLA FREDERICK

Frederick is the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Religion and Culture at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. An anthropologist by training, she is the author and/or co-author of four books and several articles including, *Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith and Colored Television: American Religion Gone Global*, ethnographic studies that examine issues at the intersections of race, religion, activism and media. Frederick has served in numerous capacities in her guilds, including as President of the Association of Black Anthropologists and most recently as president of the American Academy of Religion.

WOMEN, RELIGION AND THE BUILDING OF HBCUS

Telling the story of black institution building enables us to tell a more egalitarian story of black uplift. By turning the focus of our research for a moment away from the charismatic leader (often the male pastor and president) and attending to the everyday people who have helped to make institutions vibrant, we are able to see more fully the types of labor and sacrifice that have undergirded black institutions. Indeed, by looking at the history of several Historically Black Colleges and Universities, this paper asks us to move women, and particularly black women of faith, more to the center of our queries, as they have done much of the unheralded work of bringing these institutions to life.



DR. JOHNNY HILL

Hill currently serves as the Leon W. Watts, II Visiting Scholar in Black Theology and the Black Church at Hood Theological Seminary, and Director of Corporate and Foundation Engagement at North Carolina Central University, a Historically Black College/University, located in Durham, North Carolina. Hill is the author of *Prophetic Rage: A Postcolonial Theology of Liberation* (Eerdmans Publishers, 2013) and *The First Black President: Barack Obama, Race, Politics, and the American Dream* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

FOR TRUTH AND SERVICE: THE RELIGIOUS ORIGINS AND FUTURE OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The purpose of this presentation is to reflect on the religious origins of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, along with the culture and ideologies that have animated their existence since their rise in the 19th Century. For generations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have served a pivotal role in advancing the black freedom struggle with the aspiration of creating a safe harbor and space for blacks to express their full humanity. This presentation will also explore the historical tension with Black colleges disrupting the narrative of white supremacy concerning the legitimacy and capacity of black educational pursuits, while addressing the critique of black colleges as fostering segregated educational systems, post *Brown v. Board Education*.



DR. KAREN KOSSIE-CHERNYSHEV

A fifth generation Texas and native Houstonian, Kossie-Chernyshev is three times a graduate of Rice University and the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in History from a Texas institution. She also holds an M.A. in Francophone African Literature from Michigan State University. Her edited works include *Angie Brown: A Jim Crow Romance* (Outskirts Press, 2017) and *Recovering Five Generations Hence: The Life and Writing of Lillian Jones Horace* (Texas A & M University Press, 2013), which showcase selected overlook works by Texas's earliest known African American woman novelist, Lillian Jones Horace (1880-1965).

FROM TRIANGULAR TRADE TO PENTAGONAL PYRAMID: INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN TEXAS: 1870S-1950S

Discussions of African American history often begin with a focus on the Atlantic Slave Trade and the resulting dispersal of people of African descent throughout the Americas, including "Tejas, Mexico," now Texas, United States of America. In the wake of freedom, emancipated black Texans—the pioneers of Juneteenth—initiated a different kind of exchange for the unique benefit of the communities they served. Black church leaders and members of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries took courageous steps to promote the intellectual and professional growth and development of black Texans through academic and vocational programs and institutions in local, regional, and international spaces. Drawing on a variety of fresh digital repositories, the paper showcases selected dynamic intellectual exchanges among professional, educational, and religious organizations that bore significant fruit in Texas during the period studied.



PROF. QUINCY RINEHEART

Rev. Prof. Quincy James Rineheart is an African American religious historian, Rustinian scholar, theologian, academic activist, and teacher. He is a Doctor of Philosophy Candidate at the Chicago Theological Seminary. He is writing a dissertation entitled "Recovering Bayard Rustin: The Black Quaker Spirituality of a Civil Rights Architect." He specializes in African American historiography, Black Religious History, Black Queer Theory, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and Black Masculinity and Cultural Studies. Rineheart serves as the Associate Campus Minister and Adjunct Professor of Africana Studies at Morehouse College.

BAYARD RUSTIN: A PARADIGM FOR RETHINKING SEXUALITY AND RELIGION ON HBCU CAMPUSES

In this paper, I will use Bayard's life as a paradigm for thinking about what I refer to as HBCU violence through: (1) a discourse for how a reading of Black Queer figures can help to implement strategies that are praxis orientated towards building inclusive classrooms for those students who are members of the LGBTQ community, (2) how paradigms of black LGBTQ figures could be presented to the faculty, staff, and administration, and (3) to create spaces of wholeness within college classrooms by developing educational workshops centered on building an inclusive pedagogy. Ultimately, I suggest how Rustin's treatment during the Civil Rights Movement is the same way Black Queer students are treated on HBCU campuses and in college curricula today.



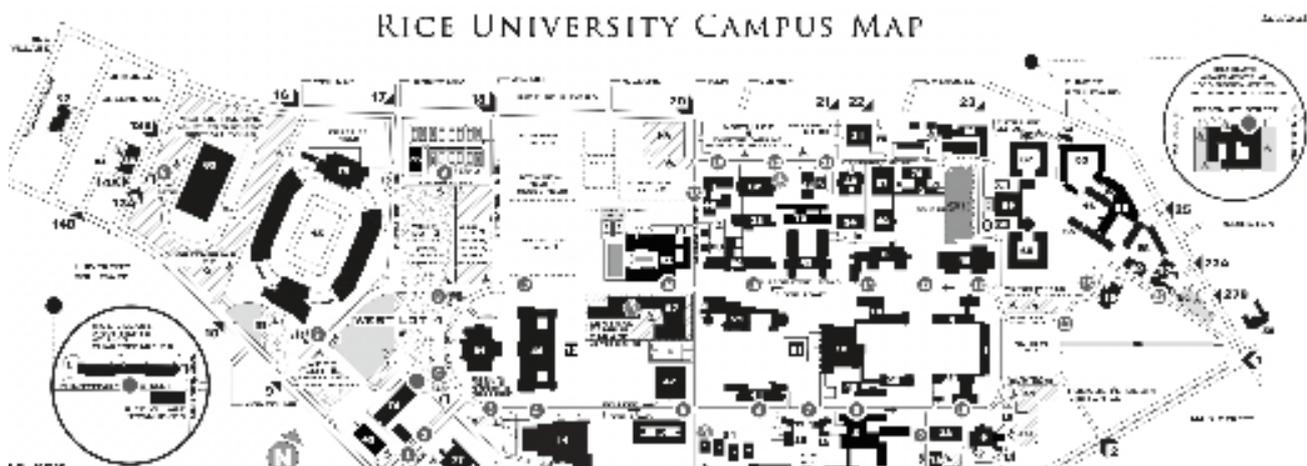
DR. CLEVE TINSLEY

Dr. Cleve V. Tinsley IV is appointed as an Assistant Professor of History and Political Science in the School of Arts and Sciences at Virginia Union University (VUU), where he has also been appointed the inaugural Executive Director of the Center for African-American History and Culture (CAAHC). Trained as a critical theorist of religion and Black culture, he employs interdisciplinary research— informed by humanistic theoretical approaches and methods in the social sciences— to interpret the religious significance and meaning of various African-American formations, freedom struggles, and cultural productions.

RELIGION AND THE SOUL-STRUGGLES OF HBCUS

In the wake of Civil War, religious leaders, local churches, missionaries, and denominations descended across the South to establish seminaries, classrooms, colleges, and even medical schools for newly emancipated Blacks. This paper traces a complex sociocultural history and religious underpinning of HBCU formations, tying them to the explicit modes of Christian orientations and practices in which many are still lodged. It also paints a different portrait of these schools' ongoing "religious-institutional" struggle, arguing that future HBCU faculty and administrative leaders must be attuned to a broader shift and dynamic of profound social and psychological factors that shape the souls of HBCUs today. It will invite participants to consider the current state and prognosis for the future of HBCU flourishing, given new demands of a Black cultural politics of difference and the heightened attention HBCUs have received since the murder of George Floyd.

Full versions of all speaker bios available at cerclrice.edu/blac-fall-2022



Symposium **Notes**

Symposium **Notes**

Symposium **Notes**
