SECOND ANNUAL
THE BEAUTY AND BURDEN OF BLACKNESS:
RACE, RELATIONSHIPS, & REBELLION PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE
February 15-16, 2018
Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Second Annual Tuskegee University History Research Symposium. On behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of History and Political Science, the Frank Toland Historical Society and Phi Alpha Theta, we thank you for taking part in our Symposium (HRS).

The 2018 theme is, “The Beauty and Burden of Blackness: Race, Relationships, & Rebellion.” We wish to promote, preserve and disseminate Black History, Culture and the Liberal Arts, and to re-center Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) as grounds of rigorous historical inquiry, research and community engagement. The Symposium hopes to renew strong networks of aspiring students and scholars, and to promote professional training, historical competency and intellectual collaboration within the humanities.

We would like to thank the commentators from Tuskegee and the broader academic community for giving their time and expertise to make the conference a valuable learning experience for all participants.

Again, welcome to Tuskegee and thank you for your participation in our Second Annual History Research Symposium.

Sincerely,

History Research Symposium Committee

Tuskegee University
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Worth Kamili Hayes, Ph.D.
John Tilghman, Ph.D.

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The HRS Conference Committee would like to thank the College of Arts and Sciences, all of the History and Political Science Department staff, faculty, and student volunteers for their participation and assistance with this inaugural event. The symposium would not be possible without you.

We especially want to thank all of the participants outside of Tuskegee area who have traveled great distances to be here today and whose participation has made this event a success.

Thank You!
SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

Registration
On-site registration is available on the second floor of the Carver Museum. Participants can pick up their registration bags at the front desk. The registration table will be staffed all day and volunteers will be available to help should you have any questions.

Meals and Refreshments
The Luncheon roundtable will include free lunch for all participants. The keynote address banquet will also include dinner. We encourage all conference participants and attendees to join us at the luncheon and banquet.

Wi-Fi
Free Wi-Fi is available for conference attendees. The username to access the network is Verizon-791L-D306, and the password is e7de0094.

Conference Hashtag
We invite conference attendees to tweet their thoughts and engage in dialog via twitter. Please use #TUHRS2018

Lyceum Event
The Family of Henrietta Lacks will join us for a lyceum event on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in the General “Chappie” James Auditorium at 6:00p.m. Please plan to join us for a timely conversation.

History Roundtable
The History Roundtable “Seeing Red in a Sea of Blackness,” will take place during Session 5, from 11:25am-12:40pm. The roundtable features Dr. John Tilghman, Mayor Tony Haygood, and graduate and undergraduate students. This event is open to the public.

Keynote Address and Banquet
Dr. Kimberly Brown Pellum from Texas Southern University will present our second annual keynote address, titled: “The Beauty and Burden of Blackness.”
## AT-A-GLANCE

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Museum Tours</td>
<td>Tuskegee</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lyceum: The Family of Henrietta Lacks</td>
<td>Chappie James</td>
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### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>Carver Museum 1st Floor</td>
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<td>8:45-9:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Carver Museum 1st Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Liberating Minds, Liberating Society: Black Women in the Development of American Culture &amp; Society</td>
<td>Carver Museum 2nd Floor</td>
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<td>11:25 -12:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Luncheon Roundtable: Seeing Red in a Sea of Blackness</td>
<td>Carver Museum 1st Floor</td>
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<td>12:55-2:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>2:15-3:25 p.m.</td>
<td>The Clocking of Power: Black Women in ‘Power’ and Black Bodies in Transition</td>
<td>Carver Museum 2nd Floor</td>
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<td>3:35-4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Open Wide the Freedom Gates of Protest and Identity</td>
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<td>5:00-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Address and Reception</td>
<td>Tompkins Hall</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Kimberly Brown Pellum - The Beauty and Burden of Blackness</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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THE BEAUTY AND BURDEN OF BLACKNESS

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

1:00-2:00 p.m.
Location: Carver Museum 2nd Floor
Registration

Museum Tours
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Tuskegee University National Historic Site
The Tuskegee University campus has been designated as a historic District. The campus includes buildings that were built by Tuskegee Institute students and designed by Robert R. Taylor, the first African American graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A map of the District and limited campus tours are available from the Carver Museum.

“The Oaks”
Home of Booker T. Washington and Margaret Murray Washington.

The Carver Museum
George W. Carver Museum is a red brick structure located on the campus of Tuskegee. The museum has several exhibits, including crop rotation theories that helped the South’s economy boom, and the history of Carver himself.

The Legacy Museum
The Legacy Museum opened in 2009 and was created to honor the 599 black men who participated in a study of untreated syphilis conducted by the United States Public Health Services from 1932 to 1972. The museum is nearly 9,000 square feet and consist of two floors.

Henrietta Lacks Exhibit. The 1955 Maryland patient whose cells were taken without her permission and ultimately changed the fact of medicine is exhibited in the Legacy Museum.

Lyceum Event
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
General “Chappie” James Arena

Her name is Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells – taken without her knowledge in 1951 – became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta’s cells have been bought and sold by millions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can’t afford health insurance. This too is the Beauty and Burden of Blackness.

Join us for an engaged discussion with the family of Henrietta Lacks!
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

8:30 a.m.
Registration and Welcome
Location: Carver Museum 2nd Floor

Dr. Therno Thiam, Interim Chair
Department of History and Political Science
Tuskegee University

8:45-9:55 a.m.
Carver Museum, Second Floor


Presiding
Merlin Hernandez, Tuskegee University

Rape Culture in the Black Female College Campus Community:
Why is it Happening? What is it Causing?
Alexus Brown, Tuskegee University

Bad Feminist: Black Feminism and Millennials
Lauren Odum, Tuskegee University

From ‘Nobody’ to ‘Somebodyism’: The Progressive History of Black Women
Kassidy Upshaw, Tuskegee University

She’s Gotta Have It: The Continued Appropriation of Black Girl Aesthetics
Kyoko Washington, Tuskegee University
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

8:45-9:55 a.m. Carver Museum, First Floor

2. Education through Preservation: How Students Can Work to Preserve Their School’s History

Presiding
Lisa Bratton, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

National Park Service
Shirley Baxter, Park Ranger

National Park Service
Robyn Harris, Museum Curator

National Park Service
Khandice Lofton, Researcher/Student Work-Study

National Park Service
Vester Marable, Park Ranger

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

10:05-11:15 a.m. Carver Museum, Second Floor

3. Why We Can’t Wait: In Search of Freedom, Identity, and Changing Perspectives

Presiding
John Tilghman, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

The ‘Oreo’ Epidemic: Who Owns the Black Card
Bre’oin Brumfield, Tuskegee University

The Quest for Freedom: History Curriculums in Urban Communities
Quest Whalen, Tuskegee University

Racial Disparities in the Prison System
Jasmine Goodman, Tuskegee University

How Free is Free: Oscar Grant in the Era of Black Lives Matter
Nivea Reaves-Moss, Tuskegee University
4. I'm ‘Gon Die with my Boots On: Race Men and Soldiers Under the Banner of Freedom

Presiding
William Ndi, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

Colonel Charles Young: The Intellectual Race Warrior
Le’Trice Donaldson, Ph.D., The University of Mississippi

‘I Am Unable to Picture...Utopia:’ Chaplin Robert Dokes, Black Soldiers and the Struggle for Black Citizenship in America During WWII
George White, Jr., Ph.D., York University, CUNY

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the African American Intellectual Tradition
Andre Johnson, Ph.D., The University of Memphis

Benjamin O. Davis Sr.: America’s First Black General: The Complex Paradox of Racial Leadership and the Military Profession
Jeffrey Jones, ABD, The University of Memphis
Welcome:  Dr. Sheena Harris, Tuskegee University

Panel:  Seeing Red in a Sea of Blackness: The Beauty and Burden of Blackness
This timely conversation builds on the longstanding urgent discourse of Black political organizing in the South. This panel aims to place these topics in a transnational and transhistorical context while also considering actions to take in the present, particularly in a university setting.

Panelists:  Mayor Tony Haygood, Tuskegee, Alabama
Joseph Bannerman, Tuskegee University
Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University
Jamila Rice, Tuskegee University

Moderator:  Dr. John Tilghman, Tuskegee University

Presiding
Joe Jimmeh, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

Racial Disparities in the United States: The African American Community
Jacquelyn Walker, South Carolina State University

Black Poor Bodies Removed: Gentrification in the Mid-West Radical Politics
Khandice Lofton, Tuskegee University

The ‘Big’ White House: African American Women and their Impact
Daphne Calhoun, Tuskegee University

About Their Business: Black Women in American Politics
Austin Turk, Tuskegee University

7. Making the World Like Us: The Unbound and Unapologetic Perspectives of the Black Female Identity

Presiding
Sheena Harris, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

The Lost Girl: In Search of a Black Female Identity, Sexuality, and Freedom
Khaleah Monger, Tuskegee University

Modern Day Hottentot Venus: The Oversexualization of Black Women in America
Kyra Jenkins, Tuskegee University

The Black Woman’s Fight for Her Own Vagina
Arianna Richards, Tuskegee University

Mary Frances Hill Coley: Black Nurses and Midwifery in the South
Egypt Muhammed, Tuskegee University
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

2:15-3:25 p.m. Carver Museum, Second Floor

8. **The Blacker the Berry, The Deeper the Roots: A Discourse on Womanism, Blackness, Childhood, & Space**

*Presiding*
Zanice Bond, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

1. **More Than a Woman, More Than a Wife: The Womanist inside Alice Ruth Moore” (Alice Dunbar-Nelson)**
   Javanna Plummer, Tuskegee University

2. **James Baldwin and Giovanni’s Room: The Innate Blackness**
   Jasmine Johnson, Tuskegee University

3. **Black Women’s Space, Place, and Sexuality; An Analysis of Cox and Ladner’**
   Melaine J. Ferdinand-King, Spelman College

4. **Let the Children Speak”: Giving Voice to Enslaved Children**
   Jonathon Pulliam II, Tuskegee University

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

2:15-3:25 p.m. Carver Museum, First Floor

9. **Open Wide the Freedom Gates of Protest and Identity**

*Presiding*
Godfrey Vincent, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

1. **Blackness and the Contemporary Black Protest Drama: Close Reading Dominique Morisseau’s ‘Skeleton Crew’**
   Johnny Jones, M.F.A., The University of Louisville

2. **Feminist & Patriarchal: A Reading of Du Bois’ Interrogation with Black Women’s Sexual Freedom**
   Jennifer Williams, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount University

3. **‘Girls’ Work’: Young Women’s Expanding Activism in the Early NAACP**
   Susan Bragg, Ph.D., Georgia Southwestern State University

4. **Black Masculinity as a Misnomer of Black Maleness: A Challenge Toward Researching Black Men and Their Masculinity**
   Michael G. Pass, Ph.D., Bethune-Cookman University
10. Power and Protest: Black Student Activism, Medicine, Politics and Religion

Presiding
Worth Kamili Hayes, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

Tamisha Freeman, Texas Southern University

Look for me in the Whirlwind: Joycelyn Elders, Medicine, Politics and Religion
Michael Washington, Union Institute and University

The Impact of African Americans and WWII
Sequoia Ellis, National Park Service

Black Power and its Spread from Lowndes County
April Baldwin, National Park Service

11. War and Redemption: Warfare in America & Abroad

Presiding
Noel Thompson, Ph.D., Tuskegee University

The Little Rock Nine Crisis and the Cold War: Gender and Perception
Jasmine Johnson, Tuskegee University

Guns, Powder, and Policy: Syria’s Descent into a Failed State
Xavier Alexander, Tuskegee University

There’s no Place like Home: The Connection Between Africa’s Sovereignty and the Freedom of Afro Americans Across the Diaspora
Sedric Wytch, Tuskegee University
THE BEAUTY AND BURDEN OF BLACKNESS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

5:00-6:30 p.m.                      Location: Tompkins Hall, Ballroom

12. **Keynote Address and Banquet** – Dr. Kimberly Brown Pellum, Texas Southern University

Dr. Kimberly Brown Pellum maintains an ongoing mission to help people accurately understand their place in American history and the world. With a doctoral degree in United States history earned at Howard University, she has worked as a Multicultural Fellow at the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of American History. The Montgomery Improvement Association (founders of the famed 1955 Bus Boycott) and the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture are among a number of groups and organizations that have called upon her leadership and expertise to guide community-based preservation projects, commemorative programs, and education initiatives. For two consecutive years, she served the United Negro College Fund as both moderator and panelist for its nationwide “Empower Me Tour.” She has made presentations for the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the Baylor College of Medicine Office of Institutional Diversity, as well as the American Historical Association’s Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses. She is the author of two history books for children, founder of the non-profit Education Like Me, and is currently under advanced contract with University Press of Florida for her upcoming book: *The Battle for Black Beauty*. Dr. Brown Pellum continues to partner with museums, libraries, and institutions of learning throughout the country as a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator, and currently teaches a variety of history courses at Texas Southern University.

**OUR TRUE LIBERATION WILL COME WHEN WE LOOK IN THE MIRROR and like what we see**

Dr. Brown Pellum’s specialization in the history of women and the politics of beauty illuminated her past roles as curator of the National Park Service’s Mary McLeod Bethune Council House ‘Groomed for Greatness” Exhibition and as featured presenter for the Smithsonian FolkLife Festival “Will to Adorn” Exhibit. Both installations speak to creative expression and African American style traditions. Her work as a historian and her romance with sparkle have also merged in her signature delivery as host of the Miss Africa USA Pageant and orientation lecturer for Miss Black USA for a number of years. She also collaborated with former Miss America Ericka Dunlap to produce *Defining Beauty for Ourselves: Crowns, Conversations and Q&A* at Alabama State University. She enthusiastically teaches students, youth especially, to analyze the past so they may be better prepared to frame their future. Professor Brown Pellum also founded Say It Loud University: History Camp for Kids. She has been featured in *HBCU Digest* and *HBCU Buzz*, and recently, the Meek-Eaton Archives Research Center, in Tallahassee, Florida installed a collection of women’s history archival materials named in Dr. Brown Pellum’s honor. She often shares the wisdom of the distinguished and legendary educator Dr. John Henrik Clarke: “Our true liberation will come when we can look in the mirror and like what we see.”

**Banquet:** Dinner
On behalf of the History Research Symposium Committee, we would like to thank our generous sponsors of the second annual meeting. Without you this conference would not have been a success.

**Sponsors**

Andrew Mellon Foundation  
The Carver Museum  
The Tuskegee University President’s Office  
The College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Dean  
The Tuskegee University Office of Admissions  
Tuskegee Utilities Board

**Thank You!**
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<td>Jonathon Pulliam II, Senior, Communications</td>
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<td>Arianna Richards, Sophomore, History</td>
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<td>Quest Whalen, Junior, Mathematics</td>
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<td>Sedric Wytch, Senior, Political Science</td>
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Graduate Presenters
Tamisha Freeman, History
Birmingham. Alabama
Texas Southern University
Jeffrey Jones, Doctoral Candidate, Military History
Memphis, Tennessee
The University of Memphis
Lindsey Lunsford, Doctoral Candidate,
Comparative Politics
Tuskegee University
Michael A. Washington, Doctoral Candidate
Houston, Texas
Union Institute and University

Professional Presenters
Susan Bragg, Ph.D.
Georgia Southwestern State University
Le’Trice Donaldson, Ph.D.
The University of Mississippi
Tony Haygood, Mayor
Tuskegee, Alabama
Andre Johnson, Ph.D.
The University of Memphis
Johnny Jones, MFA
University of Louisville

Professional Presenters
Michael Pass, Ph.D.
Bethune-Cookman University
Kimberly Brown Pellum
Texas Southern University
George White, Jr., Ph.D.
York College, CUNY
Jennifer Williams, Ph.D.
Loyola Marymount University

Professional Presenters
Robyn Harris, Carver Museum Curator
National Park Service
Vester Marable, Park Ranger
National Park Service
April Baldwin, Park Ranger
National Park Service
Sequoia Ellis, Park Ranger
National Park Service
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February 2018