

## Black Issues Conference 2019 Program

Bowling Green State University

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THE 19TH ANNUAL  
**BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE**

**Friday, February 22, 2019**

9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Bowen-Thompson Student Union



**BEYOND  
THE  
DREAM.**

RACE | JUSTICE | FREEDOM

**SHAUNKING**

**Journalist, Humanitarian & Activist**

**BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

# 19TH BGSU BLACK ISSUES CONFERENCE

**Friday, February 22, 2019**

9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Bowen-Thompson Student Union

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**9 a.m.** Registration and Check-in | BTSU 202 (Lobby)

**10 – 11:20 a.m.** Preconference Student Workshop with Shaun King | BTSU 206

**11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.** Luncheon with Shaun King | BTSU 202

### Welcome

DR. THOMAS GIBSON

Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost

### “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

Led by The Voices at BG | Lyrics are located on page four of this program

### Lunch Served

Please wait for your table to be invited to the buffet line. If you require a vegetarian entrée, please hand your card to the server at the line.

### Musical Selections

The Voices at BG

### Scholarships and Awards

KYRON SMITH

President of Black Student Union and Planning Committee Member

KEYONTE’ (KJ) ASHFORD

Vice President of Black Student Union and Planning Committee Member

### Introduction of Mr. King

KYLE THOMPSON

Political Action Chair of Black Student Union

### Keynote Address

MR. SHAUN KING

Civil Rights Today: The New Civil Rights Movement

### Q&A with Mr. King

Notecards are provided on the tables. Please write down any questions you may have and either hand them to our volunteers or hold them up. We will collect them and attempt to get through as many questions as possible.

### Evaluations

Please complete the paper evaluations at your table during the luncheon to help us improve future conferences.

### Photos

Mr. King will be available for approximately 15 minutes after the luncheon for photographs.

**1:30 – 5:20 p.m.** Concurrent Sessions

**2 – 5:30 p.m.** Exhibit: Black Student Union Papers, Center for Archival Collections | BTSU 307

**5:20 – 5:30 p.m.** Conference Closing | BTSU 202

# GO FAR.

## SCHEDULE OF CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 1:30 – 2:20 p.m.** **Black Issues Roundtable:** Emerging Issues | BTSU 201  
**Workshop:** “Do I Even Belong Here?”:  
A Personal Reflection of Racial Events at the University of Mississippi | BTSU 208  
**Panel:** The Aesthetics of Black and Brown Subjects in Law and Media: Violence, Queer Trauma, and Linguistic Dissonance in Transnational Literatures | BTSU 315  
**Panel:** Black Racial Identity and Education | BTSU 316
- 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.** **Panel:** Historical Activism in the African American Experience | BTSU 201  
**Discussion:** Shared Governance and Activism:  
The Importance of Campus Collaboration for Marginalized Students | BTSU 208  
**Panel:** Inside/Outside—Space, Identity, and Imagined Communities | BTSU 315  
**Discussion:** Grad School vs. Everybody | BTSU 316
- 3:30 – 4:20 p.m.** **Panel:** Race and Culture | BTSU 201  
**Workshop:** Reproductive Justice Centering Queer, Racial, and Gender Justice & Liberation | BTSU 208  
**Discussion:** The Table:  
An Open Discussion Around Creating Your Own Table | BTSU 316  
**Workshop:** Getting in Our Own Way:  
The Degradation of Student Organizations | BTSU 315
- 4:30 – 5:20 p.m.** **Panel:** Intersectional Identities in the Ivory Tower | BTSU 201  
**Workshop:** #DressUpYourTech:  
Women of Color Belong in the Tech Industry | BTSU 208  
**Discussion:** You’re Not Like the Others:  
Untold Stories of Black Struggles You Never Hear | BTSU 315  
**Presentations:** Creative Works and Posters | BTSU 316

**Please visit [bgsu.edu/BIC](https://bgsu.edu/BIC) to complete an evaluation of this conference**

# “LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING”

**James Weldon Johnson, 1871 - 1928**

Lift ev’ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list’ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.  
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast’ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 1:30 – 2:20 P.M.

### **Black Issues Roundtable: Emerging Issues | BTSU 201**

- **Facilitated by Dr. Khani Begum, Dr. Radhika Gajjala, David Stephens, and Dr. Jessica Birch**

### **Panel: The Aesthetics of Black and Brown Subjects in Law and Media: Violence, Queer Trauma, and Linguistic Dissonance in Transnational Literatures | BTSU 315**

- **“Black and Brown Queer Violence and Trauma in the Global South”** | Christopher Rivera  
This paper interrogates how notions of citizenship and queerness remain polemical in the Global South, tackles the impact of Althusser’s notion of “how words do things” in life, literature and law, and the ways words transcend borders to become inhumane practices that limit queer citizens in Latin America.
- **“Aesthetics of Linked Fate Syndrome: Violence, Trauma, and the Relationality between the African American Psyche and Fatal Police Brutality”** | Destiny Boynton  
Social media and technology create literal and figurative virtual spaces for issues of representation and identity that allow people from around the world to immediately access information. This project unmask the ambivalence that is produced in African Americans as they see themselves represented as illegal/illicit subjects that routinely break laws and it analyzes the psycho-social processes through various traumatic manifestations that are rhetorically present on their Twitter feeds.

### **Panel: Black Racial Identity and Education | BTSU 316**

- **“Black History: The Inclusion of Afro-Latinos through Culturally Responsive Teaching”** | Dr. Mercedes Naber-Fisher  
In order to help close the achievement gap in education, it is imperative for educators to meet the needs of all their students. Being culturally competent in the backgrounds from which students come from and implementing strategies that adhere to their culture, can bridge the achievement gap. This educator will share how incorporating Black History into her inner city 6th grade Spanish language classroom changed the students’ preconceived stereotypes of what a Latino looks like and see how their African American culture and the culture of Latinos intersected.
- **“Supporting Urban African American Male Persistence in College”** | Christopher Scott  
This presentation is a case study of an African American Male and the underlying social factors that supported the student’s persistence in college during his freshman year at a predominantly white institution, or PWI, in the Midwest, including supporting social factors of this student prior to enrolling in college and the factors contributing to his retention while in college.
- **“Realization, Responsibility, Results: The Founding and First Decade of the Black Student Union and its Impact on Bowling Green State University”** | Dean Bryson  
At BGSU, the Black Student Union started out of necessity. In this presentation, we will look at life for the black college student at a PWI before black students united, the development of the first known Black Student Union and how it inspired black college students throughout the nation, and the role of BSU in challenging and forcing change at the university from 1969 to 1980.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 1:30 – 2:20 P.M.

### **Workshop: Do I Even Belong Here?: A Personal Reflection of Racial Events at the University of Mississippi | BTSU 208**

- **Facilitated by Terrian Garvis**

As a black student at a PWI, I share my experiences during two campus situations, the 2015 rally to remove the Mississippi Confederate flag from campus and the 2016 Lyceum sit-in resulting from a white student's viral comment. Using the King & Kitchener Reflective Judgment model (1994), I will discuss my cognitive process during and after the events to provide insight into the toll they take on students of color.

## EXHIBIT | 2 – 5:30 P.M.

### **Black Student Union Papers, Center for Archival Collections | BTSU 307**

- **Megan Goins-Diouf and Dana Nemeth**

The Black Student Union papers (UA-079) at the Center for Archival Collections teach several pivotal moments at the university, including the start of the 1970 Kent State protests and the 1980 sit-in by the Latino Student Union. This presentation will discuss the collection and the students whose movements forge the collection's aims and organization, and will address the legacies of several pasts and presents which have prevailed and are oriented to the collection.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 2:30 – 3:20 P.M.

### **Panel: Historical Activism in the African American Experience | BTSU 201**

- **“Madam C. J. Walker and the Task of Recreating the Black Image”** | Amelia A Amemate  
Image is an important component in people's identity and socio-cultural experiences. This paper looks at black women's use of aesthetic and respectability as tools of political activism with focus on Madam C. J. Walker's contributions in the 20th C, explores specific ways in which black women challenged racial stereotypes and some situations that led to their identity-remaking agenda, and discusses challenges Walker (and by extension, black women) faced in their goal to contest racial stereotypes.
- **“Theories of Black Transnationalism: A Case Study of Garveyism and Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)”** | Taylor Coleman  
There exists within black transnationalism both the concept of continuous diasporic exchange as well as the cooperative struggle against oppressive forces. In this presentation, I seek to argue the ways in which Garvey promoted a transnational interpretation of blackness in his quest for unifying Afro-descended people across the globe as well as its implications for black social movements of the 21st century.
- **“The Media Representation of the Emmett Till Trial in the 20th Century”** | Angelica Euseary  
Based on a research project conducted through the McNair Scholars Program, this presentation uses qualitative analysis to look into the media representation of the Emmett Till trial in the 20th century. This project includes a literature review, analysis, conclusion, limitations, discussion and ideas for further research.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 2:30 – 3:20 P.M.

### **Discussion: Shared Governance and Activism: The Importance of Campus Collaboration for Marginalized Students | BTSU 208**

- **Facilitated by Del-Marcus Goolsby, Marianna Bohannon, and Kaneshia McDavid**  
Shared governance and student activism work hand-in-hand on college campuses across the country. In this presentation, the Vice President and Diversity Affairs Senators of BGSU's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) will describe the aspects of our university's shared governance model and the process by which USG works to make change on campus. Students will also have time to explore ways how they can get involved in this process, gaining the professional tools necessary to effectively translate passionate activism into positive change on campus.

### **Panel: Inside/Outside—Space, Identity, and Imagined Communities | BTSU 315**

- **“Changing the Narrative: A Discourse on Improving the Plight of Black Women”** | James Ponzo (II)  
Although black women are now the most educated demographic in the country compared to every other race and gender group, they are still victims of an intersectional oppression. This presentation investigates the historical treatment of women of the African Diaspora in America to determine if any improvement has occurred.
- **“Reading Between the Lines: Value Construction of Missing Persons on Investigation Discovery’s Disappeared”** | Ericka Findley  
This presentation explores the inconsistencies of police and media coverage of missing persons belonging to various subgroups and how the coded language they use influences how society determines which lives are deemed worthy of intense police investigation and media coverage while others are dismissed, ignored, and, ultimately, forgotten about. The findings will be connected to current research on the disproportionate investigation and coverage cases involving young, attractive, white females.
- **“Blaxit and the Romanticization of Africa”** | Michael Oshindoro  
In the face of increasing volume of migration of Africans into the United States, many African Americans still express the desire to connect with the motherland. Blaxit is a social media movement that calls for a mass migration of Black Americans to Africa. This presentation will focus on the double romanticization that African Americans have about Africa and that Africans have about African Americans, survey the reasons for blaxit, the feasibility of the exit, and benefits of having a sense of ‘home’.

### **Discussion: Grad School vs Everybody | BTSU 316**

- **Facilitated by Adrienna Hutchins, Blaze Campbell, and Christina Hilliard**  
Preparing for Graduate school can be tough. As current BGSU graduate students who are experiencing the challenges of Graduate School, we want to provide a space for students to hear what this experience is like and to talk about overcoming the challenges that come with success. We will then provide students with the opportunity to ask unanswered questions about Graduate School and the process of applying.



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 3:30 – 4:20 P.M.

### Panel: Race and Culture | BTSU 201

- **“Words Are Our Weapons: The Black Aesthetic, Critical Literacy, and the Unfinished Business of the Black Arts Movement”** | Lasana Kazembe  
This presentation offers a critical, historical synthesis of the Black Arts Movement (1965-1975) and explores its political and cultural roots, theoretical framework, and aesthetic mission as cultural assets and cultural tools for shaping Black critical consciousness, cultural production, media literacy, solidarity, global awareness, and development of revolutionary institutions that functioned as independent, indigenous spaces for teaching, identity development, cultural affirmation, collective resistance, artistic cultivation, and employment by artist-activists.
- **“Discovering African American Identity Through the Hip-Hop Aesthetic”** | Taylor Madgett  
While suffering from both a disconnect from Africa and discrimination in America, African Americans struggle with a cultural dilemma that paints a burdensome picture of belonging and identity. This presentation explores the merger of separate aspects of African and American culture and dance that establish the Hip-Hop aesthetic and formulates the African American identity.

### Workshop: Reproductive Justice Centering Queer, Racial, and Gender Justice & Liberation | BTSU 208

- **Facilitated by Dr. Krystal Redman**  
Facilitated by organizers from SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW!, an Atlanta-based organization that centers Black women, women of color, and queer and trans youth of color in legislation and advocacy, this workshop provides an introduction to both Reproductive Justice and Queer Theory. We will explore where issues of gender justice and LGBTQIA+ liberation intersect, how bodily autonomy drives the motivation behind each movement, and how to integrate QTPOC issue areas into their organizational missions.

### Discussion: The Table: An Open Discussion Around Creating Your Own Table | BTSU 316

- **Facilitated by Leah Ward and Sarah Hairston**  
In this presentation, participants will hear the journey that two contributors of the book, “The Table: Stories From Black Women in Student Affairs” took to creating their own table that they share in community with other Black women, reflect on ways Black women are overlooked at the table, and share ways to create their own table.

### Workshop: Getting in our Own Way: The Degradation of Student Organizations | BTSU 315

- **Facilitated by Johnny Brownlee II**  
Across the nation, our student organizations are struggling and student governments are struggling. We examine 6 sinister problems that are costing student organizations members, stability, sustainability, funding, and involvement and respect of our former members, founders, elders, and in some cases our institutions.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 4:30 – 5:20 P.M.

### **Panel: Intersectional Identities in the Ivory Tower | BTSU 201**

- **“Being Biracial in a White America”** | Lauren Carey  
Using PowerPoint, stories, and sociology theories such as the double consciousness theory by W.E.B. Du Bois, this presentation will explore the struggles of having to pick sides and the social construct in the US that we put so much emphasis on: race.
- **“I’m So GLAAD: An Examination into the Experience of the LGBTQ Student at the HBCU”** | Naykishia Head  
There are one hundred and one established Historically Black Colleges and/or Universities within the United States and its territories, but few have programs directed to prevention of discrimination, violence, and bullying of LGBTQ students by Faculty, Staff, and other students on campus, and even when these programs are available, there is still a stigmatization surrounding students who utilize this campus facility. This presentation will investigate the historical and cultural environment of HBCUs as it relates to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer students who attend, will explore instances of violence against LGBTQ students, and suggest viable solutions to help HBCUs improve their cultural outreach to include the safety and wellness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer students.

### **Workshop: #DressUpYourTech: Women of Color Belong in the Tech Industry | BTSU 208**

- **Facilitated by Chloe Pearson**  
Despite rapid advancements in the tech industry, diversity and inclusion continues to lag. The purpose of this workshop is to empower and encourage women of color and expose them to career opportunities within the information technology industry, specifically as a UX/UI designer (user experience/user interface). Attendees will also learn the foundations of curating their own app and troubleshoot the decisions and techniques needed to create a unique user experience.

### **Discussion: You’re Not Like the Others: Untold Stories of Black Struggles You Never Hear | BTSU 315**

- **Facilitated by Quatez Scott, Kelley Webb, and Aaron Baker**  
In this group session, three doctoral students will briefly examine the early history of African American people in America and the systemic educational barriers toward improving their social status, and attendees will discuss institutional culture and its role in shaping the college experience for African American students.

### **Presentations: Creative Works and Posters | BTSU 316**

- **“Racial Profiling”** | Queen Peters-Thornton  
For this project, I have put together a presentation/video related to intersectionality issues faced by African American women, interviewing family members and friends here at Bowling Green and other schools about how they have been racially profiled and how they reacted.
- **“Black Womanhood”** | Paris Knox  
I will perform my spoken word piece on what it means to be a Black woman and what Black Womanhood looks like in America, focusing primarily on the ways Black women represent themselves through the arts (literature, poetry, photography, etc.) in different time periods, styles, and fashions. My performance is meant to show how vast Black Womanhood is and how their perspectives are shaped.

5:20 – 5:30 p.m. | BTSU 202  
**CONFERENCE CLOSING**

We will be collecting conference evaluations at the Registration/Check-In Table.

**BLACK EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS WINNERS 2019**

**NPHC**

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.  
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY

**STAFF**

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ADRIENNA HUTCHINS  
JAMES HAMMONS

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**

JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM  
TAYLOR RIGGS

**PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK ACCOUNTANTS

**SOCIAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

QUEENS OF COLOR

**SERVICE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

WOMEN EVERYWHERE BELIEVE (WE BELIEVE)

**ALUMNI**

SYDNEY HOWELL

**ALLY**

JACOB CLEMENS



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# SPECIAL THANKS

**Dr. Khani Begum and the Filming African Identity:  
From Shaft to Black Panther Graduate Students**

## **Black Issues Conference Planning Committee**

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