Note from Renée Alexander Craft  
Interim Director

Like individuals and institutions around the world, the Institute of African American Research is learning to exist within the new realities of COVID-19. The staff is sheltering at home, but we remain active and engaged with the work of IAAR. If you need to reach us, please email iaar@unc.edu and stay connected to us on social media by following @IAARUNC on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Below are some of the spring and summer initiatives we look forward to sharing with you.

New Webinar Series:  
“Black Communities and COVID 19”

To further our work through Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, IAAR has partnered with CREATE to launch a weekly webinar series called Black Communities & COVID-19. Focusing on the ways that the coronavirus impacts Black communities and intersects with Black life, the series began on April 20th with panelists addressing health disparities during the pandemic. Starting May 1st, future webinars will occur every Friday at 10 AM and will continue weekly through June 2020. Topics for the next three webinars are: community development, food security, and technological tools and gaps. We will later be exploring interventions by arts and cultural organizations, university engagement with black communities and more. The series is free and open to the public. Recordings of each webinar are also available on the Black Communities Conference youtube channel. For information about the webinar schedule and other updates, follow @iaarunc and @BlkCommunities on Twitter.

Congratulations to the 2020 GSSRG Recipients:

Michael Bramwell, American Studies, “Pottery by Any Means Necessary: Abolitions in the Art of David Drake”


Jennifer Standish, History, “Right-to-Work Laws and Southern Working-class Social Movements”

Amber Majors, School of Education, “Exploring Communal Values in Rural African American Youth’s Conceptions of Achievement”

The Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (GSSRG) provides funding on a competitive basis to graduate students in any discipline who are conducting research concerning African Americans or the broader African diaspora that connects to IAAR’s mission.
Note from Mai Thi Nguyen  
MURAP Director

Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP) Goes Virtual!

Although MURAP has been around for over 25 years, this is the first time it will be a virtual program. Plans are underway to transition the program online. The staff, faculty, and MURAP scholars are eagerly anticipating the launch of VIRTUAL MURAP on May 18, 2020. To learn more, see: http://murap.unc.edu

Introducing MURAP Scholars  
Class of 2020

Vicki Li, English- Linguistics & Rhetoric  
Mentor: Dr. Lamar Graham  
Institution: CUNY- Hunter College

Ariana Guzman, Italian Literature  
Mentor: Dr. Lamar Graham  
Institution: CUNY- Hunter College

Eden Melles, Politics Science  
Mentor: Dr. Isaac Unah  
Institution: Lipscomb University

Sophia Rekeibe, Sociology  
Mentor: Dr. Michael Figueroa  
Institution: UNC-Chapel Hill

Clara Pritchett, Africana Studies  
Mentor, Dr. Michael Figueroa  
Institution: Brown University

Jaelyn Taylor, Social, Digital, and Computational Studies  
Mentor: Dr. Michael Palm  
Institution: Davidson College

Ezekiel Vergara, Government  
Mentor: Miguel La Serna  
Institution: Dartmouth College

Victoria Dey, International Relations  
Mentor: Dr. Miguel La Serna  
Institution: University of Rochester

Sidney Garner, Pan-African Studies  
Mentor: Dr. Charlene Register  
Institution: University of Louisville

Alix Swann, International Studies  
Mentor: Dr. Charlene Register  
Institution: Spelman College

Isabel Levin, Sociology  
Mentor: Dr. Kumi Silva  
Institution: UMass- Amherst

Tyler White, Political Science  
Mentor: Dr. Kumi Silva  
Institution: Swarthmore College

Aleyah Coleman, Psychology  
Mentor: Dr. Shauna Cooper  
Institution: UW- Whitewater

Tirrezz Hudson, Psychology  
Mentor: Dr. Shauna Cooper  
Institution: NC State

Javin D'Souza, Gender Studies  
Mentor: Dr. Ariana Vigil  
Institution: USC

Bryant Taylor, Humanities & Communications  
Mentor: Dr. Ariana Vigil  
Institution: CSU- Monterey Bay

Sunshine Spiva, Psychology  
Mentor: Dr. Tanisha Burford  
Institution: NC State

Ja'Chelle Ball, Psychology  
Mentor: Dr. Tanisha Burford  
Institution: Georgetown University

Ayriel Coleman, History  
Mentor: Isaac Unah  
Institution: Trinity University
Note from Angela Hicks
Grants Coordinator

The IAAR can help with proposal development by reviewing grant guidelines, suggesting edits for proposal narratives, assisting with budget development, handling internal routing requirements (e.g., RAMSeS, Cayuse) and helping to finalize and submit your application. In some cases, we can also arrange for an internal peer review of your proposal draft before submission. Please note that for grant submission, the University's Office of Sponsored Research requires a five business-day review period in advance of the grant deadline. Contact our grant coordinator, Angela Hicks, at aahicks@email.unc.edu for more information.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

National Science Foundation (NSF) Rapid Response Research (RAPID) Proposal
For more information: https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/

National Endowment Humanities (NEH) Featured Grant Programs
For more information: https://www.neh.gov/grants

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Active and Upcoming Funding Opportunities
For more information: https://www.rwjf.org/content/rwjf/en/how-we-work/grants-explorer/funding-opportunities.html