

Mesi E. Bakari Walton, Ph.D.

Mewalton1@yahoo.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Howard University, Washington, DC, 2019

- Program: African Studies – Language, Culture and Development
- Concentration: Afro-Latinx Studies
- Dissertation: “Survival Through Memory: African Retentions in Diasporan Cultural Production of Venezuela’s Barlovento Region”

Master of Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC, 2012

- Program: Spanish – Language and Linguistics
- Thesis: “The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of Afro-Venezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe and La Sabana.” Presented as: “La conexión étnica de África con Venezuela: El habla de los afrovenezolanos y la significación de sus instrumentos en los pueblos de Curiepe y La Sabana”

Master of Education, Howard University, Washington, DC, 2003 (Cum Laude)

- Concentration: Early Childhood Education
- Thesis: “Developing an Effective Community in the Classroom”

Bachelor of Science, Howard University, Washington, DC, 2002

- Concentration: Human Development

Certificate of Spanish, Middlebury Language School, Middlebury, VT, 2012

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022-Present	<i>Howard University, Department of World Languages and Cultures</i>	
	Assistant Professor	
	Courses: Freshman Seminar, Afro-Cuban Culture & Society, Afro-Colombian Society: Past and Present, Art, Music and Dance in the Afro-Hispanic World, Hispanic Peoples & Cultures, Oral Communication I & II, Spanish 004, Spanish 003, Spanish 002.	
2019-2022	Adjunct Professor	
2012-2019	Lecturer	
2010-2012	Graduate Teaching Assistant	
	Courses: Spanish 001, 002, 003, Hispanic Peoples and Cultures, Oral Communication II	
2021	<i>University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)</i>	
	Lecturer, Department of Spanish and Portuguese	
	Courses: Spanish 001, 002, 003	

2019-2020

University of the District of Columbia Community College
Adjunct Professor, Division of Humanities and Criminology
Courses Spanish: I and II

OTHER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Bison Vision Council, 2024-2025

- Presidentially nominated 60+ person Steering Committee that is advisory to the President and Chief Strategy Officer.
- Meets at least twice a semester to ensure alignment, development, and supporting implementation of strategic goals.

HU-National Humanities Center: Humanities + STEM Faculty Advisory Committee, 2024

- Dean appointed as a member of the advisory committee for a new high-profile annual Summer Institute that will focus on research collaborations between STEM and Humanities/Social Science faculty.
- Attend meetings to frame the institute, develop the program and attend the planning summit.

Advanced Placement Spanish Exam Table Leader, Educational Testing Service, 2024

- Selected as a Table leader for 8 Readers as a guide and monitor of scoring.
- Participated in the sample test grading prior to the session.
- Graded exams and kept the morale high of the graders for the 7 full days of grading.

Advanced Placement Spanish Exam Reader, Educational Testing Service, 2015 – Present

- Graded AP Spanish Listening and Writing Exams with a team of professionals.
- Received high-performance evaluations and have been invited back consecutively.
- Attended professional development workshops/presentations on teaching language & culture.

English Teacher, Inlingua, Caracas, Venezuela, 2008

- Taught English to members of upper-level management in various corporations.
- Earned reputation of being one of the most highly sought-after professors.

Preschool Director, New Concept School, Chicago, Illinois, 2006 – 2008

- Instituted a new curriculum and enrichment program that included foreign language, art, music, dance, and fitness to meet state and national standards.
- Increased parent involvement in the school by 40%; improved staff morale, refined organizational operations.
- Maintained institutional standards for national (NAEYC) and state accreditations.

Kindergarten Teacher, Betty Shabazz International Charter School & Octavio Paz Charter School, Chicago, Illinois, 2003 – 2005

- Instructed student in Direct Reading curriculum, math, and science programs
- Created lesson plans for cultural and language enrichment

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Intern, 2012

- Researched and organized international and local performers for the upcoming Smithsonian Folklife Festival.
- Assisted with translation between Spanish and English and prepared biographies of the artists for publicity materials.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Dance and Performance in Afro-Latin America
 Cultural Memory and Survival in the African Diaspora
 Race and Identity in Latin America
 Afro-Latinx Cultures
 African Spiritualities in the African Diaspora

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellow – Institute for Citizens & Scholars-Career Enhancement Fellowship (Fall 2025)
Scholar - National Humanities Center’s Scholarly Writing Institute (Inaugural Group) Summer 2025)
Faculty Scholar - Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy (2023)
Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions’ ELEVATE Fellow – (2023)
Honors Faculty Fellow – College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program (2023)
Representations of Afrolatinidad – University of Pittsburgh (2023)
Future Faculty Career Exploration Program – Rochester Institute of Technology (2021)

GRANTS & AWARDS

Somos Unx Grant – Colombia 2022

- Curate, develop and moderate an academic event connected to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – funded by the Colombia Fulbright Commission.
- Event Title: Ancestral Identity - Afro Colombian Cultural Traditions from the Atlantic Coast. In-Person and Online. May 5, 2022.

Fulbright US Scholar Grant - Colombia (2021-2022)

- Research Title: “Ancestral Identity - Afro-Colombian Cultural Traditions of the Atlantic Coast”
- Academic Discipline: Interdisciplinary Studies
- Areas of Specialization: Latin American Studies, Africana Studies, Cultural Studies, Identity, Ethnicity and Race Studies
- Type of Activity: Teaching/Research
- Host Institutions: The University of Cartagena, Kusuto Association of Maria La Baja

Non-Senate Faculty Professional Development Award (2021)

University of California Los Angeles

Purpose: research, publishing, teaching, and course development.

Humanitini Grant – Grantee and Curator (2020)

Washington, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to organize “Experiencing the African Diaspora,” a film showing of *Scattered Africa* and panel discussion. Online. Sept. 14, 2020.

PUBLICATIONS

In Print

“Afro-Colombia’s Bullerengue as a tool of Self-Determination”, peer-reviewed article. (PerspectivasAfro). Vol. 3, No. 2, 231-248. June 2024.

“Re-Membering African Diaspora”

Chapter in edited book. African/Diaspora Migrations, Displacements and Movements: Histories, Politics and Poetics. Universidad del Valle, Colombia. December 2023.

Walton, Mesi. “Afro-Colombian Women’s Collectives as a Tool of Agency in the Montes de María Region”, peer-reviewed article. Publication of the Afro–Latin/American Research Association (PALARA). No. 26. July 2023.

“Dance, rhythm, and ritual: Afro-Venezuelans in resistance”

Fire Under My Feet: History, Race, and Agency in African Diaspora Dance, Chapter in edited book. Routledge. September 2021.

“Afro-Venezuelan Cultural Survival: Invoking Ancestral Memory”

Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies (MARLAS). Vol. 4, No. 2, 235-260. December 2020. Peer-reviewed article.

Submitted

“A Community Restored Through Purpose: Ethno-Education in María la Baja, Colombia”, peer-reviewed chapter. (Edited Volume).

Translations

Walton, Mesi, translator. Biographical material and poems by Shirley Campbell Barr from Spanish to English: “Return” / “Regresar,” “I Dreamt” / “Soñé,” “A World Without Fear” / “Un mundo sin miedo,” “My Grandmother Didn’t Talk to Me” / “Mi abuela a mí no me habló.” *Women Poets of Costa Rica / Mujeres poetas de Costa Rica, 1980-2020 (Bilingual Anthology)*. Arabella Salaverry, editor. María Roof, translation coordinator. San José: Atabal Editores, 2020. Washington, DC: Casasola Editores, 2020.

Walton, Mesi, translator. Biographical material and poems by Xiomara Cacho Caballero from Spanish to English: “Unequals” / “Desiguales,” “License to Commit Crime” / “Licencia para delinquir,” “Demand Punishment Screaming” / “Pide a gritos el castigo.” *Women’s Poems of Protest and Resistance*.

Honduras (2009–2014). Lety Elvir, editor. Translation editor, María Roof. Pp. 96–101. Washington, DC: MACLAS / Casasola Editores / Siguanaba, 2015.

RESEARCH, ONGOING

Africana Culture as a symbol of Identity and a tool for Resistance in the Atlantic Coast of Colombia.

Afro-Venezuelans: Exploring the ways in which cultural expressions have been used actively and passively among Afro-Venezuelans as measures to deal with the inheritance of slavery and the institutionalization of racism, discrimination, and other forms of oppression.

Afro-Hispanic Cultural Fieldwork and Research in Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, Panamá, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Peru. 2008 – Present.

Independent research on traditional Afro-Hispanic and Afro-Caribbean dance and music in the Americas. Established a network with key dance companies while taking dance classes and teaching dance in various national and local schools. Conducted interviews, archival research, recording of dances, festivals, classes, and other cultural manifestations for ongoing research.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Interview: Montgomery County Cable Channel, Community Connections “Rhythms of Resilience: Tracing African Roots in Latin America”. (Spring 2024)

Podcast: Reading of “Curly Body,” translation of poem by Afro-Brazilian Livia Natália, for *Diverse Verses: Transborder African-descendant and Indigenous Voices* [Verso diverso: voces transfronterizas afro e indígenas], a project of the Caro y Cuervo Institute, Bogotá, Colombia, and the Federal University at Minas Gerais, Brazil, September 2024. Forthcoming on Spotify and other venues. (Spring 2024)

INVITED LECTURES

“Commemoration of African American Heritage Month”

- Panelist
- Conversation at the Colombian Embassy of the U.S.
- February 27, 2024

“Afro-Latinx Cultural Traditions”

- Lecturer and Dance Workshop
- Black History Month Village Discussion. Roosevelt H.S.
- February 27, 2024

“African Roots in Latin America”

- Featured Lecturer
- World Languages Professional Learning Day. Howard County Public Schools
- February 9, 2024
- “Fulbright Panel Discussion”**
 - Organizer and Panelist
 - Faculty and Alumni Discussion on Fulbright Experiences. Howard University
 - November 14, 2023
- “We Center Blackness: Howard, Diversity and Diaspora”**
 - Panelist
 - Academic Symposium for the Presidential Inauguration. Howard University
 - November 1, 2023
- “Afrikan Freedom Fighters: Power & Resistance”**
 - Lecturer
 - Lecture on Venezuelan Maroonage. Aya Homeschool Collective
 - February 28, 2023
- “Black Women’s Resistance in Colombia’s Atlantic”**
 - Featured Speaker/Fireside Chat
 - Center for Women, Gender and Global Leadership. Howard University
 - January 25, 2023
- “Academic and Cultural Connections Between Colombia and the U.S.”**
 - Featured Speaker
 - Cultural Exchange at Centro Colombo Americano. Bogotá, Colombia
 - May 20, 2022
- “Centering Cultural Infusion from the African Diaspora”**
 - Featured Panelist
 - MOBE Symposium: Independent Education Narrative – HBCU’s & Beyond
 - April 21, 2022
- “The Caribbean of South America: Afro-Venezuelan and Afro-Colombian Cultural Survivals”**
 - Featured Scholar
 - The Cycle of Conferences on African and the African Diaspora Studies (CEADA)
 - September 12, 2021
- “Afro Hispanic Heritage in the US — Raíces”**
 - Keynote Address
 - Latinx Student Alliance and Dr. Sarah Soanirina Ohmer, “Somos Hispanxs! Black Latinx & Queer Theory, Literature & Culture,” Hispanic Heritage Event. CUNY New York. Sept. 18, 2020.
- “Exploring African Roots in South & Central America”**
 - Featured Scholar

- Appeal Inc., Historical/Cultural Literacy Series, Thurgood Marshall Center, Washington, DC. Feb. 11, 2017.

“The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of Afro-Venezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe and La Sabana”

- Presenter & Event Curator
- An Exploration of Traditional Afro-Venezuelan Music and Dance in Celebration of Venezuela’s Afro-Descendent Month, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Busboys & Poets, Washington, DC. May 20, 2013.

“Did Africans Lose their Africanity?”

- Lecture and Discussion, Saint Augustine’s University, Raleigh, NC. Nov. 17, 2012.

“Malembe y Mondongo”

- Presentation and Photo Exhibit from U.S. Delegation Tour in Venezuela, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Washington, DC. May 24, 2012.

“Afro-Venezuelan Traditions”

- IKG Cultural Resource Center, Washington, DC. Aug. 25, 2010.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

“Afro-Venezuelan Culture: Sacred Traditions, Migration, and Identity”

- Black Sacred Arts conference: Centering the Black Sacred Arts: Research, Education, and Public Life, Yale Institute of Sacred Music. May 13, 2025

“Afro-Venezuelan Dance as a Global Ambassador”

- Department of World Languages and Cultures Research Symposium, Language Development and Cultural Expression in a Globalized World, Howard University. April 17, 2025.
- Co-Organizer.

“Maintenance of African Traditions through the Festival of Drums and Cultural Expressions in Palenque de San Basilio/de Benkos”

- African Studies and Languages International Conference, Washington, DC. February 21, 2025.

“Afro-Venezuelan Culture in Migration”

- African Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL. December 12, 2024.
- Session Chair.

“Where are the Drums?”

- Society of Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, online. October 19, 2024.

“Tradiciones afrovenezolanas en movimiento global”

- Segundo Encuentro internacional de investigadores en estudios afro-latinoamericanos, University of Cartagena. June 5, 2024.

“Migrations of Afro-Venezuelan Music and Culture”

- Howard University African Studies International Conference, Howard University. March 13, 2024.

- Session Chair

“Afro-Venezuelan Dance as a Global Ambassador”

- Collegium for African Diaspora Dance (CADD), Duke University. Feb. 16, 2024.

“Pan-African Ancestral Solidarity in Song, Dance and Oral Traditions”

- Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA. Jan. 25, 2024.
- Session Chair.

“Kongo Cosmology in Venezuela through the San Juan Festival”

- KOSANBA Colloquium XIV - Pan-Africanism at the Kalfou: Vodou & Africana Religious Crossroads, Morehouse University. October 5, 2023.

“Bullerengue as a tool of Self-Determination”

- Representations of Afrolatinidad Conference, University of Pittsburgh. April 15, 2023.

“Freedom through Lyrics in Afro-Colombian Music”

- College Language Association Convention, Emory University. April 5, 2023.

“Ancestral Identity - Afro-Colombian Cultural Traditions of the Atlantic Coast”

- Fulbright – ICETEX Conference, Universidad de los Andes. Hybrid. May 19, 2022.

“Kongo Movement in the Americas”

- Histories of Healing: An Africana Symposium on Movement and Wellness. Online. April 29, 2022.

“Cultural Memory and Survival in Colombia”

- Conference on Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice, Rochester Institute of Technology. Online. Sept. 23, 2021.

“We Are Still Here: Cultural Resistance Among Afro-Venezuelans from Slavery to Today”

- Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS). Online. Sept. 12, 2020.
- Session Chair.

“From Kongo to Venezuela”

- Nankama African Dance Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC. Feb. 9, 2019.

“Africana Freedom Struggles in the Diaspora through Music”

- The Benjamin A. Quarles Humanities and Social Science Institute Conference on African American and African Diaspora Studies, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD. Nov. 8, 2018.

“Why Kwanzaa”

- Festival of the Caribbean / Festival of Fire Conference, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. July 6, 2018.

“Multiculturalism and Unique Historical / Cultural Voices: Several Approaches to Developing Interactive Foreign Language Content Modules in Spanish”

- GWATFL—Greater Washington Association for Teachers of Foreign Languages Spring Conference for Foreign Educators, Washington, DC. Apr. 29, 2017.

"Rituals and African Retentions in Diasporan Cultural Production of Language, Literature, and Songs of the Barlovento Region of Venezuela"

- GESA—Graduate English Student Colloquium, "Rooted: Legacies of Recovery and (Re)Memory in the Cultural Production of the Black Diaspora," Howard University, Washington, DC. Mar. 31, 2017.

"Language and Identity of African People"

- ISAPS—The International Society for African Philosophy and Studies Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC. Nov. 13, 2015.

"In Curiepe and La Sabana as in the Caribbean: Analyzing the Ethnic and Ancestral Retentions of African Language and Instruments in Venezuela"

- College Language Association (CLA) Conference, New Orleans, LA. Mar. 28, 2014.

"The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of AfroVenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe and La Sabana/La conexión étnica de África con Venezuela: El habla de los afrovenezolanos y la significación de sus instrumentos en los pueblos de Curiepe y La Sabana"

- Fundación Bigott, Caracas, Venezuela. Jun. 21, 2013.

"The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of Afrovenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe and La Sabana"

- The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Washington, DC. Jun. 7, 2012.

"The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of AfroVenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe, La Sabana and La Vela"

- Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS), American University, Washington, DC. May 23, 2012.

"The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of Afrovenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe, La Sabana and La Vela"

- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. Nov. 3, 2011.

"Language and African Instruments in the Venezuelan towns of Curiepe, La Sabana and La Vela"

- International Conference—Africa and People of African Descent: Issues and Actions to Re-envision the Future, Howard University, Washington, DC. Sept. 14–16, 2011.

Panel discussion on the documentary, "*Water drums: An ancestral encounter/Tambores de agua: Un encuentro ancestral*"

- Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Washington, DC. May 26, 2011.

“The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of AfroVenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe, La Sabana and La Vela”

- Howard University, Graduate Research Symposium, Washington, DC. Apr. 28, 2011.

“Afro-Venezuelan Music & Dance from Curiepe, La Sabana, Guatire, and Tapipa”

- College Language Association (CLA) Conference, University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC. Apr. 8, 2011.

“The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of AfroVenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe, La Sabana & La Vela”

- Graduate Portuguese & Hispanic Symposium, Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Mar. 26, 2011.

“The Ethnic Connection of Africa with Venezuela: The Language of AfroVenezuelans and the Significance of the Instruments in Curiepe, La Sabana & La Vela”

- Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC) Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC. Mar. 18, 2011.

“Afro-Venezuelan Drums in European Religion: Hidden Expression of Self Identity?”

- Department of World Languages and Cultures Mini-Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC. Mar. 2, 2011.

“African Culture in Venezuela”

- Jacob Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern University, Chicago, IL. Sept. 14, 2009.

“Afro-Venezuelan Traditions/Tradiciones Afro-Venezolanas”

- Fundación Bigott, Caracas, Venezuela. Dec. 18, 2008.
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH LEADERSHIP

Founder of Diaspora Dance (Tour Coordinator, Instructor, Performer, Speaker)

- Afro-Cuban Tour—2017, 2018. Organized and led a delegation of university students and adults on a cultural exchange with artists and locals in Havana, Matanzas, and Santiago.
- Afro-Colombian Tour—2012, 2014, 2015, 2022. Organized and led a delegation of artists and journalists to the Festival of Drums in Palenque de San Basilio and Cartagena, Colombia, for study, interviews, and participation. Organized and led a group to the highly popular Petronio Álvarez Festival in the Pacific City of Cali for cultural exchange.
- Afro-Venezuelan Tour—2011. Organized and led a delegation of professionals and students on cultural exchanges in various towns throughout the Barlovento region.

- Conducted Spanish-English interpretation between members of the delegations and the communities. Choreographed and performed dance and music shows for events at embassies, festivals, conferences, etc. Presented research at numerous conferences on African cultural survivals in the Diaspora.

Presenter at the Venezuelan Embassy, 2011, 2013

- Participated in panels to discuss the cultural connections between Africans and Afro-Venezuelans following film screenings.
- Presented thesis research on the African connection in Venezuela, performed several dances, and involved the audience in dance workshops.

Venezuelan Embassy Resident Dance Instructor, 2010 – 2013

- Conducted regular community dance lessons promoting Venezuelan cultural awareness.
- Passport DC: Led Venezuelan dance workshops for over 100 attendees.

Cultural Consultant, Colombia, 2008 – 2010

- Coordinated dance workshops for several Colombian dance companies.
- Performed West African song and dance at regional and national festivals.

Fundraiser, 2011

- Colombian Education and movie screening of “Tambores de Agua,” Chicago, Illinois.
- Raised funds for the education of Colombian students active in Afro Colombian issues and activities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Junior Faculty Writing & Creative Summer Works Academy – Howard University, 2023
- Early-Career Faculty Development Program, ELEVATE (Enriching Learning, Enhancing Visibility, and Training Educators) Rutgers University – 2023
- Future Faculty Career Exploration Program - Rochester Institute of Technology, 2021
- Lumen Circles Fellowships for Faculty - Online Teaching Foundation, 2021
- Open Textbook Library Workshop and Textbook Reviewer – Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) 2020
- Social Justice in World Languages Education: Where Do I Start? - The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) 2020
- Remember Who You Are Identity Summit - African Ancestry, 2020
- The ALARI First Continental Conference on Afro-Latin American Studies- Harvard University, 2019

- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) biennial conference, 2011, 2019
- Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS), 2020, 2012
- College Language Association (CLA), 2011, 2014, 2018

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Dissertation defense committee member – Northeastern University, Graduate School of Education (2025)
- Manuscript peer-review for journal. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*. "Vernacular Choreography: A Shield of Culture in Contemporary Times". Work completed April 2025.
- Dissertation committee member – Howard University, Communication, Culture and Media Studies, (2024-2025)
- Manuscript peer-review for journal. *Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies*, 2024. Vol. 8, No. 1, 77-100 "Entre cantos y trenzas, el acompañamiento femenino en el duelo y la maternidad para resistir la violencia en Esta herida llena de peces de Lorena Salazar". Work completed May 2024
- Master's Student Language and Comprehensive Exams Proctor (2022-2023)
- Manuscript peer-review for journal. *Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies*, 2020. Vol. 4, No. 2, 261-281. 4.2, "Sacudidas privadas compartidas: Poesía de la pandemia." Work completed November 2020.
- Chair, Session of Scholarly Papers, "Contemporary Political, Social, and Cultural Movements in Latin America". 40th Conference of the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS). Online. Sept. 12, 2020.
- Planning and Logistics Lead, International Conference-Africa & People of African Descent: Issues & Actions to Re-Envision the Future, Howard University, Washington, DC. Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2019.
- Logistics Lead, International Conference: "Africa and People of African Descent: Issues and Actions to (Re)-Envision the Future," Howard University, Washington, DC. Sept. 14-16, 2011.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT & INSTITUTION

- Co-organized Department Research Day (Spring 2025)
- Freshman Seminar Faculty Team (2023 & 2024)
- Organized a program with renowned Afro-Cuban poet Nancy Morejón (2024)
- Coordinator for Spanish Mixer (2023)
- Organized Department Research Day (Spring 2023)
- Search committee member for Spanish lecturer positions (2023)
- Search committee member and recorder for the French tenure-track position (2022).
- Curriculum Committee
- Development Committee

- Prioritization Committee for the Spanish major & minor
- Assessor for the Howard University ESL Program (2022)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEPARTMENT & INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

2010-Present Howard University, Department of World Languages

- Organized 2-day departmental Open House “Spanish Mixer” 2023, 2024
- Developed new Honors course: Afro-Cuban Culture and Society (Spring 2025)
- Developed new Honors course: Afro-Colombian Society - Past and Present (Spring 2024)
- Re-created Syllabi for Oral Communication I and Oral Communication II for consecutive developmental learning
- Developed new undergraduate course: “Art, Music, and Dance in the Hispanic World.” Approved, 2018.
- Co-organized Hispanic Heritage Festival of the department and subsequent festivals. 2017 – 2018.
- Organized and led 10 students and 4 adults on a 10-day cultural exchange in Havana, Cuba, May 15, 2017 – May 25, 2017.
- Selected as a faculty member to teach ESL courses to a group of 13 Brazilian students through the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP), 2014. Created courses for Basic and Intermediate English including exams, activities, homework, and discussions. Created content to prepare students to pass the TOEFL exam.
- Led 16 students and 3 adults on a 1-month cultural exchange in Costa Rica, July 1 – 31, 2013.
- Implemented the highly successful “Spanish Café,” a student-led conversational language activity to assist peers in using the language in a natural setting, January – April 2013.
- Co-founder, Leader, and Campus Advisor of Nsaa Dance Ensemble, 2001 – Present. A company at Howard University committed to educating its members and audiences about the culture and history of Africa and the African Diaspora through dance, song, and music.
- Campus Advisor of Ubiquity Inc. 2001-Present. A co-educational, non-profit, community outreach social organization.

SKILLS AND ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Fluent in Spanish
- Certified in Blackboard and Distance Learning for Hybrid and Asynchronous courses
- TEFL Certificate (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)
- Experienced in show production, stage management, emcee, and booking agent
- Professional dancer, singer, musician (African, Latin, Urban styles)
- Confident in cross-cultural communication, drawing on resourcefulness, resilience

- Web design, Multimedia editing, iMovie

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Member
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Member
- African Studies Association (ASA)
- Howard University Interdisciplinary Research Group on African and African Diaspora Studies