

Postdoc Profile: Dr. Felicia Jamison

Mercer University (B.A. Spanish); Morgan State University (M.A. Africana Studies); University of Massachusetts Amherst (Ph.D.)

Faculty Mentor: Elsa Barkley Brown

Dr. Felicia Jamison is a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow contextualizing the African American experience in her capacity as a postdoc in UMD's [College of Arts and Humanities](#). A historian who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Felicia's research explores the lives and experiences of African Americans in the 19th and 20th century. Felicia's work includes the examination of community-based and grassroots movements. Currently, she is researching how freedwomen accumulated and purchased land during the post-Civil War Reconstruction era, examining the social, political, and economic uses, as well as the spiritual significance, of land ownership to these women as Africans in diaspora.



Like many scholars, Felicia discovered her academic interest through her life experience. She grew up in Midway, Georgia, a small enclave near the Atlantic coast, and her identity was shaped by her family's history. "I grew up hearing stories about the lives and deeds of my ancestors. It was then that I learned the value of passing on histories through oral tradition. As a historian, I'm able to use historical methodology such as analyzing archival sources and conducting oral histories to research and reconstruct the lives of everyday black people. I truly enjoy it."

Below, Felicia discusses learning from our past and bringing everyday voices to the forefront:

Why did you choose UMD for your postdoc experience?

UMD has a reputation of providing excellent education to its students and for producing groundbreaking scholarship. There are a number of scholars in the history department who work on African American history, especially during the Reconstruction period. I'm looking forward to learning from and working with them to grow my skills as a historian and as an educator.

You are a historian. What is one of the most important lessons we can learn from our past? What, in your view, are we doomed to repeat?

It's important to learn from the past so that we don't repeat the same mistakes in the present. Thus, it is imperative that we continue to teach an inclusive history and ensure that it's disseminated both inside and outside the academy.

Your dissertation used a case-study in Georgia to underscore the power of grassroots and

community-based movements. Is there a recent example of this type of activism you find inspiring?

My dissertation looked at the Black Freedom Struggle, a movement that encompassed African Americans fighting for their human and civil rights throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. As scholars have shown, it was people on the ground using grassroots strategies that helped abolish slavery, end Jim Crow segregation, and fight anti-black racism. In that same vein, it's clear that the Black Lives Matter Movement is directly connected to this long struggle for equality and equity. It is surely my generation's Civil Rights Movement.

How do you hope your work will impact others?

My goal in writing history is to tell the stories of everyday people who worked tirelessly to enact change in their communities. I hope that these stories both inspire and interest people.

What's the last great book you read?

I just finished reading [Making Gullah: A History of Sapelo Islanders, Race, and the American Imagination](#) by Melissa Cooper.

What's the one item (or piece of tech) you cannot live without?

My iPad. I read books, check emails, maintain my social media, and listen to music on my iPad. It would be hard to live without it.

Faculty Hiring Initiatives

As noted in the University's [Transforming Maryland: Expectations for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion](#) strategic plan, and reinforced in the University's [Strategic Plan](#), the University has long embraced the core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion. The University launched several efforts in recent years to help recruit, retain, and advance a more diverse faculty. Together, the ADVANCE program, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), the Office of Faculty Affairs (OFA), and others have implemented initiatives that include seed grants, peer networks, mentoring, writing groups, and an allies program.

Last year, Provost Rankin launched three initiatives to further diversify the faculty:

- [The President's Postdoctoral Fellows Program](#). We have joined in a collaborative partnership with the University of California to offer postdoctoral fellowship opportunities at the University of Maryland in all academic fields, coupled with faculty mentoring, professional development, and academic networking opportunities. Through this program, the University seeks applicants whose research, teaching, and service will contribute to diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in higher education and at the University of Maryland. This year, we welcomed six Fellows to campus (who will be profiled throughout the year in our newsletter).
- [The Senior Targeted Hire Program](#). This program's focus is on the recruitment of field-leading tenured faculty members who will enhance the diversity of the faculty, as well as contribute

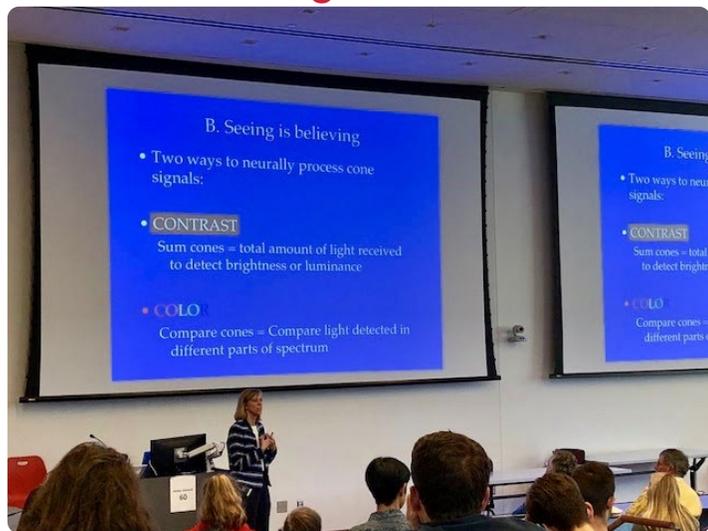
more broadly to campus diversity initiatives and efforts. The program successfully recruited two underrepresented faculty members last year, and we currently have several proposals under review.

- **The Inclusive Hiring Pilot.** Led by ADVANCE and in collaboration with ODI and OFA, this program is working with six colleges and multiple departments in those colleges (CMNS, BSOS, ARHU, AGNR, ARCH, EDUC) to help develop an enhanced search plan and process based on best practice strategies designed to attract, recruit, and hire faculty from underrepresented groups.

As a complement to these programs, the Provost continues to provide incentives to recruit and hire diverse faculty members at the assistant professor level. In addition to measuring the success of these programs -- and adjusting as we learn from their initial implementations -- a key goal is to bring greater coordination and collaboration across these efforts to enhance the success of our goals to recruit, retain, and advance a diverse faculty.

Recognition & Awards

2017-18 Distinguished Scholar-Teachers



Karen Carleton

On October 18, Dr. Carleton presented, "Seeing is Believing: Vision in a Changing World" in the Edward St. John Learning and Teaching Center.



Rajshree Agarwal

On October 19, Dr. Agarwal presented, "Fostering Enterprise: Where the Journey is the Destination" in the Frank Auditorium.



Srinivasa Raghavan

On November 2, Dr. Raghavan presented, "Nature-Inspired "Smart" Materials: Ability to Move, Morph, Destroy, and Heal" in the Kim Engineering Building.

Provost's Excellence Awards for Professional Track Faculty

In the Fall of 2015, the Provost announced the inauguration of annual Excellence Awards for Professional Track (PTK) Faculty. Winners receive a letter of recognition from the Provost and a \$1,000 award in recognition of their contributions in one of the three core areas: Teaching, Research, or Service.

Nominations are limited to faculty members who have been employed at UMD for at least five years but are not on the tenure track. Part-time faculty members become eligible when they have served the equivalent of five years of full-time employment.

Nominations must be submitted by the nominee's unit head or immediate supervisor, and shall consist of a letter of support from the nominator, the nominee's CV, and two additional letters of support. The nomination period is from January 15 - February 15, 2018 and the full dossier is due on February 28, 2018. [Click here](#) for more information.

Call for Nominations

A call for nominations has been issued for the following awards:

2018-2019 Distinguished University Professor Awards

Nomination period October 1 - November 15;

Full Nomination Dossier Due January 15, 2018

Faculty Development

UMD - At Home and in the World

Research Ethics was the focus of the latest UMD - At Home and in the World seminar. The session addressed ethical issues raised by new technologies, intense competition for funding, challenges over

the reproducibility of experiments, and how literature offers imaginative reasoning that helps us work through these problems. Featured speakers were (left to right): Robert Slevc, Psychology; Jessica Vitak, College of Information Studies; Philip DeShong, Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Christina Walter, English.



If you have ideas on future topics that we can highlight, [contact us](#).

Telling Y(Our) Story: New Faculty Activities Reporting System

As you may know, we have selected [Activity Insight](#) by Digital Measures as our faculty activities system to enable faculty and the University to promote and report faculty and University accomplishments, activities, and impacts.

We will host [another open forum](#) to discuss this new system on Thursday, November 16 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm in McKeldin Library, 6137 Special Events Room.

For more information regarding the Faculty Activities Data project (including goals, timeline, and implementation approach), please go to: <https://faculty.umd.edu/data/>.

Faculty Tips and Resources

Multi-Factor Authentication

Beginning December 4, 2017, multi-factor authentication will be required for all faculty members, graduate assistants, and campus leaders to access university IT systems, like ELMS, UMEG, G Suite (including Gmail), CourseEvalUM, Box, and many more.

Recently, a new option for multi-factor authentication was added to make the process more accessible – you can now register (and log in) using any phone that can receive a voice call.

To enroll or learn more, visit <https://it.umd.edu/mfa> or contact the IT Service Desk at 301.405.1500 or



BETA Team - Behavior Evaluation & Threat Assessment

Have you ever had a disruptive or threatening student in your class? Did you notice something about one of your students that concerns you but don't know what to do about it?

The BETA Team is a UMD committee that provides assistance and evaluates reports about troubled students. They also provide guidance on and assess concerning behavior and develop strategies to support the well-being and academic success of all students...[Read more](#)



2018 Orientations - Save the Date

- August 15: New Administrators
- August 21 & 22: New Faculty

Location information and details will be provided in April 2018. [Contact our office](#) with any questions.



Academic Freedom and Free Speech is a hot topic on our campus and campuses across the nation. For resources to better understand and address these issues, click on the links below:

- [What is Academic Freedom?](#)
- [Guidance on Sensitive Topics](#)
- [Addressing Sensitive & Divisive Topics and Events](#)
- [Academic Freedom & Free Speech: Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Protected Speech: A \(Very!\) Quick Overview](#)
- [Questions & Answers About Academic Freedom](#)



Did you know that faculty members can share courses with other Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions?

CourseShare is a program that provides the chance to collaborate with respected peers at Big Ten Academic Alliance universities, expand course enrollments with talented students, employ new technologies, fill curricular gaps, preserve

[Click here](#) for resources from the August 2017 Orientation.

specialized courses, and strengthen student recruitment efforts...Read more.

Photo courtesy of the Big Ten Academic Alliance.

News

UMD Named Top 50 Global University by U.S. News & World Report

University of Maryland SAFE Center, PGPD Receive Joint \$1.3M Grant to Assist Human Trafficking Victims

The Phillips Collection and the University of Maryland Present International Forum in Washington

UMD Solar Decathlon Team Takes 1st Place in the U.S., 2nd Place in the World

Advancing Together Workshops: Call for Participation. ADVANCING Together is a series of five two-hour linked workshops during the 2017 fall semester for women Associate Professors.

Events

11/16 [Open Forum - New Faculty Activities and Reporting System](#) *REPEAT SESSION*

11/30 PTK Mentoring Town Hall (registration opens soon)

Full event listing located here:

<http://umdfacultyaffairs.eventbrite.com/>

[Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Lectures](#)

11/20 Sandra Gordon-Salant: Golden Years, Golden Ears: The Challenges of Age-Related Hearing Loss