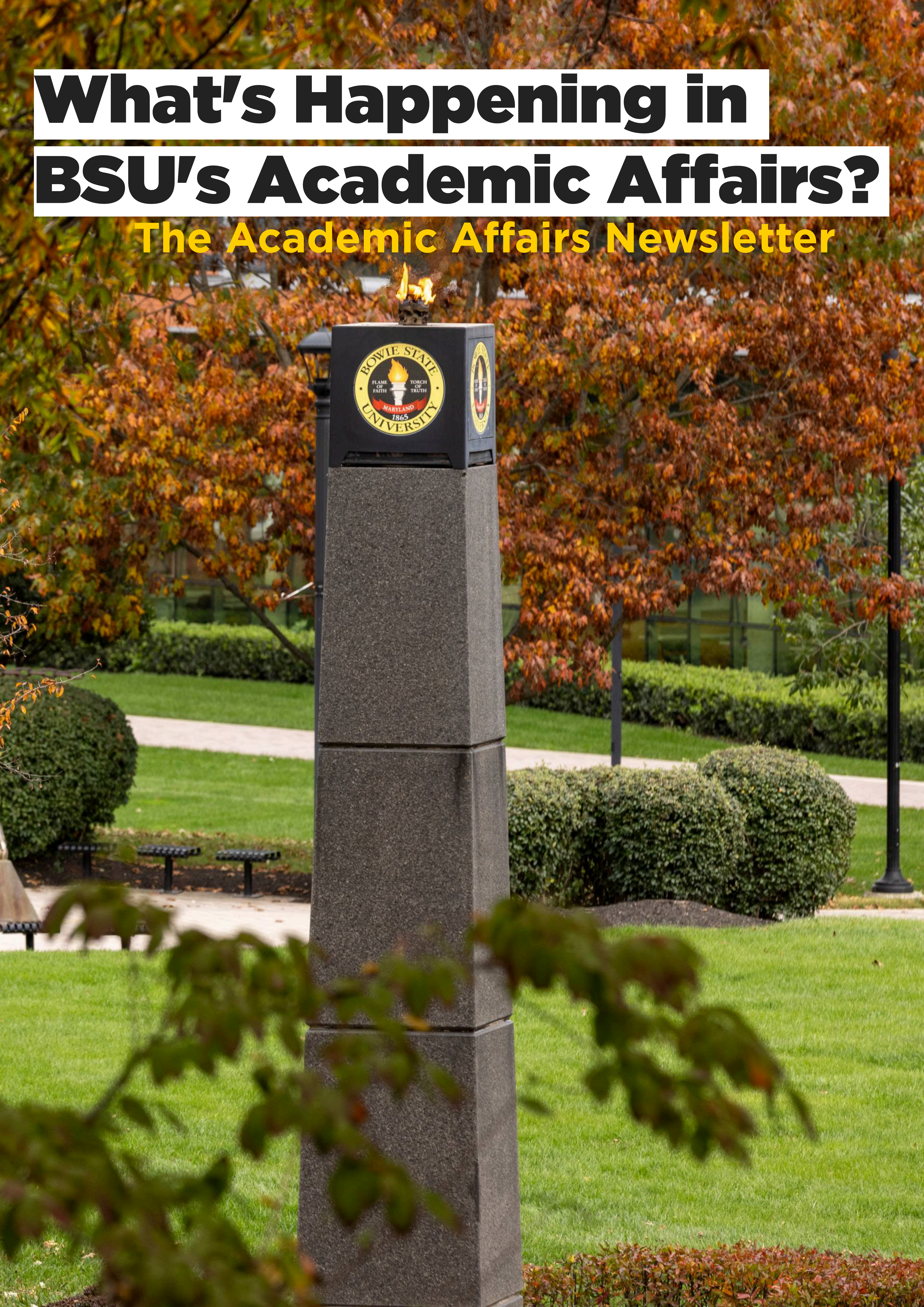


What's Happening in BSU's Academic Affairs?

The Academic Affairs Newsletter





February 2025

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SUCCESS FEST



Wed. Mar. 26 | 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Student Center Wiseman Ballroom

SAVE

THE

DATE

PROVIDING THE ACADEMIC
SUPPORT YOU NEED.





Faculty & College Showcase

College of Arts & Sciences



Highlighting the Power of Storytelling in Arts and Humanities Education

Dr. Horacio Sierra, in the department of Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies, who was a President Biden appointee to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, has been busy promoting the importance of the arts and humanities through his peer-reviewed publications and public speaking engagements. His latest article, "[An Interview with National Leaders in the Arts and the Humanities](#)," was published in the inaugural issue of *Public Humanities* – an open-access scholarly journal published by Cambridge University Press.

On January 10, Dr. Sierra provided the Keynote Address at West Hills Community College District's Spring Faculty Convocation. His talk, which was delivered at Coalinga College in California, was entitled "Storytelling Across Campus: Building Inclusive & Interdisciplinary Classes and Services." On November 19, Dr. Sierra provided the Keynote Address at the National Student Poets Program Ceremony. His talk, which was entitled "Nurturing the Budding Poet and Activist," was delivered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. On August 8, Dr. Sierra provided the Keynote Address at Fresno City College's Fall Faculty Convocation. His talk, which was entitled "Telling Stories: Nurturing the Budding Intellectual Through the Arts and Humanities," was delivered in Fresno, California

Served As Invited Speaker to Analyze Latin American Geopolitics on "Battle of Ideas"

On January 10, 2025, Dr. Frederick Mills, Professor of Philosophy in the Department of History and Government, participated as an invited speaker on a panel for the program "Battle of Ideas." This panel examined the geopolitical context of the struggle for independence and integration in Latin America, as well as the recent presidential election in Venezuela. The discussion was transmitted live in both English and Spanish on Radio Negro Primero, a community-based radio station in Venezuela, and was also accessible via Zoom. Dr. Mills grounded his remarks in the framework provided by Enrique Dussel's Politics of Liberation.

Share your accomplishments with us!

Send information on your recent presentations, awards, grants, acknowledgments and other accomplishments by visiting the [Academic Affairs newsletter webpage](#).

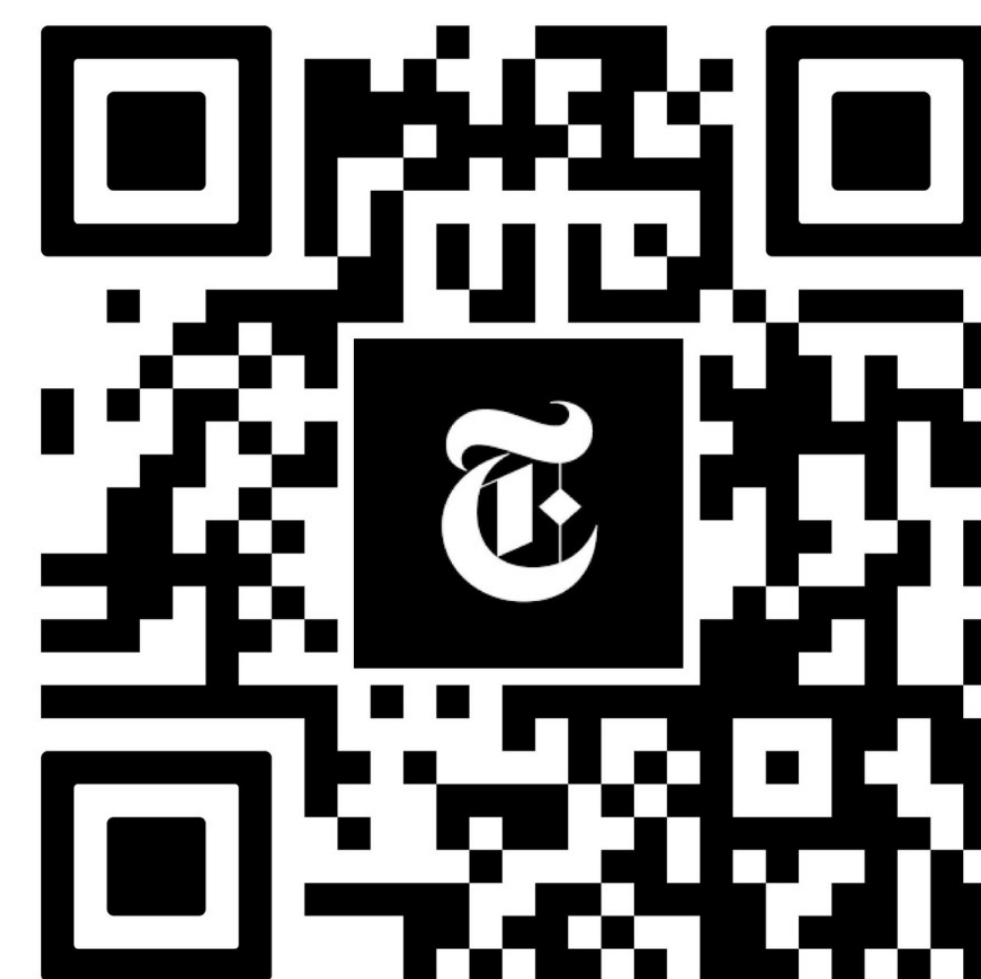
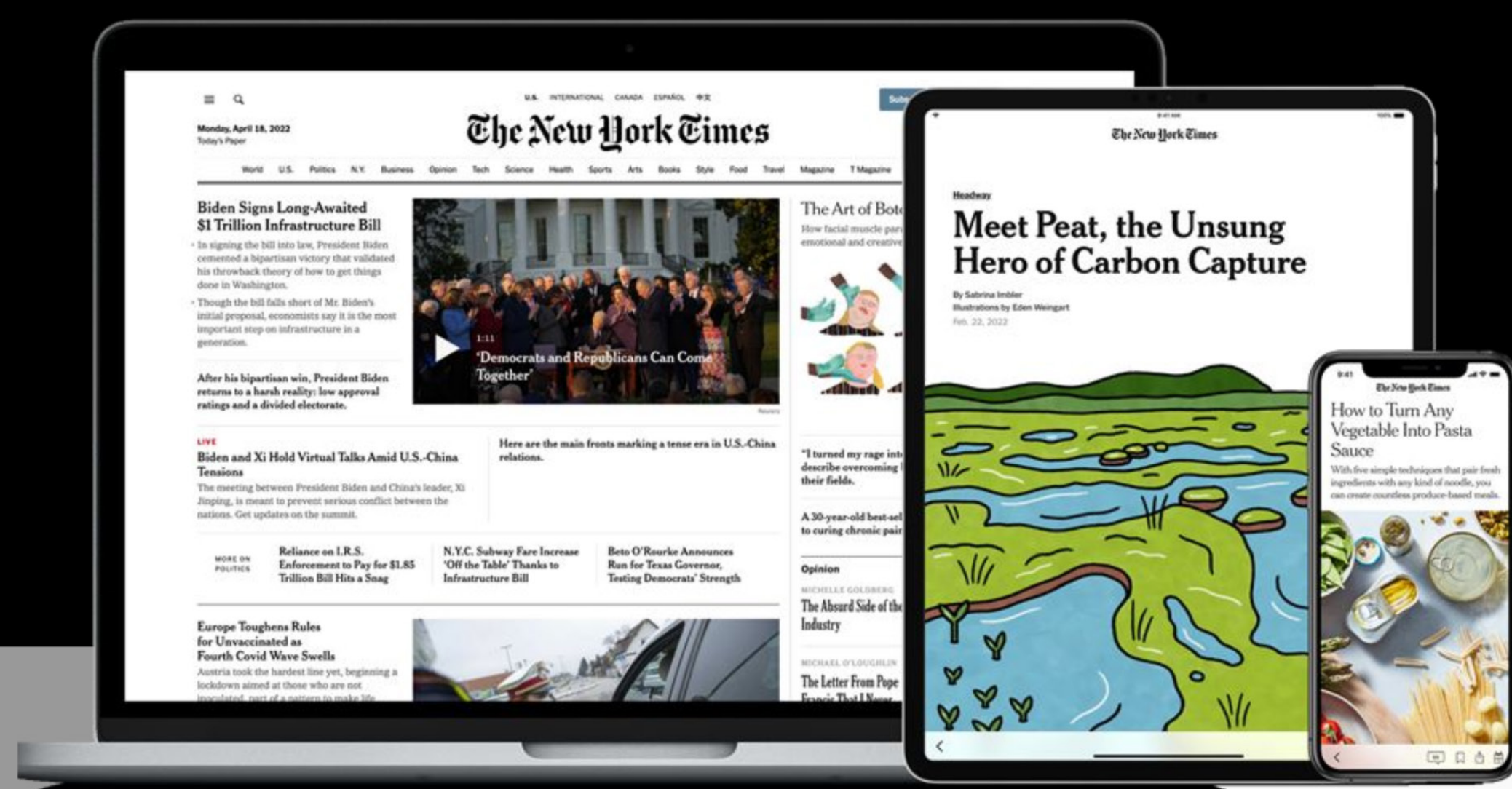
Thurgood Marshall Library

Free Access to New York Times News

The New York Times

Activate your free access to New York Times News!

Whether you're writing a paper or planning for the weekend ahead, discover original, quality journalism that helps you understand the world — and make the most of every part of life. Seek the truth, find new perspectives, inform your conversations.



THURGOOD MARSHALL LIBRARY

Scan to activate your FREE access to New York Times News!

The Thurgood Marshall Library (TML) has added another knowledge database to its digital collection. At the beginning of the spring semester 2025, the TML acquired access to the New York Times for faculty, students, and staff.

While the New York Times requires a subscription, your affiliation with Bowie State University as a staff member or student grants you FREE access to this valuable resource. We encourage its use for academic work and to stay informed on current events.

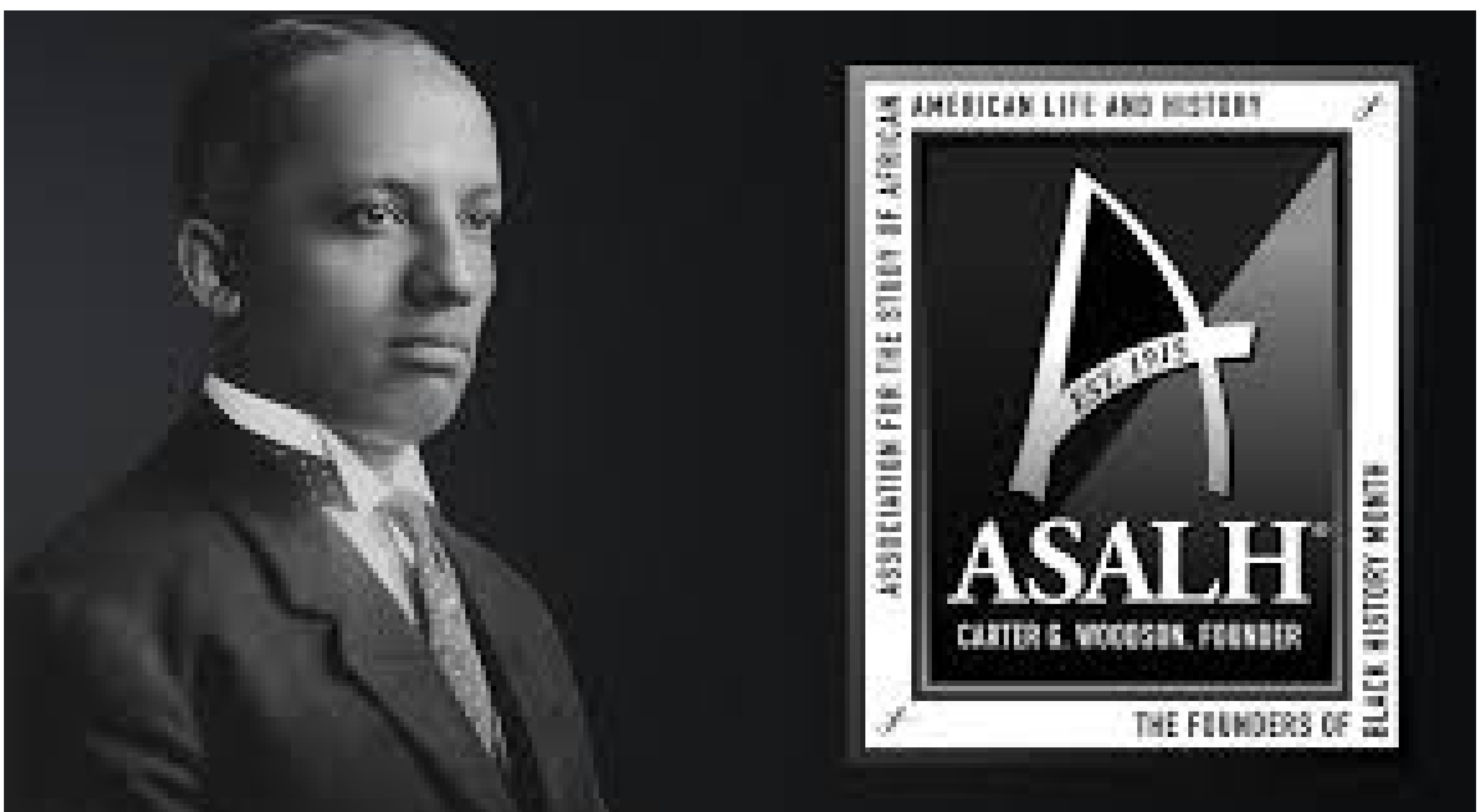
To sign up, click on this link and use your Bowie State University credentials to complete the process and login. Faculty members are also encouraged to share this resource with students and colleagues to ensure maximum utilization and support.

Don't forget to use BSU Discovery for your research needs and remember to reach out to TML schedule an Information Literacy Session for your class.

Thurgood Marshall Library Reconnects with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Thurgood Marshall Library Special Collection and Archives Department had the pleasure of reconnecting with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) to begin building successful ties to interact with, research, access, engagement, and programming around the ASALH collection. The Special Collections department has been inventorying the collection and working to reestablish connections with the ASALH Board on our next steps with the collection. The current collection consists of collection books written by and or about the African American Diaspora and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Book Collection the founder of the ASALH organization.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is a nonprofit organization founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black history. With the collaboration of many others, ASALH set forth the mission of disseminating knowledge about Black life, history, and culture, and is known as the founder of Black History Month. Coming soon, if you would like to view the collection, please reach out to the Special Collection Department to schedule a visit. Ms. Claire Jeter (Special Collections Librarian) and Shamica Terry (Library Specialist) look forward to working with you.

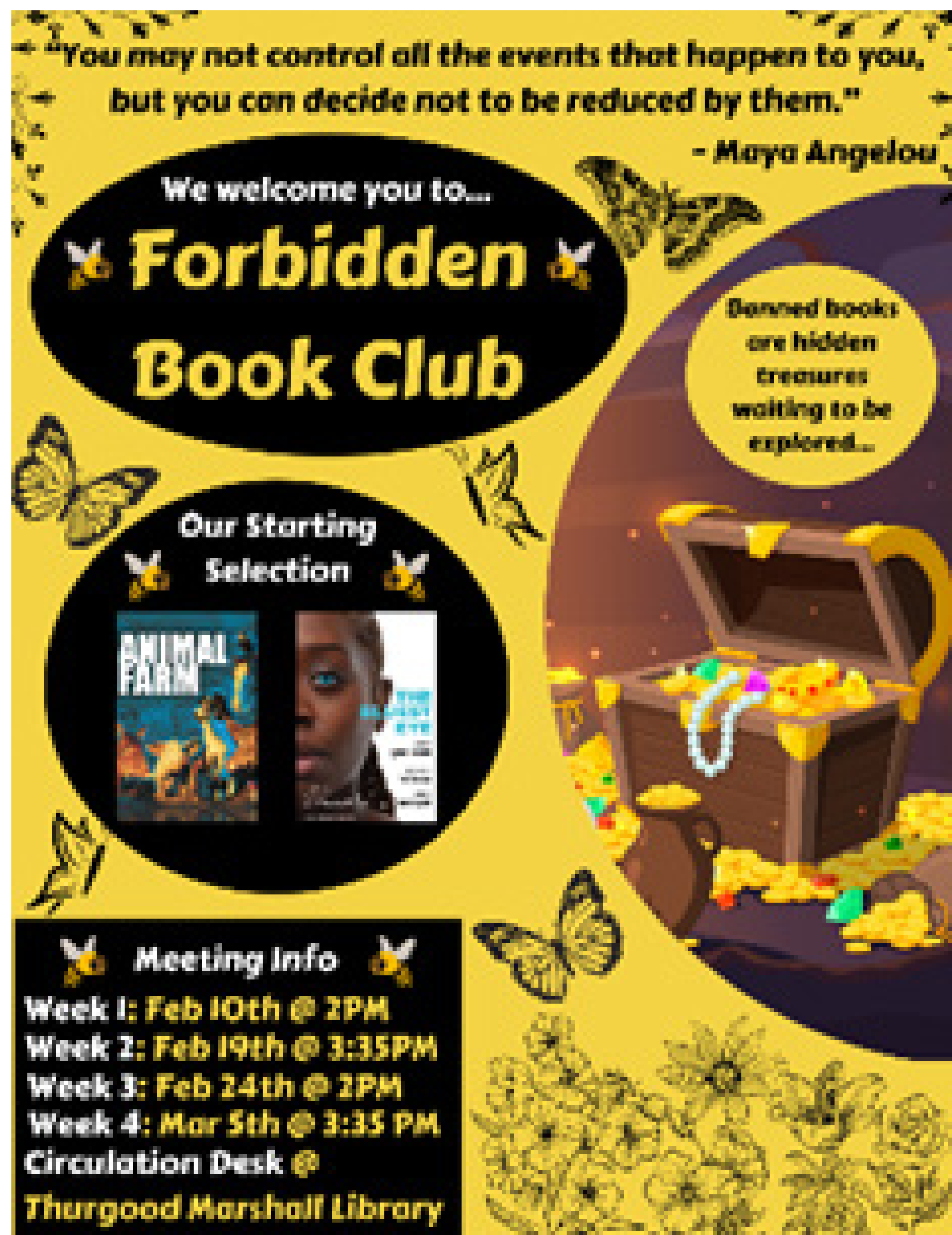


Advancing Student Success: The Role of Integrated Academic Support in HBCU Curriculum Design

This proposed research project seeks to advance existing knowledge as it examines the gap and reviews the impact of integrating tutoring and library services into the curriculum design on student success, with Bowie State University, an HBCU, as the sample instrument of analysis. The specific focus will be on understanding how these integrated services influence academic performance, retention rates, and overall student engagement.

Student Success Coordinator, Ebone Johnson, in partnership with the Dean for the Library, Sophia Sotilleo, will present their proposed research study at the annual conference of the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS) geared towards the integration of tutoring and library services for students' success. While studies highlight the positive impact of tutoring and library services on student success, there is a gap in research specifically addressing the impact of integration into curriculum designed particularly at and for HBCUs.





The Forbidden Book Club

Thurgood Marshall Library has kicked off its Book club, The Forbidden Book club' with an American Classic, The Animal Farm.

With reading being an important driver of literacy, Thurgood Marshall Library has taken it upon itself to engage with students at the University through leisure readings of literary works that inspire critical thinking while also providing a pleasurable read.

According to the Dean of Thurgood Marshall Library "At Thurgood Marshall Library, we recognize the transformative power of reading and its role in shaping critical thinkers and engaged learners.

The Forbidden Book Club is more than just a space for exploring diverse literature—it is a platform for students to engage in meaningful discussions, expand their perspectives, and cultivate a lifelong love for reading. In an era where information is abundant, fostering literacy and intellectual curiosity is essential to academic and personal growth. We are excited to provide this opportunity for students to connect through literature, challenge ideas, and deepen their understanding of the world through the power of books."

The Forbidden Book club has also released dates for the month of February into March. The date ranges from 19th, 24th and 5th of March. The next book to be read at the club will be Toni Morrison's 'Bluest Eyes' and we look forward to having you read with us!



Unit

Achievements

UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS

Appointed to Territorium's Assessment Advisory Council

Dr. Becky Verzinski, Assistant Vice President for Assessment, has been appointed to serve on the Assessment Advisory Council of Territorium. With her extensive expertise in education and assessment, Dr. Verzinski is well-positioned to contribute valuable insights that will advance the company's mission of enhancing educational technology and assessment services.

Territorium is recognized as a leader in digital assessment solutions, administering approximately 4 million assessments each year. In her capacity on the Advisory Council, Dr. Verzinski will engage with fellow professionals in higher education to develop innovative assessment strategies. This role will involve participation in both virtual and in-person meetings, where discussions will focus on institutional and market trends affecting assessment development.

Dr. Verzinski's appointment underscores her commitment to academic excellence and innovation. We extend our congratulations to her on this well-deserved opportunity.

The Entrepreneurship Innovation Center



Celebrated for Fostering Youth Entrepreneurship

On February 24, 2025, the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center was awarded a citation from the Mayor and Annapolis City Council, acknowledging our dedicated efforts to support and nurture the city's youth in developing entrepreneurial thinking, enhancing career readiness, and exploring collegiate opportunities over the past three years with students from Annapolis High School.



Entrepreneurship Series Launches with Expert Insights



On Tuesday, February 11, 2025, the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center kicked off its “Ask an Entrepreneur” series for the Spring 2025 Semester with our new Entrepreneurs-in-Residence, Dr. Wayne Curtis, PhD, Binta P. Mamadou, Esq. and Mr. Kiante Bush. 30 participants attended the virtual event where Executive Director Johnetta Hardy interviewed the EIRs who shared their entrepreneurship journey, including pitfalls, successes, and recommendations they have for budding entrepreneurs. The next session will occur in person at the “Women Owned Business Fair” on Thursday, March 13th, at 3:15 PM.

Hands-On Creativity: Makerspace Workshop Fosters Creativity

On Tuesday, February 18th, the EIC hosted its Makerspace Sewing Workshop. This workshop is a great way for participants to express their creativity and build confidence with fabric and thread. The workshops cater to all levels of experience. Students learn from skilled instructors who guide them through various techniques that aid participants in completing their own handmade items, from stitching simple accessories to creating more advanced garments.



UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS



Intensive Business Planning Program Enhances Student Skillset

The Building Businesses @BSU Winter Program provided 10 ambitious Bowie State University students with an intensive, three-week entrepreneurial experience. Throughout the program, participants engaged in a structured process of developing their business plans -- refining their ideas, conducting market research, and crafting financial projections.

With mentorship from industry experts and faculty, students gained critical insights into business strategy and startup development. The program culminated in a final presentation, where each participant showcased their business plan, demonstrating their vision, planning, and execution skills.



At the end of their hard work, students from the Building Businesses @BSU Winter Bootcamp joined participants from the EIC Fellows Program—who collaborated with students in Jordan—for a special recognition event. During this gathering, students received certificates of completion and had the opportunity to meet their fellow classmates in person for the first time, as both programs were conducted virtually.

The EIC Fellows Program provided participants with fundamental design-thinking principles and innovative problem-solving tools to address business and entrepreneurial challenges on a global scale. Through this experience, students developed the ability to build products, strategies, teams, and environments for optimal use and performance. This event served as a celebration of their dedication, innovation, and entrepreneurial growth.

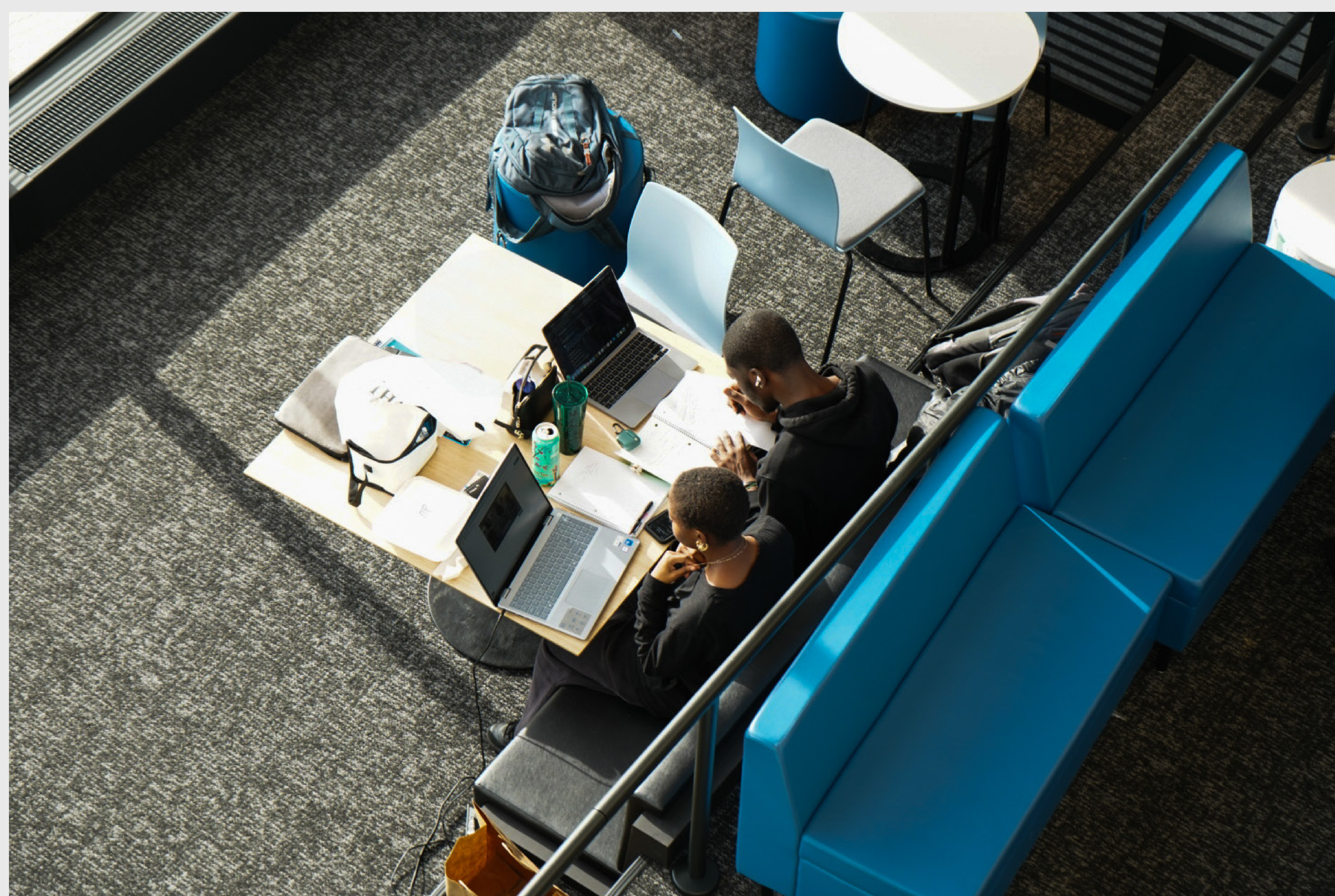
Black Founders in Innovation

The Entrepreneurship Innovation Center hosted about 50 guests who attended the Black Founders in Innovation: Black History Month event on Thursday, February 20, 2025 @ 5:00 PM in the Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics & Nursing - Beacon Room. The event was a resounding success, bringing together students, faculty, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to celebrate Black excellence in STEM and entrepreneurship. In collaboration with the University of Maryland College Park Campus and members of the Mid-Atlantic Hub, the event was emceed by Dior Whitfield, a Junior at Bowie State University.

The event featured an inspiring keynote by Eric Broyles, CEO of Nanocan Therapeutics, and an engaging panel discussion led by Bowie State University's own Dr. Wendy M. Edmonds, highlighting I-Corps' impact on innovation and how the I-Corps program aligned Black Entrepreneurs with tech transfer dollars for business and research.

Attendees gained valuable insights into innovation and startup growth while networking with key ecosystem partners. This event reinforced Bowie State's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship and technology.





Student Success



Visual Communications & Digital Media Student Makes a Mark with Documentary Design

Kenneth Aquino, a Bachelor of Science candidate at Bowie State University majoring in Visual Communications & Digital Media, has been making significant strides in the fields of graphic design, visual design, and motion graphics. His latest accomplishment includes contributing as a graphic designer and motion graphics animator to the documentary "Diminished Returns: The Black Wealth Gap in Washington, D.C."

"Diminished Returns" delves into the stark disparities in net worth between Black and white households in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, highlighting advocates' efforts toward reparative solutions addressing the root causes of this wealth gap.

This film is scheduled to premiere on February 15, 2025, at 1:30 PM during the DC Independent Film Festival (DCIFF) at the Regal Gallery Place theater. dciff-indie.org Aquino's role in the documentary involved creating compelling visual elements and animations that enhance the storytelling, providing viewers with a deeper understanding of the complex issues presented. His contributions are a testament to his growing expertise and dedication to his craft. While pursuing his degree at Bowie State University, Aquino has actively engaged in various projects that showcase his talents in graphic and visual design. His work on "Diminished Returns" marks a significant milestone in his burgeoning career, reflecting both his academic training and practical experience.



This is a photo of Kevin after he was sworn onto the City Of Bowie's Diversity Committee where he can be seen holding his certificate.

Bowie State University Freshman Student Bridging Communities Through Literature and Service

Kevin Lopez-Cruz, a freshman majoring in English, recently began his role as a Literary Initiatives Intern at the Library of Congress. In this capacity, he will support the planning and execution of major literary programs, including the National Book Festival, literary event series, and ambassador initiatives such as the U.S. Poet Laureate and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. In December, Kevin was appointed to serve a two-year term on the City of Bowie's Diversity Committee. Acting on behalf of the City Council, Kevin is tasked with advising city diversity and cultural issues, promoting inclusivity in city practices, and helping to plan cultural events. Additionally, he will serve as a liaison between the Latino community and the Diversity Committee.

Excellence in Black Dance: Roots in Rhythm, Our Legacy in Motion

The Fine and Performing Arts Department's The Collective Dance Company performed Excellence in Black Dance: Roots in Rhythm, Our Legacy in Motion on February 21 & 22 in the Dionne Warwick Theatre. Students from the Theater Arts program, Dance and movement studies concentration as well as students minoring in Dance, students from other programs across campus, and alumni choreographers all joined together to produce this dance concert.

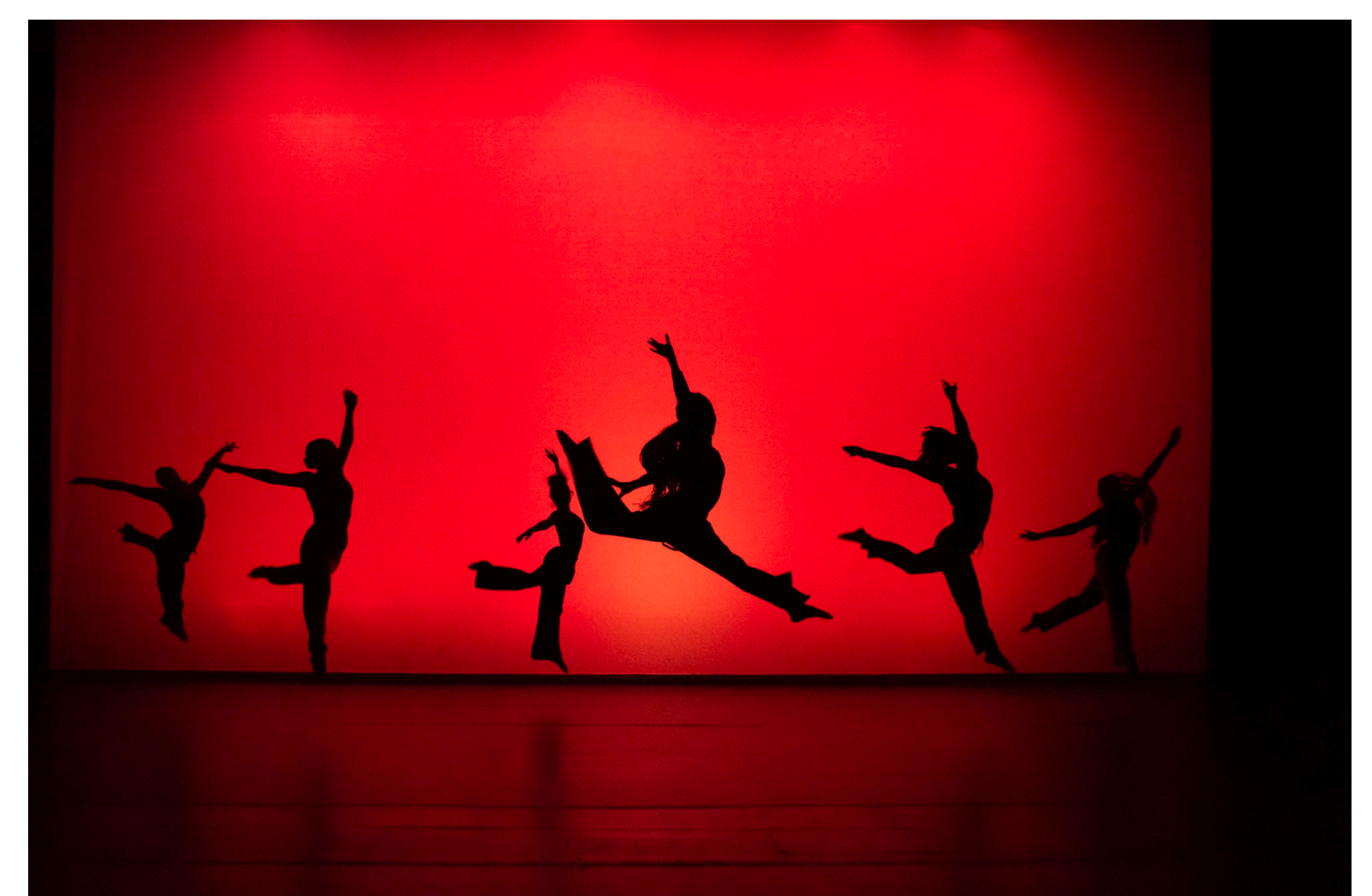


Photo by Joseph Edwards

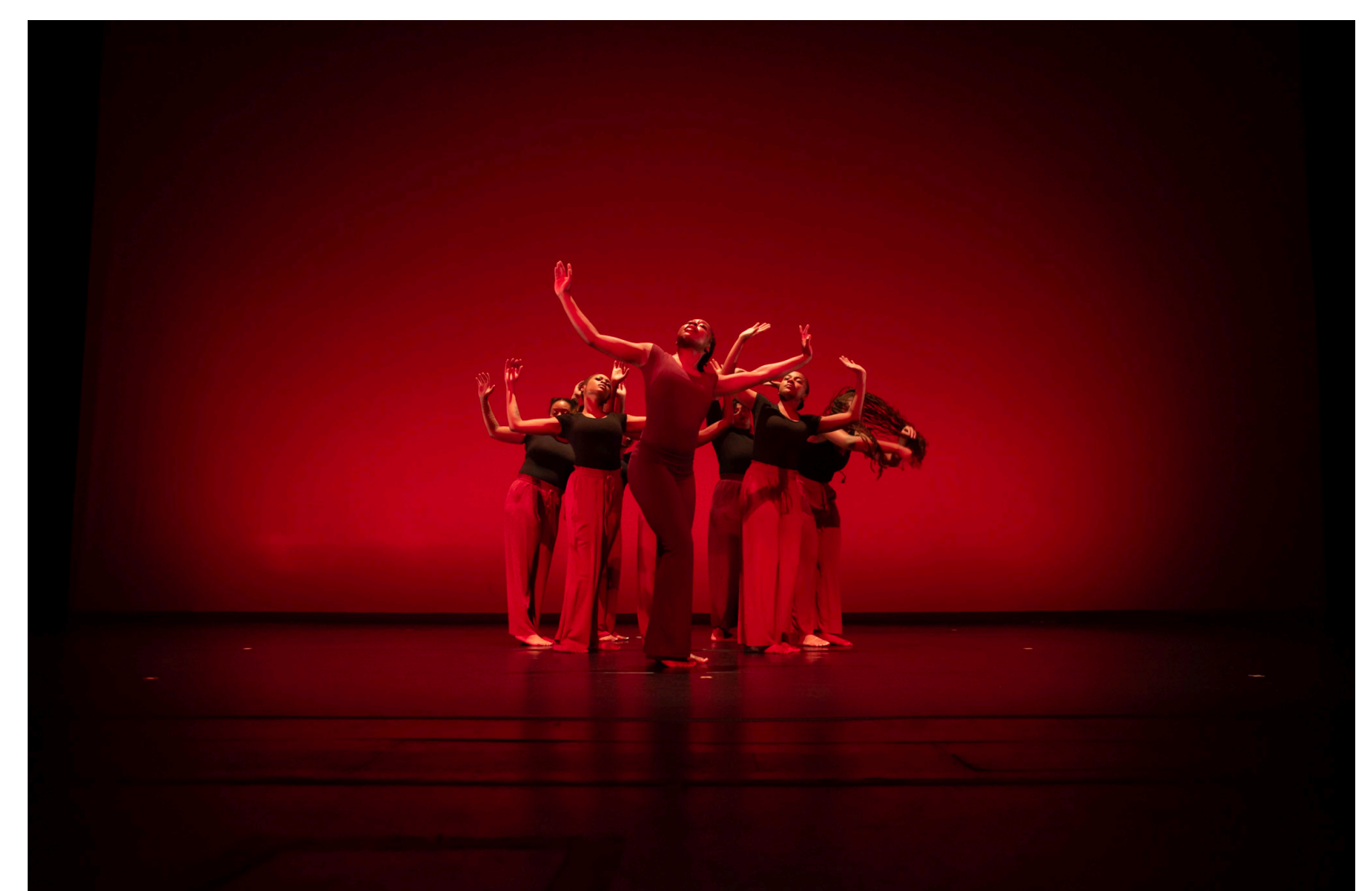


Photo by Joseph Edwards

Bowie State University Department of Communications Students Shine at the 2025 Presidential Inauguration with CBS News



From January 15 to January 21, 2025, seven exceptional students from the Department of Communications had the unique opportunity to serve as interns for CBS News in Washington, D.C., during the highly anticipated 2025 Presidential Inauguration. The students—Sydni Chester, Donell Pettus, Dream Chmelewski, Ryan Lynch, Brian Swann, Sean Stubbs, and James Edwards—played a vital role in supporting CBS News’ extensive coverage of this historic event.

Throughout the week, these dedicated communication ambassadors were immersed in the fast-paced world of broadcast journalism. Their responsibilities included assisting engineers and technicians with the setup and breakdown of essential equipment, running errands for the production staff, and organizing logistics to ensure a seamless operation. They also prepared essential supply kits, which were crucial for the smooth running of the production, showcasing their ability to adapt and respond to the dynamic needs of a live broadcast environment.

Continued on the next page.

STUDENT SUCCESS

In addition to their hands-on contributions, the students had the incredible privilege of meeting several prominent figures in broadcast journalism and sports. They interacted with industry leaders such as Gayle King, Norah O'Donnell, and Nate Burleson, gaining invaluable insights and inspiration from these seasoned professionals. The experience enhanced their understanding of the media landscape and allowed them to network with influential figures who could shape their future careers.

The students expressed immense gratitude for the opportunity to work with CBS News and shared that their time there was both enjoyable and educational. They left with a renewed sense of confidence and determination, believing that this experience marks the beginning of a fruitful relationship between CBS News and the talented individuals emerging from Bowie State University. With their skills and dedication, these students are poised to make a lasting impact in the world of media and beyond.

As they reflect on this remarkable experience, the students are excited about the future and eager to continue building on the foundation laid during their time at CBS News. The Department of Communications is proud of their achievements and looks forward to seeing how they will contribute to the media industry in the future.



Projects & Initiatives

A Platform for Collaboration: Bowie State's Initiative Fosters Strategic Alliances in Federal Procurement

Dr. Matthew Crosston, Director of Academic Transformation, led a group of Bowie State staff this past summer and fall to help build and create, in fulfillment of a major grant from the Small Business Administration, new curriculum that provides a 7-week training course for HBCUs and 8(a) small businesses to collaborate and team together in order to compete for and win federal government contracting awards. This Federal Contracting Collaborative Accelerator is now complete and the first cohort of more than 15 HBCUs and 8(a) small businesses will begin at the end of this February. The program leverages a two-tiered, two-phased approach combining structured training, practical coaching, and collaborative engagement to prepare the participants to pursue federal procurement opportunities effectively. This innovative curricular approach is the first of its kind amongst both HBCUs and participating corporations that have long-wanted greater training to gain access to potential HBCU partners.



Research

& Innovation

Research and Innovation Week 2025

SAVE

**RESEARCH
AND
INNOVATION
WEEK 2025**

21-25 APRIL
2025

THE

DATE



MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS



Awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Award for Scholarly Research

Dr. Karen Cook Bell, Wilson H. Elkins Professor of History, received a \$60,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Award to support research and writing on her fifth book project, *Black Resistance: Family, Gender, and Slave Politics in Denmark Vesey's Conspiracy*.

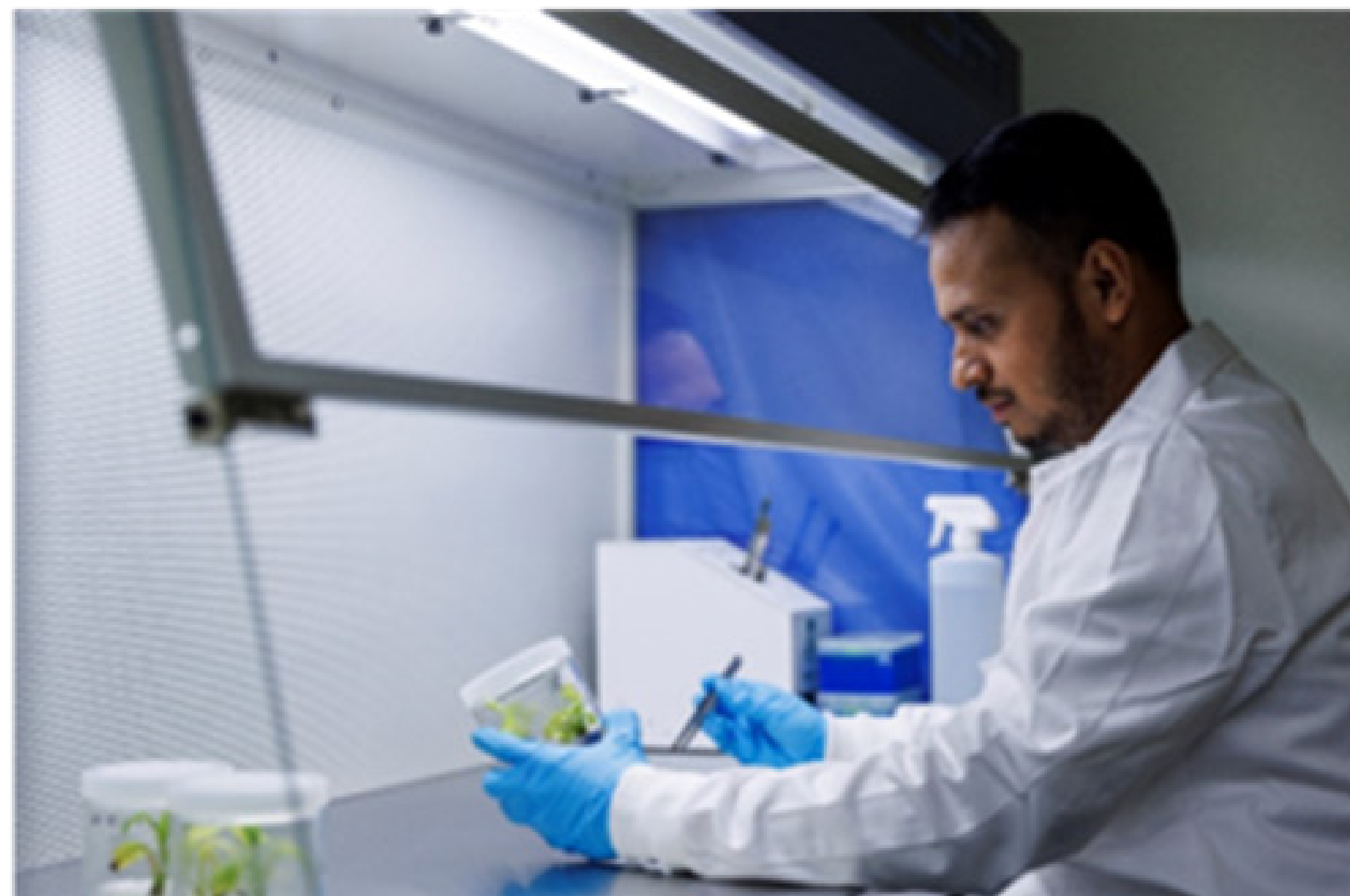
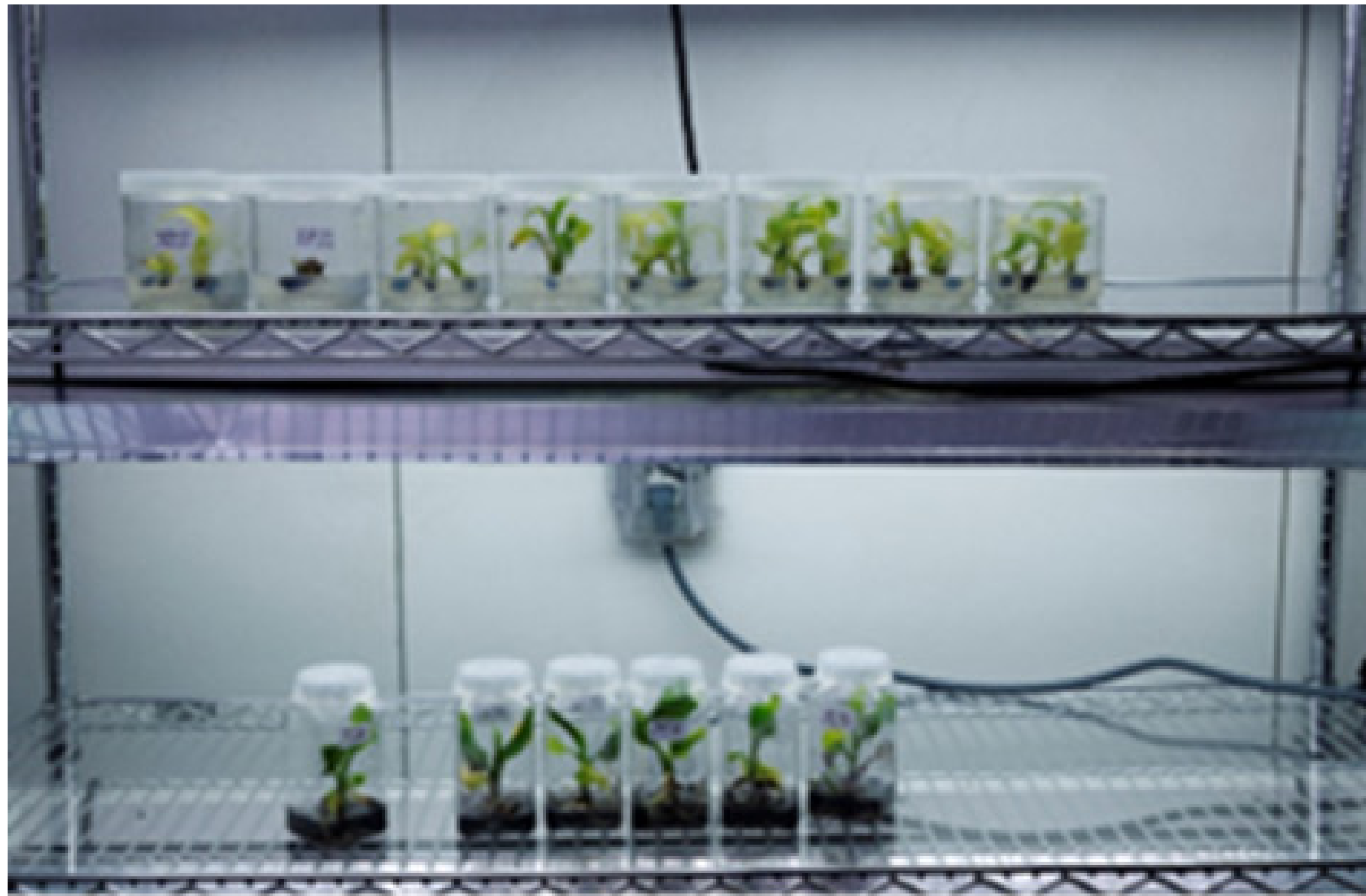
To learn more about the National Endowment for the Humanities [click here](#).

Scholarly Presentation Examines Decolonization and Economic Liberation in Entrepreneurship

Dr. Tia Young, Professor for the College of Business, recently was a symposium speaker at Hampton University's 2025 Black Decolonization Conference. As an entrepreneurship and marketing expert, Dr. Young presented on "Black Entrepreneurship: Decolonization, Restructure, and Economic Liberation," drawing from her published research articles in international journals, her classroom instruction, and her experience consulting hundreds of Black entrepreneurs nationwide. She proudly represented Bowie State University at this well-attended event and looks forward to her next presentation on a similar topic in April. Go, Bowie Bold!



Collaborative Effort Brings Cutting-Edge Plant Tissue Culture Facility to Bowie State



The Department of Natural Sciences has established a state-of-the-art plant tissue culture facility, a project led by Dr. George Ude and his Postdocs (Dr. Kishan Saha and Dr. LH Stevenson Naitchede). The new facility is a significant achievement in plant biology research at Bowie State University. This facility will support the mass propagation of bananas and plantains (*Musa* spp.), the conservation of rare and endangered species, and the production of disease-free plants. It provides a controlled environment equipped with sterile culture rooms, growth chambers, and a media preparation room for plant tissue culture studies. The main goal of this facility is to build a second international *Musa* germplasm gene bank to complement the only Center that currently exists in Belgium. We extend our gratitude to the Bowie State University Administration for the Title III funding that enabled us to establish the new facility. This new tissue culture facility represents an initial and major step in the advancement of plant biotechnology research at Bowie State University.

Bowie State University Faculty Published His Third Book; Applications of Traditional Archery in the World

by Adem Kaya, Asst. Prof, Sport Management, College of Education, Bowie State University



Dr. Kaya collaborated with over 20 international scholars to write about his third book project, “Application of Traditional Archery in the World”. He does not only serve as an editor, but also he wrote three chapters in his book. His book is part of the five-book series that he established a publishing deal with one of the world's best social science publishers, Nova Science Publishers, Inc, NY.

About the Book

Applications of Traditional Archery in the World covers the world’s most popular traditional archery sports from a historical perspective to present day.

Historically, traditional archery has been widely used, and it changed the way people fought wars, hunted, and spent leisurely time. In addition to covering traditional archery from a historical point of view the book also provides guidance about culture, current applications, and present rules and regulations of traditional archery that everybody in the field of traditional sports and games needs to learn.

The well-written book is a contribution of twenty-five authors and experts from sixteen countries with many popular traditional archery sports. It is the most comprehensive work on the subject matter to date, and it will be of extreme value to teachers, athletes, coaches in traditional sports, scholars in sports science, sports historians, physical educators, people in sports ministries, and agencies. In addition to educating and entertaining, this book gives readers a connection on a personal level to all those united by this shared physical and cultural heritage, and it will advance understanding of and enjoyment for the sacred games of traditional archery. Check out the book on the publisher's website here: [From Past to Present: Applications of Traditional Archery in the World – Nova Science Publishers.](#)

His Previous Books:

[Applications of Traditional Equestrian Sports in the World – Nova Science Publishers](#)

[Applications of Traditional Wrestling in The World – Nova Science Publishers](#)

Appointed Lead Editor for Scholarly Project on 21st Century Hybrid Warfare

Dr. Matthew Crosston, Director of Academic Transformation, has been asked by the Balkan History Association to be lead editor on a newly commissioned book project entitled, "The 21st Century Hybrid War: Reactions from the European Periphery on Russian-Ukrainian Crises." The volume will analyze what the last twenty years of Ukrainian crises have wrought in terms of long-term implications, with special focus on stability and security throughout the European periphery. The volume's ultimate research goal aims to elucidate what effects there are for neighboring countries having to deal with the de facto "Proxy Cold War" currently raging between the United States and Russian Federation. The group Crosston has been asked to head consists of members of the Romanian National Intelligence Academy, the War Studies University in Warsaw, and the Military Academy of Lithuania. It is hoped that the finished product will be concluded before the end of the 2025 calendar year.



Service & Community Engagement

SERVICE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Leadership in Youth-Led Conservation Initiatives in El Salvador

Dr. Frederick Mills is a board member of the Association for Educational Development in El Salvador (ADEES, Inc) a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Maryland. ADEES is presently supporting a youth led project to defend the environment through education and community engagement with conservation efforts. Dr. Mills' wife, Evelyn Gonzalez-Mills, is presently in El Salvador accompanying this and other youth led projects aimed at educational development in their communities.

Bowie State Choir Honors "Women in Red with Pearls"

The Bowie State University Gospel Choir was the special guest for the Women's Day Celebration at Queen's United Methodist Church in Laurel, Maryland on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 4:00 pm. The theme for this program was "Women in Red with Pearls."

Share your accomplishments with us!

Send information on your recent presentations, awards, grants, acknowledgments and other accomplishments by visiting the [Academic Affairs newsletter webpage](#).

BE RECOGNIZED!

This newsletter will be published monthly to recognize the contributions and achievements of faculty and staff in the academic community.

Please provide the published-ready news for the accomplishment, along with a photo and additional links if you like, and we'll add it to the next issue.

As your colleges, departments, and units reach academic milestones, publications, presentations, grant awards, and more, we want to hear from you!

To be featured in the next issue [complete the form](#) by **March 5, 2025** and email questions to academicaffairshappens@bowiestate.edu.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou
provost@bowiestate.edu

Associate Vice President for Retention & Student Success

Dr. Rosalynne Whitaker-Heck
rwhitakerheck@bowiestate.edu

Staff Assistant

Ms. Anselma Fevrier
afevrier@bowiestate.edu
301-860-3417

Executive Administrative Assistant I

Ms. Katerine Douglas
kdouglas@bowiestate.edu
301-860-3085

Program Management Specialist

Ms. Claudette Clemons
cclemons@bowiestate.edu
301-860-3460

Communications Specialist

Ms. Melissa Morgan
mmorgan@bowiestate.edu
301-860-3464