

The Department of Language, Literature, & Cultural Studies welcomes you to the 2019-20 Academic Year!

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1) SPRING 2019 DEAN'S LIST



Congratulations to the following English majors for earning a spot on the Spring 2019 Dean's List with a GPA of 3.5 or higher:

Haley White
Rosa Suarez
Romelo Palmer
Mahuwena Goito
Keva Colbert
Michaela Taylor
Connell Reese
Krystal Daniel
Yusuff Yusuff
Zenobia Fenrick
Deja Butler
Grant Collins

2) DR. TEMPTAOUS MCKOY JOINS LLCS FACULTY



Dr. Temptaous McKoy is a recent graduate of East Carolina University’s Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication doctoral program. She is from the small military town of Spring Lake, North Carolina. She received her BA in English from Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and MA in Professional Communication and Leadership from Armstrong State University in Savannah, Georgia.

Dr. McKoy is an award recipient of the 2018 NCTE CCCCs Chairs’ Memorial Scholarship, 2018 NCTE CCCCs Scholar for The Dream Award, and the Association for Teachers of Technical Writing 2018 Amplification Award. In addition, she has two forthcoming articles, “Avowed Embodiment: Rhetorical Performance in Black Power Social Movements” and “Dressed but Not Tryna Impress: Black Women Deconstructing ‘Professional’ Dress.” Some of her research interests include Black individuals in the field of Technical Communication, racial identity markers in traditional professional documents, HBCU culture and curriculum development, and the development of cross-cultural training documents in the workplace.

Her dissertation, “Y’all Call it Technical and Professional Communication, We Call it #ForTheCulture; The Use of Amplification Rhetorics in Black Communities”, defines and identifies the use of Amplification Rhetorics (AR) in the social movement organization TRAP Karaoke and at three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Her dissertation, dubbed #IssaTrapDissertaion, includes a completely digital/ video chapter that showcases the Black communicative practices which she identifies as Technical Communication in trap music and TRAP Karaoke ^¾ and even includes an interview with rapper T.I. In highlighting the AR practices in Black communities such as TRAP Karaoke and HBCUs, she provides insight into what Black

communicative practices and spaces have to offer to the field of Technical and Professional Communication (TPC).

Her research approach(es) aim to decenter the PWI as the space for TPC knowledge, and instead acknowledges the current pedagogical and performative practices that happen at HBCUs and Black spaces of community. She looks forward to joining Bowie State as an Assistant Professor of English with a specialty in Technical Communication.

3) PROFESSOR WILLIAMSON PUBLISHES SHORT STORY



Prof. C. Jenise Williamson's short story "The Prisoner" was published in the Spring 2019 issue of Fiction Week's Literary Review: <http://www.fictionweek.com/fwliteraryreview/prisoner.html>

4) DR. HORACIO SIERRA RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT AND GIVES INVITED LECTURE



The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Libraries

Over the summer, **Dr. Horacio Sierra** received a \$3,000 Research Grant from the University of Texas-Austin to work in their Benson Latin American Collection. He combed through archival collections spanning from the 1500s to the early 2000s in search of materials related to Afro-Latino culture to help the university create a more cohesive index of their holdings. Materials included maps of Afro-Mexican neighborhoods in Veracruz, photographs of Afro-Honduran labor organizers, testimonies written on behalf of enslaved Africans petitioning for their freedom in Colombia's manumission courts, and Cuban government propaganda depicting Afro-Cuban life.

Cuban Research Institute

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



The Cuban-American Sound Machine: Nostalgia and Identity in the Music of Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, and Pitbull Lecture by Horacio Sierra

Thursday, April 18, 2019 | 12:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Deuxième Maison (DM) 353

Dr. Horacio Sierra's presentation will examine how the musical careers of Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, and Pitbull have defined and expanded Cuban-American identity over the last sixty years. With the use of music clips and GIFs, Dr. Sierra will explain how the rhythms and imagery of Cruz's and Estefan's nominally apolitical work evoke nostalgia for a Cuba that is unreachable because it is history and fantasy at once. In contrast, Pitbull engages more explicitly with the hardline politics of Cuba because he was born and raised in the exile community of Miami wherein such discourse is commonplace. Despite their differences in terms of gender performance, racial identity, and immigration status, these three artists have carefully negotiated their place in the mainstream music market by utilizing Cuban-American narratives to trade in the universal themes of pride, nostalgia, loss, and hope.

Dr. Horacio Sierra is an Associate Professor in the Department of Language, Literature, & Cultural Studies at Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. He earned his B.S. in Communication from the University of Miami and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida. His academic and journalistic work has been published in *The International Journal of Cuban Studies*, *Comparative Drama*, *Women's Studies*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Baltimore Sun*.

This lecture is free and open to the public.

To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call (305) 348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu

FIU Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs

Creating a **Just, Peaceful** and
Prosperous World

Dr. Sierra was also invited by Florida International University's Cuban Research Institute to give a lecture entitled "The Cuban-American Music Machine: Nostalgia and Identity in the Music of Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, and Pitbull," which was based on his article of the same name published last year in *The Journal of International Cuban Studies*.

5) HBCU JOB FAIR: SEPTEMBER 11

White House Initiative on HBCUs



The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities will host a Student and Young Alumni Career Fair from 11AM-2PM at the Renaissance Downtown Hotel in Washington, D.C on September 11. The fair is free and open to all. Representatives from the public and private sector will be on-site, some come armed with your resumes and dressed in professional attire. Onsite interviewing and networking tips will also take place during the Career Fair. Students and Alumni are encouraged and welcomed to attend ALL conference sessions and the Career Fair.

Click here for more information: <https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/hbcu-week-conference/2019-national-hbcu-week-conference/>

6) GUEST LECTURE: REV. NORMAN ALLEN: SEPTEMBER 10



Rev. Norman Allen, minister of the Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Camp Springs, MD, will guest lecture in Dr. Horacio Sierra's ENGL 254: Queer Cultural Studies class on Christianity and Queer

Identity. The class will then engage in an in-the-round conversation based on readings from the Bible, theology, and personal experience within the context of Queer Studies.

Rev. Allen's work in liberal theology and social justice includes a series of publications for the Human Rights Campaign offering guidance for those who are people of faith and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Rev. Norm's essays and commentary have appeared in the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, and Smithsonian, as well as on websites for OnBeing, Tikkun, Howlround and others.

The lecture is open to all and will take place in JEP 110, 11:00-12:15.

7) NEW PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: NCRP



National Committee for Responsible Philanthropy (NCRP) promotes philanthropy that serves the public good, is responsive to people and communities with the least wealth and opportunity, and is held accountable to the highest standards of integrity and openness. Three paid internship opportunities are available to recent graduates as well as graduate students. Click here for more information: <https://www.ncrp.org/about-us/careers-internships>

8) SIGMA TAU DELTA



SIGMA TAU DELTA
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Membership Requirements:

- Candidates for undergraduate membership must have completed a minimum of two college courses in English language or literature beyond the usual requirements in freshman English. The candidate must have a minimum of a B or equivalent average in English and in general scholarship and must have completed at least three

semesters or five quarters of college course work. Candidates for undergraduate membership need not be majoring or minoring in the discipline of English.

- Candidates for graduate membership who did not hold undergraduate membership must be enrolled in a graduate program in English or one of its specializations, have completed six semester hours of graduate work or the equivalent, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale.

- Lifetime Membership Fee: \$80. \$35 goes to the Nu Nu chapter, which will bestow you with Honor Cords and a Medallion at your Induction Ceremony that you can wear during graduation. The other \$45 goes to Sigma Tau Delta's national office, which will supply you with your Sigma Tau Delta society pin and certificate. The fee must be paid in cash.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please email hsierra@bowiestate.edu