

CRYSTAL A. DEGREGORY, PH.D.

Email: c.a.degregory@gmail.com

Website: www.CrystaldeGregory.com

Storyteller // Dynamic Professional Historian + Passionate HBCU Advocate



EDUCATION

Fisk University | Nashville, Tennessee | May 2003

Bachelor of Arts in History, magna cum laude

University Honors

Departmental Honors

Phi Beta Kappa

Vanderbilt University | Nashville, Tennessee | May 2005

Master of Arts in History

Concentration: Latin American and Caribbean

Thesis: The Color Divide in the Emergent Black Man's Party: The Political Strivings of the Bahamian Colored and Black middle class in the Progressive Liberal Party, 1953-1963.

Advisor: Richard J.M. Blackett, Ph.D.

Vanderbilt University | Nashville, Tennessee | May 2011

Doctor of Philosophy in History

Concentration: U.S.

Dissertation: Raising a Nonviolent Army: Four Nashville Black Colleges and the Century-Long Struggle for Civil Rights, 1830s-1930s.

Advisor: Richard J.M. Blackett, Ph.D.

Tennessee State University | Nashville, Tennessee | May 2014

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

Concentration: Education Technology

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS + SCHOLARSHIPS

2016	Fisk University Women of Prominence
2015	Bishop Michael Eldon School 50th Anniversary Warriors Golden Jubilee Award
2015	HBCU Alumna of the Year Finalist
2014	HopeDealer of the Year Award
2011	TIAA-CREF Ruth Simms Hamilton Fellowship, Alternate
2009 - 2010	Bahamas Government Graduate Student Scholarship
2009 - 2010	Lyford Cay Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship
2008 - 2009	Bahamas Government Graduate Student Scholarship
2007 - 2008	Social Science Dissertation Fellowship
2007-2008	J. León Helguera Dissertation Fellowship (<i>declined</i>)
2006	Herbert and Blanche Henry Weaver Research Fellowship
2005	William Campbell Binkley Travel Award
2003-2007	Vanderbilt Departmental Fellowship
2002-2003	National Visionary Heritage Fellows Program

PUBLICATIONS

“Sexism in the World House: Women and the Global Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.” *Reclaiming the World House in the 21st Century: Cross-Disciplinary Explorations of the Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Lewis V. Baldwin and Crystal A. deGregory. Forthcoming.

“An HBCU in the Anglophone Caribbean: Sociohistorical Perspectives on the University of the Virgin Islands.” *Black Colleges in the Diaspora: Global Perspectives on Identity and Culture* (Chapter 11, AEDC, Volume 14). T. Elon Dancy II, Brian K. Hotchkins, Crystal A. deGregory and Stevie Johnson. Forthcoming.

“Forgiveness: The Unexpected Gift of Fatherlessness.” *Gumbo for the Soul: Liberating Memoirs and Stories to Inspire Females of Color*. Donna Ford et al, editors. November 2016.

Editor-in-Chief. *The Journal of HBCU Research + Culture*. Nashville: HBCUstory. Spring 2016.

An interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, HBCUR+C publishes a wide-range of scholarly articles relating to the nation’s historically black colleges and universities. Released in Spring 2016, the inaugural issue features an introduction to the founding editorial board, HBCU-related art, and articles on HBCU board leadership, history, partnerships, and sports.

“Amid challenges, Fisk endures after 150 years.” *The Tennessean*. January 10, 2016.

Written in celebration of the sesquicentennial of Fisk University’s dedication, the op-ed recounts the story of Fisk’s founding and relates its historical mission to its contemporary vision as only an alumna, advocate and historian can.

“Epilogue.” *The Athletic Experience at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Past, Present and Persistence*. Billy Hawkins, Joseph Cooper, Akilah Carter-Francique and J. Kenyatta Cavil, editors. London: Rowman & Littlefield. August 2015.

“Nashville’s Black Clandestine Schools.” *New York Times*. February 17, 2015. Blog.

This op-ed was published as a part of Disunion series by the *New York Times* which commemorated the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. More than one-hundred-and-fifty years ago, Americans went to war with themselves. Disunion revisited and reconsidered America’s most perilous period — using contemporary accounts, diaries, images and historical assessments to follow the Civil War as it unfolded. This essay explores the founding, growth, and eventual decline of Nashville’s clandestine pre-Civil War schools.

“The Empty Seat Was Mine.” *HBCU Experience – The Book: A Collection of Essays Celebrating the Black College Experience*. Tia C.M. Tyree, Ph.D and Christopher D. Cathcart, editors. Xlibris. December 2014.

“Black Higher Education in Tennessee.” *Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans’ Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity*. Middle Tennessee State University 2014. Web.

“The Relationships of Revolution: Martin Luther King, Jr., the Civil Rights Movement and Political Change in The Bahamas.” *In an Inescapable Network of Mutuality: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Globalization of an Ethical Ideal*. Lewis V. Baldwin and Paul Dekar, Editors. Eugene: Cascade Books. August 2013.

“The Relationships of Revolution: Martin Luther King, Jr., the Civil Rights Movement and Political Change in the Bahamas” ...“breaks new ground in the scholarship on Martin Luther King, Jr., for no scholar has written in such compelling terms about King’s meaning for people in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. As one who has thoroughly researched both the path toward nationhood in the Bahamas and the struggle for civil rights in America, deGregory is eminently qualified to write with authority about these issues. Needless to say, her chapter adds yet another piece to the puzzle that was and is the global King.” – Lewis V. Baldwin, Editor

Editor. *Emancipation and the Fight for Freedom*. Volume 6. Tennessee in the Civil War. The Best of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Quarterly. June 2013.

Emancipation and the Fight for Freedom explores the African-American experience amid and following the turmoil of the Civil War. Paying special interest to the efforts of blacks to secure the educational opportunities, it explores the continued centrality of the concept of black self-determination in the Tennessee Historical Quarterly’s black historiography.

Right to Ride: Streetcar Boycotts and African American Citizenship in the Era of Plessy v. Ferguson. (Book Review). H-net.com. May 2012. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=33932>.

"A Royal Band, The Chosen Few: The Birth of Tennessee State University." *The Tennessee State University Journal*. Drs. Samantha Morgan-Curtis and Yildiz Binkley, Editors. April 2012.

Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture. Jessie Carney Smith, Editor. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC Clio Press, 2010. Berry, Mary Frances (1938 -), "Norton, Eleanor Holmes (1937 -)." Volume 3: 1028-1030.

"Before Black Athens: Black Education in Antebellum Nashville," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 69, Issue #3, Summer 2010.

Freedom Facts and Firsts: 400 Years of the African American Civil Rights Experience. Jessie Carney and Linda T. Wynn, Editors. Detroit: Visual Ink Press, 2009. "Adams v. Richardson (1973)," 160; "American Anti-Slavery Society (1833-1870)," 196-97; "Black Educational and Religious Intellectuals," 313; "Chambers, Julius L. (1936 -)," 98-99; "Charles, Ray (1932-2004)," 11-12; "Civil War (1861-1865)," 187-88; "Cleaver, Eldridge (1935-1998)," 262-63; "Cleaver, Kathleen Neal (1945-)," 99-100; "Congress of Racial Equality (est. 1942)," 202-3; "Cooper, Anna J. (1858?-1964)," 100; "Declaration of Independence (1776)," 171-72; "Denby, Charles (1908-1983)," 265; "Delany, Martin R. (1812-1885)," 239-40; "Douglass, Frederick (1818-1895)," 240-41; "DuBois, W.E.B. (1868-1963)" 101-2; "Elliott, Daisy L. (1919-)," 266; Farmer Paellmann, Deadria (1965-)," 139-40; Farrakhan, Louis (1933-)," 294-95; Foreman, James (1928-2005)," 220; Freedmen's Bureau (1865-1872)," 205-6; "Fugitive Slave Act of 1850," 173; "Garvey, Amy Jacques (1895-1973)," 121-22; "Garvey, Marcus (1887-1940)," 220-21; "Gibbs, Mifflin (1823-1915)," 140-41; "Hamer, Fannie Lou (1917-1977)," 221-22; "Hope, Lugenia Burns (1871-1947)," 224; "Hope, John (1868-1936)," 313; "Houston, Charles Hamilton (1893-1950)," 145-46; "Howard University (est. 1867)," 86-87; Jackson, Jesse, Sr. (1941-)," 300-1; "Johnson, Lyndon B. (1908-1973)," 183; "Johnson, Mordecai (1890-1976)," 313-14; "Jones, Scipio Africanus (1863?-1943)," 146-47; "Kennedy, John F. (1917-1963)," 184-85; "Kennedy, Robert F. (1925-1968)," 185-86; "King, Martin Luther, Jr. (1929-1968)," 302-3; "King, Martin Luther, Sr. (1899-1984)," 303-4; "Letter from Birmingham Jail (1963)," 285; "Massachusetts 54th Volunteer Infantry," 189-90; "Mays, Benjamin E. (1894-1984)," 314; "Mfume, Kwesi (1948-)," 274; "Mitchell, Clarence M., Jr. (1911-1984)," 226; "Muhammad, Elijah (1897-1975)," 306-7; "NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (est. 1909)," 208-9; "National Urban League (est. 1911)," 212-13; "Niagara Movement (1905-1910)," 213-14; "Parks, Rosa (1913-2005)," 277-78; "Prince Edward County, Virginia, Schools," 116-17; "Randolph, A. Philip (1889-1979)," 227-28; "Robinson, Randall (1941-)," 228-29; "Smith-Robinson, Ruby Doris (1942-1967)," 91; "Thurman, Howard W. (1900-1981)," 314; "Truth, Sojourner (1797?-1883)," 252-53; "Tubman, Harriet (1820?-1913)," 253-54; "Underground Railroad," 73-4; "U.S. Commission on Civil Rights," 182-83; "Washington, Booker T. (1856-1915)," 111-12.

"Kelly Miller Smith: The Roots of an Activist and the Nashville Movement." *The A.M.E. Church Review*. Spring 2008.

National African American Biography. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Editors. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. "Gloster, Hugh M. (1911-2002)," Volume 3, 520-21, "Lawson, James (1915-1996)," Volume 5, 179-80.

Notable Black American Men: Book II. Jessie C. Smith, Editor. Detroit: Thompson Gale, 2006. "Frank, Free (1777-1854)," 249-51; "Hayden, Palmer (1890-1973)," 312-15; "Healy, Michael (1839-1904)," 315-18; "Nail, John E. (1883-1947)," 498-500; "Parks, H.G. (1916-1989)," 515-17; "Sharpton, Al (1954-)," 592-95.

Encyclopedia of African American Business. Jessie Carney Smith, Editor. Volume 2. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2006. "Taylor, Susan L. (1946-)," 761-96; "Walker, Madam C.J. (Sarah Breedlove) (1867-1919)," 761-65.

"McDonald and Jamye Coleman Williams," in *A Wealth of Wisdom: Legendary African American Elders Speak*. Camille Cosby and Renee Poussaint, Editors. New York: Atria, 2004.

"Undaunted By The Fight: Spelman College And The Civil Rights Movement, 1957-1967," (Book Review). *The A.M.E. Church Review*. July - September 2005.

CONFERENCE + PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

HBCU Executive Media Training Institute. *Presenter.* “What’s Canada Got That We Don’t.” Washington, D.C. July 14, 2017.

Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage. *Keynote.* “What Juneteenth Means on a President’s Plantation.” Hermitage, Tennessee. June 18, 2017.

Bishop Michael Eldon School. *Keynote.* Freeport, Bahamas. June 14, 2017.

University of The Bahamas, Northern Campus. *Commencement Speaker.* Freeport, Bahamas. June 1, 2017.

SXSWedu. *Panelist.* Austin, Texas. March 6, 2017.

Fort Negley: A Symbol of the Struggle for Civil Rights in Nashville. *Panelist.* Nashville, Tennessee. October 18, 2016. Bobby Lovett, Reavis Mitchell + Daniel Sharfstein.

The Tennessee Historical Society, the Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park, and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University sponsored a half-day program entitled “Fort Negley: A Symbol of the Struggle for Civil Rights in Nashville” The program educated residents of Middle Tennessee about the history of the fort and the role the site played in the history of the Nashville Civil Rights Movement.

HBCUstory Symposium IX. *Convenor.* Dallas, Texas. October 31 + November 1, 2016.

Sought and secured partnership with Paul Quinn College; secured keynote speaker Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie; secured sponsorships; organized meeting of scholarly research and case studies outlining the historic and contemporary value of historically black colleges and universities; featuring 30+ presenters, including United Negro College Fund, Southern Education Foundation, and Honda Campus All-Star Challenge.

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation. *Speaker.* “Reconstruction: A Moment in the Sun.” Screening and Q+A Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 18, 2016.

Vanderbilt University. U.S. and Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movements Past & Present: People, Politics, Music, and Memory. *Speaker.* Nashville, Tennessee. May 17, 2016.

New Black School. *Panelist.* “Black Lives Matter 101: A Comprehensive Course on Black Social Movements.” Charlene Carruthers, umi selah + Mychal Denzel Smith (moderator). New York, New York. April 29, 2016.

Western Kentucky University Department of History. *Speaker.* Bowling Green, Kentucky. April 28, 2016.

Tea Time for Education. *Speaker.* Washington, D.C. April 17, 2016.

Builders Mutual Insurance Company. *Speaker.* “Why HBCUs and Black History Month Matters, And Always Will.” Raleigh, North Carolina. February 26, 2016.

Florida Memorial University + Club 1964’s Inaugural HBCU Symposium. *Keynote.* “Stony the Road We’ve Trod—The Perilous Place of HBCUs in the Age of Obama and Anti-black Respectability.” Miami Gardens, Florida. February 12, 2016.

Alcorn State University Social Justice Forum. *Speaker.* “Black Lives Matter as Reconstructed Resistance: HBCUs, Social Justice, and Why Our Degrees Won’t Save Us.” Lorman, Mississippi. October 21, 2015.

The Third HBCUstory Symposium. *Convener.* Nashville, Tennessee. October 9 + 10, 2015.

Sought and secured partnerships with Fisk University and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area; secured keynote speakers Jarrett L. Carter, Sr. and three college presidents; secured sponsorships; organized meeting of scholarly research and case studies outlining the historic and contemporary value of historically black colleges and universities; featuring 30+ presenters, representing the symposium is the only conference of its kind to convene expert voices in areas of history, information science, fundraising, partnerships, athletics and new media.

Tedx Grand Bahama. *Presenter.* Freeport, Bahamas. August 8, 2015.

Association of Land-grant Universities' 2015 HBCU Student Success Summit. *Panelist.* "Telling Your Story: The Important of Media, Messaging, and Marketing at HBCUs." Atlanta, Georgia. April 26, 2015.

Association of Land-grant Universities' 2015 HBCU Student Success Summit. *Panelist.* "Black Lives Matter: Social Justice at HBCUs." Atlanta, Georgia. April 26, 2015.

University of Michigan. *Speaker.* "Building a Beyond –the-Classroom Brand." Ann Arbor, Michigan. April 3, 2015.

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage. *Speaker.* "Been in the Storm So Long: Black Lives in Slavery + Un-freedom." Hermitage, Tennessee. February 2015.

Nissan North America. *Panelist.* "Looking Over Jordan: Black History Month Observation." Robert DeHart and Jim Hobbler. Franklin, Tennessee. February 2015.

The Second HBCUstory Symposium. *Convener.* Washington, D.C. October 2014.

Sought and secured partnerships with Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU); secured keynote speakers Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole and Dr. Ivory A. Toldson; secured sponsorships; organized meeting of scholarly research and case studies outlining the historic and contemporary value of historically black colleges and universities; featuring 20+ presenters, representing the symposium is the only conference of its kind to convene expert voices in areas of history, information science, fundraising, partnerships, athletics and new media.

Southern Festival of Books. *Moderator.* "Last Days of the Fight: The Civil War in Tennessee." Daniel Cone and James R. Knight. Nashville, Tennessee. October 2014.

National HBCU Media Week Hosted by Dillard University. *Presenter.* "Leveraging History + Contemporary Traditions Into Friendraising + Awareness Building." New Orleans, Louisiana. July 2014.

TedxGrand Bahama. *Moderator.* "Bahamian Development: How Can We Further It." Freeport, Bahamas. July 2014.

Sisters of Strength: A Brand New You. *Presenter.* "Seven Steps to Strategic + Sustainable Success." Freeport, Bahamas. June 2014.

Tennessee State University: Alpha Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. *Presenter.* "State of the Union: The NPHC in the 21st Century." Nashville, Tennessee. April, 2014.

The Faculty Breakfast Club: Women's History Month. *Presenter.* "Our Sister's Keeper." Nashville, Tennessee. March 2014.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: Black (African-American) History Month. *Presenter.* "Herstory: Civil Rights (and Wrongs) at Home and Abroad." Bethesda, Maryland. February 2014.

"deGregory's story begins in Freeport, Bahamas, where she was born and reared. She arrived in the U.S. 15 years ago after a chance encounter with a college recruiter led her to Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville. A partial scholarship and her mother's blessing made it possible for her to attend college. The experience inspired her to become an ardent advocate for black college education and expanded opportunities for minorities." - Dana Steinberg, "NIH Record"

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: Black (African-American) History Month. *Presenter.* "Herstory: Civil Rights (and Wrongs) at Home and Abroad." Raleigh, North Carolina. February 2014.

"Demonstrating her talent as a dynamic storyteller, deGregory's interwoven stories illustrated how the civil rights movement in America influenced the revolution in the Bahamas during the 1950s and 1960s." - *Kimberly Cannady, NIEHS "Environmental Factor"*

Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources' K-12 Black History Month Workshop. *Presenter.* "Intersections of Black and Latin America: Many Movements, One People." Center for Latin American Studies. Co-sponsored by Middle Tennessee State University. Nashville, Tennessee. February 2014.

Mr. Tennessee State and the Student Government Association. *Presenter.* "A Moment in Black History: Recognizing the Central Role of African Americans." Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee. February 2014.

HBCU All-Star Weekend. *Panelist.* "The Blacker the College, The Sweeter the Knowledge." Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee. November 2013.

NPT's "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" Teacher's Workshop. *Presenter.* "Slavery, the "un" Civil War and Reconstruction." Nashville Public Library, Nashville, Tennessee. November 2013.

This session explored the contemporary memorialization of several Civil War era themes. As the nation celebrates the Civil War sesquicentennial, the American imagination has been captivated with the personalities, sites and stories of the war. Similarly, historians have revived age-old debates about the motivations for and implications of the conflict as well as evaluations of the success and failures of Reconstruction.

2013 History of Education Society Annual Meeting. *Presenter.* "If These Walls Could Talk: A Talk and Tour of the Fisk University Campus." Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee. November 2013.

Southern Festival of Books. *Moderator.* "The New York Times: Disunion: Modern Historians Revisit and Reconsider the War from Lincoln's Election to the Emancipation Proclamation." Drs. Kenneth W. Noe, Daniel Sharfstein and Minoa Uffelman. Nashville, Tennessee. October 2013.

AT&T Nation's Classic Presidential Symposium at Howard University. *Panelist.* "Keepers of the Culture." Dr. Bryant Marks, Jeff Burns, Jr., Franchell "Frenchie" Davis, Chris Washington and Ralph Remington. Washington, D.C. September 2013.

National HBCU Media Week Hosted by Jackson State University. *Presenter.* "The Art of HBCU Storytelling." June 2013.

Inaugural HBCUstory Symposium. *Convener.* Nashville, Tennessee. April 2013.

Sought and secured partnerships with Nashville Public Library and Nashville Public Library Foundation; secured sponsorships with Paul Quinn College, HBCU Digest, The HBCU Nation, HBCU Career Center and Living Your Best Life Radio; organized inaugural meeting of scholarly research and case studies outlining the historic and contemporary value of historically black colleges and universities; the symposium was the first conference of its kind to convene expert voices in areas of history, information science, fundraising, partnerships, LBGTQ studies, athletics and wellness. 100+ attendees and 400+ guests watching live online streaming.

Nashville Public Library (Main Branch). *Moderator.* "Separate Can Never Be Equal." Nashville, Tennessee. February 2012.

31st Annual Conference on African American History & Culture. *Presenter with Learotha Williams, Jr., Ph.D.* "Service, Scholarship and Steppin': An Exploration of Black Greek Lettered Organizations at Tennessee State University." Nashville, Tennessee. February 2012.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. *Presenter.* "Before Black Athens: Black Education in Antebellum Nashville." Richmond, Virginia. October 2011.

Middle Tennessee State University Center of Educational Media & Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee. *Presenter.* “Not Just a Fairytale: Fisk and Her Jubilee Singers.” Murfreesboro, Tennessee. August 2011.

Nashville Public Library Black History Series (Main Branch). *Presenter.* “Steppin’ to Survive: Black Greek Letter Organizations and the Public Square.” Nashville, Tennessee. February 2011.

Conference of Tennessee Historians. *Panelist.* Civil Rights Roundtable. Lebanon, Tennessee. September 2010.

Vanderbilt and the Nashville Sit-In Movement: A 50-Year Retrospective. *Panelist.* Panel Discussion. Nashville, Tennessee. February 2010.

Panelists included: The Reverend James Lawson; John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt and publisher emeritus at The Tennessean; Dr. John Sergent, professor of medicine and 1964 Vanderbilt graduate; Susan Ford Wiltshire, professor of classics, emerita; and Charles Roos, professor of physics, emeritus.

29th Annual Conference on African American History & Culture. *Presenter.* “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Institutional Responses to Student Activism in the Nashville Movement.” Nashville, Tennessee. February 2010.

Social Science Dissertation Fellow Lecture. *Presenter.* “New, But Not *New* Enough: Black Nashville in the First New South.” Nashville, Tennessee. April 2008.

The Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion’s (SECSOR) 2007 Southeastern Regional Meeting. *Presenter.* “Kelly Miller Smith: The Roots of an Activist and the Nashville Movement.” Nashville, Tennessee. March 2007.

7th Annual Graduate Conference on African American History. *Presenter.* “From Sorrow to Song: The Life and Lessons of Original Jubilee Singer Ella Sheppard Moore, 1851-1941.” Memphis, Tennessee. September 2005.

VU Department of History Second-Year Talk. *Presenter.* “The Color Divide in the Emergent Black Man's Party: The Political Strivings of the Bahamian Colored and Black Middle Class in the Progressive Liberal Party, 1953-1963.” Nashville: Tennessee. April 2005.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT + COMMUNITY SERVICE

HBCUstory. Nashville, Tennessee, *Founder and Executive Editor* (2012 -).

Conceptualization and management of HBCUstory brand; editor, liaison, responsible for organizational administrative and fiscal oversight; strategic direction; management of volunteer staff; choosing areas of coverage, and securing quality resources to assist with the developmental process. 100+ stories posted to date.

The National Association for the Preservation of African-American History and Culture, Inc. (NAPAAHC). Tallahassee, Florida, *Board of Trustees* (2015 - 2017).

Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. *Scholar* (2015).

Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities spans 170 years of American history. The two-hour film and multi-platform project by award-winning documentary filmmaker Stanley Nelson, explores the pivotal role HBCUs have played in the ascent of African-Americans and their families – from slavery to the present day. The film also examines the impact HBCUs have had on American history, culture, and national identity.

New Leaders Council – Nashville. *Fellow* (2014).

Separation and Exclusivity Among Tennesseans Past and Present, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, *Advisory Board* (2013 – present).

Walking Civil Rights Tour Brochure. **Historic Nashville, Inc. + Center for Historic Preservation**, MTSU Nashville, Tennessee, *Consultant* (2013).

“A Legacy Worth Fighting For.” **Cultural Innovation at Fisk University**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Speaker* (April 2013).

“HBCUs in the Civil Rights Movement.” **Ford African Ancestry Employees Network**, Franklin, Tennessee, *Panelist* (February 2013).

“Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement.” **Tennessee State University College of Education**, Nashville, Tennessee *Speaker* (February 2013).

Tiger Mentees Program at Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, *Mentor* (2012-2013)

Served as a mentor to ten freshmen for the academic year in the first year of this initiative.

Historic Nashville, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee, *Board Member* (January 2012 - 2013).

Service to 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to preserving and promoting the places that make Nashville unique; 2013 Brick & Mortar Bash co-chair.

“Preparedness for the Game...of Life,” **Real Sports Leadership Academy**, Nashville, Tennessee *Speaker* (August 2011).

“Leadership Matters,” **Career Development Institute for Teens**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Speaker* (August 2011).

“The Game: Rules and Regulations in Pursuing Your Career,” **Career Services and Jubilee Hall Living Learning Center**, Fisk University, *Panelist* (February 2011).

“Leading By Example,” **Fisk University SGA Leadership Institute**, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, *Speaker* (August 2010).

Love You Like A Sister, Inc. (L.Y.L.A.S.), Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, *Advisor* (2010-2011).

“Relationship Management,” **Fisk University Pre-College**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Panelist* (June 2010).

“College-bound vs. College-ready: The Challenges of Young Manhood,” **100 KINGS Program of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, Inc.**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Speaker* (February 2010).

Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter, **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Member* (2010-present)

Poverty Stops Here, Nashville, Tennessee, *Volunteer* (2010).

“Test Preparedness for Exam Time,” **Hale Hall Living Learning Center**, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, *Speaker* (December 2009).

“We Are One Hundred,” **Nashville Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Inc.**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Oral History Committee Member* (2009).

“Justice and the Beloved Community: Civil Rights Movement in Nashville,” **National Preservation Conference 2009**, Nashville, Tennessee, *Planning Committee Member* (2009).

Young Alumni Association of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, *Volunteer Consultant* (2005-2010).

Nashville Conference on African American History & Culture, Nashville, Tennessee, *Planning Committee Member* (2003 - 2014).

Decade-long service; helped to brand and market the conference in new and exciting ways including logo design and social media strategic planning; as well as presenting primary research on topics related to the history of African Americas in Nashville, helping to keep alive the mission of the conference for a new generation of scholars.

SELECTED MEDIA + ADVOCACY

Shaw Rising: The Story of Shaw University, the oldest college for African-Americans in the South. **Horizon Productions and Goodtree & Co.** Forthcoming.

Featured as a documentary expert on the history and culture of historically black colleges and universities in a documentary celebrating the Shaw's sesquicentennial.

"Why Students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities Have Such Amazing Style." **Racked**. By Jalisa J. Jones. May 8, 2017.

"Are Athletic Brands Doing Enough for African-Americans?" **Footwear News**. By Sheena Butler-Young. February 1, 2017.

"There's Halftime. Then there's "Showtime." Welcome to the Battle of the Bands." **The New York Times**. By Tamara Best. January 29, 2017.

"The Most-Read Stories of 2016 From the HBCU Digest." **HBCU Digest**. By Jarrett L. Carter Sr. December 29, 2016.

"Where Have All The Black Women HBCU Presidents Gone?" **HBCU Digest**. November 28, 2016.

"Fort Negley Dedicates New Interpretive Civil Rights Sign." **Nashville Scene**. By Betsy Phillips. November 6, 2016.

"HBCUs are Looking for Our Luke Cage." **HBCU Digest**. October 5, 2016.

"The Triumph and Heartbreak of the National African American Museum." **HBCU Digest**. September 25, 2016.

"What If Tupac Went to An HBCU?" **HBCU Digest**. September 18, 2016.

"Ever Wondered Why HBCUs "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing?" **HBCU Digest**. September 10, 2016.

"Nate Parker, Bill Cosby and R. Kelly are What's Wrong with Black Colleges." **HBCU Digest**. August 19, 2016.

"Why I'm Not Watching The Olympic Games." **HBCU Digest**. August 12, 2016.

"Why Aren't Black Men Caping for Sisters?" **HBCU Digest**. August 2, 2016.

"Rev. William Barber — Historically Black, Authentically American." **HBCU Digest**. July 29, 2016.

"So You Want to Be an HBCU President..." **HBCU Digest**. July 27, 2016.

"Fisk University Leaders Justify 2010 Sale of Paintings." **Nashville Tennessean**. By Adam Tamburin. July 27, 2016.

"The Ways in Which We Kill HBCU History." **HBCU Digest**. July 26, 2016.

"Turn Up for Your HBCU: Part 2." **Friends of Ebonie (Webinar)**. November 17, 2015.

"The Online Revolution: Friend or Foe of HBCUs?" **HBCU Digest**. June 2, 2015. With Janue Johnson.

“HBCUstory Symposium and from HBCU to Harvard.” **HBCU Lifestyle (Blog) Radio**. December 24, 2014.

“Grand Bahamians Living Abroad: Perspectives on 2014.” **Minding Your Business with Davina Rutherford (Radio)**. December 23, 2014. Guest with Yolett McPhee McCuin.

“Turn Up for Your HBCU: Four Ways to Support Your School As An Alumni.” **Friends of Ebonie (Webinar)**. October 7, 2014.

“Making Homecoming Matter.” **The HBCU Nation Radio**. October 4, 2014.

“HBCU #AfAmEdChat.” **The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities** and **The White House Initiative on African American Excellence in Education (Twitter)**. September 11, 2014. Featured with co-hosts Sekou Biddle of the United Negro College Fund, Dr. Brian Bridges, executive director of the Patterson Research Institute, David Johns, Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, and Dr. Toya G. Corbett.

“The Transformative Power of Education.” **HBCU Lifestyle Radio**. April 21, 2014.

“HBCUstory Symposium 2014.” **Living Your Best Life Radio**. March 5, 2014.

“Five Challenges Black Sororities Must Address in 2014.” **HBCU Lifestyle (Blog)**. January 30, 2014.

“Shame, Scandal and Poor Storytelling in Latest Alabama State Controversy.” **HBCU Digest**. January 13, 2014.

“Going Ham on Hampton.” **HBCU Digest**. October 9, 2013.

“Homecoming: A Missed Opportunity in Black College Philanthropy.” **HBCU Digest**. September 9, 2013.

“Historically Black Colleges Try to Change With Times.” **USA Today Special Edition: The March on Washington**. By Nancy DeVille. August 19, 2013.

“Post-Racial Rhetoric Diminishes HBCU Legacy of Interracial Cooperation.” **HBCU Digest**. June 22, 2013.

“Lack of Resources, Visionary Leadership Puts HBCU Storytelling in Hands of Outsiders.” **HBCU Digest**. June 7, 2013.

“What HBCUs Do Well.” **HBCU Digest Radio**. May 16, 2012.

“HBCUstory.” **Living Your Best Life Radio**. March 30, 2013.

“Tennessee Civil War 150: Looking Over Jordan.” **Nashville Public Television**, Nashville, Tennessee, February 2013.

Featured as expert on Black Nashville in slavery and in freedom with special attention to the role of education in their lives.

“TSU Homecoming Parade Changes Maybe Right, Maybe.” **HBCUstory**. September 27, 2012.

“Hookwinked: The Politics of Hampton and Black Hair.” **HBCUstory**. September 2, 2012.

“Which HBCUs Will Survive the 21st Century and Why.” **H.O.P.E. Scholarship (Twitter Chat)**. August 27, 2012.

“Discover NPL: Genealogy.” **Metropolitan Nashville Government**. August 2012.

Featured as researcher in the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library discussing its rich resources and their utility for professional historians and genealogists as well as for enthusiasts.

“Gown to Town: Why HBCUs Must Bridge the Gap.” **H.O.P.E. Scholarship (Blog)**. July 20, 2012.

“At 100, TSU Has Rich Legacy.” *The Tennessean*. February 16, 2012.

“Civil War Songs and Stories,” **Nashville Public Television**. Renaissance Center, May 2011.

Featured as expert on the Fisk Jubilee Singers and original troupe member Ella Sheppard Moore.

“Once Works Are Gone, They're Gone Forever: Fisk Stieglitz Collection.” *The Tennessean*. March 17, 2007.

RESEARCH + TEACHING INTERESTS

U.S. History
African American History
Tennessee History
Modern Civil Rights Movement
History of Education
The African Diaspora
Caribbean History
Women's History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE // 8+ YEARS

Lecturer, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee
HIST 1020: World History II, HIST 2010: American History I & HIST 2020: American History II

Teacher's Assistant, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
HIST 170: U.S. History to 1877, HIST 275: Modern America, HIST 188: World War II, HUM 161: History of New Orleans through Katrina & HIST 166/ECON 245: History of American Enterprise.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Crystal A. deGregory is a historian and storyteller whose research interests include black higher education and college student activism, with a specific focus on historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Dr. deGregory also serves as the founder and executive editor of HBCUstory, an advocacy initiative preserving, presenting, and promoting inspiring stories of HBCUs past and present, for their future. A favored public speaker and gifted orator, Dr. deGregory offers a wide-range of expertise on multiple topics including history, culture, education, black fraternity and sorority life, and of course, HBCUs. In addition to regularly contributing to HBCUstory.org and *The HBCU Digest*, her words have appeared in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Tennessean*. She has presented to audiences at TEDx, SXSWedu, The New School, Ford, Nissan North America, National Institutes of Health, and numerous American colleges and universities. A widely-published writer and editor, her newest works include an epilogue for *The Athletic Experience at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*, and chapters in *Black Colleges in the Diaspora: Global Perspectives on Identity and Culture* and *Gumbo for the Soul: Liberating Memoirs and Stories to Inspire Females of Color*. Dr. deGregory also serves as founder editor-in-chief of *The Journal of HBCU Research + Culture*, an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that publishes scholarly articles relating to HBCUs and the HBCU experience. As the convener of the HBCUstory Symposium, she has organized two-day meetings of scholarly research and case studies outlining the historic and contemporary value of HBCUs. The convenings have featured more than 100 presenters to date. A proud native of The Bahamas and a *Phi Beta Kappa* alumna of the historic Fisk University, she also earned Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in history from Vanderbilt University, and a Master of Education from Tennessee State University. Among her many professional and civic affiliations is trusteeship of The Kamalamee Organization and membership with *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated*.

REFERENCES

Richard J.M. Blackett, PhD, Andrew Jackson Professor of History
Department of History
Vanderbilt University
Phone: 615.343.7769
E-mail: richard.j.blackett@vanderbilt.edu

Jarrett L. Carter, Sr., Founding Editor
The HBCU Digest
HBCU Executive Media Training Institute
Phone: 443.242.HBCU
E-mail: carter@hbcudigest.com

The Reverend Rep. Harold M. Love, Jr., State Representative House District 58
Pastor, Lee Chapel AME Church
Phone: 615.741.3831
E-mail: rep.harold.love@capitol.tn.gov

Marcia Allen Owens, JD, PhD, Associate Professor of Environmental Science & Policy
School of the Environment
Florida A&M University
Phone: 850.599.8556
E-mail: marcia.owens@famu.edu

Michael J. Sorrell, EdD, JD, President
Paul Quinn College
Phone: 214.376.1000
E-mail: Available upon request

Learotha Williams Jr., PhD, Assistant Professor of History
History, Geography, Political Science, and Africana Studies
Tennessee State University
Phone: 615.963.5513
E-mail: lwilli22@tnstate.edu

Carroll Van West, PhD, Tennessee State Historian
Professor of History and Director
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Phone: 615.898.2947
E-mail: carroll.west@mtsu.edu

CRYSTAL A. DEGREGORY, PH.D.

Email: c.a.degregory@gmail.com

Website: www.CrystaldeGregory.com

Storyteller // Dynamic Professional Historian + Passionate HBCU Advocate

STATEMENT OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

“Those who care, TEACH.” I am a firm believer that the art of good teaching is a balancing act which requires more than knowledge and information sharing. In fact, good teaching incorporates imagination and innovation as well as interest, focus, and self-discipline—many of the skills required for good learning. Mastering each skill demands that both students and teachers care about the subject matter; it requires the critical confrontation of subjects with passion and integrity. Amid meeting curriculum standards, setting classroom expectations in syllabi, and ensuring that the demands of each are met, good teaching becomes an increasingly difficult task.

Teachers are called to care about the challenges students face in the classroom and beyond, including the new aspects of their burgeoning college lives. From what I recall of my own experiences, the roles and responsibilities of being time-manager, bill-payer, and perhaps most ironically, “curfew-setter” and “curfew-keeper” can be particularly daunting. Not unlike students, teachers are also often overwhelmed by the demands of teaching—not to mention those of our own personal lives. When we feel overwhelmed, the care so critical to what we do is threatened. This is especially true when students seem incorrigible, making it easy for a teacher to become disenchanted with his or her efforts.

When I teach, I do so with care, and realistic expectations. While I’m happy with high cumulative scores and I am ecstatic about the turnaround students make during a semester, I realize it takes some students longer than others. I’m not an investment banker whose success can be determined by the results yielded at the end of a fiscal year. I’m a teacher. I regularly remind myself that the successes of teachers go far beyond cumulative scores. The difference a teacher makes in a student’s life can take a lifetime to be realized by both student and teacher.

I believe it is a good teacher’s job not only to teach, but to ensure students learn. Grade consciousness traps some educators in “model” teaching. For years, the benefits of “teacher-centered” instruction versus “student-centered” instruction have been pitted against each other as effective models for our ever-changing teaching and learning environments. My experiences, however, have taught me to teach in whatever model necessary to ensure that my students learn. With that in mind, I employ both visual and kinesthetic methods in classroom instruction. I believe in the merits of service-learning education and I encourage my students to become involved in non-traditional learning activities like blogging, class debate, and role-playing exercises which allows students to better analyze content.

I believe good teaching is the engagement of teachers and students. Teaching is an exercise of mutual respect in an environment free from absolutes, judgment, and persecution. The college classroom is the last likely setting in which students will have the opportunity to grow through accomplishments as well as through mistakes, without suffering irreparable harm. I encourage students to become involved in classroom discussions, discovering who they are, questioning what they traditionally accepted as truth, and to believe that they matter! In my classroom, decorum affords students the freedom to explore a wide array of themes, challenge content, consider context, as well as share their ideas and opinions in an atmosphere geared towards intellectual, professional, and personal growth.

I believe just as teachers impart knowledge to their students, students help to enrich their teachers’ lives. The college classroom provides a great atmosphere for student-teaching, peer-learning and teacher enrichment. Whether it’s keeping me abreast of the latest music, fashion trend, or popular jargon, my students are always up to the task. They challenge me to keep my lectures both fun and informative, infused with the vibrancy appropriate for my mostly millennial audiences. Many of my undergraduate experiences can seem like distant memories of people, places, and things that I have outgrown. Fortunately, my students always offset the “knowledge gap” with the realities of their lives. As I witness their successes, the difference I see in their lives enriches my own life beyond measure.