Friday, October 8th, 2021
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Parallel Pandemics a Collective Panel Discussion on Structural Racism and COVID-19

Panelist Brief Biographies
Justin Garcia, PhD
Education:
Millersville University, 2001 B.A. in Anthropology; Minor in Sociology
Graduated with Departmental Honors and Magna Cum Laude
Temple University, 2008 Master of Arts in Anthropology
Temple University, 2011 Ph.D. in Anthropology
Research and Scholarly Interests:
Social Constructions of Race and Ethnicity; U.S. Immigration; Urban
Anthropology; Anthropology of Sport(s); Popular Culture; DNA Ancestry
Tests/Population Genetics; Hominins & Human Evolution; Anthropological
Theory

Selected Publications:
“Hispanic/Latino Identity as Racial Misnomer.” In Race in America: How a
Pseudoscientific Concept Shaped Human Interaction. Patricia Reid-Merritt,

“The New ‘Great White Hope?’: White Nationalist Discourses of Race, Color,
and Country in the Career of Mexican Boxer Saúl ‘Canelo’ Álvarez. In Digital
Media Strategies of the Far Right in Europe and the United States. Patricia

"'You Don't Look Mexican!': Life in Ethnic Ambiguity and What It Says About
the Construction of Race in America." Accepted for publication in
Multicultural Perspectives. Forthcoming.


**Stephanie Jirard, J.D.**
Stephanie Jirard is the Chief Diversity Officer at Shippensburg University where she has been a criminal justice professor for the past 19 years. Originally from Boston, professor Jirard studied history at Cornell University and received her law degree from Boston College Law School.

Prior to teaching at Shippensburg, professor Stephanie Jirard Esq was a: Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps and served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Civil Division; federal prosecutor at the U.S. Attorney's Office and an Assistant Federal Public Defender - both in Boston; and defended poor people facing the death penalty at trial in Missouri.

Focus: history, law, criminal justice.

**Jarik Conrad, PhD**
Dr. Jarik Conrad, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, is the VP of Human Insights at UKG, one of the world’s most innovative human capital management and workforce management companies. He also serves as the Executive Director of the UKG-sponsored Equity at Work Council.

Dr. Conrad has held human resources leadership roles in the private, public, and non-profit sectors and has served as an executive coach, keynote speaker, and consultant in the human resources field.
speaker, and management consultant. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois, two master’s degrees from Cornell University, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of North Florida. He is a sought-after speaker in the areas of leadership, health & wellness, emotional intelligence, and diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging and has been recognized as one of the world’s top people practitioners on HRD’s 2021 Global 100. He is also the author of the Amazon best-seller, The Fragile Mind.

Focus: Sociology, Education, leadership, industrial and labor relations

Eric Jackson Sr., M.Ed.

Mr. Eric L. Jackson, Sr., is a Harrisburg educator and consultant on culturally relevant pedagogy, youth arts development, and building community solidarity. He has taught in the public education arena for over 40 years, primarily as a Secondary English and Drama teacher while serving in the PA Air National Guard for twenty-four years before retiring from both in 2011 and 2016 respectively. In addition to his professional experiences in secondary education and the USAF Chaplain Corps, he is a Certified Arts Integration Specialist and holds an M.Ed. in Curriculum Development/ESL Specialization from the American College of Education. He is a Sr., Associate Pastor at Kingdom Embassy, Harrisburg, PA, and is actively involved in community outreach i.e. serving on steering committees of Heeding the Call Against Gun Violence, the Interdenominational Ministers Conference of Greater Harrisburg, Christian Churches United, as well as, the Dauphin County Commissioners Systems of Care Cultural Competence and Faith-based sub-committees. He is the Founder and Director of Least of These Consulting, LLC, a multidiscipline organization promoting cultural competence in Education, the Arts, Community, and Kingdom building.

"In all our strivings and professional endeavors, we must strive to see our life's work through the eyes of the least of these." Eric L. Jackson, Sr.

Focus: education, pedagogy, community
Brenda Alton, D. Min, PhD (Candidate)

Rev. Dr. Brenda Alton serves as manager of Spiritual Care Services. She manages a staff of 12 and over 100 volunteers who serve patients, their families, and friends, as well as employees throughout the eight UPMC Central Pa. Region campuses, the UPMC Pinnacle Hillman Cancer Center, the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, and UPMC Central Pa. Region’s 10-county footprint. She also assisted in the establishment of the Bereavement Services Team, to provide care for families during end-of-life circumstances. Along with providing care for patients, Rev. Alton initiated the Code Lavender program to provide care to the staff.

Rev. Brenda leads UPMC Central Pa. Region’s Faith Community Health Connection (FCHC) in which she works closely with ministry leaders from over 110 diverse houses of worship to bridge the gap in the community between faith and health. She is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Council, the Workforce Development subcommittee, the Ethics Committee, the Education subcommittee, the Education, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee for the PA Psychiatric Institute, and most recently UPMC Central Pa’s Healthy Harrisburg initiative. When the FCHC identified a knowledge deficit in advanced care planning, Rev. Dr. Alton responded by developing community workshops in UPMC Pinnacle’s five-county service area to address the need.

Rev. Alton serves on the Dauphin County/ Human and Social Services Task Force, Department of Health Covid-19 Health Equity Response Team, appointed by Governor Wolf to the Governor’s Organ and Donation Advisory Committee, and a facilitator for new employees for Gift of Life, and a host of community boards.

Rev. Dr. Alton is an Ordained Minister. She holds Master’s degrees in Christian Education and Divinity, a Doctorate in Ministry (with an emphasis in Community Building and Faith Community Initiatives), and is a Ph.D. candidate in Administration and Leadership Studies for Nonprofits and Public Sectors at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2022). Rev. Alton serves as CEO (Chief Encouraging Officer) for BAM – Brenda Alton Ministries and her life’s purpose is to live - not to be a legend but to leave a legacy.
Tameka Hatcher, MBA

Ms. Tameka Monique Hatcher is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant with twenty-five years of experience in an equal employment opportunity with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A skilled facilitator, she developed ground-breaking training on “Diversity, Harassment, and Respect for Police Departments” that is a model across the Commonwealth. A graduate of Lincoln University with a degree in Political Science and French, she earned an MBA in Management from Eastern University and has taught social justice and civil rights workshops at Shippensburg University, Bloomsburg University, Lock Haven University, Elizabethtown College, Lebanon Valley College, Widener University School of Law and Dickinson School of Law.

Focus: Political Science, management, social justice, and civil rights

Moderator
Gretchel Hathaway, PhD (Candidate)

Dr. Gretchel Hathaway began her work as Franklin & Marshall’s first vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion Aug. 20, 2020. Reporting to President Barbara Altmann, she provides vision, leadership and guidance on a full spectrum of diversity, equity and inclusion matters, working collaboratively with the F&M community to build a more inclusive environment.

She previously was dean of diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer at Union College, where she led strategic plan diversity initiatives with its board of trustees, faculty and administrators. She worked at Union for 22 years, where she also served on the review board of all faculty tenure and promotion cases. She also supervised Union’s Office of Intercultural Affairs.
and had served as Union’s director of community outreach and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance officer.

In addition to her senior administrator duties at Union, Gretchen had taught in the Department of Sociology. Her research interests include diversity and inclusivity in higher education, child physical and sexual abuse, and marital rape and spousal abuse. Before her arrival in Schenectady, she spent nine years as the director of the personal counseling center at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. She has presented programs on diversity, multicultural topics and Title IX programs at other institutions of higher education, including Swarthmore College, Colgate University and Skidmore College.

Gretchen is the parent of Stephen Tyson, Jr., a 2007 F&M graduate and one of the founding members of I.M.P.A.C.T., and Rachel Tyson. Gretchen earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Manhattanville College and her master’s degree in the same field from Yeshiva University. She holds a doctoral degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.