September 28, 2017

Welcome!

We return to the semester both lamenting the departure of some amazing students and welcoming the addition of a new faculty member, Dr. Adryan Wallace, Assistant Professor of Political Science. We are very proud of the graduating class of 2017. These students, among some of our most talented, have gone on to graduate school in London, Buffalo, and Stony Brook to pursue careers in Anthropology, Higher Education Administration, and Public Policy. Others are gainfully employed and preparing to take entrance exams for law and medical school. We are equally as proud of current students who are working on a number of exciting projects. Two have recently travelled to Haiti and St. Lucia to work on oral research projects, and another is developing a research project on the devastating impact of hurricanes.

There are exciting new changes in the department. We’re currently awaiting approval for a revision to the AFS curriculum. The new Africana major will not only offer the existing interdisciplinary degree, but also specialized tracks in Public Health and Disease and Social Justice and Human Rights. Later this year, we’ll also be launching a new campaign to highlight the BA/MAT program. At the graduate level, we’re looking to take some of our courses on-line. We are looking forward to bringing students to Ghana in summer 2018.

As always, we have an exciting roster of programming for the Fall. We are hosting a year-long celebration of the life of Henrietta Lacks with a lecture by Aisha Scott on the “Racial and Socioeconomic implications of health and disease within the black community (Sept 20th 1:00-2:20pm) and a panel presentation.

Other events in the department include a co-sponsored program with the department of history on the removal of the Confederate Monuments and participation in the Caribbean Cosmopolis conference sponsored by the Humanities Institute and Hispanic Languages and Literatures. Our faculty are busy preparing for lectures on and off campus, they are involved in the new Center for Social Justice, Inequality, and Policy, and they continue to lend their support to community outreach projects internally and externally. Other faculty are working on the second annual H.S. writing contest, or serving as mentors for the Student African American Brotherhood and the Student African American Sisterhood. We are entering our third year of partnership with the Tri Community Youth Center, which enables Stony Brook Students to hone leadership, team building, and communication skills through their mentoring of the Tri Community Youth Center of Huntington, Long Island. Finally, we hope to continue with the H.S. writing contest.

Please stop by to speak with us about your future, review our Events schedule and see how you can get involved!

Sincerely,

Tracey L. Walters, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair