

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History Announces Its First Annual STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION AND CONFERENCE SESSION

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE *CALL FOR ABSTRACTS*

The 104th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History will take place in Charleston, South Carolina on October 2-6, 2019, with the theme of “Black Migrations.” The mission of the ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community. The Annual Meeting and Conference provides an opportunity for students, scholars, and lay persons to come together and fulfill the ASALH’s mission.

At this year’s ASALH Meeting and Conference middle and high school students will have the opportunity to participate in a Student Poster Session on **Friday, October 4, 2019** at the conference hotel, Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center, North Charleston. To participate in the Student Poster Session, students will submit abstracts outlining their proposed posters based on the ASALH 2020 Black History Month theme, **“African Americans and the Vote.”**

The ASALH’s 2020 Black History Month theme **“African Americans and the Vote”** emphasizes the historic struggle of African-American citizens to gain and use the right to vote to improve their quality of life and to change America. In a 1957 speech, for example, Dr. Martin Luther King stated: “Give us the vote and we will change the South!” His statement reflected how African Americans have used the right to vote guaranteed under the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution to promote public education, to advocate for civic reform, to run for public office, and to fight for social and political change in American society. Of all the constitutional guarantees, for African Americans the right to vote has been essential.

In addition to asking students to consider the historic struggle of African Americans for the right to vote, this year’s poster session theme also focuses student attention on the importance of the 2020 election.

The Call for Abstracts is open to all middle and high school students in Berkeley, Charleston and Dochester counties. Students with an interest in American History and Social Studies are encouraged to apply.

No more than 25 abstracts will be selected for poster presentation. Students whose abstracts are selected for presentation as posters at the conference will receive support for their travel to the conference and free registration for the conference.

Two outstanding abstracts will be chosen for oral presentations and each oral presenter will receive a cash scholarship. Judges will also award cash scholarships to the best three posters in two categories: middle and high school. Judges will award scholarships in both the Middle School and High School categories in the following amounts:

1st Place = \$500

2nd Place = \$250

3rd Place = \$100

All participants in the Student Poster Session will receive a Certificate of Participation from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Please review the abstract submission guidelines prior to beginning the submission process.



ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Abstracts must address and outline some aspect of the 2020 Black History Month theme of “**African Americans and the Vote**,” and how the poster will present it. (Examples: The Impact of the Fifteenth Amendment, The Voting Rights Act, The Impact of Disfranchisement Methods in the South, Voting Rights Cases, etc.) Abstracts must have a maximum of 300 words. The abstracts must have the poster’s title and cite the sources that the student plans to use to document and construct the poster. The sources will not be counted as a part of the 300-word limit for the abstract.

The actual posters should not be larger than 4 feet by 6 feet.

Key dates related to the abstract and poster submission process:

The deadline for abstract submissions is 11:59 PM on Friday, May 17, 2019.

Abstracts will be evaluated by the Poster Review Committee in June 2019.

Notification of abstract acceptance and selection for travel awards will be sent to students via email by **Monday, July 1, 2019**.

Students whose abstracts are selected will submit their completed posters in a digital PowerPoint file by **Thursday, August 15, 2019** for review and completion by the Poster Review Committee.

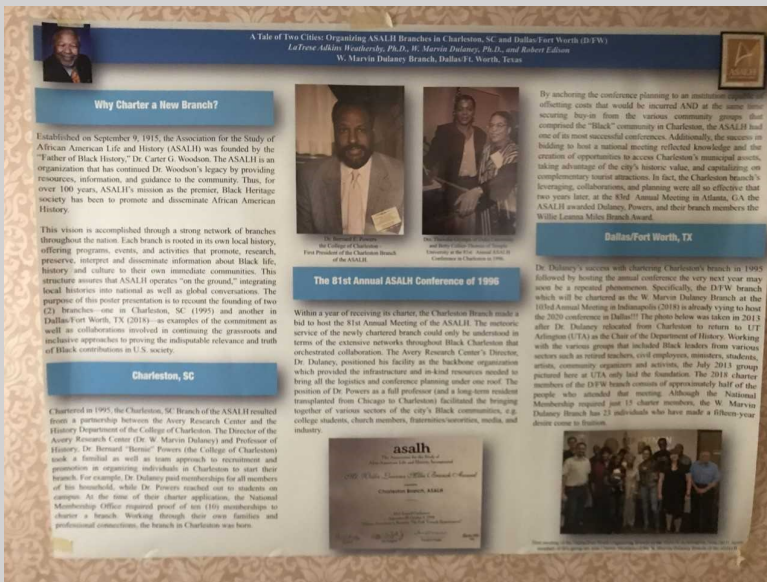
For more information, contact:

Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney

ASALH Student Poster Session Chair

817.406.8443

Abstracts should be submitted by email to: wmarvindulaney@yahoo.com, and include student’s name, address, phone number, email address, and the name of the school that s/he is attending.



Sample Posters

A History of Invisibility in War and Wealth: The African-American Veteran Woman and the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA)

Charlene Finley

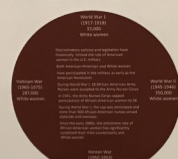
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

UNC
The Institute for the Study of African American Life and History

Historical Framework

“Black women have a long history of having to work in jobs associated with men, which led many to challenge their femininity” (Bristol & Stir, 2017). From 1866-1868, Cathay Williams, an African-American woman and ex-slave, disguised herself as a man and enlisted in Company A, 38th Infantry, the Buffalo Soldiers. She was denied a disability pension, despite chronic comorbid health conditions and bilateral amputation of her toes, and is assumed to have died shortly after.

Military Service and Invisibility



Proposed Research Question

Given the historical context of women and their involvement in the military, how does the availability (or lack thereof) of women's health services at the VHA influence the health information needs, seeking-behavior, and decision-making of veteran women?

Key Legislation and VHA Policies

- 1857 Dred Scott v. Sandford held Black people were not American citizens, excluding them from military service
- 1941 President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 prohibiting racism in the military
- 1942 The Navy accepted Black women into WAVES
- 1942 The Armed Services Integration Act authorized women permanent status to the U.S. military. Thirty-nine African-American WAACS were recruited personally by Mary McLeod Bethune
- 1948 President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 to desegregate the Armed Forces
- 1983 The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Women's Veterans (ACWV) was initiated
- 1994 Established the Center for Women Veterans (PL103-585) to assess the needs of minority veterans

Intersectionality and Health

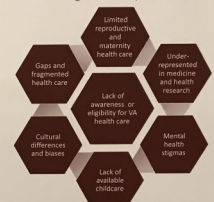
Smoking Cessation, Preventative care, hypertension, Suicide, Identity, Military Sexual Trauma, Post-traumatic stress disorder, gender-specific cancer, Traumatic brain injury, Combat-related injury, depression, mental health, related disorders

“Disparities based on race/racism, are matters of life and death” (Schulz & Mullings, 2006). Currently, 19.5% of African-American veteran women utilize the VHA for health care.

African-American veteran women have a higher prevalence of infertility, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). African-American women are at a higher risk for homelessness.

Barriers at the VHA for Women

“The VA healthcare system reproduces and perpetuates the gendered hierarchy that shapes women's active duty service contributing to female veteran marginalization” (Eichler, 2016)



Select References

- Department of Veterans Affairs-Women Veterans Healthcare. (2013, August 15). Women Veterans Health Care. Retrieved from <https://www.womenhealth.va.gov/>
- Eichler, M. (2016). Add Female Veterans and Stir? A Feminist Perspective on Gendering Veterans Research. *Armed Forces & Society*, 43(4), 674-694
- Tucker, P. T. (2002). *Cathy Williams: From slave to female Buffalo Soldier*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books.
- Naclerio, A., & Ritchie, E. C. (2015). *Women at war*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.