

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 19, 2023 Media Contacts: Zebulon Miletsky marketing@asalh.org

ASALH Names New Editor of Its Preeminent *Journal of African American History* Published by the University of Chicago Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is proud to announce that it has selected Bertis D. English, professor of history at Alabama State University (ASU), as the new editor for the *Journal of African American History (JAAH)*. Dr. English will succeed Dr. Pero G. Dagbovie of Michigan State University, who served as editor for several years.

The *Journal of African American History*, formerly the *Journal of Negro History (JNH)*, was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1916 and is an official publication of ASALH. Now in its second century, this award-winning journal publishes original scholarly articles and book reviews on the African American experience from its earliest phases to the more recent past. As the leading scholarly publication on African American life and history, recent special issues and symposia have focused on the 400th anniversary of 1619, LGBTIA+ themes in African American history, the history of Black internationalism, and African American sports history.

A life member and founding president of the Harper Councill Trenholm Sr. branch of ASALH, English is a tenured history professor, former undergraduate history program coordinator, associate dean, and acting dean of the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. English authored an award-winning book titled *Civil Wars, Civil Beings, and Civil Rights in Alabama's Black Belt*, published by the University of Alabama Press in 2020, and co-edited (with R. Drew Smith and Stephanie C. Boddie) *Racialized Health, Covid-19, and Religious Responses: Black Atlantic Contexts and Perspectives*, which Routledge published in 2022. A freelance copyeditor and indexer, English brings a wealth of experience to *JAAH*. Among other activities, he edited the *International Journal of Africana Studies*; serves as associate editor of the *Journal of Race and Policy*; and is former associate editor of the *Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*. Aware of the preeminence of *JAAH*, ASU administrators gladly provided institutional resources for the editorship.

The *Journal of African American History* always has embraced ASALH's mission of promoting, researching, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating "information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community." Pero Dagbovie and his editorial predecessor, V. P. Franklin, helped extend the long history of prominence Carter G. Woodson initiated by establishing the *Journal of Negro History* in 1916. Under Woodson and successive editors, *JNH* and *JAAH* have been recognized as the premier academic journal in African American, African, and Diaspora Studies. Numerous articles published in *JNH* and *JAAH* have been widely cited and circulated, won awards, or been reprinted broadly. While each issue covers various dimensions of the African American historical experience, *JAAH* also publishes special issues, symposia, and roundtable forums on cutting edge themes and topics within the field.

As ASALH President W. Marvin Dulaney has stated, "The Association thanks Drs. Pero Dagbovie and LaShawn Harris, of Michigan State University, for their outstanding service, editorship of the journal, and for continuing its high standard of scholarship in the field of African American history. They oversaw the publishing of special issues and forums such as the 'Black 1980s,' 'Reflections on the 400th Anniversary of 1619,' and a 'Symposium on the Carter G. Woodson Home.'"

-END-