



The Sankofa Conversation Series on Structural Racism

Understanding History. Transforming Values. Building Equity.

The Sankofa Conversation Series on Structural Racism Fall Semester Programming

The Sankofa Conversation Series is the beginning of a university-wide process committing UMass Boston to becoming a leading anti-racist and health-promoting public university. Programming for the fall semester is intended to bring about a cultural transformation of our campus community. This series of conversations represents an important initial process for making manifest a democratic citizenship which must become a primary obligation of UMass Boston as a public university.

The series takes its name from a symbol of the Akan people in what is now the West African nation of Ghana. The word “Sankofa” can be translated as “Looking backward to move forward.” The symbol shows a bird with its feet pointed forward as it moves ahead, but with its head looking backward to the past. In its bill the bird holds an egg, a symbol of the future. The wisdom of the Akan tells us that we must critically evaluate our history, reject what is no longer relevant, and bring forward only what is useful for creating a better future. These conversations are meant to help the UMass Boston community to do exactly that as we build an anti-racist, health-promoting institution.

Information about how to attend will be available soon.

FALL PROGRAMMING

Thursday, October 15
6:30–8:30 p.m.

**“An Anti-Racism and
Health-Promoting Campus
Conversation: Challenges
and Opportunities”**

Introduction by Steve Striffler (FSU President, Director of the Labor Resource Center)
Moderated by Jemadari Kamara (Africana Studies)

Panelists include **Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco** and **Interim Provost Emily McDermott** along with **Tara Parker** (Higher Education & Chair, Leadership in Education), **Tim Seiber** (Anthropology), **Dean Linda Thompson** (College of Nursing), **Janelle Quarles** (CSU President), **Patricia Krueger-Henney** (Urban Education & Director, Center for Innovative Teaching), **Celine Voyard** (undergraduate).

A question and answer period with the audience will follow the panel discussion.

Thursday, October 29
6:30–8:30 p.m.

**“Campus and Community
Conversation: Broadening
an Anti-Racist and
Health-Promoting Vision”**

Introduction by Lynnell Thomas (American Studies)
Moderated by Denise Patmon (Education)

Panelists include **Carroy Ferguson** (Psychology), **Rosalyn Negron** (Anthropology), **Eduardo Siqueira**, (Public Health, School for the Environment), **Yvette Modestin** (Encuentro Diaspora Afro), **Shirley Tang** (Asian American Studies), **Lisa Owens** (Executive Director, City Life/La Vita Urbana), **Liz Miranda** (State Representative), **Vikiana Petit-Homme** (undergraduate student organizer).

A question and answer period with the audience will follow the panel discussion.





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**Thursday, November 19
6:30–8:30 p.m.**

**“Black Lives Matter:
Restorative Justice,
Healing, and
Transformational Change”**

A discussion with social justice activist Fania Davis on race and restorative justice

Introduction by Dean David Terkla (College of Liberal Arts)
Moderated by Kibibi Mack-Shelton (Chair, Africana Studies)

A roundtable discussion with **Fania Davis**, **Karilyn Crockett** (City of Boston’s Chief of Equity), **James Jennings** (former Director, the Trotter Institute), **Kim Richards** (People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond).

**Thursday, December 3
6:30–8:30 p.m.**

**“Campus Roundtable
Reflections: Where do
we go from here?”**

Introduction by Ping-Ann Addo (Anthropology)
Moderated by Elizabeth Sweet (Africana Studies and Environmental Studies)

Panelists include **Anneta Argyres** (PSU President), **Quito Swan** (Director, the Trotter Institute), **Lorna Rivera** (Director, the Gaston Institute), **Cedric Woods** (Critical Ethnic Studies and Community Studies Program and Director, INENAS), **Paul Watanabe** (Director, the Asian American Institute), **Jemadari Kamara** (Africana Studies), **Denise Patmon** (Education), **Tracy Beard** (graduate student), **Tony Martin** (graduate student).