

Biographical Sketches

Dr. Reginald K. Ellis received a Bachelor of Science degree in African American Studies and a Master of Applied Social Sciences degree in History, both from FAMU. He also earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in History from the University of Memphis. His first manuscript is an analytical biography of James Edward Shepard, the founding President of North Carolina Central University, located in Durham, North Carolina, which is currently under contract with the University Press of Florida. Dr. Ellis specializes in the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and African American leaders during the Jim Crow era. His major area of concentration is African American history with specialization in United States History Since 1877, Contemporary African History, and Oral History.

In the fall of 2011, Dr. Ellis was hired as an Assistant Professor of History at FAMU where he teaches the following courses: Black Americans in the 20th Century; Introduction to African American History; The African American Experience; Oral Historical Studies and Selected Topics in the Twentieth Century. He has published and presented scholarly research on topics pertaining to HBCU presidents in the early twentieth century.

Notwithstanding his scholarship, Dr. Ellis has remained active with a number of organizations. He is the founding president of the Graduate Association for African American History (GAAAH), which currently hosts the African American History conference at the University of Memphis. He also served as a teaching fellow for the ACE Academy Institute sponsored by the Benjamin Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis. Currently, Dr. Ellis is one of sixty historians with the American Historical Association Tuning Project, working to revamp history curriculums in higher education. During the summer of 2013 the National Endowment for the Humanities selected Dr. Ellis as one of thirty scholars to serve as a fellow in their Summer Institute at Harvard University's Du Bois Institute conducting research on "African-American Struggles for Freedom and Civil Rights."

Along with his academic service, Dr. Ellis remains active in the community. He is a member of the Leadership Tallahassee Class 31, and serves as member of its Board of Governors. Ellis is also a member of the North Florida Leadership Academy, serves as Chair of the board for the John G. Riley House Museum, and as a board member for the Steele-Collins All Male Academy. Also, Dr. Ellis remains active in a host of professional and academic organizations including the Gamma Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and a host of historical associations including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Incorporated (SCAASI), the Organization of American Historians (OAH), and the Southern Historical Association (SHA).

Dr. Ellis is married to Delexis C. Ellis, a 2006 graduate of Florida A & M University.

Will Guzmán is currently an Assistant Professor (2011-present) within the Department of History and African American Studies at FAMU where he has taught over 5,000 students in nearly 100 classes focusing on African, African American, Caribbean, and Latin American History. He has also taught at the University of Texas at El Paso and Florida State University.

He also has held a variety of administrative positions including serving as the Associate Director (2011-2014) and the Director of Community and Donor Engagement (2014-2015) at the Carrie P. Meek–James N. Eaton Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum; Director (2011-2014) of the Office of Black Diasporan Culture, Visiting Assistant Professor (2006-2011), and Adjunct Instructor (2005-2006)—all at FAMU. Prior to this, Will was the International Programs Manager (2004-2006) for the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas and a Senior Training Manager (1999-2004) for the Paxen Group’s Florida *ABOUT FACE!* youth program.

Guzmán has been selected to participate in the National Education Association’s *Higher Education Emerging Leaders Academy* (2015-2016), Florida Humanities Council’s *Finding Florida in Spain* seminar (2014), Southeastern Museum Conference’s *Jekyll Island Management Institute* (2014), Educational Testing Service’s *Summer Visiting Scholar* program (2010), and *Leadership Tallahassee* (2006-2007).

Will graduated from FAMU with a Bachelor of Science degree in African American Studies and soon thereafter he attended Florida State University completing a Master of Science degree in Social Science Education before earning the Doctor of Philosophy degree with a focus on Borderlands History, U.S. History, and the African Diaspora at the University of Texas—El Paso. His book, *Civil Rights in the Texas Borderlands: Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon and Black Activism* (2015) was published by University of Illinois Press.

Dr. David H. Jackson, Jr., the son of the late Rev. Dr. David H. Jackson, Sr., and the late Mrs. Vera Jackson Mathis, hails from Atlanta, Georgia. An honors graduate from Booker T. Washington High School in the Atlanta Public School System, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in History Education (*magna cum laude*) and a Master of Applied Social Sciences degree in Public Administration both from FAMU. After graduating from FAMU, Dr. Jackson worked at International Paper Company as a financial analyst for three years; after which, he taught at Watkins Overton High School in the Memphis City School system for three years. He was honored as “Most Influential Teacher” for the last two of those three years.

He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in History at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1997 when he was only twenty-eight-years-old and began his professorial career as an Assistant Professor of History at FAMU that same year. His areas of expertise are Ancient Africa with an emphasis on Egypt; Latin America with an emphasis on Brazil; and African-American history since 1865. Jackson was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in three years and full Professor in only seven years at FAMU. Jackson served as Professor of History and Chairman of the Department of History, Political Science, Public Administration, Geography and African American Studies at FAMU for ten years. Currently, he is Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate College at FAMU.

Professor Jackson hit the ground running at FAMU and won the Rattler Pride Award for Community Leadership in 2000. He was also the recipient of the FAMU Teacher of the Year Award in 2000 and 2010 and the Advanced Teacher of the Year Award in 2006. Most recently he won the FAMU Research Excellence Award in 2010, the first African American at the

university so honored. In April 2011 he was enshrined into the Gallery of Distinction in the College of Arts and Sciences at FAMU and was named one of the “Outstanding Alumni of the Quasquicentennial” in 2012.

Recognized as “one of Florida A&M University’s most published professors,” Dr. Jackson has published over three dozen scholarly articles, book chapters, short essays, and book reviews, and has presented over one hundred scholarly papers and riveting speeches at professional conferences, universities, public schools, prisons, courts, churches, and other venues throughout the United States. He is author or editor of five scholarly books including A Chief Lieutenant of the Tuskegee Machine: Charles Banks of Mississippi, published by the University Press of Florida in 2002; Retrieving the American Past published in 2003 by Pearson Publishing; and Go Sound the Trumpet! Selections in Florida’s African American History published by the University of Tampa Press (2005). His latest book titled Booker T. Washington and the Struggle Against White Supremacy: The Southern Educational Tours, 1908-1912 was published in 2008 by Palgrave Macmillan and he was featured on C-Span Booknotes to discuss this work in March 2014.

Dr. Jackson was a percussionist in FAMU’s Marching 100 and the symphonic band, and is a member of several social and service fraternities including Kappa Kappa Psi National Band Fraternity and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He is also a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner; likewise, he is a member of numerous honor societies and fraternities. He served on the Florida National Register Review Board from 2000-2003 and the Florida Historical Commission from 2002-2003, is a member of the University Press of Florida’s Advisory Board, the Florida Historical Society Board, the Florida Humanities Council Board, and chaired the board for the John G. Riley Center/ Museum of African American History and Culture in Tallahassee for over fifteen years. He is also a member of the Southern Conference on African American Studies Incorporated, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the Mississippi Historical Society, and the Florida Historical Society, to name a few.

Even more important than his own personal accolades, Dr. Jackson is most proud of the fact that since becoming a professor at FAMU he has mentored and sent over thirty-five students off to doctoral programs throughout the country where they have earned the Ph.D. mainly in History and are now working as college and university professors. He received the Equity Award from the American Historical Association, the largest historical association in the country, for this accomplishment in 2014.

Dr. Jackson is married to Sheila, and they have two children, David H. Jackson, III and Daja (Day-jah) Halima Jackson.

Dr. Darius J. Young is as an Assistant Professor of History at FAMU. He is a native of Detroit, Michigan, and a two-time graduate of FAMU, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in African American Studies in 2004, and his Master of Applied Social Sciences degree in History in 2005. In 2011, Young received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 20th Century U.S. History with a concentration in African American History from the University of Memphis. His research focuses on the long civil rights movement with an emphasis on black political movements during

the first half of the twentieth century. He is currently working on a biography of one of the most influential black political leaders of the early 20th century, Robert Church Jr. His latest article entitled, "It is the Race's Own Organization": Robert R. Church Jr., The Lincoln League, and the Politics of the Black Freedom Struggle, 1916 – 1920," was published in The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies in the spring 2015. He also is set to publish a book chapter entitled, "Saving Black America's Body and White America's Soul: The Lynching of Ell Persons," in An Unseen Light: Black Struggles for Freedom in Memphis, Tennessee with the University of Kentucky Press.

Dr. Young is the recipient of several awards including the prestigious Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Research Fellowship, and the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change Teaching Fellowship. In 2012, Dr. Young received the FAMU Center for Disability Access and Research Faculty Pacesetter Award. In April 2014, Dr. Young was also awarded the 2013 FAMU Teacher of the Year Award. Currently, he is the advisor for the Alpha Lambda Rho chapter of Phi Alpha Theta National Honors Society, Inc., the Michigan Club, and the Marcus Garvey Club. He is also a member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, and the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc.