



UNC  
CAROLINA CENTER  
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



*Thorp*  
FACULTY  
ENGAGED  
SCHOLARS

**Class VII Graduation**

*Friday, Dec. 11, 2020*



# AGENDA

Program starts at 12:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions

*Lynn Blanchard*

Remarks by Executive Vice Chancellor  
and Provost

*Robert A. Blouin*

"Presentation" of Certificates and Cords  
and Comments from Graduates

*Melvin Jackson*

*Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars Class VII*

Closing Remarks

*Ron Strauss*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Melvin Jackson, Community Course Director

Ron Strauss, Faculty Course Director and Executive Vice Provost

The Chancellor Holden Thorp Endowment Fund

The staff of the Carolina Center for Public Service

All of the faculty and community partners who shared their  
experiences and expertise with the Scholars

Dear Thorp Class VII,

Little did any of us know what lay ahead when you began your time in the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars program! But here we are two years later, having learned more about Carolina's engaged scholarship and each other.

When you were selected as the seventh class of Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars in the summer of 2018, it was clear that each of you was committed to fostering authentic partnerships in pursuit of your community-engaged scholarship. Whether during our van trips through Siler City and Durham or our time together sharing challenges and successes, you have been inspiring faculty leaders while exemplifying the University's promise of teaching, research and service for the public good.

In the past months, you have faced numerous challenges related to an ongoing pandemic, heightened awareness of anti-Black violence in America and a tense election season and aftermath. And yet, each of you persevered. You managed your own needs while supporting your families and loved ones, students and colleagues. You adapted your community-engaged research at a time when gathering in person is highly restricted, and you put at the forefront the needs of the communities with which you work.

The challenges of 2020 illuminate just how essential it is to continue engaging with communities and keeping their needs at the center of work that we do here at Carolina. It has been an honor for the Carolina Center for Public Service to support your work. We commend your dedication and resilience, congratulate you and look forward to continued opportunities to work together.

With warmest best wishes,



Lynn W. Blanchard  
Director



**CAROLINA CENTER** *for* **PUBLIC SERVICE**  
*Connecting Carolina and Communities*





## Class VII 2018-2020

### **Cheryl Mason Bolick**

Associate Professor  
School of Education

### **Sarah E. Dempsey**

Associate Professor  
Department of Communication  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Jessica Williams**

Assistant Professor  
School of Nursing

### **Jada Brooks**

Assistant Professor  
School of Nursing

### **Amelia Gibson**

Assistant Professor  
School of Information and  
Library Science

### **Amy Blank Wilson**

Associate Professor  
School of Social Work

### **Shauna M. Cooper**

Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology and  
Neuroscience  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Danielle Spurlock**

Assistant Professor  
Department of City and  
Regional Planning  
College of Arts and Sciences

### **Courtney G. Woods**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Environmental  
Sciences and Engineering  
Gillings School of Global Public  
Health

## *Thorp* **FACULTY ENGAGED SCHOLARS**

The Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars program brings together selected faculty from across campus to engage in a two-year experiential, competency-based curriculum designed to advance their engaged scholarship. Scholars participate in sessions in community settings to learn from Carolina faculty and their community partners. While developing individual projects, each class of scholars forms a learning community along with the faculty and community course directors to support one another's projects and community partners. The growing network of Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars reports outcomes including new interdisciplinary collaborations, successful grant applications and both traditional and non-traditional products of scholarship.



# CLASS VII SCHOLARS



## **Cheryl Mason Bolick**

Bolick, an educational researcher, is interested in social studies teacher education and experiential education. Her initial research focuses on using experiential education at the graduate level. She also has engaged in experiential education with her students by participating in North Carolina Outward Bound courses and through service-learning work on the Durham Hub Farm. This work led her to study the experiences of teachers engaged in experiential education and to investigate how it transfers to their K-12 teaching practice.

*"I have enjoyed being in a network of engaged scholars across different disciplines on our campus. I have found it valuable to learn how they have developed and grown their research agendas. In particular, it was helpful to have discussions about the APT process here at UNC as it relates to engaged scholarship. I've also found it interesting to learn about the focus of their different research areas."*

## **Jada Brooks**

Brooks is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and an academic nurse scientist committed to advancing health equity among American Indians in North Carolina. As a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar, Brooks has partnered with the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and the Public Schools of Robeson County to design and test an implementation plan for delivery of the intertribal talking circle within programs targeted at American Indian youth.



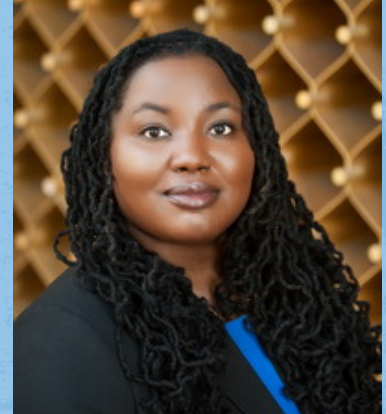
*"The Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars Program served as a critical stepping stone in my academic endeavor to pursue engaged scholarship and service. I leveraged resources that reinforced community-academic partnerships and built capacity for a sustainable program of scholarship that will make a positive difference in North Carolina's tribal communities. Seeing first-hand the impact of engaged scholarship and service through real-world examples was an eye-opening experience that will remain with me throughout my academic career."*



# CLASS VII SCHOLARS

## Shauna M. Cooper

Trained as a developmental psychologist, Cooper examines the individual and collective impacts of family, school and community influences on the development of African-American children and adolescents. Using various methodological and engaged approaches, her work examines the social experiences of African-American fathers as well as how these experiences shape parenting and child/adolescent outcomes. During her tenure as a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar, Cooper investigated community supports and barriers that shape fathers' engagement and involvement with their children.



*"One of the things that I enjoyed most about Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars was the opportunity to connect and learn about the engaged scholarship of campus colleagues. Not only was I able to learn about the amazing engaged work happening across the state of North Carolina, I was able to learn about the various ways that scientists approach engaged scholarship and establish sustained relationships with communities and organizations. The Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars program has been instrumental in my growth as an engaged scholar."*



## Sarah E. Dempsey

Dempsey is an organizational communication scholar whose current book project examines the values and practices animating recent efforts to create living wage certification programs and promote higher wages in North Carolina. Set in the context of independent restaurants, the project brings together multiple perspectives to stage a conversation around wages in the food service industry. Dempsey's Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars project involves developing forms of public scholarship in conversation with these community partners and research participants.

*"I am thankful for the opportunity to take part in the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars program, a vibrant space providing interdisciplinary discussion and exchange of ideas and strategies. During my time in the program, I have benefitted from being able to learn from my cohort and members of community-based organizations who are leading the way."*



# CLASS VII SCHOLARS

## Amelia Gibson

Gibson is an assistant professor at the School of Information and Library Science (SILS). Her primary research interests center on health information behavior and local communities and places as information systems. She is interested in the effects of place, space and community on the information worlds, information behavior, information needs and information access of traditionally marginalized populations, including people with disabilities and their families, and youth of color.

Gibson is director of the Community, Equity, Data & Information (CEDI) lab at SILS.



*"Community-engaged research takes time, training and support that is not the default or the norm in many academic spaces. It demands a flexibility and an openness to community values and needs (and schedules) that aren't always prioritized by universities. The Thorp program helped me communicate those differences internally (to my department), supported me with time and funding to build community connections and welcomed me into a supportive, likeminded group of scholars."*



## Danielle Spurlock

As a city and regional planning scholar, Spurlock's research lies at the intersections of land use, social equity and environmental protection. Over the past three years, she has collaborated with Communities in Partnership, a nonprofit in Old East Durham, and researchers from Duke University and North Carolina State University to examine how information elicited from nontraditional engagement techniques can shape local agenda-setting and policymaking, especially in relation to green gentrification, displacement and health disparities.

*"I have felt supported by the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar program's emphasis on respectful community engagement. Everyone is part of a community, and everyone serves one another. Thorp challenges my colleagues and me to go that extra level."*



# CLASS VII SCHOLARS



## Jessica Williams

Williams is a public health nurse and nurse scientist whose scholarship focuses on improving health outcomes among those affected by intimate partner violence (IPV) and improving the role of the health care system in responding to IPV with a particular focus on elucidating disparities that exist in this process. Her project focuses on developing an infrastructure to support a coordinated academic-community response to conducting research aimed at improving health among survivors of IPV.

*"The Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar program has been instrumental in helping me build skills to effectively engage North Carolina communities in research. One of my favorite aspects was being inspired by my fellow scholars and learning from their work with communities to improve health and well-being. The program reinforced for me the essential role community engagement plays in conducting high-quality, meaningful research."*

## Amy Blank Wilson

As part of her research, Blank Wilson is working with Cross Disability Services, Inc. (XDS, Inc.) and the UNC School of Social Work to develop a new type of affordable housing. Her project, The Tiny Home Village, consists of a community of 15 homes, each 350 square feet, in Chatham County, North Carolina. It will provide proof of concept that well-designed, affordable, permanent homes can support the health and wellbeing of veterans and people with serious mental illness for \$50,000 a home.



*"I derive encouragement from sharing my challenges and successes with the Thorp network. I've learned things from other participants that hadn't even occurred to me might happen."*



# CLASS VII SCHOLARS

## Courtney G. Woods

Woods is an environmental health scientist with broad interests in how social and political context contribute to a community's risk of exposure to environmental hazards. As a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar, Woods worked closely with communities in eastern North Carolina to assess water quality near solid waste facilities.

*"Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars helped broaden my perspective on how community partnerships can develop and evolve over time. I was inspired by my colleagues, each from different disciplines but deeply committed to using their scholarship in partnership with communities to address important issues."*



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## Special Acknowledgement

Byron Powell, former assistant professor in health policy and management at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, was a member of the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars Class VII from 2018-2019, before he accepted a position at Washington University in St. Louis.

# THORP FACULTY ENGAGED SCHOLARS, CLASSES I-VII

<b>Harriet Able</b> Education Class III	<b>Elizabeth Crais</b> Allied Health Sciences Class III	<b>Suzanne A. Gullede</b> Education Class II	<b>Rebecca Macy</b> Social Work Class II	<b>Andrew Reynolds</b> Political Science Class II
<b>Anna Agbe-Davies</b> Anthropology Class VI	<b>Leisha DeHart-Davis</b> Government Class VI	<b>Leigh Hall</b> Education Class IV	<b>Laurie Maffly-Kipp</b> Religious Studies Class III	<b>Sohini Sengupta</b> Social Medicine Class II
<b>Antoine Bailliard</b> Allied Health Sciences Class VI	<b>Sarah E. Dempsey</b> Communication Class VII	<b>Jill B. Hamilton</b> Nursing Class IV	<b>Steven May</b> Communication Class V	<b>Paul Smokowski</b> Social Work Class I
<b>Maureen M. Berner</b> Government Class V	<b>Kimón Divaris</b> Pediatric Dentistry Class VI	<b>Julia Haslett</b> Communication Class VI	<b>Malinda Maynor Lowery</b> History Class III	<b>Danielle Spurlock</b> City and Regional Planning Class VII
<b>Diane Berry</b> Nursing Class II	<b>Dana Thompson Dorsey</b> Education Class VI	<b>Brian Hogan</b> Chemistry Class IV	<b>Vicki Stemmons Mercer</b> Allied Health Sciences Class V	<b>Aimee N. Wall</b> Government Class II
<b>Gary Bishop</b> Computer Science Class I	<b>Karen Erickson</b> Allied Health Sciences Class II	<b>Dorothy Holland*</b> Anthropology Class I	<b>Roger Mills-Koonce</b> Education Class IV	<b>Michael S. Waltman</b> Communication Class I
<b>Cheryl Mason Bolick</b> Education Class VII	<b>Barbara A. Fedders</b> Law Class IV	<b>Adam Jacks</b> Allied Health Sciences Class V	<b>Chérie Ndaliko</b> Music Class V	<b>Linda R. Watson</b> Allied Health Sciences Class IV
<b>Jada Brooks</b> Nursing Class VII	<b>Barbara Friedman</b> Journalism and Media Class V	<b>Coretta M. Jenerette</b> Nursing Class VI	<b>Enrique W. Neblett, Jr.</b> Psychology and Neuroscience Class VI	<b>Jessica Williams</b> Nursing Class VII
<b>Juan Carrillo</b> Education Class V	<b>Patricia Garrett-Peters</b> Psychology Class III	<b>Anne M. Johnston</b> Journalism and Media Class V	<b>Mai Thi Nguyen</b> City and Regional Planning Class I	<b>Rachel Willis</b> American Studies Class VI
<b>Mimi Chapman</b> Social Work Class I	<b>Amelia Gibson</b> Information and Library Science Class VII	<b>Shawn Kneipp</b> Nursing Class IV	<b>Della Pollock</b> Communication Class III	<b>Amy Blank Wilson</b> Social Work Class VII
<b>Shauna M. Cooper</b> Psychology Class VII	<b>Cheryl Giscombé</b> Nursing Class V	<b>Jock Lauterer</b> Journalism and Media Class I	<b>Byron Powell</b> Health Policy and Management Class VII	<b>Courtney G. Woods</b> Environmental Sciences and Engineering Class VII
<b>Giselle Corbie-Smith</b> Social Medicine Class I	<b>Jocelyn Glazier</b> Education Class IV	<b>Alexandra Lightfoot</b> Public Health Class VI	<b>Charles Price</b> Anthropology Class II	<b>Ted Douglas Zoller</b> Business Class IV
<b>Tamera Coyne-Beasley</b> Pediatrics Class IV	<b>Richard Goldberg</b> Biomedical Engineering Class III	<b>Ashley Lucas</b> Dramatic Art Class III		

\*deceased

Please note that some participants listed are no longer employed at UNC-Chapel Hill.





## About the Carolina Center for Public Service

The Carolina Center for Public Service connects the energy and expertise of both the University and the community to provide students, faculty and staff with deep and transformative experiences. Through engaged scholarship and service, we work together to create collaborative and interdisciplinary solutions to local and global challenges.



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