



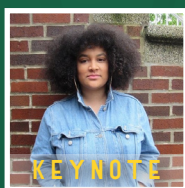
6TH ANNUAL
**BLACK
 EXPERIENCE
 SUMMIT**

EMBODYING FAITH, SEEKING RACIAL JUSTICE

FEBRUARY 24, 2023 | 12:30-4:30PM
 VERITAS AUDITORIUM



Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor of History,
 University of Dayton



Olga Segura
 Author & Freelance Writer



Timothy Jones
 Visiting Scholar for the Center for
 Equity in Urban Education



Nina Dini
 Professor Emeritus of
 Computer Information
 Sciences, Springfield
 College



Devantae Butler
 CEO/President of
 Reaching New Dreams &
 Recognizing Talents



**Imam Mirza
 Yawar Baig**
 Resident Scholar at the
 Islamic Society of Western
 Massachusetts and
 Hampshire Mosque and
 the Muslim Chaplain at
 Springfield College and
 Westfield State University



**Reverend Marcus
 T. McCullough**
 Senior Pastor of Bethel
 African Methodist
 Episcopal (AME) Church,
 Springfield, MA, and
 staff chaplain at Baystate
 Medical Center

Sixth Annual Black Experience Summit

Embodying Faith, Seeking Racial Justice

The sixth annual Black Experience Summit: Embodying Faith, Seeking Racial Justice, explores the impact of racism in the life and mission of religious institutions. Keynote speaker Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D., explores how Black Catholic sisters struggled to expose the rampant discrimination, misrepresentation and erasure that existed historically within the U.S. Catholic Church. These courageous women used their particular roles as educators and social justice warriors to seek equality and integration within the larger struggle for Black liberation. An interfaith panel will discuss how faith practitioners raise their voices to exemplify the pivotal role that places of worship could play to eradicate racism and white supremacy both internally and externally. Keynote speaker Olga Marina Segura addresses how contemporary movements for Black liberation, such as Black Lives Matter, are not only consistent with the social justice teachings of the religious faithful, but also continue to challenge the ongoing marginalization and invisibility of racial justice. The Summit will close with a call to action.

In keeping with their mission, the Sisters of St. Joseph are co-sponsoring the 6th Annual Black Experience Summit with Elms College. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield are joined together in the spirit of their mission, "that all may be one." They strive to unite neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God without distinction, to live simply, and act for justice. This year's Summit is also made possible by grant funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and by support from the Cynthia A. Lyons Center for Equity and Urban Education.



Event Schedule

- 12:30-12:35 p.m. **Opening Song, "War Cry," Social Club Misfits**
Joshua Fernandez Garcia, Elms College Junior
- 12:35 - 12:38 p.m. **Welcome and Introduction of Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, President of Elms College**
Jennifer Shoaff, Ph.D., Interim Chief Diversity Officer and Director of Diversity and Inclusion
- 12:38 - 12:45 p.m. **President's Welcome and Remarks**
Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA
President, Elms College
- 12:45 - 12:50 p.m. **Co-Sponsor Remarks**
Elizabeth T. (Betsy) Sullivan, SSJ, President of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield
- 12:50 - 12:55 p.m. **Spoken Word Performance: "Just ME"**
Devantae Butler
- 12:55 - 1:00 p.m. **Introduction Opening Keynote Speaker**
Nadia French-Graham, Elms College Senior and President of the Multicultural Scholars Collective
- 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. **Opening Keynote: "Bearing Witness to a Silenced Past: The Power and Challenge of Black Catholic Women's Historical Truth-Telling"**
Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D.
- 1:45 - 2:00 p.m. **Q&A**
- 2:00 - 2:25 p.m. **25 Minute Intermission**
- 2:25 - 2:30 p.m. **Song "River," Leon Bridges**
Marlene Kabeya and Cameron Pearson, Elms College Postbaccalaureate Students
- 2:30 - 2:35 p.m. **Introduction Panel**
Clauton Kum, Elms College Postbaccalaureate Student
- 2:35 - 3:20 p.m. **Interactive Panel: Faith in Action: An Interfaith Dialogue**
Moderator Timothy Jones
Panelists: Imam Mirza Yawar Baig, Nina Dini and Reverend Michael McCullough
- 3:20 - 3:25 p.m. **Spoken Word Performance: "The Time is Now"**
Devantae Butler
- 3:25 - 3:30 p.m. **Introduction Closing Keynote Speaker**
Dominique McDonald, Elms College Master's student in Education
- 3:30 -4:15 p.m. **Closing Keynote: "A Call for Liberation: Why We are Called to Lift Up and Learn from Movements for Black Lives"**
Olga Marina Segura
- 4:15 - 4:30 p.m. **Q&A**

Book signing immediately afterwards with Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D., Olga Marina Segura, Timothy Jones and Devantae Butler

Keynote Speakers



Shannen Dee Williams, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Dayton. She is the author of *Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle*, which was published by Duke University Press in 2022. *Subversive Habits* was named a top five book published in religion by Publishers' Weekly in 2022. It also received the 2022 Letitia Woods Brown Award for Best Book in African American Women's History from the Association of Black Women Historians.



Olga Marina Segura is a freelance writer and the former opinion and culture editor at National Catholic Reporter. She is the author of *Birth of A Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church*. Previously, she was an associate editor at America Media, where she wrote and solicited articles on race and culture. She is a co-founder and former co-host of the podcast, "Jesuitical." Her writing has appeared in The Guardian, Latino Rebels, Shondaland, Sojourners, Refinery29, and The Revealer. Prior to working at America Media, Olga was an intern at the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations. She graduated from Fordham University with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in

Italian Language and Literature. She speaks Italian and Spanish fluently and was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Spoken Word Performance



Devantae Butler is a Child of God, Youth Minister and CEO of Reaching New Dreams & Recognizing Talents. Devantae has been an entrepreneur for 9 years and has written 3 books. Devantae is known for his speaking and his creative mind. He lives to make an impact on all people but especially our youth.

Panelists



Timothy Jones is a writer, trainer, educator, ordained minister, and pundit of Hip-Hop and youth development. His writing credits include the books "*Prayers Proverbs Parables*" and "*Where are We Going*" and contributions to various anthologies. Timothy is a minister at The Believers Worship Center in Upper Marlboro, MD under the leadership of Bishop Larry H. Jordan, Sr. A scripture that guides Timothy's ministry is Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." The application of this scripture has inspired Timothy to develop youth and young adult ministries that provide a critical look at the world through

the lens of the bible as a guidance tool. These ministries include "Preparing Teens for The Future", "Lyrics and Scriptures" and "Prayers Proverbs and Parables." The latter began as daily text messages to encourage his son and a few of his friends on how to remain close to God when leaving home and the local church to attend college, and is now a ministry that utilizes social media to reach a growing audience.



Imam Mirza Yawar Baig is the Resident Scholar at the Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts and Hampshire Mosque and the Muslim Chaplain at Springfield College and Westfield State University. He is Advisor to Council of Muslim Theologians South Africa and Sri Lanka and the Association of Muslim Schools, South Africa. Yawar has written 40 books (including 3 audio books) and speaks five languages. Mirza Yawar Baig is the Founder and President of YAWAR BAIG & ASSOCIATES™. He's an Advisor, Author, Life Coach, Corporate Consultant. He has extensive experience of over 35 years in consulting with Multinational Corporations, Government and Business Entrepreneurs on 3 continents. He specializes in

Leadership Development. For more information please see <https://yawarbaig.com/>

Panelists



The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough MDiv, STM, BCC is the senior pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Springfield, MA, and staff chaplain at Baystate Medical Center (BMC). He earned his Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from Harvard Divinity School (HDS), a Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree from Boston University School of Theology, and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in religion from Morehouse College. At Baystate, he has worked with Schwartz Rounds and Juneteenth committees, spoken to nurse residents about spiritual care and moral distress, lectured chaplain students about documentation, and spoken to chaplain students about embodied Black experience. Marcus has published written

pieces, including an essay entitled "Thoughts after C'Ville" about his reflection on the violent events in Charlottesville, VA. Rev. Marcus brings to the Black Experience Summit the head of a scholar, the heart of a chaplain, and hands engaged in ministry.



Nina Dini was born and raised in Iran. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from L'Institut Universitaire De technologie Nice, France. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as a computer analyst and programmer at the Honeywell Company in Tehran, Iran. She married her husband Said in 1975 and in 1977 they moved to the United States to pursue their graduate studies at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL. She received her master's degree in Computer Science from IIT in 1981 and went on to work at the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in Springfield, MA as a systems analyst and application programmer for the next two years. She began

her academic career in 1984 at Springfield College as a part time instructor, moving to a full time position as an Assistant Professor of Computer Information Sciences in 1989 in the department of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science. After 35 years of teaching, she retired as Professor Emeritus of Computer Information Sciences in the fall of 2020. Nina has two sons and five grandchildren. Her older son teaches physics at Tufts University and her younger son is a dentist serving on Active Duty in the U.S. Army. She has been involved with community building processes and spiritual programs for the education of children, youth and adults for many years. Currently she is serving as an elected member of the Regional Baha'i Council of the Northeastern States.

**Special Thanks goes to the
Black Experience Summit Planning Committee, 2023**

Committee Chair:

Jennifer Shoaff, Ph.D.

Members:

Sr. Carol Allan

Andrea Bertheaud

Megan Eischen

Nadia French-Graham

Tyra Good, Ph.D

Joyce Hampton, Ph.D.

Marlene Kabeya

Eileen Kirk

Clauton Kum

Dave Legitime

Michael McGravey, Ph.D.

Andrea Neil

Elizabeth Newland

Bevin Peters

Michelle Proulx

Bill Russo-Appel

