



RUSRC, Prior Years

Ninth Annual Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference

**“WHY ACADEMIC DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ENRICHES ALL THE
DISCIPLINES”**

March 23, 2019

Martin Luther King Jr. Student Center





Consortium

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WELCOME

On behalf of the Delaware State University's members of our consortium, welcome to our campus, the home of the Hornets!

On behalf of our entire consortium, welcome to the Ninth Annual Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference! The theme for this year's conference is: **Why Academic Diversity in Higher Education Enriches All the Disciplines.**

Since its inception, this conference has undergone numerous positive changes. It is now generally recognized, at least in the Mid-Atlantic region, as one of the few innovative programs dedicated to fostering excellence in research among our undergraduate students. The conference affords our students an opportunity to showcase their research work as they continue to develop the skills needed for success in subsequent academic work and endeavors.

The conference is also a forum for our students to meet their colleagues from participating institutions and hopefully initiate profitable and meaningful contacts that can serve them well in their college careers and beyond. Students are, therefore, encouraged to network not only with their fellow students but also with assembled faculty from the participating institutions.

One of the visions of this conference is to validate and celebrate the academic accomplishments and aspirations of our students whose work is important and ambitions for future success are legitimate. Thus, we encourage presenters to view this conference as their launching pad for a bright and promising career in the academic world or in any profession that they choose to pursue.

This year's conference is possible because of the continued support of its consortium membership. Most important, warmest thanks to Dr. Francine Edwards for her generous support and her office staff for their kindest assistance in helping this year's conference be a success: Mrs. Theresa Smith, Ms. Stephanie Hardwick-Brown, and their student-workers. Deepest gratitude to Dr. Clytrice Watson for her interest in our endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. A. Myrna Nurse, Co-founder
Associate Professor of English & Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Executive Chair, RUSRC

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Annual Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference (RUSRC) is to facilitate students' understanding of our constantly changing world and improve their methods of communicating with each other and telling their stories—historical, social, political, environmental, economic, and spiritual—in a myriad of ways. RUSRC's further aim is to support students' growing awareness of the value of lifelong learning skill-sets that intersect bodies of knowledge—humanistic, technological, and scientific—that are essential toward empowering and validating the value of *all* human beings. RUSRC seeks to nurture and develop the skills that undergraduate students need for success in subsequent academic work and social endeavors.

VISION STATEMENT

RUSRC is dedicated to serving undergraduate students at least in the Mid-Atlantic region, as being one of the few innovative programs dedicated to fostering excellence in research at the undergraduate level. It is committed to affording undergraduate students an opportunity to showcase their research work, providing a friendly forum for students to meet their peers from participating institutions and hopefully initiate profitable and meaningful contacts that can serve them well in their college careers and beyond. Through establishing meaningful network opportunities, students can embrace a realistic path toward achieving their dream for success.

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Why Engage in Research?

- To seek an answer to a compelling question about a subject that is of interest to you.
- To pursue a haunting line of inquiry toward satisfying your own curiosity.
- To explore a commanding issue that refuses to be ignored.

Clytrice Watson, PhD
Interim Associate Provost

Dr. Clytrice Watson is the Interim Associate Provost for Academic and Student Services at Delaware State University (DSU). She recently completed a two-year rotation at the National Science Foundation via the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). She served as a Program Director for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). During her time at NSF, Dr. Watson worked to increase the participation of HBCUs and women in the NSF funding streams within and external to EHR and the HBCU-UP program. During her tenure at NSF, women were the recipients of 40 percent of new HBCU-UP awards.



Prior to joining NSF, she served as the Interim Dean for the former College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology and still retains her Professorship in the Department of Biology. During her 13-year tenure at DSU, she has served in various capacities including the Associate Dean for Student Success, Director of Forensic Biology, Associated Director for the MARC U*STAR program and Director for student support and scholarship. True to her commitment of strengthening the entry and retention of minority and underrepresented students in the STEM pipeline, she also served as the Director of the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP) and the EPSCoR High School Summer Research (HSSR) Program. These programs provided summer research internships for local high school students. As an active member of her community, she also served as a member on the Delaware Commission for Forensic Science, the Delaware BioScience Association and was a member and President of the Board of Directors for the Academy of Dover Charter School.

Dr. Watson earned her BS in Biology from Norfolk State University, MS in Biology from Delaware State University, and PhD from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Food Science and Technology/Microbiology. As an aspiring leader in the HBCU community, she completed a certificate of Academic Leadership through the NSF-funded Opportunities for Under-Represented Scholars (OURS) graduate certificate program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.



“Open discourse to identify challenges and devise solutions is essential to abolish gender inequalities globally and in science” (<https://www.nature.com/collections/fyfvkbpstf>).

Francine Edwards, PhD
Dean, College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences
(CHESS)

Dr. Francine Edwards began her career in the television industry in 1989 at WHSV TV in Harrisonburg, Virginia as a production assistant and camera operator. In 1991, she began an 11-year career with Black Entertainment Television (BET) as a producer and on-air host for the award-winning Teen Summit. While at BET, Dr. Edwards had the opportunity to work with a host of celebrities and public figures including Hillary Clinton, Snoop Dogg, Usher, Taraji P. Henson, Rosie Perez, and Maya Angelou to name a few. She is the recipient of several NAACP Image awards and two Shine Awards for outstanding children's programming. In 2000, she made a career transition to the public affairs area and began working as a public affairs specialist for the District of Columbia Department of Health, where she used her contacts in the entertainment industry to launch several celebrity driven healthcare campaigns in the city. In 2002, her career path led her to the public affairs department of NASA where she worked for NASA Television. As a part of the team who was staffed during the 2003 Challenger Shuttle crash, she was instrumental in providing the media with essential news footage, data, and other information related to recovery efforts.



Dr. Edwards made another career transition as a result of her adjunct experience at Bowie State University (where she received her master's degree in organizational communication). She decided to continue on the academic career path and pursued a doctorate at Howard University. Dr. Edwards is currently serving as the Dean, College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences (CHESS). She teaches a host of courses including media and public relations management and campaigns, which is a service-learning course in which students provide consulting, and PR services to non-profit organizations in the Dover community, organizational communication, feminism and the media, and advertising in society and advises senior capstone students. Dr. Edwards has over a dozen leadership and scholarly publications and has presented research for AEJMC, The National Communications Association, The International Organization of Social Science and Behavioral Research, the American Association of University Professors, and the Faculty Resource Network to name a few. Dr. Edwards is the past president of Delaware State University's American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Editor of the Journal of Social Science Research, and Member of the Board of Director for International Organization of Social Science and Behavioral Research (IOSSBR).



“Women of color represent just 7.95 percent of U.S. print newsroom staff, 12.6 percent of local TV news staff, and 6.2 percent of local radio staff, according to industry research that is based on news organizations’ replies to professional association queries” (<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/reports/the-status-of-women-of-color-in-the-u-s-media-2018-full-report>).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Sonya Inderbitzin-Brooks, MD

Originally from Annandale, Virginia, **Dr. Sonya Inderbitzin-Brooks** attended Delaware State University for her undergraduate degree. While in attendance, she was a MARC U*STAR scholar before receiving her undergraduate degree in Biology in 2014. She then attended West Virginia University School of Medicine and received her medical degree in 2018. She is currently an Internal Medicine Intern with an interest in pursuing a Hematology/Oncology fellowship upon completion of her residency. Dr. Inderbitzin-Brooks was the *first-place winner* at RUSRC's very first conference in 2011. Her paper presentation was titled, "The Road to Success: How the Contributions of Frederick Douglass and Nelson Mandela Paved the Way to Success for Blacks."



Kimele Persaud, PhD



Dr. Kimele Persaud (née Gray) graduated from Delaware State University in May of 2012 with a BS in Psychology. At DSU, she was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and an Honors Program student. As an undergraduate, she conducted several research projects under the supervision of Dr. Brian Friel. Her research projects were "Birth Order and Educational attainment: Phenomenon or Reflection of Parenting Style" and "Effects of Biasing Information and Conscious and Unconscious Deliberation." She presented these projects at a number of research conferences and received several awards including the second Regional Undergraduate Research Conference (2012), for which she was the *first-place winner*. Her paper presentation was titled, "The Effect of Paternal Parenting Stress on Child Cognitive Development at 24 Months of Age." She went on to earn her doctorate degree in Cognitive Psychology at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, in May 2018. Her research program involved developing computational methods to understand the influence of real-world knowledge and expectations on visual working and long-term memory. As a graduate student, she received several prestigious fellowships including the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and National Science Foundation Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training Fellowship. Dr. Persaud is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Rutgers University, Newark, working with Dr. Elizabeth Bonawitz in the Computational Cognitive Development (CoCoDev) lab.



"According to UIS data, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women. UIS data also show the extent to which these women work in the public, private or academic sectors, as well as their fields of research. But to truly reduce the gender gap, we must go beyond the hard numbers and identify the qualitative factors that deter women from pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)"

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/women-science>.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00-8:45 ARRIVAL & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST **PARLOR B**

9:00 WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS **PARLOR B**
 Dr. A. Myrna Nurse, Executive Chair, RUSRC
 Dr. Clytrice Watson, Interim Associate Provost, Delaware State University
 Dr. Francine Edwards, Dean, College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences (CHESS), Delaware State University

9:15	Panel I What in the World Matters Location: Parlor A Moderator: Dr. Jesse Zuba Judge: Dr. Ordner Taylor Jason Amoako: DSU “Health and Well-being: The Prevalence of Malaria in the Developing World” Norwoh Khadijah Kemokai: DSU “Don’t Forget to Flush!’ Sixth Global Goal” Alexis Wormsley: DSU “Stunting in Children: Evidence of Food Insecurity”	Panel II Dreams Still Deferred Location: Parlor C Moderator: Dr. Kalenda Eaton Judge: Dr. Carol Henderson Troiana Hicks: DSU “Gender, Class, and Capitalism in Lorraine Hansberry’s <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> ” Amber Lee: DSU “‘Just Aimed Too High’: American Dreaming in Hansberry’s <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> ” Marina Hernandez: DSU “‘Money Is Life’: The Critique of the American Dream in <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> ”	Panel III Natural, Man-made, and Cultural Collusions Location: Glass Lounge Moderator: Dr. Regina Wright Judge: Dr. Wunyabari Maloba Bria Pearce: DSU “Post-Trauma Natural Disaster: Hurricane Katrina Edition” Dana Niemeyer: DSU “Conservation and Its Effects upon Endangered Species” Jeffrey Attakorah: UD “The Blues Is Still Our Music”
	Qs & As		

10:15 STRETCH BREAK

10:30	Panel IV The Continuum of Miseducation and Its Deleterious Societal Effects Location: Parlor A Moderator: Dr. Wunyabari Maloba Judge: Dr. Jesse Zuba Kysha Brown: Arcadia U “The Lack of Perceived Innocence in Black Children” Kobe Baker: UD “Crossovers and Contradictions: Intimate Ballers” Taylor Coleman: DSU “African American Education: An Historical Perspective”	Panel V Multiple Paths to Mental Health Location: Parlor C Moderator: Dr. Ordner Taylor Judge: Dr. Regina Wright Lenai Austin: DSU “Pathology of Stroke” Brianna Holloway: DSU “Keep It in Mind: Transforming Approaches and Attitudes of Mental Health in the African American Community” Quader’a Henry: UD “Cycles of Decimation: A Machine of Racialized Social Control”	Panel VI Where Race, Class, and Sex Intersect Location: Glass Lounge Moderator: Dr. Kalenda Eaton Judge: Dr. Monica Gray Dylan Rossin: Arcadia U “The Politics of Langston Hughes’s Poem ‘Dream Variations’” Corrin Judd: DSU “Amiri Baraka’s <i>Dutchman</i> : A Literary Analysis of the Femme Fatale Figure” Donnaya McNeil: DSU “Questions of Identity in Nella Larsen’s <i>Passing</i> ”
	Qs & As		

<p>11:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Poster Station I: Parlor A Judges: Dr. Monica Gray & Dr. Jesse Zuba</p> <p>Isabella Bumbera: Arcadia U “Signed vs. Spoken: Seeking Language Learning Success”</p> <p>Miata Smith: UD “Sleep Quality and Cognitive Function in Older Adults”</p> <p>Keynon Harris-Miller: UD “Representation of Black Men in Media Effects on Black Male Youth”</p> <p>Sloan Ferron: UD “The Relationship Between Biased Perception of Pain and Anger on Black Face”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Poster Station II: Parlor C Judges: Dr. Carol Henderson & Dr. Ordner Taylor</p> <p>Edward Knab and Amy Stringer: Arcadia U “Research to Improve Hydrogen Storage”</p> <p>Jaznae’ Smith, Deja Garcia, and Anjolaoluwa Popoola: LU “Farm Area Rapid Transit: A Case for Poultry Powered Transportation”</p> <p>Yessica Martinez: DSU “The Effect of Deficits in Central Acetylcholine Release in the Regulation of Synaptic Activity in <i>Drosophila</i>”</p> <p>Needson J. Cadeau: UD “Examination of Topoisomerase II SUMOylation in Meiosis of <i>C. Elegans</i> Males”</p>
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12:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PARLOR B

Dr. Sonya-Inderbitzin-Brooks
Dr. Kimele Persaud

LUNCH

AWARDS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1:30 GENERAL MEETING:
“POST-GRADUATE PERSPECTIVES”**



The Allegorical Figures of Theologia, Jurisprudentia, Metaphysica, Dialectica, Rhetorica, Physica, Logica, Ethica, Epistemologia: The Liberal Arts & Science (Public Domain).

Note: Rhetorica is centred and wearing a crown because her communicative skills are esteemed as most valuable to public and civil discourses.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Panel I

Location: Parlor A

“What in the World Matters”

Moderator: Dr. Jesse Zuba

Judge: Dr. Ordner Taylor

“Health and Well-being: The Prevalence of Malaria in the Developing World”

Jason Amoako, Delaware State University

“Don’t Forget to Flush!’ Sixth Global Goal”

Norwoh Khadijah Kemokai, Delaware State University

“Stunting in Children: Evidence of Food Insecurity”

Alexis Wormsley, Delaware State University

Qs & As



Panel II

Location: Parlor C

“Dreams Still Deferred”

Moderator: Dr. Kalenda Eaton

Judge: Dr. Carol Henderson

“Gender, Class, and Capitalism in Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*”

Troiana Hicks, Delaware State University

“Just Aimed Too High’: American Dreaming in Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*”

Amber Lee, Delaware State University

“‘Money Is Life’: The Critique of the American Dream in *A Raisin in the Sun*”

Marina Hernandez, Delaware State University

Qs & As

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Panel III

Location: Glass Lounge

“Natural, Man-made, and Cultural Collusions”

Moderator: Dr. Regina Wright

Judge: Dr. Wunyabari Maloba

“Post-Trauma Natural Disaster: Hurricane Katrina Edition”

Bria Pearce, Delaware State University

“Conservation and Its Effects upon Endangered Species”

Dana Niemeyer, Delaware State University

“The Blues Is Still Our Music”

Jeffrey Attakorah, University of Delaware

Qs & As



10:15 – 10:30 AM

STRETCH BREAK



10:30 – 11:30 AM

Panel IV

Location: Parlor A

“The Continuum of Miseducation and Its Deleterious Societal Effects”

Moderator: Dr. Wunyabari Maloba

Judge: Dr. Jesse Zuba

“The Lack of Perceived Innocence in Black Children”

Kysha Brown, Arcadia University

“Crossovers and Contradictions: Intimate Ballers”

Kobe Baker, University of Delaware

“African American Education: An Historical Perspective”

Taylor Coleman, Delaware State University

Qs & As

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Panel V

Location: Parlor C

“Multiple Paths to Mental Health”

Moderator: Dr. Ordner Taylor

Judge: Dr. Regina Wright

“Pathology of Stroke”

Lenai Austin, Delaware State University

“Keep It in Mind: Transforming Approaches and Attitudes of Mental Health in the African American Community”

Brianna Holloway, Delaware State University

“Cycles of Decimation: A Machine of Racialized Social Control”

Quader’a Henry, University of Delaware

Qs & As



Panel VI

Location: Glass Lounge

“Where Race, Class, and Sex Intersect”

Moderator: Dr. Kalenda Eaton

Judge: Dr. Monica Gray

“The Politics of Langston Hughes’s Poem ‘Dream Variations’”

Dylan Rossin, Arcadia University

“Amiri Baraka’s *Dutchman*: A Literary Analysis of the Femme Fatale Figure”

Corrin Judd, Delaware State University

“Questions of Identity in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*”

Donnaya McNeil, Delaware State University

Qs & As

11:30 – 11: 55 AM

**Poster
Station I: Parlor A**

Judges: Dr. Monica Gray and Dr. Jesse Zuba

“Signed vs. Spoken: Seeking Language Learning Success”
Isabella Bumbera, Arcadia University

“Sleep Quality and Cognitive Function in Older Adults”
Miata Smith, University of Delaware

“Representation of Black Men in Media Effects on Black Male Youth”
Keynon Harris-Miller, University of Delaware

“The Relationship Between Biased Perception of Pain and Anger on Black Face”
Sloan Ferron, University of Delaware



**Poster
Station II: Parlor C**

Judges: Dr. Carol Henderson and Dr. Ordner Taylor

“Research to Improve Hydrogen Storage”
Edward Knab and **Amy Stringer**, Arcadia University

“Farm Area Rapid Transit: A Case for Poultry Powered Transportation”
Jaznae’ Smith, **Deja Garcia**, and **Anjolaoluwa Popoola**, Lincoln University

“The Effect of Deficits in Central Acetylcholine Release in the Regulation of Synaptic Activity in
Drosophila”
Yessica Martinez, Delaware State University

“Examination of Topoisomerase II SUMOylation in Meiosis of *C. Elegans* Males”
Needson J. Cadeau, University of Delaware

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE

The Regional Undergraduate Student Research Conference (RUSRC) was originally conceptualized in 2010 by Dr. Carol Henderson and borne in 2011 in collaboration with Dr. A. Myrna Nurse and Dr. Andrew Blake. Its consortium was supported by UD's Department of Black American Studies under the leadership of Dr. Henderson, then Chair, and Drs. Nurse and Blake of DSU's Department of English and Foreign Languages.

The first RUSRC in 2011 was held at UD's Arsht Hall, Wilmington, with the theme, "**Black Identity in the Age of Obama.**" It attracted a fledgling number of eight student-participants from UD and DSU whose impressive research brought topics such as "Brenda's Got a Baby': Single Motherhood in the Streets" (*Brooklynn K. Hitchens, UD*) and "The Road to Success: How the Contributions of Frederick Douglass and Nelson Mandela Paved the Way to Success for Blacks" (*Sonya Inderbitzin, DSU*).

In 2012, due to its impressive numerical swell to almost forty student-participants, RUSRC expanded to a two-day symposium held at DSU's Dover campus. Lincoln University (LU) joined the consortium, and Dr. Emmanuel Babatunde was instrumental in LU students' participation. Its theme was, "**Social, Technological, and Scientific Advancements of the 21st Century.**" Impressive topics included, "Attitude of Young Black Males to Breastfeeding" (*Brian Brown, LU*) and "The Effect of Paternal Parenting Stress on Child Cognitive Development at 24 Months of Age" (*Kimele Gray, DSU*).

The third RUSRC in 2013 returned to UD and was held at Arsht Hall in Wilmington, with the theme, "**Empowering Undergraduate Research: Producing Student Leaders in the Arts, Sciences, New Technologies, and Popular Culture.**" Student-participants discussed issues and raised poignant questions on topics such as "Age Discrimination in the Workplace of the United States" (*Philip D. Tomsic, LU*), "The School-to-Prison Pipeline" (*Ashlee Johnson, UD*), and "Historical and Religious Oppression of Women in Islamic Countries" (*Shandell Thomas-Baisden, DSU*). Its thirty-plus participants included students from The New School, New York and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Subsequent conferences continued to realize much success regarding the students' involvement, networking, and graduate achievements.

Most significant, our website launched this year. Warmest thanks to **Dr. Ordner Taylor** for making this become a reality! Its link is:
[https://www.regionalundergrad.com/.](https://www.regionalundergrad.com/)

**Next Year's 2020 Conference:
University of Delaware**

In Memoriam: Some Cultural Icons Gone in 2018



Edwin Hawkins

Dubbed the “founder of modern gospel,” this composer, keyboardist, arranger, and choirmaster is best known for the crossover hit “Oh Happy Day,” which became a million-seller in 1969. Hawkins’ experience goes back to his childhood when he used to perform with his family and in church groups. In 2007, he was voted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame. He died after a battle with pancreatic cancer on Jan. 15 in Pleasanton, Calif.

Olivia Cole

Born in Memphis, Tenn., this Emmy-Award winning actress was trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Known for her roles in the films *Roots* (as Matilda, Chicken George’s wife) and *The Women of Brewster Place*, Cole’s other credits include *L.A. Law*, *Murder, She Wrote* and *Backstairs at the White House*. She died on Jan. 19 in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, at the age of 75.

Hugh Masekela

A trumpeter, composer, flugelhorn player, bandleader, singer and political activist, Masekela’s song “Grazing in the Grass” hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1968. The legendary South African jazz musician collaborated with artists ranging from Harry Belafonte to Bob Marley, Paul Simon, Fela Kuti, and more. He died in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Jan. 23 at the age of 78.

Lerone Bennett Jr.

An executive editor of *Ebony* magazine, where he worked for 52 years, Bennett was an enthusiast of African-American history. In 2006, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Black Journalists. A year later, the author, historian, and journalist was honored with a resolution from the State Senate in his home state of Mississippi. On Feb. 14, he died peacefully of advanced vascular dementia at his home in Chicago, at the age of 89.

Floyd J. Carter Sr.

One of the last surviving Tuskegee Airman, Carter was part of the famous U.S. Army Air Corps unit who had to overcome the challenges of being black in a segregated nation and military, while fighting against that same nation’s enemies. He not only served during World War II and Vietnam later, but he had a long career as a police detective in New York City, with 26 years in that job. Carter died on March 3 at the age of 95.

Linda Brown

When Linda was in third grade, her father, Oliver Brown, attempted to enroll her in Sumner Elementary, one of 18 all-white schools near their home in Topeka, Kan. His request was denied, and he was told to send her to one of the four black schools in the area. Oliver filed a lawsuit, which became the basis of the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Court ruled that “separate but equal” schools violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, thus legally ending school segregation. Brown died in Topeka on March 25 at 76 years old.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

An icon of the fight against South African apartheid, this activist, who was the former wife of Nelson Mandela, the first black president in South Africa's history, died April 2 in Johannesburg, South Africa, after a long undisclosed illness. She was 81 years old.

Yvonne Staples

Staples was a background singer and business manager for her family's musical group, The Staple Singers. The ensemble was formed in 1948 by Roebuck "Pops" Staples, and their hits, which are a blend of gospel, soul and pop, include "Respect Yourself," "Let's Do It Again," and "I'll Take You There." In 1999, the group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and in 2005, they received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Grammys. Yvonne died April 10 in Chicago at the age of 80 from colon cancer.

Aretha Franklin

On March 25, 1942, in Memphis, Tenn., the one and only Queen of Soul was born, gifting the world with her soon-to-be rhythm and blues, gospel and jazz magic. Between 1967 and 1974, she recorded several soul and pop hits, including "Respect," which topped the pop and R&B charts in the spring of '67, "Chain of Fools," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and more. Named "the greatest singer of all time" by Rolling Stone in 2010, Franklin influenced some of the greatest singers ever—from Whitney Houston to Mary J. Blige and Alicia Keys. She won 18 Grammys, including a Lifetime Achievement Award, and was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2012, she was inducted into the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame. After battling advanced pancreatic cancer, Franklin died Aug. 16 in Detroit at 76 years old.

Kofi Annan

A recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Annan was a former secretary-general of the United Nations. Born in Kumasi, Ghana, in 1938, he fought for a fair and peaceful world. He died Aug. 18 in Bern, Switzerland, after a short illness. He was 80 years old.

Ntozake Shange

The award-winning playwright, performer and author wrote to the souls of black girls around the world. *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* is the work she's most known for, and for which she won an Obie Award in 1976. Her poetry defied genres and reached across racism and sexism, touching whoever came in contact with her pure expressions of love. On Oct. 27 in Bowie, Md., Shange (née Paulette Williams) died in her sleep, peacefully, at 70 years old.

Nancy Wilson

An award-winning singer, Wilson was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1937. She began singing at church, and after winning a high school talent contest, moved to New York to record songs with Julian Edwin "Cannonball" Adderley. Some of her most known songs are "Guess Who I Saw Today," "Face It Girl, It's Over," "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am," and "The Things We Did Last Summer." After a long illness, Wilson died in Pioneertown, Calif., on Dec. 13 at the age of 81.

<https://www.theroot.com/in-memoriam-a-tribute-to-the-ones-we-lost-in-2018-1831268459>

