



*The Council of ALANA Seniors
Presents: The 33rd Annual
Baccalaureate Service*

"Passing the Torch
of Love, Care, and
Community"

Saturday May 20th, 2023
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
The Chapel

VASSAR
Class of 2023



***“WE CAN NEVER GO NOWHERE UNLESS
WE SHARE WITH EACH OTHER.”***

-TUPAC SHAKUR

This year marks thirty-three years since the Council of Black Seniors (CBS) was established. The legacy that began with a small group of black students continues through the Council of ALANA Seniors. We want to honor those before us, those with us now, and those who come after us.

The Baccalaureate

Historically, the Baccalaureate Service originated in 1432 at Oxford University. It required each bachelor to deliver a sermon in Latin as part of an academic exercise. Because the earlier universities in this country were founded primarily to educate ministers, the British practice of Baccalaureate service continued

The Council of Black Seniors revived the Baccalaureate Service at Vassar in 1991.

The Council of ALANA Seniors Statement of Purpose

The Council of ALANA Seniors (CAS) is dedicated to providing diverse programming for the Vassar community, especially students of color, and hosting socio-cultural events that reflect the diversity of the senior class. CAS now works with the Senior Class Council to provide an exciting, enriched Senior Week.

The Baccalaureate Service is the major program of CAS, and recognizes the role of faith, community, and spirituality in the lives of students, with particular emphasis on the African-American church experience. Now in its 33rd year, the service has also become a celebration and recognition of academic achievement. The service also emphasizes community and diversity.

Passing the Torch of Love, Care, and Community

Passing the Torch of Love, Care, and Community is a crucial aspect of creating a better future for ourselves and generations to come. It is the act of transferring the values, principles, and traditions that promote love, care, and togetherness in our communities from one generation to another. This act ensures that we continue to uphold the positive aspects of our society, even as time changes. Passing the torch also involves cultivating a culture of love and empathy towards one another and encouraging the spirit of community service. When we pass the torch of love, care, and community, we create a brighter future for ourselves and inspire others to carry on the legacy of kindness and compassion for years to come.

Adedoyin Teriba

Adedoyin Teriba is an Assistant Professor of modern and contemporary architecture & urbanism at Dartmouth College. He specializes in modern and contemporary architecture & urbanism — focusing particularly on such traditions in West Africa and its diasporas. Teriba's teaching and scholarship investigate the ways in which folklore, orality, language, art, dance, and music are used as tools — historically and presently — to generate an architecture that creates a sense of place. Teriba is also interested in the ways that performance-based ways of creating architecture have been a staple of architectural design in parts of Africa and its diasporas for the last two hundred years or more.

He took his Ph.D. from Princeton University and has been the recipient of grants from the Center of Arts and Cultural Policy Studies as well as the Program of Latin American Studies at Princeton University. His most recent publications are “Orality and Permanence: Restoring a Gbongan Palace Through Spoken Architectural History,” in last Autumn’s edition of the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (Volume 80, Number 3, 2021), and “Style, Race and Architecture of a Mosque of the Òyìnbó Dúdú (White-Black) in Lagos Colony, 1894,” in *Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020).

Candace Lowe Swift

Candice Lowe Swift is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, Africana Studies and International Studies at Vassar College. Her research interest is in diaspora networks, heritage, and the work of how Historically Underrepresented Groups might experience belonging and mattering in higher education. Her work as an anthropologist began in the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. There, she worked as a publicly engaged scholar, contributing directly to the inscription of Le Morne Brabant Mountain on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Le Morne Mountain is memorialized as a place where maroons made shelter and community away from the plantations where they were enslaved in the 18th and 19th centuries. At Vassar, Candice served as Liaison to the President for Race and Inclusion and became Co-Principal Investigator, with Jon Chenette, on a Mellon Foundation Grant to develop mechanisms for addressing challenges faced by historically underrepresented students at the College. Successful funding of that proposal allowed Vassar College to launch the Engaged Pluralism Initiative (EPI), which Candice directed until December of 2020. Candice also co-founded and directed Summer Immersion in the Liberal Arts--Vassar’s first credit-bearing summer bridge program--for students from marginalized backgrounds—from 2018-2020. Her publications have focused primarily on heritage and pedagogy.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL	Led by Kariamum Drummers
WELCOME	Leonard Versola '23
INVOCATION	Reverend Samuel Speers <i>Dean of Religious & Spiritual Life & Contemplative Practices</i>
WELCOME REMARKS	Elizabeth Bradley <i>President of the College</i>
WELCOME REMARKS	Carlos Alamo <i>Dean of the College</i>
TRIBUTE TO FAMILIES	Ariana Sierra-Chacón '23
INTRODUCTION OF FACULTY SPEAKER	Taylor Gee '23
FACULTY TRIBUTE TO SENIORS	Candice Lowe Swift <i>Associate Professor of Anthropology</i>
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER	Taylor Gee '23
BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS	Adedoyin Teriba
JTASK AWARD RECIPIENT	Pandora Lewis '23, Danushi Fernando
SENIOR TRIBUTE	African Violets
CLOSING REMARKS	Leonard Versola '23
RECESSIONAL	Led by Kariamum Drummers



Acknowledgements

The Council of ALANA Seniors would like to thank the following for their support: The African Violet Society, Senior Class Council, Campus Activities and, specifically, Michelle Ransom, President Bradley, Dean Carlos Alamo, Dean Wendy Maragh Taylor, Reverend Sam Speers, Nicole Beveridge, Brenda Vasquez-Tavarez, Communications Office, and specifically, Dan Lasecki, The Career Development Office, The Office of Advancement, Daisy Chain Members and Coordinators, Kariam Drumming Group, Professors Adedoyin Teriba and Candice Lowe Swift, and the families of the graduating class of 2023.

To all not mentioned, our sincere apologies; know that we value and appreciate your support.

CAS Executive Board

Leonard Versola: Chair of the Council of ALANA Seniors

Pandora Lewis: Vice Chair of the Council of ALANA Seniors

Taylor Gee: Secretary of the Council of ALANA Seniors

Ariana Sierra-Chacón: Treasurer of the Council of ALANA Seniors

Leslie Lim '24: Junior Intern

Mariam Eshetu '24: Junior Intern

Katherine Rattray '24: Junior Intern

Jancely Arias '24: Junior Intern

Anabel Varghese '24: Junior Intern

African Violets

Noon Elmostafa '25

Óscar Martínez '25

Natalia Velez-Rios '25

Mehnaz Alam '25

Marissa Desir '25

Victor Lun Pun '25

Matthew Tavarez '26