



*A
Decade
of
Excellence*

*Bowie State University
College of Arts & Sciences Awards
Thursday, November 18, 2021
5 p.m.*

Sponsored by:





President's Message

Dr. Aminta Breaux



Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.
President



November 3, 2021

Good evening and welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences 2021 Decade of Excellence. I first want to thank Dean George Acquah and the entire College of Arts and Sciences for persevering through the uncertainty and the challenges due to COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, the College of Arts and Sciences remained committed to ensuring our students had access to a quality educational experience. As I salute the achievements and institutional contributions of the College of Arts and Sciences, I want to applaud the tremendous acceleration of change we have accomplished as a campus community in recent years. Bowie State University has realized extraordinary opportunities because of the dedication and ingenuity of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Significant transformation began when we took up the baton to Race to Excellence, the name of our five-year strategic plan, and Bowie State University accelerated our pace in response to the emergence of COVID-19 and the re-emergence of social justice incidents. The results have been transformational:

- BSU is now approved to deliver online academic programs, not just online courses.
- We have expanded the entrepreneurship ecosystem across the campus and in the community through our partnership with Saxby's, our inaugural HBCU Entrepreneurship Conference sponsored by Truist, and the opening of our splendid Entrepreneurship Living-learning Community bridging learning environments from the classroom to the real world with the incorporation of accelerator and incubator spaces for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- In 2020, we received \$25 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. It was the largest gift in the history of Bowie State University, and it has inspired others to support BSU.
- We have welcomed new partnerships with Google, Apple, BGE, IBM Quantum Physics, Amazon Web Services, and Laika Stop Animation Studios, which gave \$50,000 to develop an animation studio, the only one of its kind at an HBCU.
- BSU moved is now listed among the top 25 HBCUs in the country.
- According to *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, our university is among the top five Maryland universities graduating African Americans with bachelor's degrees in nursing, biology, and computer/information sciences.

I am so proud of what we have achieved together. When we pay tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of the College of Arts and Sciences today, we are celebrating the boldness, courage, and commitment to excellence that are hallmarks of Bowie State University.

My hearty congratulations to all who have been racing to excellence, ensuring student success, and building the long-term sustainability of our university.

Sincerely,

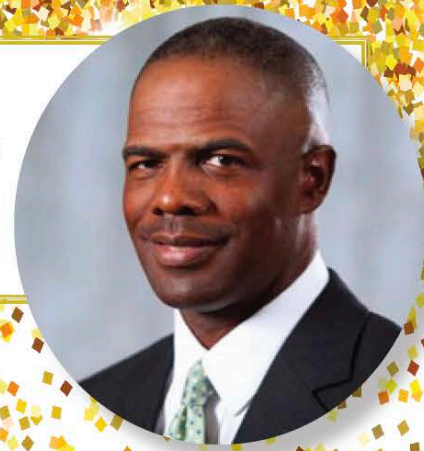
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aminta H. Breaux'.

Aminta H. Breaux



Provost's Message

Dr. Carl Goodman



As the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, here at Bowie State University, I bring you greetings.

The College of Arts and Sciences is deservedly celebrating a Decade of Excellence. Celebrations such as this one are special to me because these celebrations give us another opportunity to congratulate our talented faculty and staff. Our students are being rewarded today for their dedication, time, and energy. We are eternally grateful to our students for selecting Bowie State University for their academic pursuits.

One of the goals for this great institution consists of racing towards excellence. Most important, academic excellence is the foremost means by which we demonstrate the excellence we seek. Both high grades and superior performance are the hallmarks of student success. In such a setting, the faculty thrives because they are energized by student success. While engaged professors shape and mold students to excel, the students become confident and begin to beam with pride as they reap the benefits of their own tenacity and endurance.

Today's program will honor the next generation of leaders, not only in mass media but computer science, mathematics, and military science to name a few. The College of Arts and Sciences has been and will continue to offer strong academic programming. I am confident that our nation's next Toni Braxton, Jada Pinkett Smith, or Gen. Colin Powell will receive an award today.

There is a verse in the GOOD book, that says:

There is nothing better for a person, than that he should eat and drink, and that they should make their soul enjoy good in their labor. On this occasion, we have the opportunity to do just as this scripture inspires as collectively our souls will enjoy the good produced and celebrated today by all faculty, staff, and students.

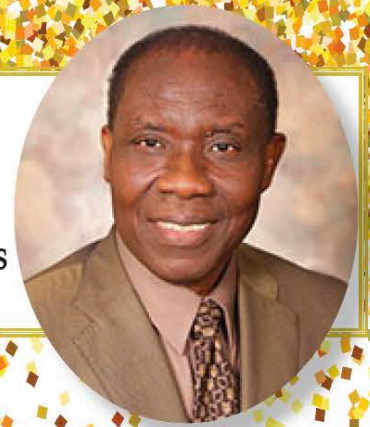
The Decade of Excellence for the College of Arts and Sciences is worth noting but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. There is more planning to be done, more research to be conducted, and definitely more souls to inspire to greatness.

Therefore, please accept my heartfelt congratulations to all recipients. We are proud of each and every one of you. We celebrate your success. Thank you for being Bowie Bold!!!



Welcome

Dr. George Acquah, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences



Without hesitation, I declare that, once again, the College of Arts and Sciences has been exemplary in its work. We have delivered excellence during profoundly demanding times. CAS has enhanced student success through high-impact pedagogies, and we have enriched the University's funding stream. Additionally, we have strengthened the image and long-term viability of the institution through research, dynamic partnerships, and outreach programs. Indeed, we have lived up to our motto: "Strive to succeed, not because of but in spite of" the challenges we may face.

Student success is our highest priority in all our endeavors. Led by nine visionary chairperson scholars, departments have developed unique programs and engaging learning activities that support student achievement and professionalization, nurture critical and entrepreneurial thinking across our disciplines, and provide relevant, competitive experiences and singular in the region. Our world-class faculty have published award-winning books, scholarly papers, and influential treatises, and they have mentored our students through a pandemic. CAS exceptional staff members have helped all of us in ways too numerous to list. Our outstanding military scientists have led our Bulldog Battalion to incredible levels of excellence. Our ROTC program is now ranked among the nation's absolute best. The faculty has proposed superlative programs in Cyber Operations Engineering, Software Engineering, and Data Science to make our students even more competitive. The CURE program in Natural Sciences continues to impact every student who wants to be involved in hands-on experimentation. Our partnerships with colleges and universities in the US and abroad are changing the field of science in Africa and the face of genetics inquiry globally.

Our programs in the arts and humanities continue to present a bounty of opportunities and skillsets for students. Communications is the headquarters for radio and television broadcasting, new media studies, journalism, and strategic public relations. Award-winning artists and projects are routine in Fine and Performing Arts, our center for creative endeavors--from dance, theater, and studio arts to music technology, fashion design, visual communication, and digital media. The Department of History and Government prepares students for careers in government, the legal profession, international relations, and the critical work of interpreting the past correctly. Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies offers a unique, interdisciplinary approach to understanding the power of language, writing, and cultural values to advance justice, shape global relations, and make one's mark on the world. CAS is the home of STREAM, where science, technology, and mathematics meet the arts and readiness.

Through exceptional grantsmanship, our faculty members help provide innovative research and teaching facilities to augment their capacity to instruct students and facilitate learning. The total receipts from extramural funding sources exceeded \$2.9 million, representing over 75 % of total BSU receipts. Additionally, Dr. Philip de Melo in Computer Science (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Birthale Archie (Co-PI) in nursing recently garnered \$9,899,758 over four years to provide training in public health IT focusing on underrepresented communities.

This occasion is our 11th annual commemoration, so we have looked back over the past ten years to assess our effectiveness in meeting the aims of the University. We are enormously proud to say that we have exceeded institutional goals and delivered excellence for over a decade. We have shared but some of our achievements in this program. Please look forward to a more comprehensive review to be published in January 2022. We hope you enjoy this evening's program. We are here to congratulate outstanding work and the partnerships that allow us to continue to make excellence our daily practice.



Dean's Award: Lifetime Achievement ***Dr. M. Sammye Miller***



The 2021-22 academic year marks Dr. M. Sammye Miller's golden anniversary at Bowie State University. He has served as Assistant to the Vice President for Planning and Development, Chairman of the Department of History and Government for three terms, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Special Assistant to the Provost in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Miller holds a PhD in legal history from the Catholic University of America and received his MAT in history from Trinity College and a BA in history from Delaware State University. He completed a post-doctoral experience at Stanford University in constitutional law and history under the direction of Professor Don E. Fehrenbacher. Miller has served as humanist administrator and historian in the Division of Public Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also served as an assistant for projects and community services at the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) in Washington, DC, and later as its executive director. Dr. Miller is the former editor of the *Negro History Bulletin* and author of numerous articles in scholarly and popular journals, including the *Journal of Negro History*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *The Historian*, *Black Collegian*, *Black Scholar*, *Présence Africaine*, *Black Books Bulletin*, and *The Crisis*.

Dr. Miller has been a Board of Trustees Scholar (Catholic University), Penfield Fellow, and Knights of Columbus Fellow. He holds a National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Research Achievement Award and is a frequent guest lecturer before learned societies, federal agencies, and community organizations. He is also a member of the Phi Alpha Theta and Kappa Delta Pi national honor societies, 4th degree Knight of Columbus, and a life member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Oxford University's Wolfson College recently nominated him as a Walter J. Leonard Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in England. Dr. Miller was appointed to three boards at the U.S. Department of State: Senior Foreign Service, Senior Executive Pay Performance, and Department Senior Review Board for Distinguished and Meritorious Service. He lends his expertise to the US Agency for International Development.

Dr. Miller traveled extensively for the National Endowment for the Humanities, visiting cultural institutions in the United States. Among them were the Chinese Cultural Foundation of San Francisco, Pierpont Morgan Library of New York, Arizona State Museum, and many African American museums, including the DuSable Museum of Chicago, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society in Providence, and the Historic Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia. His international visits include extensive tours of the People's Republic of China; Japan; the Middle East; West, East, and North Africa; Western Europe; and the Caribbean.

He is married to the former Gloria J. Sellman of Lothian, MD, and they reside in Glenn Dale, MD.



Dean's Award for Excellence Lieutenant Colonel Wesley N. Knight



Lieutenant Colonel Wesley N. Knight is a native of Bear Creek, Alabama. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 2004. Additionally, he holds a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and a Master of Military Art and Science Degree in Operational Art and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS).

Following his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant into the Armor branch, he was assigned to Alpha Battery, 1-76 Field Artillery, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division as a platoon leader. He deployed with the unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January to October 2005 until he was medically evacuated due to injuries caused by an improvised explosive device. After recovering from his injuries, Captain Knight's branch transferred from Armor to Military Intelligence, where he subsequently commanded Bravo Company, 742nd MI BN, 704th MI BDE in Fort Meade, MD. Additional vital assignments include Brigade Intelligence Officer for the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in Fort Bliss, TX. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Resolute Support from January to October 2017. Following this assignment, he served as the Observer Controller for Brigade Intelligence Officers at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, CA.

In August of 2019, LTC Knight assumed the role of Professor of Military Science (PMS) for Bowie State Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) in Bowie, Maryland. The U.S. Army Cadet Command named Bowie State University's ROTC program as a winner of the 2019-2020 MacArthur Award. The award recognizes eight schools as the best in the nation from among 274 ROTC programs. It is based on a combination of the school's commissioning mission, cadet performance and standing on the command's National Order of Merit List, and the cadet retention rate. In Spring 2021, Lieutenant Colonel Knight presided over a ceremony that commissioned 18 Second Lieutenants, the largest number in BSU's ROTC program history.

LTC Knight's awards and decorations include two Bronze Stars, one Purple Heart, four Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, one Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Air Assault Badge. He now serves at Fort Meade.

LTC Knight and his wife, Tarcela, have two children, Alexa and Eliza.



Program

Master of CeremoniesDr. Otis Thomas

WelcomeDean George Acquah

Posting of Colors.....BSU ROTC Cadets

National Anthem“*The Star Spangled Banner*”
Bowie State Community Jazz Ensemble; Solo - Fine & Performing Arts Major

Black National Anthem“*Lift Ev’ry Voice*”
Bowie State Community Jazz Ensemble; Solo - Fine & Performing Arts Major

OccasionMs. Angela James (M.A., Class of 2021)

Musical Selection.“*If You Believe*”
Written by Dr. George Acquah and arranged by Dr. Gilbert E. Pryor, Jr.
Bowie State University Performance Ensemble

Remarks.....Dr. Aminta Breaux, President
Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost

Decade of Excellence VideoCAS Celebration of Excellence Team

Musical SelectionSchumann’s “*Widmung*” from *Myrthen*, Op. 25, No. 1
Dr. Marymal Holmes, piano and
Mr. DeMarcus Franklin, tenor (B.A. Fine Arts, Class of 2016)

2021 Awards PresentationProvost Goodman and Dean Acquah

Video Selection.....“*Hip Hop Homage*”
By Mr. Keith Allen, Jr. (B.S., VCDMA, Class of 2020)

Closing RemarksDean George Acquah

Retire ColorsBSU ROTC Cadets



Faculty, Staff, & Student Award Recipients

DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
LTC WESLEY KNIGHT

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
DR. M. SAMMYE MILLER

OUTSTANDING FACULTY
DR. KARI DEBBINK

OUTSTANDING TEACHER
DR. OTIS THOMAS

OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER
DR. JAYNE CUBBAGE

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATIONS
DR. GEORGE UDE

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATIONS
DR. FREDERICK MILLS

OUTSTANDING CREATIVE WORK
PROF. ELENA VELASCO

OUTSTANDING SERVICE
DR. HAYDAR TEYMOURLOUEI

**OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL
OUTREACH**
DR. MALICK MBODJ

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FACULTY
DR. DEVYN GILLETTE

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FACULTY
PROF. TALISHA DUNN-SQUARE

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FACULTY
PROF. DANIELLE BROWN

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
MS. YVETTE CALDWELL

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
MS. TOLULOPE OLADIPO

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
PROF. MAGGY FRANCOIS

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
DR. JEAN CHASE

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
DR. GEORGE REID

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
PROF. LOC LE

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
R. MARY GLOVER

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY
PROF. CARL DIXON

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT
SERVICE FACULTY**
DR. KIM EVELYN

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT
SERVICE STAFF**
DR. CHIMDIMNMA ESIMAI

OUTSTANDING STAFF
MRS. MONTROSE ROBINSON

**OUTSTANDING COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES STUDENT**
MS. ALEXANDRA OMOGBA DEGUN

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES SCHOLAR**
MS. JOAN SOBO

**DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATIONS SCHOLAR**
MS. SUDAN SMITH



Faculty, Staff, & Student Award Recipients

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER
SCIENCE SCHOLAR**
MR. KYLE FERNANDEZ

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE,
LITERATURE AND CULTURAL
STUDIES SCHOLAR**
MS. ZENOBIA FENRICK

**DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND
PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLAR**
MS. TAMIA REYES

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
GOVERNMENT SCHOLAR**
MS. JASMINE BONDS

**DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
SCHOLAR**
MS. SANDRA EBENKI

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
SCIENCES SCHOLAR**
MS. JOAN SOBO

**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND
SECURITY SCHOLAR**
MS. COURTNEY STANDFIELD

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS**
MS. RHONDA SINGLETARY

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
COMPUTER SCIENCE**
MR. IKECHUKWU EMMANUEL AKUJOBI

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
MATHEMATICS**
MRS. JASMINE TOLSON

**OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND
CULTURAL STUDIES**
MS. ANGELA JAMES

**OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL STUDENT
COMPUTER SCIENCE**
MS. DONNETTA PADMORE

OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD
MS. CARISSA SMITH

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
MR. DANIEL FRANCOIS

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
MR. MELVIN JACKSON, JR.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD
MS. PARKER IMANI PAYNE

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
MR. BRANDON WALLACE

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
LTC PRESTON JACKSON

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
DR. MESFIN ETEFA

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
DR. SHARMA COOK-RICHARDSON

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD
MR. ERIC SMITH



The College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is one of BSU's four colleges, along with the College of Education, College of Professional Studies, and College of Business. CAS is the largest. It launched the Annual Awards Program in 2009 to celebrate the accomplishments of administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

With the support of numerous internal and external partners, CAS offers a stimulating and robust learning environment where faculty, staff, and students make excellence a daily practice in our classrooms, studios, laboratories, online settings, galleries, performance spaces, and community-based associations. Our distinguished faculty members and staff are committed to student success, sustainability, and service to society. We believe all can learn who seek to understand. Consequently, we employ various methods to satisfy diverse learning styles and student needs, including the latest instructional delivery systems.

In addition to offering foundational courses for all university students, we are the student-centered home of scientific and creative discoveries, interdisciplinary analysis, and technological advances. We provide students with the skillset for leadership in the private and public sectors. We take pride in nurturing great scientists, problem solvers, designers, creatives, and influencers—all with entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets. CAS offers comprehensive disciplinary and interdisciplinary academic programs through nine departments—Communications; Computer Science; Fine and Performing Arts; History and Government; Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies; Mathematics; Military Sciences; Natural Sciences; and Technology and Security—which prepare students for careers in an ever-changing technological society and advanced study.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

. . . But in dreams, you live.
---Natasha Trethewey, "Myth"

The 11th Annual CAS Celebration of Excellence is dedicated to those dear souls whom we have lost and whose lives have made us better. We especially acknowledge Tonita Douglas, a shining example of excellence in the Office of the Dean. In years past, she would lead our efforts to make the awards program an expression of deep appreciation, but more importantly, she would enhance work across the campus through her high caliber contributions, wit, and God-filled caring. She is missed.

In looking back over CAS accomplishments, we must also recognize the dedicated excellence of those who passed away while in service to the College:

Dr. Olusola Akinyele in Mathematics;
Drs. Robert Ward, Clayton Lang, and Elliott Moffitt in Fine and Performing Arts; and
Drs. Richard Sterling and Anne Nedd in Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies.
Their long-term commitment to the University was phenomenal, and we are grateful for it.

* * * * *

CAS Program Planning Committee:

Video - Dr. Otis Thomas, Producer
(Media Team – Harold Morton and John Satterthwaite)
Program - Prof. Talisha Dunn-Square, Designer
Awards - Dr. Karima Haynes, Producer
(Review Committee - Drs. Anne Wiley, Festus Cole, Soo-Yeon Ji, and Monifa Love)
Logistics - Dr. Monifa Love, Mrs. Lisa Gleaton, and Ms. Shannon Miles, Producers
Concept and General Management - Dr. George Acquaaah, Executive Producer

Special Thanks

Our Sponsors - US Army and Sam's Club
Office of the President, Bowie State University
Office of the Provost, Bowie State University
Annette Wedderburn, Senior Conference and Events Manager
College of Arts and Sciences Board of Advisors
College of Arts and Sciences Student Board of Advisors





WHAT'S YOUR WARRIOR?
GOARMY.COM/ROTC



START YOUR CAREER A STEP AHEAD.

Begin your journey as a U.S. Army officer, and set off on a path to the top. Officers get leadership opportunities right away, all while enjoying benefits like competitive pay and a clear path to advancement. Join forces with us, and take on anything.

For Bowie State ROTC opportunities, contact Montrose Robinson at mrobinson@bowiestate.edu.