Global History

The National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates (NAAAS) was founded in 1992 on the campus of Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia. The founders created a foundation that supports continuous growth, respect for global community, professional development and an overarching goal of providing faculty and students an opportunity to engage in scholarly endeavors. This goal has been expanded and, the following represents the foundation from which the organization derives its current direction and activity.

Goal:
To serve as a resource for scholars in the field who desire information and support for research related to Africans and African-Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/as, Chicanos/as, Mexicans, Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples, Asians and Asian Americans.

Objectives:
- To promote acquaintanceship and group effort among those interested in Africans, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/as, Chicanos/as, Mexicans, Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asians and Asian Americans;
- To further the cause of research associated with African, African American, Hispanic, Latino/a, Chicano/a, Mexican, Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asian and Asian American Studies;
- To stimulate greater public interest and create better informed public opinion regarding Africans, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/as, Chicanos/as, Mexicans, Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asians and Asian Americans;
- To serve as a forum for the expression of research and artistic endeavors in the celebration of the lives and works of Africans, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/as, Chicanos/as, Mexicans, Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asians and Asian Americans;
- To provide research and information on Africans, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/as, Chicanos/as, Mexicans, Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asians and Asian Americans;
- To promote globalization through international forums;
- To maintain archives which will be made available to all who are desirous of using available resources; and
- To support and host a national conference each year which will provide students and scholars an opportunity to present research in an open forum.
In 1996, the **National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies** became an affiliate of NAAAS. The **National Association of Native American Studies** and the **International Association of Asian Studies** became affiliates in 1998. To date, NAAAS is the only multicultural research organization in the United States whose board and general membership represent the four largest minority groups in the United States.

A number of outstanding community leaders and scholars have served on the national board. Many of our past leaders are still very active with the organization and, serve in such capacities as consultant, program coordinator, and national representative for special projects, as well as spokesperson at special events. Leaders include, but are not limited to such individuals as Lt. Col. Kay Frances Hobson, U.S. Army (retired) (2000-2005); Dr. Brian Reed, Langston University (1995-2009), Dr. Lisa Jones, University of Houston-Clear Lake (2003-2008); Dr. Joyce Buckner-Brown, Centers for Disease Control (2000-2005); Dr. Veronica Lopez-Estrada, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (2002-2008); Dr. Eddie Jones, University of Arkansas (1996-2008) (deceased); Dr. Kathryn Brewer-Strayer; Stillman College (2001-2009); Mr. Ernesto Quiroga, Pima Community College (2005-2010); Dr. Gloria Bogdan (2006-2008) (deceased); Dr. Rita Henry-Brown, Albany State University (2002-2007); and Dr. Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure, University of Northern Iowa (1999-2006). These individuals will long be remembered for the countless hours and earnest time invested in contributing to the development of the organization.

In 1997, NAAAS & Affiliates produced its first research publication, the **Journal of Intercultural Disciplines** (JID). The JID is a refereed/peer-reviewed journal, and; is found in college/university libraries throughout the world. Patrons and scholars may acquire copies of this publication from EBSCO and ProQuest Library Services. NAAAS & Affiliates also publishes a monograph series that comprises research papers presented at the national conference, regional meetings, the Sino-American International Research Forum, and specialized programs. All publications are housed in archives of ProQuest, Inc. Thus, all publications are available online through college/university libraries, specialized collections, agencies, etc. The national organization established a second refereed/peer-reviewed journal in 2017. **The Journal of Science and Exploratory Studies** provides scholars from appropriate disciplines an opportunity to have her/his research published.
Historically, the national organization has served as host for a national conference each February. The conference attracts scholars from colleges and universities across the United States and many foreign countries (e.g., Australia, Canada, China, England, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Norway, Sri-Lanka, Senegal, Cameroon, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, U.A.E.). The national conference traditionally provides opportunities for scholars, students, and guests to engage in intellectual dialogue on a broad range of topics. Traditional subject areas include immigration issues, social sciences, HIV/AIDS, fine arts, business, political sciences, health sciences, history, education, medicine, law, etc. Information is shared with attendees through paper presentations, round table and panel discussions, and demonstrations. The national organization provides undergraduate honor and graduate students the opportunity to participate in the conference through the creation of poster presentations. More than one hundred students participate in the poster presentation program on an annual basis. The conference also includes health screenings, book fair, exhibits, entertainment, and academic training skills (e.g., test taking and career planning) for junior and senior high school students. NAAAS initiated the Pansy E. Jacobs Jackson National Student Research Competition in 2014. Student scholars are awarded up to $20,000 for outstanding research. The conference truly provides an experience for attendees that cannot be found in another setting.
International Program Descriptions

International Research Forum
This is an annual program that rotates between the U.S. and abroad with an affiliate university. The forum involves 40-60 scholars who present research on select topics. Research presented during the forum is published by NAAAS & Affiliates in the monograph series.
Joint Research Project
The organization facilitates arrangements for scholars in identical or related fields of study to establish research partnerships.

National Conference
Includes more than 800 research presentations, panels, etc. for scholars from across the U.S. and more than 20 countries. Topics relate to subjects involving Africans, African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/as, Chicanos/as, Mexicans, Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asians and Asian Americans. The national organization sponsors two (2) professionals from a foreign partnering institution to attend and, present research during the conference.

National/International Culture Tours
The organization schedules tours annually in a country where there is a partnering university. NAAAS & Affiliates also assists the international partnering university in making arrangements for faculty/administrators, etc. to enter and travel in the U.S.

Professional Home Stay
International Scholars reside with a U.S. university professor for a thirty (30) day period during the month of June, July or August. During the visit, the scholar conducts research and/or directs four lectures. The host family and NAAAS provide accommodations, meals, local tours, access to research facilities, etc. The international scholar is responsible for his/her airline travel.
Regional Conferences
Three-day research conferences are held in the U.S. and abroad. A conference scheduled in a foreign country is generally held on the campus of the partnering institution. Research presented during the conference is published by NAAAS & Affiliates.
Special Projects
The projects are diverse and may involve more than one person, an academic program, or university (e.g., international chorus Tour, Arts Festival).

International Partners

Cameroon
Saint Monica University, Buea

China
Ameriasia Culture & Education Association
Beijing Union University, Beijing
Capital Normal University, Beijing
Guangxi Normal University, Guilin
Colombia
Università Autonoma De Narino

India
University of Madras, Chennai
Mexico
Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Saltillo
Universidad Autónoma de Yucatan, Merida

Mongolia
Dornagobi Medical School, Dornagobi

Nepal
University of Health Sciences

South Africa
Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth
The Phoenix Settlement, Durban
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban

Trinidad & Tobago
University of Trinidad & Tobago
University of West Indies, Trinidad

Services provided the membership and support groups are quite diverse and unique. NAAAS & Affiliates continues to transition new programs into the overall operation of the organization based on need for updated/change in existing program, global practices, requests from international academic partners and, education trends.

A number of professional organizations have partnered with NAAAS & Affiliates in special projects, as well as involvement with the national conference. The Native American
Fatherhood and Family Association, Association of Title IX Administrator, National African American Drug Policy Coalition, the Phoenix Development Trust, the Gandhi Development Trust, T9 Masters and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, South South Cooperation Council, Amistad, and the American Association of University Women are representative of scholarly and community groups that have partnered with the organization.

In 2016, the national association leadership had the fortunate opportunity to visit with Ela Gandhi at the Phoenix Settlement in Durban, South Africa. The discussions contributed to NAAAS & Affiliates being commissioned to acquire three heritage inscriptions. The inscriptions involved:

- Provincial Permanent Heritage Protection awarded by the Office of KwaZulu-Natal Built Environment and Compliance;
- National Heritage inscription awarded by the South African Heritage and Resource Agency;
- World Heritage inscription as recommended by the Republic of South Africa to UNESCO

The Phoenix Settlement was awarded national heritage inscription of September 25, 2020.

The Phoenix Settlement was the home of Mahatma Gandhi from 1903-1914. The settlement holds four historical buildings: Mahatma Gandhi’s home (built 1903); Press building (built 1904); Manilal Gandhi’s home (built 1944); and the Gandhi Museum (built 1977). These buildings appear on thirty acres of land and are in an enclosed area north of the city of Durban.

The national leadership and membership continue to invest an enormous amount of time and energy in researching academic and scholarly initiatives that would be of benefit to the entire community. Continuous effort to reach segments of society that are often unnoticed or invisible to the majority is a significant focus. NAAAS & Affiliates continues to seek out those who desire diverse support and quality educational experiences.