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## Conference History

Black Solidarity Day began in 1969 as a demonstration of Black liberation, due to the work of Brooklyn College professor Dr. Carlos Russell, an Afro-Panamanian activist, artist, and scholar. On Black Solidarity Day, Black and African diasporic people are asked to stay home from work and school and not shop or participate in other commercial activities. This day is meant to highlight racial injustices, societal inequities, and to illuminate how Black voices are integral to American life. Now 51 years since its inception, Black Solidarity Day will take place at Elon University for its 8th Annual Conference. The Elon University Black Solidarity Conference aims to unite Black-identifying students, faculty, and staff by providing an avenue through which Black identity, Black intersectionality, and building solidarity are explored.



## Our Pillars

**Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Racism & Allyship**  
**Wellness in Black Communities**  
**Blackness In A Global Context**  
**Blackness & Intersectionality**  
**Socio-Political Activism**  
**Looking Toward A Black Future**

# Keynote Speaker

## Jaki Shelton Green



Jaki Shelton Green, ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate. She is a 2019 Academy of American Poet Laureate Fellow, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 NC Piedmont Laureate appointment, 2003 recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature. Jaki Shelton Green teaches Documentary Poetry at Duke University Center for Documentary Studies and was appointed the 2021 Frank B. Hanes Writer in Residence at UNC Chapel Hill. Additionally, she received the George School Outstanding Alumni Award in 2021.

Jaki Shelton Green is the author of eight collections of poetry: *Dead on Arrival*, *Dead on Arrival and New Poems*, *Masks*, *Conjure Blues*, *singing a tree into dance*, *breath of the song*, published by Carolina Wren Press and Blair Publishers. Her other publications; *Feeding the Light*, *I Want to Undie You* are published by Jacar Press. Her poetry has been published in over eighty national and international anthologies and featured in magazines such as *Essence* and *Ms. Magazine*.

On Juneteenth 2020, she released her first LP, poetry album, *The River Speaks of Thirst*, produced by Soul City Sounds and Clearly Records. Jaki Shelton Green is the owner of *SistaWRITE* providing writing retreats for women writers in Sedona Arizona, Martha's Vineyard, Ocracoke North Carolina, Northern Morocco, and Tullamore Ireland.

## *Conference Schedule*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022**

**12:00 - 12:30pm - Check-In**

**12:30 - 1:00pm - Welcome & Lunch**

**1:00 - 1:45pm - Keynote Speaker**

**2:00 - 2:55pm - Session #1**

**3:00 - 3:55pm - Session #2**

**4:00 - 4:55pm - Session #3**

**5:00 - 5:15pm - Snack Break and  
Entertainment**

**5:15 - 5:55pm - Roundtable Discussions**

**6:00 - 8:00pm - Dinner & Closing Charge**

## SESSION #1 OPTIONS

- The Powerful Role of Mentors
- What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums
- Sustaining Hope: History & Happenings
- Soundtrack on Black Solidarity
- Black Professional at Predominately White Insitutions

## SESSION #2 OPTIONS

- Radical Visions of Black Joy
- Black Woman Wellness: Mind, Body, Spirit
- Sustaining Hope: History & Happenings
- Soundtrack on Black Solidarity
- Black Professional at Predominately White Insitutions

## SESSION #3 OPTIONS

- For the Love of Bell: Reflecting on the Scholarly and Social Justice Work of Bell Hooks
- Centering Our Wellness: The Audre Lorde Way
- Environmental Justice 101: The Intersection of Racial and Climate Justice
- Unveiling a stained 'love' story: Elon's History with Black Bodies
- Womanist Widsoms on Black Joy

*Each session will vary in participation levels.*

**Novice** (for participants with limited experience with related topics or goals)

**Emerging** (for participants with some/mid-level experience with related topics or goals)

**Established** (for participants with multiple/high-level experience with related topics or goals)

**The Powerful Role of Mentors*****Presented by President Connie Book - Upstairs Lakeside***

President Book will facilitate a conversation with Elon administrators and university alumni about the significant role mentoring has played in their personal and professional lives. Participants will hear from panelists about the mentors who made a difference in their lives, as well as how they have served and grown from being mentors for others.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship; Wellness in Black Communities; Intersectionality in Black Communities  
Participant Level: Novice

**What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums*****Presented by Jaki Shelton Green, Keynote Speaker - Moseley 215***

North Carolina Poet Laureate, Jaki Shelton Green will facilitate a creativity salon focused on *What We Keep Keeps Us: Exploring Our Human Museums*. As we think of ourselves as our own curators or personal anthropologists, we will explore what's in our human museums and how these primary sources shape our lives, our values, and our creativity. Workshop participants are invited to bring artifacts, photos, objects, heirlooms, or stories that hold special meaning for them. This session will include a writing exercise and discussion that examines the many narratives, memoirs, stories, poems, novels, and legacies that are hidden in full sight. just waiting to be written.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship; Wellness in Black Communities; Intersectionality in Black Communities  
Participant Level: Novice

**Sustaining Hope: History & Happenings*****Presented by Dr. Cara Lucia, Elon University - Moseley 216***

This session “hopes” to inspire us as we progress forward together by engaging in critical hope, learning our history and sharing the happenings of action. Critical hope demands that leaders take up the most difficult challenges, explore the most sensitive subjects, and raise the most daring questions (Preskill & Brookfield, 2009). Come journey along to hear a historical story of an association’s creation by 20 Black leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the continuous twist and turns of allyship and anti-racism. Participants will actively engage throughout the presentation and leave with strategies for sustaining hope.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship  
Participant Level: Emerging

**Soundtrack on Black Solidarity*****Presented by Dan Ridley, Elon University 93’ - Moseley 217***

In this presentation Dan Ridley (DJ Black Wizard) will share and discuss the impact of music on racism in America and a movement for change. He will show a music video or play seven songs that are considered by many as staples in Black Solidarity and gave a voice to a generation. We will revisit the impact the song had and the social-economic and cultural conditions that inspired the landmark work. The songs will be presented in chronological order from Billie Holiday’s - Strange Fruit (1939) to Childish Gambino’s - This Is America (2018).

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship;  
Socio-Political Activism  
Participant Level: Emerging

**CONT. NEXT PAGE**

2:00-2:55pm

*Session #1 Details Cont.***Black Professional at Predominately White Institutions*****Presented by Quintin Tucker & Karina Tates - Moseley 206***

This session "hopes" to inspire us as we progress forward together by engaging in critical hope, learning our history and sharing the happenings of action. Critical hope demands that leaders take up the most difficult challenges, explore the most sensitive subjects, and raise the most daring questions (Preskill & Brookfield, 2009). Come journey along to hear a historical story of an association's creation by 20 Black leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the continuous twist and turns of allyship and anti-racism. Participants will actively engage throughout the presentation and leave with strategies for sustaining hope.

Conference Pillars: Wellness in Black Communities; Blackness in a Global Context

Participant Level: Novice

3:00-3:55pm

*Session #2 Details***Radical Visions of Black Joy*****Presented by Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital - Upstairs Lakeside***

This will be an interactive and creative session asking participants to conceptualize what Black Joy at Elon looks like. This will be a guided reflection on what we know, what we are doing, and what we envision equitable joy for Black identified community members looks and feels like.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship; Intersectionality in Black Communities; Socio-Political Activism

Participant Level: Novice

3:00-3:55pm

*Session #2 Detail Cont.***Black Woman Wellness: Mind, Body, Spirit*****Presented by Dr. Karen Lindsey - Moseley 215***

The intersecting identities of being Black, a woman and leader can teach us a lot about joy. While race and gender are socially-constructed categories, the strong Black woman narrative remains a celebrated trope. This session will examine the systems, perceptions, and toll the strength narrative creates using findings of research conducted with Black women who are Vice Presidents at eight different universities. Findings reveal ways to incorporate joy and wellness into a career while remaining powerful.

Conference Pillars: Wellness in Black Communities; Intersectionality in Black Communities

Participant Level: Established

**Sustaining Hope: History & Happenings*****Presented by Dr. Cara Lucia - Moseley 216***

This session "hopes" to inspire us as we progress forward together by engaging in critical hope, learning our history and sharing the happenings of action. Critical hope demands that leaders take up the most difficult challenges, explore the most sensitive subjects, and raise the most daring questions (Preskill & Brookfield, 2009). Come journey along to hear a historical story of an association's creation by 20 Black leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the continuous twist and turns of allyship and anti-racism. Participants will actively engage throughout the presentation and leave with strategies for sustaining hope.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship

Participant Level: Emerging

**CONT. NEXT PAGE**



3:00-3:55pm

*Session #2 Details Cont.***Soundtrack on Black Solidarity*****Presented by Dan Ridley, Elon University 93' - Moseley 217***

In this presentation Dan Ridley (DJ Black Wizard) will share and discuss the impact of music on racism in America and a movement for change. He will show a music video or play seven songs that are considered by many as staples in Black Solidarity and gave a voice to a generation. We will revisit the impact the song had and the social-economic and cultural conditions that inspired the landmark work. The songs will be presented in chronological order from Billie Holiday's - Strange Fruit (1939) to Childish Gambino's - This Is America (2018).

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship;  
Socio-Political Activism  
Participant Level: Emerging

**Black Professional at Predominately White Institutions*****Presented by Quintin Tucker & Karina Tates - Moseley 206***

This session "hopes" to inspire us as we progress forward together by engaging in critical hope, learning our history and sharing the happenings of action. Critical hope demands that leaders take up the most difficult challenges, explore the most sensitive subjects, and raise the most daring questions (Preskill & Brookfield, 2009). Come journey along to hear a historical story of an association's creation by 20 Black leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the continuous twist and turns of allyship and anti-racism. Participants will actively engage throughout the presentation and leave with strategies for sustaining hope.

Conference Pillars: Wellness in Black Communities; Blackness in a Global Context  
Participant Level: Novice

4:00-4:55pm

*Session #3 Details***For the Love of Bell: Reflecting on the Scholarly and Social Justice Work of bell hooks*****Presented by Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital & Dr. Shayna Mehas -  
Upstairs Lakeside***

African and African American Studies in collaboration with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies will offer a faculty and staff lead panel on the life and works of bell hooks. Speakers will reflect on how hooks' work is visible in their scholarship and teaching. Speakers will also reflect on the personal connections they've made with the lifetime of scholarship generated by hooks.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship; Intersectionality in Black Communities; Socio-Political Activism; Afro-centric Education

Participant Level: Established

**Centering Our Wellness: The Audre Lorde Way*****Presented by Dr. Stacye Blount, Fayetteville State University - Moseley 215***

Join the conversation as we discuss centering wellness in the midst of a pandemic. Specifically, we shall discuss the Eight Dimensions of Wellness and how Audre Lorde's work speaks to us in each dimension.

Conference Pillars: Wellness in Black Communities; Intersectionality in Black Communities

Participant Level: Established

## **Environmental Justice 101: The Intersection of Racial and Climate Justice**

***Presented by Kelly Harer - Moseley 216***

This session will discuss the disproportionate negative impacts of climate change on BIPOC communities, particularly Black communities. We'll look at examples of environmental injustice in North Carolina and beyond and highlight work done throughout the state of NC to fight these injustices. We will also recommend environmental justice resources for those who are interested in learning more about this important topic.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship; Wellness in Black Communities; Intersectionality in Black Communities

Participant Level: Novice

## **Unveiling a stained 'love' story: Elon's History with Black Bodies**

***Presented by Dr. Damion Blake - Moseley 217***

Historical inquiry into the nature and origins of anti-black racism is a necessary step in shedding light on the physical and psychological trauma experienced by Black people on Elon's campus. Learning and teaching about Elon's history with anti-blackness is connected to the theme of Joy, Love and Resistance. We will dig into Elon's history and the experiences of two members of the institution, Andrew Morgan and Mary Carroll. Morgan was one of the most prominent African Americans to work on campus during the Jim Crow era, and Carroll was elected Elon's first Black Homecoming Queen. Their experiences on Elon's campus comprise a history of stained love, joy, and resistance. During this conversation, Damion Blake and Charles Irons will showcase and officially launch "Teaching about Anti-Black Racism from Elon's History," a website for classroom use that features the stories of Morgan, Carroll, and others.

Conference Pillars: Anti-Blackness, Anti-Racism and Allyship; Socio-Political Activism

Participant Level: Emerging

4:00-4:55pm *Session #3 Details Cont.*

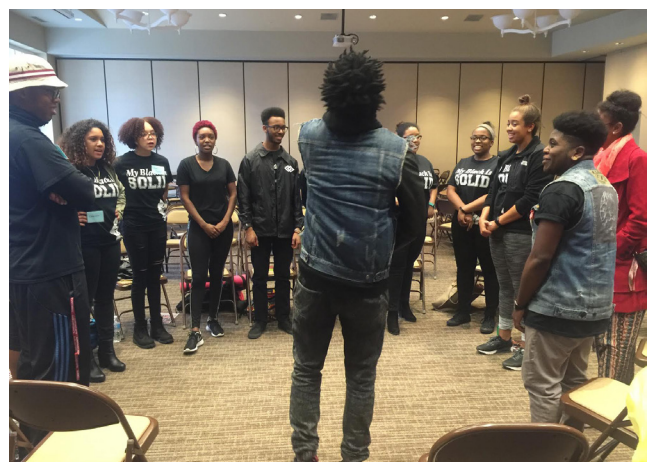
## Womanist Widsoms on Black Joy

*Presented by Indhira Udofia, UNCG - Moseley 206*

This workshop concludes an exploration of womanist social ethics by exploring the work of the pursuit of justice and liberation as an act of joy. Grounding ourselves in black feminist and womanist wisdom teachers and scholars, this workshop seeks to provide a space to reflect, wrestle, and dream of spaces and potentialities of Black Joy!

Conference Pillars: Wellness in Black Communities; Intersectionality in Black Communities

Participant Level: Established



## Roundtable Session Options

### **Ain't I Woman?**

*Facilitated by Dr. Karen Lindsey, Assistant Professor of Strategic Communications • Table #1*

Mind, body, spirit wellness allows us to show up differently. How do you show up in the spaces you inhabit? How do you want to show up? What does wellness look like to you?

### **Resilience is You and Me**

*Facilitated by Cotrayia Hardison, Graduate Student, Master's in Higher Education • Table #2*

Will focus on the importance of building resilience within the Black community, at both the individual and societal level. Considering the emotional trauma that Black folks continuously endure, it is important to understand what we need from ourselves, from other Black folks, and from non-Black folks. Participants will be encouraged to think critically about how they define resilience and ways to create and sustain that within the Black community.

### **Exhibiting Critical Hope**

*Facilitated by Dr. Cara Lucia, Associate Professor of Sport Management and Chair of the Department of Sport Management • Table #3*

Critical hope demands that leaders take up the most difficult challenges, explore the most sensitive subjects, and raise the most daring questions (Preskill & Brookfield, 2009). Participants will share and discuss strategies for how to exhibit critical hope.

## Roundtable Session Options

### **For the Love of bell: Reflecting on the Scholarly and Social Justice Work of bell hooks**

*Facilitated by Becca Bishopric Patterson, Associate Director of GLC • Table #4*

African and African American Studies in collaboration with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies will offer a faculty and staff lead panel on the life and works of bell hooks. Speakers will reflect on how hooks' work is visible in their scholarship and teaching. Speakers will also reflect on the personal connections they've made with the lifetime of scholarship generated by hooks.

### **Let it Go**

*Facilitated by Amanda Carter '24 • Table #5*

We all find ourselves holding on to things, people, and situations that no longer serve us. In this session we will address our past situations by writing down the things that no longer bring us joy. This is the perfect opportunity to clear your mind and your heart. After you finish writing, you will dispose of the letter AT YOUR OWN TIME, when YOU are ready to be free and release yourself from any painful past or present circumstances.

### **Black Enough**

*Facilitated by Gloria Cadet' 23 • Table #6*

If you identify as black, have you ever felt that you needed to prove your blackness? Has there ever been a moment where you felt that you might "lose your black card"? There's more to being black than what meets the eye and it's obvious! Black people are not a single shade of brown, not all African Americans are "African" or "American". Learn to embrace your uniqueness, and learn what you can bring to the black community as an individual. Love yourself and know that you are black enough.

## Roundtable Session Options

### **LinkedIn Love Letters for a Joyous Career**

*Facilitated by Chandler Vaughn '21 • Table #7*

Is LinkedIn intimidating to you? Do you feel awkward navigating the platform? If you answered yes to those two questions, attend this session to learn how to create the joyous life you imagine by strategically using LinkedIn to achieve your dreams. Have you ever heard the infamous expression- "it's not what you know, but who you know?" Well, it's true! Join the session to align your vision with actionable steps to achieve economic freedom and personal success. Prioritize your wellness through strategic planning to break into the hidden job market.

### **Finding Joy in the Midst of Sorrow: Centering Community and Finding Self**

*Facilitated by Dr. Jessica D. Carew • Table #8*

This session is meant to encourage participant to consider the ways that they can work toward engaging deeply with difficult and painful historical and current-day realities specific to the Black experience in America while seeking peace and joy through a deeper understanding of oneself through self-discovery and self-expression. We will cover information regarding the importance of using an intersectional approach to understanding Black identity, and we will work together to encourage growth toward discovering how to use our personal sources of joy as a means of building resilience (for the purposes of supporting Black folk as we navigate the treacherous terrain of daily interactions within the American hegemonic order).

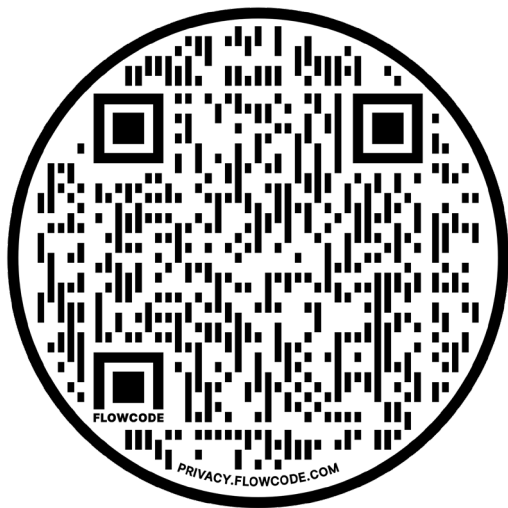
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## Roundtable Session Options

### Sexual Health, Race, and Gender

Facilitated by Leah Short, '24 & Lindsey Mather, '24 • Table #9  
SexEU, an organization under the GLC working to promote inclusive and comprehensive sexual health education to Elon students, invites Elon's students and faculty to participate in a roundtable discussion on sexual health, race, and gender. We will focus on topics such as disrupting stigma, discussing cultural narratives and promoting positive views on sex in BIPOC communities.

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Keynote Speaker!!*



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**Tag @elon\_bsc and use our  
hashtags in your story for a  
chance to win a prize!!**

**#elonbsc2022**

**#lovejoyresistance**

*Jaki Shelton Green*



## *Special Thanks To...*

- **CENTER FOR RACE ETHNICITY & DIVERSITY EDUCATION**

### **STUDENT COORDINATORS AND STAFF**

- **BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS**

- **BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL SESSION**

### **PRESENTERS**

- **BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE FACILITATORS**

- **MOSELEY CENTER STAFF**

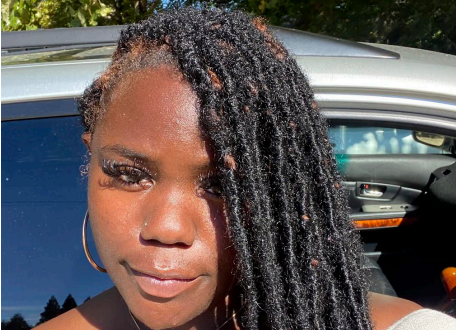
- **MEDIA SERVICES STAFF**

- **PRINT SERVICES STAFF**

- **PHYSICAL PLANT STAFF**

- **ELON CATERING STAFF**

# Planning Committee



**Amanda Carter**  
- Student Chair



**Queen Assata Stephens**  
- Education Team



**Christina Carr**  
- Logistics Team



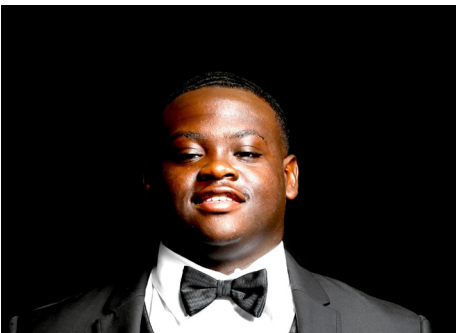
**Mari' Robinson**  
- Marketing Team



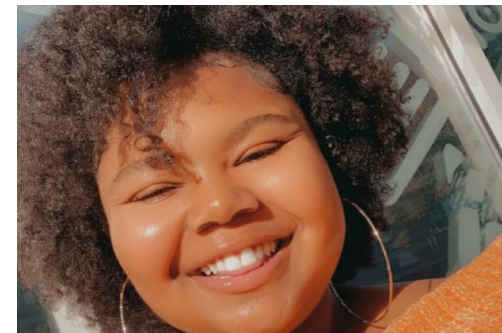
**Mahogany Madden-  
Roberts**  
- Education Team



**Camryn Harris**  
- Logistics Team



**Parris Lowery**  
- Hospitality &  
Entertainment Team



**Nyah Britt**  
- Marketing Team



**Simone Royal**  
- Advisor

NOTES

