

Ula Gabrielle Gaha

Black Cultural Center Librarian
Purdue University
Black Cultural Center

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Education

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

- December 2011: Specialist degree in Library & Information Science - emphasis in academic libraries
- May 2010: M.L.I.S.
- May 2010: M.A. in English - emphasis in American Literature after 1900
Thesis: "The Futility of Conformity: The Danger of Gender Constructs in *The Sound and the Fury*"
<https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/etd/441/>

Augusta State University, Augusta, GA (now Augusta University)

- January 2008 – June 2008: Post-Baccalaureate work in English & Women's Studies
- December 2007: B.A. in English, minor in Women's Studies

Professional Experience

Purdue University Black Cultural Center (BCC)

April 2020 – present

Black Cultural Center Librarian

25% appointment to Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies (PULSIS) for Library Instruction

Instruction responsibilities

- IMPACT X+ instructor: November – December 2020; January 2021; June 2021
- Collaborate with professors in African American Studies to design & deliver library instruction sessions
- Collaborate with Rachel Fundator, Instructional Designer, to design & co-teach library instruction sessions for professors in various disciplines across campus
- Create lesson plans with clear learning outcomes & design course specific LibGuides
- Evaluate sessions based on student & professors' feedback
- Collaborating with Rachel Fundator and Dr. Clarence Maybee to design a 3-credit hour class
- Create, manage, & update course-specific LibGuides to support library instruction

Black Cultural Center (BCC) Library operations responsibilities

- Manage the daily operations of the BCC Library, including staffing
- Recruit, hire, & train students as BCC Library Aides
- Manage the BCC's collections, including database and periodicals subscriptions
 - Reviewed & eliminated duplications to streamline the budget, resulting in a cost savings of \$3,161
 - Collaborated with Rebecca Richardson to streamline the workflow for collection management
 - Aligned the BCC Library's processes with PULSIS' standards by collaborating with PULSIS faculty & staff
- Weeded & ordered new materials to maintain a relevant collection
- Applied for & received the Advancing Racial Equity Collection Development Grant through the Indiana Humanities to grow the collection
- Collaborate with Lori Bryant to re-catalog materials using LC call number system for continuity among collections
- Answer reference questions & deliver virtual research consultations for students, faculty, & staff
- Update & maintain the [BCC Library's website](#), including all LibGuides

Programming responsibilities

- Create & implement programming for the BCC
- AY 2020-2021 series on Healthcare Inequities Impacting the Black Community (co-sponsored by PULSIS)
 - September: [COVID-19 & Healthcare Inequities Impacting the Black Community](#) (co-sponsored by Purdue University)

- Department of Public Health) with corresponding [Resource Guide](#)
- October: [Reproductive Health Care Inequities Impacting the Black Community](#)
- November: [Healthcare Inequities in the Black LGBTQ Community](#)
- March: [Mental Healthcare & the Black Community - Conversations on Black Health & Wellness: It's Where the Healing Resides](#) with corresponding [Resource Guide](#)
- [March: We've Been Here Before: Addressing Skepticism of the COVID-19 Vaccines in Underrepresented Populations](#) (a collaboration with Purdue University's Latino Cultural Center and LGBTQ Center) with corresponding [Resource Guide](#)
- February 2021: Black History Month Virtual Book Clubs (a collaboration with the West Lafayette Public Library)
 - *No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black & Free in America* by Darnell L. Moore
 - *How Long 'til Black Future Month?* by N.K. Jemisin
- March 2021: Virtual Book Club for youth in grades 4 - 8 (a collaboration with the West Lafayette Public Library)
 - *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- July 2021: Teen Book Club for grades 7-12
 - *When They Call You a Terrorist (Young Adult Edition): A Story of Black Lives Matter & the Power to Change the World* by Patrisse Cullors & asha bandele
- Created LibGuides to support the BCC's Virtual Research Tours in AY 2020-2021
 - Fall 2020 [Puerto Rico Virtual Research Tour](#)
 - Fall 2020 [Brazil Virtual Research Tour](#)
 - Spring 2021 [Gullah Geechee Virtual Research Tour](#)

Service responsibilities

- April 2021: Judge for Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference (interdisciplinary presentations)
- May 2020 - present: Division of Diversity & Inclusion Social Media Committee (member)

Professional Development

- July 2021: Trans Inclusion Training
- June 2021: ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition (Virtual)
- April 2021: ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference: Ascending into an Open Future
- January/February 2021: Safe Zone Ally Training
- October 2020: IUPUI 2020 Assessment Institute (held virtually)
- June 2020: Summer Institute on Education, Equity, & Justice (SIEEJ) 2020 Virtual Conference: Teaching Young Women of Color. American University School of Education Summer Institute on Education, Equity, & Justice: Uplifting Women & Girls of Color Through Antiracist Pedagogy, Practice, & Policy.

Cushwa-Leighton Library, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame

December 2013 – April 2020

Reference & Instruction Librarian; tenured in February 2020

Instruction responsibilities

- Collaborate with professors in Gender & Women's Studies, English, Intercultural Studies, Global Studies, Sociology, Social Work, to design & deliver library instruction sessions
- Create lesson plans with clear learning outcomes & design course specific LibGuides (online research guides)
- Evaluate sessions based on student feedback; evaluate my teaching with professors
- Collaborate with Career Crossings Office & the Social Media Week Committee to provide social media workshops

Marketing & Outreach responsibilities

- Manage the Library's social media platforms
 - Developed Social Media Internship for student workers to generate relevant student content
- Promote Library services & events, primarily through social media platforms
 - Authored Library's social media policy <https://www.saintmarys.edu/library/socialmediapolicy>
- Maintain detailed data on social media statistics, outreach initiatives, & programs
- Develop & manage outreach initiatives and assess these projects

- Organize & execute collaborative projects with departments across campus & in the local community

Reference responsibilities

- Collaborate with a team of seven librarians to meet patrons' needs by answering questions at the Research Help Desk
- Answer general reference questions at the Research Help Desk & through virtual reference services
- Provide specialized, in-depth reference assistance to students & faculty through individualized research consultations
- Teach students basic search skills both at the Research Help Desk & in research consultations

Liaison responsibilities

- Liaison to Gender & Women's Studies, English, Intercultural Studies, Global Studies, Sociology, Social Work, & the Writing Center
- Provide outreach to individual faculty members in my liaison departments; assist with their personal research
- Work closely with professors to design library instruction sessions, LibGuides, & online tutorials for their classes
- Collaborate with Writing Center Director to develop programming
 - The Writing Center moved to the Library in 2018
 - 2018: Launched Write Here! Events with Jennifer Juskiewicz; collaboration between the Library & the Writing Center to provide tutorials & research help on a first-come, first-serve basis at the end of the semester
- Evaluate students' writing as a member of the portfolio review team for the "W" Writing Proficiency Program
- Research Guides
 - Created & maintain LibGuides for Black History Month, Women's History Month & National Poetry Month; designed a Critical Race Studies LibGuide for Faculty
- Worked with the English Language School to provide library instruction for ESOL students (2014-2017)

Collection Development responsibilities

- Reviewed, selected & ordered materials for disciplines within my liaison areas
- Examined journal subscriptions for duplications within databases to streamline budgets for my liaison groups
- 2014: Piloted SocINDEX with Full Text, leading to its adoption
- 2015-2020: Researched & selected popular titles for the "News Nook" collection
- 2017-2020: Assessed library collections when new courses were proposed through the Curriculum Committee
- 2018-2019: Worked with faculty in liaison areas to convert print subscriptions to electronic access where coverage was duplicated in existing databases to open space in the Library & better steward the budget

Service responsibilities

- 2016-2017: Elected to College Relations Committee
- 2015-2016: Elected to the President's Taskforce on Sexual Assault
- 2016-present: Appointed to the President's Committee on Sexual Violence
- 2014-2020: Reference & Instruction Team
 - Assess Reference & Instruction services & assist with professional development opportunities
- 2013-2019: Marketing & Outreach Team
 - Created exhibits & promoted Library services
- 2019-2020: Head of the Social Media Strategy Team
 - I proposed the formation of this team in 2017; Team officially launched in 2019
 - Coordinated social media projects among team members
 - Communicated with Events & Exhibits Team to promote events in the Library
 - Reported social media data to colleagues
 - Supervised the Social Media Internship program & interns
- 2014-2020: Gender & Women's Studies Steering Committee
- 2014-2020: Member of the Faculty of Color Support Group
- 2016-2017: Member of the Action Group on Race & Inclusion
- November 8, 2018: Participated in Saint Mary's College first-generation initiative: Celebrating Saint Mary's College First Generation College Students
- 2019-2020: Member of PALNI's Information Literacy Framework Task Force

- 2019-2022: Elected to Faculty Affairs Inclusion & Retention Committee (served 2019 - 2020)

Professional Development at Saint Mary's College

- 2014-2020: Participated in Saint Mary's College "Community Dialogues" Program, a faculty development initiative to improve diversity relations on campus
- 2014: Completed the *class Feminist Pedagogy for Library Instruction*, Library Juice Academy (online), March 3-28, 2014
- 2014: Attended ACRL's Immersion Program, Teacher Track, Burlington, VT, July 20-25
- 2014: Attended Indiana University Libraries' Information Literacy Colloquium, *Metaliteracy: Seeking Connections and Challenging Traditions*, South Bend, IN, August 1, 2014
- 2015: Participated in the Women's Voices Course Development Workshop at Saint Mary's College
- 2015: Participated in Library Instruction workshop taught by Carrie Donovan, then Head of Teaching & Learning, Indiana University Libraries, Bloomington, IN
- 2018: Participated in PALNI's Camp RIO (Reference, Instruction, & Outreach) Program
- 2018: ACRL-Choice webinar: Indigenous Literatures, Social Justice, and the Decolonial Library
- 2019: Attended the 25th Annual Hesburgh Lecture in Ethics and Public Policy with Cornel West

Mississippi State University Libraries

Mitchell Memorial Library

July 2013 – November 2013: Assistant Professor/Humanities Reference Librarian; Interim Social Science Reference Librarian

September 2011 – July 2013: Assistant Professor/Social Science Reference Librarian

Instruction responsibilities

- Taught "How to Use Your Library" sessions designed for student workers, graduate assistants, & general patrons
- Teach freshman composition library instruction sessions
- Collaborated with English & Library faculty & staff to teach English 3414, Critical Writing & Research in Literary Studies
- Designed & delivered library instruction sessions & information literacy classes as requested by faculty
- Collaborated with Career Crossings Office to offer social media workshops

Marketing & Outreach Responsibilities

- Collaborated with faculty in liaison areas to meet faculty & student needs
- Worked with the Islamic Center of Mississippi to promote library services to international students & faculty
- 2013: Judge for President's Committee on the Status of Women Leadership Award, "Improving the Lives of Women"
- 2013: Judge for Gender Studies Paper Competition (graduate student submissions)
- 2012: Created display & bibliography for MSU's Holmes Cultural Diversity Center Unity Week
- 2012: Participated in MSU's "Borderless Hosts" program to mentor an international student
- 2012 & 2013: Represented MSU Libraries at the Transfer Student Orientation Fair & the MSU Housing Resource Fair

Reference responsibilities

- Collaborated with a seven-person Reference Department faculty to meet patrons' needs
- Answered general reference questions at the Reference Desk, via e-mail, & through Ask-a-Librarian virtual reference
- Provide specialized reference assistance to students & faculty as liaison to the Department of English & the Department of Sociology & Social Work
- Provide in-depth reference help through customized research consultations
- Offered consultations to faculty, staff & students setting up personal & departmental social media accounts
- Designed the LibGuides *Sociology & Social Science Resources & Data Sets*, *Social Work*, *Criminology*, *Women's History Month*, & *National Poetry Month*; primary author for *Gender Studies* LibGuide; co-author of *Political Science & Public Administration: Political Analysis* LibGuide
- Co-authored & maintained multiple Humanities LibGuides

Collection development responsibilities

- Communicated with Library Representatives in liaison areas to address faculty requests for online & print materials
- Collaborated with Acquisitions faculty to process orders according to financial allocations for each department

Service at Mississippi State University

- Served on the Management of Social Media Committee & the LibGuides Development & Standards Committee
- May 2013: Appointed to Southeastern Librarian Association (SELA) Membership & Mentoring Committee
- July 2013 – June 2015 term: ACRL/WGSS (Women's and Gender Studies Section) Publications Committee
- July 2013 – July 2016 term: Faculty member on the President's Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
- August 2013: Elected as an AAUW Representative for PCSW

Publications

- Gaha, U., Hinnefeld, S., & Pellegrino, C. (2018). The academic library's contribution to student success: library instruction and GPA. *College & Research Libraries*, 79(6), 737. doi:<https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.79.6.737>
- Gaha, U., & Hall, S. "Sustainable use of social media in libraries." *Codex: the Journal of the Louisiana Chapter of the ACRL*, 3(2), 2015.
- Gaha, U. (2012). Inhabitants of borderlands: (An)other world of subjugation. In Allen, M., & Williams, S. (Eds.), *Afterimages of slavery: essays on appearances in recent American films, literature, television and other media* (pp.35-54). Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
- Website, William Faulkner Directory <https://sites.google.com/site/ulagaha/>

Accepted for publication

- Healy, C. & Gaha, U. (Projected publication late Fall 2021 or early 2022). "What's it Going to Take? Unpacking the Promise of Inclusion," In Rod-Welch, L. & Weeg, B. (Eds.) *Academic Library Mentoring: Fostering Growth and Renewal*. Chicago, IL : Association of College & Research Libraries.

Reviewer for journals

- January 2021-present: manuscript reviewer for [Third Stone Journal: devoted to Afrofuturism, African-futurism, and other modes of the Black Fantastic](#)

Conference Activities

- July 14, 2021: Presented "Leveraging the moment: Benefits of a collaborative approach to IL instruction" with Rachel Fundator at Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI) Information Literacy Committee's virtual conference, *Lessons Learned and Successes from Delivering Information Literacy Instruction Online*.
- April 14, 2021: Presented "Mentoring as Activism: Moving from Ally to Accomplice" lightning talk with Ciara Healy at ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference: Ascending into an Open Future
- March 2019: Presented and led a roundtable with Melinda McKew, "Calling out white feminism in the #METOO, #immigrationreform, and #votersuppression movements" at 2019 Gender & Women's Studies Symposium, *Under the Gaze of Lady Liberty: Suffrage, Immigration, #Metoo*
- September 2018: Moderator for Panel "Fighting Fake News and Biases with Cognitive Psychology" at 2018 Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy.
- August 2017: Presented data on membership and mentoring initiatives at the SELA 2018 Summer Conference
- March 2017: Moderated a panel at the 5th Biennial Augusta University's Women and Gender Studies Symposium, *The year of the Woman? Gender and Power in Action*.
- October 2016: Presentation "Rediscovering Student Success: Library Instruction & GPA" at 2016 GaCOMO/SELA Conference, Athens, GA
- May 2016: Panelist on Social Media Panel at Saint Mary's College *Engaging Women in Life & Leadership Conference*, Notre Dame, IN
- November 2015: Presented "Connecting with Students: Social Media & Information Literacy" at 2015 *Indiana Library Federation Annual Conference*, Indianapolis, IN
- September 2015: Presented "Information Literacy & Social Media: Teaching Students How to Control Their Online Presence" at 2015 *Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy*, Savannah, GA
- May 8, 2015: Presented (with Suzanne Hinnefeld) "All in OneSearch: Usability Testing of a Web-Scale Discovery System" at 2015 *Discovery to Delivery VI: Resource Sharing Super Heroes* (Academic Libraries of Indiana & The State Library of Indiana), Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, IN

- March 7, 2015: Presented “Online Feminist Activism: Intersectionality & Community” at 2015 Women’s & Gender Studies Symposium, *Mobilizing through the Media: Social Justice & the Digital Frontier*, Georgia Regents University, Augusta, GA
- November 14, 2014: Presented “Online Feminist Activism: Creating Feminist Identity & Community” on the panel *Exploring Feminist Politics Online: The Possibilities & Limitations of Online Feminist Activism* at 2014 NWSA Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- October 3, 2014: Presented “Applying Feminist Pedagogy to Library Instruction” at 2014 *GaCOMO/SELA Conference*, Augusta, GA
- March 2, 2013: Presented “Billboards & the Beautiful: Normalizing Objectification” at 2013 Women’s Studies Symposium, *Our Bodies, Ourselves, Our Voices: Health & Human Rights in the Twenty-First Century*, Georgia Regents University, Augusta, GA
- October 26, 2012: Presented “Reclassifying Cultural Mythology in *Absalom, Absalom!*” on the panel *Class, Character, & Influential Constructs in Faulkner & Warren* at the *Faulkner & Warren Conference*, Southeast Missouri State University
- October 5, 2012: Presented “Sustainable Use of Social Media & Electronic Resources,” presented with Susan Hall, MSU Art & Architecture Library, *GaCOMO/SELA Conference*, Mercer University, Macon, GA
- February 10, 2012: Poster session with Ciara Healy, Librarian for Psychology & Neuroscience, Duke University, “An Application of Instructional Design Principles to Library Instruction Tutorials,” at the *Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching: Teaching for Brain – Based Learning*, UNC Greensboro
- 2011: Presented “Empowering Women through Literacy,” Women’s Studies Symposium, *FINDING Our (Grass)Roots: Activism, Theory, & the Future of Feminism*, Augusta State University
- 2009: Presented “Faulkner, Feminism & Fear: The Feminine Sublime in *The Sound and the Fury*,” Women’s Studies Symposium, *Emerging Narratives*, Augusta State University
- 2008: Presented “Paranoia & the American Conscience in the Films *Dr. Strangelove*, *All the President’s Men*, & *Primary Colors*,” *Phi Kappa Phi Student Research & Fine Arts Conference*, Augusta State University
- 2008: Represented Augusta State University’s Phoenix Magazine at *College Media Advisors Conference*, New York City, NY

Invited Talks

- March 30, 2020: Guest speaker for Augusta University’s Pamplin College Future Fest Networking Event
- March 18, 2021: Speaker on the panel for Academic Libraries of Indiana’s Information Literacy Webinar on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- September 2014: Guest Lecturer for Writing Center tutors in Aaron Bremyer’s course, Theory & Practice of Tutoring
- March 2011: Guest Lecturer on William Faulkner’s *Light in August* for Dr. Kevin Lewis’ “Religion in the South” class, USC
- October 2008: “Meet the Majors: Applying to Graduate School,” Augusta State University (now Augusta University)

Professional Memberships

- American Association of University Women
- American Library Association
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- The William Faulkner Society

Related Library Experience

June 2011 – February 2012: Duke University Field Experience, Volunteer, Reference Services

- Used instructional design principles to create a reusable learning object to embed reference instruction in a CMS

2009 –2010: Volunteer Patron Assistant, Reference Services, & Information Desk Volunteer, Richland County Public Library (Main), Columbia, SC

- Answered general reference questions
- Aided patrons using online materials in the Job Center & with use of computer software
- Helped to publicize events for the 2010 & 2011 *(A)ugusta Baker’s Dozen: A Celebration of Stories for Children* program
- Liaison to local business owners & community organizations to promote library events

Spring 2010: Intern, USC’s Thomas Cooper Library, General Reference & Bibliographic Instruction

- Academic library general reference & instruction, including information literacy classes & LibGuide design

Academic Employment & Teaching Experience

2010 – 2011: Graduate Assistant, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia

- Spring 2011: Assisted Dr. Stephanie Mitchem, Department Chair & Dr. Kevin Lewis, Director of Graduate Studies
- Fall 2010: Assisted Dr. Erin Roberts with her research & teaching
- Created layout & design for the Department's first online newsletter: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/relg/news/newslett.html>
- Liaison to community organizations & departments across campus for Dr. Glenda Coleman's research on sustaining African American Family Businesses

Spring 2010: Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Kwame Dawes, University of South Carolina, Columbia

- Transcribed & performed light editing of archival writings; collaborated with library faculty for complex research needs
- Performed archival research on original productions Dr. Dawes produced &/or wrote
- General editing & research for multiple publications for 2010 & manuscripts accepted for publication in 2011

2009 – 2010: Writing Center Consultant, University of South Carolina, Columbia

- Tutored undergraduates, graduate students, & alumni across academic disciplines throughout the writing process
- Taught MLA, APA & CMS citation styles; instructed on avoiding plagiarism; taught aspects of information literacy
- Worked with a large population of ESOL students

Fall 2009: Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of South Carolina, Columbia

- Instructor of Record for one section of English 101, Critical Reading & Composition, consisting of 24 students
- Designed & implemented a comprehensive syllabus & corresponding lesson plans
- Taught close reading, critical analysis, & the writing process to freshmen students
- Evaluated student progress via individual paper conferences & peer revision workshops (cumulative portfolio process)

Spring 2009: Graduate Instructional Assistant to Dr. David Cowart

Fall 2008: Graduate Instructional Assistant to Dr. Kwame Dawes

University of South Carolina, Columbia

- Instructed two sections of 18 - 25 students in English 285, Themes in American Literature, expanding upon professors' lectures
- Focused on the theme "American Sanity, American Neurosis," in Dr. Cowart's class
- Concentrated on August Wilson's Century Cycle in Dr. Dawes' class
- Discussed elements of drama & character development; analyzed Wilson's plays & their corresponding historical contexts
- Researched, designed, & presented a lecture entitled "The Women of August Wilson's Plays" to 300 students in Dr. Dawes' class
- Taught advanced writing skills to non-English majors ranging from sophomores to seniors, emphasizing the writing process
- Held individualized paper conferences with students

2006 – 2008: Writing Center Tutor, Augusta State University, GA

- Tutored ESOL students, students enrolled in learning support, undergraduates & graduate students
- Assisted with MLA, APA & CMS citation styles; taught aspects of information literacy
- Worked with Honors Program students as they developed their theses
- Collaborated with professors to develop approaches for First-Year English & Humanities curricula
- Recruited tutors whose retention lasted beyond one semester; assisted with training new tutors
- Supervised the Writing Center independently during Summer terms

2007 – 2008: Tutor, Sylvan Learning Center, Augusta, GA

- Instructed Beginning Reading, Reading, Writing, & the Study Skills program to K-12 students

Academic Recognitions & Awards

- 2012: Inducted into Beta Phi Mu, International Honor Society for Library & Information Science
- 2007: Recipient of the Patricia Smith Leshar Scholarship for Researched Writing, ASU
- 2007: Outstanding Student in Women's Studies Award, ASU
- 2007: Inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society

Freelance Editing & Technical Writing

2011: Technical Writer, Layman Poupard Publishing, LLC, Columbia, SC

- Authored training manual on effective database searching for bibliographical researchers
- Publishers of *The Dictionary of Literary Biography* (Gale/Cengage), this research is conducted on behalf of contributing scholars