



**Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs Committee
November 30, 2021, 1:45pm**

Discussion Item

AAC – 1 **Faculty/Student Mentorship Presentation (Ali, Reid)**

Background Information

Dr. Omar Ali, Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies and History, and Dean of Lloyd International Honors College, will be presenting with his student, Quella Reid, an Honors College, McNair Scholar, and Guarantee Scholarship student, on her work on the African Diaspora in Wales. Ms. Reid has conducted historical research under Dr. Ali's guidance, having also travelled to Wales to conduct interviews. She is currently applying for a Fulbright scholarship to continue her work in Wales.

Attachment:

AAC 1.1 Faculty/Student Mentorship Presentation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Storrs".

Debbie Storrs
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor



Faculty/Student Mentorship Presentation

Quella Reid
with Dr. Omar Ali



Black Wales: The African Diaspora in Wales

Why Wales?

- Studied at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, 2019
- Identity as a Black American informing my experiences
- Living in rural Wales shaped my research in this topic



Introduction

- How did British imperialism shape the lives of people of African descent in Wales?
- How have Black Welsh people shaped Welsh society?



Background

- Black Welsh people make up about 0.6% of Wales' total population
- Records indicate 29 black people residing in Wales between 1687 and 1814; the first well-documented was John Ystumllyn (d. 1786)
- First black sailors arrive in Wales in the 1850s



John Ystumllyn (Jack Black)



Challenges and Setback

- Finding Black Welsh accomplishments was difficult
- Working with a small population where little research has been done
- Many accounts highlight race but fail to recognize how blackness and Welsh identity are interconnected



Black Welsh

- For Black Welsh people early legislation was detrimental to their livelihoods
- Colored Alien Seamen Order 1925 – to appease white sailors, was an order established that only native-born sailors would be able to work in the ports
- An influx of discriminatory media fueled the rumored stereotype that black and minority spaces were only for rowdy sailors, thieves, and prostitutes

Somali People and Wales

- Multicultural community on a strip of town in Butetown, Cardiff
- Oldest Multicultural population in the UK
- West Indian and African men engaged in maritime work
- Many accounts stem from this community. For those who lived there it was a harmonious community, although across the bridge they were isolated and maligned.



Abdulrahim Abby Farah (1919-2018)



- Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations 1979-1990
- Served as the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Kingdom, and as Ambassador of Somalia to Ethiopia
- Worked on releasing Nelson Mandela from imprisonment

Betty Campbell (1934-2017)



- Wales' first Black Headteacher at Mount Stuart Primary in Butetown, Cardiff
- Was on the race relations board 1970s, a governor of BBC Wales in 1980s, and a member of the Home Office's race advisory committee

“When I was head of my school I looked at black history, the Caribbean, Africa, and slavery and the effects ...Children should be made aware.”

Patty Lynn (1937- 2020)

- Jazz Musician from Tiger Bay
- Butetown Bay Jazz Festival
- 26 year campaign to have statue in honor of black soldiers who died in World War I and II
- Founder of Black History Wales





Find your way here

Closing

Black Welsh have contributed to society in a number of ways:

Economically

International Affairs

Arts & Culture

Education



Thank you!

Diolsh!