



## WELCOME BACK!

I am excited to have joined SUNY Old Westbury this summer as the Dean for the School of Arts & Sciences and since arriving on campus have appreciated the warm welcome and community-centered spirit of the School of Arts & Sciences and the campus as a whole. I'd like to offer special thanks to the current and past SAS Dean's Office team-- Betty Berbari, Anne Marie Jimenez, Tom Lilly, and Mandy Frisken-- for their support during the transition.

We are pleased to re-launch the SAS newsletter to share SAS events and accomplishments as well as to promote cross-department conversations and collaborations. Please send us your activities, events, and news items for future issues!

Cheryl A. Wilson  
Dean, School of Arts & Sciences



STUDENT RESEARCH  
DAY 2022

# Upcoming SAS Events

## AMELIE A. WALLACE GALLERY

**Feldsott: Howls That Wake Us in the Night**  
9/8/22 - 10/21/22

**Conversation with the Artist**  
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 3:50pm

**Opening Reception**  
Thursday, Sept. 15, 4:00pm

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS PRESENTS

**The Math in Robotics**  
Thursday, Sept. 22, 2:40pm, NAB 1100

**Experiences of Women in STEM**  
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2:40pm, NAB 1100

**The Math in Baking**  
Monday, Oct. 31, 2:40pm, NAB 2034

# Welcome



Simisola Shabi (Simi) will be working with the SAS Dean's Office as a work-study student this year. Simi is a senior Biology Major and Psychology Minor who enjoys cooking and spending time with friends and family. She will be in the office T/W this fall and will assist with SAS events and activities.

# Congratulations

The Criminology program at SUNY Old Westbury was ranked 16th on the list of "Best Bachelor's Degrees in Criminology" by the team at Best Accredited Colleges.

# Faculty News

**Renu Balyan** (Math/CIS) has been awarded a three-year collaborative NSF Grant titled "Privacy Preserving Tutoring System for Health Education of Low Literacy Hispanic Populations."

**Keisha Goode** (Sociology) will be a guest editor of the "Moving Beyond Antiblackness: From Critical Race Theory to BlackCrit" special issue of the *Journal of Multicultural Education*.

**Karl Grossman** (American Studies/Media & Communications) gave a presentation at John Jermain Memorial Library in Sag Harbor about "Cold War Long Island."

**Curtis Holland** (Sociology) published his book *Inequality, Identity, and the Politics of Northern Ireland: Challenges of Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation* with Rowman and Littlefield press.

**Svetlana Jović** (Psychology) and J. M. Pipitone, published "Urban nature and sense of belonging: Photo-narrative exploration of socio-spatial disparities in New York City" in *Ecopsychology*.

# Faculty News

**Laura Limonic** (Sociology) presented “Becoming Latinx Jews: An American Immigration Story,” at the Chutauqua Institute.

**Laura Limonic** (Sociology) will give a talk on her book *Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States* at the Sachem Public Library.

**Lorenz S. Neuwirth** (Psychology) was recognized by the American Psychological Association (APA) with the Early Career Psychopharmacologist Award.

**Kinning Poon** (Biology) has recently been awarded a two-year grant as Principal Investigator from the National Institutes of Health to pilot spatial gene transcriptomics.

**Kinning Poon** (Biology) in collaboration with **Christos Noutsos** (Biology) recently published an article in *The Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry* titled "Concentration-dependent change in hypothalamic neuronal transcriptome by the dietary fatty acids: oleic and palmitic acids."

**Jingyi Song** (History/Philosophy) has a book chapter, "Legacy of the Exclusion Act and the Chinese Americans' Experience" in the forthcoming book, *The New Cold War* with Amsterdam University Press.

# Alumni Spotlight

VINSON “WORDSWORTH” JOHNSON, ENGLISH  
CLASS OF 1998

Senior Thesis: Langston Hughes and the Blues Rapper –  
Composer – Author - Teacher



Wordsworth’s musical contributions appear on animation soundtracks, including the *Spongebob Squarepants Movie*. He currently appears as himself on Netflix’s *Peabody and Sherman*, Seas 1, episode 2. His book *What Words Are Worth Volume 1: New Beginning* landed at #9 on Amazon’s Top 10 new releases in poetry. His *Fragility of Life* album (2022) charted on iTunes Hip-Hop Top 200 at 85.





Back to School!