



#BLACKPALO MARMATTERS

Palomar Black Faculty and
Staff Association



WHO WE ARE

Faculty & Staff
Bios



Michael Arce | Sociology| marce@palomar.edu

I was born and raised in Oceanside, graduated from El Camino High School (with a 1.98 GPA!), and took 7 years to receive my associates degree from MiraCosta College before transferring to California State University San Marcos. I was fortunate enough to have the support of my friends and family and was able to graduate in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology with an emphasis in children, youth, and families. Through the encouragement of faculty and family, I applied to Cal State San Marcos' Master's in Sociological Practice program and graduated in 2018 after completing a thesis on racial and ethnic identity formation.

I have an 8-year-old amazingly intelligent and observational sociologist daughter who doesn't shy away from calling me out (which I absolutely love). I like to enjoy a cup of coffee while I browse Reddit and play video games. On a beautiful day, my wife and I will cruise by the beach, sipping on a Dirty Nutty Dang (an espresso-infused chocolate and peanut butter shake) from Oceanside's Banana Dang.

I teach sociology at both Palomar College and MiraCosta College and love how we can use our sociological imagination to make the "normal" seem strange, whether you're a sociologist or not! I am always ready and excited to talk to students, faculty, and staff, so please feel free to send me an email and let's get to know each other marce@palomar.edu!

Sterling Briggs | Admissions and Financial Aid & Sociology | sbriggs1@palomar.edu

The youngest of 4, Born and raised in Rochester, New York in a hyper-criminalized and hyper-surveilled working class community, is a father of (3) 2 girls and 1 boy. Sterling is a United States Marine Corps Veteran of 8 years, and the first of his family to attend and graduate college with his Associates, Bachelors in Sociology with a Minor in Criminology, and just this past spring with his Masters in Sociology.

Sterling is a 2019-2020 Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar with an academic scholarship dedicated to the analysis of multiple modes of power and oppression. Specifically, the reproduction of white Eurocentric colonialism, decolonization, state sanctioned violence, color-blind racism, and the practice of exclusion.

Sterling is a Social Justice Advocate, a founding member of Transitions Collective at CSUSM, and 2018-2019 CO-Chair of Transitions Collective at CSUSM. Currently Sterling is a full time employee with Admissions and Financial Aid, and a Professor of Sociology at Palomar College.





Richard Carr | English | rcarrjr@palomar.edu

Born and raised in the heart of Southeast San Diego, Professor Richard Carr learned to escape the harsh realities of his childhood by reading, writing, drawing and painting through the pain. After getting selected to participate in Upward Bound, a program focused on low-income, potential first-generation college students, he began seeing attending college as a way out. This motivated him to attend San Diego State University (Go Aztecs!), where his passion for reading and writing inspired him to pursue a B.A. in Comparative Literature and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing with an emphasis in Fiction, Rhetoric, and Argumentation.

After witnessing the power of education firsthand, Richard's love for learning and helping others led him to a career in higher education. Since 2014, he has been teaching and tutoring in rhetorical analysis and argumentation within the southern California community college system at both Miramar and Palomar College. He has also worked as an Academic Coach and Tutor since 2010.

In his spare time, you can still find him expressing himself through creativity, whether it be writing off-the-wall short stories, painting Afrocentric artwork, or coming up with unique ways to inspire others to pursue their dreams, whatever they may be.

Ways that I can help you: academic coaching, advising, counseling, and tutoring.

Amber Colbert | Sociology | acolbert@palomar.edu

I'm Amber Colbert and I am a Professor of Sociology at Palomar College. I have both a B.A. and M.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology and I have been teaching Sociology for the past ten years. In addition to teaching, I love spending time with my husband and kids, listening to 90's music, and rewatching The Wire.

If you are ever in need of help or tutoring with your behavioral sciences classes, please do not hesitate to contact me. I currently teach SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology, SOC 110: Social Problems, and SOC 200: Race, Class, and Ethnic Groups in America. I am also passionate about mentoring and connecting students with educational and professional opportunities.





Dr. Lisa Cox-Romain | Counseling | lromain@palomar.edu

Dr. Lisa Cox Romain has been a counselor/professor at Palomar College since 1994. She also teaches in the Alcohol and Other Drug Studies department. Dr. Lisa is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, and a certified Department of Transportation Substance Abuse Professional. Dr. Lisa has served in the roles of Counseling Department Chair, Career Center Director, and Pan African Student Movement Club Advisor.

Dr. Romain received her B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Northridge, her M.Ed. in Educational Counseling from the University of San Diego, M.A. in Marital and Family Therapy from Alliant University, M.S. in Organizational Management and Development and Ph.D., in Organizational Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.

Marlene Forney | Library | mforney@palomar.edu

I love helping people find information they need for their work as students and also for other information needs that are part of living well.

I identify myself as a '... dancaholic Librarian' because I grew up in a home where everyone danced, and my parents answered many questions by saying 'let's look that up'

I love people, movies, tech stuff and learning. I was raised in Gary Indiana, have traveled to 4 of the 7 continents and only play card games to 'be sociable'.

I have a Masters degree in Library Science from the U. of Michigan and earned my Bachelors degree in French from Purdue University.

To connect with me directly send an email to mforney@palomar.edu. I can answer a quick question in an email or set up a Zoom session. That format will allow me to more efficiently provide research help.



Christina Harrell | English |
charrell@palomar.edu

Adjunct Instructor, Speech Communication

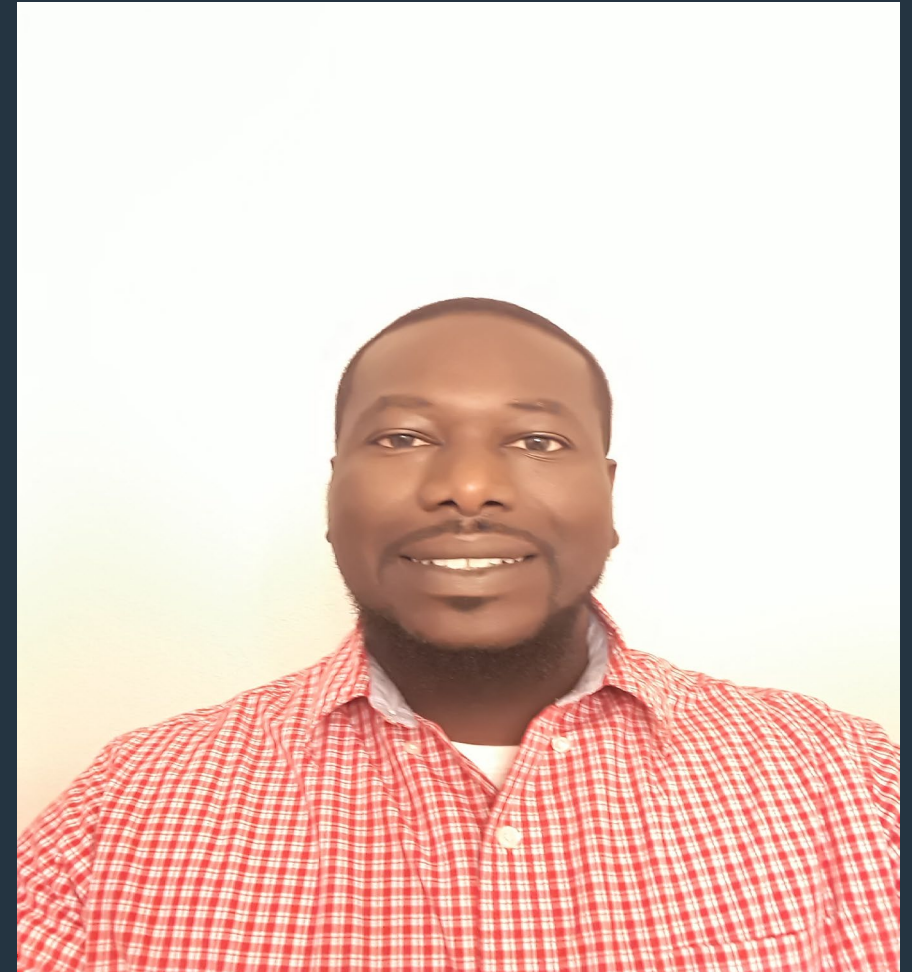
Brian Harris | Sociology | bharris1@palomar.edu

I am Professor Brian Harris a thirty plus year San Diego County resident and current Associate Faculty member for Palomar College's Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Sociology). I am a two-time CSUSM Sociology program alumnus; having completed both the Sociology undergraduate program graduating with an emphasis on Critical Race Theory (2008) and the Master of Arts in Sociological Practice program in (2011). I am also an alumnus at MiraCosta community college with an associate degree in University Studies Psychology (2005).

To date, I have instructed seven sociology courses at the community college level, including, Introduction to Sociology, Contemporary Social Problems, Social Psychology, Introduction to Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, Introduction to Justice Studies, Race and Ethnic Studies and Black Studies.

In addition, my dedication to student success and equitable access is demonstrated via contribution to on-campus activities for marginalized student groups including low-income students, ESL students, single parent students, disabled students, and students representing racial and ethnic minorities. More specifically, my work including at other institutions with Project Like, UMOJA, the BSU, and the Service Learning Department's CASE (Community Advocate Service & Equity) program exemplify my ability to not only work with diverse groups, but to also teach others how to do the same.

Oftentimes students of color lack the social capital necessary to succeed in learning institutions. The most effective way I can serve this community is by being a part of that social capital specifically, direct mentoring, statistics tutoring, and maintaining a visible on campus presence.





Dr. Rafiki Jenkins | English | jjenkins@palomar.edu

Dr. Jerry Rafiki Jenkins is Professor of English at Palomar College in San Marcos, California, whose research focuses on black speculative fiction and film. Rafiki's peer-reviewed articles appear in *Screening Noir*, *African American Review*, *Journal of Children's Literature*, and *Pacific Coast Philology*, and he is the author of *The Paradox of Blackness in African American Vampire Fiction* (Ohio State UP, 2019).

Rafiki also co-edited, with Martin Japtok, *Authentic Blackness/Real Blackness: Essays on the Meaning of Blackness in Literature and Culture* (Peter Lang, 2011) and *Human Contradictions in Octavia E. Butler's Work* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). Rafiki is currently completing a book-length manuscript on African American horror fiction published at the end of the twentieth century.



Cheryl Kears | Curriculum | ckears@palomar.edu

Cheryl Kears, a native North Carolinian, spent her formative years in Greensboro, NC and the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. She moved to Oceanside, CA in 2001 and began her career at Palomar College. She is an Evangelist Minister at New Birth Church of Oceanside, CA where she teaches adult and youth Bible Study and Sunday School, serves as the church's Financial Officer and sings in the choir.

Cheryl is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the North County NAACP. She resides in Oceanside, CA with her husband James with whom she shares three beautiful daughters. She is a writer, voracious reader, trombonist and beloved aunty to her nieces and nephews. One of her most notable heroes is her late Grandmother Mary, who showed quiet resilience and strength while serving as a domestic in the South during the Civil Rights Era. She strives to become a lasting tribute to her ancestors as well as the many women who served in these important roles.

Mercedes Tiggs | EOPS Counseling | mtiggs@palomar.edu

Mercedes is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and EOPS Counselor with Foster Youth Retention Success and Transition Program (FYRST) at Palomar College. As a counselor, her role is to encourage students while providing high-quality support services that enable students to complete their educational goals, find meaningful employment, and successfully transition into the workforce. Mercedes personal advising philosophy includes; intentional conversations, student/counselor partnership, and commitment to helping students navigate successfully through their academic careers while exploring their educational and career options.

Mercedes firmly believes that the academic advising relationship should be a true partnership between Counselors and the student to accomplish comprehensive student success. I believe it is much more than selecting the correct courses to graduate, but partnering with students throughout their time at Palomar College to promote holistic thriving.

Please reach out if you are a former or current Foster Youth. I would love to assist with supportive services on campus.





Derrick Upson | Facilities | dupson@palomar.edu

Growing up in South Central Los Angeles, Derrick quickly became a staple in the community in which he lived, coaching youth basketball and volunteering at the Salvation Army Weingart Youth Center. Not to mention Derrick is an avid L.A. Clippers fan and enjoys going to the games. Derrick is dedicated to building and inspiring strong leaders today for tomorrow's success.

“Without a game plan and without a strong sense of faith in what you are doing, its going to be really hard to accomplish anything” –Ermias Asghedom (**Nipsey Hussle**).

Ways I can help: Life Coach, Mentor:{ Sometimes we all need a little encouragement}, Emergency Barbering, and provide information on all campus resources that may fit your needs.

Terhea Williams-Patoka | Biology | twilliams@palomar.edu

Terhea Williams-Patocka- Instructional Support Assistant IV (Biology)

Been part of the Palomar family since 2013. Born and raised here in sunny San Diego. Enjoy reading, geo-caching, scuba-diving, and traveling. Have a B.S. in Aquatic Biology from UC Santa Barbara (Go Gauchos!) and a M.S. in Marine Bio-Resources from U. Maine (Go Black Bears!). As a second job, I'm an adjunct instructor at Southwestern College and San Diego City College.

In my spare time I volunteer at our local Little League and Ocean Discovery Institute in City Heights.

Advice to students: I wanted to let you all know that it is okay (really, it is) if you are not sure about your future goals/career. Honestly, it is. Take it from someone who has had over 10 different jobs over the course of my lifetime! If you're unsure of what you want to do, let's chat about it. One thing I will say is that I owe a lot to teachers/mentors/advisers that I've had along the way. They have all played a role in helping me find my passion!

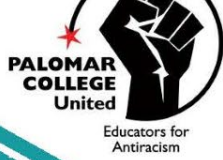


The logo features the word "UMOJA" in a large, white, sans-serif font. The letters are centered and overlap a vibrant, abstract floral pattern. The pattern consists of various stylized flower shapes in shades of pink, red, and purple, set against a dark grey background. Some flowers are solid colors, while others are outlined in white or purple. Small circles in the same color palette are scattered throughout the design.

UMOJA

- Career, academic and personal counseling
- Opportunities to attend Umoja sponsored events and conferences
- Access to Umoja Community scholarships
- Cultural experiences
- Academic excellence celebrations
- University visits
- Mentoring
- Access to Umoja Village Space
- Increased self-confidence
- Make new friends
- Book loan program
- Calculator Loan Program
- School Supplies

palomar.edu/pages/umoja



PALOMAR COLLEGE PHI THETA KAPPA PRESENTS

ANTIRACISM

STUDENT NARRATIVES COLLEGE PROJECT

TO BE PART OF THIS
PROJECT, PLEASE
COMPLETE THIS FORM

DEADLINE 9/28/20

QUESTIONS CONTACT
DR. HOSSNA SADAT AHADI
HSADAT@PALOMAR.EDU

Phi Theta Kappa | Antiracism Project

Phi Beta Kappa (Palomar's Honor Society) is looking to do a student project similar to the one that was done by faculty. You can watch that video here:

<https://vimeo.com/448389946>

They are also looking to increase their Black student membership as well. Please contact Dr. Hossna Sadat Ahadi for more information: hsadat@palomar.edu



VOTE!



Register

Register to vote :
<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Confirm

Confirm your registration:
<https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Find

Find your polling place:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place>

Plan

NOVEMBER 3RD

- Transportation
- Time

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

palomar.edu/pages/pbfsa

