The Comeback: From Past Tense to Future Progressive

HONORING
Paul B. Moses ’51
The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, which has supported the intellectual and professional development of more than 1,000 Ph.D. students in the humanities and social sciences, honors the work and life of Benjamin Elijah Mays, who was born in 1895 to parents who had been enslaved and who found their freedom at the end of the Civil War. Mays began his education in a one-room rural schoolhouse, graduated from the high school at Orangeburg's State College, and entered college at Virginia Union in Richmond, Virginia. Determined to continue his university education outside the segregated South, Mays entered Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, in 1917 and then moved on to the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, where he earned his master's degree in 1925 and his doctorate in 1935. From 1934 to 1940, Mays served as dean of the Howard University School of Religion and then moved on to the presidency of Morehouse College, a position he held with distinction for the next quarter-century. Mays's many books—which include the first sociological study of African American religion, The Negro's Church (1930), The Negro's God (1938), Disturbed About Man (1969), and his autobiography, Born to Rebel (1971)—reveal a combination of sharp intellect, religious commitment, and prophetic conviction.

Haverford MMUF Program Staff
Trish Griffith, Administrative Assistant; Susan Lewis, Executive Assistant; John McKnight, Dean of the College, Raji Mohan, Faculty Coordinator; Theresa Tensuan, Administrative Coordinator

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WE DEDICATE this conference to the extraordinary life of Paul B. Moses ’51 (1929–1966), one of the first African American students to attend Haverford College. Paul Bell Moses was the son of Paul S. Moses, a house painter, and Annie Moses, a laundress. Alongside his four brothers and three sisters, Paul grew up in a house on West Spring Avenue in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, just down the street from Haverford College, from which he received his degree magna cum laude.

A protégé of the collector Albert Barnes, Moses pursued a career as an art historian. Following his graduation from Haverford, Moses served in the United States Army and taught at an international school in Rome. In 1959, he enrolled at Harvard University, earning a master’s degree two years later and beginning work on his doctoral dissertation, which focused on the etchings and monotypes of the French Impressionist Edgar Degas. He also met and married Alice Johnson, an accomplished and ambitious elementary school teacher. The couple moved to Hyde Park in 1962 when Moses was hired as an instructor in the University of Chicago’s Department of Art.

Moses soon distinguished himself among the students and faculty at UChicago for his innovative scholarship and empathic teaching style. Moses met head-on the many challenges faced by a Black man working in a predominantly white field during the Civil Rights era. He risked the offense of his white colleagues when he voiced his critiques of Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn, calling out the novel’s racist elements and their potentially detrimental effects on students. He was often the only person of color at the lectures he gave and art-world events he attended around Chicago. He won grants that enabled him to make several more trips to France, where he continued his research on Degas and was offered a book contract. He also curated an exhibition of Degas’ prints, wrote reviews for the arts section of the Chicago Daily News, and quickly made a name for himself in the local arts community.

In 1966, at the age of 36, Moses’ life was tragically cut short when he was murdered by two young white men who intended to steal his car. The event devastated his family, friends, colleagues, and students, many of whom wrote letters and tributes that underscored the lasting impact he had on their lives. As this chorus of voices made clear, his groundbreaking scholarship, exemplary teaching, and essential humanity together constituted his greatest legacies.

Paul B. Moses with Michael Moses, c. 1964. (Collection of Michael A. Moses)

Michael Moses, LAB’81, teacher, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, and Stephanie Strother, Ph.D. student in Art History, University of Chicago
Friday, November 11

2:00–4:00 p.m.  Registration  
Visual Culture, Arts, and Media  
Center (VCAM)

4:00–4:30 p.m.  Welcome Reception  
Lutnick Library 200

4:30–5:30 p.m.  Keynote Address  
Lutnick Library 200

**Opening Remarks**  
MMUF Fellow Vic Brown ’23, John McKnight,  
Dean of the College, and Rajeswari Mohan, Faculty  
Coordinator of Haverford’s MMUF Program and  
Associate Professor of English

**Introduction**  
Israel Burshatin, Emeritus Professor of Spanish and  
Comparative Literature

Nicholas R. Jones; MMUF ’05  
Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese,  
Yale University

Nicholas R. Jones (MMUF ’05) is the former King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center’s Scholar-in-Residence at New York University (2021-2022). He is the author of the award-winning *Staging Habla de Negros: Radical Performances of the African Diaspora in Early Modern Spain* (Penn State University Press, May 2019) and co-editor of *Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies: A Critical Anthology* (Palgrave, December 2018), and *Pornographic Sensibilities: Imagining Sex and the Visceral in Premodern and Early Modern Spanish Cultural Production* (Routledge, January 2021) with Chad Leahy. Jones also co-edits The Routledge Critical Junctures in Global Early Modernities book series with Derrick Higginbotham. Jones’s research has been generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as has held visiting professorships at Georgetown University and New York University.

As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow at Haverford, Jones majored in Spanish and graduated with a double concentration in Africana Studies and Latin American and Iberian Studies. He garnered departmental Honors in Spanish, along with the Manuel and Elisa Pi Asensio Prize for his senior thesis, *Dentro de la Iglesia de San Martín le dice: ‘¡Ay, negrita, vente tú; danos consuelo! las visiones y las oraciones de Catalina Muñoz.*
Saturday, November 12

8:00–9:00 a.m.  Breakfast Buffet at VCAM

9:00–10:15 a.m.  Session I

Panel Session: Black Subalternities

VCAM 201: Audre Lorde Seminar Room
Moderator: John McKnight, Dean of the College, Haverford

Alloyah Abobi ’24, Bryn Mawr College  
Health, Culture, and Society major; MMUF mentor
Piper Sledge, Sociology, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Health Studies  
Unlearning Oppression While Black in America: by way of Spoken Word

Ebony Graham ’23, Haverford College  
Environmental Studies major, Africana and Education Studies minors; MMUF Mentor Chanelle Wilson, Education and Africana Studies  
Food as Power

Amber Rahman ’24, Princeton University  
African American Studies major  
#StopShotspotter from NJ to Palestine: Internationalist Resistance to Carceral Technologies

Danielle Samake ’24, Princeton University  
Sociology major; MMUF Mentor Sanyu Mojola, Sociology  
West African Women, Class Mobility & Social Status in the U.S.

Panel Session: Rearticulating/Reanimating/Refashioning Aesthetics, Economies, and Movements

VCAM 001: Frantz Fanon Screening Room
Moderator: Maud McInerney, Laurie Ann Levin  
Professor of Comparative Literature and English Professor, Haverford College

Kimiye Maeshiro ’23, Bryn Mawr College  
Linguistics major; MMUF Mentor Lela Aisha Jones, Dance  
Urban Dance: How Artistic Nomenclature Dances Around The Appropriation of Hip Hop

Saul Ontiveros ’23, Haverford College  
History major and Health Studies minor; MMUF Mentor Andrew Friedman, History  
Fashioning Desert Imperialism

Kayla Thompson ’23, Haverford College  
French & Francophone Studies major; MMUF Mentor Grace M. Armstrong, French & Francophone Studies  
The Nouvelle Japonisme: The New Wave of Franco-Japanese Animation

Panel Session: Realities and Imaginaries of the City

VCAM 001: Frantz Fanon Seminar and Screening Room
Moderator: MMUF Fellow Rhea Chandran ’23, Haverford College

Kaia Chau ’24, Bryn Mawr College  
International Studies major; Asian American Studies minor; MMUF Mentor Edwin Mayorga, Educational Studies and Latin American and Latino Studies at Swarthmore  
“Save Chinatown”: How organizing and activism helped Philadelphia’s Chinatown resist gentrification
Saturday, November 12, continued

Marcos Padrón-Curet ’23, Haverford College
French and Francophone Studies, Romance Languages, Spanish majors; MMUF Mentor Roberto Castillo-Sandoval, Spanish
The other city of lights: the discursive influence of Prague in the Latin American literary Boom of the 1960s

Milan Taylor ’24, Cornell University
Anthropology and Archaeology majors; MMUF Mentors Matthew Velasco, Anthropology, and Sara Warner, Performing and Media Arts
Hart Island: A Liminal Stage for the Performance of Death and Dying in Early AIDS Epidemic New York City

Panel Session: Philosphic, Theologic, and Mythologic Modalities
VCAM 201: Audre Lorde Seminar Room
Moderator: MMUF Fellow Vic Brown ’23, Haverford College

Annie Phun ’23, Princeton University
Classics major; MMUF Mentor Sarah Chihaya, English
Prometheus Unbound: Re-appropriating Myth Through Race, Identity, and Space

Kim Montpelier ’24, Cornell University
Ancient Philosophy major; MMUF Mentor Karolina Hübner, Philosophy
Immaterial God and His Divisible World

Nicholas Taylor ’23, Haverford College
Philosophy major; MMUF Mentor Danielle Macbeth, Philosophy
Traumatic Temporalities: Intersubjective Meaning and Interpreting the Other

Megan Wu ’23, Swarthmore College
Philosophy and Mathematics majors; MMUF Mentor Krista Thomason, Philosophy
Akrasia and Moral Transformation

11:45 a.m.–noon Break

1:15–2:00 p.m. Poster Session 1
VCAM 1st floor, Paul Moses Gallery
Moderator: Vic Brown MMUF ’23, Haverford College

Kaelani Burja ’23, Princeton University
Anthropology major with minors in Theater, Music Theater, Latino Studies, Latin American Studies; MMUF Mentor Stacy Wolf, Theater
Not Your Great “White” Way: An Ethnography of New York City and New Jersey’s Latiné and New Theatrical Works Production Processes

Connor Barrett ’24, Swarthmore College
Major in Sociology and Anthropology; MMUF Mentor Madalina Meirosu, Modern Language and Literatures and Gender and Sexuality Studies
Violence and its Effects on Healing for Black Families

Axaraly Ortiz ’24, Cornell University
History major; MMUF Mentor Maria Cristina Garcia, History
Chicana Feminist Artistic Discourse During the Chicano Movement

Alicia Gonzalez ’24, Cornell University
Sociology Major; MMUF Mentor Kendra Bischoff, Sociology
The Diffusion of Museum Practice through Community and Professional Networks

Maria Reyes Pacheco ’24, Haverford College
History major, Latin American, Iberian, and Latinx Studies and Sociology minors; MMUF Mentor Lina Martinez Hernandez, Spanish
Forced Sterilization as U.S. Foreign Policy in the Andes

Chris Rivera ’24, Cornell University
Environmental & Sustainability major; MMUF Mentor Jane-Marie Law, Religious Studies
The Role of CRPs in Disaster Prep and Recovery

Bethany Winters ’24, Swarthmore College
Religion and Spanish majors; MMUF Mentor Ellen Ross, Quakerism and Peace Studies
Motherhood and the “Call” in the autobiographies of Jarena Lee, Zilpha Elaw, and Julia Foote
2:00–2:45 p.m.  Poster Session 2
VCAM 2nd floor, Sarah Derbew Gallery
Moderator: MMUF Fellow Maria Reyes Pacheco, Haverford College

Destiny Allen ’24, Princeton University
Anthropology major
How does the representation of street dance culture in Chinese media contribute to the commodification of African American culture on a global scale and the impact of this phenomena?

Travis Kanoa Chai Andrade ’24
Princeton University: Anthropology major; MMUF Mentor Emma Ljung, Art and Architecture
(Under)currents of the Anthropocene: Oceanic Imaginings of Better Futures

Keyla Benitez ’24, Bryn Mawr College
History Major; MMUF Mentor Monique Scott, History of Art
Archives as a Verb

Taylor Johnson ’24, Haverford College
Sociology major; MMUF Mentor Piper Sledge, Sociology at Bryn Mawr
Racialization and Gendering of American Youth

Jorge Paz Reyes ’24, Haverford College
Latin American & Latinx Studies major; MMUF Mentor Nanci Buiza, Spanish at Swarthmore
Solidarity in the Face of Militarism: Understanding Honduras’ Military Reformism

Nicolas-Bilal Urick ’24, Swarthmore College
Peace & Conflict Studies and Arabic Language & Literature majors; MMUF Mentor Benjamin Smith, Arabic
A Patchworked Ideological Geography: Homecoming, Homemaking, and Belonging in the Mahjar Movement and 21st-Century Syrian-American Literature

Yerim Kone ’24, Swarthmore College
Philosophy major; MMUF Mentor Krista Thomason, Philosophy
On the Merits of Panpsychism

2:45–4:00 p.m.  Session III

Panel Session: Speaking the World into Being
VCAM 201: Audre Lorde Seminar Room
Moderator: MMUF Fellow Saúl Ontiveros ’23, Haverford College

Abyssinia Braud ’24, Bryn Mawr College
Sociology major; MMUF Mentor Amanda Barrett Cox, Sociology
The Black Island: S.O.S, Signals of Distress, and feelings of Isolation from Black Students at Elite Women’s Colleges

Aleina Dume ’23, Swarthmore College
Educational Studies and Sociology & Anthropology majors; MMUF Mentor Lisa Smulyan, Educational Studies
An Asset-Based Peer Approach to Supporting First-Generation and Low-Income Students’ Transition to College

Mariela Mancia Pineda ’24, Princeton University
Spanish major; MMUF Mentor Afia Ofori-Mensa, Director, Equitable Postgraduate Academic Opportunity
Spanish Language Education: Towards a Case Study in Boston

Vic Brown ’23, Haverford College
Literatures in English major at Bryn Mawr, Education minor; MMUF Mentor Jennifer Harford Vargas
Prophecy and Creation: How Parable of the Sower Predicts a World in Disaster and Teaches Us How To Save It

4:00–4:15 p.m.  Break
4:15–5:30 p.m.  Session IV

Panel Session: Transitions, Transgressions, and Transformations: Border Crossings, Cultural Reconfigurations, and Creative Imaginations

VCAM 201: Audre Lorde Seminar Room  
Moderator: Theresa Tensuan, Advising Dean, Haverford College

Elyse Decker ’23, Swarthmore College  
Global Studies major; MMUF Mentor Giovanna Di Chiro, Environmental Studies  
The Interaction between Laws and the Food Sovereignty of Alaska Native Peoples.

Nelid Rios Morales ’24, Bryn Mawr College  
Sociology major; MMUF Mentor Veronica Montes, Sociology  
Prayer of Immigration: The Impacts of Deportation on Family Members and Spirituality as Community Support

Emily Pérez ’23, Princeton University  
Comparative Literature major; MMUF Mentor Wendy Belcher, Comparative Literature  
Jesus Christ and the Trickster God: Towards an Understanding of the Latin American Trickster in its Catholic Context

Mina Quesen ’23, Princeton University  
English major; MMUF Mentor Christina León, English  
Reimagining the Monster: Mambabarang and Diwata in Contemporary Philippine Speculative Fiction

5:30–6:30 p.m.  Closing Reception, VCAM