



**HOWARD
UNIVERSITY**

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Economics

ANNUAL Omicron Delta Epsilon

Dinner Lecture



Recognition Ceremony

Wednesday

April 15, 2026

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Armour J. Blackburn University Center, Howard University

Guest Speaker

Dr. Valerie Rawlston Wilson

Director, Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy

Economic Policy Institute

Program

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Dr. OMARI SWINTON
Professor and Chair,
Department of Economics

Greetings from:

Dr. RUBIN PATTERSON
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Blessing of the Food

Ms. Hazel Robinson
President, *Howard University Economics*
Department Alumni Association (HUEDAA)

Introduction of the Speaker:

KARSON SMITH,
President, Abram Harris Economic Society
(AHES), Member ODE

Speaker

Dr. VALERIE RAWLSTON WILSON
Director, Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the
Economy, Economic Policy Institute

Questions for the Speaker

DAVID NDOLO
Moderator: President, Graduate Student
Economics Association (GSEA)

Replies from the Speaker

Presentation to the Speaker

DAVID NDOLO
Moderator, President, GSEA

Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association (HUEDAA)

Presenter: Dr. SANDRA COOKE
Dr. Vincent R. McDonald
Senior Recognition Award: Karson Smith

HUEDAA: Graduate Travel Award

Presenter: Dr. CHARLES THORPE
Award: Le. T Nguyen
Runner-up: Tewodros Gutema

Abram Harris Economic Society (AHES) Projects

Presenter: AUDREY NELSON
Vice President, AHES

Induction: New ODE Members

Presenter: Dr. C. K. HUNTE, ODE Advisor

Inductees:

Theodora Uzozie;	Elise Garner;
Karson Smith;	Michael Medebem;
Risav Ganguly;	Stanley Scott;
Deven Deshpande;	Lella Diallo;
Eva Achim;	Ryan Oditia;
Shreeya Gautam;	Joshua Olatubosun;

Appointment: Dr. G. ODULARU, as Vice-
President, International Executive Board of
Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society.

ODE Grant Funding and Recognition

**Presenter: Dr. G. ODULARU, DEPUTY
ODE ADVISOR**

Award: Payton Garcia. He received the 2026-
2027 HUOODE Fellowship. Payton's work
ethic and performance embodies ODE's
vision and mission.

Award: Stanley Scott. An exemplary HBCU
scholar, who received the prestigious 2026-
2027 Luard Morse Scholarship. He will study
at the London School of Economics.

Publication: Risav Ganguly. He received
2025 the AEA Andrew Brimmer
Undergraduate Essay Prize. His work
reframes Du Bois's legacy within the modern
racial economic justice context.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Hazel Robinson
President, HUEDAA

Thank You!



Valerie Rawlston Wilson, PhD

Valerie Rawlston Wilson is a labor economist and Director of the Economic Policy Institute's Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE), a nationally recognized source for expert reports and policy analyses on the economic condition of America's people of color. Prior to joining EPI, Wilson served as Vice President of Research at the National Urban League Washington Bureau in Washington, D.C., where she was responsible for planning and directing the Bureau's research agenda. This included serving as Managing Editor, Associate Editor and as a contributing author for the National Urban League's annual signature publication, *The State of Black America*, and overseeing annual production of the organization's Equality Index™. Dr. Wilson was also an inaugural member of the National Urban League President's Council of Economic Advisors, which assists the League in shaping its national economic policy. She currently serves on the board of the National Economics Association, an organization founded to promote the professional lives of black economists while expanding knowledge of economic issues of particular interest to communities of color.

Throughout her career, she has written extensively on various issues impacting racial economic inequality in the United States—including employment and training; wage, income and wealth disparities; access to higher education; and social insurance—and has also appeared in major print, television, and radio media. Her research expertise in these areas has made her a sought after speaker and consultant both nationally and internationally. In 2010, through the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs, she was selected to deliver the keynote address at an event on Minority Economic Empowerment at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. In 2011, Wilson served on a National Academies Panel on Measuring and Collecting Pay Information from U.S. Employers by Gender, Race, and National Origin.

Dr. Wilson earned a B.A. in Economics from Hampton University, as well as a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three sons, reading, and listening to true crime podcasts.



Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association (HUEDAA)

The inception of HUEDAA began on March 10, 2001 at a retirement luncheon for Drs. Chandler and Huang at Bolling AFB in Washington DC. While at the luncheon with fellow alumni, Ms. Hazel Robinson thought it would be a good idea if the alumni could continue to meet and discuss ways to give back to the Department. With key professors retiring and new professors not yet hired, there was a need for strong alumni to stand in the gap and provide needed support to the Department and its students.

On April 27, 2001, before the ODE Annual Spring Dinner-Lecture, Ms. Hazel Robinson and three alumni, Dr. Sandra Cooke, Dr. Gwendolyn Flowers, and Dr. Charles Thorpe met with then Department Chairman, Dr. Ransford Palmer at the Department of Economics to learn how he thought the alumni could best support the Department. Dr. Palmer provided a list of 9 –10 items in how we could support the Department.

HUEDAA Officers:

President- LTC Hazel Robinson
Vice President- Dr. Charles Thorpe
Acting Secretary- Dr. Sandra Cooke-Hull
Treasurer- Ms. Patricia Smith

HUEDAA goals are:

1. To provide career development advice and outreach to the Department.
2. Identify potential employment and internship opportunities for students.
3. Improve access to economic data and information for faculty and students.
4. Assist the Department in fundraising efforts.

HUEDAA is celebrating 25 years of providing advice and support to the HU Department of Economics! HUEDAA supports two endowed funds founded in memory of two of our beloved professors. Funds raised from this event will be donated to these two funds:

The Dr. Joseph R. Houchins Endowed Scholarship Fund

For almost 30 years, Dr. Joseph R. Houchins was one of the most affable and influential educators in the Department of Economics at Howard University. Even after his official retirement in 1985, Dr. Houchins remained on campus with “emeritus status” primarily to continue his cherished relationships with students and to participate in intellectual discourses of the Department. He continued in this capacity until his death in 1990, at age 89. His genuine interest in the welfare and success of each and every student he came in contact with was the principal basis for the establishment of a scholarship fund in his honor.

Dr. Jean Louis DuCarmel Bocage Endowed Loan Fund

Dr. Jean Louis DuCarmel Bocage (1923-2003) was a man of strong determination, unbending loyalty, and deep commitment to excellence. For more than 30 years, he dedicated his life to educating the students at Howard University. Among the many courses that he taught, Dr. Bocage is well known for teaching the “History of Economic Analysis” to graduate-level economics students. In gratitude to Howard University, the Bocage family established this fund in honor of their patriarch, Dr. Bocage.

OMICRON DELTA EPSILON (ODE)

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), one of the world's largest academic honor societies, was created in 1963 through the merger of two honor societies, Omicron Delta Gamma and Omicron Chi Epsilon. Omicron Delta Gamma (The Order of Artus) was founded in 1915 by John R. Commons, University of Wisconsin and Frank Taussig, Harvard University through the union of the economics societies of their Universities. The intent of the society is the recognition of scholastic achievement. It aims to foster the encouragement of a closer academic and social relationship between honor students and faculty on an informal basis, facilitating the exchange of information and views. The society published the journal, The American Economist, and sponsors panels at professional meetings and competitions. The Beta Chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon at Howard University was chartered in 1954.

ODE Committee, 2026-2028

President: Whitney Grant

Vice President: Risav Ganguly

Secretary: Vacant

Abram Harris Economic Society (AHES)

The Abram Harris Economics Society (AHES) is an undergraduate student organization that exists to connect Howard university scholars interested in economics with both academic and professional opportunities, while also educating the greater community on how the discipline affect their lives. Together, we aim to enable Howard students who are particular about economics to achieve their career and scholastic ambitions, while ensuring that all people, especially marginalized communities, attain economic freedom.

President: Karson Smith

Vice President: Audrey Nelson

Secretary: Leah Thompson

Alumni and Pre-Professional Director : Elise Garner

Public Events Director: Domenic Burrell

Graduate Student Economic Association (GSEA)

The Graduate Economics Student Association (GESA), established in the academic year 2019/2020, is an on-campus organization dedicated to mentoring and supporting students throughout their graduate economics programs(MA & PhD). GESA represents graduate students at both the departmental and graduate school levels, fostering academic and professional development. Its core objectives include providing mentorship, creating platforms for students to present their research and receive constructive feedback, and strengthening engagement between students and faculty. All graduate economics students are automatically members, ensuring an inclusive and collaborative environment. The inaugural executive team included Lucombo Luveia (President), Bethel Cole (Vice-President), Jeffrey Galloway (Treasurer), James Flowers (Secretary), Nyanya Browne (1st Social Chair), Whitney Brown (2nd Social Chair), and David Dongo (Faculty Liaison). Through its initiatives, GESA enhances the academic and professional growth of its members.

President: David Ndolo

Vice President: Subodh Paney

Secretary: Tewedros Gutema

Treasurer: Jones Paintsil

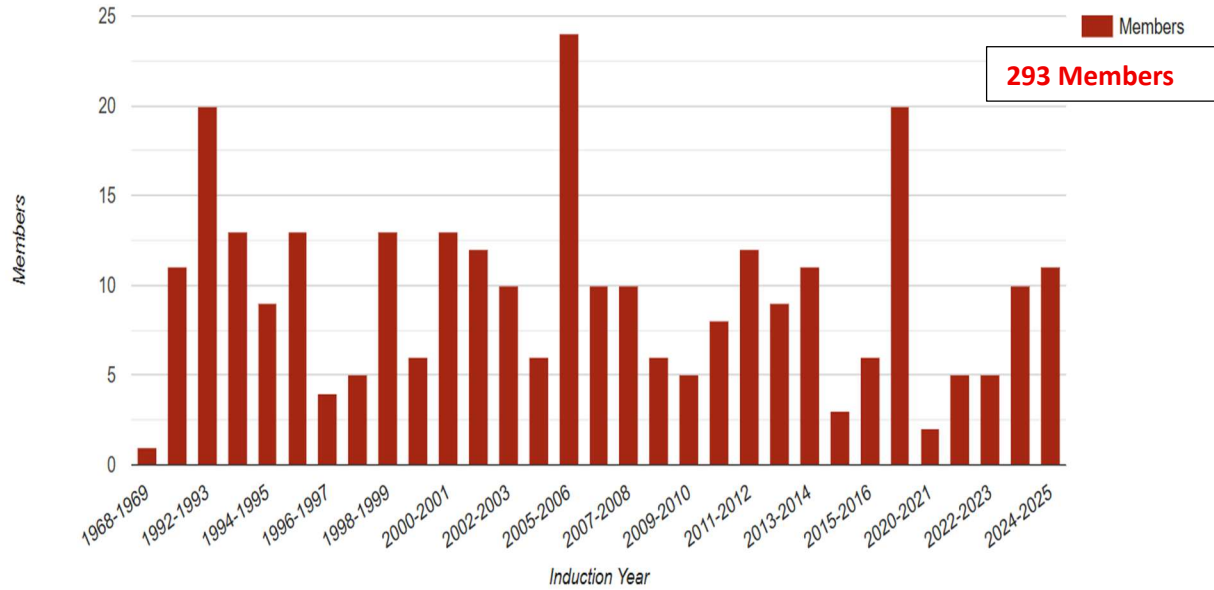


A Working Holiday Party in 2002- From HUEDAA's Archives



Holiday Photo in December 2018: HUEDAA with Chairman Swinton and students

ODE Beta Chapter, Howard University



The Andrew Brimmer Undergraduate Essay Prize

2025 Award Winner



“The Suppressed Counter-Narrative: From Du Bois’s 1901 Economic Indictment to Modern Reparations”

Risav Ganguly, Howard University

AEA Distinguished Service Award

The AEA Distinguished Service Award recognizes the volunteer efforts of individuals who have served the profession. This service may have been under the auspices of the AEA, but this is not required.

The award winner will be recognized annually at the ASSA meetings. Travel expenses to the meetings, up to \$2,000, will be reimbursed.

2025 Award Winner



Elizabeth Asiedu, Howard University

(receiving award from AEA President-elect, Katharine Abraham)

Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu of Howard University is the 2025 recipient of the AEA Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Asiedu is a development economist whose widely cited research at the intersection of policy, institutional quality, and economic growth on the African continent has informed policy on sustainable economic practices. She has also advised several international organizations, including the World Bank and the African Center for Economic Transformation. Dr. Asiedu received her BS in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1988, an MS in Mathematics from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign in 1992, and her PhD in Economics also from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign in 1998. Dr. Asiedu began her academic career at the University of Kansas before moving to Howard University in 2021.

Thank You!