

Chera Jo Chassati Watts

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EDUCATION

- MA in Religious Studies, Graduate Certificate in African American Studies (intended 2022), University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- BS in Psychology, Cum Laude (2010), University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

CURRENT POSITIONS

- Academic Advisor in Residence, Franklin Residential College, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, Fall 2017-Present.
- Graduate Research Assistant, Institute for African American Studies, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, Fall 2019-Present.
- Executive Associate for Digital Services, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, February 2020-Present.

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Office of Sustainability Grant Sponsor, Franklin Residential College Community Garden Pilot Program, \$3000, Spring 2021.
- Black Lives Matter in the Time of COVID Book Club, Franklin Residential College, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR), Virtual Conference hosted by University of Florida, Presentation intended March 2021.
- Ongoing: African American Womanist Thought & Practice (focusing on Alice Walker); Black Buddhists & Practice in America; *Reading Between the Times: Meditations on Mutual (Re)Creation Between James Baldwin and Toni Morrison in the 1970s*, co-authored with Chanara Andrews.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION

- Black Lives Matter in the Time of COVID Book Club, Franklin Residential College, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR), Virtual Conference hosted by University of Florida, Presentation intended March 2021.
- Panelist, Concerning the Work of Toni Morrison, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Conference in Athens, GA, February 2020.
- Panelist, First-Generation Students & Practitioners, University of Georgia Academic Advising Coordinating Council Brown Bag Luncheon Series, February 2020.
- Panelist, Experienced Academic Advisors, University of Georgia Academic Advising Coordinating Council Conference, December 2019.
- Experiential Learning: The Undergraduate Research Experience, co-presented with Dr. Mark Farmer from Department of Cellular Biology, University of Georgia Academic Advising Coordinating Council Conference, November 2015.
- Attendee, Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Conference, Athens, GA, February 2020.
- Attendee, Women and Girls in Georgia Conference, Athens, GA, October 2019.
- Attendee, National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) National Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 2016.
- Attendee, Student Affairs Professional Enrichment Conference, Athens, GA, September 2015.
- Attendee, Best Practices in Academic Advising Conference, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA, June 2015.

SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, & HONORS

- Office of Sustainability Grant Sponsor, Franklin Residential College Community Garden Pilot Program, \$3000, Spring 2021.
- Institute for African American Studies Graduate Student Assistantship, Fall 2019-Present.
- University of Georgia Oxford Program Summer Graduate Student Assistantship, 2020 & 2021.
- University of Georgia Career Center Acknowledgement for Contributing Greatly to Student Success, 2015-2020.
- Division of Academic Enhancement Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Award Nominee, 2018.
- TRiO/McNair Student Support Services “Beyond the Call of Duty” Award, 2019.
- University of Georgia Academic Advisor of the Year Nominee, 2016, 2017, & 2018.
- University of Georgia Costa Rica Academic Advisor Trip Award Winner, 2015.
- University of Georgia Training and Development Diversity & Inclusion Certificate, 2014.
- University of Georgia Training and Development Certificate in Academic Advising, 2014.
- Undergraduate: HOPE Scholarship Recipient, Academic Competitiveness Grant, Dean’s List, Georgia Governor’s Scholarship, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, Georgia Power Scholarship, 2007-2010.
- Pepperell High School Valedictorian, 2007.

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS OR ACADEMIC ADVISORS

- Black Lives Matter Book Club for Franklin Residential College students, University of Georgia, Fall 2020.
- “In the Know: Preparing for your Academic Advising Appointment” Presentation for Need-Based Scholarship Recipients, University of Georgia, 2018.
- Coca-Cola First-Generation Scholars Presentation, University of Georgia, 2017.
- “50 Things to Do with a Science Degree” Collaborative Presentation with Career Center, University of Georgia, 2015-2018.
- New Departmental Advisor Training Sessions, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, University of Georgia, 2015-2016.
- “Finding Undergraduate Research” Interactive Workshops for Students, University of Georgia, 2016-2018.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Coordinator of Scholars Initiatives in the Division of Academic Enhancement, University of Georgia, 2018-2019.
- University of Georgia Academic Advising Coordinating Council Conference Planning Committee, 2017.
- Academic Advisor in the Franklin College Graduation Certification Office, University of Georgia, 2016-2018.
- Academic Advisor in the Division of Biological Sciences, University of Georgia, 2014-2016.

RECENT COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery (local African American cemetery) clean-up, Fall 2017-Present.
- Hog Hammock Community Service Trip at Sapelo Island, Georgia, Fall Breaks 2018 & 2019.
- Kindermarket Community Bi-annual Sale at Athens YMCA, Fall 2015-Present.
- Athens Area Humane Society, Fall 2018-Spring 2020.
- Northeast Georgia Food Bank, Fall 2018-Spring 2020.
- Sweet Olive Farm Service, Fall 2018-Spring 2020.
- University of Georgia Campus Trash Clean-up, Fall 2017-Present.