



BIOGRAPHY OF JIM C. HARPER, II

Driven by his desire to teach and inspire, Mount Olive, North Carolina native, Jim C. Harper, II, has spent over two decades sharing the knowledge needed to grow and succeed through lessons of the past. Dr. Harper is married to Rosalind and they have two children, Antonio and Kamaria. After his service in the United States Marine Corps, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree from North Carolina Central University. He completed his requirements for a doctoral degree in African History, with a minor in United States and Public History at Howard University in May 2004. Upon the completion of his doctoral degree he received a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor with North Carolina Central University in the fall of 2004. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2007. Prior to his current role as Department Chair with North Carolina Central University's Department of History, Dr. Harper at one time served as the University's Interim Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Harper is a member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society as well as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He is an active member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) where he served as the National Vice President for Programs (2016-2018). He has presented papers and taken part on panels at ASALH, the Helen G. Edmonds Lyceum, Duke University, and the Phoenix Society for African American Research.

Dr. Harper's research interests include connections between Africans and African Americans during the 19th and 20th centuries and African students in the United States. He received an internship awarded by the Department of State to serve in the Political section of the United States Embassy in Kenya where he conducted research on *Western-Educated Kenyan Elites*. In 2006 he published his book entitled *Western Educated Elites in Kenya, 1900-1963: The African American Factor* with Routledge. He also served as the lead editor of *Topics in the African Diaspora* (2016). He has published three book chapters and three peer-reviewed articles. In addition, he has created several Public History projects and produced three mini documentaries. He is currently working with a team of historians on the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

With the understanding that the most essential product of North Carolina Central University are its graduates and that their impact on the local, state, and global communities, Dr. Harper advises students within the department of History. He also served as an advisor to the C.A. Jones History Club, NAACP, North Carolina Central University Student Think Tank, and the Council of Legal Educational Opportunity (CLEO). In addition, Dr. Harper also serves on several university committees including the **Men's Achievement Center/African American Male Initiative, Advisory Board Member, University Summer School Strategic Planning Committee, Military/Veteran Strategic Planning Committee**, and the Faculty Senate. His community service includes, but is not limited to, coordinating the community mobile market activities, mentoring high school students and making History presentations at local schools and historical societies.

In 2014, Dr. Harper received the highest teaching award the University of North Carolina Board of Governors recognizes, the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Harper also received the North Carolina Central University Excellence in Teaching Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Research Award in the Department of History. He was also listed as one of the Outstanding Faculty members under 40 at North Carolina Central University and recognized as one of NCCU's Best Teachers in the campus newspaper, the *Campus Echo*. In 2010 was named as the Spectacular Man of the Year in Education. He received 2012 Chairman's Choice Letitia Woods Brown Article Award from the Association of Black Women Historians and he was appointed as the Chair of the Wesley-Logan Prize Committee for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

As an active member of the Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. located in Durham, NC where he was elected as Chapter Basileus. Prior to being elected as Basileus he served as 1st Vice Basileus and chair of the Achievement Week Committee. He served as the District Marshal, District Keeper of Records and Seal and Assistant Keeper of Records and Seal for the Sixth District (North and South Carolina). He also served as Chair of the Undergraduate Advisors Committee in the Sixth District and at the International level of the fraternity he serves as co-chair International History Book Committee and the Undergraduate Advisors Committee. He served as chapter adviser for the Tau Psi Chapter at North Carolina Central University (2001-2015). He has received several awards for his service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. including Superior Service Award (2007), Omega Man of the Year for Beta Phi chapter (2008) and Omega Man of the Year for the Sixth District (2009). In addition, he was the 2010 was recognized as the Spectacular Man of the Year in Education.

Dr. Harper is committed to mentoring young men both at the university and in the greater Durham community. No matter the outlet he uses, his hope is that every student can find confidence in their abilities. At the same time and while finding inspiration from an Aristotle quote, he helps students to realize that "excellence is not an act, but rather a lifelong habit" that should be used in accomplishing all of their goals.