



**Minorities and Women with AutoImmune Disease
MWAID HELP Lupus Awareness Foundation
National Head Quarters**

April 20, 2021

Dr. George T. French, President
Board of Trustees
Clark Atlanta University and the Board of Trustees
223 James P. Brawley Drive
S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Dear President French and Members of the Board of Trustees:

I am a proud 1991 graduate of the Department of Political Science Doctoral Program under the leadership of Dr. Mack H. Jones. I write this letter in support of efforts to name the department after Professor Jones. This action is appropriate and long overdue. The doctoral program created under his leadership produced a world renowned, rigorous curriculum focused on the experience of blacks in America and in the African diaspora. Dr. Jones brought together a unique, talented, and committed faculty to implement his vision for the program. Dr. Jones' leadership, mentorship and dedication produced a department which provided the knowledge and skills students needed to conduct scholarly research and obtain successful careers in the profession of political science. Dr. Jones encouraged his students to focus their research on finding solutions to problems resulting from systematic racial oppression. This is a road less traveled by mainstream graduates of political science programs across the nation.

The academic environment and curriculum of the department exposed students to the work of Dr. Jones. In my opinion, his scholarship helped activists direct political and social movements in a progressive direction. Dr. Jones taught us about this important role by connecting the past with present, promoting critical analysis, and thinking about the challenges facing those who want to bring about a better society and make democracy real. Dr. Jones' work continues to make major contributions by exploring the relationships between scholarship, activism, and social change. Graduates of the department have been able to use their newfound skills to add to the work of Dr. Mack Jones, first articulated in his widely discussed journal article, "White Custodians of the Black Experience" and in his groundbreaking book, Knowledge, Power and Black Politics.

Following his leadership, mentorship, and guidance I was able to publish a textbook used in "Introduction to American Government classes at many universities in the Southeast and publish articles providing analysis of American Government and its role in sustaining the oppression of black people in America. The training I received in the department of political science and my work helped to fill gaps resulting from "Missing Pages of the Civil Rights Movement." There are so many stories to be told and documented. My training from the department also helped me to conduct research examining the role of "Ideological Conflict in the Trajectory of the "Civil Rights Movement." While many scholars suggest the main reasons for the decline of the Civil Rights Movement of 1960s and 1970s were repression and cooptation, my

research suggests ideological conflict was one of the key factors responsible for the decline. For current social movements to avoid making the same mistakes repeatedly, leaders and activists can consider a body of knowledge created by Dr. Jones and his students. In many circles, the scholarship produced by graduates of the department has come to be known as the Atlanta University School of Political Science. Dr. Mack H. Jones' influence is fundamental to this work and I am certain it will continue to make a major difference in the direction of future progressive social movements.

Thanks to Dr. Jones' mentorship and contacts, I was able to obtain my first internship in Atlanta in the Mayor's Office of Research in Mayor Maynard Jackson's second administration. Dr. Jones also provided the support I needed to obtain an internship at Georgia State University. This internship continued over a two-year period and helped finance the completion of my doctoral degree.

The Department of Political Science under the leadership of Dr. Jones is very much responsible for my successful career as a professor, administrator, and researcher. Thanks to the knowledge, skills, and credentials, I gained from the department of political science, my professional career included teaching positions at Spellman College, Georgia State University, Georgia Technical State University, South Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University. During this period, I was also able to serve as Chair of the Department of Political Science and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University. I also served as the Vice President of Canvas Studios. This company produced the documentary "Walls That Bleed: The Story of the Dudley/ A&T Student Revolt of May 1969." After my teaching career, I served as Research of Associate for the black activist organization, *Beloved Community Center* of Greensboro, NC. Currently I serve as Vice President for Research and Operations for the non-profit *Minorities & Women with Autoimmune Disease* (MWAID) of Houston, Texas.

Lastly, Dr. Jones played a major role in laying the foundation for his students to carry on the legacy of the department of political science. I have tried to carry on his work by helping a younger generation of students become scholars, professors, government administrators, lawyers, and judges. I cannot think of a better way to pay tribute to the legacy of Dr. Mack H. Jones than to name the department of political science in his honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claude W. Barnes, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claude W. Barnes, Ph.D. (Class of 1991)
Vice President of Research and Operations

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