



CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science

May 5, 2021

Dr. George T. French, President
Clark Atlanta University

Members of the Clark Atlanta University
Board of Trustees

Dear Dr. President French and Members of the Board,

I have the distinct honor of producing the last doctoral dissertation that was chaired by Dr. Mack Henry Jones. I will frame my comments in support of naming the Clark Atlanta University Department of Political Science after Dr. Jones around my journey to and since that point.

In January of, 1992, I enrolled in CAU's African & African American Studies Program with the intent of studying Black political history under the tutelage of the late Dr. Carolyn Fowler. Recognizing my political interests, Dr. Fowler encouraged me to take political science courses then taught by Dr. William Boone and Dr. Hashim Gibrill. Accordingly, I enrolled in several political science courses, attended the weekly Political Science Seminars, and ultimately joined the doctoral program in 1994.

This was my first introduction to Mack H. Jones and his contributions to the Department's epistemological and methodological groundings and its international and Pan-Africanist scope. Shortly after joining the Department, I learned of Dr. Jones's pioneering role as founding president of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) and his critical analysis, "NCOBPS: Twenty Years Later." Shortly thereafter, Dr. Gibrill's required course readings included Jones's seminal statement, "Responsibility of Black Political Scientists to the Black Community." This essay immediately shaped the theoretical and practical dimensions of Black political science in my own scholarship. Thus, digesting Dr. Jones's writings, enrolling in his *African American Political Thought* course (and other courses taught by his former students), and experiencing his guidance as my dissertation committee chair were life-defining experiences. I say without hesitation, Dr. Mack Henry Jones left an indelible imprint on my life's work, my scholarship, and my commitment to CAU.

Today, Mack remains my mentor and close friend. My current post as chair of the Department of Political Science, a tradition I have inherited from Dr. Jones and share with previous chairs who were among his former students, is a responsibility that I now carry with the highest honor at my disposal. I am proud to be a part of this effort to recognize his tremendous place in the Atlanta University/Clark Atlanta University tradition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. B. Young'.

Kurt B. Young, Ph.D., Chair
Department of Political Science

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Formed in 1988 by the consolidation of Atlanta University, 1865, and Clark College, 1869