

CAUSES Faculty and Program Staff Profiles

Dean of CAUSES and Landgrant Programs



Dr. Sabine O'Hara is Dean of CAUSES and Landgrant Programs. As Dean of CAUSES, she is responsible for academic, research and community outreach programs in the tradition of the landgrant university, and is leading UDC's efforts to building a cutting edge model for Urban Agriculture that improves the quality of life and economic opportunity for urban populations. O'Hara is a respected author, researcher and higher education executive and is well known for her expertise in global education, executive leadership, sustainable economic development, community based approaches to economic development, ecological and agricultural economics, stakeholder based assessment, discourse based valuation, economic development and its social/cultural and environmental context. Experienced in sustainable economic development, global education and executive leadership, she has experience in virtually every aspect of higher education administration including curriculum development, strategic planning, program accreditation, international partnerships and research collaborations. A strong advocate of higher education, O'Hara believes that education cannot merely provide answers to our questions, but must also question our answers.

Dr. O'Hara was the founder of Global Ecology LLC, the 10th President of Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, and held faculty and administrative positions at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and as Executive Director of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) a preeminent international exchange organization that administers the Fulbright Scholar Program. A native of Germany, O'Hara earned a doctorate in environmental economics and a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Göttingen, Germany. She is the president of the International Society for Ecological Economics, serves on the board of directors of several national and international organizations and is an International Advisory Board member of King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah, and serves as reviewer and editorial board member of several academic journals.

For a full CV of Dr. O'Hara and her publications and accomplishments, [click here](#).

Associate Dean of Landgrant Programs



William Hare serves as the Associate Dean for Landgrant Programs. He is a research/extension scientist and grant administrator with over 15 years of excellent leadership, management and landgrant University experience in the specialty areas of Soil Nutrients and Water Resources Management, he served as Director of the DC Water Resources Research Institute for over 12 years and also as Associate Dean/Director of the Cooperative Extension Service in the Community Outreach and Extension Service for close to ten years. Associate Dean Hare has taught Chemical Analysis for Water Quality I & II, Wastewater Management, and Integrated Sciences and Agroecology in the College. He served a four-year term representing the Northeast Region Extension Directors to the National Extension Board call Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP), and Chaired ECOP's Personnel Subcommittee. He currently represents the NE Region Extension Directors on The National 4-H Council Board of Trustees and the Northeast Aquaculture Center Board of Directors. His research interests include enhancing water and nutrient use efficiency of ethnic and specialty crops as alternative niche crops to tobacco for small and minority farmers. William is a Fulbright Scholar, with MSc. in Soil Science from at Purdue University and post graduate studies at the University of Kentucky, Ph.D.



Elgloria Harrison is the Associate Dean of CAUSES. Dr. Harrison is responsible for promoting climate change research initiatives within CAUSES. Currently, Dr. Harrison supports the coordination of the CAUSES academic programs. Dr. Harrison is the former chair of the District of Columbia Board of Respiratory Care which oversees the practice of Respiratory Therapists in the District of Columbia. She was a Research Infrastructure in Minority Institution Scholar under Dr. Connie M. Webster in 2006 where she was the subject matter expert on two asthma research grants. Dr. Harrison teaches the Frontier Capstone Courses in the Interdisciplinary General Education curriculum with a focus on urban sustainability. She received a Doctor of Management degree from the University of Maryland, University College. Dr. Harrison is a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability



Susan Schaefer Kliman, Ph.D., AIA, is the Chair of the Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability and Director of the University's Architecture and Community Planning Program. Dr. Kliman is leading the department's NAAB accreditation efforts and oversees the academic programs associated with the graduate and undergraduate programs in Architecture and Community Planning, Dr. Kliman and collaborates closely with the Architectural Research Institute to ensure the successful implementation of UDC's strategic objectives in experiential and active learning. She is an experienced architect, educator and firm principal, with over 25 years industry experience, including more than 20 years as firm principal, overseeing firm financial operations, strategic planning, marketing, personnel, and managing complex architectural projects. She has taught a variety of courses, including design studio, professional ethics and practice, construction systems and internship, at both UDC and the University of Arizona. Her expertise includes sustainability and high performance architecture, urban heat island effect, quantitative methods/analysis and research methodologies. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.



Ralph Belton, RA, CSI, NOMA, ASEE, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Architecture and Community Planning. With over 34 years of experience, Belton is Principal of Belton and Associates, Consulting Architects and since 1983 is licensed to practice in the state of Maryland. Past projects include the Whitelaw Hotel historic preservation rehabilitation; military facility laboratory design; churches and Board of Zoning appeals in the District of Columbia; Architectural advisor/consultant to the Embassy of Grenada and a consultant with the Architectural Research Institute. He served on the Mayor's Commission for Caribbean Affairs and is a founding member of Friends of Grenada, a 501 -c-3 organization. Mr. Belton serves President of Community Empowerment Network, an organization whose goal is self-empowerment of the Haitian people. Academic credentials include a conference presentation "The Role of Current Events and Flexible Course Syllabi: A Case Study." Belton conducted student study tours to Europe and Japan and personal study/tour of Romania – Wooden Gothic Churches of Romania. Prof. Belton holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Howard University.



Genell Anderson, AIA, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban Architecture and Community Planning. She has extensive knowledge of the design and architecture of buildings and public facilities in the Washington, D.C. - Baltimore Metropolitan Area and is an expert in the use of the DC Code for building compliance. Professor Anderson is a Certified Third Party Inspector for the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and serves on the DC Advisory Board for Third Party Inspectors. Publisher, "Ancestors, Influence of African Architecture on American Architecture, 1986." Professor Anderson is a recipient of the Mayor's 2006 Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. Ms. Anderson holds a Master of Architecture degree from Tulane University. Prof. Anderson is a registered architect in Maryland and Washington, D.C.



Kathy Denise Dixon, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Architecture and Community Planning and licensed architect with over 20 years of experience. During her career, Kathy has worked on a number of educational facilities in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. She spent several years working on national contracts with the Federal Aviation Administration including Potomac TRACON and several Air Traffic Control facilities. Prior to moving to government and institutional projects, she worked four years with McDonald's Corporation developing new restaurants, site planning, designing commercial kitchens, and creating child oriented play areas. Most recently, she has designed civic facilities and faith-based institutions including fire stations, churches, family life centers, and schools. Prof. Dixon holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning, with a focus on Housing and Community Development. She is certified by the USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design Program the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, as well as CSI's Certified Documents Technologist program.



Clarence Pearson, Jr., FAIA, NOMA, is a Distinguished Professor with over 40 years' experience in construction and investment in real estate property. He is the Founder and current Director of the Architectural Research Institute, the clinical arm of UDC's the architectural education program. Mr. Pearson also serves as the College's academic Graduate program director for the Department of Architecture and Community Planning, having chaired the department for 18 years. He has extensive experience in the design and management of residential, commercial, civil and institutional structures. Elevated to Distinguished Professor for his years of service to UDC; was elevated to a Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture for his extensive work in education in 2005; and is the recipient of the Paul Phillips Cooke Award for Lifetime Achievement. Mr. Pearson holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Catholic University.

James Killeto, Adjunct Professor
Dr. Tolessa Deksissa
Dr. Dwane Jones
Matthew Gardine
Dr. Ashley Milton
Caroline Howe
Dr. Xiaochu Hu
Dr. Kamran Zendeheel
Dr. Matthew Richardson

Department of Health, Nursing and Nutrition



Dr. William Pewen is joining us as Visiting Associate Professor of Health Education and Chair of the Department of Health, Nursing and Nutrition. He served most recently as Director of the Graduate Program in Public Health and Associate Dean of Research in the College of Health Professions at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Dr. Pewen is no stranger to Washington DC. He was Senior Health Policy Advisor to Senator Olympia J. Snowe, and primary health staff liaison to the Senate Finance Committee. His research and publication record includes work on public health policy, HIV AIDS, and the effect of exercise on patients with chronic atrial fibrillation. Dr. Pewen designed and taught courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, health law and ethics, health policy, infectious disease control and research methods. He received a Ph.D. in Infectious Disease and Microbiology, and a MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh; and a B.S. in Health Education from Southern Oregon University.



Dr. Pier Broadnax, Ph.D., RN, is an Associate Professor and the Director of the RN to BS in Nursing program. She was formerly the Chairperson of the Undergraduate Nursing Program at Howard University and held a courtesy appointment at Yale University and as a Visiting Researcher at the Catholic University of Chile, School of Nursing, Santiago, Chile. She has also held positions in the public and private sector settings as a Healthcare Administrator. She was a Charter Member of the Mayor's Health Policy Council for the District of Columbia. She serves as co-lead of the District of Columbia Action Coalition, Future of Nursing-Campaign for Action sponsored by AARP and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Broadnax has also served as a consultant in international leadership development. She coordinated an international research project in Santiago, Chile on breast cancer knowledge of Chilean women. Her areas of research, in addition to leadership development, include breast cancer in minority women and childhood obesity. She developed a leadership development model which was funded by the American Nurses Foundation to support the leadership development of baccalaureate nursing students. She was named the 2016 Black Nurse of the Year by the Black Nurses Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area. Dr. Broadnax holds a Ph.D. in Nursing with an emphasis on Health Policy Development from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.



Elmira Asongwed, MS, RN, CNE, is an Associate Professor and Community Health Nursing specialist in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. She has worked in clinical settings and educational institutions since 1965 in acute, extended, employee, and home health care in public and private agencies in several states and in Cameroon, Africa. Professor Asongwed has taught various levels of nursing from home health aides, undergraduate, and graduate nursing students through doctoral nursing student consultation. She has multiple local, national and international committee memberships and held several past offices. Her research interests include secondary prevention with ankle brachial index measurements to identify peripheral artery disease and evidence-based education interventions for adult learners. She holds a Master of Science in community health nursing/education from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She is credentialed as a Certified Nurse Educator from the National League for Nursing.



Anne Marie Jean -Baptiste, MSN, RN, CCRN, CEN, is an Assistant Professor in the Bachelor of Science Nursing Program in the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia. Professor Jean-Baptiste has expertise in critical care and adult emergency nursing. Prior to joining CAUSES, Professor Jean-Baptiste was an adjunct faculty member at the Montgomery College School of Nursing in Silver Spring, Maryland. She is a doctoral student of Nursing at the University of Phoenix and holds master's degrees healthcare management and nursing science with emphasis on nursing education. She holds the following certifications: Online Teaching Certification; Critical Care Nursing, Certification in Emergency Nursing and advanced cardiovascular life support.



Dr. B. Michelle Harris is an Associate Professor in the Nutrition and Dietetics Program. Dr. Harris is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian whose focus is public health and community health through education, information, and research. Dr. Harris is a product of D.C. Public Schools and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Holy Cross College, a Master of Science in Nutrition from Framingham State College, and a Master of Public Health from Harvard. She earned her Ph.D. in Nutrition from the University of Maryland. She realized Pre-Professional Experiences (aka "Dietetic Internships) in Massachusetts at Boston City Hospital and Whittier Street Health Center. Courses that she has taught at the University of the District of Columbia are Introduction to Nutrition, Food Economics, Community Nutrition, Nutrition Education, Geriatric Nutrition, Nutrition in the Life Cycle, and Senior Research and Seminar.



Dr. Allison Miner is returning to the DC metro area from the University of Miami where she taught Integrative and Functional Medicine and Food Science, and served as Supervisor of Practice Experiences for graduate students in Nutrition, Health and Human Performance. Before moving to Florida, Allison was a tenured professor and course coordinator for Nutrition and Food Science at Prince George's Community College in Largo, MD. Dr. Miner developed and taught a wide range of nutrition and food science courses incl. food policy, utilization of nutrients, diet and disease nutrition through the lifecycle, food chemistry, local food production and distribution, food marketing and development, and food regulation and safety including courses for non-science majors. Allison also utilized informatics to assess student nutrition knowledge; managed teams of nutrition faculty in the development and dissemination of assessment tools, and analyzed assessment data to revise the curriculum to improve student learning outcomes. In addition, Allison developed "Nutrition Minute", a series of educational videos on nutrition topics for Prince George's County cable TV. Allison is a Registered Dietician and received an EdD from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD, a Master's of Science in International Nutrition, and a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Nancy Chapman has accepted a Visiting Faculty Appointment as Associate Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is a registered dietician who is well known in the District of Columbia and beyond for her expertise as a researcher, consultant, and student mentor. Nancy has more than twenty years of experience in various clinical, public health and community health settings including at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. For the past ten years, Nancy has served as Chair of the Advisory Committee for the UDC Nutrition and Dietetics program. Nancy has supervised practicum experiences for nutrition and dietetics students from UDC, George Washington University, Virginia Tech, Tufts University, the University of Texas, University of California, University of Tennessee, and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Her funded research and numerous publications have focused on wellness regulations for licensed child development facilities, healthy school meals, strategies to end childhood hunger, food labeling regulations, dietary guidelines, food safety initiatives, and training for faith-based leaders in preventive health practices and motivation to address chronic diseases. Nancy completed a MPH in Public Health Nutrition at the University of California at Berkeley, a RD Dietetic Internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and a BS in Foods & Nutrition at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Additional Faculty:

Barbara Harvey, Assistant Professor

1. Wilmer Johnson
2. Bessie Stockard
3. Nancy Chapman

CAUSES – Land-grant Centers

Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education



Mchezaji “Che” Axum is the Director of the Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education, where he leads a team of researchers at the Muirkirk Research Farm in Beltsville, Maryland, and oversees UDC’s Master Gardening, sustainable urban agriculture, and specialty and ethnic crops programs. He worked for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Plant Sciences Institute, for 20 years, taught middle school science, and has worked as a successful farmer and sustainable farming consultant. He is a graduate of the College of Agronomy, now named to the College of Natural Resource Management at the University of Maryland. Mr. Axum is also a certified nutrient management consultant for the state of Maryland. He is a member of the American Agronomy Society/ ASA, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America.



Dr. Matthew Richardson is the Assistant Director for Urban Agriculture Research, in the Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education. A native of Pennsylvania, he earned degrees in Biology and Entomology at the University of Delaware before completing his Master’s in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign (UIUC). Prior to joining CAUSES, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Crop Sciences at UIUC, a Research Entomologist with the USDA-ARS, and a Research Scientist with the Center for Conservation and Sustainability at the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Richardson’s main research interests lie in understanding plant-insect relationships in human-managed, disturbed, and restored habitats. His writings on science education and outreach appear in six peer-reviewed publications and he is frequently invited to speak in schools, universities, and conferences. His commitment to outreach was recognized with a President’s Volunteer Service Award and a USDA Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Service Award.



Sandra Farber Bandier is an Extension Agent, Green Roof Manager and DC Master Gardener Coordinator, where she focuses much of her attention on the Master Gardener Program that trains District of Columbia citizens to become resources in their communities for gardening expertise in an effort designed to educate the D.C. residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices to build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. Mrs. Bandier holds a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Maryland and a Certificate in Landscape Design from George Washington University. Mrs. Bandier was awarded the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award for Distinguished DC Government Employees in 2006.



Matthew Gardine has been promoted to Assistant Farm Manager of the UDC Firebird Farm and Urban Farm Initiatives. Matt joined us in 2015 as Project Assistant in the Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education. He is a skilled and passionate farmer who has overseen every task in the plant production cycle, from plant propagation, to cultivation, pest management, and harvesting. Many in the UDC community know Matt as the person behind the weekly deliveries of fresh vegetables through our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Before coming to UDC CAUSES Matt was a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal where he worked with cereal farmers. He received a Master of Science degree in Community Food and Agricultural Systems from Michigan State University, and a political science degree from Georgetown University.

Additional Staff

Roy Lycorish, Assistant Farm Manager

Center for 4-H and Youth Development



Rebecca Smoot Bankhead is the Director of the Center for 4-H and Youth Development. Mrs. Bankhead leads a dynamic team of extension staff in planning, coordinating and implementing the activities of an urban youth development program in the Nation's Capital. Her key areas of responsibility include program design, oversight, assessment and the coordination and integration of related 4-H programs in the CAUSES. Previously, Ms. Bankhead served as Director of a Rape Crisis Program; Child Care Center owner and operator; Child Abuse Investigator for the State of Maryland; and Counselor for single mothers in the District of Columbia through the Job Corps program. Mrs. Bankhead holds a Master's Degree in Counseling from the University of the District of Columbia.

Mustafaa Madyun



Diego Lahaye is an Extension Agent and Community Educator where he is responsible for starting 4-H clubs and activities in the District of Columbia, including: recruiting, training, supporting, and managing volunteers that work with the 4-H educational programs. He is also in charge of the 4 -H International Program. Diego Lahaye holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Media from the University of the District of Columbia.

Center for Sustainable Development



Dwane Jones, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development. He is a researcher and teaches courses in Urban Sustainability, Urban Design, Urban Planning Public Policy and Health, Research and Ethics and Low Impact Development. Dr. Jones is nationally recognized as an expert in Low Impact Development. His research interests include complete streets, active transportation, public health, and social interaction in public spaces. He has taught and conducted research in the areas of water quality management, urban planning and design, low impact development, conservation design, and urban sustainability. Dr. Jones received his Ph.D. in Urban Design from North Carolina State University.



Dr. Kamran Zendehelel is the Assistant Director of the Center for Sustainable Development. His research interests emphasize the application of community-based decision making in environmental sustainability. Prior to joining to UDC, he served as an Environmental Scientist at Tetra Tech Inc. in Fairfax, Virginia, where he managed the Chesapeake Bay non-point source pollution control project. As a Post-Doc Researcher at Social Science Research Unit in Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research in Merilbeke, Belgium, he focused on developing participatory decision making models for land use planners. He obtained his Ph.D. in Environmental Policy Making from Ghent University, Belgium. Prior to his Ph.D. study, he served as an expert in natural resources conservation for seven years in Iran. He received the Excellence award for Ph.D. in program evaluation and the Best Expert of the year 2000 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Iran.



Caroline Howe is an engineer, urban planner and entrepreneur, with experience working in sustainability in India, Latin America, Spain, South Africa and across the US. She helped start a solar lantern distribution business in India, a water filtration and distribution business in Nicaragua, and a food processing business in Virginia that turns agricultural seconds into prepared foods. She spent several years as a consultant with UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Health Organization and many local organizations. Caroline is passionate about empowering communities and young people to launch projects to solve their local challenges, including projects in green building design, environmental justice, school gardens, food access and water quality protection. Caroline holds a Masters in City Planning from MIT, with a focus on urban sustainability and systems engineering, and a Bachelors in environmental and mechanical engineering from Yale. She also spent a year at Madrid's technical university on a Fulbright researching waste systems and sustainable entrepreneurship. When not working on sustainability, Caroline performs improv comedy, spends lots of time outside biking and kayaking, dances salsa and loves cooking.



Xiaochu Hu, Ph.D. is a Project Specialist in Applied Economic Evaluation (Sustainability Economics) for the Center for Sustainable Development. Prior to joining CAUSES, Dr. Hu worked as a graduate research assistant for the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University for five years. Her research fields include economic development and immigration policy. She received the 2013 AEA-CSWEP Summer Economics Fellowship and the 2012-13 Philip Dearborn Doctoral Research Fellowship from the Economic Club of Washington, D.C. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University.

Dr. Ashley Milton is the Project Specialist for Environmental and Public Health in the Center for Sustainable Development. An environmental science and policy expert who conducts bi-continental collaborative research in forest ecosystems, Dr. Milton's research interests include valuation, benefit transfer, the ecology of deforestation and the links to human health, and conservation of biodiversity. Dr. Milton's international experience brings applied solutions to ecological health issues accomplished through trans-disciplinary teams, innovative research, scientific excellence, and long-term monitoring solutions. Her research has been instrumental in revealing the impact of food insecurity as a major driver of deforestation; and has identified economic mechanisms for valuating ecosystem services for the benefit of local communities under the UNREDD program. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science & Policy from George Mason University, Master's in Public Administration from American University and a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science from Florida A & M University.



Harris Trobman is Project Specialist for Green Infrastructure in the Center for Sustainable Development. He specializes in restoration of urban systems, with a particular interest on diverse and complex systems, and his skills include socially responsive design, community engagement, landscape architecture, urban design, and horticulture. His work investigates the adoption and impacts of green infrastructure and urban food systems to help to meet the unprecedented 21st century human health and natural resource challenges. Trobman was named one of only three prestigious National Olmsted Scholar Finalists by the Landscape Architecture Foundation and he and his teammates placed first in the 2014 EPA Rain-works Demonstration Project. He earned a Master's of Landscape Architecture from University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree in environmental design from Delaware Valley University.

Water Resources Research Institute and Environmental Quality Testing Lab



Tolessa Deksissa, Ph.D. is the Director of the Water Resources Research and the founder and current Director of the Professional Science Master's Program in Water Resources Management and the new UDC's Environmental Quality Testing Laboratory. His research expertise includes: water quality assessment and modeling, emerging contaminants, GIS based modeling of green infrastructure, trace metal analysis in urban soils, fate and transport of organic contaminants in water, modeling integrated urban wastewater system, adaptive water resources management and fostering significant learning in sciences. Dr. Deksissa serves as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Research and Outreach Collaborative Steering Committee and the emerging contaminant and agriculture working group of Potomac Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership. He is currently spearheads the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference Certification of the EQTL. Dr. Deksissa is also the co-founder of CAUSES. He earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Technology from Ghent University, Belgium.



Sebhat Tefera is a Project Specialist focusing on Analyses Chemical contaminants in water, soil and food for the Environmental Quality Testing Lab. Prior to his affiliation with, CAUSES he was employed as Adjunct Professor Mathematics and Science at the Community College of the District of Columbia for four years. For the past 20 years he worked with the Grocery Manufacturers Association. At the GMA, he had conducted research on different food products with the purpose of improving food quality and safety. He published research papers in peer-reviewed journals, on perchlorate analyses in drinking and ground water contaminants, vegetables, fruits and milk by Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry, sodium in low sodium food products by Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry, and detection of the adulteration of cereal flours with melamine and related triazine byproducts of ammeline, ammelide, and cyanuric acid by High- Performance Liquid Chromatography with Diode-

Array Detection. He received his MSc degree in Chemical Engineering from Warsaw University of Technology, Poland. Resources with emphasis on sustainable production from the University of California, Davis. He holds a Nutrient Management Consultant certificate from Maryland Department of Agriculture, and an Associate Soil Science Professional certificate from the Soil Science Society of America.

Center for Architecture Innovation and Building Science

Dr. Susan Schaefer Kliman
Dr. Dwane Jones

Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health



Lillie Monroe-Lord, PhD, RD, LD, is the Director of the Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health. Dr. Monroe-Lord has over 20 years of outstanding leadership, applied research and teaching experience at several universities and the private sector. She served as Acting Dean, assistant Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension Service in the former Community Outreach and Extension Service, now CAUSES. She has extensive experience as a Principal Investigator for many research and extension projects and is currently the PI for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Her research interests include Inner City Childhood Obesity Prevention, Food Security, Health Literacy, and Geriatrics. Dr. Monroe-Lord received her Ph.D. in Community Nutrition from Howard University. She is a registered dietitian and licensed in the District of Columbia. She has numerous certifications, including: Professional Food Manager, Cultural Foods, Adult Obesity and Weight Management and Childhood and Adolescent Obesity.



Mr. Gregory Cooper is a Program Coordinator with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), in the Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health, where he teaches and coordinates nutrition workshops in financially challenged areas throughout Washington, D.C. Prior to joining CAUSES, he worked with WIC, Early Head Start Program, INOVA, the Tigerlily Foundation, clinical nutrition and a number of organizations in Liberia, West Africa. He enjoys working with nutrition programs and is focused on alleviating poverty. He holds a bachelor's degree in Global Community Health and Nutrition from George Mason University.



Herbert Holden, better known as "Chef Herb," is an Extension Agent in the Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health. While working as a Head Start chef for three to five year olds, he realized there was a significant need for nutrition education in the community, particularly for young children. As a CNDH nutrition educator, he works in the DC public schools, child development centers, and faith-based organizations, introducing three to five year-olds to healthy eating, the U.S. dietary guidelines, and proper sanitation techniques. Chef Herb also works with parents of young children so they understand the importance of healthy eating for themselves and their children. He does outreach at local farmers markets, health fairs, and other community locations, where he conducts fresh food demonstrations and fruit and vegetable carvings to get children interested in eating healthier foods. He is a professionally trained chef.



Dr. Tia Jeffery is a Project Specialist and Community Educator in the Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health, where she plans, implements and evaluatez community nutrition education programs that address urban health disparities, positive youth development via nutrition education and fitness, and senior wellness in the District. Prior to joining CAUSES, she provided nutrition management for kidney dialysis at Fresenius Medical Care in California, medical nutrition therapy at Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland, and administered weight management and diabetes programs for Healing Our Village, Inc. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Dietetic Internship Certificate from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, a Master of Science in Human Nutrition (with a cognate

concentration in Exercise Science) from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in Public Health (with a specialization in Community Health Promotion and Education) from Walden University. Dr. Jeffery is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and Certified Health Education Specialist and an Adjunct Professor at Towson University.



Helen Naylor is a Program Coordinator for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -Education (SNAP- Ed) and a Certified Professional Food Manager in the Center for Nutrition, Diet, and Health. With a love for all things health and wellness, she empowers children, families, teachers and the community to make healthy food choices on a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles by providing nutrition education. She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees in Cell and Molecular Biology from Towson University and in Nutrition and Food Science from the University of the District of Columbia. Prior to her tenure at UDC, Helen worked as a Research Associate at a biotech research and development company in Rockville, Maryland. In continuing her path to becoming a registered dietitian and nutritionist, she plans to pursue her research interests in xenobiotic metabolism and nutrition education.

Additional Staff:

Paul Brown Jr., Food Safety Coordinator

Dorthea Simpkins, Project Assistant

Institute of Gerontology

Additional Staff:

James Lee, Volunteer Program Coordinator

Karen Richburg, Bodywise Instructor

Architecture Research Institute (ARI)



Clarence Pearson, Jr., FAIA, NOMA, is a Distinguished Professor with over 40 years' experience in construction and investment in real estate property. He is the Founder and current Director of the Architectural Research Institute, the clinical arm of UDC's the architectural education program. Mr. Pearson also serves as the College's academic Graduate program director for the Department of Architecture and Community Planning, having chaired the department for 18 years. He has extensive experience in the design and management of residential, commercial, civil and institutional structures. Elevated to Distinguished Professor for his years of service to UDC; was elevated to a Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture for his extensive work in education in 2005; and is the recipient of the Paul Phillips Cooke Award for Lifetime Achievement. Mr. Pearson holds a Master's Degree in Architecture from Catholic University.



Troy Gay, AIA, CEI, is the Senior Project Manager for the Architectural Research Institute. Mr. Gay has over 25 years of professional architectural and engineering experience, which includes project management, designing, production, inspecting, and consulting. He has designed and managed the development and construction of several commercial, multi-family and single-family residential projects, which have included office buildings, retail warehouses, shopping centers, automotive dealerships, fire stations, apartment properties, mixed-use facilities, and custom homes throughout the US and Canada. He earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree and an Associate's degree of Applied Science in Architectural Engineering Technology from the University of the District of the Columbia.

Additional Staff:

Dorven Dorta, Project Specialist/Construction Analyst

Charles Ford, Project Specialist/Mechanical Engineer

Fallon Johnson, Project Specialist/Construction Analyst

Juna Kharel, Project Specialist/Construction Analyst

James Killelte, Construction Analyst

Carson Mok, Construction Engineer
Mercedeli Mesa, Construction Analyst

Leroy Palmer, Project Specialist/Construction Analyst