

BRIAN CANADA

<https://academics.uscb.edu/computer-science-math/computer-science/faculty/brian-canada.html>



I am a Professor of Computational Science and Chair of the Department of Computer Science & Mathematics at the University of South Carolina Beaufort, where I have served as a faculty member since 2011. I'm a computational biologist by training; I hold a PhD in Integrative Biosciences with an option in Bioinformatics and Genomics as well as a graduate minor in Computational Science from Penn State University, where my dissertation focused on the automatic detection and characterization of morphological abnormalities in mutant zebrafish using machine learning and image processing. In addition, I hold a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, also from Penn State. Between my undergraduate and graduate years I worked as an engineer in the chemical process industry, chiefly for ExxonMobil.

My research has been published in various ACM and IEEE conference proceedings, the Springer journal *Multimedia Tools & Applications*, the Wolters Kluwer Arbitration Blog, as well as a major book chapter on crustacean biodiversity from Oxford University Press. In addition, I am the creator of the award-winning South Carolina folklore-themed indie video game *Bugs 'N Boo Hags*, which was successfully funded via Kickstarter in 2019, is currently available for Windows PCs on Steam Early Access, and is presently being reworked as a deluxe edition for mobile devices.

At USCB, I presently teach a number of undergraduate, graduate, and interdisciplinary courses related to object-oriented programming in Java, the digital humanities, full-stack software engineering and testing, agile practices in video game production, and high-performance computing.

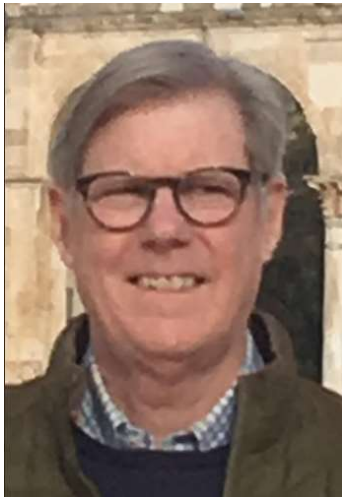
GRACE CORDIAL



Grace Cordial has been responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Beaufort District Collection, the special collections library and archives unit of the Beaufort County Library, since February 1999. The Beaufort District Collection exists to acquire, preserve, maintain and make accessible a research collection of permanent value which records the history, culture, people, places, themes and past events in Beaufort, Hampton, and Jasper counties, South Carolina. Cordial manages the BDC Research Room, eight digital collections, and the collection's social media pages on Facebook, Blogger and WordPress. She also coordinates programs on topics of local history and instructional sessions about how to perform historical and/or genealogical research relating to Lowcountry South Carolina for the Library system.

<https://bdcbl.wordpress.com/author/gracecordial/>

GEORGE B. "BARNEY" FORSYTHE



George B. "Barney" Forsythe, Ph.D., BG, US Army (retired)

Barney is a retired Army officer with extensive experience in leadership development and education. He holds a BS degree from the United States Military Academy and a MACT and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During his thirty-five years of military service, he spent over two decades as a professor of psychology and leadership and senior administrator at the US Military Academy, West Point. After his military career, he served as the President of Westminster College in Missouri before retiring to Beaufort, South Carolina. His academic research and scholarly publications have focused on leader development and education in the professions; he has consulted nationally and internationally on these topics. He is currently a faculty member with Thayer Leadership, which conducts corporate leadership training. He and his wife, Jane, have two grown children and three grandchildren.

JANE FREDERICK



Jane Frederick, FAIA, was the 96th President of The American Institute of Architects. She is a principal at Frederick + Frederick Architects, which received AIA South Carolina's 2017 Firm Award and Southern Living magazine's Best Renovation of 2009. The Beaufort, South Carolina, firm specializes in sustainable custom residences and has earned over 20 state and local design awards.

Jane has served AIA in many roles, including as South Atlantic regional representative on the Strategic Council, at-large director on the national Board of Directors, chair of the AIA Small Firm Round Table Executive Committee, president of AIA South Carolina, and a member of National Architectural Accrediting Board, accreditation teams. She has also chaired numerous local planning boards and currently serves on the Beaufort County Zoning Board of Appeals. Jane is a fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

DR. MARIE GIBBS



A native of St. Helena Island, Dr. Marie Gibbs is married to Stanley Wm. Gibbs. They are proud parents of two sons and two beautiful granddaughters. She currently lives on ancestral property that has been passed down from generations on St. Helena Island.

She is also actively involved in her Gullah community social justice projects and events. She currently serves as Vice President of the *Community Concerned Citizen* group on St. Helena Island and the Sea Islands. She is a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her family has attended for over 70 years. She has served as chair of the church monthly program committee.

Her formative education began on St. Helena Island, South Carolina. After graduation she attended Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina and graduated in three years. Her first teaching job was in her community at St. Helena Elementary School. Her quest for knowledge continued, she continued her educational journey and received a master's degree in Education from Cambridge College in 1995. While working and raising a family she earned her Doctorate Degree in education from Walden University in 2003.

She is a retired educator who has spent over thirty-four years teaching the children of St. Helena Island Community and Beaufort County, South Carolina. While teaching, she started the Jumpstart Program to better prepare parents to help their children with homework.

She has presented at Beaufort County School Summer Institute on, "Teaching Ideas and Strategies for Gullah Studies", Teacher of the Year at St. Helena Elementary School, Volunteers at Penn Center for many years and currently serves as Chairperson for the Heritage Days Celebration committee, presented for the Pat Conroy Literary Group, Beaufort Leadership classes, Agnes Scott College, and served as a panelist on the Beaufort County African American History Education Conference.

She currently uses her knowledge, experiences, and cultural roots in the York W. Bailey Museum at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, South Carolina as the Docent. She provides an educational experience of Penn Center's History and the Gullah people of the Sea Islands.

WILLIAM J. LOVE



William J. Love, Executive Director
Beaufort County Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Before moving to the Beaufort area, Bill was co-owner and Vice-President of Footprints Carolina, based in Gastonia, North Carolina. The agency served more than two thousand children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health issues. He retired from that position in 2007 and moved to Dataw Island.

However, that retirement lasted only a few months before he joined the staff of the Beaufort Marine Institute as clinical director. In 2008, he joined the staff of the Beaufort County Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) as director of the day program. Since 2017, he has served as the department's Executive Director.

Bill previously worked for thirty years in adult corrections and wrapped up that career as Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Throughout that same period, he also worked part time as a counselor with a juvenile justice program and as a mental health therapist with a voluntary agency. Bill is licensed as a National Board Certified Counselor and as a certified teacher.

Having earned a BA from York College of Pennsylvania, he obtained a Master of Education degree in Social Restoration from Lehigh University, where he was later recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus. He also completed the course work for a Ph.D. in Administration of Justice at Penn State University, while also teaching at the university.

Over the past fifteen years, Bill has played a key role in the growth of DSN. He served as a member of the team that created the new, state-of-the-art DSN Service and Administrative Center. The Adult Day Program has more than tripled in size. Employment opportunities for consumers have increased significantly. The respite/after school program was created to give families needed relief. Six additional residential facilities have been established, in addition to other increases in services for DSN clients. The agency has been recognized by the State as excellent and has been referenced as a model for other communities.

Bill is the proud father of two daughters and four grandchildren. His other interests include: physical fitness, international travel, prolific reading, and collecting art, in addition to taking weekly piano and Spanish lessons.

NAJMAH THOMAS



Najmah Thomas is a daughter of the Gullah Geechee community on St. Helena Island, SC – which is to say that she is a descendant of a long line of people who were committed to maintaining African cultural traditions while helping to form a more perfect union in the United States of America. It is her honor to carry their commitment forward. Najmah is the proud mother of one son, Paris DJ; she is deeply grateful for the sacrifices of her grandparents and parents, and for the blessings of four sisters and four brothers, a host of aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, dear friends, and her beloved life partner, Daryl Orage. All her accomplishments are possible because of this village of support. Najmah is a public policy and administration specialist by trade and training. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration from the L. Douglas Wilder School at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. She served in key leadership roles for local and state government agencies in Virginia and is currently a tenured associate professor of Human Services and African American Studies at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. Najmah recently authored a book in partnership with the Fred Washington, Sr. Woman's Relief Corps No. 1 of SC, titled "As We Remember: A History of the Woman's Relief Corps in Beaufort, SC". She is also a professional consultant for individuals and

organizations seeking to transform systems in South Carolina and beyond.

Najmah is thankful to be continuing the Gullah Geechee tradition of community education and micro-farming on St. Helena Island through Earth People® Farms. She feels blessed to be able to combine her

academic research and community engagement efforts with her passion for equitable and sustainable food systems. Some of her favorite words to live by come from renowned Kenyan professor and environmentalist Wangari Maathai – “I will be a hummingbird; I will do the best that I can.”

Learn more at www.najmahthomas.com

KRISTIN THOMAS



In January 2019, Kristin Williams took on the position of Executive Director at the Open Land Trust. She came to this role with a decade-long tenure as the Executive Director of Friends of the Environment, a conservation organization situated in Abaco, Bahamas. Hailing from the Bahamas herself, Kristin was drawn to the South Carolina coast when she pursued her education at the College of Charleston. There is a long-intertwined history between The Bahamas and the Carolinas dating back to the Revolutionary War, which is why Kristin feels very much at home in the Lowcountry. She and her husband live in Beaufort with their two children, Gray and Ford and dog Dino.