

ANNUAL REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24




LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

The Karson Institute
for Race, Peace & Social Justice

**MORE THAN READY.
LOYOLA READY.**



**BENDING TOWARD
SOCIAL JUSTICE**



We are the doing
the hard work today
for the world that
the children of our
children will live
in tomorrow.

Statement from the Executive Director

As we take a moment to reflect on the work that we have done for the past three years at the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice, I am reminded of the words of Francis of Assisi, who once wrote, “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” The work that we are doing to create spaces to explore and examine America’s most pressing questions around racial equity and social justice is necessary and our work, over the past three years, to center the Institute as the place to have these conversations is an impossible dream rendered possible. We have spent the past academic year finding, creating, and maintaining more moments to be brave enough to act, to speak, and to stand up for freedom, justice, and racial equity. We understand that the transformative work we are doing is not easy, but it is necessary. It is possible, and it is (quite possibly) the rent that we pay for being on this planet (to paraphrase Shirley Chisholm).

Our 2023-24 academic theme was *Loyola’s Peculiar Quilted Narratives*, and we spent the year exploring Loyola’s connection to slavery (in collaboration with Loyola’s Slavery Task Force) through our three Centers: the Center for Public Engagement, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Center for Research and Culture. The highlight of the year was that we were finally able to open the doors on the physical space! The Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice is now located on the second floor of the Loyola Notre Dame Library. Our mural was designed by local Baltimore artist Calvin Coleman and our collection includes an extensive collection of books about African American history, public health, and women’s studies; artwork donated by local artists and students; and, intentionally created

spaces to think and be in community. The two-day event opening had more than 250 guests from around the country coming in to celebrate with us.

As we move into the 2024-25 academic year, with the theme *Our Sankofa Moment: Looking Back to Look Forward*—where we will focus on the upcoming presidential election, the fourth anniversary of the Karson Institute, and the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act—I take the work of the Karson Institute, framed through the words of Francis of Assisi and Shirley Chisholm, as a challenge and a charge. I take seriously my/our commitment to making a space to explore and discuss race, peace, and social justice; to creating a space designed to push the boundaries of discussion and discovery; and to maintaining a space of inquiry, joy, and community. I am mature enough to know that changing the world will take some time, but I hold fast to the words of Dr. King, who once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others.’” I invite you to come to the Karson Institute to sit with us, to discover with us, and to dream with us. The work of the Karson Institute, as I said last year (and will continue to say until the work is done), is needed more now than ever and your ideas, your dreams, your contributions are needed as well. When you are ready, you can find us on the second floor of the library...we will leave the light on for you.

Bending Toward Social Justice,

Karsonya Whitehead

Karsonya “Kaye” Wise Whitehead, Ph.D.

Professor, Communication and African & African American Studies

Founding Executive Director, Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice

Karson Institute Steering Committee Members

The Steering Committee meets once a month to hear updates on what is new and exciting at the Karson Institute as well as the challenges we face. They offer their insights and wisdom as well as their time, talents, and resources to support the Karson Institute.

Steering Committee Members

Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.
Mark Conway, Baltimore City
Councilman, District 4
Afra Hersi, Ph.D.
Gregory Hoplamazian, Ph.D.
John Kiess, Ph.D.
Sydney Mueller, '04, MSW

Danielle O'Banion
Katy O'Neill, MBA, MLIS
Rodney Parker, MS '11, Ph.D. '17
Raven Williams, MS
Rita Buettner, MA '24

Staff

Brittany Daniels
Program Assistant
Randy Fulton, '24
Gabriel Gomez, '25
Ennis Hobdy, '23, MBA '24,
Graduate Fellow
Jajuan Lawson, '27
Sarah Naje
Junior Research Fellow

“ We carry
our history
with us.

*Llevamos
nuestra historia
con nosotros* ”

—JAMES BALDWIN



Center for Public Engagement

Launch of the Physical Space of the Karson Institute

On October 9, 2023, the Karson Institute opened its physical space on the second floor of the Loyola Notre Dame Library. Our mural was designed by local Baltimore artist Calvin Coleman and our collection includes an extensive collection of books about African American history, public health, and women's studies; artwork donated by local artists and students; and, intentionally created spaces to think and be in community. The event included live music, poetry from high school students, and over 250 guests from around the country, including Rev. Carson and Bonnie Wise (Whitehead's parents).

COMloquium Activities

For the 2023-24 academic year, the COMloquium series was replaced by the Enoch Pratt Writers' Lives Series where we invited Karson supporters to join Dr. Whitehead at the Pratt where she was in conversation with authors, politicians, actors, and musicians including Misty Copeland, Aaron Neville, Joy Reid, Questlove, Eve, Tamron Hall, Ali Velshi, Billy Dee Williams, and Nancy Pelosi.

Social Media

We continued to build on our social media engagement through X and Instagram by sharing a countdown to our opening, Black history and political facts, and tributes during Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Strands of Our Nation Podcast

Season three of our podcast series highlighted video projects written and edited by seventh-grade students at Roland Park Elementary Middle School, our 2023-24 Backpack Journalism co-hort.

Maryland Public Television

For a second year in a row, the Karson Institute partnered with Maryland Public Television to co-produce and host its yearly HBCU Week "State Circle" television show special.

May 3 National Day of Action

In partnership with the African American Policy Forum, the Karson Institute joined the Freedom to Learn coalition to host and co-produce the 2nd annual National Day of Action with rallies in Washington, D.C and New York City in defense of education, racial justice, and democratic values.



Center for Research and Culture

The Apprentice House

In a unique collaboration with the Apprentice House, the Karson Institute published the *Legacy of Action* book in 2023, and it recently received the 2024 Society of Professors of Education Outstanding Book Honorable Mention.

Legacy of Action celebrates the transformative nature of Geneva Gay's, Ph.D., work in multicultural education across disciplines, careers, classrooms, and communities. This book contains a preface, an introduction, and 10 essays about Dr. Geneva Gay's culturally responsive teaching framework. The authors in this edited volume write about how Dr. Gay's words have helped shape scholar identities, influenced educational thought and practice, and contributed to excellence in education. The book is edited by La Vonne I. Neal, Ph.D., Sarah Militz-Frielink, Ph.D., Maria T. Colompos-Tohtsonie, Ph.D., Regina A. Lewis, Ph.D., and Alicia L. Moore, Ph.D.

Campus Conversations

In partnership with Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J., the Karson Institute hosted monthly Stone Soup Conversations, a lunch time series focused on exploring diversity through books, articles, and films.

Loyola's Quilted Peculiar Narratives

After the release of Loyola's Slavery Task Force Report, the Karson Institute hosted an evening symposium to invite the Loyola and Baltimore City community to come together to explore Loyola's quilted and

complicated history with American slavery. The program included music, poetry, and a conversation between Loyola and Coppin State University professors.

Sellinger School of Business and Management

In year two of the Sellinger/Karson Institute Diversity Series, the daylong conversation explored the history of critical race theory and the impact on the fields of education, politics, and business.

Wilson Peace Symposium

The Karson Institute hosted its Third Annual Curt Wilson Peace Symposium with middle and high school students from Roland Park Elementary Middle School, Baltimore School for the Arts, and Arlington Baptist School. We also partnered with Messina to co-host Ella Baker Day, in conversation with Nadine Finnegan-Carr, Ph.D.

Research Fellows

The Karson's Senior Research Fellow was Dr. Loren Henderson, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Her research focused on investigating the lived experiences of Black farmers in the United States farming in the midst of systemic racism under COVID-19. The Junior Fellow was Sarah Naje, a sophomore nursing student at the Notre Dame of Maryland University. Her research focused on researching the racial disparities in patient care.



Center for Teaching and Learning

The Ida B. Wells Civic and Journalism Mini-Institute

Co-funded by PNC, the Karson Institute hosted year two of the Backpack Journalism program at Roland Park Elementary Middle School where 30 seventh-grade students learned how to write, direct, produce, and edit video projects that told stories about their communities through their eyes and experiences. The program also took them outside of Baltimore to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

Teacher Training

We completed year three of the culturally responsive teacher training program at City Neighbors High School. Year three focused on the second part of the Train-The-Trainer model where six teachers were trained as equity liaisons to continue the diversity work.

Conversations Across America Workshops

In collaboration with WEAA 88.9 FM's Today With Dr. Kaye radio show, Dr. Whitehead visited universities and high schools around the country hosting workshops and facilitating conversations about the state of race, peace, and social justice in America.





News and Announcements

Awards and Honors

- The Rev. John LaFarge, S.J. Award, Fairfield University
- Social Impact Award, the National Pan-Hellenic Council
- Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Three Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association Awards

Karson Institute in the News

- Karson Institute to Host “Loyola’s Quilted Peculiar Narrative” for Black History Month via citybiz
- Loyola University Maryland’s Karson Institute opens new physical space via Maryland Independent College and University Association
- Grand opening of Karson Institute’s new space at Loyola University: Advancing race, peace, and social justice via Afro
- On the Karson Institute’s Back Pack Journalism Program via Baltimore City Public Schools
- The Karson Institute Launches their 2022-23 Annual Report
- Karson Institute sparks conversations and action toward justice via Loyola Magazine
- Karson Institute to host the Second Annual Wilson Peace Symposium via Loyola University Maryland

- Fr. Bryan Massingale delivers 30th annual MLK Convocation address in Conversation with Karson Institute Executive Director via Loyola University Maryland
- Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice partners with The Baltimore Sun to host Black History Month COMloquia via Loyola University Maryland
- “Karson Institute Marks Two-Year Milestone and Looks Toward Future” via The Greyhound
- Karson Institute to host conversation and reception with Deputy President of Kenya via Loyola University Maryland
- Podcast and Harriet Tubman documentary top new offerings from Loyola’s Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice via Loyola University Maryland
- Black professor at Loyola University Maryland creates a place for positive conversations about race via The Baltimore Sun
- Loyola University Maryland to launch The Karson Institute of Race, Peace & Social Justice via Fox 45 News
- Loyola creates Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice via Cision PRWeb
- Loyola creates Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice via Yahoo News
- Loyola University Maryland launches Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice via Baltimore Fishbowl



News and Announcements

Karsonya “Kaye” Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., in the News

- Why are Black women only 2% of tenured professors? via NBC Washington
- WEEA's Dr. Karsonya 'Kaye' Wise Whitehead Awarded 2021 Vernon Jarrett Medal for Journalistic Excellence via Morgan State University
- More than Doctor Kaye a Profile via The Greyhound
- “The Fierce Urgency of Write Now: Black History in the Age of Censorship” with Karsonya Wise Whitehead via Haverford College
- “One Black Family, One Affirmative Action Ruling, and Lots of Thoughts” via The New York Times
- “African American Policy Forum to host 4th Annual Critical Race Theory Summer School” via Yahoo Finance
- National Women’s Studies Association won’t be Overshadowed by White Nationalism via The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint
- “Anna Arnold Hedgeman played a key role in organizing the March on Washington, but she’s often overlooked” via Verify
- “10 books to read in honor of Freedom to Learn National Day of Action” via TheGrio
- Resurfacing the erased history of Black women in the civil rights movement | Expert Interview with Kaye Wise Whitehead, Ph.D. via Verify
- Experts at Northeastern Women’s History Month Symposium event weigh in on the growing censorship movement in America via Northeastern Global News
- ‘Fight the Power’ Misses How Mainstream Rappers Became the Power via Rolling Stone
- Karsonya Wise Whitehead via The Conversation
- 5 Questions With Karsonya (Kaye) Wise Whitehead, Ph.D. via the National Communication Association



Middle school students and teachers from Roland Park Elementary Middle School and middle and high school students and teachers from Arlington Baptist School participated in the day-long Third Annual Curt Wilson Peace Symposium.

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., Biography

Karsonya “Kaye” Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., is the founding executive director of the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice and a professor of communication and African and African American Studies at Loyola University Maryland. She is the host of the award-winning radio show “Today with Dr. Kaye” on WEAA, 88.9 FM, and the recent recipient of the Rev. John LaFarge, S.J. Award, and the Vernon Jarrett Medal for Journalistic Excellence for her outstanding reporting on the impact racial reckoning has had *CONTINUED...*

in helping to close social/racial wealth gap for Black people in America. She was recently selected by The Daily Record as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women of 2022 and by Black Girls Vote as a 2022 honoree for its "Ladies & Politics" series. As one of only a few daily drive-time afternoon radio shows hosted by a Black woman, "Today with Dr. Kaye" has received a 2023 and 2021 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and is a nine-time Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association Award winner.

In 2021, Dr. Whitehead received the Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the Afro newspaper selected her as one of their "2021 Newsmakers of the Year;" and the Baltimore Business Journal selected her to receive the Leaders in Diversity Award. In 2019, she received the Collegium Visionary Award from the College of Holy Cross; the Exceptional Merit in Media Award (EMMA) from the National Women's Political Caucus; the Baltimore Sun named her as one of Baltimore's 25 "Women to Watch in 2019;" and Essence magazine included her on the 2019 "Woke 100 List," of "black women advocating for change."

She is the author of five books, including the forthcoming *my mother's tomorrow*; *RaceBrave: new and selected works*; *Notes from a Colored Girl: The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emilie Frances Davis*, which received both the 2015 Darlene Clark Hine Book Award from the Organization of American Historians and the 2014 Letitia Woods Brown Book Award from the Association of Black Women Historians; and *Letters to My Black Sons: Raising Boys in a Post-Racial America*. She is a K-12 master teacher in African American history, an award-winning curriculum writer and lesson plan developer, and an award-winning former Baltimore City middle school teacher.

In February 2016, Whitehead received the Joan B. Kroc's Institute for International Peace Studies "Distinguished Alumni" Award for her work as a peace activist, scholar, filmmaker, writer, and poet. In 2014, she received the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC); was selected as one of the top 25 women professors in Maryland by Online Schools Maryland; and in 2013, received Loyola University Maryland's Faculty Award for Excellence in Engaged Scholarship for her work documenting the stories of

women who are temporarily experiencing homelessness. Dr. Whitehead also received the 2006 Gilder Lehrman Preserve America Maryland History Teacher of the Year Award (sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Maryland State Department of Education); was one of 50 alumni to receive the Distinguished Black Alumni Award from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana (2005); and was a winner of both the Langston Hughes, David Diop, Etheridge Knight Poetry Award (1999, 2000) and the Zora Neale Hurston Creative Writing Award (1998) from the Gwendolyn Brooks Creative Writing Center at the University of Chicago.

Prior to her work in academia, Whitehead was a documentary filmmaker with MetroTV, a PBS affiliate, and a senior producer for Music Television Networks (MTV). In 2001, she directed and produced *Twin Towers: A History*, a documentary film that describes the technical problems that were overcome and challenges the ironworkers faced in constructing the landmark buildings and recounts the daredevil stunts that the buildings attracted. The film was nominated for an Emmy in 2002—Whitehead's third nomination. It has since become the second-largest-selling film about 9/11 and airs regularly on PBS stations around the country. Additionally, she wrote a bi-monthly column, "Conversations with Dr. Kaye," for the Baltimore *Afro* newspaper from 2018-2022 based upon her deep ethnographic study within the Black Butterfly neighborhoods of Baltimore City.

Whitehead currently serves as the national secretary for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). She is also one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in the country, having given over 700 keynotes worldwide.

Karsonya "Kaye" Wise Whitehead, Ph.D.
Professor, Communication and African and
African American Studies

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BENDING TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE

***Get in touch with the
Karson Institute to see
how we can partner with you.***

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