Professor Redden has conducted research on behalf of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and the Office of the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Development in DeKalb County, Georgia. Her courses and research at Gettysburg explore the political economy of the built environment.

Dr. Derrick K. Gondwe, born May 14, 1942 in Enukweni, Malawi, served on the faculty at Gettysburg College for 27 years. During that time Derrick served in many leadership roles, but it was his congenial personality and deeply decent character that left such an indelible impression. As the first Black person to receive tenure at Gettysburg and to become a full Professor, Derrick served as model and mentor to many younger faculty members, especially those of color. For the goals of diversity, he was our firm advocate, gentle goad, sensitive critic, and trusted counselor. He was founder of the African American Studies Program and the International Relations Council at the College.

Dr. Gondwe was a graduate of Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill. He received a master’s degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba in Canada. When he could return home to Malawi in 2001 after an almost thirty year absence due to his principled stand on issues of governance, Derrick obtained grant funding and created a course that examined ways of reducing individual and institutional corruption in Malawi. At the time of his death he was in the process of arranging for a second round of the course. The participants of the course included parliamentarians, journalists and civil servants.

Derrick was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at Gettysburg College in Spring 2005.
ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ed Baptist grew up in Durham, North Carolina, received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University, and his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. At Cornell, he is Professor in the Department of History. The author of The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism, (2014) and Creating an Old South: Middle Florida’s Plantation Frontier Before the Civil War (2002), he also co-edited New Studies in the History of American Slavery with the late Stephanie Camp. Together with faculty colleagues at the University of New Orleans and University of Alabama, Baptist leads Freedom on the Move, [http://freedomonthemove.org] a collaborative effort to build a crowdsourced database of fugitive slave ads, which recently won an NEH Digital Advancement Grant, as well as a Major Digital Initiatives Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC.)

ABOUT THE LECTURE

A generous endowment by Mr. William Keefer, Mrs. Gayle Keefer, and their family has made the Derrick K. Gondwe Memorial Lecture on Social and Economic Justice an annual event. When Derrick arrived in the United States at the age of 21, the Keefers were his host family while he went to Lake Forest College outside of Chicago. As time went on, Derrick’s wife and children were welcomed into the family as well. In addition to offering him a home and family in our country, the Keefers supported Derrick in his beliefs and aided him in his work, especially when he was troubled by political problems at home in Malawi.

THE 2017-2018 GONDWE SCHOLAR

Aisha Mershani was born in Las Vegas, Nevada to an American Jewish mother and a Moroccan Muslim father. She completed her Ph.D. degree (2015) from the UNESCO program in International Peace, Conflict, and Development Studies at the Universitat Jaume I in Castellón de la Plana, Spain. Mershani’s dissertation, entitled Palestinian Civil Resistance: A Case Study of the Popular Struggle Against the Wall from 2002-2013, focused on life in the Occupied West Bank since the establishment of the Israeli Apartheid Wall, and the Palestinian popular struggle to nonviolently remain on their lands. From 2003-2013 Mershani photographed nearly every aspect of life under occupation and uses these images as part of her research to reframe the U.S. mainstream media narrative. Her photographs have been in multiple publications to further the awareness of the life under occupation. She is also one of the artists in the reference book, “Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists.” Mershani combines her scholarly work with her media activism.

Tyeshia Redden is a Derrick K. Gondwe Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor who specializes in housing, social policy, and urban governance failures. Professor Redden holds a B.A. in Political Science and a M.S. in Urban Studies & Planning from Armstrong Atlantic State University and Savannah State University respectively. A University of Florida graduate, she holds a Ph.D. in Design, Construction, and Planning. Her work considers how race, class, gender, and sexuality influence the lived urban experiences of residents. In particular, Professor Redden examines the role of scholar-activists in combatting social inequalities and the experiences of marginalized residents in vulnerable or informal communities.

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