

Contributor Bios

Guest Editors

Miguel Kamgaing Kamgaing

Miguel Kamgaing Kamgaing (he/him) is a sophomore double majoring in Human and Organizational Development and African American and diaspora Studies. Miguel is passionate about the American educational system and its inequality. He believes in understanding the human problem within these inequitable systems and combining collective action and technical skills to counteract the deep-rooted discrimination of marginalized groups.

Hananeel Morinville

Hananeel Morinville (she/her) is a graduating Senior majoring in African American & Diaspora Studies and Latin American History. Hananeel is dedicated to racial and social justice as well as public service. Through her writing and leadership, she shines a spotlight on what it truly means to be Black in America—whether as a student, an activist, or a president. Her work bridges history, policy, and lived experience, challenging institutions to reckon with their role in shaping Black life and pushing for a future of true equity and justice.

Gabrielle White

Gabrielle White (She/Her/Hers) is a sophomore double majoring in African American and Diaspora Studies and Culture, Advocacy, and Leadership. Born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, Gabrielle has developed a deep passion for exploring the intersections of advocacy, the Black experience, and the criminal justice system—especially in the American South. She believes in the power of recontextualizing the Black experience through Black Americans' lived experiences, anecdotes, and radical perspectives.

Contributors

Malik Clarke

Malik Clarke (He/Him/His) is a highly passionate, detail-oriented junior and social justice advocate studying Political Science & African American and Diaspora Studies on a pre-law track at Vanderbilt University. Growing up outside Atlanta, GA, Malik has always derived joy and passion from finding new ways to serve his community and empowering young Black men to lead while displaying authentic vulnerability. In addition to a raw passion for servant leadership, Malik channels his freedom of creative expression through poetry and prose detailing the queer Black male experience and redefining Black spirituality. Ultimately, Malik aspires to strengthen his creativity by utilizing his literary contributions to discover new strategies to foster cultural competence, DEI, and social justice in his personal and professional endeavors to earnestly serve

and uplift marginalized communities, particularly of the African and LGBTQ+ diasporas.

Ethlyn Daniel-Scherz

Ethlyn Daniel-Scherz (she/her) is a freshman from Brooklyn, New York. Growing up in NYC has been immensely impactful, as there are so many illustrations of bold individualism to observe and be inspired by. She is currently thinking of double majoring in African American and Diaspora Studies and Culture Advocacy and Leadership. She loves to write poetry and song lyrics and collage, journal, and explore other avenues of self-expression.

Keyonte' Doughty

Keyonte' Doughty (He/Him) is a senior double majoring in Human and Organizational Development and Political Science. Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, AL, he is passionate about exploring how Black individuals are portrayed in media and the broader impact these representations have on society. He is particularly interested in the intersection of media, policy, and culture and how narratives shape public perception and systemic change.

N. Sierra Dix

N. Sierra Dix (they/them) is a senior double-majoring in African American & Diaspora Studies and Communication of Science & Technology. Born in Jacksonville, NC, and raised in Clarksville, TN, they carry a love for the South and the Black communities that shape its landscapes. Passionate about Black environmental restoration and resilience, Sierra explores the intersections of Blackness, queerness, and the environment in their academic and creative pursuits. They believe in the power of reconnecting with the land through a Black Southern lens and remains committed to fostering sustainable futures for their community.

Ade Forrest

Ade Forest (He/Him) is a senior double-majoring in Law, History, & Society and Cinema & Media Arts. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ade is a passionate photographer and filmmaker who often centers his artistic projects around Black Americans and their multifaceted experiences. Through photography and filmmaking, Ade continuously experiments with storytelling, narrative structures, cinematography, and more. And, he regularly captures the daily lives of Black students on Vanderbilt's campus through Vanderbilt Fashion Week, photography sessions, and his involvement with Vanderbilt Media.

Sam Mitike

Sam Mitike (She/Her) is a junior double-majoring in Human & Organizational Development and Gender & Sexuality Studies. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Sam has a deep appreciation for storytelling and equity, especially concerning the narratives of Black queer youth. Through her continuous involvement with Vanderbilt Fashion Week, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and her senior photo project, Sam advocates for Black Vanderbilt students—and marginalized perspectives more broadly. Whether through her camera lens, essays, or leadership, Sam remains committed to amplifying voices and creating opportunities for underrepresented communities.