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Chair of African American Studies at Princeton University Announced as Keynote for 2020 TOBA MLK Leadership Breakfast

(Tampa, Fla. – November 13, 2019) Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished



University Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Princeton University who began his teaching career at Bowdoin College. He is the former president of the American Academy of Religion, the largest professional organization of scholars of religion in the world. Glaude is the author of several books, including, **Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul**, which has been described as “one of the most imaginative, daring books of the twenty-first century.” His most recent book, **Begin Again:**

James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own, is scheduled for release in April of 2020. Of Baldwin, Glaude writes, “Baldwin’s writing does not bear witness to the glory of America. It reveals the country’s sins, and the illusion of innocence that blinds us to the reality of others. Baldwin’s vision requires a confrontation with our history (with slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and with whiteness) to overcome its hold on us. Not to posit the greatness of America, but to establish the ground upon which to imagine the country anew.

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. speaks to the complex dynamics of the American experience. His most well-known books, **Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul** and **In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America**, take a wide look at black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States, and the challenges our democracy faces. In his writings, the country’s complexities, vulnerabilities, and the opportunities for hope come into full view: hope that is in one of his favorite quotes from W.E.B Du Bois, “not hopeless, but a bit unhelpful.”

His books on religion and philosophy include **An Uncommon Faith: A Pragmatic Approach to the Study of African American Religion**, **African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction and Exodus!**, and **Religion, Race and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America**, which was awarded the Modern Language Association’s William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize. Glaude is the author of two edited volumes, and many influential articles about religion for academic journals.

Known to be a convener of conversations and debates, Glaude takes care to engage fellow citizens of all ages and backgrounds – from young activists, to fellow academics, journalists and commentators, and followers on Twitter in dialogue about the direction of the nation.

In 2011 he delivered Harvard’s DuBois lectures. In 2015 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Colgate University, delivering commencement remarks titled, “Turning Our Backs” that was recognized by **The New York Times** as one of the best commencement speeches of the year. He is a columnist for **Time** magazine and a **MSNBC** contributor on programs like *Morning Joe* and *Deadline Whitehouse with Nicolle Wallace*. He also regularly appears on *Meet the Press* on Sundays. Glaude hosts the podcast AAS 21, recorded at Princeton University in Stanhope Hall, the African American Studies department’s home.

He is from Moss Point, Mississippi and is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He holds a master’s degree in African American Studies from Temple University, and a Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University.

Please join us in welcoming our keynote speaker, Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., to Tampa at our 40th Annual TOBA Leadership breakfast on January 20, 2020 at 6:45 a.m. Tickets are available online now at TOBAnetwork.org or 2020TOBAMLKBreakfast.eventbrite.com.

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