

Lisa Green Awarded Distinction by Board of Trustees at University of Massachusetts Amherst



Archousa Lisa Green, wife of Immediate Past Sire Archon Vincent Jackson of Beta Sigma Boulé of Springfield, Massachusetts, and professor of linguistics and preeminent expert on African American English (AAE), was among three UMass Amherst faculty members named Distinguished Professors following approval by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on July 20, 2020. The title Distinguished Professor is conferred on select, highly accomplished faculty who have already achieved the rank of professor and who meet a demanding set of qualifications.

"Professor Lisa Green is the world's leading scholar on African American English," wrote Seth Cable, chair of the personnel committee for the linguistics department at UMass Amherst, in his recommendation letter in support of Prof. Green's promotion. "In her books and papers, Professor Green has shed light upon every major component of AAE as a linguistic system: its syntax, its phonology, its semantics, its prosody, its regional variation, its historical development, and its acquisition by children," he further stated. "Her pre-eminence in the field of Linguistics is attested to by her election in 2016 as a Fellow of the Linguistic Society of America," as well as being the recipient of numerous

prestigious awards and fellowships, said Joe Pater, professor and chair of the linguistics department.

Archousa Green has also made exceptional contributions to UMass Amherst. Since 2011, she has been both a member of the Faculty Senate and the Institutional Review Board. She has also served on the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Personnel Committee, the Rules Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Integrative Education Committee, and served as Co-Chair on the Undergraduate Education Council. She also served for three years as the graduate program director for the linguistics department.

Archousa Green's service work extends well beyond the campus. She has worked locally with Springfield Central High School to raise awareness and understanding of AAE in the classroom, and she participates annually in the ABC Reading Program in Lake Arthur, La., where she coordinates activities in the summer reading program and teaches summer reading classes to students ranging in age from 3 to 14. Through her work consulting on various research grants, Archousa Green has assisted the development of new clinical diagnostics for speech pathologists working with AAE-speaking children.

External reviewers were also unanimous in their praise for Archousa Green's accomplishments and stature as a linguist. One outside reviewer described Archousa Green as "an African American scholar who is one of a kind in the field—a brilliant, insightful, hard-working linguist who draws on her native speaker intuitions and solid theoretical training to keep advancing scholarship in the study of AAE, and setting the parameters for the rest of us to follow." Another said, "With impeccable poise and generosity, [Prof. Green] provides a role model not only for African American or women scholars, but for any young academic, in honoring the highest standards of research and in making that research accessible."

Archousa Green is also active in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, and Jack and Jill of America. She and Archon Jackson are proud parents of one son, Nasir.