

Thank you,
Professor Harris.

I have yet to meet a mentor like Professor Clemmie Harris. You redefine supporting students. Contextualizing on campus issues into historical political context you have provided me and other black activists on this campus invaluable perspectives and support when energies ran low. You are present. Not adhering to professorial norms of engagement you refuse to remain hypocritically on the sidelines when critiquing the institution of Wesleyan University.

We had yet to meet a force like you, when you entered our classroom in Fall 2015 and stated: "I am a mold of leaders." And I thought wow, what journey is this man going to take us on? Professor Harris, you have given us a journey to remember, demonstrating an influence that speaks volumes to your talent as a mentor and leader.

We look forward to seeing who else you will go on to inspire.
Keep keeping it Real Professor Harris - Keep Keeping it Brooklyn.

In appreciation,
Hailey E. Broughton-Jones

Hey Clemmie,

This is Adam from first semester. Wish you could stay for longer, I loved your class and learned a lot of valuable information that is hidden from the common eye. You helped me improve my writing and you challenged what I said in ways that were productive and valuable. Thanks for coming here and I hope your future students hold you in very high regard like I did.

In friendship,

Adam

Professor Harris,

Thank you so so much for creating an environment where I could start to understand the power structures that shape our world. Your time at Wesleyan has been so incredibly valuable and the important conversations you started will continue with your students and infiltrate Wesleyan's various spaces. Thank you thank you thank you and we'll miss ya so much!

Ona

Professor Harris,

Words cannot describe how much of a blessing this semester has been because of you. You have been such a great teacher for the Wesleyan community this year. I personally just want to write this note to say thank you for letting me be a part of your class this semester. Taking your class was a great way for me to end my last semester at Wesleyan before I begin a new chapter in my life. That being said, it has really meant a lot to me to have gotten to spend time with you. As I mentioned to you after class once...you are my first African-American male professor I've ever been taught by in what has now been approximately 14 years of schooling. As sad as that is to admit, I hope you take that comment to heart in understanding just how appreciative I am for your presence at Wesleyan and for me to have been a pupil of yours during your time here. We are certainly sad to see you go but we understand that He has bigger and better plans for you beyond Wesleyan. We were lucky enough to experience just a sliver of it. Best of luck wherever your next journey takes you next. Just know that you left your mark here at Wesleyan. We have you in our thoughts and prayers. Best of luck, brother.

In Love & Respect,

Aaron C. Morgan

Dear Professor Harris,

In the fall, numerous friends told me about a visiting professor in the AFAM department that I "had to take a class with." It wasn't until I heard you speak at the *After Charleston* panel that I truly understood why everyone was so blown away by your wisdom, insight, and way with words. I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to learn in one of your classrooms myself. You seem to have struck a chord with each and every one of your students, and I think we all feel inspired to continue our educational careers with the goal of creating tangible change in our world. Thank you for sparking that drive, for making us laugh with humorous anecdotes weaved into your lectures, and for always being incredibly warm, kind and understanding.

Have a balanced and productive weekend!!!

Best,

Hannah Gallogly

Dear Professor Harris,

You have tremendously influenced my life within the last year and I have so much to thank you for. Academically, I am happy that I was able to take two of your courses. Through our readings and class discussions I was able to learn new concepts, analyze the text, hear different opinions, and rethink and reshape my own perceptions about black politics. Your courses have been instrumental in my personal and academic success. You are by the far the most engaging faculty that I have met.

I have grown so much through our personal conversations. I really appreciate the time that you took to answer my many questions. You pushed me to understand the importance of having emotion as fuel, while realizing the difference between reactions and strategic responses. I have been able to navigate difficult conflicts with your guidance, and I know that the lessons you have taught me will be vital in the future. I wish that you could have stayed for longer, not only for myself but also for the countless other students who did not cross paths with you. I hope that one day I can grow to develop some of your traits.

I am honored to have been your student. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

Sincerely,

Victoria King

Dear Professor Harris!

I wanted to reach out and thank you so much for making my last semester at Wesleyan the most academically rigorous one yet! Your course was a powerful reminder of why I decided to drop the Biology major, pursue American Studies, and challenge myself to take more seminars where I would be pushed to think more critically and analytically!

I am eternally grateful that you agreed to be a part of Wesleyan Thinks Big! In my four years of working and organizing the event, that was hands down the most engaging and intellectually stimulating one!

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors! Hope you enjoyed watching "Lemonade!" Have a balanced and productive rest of your year and life!!!

Sincerely,

Wayne



Dear Professor Harris,

I am grateful for the fact that you were one of my first professors at Wesleyan. Regarding my race and the implications behind it, I thought I knew a lot. During and after being taught by you, I realized I was wrong. You opened my mind to so many ideas and perspectives. So many, that I came to the realization that I could only keep seeking more knowledge through conversation. Thank you for pushing me to be better throughout the entirety of that semester. You had a great impact on me inside and outside the classroom. Now, any sort of activism I do on campus makes me think of your pedagogy. There is so much more to learn, and so much more conversation to be held. Thank you for inspiring me to embrace learning at its fullest. You will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,

Henry Martellier Jr.

Dear Professor Harris,

Though I never spoke much in class and went to your office hours a few less times than I wanted to, I just wanted to express how profoundly you changed the way I view myself and my place in this country. You helped me grow as an African American male and influenced me in ways I struggle to put in to words. I truly learned in your class. Thank you for your time at Wesleyan, it won't be the same without you. Stay in touch!

- Salim

Dear Professor Harris,

Thank you so much for all the dedication and passion you put into your teaching. You have truly been an invaluable asset to this school and to the AFAM department—your inspiring words have made ripples throughout the larger Wesleyan community. I am so grateful to have been your student as your class has powerfully changed the way I look at the world and myself.

I can't wait to see the incredible things you will do in the future!

Best,

Hannah W.

Dear Prof Harris,

Of all that I have experienced at Wesleyan, the good and the bad, being able to learn from you tops it all. It's a shame to see you go. I wish you the absolute best and I hope to stay in touch!

--Sadasia McCutchen

Dear Professor Harris,

I am sad that I will not be able to take another class with you in the future but I thoroughly enjoyed the Introduction to Modern Afam History class that you taught last semester. I am glad that I was lucky enough to be able to take it with you as my professor. I learned a lot and will never forget the amazing time that I had. Thank you for being such a great and supportive professor. I hope that all is well.

Sincerely,
Kaila Scott

Professor Harris,

Thank you for being the greatest professor I've had in my time at Wesleyan and likely the greatest I will have had by the time I graduate. You've played such a huge role in shaping my academic goals and you are one of the main reasons I decided to declare a major in African American Studies. You've helped me to understand the importance of knowing one's history and of embracing it no matter what. Your dedication to always keep it real with your students made the classes I took with you worthwhile. While I am definitely sad to see you go, I'm glad that you were sure to "break it down so that it would be heretofore forever broke." (Professor Clemmie Harris, 4/15/16).

Thank you for everything and I wish you all the best,
Arianna Fullard

Dear Prof. Harris,

May 15th is Teacher's Day in Korea, and this prompted me to take a chance to appreciate my teachers at college. I am writing this to appreciate your hard work for us. I thought about how challenging it was for me to get used to an academic/social environment in the United States. Especially in your class, I remember asking questions like "What is gentrification?" when the whole reading for the class was about gentrification. I simply couldn't read in English and understand the gist of articles. I only knew how to listen and speak in English, for the most part. I had the same issues with understanding articles in all other classes, but I didn't really ask questions in them, because I didn't feel like I would be supported for raising such fundamental questions. In your class, you were so nice to understand my obstacles in terms of languages, culture, etc. and you were willing to guide me through the challenges. I appreciate you so much for that, as not many professors have the patience with international students without prior experience of studying in the U.S. Thank you so much! I hope to keep in touch with you even after you leave Wesleyan. Also, you always have a place to stay in South Korea. Let me know anytime you visit, so that I can let my parents know. We love you so much, and I hope you know that!

Love,

Gayon

Dear Professor Harris,

I would like to thank you for an amazing two semesters. Taking courses with you was a great way to start of my college career, and I have learned so much from you and your courses. I feel that I have been provided a great foundation on which I can continue to grow in my studies. When I came to college, I lost a lot of confidence in myself and my ability to bring something of substance to the classroom. However, by taking courses with you, I have regained a sense of confidence and empowerment. Although it was up to me to reclaim these things for myself, you helped to guide me along this path by constantly challenging my intellectual thinking, but also my character. I am truly thankful to have been able to learn from you and I wish you health, happiness, and success in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Brianna

Professor Harris,

While I've only had one course with you, I can truly say that your teaching has impacted me in so many amazing ways. Your course reminded me of all the reasons I chose to be an AFAM major my freshman year, to equip myself with the necessary tools and knowledge to make the changes I see necessary in the world. Thank you for challenging us to stay informed and fully engaged! I won't say goodbye because I'm positive our paths will cross in the near future.

Sincerely,

Maimouna

Dear Professor Harris,

I really want to thank you for everything you've done here at Wesleyan. You've been here for just a year and you are held so dearly and have made a great impact in the education and lives of so many students like myself. It is very unfortunate that you will not be able to stay at Wesleyan for more time but I know that wherever you go you will continue to have a great impact on those around you. Thanks again for the recommendation letters you wrote on my behalf, I've learned that my rec letters played a huge role in me being chosen for Mellon. You have been a true inspiration for me to always be critical of the institutions that I am a part of and that is something that I will always take with me.

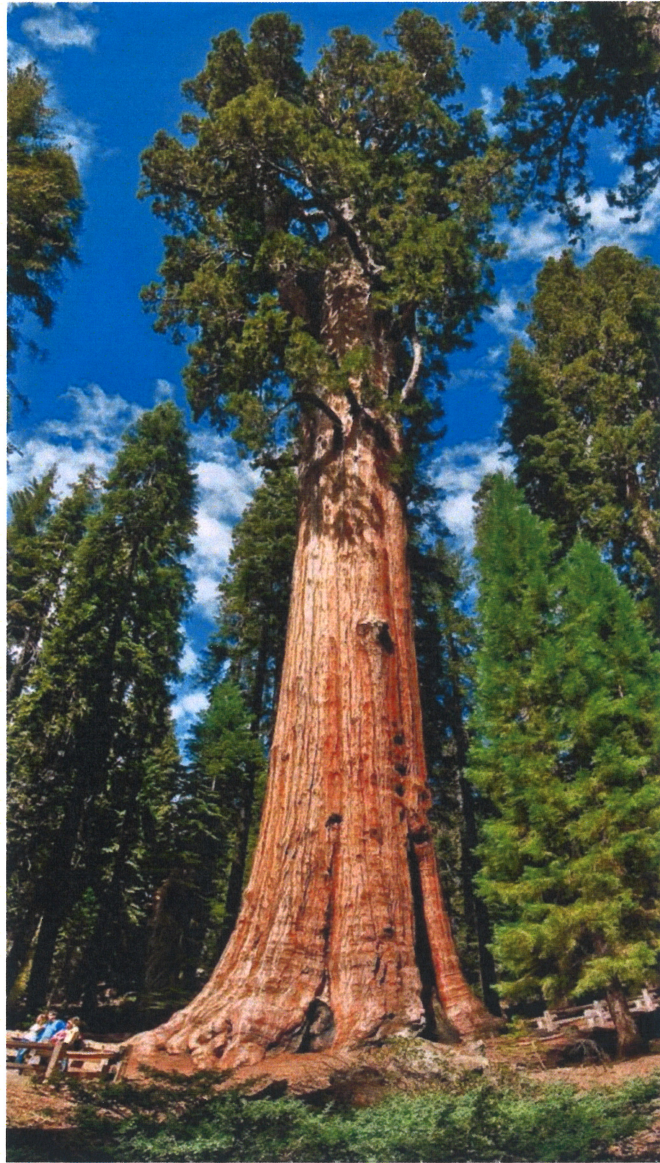
Best Wishes,

Aleyda

A haiku for Professor Harris:

a grassroots movement
starts with love care and guidance
thank you for water

Love,
Kafilah



Thank you Professor Harris for what has been an astounding year academically and personally. I make no exaggeration when I confess that you have set the standard for what an exemplary educator should be. It was truly an honor to learn from you and I will carry not only our discussions, but our course materials with me far beyond the classroom. You are an inspiration for the man I wish to be some day and I can only hope that your future students can be impacted similarly to how you've impacted me. I would appreciate it if we could keep in touch somehow. My email is xcornejo@wesleyan.edu. I hope to hear from you soon!

With warm regards,
Xavier A. Cornejo

Dear Clemmie, I mean Professor Harris,

AFAM 365 has been one of the most formative experiences of my life. Certainly at times I did not participate as much as I could have, but the amount I took away from each class session has left me with no regrets. I have been thinking a lot lately about what it means to be a white, cisgendered, male advocating for black people and marginalized people in general. I've been thinking about how I can do this without making myself a white savior. The answers are still very much unclear to me. Some days I think the only way to actively support people of color whilst being white is to eliminate myself from the equation all together. Others, I know this can't be right. I am still searching for the right answer but I would not have known where to look had it not been for you and your class. You have been an absolute inspiration to me as well as so many others on this campus. It breaks my heart to think you will not be with us next year, but I feel very excited for those that will be given the opportunity to learn from and with you in the future. It has been a true honor knowing you in the brief time that I have. May you always have the serenity to accept the things you cannot change, the courage to change the things you can, and wisdom to know the difference (yes, I looked it up after our conversation to find the exact wording). Good luck.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Win

Professor,

I remember hearing you speak at the After Charleston event last semester and I knew that I had to take a class with you. Your command of the topic and the eloquence with which you spoke told me that learning from you would be of the utmost benefit. And I was completely right! Intro to Africana Studies has been an amazing experience and I want to thank you for blessing our school with your knowledge. I know that you'll be successful in all of your other endeavors, mainly because you've done about every job already. Thank you so much!

Dache Rogers

Hi Professor Harris,

I really enjoyed taking your class and learned so much from you and my peers, which is a testament to the amazing environment that you created. It was unforgettable and challenging. Somehow you managed to make a 1-4 on Friday breeze by. Thank you so much! Wishing you nothing but the best!

Sincerely,

Ian Foster

Dear Professor Harris,

I will never forget the first day you walked into class in the fall. When you introduced yourself, I remember feeling this instantaneous need to know you and how you came to be so compelling. That day I said to myself – I don't know who you are but I know that you are going to impact us all.

And little did we know that you would give us so very much more than any of us could expect. And though I can only speak for myself, I must say that you have enchanted us with the one most invigorating affect – hope. And for each of us it manifested differently.

I say “hope,” not meaning sentimentality, but a condition so enduring that it necessitates courage, wit, and the recognition of that fire within each of us that reminds us of our voice – our power; a fire that has burned within people of color for all of time. I wish I had better words to express what you have helped instill in me, but it is simply ineffable.

Thank you for being the most amazing mentor that I could ask for. I have never had a black male role model before, and as sappy as it sounds, you embody the qualities of the best father figure. I am heartbroken that someone who enters one's life and is so important should have to leave. But I take comfort in knowing that you will go on and bring your gifts to others.

Thank you for investing in me. I will miss our weekly chats, and I cannot wait for the day that I become an AfAm professor and break it down, so it remains broke. It will be a long journey before I can teach like you. One day! I believe this is 'see you soon', rather than goodbye.

Very truly yours,

Cat

Dear Professor Harris,

It saddens me to have to say goodbye to you sooner than what I feel is right. You have by far made the largest impact on my academic experience, and above that, your unwavering presence and wisdom have played a significant role in guiding me through my first year at Wesleyan. You have helped me navigate this new and complex environment through all that I have learned from your classes, and from the support you have given me by having an honest interest in the person that I am (and I think this applies to many of your students.)

I genuinely am going to miss you, and I hope our paths will somehow cross many times in the future. You once told me as I was leaving your office: "Alright, Max, go out and conquer." I will try my very best to do so in a way that will make you proud. I wish you many balanced and productive weekends, but also many fulfilling, sunny, love-filled, happy, blessed and rewarding days.

Thank you a thousand times over.

All my love,

Max

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.