

- **Cassander L. Smith is the associate dean for academic affairs in the Honors College and a professor of English at the University of Alabama. Prior to serving as associate dean, she served two years as the Provost Faculty fellow for diversity, equity, and inclusion at UA. She has written two books, *Black Africans in the British Imagination* and *Race and Respectability in an Early Black Atlantic*, and co-edited several volumes, including one focused on pedagogy and race, titled *Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*. She earned her B.S. degree in newspaper journalism from Florida A&M University, a historically Black university situated on the highest of seven hills in Tallahassee, Florida, and earned a MFA in fiction and a PhD in literary studies, both from Purdue University.**