

OXFORD AMERICAN

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The Oxford American bids farewell to Editor Danielle Amir Jackson

Announcing organizational changes and new programs

June 18, 2024—CONWAY, AR—Beloved editor **Danielle Amir Jackson**, who joined the Oxford American in 2020, has stepped down as Editor effective June 14. Jackson will now focus on finishing *Honey's Grill*, her first book, about women in the blues, forthcoming from Farrar, Straus and Giroux. She will also begin a graduate program at New York University in the Fall.

As Editor, Jackson led the *Oxford American* to a National Magazine Award nomination in General Excellence, the Whiting Foundation's Literary Magazine Prize, several private and government grant awards, and recognition in anthologies like *Best American*, as well as James Beard Award nominations in food writing.

"The *Oxford American* flourished under Danielle's creative vision and while we are saddened by her departure, we are more thrilled for her next endeavors," said OA Board Treasurer **Enjoliqué Lett**. "We are excited for the organization's future and look forward to the continued artistic expression of the Southern narrative that we have come to expect and love."

"The impact Danielle has had on the *Oxford American* as editor is immeasurable," Executive Director **Sara A. Lewis** said. "Her editor's letters were highlights of every issue. It was a thrill to get the magazine from the printer and experience her curation of stories and art—each edition an art object in and of itself."

Lewis, who joined the Oxford American in 2017 and served in various editorial roles prior to her appointment as Executive Director in 2021, will serve as Interim Editor.

"I've been fortunate to hold many positions at the OA with the support of the board and my colleagues, both past and present," Lewis said. "I'm delighted to serve as Interim Editor of my favorite magazine and look forward to carrying on the tradition of this beautiful and vital print publication while overseeing the launch of an additional digital-first edition that will allow us to tell more stories, more often."

To support Lewis's transition from Director to Editor, two key employees have been promoted to new roles. As Interim Assistant Director, **Shobhithan Kandasamy** will oversee operations, finance, and circulation strategy. **Christian Leus** has been named Interim Managing Editor of the magazine. Lewis and Leus co-produce the *Points South* podcast and first worked together on the magazine when Leus was an intern in 2017.

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“Danielle Jackson’s curation made each *Oxford American* issue a beautiful, cohesive chorus of diverse voices using various art forms to process and grapple with how the distinctive geography, topography, and history of the South impacts its citizens in the present moment,” said **Jenny Davis**, First Lady of the University of Central Arkansas and OA board member. “The literary tradition of the South and, in particular, the Oxford American, is better and stronger because of her vision, and the magazine looks forward to building on that tradition by utilizing technology to broaden the opportunities for Southern storytellers and artists.”

To that end, the Oxford American is [seeking a digital editor](#) to launch publication of web-only stories on **OxfordAmerican.org**. The new editorial arm of the organization will focus on timely dispatches from the South, offering nuance, context, and narrative to stories underreported in the traditional news cycle.

Jackson’s contributions to the magazine will continue to feature with the forthcoming Juneteenth zine and issues throughout the year. The Memphis Music Issue, featuring a limited-edition vinyl LP, is available for presale at [OxfordAmericanGoods.org](#). A collection of Jackson’s Editor’s Letters is now live at [OxfordAmerican.org](#).