Welcome to the May/June, Spring 2020 edition of the Africana Studies newsletter. 2020 will most certainly be a year to remember... the COVID-19 pandemic, the transition to online teach and learning, life under quarantine and the ongoing protests to up-end systemic racism and police brutality have dominated our lives and invited us to ponder what’s really important as we adjust to a new normal. Indeed, this past semester has been filled with challenges, new insights and a great deal of uncertainty, yet it has also represented a time of renewal and intention-setting. In this edition, we honor these dichotomies by keeping the spotlight on the Black Lives Matter movement (see Africana Studies Statement of Solidarity), while up-leveling the accomplishments of the Africana Studies graduating class of 2020 and the James Bracy Memorial Scholarship award recipients. We congratulate Dr. Tom Spencer-Walters and our Africana Studies Mentor, as they both forge new chapters in their life’s journey. We introduce you to the new Black House Coordinators, share faculty highlights, recap the spring virtual mentor and tutor offerings and preview the upcoming Black House fall 2020 program calendar. As we take time to rest, rejuvenate and continue to navigate uncharted waters, we wish you a safe and healthy summer break.

Ashay!
Department of Africana Studies Statement of Support: Black Lives Matter!

The Department of Africana Studies at California State University, Northridge, stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and demand that action be taken, so our community and city can work to dismantle the structures of racism that have threatened Black lives and wellbeing since this nation was first established. We condemn police brutality and the insidious murders of Black men and women. There are many police who operate as the enforcement wing of the system of white supremacy, a system that we must work to dismantle every day. We condemn racism and oppression in all its manifestations, including homophobia and transphobia. The terrorism of white supremacy and white privilege continues to compromise the health and safety of Black Americans and African people across the globe. The systematic assault on Black lives in America and in the world is an injustice that will not be tolerated and must be rooted out from the psyche and fabric of America.

In the past few weeks, the senseless and tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Tony McDade have served as vivid reminders of the continued reality of racism and social injustice faced by Black people every day in our society. We are deeply saddened and troubled as we continue to attempt to comprehend the depth, hurt, and pain being felt by those throughout our city and nation. We have all been navigating an emotional road of sadness, rage, confusion, and uncertainty at a time of enormous economic devastation and a severe health crisis. Most recently, our challenges have been related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and now it’s confronting the Pandemic of Systemic Racism that represents a generational oppression and divestment of Black and Brown people in this city and country.

Members of the Black community oftentimes carry the fear of hopelessness --- an old wound torn open again by the horrifying auto-repeat, playlist of viral violence in our country that seemingly will not cease. The explosive anger and sense of hopelessness and frustration has been brewing. Outrage and anger is not a new response to police brutality and murder...We've been here before...in the fight for voting rights, civil rights, and equal rights. We are weary of the repeated instances of injustice and police terror. The level of anger in these protests and unrest is not just about one case of police violence, it's about a long history of white supremacy inflicted on the Black community. It's not about an isolated moment, but a milestone on a continuum of injustice and struggle.

We push back against the narratives that frame civil protestors as looters and reject any narrative that values property over Black lives. James Baldwin reminds us that to be Black and conscious in America is to live in a constant state of rage. Through protest, we have harnessed that legitimate fury to demand and enforce justice in a society that denies minoritized communities basic human rights. In Barack Obama's message to the nation, he shares with us that, “The point of protest is to raise public awareness, to put a spotlight on injustice, and to make the powers that be uncomfortable: in fact, throughout American history, it's often only been in response to protests and civil disobedience that the political system has even paid attention to marginalized communities.” These are deeply rooted issues embedded in our history, that will not be resolved in the days and months to come. We challenge those who attempt to justify, dismiss, ignore or explain away mistreatment of Blacks or any other person of color.

We send healing energies to uplift the Black community in particular, and the global community in general, as we suffer vicarious trauma, watching our people constantly murdered and brutalized by the police, who have a historical connection to fugitive “slave” catchers. We affirm and celebrate the power of the youth and the beauty of their struggle. We are because of you!

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We stand in solidarity of the Black Lives Matter movement as we work collectively to ensure justice, equity, and liberation for all Black and Brown lives. We are with you! May the spirit of our African ancestors surround and protect you as you speak truth to power! Our future is beautiful because of you. The struggle continues!

Africana Studies Faculty
California State University, Northridge
June 2020
Due to COVID-19, our office will continue to operate remotely until further notice. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. We can be reached at (818) 677-3311, or email at africanastudies@csun.edu. Please visit our homepage for more information about our resources at - https://bit.ly/3bbiFCB
INTERESTED IN GETTING A DEGREE IN AFRICANA STUDIES?

WANT TO MAJOR?
The Africana Studies (AFRS) major is a multidisciplinary academic program (45 units) designed for students who wish to gain an understanding of the history, psychology, sociology, literature, culture and education of African-Americans and other Africans in the diaspora and the continent. There are three degree options in the major. Information can be found at: http://bit.ly/2Oma3Qy

NEED A MINOR?
Students should consult an advisor to design a program that complements their major. Students may choose courses from a wide range of offerings, like Psychological Environment of the African-American (AFRS 220). These courses provide a background in several areas critical to the understanding of the African world experience.
The Spring 2020 semester marks the culmination of a 36-year career, and the last time that Dr. Tom Spencer-Walters will serve as faculty in the Department of Africana Studies. As a member of the department since its early roots, he has been a beacon of light for the department for over three decades.

His work and contributions to the community have been emblematic of the core principles of the AFRS department, as he has been an integral and vital figure, not only in our department, but also in the AFRS Writing Center and in the University’s Writing Program. He served as chair for nine years (three terms), and has energized the campus community by working with both faculty and students to promote success and well-being through his assignment as the ombudsman for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS).

We want to honor and congratulate Dr. Spencer-Walters for all of his hard work, dedication and for his integrity and passion for Africana Studies throughout his long and prosperous tenure at CSUN. From all of us in the department, we wish him all the best in his next chapter of his life.

Due to COVID-19, Dr. Spencer-Walters’ official celebration has been postponed until we can gather in a face-to-face format, and honor him in a manner that he so graciously deserves. In the meantime, we invite you all to share your kind words to him, and to wish him the best of luck as he ventures forth on his next journey.

Congrats Dr. Spencer-Walters, Ashay!
CLASS OF 2020!

It is our honor and privilege to highlight the 2020 graduating class of scholars, consisting of resilient and dedicated leaders who will continue to achieve outstanding accolades as they make a positive impact on the world. As part of our cherished and successful community, we would like to honor our Africana Studies majors and minors. We are pleased with the hard work of our student’s and their accomplishments. WE congratulate the Africana Studies graduating class of 2020.

GRADUATING MAJORS

ANAYA GALVES  EMMANUEL UMASSOR  SAVANNAH ELAHIAN

TYRONE CARTER  BAMIRO ANUOLUWAPo  NICHOLAS BROOKS

2020 AFRICANA STUDIES MAJORS: PHOTOS NOT AVAILABLE:
ATASHA OSHILAJA, JUSTIN MARKS, KEELE HEIN, ERICA JOHNSON
GRADUATING MINORS

TIARA WELLS  
BRENDEN SCOTT  
AUBREEA ROBERSON

TIA NALLS  
TYRA WHITE  
ASHLEY JARON

NATALIE DAHAN  
DEONEE RUSSELL

2020 AFRICANA STUDIES MINORS: PHOTOS NOT AVAILABLE:
JORDEN MOSLEY, BRITTANY AGORSAH, MORGAN COLE, SYDNEY CAROL, ANNEKA SINCLAIR, CHARLENE MURPHEY, JAZLYN MAYS, LOUDRES ILLINGWORTH, HEAVEN BARNETT, SHERICE WILLIAMS, ASKIRA SHIPP, DAMIAN GORDON, SIMMONE BREWSTER, ALYSSA KING, SYDNEY DENNERLINE, CHEYENNE SERANO
JAMES BRACY:
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our scholarship recipients

The Africana Studies Department is proud to announce the 2020 James Bracy Memorial Scholarship Awards. This year, the scholarship was offered to five outstanding and bright Africana Studies majors or minors in the amount of $575 each. The categories were based on Merit, Service and Recognition of Achievement.

Tiffany Abodoh
Africana Studies Minor
Awarded the James Bracy Memorial Service Award

Shanell Robinson
Africana Studies Double Major
Awarded the James Bracy Memorial Merit Award

Brenden Scott
Africana Studies Minor
Awarded the James Bracy Memorial Service Award

Shamora Drummond
Africana Studies Minor
Awarded the James Bracy Memorial Service Award

Michaella Huck
Africana Studies Minor
Awarded the James Bracy Memorial Recognition Award
Dr. Aimee Glocke is a tenured Associate Professor at California State University, Northridge in the Department of Africana Studies. She has served the department for 8 years, and specializes in Black Psychology, Black Literature, Black History, and Black Dance. For over 20 years, she has taught dozens of Black Studies courses, and has made it her mission to “make a change and to try to make the world a better place.” Her lectures help students understand how African/Black culture is always changing, and how this is not an “intellectual exercise.”

Her proudest achievements have been bridging the gaps between different departments for the students. For example, the Kinesiology Department has built a relationship with the Africana Studies Department, where Dr. Glocke dances, mentors, and performs.

She has also bridged the gap between on-campus Jewish organizations with the Africana Studies Department. She likes to remind people that “Not all Jewish people are White.” Notably, she has created a safe space for her students; she thrives to open different paths for her students; and urges students to study abroad and learn about the world around them.

Dr. Glocke has felt that her successes are reflected in her students’ success. She says, “My success is their [her student’s] success.” She adds, “When I see my student’s lives transform, that’s when I know I’ve done my job right. That’s my biggest success right there.” Smiling she says, “I want to always be in the trenches with my students.”

Dr. Glocke would like to recognize and thank her elders, who are comprised of scholar activists who made Glocke a well-trained activist and scholar in Black Studies. She expresses that without them, she would have never had this “beautiful experience and knowledge.” She states, “Black Studies has allowed me to do what I love, which is teaching about a meaningful subject. I love what I do and I do not mind doing it every day.”

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Glocke joins the rest of the AFRS faculty to continue the efforts of providing quality education and care for their students. We thank Dr. Glocke and the rest of our AFRS faculty for rising to the challenge, and for pushing forward, not only to represent our department, but to help our students excel, even under these challenging circumstances.
AFRICANA STUDIES ALUMNAE

A New Adventure in Life for Our Graduate Student Mentor

Antoya White is our Africana Studies Alumnae and former Graduate Student Mentor. She will be continuing her education to achieve a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology.

“This is for sure a big accomplishment, considering by the time I graduated from 5th grade I attended seven schools; when I graduated from 8th grade, I was reading at the 3rd-grade level; and all four years of high school, I was in special education. I have surely beaten the odds despite many hard circumstances.”

She has been accepted to the psychology Ph.D. program at Grand Canyon University in Arizona and will start her first semester in December of 2020 to continue clinical learning and practices. She will also work on getting her clinical social work license through accumulating hours by working in the field.

During her inaugural year as the Africana Studies Graduate Student Mentor, Antoya developed social support workshops and worked on providing students with resources to succeed, during their college experience. We thank Antoya for her vigilance and deep commitment to our students and their health and well-being. We salute her and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.
THE BLACK BUZZ

The Department of Africana Studies is bringing you Black news to stay up-to-date with what's happening in the community around you.

GEORGE FLOYD DIES IN CUSTODY FOLLOWING BRUTAL POLICE ARREST

On May 25, Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, after a convenience store employee called 911 and told the police that Mr. Floyd had bought cigarettes with a counterfeit $20 bill. Seventeen minutes after the first squad car arrived at the scene, Mr. Floyd was unconscious and pinned beneath three police officers, showing no signs of life. Floyd's untimely death has sparked a cultural movement for social justice and social change, amid calls for police reform and dismantling systemic racism.

READ THE FULL STORY

MAXINE WATERS - ELECTION YEAR

Congresswoman Waters is the representative for California’s 43rd congressional district and is a Democrat up for re-election in 2020. Waters made history as the first woman and first African American Chair of the House Financial Services Committee. Throughout her career, Congresswoman Waters gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. She is a co-founder of “Black Women’s Forum”, a nonprofit organization of over 1,200 African American women in the Los Angeles area.

Congresswoman Waters is also an integral member of Congressional Democratic Leadership, she serves as a member of the Steering & Policy Committee and is the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease. She is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

READ MORE ABOUT HER

THIS IS HOW WE JUNETEENTH

“Even though the United States celebrates July 4th as their independence, we were still considered slaves,” said Mr. Kenneth Timmons. “So for us, that is the day that our ancestors were finally released from servitude and slavery and could escape the South.”

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has been celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

LEARN ABOUT JUNETEENTH AND HOW WE CELEBRATE
#BLACK LIVES MATTER

was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. Today, it represents a movement world wide against racism, striving for social equity and justice.

COMPANIES SUPPORTING #BLM

As protests continue across the United States and the world following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, many companies have joined the Black Lives Matter movement to put a stop to the rampant and deliberate violence inflicted by police on African Americans, Black and other people of Black descent.

Joining the effort are big tech companies such as Amazon and Apple, big box stores, clothing and accessories brands, health and wellness, and many more. Check out the list of the companies that stand in solidarity with the movement.

COMPANIES SUPPORTING #BLM

BLACK LIVES MATTER FROM HASHTAG TO GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Dr. Melina Abdullah, Professor and former Chair of the Department of Pan-African Studies at Cal State L.A., and Patrisse Cullors, one of three co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement brought 100,00 people out to protest in Los Angeles. The group has been a principal organizer of the protests in the days following the death of George Floyd, while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police Department. Dr. Abdullah was also a recent guest speaker at CSUN during the Healing Circle event, sponsored by the USU Diversity Initiatives. Black Lives Matter has now become a global movement.

READ HOW THE MOVEMENT HAS GROWN ON A GLOBAL SCALE

HIGHER EDUCATION AND #BLM

Many higher education institutions published statements over the last few weeks against racism and police brutality. Many referenced institutional commitments on equity for all students and diversity amongst faculty, staff and students. However, what else can universities and colleges across the U.S. do to support the mission of Black Lives Matter?

SEVEN WAYS UNIVERSITIES CAN SUPPORT #BLM
LIFE BEHIND THE SCREEN

Our New Life in the Virtual Space

Due to COVID-19, many students, faculty, and outside organizations worked hard to produce virtual activities to engage large online communities, while they remained on lockdown. With immense effort, the CSUN student body has found ways to popularize the virtual world of 2020 to combat anxiety, depression, and boredom by creating online classes, lessons, workshops, parties, and other virtual experiences that cater to both health and wellness amongst students. Here is our list of activities, resources and recommendations that students participated in during the spring semester.

THE BLACK HOUSE

Spring 2020

The Black Table Talk Podcast every Tuesday night (April 14th – May 4th) @ 8 PM at https://www.blogtalkradio.com/thecsunblackhouse
- 4/14: Student Recourse
- 4/21: Meet the Black House Team
- 4/28: Be Gentle with Your Mental
- 5/4: Coffee and Tea with Bre

Black House Live! Every Wednesday night, Starting April 22nd, at 7PM on Instagram @thecsunblackhouse
- Cheap Eats on Thursday, April 23rd via Instagram TV @thecsunblackhouse
- The Future of Black Law on Tuesday, April 28th, at 4 PM via IG TV @thecsunblackhouse
- Wax On Wax Off on Friday, May 1st, IG TV @thecsunblackhouse
- The Black Table Talk Podcast: Secure the Bag: Part 2 on Tuesday, May 12th, @ 8 PM at https://www.blogtalkradio.com/thecsunblackhouse
- DIY Day on Wednesday, May 13th, via IG TV @thecsunblackhouse

CSUNBLACKHOUSE
AFRICANA STUDIES STUDENT MENTOR
PROGRAMMING

Spring 2020

Social Support and Self Care Practice
every Wednesday @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am via Zoom

Weekly Workshops Every Thursday
(4/16 - 5/7) @ 12:30 pm -1:30 pm via Zoom
- 4/16: Coping Skills & Positive Self Talk
- 4/23: Portfolium Workshop: Showcase
  YOUR Talent, Skill, and Passion on CSUN's
  Electronic Portfolio Network
- 4/30: Self-Care in the Face of Experiencing
  A Crisis
- 5/7: Smart Goal Setting for Future Success

AFRS WRITING CENTER VIRTUAL
PROGRAMMING

Weekly Podcasts
Every Monday afternoon (April 20th- May 4th) @ 2 PM! At
https://anchor.fm/anaya-galves
- 4/20: Alone Together
- 4/27: Writer’s Block
- 5/03: Cram Time!

Zoom Workshop: Open Mic Night! via Zoom
-Wednesday, April 22, @ 2 PM!

Word of Mouth: Happy Hour Fridays! via Zoom
-Weekly Friday Episodes (April 24- May 15) from 12pm - 3pm

The Check-In: Conversations on Mental Health
(Part I), April 27th, 2020 @ 2PM via Zoom!
My name is Ebony Liv Martin and I am one of the three Black House Coordinators. I am a Junior majoring in Africana Studies with a minor in Chicano Studies. Aside from being a Black House coordinator, I am also an aspiring songwriter. Prior to joining the Black House, I was president of the black/brown organization called Ujima at Pasadena City College. This is where I honed my leadership skills and passion for social and political activism. I have always been an advocate to the Black and Brown communities, so my goal is to bring all my leadership skills to CSUN and to create a safe space for CSUN's Black community, and to anyone who would like to learn about the Black Experience.

My name is Breonica Flores, but you can call me “Bre.” I am an Africana Studies Major with a minor in Entertainment Media Management. I served as a Director of Advertisement and Event Planning for two years in the Black Student Union (BSU) and as the Black Graduation President for two years after that. My goals are to go to a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to attend Law School and become a lawyer in the entertainment field. Aside from practicing law, I would like to advance my brand consultation company that is currently under development, called Rose Gold Productions. As a Black House Coordinator, I want to advance the progress at the Black House in becoming the satellite location for all the CSUN black organizations to come together and build a lasting foundation. I can’t wait to see you all and participate in the virtual events we planned for the semester.
THE BLACK HOUSE

The Black House is the cultural home and meeting place for virtually every Black student and Black student organization on campus, but everyone is welcome.

THE BLACK HOUSE COORDINATORS

Kyle Wallace-Jordan
Breonica Flores
Ebony Martin

WHERE

18348 HALSTED ST.
(AT THE NORTH SIDE OF CAMPUS)

HOURS

Monday: 2pm -7pm
Tuesday: 10am -7pm
Wednesday: 2pm -7pm
Thursday: 10am - 7pm
Friday: 10am - 6pm

THE BLACK TABLE TALK PODCAST (FALL 2020)

https://www.blogtalkradio.com/thecsunblackhouse
Call In Live At: (516) 387-1993 & Press 5

9/1: Exploring Black LA | 8PM
9/8: Ladies Night | 8PM
9/15: Sippin Tea With Bre | 8PM
9/22: Growing Up Hip Hop Ft. C.J. Wallace | 8PM
9/29: Love & Hip Hop Special | 8PM
10/06: Be Gentle W/ Your Mental | 8PM
10/13: The Challenge (ASMR & TD) | 8PM
10/20: The Haunted Trails | 8PM
10/27: Get Out & Vote | 8PM
11/03: Celebrating The Black Man | 8PM

UPCOMING FALL 2020 EVENTS

8/27: DJ Trey Money Welcome Back | IG Live| 8PM
9/10: Unsilence Voices Open Mic | Zoom | 7PM
9/15: Find Your Peace Yoga Workshop | IG Live | 7PM
9/25: No More Sticky Situations | IG Live | 5PM
10/13: Black Law Seminar | Zoom | 4PM
10/22: Spooky Eats | IG Live | 8PM
10/29: Nightmare On Halsted St | NETFLIX | 8PM
11/5: Get Out & Vote | IG TV | 5PM
11/12: Spot the Difference | Zoom | 7PM
12/5: Black Winter Fest | IG Live | 8PM