

The Breakdown

Spring 2021 Issue

By Bryan Arevalo, Apurva Raj, and AFRS Staff
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A Note from The Chair

Dr. White, Chair of the AFRS Department, shares a few words.

“This semester forced our community to think deeply about political, racial, and

social issues of inequality and injustice, while simultaneously embracing the importance of family, friends, health and wellness. We tapped into the deepest part of our being, in order to thrive in virtual space in the middle of one of the worst global tri-pandemics in modern history. But thrive, we have! We are fortunate to have dedicated, passionate, committed faculty, staff, and students within our department who are steadfast in pushing forward in the most trying of circumstances. I applaud them! In this edition, we spotlight two of our adjunct faculty members and two of our graduating student assistants, highlight our graduating award-winning seniors, as well as provide a recap of our first virtual Black History Month. We also share many of the excellent resources that our department and community have to offer, including some local restaurants that offer a range of culturally infused cuisine. We hope you enjoy catching up with us. Wishing you a most relaxing, rejuvenating summer break.”

Ashay!

Africana Studies Department News

Black Graduation: Majors and Minors

On November 18th, 2020 the Africana Studies Department presented *Link, Love, Resist: Navigating Blackness in Virtual Space*. The event was developed to help the community within the Africana Studies Department network with students, faculty, and allies. The department had the pleasure of hosting Africana Studies alumni panelists, faculty, allies, and our guest of honor, Toni Blackman, the first United States Hip Hop Cultural Ambassador.

In Spring 2021, the Department of Africana Studies, in collaboration with The Black House team, partnered with the Black Graduation Committee to showcase Black graduates before the 2021 graduation ceremony. Students were able to send a special message to their supporters and a shout-out to their organizations while embracing the Black Matador spirit.



AFRS Graduates (Majors)

- Jonathan Bowers
- Tania Douroux
- Shamora Drummond
- Ebony Martin
- Atasha Oshilaja
- Angelle Thomas

AFRS Graduates (Minors)

- Chennel Green
- Morgan Cole
- Brandy Pacheco
- Timmothy Roberts
- T'Erra Reed
- Cocoa Mcmillan
- Kiyomi Magee
- Karen Strickland
- Darnyae Loper
- Elijah Collins
- Aubrey Golding
- Alona Carter
- Tiffany Abodoh
- Amanda Cedeno
- Princess Kindasia Robinson
- Kenedee Jamerson
- Angelica Rodriguez Lopez
- Robyn Taylor
- James Anderson
- I'Yonna Applon-Kettles
- Dailyn Simmons
- Ja'Niece Calhoun
- Manjeet Acharya
- Detrich Galloway
- Leah Reeve

AFRS Graduate Awards Reception

Talented Tenth Award: This award honors recipients who have earned the highest-grade point average within the Africana Studies Department.

- Anaya Galves
- Angelle Thomas
- Brenden Scott
- Cheyenne Serano
- Ebony Martin
- Erica Johnson
- 7.Keele Hein
- Princess K. Robinson
- Savannah Elahian
- Shamora Drummond
- Tia Nalls
- Tiffany Abodoh
- Tyrone Carter

Carter G. Woodson Personal Achievement Award:

This award honors recipients of the CSUN Honor's Convocation whose primary major is within the Africana Studies Department.

This also includes AFRS double majors and minors.

- Alona Carter
- Alyssa King
- Amanda Cedeno
- Anaya Galves
- Angelica Rodriguez Lopez
- Angelle Thomas
- Anuoluwapo Bamiro
- Ashlee Cole
- Ashley Perkins
- Atasha Oshilaja
- Aubreea Roberson
- Aubrey Golding

- Auriana Adams
- Brendan Jonhson
- Brenden Scott
- Brittany Agorsah
- Cheyenne Serano
- Cocoa Mcmillian
- Dailyn Simmons
- Davonte Russell
- Deonee Russell
- Detrich Galloway
- Ebony Martin
- Elijah Collins
- Erica Johnson
- Heaven Barnett
- I'Yonna Applon-Kettles
- Ja'Niece Calhoun
- Jonathan Bowers
- Jordan Mosely
- Karen Strickland
- Keele Hein
- Kenedee Jamerson
- Leah Reeve
- Lourdes Illingworth
- Manjeet Acharya
- Naomi Adeneye
- Natalie Dahan
- Princess K. Robinson
- Princess K. Robinson
- Robyn Taylor
- Savannah Elahian
- Shamora Drummond
- Shane Williams
- Shane Robinson
- Sydney Dennerline
- Tia Nalls
- Tiffany Abodoh
- Tyra White
- Tyrone Carter

John Henrik Clarke Triumph Award:

This award honors recipients who have triumphed over many obstacles throughout their college experience.

- Anuoluwapo Bamiro
- Brenden Scott
- Brittany Agorsah
- Darnyae Loper
- Detrich Galloway
- Emmanuel Umassor
- Grace Burton
- Karen Strickland
- Kenedee Jamerson
- Natalie Dahan
- Nicholas Brooks
- Savannah Elahian
- Shane Robinson
- Tyrone Carter

Fannie Lou Hamer/ W.E.B. Dubois Community Service Award:

This award honors recipients who strive to form an alliance with those in need and have basically given back to the Black community.

- Angelle Thomas
- Brittany Agorsah
- Grace Burton
- Justin Marks
- Shanice Robinson
- Tyrone Carter

Harriet Tubman Community Activist/ Student Leadership Award:

This award honors recipients who have committed themselves to leadership and community activism promoting equity and diversity initiatives at California State University, Northridge.

- Aubrey Golding
- Detrich Galloway
- Grace Burton
- Justin Marks
- Natalie Dahan
- Tiffany Abodoh
- Tyrone Carter



The Vanguard “You Can’t Stop Me” Award:

This award honors recipients who stand in the frontline to take on intellectual and creative risks in an effort to advance self-awareness, self-appreciation, self-determination, and empowerment within the Black community.

- Alona Carter
- Amanda Cedeno
- Anuoluwapo Bamiro
- Brendan Johnson
- Brenden Scott
- Brittany Agorsah
- Chennel Green
- Darnyae Loper
- Deonee Russell
- Detrich Galloway
- Elijah Collins
- Grace Burton
- Heaven Barnett
- Ja’Niece Calhoun
- Joshua Muhammad
- Justin Marks

- Karen Strickland
- Keele Hein
- Kenedee Jamerson
- Lourdes Illingworth
- Morgan Cole
- Natalie Dahan
- Nicholas Brooks
- Savannah Elahian
- Shane Williams
- Shane Robinson
- Sydney Dennerline
- Tyrone Carter

Paul Robeson/ Katherine Dunham Cultural Arts Award:

This award honors recipients who have demonstrated a clear artistic vision and potential for continued excellence through arts and culture.

- Anuoluwapo Bamiro
- Brendan Johnson
- Natalie Dahan

Black History Month Recap



The Department of Africana Studies (AFRS) proudly hosted a set of culturally rich events in 2021, in honor of our 1st virtual celebration of Black History Month, as we embraced the theme of “Celebrating Black Excellence: Resiliency & Creativity in the Digital Space”. Dr. White and Professors Melanie Shaw and Timothy Conley facilitated a coordinated effort with a host of campus collaborators to highlight the achievements and successes of those of African descent, both past and present, through a series of events designed to elicit rich dialogue, and demonstrate the multi-layered creativity and elevated artistry of the Black community. The month was book-ended with a dynamic discussion with Dr. Cornel West, facilitated by USU Executive Director, Debra Hammond, and AFRS Chair, Dr. White, as part of the USU’s “Essential Talk Series,” where he pontificated on the topic, “Walking the Tight Rope: Addressing Racial Battle Fatigue.”

Welcome Our New AFRS Faculty

Professor Tandalea Mercer



Professor Tandalea Mercer is an adjunct professor who loves exchanging knowledge with her students in the Department of Africana Studies.

“Before teaching at CSUN, I hadn't taught that much in a classroom, but I do have a ton of training experience, that also includes the creation around pedagogy, curriculum development, and structured rubrics. Being able to translate and transfer my skill-set to the classroom is not a hard stretch.”

In her free time, Professor Mercer, an art enthusiast, spends her time indulging in creative work. She stated, “As a born and raised New Yorker, coming from the melting pot of the world, I miss my city and family back on the East Coast, as COVID has put a halt on some fun things I love to do, including live concerts and music - or ANYTHING artsy (film, theatre, performing arts, art shows, etc.) and on my travel adventures. I have been to 19 countries and counting. My two favorite destinations by far have been the Middle East and Cuba. I am hoping to visit the African continent later this year to visit family.”

“So, why Africana Studies? Why NOT Africana Studies? Africana Studies carries a sense of pride for many and being a daughter of the diaspora, teaching African American Politics is a meeting of the two worlds - Political Science and Pan African History. The blood that runs through my veins contains some history of this country that some would rather erase.”

Professor Timothy Conley



Professor Timothy Conley is a Los Angeles native, who has always had a passion for athletics and storytelling. Prior to joining the faculty at CSUN, Professor Conley played professional football in the NFL for the Seattle Seahawks. After a short stint, he transitioned to a career in administration at the University of Southern California (USC), where he held the position of Director of Media and Communications for the USC Office of Religious Life.

While at USC, Professor Conley reignited his passion for storytelling while pursuing graduate education at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and the USC School of Cinematic Arts. In 2014, while producing a documentary on the subject of west coast hip-hop, he joined the CSUN

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(Conley continued.)

Department of Africana Studies as a lecturer. He teaches the following courses as a part-time lecturer:

- AFRS 337: Black Images on the Silver Screen
- AFRS 368: The Politics of Hip-Hop Culture

Growing up in a household where his mother was a longtime instructor on several university campuses, including in the CSUN Department of Africana Studies,

Professor Conley truly enjoys the educational enrichment that he is able to facilitate with the students in Africana Studies. “Growing up in South Los Angeles, where the language focusing on the African American community is often negative, he appreciates the academy for providing pedagogical opportunities to teach the true history of people of African descent,” says professor Conley. In addition to athletics, filmmaking, and teaching, Professor Conley enjoys cooking a fusion of world cuisines and exercising in his home gym.

Farewell To Our Front Office Student Assistants



Thabiso Masenda

Thabiso Masenda was an international student at CSUN from Zimbabwe and a business law major who graduated this Spring 2021. He worked in the Department of Africana Studies from 2018 until Spring 2021. Thabiso likes to plan his future ahead of time, and one of his plans is to attend law school after graduation. Thabiso received offers from colleges like the University of Southern California and Loyola Marymount University. He has always been passionate about the United Nations and its programs, and his dream is to work for the UN as a diplomat, providing basic human rights to marginalized communities in his home country.

When it comes to long-term goals, Thabiso wishes to go back to Zimbabwe and work as hard as he can to make sure people get their basic human rights. He stated that, “many people who get out of their country to receive a better education, usually don't go back, as they feel their country is not good enough.” However, Thabiso wishes to go back to Zimbabwe to help others get a better education and make a difference for his people. In five years, Thabiso can see himself as a law school graduate taking the BAR exam to become a lawyer.

When asked about his experience working in our department, Thabiso said this was his first-ever job and it was very different from what he expected. This job provided Thabiso with everything he needed to be ready for the future, be it skills, experience, or office etiquette. He also stated that this job is more about self-development than working for a department.

What Thabiso admires the most about CSUN is the diversity among students and the fact that the college always tries to keep students engaged as much as possible, even during the pandemic. Thabiso would also like to share his thoughts for new students and employees: "Just maximize your time. This is a place where you can grow. The faculty here are so great. They really give you insight into a lot of different things."

Bryan Arevalo

Bryan Arevalo was a PR and Marketing Student Assistant in the Department of Africana Studies since 2019. He was a journalism major at CSUN and is originally from Southern California. This year, Bryan graduated from CSUN, both as a student and as an employee. Bryan has played a major role in helping the department with all media-related tasks, such as newsletters, social media presence, and technical assistance. He will take a year-long break from work and plans to take solo trips to places like Hawaii. He also plans to visit his families located in different parts of the country, including Las Vegas. After Bryan's adventures, he wishes to find a job in the field of media and technology such as a journalist, a media consultant, and even a traveler. When asked about his long-term life plan and goals, he wishes to set up his own media production company after traveling the world and living in different countries.



According to Bryan, his experience at the Department of Africana Studies has been the best ride he has been on, primarily because it provided him with the much-needed experience and skills to perform in the media industry.

The one thing Bryan will miss the most about working here is the diversity in creativity and the fact that there is always someone to help if you need something. Bryan also has a message for any students wishing to join the department: "Be ready to learn A LOT from day 1. Always be ready to help colleagues. You will learn and do a lot more than you would expect."

Hot Topics

The Black Buzz

The Africana Studies Writing Center

The Department of Africana Studies Writing Center started its operations in 1982. It was designed primarily to provide supplemental assistance to mainly Black and other underrepresented students who manifest problems with writing and reading skills. Today, the Africana Studies Writing Center Tutorials and Virtual Workshops are ONLINE and will continue to operate remotely in Fall 2021. Schedule your appointments at the [AFRS Website](#).

CSUN's contribution towards vaccinating the population

The state of California started its rapid vaccination drive back in January 2021. CSUN happened to be one of the very first vaccination sites in LA County. CSUN's vaccination drive has helped more than 50% of San Fernando Valley's residents to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and helped CA have one of the lowest positivity rates. As of May 2021, anyone of age is 16+ eligible for a vaccine, even without an appointment or insurance. More information at [The Daily Sundial](#).

The Historical Trial of Ex-Police Officer Derek Chauvin

Derek Chauvin, the Minnesota police officer accused of murdering George Floyd on May 25, 2020 was finally tried and convicted in

April 2021, almost a year later. Chauvin was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter; the first charge carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. It was the first-ever conviction of a white police officer in Minnesota for the murder of a black person. Learn more at [The New York Times](#).

San Francisco to re-invest \$3.75m from police budget to black businesses

The city of San Francisco plans to invest \$3.75 Million in Black-owned businesses, which was initially meant to be invested in the Police Departments. London Breed, the Mayor of San Francisco issued a statement on Wednesday, May 5 which said, "Across this country, and in our city, we've seen how the Black community's economic growth and prosperity have historically been disrupted and marginalized." This investment will be done through the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and is also a part of the city's Dream Keeper initiative. Read more at [The Grio](#).

Kyrie Irving launches consulting firm for minority-owned businesses

Kyrie Irving, the Brooklyn Nets star recently announced that he has plans to launch a consulting platform that would aid new and upcoming minority business owners. Kyrie registered his firm under the name 'KAI 11 Consulting' and has received investment offers from venture capital company, Lockstep Ventures which initially helped the firm raise \$25 Million in capital. Read more at [YardBarker](#).

Post Pandemic Transition Tips



As you know, 2020 was a challenging year for us all. The Department of Africana Studies has prepared a few tips to help you transition back to the limited in-person classes and provide you the much-needed confidence to get back to living regular lives.

1. Keep Up with Your Health
 - a. Although physical health is a worrisome topic, especially with COVID-19, we want you to spend time focusing on mental wellness. Try to spend some time meditating, reading, and relaxing. This will positively affect your physical and mental health. If you are doing just fine, then keep on doing what you're doing!
2. Get enough sleep
 - a. Many students adopted the habit of sleeping very late at night during the pandemic, which disrupted many students' sleep cycles and can eventually take a toll on mental and physical health. Since transitioning back to in-person classes will require much more physical and mental energy, students should make sure to sleep at least 7-8 hours in a day.
3. Motivate others to be social
 - a. You are not the only one who is anxious to socialize in-person, or someone who has lost their social skills during the pandemic. Millions went through the same thing as you. If you are social and give out positive energy to people around you, it will motivate them immensely, enabling them to feel more connected.
4. Mask etiquette and hygiene
 - a. If the pandemic taught people one thing, it is definitely the importance of hygiene and masks and how much of a difference they can make. Even though every student is required to be fully vaccinated before returning to campus, masks may still be required in highly populated areas. Masks will not only protect you from COVID-19, but also thousands of other diseases, which is a great step to promote public health and safety.
5. Maintain your activity
 - a. If you are active, keep it up! Remember that just 30 minutes of being active can do so much for your physical and mental health. If you need to find something to do at home, even cleaning or walking around can energize you and make you feel better.

Black Owned Businesses

A list of the top five Black owned restaurants

1. **ALTA ADAMS**- Located at 5359 W. Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016 is led by chefs Keith Corbin and Daniel Patterson. The menu at this West Adams neighborhood spot blends soul food flavors with West African and California cuisine, resulting in dishes like a California gumbo with fresh market veggies, and black-eyed pea fritters complemented by spicy herb sauce.
2. **HOTVILLE CHICKEN**- Located at 4070 Marlton Ave,



Alta Adams Restaurant, Los Angeles



Hotville Kitchen Restaurant

Los Angeles, CA 90008. Nashville hot chicken has swept LA's food scene in recent years, but if you want to try the bird that started it all, head to Hotville Chicken—owner Kim Prince's family invented this spicy take on fried chicken almost a century ago and no one does it quite like the originators, thanks to a super-secret spice blend.

3. **WOOD SPOON**- Located at 107 W. 9th St, Los Angeles, CA 90015. A true fusion kitchen if ever there was one, Woodspoon serves Brazilian fare inspired by the African, European, and Indian influences specific to the Minas Gerais region of Brazil, that chef/owner Natalia Pereira hails from.
4. **LITTLE BELIZE**- Located at 217 E. Nutwood St, Inglewood, CA 90301. Nestled between Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Caribbean, Belizean food takes inspiration from these regions and more, resulting in a savory cuisine that leans heavily on rice, beans, seafood, and tropical fruits.
5. **BRANDONI PEPPERONI**- Located at 5881 Saturn St., Los Angeles, CA 90019. Chef Brandon Gray had been working in LA's favorite kitchens (Providence, Trois Mec, Cape Seafood & Provisions, and Best Girl at the Ace Hotel) for years and was considering a career change when the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March of 2020.



Little Belize Restaurant

The First in Office



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris

First Female, First Black, First South Asian-American US Vice President

After the long 2020 presidential race, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have come out victorious. After what was the highest turnout of the century in terms of voter participation, Kamala Harris has made history as the first Black and South Asian female Vice President.

During her acceptance speech, Harris brought up her mother, an immigrant who came to California as a teenager. Harris stated, “But she believed so deeply in an America where a moment like this is possible, and so I am thinking about her and the generations of women, Black women, Asian, White, Latina, Native American women — who throughout our nation’s history have paved the way for this moment tonight — women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality and liberty and justice for all,” stated Harris. This is just the first step in paving the way for the next generation of women in government.”

The Scoop

The Black House

The CSUN Black House is dedicated to providing resources for Black students, as well as educational programming, centered around Black culture, and current events.

The Black House Coordinators: Breonica Flores

Where: 18348 Halsted St. (AT THE NORTH SIDE OF CAMPUS, BUT NOW VIRTUAL)

Hours: The Black House is once again open to students beginning Fall 2021. Check [the Black House website](#) for more information.

Recap of Past Events

Click [Here](#) for Black House Radio.

2/15: Don't Touch My Hair | Zoom | 5 PM

2/18: Black Faces in STEAM | Zoom | 4 PM

2/24: Growing up in Hip-Hop | Zoom | 5 PM

4/24: Black Women in Fashion | Zoom | 5 PM

4/25: Let's talk sista to sista | Zoom | 5 PM

4/30: Heal your mind heal your body | Zoom | 4 PM

4/27: Let's talk brother to brother | Zoom | 6 PM

Black House Zoom: Meeting ID: 595 692 5374

COVID-19 UPDATES

A message about COVID-19 testing and vaccinations for CSUN students, faculty and staff

The California State University announced that it would not wait for any further action by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and now will require students, faculty and staff who are accessing campus facilities at any university location to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. The policy also provides for an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Consistent with the Chancellor's statement, CSUN students must certify full vaccination status no later than September 30th.

Students coming to campus who have not provided certification of vaccination status prior to the start of the fall semester, August 30, will be required to participate in a free COVID-19 screening testing program each week when coming to campus. Students who become fully vaccinated will not need to be tested.

With the rise of the Delta variant, it is important to get your COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. Vaccination appointments are free and available through myturn.ca.gov. Please note that it takes four to six weeks to become fully vaccinated. With just days remaining until the start of the fall semester, the time to act is now.

CSUN is developing an online procedure where you will be able to attest that you are fully vaccinated and, if you have a copy of your immunization records, upload that information on a confidential electronic health record provided by the Student Health Center. Thereafter, all you'll need to do is complete a daily health screening survey before coming to campus.

This fall holds tremendous promise for our entire university community, and today's announcement provides another important tool for us to resume on-campus activities and learning, together. Find out more at [Matadors Forward](#).