

THE BREAKDOWN

SPRING 2022 EDITION

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

Contents

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAIR.....	1
BLACK HISTORY MONTH.....	2
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT.....	3
AFRICANA STUDIES GRADUATING SENIORS.....	4
AFRICANA STUDIES MAJORS & MINORS.....	5
BUSTANI YA JAMII AFRICANA COMMUNITY GARDEN.....	6
ACADEMIC PROJECTS.....	6
PROFESSOR EMERITUS QUINTARD TAYLOR.....	8
WEST COAST HIP-HOP UNTOLD STORIES.....	8
NEW FRONT OFFICE STAFF.....	8
AFRS WRITING CENTER.....	10
Spring 2022 Operations.....	11
CAMPUS RESOURCES.....	12

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAIR



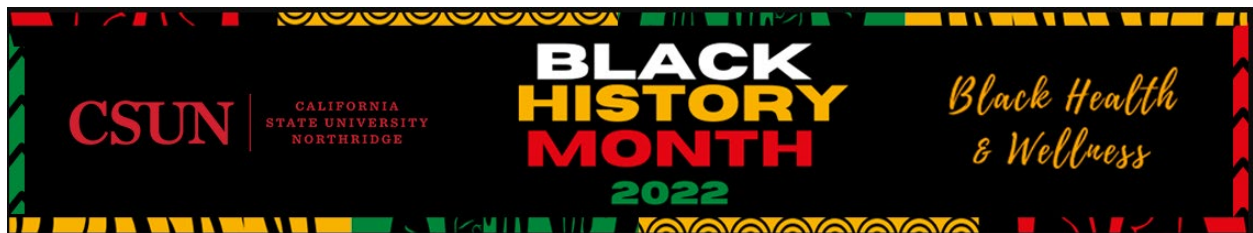
With the start of the new Spring 2022 semester, we are pleased to welcome our new chair of the department, Dr. Marquita Gammage. Dr. Gammage is a Full-Time Professor and Chair of the Department of Africana Studies at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). She earned her PhD in African American Studies from Temple University and a M.A. in Africana Studies from SUNY Albany.

Dr. Gammage research examines the calculus of media effect on the sustainability of anti-African racist ideologies through the intersection of media, culture, and technology. By analyzing current popular media productions (reality TV, television

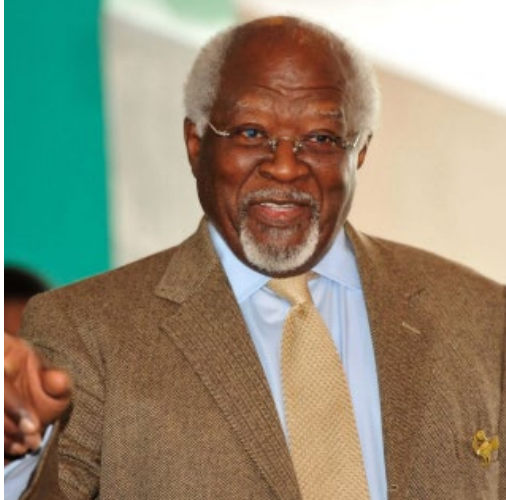
dramas, social media, etc.) paired with an Afrocentric historical and cultural lens, her research demonstrates how the continued misrepresentations of Black womanhood in the media and society in general can be predictive of future public policy initiatives that endanger the freedom and liberties of African Americans. Additionally, her research explores racial equity and academic success of African American students, high impact practices and asset-based pedagogy. Dr. Gammage was raised in the 9th ward community in New Orleans, Louisiana and her experiences led her to yield an unwavering commitment to researching issues impacting the Black Community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month 2022 at CSUN was celebrated with a sense of pride and a vision in mind, with over 30 impactful events that help educate, socialize, and empower peers in the Black community. This year's Black History Month was celebrated through both virtual and in-person means and was open to all students at CSUN.



The Africana Studies Department hosted an array of programs for Black History Month. The Department kick-off opening celebration began with festivities at the CSUN Back House. Also featured was a Lavender Takeover, a social space made for queer and trans people of color. Black Girl Magic (BGM): This is Self-Love, Black Male Scholars Barbershop, Justice 4 Garvey an event, a talk by our new faculty member W. Gabriel Selassie I, "The Walls have Fallen: Emancipation Days in Black California." A special feature of "The State of Africana Studies with Dr. Selassie Williams and a Mix and Mingle Career Night with Black Alumni. Hip Hop and artware also featured. We were honored to be joined by special guests such as Dr. Julius Garvey, who discussed the Global Campaign to gain a posthumous pardon for the Honorable Marcus Garvey from President Biden. Other events such as "Lyrics of Lowly Life" - Expressions of Black Male Mental Health and Trauma", and "A Celebration of HIPHOP Protest Songs, Bridging Original and New Social Justice Lyrics, and Music" were also of great interest to our students.



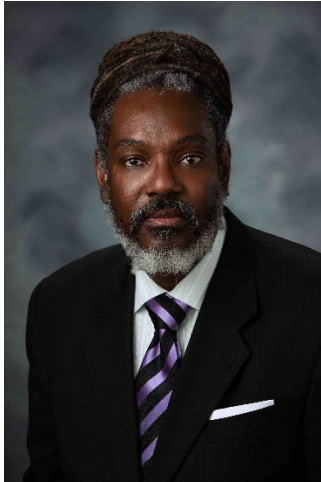
We are also glad to have collaborated with other campus groups and organizations to host Black History Month events which helped other student groups on campus to explore our Black History Month tradition.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Selassie

Welcome our new faculty member, Dr. Selassie! W. Gabriel Selassie I is our new faculty member who joined us in fall 2021. Gabriel earned undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and architecture from Prairie View A & M University of Texas, an HBCU, and worked as both an engineer and architect on a variety of local, national, and international companies and projects. As a STEM professional his expertise was in historic building preservation, cultural patrimony, and public history. Gabriel started his own international historic preservation firm, Archistoria, LLC. Locally, he worked on a number of familiar projects including the seismic retrofit of the Los Angeles City Hall, and the restoration of the downtown Central Library. Internationally, he consulted for government agencies on projects in Africa, Asia, and Europe. According to Gabriel, he never imagined himself becoming a professor until he was offered a class to teach a history course while completing his doctorate in history. From this point, Gabriel began his journey as a professor, specializing in all things Africana. His focus is modern Africa, particularly African religious systems, African & African American history, material cultural, public history and public rituals and liturgies. Gabriel earned a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts in history from the Claremont Graduate University, an M.A. in theology from the University of Notre Dame, an M.A. in African American studies from UCLA, an M.A. in public history and historic preservation from the California State University at Dominguez Hills. He also earned a

certificate in African politics from St. Antony's College, Oxford. One of the things that Gabriel really loves is helping students find their own unique path and believes that it is a moral duty of professors to help students toward self-realization. Apart from teaching students, Gabriel enjoys playing Battlefield 1 and Call of Duty (action video games) during his free time and is also a big collegiate basketball and football fan. Additionally, Dr. Selassie would like to share a message with his students, "The Egyptians believed that one should 'know thyself.' Always have knowledge of self, it is what helps keep you centered in your being."



CSUN Investing Club by Dr. Ganther

Professor Duane Ganther established the new CSUN Investing Club in Fall 2021. The club is open to all CSUN students and the mission of the Student Investing Club is to develop the financial literacy of both the business and non-business students of CSUN through financial education. Secondly, the club wishes to educate, expose, and familiarize our students with the fundamentals of real estate investing, and entrepreneurship, along with investing and trading in the securities market.

AFRICANA STUDIES GRADUATING SENIORS

The Africana Studies Department salutes the graduating class of 2021/2022 of Africana Studies majors and minors. This moment marks an historic victory for you, your families, communities, and the global African world. Despite, systematic racism in education, despite the terrorism of white supremacy, despite a global pandemic, you have worked through virtual learning, muted mics, long nights, screaming kids, and professors with unrealistic deadlines. Now you are stepping into the world as global change agents. You are charged with being unapologetically excellent. Allow your brilliance to show up in every office, every

meeting, every classroom, every boardroom, and in every field. Congratulations for earning your degrees, congratulations for breaking generational barriers, congratulations of being resilient, and congratulations for being way makers for the next generations. And finally, congratulations for advancing social justice and liberation for the global African world. We salute you!

AFRICANA STUDIES MAJORS & MINORS

- Glenda Smith
- Auria Soils-Coleman
- Brianna Rhodes
- Micah Moore
- De'zha Boynton
- Sarah Johnstone
- Ahmad Lambert
- Alexis Randall
- Michelle Omisore
- Diana Tekleglorgis
- Evelyn Boswell
- Marvin Wheeler
- Kamau Pruitt
- Silvia Maria Nuno
- Brianna Davis
- Tracee Porter
- Rebekah Earl
- Jules Fortag
- Naim Muhammad
- Cacie Smith
- Tammy Cardona-Zambeis
- Savannah Scott
- Marry Biedemariam
- Breonica Flores
- Monique Harden
- Angel Robertson
- Kaila Moore-Jones
- Briana Balthazar
- Taniko Smith
- Malaysia Long
- Alesha Hodge
- Samia Howard
- Jon Crain
- Michaella Huck
- Zenani Dennis
- Landren Gipson
- Morgan Cognata
- Reina Stewart
- Devan Prince
- Nia Garnett
- Mia Searcie
- Fenan Kifleyesus
- Keane Lynch
- Deion Turner

BUSTANI YA JAMII AFRICANA COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Africana Studies Department has created an Africana Community Garden in conjunction with the CSUN Sustainability Center. The goal of the garden is to plant, grow and harvest, and prepare the traditional foods & medicinal plants of our Ancestors while bringing community learners, CSUN students, gardeners, chefs, and faculty together in a celebration of and reverence for the land. We are planting coffee, peanuts, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, black-eyed peas, collards, peppers, Moringa, and other Africana ancestral plants. We acknowledge the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. the Channel Islands). We pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders), and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.



ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Dr. W. Gabriel Selassie I was recently published in the California history journal. His article, "The Walls Have Fallen": Emancipation Days in Black California" appeared in California History Journal, Vol 99, Number 1, pp. 73-93, February (Spring) 2022. His second article, "White Jesus Must Die: Decoding Black Jesus: The Iconography of Coon Christ and Jesus of the People" is forthcoming in the University of Florida Press, Delos, Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 15-26, (Spring) 2022.

Dr. Sheba Lo is completing a nationally recognized certificate program offered by the Association of Colleges and University Educators in Effective Online Teaching Practices. It is a year-long program facilitated by CSUN's Faculty Development. Dr. Lo has taken many of the student success practices and integrated them into her classes. For example, she created accountability partners and team contracts for collaborative projects in her courses so that students can help each other be successful academically as well as check in on each other during these challenging times. Dr. Lo has also learned to align course-level student learning outcomes to teaching methods, assessment design, and even the creation of transparent assignments. Though she has participated in numerous faculty workshops and programs, Dr. Lo stated that "this course is next level amazing. I never thought about assigning point values to assessments that correlate with the cognitive level of the student learning outcome." With just three modules left in the program, Dr. Lo notes that she has amassed an abundance of materials to inform her teaching practices forever.

Drs. Sheba Lo and Aimee Glocke are founding editorial members of a new academic journal: *Siyabonana: The Journal of Africana Studies*. *Siyabonana* is an open access online peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes original research and creative intellectual work on key issues within the discipline of Africana Studies and across the global African world. Pan-African in scope, the journal publishes research articles, essays, commentaries, book reviews, interviews, and other creative work that utilizes African-centered theories, methodologies, and approaches to not only examine critical issues, but to present solutions within all areas of Africana Studies, including the humanities, arts, and sciences. It simultaneously provides intellectual space for discourse about community social justice activist work and liberation struggles on the continent and within African world communities. Accepting intellectual and creative work from diverse scholars, activists, writers, and artists who resemble the Editorial Board's diverse training and scholarship, *The Journal of Africana Studies* intentionally positions itself as an inclusive and affirming discipline-based African-centered entity. Timely and radical intellectual research and creative pieces on the prison industrial complex; Africana/Black digital humanities; Africana genders and sexualities and Africana queer theory; the Black radical tradition; political prisoners; Africana/Black Psychology; mental health, nutrition, and holistic health; the African/Black Aesthetic; Africana spiritual philosophy; Black liberation theology; and Afrofuturism are, therefore, also welcome.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS QUINTARD TAYLOR

In April **Quintard Taylor**, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington and Blackpast.org founder will speak to the CSUN community about his website. Prof. Taylor and other volunteers created an online website resource center for African American history called BlackPast.org (www.blackpast.org). The center houses nearly 8,000 pages of information and features contributions by nearly 1,000 academic, independent, and student historians from six continents. It is now the largest reference center of its type on the Internet.



WEST COAST HIP-HOP UNTOLD STORIES

Professor T. Conley moderated a panel discussion with DJ Yella, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and DJ, Cli-N-Tel. Prof. T engaged both artists on their recently published books sharing untold stories of west coast hip-hop. Both artists are subjects of Prof. T's film, "Not Without Alonzo," detailing their careers as pioneers and founding members of the World Class Wreckin' Cru with Grandmaster Lonzo and Dr. Dre. The event was partly a Q & A format starting with questions from Prof. T and then from the audience. The discussions covered the early years of west coast hip-hop and took students into the world of djing, promotions, production and music performance that has helped hip-hop grow to a worldwide phenomenon with roots nearly fifty years old.

NEW FRONT OFFICE STAFF

The Department of Africana Studies has long prided itself on being prepared and adaptable to all eventualities. We are proud to have a community of faculty, staff, and students that have been unwavering through the many challenges the global pandemic has brought. From transitioning operations into the virtual space, finding innovative and resourceful ways to provide our students and faculty the support they need, to preparing for our return to campus, the front office team has been at

the forefront of it all. We salute our department leadership, faculty, staff, and students as we all continue to carry out the mission of developing educated and empowered scholars, seeking to make a positive impact on the world. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Spring 2022 newsletter.

Alliyah Blacksher

Hi everyone! My name is Alliyah Blacksher and I work in the AFRS front office as the Administrative Support Assistant (ASA). I graduated with my BA in Sociology from Chapman University, and I hope to become a crisis counselor for college students.



Apurva Raj

I am a junior majoring in emerging media production and an international student from India. I serve as the PR & Marketing Student Assistant in the Department of Africana Studies and I'm aspiring to work in the media and film industry in the future.



Nyasha Masenda

I am a Sophomore at CSUN currently studying Urban Studies and Planning. I am an international student from Harare, Zimbabwe. I work as the front office student assistant for the Department of Africana Studies.



AFRS WRITING CENTER

The Department of Africana Studies Writing Center which started operations in 1982 was designed primarily to provide supplemental assistance to mainly Black and other under-presented students who manifest problems with writing and reading skills. Today, it has become a valuable resource for students at CSUN while servicing well over 200 of them each year.



Spring 2022 Operations

The Africana Studies Writing Center will begin with virtual operations in Spring 2022 and transition to hybrid modality in the coming weeks. Our dedicated peer writing tutors are eager to support students via one-on-one Zoom appointments with all aspects of academic writing starting in Week 2 of the semester. Students are asked to come prepared to tutoring sessions with essay rough drafts and assignment prompts

Africana Studies Writing Center Virtual/Hybrid Tutorial Services

- Writing Center hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- All CSUN students are welcome.
- Schedule a 20minute oneonone Zoom tutoring appointment via EAB (Instructions below).
- Instructions for students scheduling an Africana Studies Writing Center tutoring appointment via EAB
- Go to the EAB scheduling website in your internet browser and log in with your CSUN User ID and Password.
- After logging in, students must click on the blue box toward the upper right, "Schedule Appointment."
- After logging students will be asked to make four choices:
- Select "Tutoring" for the type of appointment.
- Select the "Africana Studies Writing Center."
- Select the reason for their visit.
- Choose a date and click on "Find Available Time."
- Enroll in AFRS 099: Writer's Workshop. This 1unit course meets for 2 hours/week and all CSUN students are invited to improve their writing skills (grammar, usage, brainstorming, and other aspects of composition). Professor Shaw will distribute permission numbers for AFRS 099.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

We have put together a list of essential resources that are available to all students on campus to help them thrive!

CSBS Advisement

Student Services Center and EOP Satellite

The Student Services Center/EOP (SSC/EOP) for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is an academic support program that offers programs that enhance students' educational experiences, foster student development, and promotes academic success. The SSC/EOP serves majors in Africana Studies, Anthropology, Criminology, and Justice Studies, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology Sociology, and Urban Studies & Planning.

The SSC/EOP also provides additional services for majors in the College who are part of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

Our advisors are working remotely and available to assist students through phone or zoom advisement. To schedule an appointment, please call 818-677-2658 (M-F 9:00-5:00).

Contact: (818) 677-2658

Klotz Health Center

The Klotz Student Health Center is dedicated to providing high quality healthcare in an inclusive, comfortable, and compassionate environment. Services are designed to help students stay healthy and provide support for achieving academic goals.

Contact: (818) 677-3666

Food Pantry

The CSUN Food Pantry exists to provide emergency nourishment and basic necessities at no cost to CSUN's students. The CSUN Food Pantry supplies food and offers food program assistance to those who are without reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. Our goal is to minimize the academic impact on our students by providing the needed essentials. The CSUN Food

Pantry is a resource for CSUN students, faculty, and staff to help alleviate food insecurity and hunger within our campus community.

Contact: (818) 677-2730

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid & Scholarship Department is looking forward to welcoming students back for the fall 2021 semester. We are committed to providing service, guidance, and resources to students in the pursuit of their educational goals. While we are continuing to offer remote services, we are also servicing students in the student center in Bayramian Hall Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Facial coverings are required indoors, for all staff, students, and visitors, along with the completion of the Health Screening Survey. Financial Aid staff is also available to answer your questions by phone at 1-818-677-4085 or by email at financial.aid@csun.edu.

In addition, the Scholarship Office is available to answer your scholarship questions by phone at 1-818-677-4907 Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. You can also email your scholarship questions to scholarships@csun.edu. Please be sure to visit myMatador Scholarships at csun.edu/scholarships for up-to-date scholarship opportunities!

Contact: 818-677-4907

Parking

- All CSUN parking lots and parking structures will be open and operational for Fall 2021. As such, standard parking rates will resume.
- Employees currently on payroll deduction will automatically renew and will have their previously 50% reduced rate automatically returned to standard rates.
- Parking permits can be obtained through your CSUN portal or by visiting the Parking Services Office. To enroll in automatic payroll deduction, please visit the Parking Services Office during regular business hours. If you wish to enroll in payroll deduction through email, submit the payroll deduction form no later than August 25th, 2021. You will receive a confirmation email with more information on how to obtain your permit.
- Daily parking permits for \$8.00 are also available for purchase. Day permits can be purchased at Information Booth 1 (Lindley and Nordhoff) or

Information Booth 2 (Prairie and Darby). You may also purchase a day permit at dispensers in all parking structures and in all student lots.

- Rides to and from the Metrolink Northridge station will resume Fall 2021. Please contact the Parking Services Office for more details by calling 818-677-2157 or by email.

Contact:(818) 677-2157