The Breakdown

Fall 2020 Issue

By Bryan Arevalo and the Africana Staff

Volume 6

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Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the Fall 2020 semester edition of the Africana Studies newsletter. As many of you know, this was a year filled with a multiplicity of challenging and unusual circumstances. However, regardless of the adversities we faced, the Africana Studies Department takes pride in knowing that we have, and will always remain resilient! If this year has taught us anything, it is that we are a community built on strength, patience and a willingness to adapt. 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, as we tapped into the deepest part of our being in order to thrive in the virtual space in the middle of one of the worst global 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. In this edition, we spotlight our new AFRS Writing Center Director, our AFRS student alumni, as well as provide a recap of many of the excellent resources that our department and community have offered to our students. We hope you enjoy catching up with us. Wishing you a most joyous, relaxing, rejuvenating holiday season. Ashay!
Navigating Uncharted Waters Together!

Though our way of life has changed in the last couple of semesters, our community stands strong, and in unity as we navigate through another school year! "With the student body presence absent, know that our campus engagement and outreach is stronger than ever by hosting events virtually! In continuing our efforts to engage with students and provide support, we would like to share with you a list of Black organizations, venues, and other hosts, providing information, support and virtual programming to our students.

Be sure to check out these clubs and organizations:

- The Black House
- Black Student Success Council (BSSC)
- Black Girl Magic,
- Black Male Initiative
- Black Male Scholars
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Black Student Leadership Council (BSLC)
- African Student Organization (ASO)
- CSUNaturals - Natural Hair Club
- CSUN NAACP Student Chapter
- CSUN National Association of Black Journalists Student Chapter
- CSUN National Society of Black Engineers Student Chapter
- Faithful Black Men
- Faithful Black Women
- Gospel Choir, Matadolls — Dance Group
- The Divine 9 - National Panhellenic Council
- WISDOM (Women Inspired to Succeed and Discover Opportunities through Mentoring)
Remote Operations

Africana Studies
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8 AM - 5 PM
WE CAN BE REACHED AT
(818) 677-3311
EMAIL US AT
AFRICANASTUDIES
@CSUN.EDU

Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 pm. We can be reached at (818) 677-3311 or via email at africanastudies@csun.edu.
**Professor Highlights**

Dr. Kennon

The department is proud to announce Dr. Raquel Kennon as the new director of the Africana Studies writing program! The AFRS Writing Program was established by the late Dr. Rosentene Purnell in 1979 to meet the diverse writing needs of incoming first-year students. As Writing Program Director, Dr. Kennon worked closely with the newly retired Professor Deborakh Broadous. She is currently working with the Africana Studies writing faculty and peer tutors who conduct tutorial sessions and virtual workshops.

Located in Sierra Hall (SH) 273, the recently remodeled AFRS Writing Center is a multi-purpose venue that houses an extensive Africana Studies Reference Library, a computer lab, a study space for tutoring, SI sections, and various writing programs and events.

Due to COVID-19, the Africana Studies Writing Center has moved its operations online for the academic year 2020-2021. To advertise its remote services, the center hosted a fall virtual Open House event on September 3rd, 2020. Students had the opportunity to learn about the online tutoring services, which include “drop in” individual appointments, scheduled appointments, the one-unit AFRS 099 course, writing workshops, and “Meet Me at the Well” events.

This fall, the virtual Writing Center has three peer tutors, Anaya Galves, Dailyn Simmons, and Shanell Robinson, who have expertise in Africana Studies courses and an advanced knowledge of academic writing. The tutors previously facilitated a workshop on *Critical Reading* on Friday, October 23rd, 2020, and will hold future workshops on the Research Paper and managing mental health and college expectations during the pandemic.

The virtual hours for the Africana Studies Writing Center are Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm and Fridays, 9 am to 3 pm. Tutoring appointments can be scheduled online; same day drop-ins are also welcomed.

As a reminder, the Africana Studies Writing Center is open to all CSUN students, even those who are not Africana Studies majors.

Visit our [online scheduling system](#) to make an appointment with the AFRS Writing Center.
The 51st Annual Africana Studies Week Event

We are in unprecedented times with the state of our country and our world. The COVID-19 pandemic is inspiring an international social justice movement that resonates with our deepest concern for the humanity of the Black community. In our 51st year, the Department of Africana Studies will explore how we re-imagine our commitment to scholarship and service, as well as student achievement and success during uncertain times.

Our theme, “Re-Imagining the New Preceding Encounters, Novel Antidotes”, continues to memorialize the department's existence in its 51st year. We continue to celebrate the sacrifices of those who together form a Black Studies department and those who continue to struggle and advocate for change in new and innovative ways.

Some of the events that took place were:

- “What’s Your Super Power?”, Monday, November, 2
- “Mass Incarceration in America,” Monday, November 2
- “Fighting Anti-Racism in American Democracy: Weaponizing the Vote to Defeat Oppression,” Tuesday, November,3
- “Storm at Valley State: The Teach In,” Wednesday, November, 4
- “The Black Card,” Wednesday, November, 4
Lauren Tate Baeza, is an Africana Studies (Cultural Studies) graduate whose passion for art and interest in Africana and African-American history gave her the opportunity to work as a new curator for African Art at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia as of November 8th, 2020.

Prior to her achievement, Baeza spent her time in Atlanta serving as a Director of Exhibitions at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in 2018. Baeza also had other prosperous opportunities working as a curator for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, in Atlanta.

In addition to her extensive knowledge in art, culture, and curation, Baeza has also had the opportunity to travel to East Africa where she received first-hand experience of the culture. Her knowledge in the African diaspora has also allowed Baeza to work on community and environmental initiatives in Kenya and Uganda. She has also been fortunate enough to teach seminars as a lecturer at the Nafasi Academy in Tanzania.

Baeza, grateful for her opportunities, plans to continue to educate her community in Atlanta about the African Baeza, grateful for her prosperous opportunities, plans to continue to educate her community in Atlanta about the African diaspora and plans to continue to work in art curation to share her wealth of knowledge.

To learn more about Lauren Tate Baeza, read “Lauren Tate Baeza Appointed Curator of African Art at High Museum of Art in Atlanta," or visit The High Museum in Atlanta, GA.
Voting and Civic Engagement

In preparation for the November 3\textsuperscript{rd} election, many voting and civic engagement events took place virtually through many student organizations and on the CSUN campus.

Registering to vote
Registering to vote is an important part of being a civically engaged citizen. No matter what state you vote in, you can use Turbovote to register. Enter your information on Turbovote, an online voting registration site, to learn the relevant voting day details based on your registered address.

Updating Your Registration
If you are already registered to vote in California, you do not have to register again unless you need to change your name, address, or political party. Check if you're registered.

Voting
Black Male Vote: September 29, 2020 8PM

Black Table Talk Podcast
The Black House invited White House Political Analyst & Class of 2020 graduate Kenneth Session to promote the Importance of Black Male Voting During the Election. They discussed the issues and oppression Black Men Face when voting.

Voter Suppression: October 8, 2020 @ 5PM
Black House Zoom
Students engaged in a zoom workshop to learn about voter suppression and also the importance of the 2020 election. We had guests from Northridge Black Lives Matter (BLM) and West Valley Peoples Alliance.

Get Out and Vote: October 12, 2020 @ 6:30PM
Black House Zoom
Students were invited to learn more about propositions in California, voting protocol during COVID-19, and an open discussion on why it is important to exercise our right to vote. Black Leaders were invited to speak and endorse candidates and initiatives that affect us as a community.

The Black Male Vote part 2: October 15, 2020 @ 7PM
Black House Zoom
The CSUN Black House team invited a professional male political leader to discuss the impact of the Black Male Vote. The Black Male Vote aims to highlight the importance and impact that Black Males have on the political landscape.
The Black Buzz (Page 5)

**AB-1460**
The Assembly Bill 1460 was passed in the state of California (CA). Students attending California State Universities (CSU’s) will now be required to take one ethnic studies course in order to graduate, starting in the Fall 2021. Students entering that school year will be required to take at least one 3-unit course in order to graduate in 2024-2025.

Read [CSUN President Dianne Harrison’s message](#) to learn more about AB-1460

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**CSUN’s Diversity and Inclusion Innovation Grant**
Great news! President Dianne Harrison, CSUN’s President, in collaboration with the President’s Commission on Diversity & Inclusion, granted the administration of The Diversity & Equity Innovation Grant (DEIG). How does that help students? Well, this will support educational projects, scholarly research, creative activities and other programmatic initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion, anti-racism and social justice for the benefit of the CSUN community.

Learn more about [The Diversity & Equity Innovation Grant (DEIG)](#).

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**Scholar Strike**
From 9/8/20 – 9/10/20, thousands of faculties across the United States and Canada, participated in an action, dubbed #ScholarStrike. The Scholar Strike addressed racism and injustice in the United States.
For two days, professors and other educators refrained from many of their duties and participated in actions designed to raise awareness of, and to prompt action against racism, policing, mass incarceration and other symptoms of racism's toll in America.

The Scholar Strike was open to everyone on college and university campuses, including faculty, staff, graduate students, and administrators, who are committed to anti-racism, and advocating for racial and social justice for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in all areas of society.

For more information, visit: ScholarStrike.com

Alicia Keys Teams Up with the NFL to Launch $1B Fund for Black Businesses and Communities

In conjunction with her performance of the Black national anthem at the NFL’s Kickoff event for the 2020 season, singer/songwriter Alicia Keys announced her partnership with the NFL to launch a $1 billion endowment fund for Black businesses and communities, Billboard reports.

Find out more about the partnership with Alicia Keys and the NFL.
Tribute to Toni Morrison

Literary Partners cordially invites you to a marathon reading of Song of Solomon. An incredible roster of new and established literary luminaries will be reading Morrison’s seminal work including: Brit Bennett, Edwidge Danticat, Jacqueline Woodson, Hilton Als, Jesmyn Ward, Louise Erdrich, Margaret Atwood, Lorrie Moore, Tayari Jones, Tommy Orange, Jason Reynolds, Ocean Vuong, Jennifer Egan and Yaa Gyasi.

Morrison fans and book lovers will not want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime event!

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Announcing 2021 Remote Summer Internship and Fellowship Opportunities

Interested in a career in television? Interested in working for the Television Academy Foundation? If so, here's an opportunity for you to apply to the 2021 summer program at TelevisionAcademy.com/Internships. Applications will close on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:00 PM.
The Scoop

Africana Studies Alumni: Where are they now?
Meet Anaya Galvez

As an alumna of California State University, Northridge, I feel as if it is my duty to be of service to the campus community in every capacity.

During my undergraduate years, Africana Studies helped me embark upon an interpersonal journey I was unaware I could achieve.

With the skills and lessons learned from my undergraduate studies, I embarked upon a career in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Community engagement is key to improving student success. Therefore, making sure, even during a climate such as this one, putting our best foot forward is pivotal to student development.

Within the department, I also found lifelong mentors and friends to grow with, and I was able to participate in two of the most rewarding positions of all – Supplemental Instructor (SI) Leader and Africana Studies Writing Center Tutor.

Being able to remain a mentor and be involved in community engagement is my top priority. The goal is to continue to empower amazing critical thinkers, and revolutionaries, for years to come. With the background of Africana Studies on my resume, maybe teaching is in my future, down the line. As someone who took this knowledge and shifted my family’s view on life, I know I can be of service to the next set of scholars to walk into CSUN. Who knows, maybe I will teach others right here at the very college that paved the way for me. Although this year started out extremely different than what we are accustomed to, remembering our purpose and function within ourselves, and the universe, should always bring us back to excellence. The universe is only as big as you think it is, so think BIG and change it.
The Black House
The Black House dedicates their time to assisting students, by providing programming services through educational and cultural events.

The Black House Coordinators
Kyle Wallace-Jordan
Breonica Flores
Ebony Martin
Kaila Moore-Jones

Where
18348 Halsted St. (at the north side of campus)

Hours
Monday: 1 pm – 7 pm
Tuesday: 2 pm – 6 pm
Wednesday: 1 pm – 7 pm
Thursday: 2:30 pm – 7 pm
Friday: 2 pm – 5 pm

Ebony Martin
“Hey everyone! This is Ebony, your Black House coordinator! I want to wish everyone the best for this upcoming virtual semester. You all got this! Cannot wait to see you all at the Black House Events!”

Breonica Flores
“My name is Bre and I’m finishing up my final year at CSUN as an Africana studies major and Entertainment Media Management minor. Although we are still virtual this semester, the Black House plans on bringing you engaging content to fix your quarantine fatigue. You can tune into the Black Table Talk podcast and listen to the Sippin Tea with Bre segment, where we’ll discuss pop culture events, tasteful gossip, and new media content by Black creators. The BHCs will also
be hosting virtual fitness seminars, DIY tutorials, IGTV cooking shows, and more! So, don’t forget to tune in with us and Welcome to the Black House! “

Kyle Jordan-Wallace
Hello All, my name is Kyle Wallace-Jordan and I am the Senior Black House Coordinator. My goal at the Black House is to provide a space of unity and motivation amongst all Black students at CSUN. In doing so, I founded the Black Table Talk to provide students with a platform that students can interact with during the current pandemic. Our mission is to provide students with resources and information that positively impact their academic performance. Join us, Bre, Ebony, Kaila and I, every Tuesday night, as the Black House Coordinators join together at 8 pm for our weekly Podcast. This semester I am focused on the importance of the Black Male Voice, and have created a series program, The Black Male Vote, that focuses on the importance and impact of Black men voting in this year’s election.