

**RALPH J. BUNCHE
CENTER FOR
AFRICAN AMERICAN
STUDIES AT UCLA**

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BUNCHE
Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA



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Bunche Center Newsletter—March 2018



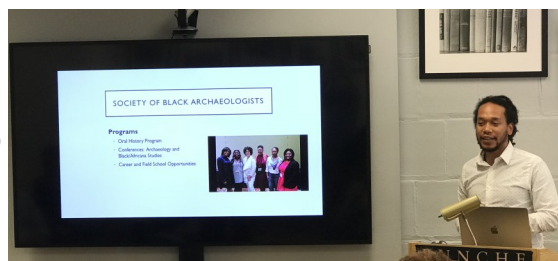
A Message from Kelly Lytle-Hernández, Interim Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies

At the Bunche Center, we began Black History Month with a gripping talk by Dr. Justin Dunnivant and the work he is doing with the Society for Black Archaeologists to train a new generation of researchers in St. Croix. We closed Black History Month with a standing-room only talk by Susan Burton, Founder and Director of A New Way of Life. Susan spoke about her new book, *Becoming*

Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women (The New Press, 2017), which boldly chronicles her rise as a freedom fighter for currently and formerly incarcerated women.

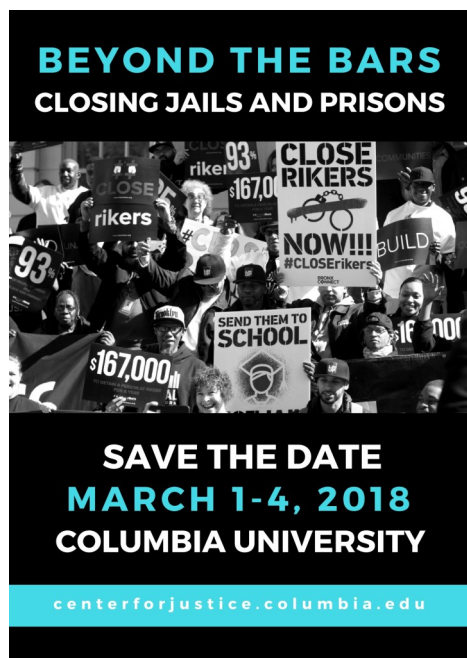
In March, we are looking forward to supporting a new course, "Black Mental Health Matters," which will be offered by Dr. Nicole Green and Professor Courtney Thomas. This course will bring a focus on wellness to our practices as students and scholars across the campus. And, as always, we will continue our research on disparities in employment and criminal justice.

Justin Dunnivant (image right)



L to R: Anthony J. Williams & Kali Tambree (members, Justice Work Group), Susan Burton (founder, A New Way of Life), Danielle Dupuy (assistant director, Bunche Center)

Beyond the Bars Conference—March 4, 2018



Million Dollar Hoods (MDH) will present at the annual Beyond the Bars Conference at Columbia University in New York City on Sunday, March 4th, 2018. The theme of this year's conference is "Closing Jails and Prisons." Members of the MDH team will discuss evidence on the exorbitant costs of policing and incarceration as an impetus for closing detention facilities and ending the cumulative spiral of disadvantage created by the carceral state. Specifically, the workshop will highlight the bail system as a multi-billion dollar industry that demands tens of millions of dollars annually in cash and assets from some of L.A.'s most economically vulnerable persons, families, and communities. It will then show that the price for freedom does not stop at financial costs, but it also negatively impacts access to educational attainment opportunities, wages, and other social determinants of health over the long term. Conference participants

will have the opportunity to engage in a lively discussion about how to recoup these dollars and reinvest them in the community in a way that leads us to closing jails and prisons.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Conference.

The talks at UCLA are free and open to the public.

For directions to UCLA, [click here](#).

To view the UCLA Campus map, [click here](#).

Short-term parking and daily parking (\$12) are available throughout the UCLA campus. Visit www.transportation.ucla.edu for more info.

UCLA is a Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus.

"Now You See Me, Now You Don't: Black Girls, Dubious Protection, and the Public"

Thursday, March 15, 2018, 12:15 pm—1:45 pm, Haines 352 Reading Room

Dr. Aimee Cox, Professor of African American Studies and Anthropology at Yale University, with Dr. Shana Redmond, Professor of Musicology and African American Studies at UCLA, will draw from Cox's first ethnography, *Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship*, and work with young Black women in the urban and suburban U.S. to consider how their experiences offers a reframing of the concepts of protection, social accountability, care, legibility, and value. This talk is organized by the UCLA Department of Anthropology. The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies is a co-sponsor.

Authors' Series—*White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson

Tuesday, April 17, 2018—Time and Location, TBA

Carol Anderson, Professor of African American Studies at Emory University, won the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism for her book, *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*. The talk is organized by the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and co-sponsored by the UCLA Department of History and UCLA Department of African American Studies.



Carol Anderson

Faculty News

'Black Panther' is about to shatter movie business assumptions

According to a *Los Angeles Times* article, 'Black Panther' is expected to be the first global superhero blockbuster to feature a mostly black cast and an African American director. Darnell Hunt, Dean of Social Sciences at UCLA, said, "There aren't many examples of African American directors being given that kind of opportunity to make a big-budget movie with a black cast and a global marketing campaign.

It's a great opportunity to demonstrate the box-office power of this type of storytelling." Hunt also stated, "The creation of 'Black Panther' represents the turn from seeing black people as victims to them having agency, and who has more agency than a superhero?"

To read the full article, [click here](#).



Dean Darnell Hunt

'Speak their names.' UCLA's 'Why History Matters' event series bears witness to stories of black women

The UCLA Department of History series "Why History Matters" partnered with the UCLA Department of African American Studies for the first time as part of Black History Month. Marcus Hunter, Associate Professor of Sociology and African American Studies and Chair of the Department of African American Studies, asked the speakers to share the names and stories of important black women who aren't as well known. Brenda Stevenson, Professor in History and African American Studies and Nickoll Family Endowed Chair in History, shared the story of Susan

Black, who was raped at the age of twelve and mercilessly beaten for years by her master. Stevenson is currently working on two upcoming volumes about slave families and enslaved women as a follow-up to her 2015 book "What is Slavery?" Stevenson said, "Their stories have much to tell us about the unimaginable inhumanity of the powerful, and the boundless humanity of those considered without power who strive mightily to be free, safe, respected and well."

To read the full article, [click here](#).



Brenda Stevenson

"How Sweet the Sound: Gospel Music in Los Angeles" exhibition

Tyree Boyd-Pates, California African American Museum (CAAM) history curator, and historian Dr. Daniel E. Walker, director of USC's Gospel Music Archive, developed the exhibition, "How Sweet the Sound: Gospel Music in Los Angeles." According to Boyd-Pates, "Los Angeles was the epicenter of gospel music that changed the way the country and the world approaches it. The commercial success of gospel music happened here in South Central." He stated, "Several decades ago, Dr. DjeDje wrote about the history of gospel music in Los Angeles, so I used her research, statistics and interviews she

conducted with many artists in the exhibition. We used the work she's been doing in the community with the Black church for over 30 years and I thank her. Without her work 30, 40 years ago, the exhibition would not exist today." Dr. Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje is an Emeritus Professor, Former Professor and Chair of Ethnomusicology and Director of the Ethnomusicology Archive, as well as a Bunche affiliated faculty member.

To read the full article, [click here](#).



Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje

Race-based stress and coping among the U.S. Black population

Faculty Spotlight: Courtney Thomas, Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and a Faculty Associate for the Bunche Center.

Prof. Courtney Thomas: “A central focus of my research is the conceptualization and assessment of race-based stress and coping experiences among the U.S. Black population. In one study, I found that experiencing subtle or ambiguous discrimination increases Blacks’ risk of poor psychological and physiological functioning and may be more detrimental than more blatant

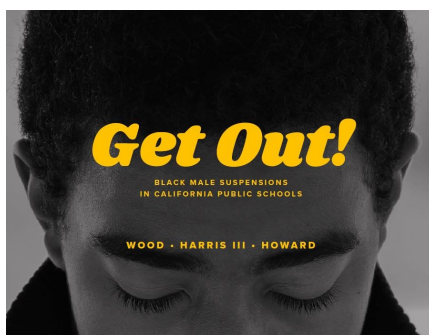
discriminatory treatment. This work motivated the development of my “Racial Self-Awareness Framework of Race-Based Stress, Coping, and Health,” which clarifies environmental, sociocultural, and behavioral health processes by spotlighting “racial self-awareness” (RSA), the heightened sense of awareness of one’s racial minority status within a majority context. Currently, I’m working on developing a measure of RSA through the analysis of in-depth qualitative interviews of African American people living and/ or working in predominantly white spaces.”



Courtney Thomas

“Get Out! Black Male Suspensions in California Public Schools” by J. Luke Wood, Ph.D., Frank Harris III, Ed.D., & Tyrone C. Howard, Ph.D.

The *Get Out!* report found that the statewide suspension rate for Black males is 3.6 times higher than the statewide suspension rate for all students; while 3.6% of all students were suspended in 2016-17, the suspension rate for black boys and young men



was 12.8%. “Suspensions and expulsions have been found to be a direct pathway into the criminal justice system.” Another report finding was that “Black boys in these rural counties are being systematically targeted by educators for exclusion.” The authors’ recommendations were to eliminate childhood suspension in early childhood

education because “suspending children in early childhood education can foster ... negative dispositions regarding students’ perceived sense of belonging in learning environments ... and perceptions of the utility of school.”

Another recommendation was to prepare district personnel to understand, identify, and respond to trauma because “frequently students who are experiencing trauma are pushed out or excluded from learning communities.”

[Click here](#) to access the full report.



Tyrone Howard

2018 Hollywood Diversity Report

The Hollywood Diversity Report tracks racial and gender diversity in Hollywood, both behind and in front of the camera. Dean of Social Sciences at UCLA College, Darnell Hunt, co-authored the report and presented his findings at UCLA on February 27, 2018. [Click here](#) to access the full report!

COURSES OF ACTION

Theater and education to resist racism and mass incarceration



SPRING 2018

Courses are designed to work together for students interested in taking both.

DISRUPTING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE:

Arts Activism & Agency

AF Amer C191, 4 units, WF 10 AM – 1 PM, with P. Noguera & B. Bain

LEGISLATIVE THEATER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

***(In the Incarceration Capital of the World)**

WL ARTS 174B, 4 units, B. Bain & R. Gordon (with visiting artist Alessandro Conceição from the Center for Theater of the Oppressed, Rio de Janeiro).

Course Schedule:

- **mandatory orientation:** April 6, 9 AM – 3 PM, Kerckhoff Grand Salon
- **class meetings:** Weeks 3 – 7, MF, 9 – 11:50 AM,
Mondays, Kaufman 240 & Fridays, Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Detention Facility
- **intensive workshop:** May 5, 6:10 AM – 4 PM, Kaufman 208
- **rehearsals:** May 14 – 16, 6 PM – 9 PM, Kaufman 1000
- **legislative theater performance:**
May 18, 9 AM – 11:50 AM, Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Detention Facility
- **legislative theater performance:**
May 18, 4:30 PM – 8 PM, Northwest Campus Auditorium

* PTE number required. To receive an application, email

robert.gordon@arts.ucla.edu

UCLA

Department of
African American Studies

**UCLA PRISON
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**



ARTS

World Arts
and Cultures/Dance



**ART &
GLOBAL HEALTH
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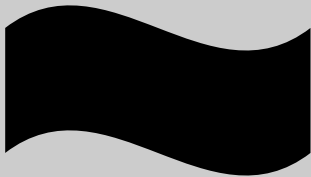
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Library & Media Center News

The Bunche Library and Media Center invites faculty, students and campus visitors to access its special collections monographs. Recently the following titles were added to the collection.

Johnson, E. Jerome. 2006. *Seven Steps Toward Black Reemergence: A Father Writes to His Daughter on the Regaining of Lost Power*. Hawthorne, CA: Southsphere Press.

Kahan, Leonard and Page, Donna. 2015. *African Art in African American Collections*. Madison, WI: Donalen Publishers.

Okri, Ben. 1993. *Songs of Enchantment*. New York: Nan A. Talese.

Parks, Gordon. 1990. *Voices in the Mirror: An Autobiography*. New York: Doubleday.

Warner, Lucille Schulberg. *From Slave to Abolitionist: The Life of William Wells Brown*. New York: Dial Books.

Special thanks to Donalen Publishers (Madison, WI), Professor Robin D.G. Kelley and Bunche Center Inaugural Director and Freedom Rider, Robert Singleton, for donating materials.



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