

BUNCHE CENTER NEWS DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

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Bunche Center Commentary

The Bunche Center Newsletter will begin featuring the research of one of our affiliated faculty members. This month we're pleased to highlight **Robin D.G. Kelley**, Gary B. Nash Professor of American History. Robin is internationally recognized for his work on the history of the labor and radical movements, intellectual and cultural history, and urban studies. He is the author of several important books, including the awarding-winning *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original* (Free Press, 2009); *Africa Speaks, America Answers: Modern Jazz in Revolutionary Times* (Harvard University Press, 2012); and *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression* (University of North Carolina Press, 1990). In this issue, Robin shares his thoughts about the Occupy Movement.



Robin D. G. Kelley

Occupy Dreams Deferred

By Robin D. G. Kelley

"Why aren't there more black folks in the Occupy Movement?" This question has become the topic of blogs, editorials, radio talk shows, public forums, and my own daily conversations. Of course, anyone with direct dealings with Occupy Wall Street or Occupy Oakland knows that people of color (not just the homeless) have been present in the movement from the outset. But the question merits consideration, given the disproportionate impact the economic downturn has had on black and brown communities. Four decades of neoliberal policies and a history of structural racism have positioned African Americans and Latinos at the bottom rung of the 99%. As of 2009, for every dollar of white net wealth, African Americans hold 10 cents and Latinos 12 cents. And a recent study revealed that 85% of homeowners hardest hit by foreclosures have been black and Latino.

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA

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Bunche Center Commentary (Continued)

While race is not at the core of Occupy Wall Street's, "Declaration of the Occupation of New York City," many of the problems outlined in the "Declaration" directly affect black and brown communities, including the attack on labor unions, outsourcing, home foreclosures, food security, war, the environment, healthcare, rising education costs and student debt, and the expansion of the prison industry—all manifestations of neoliberalism. These are not new grievances for African Americans. Indeed, black working people were among the first casualties of neoliberal policies. Beginning in the 1970s and taking off under Ronald Reagan, the U.S. embraced a policy of tax cuts, deregulation, attacks on trade unions, severe cuts in federal support for cities, public education, healthcare, and welfare, alongside increased military spending, prison construction, and corporate subsidies. Buttressed by government incentives, manufacturing firms fled the urban core for industrial suburbs, and then fled the country altogether. Black working people saw hard fought unionized positions disappear, replaced by low-wage service sector jobs or no jobs at all. By Reagan's second term, over a third of black families lived below the poverty line.

The first casualties of neoliberalism have also been its most ardent foes. To take just one example, before Zucotti Park and the battles in Wisconsin, post-Katrina New Orleans had been a key battleground against privatizing schools, hospitals, public transit, public housing, and dismantling public sector unions—not to mention the unbridled transfer of federal recovery monies to corporations through no-bid contracts. Black activists leading multiracial coalitions fought back through organizations such as Common Ground Collective, the People's Hurricane Relief Fund, and Community Labor United (CLU). Anticipating the Occupy movement, the CLU's statement of principles "committed to building a society where the bottom line interests of corporations and the rich are not balanced on the backs of workers and the poor." We can look back even further for precedents; recall that SNCC had pioneered non-violent direct action, consensus-based democracy, and "horizontalism" even before it was named.

So why haven't we seen greater black participation in the Occupy movement? The explanations vary. For most African Americans, the prospect of arrest often carries dire consequences given the racialized character of the criminal justice system. And then there is the general suspicion that a predominantly white movement may

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Bunche Center Commentary (Continued)

not fully back an anti-racist agenda. But I suspect that an unyielding, often uncritical loyalty to our first black president may be a factor since the Occupy movement is critical of the White House. Second, there is a persistent belief within popular African American discourse that the *black* one percent ought to be our allies, role models, and our hope for the future. Many of us embrace black millionaires and billionaires—the P-Diddy's, Jay-Z's, and Oprah's of the world—as embodiments of “our” wealth. Or we hold on to the dream that with the right record deal or scout or hustle, we can become the next black billionaire. Has race loyalty and material aspirations muddled our ability to see the structural dimensions of class and wealth inequality? Is this why the anti-poverty campaign being waged by Cornel West and Tavis Smiley has not gotten more traction among African Americans?

The essential problem, in other words, may not be the absence of black people from the Occupy movement, but rather the absence of a core anti-racist critique within Occupy's anti-corporate agenda, and the absence of a sharp class critique from the black movement's anti-racist agenda.

Announcements



Winston C. Doby

**February 20, 1941 -
November 10, 2011**

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of **Winston Doby**, who last week lost his long battle with cancer. As vice chancellor for student affairs at UCLA, and later as vice president for student affairs in the UC Office of the President, Winston was a staunch advocate for student diversity and access throughout a career that spanned more than 40 years. His voice will be truly missed as we continue our struggles with these pressing issues.

For more information about Dr. Doby's life and career, please visit: <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/winston-doby-longtime-ucla-and-218923.aspx>.

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Announcements (Continued)



Photo credit:
UCLAfightsback.wordpress.com

An **Anti-Prop 209 Rally** was held on November 1st, 2011 on the ULCA campus. Prop 209 is the California law that bans the consideration of race, gender and ethnicity in admissions and employment decisions for state institutions. The rally was comprised of roughly 100 students from multiple communities on campus and from the Los Angeles community, including King-Drew Magnet High School students, who came together to support the efforts of By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). The successful event also included student speakers who delivered spoken word poems and speeches in support of overturning Prop 209. The rally ended with a silent march around campus to raise awareness of the issue. To read an article in the Daily Bruin, click on: http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/blog/off_the_press/2011/11/protesters_march_on_campus_for_repeal_of_prop_209 Read more about the Center's Amicus Brief in support of overturning anti-affirmative action legislation on page 12.

On Thursday, October 6th, 2011, the Bunche Center co-sponsored **the Black Convocation** at Covell Commons. Attended by students and faculty, it is an annual event programmed to expose the richness and breadth of the black community on campus to incoming freshmen and transfer students. One of the goals of the event is to orient the new students to the services, resources, and people on campus that are here to be a part of their UCLA Community experience.



(left to right) Adrien Sebros, Tierra Moore, Darnell Hunt



Mandla Kayise, UCLA Black Alumni Association

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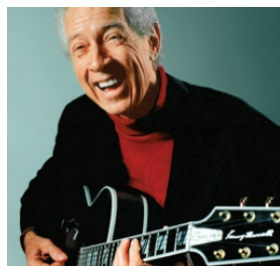
Announcements (Continued)

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M. Belinda Tucker
speaking at the Black Convocation

Faculty Spotlight



Bunche Center affiliated faculty member, **Kenny Burrell** is a professor in the Departments of Music and Ethnomusicology at UCLA and is one of the most respected jazz artists in the world.

As part of the **Bunche Center Circle of Thought Series**, on November 10th, 2011, Professor Burrell spoke to a capacity crowd at the Bunche Library and Media Center, sharing his entertaining and inspiring stories about his life in music and discussing the Royce Hall tribute concert on November 12th, 2011, celebrating his 80th birthday.

For more on Professor Burrell, read the Los Angeles Times article about the tribute concert: <http://www.latimes.com/la-ca-kenny-burrell-20111106,0,4457341.story> and the UCLA Today article about his life and career: <http://today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/kenny-burrell-profile-218723.aspx>.



David Hammons,
America the Beautiful, 1968

Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960–1980 chronicles the vital legacy of the city's African American artists. The work of these practitioners was animated to an extent by the civil rights and Black Power movements, reflecting the changing sense of what constituted African American identity and American culture. On Sunday, November 13th, **Dr. Darnell Hunt**, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, moderated a panel discussion

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Faculty Spotlight (Continued)

about the exhibit: ***High Voltage: The Watts Legacy***. Afterwards, Dr. Hunt sat down and shared his thoughts on the exhibit and the panel discussion.

Ed. Who was on the panel?

DH. The panel was made up of Stan Sanders, an art collector who grew up in Watts; John Outterbridge, a renowned artist in the Los Angeles black community; and Andrew Zermeno, a Latino artist discussed the ways in which the political activism of the times linked Latino and black artists.

Ed. What would you say is the significance of this exhibit and the panel discussion?

DH. The exhibit looks at how the art of the period was inspired by political activism, and vice versa, and how in many ways both transcended racial boundaries. The panel discussion was a way to link the past to the present, and talk about how the movement and art reinforced each other...It was an effort to contextualize the art and understand why it was what it was, and how we might make sense of it today.

Ed. What was it about that time that made the art unique to that period?

DH. It was the political aesthetic of the time that became the driving force behind the art that was created. We were in the midst of the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements and there was a challenging of authority and the system. The Vietnam War was going on and black soldiers were being disproportionately put at risk and killed. The art that came out of that period reflected the awareness of the struggle but also the possibilities associated with it.

Ed. What does this art mean today and why should people go see it?

DH. Today, the problems are in many ways just as bad, despite the progress that appears to us on the surface...The demographics of Watts have changed (from mostly black to mostly Latino), but we are still dealing with many of the same basic social justice issues. It is wishful thinking to believe that we are more advanced,

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Faculty Spotlight (Continued)

further on today. A great deal can be learned from viewing this art movement. Art, like music, can be inspirational and can encapsulate feelings in ways that words can't. In many ways, we need a movement like this today, and maybe we're seeing the start of the resurgence of this type of movement with people protesting inequality all across America (in the Occupy Wall Street and other movements). Art helps us connect with and understand the Watts moment and the issues of that time as we move forward and address the issues of today.

Now Dig This!: Art and Black Los Angeles 1960 – 1980 runs at the Hammer Museum now through January 8, 2012. For more information visit: http://hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions/detail/exhibition_id/196

Accolades & Awards



Congratulations to History Professor and Bunche Affiliated Faculty Member **Brenda Stevenson**, who will become a member of the **Board of Editors, *Journal of Black Studies (JBS)***, on January 1, 2012. JBS is a peer-reviewed bi-monthly which is the leading source for dynamic, innovative, and creative research on the Black experience.

Stevenson also served as a presenter at several recent lectures including: "Gullah Peoples and Culture," California African American Museum, March 2011; "What's Love Got to Do With It? Slave Female Concubines in the Antebellum South," Huntington Library Conference on Women in the Atlantic World, 1600-1900, March 2011; "A Question of Justice," Department of History, UCLA; "From dat minute I started prayin' for freedom. All de rest o' de women done de same: Enslaved Women, Family and Thoughts of Freedom During the Civil War," Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference, Richmond, VA, October 2011; "Women in the Civil Rights Movement," Museum of Tolerance, October 2011; "Harriet Tubman and Historical Practice," Center Theatre Group, October 2011; and "Finding Race and Romance: Charlotte Forten's Civil War Experiences in the Sea Islands," Huntington Library Conference on Civil War Lives, October 2011.

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Support the Bunche Center



End of year giving reduces your tax bill and is a simple and effective way for you to support the mission of the Bunche Center!

Gifts to the Bunche Center support our commitment to teaching, research, and service, ensuring that a UCLA education remains accessible and that the caliber of its scholarship and research is peer to none.

Private philanthropy at UCLA:

- * Inspires scholars
- * Spurs research
- * Energizes students
- * Entices world-class faculty, and
- * Throws open the doors of academic opportunity & exploration

Your individual gift helps support vital research, programs and services. There are a variety of ways you can give:

Give Online

To make your donation to the Bunche Center, please click on the link:

<https://giving.ucla.edu/Standard/NetDonate.aspx?SiteNum=55>

Securities

Gifts of appreciated securities are tax deductible at their full market value. In most cases, appreciation in the value of the security benefits the Bunche Center and is not taxable to the donor.

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Support the Bunche Center (Continued)

Matching Gifts

The easiest way to double – or even triple – your contribution to the Bunche Center is to request a match from your employer. Thousands of companies nationwide support their workforce by making such gifts to the organizations and institutions their employees care about. To see if yours is one, check our database of matching gift companies at: <http://www.matchinggifts.com/ucla/>

Pledges

A pledge is a statement of intention to make a gift to the Bunche Center. Donors who seek to defer the bulk of their giving until a future date, or who want to give via installments over time, may use this giving strategy. Pledges are typically made in concert with a preliminary “first installment” gift and provide a source of consistent and dependable funding for the University.

Real Estate

Real property, either in its entirety or in part, can be deeded to The UCLA Foundation to benefit the Bunche Center. For residential properties, it is possible to arrange a sizable tax deduction by deeding a home to UCLA, while continuing to occupy the property for life.

Bequests

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the Bunche Center. Donors who wish to have their gifts managed by The UCLA Foundation must specifically state in their wills or living trusts that their gifts be made to The UCLA Foundation to benefit the Bunche Center.

Charitable Gift Annuity

Donors may transfer money, securities, or real estate in trust to the Bunche Center and still receive income for themselves or another, for life. Donors may receive immediate tax benefits, and ultimately the Bunche Center receives the trust property.

Gifts of Materials

The Bunche Center gratefully accepts donations of materials that support the academic, teaching and research mission of the Center. The Center receives a wide variety of such gifts, including rare books and manuscripts, works of art, equipment and other items of value.

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Support the Bunche Center (Continued)

Qualified Retirement Plans

Naming the Bunche Center as a beneficiary of your qualified retirement plan (IRA, KEOGH, 401(k) or 403(b)) may be particularly advantageous; doing so may result in more assets being passed on to your heirs than if you make a bequest from other funds in your estate.

For additional information on how to include the Bunche Center at UCLA in your year end giving plans, please contact Sabrina Burris at (310) 206-9173.

Thank you in advance for your donation to the Bunche Center.

Sincerely,

Darnell M. Hunt
Director, Bunche Center
Professor of Sociology

Sabrina Burris
Director of Development

Library & Media Center



The Bunche Center library is please to announce the receipt of **a generous book donation from Judy Wolfenstein, wife of the late Victor Wolfenstein, Professor of Political Science at UCLA.** Professor Wolfenstein collected books on political philosophy, race and economic issues, and race and gender. We are exited to make our new titles available to library guests. Please visit us to see our new additions!

Amott, Teresa L. *Race, Gender, and Work: A Multicultural Economic History of Women in the United States.* Boston, MA: South End Press, c1991.

King, Martin Luther, Jr. *Stride Toward Freedom; The Montgomery Story.* New York: Harper, [1958].

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Library & Media Center (Continued)

Marcia Texler Segal and Theresa A Martinez eds. *Intersections of Gender, Race, and Class: Readings for a Changing Landscape*. Los Angeles, Calif.: Roxbury Pub. Co., c2007.

The Bunche Center Library and Media Center is open during regular hours to students, researchers, and the general public. Research and reference questions by phone and email are always welcome. The Librarian can be reached at 310-825-6060 or by email at dhunter@bunche.ucla.edu.

The LMC is located in 135 Haines Hall. For more about the library visit: www.bunche.ucla.edu, click on Library and Media Center.

Interdepartmental Program Afro-American Studies



After a delay of several years, **the IDP has submitted the Afro-American Studies Departmental Proposal**. IDP chair, Dr. Mark Sawyer, is scheduled to address the UCLA Faculty Executive Committee in January 2012, at the beginning of winter quarter. Once approved, the new department will be called the African American Studies Department. It will join Asian American and Chicano Studies, which have already become departments.

Afro-American Studies is also finalizing its first Los Angeles Urban League internship. One Afro-Am BA major student will participate in winter 2012. Professor Darnell Hunt will be the UCLA faculty mentor. The student will work with the new Urban League Vice President on fundraising and grant writing, completing the internship by writing a research paper about the experience.

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Research



The Bunche Center continues its ongoing efforts to support community initiatives and provide research which impacts public policy. This was recently demonstrated as Bunche Center Director Dr. Darnell Hunt, and Dr. Ana-Christina Ramon, Assistant Director at the Center, crafted **an amicus brief in support of overturning anti-affirmative action legislation in Michigan** at the request of the group, BAMN (By Any Means Necessary). This effort could facilitate overturning California's Prop. 209.

Prop 209 has had a significant impact on diversity in the University of California system because it limits recruitment efforts to underrepresented populations. The Bunche Center's CAPAA report addressed the impact of this measure and encouraged a more holistic approach when evaluating applicants from underrepresented communities.

The Bunche Center hopes that the amicus brief will help to raise public awareness of the negative effects of Prop. 209 and help to restore fairness and equity to the overall U.C. admissions process. To read the brief, please visit: [Amicus Brief](#)

To learn more about the issues involving affirmative action in the state and the nation, please visit the Defending Affirmative Action Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/DefendingAffirmativeAction>.

In the Community

DECEMBER EVENTS



Now through January 8, 2012
Freedom's Sisters
Museum of Tolerance

Now on display at the Museum of Tolerance, ***Freedom's Sisters*** is a collaboration between SITES and Cincinnati Museum Center which brings to life 20 African American women, from key 19th-century historical figures to contemporary leaders, who have fought for equality for all Americans. The exhibition is introduced

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In the Community

DECEMBER EVENTS (Continued)

by video and electronic projections of strong artistic images that will seize visitors' emotions. Organized around the themes of "Dare to Dream," "Inspire Lives," "Serve the Public," and "Look to the Future," graphically striking interactive stations tell the stories of Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Septima Poinsette Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, and 13 other women leaders.

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund, *Freedom's Sisters* includes educational and community outreach components to facilitate engagement with local audiences. For more information visit: www.museumoftolerance.com/site/c.tmL6KfNVLtH/b.7519845/k.24C9/Now_at_the_Museum_of_Tolerance.htm

Museum of Tolerance
9786 West Pico Blvd (SE corner of Pico Blvd and Roxbury Dr.)
Los Angeles, CA 90035
310-553-8403



Now through April 12, 2012
Places of Validation, Art & Progression
California African American Museum

This CAAM curated exhibition utilizes a range of imagery to explore Los Angeles' parallel universe of places and people that served to validate and further the progression of African American art between 1940-1980. Photographs from personal albums and institutional collections represent historical documentation of places and events, personal relationships and interactions. Others joined in, but ultimately, the community and the artist themselves proved to be the best source for "self-validation" in places such as Golden State Mutual Life Insurance, Studio Watts Workshop, Watts Tower Art Center, Watts Summer Festival, Brockman Gallery, Gallery 32, Pearl C. Woods Gallery, St. Elmo's Village, The Museum of African American Art, and many others.

CAAM
600 State Drive, Los Angeles, 90037
213-744.2024 / www.caamuseum.org

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In the Community

DECEMBER EVENTS (Continued)



*Photo credit:
Chris Bennion*

Now through December 18, 2011
"The Night Watcher"

Written and Performed by **Charlayne Woodard**, directed by Daniel Sullivan, the play depicts a woman who is a best friend, advisor, confidant and sage to the many young

people for whom she is an auntie or a godmother. Woodard pays homage in "The Night Watcher" to the life-enhancing intimacy that can exist between children and the loving extended family of "other" adults who are not related. Told with penetrating grace and candor, Woodard beautifully weaves together stories of the ordinary and extraordinary ways she has mentored the children in her life. Show runs through December 18, 2011. For more information visit: www.centertheatregroup.org/theatres/douglas/



Begins December 26, 2011
Kwanzaa

This annual 7-day celebration of African American culture takes place in various venues around Los Angeles.

For more information on where to celebrate visit: <http://www.soulofamerica.com/kwanzaa-celebrations.phtml>

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JANUARY EVENTS



January 11 – 16, 2012
**Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. Day of Service**

January 17, 2011 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. For more information visit: www.mlkday.gov



Sat, Jan 21, 2012 at 8:00 PM
Kathleen Battle: An Evening of Spirituals
Royce Hall, UCLA Campus

Kathleen Battle lends her glorious soprano voice to an uplifting evening of music that pays homage to the emergence and legacy of the Spiritual. Backed by the internationally renowned Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers of Los Angeles, Battle celebrates the role music played in the lives and hopes of African-American slaves during the Civil War. For more information visit: http://www.uclalife.org/calendar/event_detail.asp?id=137.

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Look out for the new Bunche Center website
which will be launched in January!

To stay abreast of Bunche Center happenings, visit us online at:

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If you wish to be added to our mailing list so you can receive the
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***The Bunche Center wishes you
and your family a world of peace and
happiness in the coming New Year!***



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