



BUNCHE CENTER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2011

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Ana-Christina Ramon

Director's Commentary

Although we treat every month here at the Bunche Center as "Black History Month," I thought it would be fitting to consider a few statistics about Black Americans as the nation commemorates the 36th Black History Month.

As of July 1, 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were 41.8 million black Americans, which represented 13.6 percent of the overall population. Thirty percent of the nation's black population was younger than 18, while 8 percent was older than 65.

Among the states, 18 had populations of at least 1 million black persons. New York led the way with 3.5 million black persons, while the other 17 states included: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

On the education front, 84 percent of black Americans 25 and over had at least a high school diploma, while 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Of the latter group, 1.5 million had an advanced college degree, which was defined as a master's, doctorate, medical or law degree. Meanwhile, there were 2.5 million black students enrolled in college during the fall of 2008, which was nearly double the number enrolled 25 years earlier.

The Great Recession of 2008 took its toll on the economic well-being of black families. The poverty rate for single-race blacks increased a whole percentage point between 2008 and 2009, from 24.7 percent to 25.8 percent. Meanwhile, the median household income for single-race blacks was \$32,584 in 2009 -- a 4.4 percent decline from the previous year (in constant 2009 dollars).

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA

160 Haines Hall, Box 951545 • Los Angeles, CA 90095-1545 • (310) 825-7403

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Finally, 16.1 million blacks voted in the 2008 presidential election, which ushered Barack Obama into the White House. This level of black voter turnout was up from 14 million for the 2004 election, a 15 percent increase. By contrast, overall voter turnout increased 4.3 percent between the two elections.

Please join us this month for the activities outlined in this newsletter, and as we continue to commemorate "Black History Month" throughout the rest of the year.

Darnell M. Hunt
Director

Announcements



E. Victor Wolfenstein
July 9th, 1940 – December
15th, 2010

It is with great sadness that the Bunche Center announces the passing of Dr. Victor Wolfenstein. Professor Wolfenstein was a political science professor at UCLA and affiliated faculty with the Bunche Center. He worked extensively in the field of Political Theory and Race, Ethnicity and Politics.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, February 19th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in 39 Haines Hall on the UCLA campus. Light refreshments will be served following the memorial.

Announcements (Cont.)

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the “E. Victor Wolfenstein Award in Dialectical Thinking.” The award will be disbursed annually to support an outstanding theoretical writing essay by a political science student.

To donate, make checks payable to:

The UCLA Foundation, **note in memo section of the check—Victor Wolfenstein Award**

Checks may be mailed to:
UCLA Political Science Department
4289 Bunche Hall, Box 951472,
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1472

PARKING AND DIRECTIONS FOR MEMORIAL
39 Haines Hall
Portola Plaza, Los Angeles, CA. 90095
Parking \$10.00/Handicapped - \$3.00

Driving Directions:

From the San Diego Freeway - 405 North

Take 405 (San Diego Freeway) to Sunset Boulevard

At end of off ramp, turn left, stay in the left turn lane and turn left at the stop light onto Sunset Boulevard

Pass the UCLA Sunset & Westwood entrance

Go to the second stop light which is Royce Drive, turn right

Continue to the top of Royce Drive, turn right at the stop sign

Parking Structure Lot 5 will be on your left and there will be parking attendants available to assist you

There will be signage available for directions from Royce Drive to the Parking structure Lot 5

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Programs & Events

UCLA celebrates Black History Month

By Amanda Crater, January 28, 2011 (reprinted from the UCLA Newsroom)

UCLA is hosting a series of events this February in honor of Black History Month, including film screenings, exhibitions, symposia and lectures.

The UCLA Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, which celebrated its 40th anniversary last year, is sponsoring the majority of these events. The Fowler Museum at UCLA and the UCLA African Studies Center are also participating.

"Although we treat every month here at the Bunche Center as Black History Month, we are particularly excited about the public events we have planned for this February — the 36th Black History Month," said Darnell Hunt, the center's director. "These events all invoke history in order to make interesting connections between where black people have been, where they are now and where they are likely headed."

All events are free and take place on the UCLA campus. All-day parking (\$10) and short-term parking (payable at pay stations) are available in Lots 2, 3 and 4 (enter the campus at Hilgard and Westholme avenues). Programs are subject to change. For updated information, call 310-206-8267 or visit www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu

Opened January 9th, 2011

Fowler in Focus: 'Art and the Unbreakable Spirit of Haiti'

Fowler Museum at UCLA

Showcasing selected works collected by the Fowler over many decades, "Art and the Unbreakable Spirit of Haiti" juxtaposes pieces fashioned for the international art market with those used in Voodoo ceremonies and popular seasonal festivities in order to explore how crucial aspects of the Haitian experience are made tangible. Sparkling, sequined banners and colorful Christmas ornaments, fanciful animal masks, paintings of historic moments, understated crucifixes, and spirit-activated bundles known as *pakèts* demonstrate the capacity of artistic creativity to powerfully encapsulate the tragedies and triumphs of a nation.

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Programs & Events (Cont.)

Thursday, February 10th, Noon–1:00pm

Bunche Center Circle of Thought Lecture

'Toward the "Higher Type of Womanhood": The Gendered Contours of Garveyism and the Mapping of Redemptive Diaspora in Costa Rica, 1929-1949'

Speaker: Asia Leeds

Haines Hall (Room 135)

Asia Leeds' lecture focuses on the history of the British West Indian community in Limón, Costa Rica, examining how its members were informed by the language and ideas of Garveyism (the pan-African political philosophy of Marcus Garvey) and their participation in Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). This predominately Jamaican community — employed by the United Fruit Company in Limón beginning the late 19th century but not formally granted citizenship until 1949 — was forced to confront anti-black nationalist sentiment and legislation in Costa Rica that depicted individuals of African descent as a threat to the stability, progress and "whiteness" of the nation, and which characterized black women as promiscuous, hypersexual and unfit mothers. This lecture explores the ways in which Garveyite West Indians in Costa Rica theorized pan-Africanism in the context of Limón and as citizens of the larger African diaspora.

Leeds is a Social Science in Practice Postdoctoral Fellow at UCLA and a visiting assistant professor with the UCLA Interdepartmental Program in African American Studies and the UCLA Department of History.

February 13th –July 24th

'Central Nigeria Unmasked: Arts of the Benue River Valley'

Fowler Museum at UCLA

The Benue River Valley is the source of some of the most abstract, dramatic and inventive sculpture in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet unlike the majority populations of northern and southern Nigeria, the diverse groups living along the 650-mile-long Benue River are far less known.

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Programs & Events (Cont.)

This exhibition, the first major international show to present a comprehensive view of the arts of this region, features more than 150 objects used in a range of ritual contexts, including figurative wood sculptures, masks, figurative ceramic vessels, and elaborate bronze and iron regalia. The exhibition demonstrates how the history of central Nigeria can be "unmasked" through the dynamic interrelationships of its peoples and their arts. For details, visit <http://www.fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/benue>

Sunday, February 13th, 2:00pm–5:00pm

Leon Wallace Symposium: 'Unmasking Benue River Valley Masquerades'

Fowler Museum at UCLA (auditorium)

Presented in honor of the late Leon Wallace, a longtime Fowler supporter and passionate collector of African and Asian art, this symposium will feature curators and authors discussing the history and meanings behind the traditional dramatic masquerades performed across central Nigeria. The event will also highlight new video footage of masquerades, as well as rare archival films from the 1960s and '70s.

For more details, visit <http://ucla.in/fACsKM>

Monday, February 14th, 4:30 pm

Fifty Years of African Writing: Novels, Filmmaking, Criticism

Speaker: Pascal Atuma

Royce Hall (Room 314)

Pascal Atuma is a Nigerian actor, comedian, screenwriter, director and producer whose credits include "Only in America" (2005), "My American Nurse" (2005) and "Hurricane in the Rose Garden" (2009).

From Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" to contemporary screenwriting, from the continent to the diaspora, the dynamism of African creators keeps pace with the global transformations of culture. This presentation is part of the UCLA African Studies Center's Monday Africa Seminar Series, which is funded by a grant from the UCLA International Institute. For more information, visit www.international.ucla.edu/africa

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Programs & Events (Cont.)

Tuesday, February 15th, 6:00pm–8:00pm

Images of Blackness 2011 Film Series: 'Long Live the Spirit'

Glenn Towery, director

Haines Hall (Room 135)

In 1995, Glenn Towery (of Los Angeles) and Linus Michael Leting (of Kenya) documented their journey to the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., and chronicled the events of that historic day. Their film captures not only what transpired on stage but the intimate reflections of many lesser-known participants. Over the course of the daylong event, organized by Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam, the audience listened to such luminaries as Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, Ben Chavis, U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, Kwanzaa creator Ron Karenga, Stevie Wonder, Los Angeles Sentinel Publisher Danny Bakewell, Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks, Dorothy Height and Betty Shabazz.

Thursday, February 17th, 4:00pm–5:00pm

Bunche Center Authors Series:

'Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities'

Darnell Hunt and Ana-Christina Ramon, co-editors

Haines Hall (Room 135)

The culmination of a groundbreaking research project by UCLA's Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, "Black Los Angeles" (2010) presents an in-depth analysis of the historical and contemporary contours of African American life in the city. Through essays, oral histories, maps, photographs, illustrations and demographic data, the book demonstrates the ways in which Los Angeles is, and has always been, a space of profound contradictions for black residents. Darnell Hunt, director of the Bunche Center and a professor of sociology, and Ana-Christina Ramon, a social psychologist and assistant director of the Bunche Center, co-edited the book.

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Programs & Events (Cont.)

Tuesday, February 22nd, 4:30 pm

Fifty Years of African Writing: Novels, Filmmaking, Criticism

Ken Bugul (Mariétou Mbaye Biléoma)

Bunche Hall (Room 10383)

Senegalese Francophone author Ken Bugul (the pen name of Mariétou Mbaye Biléoma) is the author of "The Abandoned Baobab" (1982), "La folie et la mort" (2000) and "Mes hommes à moi" (2008), among other novels.

From Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" to contemporary screenwriting, from the continent to the diaspora, the dynamism of African creators keeps pace with the global transformations of culture. This presentation is part of the UCLA African Studies Center's Monday Africa Seminar Series, which is funded by a grant from the UCLA International Institute. For more information, visit www.international.ucla.edu/africa

Monday, February 28th, 4:30 pm

Fifty Years of African Writing: Novels, Filmmaking, Criticism

Speaker: Kwaku Larbi Korang

Bunche Hall (Room 10383)

Kwaku Larbi Korang is editor of the journal Research in African Literatures and teaches comparative literature at Ohio State University. He is the author of "Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa: Nation and African Modernity" (2004).

From Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" to contemporary screenwriting, from the continent to the diaspora, the dynamism of African creators keeps pace with the global transformations of culture. This presentation is part of the UCLA African Studies Center's Monday Africa Seminar Series, which is funded by a grant from the UCLA International Institute. For more information, visit www.international.ucla.edu/africa

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Awards & Accolades



Bunche Center affiliated faculty **Mignon R. Moore**, Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Sociology, was elected to the position of Chair-Elect of the Race, Gender and Class section of the American Sociological Association. The section is one of the largest in the ASA, with more than 900 members. In August 2011 she will assume the position of Chair of the section.



Vickie M. Mays, Professor of Psychology and Health Services and Bunche Center affiliated faculty, was recently appointed by Representative Nancy Pelosi as the House appointee to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a four year term.

The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics is a federal advisory committee whose charge is to advise the Secretary on Health and Human Services on the nation's health data and vital statistics. This committee will play a key role in assisting the secretary in implementing health care reform.

Professor Mays has also been appointed to an Institute of Medicine Committee, Review of Data Systems for Monitoring HIV/AIDS Care. This committee will over 18 months assess available federal and private data systems that capture information about HIV care to investigate ways to maximize their usefulness and recommend approaches for supplementing current federal data sources and to identify and provide recommendations for the most critical data and indicators to gauge the impact of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in improving HIV/AIDS care.

On Display at the Center

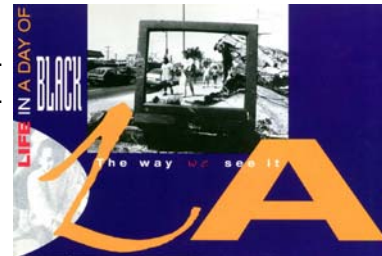


The Bunche Center is pleased to announce the unveiling of **a mural by Richard Wyatt and Guillermo Anderson. The ceremony took place on January 27th and the work is currently on display**

in the first floor hallway of Haines Hall at UCLA.

Anderson and Wyatt were only 14 years old when they were commissioned to create the mural in 1971 as part of a school outreach project. The mural was recently displayed in a Fowler Museum exhibit, "Art, Activism, Access: 40 Years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA," commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Bunche Center and the three other ethnic studies centers at UCLA.

In addition, photographs from the book, ***Life in a Day of Black L.A.: The Way We See It***, are now on display in the Bunche Library Media Center.



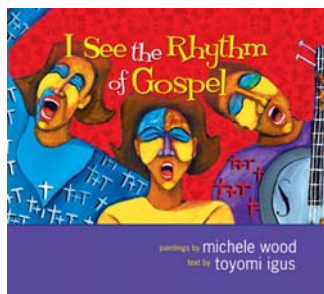
Photographs from *Life in a Day of Black L.A.* were shot in 1992 by well-known African American photographers. They have been showcased in the Fowler show, at the California African American Museum and in a national touring exhibit. The book, published by the Bunche Center, includes work by photographers such as Roland Charles, Don Cropper, Karen Kennedy, Willie Middlebrook, Nathaniel Bellamy, Calvin Hicks, Mike Jones, Ron Lyons and Akili-Casundria Ramsess. It shows their unique perspective on life in Black Los Angeles.

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Alumni News



Author **Toyomi Igus**, a former Editor and Publications Director for UCLA's Center for African American Studies, has recently released the book, **I SEE THE RHYTHM OF GOSPEL (Zonderkidz; January 2011; \$16.99)**. Igus and illustrator Michele Wood blend the rhythm of gospel with the remarkable history of African Americans to deliver a powerful message to young readers across the globe.

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/I-See-the-Rhythm/Toyomi-Igus/e/9780892391516>



UCLA alumnae Shirley Jo Finney will be guest director of the work, **Forgotten World**, at the UCLA Little Theater (Macgowan). Written by Deborah Asimwe, the piece captures the lives and deaths of six children; all victims of war. It runs February 15th – 19th.

For performance information, please call 310-825-2101 <http://www.tft.ucla.edu/calendar/performance/2010-fall-theater-season/>

Support the Bunche Center



The Impact of Philanthropy

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA

As the premiere public university in one of the world's most progressive cities, the Bunche Center at UCLA serves as a model for

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Support the Bunche Center (Cont.)

civic engagement and innovative approaches to challenges of contemporary society. Across the campus, community initiatives and research projects bring together the finest minds from a variety of disciplines to tackle issues confronting Los Angeles, the region and the world. By transcending traditional boundaries, scholars involved in interdisciplinary programs leverage their expertise to address society's most perplexing problems. By building fresh interdisciplinary collaboration, inviting new perspectives and new ways to wonder, UCLA continues to define what a university can be. The Bunche Center's remarkable progress can be credited to visionary leaders, a brilliant faculty, exceptional students – and in no small part to private philanthropists. Their dedicated support has enabled the continuation of promising research, the establishment of innovative public programs, and new ways to treat social ills and enrich lives.

The impact of philanthropy is evident in every corner of the Bunche Center's research and public programming. From endowed scholarships from Bunche Center supporters that ensure students in the African American Studies program can continue their studies, to the Summer Humanities Institute, which brings students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) to prepare them for graduate studies in the Humanities, the Bunche Center was built with private resources which have literally and intellectually transformed the face of UCLA.

Diminishing state funds and rapidly advancing research and scientific innovations have combined to make the need for philanthropy greater today than ever before in UCLA's history. Philanthropy moves the Bunche Center to new levels of distinction – from good to great, from excellent to extraordinary – every day. Private giving preserves the great tradition of academic inquiry for which the Bunche Center is known, and spurs the creation of new knowledge that moves society forward.

A gift to the Bunche Center is an investment in the power of human potential. UCLA is an engine for real-time, real-world accomplishments that enhance our lives on a daily basis. Its size allows for unimagined diversity, unmatched breadth and depth of scholarship, and limitless possibility. Philanthropic investment in the Bunche Center at UCLA is a singular opportunity to leverage those strengths to improve our world and to leave a lasting legacy for generations yet to come.

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Support the Bunche Center (Cont.)

To learn more about ways to support the Bunche Center, please visit:

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

or contact Sabrina Burris, Director of Development at 310-206-9173 or sburris@support.ucla.edu.

Library & Media Center

This month, the Bunche Library and Media Center, in association with the Academic Advancement Program and the Young Research Library, is kicking off **Images of Blackness 2011 Film Series**, a series to open a discussion about race and identity in the 21st century. Featured films will explore issues of nationality, sexuality, class, gender and (im)migration within the Afrikan Community. Recently, national and international events brought people of African heritage to the forefront of cultural and political conversations. The California Civil Rights Initiative (Prop. 209), the election of Barack Obama as 44th President of the United States, continuing conflicts over resources in West and Central Africa, and political exacerbation of natural disasters in Haiti and the Caribbean encourage us to examine the complicated relationship between race and oppression worldwide.

The series will begin with a film documenting the Million Man March and its impact on the national conversation around black male identity. The series will then move to the AIDS epidemic in the black community and the effect shame, silence, mis-education and poor health policy has on this issue. Finally, the series will screen student films dealing with issues of family, identity and place. The last film in the series will feature an established filmmaker who can share insights on bringing an authentic black voice to larger, multiethnic audiences in the United States.

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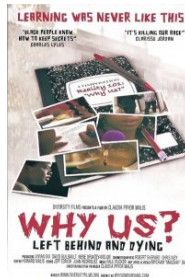
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Images of Blackness 2011 Film Series Schedule



February 15th, 2011 6:00pm – 8:00pm
[Haines 135]

Long Live The Spirit
Glenn Towery, Director



March 9th, 2011 6:00pm– 8:00pm
[Campbell Hall 1101]

Why Us? Left Behind and Dying
Claudia Pryor, Director

April 12th, 2011 6:00pm- 8:00pm [Haines 135]

Student Films

May 10th, 2011 6:00pm- 8:00pm [YRL Conference Center] -
TBA

Interdepartmental Program Afro-American Studies



Featured in the current issue of UCLA's Center for the Study of Women Newsletter is **Media Representations of Michelle Obama: From Angry/Strong Black Woman to New American Icon**, written by **Taquesha Brannon**. Brannon is a former Bunche Center Summer Humanities Institute participant and current MA student in the Afro American Studies Department. To read the article, visit: www.csw.ucla.edu/

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In the Community

FEBRUARY EVENTS



Saturday, February 5, 2011 - 7:30 PM

RANDY WESTON

Concert, Conversation & Book-Signing

Fowler Museum at UCLA, Lenart Auditorium

The salon will feature a concert by RANDY WESTON, a player whose combination of eloquence, dignity and intellect radiates from the keys in a natural and sophisticated ebb and flow of sound. Weston will perform two sets of music and engage in a dialogue with pianist Mike Melvoin and the audience. Attendees who purchase \$45 preferred seating will have special access to a post-concert reception and book-signing with Randy Weston. His recently published autobiography will be available for sale.

General Admission: \$25, Students: \$10

Preferred Seating: \$45 (includes a post-concert reception/book signing with the artist)

Phone orders: 310-825-2101/Online: www.ticketmaster.com

Questions, please call 310-794-5115 or visit www.friendsofjazz.ucla.edu



Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 7:30 PM

Lula Washington Dance Theatre

Smothers Theatre, Pepperdine University

This 10-member contemporary dance company was founded in South Los Angeles in 1980 by Lula Washington (who also choreographed movements for the Na'vi aliens in Avatar). The ensemble's eclectic repertoire includes the Little Rock Nine suite, which is a tribute to the students who integrated Little Rock Central High and is presented at Pepperdine in celebration of Black History Month and cosponsored by Pepperdine University's Office of Intercultural Affairs.

Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263
Tickets: \$40
310.506.4522 or
<http://arts.pepperdine.edu/performances/lula-washington-dance.htm>

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In the Community

FEBRUARY EVENTS (Cont.)



Saturday, February 12, 2011, 11:00am – 4:00pm

African American Art Festival STAR ECO Station

Celebrate African, American Heritage month with Capoeira, hip hop dancers, live music, spoken word, visual art and jewelry - plus food vendors, crafts and more!

Star Eco Station
10101 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City
Art exhibit and performances are Free
310-842-8060
www.ecostation.org



February 16 – 23, 2011
Pan African Film Festival

America's largest black film festival showcasing over 150 new films from Africa, the United States, Europe, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, South America, and Canada. This event also features 100 black fine artists and craftspeople from the world over, poetry, fashion shows, free forums, and panels.

For event info:
323-295-1706
www.PAFF.org

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In the Community

FEBRUARY EVENTS (Cont.)



Saturday, February 19, 2011, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

African Heritage Celebration

Angelus Plaza

This afternoon celebration includes poetry, storytelling, live gospel, jazz, and blues. African artifacts for sale such as kente cloth, mud cloth, soapstone, handmade masks, and tribal earrings add an authentic flavor to the event.

Angelus Plaza
255 S. Hill St.
(4th floor Auditorium)
Downtown Los Angeles
Free (donations accepted)
213-623-4352



Saturday, February 26, 2011, 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Sunday, February 27, 2011, 9:00 am–5:00 pm

African American Festival

Aquarium of the Pacific

Join the Aquarium of the Pacific as it hosts its ninth annual African American Festival, celebrating the richness and diversity of African American and African cultures. The weekend will feature live entertainment, arts and crafts, ethnic food, and more. Featured are hip hop and break dancers, tap dancing, Mardi Gras second line dancers, live jazz, interactive drum circles, West African dance, cultural storytelling, community award ceremonies, and a host of other activities.

Aquarium of the Pacific
100 Aquarium Way
Long Beach, California
Event Free with Aquarium Admission
562-591-3100
www.aquariumofpacific.org

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Research

UCLA INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN CULTURES (IAC) RESEARCH GRANTS IN ETHNIC STUDIES

The Institute of American Cultures, in conjunction with the Bunche Center, the American Indian Studies Center, the Asian American Studies Center, and the Chicano Studies Research Center, **invites applications for support of research on African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Chicanas/os for 2011-2012.** These awards are open to UCLA faculty, staff, graduate students, and IAC visiting scholars and researchers.

Application forms can be obtained online at <http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/iacweb/applic.htm>, or from the IAC Office.

Ordinarily, faculty and staff projects will be funded for no more than \$10,000 and graduate student projects for no more than \$7,000. However, please note that due to the budget crisis, research grants for the maximum amount will likely not be awarded. *Funding is on a reimbursement basis only.* Funds for the purchase of permanent equipment will be provided only under exceptional circumstances. Such equipment must be returned to the appropriate Ethnic Studies Center upon completion of the project.

GRANT PERIOD: July 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012.

DEADLINE: Applications for IAC research grants must be received no later than 4 p.m., April 22, 2011.