



BUNCHE CENTER NEWS

MAY 2011

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Announcements



Political Leader Decries Threat to Public Education

By Amanda Crater, reprinted with permission from *UCLA Today*

<http://today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/political-leader-decries-threat-202142.aspx>

Recuperating from knee surgery she blamed on "running the halls of Washington," former U.S. Congresswoman Diane Watson took command of the podium recently at Covell Commons to look back on her efforts to end segregation in the schools and to assess what's happened since to public education.

"It's time for quality education to be a right for all in Los Angeles," said Watson, who was given several standing ovations by the crowd during her speech. "I believe there are lessons to learn but not much time in which to learn them."

Watson, a UCLA alumna, was invited by the **Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies to deliver the 22nd Thurgood Marshall Lecture on Law and Human Rights on April 14.** The event honors the legacy and contributions of the former U.S. Supreme Court justice, a staunch civil rights advocate and the first African American to serve on the court. Since the lecture series began in 1986, an annual lecture is delivered at UCLA by a prominent leader in the African American community.

Chancellor Gene Block opened the event by commending the Bunche Center and three other campus ethnic studies centers for their vital contributions to the intellectual community on campus, calling UCLA "a forum for civil rights dialogue and civil justice."

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Announcements (Cont.)

Watson, the holder of a BA degree in education from UCLA in 1956, has "inspired a generation of students and scholars," Block said. Last January, she wound up a productive 35-year political career that spanned 20 years in the state Senate and almost 10 years in Congress as a Democratic representative.

Like Marshall and President Barack Obama, Watson broke racial barriers as well when she became the first African American woman to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School Board and later the California Senate. She went on to represent California's 33rd Congressional district — one of the most ethnically and economically diverse in the nation, stretching from Silver Lake and Hollywood into Culver City and South Los Angeles. In a January 1, 2011, article chronicling her political career, the Los Angeles Times called Watson "a mentor to generations of black politicians and a consensus-builder who bridged ethnic boundaries."

Reflecting on her years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives (2001-2010), California State Senate (1978 to 1998) and L.A. Unified School Board (1975-1978), Watson stressed the need for access to quality education, particularly in light of California's recent budget cuts. She noted that community colleges, which have long been the access point to a UC education, are under threat from rising tuition costs and decreased state support.

Watson led efforts to increase school integration and toughen academic standards. She played a pivotal role during the late 1970s when she advocated for full integration through mandatory busing — an experiment she said ended before it ever got off the ground.

However, she noted, "Today our school system in LA is more segregated than anytime since 1969 and we seem to be moving backwards. We shouldn't have to bus our children for excellent education, every school should be excellent."

"We are thrilled to have Diane Watson deliver the 22nd lecture, particularly in light of the challenges we currently face in public education and her lifelong contributions to the public good," said Darnell Hunt, director of the Bunche Center and professor of sociology.

"Her focus on education is more timely than ever as we at the University of California are enduring questions about how we move

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Announcements (Cont.)

forward," said Franklin Gilliam, dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and professor of public policy and political science. "Diane Watson's legacy in educating our young people is critical to the prosperity of our city and the region."



The Bunche Center is pleased to welcome **Robin Kelley, who will join the UCLA History Department as the Gary B. Nash Chair in US History in the fall.** Kelley earned his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach and his Master's in African history and doctorate in U.S. history from UCLA before teaching at USC, Columbia and NYU. Returning to UCLA is a homecoming for Kelley, who brings his knowledge, talent, energy and public commitment back to UCLA.

Programs & Events



THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011, 12 – 1:30 PM

Professor Linda Burton

UCLA FACULTY CENTER

DOWNSTAIRS LOUNGE

The UCLA Interdisciplinary Relationship Science Program is pleased to sponsor a discussion by Duke University Sociology Professor, **Linda Burton.** Her talk, **Journeys to the Altar?: Intimate Unions and Childbearing Among Low-Income Urban and Rural Mothers,** will be held in the UCLA Faculty Center in the downstairs lounge. It is free of charge, campus parking is \$10.



Friday, May 20, 7:00pm–9:00pm

**UCLA Department of Art Spring 2011
Graduate Open Studios**

Charline von Heyl, *Yellow Guitar*

UCLA Department of Art graduate students' studios in Culver City will be open to the public after their spring reviews. The graduate open studios event takes place only twice a year, in late fall and spring, and visitors are able to meet the students and see their work in progress in a studio setting. The Graduate Studios are located at 8535 Warner Dr., Culver City, Calif. 90232, street parking available) and the event is free. For more, visit: www.art.ucla.edu.

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Programs & Events (Cont.)

May 21, 2011, 9:30am

UCLA Alumni Day—Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaque Dedication

Continental Breakfast & Welcome

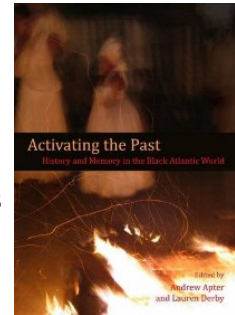
Commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's historic speech on April 27, 1965, when he addressed a crowd of 4,500 UCLA students, alumni, faculty and staff from the foot of Janss Steps with the unveiling of a new campus plaque. For more information, visit: <http://www.alumniday.ucla.edu/2011/schedule/overview.aspx>

May 26, 2011, 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Bunche Center Authors' Series

Bunche Hall, Rm. 10383

The authors' series will feature authors **Robin Derby** and **Andrew Apter**, Department of History, UCLA, discussing their book, **Activating the Past: History and Memory in the Transatlantic World**. The book explores critical historical events and transformations associated with embodied memories in the Black Atlantic world. The assembled case-studies disclose hidden historical references to local and regional encounters with Atlantic modernity, focusing on religious festivals that represent political and economic relationships in 'fetishized' forms of power and value. **Professor Apter is a Bunche Center affiliated faculty member.** For more information, visit the Bunche Center website: www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu



May 29–September 11, 2011

Fowler in Focus: Resilience and Radiance: Arts of Africa and the Americas from the Goldenberg Collection

Resilience and Radiance offers a first chance to view highlights from the major bequest of 180 objects by Barbara and Joseph Goldenberg. The installation will include: striking power figures and initiation masks from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola; fascinating divination objects made by the Baule, Luba, and Yoruba peoples; a stately Fang reliquary guardian; and a stunning Yoruba beaded crown. The collection displays the historical and geographical breadth of the Goldenbergs' artistic interests. For additional information visit: www.fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/fowler-focus-resilience-and-radiance

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Awards & Accolades



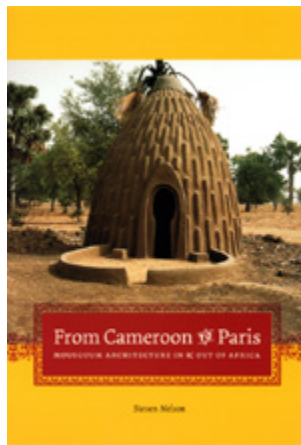
Congratulations to **Veronica Benson**, Bunche Center Business Coordinator, and **Jan Freeman**, Bunche Center Management Services Officer, who were recently commended for 25 years of service to UCLA.



Steven Nelson, Bunche Center affiliated faculty member, began regularly teaching courses in African American art history this academic year.

Professor Nelson recently chaired and hosted the Arts Council of the African Studies Association's 15th Triennial Symposium on African Art, which took place on the UCLA campus from March 23-26, 2011. The Symposium, which featured approximately 210 papers on 46 panels, drew more than 300 participants from the US, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean.

In concert with the Symposium, Professor Nelson received a grant of nearly \$86,000 from the Getty Foundation to mount a workshop called "African Arts Professionals in Los Angeles." This program, which took place from March 19-29, 2011 brought fifteen artists, art historians, curators archaeologists, critics and journalists from Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Zambia and South Africa to create networks with arts professionals in attendance at the Symposium, with important professionals based in Southern California, and among themselves.



Professor Nelson's book, entitled ***From Cameroon to Paris: Mousgoum Architecture in and out of Africa*** (University of Chicago Press, 2007), received honorable mention for the Arts Council of the African Studies Association's Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award.

Professor Nelson will serve as President of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association until Fall 2012.

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Awards & Accolades (Cont.)



UCLA English Professor and **Bunche Center Affiliate faculty member, Harryette Mullen delivered the Lillian and Don Bauder Lecture at Marygrove College** on Friday, April 15, 2011.

Professor Mullen was the twenty-third guest in its Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series. She is the author of five books of poetry, has taught at Cornell University and now teaches creative writing and African-American literature at the University of California, Los Angeles. She has received the Gertrude Stein Award in Innovative American Poetry, a PEN Beyond Margins Award, and the 2010 Jackson Poetry Prize, and she has been a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

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 civic engagement and innovative approaches to challenges of contemporary society. 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 (HBCUs) to prepare them for graduate studies in the Humanities, the Bunche Center was built with private resources which have

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Support the Bunche Center (Cont.)

literally and intellectually transformed the face of UCLA.

However, 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. 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. 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

Often, African American writers and activists have participated in May Day (May 1st) celebrations with socialists and anarchists to display solidarity with workers and immigrant rights. African Americans involved in socialist political parties sought to increase their civil rights by working to dismantle the class structure underpinning racist ideology in the United States and abroad. Notable African Americans who used socialist doctrines to promote justice or who were involved in socialist movements in the United States included Angela Davis, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, and Richard Wright. Today, political May Day activities are seeing a resurgence in communities of color, including the Black community, as current political and social changes expose and exacerbate racial inequality in the United States. To learn more about Socialism in the Black community, visit the Bunche Center Library and enjoy the following books:

Davis, Angela Y. ***Angela Davis--An Autobiography***. New York: International Publishers, c1988. UCLA Center for African American Studies Library: **E185.97.D23 A3 1988**

Marable, Manning. ***How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America: Problems in Race, Political Economy, and Society***. Boston, MA: South End Press, c1983. UCLA Center for African American Studies: **E185.8 .M2 1983**

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Library & Media Center (Cont.)

Peace and Freedom Party. International Workers Day 2011.
www.peaceandfreedom.org/home/may-1-international-workers-day

Rucker, Walter and James Nathaniel Upton eds. *Encyclopedia of American Race Riots*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2007. UCLA Center for African American Studies Library: **E184.A1 E573 2007**

Solomon, Mark I. *The Cry was Unity: Communists and African Americans, 1917-36*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, c1998. UCLA Young Research Library: **HX83 .S665 1998**

Interdepartmental Program Afro-American Studies



The Interdepartmental Program would like to announce that the date for the **commencement for majors, minors and graduate students** will be held on **Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Fowler Museum Auditorium. The commencement speaker will be **Blair Taylor, President and CEO** of the **Los Angeles Urban League**.

Tickets are for graduates, their families and guests. If you have any questions, please call 310 825-9821 or email: idpstaff@bunche.ucla.edu.



The IDP is pleased to announce that **Jonathan Collins, a member of the 2010 SHI cohort**, has been admitted to the UCLA Afro-Am MA program and will receive a Graduate Opportunity Fellowship.

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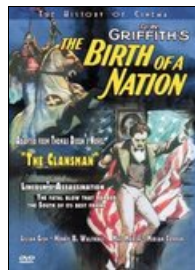
Research

The **Summer Humanities Institute**, sponsored by the Bunche Center thanks to the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is set to begin its eleventh summer on Sunday, June 19. SHI is a rigorous, eight-week training program for students from historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other historically underrepresented students who plan to pursue a graduate degree and career in the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Ten students were selected from a highly competitive



2010 SHI Cohort

pool of applicants. Participating students in the **2011 cohort** come from nine different colleges and universities including: **Clafin University, Lane College, Bennett College, Spelman College, Lincoln University, Grinnell College, Cheyney University, Tennessee State University and Hampton University.**



Race in Hollywood

The Race in Hollywood Project is a research and outreach initiative conducted by the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA. **The research objective is to conduct an annual, comprehensive in-depth analysis of the representation of African Americans and other ethnic minorities in film and television, including starring roles, writing, directing, producing, and talent representation.** The outreach objective is to find ways to create an effective “pipeline” for ethnic minorities into the entertainment industry. We plan to kickoff this project in the fall of 2011.

In the Community MAY EVENTS

Sunday, May 8, 2011, from 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Mothers' Day Tea

Black Women for Wellness (BWW)

Annual Fundraiser



BWW is a multi-generational, membership-based organization committed to the well being of Black women and girls by building healthy communities through health education, empowerment and

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In the Community

MAY EVENTS (Cont.)

advocacy. BWW accomplishes its mission through education, self-empowerment, access, appropriate treatments and interventions, and blending solutions that work regardless of lifestyle, financial or educational status.

This event celebrates Black women - Mothers, Sisters, Nanas, Grandmothers and Aunties - while raising money for BWW. This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 8, 2011, from 2 to 5 pm, at the Community Build Garden, 4305 Degnan Boulevard, in Leimert Park. Individual tickets for this fundraiser are \$50.

For additional information visit: www.bwwla.com/index.php or call Dawn Sanders at 888-941-9995.



Sunday, May 15, 2011, 2:00pm
Missions and Manumissions
California African American Museum

A lively panel discussion and dialogue about Native American and African American contact and connections in the West. Explore future possibilities and current topics and long ago events which factor into the tapestry of our American West. Please RSVP for this event at (213) 744-2024.

Sunday, May 22, 2011, 2:00pm
Films @ CAAM—Bin Yahh—There's No Place Like Home

This documentary by Justin Nathanson explores the potential loss of important historic African American communities. The film explores the importance of culture, history, the importance of land and the concept of home. Please RSVP for this event at (213) 744-2024.

CAAM
600 State Drive, Los Angeles, 90037
RSVP at 213-744.2024
Website: www.caamuseum.org

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In the Community

MAY EVENTS (Cont.)



May 29-30, 2011

The 25th Annual JazzReggae Festival
UCLA's Intramural Field

The JazzReggae Festival at UCLA kicks off the summer for the entire Los Angeles community. Held every Memorial Day Weekend, this year's festival marks the 25th anniversary of this historic celebration of music, culture, and community. The JazzReggae Festival is the largest, entirely student produced and run event of its kind on the West Coast.

For more information visit:

<http://jazzreggaefest.com/pages/about/>

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