



# BUNCHE

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA

# NEWS

## August/September 2012

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### *Featured Stories*

The Bunche Center is embarking on a major research initiative, the Race & Hollywood Project. Race & Hollywood seeks to generate an annual analysis of the inclusion of underrepresented groups in film and television, identify and disseminate best practices for increasing diversity in the entertainment industry, and foster dialogue to bring about change.

This month, we are featuring the three graduate student researchers working on Race & Hollywood, learning their motivation for participating and what they bring to the research.

### *Race & Hollywood*



**Terrell Winder**, who is in the MA program in sociology, shared with us his experience working on the project.

Ed. What is your background?

T.W. I'm from Baltimore, Maryland, and earned my undergraduate degree in comparative ethnic studies and elementary education. I earned a teaching certification in NYC and taught at the Manhattan School for Children.

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## Featured Stories (continued)

Ed. What made you decide to come to UCLA?

T.W. The sociology program is a big department with lots of options. That was really the draw. Dr. Hunt is a helpful mentor, offering suggestions and pointers in what direction to go. I am in the MA part of the program, which is a two year program. Then I'll have the PhD phase which is ideally 3 years. As I continue my studies, the biggest challenges for me are the writing, but also the discipline shift. I have to think about a project in sociology, whereas I tend to think in an interdisciplinary way. I have to work to make my ideas meet with what is acceptable and considered legitimate in sociology.

Ed. How have your interests changed since you've been here?

T.W. Well, I started in education, but now my research is on sexuality, specifically looking at gay youth in organizations that target those populations, and in youth of color. I want to look at questions such as, "How do gay youth of color use those organizations?" "How do they fit in?" "Do they behave differently in other spaces?" I want to look at the reasons why some participate in those organizations and others don't.

Ed. How does this tie in with the Race & Hollywood Project?

T.W. Perception about what gay culture is about often comes from media. And since my project also looks at race as well as sexuality, it seemed to be a perfect fit. By working on Race & Hollywood, I can look at the scholarly interpretation of what these things mean to people. How does media influence with images? How are gay youth of color making choices off of that? Looking at it from this angle, I can see connections in a different way.

**Amberia Allen**, who recently completed the first year of her PhD program, also serves as a researcher on the project.



Ed. What is your background?

A.A. I'm from Bakersfield, California, and went to Chapman College in Orange County for my undergraduate degree. I majored in sociology, with a minor in university honors. [After Chapman] I did an internship in Washington, D.C. with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the U.S. Senate. Then I went to Cal State Northridge where I received my masters in interdisciplinary studies.

Ed. Tell us a little bit about your research interests.

A.A. I study race and gender. Currently, I'm working on a project about women and wedding culture. I decided to get involved with the Race & Hollywood Project because it's similar to my own project in terms of looking at representation. Also, it was really important to me to work with the Bunche Center and to keep an interdisciplinary focus.

Ed. You are GSRs on the Race & Hollywood Project. Tell us what do you on it.

A.A. Right now, I'm conducting a literature review on all relevant data on race in entertainment. We are collecting the data to try to create a comprehensive data base of information. We've been working on this since April of 2012.

Ed. How does the project tie in with your research interests?

A.A. Well, I am looking at representation of race and wedding culture in film and television and how that has real consequences. I am looking at ask questions such as, "How are people of color perceived [in wedding culture]?" "How do black women construct their ceremonies in relation to what they see on television?" Generally, I'm interested in how weddings are constructed in popular culture and what the consequences are for real brides. There are several books about weddings in general – weddings and consumption. But there are not many books about how real wedding culture ties into the reality television. The Race & Hollywood Project looks at the same type of representation issues. Darnell really nailed whole content analysis, looking at how weddings are depicted on these shows and how women draw from these. There are so many layers that have yet to be unfolded.

Ed. What do you think is the importance of this project?

## Featured Stories (continued)

A.A. I think Race & Hollywood is important because no one else is doing it and it needs to be done. I think it is important to have a site where academics and industry members can go and find info that is relevant to them. I think that's what this project will provide.



**Michael Moses**, who recently graduated, was a researcher on the project.

Ed. What is your background?

M.M. I'm from Marietta, Georgia, and I received my undergraduate in English at Georgia Southwestern State University. At first, I wasn't sure if I wanted to go to graduate school. But then I realized I wanted to be a professor of media studies, looking at media representations. UCLA was my number one choice because of the Afro American Studies department.

Ed. Could you tell us about your research interests?

M.M. I am looking at media representations of black people, right now focusing on a critical review of Tyler Perry's work, his portrayal of African Americans. I want to study how he is changing as an artist and if he can and will help other blacks into the industry.

Ed. You are a graduate student researcher (GSR) on the Race & Hollywood Project. Tell us about the project.

M.M. I wanted to work with the project director, Dr. Hunt, and was offered a work study position. I have been collecting articles to support assertions for the pilot study. I've also been looking into websites of major studios to learn about their diversity initiatives. It's been great working with Dr. Hunt as our research interests are very similar and I'm excited about the Race and Hollywood Project. I'm sorry to be leaving.

Ed. What have you gained from working on the project?

M.M. It's really helped me understand the beginning of a research project. It has also given me a deeper media background and helped me in thinking about my own project and how Race & Hollywood mirrors it – they have the same theoretical framework. It's really helped me to further understand how to look at race in media culture.

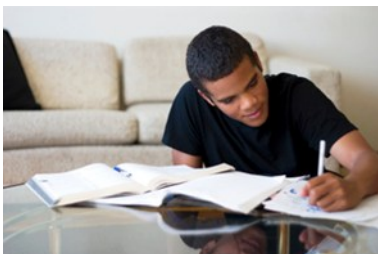
Ed. What do you see as the importance of this project?

M.M. The Race & Hollywood Project is important to help dispel the notion that we are living in a post racial society. This project helps to break down this idea which I didn't even really understand at first. I grew up in white suburb and didn't get race culture. But these [racial images in the media] are constructed and they continue to oppress brown and black, men and women of all colors. This project helps to push forward ideas that need to be addressed. If Race & Hollywood does get funding to do annual reports on race and media, I think it will be great for the industry because there is nothing out there doing it. There's not one single detailed annual report on race in front of and behind the camera. It's an interesting project and I'm excited to see where it goes.

To read the full interviews featuring Race & Hollywood researchers, visit the Bunche Center website at: [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu)



## Programs & Events



### First Year New Student Orientation and New Family Orientation

With the start of school fast approaching, UCLA offers First Year New Student Orientation sessions. These three day/two night sessions will provide an extensive introduction to the academic and campus life at UCLA. For additional information visit [www.newstudents.ucla.edu/firstyearstudents.htm](http://www.newstudents.ucla.edu/firstyearstudents.htm)

UCLA also offers New Family Orientation sessions. Orientation is a one-day session designed to meet the basic concerns of family members who are new to the UCLA community. The program will focus on answering your questions about the University and discussing your role as a support for the new university student. For more information visit: [www.newstudents.ucla.edu/familyo.htm#dates](http://www.newstudents.ucla.edu/familyo.htm#dates)



## Faculty News



**Andrew Apter**

UCLA history professor and Bunche affiliated faculty member, **Andrew Apter's** latest publication is "Matrilineal Motives: Kinship, Witchcraft and Repatriation among Congolese Refugees," in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 2012, 18 (1): 22-44.

Along with **Robin Derby**, associate professor of history at UCLA and a Bunche affiliated faculty member, Apter also gave the "University Lecture" at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, entitled "The Gender of the Curse: Witchcraft and Sorcery in Afro-Atlantic History," on June 6, 2012.



**Robin Derby**

**Mark Sawyer**, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Political Science, Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Politics, and a Bunche Center affiliated faculty member who was recently named chair of the Interdepartmental Program in Afro-American Studies, spent the summer in Puerto Rico teaching in conjunction with professor César Ayala of the UCLA Sociology Department.



**Mark Sawyer**

Taught through the UCLA Travel Study program, the classes and field study in Puerto Rico examined the island's social and economic development, race and ethnicity, and political and social movements.



**Sondra Hale**

**Sondra Hale**, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Women's Studies, who is also a Bunche Affiliated Faculty Member, served as the 2012 Distinguished Speaker at the UCLA Women's Studies Commencement this June.

Currently enjoying her retirement from teaching, Professor Hale has a prolific body of work, with more than 100 journal articles and books to her credit.

## Support 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. Your individual gift helps support vital research, programs and services.

For information on how to include the Bunche Center at UCLA in your giving plans, please contact (310) 825-7403, visit the Bunche Center website at [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu), or go to: [www.giving.ucla.edu/Bunche](http://www.giving.ucla.edu/Bunche)

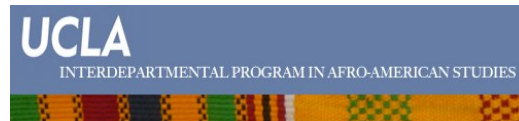
## Library & Media



This summer, the library has served as the site for seminars for the Summer Humanities Institute, so access has been limited for general usage and the space is open by appointment only. However, 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](mailto:dhunter@bunche.ucla.edu). For more about the library visit: [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu), click on Library and Media Center. Regular hours will resume at the start of the Fall 2012 quarter.



## Interdepartmental Program Afro-American Studies



The Afro-American Studies IDP is pleased to announce the roll out of its **new streamlined undergraduate major for the fall of 2012**. It is the first significant update to the program since the 1980s, and allows the IDP to incorporate courses which are being taught by new faculty who have recently arrived on campus. For additional information, please contact: 301 825-9821 or visit [www.afro-am.ucla.edu](http://www.afro-am.ucla.edu)

## Research

See **Featured Stories**, page 1.

## External Opportunities

Listed below are fellowship opportunities for minorities interested in pursuing graduate studies in science, math, or technology. All three opportunities have **November deadlines**.



### Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Program for Minorities

Fellowships are intended for minority students who plan to work toward the Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree and who are at, or near, the beginning of their graduate studies. Eligible to apply are college seniors, first-year graduate students or others who have completed a limited amount of graduate work. Amount of the award is \$20,000. For more information, go to [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/01/fellowships-research-grants-and-external-opportunities/](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/01/fellowships-research-grants-and-external-opportunities/)

### GEM Ph.D. Engineering Fellowship Program

Criteria for selection for GEM fellowships include: US Citizen or Permanent Resident, senior, graduate student or working professional with minimum of a BS in engineering, undergraduate minimum GPA of 3.0, and an academic record that indicates the ability to pursue graduate studies in engineering. Amount of the award is full tuition with a minimum stipend of \$16,000. For more information, go to [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/01/fellowships-research-grants-and-external-opportunities/](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/01/fellowships-research-grants-and-external-opportunities/)

### GEM Ph.D. Science Fellowship Program

Criteria for selection for the GEM Science Fellowship include: US Citizen or Permanent Resident, specific ethnicity underrepresented in the natural sciences, enrollment as a senior, graduate student or working professional with a minimum of a BS in an applied science discipline with a minimum GPA of 3.0; and an academic record that indicates the ability to pursue graduate studies in the applied sciences. Amount: Tuition with a minimum stipend of \$16,000. For more information go to [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/01/fellowships-research-grants-and-external-opportunities/](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/01/fellowships-research-grants-and-external-opportunities/)

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**[www.youtube.com/user/uclabunchecenter](http://www.youtube.com/user/uclabunchecenter)**

You can also get info on the new Institute for American Cultures (IAC) website at **[www.iac.ucla.edu](http://www.iac.ucla.edu)** or visit the Afro-American Studies Department website at **[www.afro-am.ucla.edu/](http://www.afro-am.ucla.edu/)**

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**Congratulations to the 2012 Cohort  
of the Bunche Center's Summer Humanities Institute!**

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