

**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—May 2018

In April 2018, the Bunche Center went to the California State Capitol to brief members of the Legislative Black Caucus on research being conducted by Bunche-affiliated faculty. Professor Chandra Ford joined us on this adventure to speak about her recently-established Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health.



**L to R:** Luz Maria Flores, Isaac Bryan, Chancellor Gene Block, Harold Grigsby III.

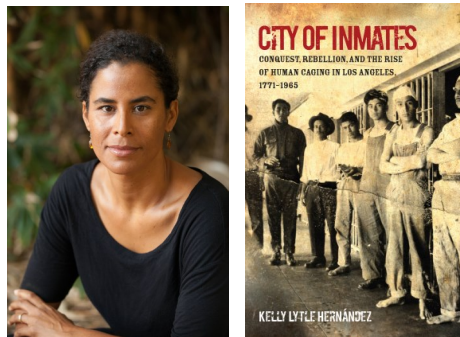


**L to R:** Dr. Chandra Ford, Dr. Kelly Lytle Hernández, Danielle Dupuy, **Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair Mike A. Gipson**, Isaac Bryan, Harold Grigsby III, Luz Maria Flores, Sofia Espinoza.

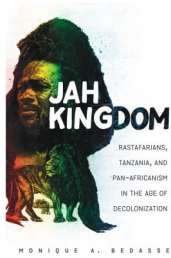
**2018-2019 Institute of American Cultures' Predoctoral Fellowship Award recipient—Yatta Kiazolu**

The Bunche Center is pleased to announce the 2018-2019 Institute of American Cultures' Predoctoral Fellowship Award recipient, Yatta Kiazolu. Ms. Kiazolu is a PhD student in the History Department and her research focuses on black women's political activism in the U.S. and abroad. "Through a critical reframing of Black women's internationalism which centers Africa, my dissertation explores Ghanaian women nationalists and African American women activists' engagement with Ghanaian independence from approximately mid-century to the end of the Nkrumah administration (1950-1966). I argue that organizations such as the National Federation of Ghana Women and the National Council of Negro Women struggled toward shifting black women's positionality and preparing them for new leadership roles in the rapidly transforming age of decolonization, civil, and human rights through transnational solidarity work. Although their visions sometimes diverged, Black women's self-emancipation and community building efforts were very much a part of the broader African liberation struggle. Within this process, they actively negotiated the politics and practice of a Pan-African sisterhood." The Center looks forward to supporting Ms. Kiazolu's research and scholarship over the next year.

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**Kelly Lytle Hernández, University of California, Los Angeles, receives 2018 James A. Rawley Prize from Organization of American Historians**

During its annual meeting in Sacramento, California, the Organization of American Historians (OAH) presented **Kelly Lytle Hernández, University of California, Los Angeles**, with their prestigious 2018 **James A. Rawley Prize**, which is given annually for the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States. The prize was presented on April 13 by OAH's 2017–18 President Edward L. Ayers and 2018–19 President Earl Lewis.



**Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 12:30 pm—2 pm, Haines Hall 153**

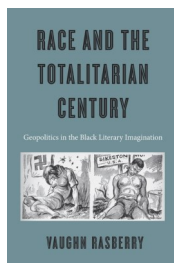
**Lecture with Monique Bedasse, author of *Jah Kingdom: Rastafarians, Tanzania, and Pan-Africanism in the Age of Decolonization* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2017)**

Winner of the Anna Julia Cooper and C.L.R. James Award from the National Council for Black Studies, *Jah Kingdom* uses Rastafarian repatriation to Tanzania to examine the transnational politics of pan-African ideas and praxis following the rise of independent nation-states across the Caribbean and Africa. Professor Bedasse is an Assistant Professor of History and African and African American studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 4 pm—5:30 pm, Location TBD**

**Rukia Lumumba and Makani Themba-Nixon** will talk about the struggle in Jackson, Mississippi, the city with the most radical administration in the country, working towards turning the old seat of the Confederacy into a socialist cooperative.

**Speakers' Bio:** Rukia Lumumba is founder and executive director of the People's Advocacy Institute and campaign manager for the successful Committee to Elect Chokwe Antar Lumumba for Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi. Makani Themba is executive director of The Praxis Project, a nonprofit organization helping communities use media and policy advocacy to advance health justice.



**Tuesday, May 15, 2018, Time TBD, Haines Hall 153**

**Book Forum with Vaughn Rasberry, author of *Race and the Totalitarian Century: Geopolitics in the Black Literary Imagination* (Harvard University Press, 2016)**

Vaughn Rasberry, associate professor of English at Stanford University, will discuss how black American writers manipulated the geopolitical rhetoric of their time. Dr. Robin D.G. Kelley, Distinguished Professor and Gary B. Nash Endowed Chair in U.S. History, and radio host Justin Desmangles will also participate in the discussion.



**Wednesday, May 16, 2018, noon—2 pm, Haines Hall 153**

**Walter Thompson Hernández—author of *The New York Times* article, “For the Compton Cowboys, Horseback Riding Is a Legacy, and Protection”**

The Compton Cowboys “are on a mission to combat negative stereotypes about African-Americans and the city of Compton through horseback riding.” Most of the Compton Cowboys were encouraged to join the organization by friends and relatives who believed horse riding would offer an alternative to gangs and violence prevalent throughout the city. Kelly Lytle Hernández, Interim Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, will also join the discussion. *Lunch will be provided.*

**Faculty News****At national educators meeting, Walter Allen, Allan Murray Cartter Professor of Higher Education, delivers W.E.B. DuBois Lecture, and Tyrone Howard, Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion, receives mentoring award**

On April 15, 2018, Walter Allen, distinguished professor of education, sociology and African American studies at UCLA, delivered the prestigious W.E.B. DuBois Lecture at the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting in New York City. Allen recently appeared in and was a consultant for the PBS documentary, "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story About Black Colleges and Universities." At the Annual Meeting,

Tyrone Howard, Professor of Education, Faculty Director of Center X and Director of the Black Male Institute, was honored with the Division G Mentoring Award, which recognizes a scholar or group that has made distinguished contributions in the mentoring of students to develop a new generation of scholars who focus on social contexts of education.

To read more, [click here](#).

**Walter Allen****Tyrone Howard****Cheryl Harris, recipient of the 2018 Rutter Award for Excellence in Teaching**

Cheryl Harris, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Professor in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, received the 2018 Rutter Award for Excellence in Teaching, UCLA School of Law's highest faculty honor. Harris said, "Teaching involves more than information transmission: It concerns fundamental questions about

values, respect and justice." She also acknowledged the importance of "wrestling with history" as new political and social challenges surfaced.

To read more, [click here](#).

**Cheryl Harris****Uri McMillan, associate professor of English and African American Studies, awarded faculty research grant from the UC Consortium for Black Studies**

Uri McMillan was awarded a faculty research grant from the UC Consortium for Black Studies for his next project, "Surfaces, Muses, and Styles: Grace Jones & New York Underground Cultures in the 1970s and 1980s." McMillan's research focuses on Performance Studies, Black Cultural Studies, Aesthetics and Queer Theory.

**Uri McMillan**

To read more, [click here](#).

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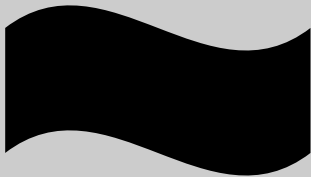


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## Library & Media Center News

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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