



# BLACK STUDIES NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDIES  
& CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

FALL 2007

## A REMARKABLE GIFT



Myeshia La Nell-Bandon Harris and Professor Claudine Michel

Alumna Myeshia La Nell-Bandon Harris decided to give back to the Black Studies Department. Starting in 2008, she will be offering five annual \$500 awards to current students enrolled at UCSB in the Black Studies Department who demonstrate how to balance a successful education while taking steps toward understanding economic issues and wealth-building. The scholarships will be made through her real estate company, Puddy Management, Inc. (PMI).

Harris graduated in 2001 with a degree in Black Studies and a minor in History. She put herself through college by working for Home Savings, Washington Mutual, the Devereux Foundation, and the Campus Learning Assistant Services at UCSB. Upon graduation, Harris sought a Master's in History at San Diego State University. During her last semester, Harris began to balance her intellectual studies with making a living. At that point, Harris shifted her focus and started PMI. Through PMI, she began offering scholarships/awards in a variety of venues that support people who are interested in learning about building wealth. For more information on the awards, contact the Department of Black Studies.

## VISIONS OF HAITI'S WOMEN



An image from *Poto Mitan*, a documentary film project supported by the Center for Black Studies. See page 13.



Professor Stephanie Batiste



Professor Jeffrey Stewart

## SCHOLARS JOIN FACULTY

The Department of Black Studies welcomes two new faculty, Professor Stephanie L. Batiste and Professor Jeffrey C. Stewart, who will begin teaching in 2008. Professor Stewart is also the newly appointed Chair of Black Studies, beginning January 7, 2008.

Professor Stewart holds a M.A./M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University and is the author of numerous books, essays, and articles on African American intellectual history. He comes to UCSB from George Mason University in Virginia, where he was Professor of History, Art History and African American Studies. He is a dynamic and innovative administrator with a successful track record as the former Director of the well-respected African American Studies program at George Mason. He also served as one of the founding faculty of the Graduate Department in Cultural Studies and was a member of the Arts Policy Committee. His leadership experience, ability to reach out to different parts of the university and the community, and interest in new information technologies will be valuable assets to the Department.

With recent fellowships at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and a Fulbright Lecturership in Rome, Professor Stewart also brings a distinctive perspective about international issues and the field of Black Studies on the larger world scene. He brings great distinction and visibility to the Department, as well as a unique set of interdisciplinary skills which combine history, American studies, art history, intellectual history, literature, philosophy, social thought, politics, race relations, gender and sexuality, and popular culture. Professor Stewart, a prominent and distinguished scholar of considerable versatility, is one of the most significant cultural critics working in the United States today, an intellectual historian of the highest order and a trenchant commentator on the Harlem Renaissance and on contemporary cultural politics and arts. A colleague describes him as "one of the leading interlocutors of the 20th-century African American experience."

Stewart also brings a distinguished background as a curator, having curated several exhibitions, such as *To Color America: Portraits by Winold Reiss* at the Smithsonian Institution in 1989 and the birthday centennial exhibition *Paul Robeson: Artist and Citizen* in 1998.

The faculty is also thrilled with the hiring of Professor Stephanie Batiste, **(continued on page 9)**

## 40 YEARS OF BLACK STUDIES

The Ethnic Studies movement was inspired by and associated with the Civil Rights movement, anti-Vietnam protests, demonstrations against this country's treatment of the poor and disenfranchised, the farm workers' movement, the rise of affirmative action, the feminist movement, gay rights activism, and social support for liberation of Third World nations.

The actual creation of departments and programs in Ethnic Studies emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s out of the context of critical expression of faculty and students of color who demanded inclusion and fair representation; it was about people of color finding their own voices to define, describe, and interpret their unique histories, cultures, experiences, and needs. Demands were made, strategies formulated, programs created, and curricula developed. Born of centuries of freedom struggles, Black Studies and its sister departments are part of a historical movement that endeavors to refute pervasive theories of inferiority of people of color, scholarly omissions about their past heritage and culture, deeply rooted misrepresentations, legally sanctioned injustices, and, in general, a systemic and institutional climate of non-inclusion.

Forty years later, Black Studies continues to recover and reconstruct the histories of those Africans, African Americans, Caribbean Islanders and other diasporic communities whose past has been neglected, to identify and credit their contributions to the making of U.S. and global societies, and to help put in place alternative visions and institutions.

—Claudine Michel

### BLACK STUDIES NEWS • FALL 2007

Center for Black Studies Research 4603 South Hall Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3140 (805) 893-3914 <a href="http://research.ucsb.edu/cbs">http://research.ucsb.edu/cbs</a>	Department of Black Studies 3631 South Hall Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3150 (805) 893-3800 <a href="http://www.blackstudies.ucsb.edu">www.blackstudies.ucsb.edu</a>
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Department Chair & Center Director: Claudine Michel  
Dean of Social Sciences, College of Letters & Science: Melvin Oliver  
Vice Chancellor for Research, Office of Research: Michael Witherell

Editors: Nadège T. Clitandre, Claudine Michel  
Production: Maureen Foley  
Editorial Assistant: Antoinette Griffith-Reed  
Cover Artwork: "My Mother Keeps Me," by John Trevino

Department of Black Studies Staff:  
Debra Nash, Raphaëlla Nau, Antoinette Griffith-Reed

Center for Black Studies Research Staff:  
Mahsheed Ayoub, Chryss Yost, Maureen Foley, Amy Ramos  
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### SUPPORT BLACK STUDIES AT UCSB

Your donations help the Department and Center reach more students, promote more in-depth research, and attract world-class scholars. For more information on making a gift or planned giving, please contact :

**Michael O. Miller, Director of Development,  
Division of Social Sciences • (805) 893-3922  
or [michael.miller@ia.ucsb.edu](mailto:michael.miller@ia.ucsb.edu)**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Department of Black Studies, The Center for Black Studies Research, and the Black Studies Library Collection at UCSB. Today, we continue to be proud of our academic accomplishments and record of service to the community. It has been a privilege to serve as department Chair and I look forward to working with our new Chair, Professor Jeffrey Stewart, starting January 2008.

This was another productive and exciting year for the Department. We made two superb hires: Professor Stewart, a scholar of great erudition and talent, whose work re-imagines how art and politics inform each other within specific histories, and Professor Batiste, recognized for innovative work on performance and cultural texts, literature, theater, and film. Their work richly complements our multidisciplinary approaches to the study of urban life, a new area of our curriculum featuring new courses from Professors Lipsitz, Banks, Woods, Johnson, and Strongman on urban geographies, race, space and power, artistic and political expressions and identities. With two new hires added to our other core faculty and affiliated faculty, the Department is now ready to develop an M.A./Ph.D. program.

In the Department, we have continued our curriculum revision; received a grant to create a digital library and increase our use of technology; refined our teaching assistant development program; reinvigorated our efforts to work with students outside the classroom in a variety of outreach efforts; organized panels and symposia and presented papers at numerous professional organizations. Our faculty has also been very productive with publications.

At the Center for Black Studies Research, Sylvester Ogbachie, Professor of History of Art and Architecture and affiliated faculty in the Department of Black Studies, has graciously agreed to serve as Acting Director while I am on leave next quarter. I will return in Spring 2008 eager to resume working on the Center's many projects—including our new urban studies initiative; the launching of our comparative Ethnic Studies journal, *KALFOU* (crossroads in Haitian Kreyòl); the Shirley Kennedy documentary; *Poto Mitan*; the KOSANBA activities on Haitian and other Neo-African religions; the Hersza Barjon exhibit; and more.

I thank all of you for your extraordinary support during my tenure as Chair and Director. Together, let us continue to position ourselves at the center of a transformative discourse in Black Studies.

## CONTENTS

- 3** Faculty News and Events
- 6** Shirley Kennedy Lecture: Lani Guinier
- 8** Department and Center News
- 9** New Journal: *KALFOU*
- 10** Visiting Scholars
- 11** Dissertation Scholars
- 12** Documentary Project: *Poto Mitan*
- 14** Student Outreach & Achievement



## LIPSITZ AND WOODS WIN GRANT FOR LECTURES

Department of Black Studies faculty members George Lipsitz and Clyde Woods have been awarded \$25,000 from the UCSB Critical Issues Series and the Council of Deans to organize a yearlong series of lectures, seminars, discussions, films, and study groups on the topic of "Race, Place, and Power" during the 2007-2008 academic year.

The series will feature lectures by distinguished visiting scholars including Gary Orfield, Duane Champagne, Victoria Bomberry, Daniel Widener, Claire Jean Kim, and Laura Pulido, as well as panel discussions featuring community activists, artists, and UCSB faculty members. The series will focus on three central issues:

- The social and historical causes and consequences of racialized space in the United States, concentrating on residential and school segregation, environmental racism, the race-space mismatch in employment, racialized policing, and the links between racialized space and inheritance.
- The expressive and affective dimensions of racialized space, emphasizing how literature, music, film, dance, performance, and visual art reflect and shape the racialization of space and the spatialization of race as well as build engagement and investment in idealized concepts of "pure" space.
- The legal and public policy approaches to addressing and redressing the consequences of racialized space, featuring presentations and discussions about social movement campaigns for environmental justice and desegregation of schools and neighborhoods, plans for mixed income housing and magnet schools, as well as consideration of legal strategies deploying concepts about the application of models of cumulative risk assessment, public trusts, and "lock in" anti-trust law to issues of race and space.

The Critical Issues in America Lecture Series is an endowed program in the College of Letters & Science at UCSB. Each year, the series examines a relevant social issue through public lectures and panel discussions.

## FROM THE HEART:

A REVIEW OF EARL STEWART'S NEW ALBUM

by George Lipsitz



Earl Stewart has recorded a new compact disc titled *From the Heart*. The CD features original compositions and arrangements that display Stewart's unique harmonic ideas in a dazzling array of musical forms, from jazz standards to gospel hymns, from laments to lullabies, from nocturnes to elegies. A talented group of musicians conducted by Molly Buzick imbue Stewart's compositions and arrangements with sensitive and skilled interpretations on flute, harp, viola, violin, and cello.

The eleven instrumental compositions and arrangements on this disc speak back to the world from which they emerged. Sometimes they reach out to individuals, as in the praise song "Asante Sana Sana" thanking Oprah Winfrey for her humanitarian work in Africa and in "Elton's Nocturne" honoring the birthday of Stewart's friend Eldon Heron. "Elegy for Mr. Alvin Batiste" and "Undulations" mark the recent passing of Stewart's beloved and visionary teacher and fellow musician Alvin Batiste. The album's compositions address the dialectics of love and hate in "Katrina Lament," provoked by the suffering of people in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and in the love expressed in "Corsica" and "Nakupenda."

Stewart presents startlingly original and innovative arrangements of familiar gospel, pop, and jazz standards in "Amazing Grace," "Tenderly," and "My Funny Valentine." Stewart's harmonies, counterpoints, melodies, rhythms, titles, and dedications all challenge us to think about the causes and consequences of our shared histories, about the things that unite us and the things that divide us. This album gives us many gifts, all of which augment and enhance our existence. Stewart's music pleases the senses and challenges the mind because it comes *From the Heart*.

Prof. Roberto Strongman attended the National Vodou Day in Benin on January 10, 2007.



Prof. Earl Stewart signs his new CD.



## JUDE AKUDINOBI



Jude Akudinobi served as a jury member at the annual Pan African Film Festival. Held in February to coincide with Black History Month activities, the festival showcases the diversity and complexities of the Black Diaspora and their experiences and creative expressions through film, music, art, and poetry. In May 2007, he delivered a keynote at the UCLA "Multi-Mediating Africa: Emerging Artistic and Technological Re/presentations" symposium. His presentation, "Giving Africa a Bad Name: History, Cultural production, and Complexities," set the high note for the conference. In September, he conducted a seminar on "Cinema and Censorship: Global Perspectives," in Abuja, Nigeria, where he was a guest of the Federal Ministry of Information and Communications and the National Film and Video Censors Board. His keynote speech "Reality's Gray Areas: Hollywood, Censorship and the Politics of Culture" struck resonant tones with the country's burgeoning film industry.

## DOUGLAS DANIELS



In Fall 2007, Professor Daniels conducted research on the history of jazz in Japan as a Fulbright Lecturer/Fellow in the College of International Arts and Sciences, Yokohama City University. This research is part of a larger project which examines the westward movement of jazz from the Deep South to the West Coast, and then to Hawai'i, other Pacific islands, and Japan. Professor Daniels uncovered a jazz band composed of expatriate whites as early as 1922. He interviewed musicians, ranging in age from 23 to 73, and owners and managers of jazz clubs, including a number of women. Daniels described the experience: "Many jazz musicians have spent time in the U.S. One, Kanakawa, learned organ from Jimmy Smith in Los Angeles and later spent ten years living and playing in Harlem. The musicians are very knowledgeable of the jazz tradition and minor as well as major artists, and they play exceedingly well." Daniels also taught the History of Jazz on the World Scene and co-taught African American History with Professor Shinobu Uesugi.

Prof. Daniels in Tokyo with Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Donovan.



Prof. McAuley with Neneh MacDouall-Gaye, Secretary of State for Communication, Information & Technology in The Gambia.



## GAYE THERESA JOHNSON



Gaye Theresa Johnson received the Best Paper in Comparative Ethnic Studies from the American Studies Association (Fall 2006), and faculty awards from the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (Fall 2007) and the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (Winter 2008). She presented "Comparative Histories and History in the Making: Relational Identities and the Future of American Studies," at the Conference of the International Association of American Studies in Portugal and "Constellations of Struggle: Charlotta Bass, Luisa Moreno and the Legacy for Ethnic Studies" at the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College. Professor Johnson also gave the keynote (with Jeff Chang) at the Experience Music Project Annual Pop Music Studies Conference in Seattle.

## GEORGE LIPSITZ



During this past academic year, Professor George Lipsitz delivered a number of important lectures and keynote addresses at various universities and centers, including "The Fierce Urgency of Now" (The University of Illinois, Chicago Ethnic Studies Colloquium), "Intersectionality and Interdisciplinarity" (UCLA Law School Critical Race Studies Conference), "Linguistics Profiling by Insurers and Landlords" (Los Angeles Housing Rights Center Summit), "Okinawa and U.S.: Empire as a Way of Life" (North American Conference on Radicalism), and "The Precious and Incommunicable Past" (CSU Fresno History Honors Society). On April 19, Professor Lipsitz addressed an audience at Purdue University's 2007 American Studies Symposium, "Remapping America: Shifts in Nationality, Citizenship and Community." On May 18, he spoke at the UCLA oral history symposium. The conference, "Why Oral History: Perspectives from Communities of Color" was organized by the UCLA Library Center for Oral History Research and UCLA Institute of American Studies. A special issue of *Cultural Anthropology* (a publication of the American Anthropological Association) on Professor Lipsitz's work appeared in 2006.

Gambian Special Assistant Mrs. Kumba Conateh with Prof. Strongman.





## CLYDE WOODS



Professor Woods has worked on several Katrina-related projects this past academic year. He organized and taught two classes on Katrina; collaborated with the Historically Black College and University Gulf Coast Equitable Development Convening; prepared a research note for the United Nations' American Human Development Report; and completed several new chapters on New Orleans for a revised edition of his book *Development Arrested*. He also attended the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta in June. In August, he participated in a redevelopment planning charette for the City of Gary, Indiana, sponsored by the Planning in the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association.

Along with Professors Johnson and Lipsitz, Professor Woods is working to form a scholarly network designed to promote cultural, economic, policy, and social justice research on the Black community in Southern California. As part of this initiative, Professor Woods hosted a summer enrichment series of presentations and panels, "African American Traditions in Southern California: History, Culture, Social Vision & Challenges." The series, which was held during the months of July and August and organized around four intergenerational dialogues, aimed to build an ongoing campus discussion on the shared futures of California's communities.

Professor Woods's *Black Geographies and the Politics of Place*, co-edited with Canadian geographer Katherine McKittrick, was published in 2007 by South End Press. The book features the writings of twelve authors interrogating the intersection between space and race.

Professor Woods also helped launch a new initiative designed to recruit Black Studies majors and minors while improving retention rates. Student leaders Joanna Thomas, Ivan Haynes and Deirdre Mathis helped Professor Woods and the Department organize a successful recruiting event in February.

Professor Woods and students in his Black Studies 193WW seminar, a course on post-Katrina New Orleans, sent hundreds of books to children in New Orleans. The \$11,000 project was funded by donations from academic departments and the Associated Students Legislative Council.

## A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

"African American Traditions in Southern California: History, Culture, Social Vision & Challenges" (see poster pictured right) was organized by Clyde Woods. Faculty, staff, students and community members participated in the summer program.



## ROBERTO STRONGMAN



Under an Academic Senate Research Grant, Professor Strongman traveled to the port of Ouidah in the Republic of Benin, West Africa, during the month of January 2007 to conduct fieldwork on Vodou in West Africa and attend the 10-day Benin National Vodou Festival. During his trip, he interviewed various male informants who worship Mami Wata, the female divinity of the sea, as part of his investigation on the phenomenon of cross-gender trance possessions. These contacts also enabled him to gather photographic and filmic material for his current book project on dissident sexualities in Afro-Diasporic religions. In addition to this fieldwork, Professor Strongman served as an informant to the international press on current scholarly developments in the field, and provided journalists with pertinent information to present a more accurate portrayal of the religion in news stories covering the National Vodou Festival. In February 2007, he presented his paper "The Educational State and the Colonial State" at the Australian Association of Caribbean Studies in Melbourne and "Transcorporeality in African Diaspora Religion" at the Caribbean Studies Association in Rio de Janeiro in May 2007.

Scenes from the Southern California Series event with Prof. Clyde Woods on July 25, 2007.



Student Asharg Molla and Prof. Woods helped send books to New Orleans.



## SHIRLEY KENNEDY MEMORIAL LECTURE: LANI GUINIER



Lani Guinier

Nationally renowned speaker and author Lani Guinier delivered the Shirley Kennedy Memorial Lecture on February 25, 2007 at Victoria Hall in Santa Barbara. Guinier's lecture, "Race, Gender & Activism in Our Communities," focused on the importance of the many individuals in the community who support highly visible spokespersons, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., behind the scenes.

The downtown event was well attended by the Santa Barbara community. We felt fortunate to have several members of Dr. Kennedy's family in the audience.

Guinier, a Harvard Law Professor, came to public attention when she was nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1993 to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, only to have her name withdrawn without a confirmation hearing. In 1998, she was

recognized as the first black woman to be appointed to a tenured professorship at Harvard Law School. That same year, her personal and political memoir, *Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice*, was published.

Guinier is the author of many journal articles, law reviews, editorials and op-ed pieces on democratic theory, political representation, educational equity, and issues of race and gender in the political process. Guinier is also the author of *Becoming Gentlemen: Women, Law School and Institutional Change* and co-author of *Who's Qualified* and *The Miner's Canary*.

Guinier is the recipient of many honors, including the Champion for Democracy Award from the National Women's Political Caucus and the Rosa Parks Award from the American Association of Affirmative Action.

## THE LIFE OF AN ACTIVIST DR. SHIRLEY KENNEDY DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Center for Black Studies Research was awarded a \$10,000 grant in May 2007 from the California Council for the Humanities to support the Shirley Kennedy documentary project. The Center is working in cooperation with the Institute for Representational Multimedia Art (IRMMA) and it aims to portray the life and service of the late Dr. Shirley Kennedy through a documentary film.

The Kennedy documentary project is currently in the production stage. Directors Anita David and Frederick Backman are shooting footage of interviews with local community members, as well as nationally recognized figures. Project staff, including Project Director. Claudine Michel and Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, Community Affairs Coordinator at the Center, are also working hard on the project. Richard "Dick" Flacks, professor emeritus in the Department of Sociology at UCSB, is playing an important role in the project as humanities expert. Having served as consultant on numerous films that highlight activists, Professor. Flacks has agreed to contribute his time and expertise to place the documentary

within a larger framework about the story of Santa Barbara and early social movements.

A preliminary nine-minute video of the project was screened for the UCSB audience during the fourth annual Shirley Kennedy Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Center for Black Studies Research in Spring 2006. The completed documentary will be featured at national and local screenings in Santa Barbara and on the UCSB campus. The DVD will be made available to the Santa Barbara community and educational organizations nationwide. It will also be part of the archival collection at UCSB, where it will be available as a research tool.

### SUPPORT THE SHIRLEY KENNEDY DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

To help support the Shirley Kennedy documentary project, contact **Michael O. Miller, Director of Development, at (805) 893-3922.**



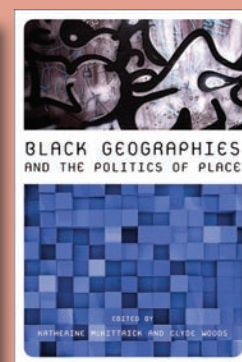
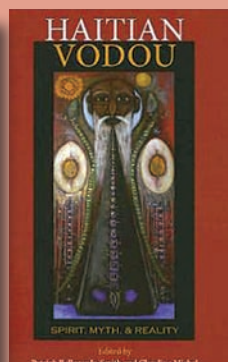
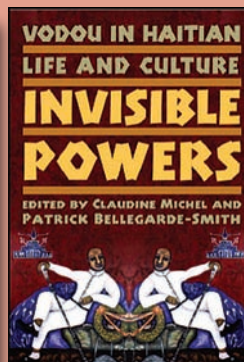
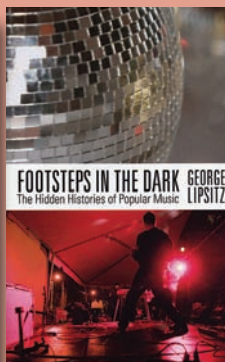
Shirley Kennedy



# NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

The Department of Black Studies and the Center for Black Studies Research are pleased to announce these recent publications by faculty. Through their publications, our faculty members and affiliated faculty are reshaping the field of Black Studies.

- Akudinobi, Jude. (2007) "Durable Dreams: Dissent, Critique and Creativity in Faat Kiné and Moolaadeé," in *Meridians: Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*.
- Daniel, G. Reginald. (2006) *Race and Multiraciality in Brazil and the United States*. University Park, Pennsylvania: Penn State Press.
- Daniels, Douglas. (2007) *One O'clock Jump: The Unforgettable History of the Oklahoma City Blue Devils*. Format: Paperback. Boston: Beacon Press. (The hardback edition was previously released.)
- Daniels, Douglas. "Crossroads, the Cosmos, and Jazz in the Heartland: Oklahoma City's Deep Deuce and Kansas City's Vine Street," in *Moving Boundaries*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press.
- Everett, Anna and Amber J. Wallace, (Eds.). (2007) *AfroGEEKS: Beyond the Digital Divide*. Santa Barbara: Center for Black Studies Research.
- Johnson, Gaye. (2007) "Abriendo Espacios: A Review," in *National Women's Studies Association Journal*.
- Johnson, Gaye. "Sobre Las Olas: A Mexican Genesis in Borderlands Jazz," in *Comparative American Studies Journal*. (Accepted)
- Lipsitz, George. (2007) "The Racialization of Space and the Spatialization of Race: Theorizing the Hidden Architecture of Landscape" in *Landscape Journal*.
- Lipsitz, George. (2006) "Learning from New Orleans: The Social Warrant of Hostile Privatism and Competitive Consumer Citizenship," in *Cultural Anthropology*.
- Lipsitz, George. (2006) "Breaking the Silence: The Fugees and The Score," in *The Journal of Haitian Studies*.
- Lipsitz, George. (2006) "Unexpected Affiliations: Environmental Justice and the New Social Movements," in *Works and Days*.
- Lipsitz, George. (2007) *Footsteps in the Dark*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Michel, Claudine and Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (Eds.). (2006) *Haitian Vodou: Spirit, Myth & Reality*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Michel, Claudine and Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (Eds.). (2006) *Vodou in Haitian Life and Culture: Invisible Powers*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ogbechie, Sylvester Okwunodu. (2007) "Portrait of the African as a Modern Artist," in *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture*. (Also Founding Editor of *Critical Interventions*.)
- Oliver, Melvin and Thomas Shapiro. (2006) *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*, 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge.
- Robinson, Cedric. (2007) *Forgeries of Memory and Meaning: Blacks and the Regimes of Race in American Theater and Film Before World War II*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Strongman, Roberto. (2006) "Beating the Bastard: Discourses of Domestic and Educational Violence in Autobiographical Novels of Mid-Twentieth Century Caribbean Decolonization," in *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and its Diasporas*.
- Strongman, Roberto. (2006) "Gay Human Rights in Cuba: Exile, Hegemony, and Liberation in Reinaldo Arenas' *La Vieja Rosa* and Arturo, *La Estrella más Brillante*," in *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*.
- Strongman, Roberto. (2006) "Reading through the Bloody Borderlands of Hispaniola: Fictionalizing the 1937 Massacre of Haitian Sugarcane Workers in the Dominican Republic," in *Journal of Haitian Studies*.
- Strongman, Roberto. (2006) A review of Lucía Suárez's *The Tears of Hispaniola*, in *The Journal of Haitian Studies*.
- Strongman, Roberto. (2006) A review of *The Cambridge History of Caribbean Literature* (F. Abiola and Simon Gikandi, Eds.) in *The Journal of Haitian Studies*.
- Strongman, Roberto. (2007) "Postmodern Developments in Michelle Cliff's *No Telephone to Heaven* and Esmeralda Santiago's *When I Was Puerto Rican*," in *Journal of Caribbean Literatures*.
- Woods, Clyde and Katherine McKittrick (Eds.). (2007) *Black Geographies and the Politics of Place*. Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press.



## BLACK STUDIES IN LIVING COLOR



Jewel Love works on a film directed by Jude Akudinobi.

With two documentary projects this year, the Black Studies Department blazed new trails as it prepared to celebrate in 2008 the fortieth anniversary of its creation. The films show the richly layered dimensions of the Department as well as its contributions to the field of Black Studies and to the local, university, and larger communities. Featuring students, staff, faculty, alumni crew (Jewel Love and Mamdooh Salih), and university administrators, these projects are directed by Jude Akudinobi, a faculty member and assisted by Professor Claudine Michel. Below are some excerpts of an interview with Dr. Akudinobi by Nadège T. Clitandre.

**Nadège T. Clitandre:** Could you describe each film?

**Jude Akudinobi:** Certainly. The first, titled *New Horizons*, underscores the diversities within the field, the Department, and its student body. Especially, it counters the commonplace habit, in some quarters, of pigeonholing the field and, in various ways, elucidates the dynamics of the field as well as the dynamism of the department.

**NC:** Tell us about the other film.

**JA:** It is called *Traditions of Excellence*. It focuses on the Department's recent graduation award ceremony, with a special focus on the various journeys and experiences of the honorees, to concretize certain elements of the Department's vision. It shows our graduates, for example, armed with their learning, marching off to expansive fields of opportunities in graduate studies and, of course, employment. While the latter, understandably, may be a source of apprehension to parents and prospective students, this piece alleviates those concerns.

Consisting of interviews, archival materials, and live footage, each piece is structured as a process of revelation, to inspire interest in the field; in other words, to make it more accessible in a way that will engender further considerations or explorations by prospective students and donors.

**NC:** Are you looking for financial assistance or donors?

**JA:** Yes, we need financial resources to develop and add more luster to the program because the field draws from evolving frames of scholarship and social experiences. Moreover, we have to bear in mind that the recognition of Black Studies as a valid and viable scholarly field was not attained overnight. So, the films will be widely distributed to community groups, outreach programs, alumni, and benefactors. While not everyone may be persuaded in equal measure, I am confident that most will respond positively.

## THE STUDY OF VODOU



The eighth annual conference of KOSANBA, the Congress of Santa Barbara, was held on November 2-3, 2007 at the William Monroe Trotter Institute in Boston. KOSANBA, the only scholarly association for the study of Haitian Vodou, celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2007. KOSANBA, with an international membership, is based at the UCSB Center for Black Studies Research. For more information, visit [www.kosanba.org](http://www.kosanba.org).

## FRESH FACES

The Department of Black Studies welcomed three new staff members this academic year. Debra Nash joined the Department as the new Business Officer. A UCSB staff member since 1978, Nash worked in the Black Studies Department during the mid 1980s. She is a UCSB alum and has a degree in sociology. Antoinette Griffith-Reed, who graduated with a B.A. in Black Studies in 2006, joined the department as the new Undergraduate Advisor. Raphaëlla Nau studied in the Math Department here at UCSB. She was hired as the Department's new Program Assistant.

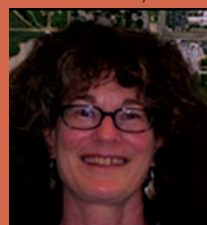
The Center for Black Studies Research hired two new editors, Amy Ramos and Maureen Foley, who are both newcomers to UCSB. Ramos holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Brown University. She has a background in copy editing and freelance writing for various publications. Foley has an M.F.A. in Prose from Naropa University and is a writer and artist.



Amy Ramos



Maureen Foley



Debra Nash



Antoinette Griffith-Reed



Raphaëlla Nau





- RACE AND ETHNICITY
- GENDER AND SEXUALITY
- URBAN STUDIES
- LABOR STUDIES
- POVERTY
- URBAN GEOGRAPHIES
- POST-CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES
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- ENVIRONMENT
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- RELIGION
- IMMIGRATION
- DIASPORAS
- TRANSNATIONALISM
- GLOBALIZATION
- POLITICS AND CULTURE
- ARTS AND POLITICS
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FOUNDING EDITORS:  
MELVIN OLIVER  
CLAUDINE MICHEL

## KALFOU

### A NEW JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE & RELATIONAL ETHNIC STUDIES

*"To get anywhere in life you have to follow a road ...To make anything happen, you have to walk through the crossroads."* — Moris Moriset

*"This means that one must cultivate the art of recognizing significant communications, knowing what is truth and what is falsehood, or else the lessons of the crossroads—the point where doors open or close, where persons have to make decisions that may forever affect their lives—will be lost."* — Robert Farris Thompson

**KALFOU** (crossroads), a new academic journal, will be launched in 2008. George Lipsitz will serve as Senior Editor. The stellar editorial board includes Maria Herrera-Sobek (UCSB), Tricia Rose (Brown University), Roberta Hill (University of Wisconsin), Enrique Bonus (University of Washington), and Book Review Editor Gerald Horne (University of Houston). *Kalfou* will focus on social movements, social institutions, and social relations and build links among intellectuals, artists, and activists in shared struggles for social justice. The journal will promote the development of community-based scholarship in ethnic studies among humanists and social scientists, and will connect the specialized knowledge produced in academe to the situated knowledge generated in aggrieved communities.

The editors invite articles that address asymmetries of power, social justice, new ways of knowing, and new ways of being: "We aim to illuminate the distribution of opportunities and life chances inside communities of color in the past, present, and future; to focus on the roles played by the state, capital, social structures, and social movements in promoting or suppressing social justice; to offer a platform for discussing the struggles, problems, dreams, and hopes embedded inside anti-racist work. We especially seek contributions that explore what Ruth Wilson Gilmore describes as "fatal couplings of power and difference." Each issue will contain sections on social movement strategies and key words, artists and social action, and concrete struggles for resources, rights, recognition, and dignity."

For more information or manuscript guidelines, contact Managing Editor Amy Ramos at the Center for Black Studies Research (aramos@cbs.ucsb.edu) or visit [www.kalfou.org](http://www.kalfou.org).

### NEW FACULTY— STEWART AND BATISTE

(continued from page 1) whose wide-ranging scholarly and critical interests represent a multidimensional program of intellectual work that is of major importance for the field of Black Studies.

Batiste holds an A.B. from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from George Washington University. She investigates relationships between representation, performance, identity, race, and power. She specializes in African American and 20th-century American literature and culture. Her research and teaching focus on the ways in which cultural texts (literature, theater, performance, film, art, bodies) operate as imaginative systems and are themselves performative aspects of identity, cultural values, human interactions, and justice. Her book, *Darkening Mirrors: Imperial Representation in Depression Era African American Performance* illuminates the complicated ways African Americans participated in American ideologies of cultural imperialism. *Darkening Mirrors* is forthcoming from Duke University Press in 2008.

Merging scholarship and practice, Professor Batiste is also drawn to performance; she writes, performs in both community and professional theaters, and occasionally directs dramatic works. Her performance piece, *Stacks of Obits*, addresses themes of family, love, loss, and home through a consideration of gun violence and street murder in Los Angeles. In 2007, at Pittsburgh's African American Council for the Arts' annual Onyx Awards, she won the People's Choice Award for Best Actress and the Onyx Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Kuntu Repertory Theater's production of *Relativity*.

Batiste is currently the Vice President for Development and Outreach for the Women and Theater Program of the Association for Theater in Higher Education. She has presented papers at national meetings of the American Studies Association, the Modern Language Association, the Association for Theater in Higher Education, the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas, and several other universities and national organizations.

Professor Batiste holds a joint appointment with the Department of English.

## NOTEWORTHY TALKS AND LECTURES

### CEDRIC ROBINSON



On November 20, 2007 Professor Cedric Robinson gave a talk at the MultiCultural Center based on his book *Forgeries of Memory and Meaning: Blacks and the Regimes of Race in American Theater and Film Before World War II*. During the talk, Robinson examined race in America through an analysis of theater and film of the early 20th century. He argued that various cultural forces in the era of silent film and early "talkies" provided limited representation of African Americans.

### CLAUDINE MICHEL

Professor Claudine Michel gave numerous talks in 2007. In May, she presented "Vodou Ideologies and Praxis in the 21st Century," at the Caribbean Studies Association in Bahia, Brazil. She also spoke at UMass Boston, Claremont Graduate University, Harvard, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, and presented the Haitian Studies Association Award of Excellence to writer Edwidge Danticat at Lynn University in October. In December, she gave a talk, "Vodou on the World Scene," at Sophia University in Tokyo.

## PAST VISITING SCHOLAR REFLECTS ON EXPERIENCE

by LeGrace Benson, Director, Arts of Haiti Research Project, Ithaca, New York



Far from the snow and ice of the Northeast fall, winter and spring, and close to the splendid Goleta nature preserve, with its aromas of chaparral, eucalyptus, and ocean, the countless birds, the Monarch butterflies encasing spring trees with an autumnal orange, it was possible to think, to reflect, and hike down into wider thoughts as easily as hiking down from the mesa to the shore.

Lest I leave the impression that I spent all my time on the beach, intoxicated by the warm west, there were the delights of the campus, too many to use in just a year there. My colleagues at the Center for Black Studies Research were as friendly as they were helpful, and assisted with technical expertise, administrative efficiency, and intellectual stimulation. The deepest trail was between my office at the Center and the library, where I found excellent help from research librarians and a map collection that is so rich I had to be quite disciplined to remember that the maps were just a detail of the book I was writing. It was good to be able to connect with scholars in other disciplines relevant to my own focus, and the Center was helpful in establishing these links. The book I was writing turned into two books because I returned to Ithaca with so many new thoughts

that it is a mercy they don't weigh anything on the airline luggage scale. The two books—now essentially complete—have publication contracts, a process much helped by advice and direction from Center Director, Claudine Michel. *How the Sun Illuminates Under Cover of Darkness* (forthcoming Ian Randle, 2008) discusses the relationships between Haitian art and the actualities of Haiti's environment, history and religions. It explores everyday and sacred objects as well as sculptures and paintings to underscore long traditions together with immediate circumstances as the "material" of the artists. The second book, tentatively titled *Atlantic Traffic of Ideas and Images: Port-au-Prince, Harlem, Haiti, Paris, Washington, Senegal and Havana* will go to print in 2007 by Mellon Press. *Atlantic Traffic* describes the great, multidirectional web of conversations (both face-to-face and by letters, literature or imagery) that generated what came to be called "Renaissance" both in Harlem and Haiti. The time I spent at UCSB's Center for Black Studies Research was the most pleasant and by far the most productive of my entire academic career. I enjoy the memories of being there and continue to make use of the knowledge gained during my tenure at UCSB.

## RECENT VISITING SCHOLARS


**Myriam J. A. Chancy**  
**2006-2007 Visiting Scholar**

Myriam J. A. Chancy, 2006-2007 Visiting Researcher at the Center for Black Studies Research, also taught in the Department in Winter 2007. She is a Canadian writer of Haitian origin. Her first novel, *Spirit of Haiti* (London: Mango, 2003), was a finalist in the Best First Book Category, Canada/Caribbean region, of the Commonwealth Prize 2004. *The Scorpion's Claw* (Peepal Tree Press, 2005) was recently released in the U.K. and North America. While in residence at UCSB, she completed a third novel entitled, *The Loneliness of Angels*. She is the author of two books of literary criticism, *Framing Silence: Revolutionary Novels by Haitian Women* (Rutgers UP, 1997) and *Searching for Safe Spaces: Afro-Caribbean Women Writers in Exile* (Temple UP, 1997).

Dr. Chancy is former Editor-in-Chief of the Ford Foundation funded academic/arts journal, *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*. During her residency at the Center, she worked on a book of philosophical inquiry entitled, *Floating Islands: Cosmopolitanism, Transnationalism and Racial Identity Formation*. She also organized a reading at the Faulkner Library in February with internationally known poet Lenelle Moïse and veteran singer/musician Albert Chancy. Dr. Chancy is currently on the faculty of English at Louisiana State University.


**Ricardo A. Guthrie**  
**2007-2008 Visiting Scholar**

Ricardo Antonio Guthrie (Ph.D. in Communication, UCSD, 2006) is an artist, writer, and cultural worker who has exhibited and contributed to literary, artistic, and political movements in African

American communities from Boston to San Diego for the last 30 years. His research investigates how a Black newspaper, the *San Francisco Sun-Reporter*, was used by its publisher, Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, and his staff to develop political consciousness and effect social change among Bay Area African Americans after World War II. The project combines interdisciplinary critical analyses while examining racialized communication in Black and establishment press in California. It investigates how political narratives are influenced by race, class, and culture. Describing the work, Guthrie writes, "I focus on a leading Black newspaper—the *Sun-Reporter*—during the post-World War II years to demonstrate how case studies involving the Black Press can be used to expand and challenge traditional understandings of community newspapers, journalism, and cultural production in racial/ethnic communities."

In 2006-07, Guthrie was on the faculty of Africana Studies at Palomar College, San Marcos; presented at the African Studies Association Conference, the National Council for Black Studies Conference, and was the keynote speaker for UCSD's African & African American Studies Research Project's Annual Awards Banquet.

He is currently contributing an essay for an edited volume on *Hollywood's Africa After 1994* (2008), entitled "Mythic Appetites: How Hollywood Re-invents Africa While Uncovering Its Own Heart of Darkness (Why *The Last King of Scotland* Won't Be the Last Word on Africa)," and a forthcoming journal article on the impact of Ghana's 1957 independence on the Black Freedom movement in the United States ("From Jim Crow to Uhuru: The Discourses of African Independence and Afro-Diasporic Emancipation in the *San Francisco Sun-Reporter*, 1957"). For examples of his poetry and artwork, visit the Museum of the African Diaspora's "I've Known Rivers," [www.iveknownrivers.org](http://www.iveknownrivers.org).



## 2006-07 DISSERTATION SCHOLARS SHARE RESEARCH

The Department of Black Studies' 2006-07 Dissertation Scholars, Marcia Chatelain and Sean Greene, presented their dissertation research during the Colloquium of Dissertation Scholars, which was held at the Women's Center. On April 17, Chatelain, a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of American Civilization at Brown University, discussed her dissertation project on African American girls in Chicago during the Great Migration era. In her talk, entitled "The Most Interesting Girl of this Country is the Colored Girl: African American Girls and History," Chatelain showed how contemporary discourses on the war on African-American boys has obscured a long history of investment in girls' lives. At the end of the fellowship, Chatelain accepted a position at the University of Oklahoma Honors College teaching African American Studies.

On May 22, Sean Greene, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania, presented his research on the history and significance of the Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles Drew Medical Center in South Los Angeles.

During his talk, "The Invention of King/Drew: Race, Politics, and Medical Care in Post-Civil Rights Los Angeles," Greene described the center as an important site for examining struggles and debates over race and social citizenship in post-civil rights L.A. He asserted that the King/Drew Medical Center represented the embodiment of post-war aspirations of black empowerment and community development for the African American community in Los Angeles. He further argued that the center has been an important political rallying point for black Angelenos, functioning as a potent and controversial symbol of racial justice, racial and ethnic conflict, and most recently, of the health care crisis. After completing the fellowship, Greene made a move to Los Angeles, where he will be completing the dissertation, applying for post-docs, and doing health advocacy work.



2006-07 Scholar  
Marcia Chatelain

## INTRODUCING THE 2007-08 DISSERTATION SCHOLARS

### Naima Keith

Naima Keith is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her dissertation is titled *Revisiting the Filmic and Photographic Work of Isaac Julien: A National, International and Transnational Study*. Very few theoretical investigations into the associations between cultural theory and black British filmmaking evoked by an art historical framework have been conducted. Her dissertation discusses Julien's practice, combining art history, visual culture studies, and cultural theory to create a hybrid approach of investigation, which mirrors Julien's own language. The work traces a genealogy of Julien's seminal films, and examines his practice as a model for the intersection of contemporary art and cultural theory. Keith received a B.A. in Art History from Spelman College in 2003, and an M.A. in Contemporary Art from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2005.

### Nadège T. Clitandre

Nadège Clitandre received a B.A. in English from Hampton University in 1999, an M.A. in Humanities from the University of Chicago in 2000, an M.A. in African American Studies in 2003 from the University of California, Berkeley where she is currently completing her doctorate. Her dissertation *Insider/Out/Outsider In: Haitian Diasporic Imaginings in the Novels of Edwidge Danticat and Myriam Chancy* is a critical study concerned with pertinent questions of home, dispersal, displacement, migration, diaspora, and various notions of exile. Clitandre's proposal to analyze the multiple discourses of Caribbean women writing about displacement represents a crucial intervention in understanding and challenging the systemization of power that has defined race and gender relations in Haiti, in the Caribbean, and in the Diaspora. She is the founder and Executive Director of Haiti Soleil, a social justice non-profit based in Berkeley. Visit [www.haitisoleil.org](http://www.haitisoleil.org) for more information.

### Felice Blake

Felice Blake is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her dissertation, *The Politics of Recognition and the Demands of Legibility: Seeking an Alternative Grammar for the Black Diasporic Text* focuses on how African American and Afro Latin American authors negotiate intraracial and interethnic conflict regarding the recognition of Black subjectivity in the post-civil rights era. Her dissertation project extends and problematizes the scholarship about Afrodiasporic literature and traditions of recognition by utilizing a Black feminist framework to examine how the convergence of race, gender, and sexuality shapes Afrodiasporic literary practices and possibilities for an affirmative recognition of Black subjectivity. Ms. Blake received her B.A. from UCLA in 1995 in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and an M.A. from the University of Oslo in 1999 in British and American Studies.



2007-08 Scholars (from left) Nadège T. Clitandre, Naima Keith, and Felice Blake



David Rae Morris

## WAKE OF THE FLOOD

THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Almost two years after Hurricane Katrina ravaged communities in New Orleans, leaving many residents displaced and homeless, the aftermath of the hurricane remains a pertinent concern for scholars, journalists, artists, and community activists all around the world. The Department of Black Studies and the Center for Black Studies Research maintain their commitment to supporting continuous dialogue, presentations and community programs that focus on post-Katrina issues.

On April 24, 2007, the Department of Black Studies was pleased to host a slide presentation by award-winning photographer David Rae Morris to continue the dialogue on Katrina that began in August 2005. For his presentation, *Wake of the Flood: The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina*, Morris showed slides of his work. The images shown were part of an exhibit called *Do You Know What it Means? The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina*. That series of images opened in November 2005, 10 weeks after Katrina made landfall. The post-Katrina book, *Missing New Orleans*, featuring 37 of Morris's Katrina photographs, sold out its first printing in less than a month, and was named the Book of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Morris won a first-place award for a photo essay and the prestigious Hal Ledet Award for Print Photography from the Press Club of New Orleans for his coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Born in Oxford, England and raised in New York City, Morris holds a B.A. from Hampshire College and an M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota. He has served as a contributing photographer for the Associated Press, Reuters, Agence France Presse, and the European Pressphoto Agency. His work is also part of many distinguished collections.



David Rae Morris



A poster and postcard advertising two of the *Poto Mitan* fundraisers sponsored by the Center.

## CENTER RAISES FUNDS FOR DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

The Center for Black Studies Research has sponsored two benefit events for *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy*, a new documentary film by Santa Barbara's Tèt Ansanm Productions.

The first event, held on November 9, 2006 at the Santa Barbara Central Public Library, was the premier screening of this new film. The screening was followed by a panel discussion about grassroots women's movements in Haiti with filmmaker Renée Bergan, UCSB anthropologist Mark Schuller, and Mary Becker, a local filmmaker and president of a large NGO that works for Haitian women. Visiting professor Myriam Chancy and Professor Claudine Michel were also on the panel.

The second event, which was held on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at Center Stage Theater, included the one-woman performance of "Because When God is Too Busy: Haiti, Me and the World" by Haitian-American Wesleyan University Professor and spoken-word artist Gina Athena Ulysse. "Because When God is Too Busy" is an artistic presentation that challenges preconceptions of what it means to be Haitian and human against tensions of migration, racism, sexism, and homophobia. The fundraiser also included a screening of the 15-minute trailer for *Poto Mitan*. A third screening and fundraiser took place at Mapou Librari in Little Haiti in Miami on October 7, 2007 with award-winning author Edwidge Danticat as a guest of honor.

*Poto Mitan* is an important documentary on the inspiring stories of five courageous Haitian women activists who shed light on particular aspects of Haiti's current crisis and position in the global economy. The film is co-produced by the Center for Black Studies Research.

### SUPPORT POTO MITAN

For more information or to find out how to support this film, visit [www.potomitan.net](http://www.potomitan.net).



# HAITIAN WOMEN: PILLARS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

by Mark Schuller, filmmaker of *Poto Mitan*



Stills from the documentary about women in Haiti, *Poto Mitan*.

As a post-colonial, hopefully post-imperial anthropologist at UC Santa Barbara, it's a matter of course to give back to the people who generously shared their time, experience, stories, and expertise toward my research on women's NGOs in Haiti. People at one of the NGOs I examined wanted me to make a film to share their stories directly with people in the North. These factory workers and street merchants are very savvy about geopolitics and what we scholars now call "globalization." They know the power of video to move people, and want to engage with the people who consume the products of their labor. Since they can't have U.S. visas to visit us in person, producing a documentary was the next best thing.

Not knowing the first thing about film, I asked for help. The Chair of UCSB's Film Studies put me in touch with an alumna, award-winning Santa Barbara filmmaker Renée Bergan, who made a film about women in Afghanistan just following the U.S. invasion on her own. With her artistic vision and technical expertise, we began to conceptualize ideas for the film.

It wasn't until Claudine Michel, Director of the Center for Black Studies Research and Chair of the Department of Black Studies, got involved that this film began to become reality. The Center offered its financial support for us to begin the project. In addition, staff and volunteers at the Center generously offered their time and energy to the project. The Center stayed with us throughout, connecting us to local activist Mary Becker, chair of Fonkoze (a large progressive NGO in Haiti), who offers support as Executive Producer; Haitian-American scholar and

artist Gina Athena Ulysse, who performed a powerful spoken-word piece at two fundraisers; and acclaimed novelist Edwidge Danticat, who has agreed to help us with our narrative.

Sharing the powerful, compelling lives of five courageous Haitian women activists, the documentary *Poto Mitan* aims to inspire, educate, and challenge solidarity, global justice, and women's activism. This personal and feminist portrayal of working conditions within Haiti's export-processing zone also highlights novel forms of collective organization for women workers. Haiti provides a good backdrop for understanding globalization because of the early penetration of global capital. Each woman's life history explains a particular aspect of Haiti's current crisis.

Honoring Haitian women's activism and strength, we are aiming for this film to be an agent for social change. It is already being used by Haitian solidarity groups to raise funds and awareness. And the website, [www.potomitan.net](http://www.potomitan.net), already has links to current action alerts to help bring justice to low-income women in Haiti.

After three visits to Haiti, we're done filming. Now we're editing, putting together a fuller version that includes interviews with the Minister of Women's Condition and officials from nine progressive NGOs to offer context. We are honored to be sharing these women's stories. Making a film is a collective task. *Men ampil chay pa lou!* (With many hands, the work is easy.)

At the fundraiser:  
Chrissy Yost, Prof. Claudine Michel  
and Mahsheed Ayoub

Nadège Clitandre and  
Prof. James Smith

Filmmaker Renée Bergan, Poet Gina Ulysse,  
Kyrach Daniels and Raphaëlla Nau



## PROJECT EXCEL UPDATE

Project Excel, a community-based academic preparation initiative working in collaboration with the UCSB Center for Black Studies Research, has enjoyed a second year of growth and accomplishment. It graduated its second group of high school seniors and, throughout the year, advised, mentored, and tutored its 25 scholars (ranging from grades 5 through 12). At the last monthly meeting of the academic year (June 7), Project Excel celebrated its three high school graduates: Diego, Lacey, and Gary. In addition, all student scholars were honored for their participation and accomplishments as they progressed to the next level in their education. Two of Project Excel's mentors, Courtney Lewis and Joanna Thomas, graduated from UCSB this year and were recognized for their outstanding contributions. The signature fundraising t-shirt was unveiled and given as a gift to each student scholar and the project's staff.

There are also other activities that complement Project Excel's mission to grant individual attention to each scholar in support of their academic growth. These include providing mentoring, tutoring, workshops on college and financial aid applications, and ongoing support to our post-secondary students. For college-age mentors and tutors, there is a two-quarter course at UCSB run by Julie Carlson, English Department Professor, Project Academic Director for Project Excel and Associate Director of the Center for Black Studies Research.

In other developments, Brandy L. Ethridge, a doctoral student in the UCSB Department of Education, was hired in the winter as Program Evaluator. She brings years of experience to our efforts to recruit, retain, and matriculate African American and Native American student scholars. Program Director Keith Terry has forged new alliances for Project Excel with STRIVE for Youth, Inc. and the Cameron Boyce Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

The new tradition of holding monthly community meetings for Project Excel scholars and family has been a big success. Held on the first Thursday of every month from September through June, these meetings inform our members about events, deadlines, workshops, and help develop a sense of community. At each meeting, there are three speakers—an accomplished person, a commu-

nity resource person, and a student scholar—who help Excel scholars learn how to achieve their dreams. This past year, guest speakers included: Dr. Myriam J.A. Chancy, Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson, Dr. Michael D. Young, Dr. Q. Gerardo Aldana, and Dr. Jonathan Cordero. The public is invited to attend these meetings. Project Excel also hosted its second anniversary dinner at the Franklin Center on Thursday, October 25, 2007.

Project Excel was awarded two University-Community Engagement Grants from the UC Office of the President. The first was for \$29,500 in 2007 and the second was for \$30,000 in 2008. For information about Project Excel, contact Dr. Carlson at [jcarlson@english.ucsb.edu](mailto:jcarlson@english.ucsb.edu) or Keith Terry at [kterry@projectexcelsb.org](mailto:kterry@projectexcelsb.org).

## AWARD-WINNING STUDENTS

## 2007 GRADUATION AWARDS

## FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDIES

Lorraine Hansberry Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Service: Candace Mandujano.

Paul Robeson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Community Service: Josiah Bournes.

Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement in Black Studies: Briana Brickley, Trisha Hollingsworth and Jennifer Jackson.

Award for Outstanding Service in Black Studies: Cordaun Dudley, Tara-Yetive Gaspie, and Katrina Millet.

## 2007 KATRINA AWARD

The winners of the Katrina Award are: Janet Sevilla, Judy Her, Joanna Thomas, Britney Foster, Teva Shinault, and Asmara Ogbai.

## 2007 ANITA MACKEY AWARD

The Center has awarded the Anita Mackey Award for Scholarship and Service to the following recipients: W. Laurence Christian (graduate student, history) and Britney Foster (undergraduate, sociology).

Scenes from the 2006-2007 Project Excel program.

(Top Left) Talitha and Courtney Lewis (Right) W. Laurence Christian and Britney Foster (Below Left) Cordaun Dudley and Prof. Clyde Woods







## THE 2007 AFRICAN BLACK COALITION CONFERENCE

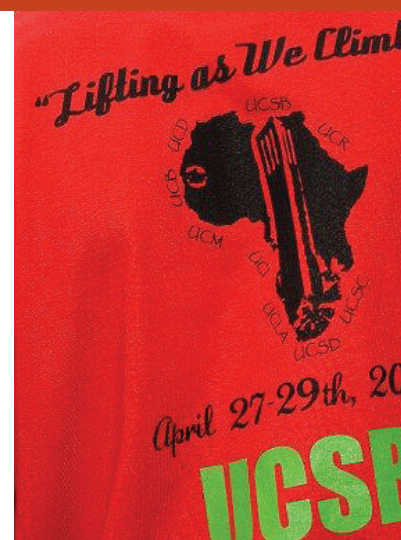
From Friday, April 27 to Sunday, April 29, 2007, faculty, staff and students of the Department of Black Studies and the Center for Black Studies Research were honored to be a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual African Black Coalition (ABC) Conference, which was held at UCSB for the first time. This year, the conference, which focuses on the development and success of Black students in all of the University of California undergraduate campuses, was attended by approximately five hundred students who represented nine of the ten UC campuses.

According to 2007 ABC Co-Chair Britney Foster, "This year's African Black Coalition conference was a huge success due to the extremely dedicated and tireless efforts of the UCSB Black community. It was monumental and historical for UCSB to host such a significant number of students of African descent who came together for one common, positive, and proactive cause."

During the three-day conference, students attended workshops, panel discussions, and other informational sessions relating to academic growth, cultural develop-

ment, and social and political issues. The conference also included men's and women's caucuses, which served as safe spaces for respective groups to meet and discuss important issues. The conference ended with all participants coming together to choose a critical issue for the African Black Coalition to focus on throughout the following academic year.

The African Black Coalition is an alliance of nine University of California undergraduate campuses. ABC has been an integral part of the African American experience on UC campuses for four consecutive years. As a coalition, the organization works toward improving conditions for students of African descent on each UC campus. The ABC Conferences are usually held on the last weekend in April, and the planning begins the summer before the conference. The African Black Coalition Conference rotates among the UC campuses annually. It has previously been held at the Santa Cruz, San Diego, and Davis campuses.





# BLACK STUDIES NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDIES  
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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2007!



Prof. Claudine Michel and  
Dean Melvin Oliver



Janet Sevilla, Judy Her, Candace Mandujano and Prof. Claudine Michel

THE CHAIR, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR COMPLETING THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS IN BLACK STUDIES:

### BLACK STUDIES MAJORS

Josiah W. Bournes	Harper B. Hvid	Asmara Ogbai
Briana G. Brickley	Jeffrey D. Ichizawa	Colin N. Pass
Natasha J. Burney	Jennifer Jackson	Janet E. Sevilla
Christine Y. Calouro	Fathima S. Jhan	Teva B. Shinault
Cordaun O. Dudley	Jamica L. Johnson	Ashley N. Thompson
Michael R. Elliot	Stephanie M. King	Katrina A. Weilbacher
Griselda Galinado	Candace D. Mandujano	Lacey T. West
Judy G. Her	Katrina R. Millet	Marva J. Williams
Trisha L. Hollingsworth	Kari N. Mills	

### BLACK STUDIES MINORS

David J. Arnold	Leah C. Lee
Hillary D. Blackerby	Marissa K. Neuman
Nicole L. Conley	Maria G. Rios
Sabrina T. del Sherpa	Sarah Robles
Danielle J. Edberg	Anita N. Talebizadeh
Erin E. Eve	Joanna N. Thomas
Andrew T. Greenfield	Tiffane N. Toliver
Anissa L. Harper	Jordan J. Welty
Steven R. Jefferson	Shannon M. Williams