

DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

New Directions - Strongman and Banks

The Department of Black Studies welcomes **Roberto Strongman** as its newest faculty member!

Roberto comes to us from UC San Diego, where he obtained his Ph.D. in Literature. Roberto's area of study is the Caribbean and he will teach courses on this and related fields for the Department.

His course on Negritude in the Fall challenged students to reconsider the role of women in this intellectual movement and to situate Francophone poetry of the 1930s and 1940s alongside parallel global Black arts movements in the English and Spanish-speaking Americas. This Spring, Roberto is teaching Francophone African Literature and Queer Black Studies. see STRONGMAN, P3



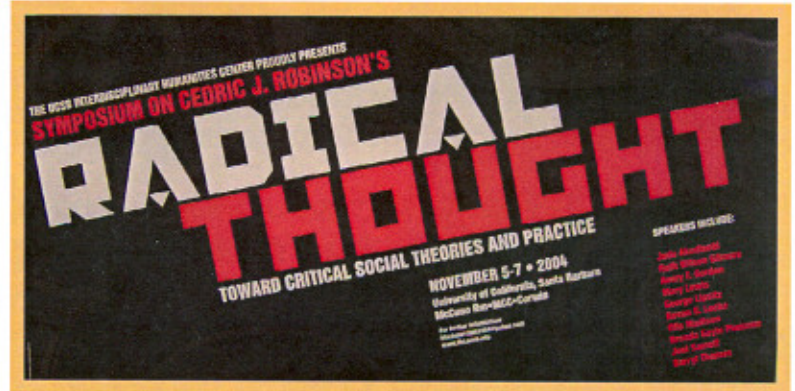
Professor Roberto Strongman



Professor Ingrid Banks

Department of Black Studies: it is fantastic to have her back on campus! Dr. Banks' research and teaching interests examine race and racism within the United States, black popular culture, black feminist theory, politics of the body, critical race theory, qualitative

research methods, and pedagogy. Dr. Banks is 2004-05 Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar and will return to the Foundation as a visiting scholar at a later date. She is the author of *Hair Matters: Beauty, Power, and Black Women's Consciousness* (New York University Press, 2000). Prof. Banks is currently working on a new book manuscript called *What's Going On?: Gender and Class in Post-Civil Rights Black Hair Salon Culture*.



Conference honors Prof. Robinson

Scholars from all over the country gathered last November for a two-day conference celebrating Black Studies **Professor Cedric J. Robinson** and his life's work. The conference coincided with the 20th anniversary of Robinson's groundbreaking book: *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*.

"Professor Robinson's visionary and scholarly accomplishments have deeply influenced the social sciences and validated our discipline," says Professor Gerard Pigeon, the person who introduced Robinson at the conference. The establishment of an annual lecturship named in honor of Professor Robinson was announced at the close of the conference. Robinson is professor of Black Studies and Political Science. He is also co-founder of and a regular correspondent on the oldest public access television show in the country, *Third World News Review*.



Ellis speaks of In/justice

Black Studies proudly sponsored Eddie Ellis, an internationally acclaimed criminal justice and prison expert, to speak during the final presentation of the highly successful In/Justice Collective Winter 2005 Film Series.

Mr. Ellis is Coordinator of Prison Ministry at New York's Riverside Church, senior consultant for the Soros Foundation's Criminal Justice Initiative, and sits on numerous boards and advisory committees. He served twenty-five years in prison for a crime he did not commit and, while incarcerated, Mr. Ellis was instrumental in the 1971 uprising at Attica. While in prison, he acquired three undergraduate degrees and a Master's degree from New York Theological Seminary.

Eddie Ellis, Senior consultant for the Soros Foundations's Criminal Justice Initiative

Formed in the fall of 2004, the In/justice Collective unites UCSB Professors and Graduate Students teaching about prisons, policing, and security detentions and those interested in questions of race, gender, sexuality, class, colonialism, globalization, resistance, justice, and abolition. Black Studies Dissertation Fellow Kaia Stern, along with Nikki Jones (Sociology), Paul Amar (Law and Society), and others organized the Winter 2005 Film Series, *From Plantations to Prisons: Inside Visions of Struggle, Resistance and Change*. The Department of Black Studies was a proud co-sponsor of this successful series.

This spring, the In/justice Collective brings us additional films including *Bus 174* (April 14), *Every Mother's Son* (May 12), and *Third World Cop* (May 26). All screenings are at 7PM in Webb Hall, Room 1100. Contact Kaia Stern for additional information about screenings and guest speakers.

Meet Felicia and Gwen

Felicia Stephenson joined Black Studies last fall as the Business Officer when she was promoted from Assistant to the Chair of Chemical Engineering. She is married to Tom, an Air Force officer currently stationed in Baghdad and they have one daughter, Kelly a junior in high school, and two dogs Boris and Nadia. She is a "Chicagoland" native and has lived in Anchorage, Colorado Springs, the Washington, D.C. area, and Boston. Felicia hopes to eventually retire in Europe as a manager for an American university extension office abroad.



Business Officer Felicia Stephenson (far right) and Undergraduate Advisor Gwenner Miller (center) with the Department's friendly, new student assistants: Laura Lisbona, Amber Pittman, and Joanna Thomas

Gwenner Miller, originally from Sacramento, started working in the Department September 2004. As Black Studies Undergraduate Advisor, Gwenner welcomes students to visit her to discuss becoming a Black Studies major or minor. Over the past year, Miller and Stephenson organized several informational programs and special events to support Black Studies majors. Gwenner wants all Black Studies students to know that her goal is to help them articulate and achieve their unique academic goals.

Surf the New Black Studies Website

Have you visited the new Department of Black Studies website? It has a new, attractive design as well as new useful features. It has West African mud-cloth motifs throughout and photos of all our faculty, staff, and fellows. It also has many new features, such as a menu bar and departmental contact information on every page. For undergraduates, one of the new features allows students to explore potential study abroad programs in Black Studies. Graduate students can use the new website to download applications for teaching assistant positions.

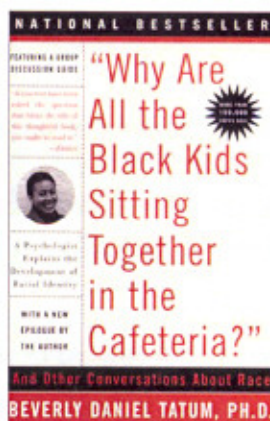
Despite all the changes and new features, don't fear getting lost: you will recognize all the historical photos and our beloved painting "My Mother Keeps Me" from the previous website. Contact Dr. Strongman (rstrongman@blackstudies.ucsb.edu) if you would like to make suggestions on improvements of our new website.

Tatum Delivers Dr. Kennedy Lecture

Spelman College President and National Bestselling Author Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum visited the UCSB campus to deliver the 3rd Annual Dr. Shirley Kennedy Memorial Lecture. Tatum gave a provocative talk on the influence of and response to her best-selling book, *Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*

The Center for Black Studies sponsored the Annual Dr. Kennedy Lecture along with a notable and generous group of co-sponsors: the Department of Black Studies, the MultiCultural Center, Hull Chair in Women's Studies, the Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Executive Vice-Chancellor, and the Affirmative Action Office.

Dr. Kennedy was a founding co-chair of Santa Barbara's Building Bridges Community Coalition. Building Bridges extends Kennedy's legacy by promoting tolerance and by celebrating diversity through community projects. Dr. Kennedy received many awards from both the university and the community. For example, The UCSB Professional Women's Association awarded her the "Unsung Heroine" award, and she was given the Santa Barbara Independent's Local Heroes award. In 2002 the Santa Barbara News-Press awarded Dr. Kennedy a lifetime achievement award.

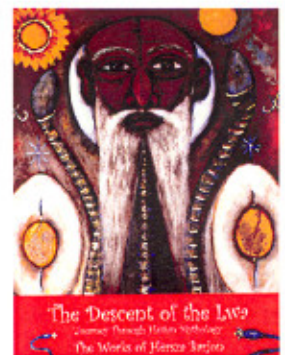
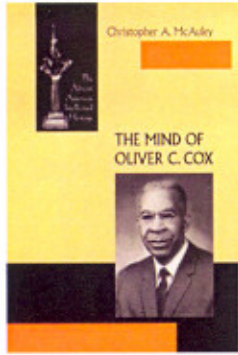


Dr. Tatum's award-winning book and the late Dr. Shirley Kennedy

Department Lecture Series Features Frederick Knight

Professor Frederick Knight (Colorado State University) visited UCSB during Winter Quarter to share his research on African knowledge systems, plantation development in the British colonies, and African contributions to US food production. Knight's lecture, "The Forests Gave Way Before Them: African Workers on British North American and Caribbean Plantations, 1650-1800," was presented as part of the Department of Black Studies Lecture Series.

In his forthcoming book, Knight compares African agricultural knowledge systems with agricultural practices among slaves in the Americas. His manuscript is titled *Gifts of Labor: The Contribution of African Workers to Agricultural Development in the Anglo-American World, 1650-1850*. Knight is Assistant Professor of History at Colorado State University, and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the History Department at the University of California, Riverside.



Off the Presses...a sampling of recent faculty publications

Prof. I. Banks

"Black Feminist Thought in the Third Wave: The Identity Politics of Postmodern Feminism and Colorblind Ideology." *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire* 6.1. 2005.

"From Air Jordan to Jumpman: The Black Male Body as Commodity." In *Blackberries and Redbones: Critical Articulations of Black Hair/Body Politics in Africana Communities*. Regina E. Spellers and Kimberly R. Moffitt, eds. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press. In Press.

Prof. D. Daniels

One O'clock Jump: The Unforgettable History of the Oklahoma City Blue Devils (Beacon, forthcoming in 2005!)

"Los Angeles's Jazz Roots: The Willis H. Young Family," *California History* 82/3: 48-70. 2004.

"North Side Jazz: Lester 'Pres' Young in Minneapolis," *Minnesota History* 59/3 : 96-109. 2004.

Prof. J. Duran

"Cabral, African Marxism, and the Notion of History," *APA and the Black Experience*, Spring 2004.

"C.L.R. James, Social Identity and the Black Rebellion," *Philosophia Africana*, Spring 2005.

Prof. F. Lomeli

"Alurista (1947-)" *Latino and Latina Writers*, Vol. I. Alan West-Duran, ed. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Pp. 101-116. 2004.

Chicano Sketches: Stories by Mario Suarez. University of Arizona Press. 2004

Media Review of *The Gatekeeper*. *Latino Studies* 2.3: 452-5. 2004.

Translation of film *The Gatekeeper* (subtitles). 2004.

Prof. C. McAuley

The Mind of Oliver C. Cox. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press. 2004.

Prof. C. Michel

The Descent of the Lwa: Journey through Haitian Mythology - The Works of Hersa Barjon. Claudine Michel, ed. KOSAMBA/The Congress of Santa Barbara and Broward County, FL Library. 2004.

Prof. R. Strongman

"Caribbean New York: Paule Marshall's *Brown Girl, Brownstones* and Piri Thomas' *Down These Mean Streets*." *Journal of Caribbean Studies*. Vol. 19: 43-61. 2005.

"Women Writing Creole." *Journal of Haitian Studies*. Vol. 9:242-57. Fall 2004.





Student presenters from Black Studies 100: Africa-US Policy on the MCC stage after the Reseach Conference on Sudan

Confronting Sudan

Approximately 75 students gathered at the MultiCultural Center last March to explore the current situation in Sudan. Students from Professor Lacy's Africa-US Policy class hosted this Student Research Conference on Sudan. Students presented independent scholarly work in topical panels based on six broad themes including the role of oil in the on-going crisis, the question of genocide, and the victimization of the family.


Participants and audience members closed the conference with a discussion that led to the creation of an action committee and the signing of petitions. The action committee organized a campus-wide day of reflection and demonstration for 7 April 2005. The conference and demonstration were held in solidarity with student organizations across the country through Operation STANDFast.

The Center for Black Studies Goes Geek

This May, the Center for Black Studies is hosting “@froGEEKS: Global Blackness and the Digital Public Sphere.” This four-day conference follows the success of last year's @froGEEKS conference: From Technophobia to Technophilia. According to Director Anna Everett (Full Professor, Department of Film Studies), the event is part of the Center's new Race and Technology Initiative. The aim of the RT Initiative is to take the lead in developing cutting-edge research focused on universal access to and participation in new IT for underrepresented groups, including African-Americans and black peoples throughout the African diaspora. Visit the Center's visually stunning website to learn more about its programs and publications, from @froGEEKS and Visiting Scholars to *The Journal for Haitian Studies* and *Screening Noir*. Bookmark this page: <http://www.omni.ucsb.edu/cbs>.


@froGEEKS

Global Blackness//
and the Digital Public Sphere



Center for Black Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara

May 19-22, 2005



for more information contact
Anna Everett, Director
Center for Black Studies
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California
93101

AfroGEEKS 2004

(From Technophobia to Technophilia)

Vodou Ceremony and Research in Montreal



In Montreal: Roberto Strongman, Claudine Michel, and Patrick Bellegarde

During late October and early November, professors Roberto Strongman and Claudine Michel traveled to Montreal, Canada to participate in a Vodou ceremony for research purposes. Hosted by Mambo Jacqueline Epingle and Houngan Patrick Bellegarde Smith—once a faculty member at our Department—the ceremony honored Gédé, a group of deities governing death, childhood and sexuality.

The ceremony yielded some important contacts with members of the Haitian community in Quebec as well as some important film footage that will be used in on-going research to be published as an edited volume in 2006 entitled “Dokté Gédé.”

New Faces: Visiting Professor and Faculty Fellow

Heather Tirado-Gilligan is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Black Studies and a researcher at the Center for Black Studies. In Spring, Dr. Tirado Gilligan will continue her examination of late nineteenth and early twentieth century literary magazines, focusing in particular on Edward E. Wilson and Caroline Pemberton, previously unknown writers she discovered in her archival research. Essays by Wilson, an African American lawyer who wrote for the *Atlantic Monthly* as well as prominent Black periodicals, and Pemberton, a white socialist and outspoken supporter of racial justice who wrote on lynching, are particularly significant because they expand our sense of what it was possible for writers to say about race in Jim Crow America. Dr. Tirado-Gilligan is developing a website that makes available to the public selections from her archive of nineteenth century writers via the Center for Black Studies.

Scott Lacy, a former Black Studies lead TA, is back in the Department as a University of California Faculty Fellow. Scott completed his Ph.D. in Anthropology in 2004. He is currently in the Department teaching courses on African Studies and continuing his collaborative research with Malian farmers. Last Fall, he returned to his host village in Mali to participate in the annual harvest and to conduct field research on local cotton production. In addition to research and teaching, he is a founder and Executive Director of African Sky (www.AfricanSky.org), a non-profit organization that assists rural Malian families. In 2005, Prof. Lacy will return to Mali to organize several new projects including an adult literacy and numeracy course in Bamanakan (local language).



Idyll of the Deep South
by Aaron Douglas, 1934

New Faces: Dissertation Fellows

Currently, **Marlon Bailey** is working on an ethnographic project, "Queering African Diaspora: Examining Black Gay Performance, Kinship, Exile and Displacement," which explores Black queer performance and kinship in Detroit, Michigan. Marlon is a former Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint, where he was the Founder and Artistic Director of the *Axé: Performance Collective*, a political performance group. Bailey will present "He's my Gay Mother" at the Women's Center Library on Tuesday, 3 May 2005 at 4PM.

Kaia Stern is writing her dissertation, "Interfaith Prison Praxis: Transforming the Spirit of Punishment links theology and criminal justice." The Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute recently hired Kaia to organize a National Higher Education Working Group for their After Prison Initiative; this group focuses on the issue of higher education in the prison context. In Winter Kaia taught a new seminar called "From Plantations to Prisons: An Overview of the US Penal System." As part of the seminar students visited a maximum security prison in LA county (Lancaster). After the class visit, third-year Black Studies Major Abraham Naldjian felt that walking into the prison was like traveling to an entirely different country: "Prison culture seems more about the prison system itself, rather than the people occupying the space inside. For all the portrayals of prisons on TV and movies, it was incredible to see the humanity of the people serving their time, a humanity hidden behind a system designed to detain and punish, not help or rehabilitate."

Prof. Strongman *CONTINUED from page 1*

Roberto is originally from Colón, a port city on the Caribbean coast of Panama and a terminus of the Panama Canal. "Growing up in a largely West Indian city during my formative years left an indelible mark in my life," says Roberto. "These stories of migrancy I heard from relatives and neighbors and the resistance to colonization that I myself witnessed as a child provided me with a lot of material to work with in graduate school," he adds. Roberto is the Education Abroad Program liaison to the Department. Majors wishing to study in Black Studies emphasis countries such as Barbados, Brazil, Ghana, and South Africa are encouraged to contact him.

Professor Strongman has been busy presenting his research around the world. Recently, he has traveled to Puerto Rico and Australia to present two papers:

- "Vodou in La Revue Indigène" a paper at the KOSANBA/Haitian Studies Association Conference, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (October 2004)
- "The Representation of Childhood in Caribbean Diasporic Literature" at the Australian Association of Caribbean Studies in Perth, Australia (February 2005)

Freedom Tree II, Arnold White 2001

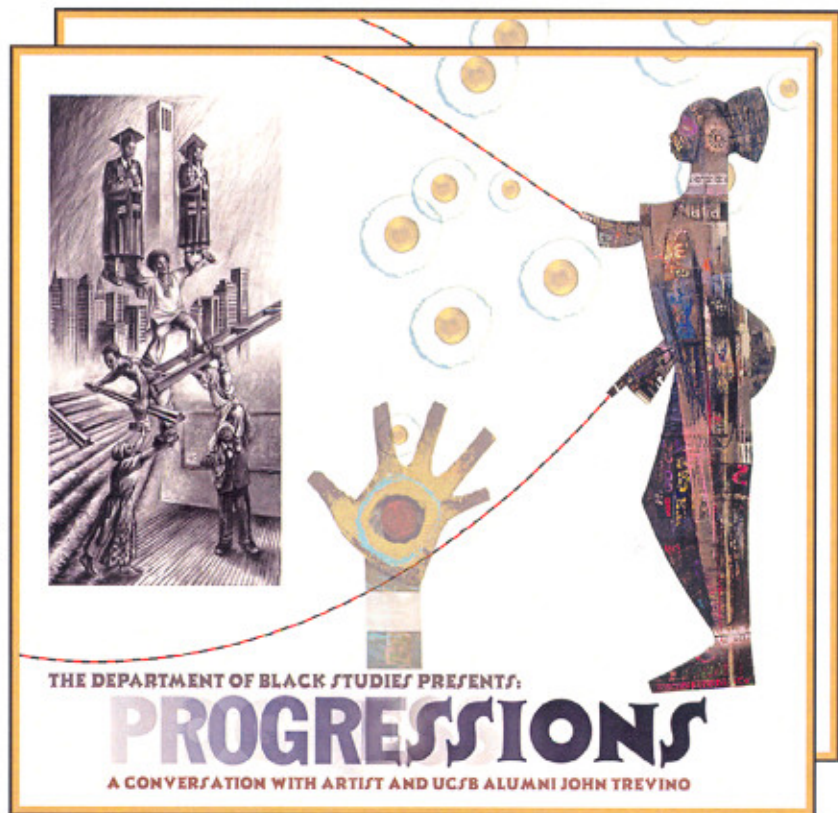
The work of Oakland artist Arnold White has been featured in a PBS documentary on Jelly Roll Morton, in Spike Lee's *Crooklyn*, and the Ebony Museum of Art in Oakland. White has worked with Oakland students since 1987 in his *In Schools Art Program*.





Trevino Art

In March, the Department presented Progressions: A Conversation with Artist John Trevino. Trevino received his B.A. from UCSB in Black Studies and Art Studio in 1999, and his MFA from Howard University in 2000. Trevino's powerful painting, My Mother Keeps Me, hangs in the Black Studies Office and has become a vibrant emblem of the Department. Some of Trevino's other murals can be found in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Soon, Trevino's work will be featured throughout Los Angeles as part of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's Neighborhood Poster Competition. Trevino currently lives in Los Angeles.



Important Dates - Spring 2005

30 April	Fall 2005 registration appts. available on GOLD
30 May	Holiday, Memorial Day - campus closed
3 June	Last day of instruction
4-10 June	Final examinations
11, 12 June	Commencement
22 Sept	First day of instruction, Fall Quarter

The Department of Black Studies Newsletter contains the contributions of faculty, staff, students, and friends of the Department. Please help make the next issue a great one by submitting a suggestion, an article, announcement, art work, or publications update. Please send your article or information to Scott Lacy c/o the Department of Black Studies.

The Department of Black Studies Newsletter

Scott Lacy, editor

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