



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Members and Supporters,

Greetings from the Center for Black Studies Research (CBSR) at the University of California, Santa Barbara! As we step into the blossoming month of April, we are delighted to share with you the latest updates and highlights from our vibrant community.

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success and vitality of our center. We would like to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo and Dr. Charles Terry, as well as our esteemed partners: the African Diasporic Cultural Resource Center (ADCRC), East African Students Association, Nigerian Students Association, and the A.S. Commission on Culture, Arts, and Joy Justice (CCAJJ). Together, we continue to forge pathways for impactful research, advocacy, and community engagement.

In addition, we express our gratitude to the dedicated staff members who tirelessly support the mission of the Center for Black Studies Research: Tracey Goss, Karla Partida Torres, Marselina Ortiz, Dr. Allison Clark and Lyla Washaha. Their commitment and hard work are invaluable to the success of our programs and initiatives.

We are thrilled to announce the continuation of the SEEDS (Student Engagement & Enrichment in Data Science) program, now in its fourth year. This year's cohort includes a diverse group of talented students: Arnav Kumar, Fatima Aguilar, Karim Benyassine, Nancy Mahmoud, Natasha Preece, Akua Ofori-Nyako, Bianca Ramos Medina, and Keya Panchal. These budding scholars are currently engaged in groundbreaking research projects exploring various aspects of the African Diaspora, underrepresented minorities, STEM and other research experiences. We eagerly anticipate their upcoming poster presentations, where they will showcase their research findings and insights.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming month of May, during which the CBSR will sponsor a series of events focusing on community engagement, research dissemination, and mentorship. Stay tuned for further details on these enriching opportunities!

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative, The Black Collective, spearheaded by Dr.'s AJ Rice and Antar Tichavakunda. The CBSR is proud to support this innovative endeavor, which aims to foster collaboration, empowerment, and solidarity within the Black research community. We look forward to witnessing the impact of The Black Collective and are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this transformative journey.

As always, we remain committed to advancing scholarship, promoting social justice, and nurturing a supportive and inclusive community. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our shared mission.

Please see additional information below regarding our upcoming May events. (Tettegah & Open AI, personal communication, April 15, 2024)

Warm regards,
Dr. Sharon Tettegah

THE BLACK COLLECTIVE: BLACK MIXER

The CBSR is excited to announce that CBSR faculty affiliates, Dr. AJ Rice and Dr. Antar Tichavakunda, are launching the Black Collective! The Black Collective is a collaborative forum for scholars of the Black experience to share current research projects to a supportive, affirming audience that will provide generative feedback. The Black Collective also serves to connect like-minded scholars at UCSB to foster strong intellectual and social ties across campus. These goals will be primarily achieved through two programs: 1) The Black Collective Working Group, where scholars discuss ongoing research projects, and 2) The Black Mixer, a quarterly social event that will feature food, wine and a relaxed atmosphere. Although the Black Collective hopes to center and uplift the research of Black scholars at UCSB, the space is open to all staff, faculty, administrators, and graduate students whose research aims to expand our understanding of the Black experience both in the United States and beyond.

The Black Collective will officially launch on May 9th, 2024 with its first social event, The Black Mixer. This inaugural event will be happening in UCSB's 4603 South Hall at 5:00pm. Food from the local, Black-owned restaurant, Soul Bites, will be served. [Please click here to view the flyer and register.](#)

SEEDS: RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION

Join us May 10th, 2024 at 4pm in UCSB's 4603 South Hall to see our SEEDS fellows present on the research they've been conducting with their mentors! [Visit our website](#) to see who the current student fellows and mentors are.



A TASTE OF AFRICA

CBSR postdoctoral scholars, Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo and Dr. Charles Terry are collaborating with the Nigerian Students Association, the East African Students Association, and the A.S. Commission on Culture, Arts, and Joy Justice, to put on a community event, "A Taste of Africa". This event is aimed at providing the UCSB community with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the diverse and rich cultural traditions found across the African continent. Attendees will have the chance to savor authentic African cuisines, feel the rhythmic and therapeutic beats of traditional drumming, witness captivating dance performances, appreciate the intricacies of diverse African arts, and indulge in the beauty of African fashions. Participants will also get the opportunity to learn about African history, cultures, and understand current happenings on the continent in terms of education, healthcare, and economics.

Day one, Friday (5/17), will occur at the Storke Plaza from 12-3pm. The event will feature activities and several presentations of the diverse cultures from within the continent of Africa and the Black diaspora.

Day two, Saturday (5/18), will occur at the IV Theater from 7-9:30pm and will feature contemporary African performances and community building. Dr. Tettegah will provide an overview of the events on day two.

CBSR CORNER

DR. EBENEZER LARNYO, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“This quarter, I’m excited to continue my work with the SEEDS program through a hands-on project that focuses on machine learning. SEEDS students will develop predictive models that identify high-risk patients for hospital readmission among 65+ African Americans with diabetes. This project has the potential to significantly impact healthcare by offering providers tools that could proactively reduce readmission rates.



We will be sponsoring the first ever SEEDS research colloquium (see above section). This exciting event will provide students with a valuable platform to showcase their research and presentation skills to the UCSB community.

Beyond SEEDS, I’m actively involved in planning this year’s Taste of Africa event, taking place May 17-18th, 2024. This collaborative effort, spearheaded by myself, Dr. Terry, the Nigerian Students Association, the East African Students Association, and the A.S. Commission on Culture, Arts, and Joy Justice, promises a vibrant celebration of African culture. Attendees can expect a sensory journey through authentic cuisine, rhythmic drumming, captivating dance performances, diverse art exhibits, stunning fashions, and historical presentations.”

DR. CHARLES TERRY, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“I’ve been continuing to work closely with Dr. Laryno to coordinate the upcoming ‘A Taste of Africa’ event on May 17-18th, 2024 sponsored by the Center. Additionally, I’m editing and planning future episodes of the ongoing Center podcast which can be found online at the [Center’s website](#). Finally, with the support of the Center, my book proposal has now advanced to the Peer Review status at major publishing house and I will provide updates on that when a contract is completed.”



LYLA WASHAHA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



“This month I’ve continued my work in the SEEDS program, both with Dr. Clark to secure additional funding and with Dr. Laryno to prepare the student fellows for their upcoming research colloquium. I’ve also been working with Dr. Rice, Dr. Tichavakunda, Dr. Terry, Dr. Laryno and Karla to prepare to launch the Black Collective next month, as well as the Taste of Africa event. I’m looking forward to seeing all the programming coming to fruition in May!”

APRIL RECOGNITIONS

Autism Awareness Month

National Stress Awareness
Month

Sexual Assault Awareness
Month

Parkinson’s Awareness
Month

Counseling Awareness
Month

Celebrate Diversity
Month