



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

cbsr.ucsb.edu



FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Members and Supporters,

As we welcome the vibrant month of June, we have much to celebrate and reflect upon. This month, we honor Juneteenth, a significant milestone in American history marking the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. We also celebrate Father's Day, recognizing the invaluable contributions of fathers and father figures in our lives, and Pride Month, celebrating the diversity and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community.

Taste of Africa Success

We are thrilled to report the resounding success of the "Taste of Africa" event. This celebration of culture, cuisine, and community would not have been possible without our wonderful co-sponsors. Your support and enthusiasm made this event a memorable experience for everyone involved. Thank you for your dedication and partnership.

Welcoming New Summer Team Members

This summer, we are excited to welcome several talented individuals who will join us to work on research and provide invaluable support to the Center for Black Studies Research. Joining us are:

- Isaiah Jones, Graduate Student, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- Kamaya Jackson, Undergraduate Student, Black Studies
- Zitong Xi, Undergraduate Student, Statistics & Data Science
- Nithan Rajappa, Undergraduate Students, Psychology & Journalism, Northwestern University

We look forward to their contributions and the fresh perspectives they will bring to our work.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to the CASU team: Tracey Goss, Marselina Ortiz, and Karla Partida Torres. Your hard work and dedication keep everything running smoothly at the CBSR.

We also want to extend our gratitude to all our SEEDS student fellows who presented their research projects. Your presentations were exceptional and showcased the remarkable talent and dedication within our program.

To our mentors, Drs. Joseph Incandela and Michael Beyeler, graduate student Byron Johnson, Post Doc, Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo, SEEDS Co-Director, Dr. Tim Sherwood, your commitment and dedication to mentoring SEEDS students are deeply appreciated. Your guidance and support are crucial to their success and growth.

Thank you to our advisory committee, Chair Dr. Helen Neville, UCSB Alum, members, Drs. Beth Pruitt, Bioengineering, Eileen Boris, Feminist Studies, Tony Baylis, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Marcus Mathis, Assistant Director, Diversity Initiatives, Office of Admissions, for your continued interest and support of the Center for Black Studies Research. Your insights and advocacy are invaluable to our mission.

A special thank you to Lyla Washaha, who continues to provide outstanding support to CBSR's special programming. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

Farewell to Drs. Allison Clark and Waverly Duck

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Allison Clark for her incredible work with the IChange Initiative and to Waverly Duck, Associate Director of the CBSR. Your contributions have significantly advanced our mission and impact. As your appointments end on June 30, 2024, we wish you both all the best in your future endeavors. Your legacy will continue to inspire us.

Event Highlights

On June 10th, we were honored to host Dr. Stacey Doan for her exceptional talk, "Rethinking Resilience." Dr. Doan shared her psychobiological health research on the costs of social mobility and discussed how the discourse of resilience can be harmful to disadvantaged youth. Her insights sparked meaningful conversations and reflections.

We also acknowledge the hard work of Drs. AJ Rice and Antar Tichavankunda on The Black Collective. Your efforts are instrumental in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Black experiences and histories on UCSB's campus.

Additionally, we celebrate the co-sponsorship of Cedric and Elizabeth Robinson's "Archives Unbound: 50 Years of Hope, Resistance, and Rebellion." This initiative continues to inspire and educate, preserving the legacy of struggle and triumph.

Summer Break

This will be our last newsletter until Fall 2024. We wish you all a wonderful summer filled with joy, relaxation, and continued learning. We look forward to reconnecting with you in the fall with more updates and exciting news.

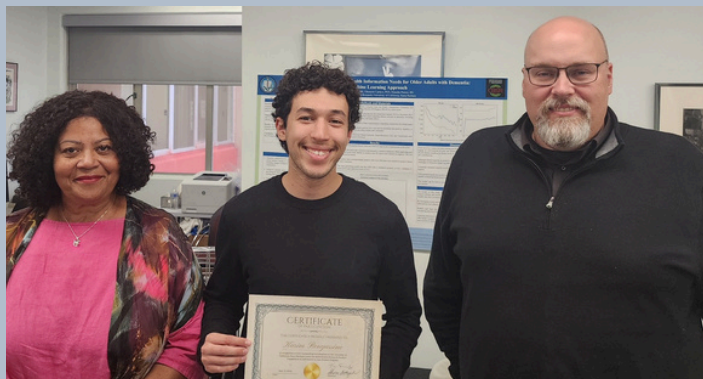
Have a great summer! (Tettegah & Open AI, personal communication, June 13, 2024)

Warm regards,

Dr. Tettegah

RECAP: SEEDS RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATIONS

After presenting on the research they conducted with their mentors throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the SEEDS fellows were presented with certificates of achievement and a stipend. You can check out the fellows posters from their presentations on [our website!](#)



Left: Professor Sharon Tettegah, Middle: Karim Benyassine, Right: Professor Tim Sherwood



Left: Professor Tim Sherwood, Middle: Arnav Kumar, Right: Professor Sharon Tettegah



Left: Professor Sharon Tettegah, Middle: Akua Ofori-Nyako, Right: Professor Tim Sherwood



Left: Professor Sharon Tettegah, Middle: Natasha Preece, Right: Professor Tim Sherwood



Left to right: Professor Tim Sherwood, Fatima Aguilar, Nancy Mahmoud, Professor Sharon Tettegah



Left to right: Professor Tim Sherwood, Professor Michael Beyeler, Fatima Aguilar, Nancy Mahmoud, Lily Turkstra, Arnav Kumar, Karim Benyassine, Ebenezer Larnyo, Lyla Washaha, AkyaNyako Ofori-Nyako

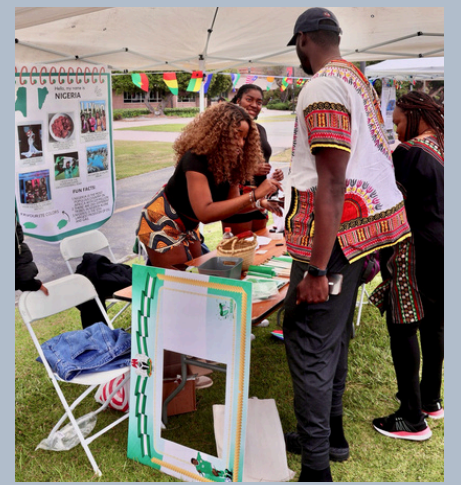
RECAP: THE BLACK COLLECTIVE MIXER

On May 9th, faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, researchers, and UCSB staff came together for the Black Collective Mixer, enjoying a lively evening of community and conversation.



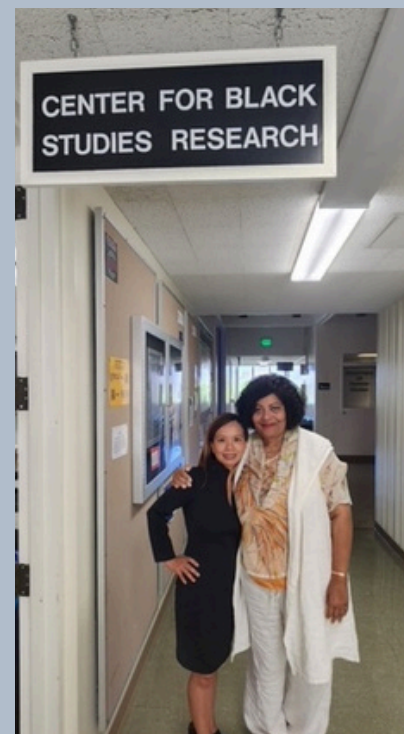
RECAP: A TASTE OF AFRICA

The Taste of Africa event, organized by CCSR postdoctoral scholars Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo and Dr. Charles Terry in collaboration with the Nigerian Students Association, the East African Students Association, and the A.S. Commission on Culture, Arts, and Joy Justice, saw many members of the UCSB and greater Santa Barbara community come out to be immersed in the history, culture, food, and art of various countries belonging to the continent of Africa. The event garnered 154 attendees on day one and 110 attendees on day two. The event also received the Obsidian Awards Event of the Year award in recognition of its positive impact on the community!



RECAP: “RETHINKING RESILIENCE” WITH DR. STACEY DOAN

We were joined by Dr. Stacey Doan on June 10th for her exceptional talk “Rethinking Resilience” where she shared psychobiological health research on the costs of social mobility and how the discourse of resilience can be harmful to disadvantaged youth. You can [watch the recording of this talk on our website by clicking here](#).



CBSR CORNER

DR. EBENEZER LARNYO, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“We concluded the SEEDS discussions for the 2023-24 academic year. The SEEDS students had the chance to develop predictive models to identify high-risk patients for hospital readmission among older African Americans with diabetes. They were thrilled to enhance their data science skills and deepen their understanding of public health issues, particularly those affecting African Americans. At the inaugural SEEDS Research Symposium, students proudly presented their research alongside their mentors. As a SEEDS facilitator and mentor, I was delighted to see them apply the valuable skills they’ve gained through the SEEDS program.



In addition to SEEDS, the 2024 A Taste of Africa event was a tremendous success! Attendees enjoyed authentic cuisine, rhythmic drumming, captivating dance performances, diverse art exhibits, stunning fashions, and historical presentations from across the African continent. The event was honored as the Event of the Year at the Obsidian Awards ceremony, organized by OBSD and CAPS. A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this event unforgettable.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce my appointment to the editorial board of the Open Public Health Journal, an Open Access journal that publishes original research articles, reviews, short articles, and guest-edited single topic issues in public health.”

