



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

[cbsr.ucsb.edu](http://cbsr.ucsb.edu)

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Members of Our Community,

As we step into the vibrant month of March, we carry forward the spirit of unity, celebration, and acknowledgment that permeated our campus throughout February and the first part of March. The echoes of the Black History Month conference, with over 128 attendees, hosted by the Center for Black Studies Research and curated by the esteemed Associate Director Duck, still resonate within our hearts and minds. This pivotal event was not only a celebration of African American history, culture, and achievements but also a platform for critical conversations, introspection, and growth. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this conference – from the organizers to the speakers, attendees, and supporters. Your dedication to fostering understanding and promoting inclusivity is truly commendable.

March brings with it a plethora of significant observances, each deserving of recognition and reflection. Women's History Month allows us to honor the countless contributions of women throughout history, shaping our world in profound ways. From trailblazing leaders to unsung heroes, we celebrate the resilience, strength, and brilliance of women from all walks of life.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Anatola Araba for her thought-provoking and inspiring presentation, "Imagination: A Bridge to Brighter Futures in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)." Anatola's talk was not only a captivating exploration of the intersection of AI, imagination and technology but also a powerful call to action for embracing creativity and innovation in the face of rapid technological advancements.

Anatola's insights illuminated the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and imagination as a driving force for positive change in our increasingly digital world. By challenging conventional thinking and encouraging us to harness the power of our imaginations, she provided a refreshing perspective on navigating the complexities of the age of artificial intelligence.

We look forward to continuing the conversations sparked by Anatola's presentation and exploring new avenues for leveraging imagination as a catalyst for creating brighter futures in the age of artificial intelligence.

Additionally, we mark National Hearing Day, International Transgender Visibility Day, and World Obesity Day, each shedding light on important issues that impact individuals around the globe. These observances serve as reminders of the diversity of experiences within our community and the importance of compassion, understanding, and advocacy in addressing challenges and fostering inclusivity.

At our university, we take great pride in our commitment to creating an environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive. We extend our deepest appreciation to the students, staff, and faculty who labor tirelessly to reduce oppression in all its forms, both on our campus and beyond. Your dedication to social justice and equity is a beacon of hope and inspiration for us all.

We also extend our gratitude to Chancellor Yang, the Office of Research and Vice Chancellor Incandela, for their unwavering support of our endeavors. Their commitment to advancing knowledge, innovation, and positive change enriches our community and propels us towards a brighter future.

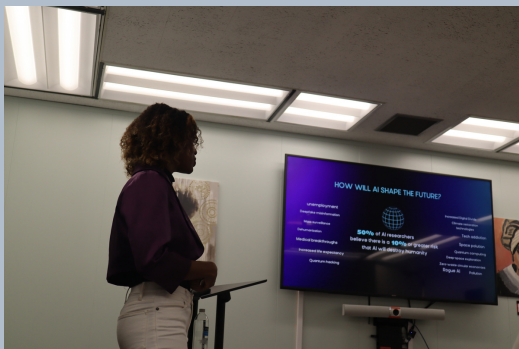
As we embark on the month ahead, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the connections forged, and the seeds of change planted during Black History and Women’s History Months and beyond. Together, let us continue to champion diversity, equity, and inclusion and challenge oppression in all that we do.  
(Tettegah & Open AI, personal communication, March 20, 2024)

With warm regards,

Sharon Tettegah, PhD  
Director  
Center for Black Studies Research, UCSB

## ANATOLA ARABA IMAGINATION & AI RECAP

Futurist, filmmaker, and founder of Reimagine Story Lab, Anatola Araba, March 5th for her presentation “Imagination: A Bridge To Brighter Futures in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”!





# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONFERENCE RECAP

The “Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System” conference, organized by Associate Director Dr. Waverly Duck, was a major part of the Center’s Black History Month programming. This conference highlighted the systemic impacts on communities and fostered discussions on the lived experiences of people impacted by the criminal legal system, including solutions to systemic reform and transformative change. It saw UCSB students, scholars, practitioners, activists, and the general public come together in community for rich dialogue on critical issues at the intersections of housing, education, healthcare, food insecurity, employment, and the criminal legal system across the life course.



## CBSR CORNER

### DR. CHARLES TERRY, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“I’ve recently completed an interview with Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo for the Center podcast which can be listened to by clicking on [this link](#) or going to @The Center for Black Studies Research on Spotify. Additionally, for the podcast, I’m organizing interviews with upcoming guests. I’m also working with Dr. Duck to plan an upcoming event honoring select UCSB Black female PhDs. Finally, I’m working on a journal article, which will be announced shortly and is in discussions with editors to publish my dissertation as a book.”



## TRACEY GOSS, CASU MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER

“Each month, I like to highlight an area of administrative support we (the CASU team) provide for the dynamic programming of the Center for Black Studies Research. This month’s flowers go to Karla Partida Torres who handles event coordination which requires navigation of policies and procedures which are continuously growing in number and complexity. This year Karla provided event coordination for seven Center events including the recent “Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System” conference and futurist, filmmaker and founder of Reimagine Story Lab, Anatola Araba’s talk “Imagination: A bridge To Brighter Futures in the Age of Artificial Intelligence”. We are honored to provide support for such worthwhile programming.”



## DR. EBENEZER LARNYO, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“To celebrate our community, achievements, and most importantly, our collective journey as Black student faculty and staff, I had the privilege to give an opening remark on this year’s theme “Human Connection in the Age of Technology”, at a dinner organized by the Office of Black Student Development on March 6, 2024. In my remark, I emphasized that, as we stand on the precipice of a new era, one defined by unprecedented advancements in technology, it’s imperative that we pause and reflect on the impact it has had on the very essence of our humanity: our ability to connect with one another. I reiterated that Human connection is not something that could be quantified in likes or shares. It’s the warmth of a smile, the comfort of a hug, the sincerity of a conversation. It’s about empathy, understanding, and shared experiences. Thus, we must be intentional in our effort to cultivate meaningful connections both online and offline through lifting each other up, supporting one another, and embracing the richness of our diversity.”



## DR. ALLISON CLARK, ICHANGE TEAM PROJECT MANAGER

“The purpose of IChange is to provide opportunities for increasing underrepresented STEM faculty recruitment, hiring, and retention. IChange aims to provide all levels of support, including but not limited to, inclusive teaching, advising, and research mentoring practices for all STEM faculty. Please visit [IChange Network](#) for more information.

Part of our annual reporting required feedback on programmatic efforts to increase underrepresented STEM faculty recruitment, hiring, and retention. A survey was created to obtain the feedback on UCSB STEM faculty regarding the programmatic efforts to increase underrepresented STEM faculty faculty recruitment, hiring, and retention during the administration of the IChange Initiative grant at UCSB for the 2020-2023 academic years. Participants were asked to complete the survey no later than March 31, 2024.



Additionally, during the month of March, the ICircle Cohort has been working on programming for the upcoming IChange Network (ICN) meeting. ICircle Cohorts are made up of ongoing and previously funded Aspire IChange grantees who remain committed to continuing to work towards sustainable change in STEM DEI. The group unanimously agreed that the featured speakers should also include a demonstration of the IChange commitment to finding solutions to the rising challenges against higher education’s diversity, equity, justice, belonging and inclusion in STEM.”

## LYLA WASHAHA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



“I have continued to work with Dr. Larnyo to provide administrative support to the SEEDS program. I’m excited to be working with Dr. Clark to seek out more funding for the SEEDS program so that we can hopefully welcome a new student cohort. I also encourage everyone to tune into the newest episode of the Center’s podcast where Dr. Larnyo shares about his work at the Center!”

## CELEBRATING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, we’re inspired by Anna Julia Cooper’s profound words from her 1892 masterpiece, *A Voice from the South*: “Only the BLACK WOMAN can say ‘when and where I enter, in the quiet, undisputed dignity of my womanhood, without violence and without suing or special patronage, then and there the whole...race enters with me.’” These powerful words resonate as we pay tribute to the countless women who’ve relentlessly championed liberation and justice across the diaspora. This nation is indebted to trailblazers like Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Zora Neale Hurston, Angela Davis, Hortense Spillers, Mary Church Terrell, Audre Lorde, and notably, the five courageous women from the 2018 Black Student Union Demands team.

This Women’s History Month, we are thrilled to unveil the Cassandra Jaelie Stewart Alumni Service Award. Named in honor of Cassandra’s spirit of kindness and unwavering commitment to service, this award will recognize five exemplary women whose contributions have profoundly influenced our community and carved out paths for the future. In his 2015 eulogy for Rosa Parks, Rev. Charles G. Adams thanked her in 16 different languages to underscore the universal impact of her legacy. Similarly, we recognize and honor the often unseen yet invaluable contributions of every woman at UCSB, especially those working as front office administrators, members of the vast staff community, and undergraduate and graduate advisors, as well as the overwhelming number of women serving as department chairs and Center directors. Their work forms the backbone of our nation, driving us forward and shaping our legacy.

This month, let’s come together to ensure that the efforts and contributions of the women in all our lives are recognized, valued, and acknowledged.

Associate Director

Dr. Waverly Duck

## MARCH RECOGNITIONS

World Obesity Day, March 4th

Global Recycling Day, March 18th

World Hearing Day, March 3rd

International Transgender Day  
of Visibility, March 31st