



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Welcome back, colleagues and community members. As we embrace the fall season, the Center for Black Studies Research (CBSR) reflects on a period of transition and celebration. October is a month of important recognition and community gathering.

- Hispanic/Latin Heritage Month ends on October 15, as we continue honoring the diverse histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latin communities.
- Indigenous Peoples' Day will be observed on Monday, October 13, a time to honor and celebrate the resilience, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month persists throughout October, reminding us to stand in solidarity with survivors, families, and advocates.

Farewells and Gratitude

This fall marks a time of transition for our CBSR community.

• Dr. Charles Terry, who has been a valued colleague and contributor, concluded his work with us in August 2025. Dr. Terry has accepted a new position at California State University, Fullerton, beginning this fall. We congratulate him on this exciting next chapter and thank him for his service and scholarship at CBSR.

• At the end of this October, we will also bid farewell to Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo. Dr. Larnyo has been a dedicated member of our community, bringing a wealth of insight, collaboration, and care. His presence will be greatly missed, and we wish him the very best as he embarks on the next stage of his professional journey.

We honor both Dr. Terry and Dr. Larnyo for their essential contributions to our collective work.

Looking Ahead: November Events

CBSR is excited to host a major International event in November 2025, and we warmly invite all campus and community members to join us.

Afro-diasporic Voices: Identity, Culture, and Resistance
(Voces Afrodiaspóricas: Identidad, Cultura y Resistencia)

 Thursday, November 13, 2025, noon-3 pm. Food will be served
 UCSB Campus

This symposium will gather scholars and cultural leaders from Peru, Colombia, and Brazil to explore Afro-diasporic identities, cultural practices, and acts of resistance across the Americas.

Program Highlights:

- Welcome: Dr. Sharon Tettegah, Director, CBSR
- Introduction: Dr. Jaime Alves, UCSB
- Chair: Dr. Micaela Diaz-Sanchez, UCSB
- Discussant: Dr. Charles Hale, UCSB

Featured Speakers:

- Susana Flor, Ministry of Culture (Peru)
- Vicenta Moreno, Ministry of Culture (Colombia)
- Carmen Rosa Watson, Universidade Paulista (Brazil)
- Peruska Echegaray, Universidad de Ciencia Aplicada del Peru

✦ Everyone is welcome: campus and community members alike.

Closing

October is a month to celebrate gratitude for our colleagues, our community, and the rich cultural histories we honor. As we approach November, we look forward to engaging in dialogue, celebration, and reflection together.

With appreciation,
Dr. Sharon Tettegah, The Center for Black Studies Research

SAVE THE DATE 11/13/2025
“AFRODIASPORIC VOICES: IDENTITY, CULTURE & RESISTANCE”
“VOCES AFRODIASPÓRICAS: IDENTIDAD, CULTURA Y RESISTENCIA”

Afrodiasporic Voices: Identity, Culture & Resistance (“Voces Afrodiaspóricas: Identidad, Cultura y Resistencia”) hosted by Dr. Sharon Tettegah, Director of the Center for Black Studies Research, and Dr. Jaime Alves, Associate Professor of Black Studies. The event will take place on November 13 at the Center for Black Studies Research. The symposium will include simultaneous Spanish-to-English interpretation, along with complimentary food and drinks. Full event details and RSVP information will be shared in our November newsletter—stay tuned!



Susana Matute

Susana Matute is a distinguished Afro-Peruvian leader and former Director of Policy for the Afro-Peruvian Population at the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. She currently serves in a leadership role within the Inter-American Network of High-Level Authorities on Policies for Afro-Descendant Populations (RIAFRO), under the Organization of American States (OAS). In addition to her extensive policy work, Matute brings deep expertise in interculturality, economics, and environmental issues. At the symposium, she will speak on the recognition, promotion, and protection of the rights of Afro-Peruvian communities.



María Vicenta Moreno

María Vicenta Moreno serves as the Director of Regional Development at the Colombian Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Knowledge. Her work centers on cultural policy, equity, and community empowerment. At the symposium, Moreno will present on cultural governance for peace, with a focus on Black territories, reparation, and resistance in Colombia.



Carmen Watson Barrera

With over thirty years of experience in education, Carmen Watson Barrera is a seasoned pedagogical advisor, Spanish language coordinator, author, and translator of educational materials for universities, schools, and corporations. Her research focuses on Peru's cultural heritage, and she actively develops cultural initiatives in both Lima, Peru, and São Paulo, Brazil. At the symposium, Watson will speak on the process of Afro-Peruvian identification and its influence on citizenship formation.



Peruska Chambi

Peruska Chambi is a Professor of Communication Sciences and Photography at the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences. An internationally acclaimed photographer, Chambi is known for her powerful visual documentation of Andean cultural traditions, especially those related to the cycle of life and death. At the symposium, she will present on Afro-Andean culture in Peru, offering a unique perspective through both her academic and artistic lens.

CBSR WELCOMES BRANDE OTIS POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR 2025-2027



Please join us in warmly welcoming Dr. Brande Otis, who will begin her appointment as a Postdoctoral Scholar at UCSB's Center for Black Studies Research (CBSR) on October 1, 2025.

A qualitative methodologist and Black education scholar, Dr. Otis's research explores the intersections of anti-Blackness, Black dreaming, and place in shaping Black learning environments. Her work not only analyzes these critical dynamics but also actively contributes to Black futures through rigorous, community-centered, and justice-driven qualitative research.

After earning her Ph.D. in Education from UCLA in June 2024, Dr. Otis served as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Black Studies at Northwestern University, where she worked on a National Science Foundation grant focused on Black STEM ecologies in Evanston, Illinois.

During her time at CBSR, Dr. Otis will continue her research and publishing under the mentorship of Dr. AJ Rice, Assistant Professor of Political Science. She will also collaborate with Dr. Sharon Tettegah, Director of the Center, to support the Center's programs, research initiatives, and student mentorship and instruction.

FAREWELL AND WELL WISHES DR. EBENEZER LARNYO AND DR. CHARLES TERRY



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Drs. Ebenezer Larnyo and Charles Terry as they conclude their Postdoctoral appointments at the Center for Black Studies Research. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and wish them continued success on their next journeys.

Dr. Charles Terry has accepted a position as a Lecturer at California State University, Fullerton, where he is now teaching three courses in African American and Ethnic Studies.

Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo's last day with the Center will be October 31. During his time at CBSR, Dr. Larnyo was an exceptional mentor, particularly to students interested in data science, and was widely recognized for his prolific publishing and impactful presentations on health disparities.

We extend our sincere thanks to both Dr. Terry and Dr. Larnyo for their outstanding contributions to the Center and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

"BETTER ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP AFRICAN AMERICANS BRIDGE THE HEALTHCARE GAP"

DRS. TETTEGAH AND LARNYO FEATURED IN THE UCSB CURRENT

-Excerpt from The UCSB Current 8/7/2025 Science and Technology

Researchers at UC Santa Barbara have found that better access to technology can go a long way toward achieving equity in healthcare for African Americans in the United States. According to [Sharon Tettegah](#) and [Ebenezer Larnyo](#), both researchers at UCSB's [Center for Black Studies Research \(CBSR\)](#), leveraging health technology is a promising strategy for addressing longstanding healthcare disparities "by enhancing access to care, improving its quality and reducing inequities."

"Our study shows that improving access to technology like broadband internet and smartphones, and healthcare technology use like telehealth and health-related social media platforms, can significantly reduce healthcare disparities among African Americans," said Larnyo, the lead author of [a paper published in the journal Frontiers in Public Health](#).

‘Evidence matters’

African Americans today continue to face an inordinate amount of difficulty in accessing healthcare, and tend to have worse healthcare outcomes than white counterparts. Tettegah recalled one particularly conspicuous case — that of tennis champion Venus Williams, who throughout her career was plagued with bouts of severe pelvic pain.

“She had uterine fibroids and had gone to several doctors and nobody was giving her the right response,” said Tettegah, who directs CBSR and focuses her research at the intersection of social science and STEM. “They were dismissing her.”

Indeed, despite the pain and the bleeding, in interviews Williams herself notes that while she knew she had fibroids (African American women are disproportionately affected by the noncancerous tumors), her doctors never connected the condition and her pain, telling her that her symptoms were a “normal” part of her menstrual cycle. Williams ultimately found a team that took her complaints seriously and because of this experience, now advocates for women’s health.

[Find the full UCSB Current Article here!](#)

UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER TRACEY GOSS



The CASU administrative team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Afrodiasporic Voices symposium. Karla Partida Torres coordinated travel and lodging for our distinguished speakers from Peru, Colombia, and Brazil, while Marcy Ortiz is managing the financial transactions related to honoraria and interpretation services. Catering has been finalized, and the Center is ready to welcome you—our valued guests!

We’re also pleased to share that CASU, alongside colleagues across campus, has entered the hypercare phase of the Financial Management Modernization Project. We’ve successfully mapped all legacy accounts to the new Common Chart of Accounts, developed a system for account reconciliation, and continue to build our expertise with the new systems and portals. We remain committed to learning, adapting, and troubleshooting as we navigate this transition together.

UPDATES FROM POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR EBENEZER LARNYO



Welcome Back, and a Look Ahead: Advancing Equity Through Research and Impact
As we begin the Fall Quarter, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all students, faculty, and staff. I hope your summer was restful, enriching, and restorative.

Over the past few months, I’ve had the privilege of continuing work that reflects our collective mission to promote health equity and empower underrepresented communities through research, teaching, and service. I’m pleased to share that our recent publication, “Technology access, use, socioeconomic status, and healthcare disparities among African Americans in the US,” was featured in MSN News, The UCSB Current, and Edhat. The study has not only drawn national attention to the digital divide in healthcare access but has also been adopted as a case study in nursing programs—demonstrating its practical relevance and pedagogical value. In addition, I’m honored to serve as Guest Editor for a Special Issue in Brain Sciences titled “The Impact of Social Media on

Human Behavior and Mental Health.” This issue aims to advance critical conversations around digital behaviors, mental health disparities, and community well-being, inviting interdisciplinary contributions from across the globe.

‘As we move into the new academic year, I remain committed to using my work to inspire students, foster inclusive learning environments, and drive meaningful change—especially in ways that support the health and wellness of historically marginalized populations. I invite you all to stay engaged, collaborate, and continue building a community where scholarship leads to impact.

Wishing everyone a successful and purpose-filled quarter.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS’ EVENTS

UC SANTA BARBARA ARTS & LECTURES

Five-time Grammy-winning Jazz Vocalist
Samara Joy

“A classic jazz singer from a new generation.” NPR

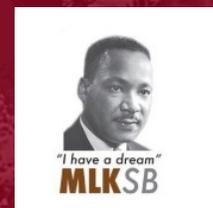
“Every so often a new vocalist blows everyone on the jazz scene away with their distinctive style, charm, and dexterity. Samara Joy is that new voice that’s giving new purpose to the music.” JazzTimes

The voice redefining jazz for a new generation, Bronx native Samara Joy brings soulful depth and timeless elegance to the stage, with a sound rooted in gospel and shaped by legends like Sarah Vaughan and Betty Carter. Returning by popular demand, Joy will captivate Santa Barbara again with her lush interpretations, original lyrics and masterful storytelling. Her latest release is Portrait, a collection of standards and an original track featuring her singular voice. With five Grammy wins – including Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album – Joy is a true force in contemporary jazz. Witness this luminous talent and her octet live in concert.

October 2, 2025 7:30 pm | The Granada Theater | \$16 UCSB Students | For Ticket Purchase and Additional Details Visit [A&L tickets](#)

Because only together we can make a difference

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMITTEE
SANTA BARBARA**



**2026 ESSAY AND POETRY AWARDS PROGRAM HOSTED BY THE MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. COMMITTEE OF SANTA BARBARA**

Submissions accepted 9/5 - 10/29/25 visit www.mlksb.org or email info@mlksb.org for more details

OCTOBER RECOGNITIONS

Click each event below to learn more!

**Balloons Around the
World Day**

**National Share the
Warmth Day**

**Nigeria Independence
Day**

**National Make A Dogs
Day**

**World Humanitarian
Action Day**

**Mae Jemison's
Birthday**

