During 2001-2002, the UCLA Center for African American Studies (CAAS) [since renamed the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA] research unit launched several new activities and continued those initiated in previous years.

**Slavery Colloquium**
CAAS organized a major national conference, Unfair Gains: A Colloquium on the Socio-Economic Legacy of Slavery, in February 2002, as mandated by SB1737 and supported by funds granted by the UC Office of the President. The two-day colloquium, which featured many nationally-known scholars, focused on the economic benefits accrued to slaveholding interests, and on the ways in which certain material and ideological aspects of the institution of slavery are perpetuated over time.

**UPCOMING RESEARCH**

**Enhancing Access & Achievement Among African American Students**
CAAS approached the Ford Foundation with concerns regarding the passage of Proposition 209 and subsequent repeal of Affirmative Action in California public institutions, which has resulted in a decline in African American admissions to the UC system. CAAS applied to the Ford Foundation (and was awarded) a five year grant in the amount of $700,000 to examine the factors contributing to the steep decline in black student access to college in the post-Proposition 209 period, as well as the background variables which may have also compromised student access.

**Kenny Burrell Archive**
In collaboration with Kenny Burrell, Director of the Jazz Studies Program at UCLA, as well as local experts on black music, including Dr. Jacqueline DjeDje, Dr. Eddie Meadows, and Dr. Steve Loza, among others, CAAS has begun conceptualizing a project to establish an archive of African American music, featuring sound recordings, film/videos, iconography, musical compositions, and memorabilia from jazz pioneer Kenny Burrell.

**Black Ethnography Project**
Given the absence of any previous effort to create a comprehensive mapping of the black community in Los Angeles, CAAS has envisioned a collaborative, inter-disciplinary research project that would undertake an extensive study of the cultural dynamics, processes of social placement, quality of life, material conditions, self-identity, and media representations of African Americans in Los Angeles.

**CONTINUING RESEARCH**

**Cultural Studies in the African Diaspora Project (CSADP)**
The CSADP, which has continued to document and explore new approaches to African Diaspora research since 1996, had its final year in 2001-2002. The CSADP presented a monthly series of scholarly talks, The Third World Reorder Lecture Series; cosponsored a screening of the award-winning film PUNKS; launched a quarterly webzine, The Diasporic Mind; and founded the African Diaspora Research Coalition, a monthly workgroup for UCLA students conducting research on the African Diaspora. CSADP staff also collaborated with CAAS Publications editors on Revolutions of the Mind: Cultural Studies in the African Diaspora Project 1996-2002, a comprehensive, book-length overview of the CSADP.

**Summer Humanities Institute (SHI)**
Based on the success of the SHI’s pilot program in 2001, CAAS submitted a grant proposal to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and won renewed funding for a three-year cycle ($370,000). Aiming to enhance scholarship focusing on the African American experience, the thematic focus for the 2002 SHI was Race, Representation and Public Culture. With a continued outreach to under-graduates from historically black colleges and universities who intend to pursue a Ph.D. in the Humanities or Humanistic Social Sciences, CAAS welcomed eighteen students to this summer’s program, and offered seminars on new humanistic scholarship, skill workshops to strengthen preparatory competencies, and cultural immersion and enrichment programs.

**Institute of American Cultures (IAC)**
Each year the IAC, an administrative entity composed of UCLA’s four Ethnic Studies Centers with oversight from the UCLA Graduate Division, sponsors a competitive fellowship and grant program to support research by faculty, visiting post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students.

### IAC Award Recipients 2002-2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-doctoral Fellowship</th>
<th>Batzheva Dreisinger English, Columbia University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-doctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Tina Henderson Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Errol Tsekani Browne History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Awards</td>
<td>Brandi Brimmer History</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Errol Tsekani Browne History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amina Humphrey Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jessica Millward History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Awards</td>
<td>Devon Carbado Law/African American Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robert Hill History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Porter Management</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Sawyer Political Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

Major

The major in Afro-American Studies prepares students for a range of career options. Graduates of the B.A. program have gone into communications, journalism, secondary school teaching, law, and social service, among other fields.

Minor

The minor is designed for students who wish to augment their major program of study with a group of related courses from various disciplines germane to Afro-American Studies. The minor exposes students to African American-related research and literature in a number of different disciplines, such as anthropology, economics, English, history, political science, and sociology.

GRADUATE

M.A.

M.A. program graduates have gone on to pursue the Ph.D. degree in history, sociology, psychology, and theater arts. Others have gone into journalism and law school. Some have entered the job market directly, obtaining jobs in teaching at the secondary school and college levels, as well as working in social service agencies.

M.A./Law J.D.

The Afro-American Studies Program and the UCLA School of Law offer a joint degree program whereby students may pursue an M.A. in Afro-American Studies and a J.D. at the same time.

FACULTY

Full Professors

Walter Allen, Sociology
Albert Boime, Art History
Kenny Burrell, Ethnomusicology
Devon Carbado, Law
Kimberle Crenshaw, Law
Jacqueline DjeDje, Ethnomusicology
Franklin Gilliam, Jr., Political Science
Sandra Graham, Education
Juan Gomez-Quiñones, History
J. Eugene Grigsby, III, Urban Planning
Sondra Hale, Anthropology
Cheryl Harris, Law
Robert Hill, History
Darnell Hunt, Sociology
Edmond Keller, Political Science
Francoise Lionnet, French
Vickie Mays, Psychology
Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, Anthropology
Eric Monkonen, History/Policy Studies
Hector Myers, Psychology
Beverly Robinson, Theater
Valerie Smith, English
Brenda Stevenson, History
Romeria Tidwell, Education (IDP Chair)
M. Belinda Tucker, Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences
E. Victor Wolfensein, Political Science
Gail Wyatt, Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences

Assistant Professors

Marcyliena Morgan, Anthropology
Harryette Mullen, English
Steve Nelson, Art History
Jenny Sharpe, English
Michael Stoll, Policy Studies
Richard Yarborough, English

Associate Professors

Tyrone Howard, Education
Aziza Khazzoom, Sociology
Maureen Mahon, AAS/Anthropology
Jennifer Obidah, Education
David M. Porter, Management
Mark Sawyer, AAS/Political Science
Renee Smith-Maddox, Education

Lecturers

Negussay Ayele
Ysamur Flores-Pena
Sidney Lemelle
Kendahl Radcliffe
Jervey Tervalon
Paul Von Blum

For more information and an online application, contact:

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies
310.825.7403 or 310.825.3776
www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu

In Loving Memory: DR. BEVERLY ROBINSON (1946-2002)

The Bunche Center for African American Studies mourns the passing of one of our key faculty members, Dr. Beverly Robinson. Truly an amazing soul—an unforgettable mentor, professor, theater historian, folklorist, producer, writer, director, and friend to many, Dr. Robinson died on May 5th of 2002 of pancreatic cancer. A professor in the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television since 1978, and a pioneer in the field of African American History and Theater, Robinson encouraged a climate of intercultural exchange among generations of students with her African American Theater History course. She worked closely with CAAS and with the Interdepartmental Program in Afro-American Studies for many years and we are greatly saddened by our loss. We miss you, Beverly.
Lani Guinier was the featured speaker of the 13th Annual Thurgood Marshall Lecture on Law and Human Rights, hosted by the UCLA Center for African American Studies on April 8th, 2002. Guinier is a professor of Law at Harvard. This is a selected excerpt from her lecture, wherein Guinier uses the metaphor of the “miner’s canary” to illuminate issues of race and power.

Miners used to take a canary into the mines to alert them when the atmosphere in the mines was too toxic. The canary had a more fragile respiratory system than the miners, which would give way, signaling that there was a problem with the atmosphere. The argument in “The Miner’s Canary,” which is a book I co-authored with Gerald Torrez, is that the experience of people of color, the experience of women, the experience of gays and lesbians, the experience of the disabled, the experience of those who have been left out, the experience of those who have been excluded, the experience of those who have been marginalized, is often the experience of the canary.

Unfortunately—because of the way in which our legal system has taught us to think about issues of race—when we see problems that converge around the canary, we locate those problems in the canary, and pathologize the canary. Then we try to fix the canary, and perhaps give the canary a little pint-sized gas mask so that it can withstand the toxic atmosphere in the mines. What I would like to try to suggest is that we need to use race differently to see that problems are made visible because of the way they affect the canary first. We have to use race to begin to transform, not just the canary, but also the atmosphere in the mines, to benefit all of us. So this is an argument about rethinking race, and also rethinking power.

The really hard issue that I want to talk about using this idea of the “miner’s canary” is the issue of Affirmative Action. It is an issue of access to higher education, and it is an issue that is obviously of great interest at the University of California, Los Angeles. I think that many things that appear to converge around the “canary,” are actually signals of problems with the way in which access to higher education is being distributed—not only in California, but also throughout the U.S.—using a test-centered approach that I call the “testocracy.” This “testocracy” is based on a story that says if you are good at timed paper-and-pencil-tests, that somehow you have merit—merit that we should reward by making it possible for you to attend the flagship schools, the premiere schools of the University of California system of higher education.

“well, everyone else can take the test but we’re going to have a group of people of color that don’t have to take the test.” Why aren’t we saying, “no one should be taking this test and admitted solely or primarily based on this test, given the data that we have in front of us.” We should be taking the experience of people of color, confirming that experience, and extending it to the way in which we think about admissions for everyone. Rather than fighting over who gets in on the margin, we need to be fighting over who gets in at the settled core of these institutions. We need to be challenging the meta-narrative that performance on a timed paper-and-pencil-test is somehow the symbol of excellence.

A group of black and Latino law professors, college professors, legislators, activists, and lawyers got together in Texas and did just that. They were confronted not with Proposition 209, but with a Fifth Circuit [Court of Appeals] decision that abolished Affirmative Action in the University of Texas system. They discovered that the University of Texas was using the SAT, primarily, as the means of admitting students to college; they discovered that there were 1,500 high schools throughout the state; and they discovered that by using the SAT, 150 of those 1,500 schools were dominating the
freshman class at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University. Ten percent of the high schools in the entire state were providing seventy-five percent of the freshman class at UT Austin. And of course, those ten percent of the high schools were coming from the suburbs of Austin, Houston, and Dallas as well as the independent schools. [This Texas community group] put together a bill because they found out that, actually, grades in high school are a better predictor of college success [than standardized tests], no matter where you go to high school. They put together a bill, which said that anyone in the top ten percent of their high school graduating class is automatically eligible to be admitted to either of the two flagship schools, not to any school in the Texas system, but to the two flagship schools. And they got that bill past the Texas legislature and Governor George Bush signed it. It was passed by one vote. That one vote came from a Republican legislator from rural West Texas, because they were able to show him that not a single one of his constituents had been admitted to the University of Texas at Austin for the past fifteen years, because the SAT was denying admission to working class and poor whites, not just to blacks and Latinos. So, by following the canary and identifying what was happening to the canary as a signal that there was a problem with the way these schools were admitting everyone, they were able to change the understanding of who deserved to be at these flagship schools. Most of the leaders in the state have graduated from either Texas A&M or UT Austin; [the schools are] not just places to get an education, [they are] places to network and become a leader—whether it is a political leader, a business leader, or a community leader. It is essential that we think about education in a democracy, we think about providing access in a way that everyone can share in the opportunity.

So, again, this is a move from the margin to the center. This is a move that looks at race, but also looks at power, and challenges the way we are thinking about [both]. It says in terms of power “we are not just going to reserve access to the flagship schools to those who are already privileged, we are going to share that opportunity more broadly because after all, this is a democracy.” And if we can track the experience of the canary, not only can we begin to rethink how to allocate scarce resources, we can also begin to question why those resources are so scarce in the first place.

If we were telling this story about the canary in 1996, I think that it might have had a very different outcome in terms of 209, because the argument that was being made in 1996 is that somehow blacks and Latinos were dominating access to higher education and working class and poor whites were suffering. In fact, it was true that Proposition 209 was on the ballot, California was spending the same amount on prison as on institutions of higher education. And starting in 1995, California started spending more on prisons than on institutions of higher education. California cut 8,000 positions in the state university system and added 25,000 positions in the state penal system. California was paying a first year college professor $41,000 a year and a prison guard $51,000 a year.

This shift in resources was not discussed, because our conventional view of race said that the only explanation for what’s happening is that blacks and Latinos are hoarding these opportunities. But if we begin to think about the experience of race as the canary, we can begin to track the experience of blacks and Latinos—the experience of blacks and Latinos who are not being tracked to college, but being tracked to prison—and that will enable us to understand that there has been a dramatic shift in resources to fund prisons and not schools, and, that this shift in resources is affecting everybody. So, it is not just enough to change the way in which we admit students to a scarce public institution, it is also important that we begin to make opportunities for everyone to go to college. The only way we can do that is to begin to rethink race, and rethink power.
### EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/17/01</td>
<td>Roundtable discussion on the declining admissions rate of African Americans at UCLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9/01</td>
<td>CAAS Open House &amp; Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26/01</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: David Luis Brown, Ph.D., UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow, U.C. Berkeley—Subalternity &amp; the Shards of Representation: Poor Whites, Gaujijos &amp; Slaves in the United States &amp; Cuba</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/9/01</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Damian Thomas, Ph.D., History, UCLA — Spreading the Gospel of Basketball: The Harlem Globetrotters &amp; the State Department, 1945-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/16/01</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Hector Myers, Professor, Psychology, UCLA — Psychiatric Disorders of African Americans with HIV</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2/01</td>
<td>The 3rd CAAS Jazz at the Bakery, featuring Kenny Burrell &amp; Friends</td>
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<td>1/8-17/02</td>
<td>10 Days of ROOTS, screenings of the TV mini-series</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/17/02</td>
<td>ROOTS - Celebrating 25 Years a documentary film screening &amp; panel discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/1-2/02</td>
<td>Unfair Gains: A Colloquium on the Socio-Economic Legacy of Slavery</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/7/02</td>
<td>Joaquim Barbosa Gomes, Affirmative Action in Brazil: An Informal Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/8/02</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Lisbeth Gant-Britton, Ph.D., Student Affairs Officer, CAAS — Contemporary Slavery Literature: Reflections—Present/Future</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/11/02</td>
<td>The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela, a documentary film screening, co-sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence and the African Diaspora Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1/02</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Stephanie L. Batiste, Ph.D., candidate, American Studies, George Washington University — Primitive Selves, Dangerous Others: Domestic and International Subjectivities in 1930s Black American Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/02</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Darnell M. Hunt, Director, CAAS &amp; Professor, Sociology, UCLA — African-Americans in PrimeTime: A CAAS Report in Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4/02</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Jayne Ikewumiegwe, Senior Lecturer, Anthropology, University of East London—Roots &amp; Routes: Rethinking Gendered African Diaspora(s) in the Global Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/8/02</td>
<td>Thurgood Marshall Lecture on Law &amp; Human Rights, keynote address: Lani Guinier</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/19/02</td>
<td>Thoughts from the Underworld: The Three Cycles, book signing &amp; reading by Mark K. Charlton-Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/29/02</td>
<td>A Glance Backward/A View Forward: Reflections on Los Angeles Ten Years After the 1992 Uprising co-sponsored by the Chicano Studies Research Center, the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, the Center for the Study of Urban Poverty &amp; the Asian American Studies Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6/02</td>
<td>Emma Cervone—After Recognition: Indigenous Politics in Contemporary Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/10/02</td>
<td>Circle of Thought Lecture: Ysamur Flores-Pena, Adjunct Professor, Center for African-American Studies, UCLA — The Lucumi Tradition: Continuities &amp; Transformations in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16/02</td>
<td>James P. Danky, Print Culture, Race &amp; Common Memory, co-sponsored with the Department of Information Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/17/02</td>
<td>Robin Chandler—The Blue Pill or the Red Pill: Taking Information Technology to Youth Audiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/17/02</td>
<td>All The Trouble You Need, a book signing by Jervey Tervalon</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/3/02</td>
<td>ADWA: An African Victory, a documentary film screening &amp; panel discussion</td>
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### FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

CAAS continued an aggressive campaign to procure funds to support Center programming, student scholarship funds, and faculty research. In 2001-2002, Ethnic Studies Development Director Kathy Kim managed the search for large extramural donor contributions, supported by CAAS Special Projects and Development Coordinator Alex Tucker. Development highlights were as follows:

An anonymous donor contributed $5,000 towards the graduate research endowment fund and $4,200 to support current graduate student research travel.

The CAAS Advisory Board continued with co-chairs, Renee Campbell and Judge Sherrill Luke. The Board’s mission is to provide support to CAAS to maintain the high quality of instruction and research programs, and assist CAAS with outreach efforts to increase the enrollment of African American students. They have become a strong support group for the Center, providing financial resources as well as contacts and visibility.

CAAS Jazz at the Bakery was held for a third year, featuring Kenny Burrell in December 2001. This was a successful cultivation event that raised $1,500 for the Kenny Burrell Archive in African American Music.

The fundraising dinner in April 2002 commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Thurgood Marshall Lecture series benefited the CAAS graduate student scholarship fund. Over $8,000 was raised towards this effort. The event was sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corporation, UCOP—Winston Doby, Universal Studios, AT&T, Nestle, UCLA Office of Student Affairs, Gallo Wines, W Hotels—Westwood, Kaiser Permanente, Sempra Energy, Vice Chancellor Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, UCLA Government and Community Relations, UCLA School of Law, Oscar Turner, Renee Campbell, James Lincoln, Bobby Smith and Rita Rothman.
FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

WALTER R. ALLEN, Professor of Sociology at UCLA and a faculty affiliate of the Bunche Center, published the research report Stony the Road We Trod...The Black Struggle for Higher Education in California (with Marguerite Bonous-Hammarth and Robert Teranishi) in CHOICES: Access, Equity and Diversity in Higher Education. The UCLA-based publication examines educational achievement and the college choice process among California’s high school juniors and seniors.

FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR., Professor of Political Science at UCLA and a core faculty member of the Bunche Center’s Interdepartmental Program in Afro-American Studies, was appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Partnerships. Dr. Gilliam oversees relationships between UCLA and the greater Los Angeles Community. He provides executive academic leadership for “UCLA in L.A.,” an umbrella group for more than 1,100 University/community partnerships.

KENNY BURRELL, Director of the Jazz Studies Program, Professor of Ethnomusicology at UCLA, and a faculty affiliate of the Bunche Center, received an award from the Los Angeles organization Recycling Black Dollars. Professor Burrell was honored for his academic dedication and devotion to music and the community.

DARNELL HUNT, Director of the Bunche Center for African American Studies and Professor of Sociology at UCLA, was elected as Vice President of the Media Image Coalition. The Media Image Coalition is an alliance of professional media associations, civil rights groups, human relations organizations, academicians, and concerned individuals committed to promoting fairness and balance in media depiction of all segments of our society.

MARK SAWYER, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UCLA and a core faculty member of the Bunche Center’s Interdepartmental Program in Afro-American Studies, received the 2001-2002 CAAS Research Associate award. Dr. Sawyer’s research interests include Black Political Thought, Critical Race theory, Post-Colonial theory, and theories of the state.

MICHAEL A. STOLL was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Policy Studies, School of Public Policy and Social Research. Professor Stoll is also a faculty affiliate of the Bunche Center, and studies the interplay of race, labor markets, and poverty.

UPDATES

CAAS PUBLICATIONS


LIBRARY & MEDIA CENTER

The Bunche Center Library & Media Center (LMC) supports academic programs and research projects in African American Studies, and provides specialized reference, collection, and information services on diverse aspects of African American, life, history, and culture in the Western Hemisphere. The collection is a non-circulating print and multimedia entity that houses approximately 7,698 bound volumes, 325 monographs, 551 vertical files, 187 pamphlet/newsletter files, 37 film strips, 40 microfiche, 2,320 audiodigital items (684 audiocassette tapes, 131 videotapes, 40 audio reels, 873 35 mm slides, and 661 pictorial items), 35 scholarly journals, 6 magazines, and 15 local, regional and national newspapers.

The 2001-2002 academic year brought to fruition the completion of an online catalogue project that links the Bunche Center collection to ORION2 and the California Digital Library. The project coincided with the Center’s return to Haines Hall in summer 2001 to a new facility on the first floor. During the year, the Library and Media Center focused on digitizing the audiocassette collection and vertical file, enhancing the local history collection, and reorganizing the library advisory committee. In 2001-2002 the LMC’s outreach activities included providing space for student and staff meetings, participation in the Department of Information Studies student internship program, and a host of other programs held in association with campus, community, and state organizations.

LMC open Monday-Thursday (excluding University holidays) 9AM-5PM.
CENTER STAFF (2001-2002):

Darnell Hunt, Director
Nandini Gunewardena, Assistant Director, Research
Jan Freeman, Management Services Officer
Veronica Benson, Financial Officer
Lee-Whin Liao, Accounting Assistant
Lisa Rose, Administrative Analyst
Alex Tucker, Special Projects & Development Coordinator
Ulli K. Ryder, Senior Editor, CAAS Publications
Candace Moore, Front Office Manager & Editor, CAAS Publications
Todd Lee, Tech Support
Lisbeth Gant-Britton, Student Affairs Officer
Nicki Hendrix, SHI Program Representative
Itibari Zulu, Librarian

Bunche Review, Vol. 1 edited by Ulli K. Ryder and Candace Moore