

UCLA

**Summer Programs for
Undergraduate Research**

Research Projects

August 2006

Regina N. Barnett

Major: African American and African Diaspora Studies

Undergraduate Institution: Indiana University – Bloomington

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Berky Nelson

Holla if You Hear Me: The Collapse of Black Leadership and the Emergence of the Hip Hop Movement: (1980-1984)

Rap music in its grassroots form provided an outlet for the frustration of the black underclass of America. Cultivated from the street subculture of slums, rap delivered the gritty reality of being poor, black, and voiceless. The traditional body of leadership who rose to power during the Civil Rights Movement neglected the deplorable state of low income African American communities. Engulfed in internal conflict and demands of a complacent middle class, traditional black leaders failed to address poor blacks. The collapse of traditional black leadership in the early 1980s allowed for rap music's rise to a representative status. Rappers brought a modernized approach to the traditionalist style, representing the oppressed and marginalized people of America's underbelly, the black underclass.

Nativa Mi'chelle Cazeau

Major: Intercultural Communications

Undergraduate Institution: University of Utah

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Antronette Yancy

Health-Related Lifestyle Analysis in advertisement for Ethnically-Targeted and General Audiences

This study explores the influence of advertisement on the rising rates of obesity in low-income, minority communities. This paper will closely examine a comparative case study focusing on outdoor advertisement. Data was collected and analyzed from locations representing affluent and low-income neighborhoods representing African-American and Latino communities in comparison to White communities in Los Angeles area. The findings of this quantitative research demonstrate excessive amounts of disproportionate advertising for unhealthy foods, beverages and products in low-income, minority communities.

Carrie Y. T. Coley

Major: English Arts

Undergraduate Institution: Hampton University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Richard Yarborough

Talking Back and Restoring Rapport: An Analysis of Connection within Black Feminism

Audre Lorde and Alice Walker, as contemporaries in Black feminist literature and theory, have both dedicated their lives and work to resisting the patriarchal suppression of all women, especially African Americans. Although the women have been studied separately many times over, it is imperative to study the works of the two together in order to establish an often overlooked connection between the two women. An analysis of the poems and essays written by the two poets between the years of 1965 and 1975, not only allows for the recognition of similarities in work between the two authors, but also for an argument towards stronger ties amongst women, particularly African American women within an anti-sexist and anti-racist movement.

Michael L. Counter, Jr.

Major: English Arts

Undergraduate Institution: Southern Arkansas University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Richard Yarborough

UCLA Graduate Mentors: Dr. Marne Campbell and Ulli Ryder

Revelations Revealed: Alvin Ailey, the black (gay) male body, the black Church, homosexuality, and Revelations

Modern dance choreographer Alvin Ailey was a black American gay male. In his piece "Revelations" (1961), Ailey remembers the black (gay) male body and rewrites its history, recasting it as a site of creation rather than that of emasculation and impotence, figuratively speaking. Black (male) concert dancers use Negro Dance as a medium to negotiate their position in the public sphere while reconstructing the black body. "Revelations" (1961) is Ailey's attempt to visualize, or rather, reveal, his complex identity in a sacred space, the black church, through the secular medium of dance. Thomas DeFrantz's book *Dancing Revelations* and his articles "Simmering Passivity" and "Composite Bodies of Dance" serve as the primary texts for this project.

Avery L. Daniels

Major: History

Undergraduate Institution: South Carolina State University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr Mark Sawyer & Dr. Paul Von Blum

UCLA Graduate Student Mentors: Dr. Marne Campbell & Ulli Ryder

Resegregation: A Comparative Study between the Los Angeles Unified School District and Clarendon County School District 1

This paper evaluates the course of school desegregation in Los Angeles, California and is compared to that of Clarendon County School District 1 in South Carolina. Busing and white flight have affected both school districts in such a negative way that instead of desegregation, resegregation of some public schools has occurred. Although the argument during the *Brown* case was that public schools were separate and unequal, the case remains the same within both districts. The disparity between passing percentages of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and SAT scores among whites and African-Americans are fairly large. These two school districts need to reevaluate their goals and focus on closing this gap.

Janette Diaz

Major: Sociology & Chicana/o Studies

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Dominguez Hills

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Juan Gomez-Quiñones

Ethnic Framework in Colonial Mexico: African Descent Peoples in Durango, Mexico

African people's presence and influence in colonial Mexico has not received appropriate academic recognition. Only within the last ten years have scholars seriously pursued the study of Africans in Mexico, but primarily in the central and southern regions of Mexico. My research will examine to what extent African descent peoples occupied colonial societies in northern Mexico. In my research, I will adapt quantitative and qualitative methods of research based on primary documents and a secondary literature review (including the 1777 General Census for the city of Durango). I will compile this information to investigate the numbers of African descent peoples and the ethnic framework of households in colonial Mexico and city of Durango.

Georgina Escobar

Major: Business Administration

Undergraduate Institution: California State University,
Dominguez Hills

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Otto Santa Ana

Visual Metaphor in Contemporary Immigrant Political Discourse: An Analysis of the Division of Labor Found in the Editorial Cartoon

The immigration and presence of undocumented Latinos to the United States has generated ongoing controversy, which is evident in media outlets, such as television, newspapers and radio. This study will focus on analyzing the visual rhetoric found in political cartoons from all over the world on the topic of immigration. Using the methodology developed by Ray Morris, the specific frames and crisis found in each cartoon has been individually analyzed. The data were derived from an electronic database using the key word *immigration*, *immigrant*, and *immigrants*. The purpose of this analysis aimed to discover the perspective of 33 political cartoons using “border” as a visual metaphor bearing on the House of Representative bill 4437, specifically the measure calling for the extension of the border.

Aaron N. Foley

Major: Psychology

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sandra Graham

UCLA Graduate Mentors: Michael Giang & Aletha Harven

Comparing the Psychological Adjustment and Ethnic Identity of Multiracial/Multiethnic and Monoracial/Monoethnic Young Adolescents

The current study examined the psychological adjustment of multiracial young adolescents and their monoracial peers (i.e., Blacks, Latinos, and Whites) on measures of self-worth, depression, and three dimensions of ethnic identity (public regard, private regard, and centrality). Participants were 1,914 students from a longitudinal study of peer relations. Results indicated that multiracials may be just as well adjusted as their monoracial peers in terms of self-worth and depression. Differences in ethnic identity varied with each dimension for multiracials and monoracial sub-groups. In particular, multiracials had significantly higher public regard than Blacks and had significantly lower centrality than Blacks and Latinos. Implications and directions for future research are discussed in terms of psychological adjustment and different dimensions of ethnic identity among multi- and monoracial adolescents.

Elizabeth González

Major: Social Science & Comparative Education

Undergraduate Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Solórzano

Maternal Support Systems for Latinas and Graduate Education

This study examines the factors of academic success for Latina students in completing a graduate degree. This study attempts to uncover how Latinas manage to attain a graduate degree by focusing on the support of their families. Latinas make up 1% of all women who graduate with doctoral degrees. This problem can be seen in the lack of representation of Latinas as university faculty and administrators. Information will be gathered through interviews. Questions regarding educational achievement will be a major part in collecting data. The study transcends cultural deficit models which are dominant in the field of education. I will incorporate critical race theory, including the work of Patricia Gándara and Daniel Solórzano as informing the theoretical framework of this study.

Jumoke Sentwali Johnson

Major: English

Undergraduate Institution: Morehouse College

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Von Blum

Black English: Explanation, Exploration, Exploitation

This paper deals with the explanation, exploration, and exploitation of Black English. It explains the definition of Black English as used by leading linguistic scholar Geneva Smitherman and gives a background of where the language originated and its transformations into the current language it is today. The research explores the implications of speaking Black English in America and what this means in judicial, corporate, and academic settings. It maintains that it is necessary to find ways to exploit Black English for the advancement of African Americans. Ultimately, the paper concludes that the most effective way to approach Black English is to introduce language appreciation to African American students at the Elementary school level.

Sara Joyner

Major: Business Management

Undergraduate Institution: Prairie View A&M University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Von Blum

Corporate Corruption of Hip-hop in 1996

Hip-hop artists tripled their salaries and visibility in 1996. Consequently, their influential power increased. Corporations then recognized the profitability of Hip-hop and began to seek artists to endorse their products. Also, due to corporate America's sudden interest in Hip-hop, business executives decided what type of Hip-hop sells and commenced to control the image of Hip-hop. The telecommunications act of 1996 created legal monopolies in the radio industry. Subsequently, mandated play list for stations arrived. The songs that received heavy rotation in the public radio airwaves had one message, consumption and materialism. Items mentioned in the songs were not attainable to core listening audience of young African Americans. In effort to salvage the original Hip-hop movement Hip-hop activism emerged. I argue that the new Hip-hop movement can empower and mobilize a group of people to change current community conditions.

Cassandra D. Levy

Major: English Arts

Undergraduate Institution: Hampton University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Von Blum

African-American's Master-Servant Syndrome during 1930's Cinema

Michael Martin says, "To narrate and depict who we are, inevitably entails narratives and depictions of who is that we are not." This research paper will give an in depth analysis about the African-American experience in the context of film during the 1930's. I will analyze the roles primarily assigned to African Americans (the mammy, the coon and the tom) with the focus being on stereotyping and the portrayal of culture. I will also examine how these roles used in film, as the book Unthinking Eurocentrism states, "demonstrates that stereotypes are not an error in perception but rather a form of social control intended as Alice Walker calls 'prisons of image'."

Raquel Mason

Major: History

Undergraduate Institution: Jackson State University

UCLA Faculty Mentors: Dr. Mark Sawyer & Dr. Richard Yarborough

The Influence of Race on Capital Punishment in Mississippi, 1900-1950

The first half of the twentieth century in Mississippi demonstrates the increased institutionalization of capital punishment and the way in which Jim Crow society led to racially significant disparities in the application of capital punishment. This is demonstrated by the statistics on Mississippi executions. The stark data mirrors the interplay and confluence of societal factors that influenced the pattern and specificities by race for crimes in the state's criminal sentencing. These factors include racial stereotypes, lynching, and unconstitutional practices in the criminal justice system via court procedures and police conduct. In Mississippi, a misuse of justice institutionalized a *legal* form of lynching, which was part of a systematic method of returning African Americans to a subordinate position in the state.

Rocio C. Mercado

Major: International Development Studies

Undergraduate Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. E. Richard Brown

UCLA Graduate Mentor: Dr. Moninder-Mona Jhawar

The Effects of School-Based Health Centers on Educational Attainment

Students from lower socio-economic communities do not receive adequate access to health services and information. These include access to safe parks & recreation, access to top-quality fruits and vegetables, access to health services which include vision, dental and mental health screenings. School-Based Health Centers function to offer students immediate access to programs that help ensure their health and safety. Using data collected from UCLA's Center for Health Policy CHIS data and other government health agencies, this paper focuses on regions where the access to health services is not easily available and why they are not offered to the students in their respective communities.

Adam T. Murry

Major: Psychology

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Doug Hollan

An Evaluation of Religious Functionalism within Anthropology

Belief in a spiritual reality is an inseparable experience from human history. Its integration with other aspects of culture suggests it plays an important role on both a personal and a societal level. Theoretical works, ethnographies, and religious texts were reviewed to explore current anthropological theory as to the role religion plays for a society and its members. A functionalist approach is presented as the current trend in anthropology, where cultural expressions are measured by their practical functions. How religion reinforces order and unity, and satisfies the cognitive, emotional, intra-psychic, and physical needs are expounded and developed. It is argued that variations in religious viewpoint or degree to which one need compels belief over another should be considered in social research.

Gabriel Nuñez

Major: Psychology

Undergraduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Arthur A. Stein

Misperceptions and Public Support for the Iraq War

In this paper I refute Douglas C. Foyle's (2004) argument that President George W. Bush received high levels of support for invading Iraq primarily because of post-September 11th sentiment. Foyle's analysis neglects the role the Bush administration's rhetoric played in shifting the public's desire for going to war. Foyle erroneously infers that the Bush administration's public relations campaign had little influence on changing American public opinion because public support 1) remained stable during the build up to the war and 2) allegedly existed before the administration made any public mention of Iraq. I argue that American support for the Iraq war depended upon both the post-September 11th environment and the misperception that Iraq was linked with Al-Qaeda.

Vivian Orcasitas

Graduate Major: Counseling

Graduate Institution: California State University, Northridge

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patricia McDonough

Socio-cultural factors among Latino/as and Financial Aid

The purpose of this study is to explore the effect of sociocultural factors (familial rules, values, beliefs, assumptions, and perspectives) related to money on financial aid issues among prospective Hispanic/Latino/a college students. A cultural-historical perspective was applied to this study through a survey of literature related to sociocultural factors and money. Several themes emerged in relation to financial decisions: talking about money, financial expectations, familial influence on consumer behaviors, dependence and interdependence, and adulthood and money. Guidelines and suggestions for counselors who work with low-income Hispanic/Latino/a students and families are included at the conclusion of the study.

Alexandrea Nicole Rich

Major: English

Undergraduate Institution: Spelman College

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Von Blum

UCLA Graduate Student Mentor: Ulli Ryder

Black Mirror and the Blue Crayon: Color Symbolism and Feminine Healing in Pearl Cleage's What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day

This essay explores Cleage's use of the color blue in her first novel, What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day. Specifically, the essay links the previous scholarship—of Houston A. Baker and A. Yemisi Jimoh—about blues music and its relationship to African American literature with Cleage's underlying message of individual perseverance, community advancement and the color blue. Moreover, the essay uses the main characters, Ava and Joyce, as examples of how the color blue can serve as remedy to the plight of the protagonists that allows their misfortunes to act as catalysts for progress and empowerment.

Angela Roethel

Major: Psychology & Human Biology

Undergraduate Institution: University of Wisconsin- Green Bay

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vickie Mays

Developing a Curriculum on Diabetes Education and College Readiness for Urban American Indian Youth

Type 2 Diabetes is a serious public health problem in the United States, particularly in ethnic minorities such as American Indians. Several education and prevention programs have been implemented for American Indian adults, but few programs focus on American Indian youth residing in urban areas. The purpose of this research was to develop a culturally appropriate curriculum on diabetes education and prevention for urban American Indian youth and to stimulate college readiness through health career exploration. This paper also discusses the cultural, contextual, and methodological considerations encountered during program development. Recommendations are made for culturally-based research and prevention programs as a means to reduce and eliminate minority health disparities.

Mariza Rosales

Major: Speech-Language-Hearing

Undergraduate Institution: University of Kansas

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carson Schutze

Lexical Category Production of the Right Cerebral Hemisphere

The purpose of this study was to examine the lexical category production of children who have undergone a surgical procedure in which the entire left hemisphere of the child's brain was removed due to catastrophic seizures. This was an attempt to find similarities between the subjects and normally developing children with similar mean length of utterances. Spontaneous language samples were examined from both the operated children and the normal children. The proportion of each lexical category (noun, verb, adjective, adverb) was calculated for each child and then compared to the other children's production. Although the proportions of each lexical category production were similar further examination of the language samples indicate several individual differences in language production among the children.

Irene M. Sanchez

Major: Sociology & Latin American/Latino Studies

Undergraduate Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Solórzano

Dreams Unfulfilled: The Challenges of the Transfer Process for Latina/o California Community College Students

This paper explores the challenges Latina/o California Community College students face with the transfer process to the University of California. Utilizing data from various sources, literature on community colleges and personal narrative I will seek to identify these challenges. In conclusion, I will give suggestions for further research as to what needs to be done to serve the needs of Latina/o Community College students so that they may fulfill their dreams of transferring to a UC where this group remains underrepresented.

Tin M. Thu

Major: Sociology & Anthropology

Undergraduate Institution: Hunter College

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert F. Schilling

The Revelation of Microbicides

The paper examines the dire need for new methods of prevention against the HIV/AIDS pandemic and how a new method called microbicides might be employed as one approach to this global crisis. Given the current status of HIV/AIDS preventative measures, Microbicides will be discussed in the context of male dominant contraceptives, culture, and usage. It further examines the microbicides candidates that have entered Phase III test trials and update their current status on safety, efficacy, and acceptability. The paper also discusses the potential availability of a microbicide by 2012 and the possibility of the new prevention method that will avert millions of potential HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Romare Truely

Major: Geography

Undergraduate Institution: Pennsylvania State University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Taylor

UCLA Graduate Student Mentor: Allison Yoh

Smart Cards

This paper highlights common institutional barriers transportation agencies find when adopting “smart card” technology. Most literature currently focuses on the technological side, as opposed to the institutional and policy side of “smart cards.” Using ATLAS.TI, a computer software program for qualitative data, roughly twenty interviews conducted with various transit managers will be analyzed to find recurring themes that agencies list as institutional barriers to smart cards. These barriers mainly include cost as well as the lack of funding smaller agencies receive from the federal government. The goal is to put these themes in the forefront for further research and subsequent policy changes.

Kia M. Wood

Major: Broadcast Journalism

Undergraduate Institution: Howard University

UCLA Faculty Mentor: Dr. Berky Nelson

Déjà vu: Beyoncé and Hip-hop Feminism

This study will examine the concepts of hip-hop feminism through the work of R&B artist Beyoncé Knowles, specifically how her music video Déjà vu exemplifies characteristics of this ideology. I will utilize the research of other scholars, as well as conducting my own critical analysis of her music video, to examine how Beyoncé and her work interact with hip-hop feminism. The goal of my research is to explore and explain the complex nature of hip-hop feminism. Topics to be explored in my research are black masculinity and black femininity, the historical basis of African American gender relations, and race versus gender.