

**Prentice, Boone M.**

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Hello All,

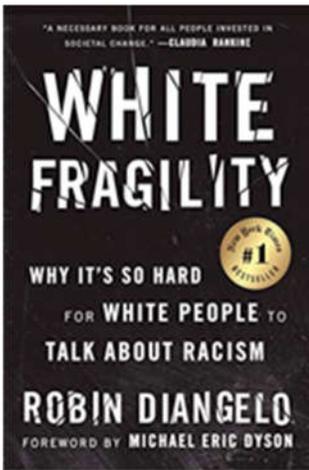
The Chemistry Department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee would like to thank you all for your participation in this year's Black History Month Activities. We are excited to bring you this final installment of the "Black Friday" newsletter for 2021 highlighting Black History Month on-campus, community, and museum events. Last week we celebrated some of UF Chemistry Department's own by highlighting previous as well as current students that continue to excel in the sciences. This week, we are happy to introduce our DEI Book Club, which is championed by our Staff Subcommittee. We highly encourage you to participate in this endeavor, and if you would like to do so, please follow the directions provided in the section below. It is our hope that you enjoyed the newsletter and were inspired by some of the events. Although Black History Month will soon come to a close, please continue to do the individual work required to realize greater diversity, equity, and inclusion for all.

Sincerely,

DEI Committee

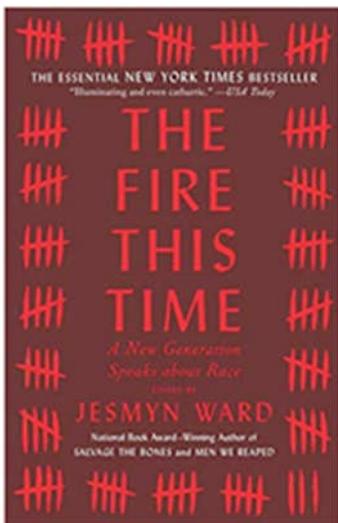
# DEI Book Club

Here are a few books we are recommending for our BHM 2021 Book Club. Please select and rank your preference here: [https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6VTPQRYKzTbdCya](https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6VTPQRYKzTbdCya) The poll is open for a week from today and a book will be chosen based on the most votes posted, If necessary, your ranking will break a tie. We will meet every two weeks to discuss a few chapters. Plan on about a month or so for reading and discussion.



## 1. White Fragility [Amazon](#)

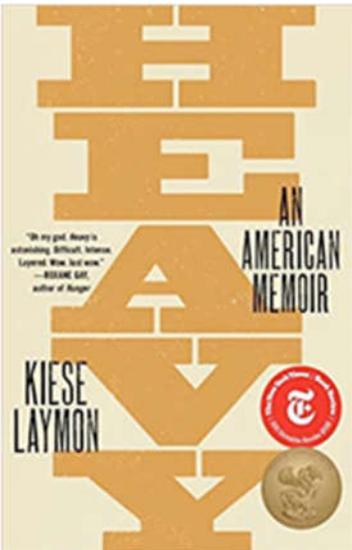
In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.



## 2. The Fire This Time [Amazon](#)

In this bestselling, widely lauded collection, Jesmyn Ward gathers our most original thinkers and writers to speak on contemporary racism and race, including Carol Anderson, Jericho Brown, Edwidge Danticat, Kevin Young, Claudia Rankine, and Honoree Jeffers. “An absolutely indispensable anthology” (*Booklist*, starred review), *The Fire This Time* shines a light on the darkest corners of our history, wrestles with our current predicament, and imagines a better future.

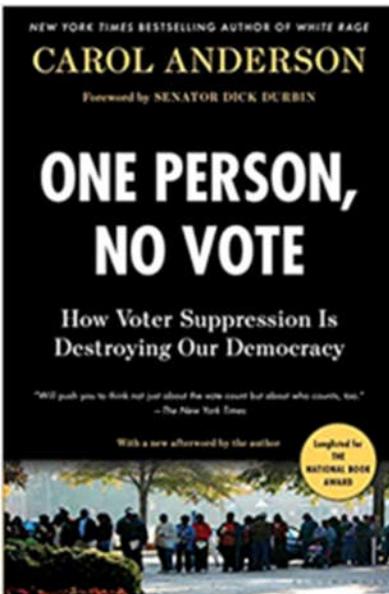
Envisioned as a response to *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin’s groundbreaking 1963 essay collection, these contemporary writers reflect on the past, present, and future of race in America. We’ve made significant progress in the fifty-odd years since Baldwin’s essays were published, but America is a long and painful distance away from a “post-racial society”—a truth we must confront if we are to continue to work towards change. Baldwin’s “fire next time” is now upon us, and it needs to be talked about; *The Fire This Time* “seeks to place the shock of our own times into historical context and, most importantly, to move these times forward” (*Vogue*).



3. Heavy [Amazon](#)

In *Heavy*, Laymon writes eloquently and honestly about growing up a hard-headed black son to a complicated and brilliant black mother in Jackson, Mississippi. From his early experiences of sexual violence, to his suspension from college, to time in New York as a college professor, Laymon charts his complex relationship with his mother, grandmother, anorexia, obesity, sex, writing, and ultimately gambling. *Heavy* is a “gorgeous, gutting...generous” (*The New York Times*) memoir that combines personal stories with piercing intellect to reflect both on the strife of American society and on Laymon’s experiences with abuse. By attempting to name secrets and lies he and his mother spent a lifetime avoiding, he asks us to confront the terrifying possibility that few in this nation actually know how to responsibly love, and even fewer want to live under the weight of actually becoming free.

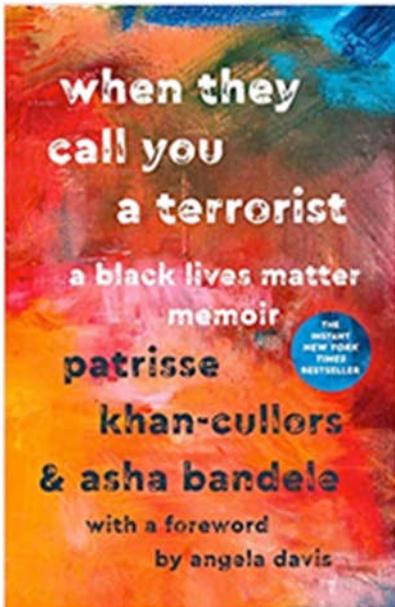
“A book for people who appreciated Roxane Gay’s memoir *Hunger*” (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*), *Heavy* is defiant yet vulnerable, an insightful, often comical exploration of weight, identity, art, friendship, and family through years of haunting implosions and long reverberations. “You won’t be able to put [this memoir] down...It is packed with reminders of how black dreams get skewed and deferred, yet are also pregnant with the possibility that a kind of redemption may lie in intimate grappling with black realities” (*The Atlantic*).



One person, no vote [Amazon](#)

In her *New York Times* bestseller *White Rage*, Carol Anderson laid bare an insidious history of policies that have systematically impeded black progress in America, from 1865 to our combustible present. With *One Person, No Vote*, she chronicles a related history: the rollbacks to African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Known as the *Shelby* ruling, this decision effectively allowed districts with a demonstrated history of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice.

Focusing on the aftermath of *Shelby*, Anderson follows the astonishing story of government-dictated racial discrimination unfolding before our very eyes as more and more states adopt voter suppression laws. In gripping, enlightening detail she explains how voter suppression works, from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures. And with vivid characters, she explores the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to restore the basic right to vote to all Americans.



When they call you a terrorist [Amazon](#)

Raised by a single mother in an impoverished neighborhood in Los Angeles, Patrisse Khan-Cullors experienced firsthand the prejudice and persecution Black Americans endure at the hands of law enforcement. For Patrisse, the most vulnerable people in the country are Black people. Deliberately and ruthlessly targeted by a criminal justice system serving a white privilege agenda, Black people are subjected to unjustifiable racial profiling and police brutality. In 2013, when Trayvon Martin's killer went free, Patrisse's outrage led her to co-found Black Lives Matter with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi.

Condemned as terrorists and as a threat to America, these loving women founded a hashtag that birthed the movement to demand accountability from the authorities who continually turn a blind eye to the injustices inflicted upon people of Black and Brown skin.

Championing human rights in the face of violent racism, Patrisse is a survivor. She transformed her personal pain into political power, giving voice to a people suffering inequality and a movement fueled by her strength and love to tell the country—and the world—that Black Lives Matter.

*When They Call You a Terrorist* is Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele's reflection on humanity. It is an empowering account of survival, strength and resilience and a call to action to change the culture that declares innocent Black life expendable.

In lieu of books, here are a few shorter articles to read:

**Stanford psychologist identifies seven factors that contribute to American racism**

Of the seven factors the researchers identified, perhaps the most insidious is passivism or passive racism, which includes an apathy toward systems of racial advantage or denial that those systems even exist.

<https://news.stanford.edu/2020/06/09/seven-factors-contributing-american-racism>

## **Systemic racism in higher education**

[Systemic racism in higher education | Science \(sciencemag.org\)](#)

## **Centering Racial Equity Is Key to Righting Historic Injustices**

<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/blog/centering-racial-equity-key-righting-historic-injustices>

## **A College Program for Disadvantaged Teens Could Shake Up Elite Admissions**

An education program is immersing underprivileged students in Ivy League classes, and the students' success has raised questions about how elite university gatekeepers determine college prospects.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/18/us/politics/college-admissions-poor-students.html?te=1&nl=the-morning&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20210218](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/18/us/politics/college-admissions-poor-students.html?te=1&nl=the-morning&emc=edit_nn_20210218)

## **How Systemic Racism Continuously Hinders Black Employment**

[Black Employment Is Hindered by Systemic Racism | LiveCareer](#)

## **Being Black In America: 'We Have A Place In This World Too'**

[Being Black In America: 'We Have A Place In This World Too' : NPR](#)

## **The Perils of "People of Color"**

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/annals-of-activism/the-perils-of-people-of-color>

# **On-Campus Events**

## Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn Black Film & Film Literature Collection



The George A. Smathers Libraries are dedicating a legacy collection of Black film & film literature to memory of the late Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn.

Dr. Hilliard-Nunn was a beloved educator and activist who dedicated many years to the UF African American Studies Program as an adjunct associate professor. She first joined the Program in 2007, but had been a part of the University and Gainesville communities for many years prior. During her time at UF, she taught a broad range of courses. However, she demonstrated an interest and passion for film and media. In 1993, she earned her doctorate in Mass Communication from Florida State University, and she continued to teach and publish on Black film throughout her rich career. Dr. Hilliard-Nunn was equally as skilled behind the camera as she was behind a lectern, utilizing her skills as a director and producer to tell Black stories through film.

The Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn Black Film and Film Literature Collection is a selection of popular films spanning Black film history; documentaries on Black history, culture, and social issues; and secondary, scholarly works on Black film theory, criticism and analyses. The Collection contains a variety of formats, including DVD and Blu-ray disc, streaming video, as well as print and eBooks. The Collection is managed by Stephanie Birch, African American Studies Librarian, with the support of Jeanne Ewert, Film Studies Librarian. Together, they will continue to build the collection over time. Each item in the collection will be designated by a custom-designed print and/or digital bookplate.

The Collection is also supported by an [online guide](#) for both campus and public users. It includes a full list of film titles in the collections, as well as additional Black film resources available in the local community, online and through the UF Libraries.

Beginning February 12 and throughout Black History Month, a selection of DVDs and Blu-ray discs from the Collection will be on display on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Library West. Materials are available for check-out to UF students, faculty and staff. A corresponding display will be available to the public through the Alachua County Library District (ACLD). For more information, please visit the ACLD website: <https://www.aclib.us/>.

For questions concerning the collection or Library West display, please contact Stephanie Birch, UF African American Studies Librarian, at [stephanie.birch@ufl.edu](mailto:stephanie.birch@ufl.edu). For questions regarding the Alachua County Library District display, please contact Joyce West, Public Services Division Director, at [jwest@aclib.us](mailto:jwest@aclib.us).

# Community Events

- Friday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.: Decyo McDuffie ([virtual concert](#))
- Sunday, Feb. 28 from 2-5 p.m.: [Social Justice Murals tour](#) and meet and greet with artists
- Throughout February: Honoring our Legends (tour Evergreen and Pine Grove Cemetery markers highlight prominent Black figures in their final resting places)

# Museum Events

# Harn Museum of Art:

## Elusive Spirits: African Masquerades

December 1, 2015 – March 2020

<https://harn.ufl.edu/exhibitions/elusivespirits>

## Florida Museum of Natural History

South Florida People and Environments

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/exhibits/south-florida/>

# Black Chemist Highlight

**LLOYD NOEL FERGUSON**

*by Megha Satyanarayana*

# FERGUSON COURTYARD

Dedicated February 1

In Honor of

Lloyd N. Ferguson

California State University

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California State University, Los  
Federal Institute of  
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## Lloyd Noel Ferguson

When he was young, Lloyd Noel Ferguson was a [literal backyard chemist](#), inventing a moth repellent and a spot remover in the yard behind the Oakland home where he grew up. In 1943, he became the first Black person to earn a Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. He worked on a defense project, creating products that might release oxygen for use in submarines.

Eventually Ferguson switched coasts, moving to Howard University to teach and lead that school's chemistry program. As a researcher, he studied several topics, including the chemistry of taste. He was part of the team that created Howard's chemistry doctoral program, the first at any historic Black college or university. Ferguson was relentless in creating opportunities for Black people interested in chemistry and biochemistry and received a Guggenheim Fellowship. He was one of the cofounders of [NOBCChE](#), the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists & Chemical Engineers. The organization named an award after him that reflected his passion for bringing up the ranks of young Black chemists—the Lloyd N. Ferguson Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Research. He died in 2011.

# Because of Them We Can

[https://www.becauseofthemwecan.com/blogs/culture/17-year-old-honored-for-creating-color-changing-sutures-that-detect-infection?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=8617c4961&\\_ss=r&fbclid=IwAR1uEwzD1TRF-vvk7iHivHg-uC-WILFDM2ugLRGmXtb7HUQJ5ZmirC7yXeU](https://www.becauseofthemwecan.com/blogs/culture/17-year-old-honored-for-creating-color-changing-sutures-that-detect-infection?_pos=1&_sid=8617c4961&_ss=r&fbclid=IwAR1uEwzD1TRF-vvk7iHivHg-uC-WILFDM2ugLRGmXtb7HUQJ5ZmirC7yXeU)



## 17-Year-Old Honored For Creating Color-Changing Sutures That Detect Infection

[www.becauseofthemwecan.com](http://www.becauseofthemwecan.com)

|dab

I can't breathe -- Eric Garner 7/17/14, George Floyd 5/25/20