FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shirley Kennedy Memorial Lecture
“Africa Speaks, America Answers: The Drum Wars of Guy Warren”
Urban Historian Robin D.G. Kelley to speak at UCSB Campbell Hall

Santa Barbara, CA: The UCSB Center for Black Studies welcomes award-winning author and leading United States African-American studies scholar Robin D.G. Kelley for the annual Shirley Kennedy Memorial Lecture at UCSB’s Campbell Hall on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 4:00 pm. This event is free and open to the public.

Nationally renowned as a dynamic speaker and insightful cultural critic, Dr. Kelley’s lecture is entitled “Africa Speaks, America Answers: The Drum Wars of Guy Warren.” Kelley will examine the cultural influence of jazz in the 1950s, in particular the art of drummer Guy Warren, a Ghanaian musician considered by many critics to be the inventor of Afro-jazz.

ABOUT ROBIN D.G. KELLEY: By age 32, Kelley was one of the youngest full professors in the country and author of two books, including the award-winning "Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and The Black Working Class." His teaching and research interests have focused on African diaspora, urban studies, working class radicalism and cultural history with an emphasis on music.

Manning Marable says of Kelly: "One of the most outstanding social scientists of his generation, Robin is an engaged thinker and a leading voice for contemporary black urban issues."

In addition to his now seven books in print, Kelley has written more than 100 essays, opinion pieces, and book reviews for The Nation, New Politics, The New York Times, Black Music Research Journal, The Chronicle of Higher Education and other publications. Kelley has received numerous awards for his writing over the years, and has served as an advisor for more than a dozen film projects, including Ken Burns' "Jazz" and Peter Jennings' "The American Century."

ABOUT THE SHIRLEY KENNEDY MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES: Dr. Shirley Kennedy was a dynamic professor at UCSB and a lifelong activist for civil rights and social justice. She served as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Black Studies. Among her many gifts to the community was an educational exhibit about the slavership Henrietta Marie. The Shirley Kennedy Lecture Series was established after Dr. Kennedy’s death in 2003, to bring prominent scholars and activists to the UCSB campus.
This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Black Studies, the Office of Academic Preparation & Equal Opportunity, the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy, Office of the Chancellor, New Racial Studies, the Race in Technology Initiative, the Department of Black Studies, the Women’s Studies Program, the Hull Chair in Women's Studies, the Department of History, the Center for Chicano Studies, the Department of Film Studies, the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Political Science, Asian American Studies Department, the Center for Work, Labor and Democracy, and the Department of Global & International Studies.

**ABOUT THE CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES:** The UCSB Center for Black Studies was founded in 1969. Working under the Office of Research, the Center is provides a forum for the study of people of African descent, conducts research, and hosts colloquia, visiting scholars, and conferences to enrich the conversation about racial issues. The Center’s broad focus includes publication of books, working papers, and the journals *Screening Noir, The Journal of Haitian Studies* and the forthcoming *Journal of Ethnic Studies*.

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