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Introducing This Special Health and Wellness Issue of Fire!!!

Ronald W. Bailey, Guest Editor

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Keywords: intellectual history, community -based activism, the Black church and HIV, the Black family and mental health, health promotion theory, "Black Girls Run!"

This special topic issue, "Health and Wellness Advocacy: A New Public Engagement Pathway for African American Studies," represents our opening foray into developing a pathway to encourage more involvement by African American Studies scholars in this neglected area. Four of the authors (Bailey, Harris, Smith, and Davis) presented papers for a panel sponsored by the journal at the Centennial meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Two other authors' work (McBride and Madlock Gatison) resulted from continuing outreach conducted at the National Conference of Black Studies (NCBS), the College Language Association (CLA) and the 2016 ASALH conference funded by a Mellon Foundation digital publishing grant obtained by the University of Illinois. The articles in this issue reflect a long-standing tradition—an intellectual history of concern about health conditions in underserved communities, a legacy largely ignored by both mainstream scholarship and national activism.

Call for Papers: Fire!!! accepts articles for publication that incorporate multimedia elements as primary evidence to substantiate or challenge scholarly theories and interpretations of African American life and history. The journal welcomes research that crosses the lines of traditional disciplines and focuses on contemporary issues that expand the intellectural realm of Black Studies. To submit an article, visit the "For Authors" page at the Fire!!! website, www.fire-jbs.org.

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