Two Nations: Black, White, Separate, and Unequal
by: Dewey Clayton, PhD, Professor of Political Science

By the 1960s, blacks had begun making significant progress in this country. As a result of the Civil Rights Movement, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. By the mid-1960s, about half of the blacks in this country had moved to middle class status. Nevertheless, this progress steadily began to decline. Fewer blacks were gainfully employed in 1964 than were in 1954. As economic conditions worsened, blacks began to riot across America in Harlem, New York, in 1964, in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, in 1965, and throughout Northern ghettos. In 1967, urban rioting broke out in Newark and Detroit. As a response, President Lyndon Johnson created the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders to determine the causes. The Commission, also called the “Kerner Commission,” after its chairperson Illinois Governor Otto Kerner, concluded, “Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal.” The report largely blamed the urban riots on “… the devastating poverty and hopelessness endemic in the inner cities in the 1960s.” The report also noted the black-white racial divide was an economic divide in addition to being a social one.

The report highlighted the unemployment rate was double for blacks, as compared to whites, whole communities were consumed with crime, and traumatized by police brutality, as well as disproportionate rates of infant mortality – black children dying at triple the rate of white children. The report underscored the institutional racism in American society and placed many of these social ills on white racism. According to the report, white people live in all white neighborhoods, send their children to all white schools, work where their associates are white and think nothing of it. The Commission noted the federal government was the only institution with the moral authority and resources to create change at a scale equal to the dimensions of the problem. Ironically, President Johnson who had commissioned the study rejected its recommendations. In April 1968, shortly after the release of the report, rioting broke out in more than 100 cities across America following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The rioting across America had a devastating effect on black-white relations in this country and accelerated white flight: the fleeing of whites from the inner cities to the surrounding urban areas or suburbs.

In 2018, fifty years after the Kerner Commission report was released in 1968, former U.S. Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma, the last surviving member of the original Kerner Commission, is the co-editor of a new report, which examines
the progress we have made in 50 years. The new report, titled “Healing Our Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years After the Kerner Report,” says the percentage of people living in deep poverty — less than half of the federal poverty level — has increased since 1975. Furthermore, according to Associated Press writer Russell Contreras, “although there has been progress for Hispanic ownership since the Kerner Commission issued its report, the homeownership gap has widened for African Americans.” The gains made by blacks after the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 were wiped out largely due, according to the report, “to the disproportionate effect the subprime mortgage lending crisis had on African American families.” Tracy Jan, a reporter for the Washington Post said “the wealth gap among black and white Americans has more than tripled in the past 50 years.” She posits the typical black family had zero wealth in 1968. Quips Jan, “Today the median net worth of white families - $171,000 — is ten times that of black families.” A new book by Richard Rothstein, The Color of Law, chronicles how government policies in the mid-twentieth century helped to exacerbate the wealth gap between blacks and whites. Additionally, much of the progress made to end school segregation was reversed because of a lack of judicial oversight and growing opposition to busing that allowed school districts to opt out of desegregation plans and trapped blacks in inferior inner city schools and predominantly black neighborhoods. According to Gary Orfield, an education scholar and co-director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, “after two decades of desegregation, many of our nation’s public schools have resegregated by race and class.” Poverty, noted Fred Harris, continues to be a key reason African Americans have not made more progress. In addition, it has led to the breakdown of the black family.

White flight to the suburbs in the 1960s was quickly followed by middle class black flight to the suburbs. Today, the urban poor are more isolated than ever, not only from the white mainstream but from upwardly mobile blacks as well. The report noted how in 1988, 44 percent of black students attended majority-white schools nationally. Today, the number has declined to 20 percent. Sadly, the report underscores that “people of color and those struggling with poverty are confined to poor areas with inadequate housing, underfunded schools and law enforcement that views those residents with suspicion.” Incredulously, 50 years since the original Kerner Commission delivered its report, levels of inequality have largely remained the same.

The report calls on communities across the country to see this as a moral responsibility that needs addressing. It calls on the federal government and states to invest more in early childhood education, increase of the national minimum wage, and institute regulatory oversight over predatory lending practices, focus on community policing, and enact more job training programs in automation and technology. Unfortunately, during the 1960s when the first Kerner Commission report was written, the political climate was one of expanding the welfare state and democratic rights. Today, the neoliberal state has reduced those rights and looks to privatization (corporate sources) rather than government solutions.

On the state and local level in Kentucky, the outlook is equally troubling. Sadiqa Reynolds, president and CEO of the Louisville Urban League, a local civil rights organization, recently delivered its 2018 State of Black Louisville report. According to Louisville Courier-Journal reporter Phillip Bailey, “The 172-page report examines a number of key issues that look at racial disparities between blacks and whites in employment, education, housing, health, and other areas.” The results are shocking and alarming. In employment, for example, the report finds that in 2016, the jobless rate for blacks in Louisville was 11 percent, which is more than double the white rate of 5 percent. Using the University of Louisville as an example, the report notes that blacks are “sparsely represented in the faculty, staff and administrative positions at UofL.” The report states African Americans make up just 8.5 percent of key positions in the president’s office, but 52.7 percent of maintenance and service roles.
the mass incarceration of blacks in Kentucky. For example, blacks make up 8 percent of the population statewide, but represent 29 percent of the prison population. The reports zeroes in on how Kentucky is one of the states in the country that does not allow convicted felons to automatically regain their voting rights once they have served their time and been released from prison. As a result, 26 percent of African Americans in Kentucky are disenfranchised – the highest rate for blacks in the entire country. In education, the study found 40 percent of black students were college-ready compared to 70 percent of whites. Furthermore, less than half of the black students who graduate from Jefferson County Public Schools went to college in 2016. This is significant because education is critical for upward mobility and being able to achieve gainful employment and building wealth.

Lastly, the report spotlighted research conducted by UofL’s School of Public Health and Information Science that underlined the stark reality that where you live in Louisville determines how long you live, depending on whether you live two miles east or west from downtown. Life expectancy in western Louisville (which is predominantly African American) is roughly 67 years of age as compared to 82 years of age for those living in the eastern half of the city (which is predominantly white). Moreover, looking at the causes of death the report underlined “alcohol and drug-related deaths are eight times higher, diabetes is six times higher, stroke is three times higher, and homicide is 1,000 times higher in the West End than in the East End.”

Many of these disparities are due to historic government policies, denying African Americans access to capital, redlining policies, and predatory lending practices by banks and mortgage companies that have denied loans to African Americans. Additionally, racially restrictive covenants and unfair housing policies have not allowed blacks to rent or own homes in white communities, and legal and de facto segregation have denied African Americans decent schools. Furthermore, employment discrimination has denied blacks fair wages, and healthcare discrimination has led to persistent differences in access to health care and quality of healthcare for many African Americans.

Blacks must get involved with the political process to increase black political representation (also noted in the study) at the local level and at the state level in Frankfort as well. Consider running for a seat on the JCPS school board or the Louisville Metro Council. Serve on one of the many boards or commissions in Louisville Metro government. Furthermore, be active in the local PTA and your child’s local school. Let the teachers see your face and know you are concerned about the educational progress of your children. Individuals must no longer look to others to address their concerns, they must get involved not only with their local schools, but civic organizations, local government and be a part of the decision-making process. Moreover, blacks must develop partnerships and coalitions with others (racial and ethnic) to exercise political power and to hold public officials accountable for their actions. Therefore, if politicians are not responsive to your communities’ needs, mobilize collectively and vote them out of office. Make your voices heard at city hall and it will be responsive. Stay informed on the issues affecting your community. African Americans must not look to government alone to solve their problems. Volunteer to mentor young black men and women. Petition city hall to have safe parks and recreational facilities for young and old to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Demand clean air, water, and food in your neighborhoods as well as economic development. Petition our elected officials to bring more jobs to black neighborhoods. Demand safe neighborhoods with community policing. Lead by example and take personal responsibility for your behavior and serve as role models for our youth and each other.

Fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Five years before his death, he delivered his famous “I have a dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. If America is to fulfill King’s dream, we have much work to do. There is no better time than the present to get started – and stay woke.
Dental Student Group Strives to Reach Hispanic Population in Kentucky and World

On a Saturday morning, you may find Kelsey Wilson, a third year dental student, in Carrollton, Ky., providing oral health screenings and dental education at a local Hispanic church. Wilson serves as vice president of the UofL School of Dentistry’s Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA), and this is one of many outreach efforts of the organization.

“I majored in Spanish in college, so it is a blessing to use my language skills to work with Hispanic patients who are sometime at a disadvantage,” Wilson said.

HSDA also has provided screenings for backside workers at Churchill Downs and has worked with children involved in boys and girls clubs. Most recently the organization encouraged other dental students to take part in a fundraiser to assist the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine in recovering from the drastic effects of the hurricane that hit the island in 2017. UofL joined a number of other dental schools in contributing to a relief fund established through the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), in partnership with the ADEAGies Foundation.

“It was wonderful to see how other students wanted to get involved, and showed me we have a culture of caring people,” Wilson said.

Wilson is one of them. With a heart for the Hispanic population, she spent a year working at a non-profit dental clinic in Memphis, Tenn., before starting her dental education at UofL.

“I think it is important to reach out to other cultures and look to help those who may be underserved,” Wilson said.

One major highlight of HSDA is the annual Baila Conmigo, which means ‘dance with me.’ By inviting students at the Health Sciences Center campus to enjoy Hispanic food, dancing and music, Wilson said the fall event is meant to inspire Hispanic culture appreciation – something she hopes future health care providers will take with them as they graduate.
Match Madness!

Who said the madness of March was confined to the basketball court?

March 16 was Match Day for University of Louisville medical students, and others nationwide, as they opened their envelopes from the National Residency Match Program to find where they had been matched for their future training as residents.

CONGRATULATIONS RESIDENTS!
Assistant Professor Chosen for Duke-Johnson Nurse Leadership Program

Beverly Williams Coleman, assistant professor at the University of Louisville School of Nursing, has been chosen as a fellow for the Duke-Johnson & Johnson Nurse Leadership Program, which fosters leadership development for advanced practice nurses to improve health services for underserved populations.

Williams Coleman, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., will participate in leadership retreats and distance-based learning, and will spearhead a health leadership project. The yearlong program is a partnership of Duke University Schools of Medicine and Nursing and Johnson & Johnson.

Williams Coleman serves as the nurse practitioner for UofL Care Partners, a new clinical service at the UofL School of Dentistry that will act as an urgent care clinic for patients who need help managing chronic illnesses, including diabetes, hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Her leadership project will focus on these patients, who risk delaying or foregoing dental treatment when chronic illnesses are uncontrolled.

“Being part of the Duke-Johnson & Johnson program is an honor,” Williams Coleman said. “I will broaden my management and leadership skills in the primary care setting using an integrated care model to provide care to underserved populations.”

Family Nurse Practitioner, DNP Student Aims to Improve Primary Care

Elisabeth Volpert, a student in the University of Louisville School of Nursing’s first doctor of nursing practice cohort, is determined to increase primary care access and improve health outcomes.

To achieve that end, Volpert, a family nurse practitioner at the Centers for Primary Care at UofL Physicians Outpatient Center, has been selected for the Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) Mentorship Program, in which a fellow will guide her in developing a primary care clinical workflow that will increase value-based care.

In the value-based health care delivery model, providers are paid based on patient health outcomes, as opposed to fee-for-service, in which payments to providers depend on the amount of services.

“A value-based approach ensures that providers not necessarily see a large quantity of patients, but that they provide the highest quality of care that allows patients to achieve better outcomes,” said Volpert, M.S.N., A.P.R.N. “Value-based reimbursement encourages health care providers to deliver the best care at the lowest cost.”

“Through this mentor program, Elisabeth will obtain the leadership skills that will facilitate her growth as a nurse leader,” said Whitney Nash, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., UofL School of Nursing associate dean of practice and service. “She is ambitious and a role model for clinicians at all levels.” As a primary care provider, Volpert diagnoses and treats patients across the lifespan with acute and chronic illness. Her passion lies in providing care to people of low socioeconomic status.

“Over the past 10 years, I’ve seen patients turned away because of a lack of primary care providers,” Volpert said. “There is a great opportunity for advanced practice nurses – who are highly educated and equipped to provide evidence-based primary care – to fill that gap.”
This February the University of Louisville hosted the 45th annual Dr. Joseph H. McMillan Black Family Conference and I had the honor of attending. The conference theme, “Elevating the Health and Safety of the Black Family and Community,” highlighted the critical role that health plays within community. Conference break-out sessions focused on Alzheimer’s, addiction, diabetes, prostate cancer, violence, cultural biases, literacy, and healing through African heritage and culture. Attending the conference reinforced the fact that there must be clear, intentional, and innovative approaches adopted in addressing the issues surrounding the health and safety of the Black community.

As a researcher in the School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) I am all too familiar with traditional approaches to solving health issues in the Black community. Often, these approaches are used to address issues like youth violence, obesity, and addiction. We regularly use approaches that pathologize the identity of certain populations. For example, popular approaches to youth violence prevention focus on how young people of color are problems that need to be fixed in our society, often using language like “at-risk” to label them. Another example is how we tend to address obesity by teaching people how to prepare healthy meals without acknowledging the lack of access to healthy food in their neighborhood. This language and these approaches fail to examine and address the root causes of these issues. In addition, these approaches focus on individual level behavior change and fail to recognize the powerful influence that systemic racism continues to have on the Black community.

The 2018 Black Family Conference banquet keynote speaker, Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry who currently serves as the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University, encouraged all conference attendees to think differently about the issues surrounding the health of the Black community. In order to live in a more equitable world, we have a responsibility to address root causes of the health issues all members of our community face.
HSC Diversity and Inclusion

Wishing for Wakanda by: The HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion

If you haven’t heard by now, Black Panther is one of the most awaited, popular, visually and thematically stunning, energizing, and yes,...one of the highest grossing movies of all time. Audiences are repeatedly going to see this empowering black identity film that is hopefully just a glimpse of more major films to come with black casts, directors, artists and producers. This film has had a variety of impacts on those who have seen it, and what each person has taken away varies based on so many factors from their age, connection to comics or none at all, seeing almost all black actors for the first time, catching the great one liners and cultural references on your first viewing or over the course of three, being proud that your children may grow up with major motion pictures featuring predominately black casts, and so much more.

The staff of the HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion have been talking about the significance of this movie with each other frequently, and below are a collection of some of our takeaways, responses, and impacts from this movie. We’d encourage each of you who read this to (first see the movie if you haven’t already), but then to talk with others about how it’s impacted you, or what your biggest takeaways were.

- "Throw my body in the ocean with my ancestors who knew death was better than bondage". The character of the "lost cousin " demonstrates how we haven’t reached out as brothers in humanity to those less fortunate and as a consequence we have created beings forsaking their humanity in their search for equality. Not embracing all peoples, judging who should be allowed to partake of our gifts creates the opportunity for our worse enemy to evolve. We have to realize we are "one tribe" sharing more things than set us apart. The country of Wakanda struggles with the same dilemma as the US: "If we let the refugees in they will bring their problems with them". This discounts the strength of diversity and the accountability of people looking for a better life.

- "Wise men build connections, foolish men build barriers". I believe this refers to current ideological thinking concerning a wall between Mexico and the US.

- The focus on woman as warriors, scientists, healers, and spies creates an idealistic world. While women in our society have performed these roles, the country of Wakanda allows freedom of acceptance, tolerance, and recognition, not in a matriarchal presentation, but gender shared roles. Additionally, the positive portrayal of women of color; all shades of color, all hair types and styles, all manner of dress emphasizes the need for acceptance of individuality, strengths, and talents to truly reap the benefits of a diverse society.

- It was so magnificent to experience a film, and a comic based film at that, where black identities, history and cultural references were woven into every detail,... the music, clothing, weapons, language, and so much more. It will take many more viewings to see them all, but to see references to the Black Panther Party, to hear Xhosa being spoken, and seeing clothing similar to Ndebele and Zulu traditions overjoyed all of my senses.

- Having someone on the throne (or seat of power) that is wrong creates an obligation to put the right person there who will do the right things in the right way. While I am certain this is subject to interpretation, there are rules of humanity, empathy, and compassion that set the standards for humanistic behavior in society. Guidelines, if you will, dictating behavior. I would say "acceptable behavior", however, the measuring stick of acceptable behavior, even among those traditionally carrying the "ruler" seems to have become murky in the least. These thoughts are mine.

- The movie provides a narrative that we know is our foundation; a narrative of strong men and women who care about their families and their communities; a narrative of creativity and intellect that we hope to instill in our children; a narrative of pride for our accomplishments; and finally a narrative of our vision for the future.

- To hear white people referred to as “colonizers” was brilliant in its historical accuracy, and maybe one of the few
derogatory terms for white people that really stings us to our core. We have such deep histories in colonizing, enslavement, developing systems of racial hierarchies, and pillaging people, resources, and lands. We far too often choose to ignore these histories and their past, present and future impacts that hopefully more of us will look more deeply at our true histories with eyes wide open.

- After watching the film, I felt empowered not only as an African-American but as a woman! Now more than ever it is important to show to the people of this nation that diversity matters, people matter!

What were some of your thoughts on the movie *Black Panther*? Let us know by dropping us a line here.

### Upcoming Diversity Events & Announcements

- **Free Health Fair**
  *Featuring a group of skilled professionals providing free healthcare services and/or related health information.*
  **When:** Saturday, April 14, 9:00am to 12:00pm  
  **Where:** Chestnut Street YMCA
  - Blood Pressure Screening
  - Galen College of Nursing—Exercise and Nutrition
  - Planned Parenthood
  - Primary Care Providers on hand
  - Bellarmine University Respiratory Therapy Program
  - SoulRelaxed Wellness—Massage Therapy
  - Little Hands, Little Feet
  - YMCA of Greater Louisville
  - AND MORE...
  *This event is free and open to the public.*

- **Gold Standard Award for Optimal Aging Nominations**
  *Nominations due no later than April 15, 2018. To submit your nomination [click here](#) and complete the form. The award event will be held Friday, September 7, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.*

- **UofL Women’s Network Roundtable Discussion**
  **When:** Thursday, April 19, 4:00 pm  
  **Where:** Kosair Charities Clinical & Translational Research Building
  *The Roundtable will bring together faculty and staff from all campuses with subject matter experts/facilitators who will guide small group discussions. This Roundtable is for anyone interested in professional development and relationship building opportunities. If you have any questions call 852-8976 or to register e-mail the UofL Women’s Center by clicking here.*

- **HSC Women’s Lunch & Trivia**
  **When:** Friday, April 20, 12:00—1:00 pm  
  **Where:** Kosair Charities Clinical & Translational Research Building, Room 123
  *The Women's Lunch & Trivia on the Health Science campus gives women the opportunity to enjoy yummy food while meeting and networking with fellow women. RSVP via email by clicking [here](#) before April 18.*

- **HSC ODI Brown Bag Lunch—“Human Trafficking Essentials for Healthcare Providers: Medical and Legal Perspectives”**
  **When:** Wednesday, April 25th from noon-1pm  
  **Where:** UofL School of Nursing, Kwing room 2003
  *This presentation will cover the signs and symptoms of human trafficking in the healthcare environment and provide insight into the work of the state Attorney General’s Office of Child Abuse and Exploitation Prevention.*
University of Kansas provost with extensive academic and business experience has been selected as the next president at the University of Louisville.

Neeli Bendapudi, Ph.D., provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas, was selected after a months-long search that drew more than 50 candidates from across the nation. The UofL Board of Trustees approved her appointment at a special meeting Tuesday, April 3. She is expected to start at UofL on May 15.

“We conducted a thorough search for a dynamic, proven leader who would help reenergize the university and serve as a strong, visible advocate not only for UofL and our students, faculty, staff and alumni, but for the City of Louisville and for higher education throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky,” said J. David Grissom, chairman of the UofL Board of Trustees. “We found that person in Dr. Bendapudi. Her academic credentials are impressive, her leadership skills are outstanding, and her enthusiasm is both undeniable and contagious.”

“I am deeply honored and truly excited to join the Cardinal family,” said Bendapudi. “I have seen the great spirit and graciousness of this community on bold display throughout the search process, and Venkat and I are truly excited to call Louisville home. I am looking forward to working with our students, staff, faculty, alumni and community — as one team — to deliver on our promise of excellent higher education. I know we have a bright future ahead at UofL.”

Bendapudi has held her current position since May 2016. She previously had served as the Henry D. Price Dean of the School of Business at Kansas since 2011. Prior to her tenure at KU, she had taught at The Ohio State University’s Fisher College of Business, where she had risen from assistant professor in 1996 to full professor in 2008. She also was an assistant professor of marketing at Texas A&M University.

A member of the American Association of Universities, the University of Kansas has an enrollment of more than 28,000 students and an operating budget of almost $1.3 billion. As KU’s provost, she oversees more than 11,000 employees, 12 schools and colleges and a budget of about $698 million.

As School of Business dean, she increased undergraduate enrollment in the school by 62 percent, improved undergraduate job placement from 55 percent to 77 percent, implemented significant curriculum changes in both the undergraduate and MBA programs and oversaw almost $200 million in fundraising for the school.

An outstanding instructor, she has received many department, college, university and national teaching awards, including the Academy of Marketing Science Outstanding Marketing Teacher Award.

Bendapudi also has significant business experience, including service as executive vice president and chief customer officer for Huntington National Bank in Columbus, Ohio. She has consulted with many national and international companies, including Cardinal Health, Cessna, Cintas, Nationwide Insurance, Procter & Gamble and Wendy’s, among others.

A frequent speaker on marketing with a concentration on consumer behavior in service contexts, she has appeared on CNBC and NPR and has been featured in media outlets including The New York Times.

Bendapudi, 54, is married to Venkat Bendapudi, senior lecturer in KU’s School of Business. Their daughter, Srisa, and son-in-law, Kyle Ladd, live in Chicago.