

A publication of the Department of African American and African
Diaspora Studies at Indiana University



Welcome to Diaspora, the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies' electronic newsletter. We are all connected to AAADS in one way or another, yet we are spread far and wide throughout the university, the community, and even farther afield. We are the AAADS Diaspora.

Events and News of Note

- Stafford Berry, James Strong, and Dr. Raymond Wise created the below video about the African American Arts ensembles, which are inevitably altered during Covid times, but strong and striving as ever:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emc7c7OFWQA&feature=youtu.be>
- Dr. Marsha Nicole Horsley (AAADS PhD 2016) was featured in the Ithaca College News for creating intimacy in her online courses, a crucial pedagogical development in Covid times. See article here:
<https://www.ithaca.edu/news/creating-intimacy-online-class>



Dr. Horsley, left with student and colleague at Ithaca College

- Dr. Katie Dieter (AAADS PhD 2017) was named associate director of African and African American Studies at Stanford University. She was featured in IU magazine in summer 2020 in a report on the College's "20

under 20” of incredible young alumni. See link below:

<https://magazine.college.indiana.edu/issues/summer-2020/articles/20-under-40.html>

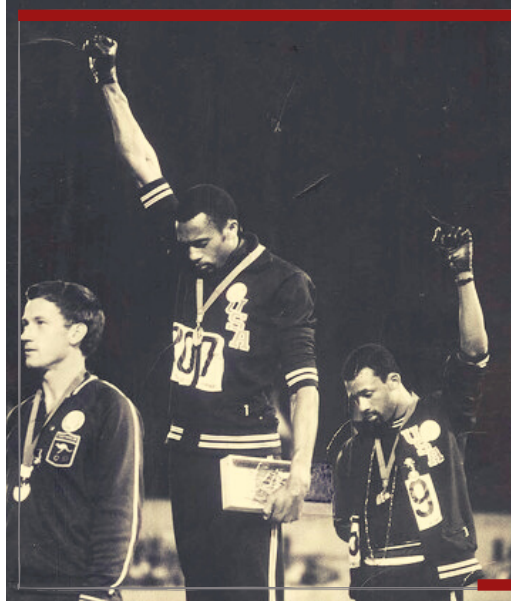
- This fall, Dr. Adeyemi (Ade) Doss (AAADS PhD) accepted a tenure-track position at Indiana State University.

Faculty

- **Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas** is the 2020 recipient of the National Communication Association’s (NCA) Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest awards bestowed upon a member of the Association. In commenting on Carolyn’s contributions, NCA noted, “One of the most widely-recognized leaders in the Communication discipline, Dr. Calloway-Thomas is a former president of both the Central States Communication Association and the World Communication Association, a former chair of NCA’s Finance Board, a former member of the NCA’s Educational Policies Board, and a member of several NCA association-wide committees and presidential task forces. “Professor Calloway-Thomas will be honored at the virtual awards ceremony, which will be held at the NCA convention on Saturday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m. EST. Carolyn’s essay, “A Timeline of Racial Progress in the U.S., and the Lack of It, Through the Years,” with Sam Hill, appeared in *Newsweek online*, on September 8, 2020. Her article on empathy will appear in Routledge’s forthcoming book titled “Music, Business and Peace Building.” She also appeared in IU Kelley School of Business Professor Tim Scott’s September vlog: “From Strangers/Enemies to Friends: Overcoming Cultural Divides and Divisions” with Jacobs School of Music professors Alain Baker and Constance Glen. On September 12, Carolyn gave a virtual keynote speech at the State of Women in Indiana conference in Indianapolis, presented a lecture on the Benton Murals at a meeting of docents at the Eskenazi Museum of Art in February, served as a member of the NCA Donald H. Ecroyd Outstanding Teaching Award Committee,

gave a Leadership Bloomington talk on intercultural communication in March, and was elected to the Bloomington Faculty Council this year, where she will serve a two-year term. She currently serves as secretary of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission. Finally, Dr. Calloway-Thomas is a member of the Indiana University Racial Justice Research Fund Committee, which is tasked with organizing an annual summit and workshop series on racial justice and equity. On September 24, 2020 (4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.), she appeared on an IU virtual panel titled “Suffrage: Women’s Long Battle for the Vote.”

- As director of the Atkins Living Learning Center, **Dr. Valerie Grim** oversaw the redesigning of the Atkins website. Please see here: <https://atkins.indiana.edu/>
- **Dr. Maisha Wester** has been awarded a four-year Global Professorship at University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom from September 2020 through September 2024. Her project examines the relationship between the Gothic genre and articulations of Black subjects. Her work as a Global Professor will involve lecturing, writing a monograph and multiple articles, and creating a virtual reality environment that allows users to experience the disorientating process of racial construction. Please see the announcement below: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/projects/global-professorships-2020-maisha-wester/>
- On September 30th, **Dr. Jakobi Williams** contributed to a discussion held through Duke University titled “Disrespectability Politics and Protest” alongside Malkia Devich-Cyril, Mark Anthony Neal, and Leigh Davenport.



(Dis)respectability Politics and Protest

What is violence? What is law and order? What is protest?

Please join us on September 30th from 12:30pm - 1:30pm EDT for a discussion of these important questions. RSVP [here](#).

Malkia Devich-Cyril | Award-winning writer and Founding Director and Senior Fellow at the Center for Media Justice


Mark Anthony Neal | James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of African and African-American Studies at Duke University

Jakobi Williams | Ruth N. Halls Associate Professor of History at Indiana University

Leigh Davenport (2L) of Duke Law will moderate.

Sponsored by the Center on Law, Race and Politics. For more information, please contact Leanna Doty (leanna.doty@law.duke.edu).


Dr. Williams participated in a panel on September 24th through UCLA that discussed the film, “The Murder of Fred Hampton.” He was joined by Illinois Black Panther Party members Henry “Poison” Gaddis and Lynn French and Flint Taylor, one of the Hampton trial attorneys from the People’s Law Office in Chicago. On September 14th, Dr. Williams participated in the panel, “Power to All People” on historical and contemporary coalition building.


Minority Health Film Festival 2020


POWER TO ALL PEOPLE

Historical and Contemporary Coalition Building


Monday, September 14 at 4pm CST
 Streaming live on MKE Film's YouTube, Facebook and Twitter pages
Local organizers and national scholars discuss the role and impact intersectional alliances have had--and continue to have--on issues such as healthcare, racial justice, and income equality.




Devin Anderson
African American Roundtable




Jakobi Williams
University of Indiana




Angel Vega-Angelino
March With Pride for Black Lives Matter




Sebas Daniel
Ayuda Mutual




Presented by Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Health Network



Pandeep Singh Kalaria
The Zedler Group



Moderated by
Rao Smith
Marquette University



mkefilm.org/mhff

In 2020, Dr. Williams received the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Fellowship and received a Course Development Grant through the Russian and East European Institute (REEI), the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center (IAUNRC), and the Center for the Study of Global Change (CGC), Indiana University.

- **Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill's** essay "Photographic Disruption in the Art of Emma Amos" will be published in Shawnya L. Harris, ed., *Emma Amos: Color Odyssey* (Athens, GA: Georgia Museum of Art, 2021) to accompany the museum's 2021 retrospective exhibition on Amos. See below:

<https://georgiamuseum.org/exhibit/emma-amos-color-odyssey/>

Dr. Wolfskill was awarded a Paul Mellon Visiting Senior residential fellowship in Washington DC through the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) through the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art. For this fellowship, she will spend the summer of 2021 researching her next book project entitled *Photography, Painting, and the Early Twentieth-Century Black Subject*. Dr. Wolfskill was named the College Art Association (CAA) field editor for books in African American and African diasporic art for July 2020-June 2023.

- On September 18th, **Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde** held a panel discussion with Professor Deborah Jack, moderated by IU PhD candidate Jessica Lanay. Abegunde performed an ekphrastic poem written in response to Professor Jack's work. A moderated discussion followed, which explored the overlapping themes embodied in the work of both artists. Dr. Abegunde was invited to be a featured guest, poet, plenary speaker, and workshop leader at several events. Links to selected recordings of these events are below:

From the 2020 Black Joy Un-conference: full follow-up interview with Through the Gates at IU: [Remembering without Seeing](#) and [Keynote - Abegunde and Ross Gay](#)

Plenary speaker and workshop leader for the annual summer session hosted by the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society (CMIND)

at University of Massachusetts Amherst): [Learning to Eat the Dead: Why I Cannot Forget Philando Castile](#).

Featured guest: 824 the Spirituality and Social Justice Podcast: Episode 19 - [Part 1](#) and Episode 20 - [Part 2](#)

Featured poet: [IU Thursdays@Home](#) (begins @21'. Malcolm Smith in Fine Arts starts this wonderful session)

Interview: [Finding Peace During COVID-19](#)

In addition, in March before the national shutdown, Dr. Abegunde was the keynote speaker and guest lecturer at Hollins University (Roanoke, VA) for International Women's Day. Between May and August Dr. Abegunde designed and offered a four-part contemplative practice series called *Tadasana in the Face of Oya* as part of the Humanity for the Win (Bloomington) community programming on ways to transition through the COVID-19 crisis. And, in June she led a national meditation to acknowledge the death of Ahmaud Arbery. Finally, Dr. Abegunde was invited to design and teach a two-part workshop on listening to birth stories hosted by Maternal Advocates Resource Alliance of Bloomington (MARA) and funded by the IU Center for Rural Engagement. And, Dr. Abegunde's introduction, "The Blackest, Most Fertile Midnight", was published in *Too Much Midnight* (Haymarket Press, 2020) a new book by award-winning Chicago-based artist and poet Krista Franklin.

- In her service for the City of Bloomington's Commission for the Status of Women, **Dr. Nana Amoah-Ramey** proposed the "Young Woman of the Year" category for the City's "Woman of the Year" event organized every year. Her proposal was widely received and accepted. After the commission received several applications, Ms. Solveig Hicks won the award. The event featuring Dr. Amoah-Ramey was streamed on Facebook live through the City of Bloomington's website.
- In September, Professor **James Strong** led IU Soul Revue in the performance of "As" by Stevie Wonder:

"As around the sun the Earth knows she's revolving
And the rosebuds know to bloom in early May

Just as hate knows love's the cure
You can rest your mind assure that
I'll be loving you always" – Stevie Wonder

"AAADS: Diversity is a nail we will always hang our hat on." – James Strong, IU Soul Revue director

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/J61DNRhygNw>



- **Dr. Raymond Wise** and the African American Choral Ensemble presented the 7th annual Black History Month concert in the IU School of Education on Feb 12th, 2020. AACE was joined by a special IU faculty, staff, and alumni choir that was formed especially for this concert. **Professor James Strong**, director of the IU Soul Revue, joined AACE on the bass guitar as Dr. Wise conducted and played piano. The concert featured an African song, spirituals, inspirational and gospel songs. The concert was live-streamed on the School of Education website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwZrhzPviPU>



AACE collaborated with the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company to perform an original composition at the IU Auditorium for their 2020 session. Dr. Wise prepared 15 members of the African American Choral Ensemble in advance for this performance.

Dr. Wise served as Guest Conductor for the 2020 Bese Saka Festival at Polk College in Winter Haven, Florida. This festival was a celebration and salute to the African American spiritual. Dr. Wise worked with the Sankofa Chorale, the Chattanooga Choral Society, and other local college and community choirs to prepare five of his concert spiritual arrangements as a part of the culminating concert of spirituals. Dr. Wise was able to speak with students regarding graduate study at IU and also reconnected with his mentor Dr. Roland Carter, a celebrated African American composer/arranger. See the flyer below:

The Dr. J. Owens Academy of Fine Arts, Inc.
presents the

2020 Bese Saka Festival

"A Celebratory Salute to the African-American Spiritual"

Friday, February 21 ♦ Hurst Chapel A.M.E. ♦ 875 Ave O NE, Winter Haven, FL

Saturday, February 22 ♦ Polk State College Fine Arts Theater ♦ 999 Ave H NE, Winter Haven, FL



Gale Jones Murphy
Concert Pianist



Dr. Rolana Carter
Guest Clinician



Dr. Raymond Wise
Guest Clinician



Vanessa Hawkins
Guest Vocal Soloist

Workshops
Fri. 7 pm (Hurst Chapel A.M.E.)
Sat. 9 am—4 pm (Polk State College)

Concert
Sat. 6:30 pm (Polk State College)
Adults \$25 - Teens \$10 - Under 12 **FREE**
Choir Registration: \$20 per person

Purchase tickets at
Polk State College Box Office in person
or online at polk.edu/the-arts
(click Tickets and look for "2020 Bese Saka Festival")
or go directly to
https://polkstate.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a050d000000Rf8WEAT

For more information, contact
Dr. Jessie Owens: 863-604-5415
melodijess@aol.com

Sankofa Chorale, Host Choir
Dr. Jessie D. Owens, Artistic Director



The Chattanooga Chorale Society, Guest Choir
Michael Jerome Mitchell, Jr., Director



We invite other community singers to join the Sankofa Chorale to prepare and present this historical concert to celebrate the music of our ancestral heritage. This event—made possible in part by Visit Central Florida—is open to all races and ethnicities.

"Transforming Lives Through The Arts" Visit Central Florida

Dr. Wise was invited to serve as a keynote speaker along with other national recording artists and scholars at Trevecca University in Nashville, TN for its first online African American Worship Studies Conference. Dr. Wise presented a lecture entitled "From Africa to America: The Journey of Our Worship Expression." The lecture covered the history of African American sacred music from Africa to the present. The conference was attended by delegates across the nation and abroad.

The First Annual
AFRICAN AMERICAN WORSHIP WORKSHOP

CENTER FOR
**AFRICAN AMERICAN
WORSHIP STUDIES**
TREVECCA UNIVERSITY

July 20-22, 2020
Hosted by Dr. Stephen Newby and
Dr. Oscar Williams with Special Guests!

THREE DAYS TRAINING!
• LIVE and asynchronous online format 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
• Or pre-recorded asynchronous format 6:00 PM–10:30 PM

Cost: \$30 for each day or \$75 for the entire experience!

More than 25 workshop leaders, including:



Gladys Mason



Dr. Eldon Robinson



Dr. Raymond Wise



Vashawn Mitchell



Dr. Diane White-Capton



Modelyn Berry-Tenace

Click the link below to learn more about the Workshop presenters!

The theme of this conference is *"Marching to Zion: Called to Worship the God of Courage, Justice, Reconciliation, Mercy, Peace & Hope."* Our purpose is to encourage, enlighten, energize and engage participants through meaningful Biblical praise and worship experiences.

Click here for more information and to register: trevecca.edu/worshipworkshop

Graduate Students

- **Nya Anthony**, a first-year graduate student in the Dual MA/MPA in African American and African Diaspora Studies and the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs program, received the O'Neill Greater Good Fellowship Award and has earned placement in the O'Neill Leadership Seminar Series.



- This summer, PhD student **Madison Clark** was awarded a fellowship through the Southern Poverty Law Center to work on collecting primary resources to help teach "hard history" regarding the Civil Rights Movement. These resources will be analyzed and used in middle to high school settings. Also, Madison was recently interviewed on a podcast called Dixieland of the Proletariat about her research on the Confederados in Brazil. Madison also became a Graduate Student Emissary to help recruit future IU students.
- PhD student **Taylor Duckett** was awarded the Dr. Tseloane C. Keto Student Leadership Development and Mentorship Program fellowship through the National Council for Black Studies. She also won the 2020 William H. Wiggins Outstanding Associate Instructor of Discussion Section for A-150: Survey of the Culture of African Americans. Taylor was recognized by the Black Graduate Student Association with the Fierce First Year Award, which would have been provided at the evening of Black Excellence Gala, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19. Taylor has also participated in the following invited talks: Strategies for Graduate

Student Success hosted by the Indiana University Graduate School and Juneteenth Artists Roundtable hosted by the IU Arts and Humanities Council. She has also been appointed the Domestic Violence Coordinator for the State of Indiana for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

- In March, PhD student **Samantha Horton** was prepared to present a paper titled, “Black Catholicism: Black Sisters and the Female Body” at the National Council of Black Studies Conference, but the conference was cancelled due to the pandemic. She was also awarded travel awards from the Graduate Mentoring Center and the College of Arts and Sciences. In spring, Samantha received the department’s William Wiggins Award for Outstanding Associate Instructor of Record.
- Between June and August 2020, PhD candidate **Anne Mahady** authored [a research report](#) through No Space For Hate Bloomington with contributions from Professor Katherine Blake. In August, they presented their report containing two years of data on white supremacist activity in Bloomington to deans, faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences. As a result, efforts are currently under way to assemble a faculty and administrative taskforce to counter the presence of white nationalists on campus. Additionally, in April, Anne was interviewed by *Rampant Magazine* editor Brian Bean in a piece called "[What does the Far Right Want From the COVID-19 Crisis?](#)".
- PhD student **Dhakis Mubarak** received a research fellowship from the Southern Poverty Law Center to serve as a Teaching Tolerance Research Fellow in summer 2020. This award was made in conjunction with Dr. Kate Shuster, an education researcher and author based in Montgomery, Alabama.

Diaspora is edited by Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill and is published bimonthly through the fall and spring semesters.