

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

- This semester AAADS celebrated the career of Professor Iris Rosa, Director of the African American Dance Company, who is retiring after forty-three years of service at Indiana University. She was honored at a university event April 6th alongside AAADS adjunct Mellonee Burnim and other university retirees. Drs. Calloway-Thomas and Grim wrote Professor Rosa's profile for the accompanying publication. On Saturday, April 8th, Professor Rosa was honored from 2-4 PM at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Grand Hall. The event included talks by Charles Sykes, James Wimbush, Dean Larry Singell, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Mildred Ball, Valerie Grim, Vickie Casanova Willis, and performances by Sancho and the African American Choral Ensemble (AAACE), directed by Raymond Wise. AAACE performed a special song composed by Dr. Wise entitled "Because of You" in honor of Professor Iris Rosa's retirement.





Tribute to Professor Iris Rosa, April 8th, NMBCC

- The AAADS Graduate Society presented the 10th Annual Herman C. Hudson Symposium on Saturday, April 1st centered on the theme “Resistance: Theory and Practice in the African Diaspora.” The day-long event included talks by and participation by AAADS graduate students Zeba Khan-Thomas, Anne Mahady, Andrea Sterling, Amelia Smith, Bobby Davis, Morgan Whittler, Marlisha Marellin, Hilda Davis, Fidelia Igwe, Andrew Staderker, and Khadijah Edwards. Artist and scholar John Jeffries gave the keynote talk for the event.

The AAADS Graduate Society Presents:

The Tenth Annual Herman C. Hudson Symposium

Resistance: Theory and Practice in the African Diaspora

Featured Panels

- "We gon be alright":*
Art as a Site of Resistance
Performers' Panel
- "Too Much Sauce":*
Resistance in Media Culture
- F.U.B.U.:*
Literary Resistance
- "Say It Loud":*
Black Social Movements and Subversive Resistance

An Interdisciplinary Symposium
9am - 4pm April 1st, 2017
Keynote Speaker: John Jennings

Neal Marshall Black Cultural Center
Grand Hall
Indiana University-Bloomington
275 N Jordan Ave.
Breakfast & Lunch Provided



Herman Hudson symposium participants

- At the end of April, AAADS held its annual graduation and award ceremony in 004 Ballantine Hall. Professors Calloway-Thomas, Grim, Rosa, and McElroy gave speeches and praise for the awardees over a buffet lunch. The Janice Wiggins Staff Mentor Award went to Vice Provost Martin McCrory of DEMA, while the William H. Wiggins Faculty Award in Support of Teaching in AAADS went to Dr. Charles Sykes. Graduate and undergraduate recipients are detailed below. Congratulations to all the awardees and thank you for your diligent work on behalf of AAADS!
- This spring, PhD candidate Katie Dieter was promoted to Senior Lecturer at Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica. She currently teaches in both the School of Arts Management and Humanities and the School of Visual Arts. Katie also had her work featured in the School of Visual Arts faculty exhibition in Feb/March 2017 (see below).



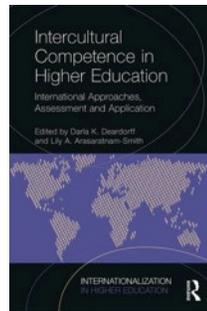
Katie Dieter, *This Remains*, 2016, 50" x 19" oil paint on local Jamaican Blue Mahoe and a painted goat skull (also local to Jamaica/ see detail).

- On Wednesday, March 29th Dr. Maria Abegunde presented her brown bag talk, "Beyoncé at the Grammys or What Happens When Osun Manifests In Public View" in 004 Ballantine Hall.

- This summer, AAADS will host a series of pizza parties for Groups Scholars who will be enrolled in AAADS courses during the second summer session. Details to follow.

Faculty

- Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas's article, "The Role of Empathy in Fostering Intercultural Competence," will appear in *Intercultural Competence in Higher Education: International Approaches, Assessment, and Application* (edited by Deardorff and Arasaratnam-Smith), which will be available May 30, 2017.



In August, in her role as a co-chair of the National Communication Association's (NCA) Task Force on International Collaboration, Dr. Calloway-Thomas will present a workshop on "Emerging Pedagogies in the Age of Globalization" at the World Communication Association conference (WCA) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. On May 12, 2017, she gave a talk on "Empathy" at the Indiana University summit on "Music, Business, and Peace," the first summit of its kind worldwide to focus on peace and peace building. This year, Dr. Calloway-Thomas served as Chair of the Intercultural Division of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA), and presented several papers on race and intercultural communication at the March meeting of the Association. This summer, she will conduct research on immigration in Austria, Czech Republic and Hungary, with a focus on how immigrants shape our national and international conversations about empathy. The research will shed light on how immigrants are changing the political and cultural environment worldwide----one of the biggest issues confronting the intercultural human story.

- Dr. Tyron Cooper has been nominated for another Emmy award in the category of "musical composition/ arrangement" for his original music and performance in the PBS documentary entitled "Attucks: The School That Opened A City." With this recent nomination, Dr. Cooper's music compositions have earned him a total of seven Emmy nominations and two Emmy award wins to date. Clearly, Dr. Cooper's music featured in "Attucks" among other documentary films such as "Open Door: China in Indiana," "Bobby 'Slick' Leonard: Heart of a Hoosier," and "Undefeated: The Roger Brown Story," to name a few, reflect the diverse nature and scope of his unique research/creative activity emphasizing distinct historical and contemporary experiences within and beyond the African American community. See the following YouTube link to view a short video featuring Dr. Cooper and producer/director of "Attucks," Ted Green, as they detail some aspects of creating music for the film. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKT3yOsskm4&feature=youtu.be>
- On March 11, Dr. Valerie Grim received the National Council for Black Studies Presidential Award for exemplary service and outstanding contributions to the field of Black Studies. The award was presented to Professor Grim at the 41st NCBC annual conference, which was held in Houston, Texas. It is the highest award that the organization bestows upon its members. Dr. Grim will be on leave this fall to conduct research in the southern United States.
- Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde (African American and African Diaspora Studies) and Patsy Rahn (Eskenazi Museum of Art), on behalf of the Writers Guild at Bloomington, submitted a proposal that was approved for funding by Indiana Humanities/NEH InCommon Grant. Dr. Abegunde will serve as the project's director and Ms. Rahn as the project's co-director. Together they will organize, facilitate, and lead workshops both on campus and in the city that will explore the meanings and legacy of race and ethnicity in Bloomington and the United States. The project, "Deep Dialogue: Readings on Race and Ethnicity," will highlight four contemporary poets whose writing explores the meanings of race, history, beloved community and healing. Deep Dialogue is comprised of six events, starting with a panel open to the public to provide historical foundations of the racial/ethnic groups being discussed and the impact of literature in

revealing the experiences of these groups. Four workshops will offer contemplative readings and discussions of the selected poems, and a closing event will allow attendees to evaluate the impact of the workshops and discuss how this work might be continued in the future. The public panel will be held on September 7. The workshops will be held September 9, 16, 23, and 30. A culminating meeting for participants, scholars, and sponsors will be held on October 14.

- In May 2017, Dr. Candis Smith was a fellow of CITL's 2017 Transforming Learning Community (TLC), a program at IU designed to help faculty gain new perspectives on the challenges faced in teaching undergraduate courses. The TLC consists of an interdisciplinary group of twelve faculty members across campus that identify "bottlenecks" in their courses and use the "Decoding the Disciplines" model to create innovative ways to overcome these "bottlenecks" in their own classes. Model lessons are created and tested within the TLC group and then used in class during the fall semester. Data from the fall and subsequent classes are ultimately shared through a formal research paper or presentation. This past spring semester, Dr. Smith was one of the inaugural Best of Social Science Fellows in the College of Arts and Sciences. She was part of an interdisciplinary team of 5 professors who created and taught a new course, "Migration and Refugee Crises," which was well-received. Dr. Smith's portion of the course focused on the Eritrean refugee crisis in East Africa and Europe. The fellowship carried an award of \$2000.
- Dr. Maisha Wester received a Fulbright Award for the 2017-2018 academic year. She will spend the year working on her project "Horrors Across the Middle Passage: Black Diasporic Gothic Fiction" at the University of Sheffield and giving presentations around the UK. Dr. Wester will also serve as the keynote speaker for the International Gothic Studies Association Bi-annual conference (July 18-21 in Puebla, Mexico), where she will present her paper "Duppy vs Ghost, Obeah vs Witchcraft: Dueling Folklore in Black Diasporic Gothic Fiction". Forthcoming publications include her edited collection entitled "21st Century Gothic," which has been accepted by Edinburgh University Press. The collection will feature an entire section on EthnoGothic, and will include an essay by Professor John

Jennings.

- Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill chaired a panel on “Art and Caricature” at the College Art Association meeting in February 2017 in New York. She gave an invited talk “Art under Trump” for IU’s art history undergraduate society in March, and provided commentary on keynote speaker Brandon Manning’s talk “Nihilism: The Politics of Black Masculine Expression in Post-Civil Rights Satire” for the CAHI sponsored symposium “En/Counternarratives: A Critical Ethnic Studies Symposium.” Her book on Archibald Motley, Jr. and anthology on Christianity in African American art will be on the shelf in September 2017. Her book review of *Represent: 200 Years of African American Art in the Philadelphia Museum of Art*. (Yale University Press, 2014) was published by caa.reviews in February 2017. She is currently reviewing Lisa Farrington, *African American Art: A Visual and Cultural History* (Oxford University Press, 2016) for caa.reviews.
- Dr. Jakobi Williams will return this fall from his 2016-17 leave as a Frederick Burkhardt Fellow through the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) of the National Humanities Center. The fellowship allowed Dr. Williams to advance his book project, “‘Neighborhoods First’”: The Black Panther Party as a Model for Community Organizing in the U.S. and Abroad.”
See <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/jakobi-williams-black-panthers-here-and-abroad/>
In March, Dr. Williams was selected as a Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) Faculty Development fellow. This 12-day seminar, which will meet May 17-30, is for U.S. faculty members with a demonstrated interest in research in Palestine. As a fellow, Dr. Williams will participate with other selected US faculty members in Jerusalem-based activities that will include roundtable discussions, tours of historic cities, and visits to local universities, research institutes, and cultural institutions in the West Bank. Through these activities, participants will learn about the region, deepen their knowledge of their particular fields of interest as they relate to Palestine, and build relationships with Palestinian academic colleagues. Dr. Williams will interview and research the Israeli Panthers and the Palestinian Panthers for his current book project.
- During the month of April, the three ensembles of the African American Arts

Institute performed their spring concerts to enthusiastic audiences at the Buskirk Chumley Theater. Professor Iris Rosa directed her last performance for the African American Dance Company (AADC) on Saturday, April 8th to a full audience. Many AADC alumni attended the event. The IU Soul Revue, directed by Professor Crystal Taliefero, performed Saturday, April 22nd, and the African American Choral Ensemble, directed by Dr. Raymond Wise, performed Saturday, April 29th.



AADC spring performance



AADC Alumni after the spring concert



AACE spring concert

- Professor Iris Rosa and the AADC held their 19th annual dance workshop on March 3rd and 4th at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. The workshop included the following dance forms: Modern (Dunham technique), Salsa/Casino, West Indian/ Jamaican, Afro-Cuban popular and traditional, West African, and, new to this year, Vogue. On April 13th, the AADC performed at Stonebelt, and presented “Sancocho: Music and Dance Collage” at several Indianapolis schools. Professor Rosa was a guest speaker at the Latina/o Congratulatory Ceremony. She also won a Latino Faculty and Staff Outstanding Achievement Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Black Graduate Student Association.



AADC and Chinese Dance Company, February 2017

- Dr. Raymond Wise was invited along with other nationally recognized African American music educators to participate in a national think tank at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia regarding the state of Black music in colleges and universities. The National Association for the Study and Performance of African

American Music (NASPAAM) hosted the event. Dr. Wise served on a panel and helped to lead round table discussions regarding the establishment of a curriculum on Black music.



Dr. Wise was selected to be one of ten composers commissioned to create new songs for children in celebration of ethnic heritage. The Bloomington Children’s Choir recorded his song “It Takes A Village” as part of this project. On Saturday May 6, the CD was released and a concert was performed before a full house at the Ivy Tech Waldron Theater featuring all 10 composers. Preceding the concert there was a panel discussion of some of the composers who shared the stories behind their compositions. See link below:

www.indiana.edu/~blsongs/



Dr. Raymond Wise with contributing composers and BloomingSongs CD

The ten composers also presented a workshop for local educators at the Monroe County Public Library to provide tips on teaching the new music in their school. Participating children then created artwork to represent the compositions. University Elementary School students will perform "It Takes A Village" at the Indiana State House.



Artistic response to "It Takes a Village" by Raymond Wise

At the request of a few students, Dr. Wise taught a course on gospel piano as an independent student for the spring semester. Students successfully learned to perform in the gospel style through a specialized piano technique that Dr. Wise has developed and taught for the past 30 years. He may offer this as a regular course in the near future.



Dr. Wise and students

The Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Chamber Choir, under the direction of Carlos Brown, performed a world premiere performance of Dr. Wise's new spiritual arrangement "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen." The concert took place Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in the CCM Werner Recital Hall. Find a link to the performance here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqsGoTt-y-k>
On April 9th, the African American Choral Ensemble performed their annual

Extensions of the Traditions Concert. This year's concert was held as a tribute to Camilla Williams, former IU faculty and pioneering African American opera singer. The concert featured Jacobs School of Music vocal performance majors and the AACE performed signature songs once performed by Camilla Williams. The AACE ended the concert with one of Ms. Williams's signature concert closers, "This Little Light of Mine." The group also celebrated the gifting of a Chickering Grand piano from Janet Williams, a former student of Camilla Williams.



- Professors Emeriti Audrey T. McCluskey and John A. McCluskey were invitees to the Toni Morrison Society's 20th installation of "A Bench by the Road" at the Library of Congress. The Toni Morrison Society was founded by Indiana University graduate, Dr. Carolyn Denard, who was introduced to the writings of Morrison in a graduate African American Literature course taught by Professor John McCluskey in AAADS. The Bench by the Road Project is a symbol of remembrance of our enslaved ancestors about whom Morrison wrote the following: "There is no place you or I can go to think about..., to summon the presences of, or recollect the absences of slaves. Nothing to remind us of those who made the journey and those who did not make it. There is no suitable memorial, no plaque or wreath,... or skyscraper.... There is no small bench by the road."



Audrey and John McCluskey, Toni Morrison Society at the Library of Congress, Washington DC

Graduate Students

- Many AAADS graduate students were recognized for their diligent work at our 2017 Graduation and Congratulatory Award Ceremony. This year, PhD students Anne Mahady and Zeba Khan-Thomas won the William Wiggins Associate Instructor of Record Award. Outstanding Associate Instructor of discussion section awards went to Khadijah Edwards, Fidelia Igwe, Andrea Sterling, and Morgan Whittler. Monica Black won the Phyllis Klotman Outstanding Thesis/ Dissertation Award for a traditional (academic) dissertation, while Nandi Comer won the creative award for her MA/MFA thesis. The Winona Fletcher Outstanding Leadership Award went to Andrea Sterling. A Medal of Honor for Community Outreach went to Bobby Davis and Amelia Smith for their work with the AAI. The Medal of Honor for University Outreach Award went to the AAADS 2017 spring colloquium organizers for their hard work on what proved to be an outstanding symposium.



Zeba Khan-Thomas and Dr. Grim at the AAADS Awards Ceremony

- In March, PhD student Zeba Khan-Thomas presented her paper “Embodied Dystopia: The Prevalence of Severed 'Roots' and Transgenerational Conflict in *Brown Girl in the Ring* and *Brother, I’m Dying*” at 11th Annual Landscape, Space and Place conference hosted by the Geography Department at IUB. On March 23rd, Zeba presented “Black Talks, The Black Mental Health Edition: A place where soul-work and real-talk converge” at IUB's undergraduate Black Student Union mini Ted Talks event. Zeba will present her paper “Shifting Paradigms: Black Soul-work as Academic and Community Scholarship” for a roundtable discussion titled “Building Black Bridges to the Ivory Tower” for black PhD and master's students at the upcoming ASALH conference from September 27-October 1st. Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans, chair of African American Studies, Africana Women’s History, and History at Clark Atlanta University, will moderate the roundtable.
- MA Student Fidela Igwe presented her paper “Restorative Circles: African-American Men Reclaiming Self Post-Incarceration” for the CAHI sponsored symposium “En/Counternarratives: A Critical Ethnic Studies Symposium.”
- Anne Mahady gave a talk for the IU Art History graduate symposium entitled “New Perspectives on the Visual Culture of Civil Rights: Wanda Robson and Canadian Vernacular Photography.” She also wrote a summary for the CCRES newsletter on Michael Gillespie’s lecture at IU on his book *Film Blackness: American Cinema and the Idea of Black Film*.
- Congratulations to our graduating students: Monica Black (MA), Nandi Comer (MA/MFA), Hilda Davis (MA), Fidelia Igwe (MA), Caralee Jones (PhD), Yukari Shinagawa (PhD), Andrea Sterling (MA, beginning the PhD program in AAADS in fall 2017), Brandon Washington (MA), and Morgan Whittler (MA).



Caralee Jones and Yukari Shinagawa with Dr. Grim at graduation

Undergraduate Students

- At the April 28th AAADS awards ceremony, multiple undergraduate students were given awards for their diligent research and other scholarly activities. Senior seminar final project awards were given to Erin Carter, Ryan Lucas, Colleen O'Connor, and Marcus Underwood. Ryan Lucas, Marcus Underwood, and Adam Wilke won the AAADS GPA award for majors. The A113 Atkins Foundational Course Highest Performance Award went to Alieyah Corbin (fall 2016) and Aysa Page (spring 2017). PhD student Zeba Khan-Thomas pictured below at the Atkins spring talent showcase in April taught A113 this year.



Dr. Valerie Grim, Alieyah Corbin, Zeba Khan-Thomas and Anyjah Perkins



Alieyah Corbin

The Joe Russell Leadership Award went to the Thomas I. Atkins Living Learning Center Leadership Group for their hard work this year.



PhD student Zeba Khan-Thomas with undergraduate students Sariah Borom, Anyjah Perkins, and Deja Bailey at the AAADS April 2017 awards ceremony

The A.B. Assensoh Undergraduate Research Award went to Essence Jones, and the Assensoh Creativity Award went to the Searching for Sanctuary group: Camille Beck, Jasmine Jenkins, Ryan Malone, and Jalyn Warren.

- Congratulations to all of our graduating undergraduate majors and minors: Deonte Campbell, Kendall Gilbert, Ryan Lucas, Daiyawn Smith, Marcus Underwood, and Adam Wilke.



AAADS Awards Ceremony, 004 Ballantine Hall April 2017

- AAADS minor, artist, and educator Brooke Starks (BA, 2016) has started her own business “12 Months Soaps” that celebrates black history “Every day. All year long.” Her website and video can be found here:

<https://12monthsoaps.com>

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/305930864/12months-soaps-pop-up-and-celebrate-black-history>

She hopes to participate in the Indiana Black Expo in Indianapolis July 6-16th.

Diaspora is edited by Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill and published bimonthly through the fall and spring semesters. Following the contours of the academic calendar, AAADS issues the newsletter at the end of September, November, February, and May.