

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

Lunch with Dean Van Kooten

- In January, AAADS faculty and graduate student representative, Dhakir Abdullah, enjoyed lunch with Dean Van Kooten at Michael's Uptown Café. This special lunch with the Dean was in recognition of our winning the "Shout the Loudest" decibel level contest to welcome new faculty at the Annual College Reception on August 28, 2019. Our newest faculty member, Dr. Judith Rodriguez, was most impressed by the vocal power of her colleagues!

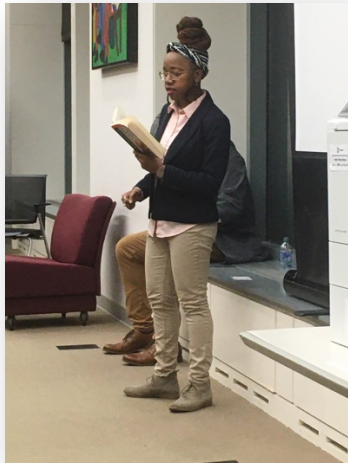


Jen Faulk, Administrative Secretary in AAADS, achieved a five-year Milestone of Service to Indiana University

- Indiana University and AAADS are pleased to recognize Ms. Jen Faulk for her five years of most glorious service to the department and the campus. We also salute Jen for her excellent work and keen devotion to the department. Jen's unyielding role in helping faculty and students is of a kind for which thanks are simply inadequate! Kudos, Jen!



- PhD student **Raheem Elmore** organized and hosted BlackLit at the Neal - Marshall Black Culture Center Library to commemorate the writing and art of Black authors, poets, speakers, and artists. Participants included AAADS graduate students **Taylor Duckett, Raheem Elmore, and Dhakir Abdullah**, undergraduate student **Colbie Cook**, and AAADS Professors **Abegunde, Amoah-Ramey, and Wolfskill**.



- AAADS co-sponsored an event with the College of Arts & Sciences Walter Center for Career Development titled, “Liberal Arts Impact: African American and African Diaspora Studies,” in January, in which **Professor Calloway-Thomas** presented a lecture to undergraduate students interested in majoring and minoring in AAADS. **Victoria Jones**, president of the Undergraduate Organization, and other members of the group, including **A.J. Boyd** and **Jaeda Lynette Mason**, played a huge role in organizing the activity--and with beautiful effect! Kudos to our undergraduate majors and minors!

- The Graduate Mentoring Center, directed by **Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde**, hosted a “Drop in and Read for a while” celebrating the birthdays of Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde.
- In December, AAADS held its annual holiday party for faculty, students, and staff at the University Club in the IMU.



Visiting scholars from Algeria and China join AAADS faculty and students at the annual Holiday Party in the President's Room, Indiana Memorial Union

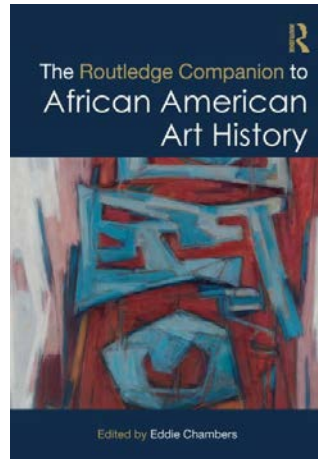
Faculty

- **Professor Carolyn Calloway-Thomas's** article on “The Otherness of the Other” will be published in Routledge's forthcoming volume on Business and Peace. On November 4, 2019, Carolyn participated in a conversation about black musical traditions with Patten Lecturer Imani Perry, author of *May We Forever Stand*, a history of the Black National Anthem. Dr. Calloway-Thomas also delivered a lecture titled “Existential Usurpation: Uses of Compelling Tropes of Repetition and Metaphors in African American Culture” at Temple University on September 23. Professors Calloway-Thomas and Jakobi Williams are collaborating with the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies (Institute for European Studies) and Spelman College in crafting courses in Africana Studies for global impact. The collaboration will also serve as a

steppingstone for the department's partnerships with scholars in Russia and other places. AAADS is still tentatively looking forward to the "Globalizing Black Studies" conference, which is scheduled to convene in Beijing, China July 12-14, 2020. Finally, Professor Calloway-Thomas served as a consultant to the Kelley School of Business's Ethics Group, and has been invited to introduce the Jacobs School of Music's Diversity Competition Concert at Auer Hall on March 28, 2020.

- **Dr. Valerie Grim** published her book review on Kendra Taira Field's Growing up with the Country: Family, Race, and Nation after the Civil War (Yale, 2018) in *Agricultural History*, Volume 93, Number 4, Fall 2019, pp. 768-770. Her invited research lectures included, "The Color Purple: The Intersections of Art and Reality in the Presentation of Rural African American Life Prior to the Civil Rights Movement," as part of the Indiana University Auditorium Program Series on February 25th. Dr. Grim also presented, "The Intersection of Land, Public Policy, and Social Justice Struggles and African Americans' Fight for Just Heir Property Rights," for the Environmental Justice Speaker Series, a Collaboration between the Integrated Program in the Environment and the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center at IU on February 11th. She will be a member of a plenary session at the National Council of Black Studies meeting in Atlanta in March and will participate in a roundtable on Sara Egge's *Woman Suffrage and Citizenship in the Midwest*, at the Agricultural History Society Annual Conference on June 5th, and will serve as the commentator for a session entitled "African American Tactics for Rural Survival."
- **Dr. Jakobi Williams** presented "African Americans and the Vote: My Vote, My Power, Onward!" for Black History Month at the Second Baptist Church in Bloomington on Sunday, February 23rd.

- **Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill's** chapter, "The Enduring Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance" was published in Edward Chambers, ed., *Routledge Companion to African American Art* (New York: Routledge, 2019) in December.



At the request of Dr. Shawnya L. Harris, the Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Curator of African American and African Diasporic Art at the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Georgia, Dr. Wolfskill is writing an essay entitled "Photographic Disruption in the Art of Emma Amos" for the exhibition catalogue to accompany the museum's 2021 retrospective on Amos. Dr. Wolfskill was awarded a residential fellowship in Washington DC this summer through the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) through the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art for research on her next book project entitled *Photography, Painting, and the Early Twentieth-Century Black Subject*.

- **Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde's** poem, "Learning to Eat the Dead: Juba," from her manuscript in progress, was published in *The Massachusetts Review* 60th Anniversary Issue. It is accompanied by the interview "10 Questions for Maria Hamilton Abegunde:"

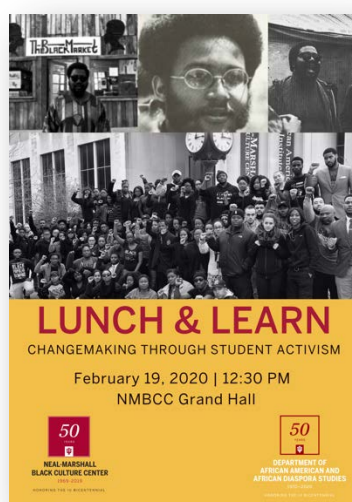
<http://www.massreview.org/node/8000>

Dr. Abegunde was a member of two roundtables in November:

"Contemplative Feminist Pedagogy" at the National Women's Studies Association Conference and "Spirituality at the Intersections in the Spirit & Place Festival." She also developed a three-part program for the Spirit &

Place Festival called “A Tailored Fit” in which she presented her own work. In January, Dr. Abegunde offered the webinar “Mentoring as Contemplative Practice” for the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society. Finally, Dr. Abegunde was awarded an IU Bicentennial Grant as part of the “Provocations: Conversations Towards a Bold University in the 21st Century” series. Dr. Abegunde will lead a working/reading contemplative practices group (students, faculty, staff, and community) called “The Academy as a Contemplative Practice: A Whole/Holistic Approach to Research, Teaching, and Service” at IU. Using the *Lectio Divina*, the group will read and discuss Laura Rendon’s *Sentipensante (Sensing/Thinking) Pedagogy: Educating for Wholeness, Social Justice and Liberation* and develop strategies that participants can use. Please contact Dr. Abegunde if you are interested in participating. Dr. Abegunde was also invited to share her thoughts on memory for “Through the Gates at IU Remembering Without Seeing with Maria Hamilton Abegunde:” <https://soundcloud.com/through-the-gates-at-iu/remembering-without-seeing-with-maria-hamilton-abegunde>

- **Dr. Candis Smith** organized a “Lunch and Learn” on changemaking through student activism at the Neal-Marshall Black Cultural Center on February 12th.



- On December 10th, Professor of Practice **Stafford Berry** held the African American Dance Company (AADC) Student Showcase featuring choreographic works by Professor Berry, students in the AADC, and guest performances by Echo Dance Company and the Essence Dance Team.



The AADC performed their 22nd Annual Dance Workshop in Indianapolis and Bloomington March 6-7. On February 22nd, Professor Berry and AADC contributed to the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Company's performance "What Problem?" at the IU Auditorium.

- On February 20th, Professor **James Strong** and the IU Soul Revue performed a free concert at Carter Hall at the University of Southern Indiana, Evansville. Professor Strong also held "Midnight Shed: IU Soul Revue Open Rehearsal" on February 10th at the NMBCC.



The Soul Revue presented its annual “Soulful Holiday Concert” on December 12th at the Willkie Center Auditorium. Free admission was given to the concert with the donation of a winter clothing item for the Wheeler Mission of Bloomington.

- Under the direction of **Dr. Raymond Wise**, the African American Choral Ensemble collaborated with the IU Jacobs School of Music to perform the “Extensions of the Tradition” concert on February 26th in the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center Grand Hall.

In mid-February, AACE members gathered for an All-Day Music Retreat. During the retreat, AACE members learned about the history of the African American Arts Institute, developed their musical skills, learned repertoire for the upcoming semester, played games, and grew as a musical family. The retreat also allowed students to interact and develop relationships outside of the normal classroom setting. The new members were fitted for robes and took group pictures. For this retreat, AIs Alonza Lawrence, Tiffany Daniel, and Dr. Wise led breakout sessions.





AACE performed before a crowd of thousands at IU's Assembly Hall for the IU Bicentennial Celebration. AACE spent time with Viola Davis, who shared words of wisdom. AACE performed three selections and got the audience rocking and clapping with its arrangement of "Oh Happy Day." The performance was well received and was reported in various IU campus and local newspapers. AACE also performed for the 2020 Bloomington MLK Celebration at the Buskirk Chumley Theater on January 20th.

AACE collaborates with Destiny Autumn (Tucker) and Jared Griffin, two former Soul Revue Alumni to perform background vocals for their recent release "Why Couldn't You Be the One." Find pictures of the recording session and the YouTube link below and enjoy!

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3bxLevUO3olFrXpo3fnUeC?si=c8OHu89gTyKoZVEbesym2A>

AACE partnered with recording engineering students from the Jacobs School of Music to record "Gloria," one of the movements from the new Gospel Mass composed by Dr. Raymond Wise. They hope to premiere and record the entire mass this spring.

In February, Dr. Wise served as the guest conductor, composer, and accompanist for the Hockaday School for Girls, Dallas, Texas, 2020. The Hockaday School is a prestigious all-girls residential school in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Wise prepared and conducted an all-school choir comprised of the middle and high school students, and faculty and staff for their annual "One Hockaday Martin Luther King, Jr.

celebration.” The choir learned and performed several of Dr. Wise’s original compositions.



Dr. Wise served as guest preacher, conductor, and composer for worship at the Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio on Sunday, January 12, 2020. Dr. Wise planned and led a cross-cultural worship experience, assisted by his gospel quartet Family and Raise Mass Choir who led worship for the morning services. Raise Mass Choir collaborated with the Broad Street Choir to minister music in the worship. Dr. Wise accompanied and conducted the choir and preached the morning sermon. The sermon title was "What Can I Do?" Find the link to the sermon below:

<https://subsplash.com/broadstreetpresbyterian/sermons/mi/+r94bfr9?autoplay=true>



Dr. Wise was able to play the Bosendorfer Imperial Grand piano in concert.



Dr. Wise was one of five IU faculty members chosen to participate in the Hutton Honors College and the School of Public Health's project aimed at training faculty members for study abroad programming. This program funded by the U.S. Department of State's 2019 Capacity Building Program for U.S. Study Abroad will take place in Ghana, West Africa. Faculty will travel to Ghana for one month to learn about Ghanaian culture. At the conclusion of the trip participating faculty members will submit proposals to lead overseas study abroad programs in the future.

- **Kenneth L. Roberson**, Professor of Practice in Theater, Drama, Contemporary Dance and Musical Theater at IU, directed the play, "Nina Simone: Four Women." The performance was first shown at the Northlight Theater in Chicago, and then traveled to Lowell, Massachusetts and performed at the Merrimack Repertory Theater. See the play review below:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/02/06/arts/nina-simone-four-women-singer-song-outrage/>

Graduate Students

- PhD candidate **Anne Mahady** was awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2020 – 2021. This prestigious award will allow Anne to finish her dissertation unfettered by

teaching responsibilities. Anne also received travel funding from the College Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) and the College of Arts and Sciences to present her research on Palmer Hayden at the annual meeting of the College Art Association in February. There she presented her paper, "Unfixing the Folk: Palmer Hayden and 20th-Century African American Art Pedagogy," which included a new reading of Hayden's *John Henry* series and new archival information about the significance of the John Henry legend for African American civil rights organizers during the 1940s.

- PhD student **Dhakis Mubarak** will present his paper, "The Inter-ethnic Dimensions of Afrocentricity: A Metatheoretical Framework for Intercultural Agency and Psychological Fortification" at the National Council of Black Studies conference held March 11-14. While at NCBS, Dhakis will be officially inducted into the "Ankh Maat Wedjau" honor society, an organization that promotes scholarly study, research, and publications in the field of Africana Studies.
- On February 14-15th, PhD student **Raheem Elmore** participated in a 24-hour play competition that was collaboratively hosted by the Black Brown and Beige Theater Troupe and the University Players theater company at IU. Raheem wrote an original 12-minute play entitled "Remember?" which was well received by the audience.



- PhD student **Taylor Duckett** received a fall 2019 Travel Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. She also has an article pending publication with *Alternation Journal: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa*. The article is titled, "Spirit Talk in the African Epistemological Framework," and she will be presenting this article at the 44th Annual NCBS Conference in March in Atlanta. Taylor also performed poetry at the "I Am My Ancestor's Wildest Dreams" event with the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center and Kelly School of Business. She also was a reader for the Black Lit program hosted by the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center. In October 2019, Taylor served as a student volunteer for the 31st Annual Cheikh Anta Diop Conference in Philadelphia sponsored by the Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement, and she served as the panel chair for the session: "Healing Through Representation and Ritual." Taylor will be presenting a joint paper this April at the inaugural Asa Hilliard Symposium in Atlanta, GA centered on the topic, "Spirit, Conjure, and Black Girl Magic: Crafting Digital Space as Homespace in the Kinship of Navigating Doctoral Programs."
- On March 27th, PhD student **Madison Clark** will present her paper "Why Not Both? Examining African American Women in Non-Monogamous Relationships as a Form of Resistance and Empowerment," at the graduate student conference "Holy Passions: Sex and Religion" at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

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