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African American & African Diaspora Studies Alumni Newsletter

7-8 minutes

[Letter from the chair](#) | [Events](#) | [Upcoming Events](#)

Letter from the chair



Valerie Grim, Chairperson

Warm greetings to all students, faculty, alumni, and friends of AAADS! 2011 has been a busy year in the department, full of successful events and new and exciting research and creative activities. Doctoral students in the newly formed PhD program are progressing well through their degrees, and some are even expected to be ABD this spring. Several students have spent time studying overseas in Africa, the Caribbean, and elsewhere, and others have been working with faculty to produce published works. The faculty remains as busy as ever: Vernon Williams and Fred McElroy are editing the IU Journal, *Black Diaspora Review*, John Stanfield has recently published two books, Micol Seigel has been awarded an ACLS fellowship, Iris Rosa has directed and choreographed a number of productions, and others are working on various books, articles, and research and with students. The AAADS graduate society successfully brought Dr. Michele Wallace (professor of English, CUNY) to IU for the Herman C. Hudson symposium in the spring and then Dr. Joy James (presidential professor of the humanities and professor of political science, Williams College) for a lecture and discussion in October. All in all, the department is looking to move forward in 2012 to strengthen its academic and creative offerings and its service to the community. I