

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.

Faculty Spotlight

Each month, the *Diaspora* newsletter features an individual faculty member's accomplishments. This month we highlight Dr. Jakobi Williams's extensive research on the national and global influence of the Black Panther Party (BPP). Dr. Williams received fellowships to conduct this research from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Humanities Center, and through his Faculty Development Fellowship sponsored by the Palestinian American Research Center.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jakobi Williams

Dr. Williams is in the process of completing four monographs, two edited volumes, and one digital history project based on his research. These projects focus on the ways in which "non-black" groups domestically and abroad emulate the BPP as a model for addressing state violence, repression, and disparities.

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Dr. Jakobi Williams, continued...

Dr. Williams's immediate monographs are tentatively entitled, *Neighborhoods First: How the Black Panther Party Influence Non-Black Groups in Chicago*, and *Reclaiming Our Legacy: The Monumental Transnational Impact of the Black Panther Party*. The other books may solely focus on the Dalit Panthers in India, the Australian Panthers, or the British Black Panther Party. The edited works will be a storied history of international activism (an edited collection of Williams's interviews of all the Panther-inspired groups domestically and abroad) and a collection of Williams's photos from this research. Dr. Williams intends to provide all the material and sources for the project outlined above in a digital project for scholars to utilize as an archive for their future projects.

Dr. Williams's recent international conference talks have included "The Transnational Impact of the Black Panther Party," at the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) BI-Annual Meeting in Seville, Spain in November 2017 and "The Dalit Panther Party, Social Movements, and Social Transformation" at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Conference "Reclaiming Social Justice: Revisiting Ambedkar" in Bangalore, India in July 2017.

Dr. Williams consistently moves beyond the academic setting to engage public conversations related to his research and expertise. He contributed to programming and an exhibition at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (NYPL) titled "The Black Power 50," a yearlong examination into the 50th anniversary of the Black Power movement. Dr. Williams's recent radio, magazine, and newspaper contributions have included his radio interview, "Remembering Fred Hampton" *Urban Conversation*, WLXL 95.7FM Lexington, Kentucky, December 4, 2017 and his opinion pieces, including "Opinion: Jakobi Williams: What Will You Do?" *The Southern Illinoisian*, October 25, 2017 and his inclusion in Stephanie Wang's "What's the 'right' way for athletes to protest?" *The Indianapolis Star*, September 26, 2017 and Michael Reschke's "White House Wednesday focuses on race, rights," *The Herald Times*, August 31, 2017.

Faculty News

Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas received two awards at the November 2017 National Communication Association (NCA) convention in Dallas, Texas. At the NCA Legislative Assembly, President Stephen Hartnett bestowed upon her a “Presidential Citation” for “exceptional service” to the organization and for her efforts in building partnerships between NCA and China. She also received the Lifetime Service Award from NCA’s African American Communication Division and the Black Caucus for her “outstanding leadership” in advancing the discipline and promoting social justice. In addition, at the Dallas convention, Dr. Calloway-Thomas presented a short course on “The Pedagogy of Civility: Facilitating Civil Discourse in the Classroom During Uncivil Times,” served on the Educational Policies Board, as well as delivered several papers, including one on “The Black Caucus Relevance and Legacy: Dispersion, Synthesis, or Transcendence of Identity.” In her role as a co-chair of the NCA Fostering International Collaboration in the Age of Globalization Task Force, Dr. Calloway-Thomas is helping promote an upcoming June 2018 conference in Beijing, China titled “Communication, Media, and Governance in the Age of Globalization.” Dr. Calloway-Thomas has also completed a book-length manuscript on intercultural communication between North Americans and Chinese (with China scholar, Professor Yingli Zhou), which will be published in English by Intellectual Property Publishing House



Company, Ltd of China. Carolyn’s other most recent research project includes serving as a co-editor of a special edition on interracial communication, which is forthcoming in *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, the official organ of the World Communication Association. On October 12, 2017, Professor Calloway-Thomas delivered a keynote speech on “Empathy Matters: Music and Community” at the Music Education Big Ten Academic Alliance conference, which was held at Indiana University. As a result of her work with the music and empathy group over the past two years, Professor Calloway-Thomas has been invited to give a talk at the May 2018 International Music and Peace Conference. On November 2, 2017, as a service to the Bloomington community, Carolyn delivered a keynote speech on empathy and peace at the International Women’s Peace Day celebration, which was sponsored by United Women’s Ministries.

Dr. Tyron Cooper becomes the director of the Archives of African American Music and Culture beginning January 1st. He takes the reins from his mentor, Mellonee V. Burnim, professor emeritus of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at IU. Provost Robel made this comment: “Tyron is, quite simply, a superstar. His unique combination of stellar scholarship, professional experience and deep personal connections to the archives make him the perfect candidate to continue the AAAMC’s vital mission and usher in a new era of excellence in research, education and preservation.” See the story here: <https://news.iu.edu/stories/2017/09/iub/releases/11-cooper-african-american-archives.html>

While on leave this fall, **Dr. Valerie Grim** conducted research at Black Land-Grant Universities (founded in 1890) in the southern United States. She traveled to half of these institutions to research the works in which these universities are engaged to help address the contemporary social, educational, and economic needs of African Americans and underrepresented communities. Dr. Grim’s research will be used to publish a series of works, which will further expound on related research that she has published in this area.



Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde was commissioned to create new poetry for the exhibition *Keeper of My Mothers’ Dreams*, which opened at the Tube Factory on November 3 and curated by Shauta Marsha, chief curator and co-founder at Tube Factory artspace. This is Dr. Abegunde’s third collaboration with artist Lashawnda Crowe Storm. Funding for the exhibition came from the Herbert Simon Family Foundation (Central Indiana Community Foundation), Alan Mills, and Sun King Brewing Company. The community-based exhibition also features the work and performances of more than seven other artists who were invited to participate in the exhibition’s Sister Song, an interactive installation grounded within the context of community co-creation.

Dr. Abegunde, continued...

The first public program with the artists of Sister Song was held on December 3. The community is invited to attend the remaining programs to be held on January 13, and January 20 (closing). To learn more about the exhibition and related programs see:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/166024523992641/>

As a 2017-18 Fulbright Fellow, **Dr. Maisha Wester** is working on her second monograph *Voodoo Queens and Zombie Lords: Haiti in U.S. Horror Film*, and conducting research for her third book, *Gothic Fictions of the African Diaspora*. She has been invited to give talks on this research in the UK, Austria, and the United States.



Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill has been invited to contribute a chapter "The Enduring Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance" for Professor Edward Chambers's edited volume *Routledge Companion to African American Art* (New York: Routledge, 2019). She has spent this semester applying for grants and fellowships to fund research for her next two books, one on photographic appropriation in Romare Bearden's early work (c. 1940-42), and the second on images of African Americans in Farm Security Administration (FSA) photography and their uses within public and artistic discourses.



LaShawnda Crowe Storm, *Origin*, bronze casting of pelvis from unknown African American woman, 2017, created for *Keeper of My Mothers' Dreams*, a collaboration with Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde



Romare Bearden, *Folk Musicians*, c. 1942, gouache with ink and graphite on brown paper

Dr. Wolfskill will contribute an article on Emma Amos for the 2019 Amos exhibition catalogue and retrospective at the Georgia Museum of Art, curated by Dr. Shawnya Harris, Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Curator of African American and African Diasporic Art.

Dr. Raymond Wise served as the Guest Clinician for the Voices of Unity Youth Choir weekend choir retreat in Fort Wayne, Indiana in October. He taught a two-day music workshop with sixty middle and high school students and provided information about IU, AAADS, and the AAAL.



Dr. Wise with students in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China

In November, Dr. Wise was invited to be the guest lecturer for the 7th Guangdong (Shenzhen) International Choral Conductor in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China. Each year the Guangdong Choral Association invites a renowned choral master to give three days of lessons. Dr. Wise lectured on the historical development of the Negro spiritual, the history of gospel music, and how to sing and perform in the gospel style. His lectures were translated into Chinese and placed into a conference book along with some of his spirituals arrangements.



Professor Emerita **Dr. Audrey McCluskey** volunteers at Fairview Elementary and has organized and teaches an advanced social studies class for third graders. The focus this year is "The Enlarging and Interconnected Circles of our World." The circles grow larger as students learn through research and presentations, about their neighborhoods, city, state, nation, and the world.

Professor Emeritus **Dr. John A. McCluskey** was a respondent on the panel, "Sport as Resistance, Sport as Art," during the 2017 *Callaloo* conference at Georgetown University, October 12-14. Dr. McCluskey is now serving as a co-editor for a proposed special issue of the journal on sport in the African diaspora. In addition to Sapelo Island, Georgia, a near-annual journey to Gullah-Geechee country each spring, in the fall the McCluskeys were able to visit for a second time each two sites special to them: the Grand Canyon and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Professor Emerita **Iris Rosa** returned to IU in November to dance in the Potpourri of the Arts. This tribute to Professor Rosa's art and legacy was arranged by Professor of Practice **Stafford Berry**.



Professor Iris Rosa and Stafford Berry performing at the Potpourri of the Arts, November 2017

Events and News of Note

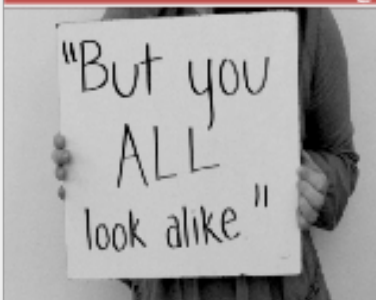
AAADS Holiday Open House

On December 8, AAADS celebrated the end of the year with a holiday party for undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and adjunct faculty in Memorial Union State room east. All enjoyed the fine food and music! Special thanks to Jen and Michael for arranging this event.

AAADS Brown Bag Talks

Dr. Candis Smith has coordinated brown bag talks for the department for the academic year. She started off the semester with an interactive discussion on "Microaggressions in the classroom" joined by Joan Middendorf and Katrina Overby on September 20th. On October 25th, Dr. Sithandazile Hope Msimanga presented her research on "Widowhood, Rituals, and Healing in Botswana." Dr. Jakobi Williams gave his talk "The Black Panther Party in Israel and Palestine" at the department's November 15th brown bag.

African American and African Diaspora Studies Brown Bag Lectures



"Microaggressions in the Classroom"

African American and African Diaspora Studies Brown Bag Lectures



"Widowhood, Rituals, and Healing in Botswana"

African American and African Diaspora Studies Brown Bag Lectures



"The Black Panther Party in Israel and Palestine"

African American Arts Institute (AAAI)

The African American Dance Company, the African American Choral Ensemble, and the IU Soul Review performed their annual Potpourri of the Arts on Saturday, November 11th at 8PM at the IU Auditorium. The event included two new professors of practice, Stafford Berry Jr. as director of the African American Dance Company, and James Strong Jr. as director of the Soul Revue.

The African American Choral Ensemble performed at the Potpourri of the Arts preview on Wednesday October 24th, 2017 at the Briscoe Residence Center. This event allowed about 200 students to see and hear mini performances by the three African American Arts Ensembles.



AAAI Audition information:

African American Choral Ensemble Spring 2018 Auditions

Monday, Jan. 8 OR Wednesday, Jan. 10
2:30–5p.m.

Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Room A219
Learn more:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2026070737670465/>

African American Dance Company Spring 2018 Auditions

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7–9 p.m.

Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Room A217
Learn More:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1895382077145877/>

IU Soul Revue Spring 2018 Auditions

Seeking guitar, keys, drums & percussion

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7–9 p.m.

Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Grand Hall
Learn More:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/297969854042193/>

Dr. Wise and Professor Strong appeared on the "Bring It On" radio broadcast on Monday, October 26, 2017. Both were interviewed by Clarence Boone and Roberta Radovich to promote the Potpourri of the Arts concert and share their personal biographical stories with the Bloomington Community. The archival recording link is available upon request.

Graduate Student News

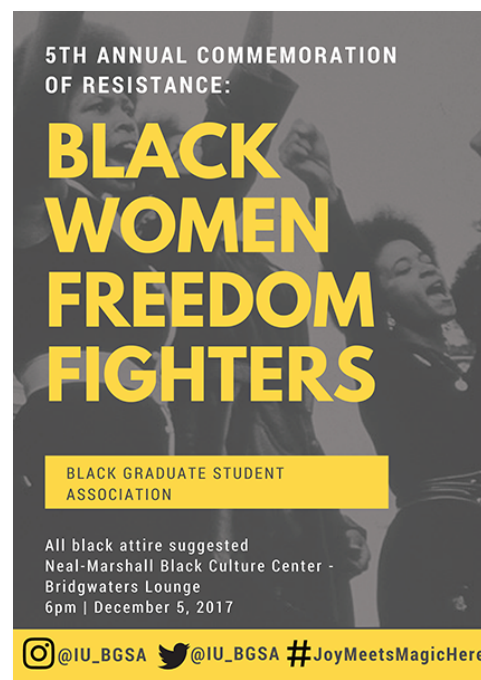
Congratulations to PhD students **Zeba Khan-Thomas** and **Anne Mahady-Kneller** who passed their qualifying exams this semester!

Simone Person's fiction chapbook, *Dislocate*, won Honeysuckle Press's first chapbook competition for prose. It will be published in spring 2018. Judge Bhanu Kapil assessed the book as follows:

"Dislocate is a work of abject longing, set in temperatures that don't easily regulate or normalize. What is normal?, the book seems to ask, as each story builds a vortex of fear and love from which its characters don't easily, or always, escape."

See: <http://www.honeysuckle.press/>

On Tuesday, December 5th at 6PM, the **Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)** held its 5th Annual Commemoration of Resistance at Bridgwaters Lounge in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. This year, BGSA honored Black women freedom fighters as foundational to the fight for Black liberation. The event concluded with a silent bus ride around campus in commemoration of Rosa Parks and her ignition of the modern Civil Rights Movement by refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in December 1955.



Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

1020 E. Kirkwood, 503 Ballantine Hall
Bloomington, IN 47405

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 in October, December, February, and May.