

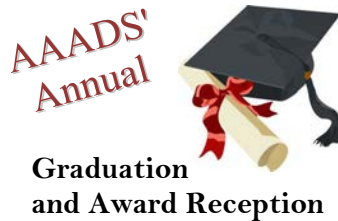
A publication of the Department of African American and African
Diaspora Studies at Indiana University



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

- On Friday, May 8th 11:30-2:00PM, the department hosted its annual Graduation and Award Reception for finishing undergraduate and graduate AAADS students. The reception took place in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center's Bridgwater Lounge. Great food was served and fabulous students, faculty, and staff were honored.



Friday May 8, 2015
11:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center
Bridgwaters Lounge



Please RSVP by
Monday May 4
855-3875
aaads@indiana.edu



- In April, the African American Studies Graduate Society organized a two-day event titled "The Art of Protest: Past, Present, Future," which centered on two activist organizations: the "Lost Voices" from Ferguson, Missouri and the "Let

Us Breathe Collective” from Chicago, Illinois. Students and faculty enjoyed dinner and conversation with the activist groups on April 7th. Dinner began with libations performed by Dr. **Maria Hamilton Abegunde**, followed by an introduction to the event by PhD candidate and Graduate Society President **Caralee Jones**. Dr. **Phoebe Wolfskill** presented a talk on Black Visual Art and Protest, followed by performances by MA students **Hilda Davis** and **Ignoscio Miles**. The “Lost Voices” and the “Let Us Breathe Collective” spoke and performed on the evening of April 8th to a packed theater of faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students. Dr. **Jakobi Williams** moderated the event and Dr. **Valerie Grim** provided closing remarks. Congratulations to the graduate students for bringing in such a rousing group of activists and stimulating interest across campus!

The African American Studies Graduate Society Presents:

The Art of Protest: Welcome Dinner with Activists

April 8th, 2015, 6:30pm

Remembering our Ancestors/Libations

- Dr. Maria E. Hamilton Abegunde, Visiting Lecturer, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

Introduction

- Caralee Jones, President of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society, Indiana University

Black Visual Art and Protest

- Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill, Assistant Professor, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

Performances

- Ignoscio Miles, Graduate Student, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University
- Hilda Davis, Graduate Student, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

Dinner served at 7pm

Musical Selection

- James Wilder


Thank you to our sponsors:

African American and African Diaspora Studies
Indiana University Student Association (IUSA)
Department of History
Indiana University, Bloomington

The African American Studies Graduate Society Presents:

The Art of Protest: Past, Present, and Future

April 8th, 2015, 7pm



Introduction

- African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society Members

Police Brutality Video Collage

Overview of Past Protest History in the African American Community

- Dr. Jakobi Williams, Associate Professor, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

“Lost Voices” and “Let Us Breathe Collective”

- Artistic Performance

Ferguson and the Future of Protest

- Moderated by Jakobi Williams

Closing Remarks

- Dr. Valerie Grim, Chair, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

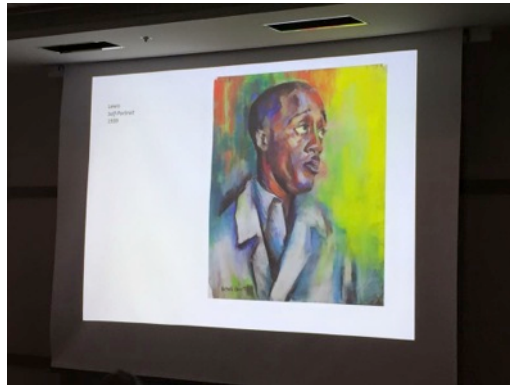
Thank you to our sponsors:

African American and African Diaspora Studies
Indiana University Student Association (IUSA)
Department of History
Indiana University, Bloomington



African American Studies Graduate Society with the Lost Voices and Let Us Breathe Collective, April 8, 2015

- AAADS is excited to welcome new cohorts of MA and PhD students this August. The Graduate Studies Committee will hold an orientation meeting for these incoming students on Wednesday, August 19th.
- This semester, the department welcomed two guest speaks as part of our “The Art of Activism: Black Liberation Movements and Creative Interventions in Racial Oppression” Lecture Series, which is organized by Professor **Maisha Wester**. On February 12, Dr. Quito Swan presented his talk “Pauulu’s Diaspora: Black Power, Decolonization and Environmental Justice in the Pacific.” On March 25th, Dr. Jacqueline Francis from California College of the Arts visited Professor **Phoebe Wolfskill’s** graduate seminar and later that afternoon presented her paper “Painting Change(s): The Work of Norman Lewis (1909-1979),” which stimulated much interest and conversation. Both guests enjoyed lunch with AAADS graduate students.



Norman Lewis, *Self-Portrait*, 1939, slide from Jacqueline Francis’s presentation

- The spring 2015 AAADS brown bag lunch lecture series, organized by Professor **Maisha Wester**, has been enlightening and well-attended. The series began with the department’s postdoctoral fellow Professor **Diana Louis** presenting her paper “‘Oppression Makes a Wise Man Mad:’ Slavery, Asylums and Psychiatric Discourses in Nineteenth-Century America” on February 4th. Professor **Walton Muyumba** discussed “Afropolitanism, Shame, and Counter-Realism in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Americanah*” on February 25th. We finished the semester with Professor **Akwasi Owusu-Bempah’s** intriguing presentation, “On the Policing of Black Males in Toronto, Canada” on April 1st.

- Dr. **Maria Abegunde** discussed her dissertation “The Ariran’s Last Life” for the Poynter Center Roundtable, “The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Cultural Trauma and Healing” on April 7th, 4-5:30 PM.
- AAADS co-sponsored a number of campus events, including “Just Another Notion: Short Films by Mike Henderson” at the IU Cinema Friday, April 3rd, 6:30PM. The department also co-sponsored the 3rd Undergraduate Research Symposium in Latino Studies, which brought in Dr. Ginetta Candelario who gave a keynote talk “Bricolage Verstehen: Making Artful Use of Multiple Methods in Researching Latin@s” and a brown bag talk “Flesh and Blood: Matters in Our Research” on April 2nd. AAADS cosponsored “It’s Not So Black and White: Talking Race from Ferguson to Bloomington” on March 26th and Dr. Thomas A. Parham’s talk, “Historical Trauma and Mental Health in the African American Community” on March 25th from 6-8PM.
- **Phyllis R. Klotman**, founder of the Black Film Center/ Archive and professor emerita in the department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, died on March 30th at her home in Manhattan. “She was one of the first to preserve black independent films, and in doing that, she encouraged us,” Charles Burnett remarked in his interview with the *New York Times* following Klotman’s passing. Professor Klotman conducted interviews with filmmakers Larry Clark, Kathleen Collins, Julie Dash, Charles Burnett, Marlon Riggs, and Zeinabu irene Davis, just to name a few. In 2012, following celebrations of her legacy on the 30th anniversary of the BFC/ A’s founding, a classroom and screening venue at the new BFC/ A facility was named “The Phyllis Klotman Room” in her honor. A gallery of photographs selected by BFC/ A graduate student Noelle Griffis can be found on the BFC/ A website. Klotman’s achievement in establishing the BFC/ A at Indiana University and investing it with her vision and leadership through its first eighteen years remains an inspiration to all of us here.

Faculty

- Professor **Valerie Grim** is currently completing a manuscript on rural students in higher education with a group of five co-authors. The book proposal for this manuscript is currently being shopped. During the spring semester 2015, she also

conducted extensive research on Black Land-Grants Universities. This research is being prepared for a series of research publications. In June, Grim will join a group of scholars in Lexington, Kentucky to discuss the state of rural women's studies. She will be contributing a chapter to an edited volume on rural women where she will author a piece on rural black women and extension work. Additional work involves public scholarship where Dr. Grim will consult on a project with the National Parks Service.

- Professor **Maisha Wester** has traveled this semester to research and write her manuscript "Voodoo Queens and Zombie Lords: Haiti in the American Horror Film Imagination." The book explores the various ways American horror films from the earliest inception have engaged in socio-political discourses upon Haitian-American relations.
- In April, Professor **Jakobi Williams** was invited to speak at the "Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum" at the University of Illinois Chicago, sponsored by the Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA). The program is designed to increase the participation of students of color on college campuses across the state of Illinois and increase faculty-student interaction and collaborations. Dr. Williams has also received grants from the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) and the College Arts and Humanities Institute (CAHI) to support his research.
- Professor **Phoebe Wolfskill** is finishing two articles "(Un)categorizing African American Art: Appropriation and Disorientation in the Work of Emma Amos" and "'Comedy, Pathos, Delight, and Horror:' Joyce J. Scott and the Racial Body," which she will submit for publication this summer. She will complete her research on both artists in May when she travels to view their work in Birmingham, Alabama and Cleveland, Ohio. She continues to eagerly await reviews of her book manuscripts *The Old Negro in New Negro Art: Archibald Motley, Jr. and the American Myth of Reinvention* and her co-edited anthology with Dr. James Romaine, *Beholding Christ and Christianity in African-American Art*. She and Dr. Romaine have received one very positive review for *Beholding*, and await the second reviewer's response. Wolfskill will teach a course for Fall 2015's Themester "@Work: The Nature of Labor in a Changing World" entitled "Labor,

Race, and Ethnicity in Early Twentieth-century American Art and Photography” with curator Nan Brewer at the IU Art Museum. Professor Wolfskill recently submitted her review of Natalie A. Mault, ed. *The Visual Blues* (Baton Rouge, LA: LSU Museum of Art, 2014) for *caa.reviews*, and has been commissioned to review the Brooklyn Museum’s recent publication *Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic*.

- Dr. **Raymond Wise** was commissioned to compose a new work for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Trenton Children's Choir and Princeton Seminary Choir. The work entitled "One Human Family" was written for Children's Choir, SATB Choir, Baritone Solo, Piano, Pipe Organ, Bass, and Drums. The work was premiered at Princeton University's Miller Chapel on Saturday March 28th, 2015.



In March, Dr. Wise served as an accompanist for the 2015 Choir Convergence Concert at Carnegie Hall. The mass choir comprised of hundreds of high school students from across the United States came to together to rehearse and perform a concert at Carnegie Hall. The choir under the director of Dr. Andre Thomas

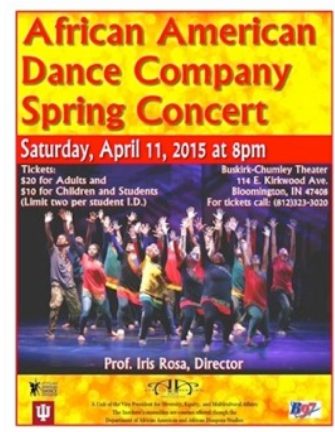
performed Dr. Wise's arrangement of Daa Na Se.



- On April 22nd, Dr. **Wise** directed the “Extensions of the Traditions” concert sponsored by the African American Arts Institute, the Jacobs School of music, and the Archives of African American Music and Culture. The concert featured classical works by African American composers categorized as “spirituals,” “art songs,” “female composers,” and “sacred songs,” and included Wise’s own composition “A Song of Praise” (1987).
- Directed by Dr. **Raymond Wise**, the African American Choral Ensemble held a dynamic spring concern Saturday, May 2nd at 8PM at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. Performers included PhD students **Nana Amoah** and **Yukari Shinagawa**.



- Directed by Professor **Iris Rosa**, the African American Dance Company (AADC) held their Annual Dance Workshop March 6th and 7th at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center. Attendees included professional guest artists Dr. Sheila Ward, Mr. Alfred Baker, Mr. Manuel Suarez, Ms. Evelyn Yaa Bekyore, Mr. Rogelio Kindelan-Nordet and Percussionists Andre Rosa-Artis, Anthony Artis, Matt McGraw, Clifton Robinson. The AADC Spring Concert was held April 11, 2015, at the Buskirk/Chumley. Focusing on the theme of “confinement,” the group put on an amazing show with dancers including MA student **Amelia Smith**. The AADC also performed at Stonebelt Center April 21st.



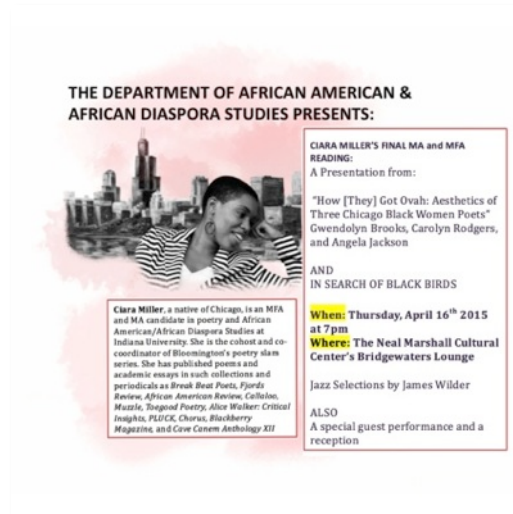
- Directed by Dr. **Tyron Cooper**, the IU Soul Revue held a marvelous spring concert Saturday, April 18th at 8PM at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. Performers included MA student **Ignoscio Miles**. Yet another indicator of his talents and success, Dr. Cooper recently learned that he was again nominated for two Emmy awards this year in the categories of "Musical Composition" and "Historical/Cultural."



- Faculty and staff who received awards at our May reception include Dr. **Frank Motley**, who won the Janice Wiggins Staff Mentor Award, and Dr. **Fernando Orejuela**, who won the William H. Wiggins Faculty Award in Support of Teaching in AAADS. AAADS Appreciation Awards also went to **Mary Nuznov**, who has worked tirelessly as an advisor to our majors and minors, and recently retired Professor **Vernon Williams**.

Graduate Students

- On April 16th, **Ciara Miller** presented her final MA/MFA reading "How [They] Got Ova: Aesthetics of Three Chicago Black Women Poets: Gwendolyn Brooks, Carolyn Rodgers, and Angela Jackson" and her own creative work "In Search of Black Birds." Undergraduate James Wilder masterfully accompanied her poetry with keyboard and saxophone.



Ciara will graduate with an MA in African American/ African Diaspora Studies and an MFA in poetry on May 8th.

- **Ciara Miller** won the Neal-Marshall Black Cultural Center's award for Community Service, which included the act of bringing people together. She also received an honorable mention award for academic excellence. Ciara has been invited to be one of the speakers for the Neal Marshall's graduation ceremony. She is also the recent winner of the Winona Fletcher Leadership Award presented by the African American/ African Diaspora Studies Department. Her poem "In Search of Black Birds" was recently republished in the *Break Beat Poets* anthology. Her poetry chapbook, currently untitled, will be released through Mindmade Books this summer. Ciara will continue to inspire and educate next year, as she recently won a year-long teaching fellowship to teach at Galapagos Charter School in Chicago. Ciara also co-hosted the Last Poetry Slam of the

Semester at the Bishop on Friday, May 1st at 8PM. Contributors included MA student **Hilda Davis**.

- **Katie Dieter's** exhibition "Revealing Black Dance/ Reimagining Art: A Pop-Up Exhibition" opened at the Blueline Gallery in Bloomington on Friday, April 17th 6:30-9:30PM. The exhibit serves as an artistic component of the methodological research for her doctoral dissertation. Her research focuses on specific choreographies of the African American Dance Company and the ways in which they use black dance performance traditions to narrate theories and histories of the black body, racial identity, and various issues in the African Diaspora. The paintings in the art exhibit respond to the themes and narratives present in the AADC's choreographies. This event also featured a dance performance from "Side Collage" with members of the African American Dance Company, including MA student **Amelia Smith**.



Katie Dieter, *Oh Yemaya, Goddess of the Ocean*, 2014

Katie will defend her dissertation in August. This summer she will work at the African American Arts Institute and as a mentor for the McNair Scholars Program.

- This spring, PhD candidate **Caralee Jones** presented her paper "Reimagining the African Diaspora: Interpersonal Relationships among Nigerians, African Americans and Jamaicans in Houston, Texas" at the National Council of Black Studies Conference. She also gave an invited lecture at Miami University entitled "Black Identities in the United States: A Case Study on West Indian Immigrants." Caralee co-authored paper with Dr. Christy L. Erving entitled, "Structural Constraints and Lived Realities: Negotiating Racial and Ethnic Identities for African Caribbeans in the United States," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Black Studies*. Caralee also won the department's Winona Fletcher Outstanding Leadership Award in May.
- In February, PhD candidate **Adeyemi Doss** presented his paper "White Gaze and Black Flesh: Psychological-Existential Phenomenon of Being a Black Man in America" at the National Association of African American Studies in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ade will participate in graduation in May and defend his dissertation in June. Congratulations, Ade!
- In April, **Floyd Hobson** successfully completed his qualifying exams in AAADS. Floyd has been asked to talk about his research on podcasts related to topics of race, gender identity, and sexuality studies. IU student Lucretia Black created one of the podcasts, and the other appeared on a NYC radio station called Bondfire radio. Floyd is also the recipient of the Outstanding Associate Instructor of Discussion Section Award and the Phyllis Klotman Outstanding Thesis award.
- PhD candidate **Marsha Horsley** won the William Wiggins Outstanding Associate Instructor of Record. Marsha has taught many years in the department as a discussion section leader and has developed many of her own courses. Marsha became ABD this February and will finish her dissertation by May 2016.
- In May, PhD candidate **Nana Amoah** will be an instructor for the African Studies Program's annual summer African Music and Dance Institute.



- As a committee member for *Internationalizing the Academic Standards: Indiana Booklets*, Nana was hired through the IU School of Global Studies to work on a K-12 Syllabus. In this role, she inputs relevant resources and ideas in relation to Africa into the curriculum to help introduce teachers to the Global world. Nana also served as a conference supervisor, planner, and presenter for the 25th Annual National African Languages Resources Center (NALRC), African Language Teachers Association (ALTA), and Center for Language Excellence (CLE) at the School of Global Studies IUB. The Conference was held at Washington DC, April 22-25, 2015. Nana is currently writing her dissertation and will finish by May 2016.
- PhD student **Yukari Shinagawa** presented her paper "Transcultural Popularity of Black Gospel Music among Japanese People" at the Asian Culture Center on March 2nd. The presentation discussed the performance of gospel music by Japanese groups and considered why Black gospel music has become popular in Japan where Christianity is not a predominant religion. In May, Yukari won the department's Medal of Honor for Community Outreach and Leadership.
- MA student **Amelia Smith** received a summer travel grant through CLACS and will be going to Cuba for two weeks this summer to study dance with a professional dance company called 7 Potencias. At our departmental awards ceremony, Amelia won the Outstanding Associate Instructor of Performing Arts Courses Award for her work as an AADC Assistant Instructor.

- MA student **Hilda Davis** received funding through the College of Arts and Sciences to travel to Barbados from May 17-23 to attend the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop. Hilda also won the department's Medal of Honor for Community Outreach and Leadership.
- MA student **Ignisco Miles** won the Outstanding Associate Instructor of Performing Arts Courses Award for his work as a Soul Revue Vocal Coach.

Undergraduate Students

- AAADS major **Vardia Duterville** won the department's Dean's List Recognition Award and the Senior Seminar Final Project Award. Besides being an AAADS scholar she has worked in the Neal Marshall Cultural Center on campus. Academic Advisor **Mary Nuznov** interviewed Vardia about her involvement with the department and future goals. Vardia cited Professor **Maria Abegunde's** AAAD-A360 (Slavery Worldwide Perspective) as the most thought-provoking class she has taken. Her dedication to African American studies continues; after graduating this August with a double major in African American and African Diaspora Studies and Sociology, she will pursue a Master's degree at Columbia University. AAADS is extremely proud of Vardia and her accomplishments.
- Department Awards also went to **Anneliese Toumey**, who won the AAADS GPA Award for Majors, **Sumer Norris**, who won the Joe Russell Leadership Award, and **Alexandria Rhodes** and **Sierra Edwards**, both winners of the A. B. Assensoh Undergraduate Research/ Creative Activity Award.
- AAADS graduating majors include: Lucretia Black, Vardia Duterville, Sierra Edwards, Amber Fisher, Caitlin Ferguson, Nathaniel Hutchinson, Milton Smith, Bobby Richardson, Romel Roby, and Darian Tanner. Congratulations graduates!

Diaspora is 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 April.