

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

- During February, AAADS was a cosponsor for two Black History Month events. An award-winning diasporic documentary, "**Calypso Dreams: The Roots of Kalso in Trinidad and Tobago**," was shown on Feb. 7, and the annual **Black Knowledge Bowl** took place on Feb. 22. (Read about Black Knowledge Bowl on the AAADS web site at www.indiana.edu/~afroamer in the Events & News section.)
- On Feb. 26, artist-in-residence Professor William "Bill" Banfield presented a lecture on "The Sociology of Doing Black Music in American Culture: A Talk about Artistry, Education, and Meaning in Making Music." Banfield, a former director of the IU Soul Revue, is a professor of Africana studies and music and society at Berklee College of Music in Boston.
- The AAADS **Brown Bag Series** schedule has been updated. Be sure to bring a lunch and join us at noon "on the floor" in Room 39. Professor Iris Rosa will send out a flyer before each presentation to confirm that it will take place and give the presenter's topic. Stay tuned!
 - Feb. 28: **Sara Bagby**
 - March 28: **David Amposah**
 - April 4: **Katie Dieter**
 - April 18: **Langston Wilkins**

Photo: Left: Sara Bagby presents her brown bag talk on Feb. 28 in Room 39 of the department. Right: Regina Barnett, Claudia Drieling, and Phillip Wagner take part in the discussion.



- The **African American Dance Company** presented "The Black Dance Experience: Challenges in the 21st Century" on March 2 in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. The annual workshop featured Elana Anderson, Deeply Rooted Productions, Chicago; Francis Nii Yartey, artistic director, Noyam Dance Company and Institute, Ghana, Africa; Reynaldo Gonzalez, dancer and musician, Matanzas, Cuba; and Jose Rivera, professional dancer and one of the founders of Ballethnic.



- Plan now to attend the **Herman Hudson Symposium** and a **Horizons of Knowledge lecture by William C. Rhoden** on March 30-31! This year's theme is "Start the Healing: Multidisciplinary Solutions to Political, Social, and Cultural Issues in the African Diaspora." Read more on the AAADS web site at www.indiana.edu/~afroamer. Come support the graduate students who organized this great event and learn about their scholarly work.

- Must-see events! The upcoming **African American Arts Institute Spring Concerts** will take place in April. Look for more details later. Meanwhile, visit the AAAI web site at www.indiana.edu/~aaai or call (812) 855-5427.

- African American Dance Company, Buskirk-Chumley Theater, April 14, 8 p.m.
- IU Soul Revue, Buskirk-Chumley Theater, April 21, 8 p.m.
- African American Chorale Ensemble, Ruth N. Halls Theater, April 28, 8 p.m.

- The **Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center** has something planned to fit your interests. For information on events, visit the NMBCC web site at www.nmbcc.indiana.edu.

Faculty

- Professor **Valerie Grim** was the Black History Month consultant for the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bloomington, organizing four programs that were presented on each Sunday of the month. Featuring several speakers connected to AAADS, the programs focused on stories about those of black African descent and their meaning through music, dramatic expressions, history, and food and style. The month culminated with a program on ancestral dress and historical foods that represented the style and diet of people of black ancestry, from Africa to the Americas. Grim also participated in the Black History Month program in Evansville, Ind.
- Professor **Eileen Julien**, who is the new chair of the Department of Comparative Literature, served as moderator for a "town hall" meeting on post-Katrina New Orleans in February. "New Orleans: Then and Now" featured a panel of faculty, students, and New Orleanians discussing the continuing problems of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast area.
- Professor **Michael Martin**, director of the Black Film Center / Archive, was featured in the winter issue of *The College*, the IU College of Arts and Sciences alumni magazine. The article spoke highly of IU's efforts to internationalize the curriculum through several recent faculty hires. Martin was noted for his scholarship in African American and post-colonial film studies, as well as other diasporic interests.

Adjunct Faculty

- *The College* also featured a small article about the techno music conference organized by Professor **Portia Maultsby** (folklore, ethnomusicology) and held in Bloomington last October. "**Roots of Techno: Black DJs and the Detroit Scene**" included several techno notables as guests and performers at the popular event.
- Professor **Keith McCutchen** (director, IU Choral Ensemble) will present a paper at "This Is Her Story, This Is Her Song," a symposium and concert series on songs by and about black women, to be held at the University of Maryland on March 29-31. His paper is titled "Our Jazz Singing Sisters: Honoring Jazz Vocalist Betty Carter." In April, he will present "Gospel Piano: Traditions and Evolutions" at the National Popular Culture Association's Conference on American Culture in Boston.

- Professor **Charles Sykes** was one of four speakers at Ivy Tech's Black History Month celebration on Feb. 26 in Lamkin Hall on the Bloomington campus.

Graduate Students

- On Feb. 8, **Sara Bagby** participated in "Community, Corruption, and Continuance: Examples of Leadership in the Midst of Devastated New Orleans and Tourist Redevelopment." The presentation recounted the stories of ordinary people coping with loss, destitution, and abandonment in such areas as the Lower Ninth Ward. While the tourism industry makes a big comeback in post-Katrina New Orleans, many of the residential areas remain untouched and unsupported. The event was sponsored by the IU Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies. For several years, Bagby has made periodic trips to New Orleans to help in the clean-up and reconstruction efforts in the Ninth Ward. On Feb. 27, Bagby presented a Brown Bag Series talk on "Privilege and Race in the Greek System."

- **Cory Brodnax** presented an evening DVDs of Malcolm X making some of his best speeches. The event, cosponsored by AAADS, the Black Scholars Collective, and the NMBCC, was held in the Bridgewaters Lounge on Feb. 7. Brodnax said the impetus behind the program was "Knowledge is power!"

- **Tiffany Combs** is working as the program coordinator for the Office of the Vice President for Institutional Development and Student Affairs. We can thank Tiffany for assistance on many of the great events we attended this semester, especially during Black History Month! She completed one MA last year and plans to finish up in AAADS this year. *Photo: Claudia Drieling, from left, Sara Bagby, and David Amponsah enjoy the "African-inspired" lunch at the Tudor Room on Feb. 20, sponsored by the Office for Institutional Development and Student Affairs.*



- **Garlia Jones** presented her master's thesis play, titled *Against the Grain*, at five performances in the Waldron Arts Center in downtown Bloomington in February. The play, which garnered Jones her first review (by the *Herald-Times*), drew sustained applause and more than a few tears from audiences moved by the story of a young black man lost to his family, friends, talent, and hopes through drug use and a fatal overdose. Jones wrote and directed the play. *Photo: Garlia Jones, far left, and cast take questions from the audience following a performance of Against the Grain.*



- **Phillip Wagner** has been asked by City Montessori School in Lucknow, India, to serve on a select advisory panel of "eminent thinkers and activists." (CMS is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest primary and secondary school with more than 31,000 students and is the world's only school to be honored with a UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.) Wagner attended the annual international conference of chief justices and the global symposium for civil society organizations organized by the World Unity and Peace Education Department in December. He, along with several other IU students, will be speaking at the National Council for Black Studies' annual conference in San Diego on March 15-17, where he will make a presentation on three Afro-Brazilian social programs.

- **Marshawn Wolley** has been appointed one of 10 neighborhood liaisons for crime prevention in Indianapolis, following his appointment by Mayor Bart Peterson. Operating out of the Office of Neighborhood Services, the liaisons are on the front line of communication among city government, neighborhoods, residents, and businesses. Wolley will be the primary liaison between the office, police communications officers, and neighborhood watch groups. Previously, Wolley worked for the Marion County Sheriff's Department. He successfully defended his thesis in November, directed by Vernon Williams.

- In addition to their regular class and extracurricular activities, a number of graduate students have been attending conferences, presenting papers, and having reviews and

articles published. Here is a list of AAADS and AAADS-affiliated students and alumni and their recent publications, with thanks to Professor A.B. Assensoh for compiling it.

- **Hassan Wahab**, "A Passion for China: Essays in Honor of Paolo Santangelo for His 60th Birthday," Vol. 5, No. 2, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Brendon L. Saunders** (education/ AAADS minor), "Social Capital: Critical Perspectives on Community and Bowling Alone," Vol. 5, No. 2, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **David Amponsah**, "African Theater, Soyinka Blackout ... ," Vol. 5, Nos. 3-4, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Regina Barnett**, "Frederick Douglass and the Fourth of July," Vol. 5, Nos. 3-4, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Lilia Santiago** (education/ AAADS minor), "Is Violence Inevitable in Africa," Vol. 5, No. 1, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Femina T. Ajayi**, "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olauda Equiano," Vol. 4, Nos. 1-2, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Enyonam Malaika Hargett**, "Slavery and Beyond," Vol. 4, Nos. 1-2, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Amina S. McIntyre**, "Planting Rice and Harvesting Slaves," Vol. 4, No. 3, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Andrew W. Kahrl**, "The History of Egypt," Vol. 4, Nos. 1-2, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Tiffany Combs**, "Black Death, White Medicine," Vol. 4, Nos. 1-2, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Dawn M. Whitehead** (education/ AAADS minor), "Africa: The End of Colonial Rule," Vol. 3, Nos. 3-4, *Journal of African and Asian Studies*; "Japan and Britain in the Contemporary World," Vol. 4-3, No. 1, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Byron Thomas** (AAADS/ sociology), "Nation-Building, Propaganda, and Literature in Francophone Africa," Vol. 2, No. 3, *African and Asian Studies Journal*
- **Niera E. Marshall** (history/ AAADS minor), "Africa Policy in the Clinton Years," Vol. 1, No. 1, *African and Asian Studies Journal*

Alumni

- **Mary Smith-Forrest** coordinated Black History Month events at Second Baptist Church, the highlight of which was the appearance of the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth at a special question-and-answer session before church and as a guest preacher during the

church service on Feb. 25. Shuttlesworth has been a civil rights activist since the 1950s in Birmingham, Ala. He continues to fight the good fight from his home in Ohio and as a member of the board for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. *Photo: Mary Smith-Forrest introduces the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth at Second Baptist Church.*



News of Note

- The Bloomington *Herald-Times* featured several members of the AAADS family in its Black History Month profile series. The series included **Kevin Brown, Gladys Devane, Jeremy Gilmore, Yunika Jackson, and Garlia Jones.**
- Congratulations, AAADS! The department raised \$1,215 to help local youngsters in the **Bowl for Kids Sake** contest.
- **Jobs!** The **African American Arts Institute** has several student positions and graduate assistantships available for academic year 2007-08. Student positions provide financial aid and work experience for students pursuing bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at IU. For more information, visit their web site at www.indiana.edu/~aaai or call (812) 855-5427.



All faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, staff, alumni, and friends of the department are invited to send your comments, suggestions, and information on your activities and interests to Carol Edge at ccedge@indiana.edu or to the department in care of Yunika Jackson at ytjackso@indiana.edu. Digital photos may be accepted if appropriate.

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