

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

- In January, the **Graduate Studies Committee** reviewed applications for our MA and PhD programs for enrollment in fall 2015. We received many strong applicants, and have sent letters of acceptance to our top-ranked candidates. We should know by April who will be joining us for fall 2015.
- As director of the Graduate Mentoring Center, Professor **Maria Abegunde** hosted a discussion “The Things We Carry With Us: How Context Shapes and Shades our Relationships” on January 20th in the HHC Great Room.
- On February 14th, the Second Baptist Church on 321 N. Rogers Street held their annual “Black History Month Concert” which featured choir performances from churches throughout the area, and included the singing talents of our own **Nana Amoah** and **Erica Whichello!**
- This semester the department welcomes 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 will visit Professor **Phoebe Wolfskill’s** graduate seminar and

later that afternoon present her paper “Painting Change(s): The Work of Norman Lewis (1909-1979),” on one of our great abstractionists.



- 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 look forward to hearing Professor **Akwasi Owusu-Bempah** present “On the Policing of Black Males in Toronto, Canada” on April 1st.
- The department co-sponsored a number of events on campus, including the film series “Black Silence: Films by Zeinabu irene Davis and Charles Lane.” Screenings take place at the IU Cinema Friday, February 20th and Monday, March 9th.

Faculty

- Professor **Valerie Grim** has completed edits on her chapter, “The 1890 Land Grant Colleges' Work on Behalf of Black People: From the New Deal to a Class-Action.” The chapter will be published in a forthcoming volume honoring 100 years of land-grant institutions. Professor Grim continues to conduct research on

Historical Black Colleges and Universities for a book dealing with the contemporary work of 1890 land-grant institutions and their collaborations with underserved communities.

- Led by Professor **Iris Rosa**, the **African American Dance Company (AADC)** was on tour February 5th and 6th in Gary and East Chicago, Indiana. Thursday night, February 5, AADC performed at Indiana University Northwest (IUN). This event was a collaboration with the African American Arts Institute and Minority Studies Department at IUN. The AADC shared the stage with Mr. Alfred Baker and his West Indian Dance Theatre. On Friday, February 6, Professor Rosa conducted a dance workshop with AADC and dance majors at Wirt-Emerson School for Performing and Visual Arts High School in Gary, Indiana and AADC performed at East Chicago Central High School in East Chicago, Indiana. The series of collaborations was made possible by the engagement of an AADC Alumnae, Vickie Casanova-Willis, who coordinated the tour. AADC also performed at Ivy Tech on Tuesday, February 10th in Bloomington, IN. The below photographs show an interactive moving sculpture.



AAADS MA student **Amelia Smith** is featured in the foreground of the left photograph.

- AADC was featured in the January 11th issue of Inside IU. Professor Rosa also contributed to 2015 Winter Dance Concert “Encounters & Collisions,” which represented a collaboration with guest choreographers from IU and around the world.
- The **AADC** will hold their Annual Dance Workshop March 6th and 7th at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center. Attendees include 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. Enjoy the youtube promo video below:!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyB6x6hKCFo>

African American Dance Company
17th Annual Dance Workshop
March 6 and 7, 2015
Neal Marshall Black Culture Center
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dance Workshop Schedule

Friday, March 6
Class registration available in the Bridgeway Lounge from 11:00am-2:00pm
8:00pm - **Modern Dance** - Ward in A217
8:30pm - **West Indian** - Baker in A217
7:00pm - Panel Discussion with guest artists in A201 Neal Marshall "The Black Dance Experience: Representing Life in the Black Diaspora through Dance" (Free and open to the public)

Saturday, March 7
Class registration available in the Bridgeway Lounge from 8:00am-2:00pm
9:00am - **West Indian** - Ward in the Grand Hall
10:00am - **Modern** - Ward/Kindelan-Nordet in A217
11:00am - **Contemporary** - Robinson in A200
11:00am - **Polo/Volley** - Suarez/Kindelan-Nordet in A200
12:00pm - **Breakfast** in Grand Hall
12:30pm - **Lunch** - Grand Hall
2:00pm - **Salsa/Cumbia** - Suarez/Kindelan-Nordet in the Grand Hall
3:00pm - **West Indian Choreographic Workshop** - Baker in A200
3:30pm - **Modern Choreographic Workshop** - Ward in A217
4:00pm - **Aerobic** - Robinson in A219
7:00pm - 17th Annual Dance Showcase in the IMBCC, Grand Hall (Free and open to the public—admission an welcome)

Sponsored by:
African American Dance Company
Office of African American & African Diaspora Studies
African American Arts Institute
Indiana University Student Association (ISA/AAI)
Faculty Senate and School Partnership
Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Black Alliance (DIVERSE)

Maisha Wester is an associate professor at North Carolina State University. She is the former American University and Acting Director of the Afro-Karibbean Dance Company. Ms. Wester is also the executive director and professional dancer with the Detroit Dance Theatre. Ms. Wester will teach modern dance.

Harold Baker is from Chicago, Cuba and is a performer, teacher, and choreographer in the Cuban music and dance scene. He participated in festivals in Spain, Italy and Denmark. He is the artistic director of 2 American dance companies and will teach Afro-Cuban dance and Banda de Casino.

Alford Baker hails from Memphis, Tennessee and is represented in jazz, ballet, contemporary, and Cuban techniques. He is the founder, former artistic director, and choreographer of the West Indian Folk Dance Company. He will teach West Indian dance.

Rogelio Kindelan-Nordet is from Guatemala, Cuba and an accomplished dancer, vocalist and percussionist in the Latin music scene. He performs in Havana, Cuba, New York, Seattle, Toronto, and Chicago. He will teach Cuban Contemporary dance.

Yas Belmore is an internationally well-known dancer and teacher. She has danced with the Baltimore Dance Theatre.

African American Dance Company
17th Annual Dance Workshop
March 6 and 7, 2015

Registration:
Friday and Saturday - \$220
Saturday Only - \$70
Single class - \$25
Free and open to the public:
Panel Discussion with Artists
Neal Marshall Black Culture Center A201 on Friday, March 6 at 7pm
Dance Showcase - Grand Hall on Saturday, March 7 at 7pm

Workshop includes:
-West Indian Folk Dance
-Contemporary Modern
-Afro-Cuban Traditions
-Live accompaniment!
All activities will be held at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center facilities/ Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

You must register online
Pay your registration at this Indiana University Conference Bureau site:
follow the instructions!
<http://go.in.u.edu/IST>
For more info, please fax: mgindelan@indy.aadco.org
Or call 82-8y6ky

Sponsored by: African American Dance Company, African American and African Diaspora Studies, African American Arts Institute, DEMA, USA-AID

- Mark your calendars for the AADC Spring Concert on **April 11, 2015** at the Buskirk/Chumley!

African American Dance Company
Spring Concert
Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 8pm

Tickets:
\$20 for Adults and
\$10 for Children and Students
(Limit two per student I.D.)

Buskirk-Chumley Theater
114 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47408
For tickets call: (812)323-3020

Prof. Iris Rosa, Director

A Unit of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Black Alliance
The fund's activities are made possible through the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

- Professor **Maisha Wester** is on leave this semester to travels to London, among other locations, to research and writes her book manuscript.
- For Black History Month, Professor **Jakobi Williams** presented "The Black Panther Party: The Myths...The Legends...The Truth" at the U.S. Courthouse in Indianapolis.

- In February 2015, Professor **Phoebe Wolfskill** presented her paper “Joyce Scott and the Sculptural Grotesque” on a panel organized by Dr. James Smalls titled “Solid as a Rock? African American Sculptural Traditions and Practices,” at the College Art Association (CAA) Annual Meeting in New York City. Professor Wolfskill recently conducted a phone interview with Scott to gather further research for her article on the artist.



John Dean photograph of Joyce J. Scott, 2007

Wolfskill’s book *The Old Negro in New Negro Art: Archibald Motley, Jr. and the American Myth of Reinvention* is out for review, as is her co-edited anthology with Dr. James Romaine, *Beholding Christ and Christianity in African-American Art*. She will also 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 Nan Brewer at the IU Art Museum.

- Postdoctoral fellow **Dr. Diana Louis** gave an invited talk at the University of New Hampshire on Friday, February 6th titled “The Colored Insane”: Slavery, Asylums and African American Anti-Psychiatry Literature in the Nineteenth-century.” She will present “The Politics of Anti-Slavery Psychiatry” at the University of Delaware on March 20th.
- As director of the African American Choral Ensemble (AACE), Professor **Raymond Wise** is constantly on the move. In February, AACE made history and presented the first ever Black History Month Assembly at the Bloomington University School. AACE joined the University school choirs to perform a concert for Black History Month. The presentation started with a Freedom March

through the school hallways to the auditorium where AACE and the elementary school choirs performed for the entire school body. After the formal presentation, AACE spent time with small student groups performing and answering questions regarding Black music and performance.



Also in February, AACE performed a concert at the School of Education for Black History Month. The choir performed music spanning from African to contemporary gospel. They were joined by AACE Alum Alexis Joii who performed "Amazing Grace."



Recently Dr. Raymond Wise was inducted into the Denver Gospel Music Academy Hall of Fame. In February, he was asked to served as a guest conductor and prepared a Gospel Music Academy's Children's Choir to perform at the Gospel Academy and Hall of Fame 44th Awards Ceremony.



From February 19-21, Dr. Wise served as the Guest Clinician and Conductor at the Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church Music Conference in Harlem. He lectured on African American Sacred Music History and conducted the community workshop choir as they performed a worship service and full concert.



Also in February, Dr. Wise served as a guest clinician for the Denver Colorado Spirituals Project. This group – which focuses on the performance of African American Spirituals – worked with him to serve as the demonstration choir for the upcoming REAP conference, at which he will present a session on spirituals.



Dr. Wise served as the guest clinician for the Fort Worth, Texas Independent School District 2015 Gospel Festival in February. He visited five High Schools and a Middle School where he worked with choirs and soloists to help them prepare for both the Gospel festival and their upcoming statewide choir and solo competitions. He lectured on gospel music history, vocal technique and prepared and conducted the 300 plus voice festival mass choir.

In January 2015, AACE performed for the Bloomington City MLK celebration at the Buskirk Chumley Theater. Also in January, AACE members gathered for an

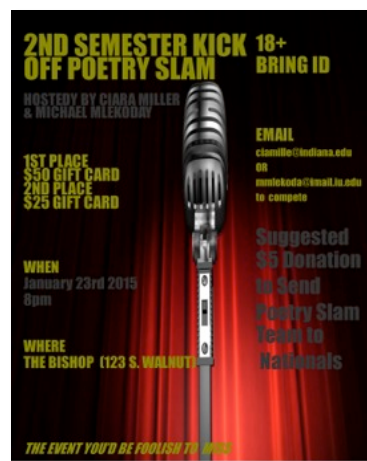
All Day Music Retreat. During the retreat, AACE participants learned about the history of the African American Arts Institute, developed their musical skills, learned repertoire for the upcoming semester and grew as a musical family. Also in January, Dr. Wise served as a guest clinician at the Columbus School for Girls in Columbus, Ohio. He prepared and directed the High School Ensemble for the annual Martin Luther King Celebration.



- Professor **Carolyn Calloway-Thomas** was recently elected to serve on the Educational Policies Board (EPB) of the National Communication Association (NCA) for a 3-year term. EPB's goal is to provide leadership in educational policy, advocacy, and resources for members of the association. She was also appointed co-chair of the NCA Task Force on International Solidarities in the Age of Globalization. The purpose of the Task Force is to advance the NCA "toward a series of actionable efforts meant to empower members to become more cognizant of, embedded in, and conversant with the dilemmas and opportunities of globalization." Professor Calloway-Thomas has been nominated to run for chair of the Intercultural Communication Division of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA). The election will be held in April 2015. She will also serve as a review panelist for the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Irvine, California, March 4-6, 2015.
- Professor **John Stanfield** continues his work publishing "Faith and Justice Sunday Conversations," a global Internet-based multiethnic spiritual direction ministry headquartered in Botswana.

Graduate Students

- In February, **Marsha Horsley** defended her dissertation proposal and is now ABD. Congratulations Marsha! On February 20th, Marsha introduced the film *Compensation* (1999), directed by Zeinabu irene Davis at the IU Cinema. *Compensation* is a beautiful silent film that is heard and seen through the experiences of a hearing impaired Black woman.
- MA/MFA student **Ciara Miller** has already hosted two poetry slams this semester! Both events were held at the Bishop on Walnut Street.



- MA student **Hilda Davis** read her poetry at the Fountain Square Poetry Series Friday, February 6th between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The Fountain Square Poetry Series seeks to bridge the gap between Indiana University students and the larger Bloomington community.
- PhD candidate **Yukari Shinagawa** will present her talk "Transcultural Popularity of Black Gospel Music Among Japanese People" at the Asian Culture Center on Monday, March 2nd. The event is sponsored by the Graduate Mentoring Center and the Asian Culture Center.

Undergraduate Students

- Undergraduate major **Vardia Duterville** made the Fall 2014 Executive Dean's List. Congratulations Vardia!

- The department had two majors graduate in December, and we tentatively have six majors planning to graduate in May 2015, and three students in August 2015.

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.