

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. Maisha Wester's research on Black British Gothic literature while on leave as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Maisha Wester

Dr. Wester is researching Black British Gothic writing and the deployment of the Gothic in British discourses of race while on leave as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. In addition to working in various archives around the UK such as the Black Cultural Archives and the Liverpool Archives, she has also received numerous invitations to give talks at universities in Britain, Scotland, Austria and Poland.

Dr. Maisha Wester, continued...

Dr. Wester has been invited to the prestigious Benjamin Franklin House in London to give a guest talk titled, "What Revolution/ Whose Revolution: Haiti and the U.S.", a lecture exploring the significance of the Haitian Revolution to late 18th and early 19th century American democratic and racial ideals. Additionally, she will briefly return to the U.S. to give featured presentations at Columbia University and at the Huntington Library in California. Her forthcoming book chapters include "The Gothic Read Through Race Theory" in *The Gothic and Theory: An Edinburgh Companion*, Eds. Jerrold E. Hogle and Robert Miles, Edinburgh University Press, "Slavery, Orientalism and the Gothic," in *Cambridge History of the Gothic*, Eds. Angela Wright, Dale Townsend, and Catherine Spooner, Cambridge University Press, "Re-Scripting Blaxploitation Horror: Ganja and Hess's Gothic Implications," in *B-Movie Gothic: International Perspectives*, Eds. Justin D. Edwards and Johan Höglund, Edinburgh University Press, "Brandon Massey's *Dark Corner*: African American Gothic," in *The Gothic Reader*, Ed. Simon Bacon, Peter Lang Oxford, and "The South: Haunted Past/ Impossible Future," in *Box of Bones*, Ed. Ayize Jama-Everett, Rosarium Publishing. She is also working on a co-edited volume with Xavier Aldana-Reyes, *Twenty-First Century Gothic* (co-edited collection), to be published with Edinburgh University Press.

While on leave during the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters, Dr. Wester has given her talk "Voodoo Queens and Zombie Lords: Haiti in U.S. Horror Film," at the University of Warsaw in Warsaw, Poland, the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK, and the University of Graz in Graz, Austria. She presented "Scandalous Genres and Monstrous Race(s): Black Writing, the Gothic and the Question of Whiteness," at Columbia University in New York, and "Gothic Productions of Monstrous Race: Race Theory in and as Gothic," at Sheffield Hallam University in Sheffield, UK and Stirling University in Stirling, UK. Among her invited talks, Dr. Wester presented "Monsters of the Old and New World: Dueling Folklore in the African Diaspora," at King's College in London, UK, "The Monster Speaks Back: African American Gothic and the Horrors of Race in the U.S.," at the Politics of Gothic Symposium, at the University of Manchester. She gave the keynote talk "Duppy vs Ghost, Obeah vs. Witchcraft: Dueling Folklore in Black Diasporic Gothic Fiction," at the *International Gothic Association* at the Universidad De Las Americas Puebla in Puebla, Mexico.

Faculty News

Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas's scholarship will be showcased at a special series of "CSCA Scholar Conversations" panels for the 2018 Central States Communication Association (CSCA) convention, which will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in April. Premiered in 2016, the CSCA special events series "feature a panel-length interview with one outstanding scholar reflecting his or her most important scholarship, theory, and/or performances." Carolyn will also present several papers at the CSCA meeting on topics such as "Diversity: Race Relations on Midwestern College Campuses" and "Exploring the Idea of Difference in the Classroom." She will deliver a keynote speech on diversity and empathy at the October 2018, College Music Society (CMS) meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada. Dr. Calloway-Thomas also has been invited to contribute a paper on music and empathy for publication in the CMS journal, and will participate in an international virtual conference on "Music, Business and Peace" in May 2018. Her introduction will appear in the book, *Intersections of Marginality for First-Generation College Students*, edited by Dr. Teresa Housel, one of her former students. The forthcoming book will be published by Peter Lang.

At the January 2018 King Day Celebration, Professor Calloway-Thomas received the Building Bridges Faculty Award for her contributions to the university and community, and for her work exemplifying the values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's beloved community. On the university front, on March 8, Carolyn will participate on the judging panel for the Graduate School's annual "Three Minute Thesis" (3MT) competition. The 3MT is an international competition in which graduate students present their thesis or dissertation research in three minutes in a fashion that can be understood by both professional and laypersons. Further, Dr. Calloway-Thomas will serve as a 2018 panelist/reader for the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program, March 19-20 in Irvine, California.

Finally, producer Jerald Harkness of Vimeo of Indianapolis, interviewed Dr. Calloway-Thomas recently for a forthcoming docudrama called "True First," which celebrates forgotten and overlooked African American trailblazers and pioneers. Carolyn's segment focused on pioneer Shirley Chisolm, the first African American to run for President of the United States. The documentary will appear on the Urban Movie Channel, and possibly, PBS.

The *Journal for Liberal Arts and Sciences* published **Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde's** essay entitled "'We are Human': Using Contemplative Practice in a Black Studies Class after Philando Castile." Chare'A Smith, Ryan Lucas, and Moniel Sanders, three students from the Fall 2016 Contemporary Social Issues in the African American Community class, contributed to the article by sharing their experiences using the *Lectio Divina* process to read *Between the World and Me* (Coates). COG Journal invited Dr. Abegunde to submit work for its 2017 reading period. Juan Felipe Herrera, 2015-2017 US Poet Laureate, selected Dr. Abegunde's *Learning to Eat the Dead: Juba*, as a finalist.

Keeper of My Mothers' Dreams (Tube Factory/Big Car), Dr. Abegunde's collaborative community exhibit with Lashawnda Crowe Storm, closed on January 20 after a successful opening in November 2017 and four related programs. Six of Dr. Abegunde's poems were a central component of the exhibit. Participants in the community altar included the students of Dr. Abegunde's fall 2017 Black Feminisms class who shared "rituals for living" and "rituals for getting free." Featured artists and poets included Master's students Breon Tyler and Maurisa Li-A-Ping, and director of the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center, Monica Johnson.

Dr. Abegunde thanks AAADS students Samantha Horton, Kennedy Johnson, Essex London, Amelia Smith, and Andrea Sterling for visiting the exhibit. A short documentary of the entire project, including recordings of Dr. Abegunde's reading of the poems and opening and closing ceremonies, will be available to the public later in the year.

Samantha Horton, Kennedy Johnson, Dr. Abegunde, and Andrea Sterling at the December 9 artist talk



In October 2017, Dr. Abegunde presented a paper entitled "Mentoring Underrepresented Minority Graduate Students: Following A Five-Fold Path" for the National Mentoring Institute in Albuquerque, NM at the University of New Mexico. She was also a speaker on the "All Inclusive: Pedagogy for a Diverse University" panel sponsored by the Department of History and for the Issues in Pedagogy and Higher Education panel for the 2018 Preparing Future Faculty Conference.

Michael Glab interviewed Abegunde for WFHB and *Limestone* magazine. See the following links:

[Big Talk! W Michael Glab](#) (WFHB)

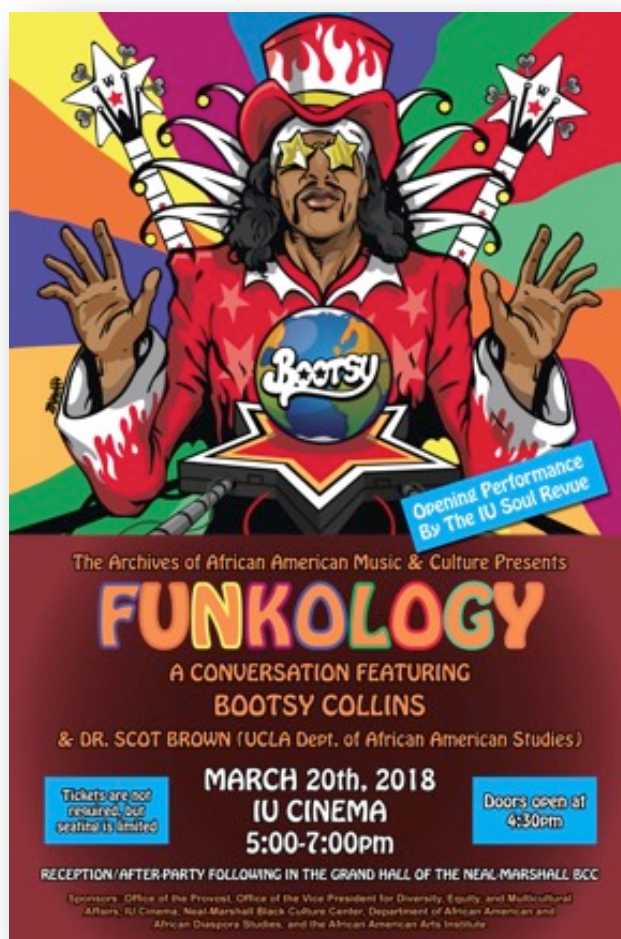
[Abegunde, Writing to Heal](#) (*Limestone*)

Dr. Abegunde was a featured poet at the 2018 Fountain Square Poetry relaunch (Bloomington) and at Full Circle Nine Gallery (Indianapolis). The City of Bloomington invited Abegunde for a second year to provide the opening reflection and meditation for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Black History Month Kick Off. She will also participate in the 2018 National Council of Black Studies Conference in Atlanta in March.

November 3rd opening, *Keeper of My Mothers' Dreams* (Tube Factory / Big Car), Dr. Abegunde and Lashawnda Crowe Storm in front of bronze casting *Origin* by Crowe Storm



On January 1st, **Dr. Tyron Cooper** became the director of the Archives of African American Music and Culture. He replaces his mentor, Mellonee V. Burnim, professor emerita of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at IU. Under the direction of Dr. Cooper, the Archives will host funk music pioneer William “Bootsy” Collins and scholar Dr. Scot Brown from UCLA. They will visit the IU Bloomington campus on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 to participate in a free public event, “Funkology: A Conversation with Bootsy Collins and Dr. Scot Brown,” from 5:00-7:00pm at the IU Cinema. “Funkology” will open with a performance by the IU Soul Revue, directed by James Strong. AAADS is a sponsor of this event. Dr. Cooper will also perform at the retirement party for Drs. Ruth M. Stone and Mellonee Burnim on Thursday, March 29th.



Dr. Jakobi Williams has forthcoming journal articles and book chapters including “Black Power to Black Lives Matter”, in *MLK50 Where Do We Go From Here?*, by The National Civil Rights Museum, “Scholarly Roundtable on Ashley Farmer’s book *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era*” in the *Journal of Civil and Human Rights*, and “The Black Panther Party as Curriculum Development for Teachers and Students”, in Hasan Jeffries, ed., *Understanding and Teaching the Civil Rights Movement*, which is forthcoming from the University of Wisconsin Press. Dr. Williams gave multiple invited lectures in February 2018, including “Building Coalitions Across Race: The Black Panther Party,” at John A. Logan College, “The Transnational Impact of the Black Panther Party” for the History Department at the University of Michigan, and “Black/Brown Coalition: A Failed Promise or a Possibility?” at La Casa Latino Cultural Center at Indiana University.

Dr. Williams’s recent radio and newspaper appearances include Joe Ragusa, “Professor, Activist Speaks about Black Panther Party”, for WSIL, Local 3 ABC, Carterville, IL on February 21.

See <http://www.wsilv.com/story/3756122/7/professor-activist-speaks-about-black-panther-party> and Caroline Anders,

“Students gather to discuss possibility of a black and brown coalition at IU”, *Indiana Daily Student*, February 14.

See <http://www.idsnews.com/article/2018/02/students-gather-to-discuss-possibility-of-a-blackbrown-coalition-at-iu> and “The

FBI’s Fraught, Complex History with Black America,” *Detroit Today with Stephen Henderson*, WDET 101.9 FM, Detroit’s NPR Station on February 8.

See <https://wdet.org/posts/2018/02/08/86382-the-fbis-fraught-complex-history-with-black-america/>



Dr. Jakobi Williams speaks to students at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Indiana WSIL, Local 3 ABC, Carterville, IL on February 21

Dr. Valerie Grim will publish an article “Women landowners in Dakota Indian, Immigrant Scandinavian, and African American Communities” with co-authors Karen Hansen and Gary Osterud. She is also completing a special issue volume “Agency Reduction in the Experiences and Realities of Africana people,” in the *International Journal of African Studies* which is scheduled for late fall or early spring release. Dr. Grim contributed to a roundtable discussion for the symposium “People and Places: Conversations about the Meaning of Land” on Wednesday, March 7th at 5PM in the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center, which also featured professors Jessica Steinberg, David McDonald, Eduardo Brondizio, Gregg Mitman, Emmanuel Urey, and Yah Dolo-Barbu. Dr. Grim will also be a discussant on the panel “Sharecrop: A Screening and Discussion of a New Documentary” and chair of “Centering Black Women and Girls” at the 42nd annual National Council of Black Studies Conference from March 15-17th in Atlanta, GA.

On February 7, **Dr. Candis Smith** co-presented “Addressing the Micro-Aggressions All Around Us” with doctoral candidate Katrina Overby as part of the Center of Excellence for Women in Technology (CeWIT) Lunch and Empowerment Series. On February 15th, Dr. Smith participated in a panel discussion, “So You Think You Wanna Go to Grad School?,” sponsored by the Hudson and Holland Scholars Program. The panel consisted of a diverse group of current graduate students and professionals from Eli Lilly & Company of Indianapolis.

Dr. Smith received the Living Legend Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Tau chapter for the Black Girls Rock ceremony, which encompasses the Indiana University Campus and Bloomington community. The Living Legend Award is presented to an African American woman in the Bloomington community well-known for her work and having a huge impact in and on the community and college students over an extensive amount of time. She is one who has opened doors and overcome barriers in order to provide better opportunities and resources for others. Dr.

Smith was nominated by two of her former students, Kayla Grant and Lindsey Jackson.



Dr. Candis Smith with members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Tau chapter and award recipients Terrilyn Douglas (Trailblazer Award) and Gloria Howell (Woman of the Year) at Black Girls Rock!, February 17, 2018.

Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill will present her paper “Photographic Appropriation in the Early Work of Romare Bearden,” at the annual meeting of the Midwest Art History Society (MAHS) in Indianapolis, IN, in April 2018. 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. In February, Dr. Wolfskill presented her paper “‘Comedy, Pathos, Delight, and Horror:’ Joyce J. Scott and the Racial Body” as an AAADS brown bag lecture, a series of talks organized by Dr. Candis Smith.

Professor Emeritus **Dr. John A. McCluskey** published “The Twins of Salvation”, (short story) in *Callaloo*, Vol. 39, no. 4. The same issue featured his short essay, “Remembering McPherson”, written to honor the memory of James Alan McPherson (1943-2016). Among a number of awards for McPherson’s short stories were a Guggenheim Fellowship (1972), the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1978) and a MacArthur Fellowship (1981).

In January, Professor Emeritus **John Stanfield** published an op ed piece, “Time to Make Our Voices Heard” in the South African newspaper *The Star* in response to Donald Trump’s attack on African nations. The article can be found at the following link:

[Professor Stanfield's article 17 January 2018.pdf](#)



Joyce Scott in her home in Baltimore, pictured in the *New York Times*, January 4, 2018

African American Arts Institute (AAAI)

The African American Dance Company, the African American Choral Ensemble, and the IU Soul Review celebrated February's black history month by performing throughout the community. AADC performed at Highland Park Elementary School on February 2nd to a captive audience.



Under the direction of **Dr. Raymond Wise**, the African American Choral Ensemble performed for multiple MLK and Black History events since the beginning of 2018. On January 15th, AACE performed for the MLK celebration at the Buskirk Chumley Theater. Dr. Wise collaborated with the Fairview Elementary School choir to sing his composition entitled "It Take A Village To Raise A Child."



Stafford Berry Jr., director of the AADC, performing at Highland Park Elementary School

The African American Choral Ensemble performed at University Elementary School on February 7th. On February 18th, IU Soul Revue performed for nearly 700 people for Bloomington Soup Bowl Benefit for Hoosier Hills Food Bank. See the IU News story here:

<https://news.iu.edu/stories/2018/02/iub/inside/27-AAAI-performs-in-community.html>



AACE performed for the 2018 DEMA Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast in Alumni Hall at IU, as shown in the picture below.



Dr. Wise served as the guest conductor for the gospel choir at the 2018 Symposium on Worship at Calvin College. The conference consisted of 1400 participants from all over North America who represent a wide range of ministry roles. Dr. Wise prepared the band for the concert and presented two lectures on singing spirituals and gospel music.



In the picture above, Dr. Wise appears as guest conductor at the Worthington Christian High School in Columbus, Ohio. He discussed gospel music history and vocal techniques with the students and provided information about attending IU.



The above photograph shows Dr. Wise as guest conductor, composer, and accompanist for the Hockaday School Girls in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Wise prepared and conducted an all-school choir of middle and high school students, faculty and staff for their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Events and News of Note

20th Annual African American Dance Company Dance Workshop

On March 23 and 24, the AADC will hold its 20th annual dance workshop at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. The event will include panel discussions and multiple African, Caribbean, and other diasporic dance forms, including at Late Night Bantaba from 9-11PM with Professor Stafford Berry and Iris Rosa. Registration can be found online at:

<https://indiana.us11.list->

[manage.com/track/click?u=ddb56dec91b60612e6fd28c01&id=3ecfb388d5&e=e154bbc977](https://indiana.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ddb56dec91b60612e6fd28c01&id=3ecfb388d5&e=e154bbc977)



AAADS has a new website! Please visit us at:

aaads.indiana.edu

Many thanks to Jen and Michael for their hard work in collecting information for the department and helping to bring this important resource to fruition.

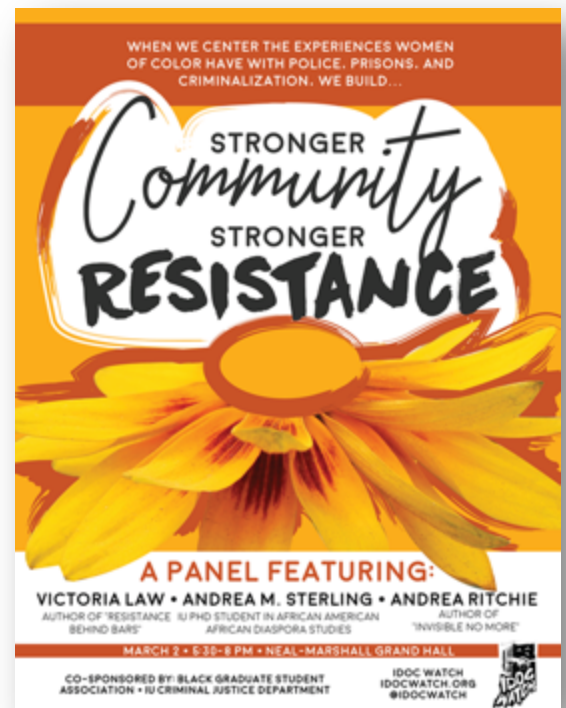


In February, Dr. Lillian Dunlap (former executive assistant to Herman Hudson) who helped to develop the Department of African American Studies and the African American Arts Institute in the 1970s, visited the IU Bloomington campus and spent time with the AAAI ensembles. Dr. Dunlap shared about the history and significance of the African American Arts Institute.

Graduate Student News

Multiple AAADS graduate students will present their work at the 42nd annual National Council of Black Studies Conference that will take place March 15-17th in Atlanta, GA. **Samantha Horton** will present “Archaic Consciousness in the Art of Aaron Douglas,” **Zeba Khan-Thomas** will give her paper “Living on the Outside: The Complexity of Preserving the Black Self in ‘White’ America,” **Marlisha Marcellin** will speak on “The Continuous Fight of a Nation: Challenging Haiti’s One-Story Narrative in Edwidge Danticat’s *Brother, I’m Dying* and *Create Dangerously*,” and Dr. (and AAADS IU alumna) **Caralee Jones** will deliver her paper “Blurred Blackness: The Experiences of Black Bi-ethnics in Houston, Texas.”

PhD student **Andrea Sterling** contributed to “Stronger Community Stronger Resistance,” a panel on mass incarceration on March 2nd at the Neal Marshall Grand Hall. Andrea was joined by writer and editor Victoria Law and attorney and organizer Andrea Ritchie. The panel explored questions relating to the experiences women of color, queer, non-binary, and trans folks have with the state, particularly policing and incarceration. The event was co-sponsored by IU Criminal Justice Department and IU Black Graduate Student Association.



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