

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

- In August, a **pitch-in dinner** was held in Memorial Hall to welcome the new graduate students. The good food and fellowship went far towards making the hot evening more bearable as students, faculty, and staff got to know each other in the informal setting. To see more photos of the event, go to the AAADS web site Photo Gallery.



- On Sept. 6, black faculty and staff welcomed new African American students to IU in a program called "**Black @ IU.**" Held in the Bridgwaters Lounge of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, the event featured AAADS Professor **Audrey McCluskey** and Adjunct Professor **Carolyn Calloway-Thomas** (communication and culture) as guest speakers.
- On Sept. 12, **Regina Barnett** will talk on "A Change Gon Come: The Plantation in Ernest J. Gaines. Bloodline" in the first of this year's **Second Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch Seminars** (formerly the Brown Bag Series). The presentation will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bridgwaters Lounge of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. For other upcoming brown bag presentations, see the AAADS web site, under Events, at www.indiana.edu/~afroamer.
- Bloomington's annual **Soul Food Festival**, hosted by the Bloomington Black Business and Professional Association, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Karst Farm Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free health screenings have been added to the day's attractions and will be available from noon to 3 p.m. The festival, which also features food, music, and other entertainment, celebrates African American culture and traditions in Bloomington and Monroe County.
- The **Black Film Center/Archive** will be co-sponsoring, with the Wells Library, the visit of distinguished African American filmmaker Julie Dash to the IU Bloomington campus on Oct. 3-4. Dash's film *The Rosa Parks Story*, starring Angela Bassett, will be screened at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in Bloomington. In November, the BFC/A will host a two-day visit by filmmaker Donnie Betts. Betts will meet with students and screen his recent documentary on Oscar Lee Brown Jr.
- **AAADS faculty book party:** There will be a reception honoring AAADS faculty members who have published or have forthcoming books from 2006 to 2008. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration and "meet the authors" on Oct. 8, 4–5 p.m., in the Office of Women's Affairs Lounge on the first floor of Memorial Hall. See "*News of Note*" below for special details.



- Looking for something to do? 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

- Joining the department this fall are four new faculty members: Professor **Stephen Berrey**, who has just finished up a year as a visiting professor in AAADS; Professor **Marlon Bailey**, who will also teach in the Department of Gender Studies; Professor **Micol Seigel**, who will also teach in the American Studies Program; and Professor **Stephen Selka**, who specializes in Brazilian and transnational issues.
- This past summer, Professor **Marlon Bailey** was involved in a range of HIV / AIDS work/activism. He completed a comprehensive research report for the AIDS Project of the East Bay in Oakland, Calif., on the "I am Worth," socially marketing campaign that was designed to get African Americans in the Bay Area to get tested and know their HIV / AIDS status. His report, submitted to the Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration, assessed the effectiveness of the campaign. Bailey was appointed to the California Department of Public Health's Office of AIDS's Task Force on HIV / AIDS Prevention and Black Men Who Have Sex with Men. As a member of the National Black Gay Men's Research Group, he helped publish a research report titled "The National Black Gay Men's Research Agenda." In addition, Bailey completed two articles: one, "Rethinking the African Diaspora: Ballroom Culture and HIV / AIDS Prevention," will appear in the forthcoming collection *African Diaspora: Race, Citizenship, and Modern Subjectivities*; the other (co-authored), on "Ballroom Culture and HIV / AIDS Prevention" was submitted to the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services* special issue on LGBTQ communities of color.
- Professor **Valerie Grim**, chair of the department, was a participant in the Agricultural History Symposium, which met at Iowa State University, Ames, in June. She participated in a plenary session on "Region, Race, Religion, and the Interpretation of Rural Experience: Through the Lens of Women's History. She also chaired and commented on a session on "Race, Ethnicity, and Struggle." As co-chair with Debra Stiles, of Nova Scotia University, Grim hosted the annual meeting of the international Rural Women's Studies Association. She has been involved with preparations for

AAADS and Indiana University to host the 2009 Rural Women's Studies Association meeting. In addition, she continues to conduct research and work on collaborative publications with the United Negro College Fund, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Pew Rural Early Education Initiative, which is directed by the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute. For the forthcoming book *Training Up Our Children: Rural Early Childhood Education and African American Students*, Grim wrote the chapter "The Historical and Cultural Contexts of Early Rural Education in Black Communities."

- Professor **Matt Guterl**, director of the American Studies Program, was prominently featured in the summer 2007 edition of *The College*, the alumni magazine of the College of Arts and Sciences. In an article titled "The Interdisciplinary Superhighway," Guterl addresses the growing adoption of an interdisciplinary and transnational approach to traditional fields of study.

- In late March, Professor **Eileen Julien**, chair of the Department of Comparative Literature and director of the Project on African Expressive Traditions, hosted, with support from several campus units, including AAADS and the BFC/A, a multidisciplinary symposium at the Lilly Library on "Senegalese Art and Culture: Birago Diop and Leopold Sedar Senghor, Then and Now." Writers, filmmakers, and scholars from the U.S., Senegal, Morocco, France, and Britain gathered for a lively and probing exchange on the legacies of Senghor and Diop today. (See the POAET web site at www.iub.edu/~complit/poaet.html.) In early summer, Julien traveled to Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar to meet with colleagues and university administrators. She was invited also to South Africa, where she visited the universities of Cape Town, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, and Witwatersrand and presented papers on Josephine Baker's films of the 1930s and on "modernity, literature, and the arts in Senegal." In July, POAET helped organize Bloomington's third Summer African Film Festival at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. POAET also hosted Senegalese filmmaker Joseph Gaye Ramaka and novelist Boubacar Boris Diop for a recording — at WFIU studios in Bloomington — of Diop's recent Wolof-language novel *Doomi Golo* for distribution on CD and audiocassette in Senegal. Julien also contributed to the Katrina issue of *Callaloo* [29.4 (2006): 1400-1403] and was interviewed by Professor Shona Jackson on "Loss, Love, and the Art of Making Gumbo" for *Callaloo* [30.1 (2007): 95-109].

- Professor **Michael Martin**, director of the Black Film Center / Archive, was recently appointed to serve on the Film Advisory Board of the Indiana Museum of Art. He will chair a panel devoted to the film archives at IU Bloomington during the upcoming

conference "Film Indiana," to be held on campus in mid-September. His book *Redress for Historical Injustices in the United States*, co-edited with Marilyn Yaquinto, has just been published by Duke University Press. Martin reports that the next issue of *Black Camera*, appearing this fall, will feature interviews with Julie Dash and essays on black independent cinema, trajectories of diasporic cinema, Nollywood cinema, and a tribute to the father of African cinema, Ousmane Sembene.

- Professor Emeritus **James Mumford** directed the Groups summer performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Welcome to the Groups students who are now IU freshmen!
- Professor **Iris Rosa** was promoted to full professor last fall and is currently serving as co-director for graduate studies, along with Matt Guterl. She was one of four choreographers commissioned to create a large piece, titled *Grow, Move, and Change*, to reflect the challenges and successes of the IU School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation's commitment to diversity and freedom of expression. Performed in the Ruth N. Halls Theatre, Rosa's dance was titled "El Camino del Cimarron" ("The Road of the Maroon"). Rosa was a recipient of the Creative Arts Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis, and she has been named an adjunct professor in the Department of Kinesiology's Contemporary Modern Dance Program. She was the professor of record for the Study Abroad course *Beyond Beaches, Baseball, and Bachata: Dominican Identity in the Age of Globalization*, which took place one week in Bloomington and three weeks in the Dominican Republic. Here is a photo, taken during that class, showing people leaving the market in the DR and going home to Haiti:



Adjunct Faculty

- AAADS extends a hearty welcome to its new adjunct faculty members: **Karen Bowdre** (communication and culture), **Stephanie Carter** (education), **Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe** (theatre and drama), **Margo Crawford** (English), **Dionne Danns** (HESA), **Kandance Hinton** (education and leadership, Indiana State University), **Robin Humes** (HESA, IUPUI), **Sylvester Johnson** (religious studies), **Khalil Muhammad** (history), **Amrita Myers** (history), **John Nieto-Phillips** (history, Latino studies), and **Carol Polsgrove** (journalism).
- Professor **Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe** (theatre and drama) directed the Southern premiere of Cassandra Medley's play *Relativity* at the Southern Rep Theatre in New Orleans. She was the dramaturg for Julie Hebert's new play, *Tree*, at the 30th anniversary of the Bay Area Playwright's Festival at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco and was the key artist and lead theater teacher for Creative Forces, a youth drama program at Math and Science High School in New Orleans.
- Professor **George Hutchinson** (English), chair of the Department of English and the Booth Tarkington Professor of Literary Studies, is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Harlem Renaissance*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in July. His 2006 book *In Search of Nella Larsen: A Biography of the Color Line* has taken numerous national honors: Best Non-Fiction of 2006, *Washington Post Book World*; Editors' Choice for 2006, *Booklist*; *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice, September 2006; nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in Biography; Bronze Medal, Independent Publishers Book Award for Biography; and Honorable Mention, Association of American Publishers Book Award for Scholarly Biography.
- Professor **Frank Motley** (law), IU associate vice chancellor for academic support, was presented with the National Bar Association's first annual Leadership Service Award for his "more than 20 years of outstanding service as a trailblazer for diversity in admissions and for his overall contributions to the African-American legal community." As dean of admissions in the IU Law School, Motley admitted nearly 5,000 students — more than half of Indiana Law's living alumni base.
- Professor **Amrita Chakrabarti Myers** (history) won a research grant from the Institute for Southern Studies at the University of South Carolina in June. In May, she presented "Convoluting Chimera: Cecille Langlois Cogdell and the Nature of Race in

Antebellum South Carolina” at the Caribbean Studies Association in Salvador, Brazil. In April, she gave an invited lecture on “The Importance of African American History” at Austin Peay State University in Nashville, Tenn.

- Professor **Carol Polsgrove** (journalism) presented a paper, titled "A Longstanding Link: George Padmore and the Bond Between African and African American Liberation Movements," at the Little Rock Desegregation Crisis: Fifty Years Later conference in Little Rock, Ark., on Sept. 7. The paper draws on research for Polsgrove's book in progress, a study of a London-based community of Africans and West Indians who used publishing to oppose British rule in Africa during the years 1934 to 1959. The conference was sponsored by the University of Arkansas.

Staff

- AAADS welcomes three new staff members this fall: **Arnell Hammond**, undergraduate student advisor; **Mary Huelsbeck**, archivist for the Black Film Center/Archive; and **Melissa Stewart**, the department's financial manger.
- **Mary Huelsbeck**, archivist for the Black Film Center/Archive, will be a panelist on a panel devoted to the film archives at IU Bloomington at the upcoming conference "Film Indiana," to be held on campus in mid-September. She comes to AAADS from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, where she served as the lead archivist of a major film and television collection

Graduate Students

- A new cohort of MA students is on campus: **Rika Anzawa**, **Joshua Bugsby**, **Delphine Criscenzo**, **June Evans**, **Jean-Christopher Henry**, **Katelyn Hipskind**, **Florence Nyemba**, **Thersa Owusu**, and **Mohammed Rafiq**. Welcome to AAADS!
- **Sara Bagby** worked this summer with the Achievers Summer Academy, a residential summer camp for high school students. A program of the IU Office of Community and School Partnerships, the academy provides students with firsthand experience of what to expect in college and how to effectively prepare while in high school.

- **Phillip Wagner**, who also holds a degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, spent the summer pursuing his long-time goal of helping the impoverished people, especially youth, of Brazil. To read about his experiences and view photographs, go to the AAADS web site, under Photo Gallery, at www.indiana.edu/~afroamer.

Undergraduate Students

- **Ashlee Green**, a sophomore double-majoring in journalism and AAADS, is starting up a student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists at IU Bloomington.

Alumni

- **Cameron Beatty** is now the academic mentoring coordinator for the Office of Mentoring Services and Leadership Development (formerly known as FASE).
- **Jennifer Heusel**, who is now pursuing a PhD, is selling tickets to the 29th annual Freedom Fund Banquet of the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP. The organization uses the proceeds to fund scholarships. This year's keynote speaker is Joyce Rogers, president and chief executive officer of Indiana Black Expo. The banquet will be at Terry's Banquet and Catering on Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. for the social hour and 7 p.m. for dinner. Tickets are \$30. Contact Heusel by e-mail at jheusel@indiana.edu.

News of Note

- *Faculty books!* Between 2006 and 2008, eight AAADS faculty members have had or are having books published. The authors will be feted at a special reception in October. Congratulations to the following people! You make us proud and set us a high example.

- Associate Professor **Matt Guterl**: *American Mediterranean: Southern Slaveholders in the Age of Emancipation*, Harvard, 2008; *Race, Nation, and Empire in American History*, co-edited by James T. Campbell and Robert G. Lee, University of North Carolina Press, June 2008
- (Former) Assistant Professor **Trica Keaton**: *Muslim Girls and the Other France: Race, Identity Politics, and Social Exclusion*, Indiana University Press, 2006
- Associate Professor **Audrey T. McCluskey**: *The Devil You Dance With: Film Culture in the New South Africa: Interviews with Filmmakers and Performers*,

University of Illinois Press, 2008; *Richard Pryor: The Life and Legacy of a 'Crazy' Black Man*, edited with an introduction, Indiana University Press, 2008; *Frame by Frame III: A Filmography of the African Diasporan Image, 1994–2004*, edited with an introduction, Indiana University Press 2007; *Imaging Blackness: Race and Racial Representation in Film Poster Art*, Indiana University Press, 2007

- Professor **Michael Martin**: *Redress for Historical Injustices in the United States*, co-edited with Marilyn Yaquinto, Duke University Press, 2007

- Assistant Professor **Micol Seigel**: *Uneven Encounters: Racial Construction in the Americas*, Duke University Press, 2008

- Assistant Professor **Stephen Selka**: *Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Bahia, Brazil*, University Press of Florida (as part of its New World Diasporas book series), December 2007

- Professor **John H. Stanfield II**: Critical introduction to *Blackways of Kent* (1955), by Hylan Lewis, reissue by University of South Carolina Press, spring 2008

- Professor **Vernon Williams**: *The Social Sciences and Theories of Race*, University of Illinois Press, 2006 (nominated for the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights' Outstanding Book Award)

- The 2007-08 Program Committee has planned two principal initiatives for this year. The **Second Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch Seminars** (formerly the Brown Bag Series) will highlight new research and creative activity by our faculty and graduate students, as well as other local researchers. It will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Bridgwaters Lounge of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning in September. The series will be co-hosted by the NMBCC. The committee welcomes a wide range of topics and interests related to the black diaspora. The **Critical Issues Lecture Series** will focus on the responses to critical issues facing the black world community and feature speakers who are leading researchers, policy makers, or spokespeople who offer new approaches, insights, or strategies for addressing key problems and challenges that weigh heavily on and affect the health, education, political, and economic survival of black people. Lecturers will be nominated by faculty and graduate students by means of a nomination form, to be put in their mailboxes (and available from departmental secretary Yunika Jackson). The goal is to invite two speakers during the academic year.

- IU Professor of Optometry **Edwin Marshall** has been appointed IU vice president for diversity, equality, and multicultural affairs. Marshall, who is also the 2007 American

Optometry Association Optometrist of the Year, succeeds **Charlie Nelms**, who recently was named chancellor at North Carolina Central University.

- *Job opening!:* Cameron Beatty invites all interested graduate students to apply for this position: The **Office of Mentoring Services and Leadership Development** (formerly known as FASE) is seeking a qualified graduate student for a part-time hourly position that is responsible for tracking, evaluating, and assessing the progress and success of the program and assisting the academic advisor and academic mentoring coordinator. The position, not eligible for an assistantship, will be paid \$12-15/hr. Minimum GPA of 3.0 required. The Office of Mentoring Services and Leadership Development is in Ashton-Weatherly Hall, Room 204, 1800 East Tenth Street. For more information, e-mail Beatty at ccbeatty@indiana.edu.

- Be sure to catch ***Bring It On***, a local radio program that explores the people, issues, and events affecting the African American community in south central Indiana and beyond. Tune in to WFHB 91.3 at 6 p.m. on Monday nights. The show is produced by **Clarence Boone**, director of IU's Neal-Marshall Alumni Club.



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.

** Published monthly or bimonthly through the fall and spring semesters. Diaspora is not published during the summer. (Following the contours of the academic calendar, the usual schedule of issues is August-September, October, November-December, January, February-March, and April-May.)*