

A monthly* 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

- Indiana University's Groups Scholarship Program, the African American Arts Institute, and the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies presented a Groups Theater Workshop in July. Titled "**Sisters and Brothers in Celebration: A Celebration of Love, Life, Faith, and Coming of Age,**" the performance was extremely well received.
- The fifth annual **Black Student Leadership Retreat** took place on Sept. 9 in the Grand Hall of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. With the theme "Leadership and Service," the retreat covered such topics as "Grant Writing and Finding Money at IUB," "Leadership Opportunities at IUB," "Conflict Resolution," "Communication," "Public Relations," and "Political Savvy." The guest speaker was Valeri Haughton, a local lawyer and candidate for judge in the November election. The keynote address was presented by Patrick Lee, of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Sponsoring the event were the Black Student Union, Black Graduate Student Association, Council for Advancing Student Leadership, Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Office of Diversity Education, and School of Library and Information Science.
- Be sure to catch these **upcoming events**, sponsored or so-sponsored by AAADS:
 - Alpha Phi Alpha forum:
Sept. 12, 7-9, NMBCC Library — "Empowering People of Color in the Aftermath of Katrina"
 - Brown Bag Lecture Series presentation:
Sept. 27, noon-1 p.m., NMBCC Library — "The American Civil Rights

Movement's Influence on and in Europe," Sabine Broeck

- Guest Lecture Series presentations:

Sept. 19, 6 p.m., Woodburn 007 — "Rituals and Spirituality to Bond Our Communities," Charlotte Hill O'Neal

Sept 27, 5 p.m., Woodburn 007 — "The Erotics of African-American Endurance, Or: On the Right Side of History? White (West) German Public Sentiment Between Pornotrope and Civil Rights Solidarity," Sabine Broeck

- Looking for something special to do? Check out the list of upcoming events at the **Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center**, where excitement is always in the air, especially the popular Harambee ("Let us all pull together") get-togethers every month. NMBCC web site: www.nmbcc.indiana.edu.

Faculty

- During the summer, Professor **Valerie Grim** participated in an institute at the University of Pretoria, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, the University of Pretoria, and American Studies of Indiana University,.
- Professor **Eileen Julien** participated in a conference on "Black Europe" at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., in April. Her paper was titled "Now You See It, Now You Don't: Josephine Baker's Films of the 1930s and the Problem of Color." In March, as director of the Project on African Expressive Traditions, Julien hosted Senegalese filmmaker Joseph Gaye Ramaka, who showed several of his films, including *Karmen Gei* (2001), an adaptation of "Carmen," the Prosper Merimee short story and Bizet opera, and his most recent documentary, *Et si Latif avait raison* (2005), a critique of contemporary Senegalese politics.
- Professor **Audrey McCluskey's** *Imaging Blackness: Race and Racial Representation in Film Poster Art*, forthcoming from Indiana University Press, features a rich selection of movie posters from the Black Film Center/ Archive. The posters, chosen for their value as cultural artifacts, are imbued with historical and social meaning and explicated in the annotations and accompanying essay. The book can be preordered from the IU press web site at www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product or call (800) 842-6796. IU Press is also publishing McCluskey's *Frame by Frame III: A Filmography of the African Diasporan*

Image, a reference source from the BFC/A that surveys film production throughout the African diaspora. For more details and information about ordering, visit the IUP web site at www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product_info.php.

- Professor **Vernon J. Williams Jr.**'s book *The Social Sciences and Theories of Race* was published by the University of Illinois Press in August. He contributed a chapter, titled "Monroe Nathan Work's Contribution to Booker T. Washington's Fight Against White Supremacy," to the Elsevier Limited anthology *The Racial Politics of Booker T. Washington*, edited by Donald Cunnigen, Myrtle Glascoe, and Rutlege Dennis, in August. His article "Historiographical Concerns in the History of Anthropology," appeared in *The Western Journal of Black Studies* in the spring.

Adjunct Faculty

- Professor of Law **Kevin Brown**'s book *Race, Law, and Education in the Post-Desegregation Era: Four Perspectives on Desegregation and Resegregation* was published by Carolina Academic Press in 2005. His article "The Supreme Court's Role in the Growing School Choice Movement" (*67 Ohio State Law Journal* 37, 2006) was published last spring as part of the symposium issue titled "Meeting the Challenge of Grutter — Affirmative Action in Twenty-Five Years." Brown was a panelist on "From Dred Scott to Rosa Parks and Hurricane Katrina: Where Do We Go From Here?" at the 2006 American Bar Association Midyear Meeting in Chicago in February; a panelist on "Debates on Reservations in the Indian Context" at the National Law School of India University, Center for the Study of Casteism, Communalism, and Law, in Bangalore, India, in May; and a panelist for a seminar titled "Is There a Rebirth to Racial Segregation in Public Schools?" during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 36th annual Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 8. He recently delivered the following papers: "The African-American Perspective on the Benefits of Diversity," at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, on May 19, and "The Contrasting Treatment of Affirmative Action in India and the United States," at the Forum for Dalit Literature in Hyderabad on May 17.

- Professor of English **George Hutchinson**'s book *In Search of Nella Larsen: A Biography of the Color Line*, published in May, has been nominated by Harvard University Press for the Pulitzer Prize in biography. Reviews of the book have appeared, to date, in *The Nation* (by Hoosier native Darryl Pinckney), *Washington Post Book World*, *The New York*

Times Book Review, *Ebony*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Weekendavis* (Copenhagen), and *Booklist*. (Another is forthcoming in *Black Issues Book Review* soon.) Hutchinson gave the keynote lecture at an international conference on "Denmark and the Black Atlantic" in Copenhagen in May, and a plenary lecture at the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth in June. He is chair of the Department of English and the Booth Tarkington Professor of Literary Studies.

Graduate Students

- **Femina T. Ajayi**, in her third year as a dual graduate student in African American and African Diaspora studies and SPEA, spent the summer as a mayoral fellow with Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago. During the 11-week fellowship, from June to August, she worked with distinguished students from around the nation in the program's think tank. Ajayi worked on policy initiatives, programming, and issues of special interest to the mayor. She also became project manager on all think tank research and development issues pertaining to Chicago immigrants and poverty. She writes that she "had an enriching summer of research, tours, meetings, and project development in the city of Chicago, and is excited to take what I've learned in Chicago city government back to Bloomington, Indiana." Ajayi will graduate in spring 2007.

- **Claudia Drieling's** paper "Violent Health and Comforting Illness: Paradoxical Body Fictions in Gloria Naylor's *Linden Hills*" will appear in the upcoming CRAFT publication *Cahiers de Recherches AFro-américaines: Transversalités*, which is dedicated to the works of Gloria Naylor. This special volume is the outcome of the 2005 international conference on "Writing in Between Apocalypse and Redemption: Gloria Naylor's Fiction," hosted by the research center Etudes Afro-Américaines of the University François Rabelais in Tours, France, where Drieling had been invited to present. Drieling is a PhD candidate and visiting scholar.

- **Phillip Wagner**, a new MA student in AAADS, successfully defended his master's thesis in Latin American and Caribbean studies, titled "Toward a Pedagogy of Facilitation," with Professor John Stanfield directing, last May. He has spent the past 11 years in the "Afro-Brazilian cultural epicenter of Bahia," where he founded Rhythm of Hope in Brazil, an international development organization. Wagner is also a journalist, whose articles and photographs have been widely published. He interviewed, and was interviewed by, Michael Eric Dyson and Marcia Dyson during the Conference of Intellectuals in the African Diaspora in Bahia, Brazil. (View one of his photographs of

the encounter at www.indiana.edu/~afroamer. Go to the Photo Gallery > People > Students.) He also covered the participation of six Brazilian drivers in the Indy 500 last May. This year, Wagner will be an associate instructor for Professor A.B. Assensoh.

- The **Herman Hudson Symposium Committee**, made up of graduate students and advised by Professor **John McCluskey**, has been meeting this semester in preparation for the annual spring conference. The committee has determined that the event will take place on March 30-31, 2007. The theme and title are still in committee. Stay tuned!

Alumni

- **Deadra Nelson-Mason** directed an innovative production this past summer. The work incorporated the spoken work, music, dance, and drama into a creative whole that received great acclaim. Nelson-Mason was a member of the African American Dance Company for four years while an undergraduate in AAADS. She completed her graduate studies at New York University. While Professor **Iris Rosa** was on sabbatical in spring 2006, Nelson-Mason served as interim director of the African American Dance Company.

Comings & Goings

- A hearty welcome to the new director of the Black Film Center/Archive, Professor **Michael Martin**, and to our newest visiting scholar, Assistant Professor **Stephen Berrey**.
- Welcome also to three new staff people: **Michelle Fleener**, financial officer and office manager; **Yunika Jackson**, departmental secretary; and **Hannah Wheatley**, undergraduate adviser.
- Farewell and best wishes to former AAADS secretary **Paula Cotner**, who is now a secretary for the American Studies Program, and to former AAADS bookkeeper **Tracey Johnson**, who now works in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

News of Note

- **IUPUI's AAADS program** just received a \$500,000 grant from IU to fill three permanent positions in AAADS.
- **James C. Wimbush**, professor of business administration and chair of the IU Kelley School of Business' Department of Management, has been confirmed by the IU trustees as dean of the University Graduate School.



All faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students, please 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 Paula Cotner at pmjerr@indiana.edu.

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