

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

- On Monday, March 28, 2016, the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies will celebrate its 45+ years on the IUB Campus with a "Future of Black Studies" luncheon and panel featuring Professor Michael Tillotson from the University of Pittsburgh. The event will be held from 11:30am-1:30pm in the Dogwood Room of the IMU. Dr. Tillotson will give his lecture "Agency Reduction Formation: The Role of the State and Public Discourse" that evening from 5-7PM in Bridgewater Lounge.

African American and African Diaspora Studies
Presents

Dr. Michael Tillotson
"Agency Reduction Formation: The Role of the State and Public Discourse"
March 28, 2016, 5-7pm
Bridgewater Lounge, Neal Marshall Center

Invisible Jim Crow
In celebration of our 45th anniversary, African American and African Diaspora Studies invites you to join us for a presentation and discussion on racial dynamics operating in contemporary society. This talk will specifically examine race neutral discourse operating as anti-egalitarian discursive interventions in the 21st century.

Dr. Michael Tillotson is an Assistant Professor of African Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He specializes in Critical Race Theory, and African American Politics and Social Thought. He is the author of *Invisible Jim Crow: Contemporary Ideological Threats to the Internal Security of African Americans* and numerous articles including "Retrospective Analysis: The Movement Against African Centered Thought" (*The Journal of Pan African Studies*). He has also been featured in numerous interviews on radio and television, including Fox News.

Light refreshments will be served.

Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Celebrating 45 Years
Envisioning the Future of African Studies

Date and Time: March 28, 11:30am-1:30pm
Location: Dogwood Room, IMU

In celebration of its 45th Years Anniversary, African American and African Diaspora Studies, established in 1970, invites you to a conversation on the future of African Studies at IU, in the nation, and around the world. We'll discuss current issues and questions confronting African Studies and its role in higher education, historically and in the present moment; and how we envision African Studies growing and what we hope it will become.

Leading our conversation will be a guest panel of speakers including:

Dr. Michael Tillotson (Assistant Prof. of African Studies, Pittsburgh Univ.)
Dr. Tyrone Cooper (Assistant Prof. in African American and African Diaspora Studies, and Director of IU Soul House at the African American Arts Institute)
Dr. Maria Hamilton Alogoskoufis (2009/2010 Cohort Member of the First Ph.D. Class and First Ph.D. Graduate in African American and African Diaspora Studies, Director of IU Graduate Mentoring Center, and Visiting Prof. in African American and African Diaspora Studies)
Ms. Zeba Khan Thomas (2015/2016 Cohort Member of the Third Ph.D. Class and a Ph.D. Student in African American and African Diaspora Studies)

Dr. Fred McElroy (Associate Prof. in African American and African Diaspora Studies) will provide brief opening remarks on the history of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department at IU.

Lunch will be provided
Hosted by Dr. Maisha Westcott and Dr. Valerie Grim
African American and African Diaspora Studies
Please RSVP to jtd@iu.edu by March 13

- On March 9, award-winning producer and gospel music announcer Jacquie Gales Webb will present a free public lecture in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center's Grand Hall at 4:00 p.m. The lecture will be followed by a reception honoring her distinguished career and the establishment of the Jacquie Gales Webb Collection at Indiana University's Archives of African American Music and Culture. The collection will provide an invaluable resource for scholarly research and course development on Black-oriented radio, radio documentary production, media history, African American music—including gospel and jazz – as well as broader issues on music, communication, and culture.



- Sponsored by Diversity in Action, Dr. Maisha Wester and PhD Candidate Marsha Horsley joined Dr. Alisha Jones (Ethnomusicology) and Dr. Amrita Myers (History) for “Stereotypes and Black Women’s Resistance: A Conversation” on February 22nd at Hutton Honors College.
- Professor Jakobi Williams contributed to multiple campus conversations, including “Coalition Building across Racial Groups” with Fabio Rojas (Sociology) and Rory James (School of Public Health) on February 23, “Hot Topics: Policing, Black Lives Matter Movement” on March 2 at the Maurer School of Law and “Over a Cup of Tea – “Permission to Narrate”” on March 3 with Sarah Macaraeg, an investigative journalist affiliated with the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum in Chicago.

- As announced by Dean Singell in mid-February, Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas will serve as Chair of AAADS for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Dr. Valerie Grim will step down as chair after more than twelve years of dedicated leadership.
- On February 29th, Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Diana Louis presented her lecture “The Colored Female Insane’: Slavery, Asylums, and Mental Illness among 19th-century Black Women” sponsored by AAADS and Gender Studies.
- On Sunday, March 6th, Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde read her work at the First Sunday Prose Reading and Open Mic at Boxcar Books. The Writers Guild at Bloomington sponsored the event. In November, Abegunde made the closing remarks on memory, healing, and community for Dr. Joy Degree's evening lecture on post-traumatic slave syndrome in the IMU Solarium. She published "Learning to Walk in Water: Invoking Yemanja on the Doula Path" in *Doulas and Intimate Labour: Boundaries, Bodies and Birth*, edited by Angela Castaneda and Julie Johnson Search, pages 99-106. See <http://demeterpress.org/books/doulas-and-intimate-labour-boundaries-bodies-and-birth/> (note Labour: Canadian spelling). In December, Abegunde returned to Itaparica (Bahia, Brazil) to continue research on the role women play in memory practices in the *egungun* (ancestral) society. See photo "After Divination" below.



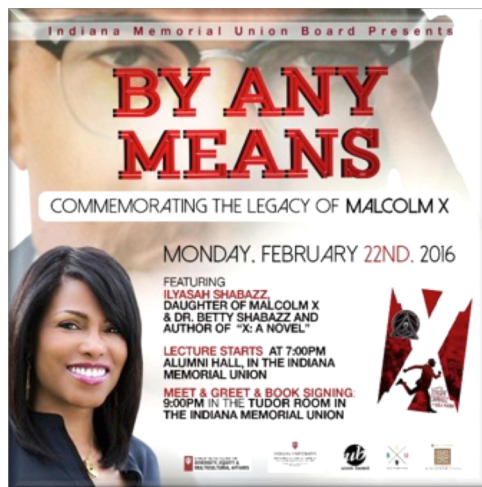
On February 4th, Abegunde lead the meditation for the City of Bloomington Black History Month Kick-off.

- As director of the Graduate Mentorship Center, Abegunde organized a mixer for graduate students of color, which was hosted by AAADS in M39.



Graduate Student Mixer, photos by Abegunde

- On Friday, March 4, the Graduate Studies Committee hosted a meeting “Keep Your Eyes on The Prize: Looking Forward” to support graduate student progress and professionalization.
- In response to an opinion piece published in the IDS by an IU student, Professor Jakobi Williams wrote a notable response contextualizing the work of the Black Panther Party. The article is featured here:
<http://www.idsnews.com/article/2016/02/beyonces-artistic-salute-to-resistance-protest-and-black-lives-matter>
- In February, AAADS co-sponsored a talk by Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, held at the IMU.



- On December 11th, AAADS held their annual end of the year celebration. Check out Dr. Grim on the dance floor:



Faculty

- Professor Valerie Grim is completing a manuscript on rural students in higher education with a group of five co-authors. The book proposal for this manuscript is currently being shopped. During the spring semester 2015, she also conducted extensive research on Black Land-Grants Universities. This research is being prepared for a series of research publications. Professor Grim joined a group of scholars in Lexington, Kentucky to discuss the state of rural women's studies last June. She will be contributing a chapter to an edited volume on rural women where she will author a piece on rural black women and extension work. In fall 2015, she published, "The 1890 Land Grant Colleges: From the New Deal to the Black Farmers' Class-Action Lawsuit, 1930s-2010s," in *Service as Mandate: How American Land-Grant Universities Shaped the Modern World* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2015). She also participated in a panel discussion concerning the future of Africana Studies in September at the meeting of the Association for the Study of African American History and Life. In April 2016, she has been invited to participate in a scholars' writing retreat with a group of renowned scholars at the University of Nebraska.
- Professor Maisha Wester recently presented a paper called "The South: Haunted Past/ Impossible Future" at the Planet Deep South Conference on Afrofuturism at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. She has an article forthcoming

on "Slave Narratives and Slave Revolts" in the *Handbook of Southern Gothic*, and is writing "Soucouyant Nation: Race and Empire in White is for Witching" for the collection *Toward a Black Woman's Horror Aesthetic*, which is under contract with Oregon State University press.

- Professor Carolyn Calloway-Thomas will present a seminar on "Empathy in the Global World: An Intercultural Perspective" at the Communication, Media and Governance in the Age of Globalization" conference hosted by the Communication University of China (CUC) and the U.S. based National Communication Association to be held in Beijing, China, June 17-19, 2016. She is a co-chair of the National Communication Association's (NCA) Task Force on International Collaboration, a member of the NCA's Educational Policies Board, and gave a major speech at the opening of the World Communication Association (WCA) conference in Lisbon, Portugal in her role as president of the organization. Further, she chaired and responded to a panel on a "Race" at the September 2015 meeting of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and Culture (ASALH) conference in Atlanta, presented a short course on "Empathetic Literacy" at the Central States Communication Association conference in Madison, Wisconsin (April 2015), and presented a short course with 3 colleagues on "Embracing Opportunities across the Curriculum: Teaching Students to Embrace Diversity" at the National Communication Association meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada (November 2015). In 2015, she was elected as vice president of the Intercultural Communication division of the Central States Communication Association and as vice president of the University Graduate School Council—Indiana University. In addition, she has been invited to serve as a panelist/reader for the Ford Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship Program in Irvine, California, March 14-16, 2016. Finally, her invitational entries on "Media in a Globalized World" and "Respect" appeared in the 2015 editions of *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Intercultural Competence*.
- In February, Professor Jakobi Williams was named a Frederick Burkhardt Fellow through the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) of the National Humanities Center. Dr. Williams was one of 30 recipients out of 449 applicants for this prestigious national fellowship. Since January, Dr. Williams has given (or

will give) the following keynote addresses: “A History of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party”, Annual Community Lecture Series, Francis Parker High School, Chicago, April 25, 2016, “MLK’s Ideological Influence and the Black Panther Party”, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN, February 18, 2016, “Political Capital: Rainbow Coalition Politics”, The Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE), Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, February 8, 2016, and “Original Rainbow Coalition,” for Organize Your Own: An Exhibition and Event Series About The Politics and Poetics of Self-Determination Movements, Slought Foundation, Philadelphia, January 15, 2016. In October, Dr. Williams presented “From the Bullet to the Ballot: Black Panthers and Chicago’s Racial Coalitions,” at the Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, Illinois, October 25, 2015, and gave a book talk: *From the Bullet to the Ballot*, Department of African American Studies, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois on October 13, 2015. Dr. Williams published “Black Power: Alliances and Dissension”, in the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture’s *Black Power, A Catalog*, The New Press, January 2016, and “‘We Need to Unite with as Many People as Possible’: The Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords Organization in Chicago,” in Brian D. Behnken, ed., *Beyond Civil Rights: African American and Latino/a Activism in the Twentieth Century United States*, University of Georgia Press, April 2016.



- Professor Phoebe Wolfskill’s book *The Old Negro in New Negro Art: Archibald Motley, Jr. and the Racial Reinvention*, is under contract with University of Illinois Press with a tentative publication date of Spring 2017. She received a Grant-in-Aid through the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to cover the cost of publishing color images for this book. Her co-edited anthology with Dr. James

Romaine, *Beholding Christ and Christianity in African-American Art* is under contract with Pennsylvania State University Press, with an expected publication date of 2018. Her essays on Joyce Scott and Emma Amos have been submitted to peer-reviewed journals. Wolfskill is currently reviewing *Represent: 200 Years of African American Art in the Philadelphia Museum of Art* (Yale, 2014) for *caa.reviews*. At the College Art Association annual meeting in Washington, DC in February, Wolfskill co-chaired a panel on "Art, Race, and Christianity" and presented her work on the "Icons of the Midwest: Archibald Motley, Jr." panel. She gave a talk on art of the Harlem Renaissance for black history month at Bloomington North High School and presented an invited talk, "Cultural Exchange: Mexican and African American Artists" for the "Lure of Mexico" symposium and exhibition at the Ft. Wayne Museum of Art.



- Dr. Candis Smith was named a Fellow of the 2016 Transformative Learning Community (TLC) sponsored by the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL). This program is designed to help faculty gain new perspectives on the challenges we face individually and as a campus in teaching key undergraduate courses. The Community is interdisciplinary in nature and will be made up of twelve faculty from across the campus
- Dr. Audrey T. McCluskey was the keynote speaker for the Teen Mentoring Group at Miami University in Middletown, Ohio. Her talk, "The Moral Assignment of Black Women Educators in the Jim Crow South," was followed by a book signing and catered lunch. She is co-chair (with Dr. John A. McCluskey) of the 2016 Friends of the Library Fund for the Monroe County Public Library. An active volunteer at Fairview Elementary, she organized a group of retired IU faculty and staff to volunteer at the school.
- Professor John McCluskey published "Fine Arts and Africana Studies," *Callaloo*,

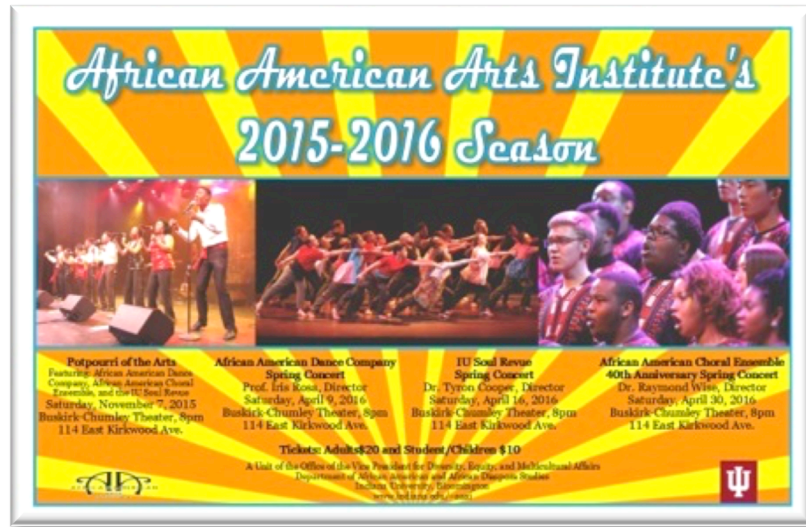
vol. 38, no. 3 (summer, 2015) and was appointed Associate Book Review Editor at *Callaloo*, a leading journal of literature and humanities in the African Diaspora. He currently serves on PhD dissertation committees for April Smith (Communication and Culture) and Yukari Shinagawa (AAADS). Professor McCluskey was on the Monroe County Public Library and Bloomington Planning Committee for the visit of the Honorable John Lewis, Democratic member of US House of Representatives, and served as Friends of the Library 2016 Co-Chair for their Campaign for Excellence. He also works on the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males and continues to serve on the Teen Mentoring Committee (Middletown, Ohio), a group working with African American youth, K-12.

- In February, the city of Bloomington recognized Indiana University Professors Emeritus, John and Audrey T. McCluskey as the recipients of the Living Legend Award at the city's Black History Month Gala. The Living Legend Award was created to publicly acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the accomplishments of African-Americans in Bloomington who have devoted their time, talents, and resources to make a difference in the Bloomington community and beyond. Congratulations McCluskeys on this prestigious and well-earned award!



- AAADS is eagerly anticipating the 2016 African American Arts Institute Performance spring concerts by its three ensembles: the African American Dance Company (AADC), directed by Professor Iris Rosa on Saturday, April 9th at 8PM, the IU Soul Revue, directed by Dr. Tyron Cooper on Saturday, April 16th at 8PM, and the African American Choral Ensemble, directed by Dr. Raymond Wise on

Saturday, April 30th at 8PM. All events are held at the Buskirk Chumley Theater. Mark your calendars and invite your students!



- On Saturday, November 7th, the AADC performed a piece entitled: “Visions of the Past: Actual Realities” for the Potpourri at the Buskirk/Chumley Theatre. The company performed for Worlds AIDS day in Columbus, Indiana on December 1st, and held their annual studio concert at Willkie Auditorium on December 10th. On January 30, the AADC held a lecture and demonstration for the Boys and Girls Club in Bloomington, IN.





The African American Dance Company

- On February 19, the AADC collaborated with Caribbean Philosopher Mutabaruka for the performance “From the Roots.”
- Iris Rosa and the AADC presented the 18th Annual Dance Workshop on March 4 and 5, 2016, at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center at Indiana University. The mission of the workshop was to expose participants to dance from the perspectives of African American culture and the broader African Diaspora through master classes, panel discussions, and enlightening dialogue. The workshop included dance classes exploring West Indian, Afro-Cuban traditional and popular, African styles, and contemporary modern dance. A glimpse of this exciting event can be found at <https://youtu.be/EkMmLuYBfnc>
- Dr. Wise and the AACE held the annual Extensions of the Tradition concert on Sunday, March 6th. In honor of its 40th Anniversary, the company invited Dr. Michael Gordon, first director of AACE, to sing and give reflections, and the company recreated the original AACE concert from 40 years ago by performing the same music. The concert was held at the Second Baptist Church, the site of the original concert back in 1976.
- On February 17, 2016, Dr. Raymond Wise presented a master class at the MAC for the IU students’ chapters of ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) and NAME (National Association for Music Educators) on Singing in the Gospel Style and Maintaining Vocal Health. Students learned about the history of

gospel music, techniques for performing authentically, and for maintaining vocal health. In addition, students learned a song through which they could apply the various vocal techniques discussed.



- AACE performed a concert for Black History Month at the School of Education. The concert featured an African song, spirituals, patriotic, inspirational and gospel songs. The event was posted in the *Herald-Times* and online.



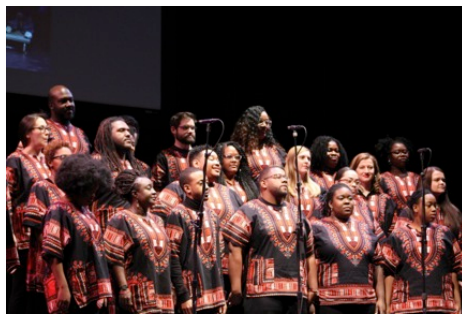
- AACE performed at Bloomington University School for its Black History Month Assembly. The presentation started with a Freedom March through the school

hallways to the auditorium where AACE and the elementary school choir performed Siya Hamba. The University School choir performed several selections and AACE performed a concert while Dr. Wise presented historical information for the entire student body and faculty.

- In February, Dr. Wise served as Guest Conductor and Lecturer for the 2016 Symposium on Worship at Calvin College. The conference gospel choir had approximately 100 participants and performed a concert for about 1400 participants from all over North America (40+ states/provinces), plus 40 other countries) who represent a wide range of ministry roles: pastor, artist, musician, teacher, youth leader, church educator, congregational elder or board member, justice advocate, missionary, professor, and many more.



- In February, Dr. Wise appeared in the Emmy Award winning PBS Documentary "The New Americans/Neighborhoods in Columbus, Ohio." He spoke about the history and influence of spirituals during the Great Migration and performed several spirituals in varied styles with his Raise Choir. The documentary aired on Monday January 18th on WOSU Television in Columbus, Ohio.
- In January, AACE performed for the Bloomington City MLK celebration at the Buskirk Chumley Theater.



- In January, Dr. Wise served as guest conductor and composer for a music workshop on gospel music with the Broad Street Presbyterian Church Choir, and was guest conductor, composer and accompanist for the Columbus School for Girls Ensemble in Columbus, Ohio.



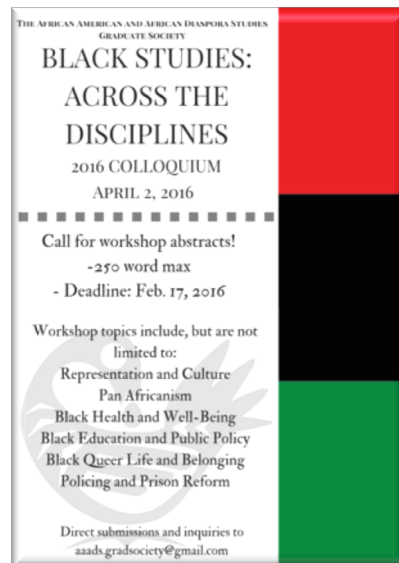
- Dr. Wise was invited to be among 15 national music industry representatives to plan a national conference on multicultural worship for January 2017. The planning meeting took place at Mt. Hermon Christian Camp Ground in Mt. Hermon, CA. While on campus, the leaders joined together to lead a worship experience for the Mt. Hermon staff retreat.



- In January, Dr. Wise served as the Guest conductor for the Unity Music Festival in Springfield, Massachusetts. The purpose of this festival is to bring together people of different cultural groups through the performance of gospel music. He led a workshop at Commerce High School with about 200 high school students from various high schools. He also served as the guest workshop clinician at Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany, NY.

Graduate Students

- The African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society will hold a 2016 Colloquium entitled “Black Studies Across the Disciplines” on Saturday, April 2nd. The colloquium will include multiple workshops and conversations related to black studies as an interdisciplinary field.



- In April, PhD student Zeba Khan-Thomas will present her paper “Connoting ‘Darkness:’ Colonialism and the Dominance of Language in Chinua Achebe’s *Man of the People*, ‘English and the African Writer,’ and Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*” at the African Literature Association’s 42nd Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.
- PhD candidate Caralee Jones received a Travel Award through the College of Arts and Sciences to present her doctoral work at a conference.
- MA student Hilda Davis began hosting the Bloomington Poetry Slam in August 2016 after AAADS alum, Ciara Miller, moved back to Chicago. Hilda hosted the BGSA, LGSA, BSU, and FNECC's Cultural Cuisine/Open Mic night on November 12, 2015. She was featured at the Writer's Guild of Bloomington's Last Sunday Poetry event on January 31, 2016, and participated in Bloomington's Fountain Square Poetry Series on February 5, 2016. The Graduate Student

Advisory Committee invited Hilda to speak about her community work at their "Digesting Discourses: Taste, Appetite, and Consumption" conference on March 4, 2016. Hilda is currently helping to plan a Sustain IU event for March 2, 2016 that is inclusive of all demographics and disciplines. She will be coaching IU's slam poetry team, and preparing them to compete at the 2016 College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI) at the University of Austin at Texas. Hilda was also invited to participate in the 2016 Callaloo Barbados Creative Writing Workshop, where she will be working with Pulitzer Prize winning poet Gregory Pardlo.

- MA student Brandon Washington received a Building Bridges Award in the "Graduate/Professional Student" category at the January 18th Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Leadership Breakfast. Building Bridges Awards "are given to students, faculty, staff, and community members who embody the spirit of Dr. King's work by promoting unity, equity, and diversity at Indiana University and in the city of Bloomington."

Undergraduate Students

- BA student and AAADS major Anneliese Toumey received a Senior Recognition Award. This award recognizes "students who have left the campus better than they found it" and was awarded to only 18 individuals this year. In November, Anneliese was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most highly regarded honor society for the liberal arts and sciences in the United States.

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.