

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

- Filmmaker Julie Dash spoke at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Oct. 29 in conjunction with a screening of her film *Daughters of the Dust*. The event was co-sponsored by the **Black Film Center/Archive**, directed by Professor **Michael Martin**, who interviewed Dash for the spring issue of *Black Camera*, the newsletter of the archive.
- The African American Arts Institute held its annual **Potpourri of Arts in the African American Tradition** on Nov. 4 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in Bloomington. In addition to the outstanding performances by each of the AAI ensembles, the three groups performed together in a finale that thrilled the audience. AAADS Professor **Iris Rosa** directs the African American Dance Company; AAADS Adjunct Professor **Nathanael Fared Mahluli** directs the IU Soul Revue; and AAADS Adjunct Professor **Keith McCutchen** directs the African American Choral Ensemble. Here are some photos of the performers, courtesy of the AAI:





To view more photos and find out about upcoming performances, visit the AAI web site at [www.indiana.edu/~aai](http://www.indiana.edu/~aai).

- On Nov. 18, the **Black MBA and Latin MBA associations** held the annual Excel Leadership and Diversity Conference on the theme "Expanding Your Potential."
- **Adrian Piper**, revolutionary conceptual artist, philosopher, and professor at Wellesley College, made two presentations at IU, for which AAADS was one co-sponsor. "The Ideal of Agent Integrity" was delivered on Nov. 20, and "The Color Wheel Series: Why Shiva Dances" on Nov. 21. The second presentation included the premiere of Piper's new video artwork.
- The annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration will be on Nov. 29 at 7-9 p.m. in the Grand Hall of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. Please bring a donation of canned food (or money, if you prefer) to the event. Proceeds go to the Bloomington Community Kitchen. Come enjoy an evening of inspiring tradition!

- The **IU Soul Revue** will perform at Bear's Ale House & Eatery on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door, and you must be 21 or older. Soul Revue delivers R&B, soul, funk, and contemporary urban black popular music with high-energy musicianship and features male and female singers, horns, and a rhythm section. For more information call (812) 855-5427.
- The annual **African American Dance Company Studio Concert** will be presented on Tuesday, Dec 5, in the Willkie Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3.
- 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. Visit the NMBCC web site at [www.nmbcc.indiana.edu](http://www.nmbcc.indiana.edu).

## Faculty

- Visiting Professor **Alvin Chambliss Jr.** has recently completed an important family task. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, 53 members of his family were evacuated and one drowned. After the family was dispersed to 10 different states, he vowed to see his family resettled in New Orleans. Despite the city's running weeks behind in its inspections, Chambliss has completed the major portion of building the duplex where his sister and three of her children will live. With so much more work to be done for the residents of New Orleans, our hearts go out with optimism and hope to Professor Chambliss and his family. While in the South, Chambliss took time to be involved with the James Meredith Memorial at Ole Miss; the situation with Frank Melton, mayor of Jackson, Miss.; and the reaffirmation of the Texas Plan for Texas Southern University and Prairie View University, two historically black institutions. In the latter case, Chambliss had filed massive litigation in 1998-99 that helped to bring about an award of \$200 million over 2000-2006 from the state of Texas to upgrade the schools' academic programs. But the entire process caused ill will among the litigants, leading to a rebuke of Chambliss over which he has since been validated and vindicated. His efforts also prevented the University of Houston from building a branch campus in close proximity to the north campus of Prairie View. The money awarded to the schools has now been used up and the administrators want Chambliss to again assist them. However, he is too busy with his duties at IU to make the commitment.

- Emeritus Professor **Winona Fletcher**, a nationally recognized theater educator, is being honored with a display of her collection of theater memorabilia at the Center of Excellence for the Study of Kentucky African Americans at Kentucky State University, where she began her teaching career before coming to IU. She lives in Frankfort, Ky.
- Professor **Valerie Grim** has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal for the Study of Sports and Athletes in Education*, a refereed journal dedicated to research related to sports and athletes within the context of K-16 education. JSSAE, published three times per year by Left Coast Press, will present its first issue in March 2007. The journal will encourage its audiences to think critically about the role that athletics plays throughout the United States and the international community. Grim also has been appointed as a contributing editor of *Black Women, Gender, and Families: A Women's Studies and Black Studies Journal* (see below for more about this new publication). In addition, Grim has completed a book manuscript concerning African American rural life and culture in the Delta and has submitted it to a press, where it is currently under review.
- Emeritus Professor **James Mumford** was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Groups Alumni Association in July at the Groups Program's reunion in Indianapolis. He is a former director of the Groups Theatre Project. The award was presented by Groups director Janice Wiggins. Also involved at the event were AAADS master's student **Ryon Cobb**, who presented one of four Sassafras Awards to an outstanding alumnus, and **Matthew Booker** and Emeritus Professor **William Wiggins**, who serve on the alumni board.
- Professor **Iris Rosa's** African American Dance Company (AAADS course-A100) performed at St. Richards School in Indianapolis on Sept. 29; for the Community and School Partnership award event on Oct 14; and at Batchelor Middle School in Bloomington on Oct 27. The company presented a lecture/demonstration illustrating the rigors of the dance discipline. Rosa conducted a dance workshop on Cuban Rumba for a World Dance Course at Butler University and performed with her ensemble Sancocho: Music and Dance Collage at the Key School, both in Indianapolis. She is currently working with IU's Contemporary Dance Program faculty on a creative project commissioned by the School of HPER's Dean David Gallahue. It will be presented at the faculty dance concert on Jan. 11-12, 2007, in the Ruth N. Halls Theatre.

## Adjunct Faculty

- Professor **Kevin Brown** (law) delivered the Constitutional Day Speech at California Polytechnical Institute in San Obispo on Nov. 2. The title of his remarks was "The Re-Examination of Brown v. Board of Education from the Perspective of the Post-Desegregation Era." He also participated on two panels at the Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposium, Part II, sponsored by the National Bar Association, in Little Rock, Ark., on Nov. 3-4. The first panel was "The Dream of Defending Brown: High Stakes Testing, Resegregation, and the Disenfranchisement of Black Students in K-12 Schools." The second was "What Are Solutions? Pipeline II: Colleges and Law Schools: The Future of Minority Admissions: Diversity, Discrimination, and the Search for a New Paradigm of Inclusion." Brown also delivered a paper, titled "Lesson Learned from the Comparison of the Constitutional Treatment of the Higher Educational Opportunities of Blacks in the United States and Dalits in India," during a panel on "Equality, Affirmative Action, and Gender Issues" at a conference on "Comparative Constitutional Traditions in South Asia," sponsored by the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (Johns Hopkins University) and held in London, England, on Nov. 19.

## Graduate Students

- **Sara Bagby** will be leading a trip to New Orleans to do relief work from Dec. 18 to 22. The trip is in conjunction with Professor Alvin Chambliss's class Black American Politics and Education and the students will be working with Habitat for Humanity. Bagby has gone to New Orleans the last two summers to help in relief efforts. Here are photos of some of the devastation where she worked last June:





< Sara Bagby, center

- **Phillip Wagner** was the featured speaker at the Indiana Partners of the Americas annual meeting in Indianapolis on Nov. 11. Partners of the Americas, begun under the Kennedy administration, partners the United States with counterparts in Latin America to build and maintain closer hemispheric ties. Indiana is paired up with Rio Grandedo Sul in Brazil. Wagner provided the gathering with a multimedia introduction to the work of Rhythm of Hope in Brazil.

- **Marshawn Wolley** successfully defended his thesis on Nov. 13. His topic was "Black Masculinity: A Theoretical and Philosophical Prospective." Congratulations!

## Alumni

- **Carol Bennett**, a member of the first cohort in the AAADS master's program, is director of the Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn., where she is responsible for programming and retention. She is concurrently working on her dissertation through the IU Department of History.

## News of Note

- The department kept a barrel on the floor for several weeks to collect food products for Backstreet Missions, a Christian-based organization that feeds and ministers to the hungry. **Many thanks to those who contributed so much for this cause.** It is greatly appreciated by those served by Backstreet, especially during the holiday season and over the cold months. The barrel was collected in time for Thanksgiving, but the organizations in Bloomington that care for those in need can use our contributions year-round. Volunteers are also welcomed at some of these places. If you want to help, contact Backstreet Missions, Shalom Community Center, Community Kitchen, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, or United Way of Bloomington. You might also contact Lucy

Schaich with the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network at 349-3433. The filled barrel:



- IU Residential Programs and Services has many **work opportunities for graduate students**. **Bergis Jules** kindly sent in this information and urges those interested in applying to visit [rps@indiana.edu](mailto:rps@indiana.edu).
- *PLUCK!, the Journal of Affrilachian Arts and Culture*, will make its appearance this spring. The new publication will feature "voices of color from the states touched by the Appalachians and will work with a strong sense of place that speaks of the poet's unique experience in this brook of the African Diaspora." Mitchell Douglas, poetry editor, can be reached at [mitchelldouglas@hotmail.com](mailto:mitchelldouglas@hotmail.com).
- The inaugural issue of *Black Women, Gender, and Families: A New Women's Studies and Black Studies Journal*, debuting this spring, is a biannual publication out of the University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign, staffed by editor Jennifer F. Hamer and assistant editors Elizabeth Cole, Rhonda Y. Williams, and Sharon Harley. BWGF emphasizes the study of black women, gender, families, and communities and welcomes research and theoretical submissions in history, sociology, anthropology, social psychology, education, economics, political science, and English that are framed by black women's studies perspectives and a policy or social analysis. Interdisciplinary, comparative, and transnational studies of the African diaspora and other women, families, and communities of color are also encouraged. Visit the journal at [www.bwgf.uiuc.edu](http://www.bwgf.uiuc.edu).
- Support the **Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library** by using the outstanding resources there and attending events held in the facility! A campuswide committee is surveying students, studying other black culture centers nationally, and identifying needs while the fate of the NMBCC library hangs in the balance. On Nov. 8-9, the committee held meetings to hear student voices on their use of the library and its needs. If you didn't make it to a meeting, let your voice be heard by contacting the Office of the

Dean of University Libraries at the Wells Library room 234, 855-3403, or  
[steele@indiana.edu](mailto:steele@indiana.edu).



*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](mailto:ccedge@indiana.edu) or to the department in care of Yunika Jackson at [ytjackso@indiana.edu](mailto:ytjackso@indiana.edu).*

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