

# Diaspora

Summer 2016

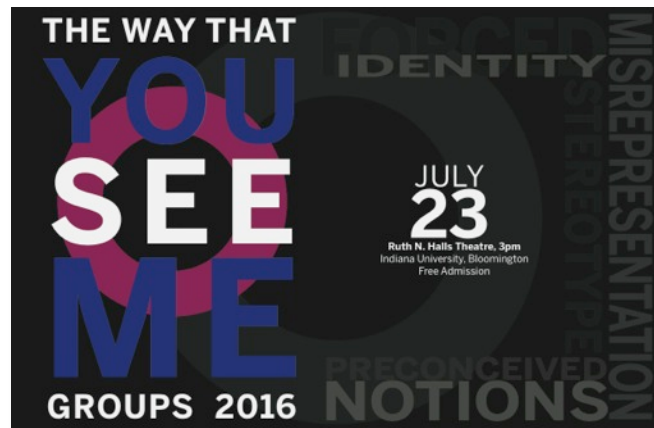
A publication of the Department of African American and African  
Diaspora Studies at Indiana University



*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 Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Groups students in A104, taught by AAADS graduate student Amelia Smith, will present their term project "The Way You See Me" at 3PM in the Ruth N. Halls theater. Please join us for this exciting event!



- Under the direction of graduate student Ignoisco Miles, Camp S.O.U.L gave a rousing concert Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> in the Grand Hall of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center.



- This summer, AAADS graduate students are teaching five separate courses for the Groups Program. To welcome these students, the department has been holding pizza lunches on Wednesdays in our new conference room, BH 505. This has been a wonderful opportunity for the students to become better acquainted with our graduate students, faculty, and staff.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Nana Amoah passed her dissertation defense with distinction. On Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Nana Amoah and Marsha Horsley participated in doctoral graduation ceremonies, while Hilda Davis and Breon Tyler received MA degrees. Congratulations graduates!



Photographs by Yukari Shinagawa

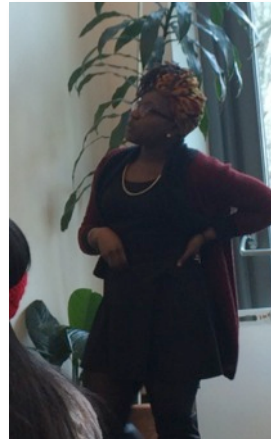
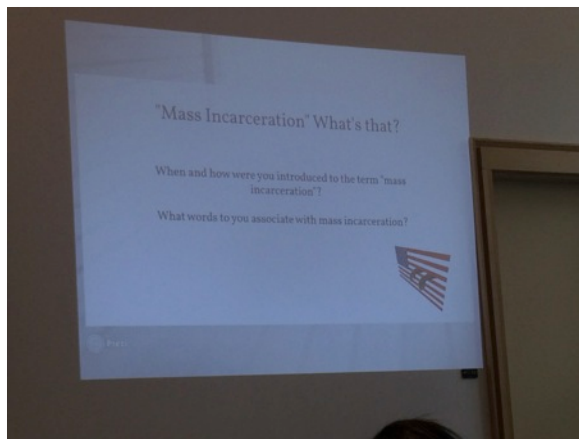


- On Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30-2:00PM, the department hosted its annual Graduation and Award Reception for finishing undergraduate and graduate AAADS students, which included faculty and staff appreciation. The reception took place in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center's Bridgewater Lounge. Professors Calloway-Thomas, Grim, McElroy, and Rosa presented the awards. Great food was served and fabulous students, faculty, and staff were honored.



Photographs by Yukari Shinagawa

- On March 28<sup>th</sup>, AAADS celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary with all-day events organized by Professor Maisha Wester, who has chaired the programming committee for AAADS for 2015/2016. The event featured Dr. Michael Tillotson from the University of Pittsburgh, who enjoyed breakfast and conversation with the AAADS graduate students, contributed to a luncheon panel with faculty and students, and provided an evening lecture. The events were well attended and included participation from students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the public. Special thanks to Jen and Michael for all of the logistical work.
- On Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, AAADS graduate students held the 2016 Colloquium on Black Studies across the Disciplines in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. Graduate students from AAADS and other disciplines facilitated the talks. This impressive program allowed graduate students, largely from AAADS, to present their work and receive feedback and conversation. These thought-provoking presentations offered new questions and insights for future research and intervention into Africana Studies. Professor Grim gave the keynote address. Congratulations to our graduate students for hosting such an engaging and informative event.



AAADS MA student Fidelia (Fi) Igwe speaks on mass incarceration, Bridgewater Lounge



AAADS PhD students Khadijah Edwards and Anne Mahady-Kneller

- Dr. Maria Abegunde organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trailblazers and Innovators program which included multiple talks by Dr. Keisha Blain at IU Bloomington and IUPUI.



- Beginning July 1, 2016, Dr. Carolyn Calloway-Thomas began her term as Chair of AAADS following Dr. Valerie Grim's twelve years of service in this role.
- AAADS has now moved from Memorial Hall East to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Ballantine Hall. Thank you Jen and Michael for your tireless efforts to get us moved!

## Faculty

- Professor Carolyn Calloway-Thomas presented 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 held in Beijing, China, June 17-19, 2016.

- Professor Valerie Grim is completing a manuscript on rural students in higher education with a group of five co-authors. In April, she participated in a writing retreat with a group of renowned scholars at the University of Nebraska.
- Professor Maisha Wester 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 Jakobi Williams will be on leave for the 2016-17 academic year as a Frederick Burkhardt Fellow through the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) of the National Humanities Center. He will use this time to further his research and write his next book.
- Professor Phoebe Wolfskill's article "Love and Theft in the Art of Emma Amos" will be published in the Smithsonian's *Archives of American Art Journal* in fall 2016, and her article "'Comedy, Pathos, Delight, and Horror:' Joyce J. Scott and the Racial Body" will be published in *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts* (November 2016). Her co-edited anthology *Beholding Christ and Christianity in African-American Art* is in press with Pennsylvania State Press, and her sole-authored book *Archibald Motley, Jr. and Racial Reinvention: The Old Negro in New Negro Art* is slated for a spring 2017 publication date with University of Illinois Press.



Artist Joyce J. Scott

- The three ensembles of the African American Arts Institute performed concerts this spring to full audiences. The African American Dance Company (AADC), directed by Professor Iris Rosa, performed on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8PM, the IU Soul Revue, directed by Dr. Tyron Cooper performed Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 8PM, and the African American Choral Ensemble, directed by Dr. Raymond Wise performed its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 8PM. All events were held at the Buskirk Chumley Theater.



African American Dance Company, directed by Iris Rosa



IU Soul Revue, directed by Tyron Cooper



African American Choral Ensemble, directed by Raymond Wise



Former AACE Alumni reunite to perform for the AACE 40th Anniversary concert.

In May, the AACE performed seven planned concerts and five impromptu performances throughout Germany at churches and halls in Hamburg, Ahrensburg, Berlin, Kempten, and Leipzig.





More photographs of the German tour can be found at <http://www.music-contact.com/2016aace/>

In April, Dr. Wise served as a guest clinician at the Worthington Christian High School in Columbus, Ohio, performed in concert with the Raise Mass Choir for the Bluffton University Concert Series in Bluffton, Ohio, and worked as guest clinician for the Fort Wayne based Voice of Unity Youth Choir weekend choir retreat.



Worthington Christian High School



Voices of Unity Youth Choir

In March, Dr. Raymond Wise served as the guest clinician for a music workshop on vocal technique and singing in the gospel style with the Denison University singing group Tehilla.



On April 9, the Purdue Black Voices of Inspiration and Lafayette Symphony Orchestra performed two of Dr. Wise's compositions for its Gospel Meets Symphony Concert series. Later that month, Dr. Wise served as the guest clinician at the Bethel AME Church in Wilmington, Delaware for their annual Gospel Music Workshop

- Dr. Abegunde was invited to join the School of Education's interim Dean Terrance Mason and faculty members Jeff Anderson, Keith Barton, Arlene Benitez, Dave Flinders, Julie Lorah, and Beth Samuelson as part of the Teaching Emergencies MA project in Juba, South Sudan. The project is a two-year collaboration between Indiana University, the University of Juba, and USAID and will develop a two-year master's program in education with a concentration on teaching in emergencies. During the five-day trip, Dr. Abegunde worked with Juba faculty to lay the foundation for courses that focused on educational psychology, the impact of trauma on children, family, communities, and educators, and strategies to address trauma during emergencies such as civil war; she also presented a workshop on mentoring. Abegunde and the other IU faculty shared a traditional South Sudanese dinner with IU alumna Dr. Julia Duany. To learn about Dr. Duany, click here:

<http://www.magbloom.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/duany.pdf>

Abegunde also had opportunity to reunite with Medakpwe Irene Alera and Rose Mabu, two of the 14 South Sudanese women who graduated from IU in 2015: <https://www.usaid.gov/news->

[information/frontlines/foreign-aid-impact/indiana-south-sudan-connection](#)



Abegunde with Medakpwe Irene Alera (left) and with Rose Mabui (right) at University of Juba

- This summer, Professor Audrey McCluskey taught a six-week summer intensive class at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor titled, "Black Lives Matter: Race, Gender & Resistance in Pan-African Cinema from Algiers to Ferguson."
- Professor John McCluskey joined friends in Cambridge, MA at the end of May to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion at Harvard College. In his senior year, he was elected as one of the four marshals to lead the procession into the commencement exercises and to represent his class. It was the first time in the school's history that the top two marshals were African American. McCluskey's short story, "A Morning Psalm from Dr. Love", will be published in the winter issue of *Brilliant Corners*, a journal of jazz and fiction. From July 21-24, he is chairing two panels ("Toni Morrison as Editor" and the concluding session) at the 7th Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society. The gathering in New York City also celebrates the 85th birthday of the Nobel laureate who will be in attendance.
- At the 2016 AAADS Graduation and Award Reception, Vincent Isom won the Janice Wiggins Staff Mentor Award, Jacinda Townsend and Claude Clegg won the William H. Wiggins Faculty Award in Support of Teaching in AAADS, and Dr. Ruth Stone won the AAADS Appreciation Award.

## Graduate Students

- Many AAADS graduate students were recognized for their diligent work at our 2016 Graduation and Congratulatory Award Ceremony. This year, PhD student Zeba Khan-Thomas won the William Wiggins Associate Instructor of Record Award and the Medal of Honor for University Outreach Award. Outstanding Associate Instructor of discussion section awards went to PhD student Anne Mahady-Kneller and MA student Andrea Sterling. Fidelia Igwe received the Outstanding Graduate Assistant/ Grader Award. Nana Amoah won the Phyllis Klotman Outstanding Dissertation Award, and Brandon Washington the Winona Fletcher Outstanding Leadership Award. A Medal of Honor for Community Outreach went to Ignoisco Miles, Yukari Shinagawa, and Amelia Smith. All of the 2016 spring colloquium organizers received a medal of honor for university outreach.
- PhD candidate Floyd Hobson received an Honorable Mention from the Ford Foundation for his pre-doctoral fellowship application. Floyd's photographic work will also be included in an upcoming Kinsey exhibition.
- In 2010, Brandon Washington became the first recipient of the Payback Foundation Scholarship, founded by former Colts quarterback Peyton Manning. Brandon's successes have been documented by multiple news sources, and Brandon has even been included in a commercial. Please see the following links:  
<http://www.wthr.com/story/31514804/first-payback-foundation-scholarship-winner-has-flourished-with-award-from-manning>  
[http://www.indiana.edu/~dema/news/items/brandon\\_washington\\_payback\\_scholarship.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~dema/news/items/brandon_washington_payback_scholarship.shtml) (WTHR news coverage on Brandon Washington)  
[https://youtu.be/UQJ\\_p8wgwHc](https://youtu.be/UQJ_p8wgwHc) (Brandon Washington content)  
<https://youtu.be/gDOP5-Lqeal> (full commercial)

## **Undergraduate Students**

- AAADS major Anneliese Toumey won an outstanding senior award through the university. Within the department, she received the AAADS recognition of consecutive Dean's list award, the GPA award for majors, and the A.B. Assensoh Undergraduate Research Award. Leah Johnson received the senior seminar final project award. Caitlin Ferguson and Chare'A Smith won Joe Russell Leadership Awards. Dominique White also won an A.B. Assensoh Undergraduate Research/Creativity Award. Congratulations AAADS students!

*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 May.*