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

- In January, the Graduate Studies Committee reviewed applications for our MA and PhD programs for enrollment in fall 2015. We received many strong applicants, and have sent letters of acceptance to our top-ranked candidates. We should know by April who will be joining us for fall 2015.
- As director of the Graduate Mentoring Center, Professor Maria Abegunde hosted a discussion “The Things We Carry With Us: How Context Shapes and Shades our Relationships” on January 20th in the HHC Great Room.
- On February 14th, the Second Baptist Church on 321 N. Rogers Street held their annual “Black History Month Concert” which featured choir performances from churches throughout the area, and included the singing talents of our own Nana Amoah and Erica Whichello!
- This semester the department welcomes two guest speaks as part of our “The Art of Activism: Black Liberation Movements and Creative Interventions in Racial Oppression” Lecture Series, which is organized by Professor Maisha Wester. On February 12, Dr. Quito Swan presented his talk “Pauulu’s Diaspora: Black Power, Decolonization and Environmental Justice in the Pacific.” On March 25th, Dr. Jacqueline Francis will visit Professor Phoebe Wolfskill’s graduate seminar and
later that afternoon present her paper “Painting Change(s): The Work of Norman Lewis (1909-1979),” on one of our great abstractionists.

- The spring 2015 AAADS brown bag lunch lecture series, organized by Professor Maisha Wester, has been enlightening and well-attended. The series began with the department’s postdoctoral fellow Professor Diana Louis presenting her paper “‘Oppression Makes a Wise Man Mad:’ Slavery, Asylums and Psychiatric Discourses in Nineteenth-Century America” on February 4th. Professor Walton Muyumba discussed “Afropolitanism, Shame, and Counter-Realism in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Americanah” on February 25th. We look forward to hearing Professor Akwasi Owusu-Bempah present “On the Policing of Black Males in Toronto, Canada” on April 1st.

- The department co-sponsored a number of events on campus, including the film series “Black Silence: Films by Zeinabu irene Davis and Charles Lane.” Screenings take place at the IU Cinema Friday, February 20th and Monday, March 9th.

Faculty

- Professor Valerie Grim has completed edits on her chapter, “The 1890 Land Grant Colleges' Work on Behalf of Black People: From the New Deal to a Class-Action.” The chapter will be published in a forthcoming volume honoring 100 years of land-grant institutions. Professor Grim continues to conduct research on
Historical Black Colleges and Universities for a book dealing with the contemporary work of 1890 land-grant institutions and their collaborations with underserved communities.

- Led by Professor Iris Rosa, the African American Dance Company (AADC) was on tour February 5th and 6th in Gary and East Chicago, Indiana. Thursday night, February 5, AADC performed at Indiana University Northwest (IUN). This event was a collaboration with the African American Arts Institute and Minority Studies Department at IUN. The AADC shared the stage with Mr. Alfred Baker and his West Indian Dance Theatre. On Friday, February 6, Professor Rosa conducted a dance workshop with AADC and dance majors at Wirt-Emerson School for Performing and Visual Arts High School in Gary, Indiana and AADC performed at East Chicago Central High School in East Chicago, Indiana. The series of collaborations was made possible by the engagement of an AADC Alumnae, Vickie Casanova-Willis, who coordinated the tour. AADC also performed at Ivy Tech on Tuesday, February 10th in Bloomington, IN. The below photographs show an interactive moving sculpture.

AAADS MA student Amelia Smith is featured in the foreground of the left photograph.

- AADC was featured in the January 11th issue of Inside IU. Professor Rosa also contributed to 2015 Winter Dance Concert “Encounters & Collisions,” which represented a collaboration with guest choreographers from IU and around the world.

- The AADC will hold their Annual Dance Workshop March 6th and 7th at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center. Attendees include professional guest artists Dr. Sheila Ward, Mr. Alfred Baker, Mr. Manuel Suarez, Ms. Evelyn Yaa Bekyore, Mr.
Rogelio Kindelan-Nordet and Percussionists Andre Rosa-Artis, Anthony Artis, Matt McGraw, Clifton Robinson. Enjoy the youtube promo video below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyB6x6hKCFO

- Mark your calendars for the AADC Spring Concert on **April 11, 2015** at the Buskirk/Chumley!

- Professor **Maisha Wester** is on leave this semester to travels to London, among other locations, to research and writes her book manuscript.

- For Black History Month, Professor **Jakobi Williams** presented “The Black Panther Party: The Myths…The Legends…The Truth” at the U.S. Courthouse in Indianapolis.
• In February 2015, Professor Phoebe Wolfskill presented her paper “Joyce Scott and the Sculptural Grotesque” on a panel organized by Dr. James Smalls titled “Solid as a Rock? African American Sculptural Traditions and Practices,” at the College Art Association (CAA) Annual Meeting in New York City. Professor Wolfskill recently conducted a phone interview with Scott to gather further research for her article on the artist.

Wolfskill’s book The Old Negro in New Negro Art: Archibald Motley, Jr. and the American Myth of Reinvention is out for review, as is her co-edited anthology with Dr. James Romaine, Beholding Christ and Christianity in African-American Art. She will also teach a course for Fall 2015’s Themester "@Work: The Nature of Labor in a Changing World” entitled "Labor, Race, and Ethnicity in Early Twentieth-century American Art and Photography” with Nan Brewer at the IU Art Museum.

• Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Diana Louis gave an invited talk at the University of New Hampshire on Friday, February 6th titled “The Colored Insane”: Slavery, Asylums and African American Anti-Psychiatry Literature in the Nineteenth-century.” She will present “The Politics of Anti-Slavery Psychiatry” at the University of Delaware on March 20th.

• As director of the African American Choral Ensemble (AACE), Professor Raymond Wise is constantly on the move. In February, AACE made history and presented the first ever Black History Month Assembly at the Bloomington University School. AACE joined the University school choirs to perform a concert for Black History Month. The presentation started with a Freedom March
through the school hallways to the auditorium where AACE and the elementary school choirs performed for the entire school body. After the formal presentation, AACE spent time with small student groups performing and answering questions regarding Black music and performance.

Also in February, AACE performed a concert at the School of Education for Black History Month. The choir performed music spanning from African to contemporary gospel. They were joined by AACE Alum Alexis Joii who performed "Amazing Grace."

Recently Dr. Raymond Wise was inducted into the Denver Gospel Music Academy Hall of Fame. In February, he was asked to served as a guest conductor and prepared a Gospel Music Academy's Children's Choir to perform at the Gospel Academy and Hall of Fame 44th Awards Ceremony.
From February 19-21, Dr. Wise served as the Guest Clinician and Conductor at the Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church Music Conference in Harlem. He lectured on African American Sacred Music History and conducted the community workshop choir as they performed a worship service and full concert.

Also in February, Dr. Wise served as a guest clinician for the Denver Colorado Spirituals Project. This group – which focuses on the performance of African American Spirituals – worked with him to serve as the demonstration choir for the upcoming REAP conference, at which he will present a session on spirituals.

Dr. Wise served as the guest clinician for the Fort Worth, Texas Independent School District 2015 Gospel Festival in February. He visited five High Schools and a Middle School where he worked with choirs and soloists to help them prepare for both the Gospel festival and their upcoming statewide choir and solo competitions. He lectured on gospel music history, vocal technique and prepared and conducted the 300 plus voice festival mass choir.

In January 2015, AACE performed for the Bloomington City MLK celebration at the Buskirk Chumley Theater. Also in January, AACE members gathered for an
All Day Music Retreat. During the retreat, AACE participants learned about the history of the African American Arts Institute, developed their musical skills, learned repertoire for the upcoming semester and grew as a musical family. Also in January, Dr. Wise served as a guest clinician at the Columbus School for Girls in Columbus, Ohio. He prepared and directed the High School Ensemble for the annual Martin Luther King Celebration.

- **Professor Carolyn Calloway-Thomas** was recently elected to serve on the Educational Policies Board (EPB) of the National Communication Association (NCA) for a 3-year term. EPB’s goal is to provide leadership in educational policy, advocacy, and resources for members of the association. She was also appointed co-chair of the NCA Task Force on International Solidarities in the Age of Globalization. The purpose of the Task Force is to advance the NCA “toward a series of actionable efforts meant to empower members to become more cognizant of, embedded in, and conversant with the dilemmas and opportunities of globalization.” Professor Calloway-Thomas has been nominated to run for chair of the Intercultural Communication Division of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA). The election will be held in April 2015. She will also serve as a review panelist for the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Irvine, California, March 4-6, 2015.

- **Professor John Stanfield** continues his work publishing “Faith and Justice Sunday Conversations,” a global Internet-based multiethnic spiritual direction ministry headquartered in Botswana.
Graduate Students

- In February, Marsha Horsley defended her dissertation proposal and is now ABD. Congratulations Marsha! On February 20th, Marsha introduced the film Compensation (1999), directed by Zeinabu Irene Davis at the IU Cinema. Compensation is a beautiful silent film that is heard and seen through the experiences of a hearing impaired Black woman.

- MA/MFA student Ciara Miller has already hosted two poetry slams this semester! Both events were held at the Bishop on Walnut Street.

- MA student Hilda Davis read her poetry at the Fountain Square Poetry Series Friday, February 6th between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The Fountain Square Poetry Series seeks to bridge the gap between Indiana University students and the larger Bloomington community.

- PhD candidate Yukari Shinagawa will present her talk “Transcultural Popularity of Black Gospel Music Among Japanese People” at the Asian Culture Center on Monday, March 2nd. The event is sponsored by the Graduate Mentoring Center and the Asian Culture Center.

Undergraduate Students

- Undergraduate major Vardia Duterville made the Fall 2014 Executive Dean’s List. Congratulations Vardia!
The department had two majors graduate in December, and we tentatively have six majors planning to graduate in May 2015, and three students in August 2015.

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.