

Diaspora

March 2021

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

Announcing the Blackness and Jewish Project: A New Initiative

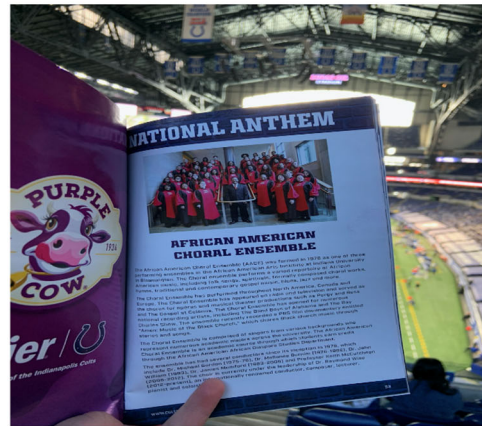
The Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the Borns Jewish Studies Program are thrilled to announce the creation of the Blackness and Jewish Project, a partnership that will explore the rich intersection of Blackness and Jewishness in history, culture, politics, and social life. Initially funded for four years through a \$100,000 donation by Indianapolis real estate developers and long-term Indiana University supporters Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns, and supplemented with an additional donation by Chicago real estate developer Judd Malkin, the project brings together two of Indiana University's premiere institutions.

As partners, we will coordinate a wide-ranging series of discussions and initiatives, award undergraduate scholarships, develop new curricular activities, and plan a series of joint programs in Bloomington and beyond.

We are excited to move forward together, and see beautiful things precipitating in the coming months. The conversation has just begun: please look out for our forthcoming inaugural events!

**Enthusiastically,
Carolyn Calloway-Thomas and Judah Cohen**

- The African American Choral Ensemble (AACE) performed the National Anthem virtually at the Colts game on Sunday, December 20th, 2020. The video performance of the Star-Spangled Banner aired locally and played over the large projectors in the Lucas stadium. AACE was also featured in the Colts' souvenir program book.



- The PBS documentary, *Amen! Music of the Black Church*, featuring the **African American Choral Ensemble**, under the direction of **Dr. Raymond Wise**, along with **Drs. Charles Sykes, Nana Amoah-Ramey, Stephanie Power-Carter, Marcus Simmons, Professor James Strong** and others, was accepted for national distribution to public television stations for broadcast via *American Public Television*. The program will serve as a companion program around the new Henry Louis Gates, Jr. national PBS two-part series, *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*, which aired in February.



- During the Fall 2020 semester, **IU Soul Revue** recorded at Primary Sound owned by chief engineer Jake Belsor, who is a Professor of Audio Engineering in the Jacobs School of Music, and recorded a piece by John Legend and the Roots called "Shine". The song was a part of a collection of songs written by Legend and the Roots in 2008, and was geared toward social themes of awareness, engagement, and consciousness. Director of IU Soul Revue, Professor James Strong, said, " I felt this couldn't be a more appropriate song for us under the circumstances of the current social

environment.” The piece premiered on Feb 28th at IU Soul Revue’s Black History event, “Reimagining Potpourri”.

- **IU Soul Revue** gained international recognition by the *Berlin Spectator* for their rendition of “Faces” by Earth Wind and Fire. “Faces” was recognized as one of the top-most inspiring songs of 2020 at #5 on *Spectator’s* chart. <https://berlinspectator.com/2020/11/05/sounds-of-2020-a-terrible-year-and-its-stunning-music-1/>
- **IU Soul Revue** will release their 2nd virtual video project, a rendition of Stevie Wonder’s “As”. This song is appropriate for the time because it not only expresses the importance of love as the key, but it also speaks of social consciousness and healing. <https://youtu.be/J61DNRhygNw>. It was also featured in *The College of Arts and Sciences College Connection*.
- A new, limited-run documentary series from Indiana University, “AAAMC Speaks,” highlights the unique holdings of IU’s Archives of African American Music and Culture through interviews with influential Black music industry leaders and seminal scholars in Black music research. The series is hosted by **Tyron Cooper**, director of AAAMC, who conceptualized the series with directors Ethan Gill and Haley Semian from IU Bloomington’s Office of the Provost.

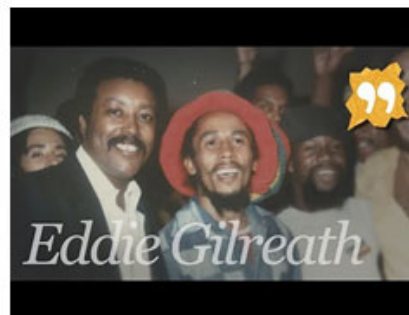


Cooper said “AAAMC Speaks” helps bring alive the archives’ rich collections, which contain extensive, often rare materials covering a range of African American musical idioms and cultural expressions from the post-World War II era.”

In the premiere episode of "AAAMC Speaks", **Dr. Tyron Cooper** interviews Eddie Gilreath, an industry veteran and executive whose 50+-year career has included working with such record labels as Motown, Warner Bros, Geffen, and Island Records. When he started out in the field, Gilreath was one of very few Black executives in the music industry. He went on to work with top musicians from multiple genres including The Jackson Five, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, U2, Aerosmith, George Benson, and Tracy Chapman, to name a few. The "AAAMC Speaks" documentary

series centers the legacy of the Black music community and highlights a wealth of materials available within Indiana University's Archives of African American Music & Culture (AAAMC). "AAAMC Speaks" was produced in partnership with the Office of the Provost of Indiana University Bloomington. Watch the premiere here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brdJWPiztQg>

Future episodes feature composer and musician **Evelyn Simpson-Curenton**, whose work has been commissioned by Carnegie Hall and performed all over the world, including by notable legend Duke Ellington; alto saxophonist **Michael Burton**, who has worked with Jill Scott, Patti LaBelle, Mary J. Blige, New Edition, and Anita Baker, and performed on the "Tonight Show," "Good Morning America," "The Steve Harvey Show," "Ellen," and "Jimmy Kimmel Live;" IU's own **Portia Maultsby**, the Laura Boulton Professor Emerita of Ethnomusicology in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology and founding director of both the AAAMC and the IU Soul Revue; and avant-garde jazz and hard bop double bassist **Reggie Workman**, who was a member of the John Coltrane Quartet in the early 1960s.



Faculty

Maria Hamilton Abegunde

- During Fall 2020, **Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde** co-facilitated, with Dr. Solimar Otero, the 2020 Branigin Lecture, [Memorias Afro-Atlanticas \(Afro-Atlantic Legacies\)](#), a special virtual event sponsored by IU Cinema and the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). The event featured a discussion with the director and scholars of a new documentary and book about [Lorenzo Dow Turner's](#) research on ancestors and orisas in Brazil. In her ongoing work with the Black Joy Collective, Dr. Abegunde also sat down with Quinton Stroud in October to discuss [the role of joy during the pandemic](#). In November she was the keynote speaker for the Art Writing Symposium at Tennessee State University and spoke about creating healing through community art in her collaborative exhibition *Keeper of My Mothers' Dreams*. And, in November Dr. Abegunde completed her

series *The Academy as Contemplative Practice: A Whole/Holistic Approach to Research, Teaching, and Service*, a three-month series funded by an IAS Provocations grant and included as one of IU's Bicentennial Signature Projects. At the beginning of the winter 2021 semester, Dr. Abegunde's essay "[Memory: Juba Four Years After Leaving](#)" was published in the first special issue of *North Meridian Review* (pgs 147-164), and her essay "The Memory Keeper Speaks", an excerpt from her memory work *The Ariran's Last Life*, was published in *The Eternal Year of African People* (Frontline Books Publishing).

Nana Amoah-Ramey

- On October 2, 2020, the IU College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) approved **Dr. Nana Amoah-Ramey's** maiden course proposal to teach experimental topics during the Spring 2021 week Intensive Session on "Study Abroad in Africa, Ghana." The course was successfully taught from January 19 to February 7, and it had 23 students from across the IU Campus.
- Under the IU Hutton Honors College and School of Public Health grant, received from the U.S. Department of State's 2019 Capacity Building program for U.S. Study Abroad, **Dr. Amoah-Ramey** was among the eight IU faculty members selected to be trained for Faculty-led study abroad programs.
- **Dr. Amoah-Ramey** is the Faculty advisor for the "Forum for International Graduate Students" (FIGS). As a result, in June of 2020, she gave a virtual talk to this group titled "Black Lives Matter, Allyship, and Solidarity"; she gave another virtual talk on July 10, 2020, which was titled "Academic Job Search for International Graduate Students" on IU Bloomington campus.
- Serving as a Guest Lecturer at Ithaca College, New York, **Dr. Amoah-Ramey** gave students a virtual lecture in Dr. Marsha Horsley's Introduction to African Diaspora class. The topic was "Ghana and Highlife Music."
- As the co-chair of the Black History Month Committee of Second Baptist Church in Bloomington, **Dr. Amoah-Ramey** brought IU's Dr. Charlie Nelms as the Guest Speaker for the month's program to speak on the "The

Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity" on February 28, 2021.

- As a commissioner for the Bloomington Commission for the Status of Women (BCSW), **Dr. Amoah-Ramey's** proposal was approved to hold listening sessions (dubbed "Power-up listening sessions"). The sessions aim to build bridges with minority women, consisting of people of color, religious and sexual minorities (LGBTQ+), and the disabled in Bloomington. Also, responses from the "Power-Up Listening sessions" will inform the BCSW's Legislative committee's statement supporting the *Black Lives Matter* protest.
- **Dr. Nana Amoah-Ramey** has been offered a summer teaching position in the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies' 2021 Summer Language Workshop to teach the Akan/Twi language of Ghana.

Stafford Berry Jr.

- On Feb 20th, 2021, **Professor Stafford Berry** served on a national panel of dancing black men entitled "Black Boys Dance Too". This event was the final conversation in a series for Black History Month" called Passport to Our Community: Revolutions in Rhythms and Movement, and sponsored by the Atlanta, GA-based African dance and drum ensemble, Djoli Kelen, Inc. Event Info: <https://www.facebook.com/djolikelen>
- On Feb. 24th, 2021, **Professor Berry** moderated "A Conversation with the Dance Theatre of Harlem." This event, about the (current) work of the iconic black ballet company and sponsored by the IU Auditorium, featured a few of the dancers and one of the choreographers.
- In Spring 2021, **Professor Berry** accepted a faculty appointment for the 2021 Intensive Freshman Seminar Program (IFS). He was selected to teach a course he proposed called, Black Dance Is/Black Dance Ain't: Intro to African/African American Aesthetics, which combines black aesthetics and black dance history. The course will be taught August 1, 2021 – August 18, 2021.
- This semester **Professor Berry** received a research grant of up to \$25,000 from the Global Popular Music team, part of the Platform Laboratory led by the Arts & Humanities Council and the College Arts and Humanities

Institute, and funded by the Mellon Foundation and the Office of the Provost. His proposal and event, *Shosholozza Train*, looks at the movement traditions of the Karenga ethnic group in Zimbabwe and the Zulus of South Africa in order to extend the traditions (embodied cultural dialogue), across time and space, to our current African American discourse. Findings will be delivered at the Global Popular Music Symposium and a special performance in Fall 2021.

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas

- In 2020, **Professor Calloway-Thomas** received two of the most prestigious awards that can be bestowed upon a member of the National Communication Association and Indiana University. On November 21, 2020, she received the Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award from the National Communication Association. “The Award is presented to the person judged to have made the greatest contribution to the Association and to the profession during her or his career. The contributions may be in research, teaching, or service. In most cases the individual will have made outstanding contributions in all three areas.”
- In December 2020, IU awarded **Dr. Calloway-Thomas** the Bicentennial Medal “In recognition of distinguished and distinctive service in support of the mission of Indiana University.” As well, at the National Communication Association conference in November 2020, the Central States Communication Association recognized Carolyn with a special panel on “Black Women in the Academy and Beyond” in connection with the “Calloway-Thomas Inclusivity Speaker Series,” which is named in her honor. Carolyn also presented several papers and chaired panels at the National Communication Association’s convention in November.
- Her article titled “The Otherness of the Other” will be published in Spring 2021 in Routledge’s new volume on Business and Peace. She delivered a keynote speech at the “Women 4 Change” Indiana state conference in Indianapolis. And in January 2021, Professor Calloway-Thomas appeared on *The Lisa Show*, a production of BYU Radio in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she discussed some of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s lesser known speeches. Moreover, as a guest on WTTV CBS4Indy on February 4, she addressed the topic, “Distrust and the Historic Mistreatment of Black People by the Medical Community,” with an emphasis on the COVID-19 vaccine.



- On December 4, 2020, **Dr. Calloway-Thomas** presented a paper at an international conference on Russia titled “Understanding Relations between Russia and the United States through a Metaphoric Cluster Analysis” and a paper on “Afrocentricity and the Repetitive Master Trope, Racism” at Afrocentricity: An Epistemic Revolution in African Studies virtual one-day conference at Temple University (November 2). On the home front, as a guest lecturer, she presented talks on “Empathy in the Global World” in classes at IU, gave a speech on the “Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr” to the Indiana University Black Law Graduate Students Association, and moderated a panel on a film dedicated to the life of Shirley Chisholm aptly named “Shirley Chisholm ’72: Unbought and Unbossed.”
- Dr. Calloway-Thomas gave a presentation in December on empathy and social justice at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and a talk on the same topic at the Virtual Racial Justice Business Partner Summit, which was held on October 21, 2020, with Eli Lilly, Comcast, CHASE, and Duke Energy. Such sessions are designed to encourage Indiana corporations to support scholarly and community work on racial and social justice.

- Professor Calloway-Thomas 's activities also center on the department's ongoing "Globalizing Black Studies" project in conjunction with the School of Law and Humanities at China Mining and Technology University (Beijing), where a Center for the Study of African American Literature and Culture is housed. Professors Valerie Grim, Jakobi Williams , and Calloway-Thomas attended the inaugural ceremony in July 2019, where they also gave a series of invited lectures and seminars.

Valerie Grim

- During the 2020 and early 2021 years, **Dr. Valerie Grim** has been involved with many pedagogical, research, practical, and engagement activities. In spring of 2021, her co-edited volume, *Unleashing Suppressed Voices on College Campuses: Diversity Issues in Higher Education*, will be published. During the early months of the new year, she provided a review of *Civil Wars, Civil Beings, and Civil Rights in Alabama's Black Belt*, written by Bertis English and forthcoming in the *Journal of Southern History*.
- In 2020, **Dr. Grim** was honored with several awards, including the National Council of Black Studies Sankofa Award for Institutional Leadership, IU's Board of Trustees Teaching Award, and the Black Graduate Student Association 's Faculty of the Year Award. Her invited talks included presentations such as: "The Color Purple Film: The Intersections of Art and Reality in the Presentation of Rural African American Life Prior to the Civil Rights Movement" and The Intersection of Land, Public Policy, and Social Justice Struggles in African Americans' Fight for Just Heir Property Rights, a program of the Environmental Justice Speaker Series, a collaboration between The Integrated Program in the Environment and the Neal Marshal Black Culture Center, Indiana University.
- **Dr. Grim's** national conference participation included "African American Tactics for Rural Survival," Agricultural History Conference and Meeting, Knoxville and participation in "Fields and Functions of Africana Studies: Mapping Terrains of Research, Teaching, and Resistance," a National Board Plenary, at the National Council of Black Studies Meeting, Atlanta, GA. She also presented "Colorism and Trauma: Preparing Students of Color for Academic Excellence and Achievement at Predominantly White Institutions", Atkins Living Learning Center.

- **Regarding her** public and intellectual engagement and research on Black farmers and rural Africa Americans, Dr. Grim provided the following interviews with journalists and reporters at such entities as:

--*Harvest Public Media Interview, "Justice for Black Farmers,"* with Seth Bodine, reporter for *KOSU Agriculture and Rural Issues*, February 1;
--<https://science/line.org/2021/01for-black-farmers-climate-change-magnifies-existing-inequality> (with Huanjia Zhang), "For Black Farmers, Climate Change Magnifies Existing Inequality, " January 2021;
--*Iowa State University Department of History's Facebook*, featuring a discussion by Valerie Grim regarding the difficulties Iowa's African American Farmers and Black Farmers in the United States face due to systemic racism, in "Always A small Group, Black Farmers in Iowa Have Dwindled to Very Few, " *IowaPublicRadio.ORG*, December 21; <https://crres.indiana.edu/news/2020-12-valerie-grim-NPR.html>.
--Dr. Valerie Grim was quoted in NPR's "Segment on Black-Owned Farms." Read or listen to the full segment on [Harvest Public Media@ https://www.kcur.org/20212-07/our-heart-is-in-it-black](https://www.kcur.org/20212-07/our-heart-is-in-it-black) farmers-work-to-keep-ancestral-legacy-alive;
--<https://www.iowapublicradio.org/agriculture/2020-12-15/always-a-small-group-black> farmers-in Iowa-have dwindled-to-very-few, with Amy Mayer, December 15, *Indiana Public Media*;
--<https://indianapublicmedia.org/earthheats/why-are-there-so-few-black-farmers-in-the-midwest.php>. *Earth Eats: Real Food Green Living*, November 6, with Kate Young, producer of Earth Eats ;
--WFIU Public Radio; <https://www.harvestpublicmedia.org/post/why-are-there-so-few-back-farmers-Midwest> (with Amy Mayer), October 6;
--*Indiana Public Media*. <https://indiana.publicmedia.org/earthheats/our-heart-is-in-it-black-farmers-work-to-keep-ancestral-legacy-alive.php>. November 6 (in concert with Seth Bodie @[Harvest Public Radio Media](https://www.harvestpublicradio.org) and [WFIU Public Radio](https://www.wfiu.org), *KOSU and Harvest Public Media*.
--With Seth Bodine, "Legacy of Black Farmers in Oklahoma and the Pigford v. Glickman Case," October 6; *Bloomberg Newsroom Podcast* series on Racial Wealth Gap and Reparations;
-- The Pay Check Pod Series, "Landownership Gap Between Black and White Americans: Historical Examination of the Pigford v. Glickman Suit and Repairing Racism," with Eliza Rembert, October 6, *Iowa Public Radio*;
-- "Black Farmers in Iowa and Systemic Racism and Lack of Opportunity for Black Farmers," with Amy Mayer, "How Advances in Agriculture Left Blacks Behind after World War II", and "How Racist Policies and Implementation Contributed to how Iowans Participated in Decades to

Get the USDA to Acknowledge That Discrimination,” September 16; --*Al Jazeera T.V.* (with Sonia Bhagat), “Discrimination Against Black Farmers and the Future of farming Among Black Farmers and with Black Communities,” February 6.

She continues to work on a manuscript concerning Black farmers, African American Rural Life, and The Role of Black Land Grant Universities.

John McCluskey

- **Emeritus Professor John McCluskey** serves on the Board of Directors for the Toni Morrison Society. “Trying to Discover: An Interview with Ahmad Jamal” is scheduled to be published in an upcoming issue of *Chicago Quarterly Review* dedicated to Black American writers, due out in early summer, 2021. That same issue will include the short story, “A Fishing Story”, which portrays a mostly fictionalized conversation between WEB DuBois and Booker T. Washington.

Judith Rodriguez

- **Dr. Judith Rodriguez** published an article in August titled “Funking the jíbaro” in *Hispanófila: Essays on Literature*. The article introduces a novel reading of the existential conundrum that is Puerto Ricanness through the antagonisms, contradictions, and possibilities that emerge when centering an interrogation of antiblackness and white positionality as forms of ontologizing within literary analysis and critique. It does so by putting into conversation two distinct literary figurations, the Black Puerto Rican sex worker from the Puerto Rican feminist text “When Women Love Men” (1991) by Rosario Ferré (1938–2016) and the whitened jíbaro from the immanent nationalist text *Insularismo* (1934) by Antonio Pedreira (1899–1939). Both texts emerge from the gendered embodiment of Ferré’s and Pedreira’s Puerto Rican creole subjectivity, a white(ned) formation of ethnonational consciousness. In doing so, this essay works toward reconfiguring the Puerto Rican narrative tropes of the “docile, humble peasant” and the “always available Black(ened) femme” which galvanize historical as well as contemporary representations of Puerto Ricans in the diaspora.

Iris Rosa

- **Emerita Professor Iris Rosa** was awarded the Indiana University Bicentennial Medal. In her own words: “I want to thank Indiana

University President Michael McRobbie for bestowing on me the medal and certificate. It was quite exciting to have Indiana University's Trustee, Donna Berry Spears, call and present this prestigious award to me. Trustee Spears and I go back a long way. We hail from the same city in Lake County, East Chicago, commonly known as the Harbor, attended



the same high school and were mentored by Mrs. Mildred Morgan Ball, a graduate of Indiana University and awardee of various IU awards. Trustee Spears was also an Associate Instructor for my courses that I taught in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies formally Afro-American Studies. What was very special was that my husband, Tony; son, Andre; and daughter, Claudia who were also on the Zoom call to enjoy the great moment. Thank you and I will always cherish it.”

Candis Smith

- During Fall 2020, AAAD-A210 Black Women of the Diaspora, taught by **Dr. Candis Smith**, was chosen to participate in IU’s Diplomacy Lab. The Diplomacy Lab is a public-private partnership that enables the State Department to "course-source" research and innovation related to global policy challenges by harnessing the efforts of students and faculty experts at colleges and universities across the United States. Projects originate in offices across the State Department and include diverse topics on which faculty bid. Through engagement and education, students and faculty actively contribute to public diplomacy goals. Dr. Smith’s class worked closely with the Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy of Botswana. Her students investigated the cross-cultural influences and linkages between contemporary African American and African pop culture with respect to hairstyles, head coverings, and beauty, and how they demonstrate being

“woke” in the Botswanan context, giving special attention to hair as a tool for women’s empowerment. The students’ research and presentations were well-received by Embassy officials and will be used to strengthen cultural understanding between the U.S. and Botswana.

<https://diplomacylab.indiana.edu/atIU/index.html>.

- On October 23rd, **Dr. Smith** presented a SoTL Brown Bag Lecture for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at IUB entitled, “Inclusion Where It Counts—The Student Perspective.” Results from her preliminary study on perceptions of “diversity” and “inclusion” among undergraduates taking AAADS courses were discussed.
<https://citl.indiana.edu/events/event-registration.html?scheduleid=74fde307-5f1b-6b37-f736-f70e32c37c3d>.

Jakobi Williams

- **Dr. Jakobi Williams was awarded three fellowships;** the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Fellowship to complete research for his book project; and both the Office of Vice President for International Affairs, Faculty Exchange Program, Indiana University and the Course Development Grant, Russian and East European Institute (REEI), the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center (IAUNRC), and the Center for the Study of Global Change (CGC), Indiana University to complete work for a joint listed course with AAADS and the Global School focused on African American experiences and connections in Russia.
- **Professor Williams** published two book reviews for the *American Historical Review* and the *Journal of American History*. An article published in *Jacobin* in 2017 was translated and published in the French magazine *Revue* an experience for communities such as Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Duke Law School *Ballast*.
- He also gave over 20 invited lectures on a wide range of subjects related to the Africa American IU Maurer School of Law, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago Film Archive, the UCLA Film and Television Archive, the Minority Health Film Festival in Milwaukee, and the Second Baptist Church in Bloomington to list a few. He gave a keynote address at the National Council on Public History Annual Meeting. He has also served as a paid consultant for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Andrew W. Mellon

Foundation, the New York Historical Society, the National Humanities Center, the HistoryMakers Digital Archive, and Duke University's Council on Race & Ethnicity (DCORE).

- **Dr. Williams** has appeared in over two dozen media programs in radio, television, newspaper, and podcast formats. A brief list includes, *Time*, *Vox*, *WXIN Fox59 Morning News Show*, *WISH-TV* (Channel 8 Indianapolis), *WAVE 3* (Louisville), *WPTA-TV* (Ft Wayne), *89.1FM NPR Fort Wayne-Lake Shore Public Radio*, *Indianapolis Star*, *Indianapolis Recorder*, the National Humanities Center's *Nerds in the Woods Podcast*, and the Southern Poverty Law Center's *Teaching Hard History Podcast*. He also served as Chair of the Liberty Legacy Foundation Book Award Committee for the Organization of American Historians, and peer reviewed several published books for two top tier academic publishers; the University of Chicago Press, and the University of North Carolina Press.

Raymond Wise

- **Dr. Wise** was awarded the IU Bicentennial Medal. This award was given in recognition of his contribution to the arts, music, and live performance, his work on the WTIU documentary, *Amen: Music of the Black Church* and especially for the memorable AACE performance on January 20th with Viola Davis.

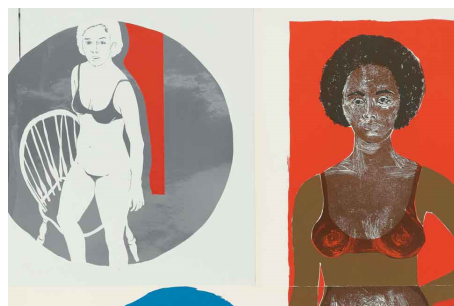


- He also served as guest lecturer or clinician and conducted a series of interactive lectures and workshops throughout the fall via zoom for the following universities and organizations in response to COVID-19 and social justice and racial equity. Organizations include the Jacobs School of Music Vocal Performance and Conducting Majors, the Singing Hoosiers, the Bloomington Chamber Singers, Lincoln University Concert Choir (Lincoln, PA), the IU Student Chapter of the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA), Luther College Music Department (Decorah, Iowa), the Aaron Copland School of the Arts, Queens College, CUNY, University of Michigan Student Chapter of the American Choral Director's

Association (ACDA), The AME Church Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM), Trevecca University, African American Worship Studies Department (Nashville, TN), the Hockaday School (Dallas, Texas), and the Ohio Music Teachers Association (OMTA).

Phoebe Wolfskill

- With Drs. Alex Lichtenstein and Rasul Mowatt, **Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill** received an IU Bloomington Public Humanities Project Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for “Art, Commemoration, and Resistance to Racial Violence,” a workshop that will be held in Marion, Indiana in September 2021. This project brings together educators, curators, and community organizers to discuss the programming and details of our anti-lynching art exhibition. Dr. Wolfskill’s essay “Photographic Disruption in the Art of Emma Amos” was published in Shawnya L. Harris, ed., *Emma Amos: Color Odyssey* (Athens, GA: Georgia Museum of Art, 2021) to accompany the museum’s 2021 retrospective exhibition on Amos. A discussion of the exhibition with curator Dr. Shawnya L. Harris, Larry D. and Brenda A. Thompson Curator of African American and African Diasporic Art, Dr. Laurel Garber, Park Family Assistant Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Diane Edison, Professor of drawing and painting at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, UGA, and Dr. Wolfskill was held via Zoom on Thursday, February 4th from 4-6PM.
- **Dr. Wolfskill** will present “Photographic Disruption in the Art of Emma Amos,” on the panel, “Photography, Activism, and African American Self-Representation,” at the College Art Association (CAA) annual meeting online in February 2021. Dr. Wolfskill was awarded a Paul Mellon Visiting Senior residential fellowship in Washington DC through the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) through the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art. For this fellowship, she will spend the summer of 2021 researching her next book project entitled *Photography, Painting, and the Early Twentieth-Century Black Subject*.



Print by Emma Amos

Graduate Students

- **AJ Boyd** was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious academic honor society in the country and only a very select number of students at member institutions are elected annually.
- **Madison Clark's** proposal, "Why Not Both? Exploring Consensual Non-Monogamy for African American Women," has been accepted for Southern Connecticut State University's Women and Gender Studies Department's upcoming spring conference titled "Gender, Race, Community, and Conflict: Pursuing Peace and Justice." It will be a virtual conference held 23-24 April 2021.
- **Madison Clark** received a Rose Library Short-Term Award Fellowship from Emory University in Atlanta to undertake research on "Exploring the Effects of the Confederados," her dissertation project. The Confederados were Confederates who, after the Civil War, fled to Brazil where slavery was still being practiced. Such fellowships are designed to raise the profile of the Rose Library's African American Collections.
- **Taylor Duckett** had a book review of the book, *Afrofuturism Rising: A Literary Pre-history of the Movement*, published by the *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, housed at the University of Georgia. The article that was accepted for publication during Fall 2019, is now published and available in *Alternation Journal: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of the Arts and Humanities* in Southern Africa.
- **Dr. Khadijah Edwards**, a 2019 graduate, has landed a job as a Research Associate at the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. The Pew position "will be hosted in their newly created 'Race and Ethnicity' department." Khadijah will be the first person to join as their expert on Black Americans. What a testament to our department and IU! Knowledge is made visible. In her statement describing her striking portfolio, Khadijah notes, "I'll have the opportunity to create original surveys that further our understanding of Black Public opinion on a variety of topics. And I'll be able to utilize both my qualitative and quantitative skill sets to analyze the data." This announcement comes at a precious moment when the department looks forward to hiring a senior faculty in public policy this year

- **Oluwanifemi Ologunorisa's** proposal titled "Can We Think of Black Feminist Ontology in Future Tenses?" has just been accepted for inclusion in the 2021 Southern Connecticut State University's Women's & Gender Studies conference program. The virtual conference, titled "Gender, Race, Community, & Conflict: Pursuing Peace and Justice," will take place on April 23-24, 2021.
- **Brandon Stokes** was awarded a \$17,000 grant titled "Let's Link Chicago through the Chicago Community Trust for 360 Nation," an organization in Chicago that he volunteers with "to provide programming for youth to engage in archiving the history of their community and building cohesion with other youth across the city."

Diaspora is edited by Michael Brooks and is published bimonthly through the fall and spring semesters.