

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

- The AAADS Graduate Society will host the Herman C. Hudson Symposium on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. This year's theme is "Resistance: Theory and Practice in the African Diaspora."
- The department hosted a "Meet, Eat, and Greet" for undergraduate majors, minors, and interested students February 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30PM in 505 Ballantine Hall. The event provided an excellent opportunity for faculty and graduate students to converse with dedicated and potential majors and minors.
- Directed by Professor Iris Rosa, the African American Dance Company narrated and performed based on their work in Beijing for the February 2017 brown bag.



AADC brown bag performance, February 2017

- On February 10<sup>th</sup>, AAADS graduate students and faculty participated in #BlackLit, a commemoration of black literature at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Library. Zeba Khan-Thomas helped to plan and recruit for this event. Zeba, Marlisha Marcellin, and Breon Tyler read excerpts from favorite pieces of literature and Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde read her own work.
- Professor Alisha Jones presented her talk “I am Delivert!: Black Male Gospel Music Vocalists’ Self-Disclosure of Deliverance from Homosexuality” at the January AAADS brown bag meeting. Stay tuned for upcoming talks organized by Professor Candis Smith.



*African American and African Diaspora Brown Bag Series*  
**"I am Delivert!: Black Male Gospel Music Vocalists' Self-Disclosure of Deliverance from Homosexuality"**

**Ballantine Hall 004  
 Wednesday, January 25th  
 12 noon – 1pm**



**Prof. Alisha Jones, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology**

Within historically Pentecostal churches that showcase gospel music, “deliverance” is a term that traditionally refers to a release from spiritual oppression and a separation from sin. While deliverance is used to characterize many types of spiritual healing, many Black congregations and gospel music fans deploy the term in a frequently gendered manner referring to a man’s “struggle” to resist homosexuality. Drawing from Black male musician’s narratives and recordings since the late 1980s, Prof. Jones will explore a social history of anxieties surrounding the performances of men who are delivered from homosexuality and their self-disclosure in Pentecostal gospel music scenes.

- Dr. Abegunde presented her poetry for the Fountain Square Poetry Series, February 3, 5:30-7:30PM at the Fountain Square Mall atrium:  
[http://writersguildbloomington.com/event/fountain-square-poetry-series-2/?instance\\_id=110](http://writersguildbloomington.com/event/fountain-square-poetry-series-2/?instance_id=110)
- On January 26, Professor Wolfskill discussed art of the Civil Rights Movement for the IU Asian Cultural Center’s “Over a Cup of Tea” programming in conjunction with their MLK celebration.



From the IU Asian Culture Center

Over a Cup of Tea  
presents

## Art and the Civil Rights Movement

Over a cup of tea, we will view and discuss a range of artistic responses to the events surrounding the civil rights movement. Artists reacted by creating imagery that probed the psychological and physical anxieties surrounding the period, by expressing hope but sometimes uncertainty about the movement's possibilities, and by celebrating black communities and individuals. Our discussion will emphasize the power of art to address social and political change.

This talk will be led by Assistant Professor Phoebe Wolfelt, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

Thursday, January 26  
5-6 p.m.

Asian Culture Center

Image credit: Benny Andrews, *Flag Day, 1968*, oil on canvas, 60 x 70 in., Collection of the Art Institute of Chicago, Gift of the Honorable Joseph P. Daniels and Mrs. Correll, 1969, 201

- AAADS hosted its annual holiday party on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> 12-3PM in Ballantine 004.
- Fall 2016 AAADS brown bags included Dr. Fabio Rojas (IU Sociology) speaking on “Black Lives Matter and Its Influence on Black Studies” and Dr. Terri Francis (IU Media School) on “Josephine Baker’s Oppositional Burlesque.”
- In October 2016, Dr. Tyron Cooper (IU Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies), Dr. Deborah Smith Pollard (University of Michigan–Dearborn), and Dr. Alisha Jones (IU Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology) contributed to the panel “Bodies of Sound: Locating the Beautiful in African American Music” as part of the Themester 2016 topic “Beauty.”

The Archives of African American Music and Culture Presents

### Bodies of Sound: Locating the Beautiful in African American Music

**October 24  
4:30 PM**  
Neal Marshall BCC Grand Hall  
Followed by Reception and Exhibit  
Opening in Bridgwaters Lounge

**Dr. Deborah Smith Pollard**  
Dept. Philosophy, Literature & the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn

**Dr. Tyron Cooper**  
Dept. African American and African Diaspora Studies

**Dr. Alisha Jones**  
Dept. Folklore and Ethnomusicology

them-es-ter  
2016-2017  
Sponsors: Archives of African American Music and Culture, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Neal Marshall Black Culture Center.

- “We are not just communicating with each other more than ever, we are now able to collaborate—to build coalitions, projects, and products together—more than ever,” Joel Cawley, an IBM strategist, argues in making a compelling point about what is required in the age of globalization. Everything is connected! During the 2016-2017 academic year, AAADS expanded its global reach and commitments beyond studying what is national to considering intellectual and institutional exchanges that are international in scope. In keeping with this mission, four visiting scholars from China, under the sponsorship of Chair and Professor Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, are currently at Indiana University conducting research on African American culture and intercultural communication. Professor Xiuzhen Cu (Shirley) is an Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, at North University of China, Shanxi, China. Her research interests at IU include intercultural communication and the intersection between diversity, pragmatic empathy in college students and identity. She is the recipient of several research and teaching awards, including an excellence in media prize and an Outstanding Teaching Award. Her research appears in many publications, including *Journal of Language Construction* and *Journal of Guizhou University of Technology*. Professor Cindy Li Lijun is an Associate Professor at Foreign Language Department, China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing). Currently, she is conducting research on how language functions in multicultural contexts. She has also authored or co-authored several books on cultivating critical thinking and project-based multicultural studies. Furthermore, she has won many honors, awards and fellowships, ranging from teaching achievement awards to a major prize in the Competition of Basic Skill of Young Teachers, organized by the Higher Education Society of Beijing. Professor Boren Zheng of Southwest Jiaotong University, China, teaches intercultural communication for English-major students. His research focuses on African American writers and culture, and he has integrated and probed

Chinese materials on Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s works, as well as on cultural criticism. He is a core cooperator in *Poetic Studies on Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, a research program subsidized by the National Fund of Social Science (Western China). He has also published many articles and compiled four textbooks on diversities of both Chinese and Western cultures. Professor Yingli Zhou of China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) teaches intercultural communication, and won an Inaugural Pearson and Nelson Competitive Scholarship at the 2015 World Communication Association conference in Lisbon, Portugal, among her other many awards for research and teaching. For the past several years, she has conducted research on how to increase intercultural communication competence among College students at China University of Mining and Technology. Currently, her research focuses on intercultural communication between Chinese and North Americans. Professor Zhou was hugely instrumental in making possible the African American Dance Company's trip to Beijing in December 2016.

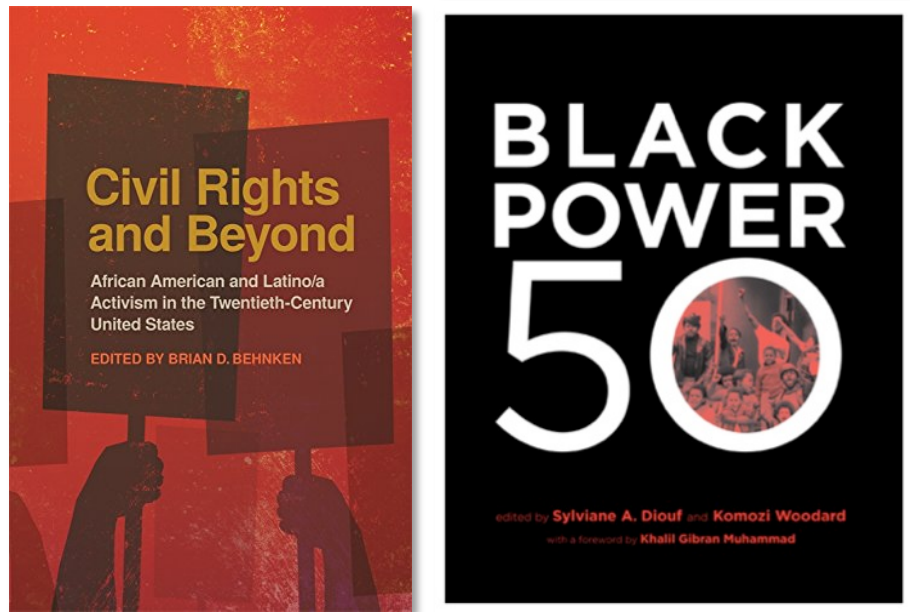
## Faculty

- Professor Carolyn Calloway-Thomas presented several invitational lectures on empathy, interracial and intercultural communication at universities in China this past June and December, including Beijing Normal University, Jiatong Southwest University (Chengdu), China University of Mining and Technology, Beijing, and Shanghai University of Traditional Medicine. Her public and "model" classroom talks centered on topics such as "Under Cherry Trees there are no Strangers: Communicating Interculturally," "Communication between North Americans and Chinese," "Language and Culture," and "A Clash of Cultures: North American Exceptionalism." In her role as a co-chair of the National Communication Association's (NCA) Task Force on International Collaboration, she co-presented a Short Course on "Internationalizing the Curriculum for Global Citizenship: Best Practices for Experiential Approaches, Classroom Activities and Administrative

Policies” at the China Communication University (CUC) and the National Communication Association’s 2016 Summer Conference in Beijing. Further, she chaired and responded to a panel on “Race and Colorism” at the September 2016 meeting of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and Culture (ASALH) in Charlotte, North Carolina. Currently, she serves as the incoming President of the Intercultural Communication Division of the Central States Communication Association. She will serve as a 2017 panelist/reader for the Ford Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship program, March 12-14, and will attend the upcoming Black Studies conference in Houston, Texas, March 9-11. As a member of the Educational Policies Board of the NCA, Professor Calloway-Thomas participated in an Annual Leadership Retreat in Bethesda, Maryland, February 1-3. Finally, Dr. Calloway-Thomas recently submitted a chapter on “Empathetic Literacy and Cultural Storytelling” for inclusion in a book titled *Special Populations* edited by Ahmet Atay, is co-editing a special edition on “Interracial Communication: A Global Phenomenon in Diverse Socio-Political Contexts” for *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, and is completing a book on *Intercultural Communication between North Americans and Chinese*, with co-authors Yingli Zhou and Boren Zheng, for publication in China.

- Professor Jakobi Williams is 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 presented on a roundtable panel on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Black Panther Party at the annual Association for the Study of Negro Life and Culture (ASALH) conference in October 2016 in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Williams’ recent publications include “‘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., *Civil Rights and Beyond: African American and Latino/a Activism in the Twentieth Century United States*, University of Georgia Press, 2016, p. 105-126, and “The Black Power Movement, The Black Panther Party, and Racial Coalitions”, in

Sylviane A. Diouf and Komozi Woodard, eds., *Black Power 50*, The New Press, 2016, p. 29-50.



Jakobi Williams' recent invited lectures include "The Black Panthers: Here and Abroad", Black History Month Annual Lecture, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, in February 2017 and a keynote address: "On Sacred Ground: Excavating Sites of Black Memory", History Research Symposium, College of Arts and Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, on February 10, 2017, and "Revolutionary Movements Then and Now: Black Power and Black Lives Matter," National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC on October 19, 2016. Dr. Williams has also presented his research on prison reform, education, and recidivism at correctional facilities in North Carolina and Indiana, and has appeared before student, faculty, and administration groups at IU to talk on the Black Panthers, Black Lives Matter, social justice, and prison reform.

- Dr. Phoebe Wolfskill's article "Love and Theft in the Art of Emma Amos" was published in the Smithsonian's *Archives of American Art Journal* 55, no. 2 (fall 2016). She presented new research on "Black Mobility in FSA photography," at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), in Richmond, Virginia in



October and gave an invited talk, “ ‘Gettin’ Religion:’ Black Christianity and the Old and New Negro in the Work of Archibald Motley Jr.” at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH in November 2016. In December, Professor Wolfskill gave a talk on the civil rights movement to the fifth grade classes at Minadeo Elementary School in Pittsburgh, PA.

- Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde has been invited to join the team of the RECLAIM Project (Indianapolis) as an advisory board member and community instructor. ArtPlace America National Creative Placemaking Fund awarded the three-year project, led by Lashawnda Crowe Storm and Phyllis Boyd, a total of \$200,000 to develop and implement a community demonstration project that will transform vacant spaces along an unsafe, walking corridor traveled by elementary school children into a safe pathway where blight is transformed into beauty and economic opportunity. Working with current and returning residents (who were formerly incarcerated) to activate a series of vacant lots and houses with art, this community hopes to increase safety while supporting the reintegration of ex-offenders and to create innovative pathways to new economic opportunities. Dr. Abegunde will work with project leaders to develop workshops that help the community identify and understand transgenerational and historical trauma and to create and implement creative writing workshops to accompany the visual art. In February, Dr. Abegunde was invited to conduct the Jorgensen Lecture with Paul Miller, AKA DJ Spooky that Subliminal Kid at IU Cinema.



Paul Miller, AKA DJ Spooky that Subliminal Kid



- Abegunde was also awarded the Black Girls Rock Shot Caller Award by Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. Tau Chapter in February. The award is given to an African American woman who "...is a boss and demonstrates positive leadership in her community..." The Peace Learning Center (Indianapolis) invited Dr. Abegunde to speak at its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. There she led a community discussion entitled "When the Past Becomes the Present: Living with and Healing from Ancestral and Historical Traumas" with members of Indianapolis schools, community groups, and social justice organizations. At the invitation of the School of Education faculty working with USAID and the University of Juba to develop and implement a Masters in Teaching Emergencies, Dr. Abegunde was invited to travel to the University of Juba, South Sudan to conduct a mentoring workshop for faculty and develop two courses (March 2016) and to teach the memory, trauma, and healing component of the courses (June 2016). Dr. Abegunde and artistic collaborator Lashawnda Crowe Storm were invited to exhibit their work "Be/Coming" as part of The Fabrication of Emancipation exhibition curated by the Harlem Needle Arts at the Morris-Jumel Mansion (June 4-October 3, 2016). Be/Coming, by invitation, was first exhibited in 2009 at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of the Poetic Dialogue Project that invited a visual artist and poet to co-create. Ms. Crowe Storm specifically requested that Dr. Abegunde be her collaborator. Be/Coming is part of the Ancestral Masquerades series and uses textiles and poetry to create an African American healing journey through community participation in multiple ways ranging from sewing segments of the costume to contributing parts of the poem that is performed. The series is a re-interpretation of traditional Yoruba masquerading. A suite of Abegunde's poems from her Juba, South Sudan collection-in-progress was named a finalist in the COG poetry awards. Submission for the award was by invitation only. This year's judge was U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera. You may find the work here:

<https://www.cogzine.com/contests>

- Professor Iris Rosa performed with Sancocho: Music and and Dance Collage at several schools Indianapolis for the organization Arts for Learning. Over the summer and early fall Sancocho also performed at several community events in the West Side of Indianapolis as part of the Indianapolis Arts Council Transformational Grant received by Bryan Fonseca, Director of the Phoenix Theatre.
- In fall 2016, the AAADS brownbag involved AADC students in conversation with the African American Choral Ensemble. They discussed their trips to Jamaica and Germany. AADC performances included First Thursdays, October 6th in front of the IU Auditorium and the AADC Studio Concert December 6<sup>th</sup> at Willkie Auditorium.



- AADC in China! The University of Law and Humanities, China University of Mining and Technology Beijing China (CUMTB) invited the African American Dance Company (AADC) to present a repertoire of choreographed dance works by Professor Rosa in Beijing, from December 16-23, 2016. The works illustrated the human condition in black America and throughout the diaspora using various dance movement forms styles, and music that convey the spirit of the African diaspora. The AADC showcased how intercultural collaborations work for the artistic and intellectual good for all through lecture demonstrations, master classes, dance collaborations, Chinese traditional classes, a formal performance, and, of course shopping! Check out the blog AADC in

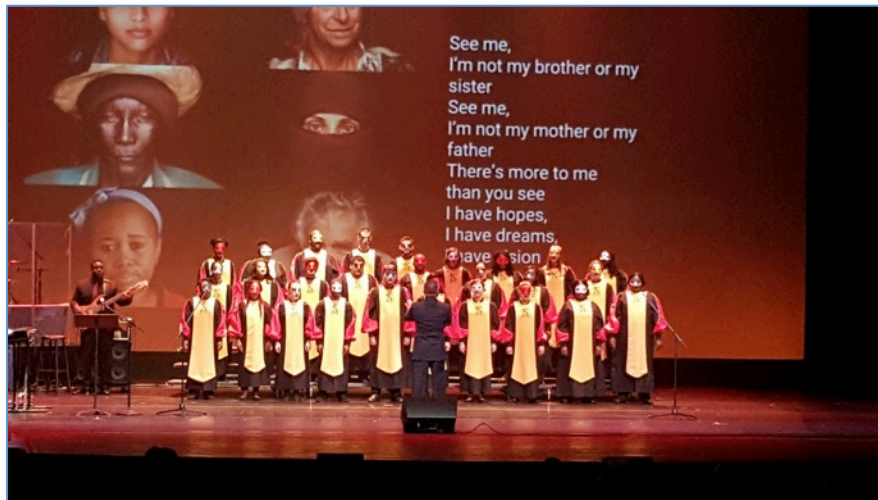
China! <http://blogs.iu.edu/aadcinchina/>



- The three ensembles of the African American Arts Institute performed the annual Potpourri of the Arts in the African American tradition 8PM November 5<sup>th</sup> at the IU Auditorium.



The annual Potpourri of the Arts featuring all three companies on stage, November 5<sup>th</sup>, IU Auditorium



The Choral Ensemble directed by Dr. Raymond Wise, Potpourri of the Arts November 5<sup>th</sup>, IU Auditorium

- This year we welcomed Crystal Taliefero as the Soul Revue's director. Taliefero has enjoyed extensive success as a performer touring with notables including John Mellencamp, Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen, Faith Hill, Brooks & Dunn, and a host of other widely successful artists and groups. She is not only a talented musician, but also a prolific writer and a talented producer/ arranger with credits on several multi-platinum albums, most notably her collaboration on the acclaimed "River of Dreams" album with Billy Joel in the mid-1990's. She also uses her talents and success for service as the co-creator of a series of children's books as well as actively supporting VH-1's "Save The Music" campaign.





Crystal Taliefero, director, IU Soul Revue

- The IU Soul Revue held their Soulful Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, Grand Hall. Admission was free with a canned good donation for the Community Kitchen.
- In December 2016, Dr. Wise served as the guest workshop clinician at Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany, NY. He presented lectures on vocal technique and music ministry, rehearsed the choir and led them in a concert performance on Saturday evening and for Sunday morning worship, where he also preached.



On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, AACE performed for esteemed IU Alumni at the Campus Luminaries reception.



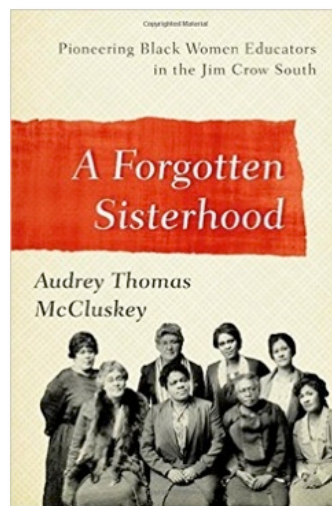
- Dr. Wise also served as the clinician and guest conductor for the "Join Voices Chicago" music festival. The festival brought together approximately 500 students from ten high schools throughout the city of Chicago. Dr. Wise held individual clinics with each choir and taught songs to the massed choirs, which performed at the conclusion of the festival.
- In October, Dr. Wise was honored as the 2016 Legacy Award Recipient for the Kingdom Image Awards. The Kingdom Image Awards honor excellence in the field of Gospel Music. Dr. Wise's former students performed to two of his compositions (We Have Come Into This House, Go 'Head), and his family came from across the country to surprise him with a musical performance. Dr. Wise and Raise Productions Choir also won the 2016 Kingdom Image Award for Best Large Choir.
- The Black Graduate Student Association, Black Student Union and several dorms sponsored the Potpourri Preview on Wednesday October 19th, 2016 at Teter Residence Hall. This event allowed about 200 students to see and hear mini performances by the three African American Arts Ensembles. This event allowed the AAAI to build new audiences. It was a very productive evening and the AAAI hopes to continue and expand this event in the future.





The AACE performing the Potpourri preview at Teter Hall

- Emeritus Professor Audrey McCluskey taught a summer school Telluride seminar at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with former AAADS associate instructor Professor Natasha Vaubel. Developed for competitively-elected high school juniors from an international pool, the six-week program was intense and rewarding, consisting of daily teaching and interactions with a talented group of young future leaders. The seminar topic was: "BLACK LIVES MATTER: Resistance in Pan-African Cinema from Algiers to Ferguson." Dr. McCluskey's *A Forgotten Sisterhood: Black Women Activist Educators in the Jim Crow South* is due out in paperback in 2017.



- Emeritus Professor John McCluskey's publications include: "A Morning Psalm from Dr. Love" (Short story) *Brilliant Corners: A Journal of Jazz &*

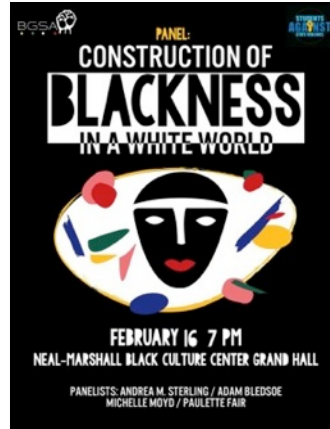
*Literature*, Winter 2016 and "Walter Mosley, August Wilson, and Mosaics of Memory" *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, Summer 2016. Dr. McCluskey attended the following conferences: "Toni Morrison as Editor", where he contributed to two panels as a member and chair for the Toni Morrison Society, New York City, July, 2016 and as an invited panelist for the 2016 Callaloo Conference, "Callaloo and Creative Writing" at Oxford University, Oxford, England, in November, 2016. Dr McCluskey's professional and community service includes his membership on the editorial board for *Callaloo* and as special site editor (Chicago) for Oxford University Press African American Digital Library. He continues to serve on the board for the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males, the Bloomington Playwrights Project Directors' Circle, the African American Art Acquisitions Project, Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University, and the Teen Mentoring Committee, Middletown, Ohio

- In September 2016, Professor Emeritus John Stanfield became Distinguished Research Fellow in Cape Town for the Human Sciences Research Council.
- Adjunct faculty Fernando Orejuela chaired a panel at the 2016 American Folklore Society joint meeting with [International Society for Folk Narrative Research](#) in Miami, FL (October 19-22) and brought with him a current PhD minor in AAADS, Alison Martin, and 2 PhD minor alumni, Langston Collin Wilkins (2015) and Stephanie Shonekan (2003). Their panel, #BlackLivesMatter and Folkloristics: *3 years, 5 months, 2 days* of the 'changing same,' captured the attention of Indiana University Press acquisition editor and is in the process of turning the paper session into an edited volume book that Dr. Orejuela will co-edit with Shonekan for a fall 2017 release date.
- Adjunct faculty Gary Sailes published his 9<sup>th</sup> book *Modern Sport and the African American Experience* in 2016. Please see the link below: <https://titles.cognella.com/modern-sport-and-the-african-american-experience-9781631893865.html>

- Adjunct faculty Dr. Alisha Lola Jones (Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology) will be inducted into the The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, during its 150th anniversary celebration on March 30, 2017. The Board of Preachers honor clergy of multiple Christian and global religious traditions who exemplify a combination of personal piety, religious civility, keen intellect and a commitment to faith bearing witness in various forms of social justice, equality and human rights. Religious leaders both clergy and lay have been inducted into this board for decades during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. College of Ministers and Laity held at Morehouse in the spring each year.

## Graduate Students

- In May of 2016 MA student Andrea M. Sterling was elected the President of the Indiana University-Bloomington Black Graduate Student Association and the Vice President of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society to serve for the 2016-2017 year. Through BGSA Andrea has been able to organize many successful events, the most notable being her brainchild "Our Black Lives Matter: In Remembrance of Joseph Smedley" in October 2016; this event had over 100 people in attendance and ended in a powerful call-out of names of Black people who have faced too-early deaths under unjust or questionable circumstances. Working towards her goal of being a scholar-activist Andrea has also delivered speeches at several Black Lives Matter rallies in town over the last several months. On February 16, Andrea was a panelist for "Construction of Blackness in a White World" at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Grand Hall.



- MA student Amelia Smith traveled with the African American Dance Company to China University of Mining and Technology in Beijing. The opportunity involved not only dance instruction and the chance to perform before an audience who had limited knowledge of U.S. culture and racial politics, but also a very unique experience in engaging with the Chinese students and getting to collaborate and learn from them.
- PhD student Zeba Khan-Thomas presents her work on Afro-Caribbean immigrant dystopia in Western metropolises at the 11th Annual Landscape, Space, and Place conference at Indiana University on March 3rd-4th. Zeba performed poetry at the First Thursday event on February 2nd for the Vik Muniz Special Exhibition at the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art.
- PhD student Anne Mahady-Kneller presented "Palmer Hayden's Modern Folk Aesthetic" at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) conference in Richmond, VA in October 2016. She presented "'It Takes Two': Anthropology and Art History in Dialog," at the Anthropology Graduate Student Association conference at IU in February and will give her paper "New Perspectives on the Visual Culture of Civil Rights: Wanda Robson and Black Canadian Vernacular Photography" for the Graduate Student Art History Association conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL in March 2017.

*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.*