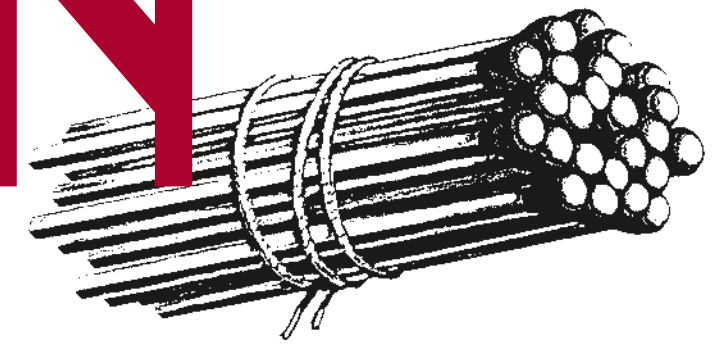


ATUMPAN

(Ah-toom-pähn: "talking drums")



African American & African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University

Vol. 19 ♦ College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association ♦ Fall 2005

Graduate students gain conference confidence

Attending conferences is always fun, not to mention a great learning experience. The department's master of arts graduate students quadrupled their fun in February by not only attending a conference, but also presenting papers. Four panels (a new record!) of graduate students and faculty participated in the 11th annual Africana Studies Conference, held in Nashville, Tenn., on Feb. 3-4, on the theme "Cultural Unity of Campus and Community: Academic Excellence with Economic, Political, Social, and Spiritual Responsibility." The conference was hosted by Tennessee State University's Department of Africana Studies.

On Feb. 3, one group of AAADS students presented a panel on the topic "Racial and Cultural Movements in the African Diaspora." **Richardo Wallace** spoke on "Fakin' the Funk: Illuminating an Illusion" as he explored the new face of hip hop. **Amina McIntyre** talked about "Examining the Arts as a Vehicle to Express Social Discontent Within the African-American Community." **Ketwana Wilson-McCormick** presented "Social and Community Activism in the Work of Ida B. Wells-Barnett." The panel was chaired and moderated by doctoral candidate **Claudia Drieling**.

Concurrently, another group presented a panel titled "Rhetoric,



From left: Jennifer Heusel, Tiffany Saunders, Tiffany Combs, Fred McElroy

Ideology, and Nationalism: Constructing Black Identity and Consciousness." **Enyonam Hargett** talked about "African Americans and the Ideas of Racial Solidarity." **Femina T. Ajayi** explored "Issues of Debilitation, Population, and Resource Depletion in Two Post-Colonial African Countries." Professor **Fred McElroy** chaired and moderated the panel.

On Feb. 4, the other two panels presented their papers. The first panel's topic was "Race and Gender in Art and Expressions." **Tiffany Combs** spoke on "Sexual Exploitation of African-American Women in Hip-Hop Videos and Dramatic Film." **Tiffany Saunders** presented "African-American Womanist Traditions as Portrayed in *The Color Purple*." **Jennifer Heusel** investigated "Race and Gender Phenomenon in Comics." Professor **Fred McElroy** was chair and moderator.

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From the chair

Department blazes new trails



Valerie Grim

and Paris. Students and faculty feel the excitement as new courses are added at both levels of study and as students work to develop programs within their organizations.

Currently, we are planning the annual Herman Hudson

(continued on page 2)

Greetings. This year promises to be an exciting one. AAADS is continuing the search for a scholar working in African-American and African diaspora film. We are moving toward the completion of a PhD proposal. The Brown Bag Research Series is expanding, with presentations focusing on the realities of blacks in the United States and other areas of the diaspora. Undergraduate and graduate studies are progressing, with the development of study-abroad programs to Guyana

Forum ignites campus activism

One of the most compelling extracurricular events ever seen on the Indiana University Bloomington campus took place on the evening of Sept. 14. "Race, Media, Culture, and Health: The Black Community in the Aftermath of Katrina," a forum co-sponsored by the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, drew scores of students and many local citizens to a vigorous discussion of the tragic events in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region of the United States. Faculty from AAADS and other academic units spoke from the perspective of their respective disciplines and, in some instances, from heart-wrenching personal knowledge of the area and events. The forum was the first step in a series of ongoing activities planned by the department to bring such issues into the public eye.

Faculty Notes

Valerie Grim was appointed to a three-year term as chair, beginning July 1. During the past year, she participated in the CIC Academic Leadership Program and attended various conferences, presenting papers before the Association of Black Culture Centers Conference; International Society on the Scholarship of Teaching; Oral History Meeting; Patterson Conference on Desegregation; African-American Studies Symposium at Purdue; Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums; Who Owns America Conference; Black Body: Imagining, Writing, (Re)Reading Conference; Regional Social Science Economic Meeting; and the Indiana History Conference. She also taught at IU's Mini University and co-published an article, "Using Evidence to Teach History." She debuted a "historical-musical drama" with Kandace Hinton, titled "Living History and Renewing Hope." In summer 2004, her article "Learning to Use Evidence in the Study of History," with David Pace and Leah Shopkow, was published in *Decoding the Disciplines: Helping Students Learn Disciplinary Ways of Thinking*.

ATUMPAN

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Matthew Guterl and **Iris Rosa**, accompanied by chair **Valerie Grim**, took two undergraduate and five graduate students on the Study Abroad in Guyana experience, where they studied race relations in the British West Indies, last summer. Together with Vivian Nun Halloran (comparative literature), Guterl is planning a major conference for spring: "Variations on Blackness: Race Making in the United States and the World." (Check it out at www.indiana.edu/~vari.) He also is working to finish up his book on emancipation this fall — "before 14-month-old son Robert starts asking questions about it."

Trica Keaton will conduct the course Black Paris: Migration and Cosmopolitanism in the City of Light, tentatively scheduled for June 12 to July 7, 2006 (application deadline: Jan. 30; Web site: www.indiana.edu/~overseas/flyers/black_paris). Keaton's book *Muslim Girls and the Other France: Race, Identity Politics, and Social Exclusion*, with a foreword by Manthia Diawara, is forthcoming from IU Press next spring.

Audrey T. McCluskey spent part of early summer in Johannesburg. She is completing a project on South African filmmakers. The middle part of the summer was dedicated to teaching high-achieving high school sophomores from across the country, who were selected to participate in the Telluride Association Summer Seminar. The specially designed college-level course, Films of the African-American Experience: An Introduction to Film Studies, was co-instructed with **Natasha Vaubel**. *Frame by Frame III: A Filmography of the African Diaspora*, a publication of the Black Film Center/Archive, directed by McCluskey, is due for release early next year by IU Press.

Frederick McElroy, director of undergraduate studies is working in collaboration with the department's faculty to develop strategies for increasing the number of stu-

dents who major and minor in AAADS. Recruitment strategies planned for the current academic year include reviving the AAADS Majors Club, reviewing and revitalizing the department's undergraduate curriculum, and reinvigorating the department's tradition of extracurricular activities that generate discussion and debate of significant issues, while forging closer links between faculty and students.

Iris Rosa, director of the African American Dance Company, was involved in numerous choreographic activities during the year. She was one of six faculty choreographers for the annual Evening of Contemporary Dance concert, which included her work *Revolufusion*. She also received a grant from the IU African Studies Program to work with choreographer/performer Modeste Douoning, of the Ivory Coast. The AADC premiered a dance piece at the Potpourri of Arts in the African American Tradition as part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the IU African American Arts Institute and presented its 31st concert in special collaborations with the departments of English and Biology. Rosa's professional dance ensemble, Sancocho: Music and Dance Collage, performed at the University of Illinois at Urbana, the Indianapolis Arts Garden, and several public schools in Indianapolis. She developed and taught Dance in the African Diaspora: Cuba, Puerto Rico, and U.S. in the Collins Living and Learning Center last spring. In July, Rosa won the Sassafras Award at the Groups alumni luncheon, and she was the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King celebration hosted by the School of HPER.

Vernon Williams published seven entries in Cary Wintz and Paul Finkleman's *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance* (Routledge) during the past academic year. He also published reviews in the *Journal of American History*, *Clio*, and the *Journal of African-American History*.

From the chair

(continued from page 1)

Symposium, the African American Dance Workshop, and the Variations of Blackness Workshop and Conference. This year, AAADS has added a new student organization, called Black Curtain, that will provide an opportunity for students to realize their interest in theater and drama. As the year progresses, we anticipate great intellectual stimulation from our lecture series and public forums. Through a collaboration with the Patten Committee, we will host

a visit from Pulitzer Prize winner David Levering Lewis. AAADS also is working with other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences to create interdisciplinary programs and partnering with interested units in other schools across the broader university to address issues of race, media, and representation in a yearlong dialogue.

We invite you to join us at any of these events, and we encourage you to offer your participation and support as the department continues to move forward, blazing new trails.

— Valerie Grim

AAADSGS helps students keep it together academically, socially

The African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society, an organization formed for the support and networking of graduate students affiliated with AAADS, seeks to create a balance between the academic and social lives of the graduate students and to form a mentorship within the department.

This year, AAADSGA started off with a welcome-back party on Sept. 2, followed by its first business meeting on Sept. 11. Plans for this year include brown-bag discussions and socials at restaurants, movies outings, and group trips. The society also plans to help with recruiting for the department, as well as aiding the Herman C. Hudson Steering Committee in planning that symposium.

Herman C. Hudson Symposium plans are under way

The success of the spring 2005 Herman C. Hudson Symposium has left the planning committee confident that the next one will both expand and improve upon the last. The symposium is growing from a one-day conference to a two-day event, featuring two speakers and an entertainment venue. It will be held on March 24–25, 2006, at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center and will carry the theme “The African Diaspora: The Quest for Human Rights.” This theme is inspired by the recent surge in human rights activism throughout the African Diaspora, as well as by the desire to incorporate as many graduate student interests as possible.

Students prepare for mysteries of job market

Getting ready for the job market is a process that can create anxiety because it is unknown terrain for most graduate students. IU’s annual crossdisciplinary Preparing Future Faculty Conference helps to alleviate that anxiety, as this year’s AAADS attendees **Claudia Drieling**, **Jennifer Heusel**, and **Amina McIntyre** can attest. The conference, which took place on Feb. 18 with the motto “From First Year to Faculty and Beyond,” involved sessions such as “Developing a Professional Record as a Graduate Student” and “Navigating the Job Market.” A refreshing keynote address was given by Dean of Faculties Jeanne Sept, who spoke on creating fruitful learning experiences for students. This speech, which drew exciting analogies between learning and foods and dining experiences, culminated in a raffle during lunch in which a literal food basket (from Tutto Bene) was the prize. The next PFF conference is expected to take place in February 2006.

Conference

(continued from page 1)

The final panel explored “Social, Cultural, and Religious Issues in the African Diaspora: The Politics of Representation.” **Giva Wilkerson** talked about “African-American Women and the Perception of Beauty.” **Bryan Chatfield** spoke on “Fatherless

Home: The Social Effect on Black Males.” **Ryon Cobb** presented “Nothin’ But an ‘E’ Thang: Black Evangelicals’ Response to the Problem of Race in America.” MA student **Laila Amine** chaired and moderated this panel.

All four panels were well received. Professor of Africana Studies **Wosene Yefru**, of TSU, remarked that the IU “students’

panel was outstanding,” and that he was “very much impressed with their sharp intellectual minds.” Similarly, other members of the TSU faculty who attended some of the AAADS panels expressed their enthusiasm about the students’ research projects and, moreover, their interest in further academic exchange and collaborations between the their department and AAADS.

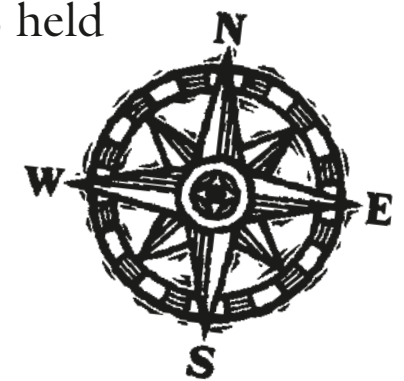
— Claudia Drieling



From left: Claudia Drieling, Richardo Wallace, Amina McIntyre, Ketwana Wilson-McCormick

Orientation shows students the academic world of AAADS

On Aug. 22–26, AAADS held its fall departmental orientation program for new graduate students. After opening comments by Professor **Valerie Grim**,



workshops led by returning AAADS graduate students were offered as a way to introduce new students to the world of academia.

Other presentations were given by invited colleagues from various departments and centers on the IUB campus.

Members of the AAADS faculty spoke about the graduate and undergraduate programs, the Brown Bag Research Series, the Black Film Center/Archive, the department’s PhD proposal, the Herman C. Hudson Symposium, and the Graduate Student Society.

The week’s events culminated in an awards luncheon, held in the State Room East of the IMU. Grim, chair of the department, presented awards to several graduate students, including **Laila Amine** and **Byron Craig**, who received the MA Thesis with Distinction Award.

Accepted for publication ...

Last semester, several graduate students had review essays published in the refereed journal *African and Asian Studies* (vol. 4, no. 1–2, 2005). The journal is produced by Brill, a major European academic publisher in Leiden, Netherlands. The students and their articles are

- **Bryan Chatfield** and **Tiffany Combs**: “Black Death, White Medicine: Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Public Health in Colonial Senegal, 1914–1945”;
- **Femina Ajayi**: “The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano”;
- **Enya Hargett**: “Slavery and Beyond: The Making of Men and Chikunda Ethnic Identities in the Unstable World of South-Central Africa, 1750–1920.”

... and to conferences!

Tahirah Akbar-Williams, **Tiffany Combs**, and **Ketwana Wilson-McCormick** formed a panel on the topic “Representing Black Womanhood” and presented papers at the 26th annual meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association conference in Orlando, Fla., on June 9–12.

Talking Drum

Soprano **Angela M. Brown**'s career continues to hit higher and higher notes. In 2004, Brown, '86, made her Carnegie Hall and Metropolitan Opera debuts, the latter in the title role in *Aida*. In May, she originated the role of Cilla in the world premiere of the slavery opera *Margaret Garner* for the Michigan Opera Theatre. Earlier this year, the African American Arts Institute awarded her the inaugural Herman C. Hudson Alumni Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions made in the arts by former members of the institute. A native of Indianapolis, Brown lives in New York.

Gregory T. Goggans, BA'91, a photographer for WTHR-TV in Indianapolis, won a regional Emmy for his work on the yearlong domestic-abuse project *Shattering the Silence*.

In November 2004, **Lynette M. Hiser**, BA'93, wrote, "After graduation, I returned home to Indianapolis and have been working here ever since. I am currently employed as a logistics specialist with Rolls-Royce Corp. I have a beautiful 7-year-old daughter, Braxton Kennedy Hiser, who is in the second grade. She is the joy of my life. Being involved with the African American Choral Ensemble and Sojourner were the fondest memories of IU that I had. I met a wonderful group of people that I still stay in touch with today. Of course, I must mention Dr. James E. Mumford (MME'78, PhD'84)! I love that man! He is still at IU doing his thing!" Her address is lynette.m.hiser@rolls-royce.com.

Susan E. (Rakow) Packer, BA'91, was married to Jeremy Packer on June 5, 2004. She writes, "After having taught elementary school in inner-city Memphis and Milwaukee for seven years, I am happy to be a homemaker." She lives in Wadsworth, Ill., and can be reached at suzichacha@comcast.net.

Heather L. Porter, BA'93, has lived and worked in Los Angeles since 1994. She is a manager in the on-air promotions department at Fox and has promoted such shows as *The Rebel Billionaire*, *The Swan*, *Trading Spouses*, and *The Simple Life*. A former voice major, she periodically does voice-overs for promotions and performs at clubs in Los Angeles. She can be reached at thegirlhp@hotmail.com.

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