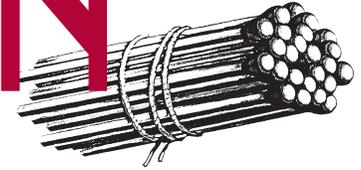


# ATUMPAN

(Ah-toom-pähn: "talking drums")



African American & African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University

Vol. 23 ♦ College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association ♦ Fall 2009

## AAADS celebrates 40 years at IU

In 2010, the department celebrates its 40th year, making it one of the oldest departments in the field of African American studies, also often called Afro-American, black, or Africana studies. How the department began is an important part of United States history during a time when student activism on many issues was transforming our nation.

In 1967, black students at Indiana University Bloomington had a vision for the future: eliminate racism from the university and society. After three years of negotiations between students, faculty, and the Board of Trustees, an Afro-American Studies Program was created in 1970 to study black America. Courses would include black history, art, literature, and music and be taught by faculty and associate instructors who were dedicated to teaching about the black experience.

Now — 40 years later — IUB is one of the few universities in the United States that offers an undergraduate major in AAADS, and an MA and PhD in the discipline.

The department continues to grow. Just in time to commemorate this 40th anniversary, we welcome our first PhD cohort. This is a dream come true, and we are proud to have these young scholars as part of our team.

There are currently 15 full-time faculty members, and the number of students enrolled in AAADS courses is the highest it has ever been. The department has implemented a new recruitment program, and student interest in and applications for degrees in the MA and PhD have already significantly increased.

Our courses continue to reflect the commitment to understanding history through interdisciplinary scholarship that not only furthers our understanding and appreciation of black communities in the world, but also provides

solutions to problems faced by those communities.

The world has come a long way since 1967, but the department does not rest easily. Each year, emerging scholars and faculty join the AAADS community to learn and teach in fields that range from education to health care and from geographical regions as diverse as Brazil and Japan. More and more, the AAADS department connects the diaspora through leadership and scholarship.

None of this would be possible without the efforts of those who came before us. Although the birth of the department was student-sown, faculty and administrators nurtured it beyond the first generation of student-activists. Thank you to IU's first vice chancellor of Afro-American Affairs Herman Hudson. Thank you to Phyllis Klotman, Bill Wiggins, Winona Fletcher, Joe Russell, John McCluskey, and others who helped get AAADS to this point.

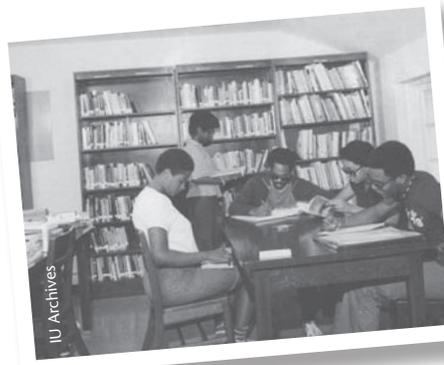
As we enter our fifth decade, we know that the possibilities for positive changes in the program are many and exciting. We have not forgotten the spark that gave birth to the department: the belief



Herman C. Hudson (1976)

IU Archives

that including the voices and histories of all members of society could change communities and the world. We remain committed and look forward to another 40 years of making history.



IU Archives

### Remember when?

The department is planning a celebration that will begin in spring 2010, continuing into the fall. Until we're able to share more details with you, we're asking for your stories about studying Afro-American Studies, African American Studies, or African American and African Diaspora Studies at IU. E-mail them to [Abegunde@maehamil@indiana.edu](mailto:Abegunde@maehamil.indiana.edu).

## *From the chair*

### A year of many firsts

This is a year of many firsts for the department: the first PhD cohort, a new undergraduate club, a new faculty member whose many interests include gender, sexuality, and folklore, two new journals edited by AAADS faculty members, and the first year without Professor **John McCluskey**. In addition, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the department.

AAADS is proud of these and other achievements, but we know that such successes require collaboration and teamwork to sustain and expand. We know, just as **Herman C. Hudson** knew in 1970, that our survival depends on our continued ability to meet — and create — high standards of scholarship, teaching, and service.



*Grim*

Our new PhD program is only one of many ways we will accomplish this. The new program has two tracks, “Race, Representation, and Knowledge Systems” and “Power, Citizenship, and the States,” both designed to encourage new research on topics ranging from black diasporic responses to social, political, and economic predicaments to race-making in forms of expressive culture and the production of knowledge.

The PhD and the dual MFA-MA in AAADS, implemented in 2008, have had a tremendous impact on the number of applications to the department. This confirms that we’re moving in the right direction as we look to expand the interdisciplinary nature of the study of African American and African diaspora cultures.

Finally, you, our alumni and friends, sustain us. Throughout the year, many of you call or visit to share your successes with us. Through you, we remain connected to the true purpose of our work: putting theory into practice to improve our communities. We invite you, especially this year, to join us for department and university events. Also, don’t hesitate to offer suggestions or to volunteer your expertise. Our scholarship and community service in the department can only be enriched by your experiences.

We look forward to a marvelous year, made all the more special by the new and wonderful things we will create together. — *Valerie Grim*

For more news and program info visit: [www.indiana.edu/~afroamer](http://www.indiana.edu/~afroamer).



Photo courtesy of Mary K. Huelsbeck, BFC/A.

## Black Film Center/Archive’s new home under construction

The Black Film Center/Archive will move to a new home in early January 2010. Our new location will be in the Kent Cooper Room of the Wells Library, currently a construction site (pictured above).

The new BFC/A will include a conference room, seminar room, and quiet research room, as well as office spaces, an equipment room, and a climate-controlled storage room. Posters from the BFC/A’s collection will be exhibited throughout the archives and on the walls of the shared space outside.

## Student News

In August, the department welcomed its first PhD cohort: **Maria E. Hamilton Abegunde** from Chicago/Brazil, **Katie Dieter** from Indiana, **Holly Mayne** from California, **Yukari Shinagawa** from Japan, and **Carmen Williams** from Arkansas; and the new MA cohort: **Malaika Baxa**, **Floyd Hobson**, and **Wideline Seraphin**. Welcome back to returning MA students **Shannon Caldwell**, **Adeyemi Doss**, **Heather Essex**, **Rafik Hasan**, **J. C. Henry**, **Caralee Jones**, **Michael Potts**, **Roberta Radovich**, **Shana Riddick**, and **Breon Tyler**.

In October, **Cory Brodnax** successfully defended his thesis, “Economic Warfare: Contradiction and Underdevelopment in the System of Global Politics.” **Bergis Jules** also successfully defended his thesis, “To Reclaim Their History: Caribbean Archivists and the Development of International Archival Standards.”

On April 20, AAADS faculty and students gathered to honor a year of accomplishments. The following students were recognized: **Megan McQuire**, William Wiggins Award for Outstanding Associate Instructor; **Sara Farmer**, Phyllis R. Klotman Award for Outstanding Thesis; **Steven Burke**, Phyllis R. Klotman Award for Outstanding Creative Thesis; **Rafi K. Hassan II**, Winona Fletcher Award for Outstanding Leadership; **Breon Tyler**, First Award Honoring an AAADS Graduate Mentor; **Shannon Caldwell**, Recognition of Excellence; **Carmen Lanos Williams**, finalist for the IU English Department’s associate instructor award. Congratulations to our outstanding students!

## *Coming & going*



## John McCluskey retires after 30 years of service

On Sept. 19, AAADS honored the work and service of Professor **John McCluskey**, who retired after the academic year 2008–09. This was an awesome moment of memory and tribute. McCluskey, department chair from 1994 to 2000, had an important impact on the professional and personal lives of many faculty and students. Faculty members and staff from various departments and students from Bloomington and out-of-state joined the AAADS department at this surprise gala event. Toni Morrison, Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize- and Grammy Award-winner, sent a letter of congratulations. **April Smith**, who received her MA in AAADS, reached out to Morrison.

In the photo above, Chair Valerie Grim presents McCluskey with gifts from the department during the gala. Thank you to all for a wonderful afternoon.

## New faculty member

Welcome to new faculty member **LaMonda Horton-Stallings**. She received her PhD in English from Michigan State University in 2002. Her research and teaching interests include African American literature, gender and sexuality studies, cultural studies, and black folklore.

Horton-Stallings has published essays in *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire*, *Obsidian III*, *Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses*, *CR: The New Centennial Review*, and more. She serves on the editorial board of *Proud Flesh: New Afrikan Journal of Culture, Politics, and Consciousness*. She is a Schomburg Scholar.



Horton-Stallings

## Fall 2009 AAADS events

The department hosted or co-sponsored several events during the fall, many of which will continue throughout the school year.

- The **Annual Fall Reception**, for majors, minors, and students enrolled in AAADS courses was held on Sept. 16. In addition, the department launched the AAADS Undergraduate Club. Graduate students **Ade Doss**, **Holly Mayne**, **Carmen Williams**, and **Rafi K. Hasan II** will work with Professor **Frederick McElroy** to help mentor our majors, minors, and other interested students.

- The department sponsored a discussion of Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, the first of three film discussions featured as part of Themester's "**(Re) Presenting Race in African American Film**" series, on Sept. 17. The following films were also shown as part of the series: *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* (Oct. 8) and *Nothing But A Man* (Nov. 12).

- Faculty and graduate students participated in **The Triennial Rural Women's Studies Conference**, co-chaired and hosted by Valerie Grim. AAADS and other IU departments, as well as programs from throughout the country, co-sponsored the conference. The program brought together scholars from Africa, Europe, Asia, Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Participants included researchers, policy analysts, activists, local growers and farmers, market managers, and others who presented papers on topics ranging from rural women's responses to voting rights to traditional healing.

- The department's annual **Brown Bag Lunch Seminars** began Oct. 14 with "A Positive Place for Kids," by **Heather Essex**. The Brown Bags are a forum through which faculty and students can present their work to peers. Please check the department Web site for information on upcoming seminars.

- **Valerie Grim** co-sponsored two conferences that were held at IUB: the "**Haitian Studies Association Conference**" (Nov. 12-14) and "**Reclaiming the Right to Rock: Black Experiences in Rock Music**" (Nov. 13-14).

- Planning for the **Herman C. Hudson Symposium**, "Bodies, Borders, and Resistance in the African Diaspora," is underway. Cynthia Perry, former U.S. Ambassador to Burundi and Sierra Leone, will be the keynote speaker. Find a call for papers and more information at: [www.indiana.edu/~afroamer](http://www.indiana.edu/~afroamer).



Professor Iris Rosa with students at the Annual Fall Reception, held Sept. 16.

## Stewart celebrates 35 years at IU

On Sept. 11, **Melissa Stewart**, AAADS office manager and fiscal agent, celebrated 35 years of service to Indiana University. M39 was filled with great energy and excitement as Stewart's family, colleagues, and friends gathered to offer her thanks and gifts for her hard work and dedication. Thank you, Melissa, for all that you do!

# Faculty News

Congratulations to our faculty members for their incredible scholarship and activism within the black diaspora communities. We've highlighted some of the good news here. For a complete list of new and upcoming works, visit: [www.indiana.edu/~afroamer](http://www.indiana.edu/~afroamer).

## Publications

Associate Professor and Chair **Valerie Grim** edited *Rural Women, Families, and Children of Color in Global Communities*, a special spring 2009 issue of the *Journal of Black Women, Gender, and Families*, University of Illinois Press. Grim also wrote the following essays: "The Experiences of Rural Women, Children, and Families of Color in U.S. and Global Communities," in the *Journal of Black Women, Gender, and Families*; Spring; and "Our Stories of Mentoring and Guidance in a Higher Education and Student Affairs Program," with Kandace Hinton and Mary Howard-Hamilton, in *Standing on the Outside Looking In: Underrepresented Students' Experiences in Advanced-Degree Programs*.

Professor **Michael Martin**, director of the Black Film Center/Archive, authored "Joseph Gai Ramaka: 'I am not a filmmaker engagé. I am an ordinary citizen engagé,'" an article in *Research in African Literatures* (fall 2009); "Podium for the truth?": Reading Slavery and the Neocolonial Project in the Historical Film *Queimada! (Burn!)* and *Sankofa* in *Counterpoint*," in *Third Text*, No. 101. He also interviewed Julie Dash in the fall 2009 *Cinema Journal*. In addition, Martin edited the inaugural issue of *Black Camera* (December 2009), published by Indiana University Press.

Assistant Professor **Stephen Selka** served as guest editor of a special issue of the journal *Nova Religio* (2010) on new religious movements in Brazil.

Visiting Professor **David Wall** published "Meddling with the Subject: The Imperial Dialogics of Race and Language in Uncle Tom's Cabin," in *Nineteenth Century Studies*; two entries in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture*; and book reviews appearing in the forthcoming issues of *Black Camera*, *Journal of Southern History*, and the *Journal of American Studies*. Wall was also appointed book and film reviews editor at *Black Camera*.

Professor **Vernon Williams Jr.** and Associate Professor **Fred McElroy** edited the inaugural issue (summer 2009) of *Black Diaspora Review*, a new electronic journal that will provide a forum for scholarly

critiques, and debates of every aspect of black diaspora studies, including its mission, curricula, ideology, and scholarly methodologies. The second issue will be published in February 2010.

Adjunct Professor **Kevin Brown**, of the IU Maurer School of Law, authored two forthcoming articles: "Now Is the Appropriate Time for Selective Higher Education Programs to Collect Racial and Ethnic Data on Its Black Applicants and Students," for *Thurgood Marshall Law Review*, and "Can Public International Boarding Schools in Ghana Be the Next Educational Reform Movement for Urban Minority Public School Students?" in *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review*. The latter is part of symposium issue titled *Educational Equity in Communities of Color*.

## More faculty news

**Marlon Bailey** attended the fifth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference (ASWAD). The conference was held in Ghana Aug. 6-9, 2009, in commemoration of both the Pan-African Conference of 1900 and the Pan-African Congress of 1919 and in celebration of Ghana's central role in nurturing Pan-African struggles for freedom and justice since 1957.

Visiting Assistant Professor **Claudia Drieling** was recognized in August by the IU Office of International Services (OIS) for "valuable contributions to fall 2009 International Student Orientations." This was the first time that the OIS had involved faculty representation. Drieling presented several sessions on "Academic Life at IU." Her team included a doctoral student and an undergraduate student panel. More than 200 international students attended the sessions, which included topics such as plagiarism, professional relationships with professors and peers, and the usual classroom norms. In October, students in the 21st Century Scholars Program nominated Drieling for participation in the program's recently created IU faculty/student dinner series, designed to foster better relationships between students and IU faculty.

**Valerie Grim** hosted the Triennial Rural Women's Studies Conference on "Health, Healing, and Rural Life in Global Communities," Sept. 24-27, at IUB. Grim is the international co-chair for the Rural Women's Studies Association (RWSA). In addition to chairing several panels, she also presented the following papers: "The PEW Charitable Trust and the Patterson Research Institute's Project on Early Childhood Education Among Rural African Americans: My Work as a Commissioner of Rural Education," "Studying Abroad in Diasporic Communities: A Conversation About Students' Preparation and Readiness for Engagement in Diasporic Rural Cultures," and "They Needed Voice and Help Too: Women's Involvement with the Black Farmers Class Action Lawsuit Against the USDA, 1997-2010." Grim was also appointed to serve a three-year term on the Carstensen Awards Committee, which chooses the best article published in the *Journal of Agricultural History* each calendar year.

In August, **Michael Martin**, served as a peer-review panelist for the Faculty Research Fellowship Program of NEH, in Washington, D.C. Martin also served as the discussant for the screening of the film *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*, as part of the IU College of Arts & Sciences Themester Film Series on "(Re)Presenting Race in African American Film," on Oct. 8. On Oct. 22, he introduced and discussed the Algerian film, *The Yellow House*, at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA).

Professor **Iris Rosa**, director of the African American Dance Company, paid special tribute to rural women during the Triennial Rural Women's Conference on Sept. 25. Her Sancocho Dance Company performed religious and secular dances such as *Bailes Orishas* (Orisha Dances), rumba, and conga. Each dance highlighted the roles of women in rural black diasporic cultures. In keeping with the philosophy of AAADS to include the community as part of its work, Rosa provided the history of each dance's origin and its function. In addition, audience members had many opportunities to learn some of the dances, as well as to showcase their own steps.

*(continued on page 5)*

# Talking Drum

## 1980s

**Clarence O. Wells**, BA'89, works as a staffing coordinator for Home Depot Supply in Atlanta. He is a member of the board of directors of KAPsi Foundation of Decatur, Ga., and a sponsor of Celine's Place, a home for at-risk girls ages 7-17. Wells lives in Decatur.

## 1990s

**Michael W. Johnson**, BA'91, is an employment adviser for Job Works in Indianapolis. He also serves as an Indiana High School Athletic Association official in wrestling, softball, and volleyball. Johnson lives in Indianapolis.

**Walton Muyumba**, BA'94, PhD'01, is the author of *The Shadow and the Act: Black Intellectual Practice, Jazz Improvisation, and Philosophical Pragmatism*, published by the University of Chicago Press in June. An I-Man in basketball, Muyumba is an associate professor of English at the University of North Texas, Denton. He lives in Denton.

In August, the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society presented **Shontraí D. Irving**, BA'97, MA/JD'03, an attorney for State Farm Insurance in Crown Point, Ind., with its prestigious Alumni

Achievement Award at the society's national conference in Chicago. The award is conferred annually on Mortar Board alumni who have made outstanding contributions at local, national, and international levels, and who serve as role models to collegiate members. An activist for children, Irving has served as a foster parent to four children ages 2-8 and he was named Indiana's Foster Parent of the Year in 2007. Irving was also chosen as an Indianapolis Colts 'Anthem Angels' honoree for the Colts game against the Houston Texans on Nov. 8. The Colts teamed up with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield to honor community members working in civil or public service professions who have been a "first respondent" in service to others, above the call of duty. Honorees receive four VIP club seat tickets to a Colts game, on-field recognition at the game, a feature story on the Colts Web site, and a story in the Colts game-day magazine. Irving lives in Gary, Ind.

## 2000s

**Emily B. Campbell**, BA'07, writes, "I am in my third year of teaching in Andalucia, Spain, and continue long-distance research for IU's Department of African American

and African Diaspora Studies' Research Program in Transcultural and Intercultural Philanthropic Studies."

**Shirley I. Payne**, BA/BS'07, was accepted into the IU School of Medicine's Master of Public Health program in fall 2008. She was formerly a bookseller with Barnes and Noble. Payne lives in Indianapolis.

**April F. Smith**, MA'07, participated in the summer 2009 Institute for The National Council for Black Studies for students currently pursuing a PhD in Africana studies or related disciplines (humanities, social sciences, and education). The institute was designed to foster cross-fertilization of ideas, as participants learn from one another and debate different disciplinary visions. Smith is completing her dissertation in the IUB Department of Communication and Culture. For more information about the 2010 NCBS Summer Institute, contact Smith at [afsmith@indiana.edu](mailto:afsmith@indiana.edu).

### Talk to the Drum:

Use the form on page 6 to send us a note about what you're doing.

*We'd love to hear from you!*

## Faculty news

*(continued from page 4)*

In June, Assistant Professor **Micol Seigel** attended the Latin American Studies Association's international meeting and the Laboratório de Antropologia e História conference at the Museu Nacional, the anthropology branch of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Both conferences were held in Rio de Janeiro. While in Rio she conducted research at the Biblioteca Nacional and the Arquivo Nacional. In July she attended the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas in Tepoztlán, in Morelos, Mexico, an annual conference that she helps organize and of which IU is an institutional sponsor. In August, Seigel completed a weeklong training program for the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, a transformative pedagogical workshop that aims to provide the support and skills for faculty to teach Inside-Out courses in prisons near their home institutions. Seigel

hopes to teach such a course during spring 2010, with 15 "outside" IU undergraduates, and 15 "inside students" from the correctional facility.

Assistant Professor **Stephen Selka** spent August and part of September in Bahia, Brazil, studying the Afro-Catholic Sisterhood of Our Lady of the Good Death. He is presenting on his work in November at the American Academy of Religion meetings in Montreal. In addition, he has been invited to talk about cultural heritage politics at the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center in December.

Adjunct Professor **Kevin Brown**, delivered a paper titled "Impact of the New Department of Education Guidelines for the Classification of Race and Ethnicity on Blacks," at the *Hamline Journal of Public Law and Policy* 2009 Spring Symposium, "Barriers to Justice: Responding to the Needs of America's Low-Income Population" at the Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minn., on March 12.

## Need help with your job search?

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## ATUMPAN

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## AAADSAlumni: What's new with you?

*The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Updates are used as class notes and help keep IU's alumni records accurate and up to date. Attach additional pages if necessary. Mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266. To update online, visit <http://alumni.indiana.edu/directory>.*

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Last name while at IU \_\_\_\_\_

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business title \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Company address \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name while at IU \_\_\_\_\_

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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