

What can you do
with a degree in
African American
Studies?

Welcome to the world of African American Studies. One can see from the examples that follow that there is a world of possibilities for students with degrees in African American Studies. This array of career opportunities is possible because our courses impart the essence of a liberal arts education. Our students learn to be astute readers, clear writers, and critical thinkers.

In fact our courses are part of the College of Liberal Arts Core Requirements, which indicates that the value of our classes extends beyond our own major and minor. Several courses are used for the Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Gender Issues areas and our Study Abroad options are accepted for the Global Perspective.

Come see the possibilities that await you. African American Studies is an ideal major or minor to prepare you for our diverse world.

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DISTINGUISH *yourself*

NOTABLE
INDIVIDUALS WHO MAJORED IN
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES



Angela Bassett (Actress)
Yale University

Bassett was nominated for an Emmy (Television) and for an Academy Award (Film) for her role in portraying Tina Turner in the Film, *What's Love Got Do With it*. She also won a Golden Globe for the same role, becoming the first African American woman to win the award for Best Actress. Bassett has appeared in more than 60 film and television roles during her career and appears in the forthcoming film, *Notorious* (2009).

Vincent Carter (Professional Athlete)
North Carolina—Chapel Hill

Drafted in 1998 by the Golden State Warriors of the NBA, Vince Carter was traded to the Toronto Raptors where he became the 1999 NBA rookie of the year and dubbed "Air Canada" for his stellar play and gravity-defying dunks. Carter was a key contributor to the 2000 Olympic USA basketball team that won the Gold Medal in Sydney, Australia. Carter is an eight-time NBA all-star with a career average of 23.8 points per game. He is currently with the New Jersey Nets.



Thelma Golden (Museum Director)
Smith College



This Queens, N.Y. native first developed a love for art by studying reproductions of works from the Art Institute of Chicago's permanent collection. In 1994, as curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, she earned rave reviews with an exhibition entitled, *Black Male: Representations of Masculinity in Contemporary American Art*, which illustrated conceptions of black masculinity. She is currently the Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Studio Museum of Harlem.

Dr. Mae Jamison (Physician)
Stanford University

This physician and former NASA astronaut became the first African American woman to travel into space on September 12, 1992 as a member of the Space Shuttle *Endeavor* crew. Since then, Jamison has formed numerous organizations and corporations that involve incorporating science and technology into everyday life. Currently, Jamison is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the *BioSentient Corporation*, a medical technology firm that develops and markets mobile equipment worn to monitor vital signs and train people to respond favorably in stressful situations.



Do Kim (Attorney)
Harvard University



His undergraduate thesis at Harvard entitled, "Do the Right Thing: A Portrait of Black—Korean Conflict in Los Angeles," analyzed the relationship of these communities with an emphasis on South Central Los Angeles where civil unrest occurred after the Rodney King verdict. He earned his Juris Doctorate at UCLA and is the founder and former director of the Korean American Youth Leadership Program in Los Angeles. Kim is the Co-editor of the *Asian Pacific American Law Journal* and practices Public Interest and Policy Law in Southern California.

Aaron McGruder (Illustrator)
The University of Maryland-College Park

McGruder is an illustrator best known for his creation of *The Boondocks*, a Universal Press Syndicate comic strip about two young African American brothers living with their grandfather in the suburbs. The strip, which explores issues involving black culture and politics, has appeared in more than 250 newspapers. The success of the comic strip led to a television program, for which it won a Peabody Award in 2006 for best animated series.



RECENT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATES

Steven C. Phillips (Attorney)

Stanford University



Over the last three decades, Mr. Phillips has served as an attorney, writer, education reformer and elected official. In 1992, at the age of 28, he was the youngest person ever elected to San Francisco's Board of education where he served for eight years, including one year as Board President. During his tenure as a board member, Phillips earned his Juris Doctorate at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. As an attorney, he has successfully litigated against a broad number of entities ranging from municipalities to multimillion dollar corporations.

Claudia Thomas (Surgeon)

Vassar College



In 1969, Claudia Thomas was one of thirty-four Black female students that seized and occupied the main building at Vassar College with a list of demands, which included the implementation of a Black Studies program. The College complied, and in 1971, Thomas would earn a degree in Black Studies and later earn a medical degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Ms. Thomas interned at the Yale-New Haven Hospital in general and orthopedic surgery and earned the distinction of becoming the first Black female orthopedic surgeon in the United States.

Dr. Kimani C. Toussaint, Jr. (Engineer)

Boston University

As an undergraduate, Dr. Toussaint pursued two courses of academic study one, in Mechanical Engineering the other in African Studies. After receiving his Masters in Electrical Engineering, Dr. Toussaint was a recipient of the very first Gates Millennium Scholars Fellowship award. This award, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is given to minority students who have demonstrated academic excellence and community service. Professor Toussaint conducts interdisciplinary research in the area of optics, particularly as it relates to nano- and biophotonics.



Andrea Jasper (Educator)

Purdue University

Andrea Jasper graduated from Purdue University in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in African American Studies and a Minor in Political Science. Later she graduated from Purdue University with a Master's degree in Education. She currently has a position at Indiana Developmental Training Center as a teaching specialist, and she is working on her Ph.D. in special education at Purdue University.

Sarah (Storm) Matthews (Educator)

Purdue University



Sarah (Storm) Henry Matthews graduated from Purdue University in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in African American Studies and a Minor in Psychology.

Sarah is presently a teacher in advanced English at Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet in Baton Rouge, LA. She of course adds a healthy level of her African American Studies background to all her teaching. Sarah plans to attend law



Carley Shinault (Investigator)

Purdue University

Carley Shinault graduated from Purdue University in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Minor in African

American Studies. Following graduation she enrolled in a graduate program in Public Administration at Florida A&M University. Upon graduating from FAMU with a Master's in applied social science she took a position with the Florida Commission on Human Relations as an employment investigator. Later she was promoted to Whistle-blower Investigator and she is presently up for another promotion to a community Relations Specialist.

Craig Wesley (Director)

Purdue University



Craig Wesley graduated from Purdue University in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in History and a Minor in African American Studies. After graduation, Craig took a job in the field of public health working with community coalitions to reduce smoking consumption, increase quit attempts by smokers, and change public policy to protect all workers from the serious health hazards of secondhand smoke. Craig works for the Indiana Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Agency and he serves as the Regional Director for Central East Indiana.



**African American
Studies: Offers A World
of Possibilities**



**African American
Studies & Research Center**

Building an Intellectual Community for the 21st Century

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