



African American Studies & Research Center's  
28th Symposium on African American  
Culture & Philosophy



*“Celebrating Our Past and  
Looking into Our Future”*

November 15—17, 2012  
Purdue University  
Stewart Center, 3rd Floor  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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*“Celebrating Our Past and Looking into Our Future”  
November 15—17, 2012*

**Thursday, November 15th  
7:00 PM  
Stewart Center, Room 310**

“What do ‘Black’ and ‘Public’ Mean in an Era of Obama and Mass Incarceration?: Academe, Bus Frolics, and Cable Makeovers”

**Symposium Keynote  
Dr. Houston Baker  
Vanderbilt University**



Houston A. Baker was born in Louisville Kentucky. He received his B.A. from Howard University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles. He has taught at Yale, University of Virginia, University of Pennsylvania, and Duke. He is currently Distinguished University Professor and Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. His awards and honors include: Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships, resident fellowships at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the National Humanities Center, and honorary degrees from a number of U.S. colleges and universities. He has served as President of the Modern Language Association of America, and is the author of articles, books, and essays devoted to African American literary criticism and theory. His book *Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era* received an American Book Award for 2009.



**“Celebrating Our Past and Looking into Our Future”  
November 15—17, 2012**

**Friday, November 16th**



**Continental Breakfast 8:30 AM Room 313**



**Friday 9:00—10:00  
Concurrent Panels**

***Racial Activism (Room 310)***

Chair: Ms. Stella Steka, Purdue University

Love That Kills: Racial Slaughter in M.S. Livingston’s ‘for Unborn Children’  
Dr. Pat Young, Western Illinois University

A Half-Century of Artistry and Activism: Reflections on the Achievements  
of Alice Walker

Ms. Suzanne Clemenz, Purdue University

***Enlightenments and Origins (Room 314)***

Chair: Dr. Cornelius Bynum, Purdue University

The Colonial Breast: Enlightenment Project and Revolutionary Symbol  
Dr. Karol Weaver, Susquehanna University

Black Legal Studies and the Origins of the Constitution  
Mr. Wylie Jason Donte Tidwell III, Walden University

**Break 10:00—10:15 Room 313**

**Friday 10:15—11:45  
Concurrent Panels**

***Octavia Butler’s Writings Explored (Room 310)***

Chair: Dr. Venetria Patton, Purdue University

Born-to-Die: The Ogbanje Figure in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*  
Ms. Stella Setka, Purdue University

Afro-Futurism: The *Kindred* Parables of the Fledgling Future of *Lilith’s Brood*. Or the  
Past is What we Can Make it  
Dr. Billi Johnson, University of Cincinnati

Parable of the Economy: Mapping the Neo-Liberal, Economic Vision of Octavia  
Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*  
Dr. Rone Shavers, College of Saint Rose



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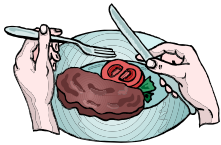
***Emergent Voice of the Spiritual Past and the Worldly Present:  
Black Women Speak (Room 314)***

Chair: Dr. Carolyn Johnson, Purdue University

Speak Right – Daughters of Zelophehad:  
18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Female Clergy  
Ms. Beverly Lewis-Burton, Indiana University

The African Diasporic Connection to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Black Women’s Sass  
Dr. Regina Jones, Indiana University Northwest

Sappho’s Mixed Beliefs: The Americanization of Miscegenation  
Ms. Anna Taylor, Indiana University Northwest



**12:00—2:00**



**Plenary Luncheon  
Poetry and Spoken Word Presentation  
Jolivette Anderson-Douoning and Juanita Crider  
PMU West Faculty Lounge**



Jolivette Anderson-Douoning is a native of Shreveport, LA. She spent 10 years in Mississippi as an artist, community organizer and activist. Jolivette earned a B.A. in Speech/Theater from Louisiana Tech University and a M.A. in Humanities/Liberal Studies from Grambling State University. Jolivette designed and implemented a Cultural Identity Curriculum called the D. Ciphers Language Migration: Explorations in Reading, Writing & Critical Thinking in response to the needs of African American public school students.



A graduate of Ball State University with a B.S. degree in history, Juanita Crider is currently completing her Master's degree in the same subject with a special focus on college student volunteerism and the Mississippi Freedom Summer. She is also interested in African American images in post World War II popular culture.





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**Friday 2:15—3:45  
Concurrent Panels**

*African American Beginnings (Room 310)*  
Chair: Mr. Arthur Banton, Purdue University

The Centrality and Role of African-centered Historiography and Culture in the Empowerment  
of African People

Dr. Reginald Hopkins, Virginia State University

Afro-American Civil Society  
Mr. Roderick Anderson, Trinity College

Origin of Black Studies in the Thought of Frantz Fanon  
Mr. Lou Turner, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

*African Americanness and The Future of Disciplines (Room 314)*  
Chair: Dr. Leonard Harris, Purdue University

Cultural Mobility Studies: An Evolution of Diaspora Studies and an Illuminating  
Framework for Literary Scholars?  
Dr. Justine McConnell, Oxford University

African American Literature and the End of Black Studies?  
Dr. Patrice Rankine, Purdue University

*Religion & Spirituality (Room 318)*  
Chair: Dr. David Rollock, Purdue University

Afro-French Sorial Congregations in the Upper and Lower South: Comparisons of  
Black Catholicism in Nineteenth-Century Baltimore and New Orleans  
Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Purdue University

Their Voices Paved A Way to Our Present and From Them we Draw Strength to  
Negotiate Our Future: Celebrating the African American Spirituals Legacy  
Dr. Betty Dlamini, Indiana University

Black Spirituality and the Academy  
Rev. Ronald Winley, Independent Scholar



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**Friday 4:00—5:45**

*Canon in F: Afrofuturism-Its Place and Prospect in the Black Literary Tradition  
(Room 318)*

Chair: Dr. Marlo David, Purdue University

An Afrofuturist Reading of Zora Neal Hurston’s *Their Eyes*  
Dr. Isaiah Lavender III, University of Central Arkansas

Adventures in Appropriation: Post-Reconstruction Race Utopias and the Emergence of  
Postcolonial Science Fiction  
Dr. Lysa Rivera, Western Washington University

That Synching Feeling: Demonic Temporality in Black Diasporic Concurrence  
& Nietzschean Recurrence  
Dr. Darryl Smith, Pomona College

Crossroads Chronotopias: Afrofuturist Vertigo in Black Cultural Production  
Dr. Valorie Thomas, Pomona College



**RECEPTION**



**PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION  
WEST FACULTY LOUNGE  
6:00—8:00 PM**





**“Celebrating Our Past and Looking into Our Future”  
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**Saturday, November 17th**



**Continental Breakfast  
8:30 AM  
Room 313**



**Saturday 9:00—10:30  
Concurrent Panels**

***Isms & Black Feminist Discourse What’s Ageism and sexism Got to Do with It Subverting  
the (Isms) in Black Feminist Discourse (Room 310)***

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall, Purdue University

Black Feminism and Ageing Black Female Sexuality: Stereotypes, Challenges and the  
Importance of Inclusion

Ms. Juanita Crider, Purdue University

Against Shame, but Subverting Identity: Black Female Sexuality on Screen in Spike Lee’s  
She’s Gotta Have it

Ms. Casarae Gibson, Purdue University

Our Words are not Without Meaning: The Vernacular as Resistance in the Lives of Black  
Women

Ms. Lisa Young, Purdue University

***Theory and Practice (Room 314)***

Chair: Dr. Ronald Stephens, Ohio University

Bridging Our Feminisms: Africana Feminism in Perspective

Dr. Carollette Norwood, University of Cincinnati

The Transdisciplinary Applied Social Justice model: A new Theoretical Frontier for  
African American Studies

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, University of Illinois-Champaign

The Impact Black Studies has on the Identity Formation of Students Attending a  
PWI vs. HBCU

Mr. Ramon Jenkins, Michigan State University

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SYMPOSIUM CO-SPONSORS

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Department of English § Department of Anthropology  
Department of History § Department of Political Science  
Department of Sociology § The Honors College  
Department of Philosophy § Interdisciplinary Studies

## 29<sup>TH</sup> AASRC SYMPOSIUM

“TITLE TO BE ANNOUNCED”

November 20—22, 2014

Beginning in 2014, we will be moving to a biannual schedule.  
Please look for our symposium to be held in the even years.

## AASRC FACULTY & STAFF

### Director

Dr. Venetria K. Patton

### Faculty

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Dr. Su'ad A. Khabeer

### Staff

Ms. Matilda B. Stokes  
Ms. Vanessa Garcia

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Ms. Mariedith Ashford  
Mr. Arthur Banton  
Ms. Casarae Gibson  
Mr. Nicholas Krebs  
Ms. Heather Moore

### Affiliates

Dr. T.J. Boisseau  
Dr. Cornelius Bynum  
Dr. Marlo David  
Dr. Leonard Harris  
Dr. Carolyn Johnson  
Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall  
Dr. Patrice Rankine  
Dr. David Rollock  
Dr. Dawn Stinchcomb

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