

NOMMO

Power of the word Volume 9, 2012

Inside this issue

Program Reviews

- ♣ **Natasha Trethaway**
- ♣ **Symposium Review 2011**
- ♣ **Welcome Back**
- ♣ **WEB Dubois 2011**
- ♣ **Harriet A. Jacobs 2012**
- ♣ **Spike Lee vs. Tyler Perry**
.....Pg. 2

Upcoming Events.....Pg. 3

- ♣ **28th Annual Symposium Announcement**
.....Pg. 3
- ♣ **Calendar of Events.....Pg. 3**
- ♣ **Course Offerings.....Pg. 3**

People Focus:

- ♣ **Goodbyes & Welcomes**
.....Pg. 4

2012 Annual NCBS ConferencePg. 5

NCBS Call for Papers.....Pg. 5

Remmers Awards.....Pg. 6

Faculty & Staff ListingPg. 7

Support AASRCPg. 8

From the Director

From the Director

In this issue we say goodbye to two of our faculty—Drs. Niambi Carter and Titilayo Okoror. We enjoyed our years with them, but wish them the best at their new institutional homes which allow them to be closer to family. We also welcome in this issue two new teaching assistants—Mariedith Ashford and Nicholas Krebs, both in the American Studies Program—and lecturer—Chris Warren, who will join us this spring after completing his Ph.D. in the American Studies Program. Please see inside for more details.

In last year's newsletter, I announced the creation of new graduate research and theory courses—both AAS 574: Research Methods In African American Studies and AAS 575: Theories of African American Studies were approved by the Graduate School as well as the new Concentration in African American Studies. Students in American Studies have been informally specializing in African American Studies for years, but now they can formally recognize African American Studies as an area of concentration. Students concentrating in African American Studies will take prelim exams in African American Studies and their dissertations will be directed or co-directed by AASRC faculty. This will allow us to continue our excellent work with students at the graduate level.

In fact, I recently heard from one of our alums who graduated with a Masters of Science and wished to

thank the program for developing in her “a thirst for knowledge” as well as providing “a solid foundation.” I believe these two things are the hallmarks of lifelong learning. One must have a foundation of knowledge upon which to

build as well as a desire to know more and this is what we provide at AASRC. While the notion of lifelong learning undergirds our mission, it means so much more when our students recognize this in themselves.

This desire to promote lifelong learning is one of the reasons that AASRC has such a rich history of engagement whether it be through community service, service learning or various programs that we sponsor or co-sponsor. We are particularly proud of our annual symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy. On November 15-17, 2012, we will host our 28th annual symposium, with the theme “Celebrating Our Past & Looking Into Our Future.” Our program, established in the 1970s, has been in existence for more than 40 years, so this is an ideal time to look back over the discipline while also looking forward to impending developments in the field. We will also serve as co-sponsors for the Center on Aging and the Life Course's Annual Symposium on September 21st with this year's theme addressing “Health and Aging in Diverse Contexts: From Research to Policy.”



Venetria K. Patton

Programs in Review

Welcome Back

On September 22, 2011, the African American Studies Research Center (AASRC) at Purdue hosted its' annual Welcome Back event for students, faculty, and staff affiliated with the program. Students and faculty from diverse interdisciplinary backgrounds attended the event. Former African American Studies students gave advice to Purdue undergraduates who were interested in the major. In addition, faculty had the opportunity to discuss their upcoming courses with both undergraduate and graduate students affiliated with the AASRC. Attendees were also able to see the course offerings for the upcoming Spring semester which included a course on the Harlem Renaissance taught by Venetria Patton (Director of the AASRC) and an expanded list of undergraduate course offerings. Overall, the event allowed participants to fellowship with one another about life inside and outside the Purdue classroom.

Karla Holloway

On October 4, 2011, Duke University professor Dr. Karla F.C. Holloway presented a phenomenal lecture titled: "Generations of Privacy and Consent: Private Bodies, Public Texts A Response to *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*" sponsored by the Purdue University Diversity Resource Office, African American Studies & Research Center and the Department of English. Dr. Holloway's lecture addressed the immediate themes of bioethics, race, gender and socio-economic status raised in her recent publication *Private Bodies, Public Texts: Race, Gender and a Cultural Bioethics* (2011) and in response to Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2010).

Natasha Trethewey – Poetry Reading

On the evening of October 27 the AASRC along with Purdue's Creative Writing Program, English Department, and Black Cultural Center sponsored a reading by distinguished poet Natasha Trethewey. Complementing this lecture, Trethewey also offered a smaller workshop the following morning. Both events were well attended and were marked by a level of intimacy and exchange that is a testament to Trethewey's work; like her poetry, Trethewey, before a crowd reading her work, is as open as she is honest. This above all emerged as the most striking dimension of her work and readings across both events.

2011 Symposium—Race & Reality: Mediated Truths



Dr. Kim Butler

W.E.B. Du Bois Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kim Butler

Thursday, December 1, 2011
Stewart Center • Room 310

On Friday December 1st, 2011, the African American Studies and Research center held its 27th Annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy with Keynote speaker Dr. Kim Butler.

The symposium featured more than a dozen sessions, which stimulated dynamic conversation among the panelists, attendees, and students. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Kim Butler, a historian specializing in African Diaspora studies with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean performed a visually stimulating presentation highlighting the struggle of Afrodescendents (Latinos whom identify with their African heritage) and the recognition of their voice.

Program Review: Harriet A. Jacobs Series in the Humanities and the Arts—Dr. Marlo David

David examines literature and performances after the civil rights movement to investigate transgressive black maternal figures. She claims that Erykah Badu, an artist, singer, songwriter, mother of three children, midwife, and activist is a central contemporary figure who exemplifies transgression and goes beyond the boundaries of her artistry and stardom. To centralize Badu in a larger academic discussion, David uses the theory Afro-futurism, a fairly new concept coined in Mark Derby's 1994 article "Black to the Future." David asserts that Badu's song "On & On" off her debut album *Baduizm* (1997), is an Afro-Futurist coded call to collective black consciousness.

Program Review: Film Series Tyler Perry vs Spike Lee

In the spring semester of the 2011-2012 academic year, the research center renewed an old tradition by reviving the African American Studies film festival. A panel of graduate students and administrative staff facilitated this event; each of the facilitators presented on a different thematic element from Spike Lee movies or Tyler Perry's films and/or plays. After the presentations, there was ample time for Q & A where many scholars and budding intellectuals shared their sentiments about each filmmaker. The larger conversation focused on the responsibility of black leadership in Hollywood and our own social responsibility as a consumer audience. This event proved to be one of the most widely attended events of the academic year.

Upcoming

Symposium Announcement

**African American Studies and Research Center
Announces its 28th annual Symposium on
African American Culture and Philosophy
“Celebrating Our Past and Looking Into Our Future”
November 15-17, 2012
Stewart Center**

Symposium Keynote Speaker—Dr. Houston Baker



Houston A. Baker was born in Louisville Kentucky. He received his BA 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 US 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.

Course Offerings Spring 2013

AAS 27100 3 credits	Introduction to African American Studies	MWF 10:30—11:20	Ms. Mariedith Ashford
AAS 27100 3 credits	Introduction to African American Studies	MWF 1:30—2:20	Mr. Nicholas Krebs
AAS 27100 3 credits	Introduction to African American Studies	TTH 12:00—1:15	Ms. Heather Moore
AAS 27700 3 credits	African American Popular Culture	MWF 11:30—12:20	Ms. Casarae Gibson
AAS 27700 3 credits	African American Popular Culture	MWF 9:30—10:20	Mr. Arthur Banton
AAS37600 3 credits	The Black Male	TTH 1:30 –2:45	Mr. Christopher Warren
AAS37100 3 credits	Special topics	TTH 10:30—11:45	Mr. Christopher Warren
AAS37300 3 credits	Culture & Philosophy	TBA	Dr. Leonard Harris
AAS49100 3 credits	Black Satire & Humor	MWF	Dr. Marlo David
AAS57400 3 credits	Theories of African American Studies	T 2:50—5:40	Dr. Joseph Dorsey

Fall 2012

September

**CALC Annual Symposium
September 21, 2012
STEW 218 ABCD**

October

**Talkin' N Testifyin'
Nicholas Krebs
October 4, 2012
BRNG 1284
4:00 pm**

November

**AASRC Symposium
November 15-17, 2012
Stewart Center
3rd Floor**



Spring 2013

February

**Talkin' N Testifyin'
Arthur Banton
February 19, 2013
STEW 318
4:00 pm**

March

**Harriet Jacobs Lecture Series
Dr. Patrice Rankine
March 27, 2013
STEW 322
4:00 pm**

Congratulations Matilda Stokes 15 years at Purdue

Matilda Stokes has been in the African American Studies and Research Center at Purdue University for 15 years. She served as a receptionist for 8 years and then moved to secretary 4 with the arrival of Dr. Venetria Patton as director. As the center readjusted under Dr. Patton, she received much resource training, and with the past several years of assisting Dr. Patton she was promoted to a level 5 administrative assistant. Congratulations on your accomplishments.

WELCOME

Welcome—Mr. Christopher Warren

Christopher is a Ph.D Candidate in American Studies at Purdue University. Chris expects to graduate in December 2012. His areas of specialization include: Critical Education, Post-Racial Theory, Issues in Race, Class and Gender. Chris received his M.A in Political Science from Florida A&M University in 2007 with a specialization in Socio-Political Movements. Chris has published an article in the *Journal for Critical Education Policy Studies*, and is awaiting publication of another article in the *Journal of Black Studies*. Welcome aboard Christopher!

Welcome—Ms. Mariedith Ashford

A native of Los Angeles, Mariedith Ashford has a special interest in media representations of blackness throughout Hollywood's history. After a short career in the entertainment industry, she headed back to the classroom in 2004. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of California, Los Angeles. Welcome to Purdue University & African American Studies, Mariedith!

Welcome—Mr. Nicholas Krebs

Nicholas is a Master's student in American Studies at Purdue University where he focuses on the formation and transmission of cultural knowledge. Currently interested in curriculum and pedagogy as contested sites, he is researching non-traditional methods of knowledge transmission that are strewn about cultures and society. Nicholas is also a member of the Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society. Welcome aboard Nicholas!

FAREWELL

Goodbye—Dr. Niambi Carter

Dr. Niambi Carter joined the faculty at Temple University in the fall of 2012, after declining a fellowship at Emory University. Goodbye Niambi; you will be missed here at Purdue. We wish you all the best.

Goodbye—Dr. Titilayo Okoror

Dr. Titilayo Okoror left us for Binghamton University. We will miss your humor and your students will miss you tremendously. Good luck in your new position; we wish you all the best.

Goodbye—Ms. Elizabeth Canela

Ms. Elizabeth Canela has a Masters in American Studies and left Purdue to accept a CORO Fellowship in Public Affairs in New York. Goodbye Elizabeth; we will miss you. Good luck in your new endeavors.

Goodbye—Mr. Tony Perry

Mr. Tony Perry received his Masters degree in American Studies at Purdue University and will continue his education at the University of Maryland pursuing his doctorate. Goodbye Tony we will miss you; good luck as you further your education.

Purdue University in the House at NCBS 2012



With assistance from the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office, AASRC was able to send six graduate students to the NCBS conference last year. Five of the students were current teaching assistants and one was an incoming teaching assistant. Because AASRC draws its TAs from other units, we see this as a very important professional development opportunity for our instructors. Participation in the conference allows them to interact with scholars they are studying and to join in current debates in the field.

Elizabeth Canela attended for the first time and noted, "It was an honor to present at my first national conference and have the support of Purdue front and center. It solidified my belief in Purdue's strong sense of community and support. In addition, I was able to connect with scholars around the country who also supported and challenged my intellectual pursuits in social policy and its effect on inner city communities of color."

While, Elizabeth was a first time attendee, the other students were coming back for more. Tony Perry was attending for the second time, but this was his first time presenting. He found the insights from fellow conference participants very beneficial, "at NCBS I received very helpful feedback on my research – both in the Q&A portion of the panel and after – and this feedback proved quite helpful in my thinking about my work and how I was approaching it." Returning participant, Casarae Gibson commented specifically about two sessions in which "panelists commanded the audiences' attention with their personal connection to their research." She finds "it fulfilling when academics use personal experience in their research as a way to investigate social, political or economic standings that may promote real change in our communities." Three students were attending for the third time. Heather Moore commented, "This was my third consecutive year presenting at this conference; each time, I leave with a wealth of knowledge about my subject material and also about topics related to people from the African Diaspora. At this meeting, I was thankful for getting the opportunity to meet with Haki Madhubuti, whose work I first engaged with in Dr. Patton's contemporary African American fiction course." Nick Krebs was also attending for the third time, but the first time as a graduate student. He presented his research on the war on drugs and his panel chair later introduced him to a NYPD narcotics officer, who may become an expert source for his research. According to Nick, "Further collaborations were also made possible by working with a group of students from San Francisco State who expressed interest in starting a reading and exchange-of-research group." Returning participant, Arthur Banton sums up his experience by noting, "The NCBS conference clearly demonstrated why this organization is so important to the community of scholars and students and I certainly look forward to attending the conference next year and as often as I can in the future." We hope to once again have several Purdue University participants on hand at the annual conference which will be held in Indianapolis with support from Purdue and other Indiana universities.

NCBS Call for Papers

NCBS is accepting abstracts for individual papers, poster, panel, session, roundtable discussion, workshop, town hall meeting that explore the black experience locally, nationally, and /or globally from a variety perspective.

Please visit ncbsonline.org for the complete call for papers and conference information. Abstract Submission Deadline: December 15, 2012.

Remmers Award Launches Students

This year's annual Remmers Award Program was held on April 27, 2012, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. The Remmers Award supports students pursuing social science research at both the masters and doctoral level. In the process of completing theses and dissertations, students are often faced with additional expenses related to printing surveys, transcribing interviews, and coding data; however, awards such as the Remmers Award provide additional funds to offset these expenses. Since the 1985-86 academic year, AASRC has coordinated the selection of Remmers Award recipients. We are pleased to have contributed to the success of many Purdue alumni.

MS. AMBER LANDERS PH.D. AWARD WINNER



Psychological Sciences

MS. DAPHNE PENN MASTERS AWARD WINNER



Sociology

Update with Brittany Hoskin, Class of 2007



AASRC recently received a lovely thank you note from Brittany Hoskin in which she thanked us for providing “a solid foundation and a thirst for knowledge.” Brittany recently earned her Master of Science in Developmental Education with a concentration in Guidance and Counseling at Grambling State University and is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Developmental Education with a concentration in Higher Education Administration and Management. She will be continuing her education while working as the Student Success Coordinator at Grambling. Last October, Brittany began working at the College of Business Student Success Center as a graduate student, and after some time her supervisor realized the need for a full time person and

noting Brittany's passion for the growth and development of students of Grambling State University she was offered the job. Brittany began her new position on August 13th. When asked how her current position ties into her African American Studies degree, Brittany replied, “having an in depth understanding of who I am equips me with the ability to excel in any field of my choosing.” She went on to note her passion for helping students maximize their potential and how African American Studies helped her learn about “the psycho-social factors that stifle the growth and development of ‘formerly’ disenfranchised groups” and “to understand the history behind the roadblocks to success.”

Brittany has also made some impressive strides since her first NCBS presentation in 2007 with her paper, “Black is Beautiful.” At that time, she had noted, “As an African American Studies major, I believe that I have a deeper understanding and a heightened sense of awareness of issues regarding the Black community; but until I attended the NCBS conference I did not appreciate how far my knowledge could take me.” She definitely has this appreciation now as she comes off an award winning presentation at the Academy of Business Research's International Conference held in New Orleans this past March. Brittany along with Drs. Daffney Felton and Donna Williams presented the paper, “‘Don't Go . . . Stay a While': A Look at Grambling State University's college of Business Retention Program,” which won Best Paper and will be published in *The Academy of Business Journal* this fall. The paper generated a lot of interest from colleagues seeking to be more effective in retaining and matriculating students.

We commend Brittany for building on the foundation provided by African American Studies and Research Center at Purdue University. She is just one example of our recent graduates who are utilizing their Purdue degree to further their personal goals and to enhance their communities. We encourage other alums and former Teaching Assistants to drop us a line and let us know what you're doing with your Purdue degree.

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