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**From the Director.**



**Ronald J. Stephens**

Students, alumni, parents, community leaders, friends, and colleagues, welcome to the 2015-16 academic calendar year. This year not only marks a transition in leadership, but also a period to build upon the foundation laid and further elevate the program’s ranking and status. On that note I hope you find the pages within this publication to be informative, engaging, and to serve as a sign of the work being celebrated and produced through the African American Studies and Research Center (AASRC).

This includes the recent success of two of our affiliate faculty, Kim Gallon, assistant professor of history, and Cornelius “Neil” Bynum, associate professor of history, who “each won significant awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities,” awards that help to advance and contribute to opportunities for “higher education scholars and high school educators to focus on black studies while incorporating digital technology,” and “a greater appreciation for contemporary scholarship in the humanities.”

In the spirit of these achievements and newer efforts to elevate the program’s visibility, we are expanding our study abroad program, seeking institutional approval for an interdisciplinary graduate concentration in African American Studies, an institutional partnership and exchange program between

Purdue’s College of Liberal Arts and the University of Newcastle in Australia, and other successes. The 2015-16 academic year will essentially mark my first semester as AASRC director.

Working from behind the scenes during the previous administration to build upon the foundation already laid, we should celebrate the announcement of an additional .5 FTE gain for AASRC through the upcoming appointment transition of associate professor Joseph Dorsey from a half appointment in the History Department to a full appointment in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies in the African American Studies. Our outstanding students, faculty, and staff make us unique as an interdisciplinary field of study.

Recently, three of our TAs presented their research at the Association for the Study of

African American History in Atlanta, Georgia, September 23 to 27th. As the program continues to strive to attract, recruit and retain a diverse faculty and graduate students, we plan to enhance our research and scholarship activities, our ability to obtain additional grant awards, to establish institutional partnerships with other academic institutions, and to foster working relationships with members of the greater Lafayette area in our churches, schools, businesses, and industries. This spring these goals and initiatives will continue to evolve as we strive to make real and tangible progress. The future of this success will hinge upon our ability to work together with other units to inspire, prepare, and mentor future educators, practitioners, and dedicated professionals to meet the diverse needs of our ever-evolving global world.

## Programs in Review

### Planning for London Spring Break Study Abroad



AASRC is planning to offer a Spring Break trip to London focusing on London's role in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Students are encouraged to also take Dr. Patton's course, AAS 37300, Studies in the African Diaspora, for more indepth analysis of the history of resistance to slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism. Students will travel from March 12-19, 2016 and visit such places as the Greenwich Slave Trail walk, the London, Sugar & Slavery gallery of the Museum of Docklands, the British Museum, Lloyds of London, the Kendwood House, Guildhall of London, and various markets. Students will also meet with Students from the School of Oriental and African Studies during our stay and enjoy a lecture by one of their faculty members.

### AASRC Co-Sponsored, Soledad O'Brien—Black in America

O'Brien's "Black in America" put race at the center of examination on a campus where racial tensions are always covertly high. Following the murders of Mike Brown and Eric Garner, at hands of state violence, it was great to see the campus engage in conversation about the reality of racism. Aside from the disgruntled audience members who became irate behind O'Brien's discussion on discriminatory policing and police brutality, I was enamored by audience members who were passionate about challenging and dismantling white supremacy. The "Black in America" edition at Purdue showed me why the work I want to do at Purdue is important. Following the event, many of my students expressed a deep appreciation for an event that highlighted some of the challenges they face being Black at a predominantly White institution.

### HARRIET A. JACOBS SERIES IN THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS — Dr. Ayesha K. Hardison

#### Harriet Jacobs and Woodman Lecture Series

Dr. Ayesha K. Hardison

4:00 pm, March 26, 2015,

Stewart Center 310

Dr. Ayesha K. Hardison is an associate professor of English at Ohio University. In *Writing through Jane Crow: Race and Gender Politics in African American Literature*, Hardison examines African American literature and its representation of black women during the decades of the 1940s and 1950s. Shifting the focus toward lesser-known black authors and their works, Hardison maps the contours of the literary movement to address the effects of "Jane Crow," the interconnected racial, gender, and sexual oppression that black women experienced. Her research interests include African American literature, cultural history and theory, critical race theory, and gender and sexuality studies. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of English.

### The Call of Bilal—Dr. Edward E. Curtis IV

A prolific author, Dr. Curtis is a specialist on Islam in the United States, African American Islam and Africana Religions more broadly. He lectured on his newest book, *The Call of Bilal: Islam in the African Diaspora*, which examines Black Muslim identities throughout the African diaspora from the Indian subcontinent and Jordan to the United Kingdom and the US. He pointed out that while Muslims of African descent in these different locations share experiences of being subjected to anti-African/Black prejudices, how and to what extent these same Muslims self-identify as Black is variable, contingent on their histories of migration out of Africa and local meanings of Blackness.

### 2014 Symposium — November 20-22, 2014

#### AASRC 29th Symposium Keynote

**"Out of the Shadows, Into the Stars: Science and Technology in African American Studies"**

Dr. Alondra Nelson

The African American Studies & Research Center's 29th Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy was well attended this past November. The 2014 annual symposium entitled "Black to the Future: Black Culture Through Time and Space", challenged us as scholars to expand the knowledge of Black Studies within the academy. Dr. Alondra Nelson author of *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* and the symposium keynote speaker accepts this challenge by demonstrating the effectiveness of infusing science and technology into African American Studies. By referencing her book she also shed light on the Black Panther call for advances in healthcare within the Black community. She notes that scientific technology allows us to distinguish unique illnesses according to race. One of the specific illnesses that Dr. Nelson mentioned was sickle cell as a unique illness for Black people and how the Black Panther rallied behind this illness and the state's low quality healthcare facilities within the Black community.

## AASRC 2015-2016 Calendar of Events



### Fall 2015

#### OCTOBER

LGBTQ 3RD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM (AASRC  
CO-SPONSOR)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 7:00 PM,  
KRANNART AUDITORIUM  
TALKIN' & TESTIFYIN' WORKS IN  
PROGRESS

DR. JACOBY CARTER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015 4:30 PM,  
STEW CENTER RM 278

#### NOVEMBER

TALKIN' & TESTIFYIN' WORKS IN  
PROGRESS DR. LEE MCBRIDE THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 10, 2015  
3:30 PM, STEW 278



### Spring 2016

#### JANUARY

BLACK HISTORY DR. TIFFANY  
WILLOUGHBY-HERARD FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 29, 2016  
3:00 PM, STEW 278

#### FEBURARY

W.E.B. DU BOIS LECTURE  
DR. MARCUS REDIKER  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY. 22, 2016  
6:00 PM, STEW 214 A & B  
TALKIN' & TESTIFYIN' WORKS IN  
PROGRESS SERIES  
ARIA HALLIDAY  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016  
3:30 PM BCC MP 2

#### MARCH

TALKIN' & TESTIFYIN' WORKS IN  
PROGRESS SERIES  
SHARONDA WOODFORD  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016  
3:30 PM, BRNG 1284  
HARRIET A. JACOBS LECTURE SERIES  
DR. ALISON PARKER THURSDAY,  
MARCH 10, 2016 3:00 PM, BCC MP1

#### APRIL

TALKIN' & TESTIFYIN' WORKS IN  
PROGRESS SERIES  
ANDREW MCGREGOR  
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016  
3:30 PM, STEW 214A

## Upcoming Events

### 2015 FALL

#### November

**Talkin' & Testifyin': Works in Progress, Dr. Lee McBride** Thursday  
November 10, 2015 3:30 PM STEW Center RM 278

### 2016 SPRING

#### January

**Black History** Dr. Tiffany Willoughby-Herard Friday, January 29, 2016  
3:00 PM STEW Center RM 278

#### February

**W.E.B. DuBois Lecture, Dr. Marcus Rediker** Monday, February 22,  
2016 6:00 PM STEW Center RM 215 A&B

**Talkin' & Testifyin': Works in Progress, Aria Halliday** Monday,  
February 29, 2016 3:30 PM Black Cultural Center MP 2

#### March

**Talkin' & Testifyin': Works in Progress, Sharonda Woodford**  
Wednesday, March 2, 2016 3:30 PM BRNG 1284

**Harriet A. Jacobs & Woodman Memorial Lecture Series, Dr. Alison  
Parker** Thursday, March 10, 2016 3:00 PM Black Cultural Center MP 1

#### April

**Talkin' & Testifyin': Works in Progress, Andrew McGregor**  
Thursday, April 7, 2016 3:30 PM STEW Center RM 214 A&B

## Course Offerings Spring 2016

AAS 27100	Intro to African American Studies	TTh 10:30— 11:45	S. Khabeer
AAA27100	Intro to African American Studies	MWF 9:30— 10:20	K. Nix
AAS27100	Intro to African American Studies	MWF 11:30— 12:20	I. Jackson
AAS27700	Black Popular Culture	TTh 9:00— 10:15	A. Halliday
AAS37100	Reading on Gender Relations	MWF 10:30 – 11:20	J. Dorsey
AAS37100	The Black Athlete	MWF 10:30— 11:20	A. McGregor
AAS37100	The Black Athlete	TTh 3:00—4:15	S. Woodford
AAS37300	Studies in The African Diaspora	TTh 1:30—2:45	V. Patton
AAS37300	History of Injustice in the U.S.	TTh 12:00— 1:15	R. Stephens
AAS47300	Blacks in Hollywood Blacks in Hollywood Lab	MW 2:30—3:20 F 4:30—6:20	J. Dorsey M. Williams
AAS49100	BCC Library Research	Online	J. Gabriel

Please contact the center for more details and the class schedule. The class schedule can also be found online at:  
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/african-american/courses/spring.cfm>



African American  
Studies & Research Center

Building an Intellectual Community for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## WELCOME

### Welcome—Dr. David Reingold

Dr. David Reingold is the Justin Morrill Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Sociology at Purdue University. He has also joined African American Studies and Research Center as one of our new Affiliates.

Welcome aboard Dean Reingold. We are very happy to have you affiliate with African American Studies.

### Welcome—Ms. Megan Williams

Megan M. Williams will join African American Studies and a Teaching Assistant in the Fall 2015. She will assist Dr. Khabeer in AAS 37300 “Race, Religion and Popular Culture in the United States.”

Welcome aboard Megan.

### Welcome—Mr. Andrew McGregor

Andrew McGregor will join us this year from the History Department at Purdue. Andrew will teach AAS 37100, “The Black Athlete.”

Welcome aboard Andrew.

## FAREWELL

### Goodbye—Ms. Olivia Hagedorn

Goodbye, Ms. Olivia Hagedorn. Olivia graduated with her Masters degree in May from the Department of History. She will continue her studies at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Congratulations on your continued success; you will be missed.

### Goodbye—Dr. Casarae Gibson

Casarae Gibson successfully defended her dissertation this spring April 1, 2015 and has her Ph.D. in hand, she leaves us to become an Assistant Professor at Syracuse University. Congratulations on your continued success; you will be missed.

### Goodbye—Mr. Arthur Banton

Arthur Banton will leave Purdue University as he completes his Ph.D. while on a dissertation year fellowship at Tennessee State University. Congratulations on your success ; you will be missed.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Congratulations—Dr. Nadia Brown

Nadia Brown’s book, *Sisters in the Statehouse*, has been awarded the 2015 W.E.B. DuBois Book Award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists AND the Anna Julia Cooper Best Publication Award from the Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics.

### Congratulations—Dr. Ronald Stephens

Dr. Ronald Stephens will be the new Director of African American Studies and Research Center starting in August 2015. Congratulations Dr. Stephens.

## ALUMNI CORNER

Damion Waymer, Associate Provost



Former Remmers Award Recipient is Now Associate Provost at the University of Cincinnati

Purdue Communications alum, Damion M. Waymer is a two time H. H. Remmers Memorial Award recipient, having been recognized as a masters student in 2002 and as a doctoral student in 2005. As a doctoral student, he presented his research at the National Communication Association and submitted his research to journals. He was also actively involved in outreach as he worked with his department to recruit graduate students.

At the University of Cincinnati, Waymer will focus on faculty recruitment and development. He will also serve as Associate Professor of Communication. Waymer's research focuses on diversity and issues of race, class, and gender. In particular, he addresses how these social constructions influence the ways that audiences receive, react, and respond to specific messages. His work has appeared in: *Management Communication Quarterly*, *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, *Public Relations Review*, *Public Relations Inquiry*, *Journal of Public Relations Research*, *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, *Communication Quarterly*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, and elsewhere. He comes to UC from Texas A&M, and before that he worked at Virginia Tech as the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Diversity Fellow, where he was responsible for improving the climate for diverse learning communities and supporting the recruitment, retention and graduation of a diverse faculty, staff and student body.

Andrea Jasper, Associate Professor



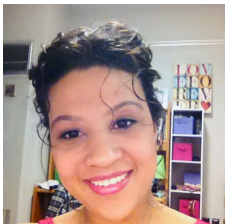
African American Studies Graduate is Now Associate Professor at Central Michigan University

Andrea D. Jasper graduated from Purdue University with a B.A. in African American Studies in 2004 and her Ph.D. in Special Education in 2011. She began her appointment as an Assistant Professor of Special Education at Central Michigan University in 2013 and was recently promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (2015). At Central Michigan University, Dr. Jasper's courses focus on instructing P-12 students who are culturally and linguistically diverse and those students identified with cognitive impairments. Similarly, her research focuses on issues of culture and diversity and their impact on students with disabilities in the classroom. She has published articles in several journal outlets and has presented at multiple conferences. She is actively involved in three special interest groups within the Council for Exceptional Children – the Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, the Teacher Education Division, and the Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners.

AASRC had two students inducted into the Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society at NCBS in 2015.

African American Studies gave them their medals during our Annual Remmers Award Program.

**Congratulations to Tyler Pitts and Maurice Simon.**





## Remmers Award Launches Students

Our Annual Remmers Award Program was held on April 2, 2015, from 3:00-4:00 pm. 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.



This year's award recipient:

**MS. SHORONDA WOODFORD**  
**MASTERS AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**



## Purdue University at NCBS, Charlotte, NC 2016



The NCBS conference provides a rare opportunity for students to interact with well-known academics by including a few student sessions on the program. Year after year, students participate in this conference and come back with a better appreciation for their classroom experience and often a desire to pursue graduate studies. The conference has also become a place where Purdue alums reconnect over the years. We hope to see several of you in Charlotte on March 16-19, 2016.



## GRANTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Venetria Patton: "Faculty of Color" Research Award; Teaching Award; "SAIL" Study Abroad Grant

Dr. Ronald Stephens: "SAIL" Study Abroad Grant; International Research Travel Grant; developed "Introduction to African American Studies" online course

Dr. Nadia Brown: "DuBois Book Award" for Sisters in the Statehouse

Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall: Teaching Award for Women

Ms. Keturah Nix: Teaching Award

Dr. Kim Gallon, Assistant Professor of History and Affiliate of African American Studies & Research Center: Nation Endowment of the Humanities Award

Dr. Cornelius "Neil" Bynum, Associate Professor of History and Affiliate of African American Studies & Research Center: National Endowment for the Humanities Award

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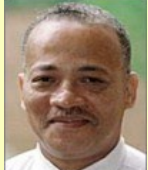


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### Credits

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