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**From the Director**

AASRC is now part of the new School of Interdisciplinary Studies. This is an exciting new development within the college, which will allow interdisciplinary programs to have more autonomy regarding hiring and promotion. While most of our faculty will continue to be joint appointments, we can now hire faculty with tenure in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and thus have 100% appointments within AASRC! This fall, we are welcoming our first full time faculty member, Dr. Ronald J. Stephens, Professor of African American Studies. In addition to Dr. Stephens arrival, we welcome two new affiliated faculty, Drs. Jean Beaman (Sociology) and Kim T. Gallon (History). AASRC is continuing to grow and develop. The welcome and farewell section of our newsletter also indicates some turnover with regard to our teaching assistants. While our number of TAs remains the same, these positions change as students graduate or accept fellowships.

AASRC is now part of the new School of Interdisciplinary Studies. This Fall, we are welcoming our first full time faculty member, Dr. Ronald J. Stephens, Professor of African American Studies.

AASRC has been moving forward with our study abroad initiative—we completed a trip to Brazil under the leadership of affiliate, Dr. Dawn Stinchcomb and we are working on a return trip to Ghana this summer. Plans are also underway for future programs in London and Australia. We would like to develop a scholarship to support our study abroad initiatives, so please consider making donations to support

that initiative. Study abroad along with travel to the annual National Council for Black Studies conference are our two biggest student initiatives. Both of these programs are life changing opportunities. Study abroad supports



**Venetria K. Patton**

intercultural competency and complements in class discussions of Africa and its Diaspora while the NCBS conference provides students with invaluable research opportunities. Undergraduate participants have gone on to pursue graduate education, while graduate students have made important career connections. If you can make it to one event this year, we encourage you to attend our symposium, “Black to the Future: Black Culture Through Time and Space,” to be held November 20-22, 2014. The keynote, by Professor Alondra Nelson on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm is free and open to the public. Registration information is available on our website. If you can’t make it to campus for this or other events, we encourage you to follow us via social media. In addition to our Facebook Page, we are now on Tumblr. We hope to use Tumblr as a way to share interesting stories as well as a means of providing additional insight to our events. For example, pictures and comments from our Maya Angelou Celebration as well as the Ferguson Teach-in have been posted.

## Programs in Review

### Brazil Maymester

#### Travel to Brazil with AASRC & the BCC during Maymester!!!

During Maymester 2015, AASRC and the Black Cultural Center collaborated on a study abroad trip to Brazil. Students visited the African Cultural Center, National History Museum, and Port Valongo in Rio, and the Museum Afro-Brasileiro, Pelourinho district, Irmandade de Boa Marte, Pierre Verger Center, and the Bale Folclorico da Bahia in Bahia. Students visited the historic Pelourinho District that was once a major slave market and is home to the first African church built in the Americas. They explored the many different historical aspects of Salvador da Bahia that reflect the city's roots in a West African culture. While in Brazil, Purdue students attended lectures and discussions with Brazilian professors. The cultural/historical tour provided an intercultural experience through its emphasis on the general history of the region and how it impacted African American identity and culture.



Affiliated Faculty member, Dr. Dawn F. Stinchcomb, Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, School of Languages and Cultures led the study abroad trip with the assistance of Ms. Mara Barbosa, Teaching Assistant and doctoral candidate in Portuguese linguistics in the School of Languages and Cultures. The fifteen undergraduate students took **AAS 491/LC 593: The Myth of Racial Democracy: Latin America and the African Diaspora** with Dr. Stinchcomb and **AAS 373: Issues in African American Studies: Afro-Brazilian Culture** with Ms. Barbosa for a total of 6 credits. The two graduate students only took Dr. Stinchcomb's course.



#### HARRIET A. JACOBS SERIES IN THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS — DR. NADIA BROWN

Dr. Brown gave a lecture on her critically acclaimed new book, *Sisters in State House: Black Women and Legislative Decision Making*. Her lecture, entitled "Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace: Black Women Legislators on Same-Sex Marriage" examined the ways in which age and religion influence legislators' stances on same-sex marriage.

#### Cummings Perrucci Lecture Series—Michelle Alexander

The annual Cummings Perrucci Lecture on class, race, and gender was held this past November. Michelle Alexander spoke about the legal battle for civil rights and her award-winning book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Alexander challenged the necessary-innocence ideal of the NAACP's legal battles. She argued that the idea of innocence or the "sympathetic" defendant ignores the very inequalities that people are trying to combat. Alexander graciously held a book signing after her lecture.

#### Celebration of the Life of Maya Angelou

As a prolific writer and entertainer, Maya Angelou's passing weighed heavily on the Purdue community. In her memory, the AASRC, Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence, and the Black Cultural Center collaborated in a brief, yet moving ceremony entitled, "Phenomenal Woman: A Poetry Session Celebrating the Life of Dr. Maya Angelou." Attendees reflected on the fullness of Angelou's life and recounted the poetry, words of wisdom, and personal interactions with her. Poet, Black Cultural Center staff member, and American Studies doctoral student, Juanita Crider, presented two favorite poems by Angelou—"Phenomenal Woman" and "Still I Rise." Dr. Carolyn Johnson, Director of the Diversity Resource Office, provided words of wisdom based on her personal interactions with Angelou. Dr. Venetria Patton, Director of the African American Studies and Research Center and Professor of English, engaged the audience with scholarly interpretations of Angelou's collection *Phenomenal Woman*. Citing the poem "Our Grandmothers," Dr. Patton noted Maya Angelou's attention to the strength of famous and unnamed Black women concluding, "This is the legacy of Maya Angelou:

However I am perceived and deceived,  
however my ignorance and conceits,  
lay aside your fears that I will be undone,  
for I shall not be moved."

#### 2014 Symposium — "Black to the Future"

The 29th Annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy will take place November 20-22, 2014. This year's theme, "Black to the Future: Black Culture through Space and Time," will address concerns of the African Diaspora through an Afro-futuristic lens. Dr. Alondra Nelson of Columbia University will be delivering the Keynote Address on Thursday, November 20, at 7:00 pm in Stewart Center, Room 310. This year's Symposium is co-sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, College of Education, College of Health and Human Sciences, Honors College, Black Cultural Center, Diversity Resource Office, Departments of Anthropology, English, History, and Philosophy, and the School of Languages and Cultures. The symposium is free for Purdue faculty, staff, and students.



## WELCOME

### Welcome—Dr. Ronald Stephens

Dr. Ronald Stephens joins Purdue as Professor of African American Studies in the New School of Interdisciplinary Studies. He comes to Purdue from Ohio University, where he was the former chair of Africana Studies.

Welcome aboard Dr. Stephens! We are extremely happy to have you here at Purdue University.

### Welcome—Dr. Kim Gallon

Dr. Kim Gallon joins the African American Studies and Research Center as an affiliated faculty member from the Department of History. She comes to Purdue from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Dr. Gallon is also the founder and director of the Black Press Research Collective.

Welcome to Purdue, Dr. Gallon! We are delighted to have you here with us.

### Welcome—Dr. Jean Beaman

Dr. Jean Beaman joins the AASRC as an affiliated faculty member from the Department of Sociology. Prior to joining Purdue, Dr. Beaman had postdoctoral fellowships at Duke University and the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

Welcome to the African American Studies and Research Center, Dr. Beaman! We are so happy to have you join us.

### Welcome—Ms. Aria Halliday

Welcome, Ms. Aria Halliday. Aria is a PhD student in American Studies, and she joins African American Studies this year as a graduate assistant. Welcome aboard, Aria.

### Welcome—Ms. Olivia Hagedorn

Welcome, Ms. Olivia Hagedorn. Olivia is a Masters student who comes to us from the Department of History. She will assist Dr. Bynum in HIST 39600, African American History to 1865. We are happy you have joined us.

### Welcome—Ms. Sharonda Woodford

Welcome, Ms. Sharonda Woodford. Sharonda comes to us from Jackson State University and will assist Dr. Su'ad Khabeer in AAS 27100, Introduction to African American Studies. Welcome aboard, Sharonda.

## FAREWELL

### Goodbye—Ms. Jessica Kaiser

Jessica Kaiser will be leaving African American Studies to finish her dissertation in American Studies. Thank you for your time and services to African American Studies. Best wishes Jessica.

### Goodbye—Ms. Heather Moore

Heather Moore accepted the Ann Plato Fellowship at her alma mater (Trinity College) for the 2014-2015 academic year. It is a fellowship that expands the diversity at the college level and is awarded annually to an individual who is either pre-doctoral or post-doctoral. She is the Ann Plato Fellow in the department of Educational Studies. Congratulations Heather; you will be missed.

### Goodbye—Ms. Lisa Young

Lisa Young will be on fellowship and studying for her preliminary exams. Goodbye, Lisa. Best of luck with your continued studies here at Purdue.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Congratulations—Dr. Nadia Brown

Congratulations to Dr. Nadia Brown for winning the 2013-14 Midwest Women's Caucus for Political Science Early Career Award! Dr. Brown received the award at the Midwest conference in April 2014.

### Congratulations—Dr. Leonard Harris

Congratulations to Dr. Leonard Harris for receiving The Frantz Fanon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA) 2014.

### Congratulations—Dr. Venetria K. Patton

Congratulations to Dr. Venetria K. Patton, who was recently promoted to Professor of English and African American Studies.



# Abolishing White Masculinity from Mark Twain to Hip-hop: Crises in Whiteness

By Stephany Rose

AASRC Alum, Stephany Rose has published *Abolishing White Masculinity from Mark Twain to Hip-hop: Crisis in Whiteness* with Lexington Books (2014). The book examines white American male literature for its social commentary on the construction of whiteness in the United States. Whiteness has always been a contested racial identity in the U.S., one in a state of construction and reconstruction throughout critical cultural and historical moments. *Abolishing White Masculinity from Mark Twain to Hip-hop* examines how white American male writers have grappled with understanding themselves and their audiences as white beings. Dr. Stephany Rose is Assistant Professor of Women's and Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.



To get a special, 30% off discount, use code LEX30AUTH14 when ordering online at <https://Rowman.com/Lexington>. The offer is valid until January 31, 2015.

## Research Award



Kadari Taylor-Watson and Casarae L. Gibson won the Most Outstanding Award and a \$1000.00 monetary prize at the first annual "Let's Talk About Natural Hair Interdisciplinary Symposium" sponsored by the Black Cultural Center and the Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs. Their multi-media presentation, "Domesticating Blackness: Black Hair, Citizenship, and the Politics of Respectability" focused on the reconstruction of Black womanhood through a discussion of hair and beauty.



AASRC had three students inducted into the Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society.

Brittney Box graduated this past December with a double major in Mass Communication/Media Studies and African American Studies. She has recently relocated to North Carolina.

Alexandra Hoff is a double major in Professional Writing and African American Studies. In addition to being a successful student, she is a talented photographer.

Stephanie Wilson, who double-majored in African American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, took advantage of the AASRC/BCC study abroad trip to Ghana and traveled to Uganda last summer.

## Remmers Award Launches Students

Our annual Remmers Award Program was held on April 9, 2014, 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 awardees are:

**MS. MARY LOUIS**  
**MASTERS AWARD WINNER**  
**SOCIOLOGY**



**MS. SHAVONNE SHORTER**  
**PH.D. AWARD WINNER**  
**BRIAN LAMB SCHOOL OF**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**

### Hanna Center and AASRC

This past summer, the AASRC teamed up with the Hanna Community Center to offer a two-week summer program called STEAM SKOPE—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Showing Kids Opportunities through Past Experiences. Dr. Bynum taught students about African American inventors such as James West and Valerie Thomas, and the students spent afternoons doing hands-on activities and conducting experiments with Tamecia Jones, a graduate research assistant in engineering education.

### Purdue University at NCBS, Miami, FL, 2014



This year's conference did not coincide with Purdue's spring break, so our conference attendance was lower than usual. Purdue's impact was felt nonetheless. Purdue had three students inducted into the national honor society, and one was in attendance for the conference and induction ceremony. Senior, Alexandra Hoff attended for her second year and presented a paper on Charles Johnson's novel, *Middle Passage*. Just before leaving for the conference, Alexandra also presented her research at the CLA Honors Colloquium. According to Alexandra, "The NCBS conference in Miami this year was an enriching and rewarding experience, where I was able to attend panels that pertained to the classes I'm currently taking in African American Studies, in addition to those that introduced newer concepts to me. One highlight of the conference includes my induction into the Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society, which is a great honor to me." (Please see page 5 for information about our other inductees.) 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 Los Angeles on March 11-14<sup>th</sup> at The Westin Los Angeles.

### NCBS Call for Papers

**March 11-14, 2015, Los Angeles, California**

NCBS is accepting abstracts for individual papers, posters, panels, sessions, roundtable discussions, workshops, town hall meetings that explore the black experience locally, nationally, and /or globally from a variety perspectives. The deadline is December 31, 2014. Please visit <http://ncbsonline.org> for more information.

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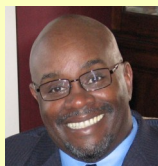
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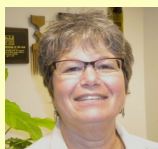
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