From the Director.

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. “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 oexperiences 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.
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 10:00—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 MW 2:30—3:20 J. Dorsey

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
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.
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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