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From the Director



Ronald J. Stephens

Welcome to the 2016-17 academic calendar year. This year we achieved a number of successful accomplishments as a program and introduced well attended cultural events and programs. One of the African American Studies and Research Center's mission is to engage complex social problems, and to elevate human knowledge and understanding about the Black experience. Since AASRC is committed to academic excellence and social responsibility in the areas of teaching, scholarship, service and in preparing responsible practitioners, and promising principled and expert leaders. AASRC is widely recognized for mentoring graduate and undergraduate students. Our teaching assistants receive training from seasoned professors who alternate teaching responsibilities for our introductory course. New to this group of TAs is Mr. John Kennedy from the History Department, who has been working with Dr. Su'ad Khabeer.

Last spring AASRC's proposal to the Graduate School for a graduate certificate and a graduate concentration was approved. This fall two graduate students registered for courses to fulfill requirements for the certificate program. As demand for these courses and programs continue to grow, AASRC will continue to serve Purdue graduate students educational needs. This past summer Dr. Kim Gallon of the History Department hosted 2016 NEH ODH Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, entitled "Space and Place in Africana/Black Studies: An Institute on Spatial Humanities Theories, Methods and Practices for Africana Studies. During the three weeks of the institute Purdue faculty and students benefitted significantly from attending and participating. Our biannually symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy is also part of this momentum as this year's theme, "Exploring the "Humanity" in the Digital Humanities: Africana/Black Studies' Perspectives on the Digital Humanities," considers relationships between the digital humanities and Africana/Black epistemological frameworks by asking, "What Does It Mean to Be Human?"

This year we also organized the Cummings Perrucci Lecture series, which rotates annually between the Sociology Department, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, and AASRC. This series on race, gender, and class was established a decade ago through the vision of Purdue's Professors Robert and Carolyn Cummings-Perrucci of the Department of Sociology. Ms. Chanel Beebe, Detroit activist, artist, writer, and doctoral student in Engineering Education, shared a poem she wrote titled, "More Than a Hashtag," to illustrate how the Black Lives Matter movement had spurned all kinds of responses, including an "All Lives Matter, Blue Lives Matter, White Lives Matter, and a "Deportable Lives Matter" response. Dr. Nadia Brown

moderated the panel discussion, which included Janaya Khan, an international ambassador for #BlackLivesMatter Network; the Reverend Starsky D. Wilson, a philanthropist and activist; and Justin Hansford, an attorney and professor of legal history. Khan, known as "Future" in the Black Lives Matter movement, is a black, queer, gender-nonconforming activist, staunch Afrofuturist, social-justice educator and boxer based in Toronto. Khan co-founded a Toronto group committed to black liberation, transformational justice and indigenous sovereignty, and operates through a black transfeminist lens. Reverend Wilson pursues God's vision of community, justice, peace and love as president and CEO of Deaconess Foundation. Wilson is pastor of Saint John's Church "The Beloved Community," and co-chair of the Ferguson Commission. In 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed him co-chair of the group of 16 citizens empowered to study the underlying conditions and make public policy recommendations to help the region progress through issues exposed by the death of Michael Brown Jr. on Sept. 14, 2015. Justin Hansford's research involves legal history, ethics, critical race theory, human rights and the Global Justice Movement in an attempt to interrogate injustice in society. This event was live-streamed and can be found on our web page.

Last spring AASRC's proposal to the Graduate School for a graduate certificate and a graduate concentration was approved. This fall two graduate students registered for courses to fulfill requirements for the certificate program.

Recently, Dr. Ibram Kendi was here to discuss his book *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which challenges notions that continue to proliferate the usage of blackness equating to criminality. According to Kendi, there is no such thing as a violent black neighborhood but there is as a violent unemployed neighborhood. He also illustrated how more Americans die from drunk driving than homicide or gun violence, illustrating that the vast majority of drunk drivers are actually white men, however we don't consider drunk driving as being a violent crime. This is because danger is considered black and according to Kendi, we have to distinguish between the producers and consumers of racist ideas. Ms. Marlene Thompson-Longbottom from the University of Newcastle in Australia is visiting this fall as our first exchange student through our instructional exchange program.

This spring we will be inviting Dr. Von Washington of Western Michigan University to campus to meet with our faculty and students to showcase a one-man production highlighting his career in Black Theatre. Washington's presentation will be followed by Dr. Brittany Cooper of Rutgers University as our Harriet Jacobs lecturer. This event will be co-sponsored by the BCC and Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The academic year will end with a series of TNT presentation by our graduate TAs as they work through research ideas on a variety of topics. Regarding our faculty, Dr. Brown is co-editor of *Distinct Identities: Minority Women in U.S. Politics* (2016, Routledge) with Sarah Allen Gershom, Editorial Team Member of Politics, Groups and Identities, Dr. Khabeer has a newly released book, *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion and Hip Hop in the United States* (2016, NYU Press), and Professor Stephens published a book review in *American Historical Review*.

Programs in Review

Talkin' and Testifyin'

On October 29, 2015, Dr. Jacoby Adeshei Carter, Associate Professor of Philosophy at CUNY: John Jay College, presented a lecture titled "African Descendant People's Racial Contributions and the Americas' Cultures." He offered an engaging experience that centered around three inter-American racial views expressed through the lens of philosophers José Vasconcelos, Alain Locke, and José Martí. Dr. Carter created a hypothetical debate among the philosophers that explored race as a construction and the ways in which people and society respond. He elaborated on core components of each philosopher's perspective, namely, José Vasconcelos as an advocate for racial assimilation; Alain Locke as an advocate for racial reconstruction; and, José Martí as an advocate for the elimination of race.

On March 2, 2016, Sharonda Woodford presented her paper "Invisible Bodies: The Politics of Violence on Black Masculine Lesbians" as part of the Talkin' & Testifyin' Works in Progress Series in preparation for her presentation at the National Council of Black Political Scientists. Woodford's explained that violence against black masculine lesbians is silent in a variety of scholarly literatures and overlooked by mass media. Through coding incidents of violence against masculine lesbians and deconstructing coded language in media coverage, Woodford helps document the political and biased nature of these acts. This research is grounded in broader discussions of sexuality and gender identities as well as perceptions of racial violence, helping Woodford offer important insight into how biased narratives surrounding black masculine lesbians are socially constructed and disseminated by mass media.

Tiffany Willoughby-Herard

The African American Studies and Research Center began its 2016 Black History Month celebration with a lecture given by Dr. Tiffany Willoughby-Herard. Dr. Willoughby-Herard is an associate professor of African American Studies School of Humanities at the University of California in Irvine, where she is also affiliated with the Gender & Sexuality Studies Department. The title of Dr. Willoughby-Herard's lecture was "Racialized Paths to Proletarianization: Myths about Black Economic Competition, Cheap Labor, and White Vulnerability". Her lecture examined the social construction of poor whites in South Africa, and their relationship to Black South Africans using a historical analysis of South Africa. She focused on the concept of "white primitive" to argue that "white misery" is a historical trope that is presented as a "brand new discovery" of poor whites competing with Black people's suffering. However, Dr. Willoughby-Herard argued that such presentations are not only false equivalencies to Black people's collective political, economical, and social suffering, but such presentations of white suffering are also not primitive, or new in existence. She conclude that white misery falsely blames white racial subordination on Black survival and expression of agency, which in turns erases the history of interracial white enslavement and white on white violence. Before Dr. Willoughby-Herard's thought-provoking lecture, graduate students had the opportunity to engage in a workshop with the professor. Dr. Willoughby-Herard discussed topics of interest to the students, such as creating space of affirmation for Black LGBTQ people, violence inflicted on Black bodies, and media framing that replace, erase, and displace marginalized people in its news stories.

Marcus Rediker

This year's Du Bois lecture featured historian Marcus Rediker. Rediker, a Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History at PITT, argues that the slave vessels used during the transatlantic slave trade were/are important pieces of technology. If the purpose of technology is to improve the lives of everyday people and enhance society's overall efficiency, then the slave ship was/is the consummate technological innovation needed to maintain a lucrative slave economy. Without the slave ship, transportation of the precious cargo would have been impossible. The transportation and commodification of African bodies that took place was "the greatest plan of accumulated wealth", according to Dr. Rediker. By placing the slave ship at the center of examination, Rediker shows how the vessel was used, maintained, and nuanced to perpetuate the slave economy that built the United States of America. Rediker shows how the slave ship was constantly modified and updated as rates of supply and demand increased. In other words, as imperialism/colonialism spread, the need for enslaved Africans or free labor increased. Although, slave vessels were updated and modified, it was only beneficial to those individuals who owned the ship and not those who took the voyage involuntarily. According to Rediker, modifications to slave vessels often resulted in increasing horrific conditions for enslaved Africans. Rediker's critical lens shows how the slave ship was designed to recreate conditions of white supremacy.

Harriet Jacobs Dr. Alison Parker

Dr. Alison M. Parker is a professor of History at the College at Brockport State University of New York. Her lecture, *Mary Church Terrell, Black Women, and the Rise of the Democratic Party*, presents a trajectory of Black women's partisan political activism and party affiliations from the 1920s to the 1930s. Utilizing activist Mary Church Terrell as a case study, Parker illuminates the intersectionality, as well as, the shifting dynamics of Black civil rights, political activism and party affiliation, and women's suffrage during the 1920s and 1930s. Parker's research centers upon the increased shift of Black people, particularly Black women, from the Republican Party to the Democratic Party as legislations regarding anti-lynching, women's suffrage, and other civil rights concerns were continuously influx between the two parties. Parker's presentation came at a pivotal time, as the upcoming presidential election will be a defining moment for the position of minority men and women in this country. Admiring current mechanism of protest and activism, Parker's message underlines that social change is both "complex" and a "lifetime process." She recommends we continually be engaged in legislation, as well as, continually pursuing various avenues of change.

AASRC 2016 Calendar of Events

Fall 2016

SEPTEMBER

“Black Lives Matter: Diving Deeper into a movement”

Wednesday, September 7
11:30 AM, West Lafayette Library

“Black Lives Matter”

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, September 13
6:30 PM, Fowler Hall

In His Own House

Film Documentary

Malini Schueller

Friday, September 23
7:00 PM, WTHR 172

NOVEMBER

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive

History of Racist Ideas in America

Ibraham Kendi

Tuesday, November 2
6:00 PM, Lawson B155

“Rabbit Proof Fence”

Film Screening & Talkin’ & Testifyin’

Marlene Longbottom-Thompson

Mon.-Tues., November 7 & 8
4:00-6:00 PM, Johnson Hall of

Nursing B002

“More Than Skin Deep”

Introducing Medical Humanities @ Purdue

Monday, November 14

9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Stewart Center 306

DECEMBER

30th Bi-Annual Symposium on African

American Culture & Philosophy

“Exploring the ‘Humanity’ in the Digital Humanities: Africana/Black Studies

Perspectives on the Digital Humanities”

Thurs.-Sat., December 1-3

8:30 AM,

Black Cultural Center & Stewart Center

“BlackLivesMatter: Racial Tension & Police Violence in the Midwest & Beyond”

Professors Nadia Brown & Jean Beaman

Wednesday, December 7

12:00 PM, Young B64

Upcoming Events– Spring 2017

January

Warren Dukes, Department of Sociology TNT Tuesday, January 31, 2017,
Time TBA

February

Von H. Washington, Western Michigan U, February 2, 2017, Fowler Hall, 6-8pm

TNT

Alfredo Padilla, Jr. February 9, 2017 Location TBD

March

Brittany Cooper (Harriet Jacobs Speaker) March 23, 7:00 pm Location TBD
Bonnie Prado Pino, March 2017

Alain Locke Visiting Scholar

Alberto Urquidez---TNT

Date and Time TBD

April

Megan Williams----TNT April 15

For more information contact: African American Studies & Research Center Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Room 6182 100 N. University Street West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098 Phone: 765-494-5680 Fax: 496-1581

Website:<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/african-american/>

Course Offerings Spring 2017

AAS27100	Intro to African American Studies	TTh 12:00— 1:15	Dr. Nadia Brown
AAS27100	Intro to African American Studies	MWF 11:30— 12:20	Ms. Megan Williams
AAS27700	Black Popular Culture	MWF 10:30— 11:20	Ms. Keturah Nix
AAS37100	The Black Athlete	TTh 10:30— 11:45	Mr. Andrew McGregor
AAS37300	History of Injustice in the US	TTh 1:30— 2:45	Dr. Ronald Stephens
AAS49100	Cultural Heritage	TTh 3:00— 4:15	Ms. Jamillah R Gabriel
AAS49100	African American Choral Foundations	MWF 4:30— 5:20	Mr. James E Dekle

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 21st Century

WELCOME

Welcome—Mr. John Kennedy

John is a History Major and joins African American Studies to assist is with our Introduction to African American Studies

Welcome—Ms. Marlene Thompson-Longbottom

Marlene Thompson-Longbottom is a Visiting Scholar from Australia's Wollotuka Institute, she will be with us during the months of November and December 2016.

FAREWELL

Goodbye—Ms. Aria Halliday

Congratulations on your success: you will be missed!

Goodbye—Ms. Sharonda Woodford

Congratulations on your success; you will be missed!

Goodbye—Mr. Ivan Jackson

Congratulations on your success; you will be missed!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations—Ms. Matilda Stokes



The
BRAVO **AWARD**

Matilda Stokes, Administrative Assistant to African American Studies, director Dr. Ronald Stephens was awarded the Bravo Award along with 4 other Admins. from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. (Brandi Plantenga, Elsa Schirmer, Kimberly Vestal and Alice Wenger)
Congratulations !!

Congratulations—Dr. Su'ad Khabeer

Please join me in congratulating Su'ad Abdul Khabeer, assistant professor of anthropology and African American Studies, on her book, [Muslim Cool: Race, Religion and Hip Hop in the United States](#) (NYU Press 2016), published this month. Based on her ethnographic research, Su'ad's book illustrates the concept of "Muslim Cool", which is when black and non-black Muslims construct their unique identities as American Muslims through hip hop music and culture.

Congratulations—Dr. Marlo David

Marlo David's book *Mama's Gun: Black Maternal Figures and The Politics of Transgression* (Ohio State University Press).

Congratulations—Ms. Keturah Nix

Keturah,

Congratulations on winning one of the College of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School sponsored scholarships, continue to keep up to good work.

ALUMNI CORNER



As an Assistant Director within the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Enforcement Football Development Group, Tiffini Grimes is tasked with identifying current trends and cultivating information regarding issues pertaining to the game of football.

Grimes is additionally responsible for developing relationships and serving as a resource to collegiate and professional constituents of the game. Prior to joining the NCAA, Grimes was employed in athletics compliance at The Pennsylvania State University and Georgia Institute of Technology, where she worked specifically with football in the areas of recruiting, amateurism, agents, and waivers of NCAA legislation.

Grimes received her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in African American Studies from Purdue University in 2005. She was awarded a master's degree in Sports Administration and a Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law in 2009.

Five faculty named fellows for Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program

The Office of the Provost has selected five faculty members to participate in the Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program during the 2016-17 academic year. The Big Ten Academic Alliance is a consortium of the Big Ten member universities.

Emily Allen is associate dean for academic affairs for Purdue's Honors College, a position that allows her to work with undergraduates from all over the University. She is also associate professor in the Department of English, where her primary scholarly area is 19th-century British literature and culture, particularly the novel. Her first book, "Theater Figures: The Production of the Nineteenth-Century British Novel" (The Ohio State UP), examined the fraught but also enabling relationship among theatrical and novelistic forms over the course of the 19th century and in response to shifting cultural markets.

William A. (Bill) Crossley is a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at Purdue, where he has been a member of the faculty since August 1995. His teaching and research interests are in design optimization for aerospace systems and for system-of-system design problems. He has received numerous teaching awards at the school level. Crossley led the formation of the System of Systems Signature Area in the College of Engineering at Purdue, and he is a member of the "First Action" team implementing the Purdue Systems Collaboratory as part of Purdue Engineering's Strategic Plan.

Ellen Ernst Kossek is the Basil S. Turner Professor at Purdue's Krannert School of Management and research director of the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence. She holds degrees from Yale University (PhD in organizational behavior), the University of Michigan (MBA in human resources); and Mount Holyoke College (honors in psychology.) Her research has won awards including the 2015 Rosabeth Moss Kanter award for research excellence, the Families and Work Institutes' Work-Life Legacy award for helping to build or advance the work-life movement and the Academy of Management's Gender and Diversity Division's Sage Scholarly achievement award for advancing understanding of gender and diversity in organizations.

Lisa Mauer is a professor in the Department of Food Science and director of the Center for Food Safety Engineering (CFSE) at Purdue. She holds degrees in food science from Purdue (BS honors) and the University of Minnesota (PhD). Mauer is widely recognized as a leading researcher on food materials science, encompassing water-solid interactions, food ingredient architecture, and micronutrient stability. Her research recognitions include the 2010 Agricultural Research Award and the 2014 IFT Marcel Loncin Research Prize. Mauer is active in teaching, mentoring and advising, has received the David C. Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor Award, and is a fellow of the Purdue University Teaching Academy. As part of the Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage (PICS) project team, she contributed to providing simple, low-cost methods of reducing post-harvest cowpea losses in Africa.

Ronald J. Stephens is professor and director of African American Studies and Research Center (AASRC) in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue. He is author of "Idlewild: The Rise, Decline and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town" (University of Michigan Press, 2013), "Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan" (Arcadia Publishing, 2001), and "African Americans of Denver" (Arcadia Publishing, 2008). Recognized for his research on black leisure and recreation, Stephens has appeared on and been cited in numerous public programs about the African American resort town in Idlewild, Michigan. As an academic leader and administrator, Stephens has interests in learning about some of the challenges Big Ten research universities face, as well as their operation, structure, and future promise.

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 recipients:

LaTasha Swanson & Courtney Griffin-Oliver

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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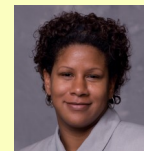
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