

Summer 2017

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Congratulations Graduates!



DAAS Chair, Frieda Ekotto (front row, second from right), with some of the 2017 DAAS Graduates.
Photographed by Tafari Stevenson-Howard



Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences Elementary Choir

DAAS 2017 Graduation

The DAAS 2017 graduation was held on Friday, April 28, 2017 from 3pm - 5pm at the University of Michigan Museum of Art. The ceremony began with a warm welcome and introductions by the DAAS Chair, Frieda Ekotto, followed with Libations by Elizabeth James, DAAS Program Associate. The proceedings included a wonderful performance by the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences Elementary Choir and recognition of the Department's Honor students. This year's graduates included eleven majors and fifteen minors. Students, parents, family, friends, faculty, and staff enjoyed dinner and dessert following graduation. Congratulations to our graduates and their families!

DAAS and Epidemiology Professor Howard Stein, who serves as the Director of the Department's Honors Program, announced the two Honors theses completed this year. Elizabeth Gazley, a DAAS major, wrote "*Balancing Femininity and Masculinity as a Black Female Athlete: An Exploration of Self-Silencing and Self-Sexualization*", and AnneMarie Torreson, a DAAS minor, wrote "*Multicultural Education: Combatting the Master Narrative of American History in K-12 Curricula*".



Elizabeth Gazley, Professor Howard Stein, and AnneMarie Torreson



Frieda Ekotto

Photo by Alexander Holmes

Letter from the Chair

Greetings! I have completed my third year as chair and will remain for one more year. DAAS is the hub for many outstanding faculty, students, and staff, who value the collective spirit of the department; for it is only through “Ujima” (unity, in Swahili) that we grow successfully as a unit. My central aim as Chair continues to focus on our level of excellence by broadening the scope of our programs and increasing the Department’s involvement with relevant national and international issues.

Over the past year we have covered a wide range of topics across the African Diaspora in our attempt to demonstrate the importance of the field and to address some of the challenges faced around the world. President Mark Schlissel has advanced the promotion of diversity at the University of Michigan and DAAS is integral to creating innovative methods of achieving this goal. DAAS has a long legacy of exploring issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. These include fostering partnerships with other units, promoting multidisciplinary approaches to scholarly research and, most importantly, continuing its strong commitment to the study of the African Diaspora. Our faculty is multidisciplinary, having received numerous honors throughout the year.

I take great pride that we have been heavily involved with the community in a variety of ways. We have held traditional events, such as our Kwanzaa Celebration, and our renowned Graduation Ceremony with the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences Choir, which attracts many from the entire campus. The peak of the fall semester was the Digital Destiny exhibition and reception in September, which highlighted the art of, Dieudonné Fokou, an artist well-known in Cameroon. Winter semester brought our annual Zora Neale Hurston Lecture for the Humanities which featured the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation President Earl Lewis. Our regular academic programming included the Africa Workshop coordinated by Omolade Adunbi and Derek Peterson. Reighan Gillam organized the Diasporic Dialogues. The African American Workshop was coordinated by Stephen Ward and Heather Thompson. Derek Peterson assisted graduate students in implementing the Africa History and Anthropology Workshop. In each case, DAAS’ mission of expanding the knowledge base concerning the African Diaspora was successfully implemented.

GalleryDAAS presented four exhibits. The first, *Digital Destiny*, highlighted art by Dieudonné Fokou, an artist from Cameroon who uses scraps of metal, computer chips, and other materials people throw-away. LSA Dean Andrew Martin and Associate Dean Anne Curzan attended this exhibit. Next, *Make Them Hear You*, part one, presented an idea by Professor Stephen Ward and part two proposed by Professor Megan Sweeney. The fourth exhibit, *Goin’ north: Black Detroit and The Great Migration, 1910-1930*, was an exhibit prepared and sponsored by the *Bentley Historical Library* and *Printing Services* at the University of Michigan. The photos and documents were originally produced by the Michigan Historical Collections for MLK Day at the University of Michigan in 1991.

Have a lovely summer and au revoir!

Frieda Ekotto, Chair



DAAS 2016 Kwanzaa



Students at 2016 Kwanzaa

DAAS held its annual pre-Kwanzaa festival on December 16, 2016 starting with a wonderful discussion about how to incorporate the principles of **Nguzo Saba** (Seven Principles, in Swahili) into our daily lives. This was followed by a wonderful karamu (feast) and lots of great food, dance and song!



DAAS Faculty Reighan Gillam, DAAS Program Associate Elizabeth James, and students at the 2016 Kwanzaa discussion

DAAS Programming

Over the year, DAAS offered the campus community a wide variety of programming. Three series are a part of regular programming: the African American Workshop (pictured: Director of Undergraduate Studies, Stephen Ward with Geoff Ward, Visiting Fellow, Center for Research on Crime & Justice, New York University Law School who spoke on “Archiving Racial Violence”), the Africa Workshop (pictured: Chair, Frieda Ekotto and Shanti A. Parikh, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis who presented on “Queer Visibility: Bio-legitimacy, Sovereignty, and Masculinity in Uganda”) and the Diasporic Dialogues which held a session with the Peoples of Caribbean and West Indian Descent (PCWID) featuring Manoucheka Celeste, Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies Research and the African American Studies Program who spoke on “Traveling Blackness: Navigating Race and Immigration.” (pictured: with faculty Aliyah Khan and Reighan Gillam and graduate student Casta Guillaume).



Stephen Ward and Geoff Ward



Frieda Ekotto and Shanti Parikh



African American Workshop Audience



Aliyah Khan, Manoucheka Celeste, Casta Guillaume, and Reighan Gillam



University of Michigan Bicentennial

During the year 2017, the University of Michigan commemorates its 200 years of excellence via various events that have been planned in honor of its Bicentennial celebration. One of the three planned Bicentennial Colloquia was held on January 30th at Hill Auditorium. The key speakers were U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by President Mark Schlissel and German Federal Constitutional Court Justice Susanne Baer, a U-M alumna. The discussion was moderated by NPR's former host of "All Things Considered", Journalist Michele Norris-Johnson. Details on U-M's Bicentennial can be found here: <http://bicentennial.umich.edu/>. GO BLUE!

A Special Bicentennial Celebration, Staff Recognition Awards & Spring Fling were held Monday, May 8, 2017. The ceremony began at 10:30 am in the Rackham Auditorium, followed by food and photos outside, just north of Ingalls Mall.

2017 LSA Spring Fling



Faye Portis, DAAS Executive Secretary



Desa Blount, DAAS Administrative Coordinator/
Project Coordinator

Congratulations to the 2017 SAIO recipients!

The South African Initiative Office (SAIO) Research Grant is for U-M Graduate Students to travel, study and conduct research in Southern Africa and conversely to fund students from South African institutions to study and research at the University of Michigan.

SAIO Research Grant Awardees

Christine Chalifoux - Anthropology student - Country: South Korea
Claire Poelking - School of Natural Resources & Environment student - Country: USA
James Munene - Anthropology student - Country: Kenya
Julie Buser - School of Nursing student - Country: USA
Kristen Connor - Anthro-History student - Country: USA
Kyra Pazan - Anthropology student - Country: USA
Lamin Manneh - History student - Country: The Gambia
Ronke Olawale - Social Work & Anthropology student - Country: Nigeria
Sargeant Donovan-Smith - Anthropology & History student - Country: USA
Sauda Nabukenya - History student - Country: Uganda
Tara Weinberg - History student - Country: South Africa
Thomas O'Mealia - Political Science student - Country: USA
Xiaoxi Zhang - Comparative Literature student - Country: China

Student Highlights

Congratulations to Jallicia Jolly! In April 2017, she achieved candidacy and is now ABD. This American Culture Ph.D. candidate and African American Diasporic Studies Graduate Certificate student is also the recipient of the Rackham International Research Award, receiving a dissertation grant to complete doctoral research in Jamaica. In December 2016, Jallicia was the recipient of the CEW Riecker Graduate Student Research Award and in November 2016 she published an article, “*On Forbidden Wombs and Transnational Reproductive Justice*” in the journal, *Meridians: feminism, race, and transnationalism*.



Congratulations to Joo Young Lee! An American Culture Ph.D. candidate and African American Diasporic Studies Graduate Certificate student, Joo Young has been inducted into the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. She participated in the ceremony at Yale University during April 2017.

Fall 2017 DAAS Course Offerings

AAS 103 Social Sci Seminar
AAS 104 Humanities Seminar
AAS 111 Intro Afr & Diaspora
AAS 115 Elementary Swahili
AAS 200 Int African Studies
AAS 201 Intr Afr-Am Studies
AAS 202 Int Afro-Carib Stds
AAS 215 Intermed Swahili I
AAS 231 Af-Am Hst II
AAS 246 Africa to 1850
AAS 254 History of Hip Hop
AAS 260 African Development
AAS 262 Mod Civil Rights Mov
AAS 267 Relig in Afr Am Hist
AAS 271 Intr Afr-Am Lit
AAS 290 Select Blk World Std

AAS 315 Advanced Swahili I
AAS 328 Women & Safe Sex
AAS 331 Wrl Blk Chld
AAS 333 Perspec Afroam Hist
AAS 356 Dem & Devt in Africa
AAS 358 Black World Studies
AAS 359 African Politics
AAS 381 Fictions & Feminisms
AAS 384 Caribbean Lit
AAS 394 Professional Writing
AAS 400 Mus Afr Am
AAS 407 African Things (TBD)
AAS 443 Race, Gender & Health
AAS 444 Carib Cul I
AAS 450 Law, Race & Hst Proc I
AAS 453 Southern Africa

AAS 458 Black World Issues
AAS 460 Policy in Africa
AAS 480 Visual Culture Afr
AAS 490 Black World Topics
AAS 495 Senior Seminar
AAS 510 Supervised Research
AAS 525 Elem Afr Lang I
AAS 557 Mus Blk Amer
AAS 558 Black World Seminar
AAS 629 Stdy Afr Hist
AAS 890 Capstone Course



Poster with information concerning the AGAMal Programme, Tongo Hospital, Tongo, Talensi District, Upper East Region (photograph by E.P. Renne, Tongo, 29 May 2015).

DAAS in Northeastern Ghana

Swati Sudarsan, Anisa Shaw, and Tara Von Mach, who received funding from DAAS for research in Nangodi, Ghana, during May - June 2015, will have their article, "Indoor residual spraying, the AGAMal program, and malaria prevention in Nangodi, Ghana," published in the April 2017 edition of the new *Undergraduate Journal of Public Health at the University of Michigan*. Mr. Bright Amoore, a student at the University of Development Studies-Tamale, also participated in the project.

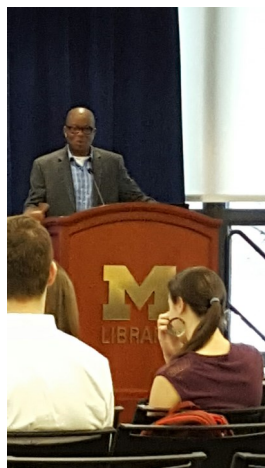


Neem oil press repair, Nangodi, Ghana, January 2017.

In January 2017, Professor Elisha Renne travelled to Nangodi, UER, Ghana, with spare parts for the repair of the oil press that members of the Nangodi Neem Company have been using to sell neem oil products as part of an alternative livelihood project. Two months later, members travelled to the University of Development Studies-Tamale to present their project for possible funding by USAID.

Africa China Conference

DAAS Associate Professor Omolade Adunbi coordinated the Africa-China Conference 2017: Infrastructure, Resource Extraction and Environmental Sustainability held April 6 - 7th on the U-M Ann Arbor campus. The conference brought together leading scholars and practitioners to examine the political, economic, environmental, and cultural implications of 21st century China-Africa relations; and to share their research and expertise with the wider academic community.



Professor Omolade Adunbi



Community Outreach: Future U and DAAS

Detroit Prep Academy students paid a visit to the University of Michigan on March 11, 2017 to meet with DAAS Program Associate, Elizabeth James, and several U-M students. The Detroit Prep Academy students enjoyed a presentation by Elizabeth, a discussion about DAAS and college life, and a visit to GalleryDAAS to view the *Goin' north* exhibit.



Detroit Prep Academy students with Elizabeth James (back row, right-end)

I Am Not Hidden



Author Margot Shetterly (center)

DAAS participated in the annual MLK Symposium at the University of Michigan with an incredibly popular event that led to a unique partnering with the College of Engineering. Coordinating with Literati Bookstore, DAAS held a book-signing for the lectures by Margot Shetterly, author of the bestselling "Hidden Figures: The Story of the African-American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race." Shetterly presented a lecture on central campus at Rackham Auditorium and a discussion on north campus in the Stamps Auditorium. It was an incredible day with capacity crowds at both locations.



World Premiere at the University of Michigan

On October 10, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Hatcher Library Gallery (Room 100) a film will make its debut.

Vibrancy of Silence: A Discussion with my Sisters (2017) is a 90-minute documentary film that highlights the creative achievements of six Sub-Saharan African women in various intellectual and artistic fields, elaborating a visual archive of unprecedented quality and scope. The film reflects on the complex nature of contemporary Sub-Saharan African cultural production by women, prompting the audience to better understand and theorize the new paradigms and voices it highlights.

Produced by Frieda Ekotto
 Research Project: Archiving Images of Sub-Saharan African Women.
 Directed by Marthe Djilo Kamga

Africa Workshop with Yolanda Covington-Ward



The Africa Workshop with Yolanda Covington-Ward was held in the Hatcher Library Gallery (Room 100) on December 6, 2016 at 4:00 pm. Yolanda was the guest speaker on the theme, “We Do Not Want Chiefs Anymore”: Embodiment, Kongo Prophetism, and the Right to Self-Determination in the Belgian Congo (1921). Yolanda Covington-Ward is Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh.

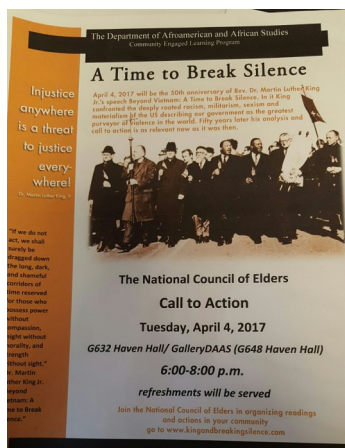
African American Workshop with Geoff Ward



Geoff and Stephen Ward

Geoff Ward, Visiting Fellow of the Center for Research in Crime and Justice at New York University School of Law, was the guest speaker on “Archiving Racial Violence”. This African American Workshop was held in the DAAS conference room at 4701 Haven Hall on February 10, 2017 at 2:00 pm. Geoff is the brother of Stephen Ward, Associate Professor of DAAS and the Residential College at the University of Michigan.

CEL: A Time to Break Silence

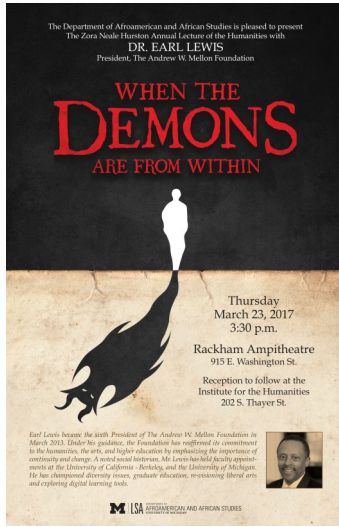


On the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence", Associate Professor Stephen Ward, and community activist Paul Willis gathered campus and community together the evening of April 4, 2017. The audience viewed a video about the era, read aloud excerpts from the speech and discussed the importance of this message during the current times. This was a powerful event that embodied the goals of DAAS' Community Engaged Learning (CEL) Program.



Paul Willis, Professor Stephen Ward and members of the Audience

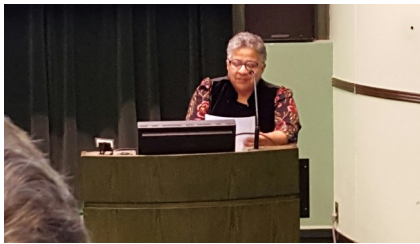
Zora Neale Hurston Lecture with Earl Lewis



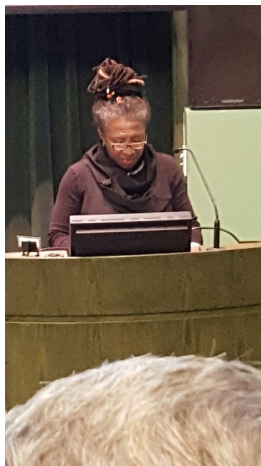
The DAAS annual Zora Neale Hurston Lecture was held March 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Rackham Amphitheater. The keynote speaker was Earl Lewis, a former faculty member at the University of California - Berkeley and the University of Michigan, who became the sixth President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in March 2013. Dr. Lewis, former CAAS (now DAAS) Director, presented “When the Demons Are From Within”. A reception at 5:30 pm followed at the Institute for the Humanities.



Mellon Foundation President, Dr. Earl Lewis



DAAS Associate Chair, Sandra Gunning



DAAS Chair, Frieda Ekotto

Two generations of scholarship rightly upended the notion that slavery and segregation left a people crippled by a subordinate place in the social order. Scholarly focus has been on resistance, resilience, and resolve. Yet, while resilient, African Americans were no less vulnerable to depression, psychosis and other expressions of mental illness. Aided by the release of hundreds of files from Central State Hospital in Petersburg, Virginia, Earl Lewis provided a look at post-Civil War African Americans in Virginia struggling to cope with the demons within. In his work, which is part of a larger study of race, mental illness and mental health, he begins to examine the black insane and the institutions that were built to contain them during the formative years of Jim Crow America.

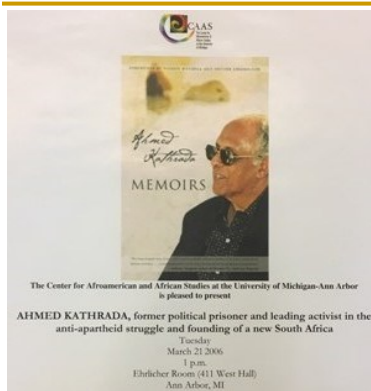
Dreamscape

DAAS' major Black History Month program was an outstanding performance of the play "Dreamscape" written and directed by Rickerby Hinds and coordinated by DAAS Professor Magdalena Zaborowska and SMTD Assistant Professor Jose Casas. Over 300 people attended this moving presentation on February 23rd of a young woman murdered by the police based on a true story in California. The event was cosponsored by many units and departments. It was truly a collaboration and a huge success.



Professor Magdalena Zaborowska (left-end) and Assistant Professor Jose Casas (right-end)





Pedagogy of Action

The Pedagogy of Action celebrates the Life of Mr. Ahmed Kathrada 1929-2017

“When Madiba passed on he left a part of his soul in Kathy. Now that he has gone an important chapter in the history of South Africa is now closed” - Winnie Mandela

[Note: In South Africa, Mr. Kathrada is affectionately known as Kathy and Nelson Mandela is affectionately known as Madiba.]

For the last fifteen years I have taken students to South Africa from the University of Michigan on a program called the Pedagogy of Action which is based on an oral methodology I developed to teach low literate populations HIV prevention. It lasts approximately fifteen minutes. The idea is to have local communities develop it into their own languages and teach their own communities. Over the years these community teachers have taught over 20,000 people. In their preparation for South Africa the students must study the culture, politics and history of South Africa. An important text is Madiba’s *Long Walk to Freedom*, where they meet the important figures who fought for the new South Africa. I wrote the following when the Kathrada Foundation asked me to write about Kathy and our trips to Robben Island.

In 2000, we were at what is now called the Nelson Mandela gateway to catch the ferry to Robben Island. We could not go because the sea was too rough. I finished talking to the ticket agent, he pointed to the gentleman who was just walking away and he said to me, “Do you know who that gentleman is?” and I said no. He said, “Have you ever heard of Mr. Kathrada?” I said YES! And he said, “There he is.” I dropped my handbag and ran after him, shouting Mr. Kathrada! Mr. Kathrada! Mr. Kathrada! He turned around and spoke to me while I babbled. He behaved as though he was ordinary when he was so extraordinary.

Since that time we became fast friends. He came to Michigan a few times and we have seen him consistently in South Africa over the past fifteen years. Because I knew we were going to meet him, I spent a great deal of time making sure my students knew about the history and struggle in South Africa and that they knew of him. In their dispatches about their travels home, the students write about the meaning of meeting him.

I think all of us who have met Kathy and have experienced his Robben Island, try, like the students, to find the words to adequately describe him – a description that has always eluded me.

In his very beautiful and moving book, *No Bread for Mandela*, Kathy talks about his love and admiration for Walter Sisulu, as his mentor, his father. He uses a tribute written by the great Ruth First to give us a feeling of this seminal South African.

And in his person, he is committed to the practice of liberation because he is committed to the liberation of his people, our people, but he is a liberated man himself. He uses no devices to overwhelm others. He has pride, but no false pride. He has no arrogance, he has no malice. He is a plain and straight forward man. He is a soft spoken man, but he is a committed man, a man who makes no concession when questions of principle are at stake.

This too is Kathy and I am sure Kathy will demur at such comparisons, but the lines “he uses no devices to overwhelm others. He is committed to the practice of liberation” are the lines we have been looking for to describe one Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Kathrada.

-Nesha Z. Haniff, 2014



Breathing Memories

A tribute to Uncle Kathy

Our journey in South Africa began in Johannesburg, where we were put into Kenny's more than capable hands. Kenny is not your average tour guide. While he knows the straight facts about South African history, he also lived through apartheid and was able to enhance our learning by sharing personal details. He is an expert storyteller, a preserver of oral history. Kenny also gave our group an understanding of the meaning of community in Soweto, the former all black township outside of Johannesburg. I had to see the township with my own eyes before I could comprehend that black people were not allowed to live in the actual city of Johannesburg, even though their labor served as the backbone of South Africa's economy.

Our group had the incredible opportunity to meet Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, a leader in the African National Congress (ANC) and freedom fighter who was imprisoned for 27 years. As a person of Indian descent, I felt connected to South African history in a new way after meeting Mr. Kathrada. As I presented him with a small token of appreciation from our group, I was suddenly brought to tears. It was as if the pieces of the puzzle finally clicked into place: the fight against apartheid was no longer an abstract set of names and dates. It was real, personal, and standing right in front of me.

Kenny is a great admirer of Mr. Kathrada; each was engaged with the struggle against apartheid in his own way. Seeing Kenny and Mr. Kathrada actually meet and converse was extremely moving, especially when Kenny told Mr. Kathrada that he and his comrades sang protest songs in honor of Mr. Kathrada who smiled incredulously, seemingly stunned that anyone would make such an effort to support him. This is just one of the many examples of Mr. Kathrada's humility. He is one of the forefathers of a free South Africa, yet he invited a group of students to his home (and even served us snacks!) and took the time to tell us about his experiences in the struggle. A truly humble man, he downplayed his role in the destruction of apartheid. I couldn't believe that someone who had endured so many years of pain on Robben Island was sitting before me as a whole and fulfilled person. He was not bitter or angry; he was so dedicated to justice that imprisonment could not break him. Mr. Kathrada's commitment to other people and his ability to comprehend the world in terms of his community rather than just as an individual are traits that make him an excellent role model. Seeing this man in real life helped me understand just how tall a person's humanity can grow when properly nurtured with a sense of community, selflessness, humility, and forgiveness. He has inspired me to form personal connections with everyone I am lucky enough to meet while I am in South Africa and beyond to better understand my place in the world.



Mimi and Mr. Kathrada

-Mimi Singh, Teammate of Pedagogy of Action, 2011

Digital Destiny Exhibit by Dieudonné Fokou



Digital Destiny Catalog

Preceded by the Artist Talk at 2:00 pm, the Digital Destiny Exhibition held its opening reception on September 16, 2016 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm in GalleryDAAS. The artist, Dieudonné Fokou, displayed his sculptural works made of metal and found materials. This exhibition was curated by DAAS Chair, Frieda Ekotto and Emily Goedde.



Dieudonné Fokou giving his talk



Digital Destiny catalog designer Susana Castro-Pollard



Emily Goedde, Dieudonné Fokou and Frieda Ekotto



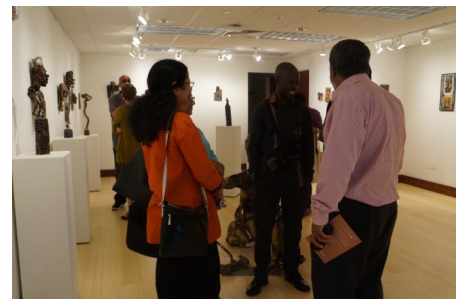
Guests view the artwork during the opening reception



Students view the artwork during the opening reception



UMAPS Scholar (2016-2017) Hiruy Tefera



GalleryDAAS Entrance Monitor Charlene Franke



The team that brought the Digital Destiny Exhibition to fruition: Dieudonné Fokou, Frieda Ekotto, Desa Blount, Elizabeth James, Emily Goedde, and Susana Castro-Pollard



Dieudonné Fokou and Wayne High

Make Them Hear You

Brought forth by Stephen Ward, Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies and Residential College at the University of Michigan, "Make Them Hear You" was a visual display of the past semester's social justice movements, including photos, statements, articles and posters. Elizabeth James, DAAS Program Associate, curated this exhibition held Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in GalleryDAAS during December 1 - 16, 2016.

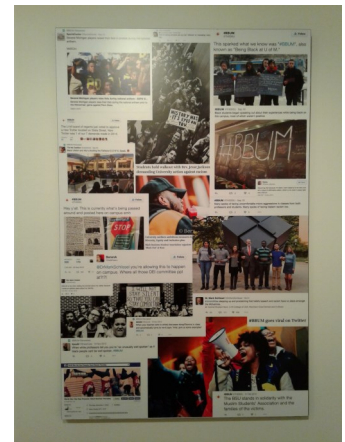


DAAS Office Assistant Brianna Kennedy and GalleryDAAS Entrance Monitor Monika Konrad



Make Them Hear You (Again)

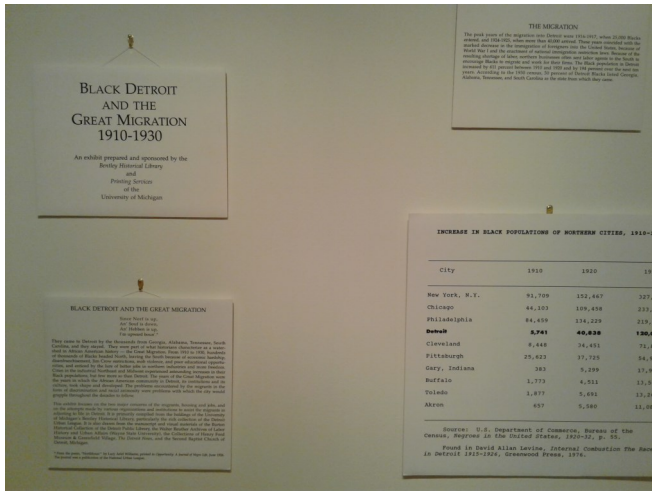
Make Them Hear You (Again) was an extension of its debut exhibit (above) in late fall 2016. The idea was brought forth by Megan Sweeney, Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies and English at the University of Michigan. Students from her class created posters for the exhibit as part of their final project (below-right and right-side: top & bottom). This exhibit ran January 9 - February 24, 2017, Monday & Wednesday from 11:30 am - 5:00 pm and Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.



Goin' north

The University of Michigan *Bentley Historical Library* and *Printing Services* prepared and sponsored the Goin' north exhibit. Published in 1991, the Michigan Historical Collections produced the documents and photos of this exhibit to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the University of Michigan. This exhibit was on display in GalleryDAAS from March 6 - April 28, 2017.

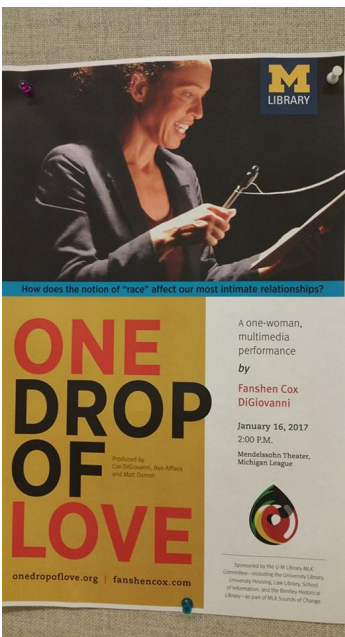
Goin' north: Black Detroit and the great migration, 1910-1930



2017 MLK SYMPOSIUM EVENTS



Known for the largest MLK Symposium in the nation, The University of Michigan held several events in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The symposium theme was “Sounds of CHANGE” with Memorial Keynote Speakers Amy Goodman - journalist, author and host of “Democracy Now!” and Issa Rae - creator and star of “Awkward Black Girl” and HBO series “Insecure”. The symposium ended with a special performance by Syncopated Ladies, tap dancing to the song “Rise Up” by Andra Day.



DAAS Professors Tiya Miles, Martha S. Jones, and Megan Sweeney (not shown) were panelists discussing a book of essays on black women intellectuals entitled, “Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women”. The professors addressed how important it is to uncover these stories. This event was held at the Hatcher Graduate Library on January 18, 2017.

Tiya Miles

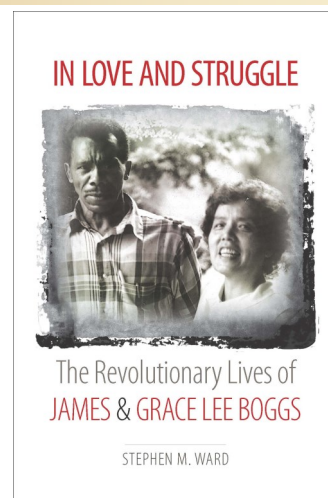
Congratulations to Tiya Miles! A Professor of American Culture, History, Afroamerican and African Studies, Women’s Studies, and Native American Studies at the University of Michigan, Tiya was featured in a story titled, “Exploiting African-American History For ‘Ghost Tours’” on wbur.org, to view click here: <http://wbur.fm/2qcX359>. Her book review titled, “*Haunted Houses Are About More Than Just Ghosts*” appeared in the *New York Times*, to view click here: <http://nyti.ms/2qcPifq>. Tiya’s book is titled *Tales from the Haunted South: Dark Tourism and Memories of Slavery from the Civil War Era (The Steven and Janice Brose Lectures in the Civil War Era)*.



Stephen M. Ward



Congratulations to Stephen M. Ward! An Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies and the Residential College at the University of Michigan, Stephen’s new book, *In Love And Struggle*, chronicles the lives of James and Grace Lee Boggs contributing to the historiography of Leftism in the African American community. In addition, Professor Ward has won a Provost’s 2017 Teaching Innovation Prize (TIP) for his project, *Detroiters Speak: Building Community Classrooms*. The TIP Award honors faculty for their development of innovative teaching approaches that incorporate creative pedagogies.



Martha S. Jones

Congratulations to Martha S. Jones! A Presidential Bicentennial Professor, Professor of History and Afroamerican and African Studies, and Affiliated LSA Faculty of Law at the University of Michigan, Martha was the speaker at the annual Founder’s Day convocation held at Bennett College on September 25, 2016. She is the granddaughter of the college’s first president, David Dallas Jones, who served from 1926 - 1956. Bennett College is a historically black, private college for women located in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Frieda Ekotto



Photo by Alexander Holmes

Congratulations to Frieda Ekotto! As DAAS Chair and Professor of Comparative Literature and Francophone Studies, Frieda has been nominated for the Golden Apple Award. Her positive profound effect is shown by students comments.

“Professor Ekotto has tremendously shaped my graduate school experience in a very positive way and I strongly feel that she should be recognized for her outstanding advising and teaching skills...”

“I truly believe that my experience as a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan would be entirely different (in a very negative way) if Professor Ekotto were not present in my academic life on campus...She makes me feel that I “belong” in academia...I think that this feeling of belonging in a specific environment/culture might be conveniently taken for granted by students endowed with layers of privilege...”

“She makes me understand that my research, my identity, my arguments “matter” and that the academia is the right place for me...For this intangible asset with which she constantly provides me, I can never be grateful enough.”

“Through her tremendous encouragement, she makes me believe that my ideas matter and that I can make a difference and touch the lives of so many people transnationally through my research projects and academic studies...”

Elizabeth James



Congratulations to Elizabeth James! Program Associate of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, Elizabeth was awarded a 2017-2018 NCID Fellowship. She also received the Difference Makers Award at the Mary Stewart Scholarship Fund Celebration. The event was held at the Michigan Union on Saturday, October 22, 2016 and noted in The Michigan Daily on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 9:10 pm.

Elizabeth James

- 2017-2018 NCID FELLOWSHIP AWARD
- INAUGURAL DIFFERENCE MAKER AWARD

Amanda Alexander

Congratulations to Amanda Alexander! An Assistant Professor and Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Scholar of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Amanda’s article, “*Those who focus on police reform are asking the wrong questions*”, was published in *The Globe and Mail*. Her article gives insight to some of the questions posed by some black activists of today.

- <https://tgam.ca/2aCZhDI>





Nesha Haniff

Congratulations to Nesha Haniff! A Lecturer IV of Women's Studies and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Nesha was highlighted in The University Record's Faculty Spotlight, vol. 72, no. 28 during the week of April 17, 2017. University Record reporter Ben Bugajski wrote the featured article on Nesha and Daryl Marshke of Michigan Photography photographed her. The article, "*HIV education focus of LSA professor's career*" follows.

Nesha Haniff, Lecturer IV in Afroamerican and African Studies and Women's Studies, developed an HIV education module that has been used around the world.

(Photo by Daryl Marshke, Michigan Photography)

April 17, 2017

HIV education focus of LSA professor's career

By Ben Bugajski
The University Record

Nesha Haniff is first and foremost a teacher.

She has educated women in the Caribbean about their bodies, low-literate populations in South Africa, the United States and the Caribbean about HIV, and conducted discussions with schoolgirls in Belleville and Muslim girls at Central Academy in Ann Arbor about gender consciousness.

Haniff has devoted her life to teaching not just about health, but how her students can be the owners of knowledge.

"The HIV module isn't about HIV. It's about empowerment," said Haniff, lecturer IV in Afroamerican and African studies and women's studies, LSA. "For both those who teach and those who learn, it's about finding a way to teach to act, to stop making them recipients of knowledge but instead owners of knowledge."

Haniff, who was born in Guyana, moved to Ann Arbor in 1970. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a Ph.D. in the Social Foundations of Education from the School of Education.

She also pursued a Master of Public Health at the University of Hawai'i. While she initially had some reservations about the public health program, she soon realized it was a perfect fit.

"Health was everywhere," she said. "It was the single most important education I had in my life."

She first made her Pedagogy of Action HIV education module in the Caribbean. Her module is specially designed for low-literate students and it has been taught to 20,000-50,000 people across the world from Detroit to South Africa.

While the 15-minute oral module has evolved over the years, it currently breaks down HIV education into five units: details about the immune system, transmission of HIV, the implications of HIV/AIDS, prevention and reduction of stigma.

The module strives to show why her methods work instead of simply telling students it's the best. This is important because it gives students more command of the complexities of HIV, empowering them to teach it to others and spread the module organically, she said.

Haniff began teaching the module to Michigan students in 1999, but she experienced some resistance from students who thought it was too elementary.

"It was not until they tried to teach it to people outside the university that (they discovered) it was really complex and they themselves had trouble teaching it," she said. "We're taught to be literate, so orality was a very revolutionary concept to them."

The most important part of the module to Haniff is the sense of praxis, or engagement. She doesn't see herself as an academic, she said. Instead, she wants college students to realize the impact they can have on the world.

Haniff has moved beyond the module and is now piloting a new method, the Gender Consciousness Project, with girls from Belleville High School and from a predominantly Muslim high school in Ann Arbor. Her goal is to start "consciousness raising early for women to understand how gender oppresses and how they themselves participate in their own oppression and it is they who must resist."

"I want to dedicate the rest of my work to the construct of gender oppression," she said.

Q & A

What moment in the classroom stands out as the most memorable?

The first day of my class when students leave because they find me too intimidating, and the last day when they recall the first day and are thrilled that they stayed.

What can't you live without?

Engagement in transformation.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

My office.

What inspires you?

Praxis, seeing ordinary people put ideas into action.

What are you currently reading?

"Redemption Song: Muhammad Ali and the Spirit of the Sixties," by Mike Marqusee (a beautiful book).

Who had the biggest/greatest influence on your career path?

Paulo Freire and the School of Public Health, University of Hawai'i.

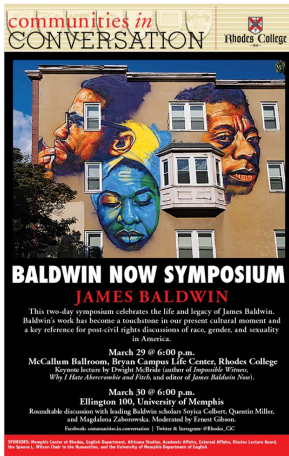


Magdalena Zaborowska

Congratulations to Magdalena Zaborowska! A Professor of American Culture and Afroamerican and African Studies, Magdalena was awarded a Faculty Fellowship at the Institute for the Humanities for the 2017-2018 academic year. She also completed her book, *Me and My House: James Baldwin and Black Domesticity*, that is currently in production at Duke University Press due to be released in late 2017. In addition, Magdalena is collaborating with the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), a Smithsonian Institution Museum, on a digital writer's house-museum project for James Baldwin. Furthermore, Magdalena has been interviewed twice for pieces on James Baldwin:

- Interview with Kareem Fahim in Trukey of the Washington Post, <http://wapo.st/2rARXzC>
- Interview with Matt St. John of Vice, <http://bit.ly/2legtjq>.

Magdalena was a panelist for a roundtable discussion at the Baldwin Now Symposium held at the University of Memphis.



Derek Peterson

2016

BRITISH
ACADEMY
FELLOW

Derek Peterson

Congratulations to Derek Peterson! A Professor of History and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Derek has been elected as one of the British Academy's New Fellows 2016. "The British Academy is the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences - the study of peoples, cultures and societies, past, present and future".

- <http://www.britac.ac.uk/about-us>



Aliyah Khan

Congratulations to Aliyah Khan! Aliyah, Assistant Professor of Caribbean Literature in the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies and English at the University of Michigan, was awarded the 2017-2018 American Association of University Women (AAUW) American Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for her work on Islam and the Caribbean.

Heather Ann Thompson



Congratulations to Heather Ann Thompson! A Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and Residential College's Social Theory and Practice Program at the University of Michigan, Heather's new book, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*, won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for the History category! She is one of the three Bancroft Prize for History Award winners noted in the *New York Times*, access article here: <http://nyti.ms/2qQnixb>. She is one of the 2017 Ridenhour Book Prize winners!

In addition, Heather has been announced as one of the finalist for the 2017 Silver Gavel Award for Media and the Arts and L.A. Times' book Prize finalists. She is one of twenty-five women highlighted in the March 9, 2017 edition of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* for Women's History Month.

- Book Prize Finalist - <http://lat.ms/2mosDXl>
- Highlighted in *Diverse* - <http://bit.ly/2qXgITH>

Heather's webpage can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/1WEjWHs>.

Furthermore, several articles have been written about her book in *The Nation*, *CBS News*, *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*.

- <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-next-step-for-organized-labor-people-in-prison/>
- <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/likely-attica-prison-riot-shooters-named-45-years-later/>
- http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/19/books/blood-in-the-water-a-gripping-account-of-the-attica-prison-uprising.html?_r=0
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/24/books/prying-loose-the-long-kept-secrets-of-attica.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>
- <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/08/29/learning-from-the-slaughter-in-attica>
- <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2016/10/20/u-m-professor-says-war-crime-helped-fuel-detroits-decline/92459474/>

Heather Thompson's year ending accolades for 2016:

- Finalist National Book Award Longlist, Nonfiction
- New York Times Most Notable Book of 2016
- Top Ten Best Books of 2016 Publishers Weekly
- Top Ten Best Works of Non-Fiction 2016 Kirkus Reviews
- Top Ten Books of 2016 Newsweek
- Best Human Rights Books of 2016
- Best Books of 2016 Boston Globe
- Starred Reviews: Kirkus Review And Publishers Weekly

DAAS Colleagues Received Fellowships

Congratulations to the following recipients of a 2017-2018 Fellowship awarded by the Institute for the Humanities according to The University Record's May 16, 2017 edition:

- DAAS Affiliate, Michael Awkward is a John Rich Fellow and Professor of English and Afroamerican and African studies, "A Horribly Mangled Monstrosity: Disfiguring/Refiguring Black American Masculinity after Emmett Till."
- DAAS Affiliate, Anita Gonzalez is a Hunting Family Fellow and Professor of Theatre and Drama, "Shipping Out: Transatlantic Maritime Performance and Ethnic Cultural Exchange."
- DAAS Graduate Certificate Program Student, Benedito Luis Machava is an A. Barlett Giamatti Graduate Fellow of History, "The Morality of Revolution: Urban Cleansing, Re-education Camps, and the Politics of Morality in Socialist Mozambique, 1975-1988."

GIEU 2017 in Uganda

Part of the Center for Global and Intercultural Study, the GIEU - Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates held one of its study abroad programs in Kampala, Uganda. 'Displacement and Rehabilitation in Uganda' was the topic of study for the U-M undergraduate students led and taught by Lecturer IV Professor Nyambura Mpesha of DAAS and African Studies Center. The duration of the trip was May 3 - June 1, 2017.



New DAAS Staff Member - Helen Lund

At the start of Spring 2017, DAAS welcomed Helen Lund as the new Communications Coordinator. Helen transitioned from the University of Michigan - Flint Campus. Her position is split between Anthropology, DAAS, and Sociology. Helen will work on the website and social media communications for DAAS.

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Executive Secretary to the Chair, Faye Portis
Program Associate, Elizabeth James
Administrative Coordinator/Project Coordinator/
GalleryDAAS Manager, Desa Blount
Student Services Coordinator, Ty Smith
Communications Coordinator, Helen Lund

We're on the Web!

www.lsa.umich.edu/daas

DAAS Administration

Chair, Frieda Ekotto
Associate Chair, Sandra Gunning
Associate Chair of African Studies, Fernando Arenas
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Stephen Ward
Director of Graduate Studies, Magdalena Zaborowska
Executive Committee: Frieda Ekotto, Sandra Gunning, Fernando Arenas,
Stephen Ward, Martin Murray and Howard Stein

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Mark S. Schlissel, ex officio



Newsletter

Editor, Desa Blount

Editorial Staff: Elizabeth James, Faye Portis, Helen Lund, Ty Smith and Wayne High

Note

Unless otherwise indicated, photos taken by DAAS Program Associate Elizabeth James, DAAS Administrative Coordinator/Project Coordinator/GalleryDAAS Manager Desa Blount, and DAAS Office Assistants: Timberlee Whiteus, Brianna Kennedy, Alexis Ball, and Sidney Arrington.

Yes, You Can Support DAAS!

Gifts to the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies help us support a full range of activities, such as conferences, study abroad, brown bags, exhibitions, and many other special events. Your gift can also help support research, teaching, the Lemuel Johnson Center, and the GalleryDAAS. Finally, the Department helps student organizations, provides graduate and postgraduate fellowships, and sponsors visiting scholars. If you are interested in helping to support the mission of DAAS, please contact the U-M Office of Development at 734-647-6179. Use the address and form below if you'd like to mail a contribution directly to DAAS.

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