Like its most famous dish — gumbo — New Orleans is a city defined by the cultures that were instrumental in its formation. The fall 2017 BCC theme is “Gumbo in the Big Easy.” Throughout the semester, the BCC will host a series of events that highlight the intersections of history and culture to aid understanding in why New Orleans is often described by scholars of the African diaspora as the most African city in the U.S. These cultural pathways are found in the city’s food, music, poetry, dance, fashion, art and celebrations, though many of these traditions have yet to recover from the multiple devastations of Hurricane Katrina. The BCC fall programs explore the “ingredients” of the city’s cultural gumbo and also identify the complex effects the 2005 hurricane continues to have on the city.
across the globe will rekindle old friendships and establish new ones.

men and members of the Purdue Black Alumni Organization from

WELCOME BACK RECEPTION | FRIDAY, SEPT. 22 | 6 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 22-24

HOMECOMING 2017

BOILERRFEST - NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Thursday, Aug. 24 | 4-6 p.m. | BCC Parking Lot

Connect with the BCC to begin the celebration of our fall theme. Come enjoy music, performances by BCC Performing Arts Ensembles, live entertainment, food and fun. Boilerrfest introduces you to the BCC, student organizations, campus support services and community partners.

NEW ORLEANS COOKING WITH KEVIN BELTON

Wednesday, Sept. 13 | 6:30 p.m.
Demonstration Kitchen, Marriott Hall

Watch, learn and eat! PBS Chef Kevin Belton will prepare a classic Creole/Cajun meal while you learn about the vibrant history of New Orleans cuisine. Pre-registration is required. The cost is $10. Limited to 95 participants.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

“What the Waters Washed Away — 2008”

Oct. 2-Dec. 7 | BCC

Featuring Mark Simons and William Caise. Simons is a campus photographer who uses his talent of taking images to help Purdue communicate stories and connect people. Caise is assistant director of the BCC and provides leadership for the BCC Gordon Parks Ensemble that explores African American experience through photography. The exhibit highlights images from the Purdue BCC Research Tour to New Orleans in 2008.

RESEARCH TOUR - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Friday-Tuesday, Oct. 6-10

Open to only current members of the BCC Performing Arts Ensembles. Participants will visit historical landmarks and museums, collect personal narratives from residents of New Orleans, and engage in scholarly discussion with topic experts and masterclass instruction with local arts organizations.

CONGO SQUARE AFRICAN ROOTS IN NEW ORLEANS - FREDDI WILLIAMS EVANS

Thursday, Sept. 28 | 7 p.m. | Stewart Center, Room 206

Freddi Williams Evans will share the fascinating history of Congo Square, a place in New Orleans where enslaved Africans congregated on Sundays, a space that signified cultural memory, traditional spiritual practices and artistic expression.

MONA LISA SALOY, AUTHOR AND FOLKLOРИST, EDUCATOR AND SCHOLAR

Thursday, Nov. 2 | 7 p.m. Stewart Center, Room 306

Join us for a discussion with Mona Lisa Saloy, award-winning author of contemporary Creole culture in poems about Black New Orleans. Co-sponsored by the Purdue Honors College.

BCC FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY

Saturday, Nov. 4 | BCC

POSTGAME PARADE LED BY CHA WA BAND

March in Second Line parade from Ross-Ade to the BCC. Enjoy a grand gumbo of singing, chanting and deep funk grooves performed by Cha Wa Band. Participate in America’s favorite street rhymes that have been recited, chanted and sung for generations, and make your own Mardi Gras mask.

CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL FEATURING BCC PERFORMING ARTS ENSEMBLES

Friday, Dec. 1 | 7 p.m. | Loeb Playhouse, Stewart Center

New Orleans — the Crescent City, the Big Easy — is the focus of our 2017 Cultural Arts Festival. Over the course of this semester, we have explored the rich history and cultural contributions of New Orleans. We have visited the Mardi Gras Museum and have spoken to the Big Chief and the Queen of the Yellow Pocahontas Tribe. We have investigated the lingering impact(s) of Hurricane Katrina. This show will be the artistic expression of our semester-long investigation. So tonight we will bring you a show full of poetry, music and drama dance — all in celebration of New Orleans.

DANCE CLASS WITH JEFFREY PAGE

Thursday, Dec. 7 | 6 p.m. | South Ballroom, Purdue Memorial Union

MTV’s Video Music Award-winning and Emmy Award-nominated choreographer, Jeffrey Page, will offer an energetic fusion of traditional African Dance, hip-hop, funk and soul master dance class. Page has trained and worked with Beyonce, Fela! and more. Co-sponsored by the Purdue Honors College.

"MOVING PARTS" BY THOMAS LUCAS AND HUMMINGBIRD PRESS EDITIONS

Dec. 15, 2017-Feb. 25, 2018 | Art Museum of Greater Lafayette

Lucas was the former visual arts chair at The Chicago Academy for the Arts as well as the former director of printmaking at Lillstreet Art Center. He is also the founder and master printer at Hummingbird Press, which is also at Lillstreet Art Center. He now teaches full time at Chicago State University and teaches adjunct at Harold Washington College.