Spring semester at the BCC means that ensemble spring productions are in full force. The remaining April productions are Jahari Dance Troupe and the New Directional Players.

Jahari’s show is “We Are One.” When discussing their show, Breeanna Walker, student coordinator for Jahari shares “when we sat down from our trip to Puerto Rico, we felt a sense of unity, and that’s what we wanted to bring to the show. So although we have different styles, and have different personalities, we all make up Jahari.” Walker adds, “right now, we’ve had ensemble members teaching their dances and cleaning moves up to get ready for the show because I’m expecting that everyone goes above and beyond practice for the show and there is a good turnout.”

The New Directional Players will be performing a piece entitled “Sister Soldier.” Brittany Broaders, student coordinator for New Directional Players, explains that the theme, “is about how wars, in the literal and figurative sense, affect the lives of black women and their relationships with others, family, friends, etc.” Broaders added, “we are performing selected scenes from the play Ruined. This play is set in the Democratic Republic of Congo around the second civil war there, sometime around the last decade or so 2000-2007. In between scenes we’ve spliced together some monologues from a another piece titled, Big Butt Girls, Hard-Headed Women, that focus on the many hardships women of color, especially African-American, deal with in the United States.” Broaders hopes the show “makes people see things from a different perspective and maybe think about the realities of black women, and other women of color, not just in America, but throughout the world.”

“Sister Soldier” is Friday and Saturday, April 13 & 14 at the Black Cultural Center at 7pm. Jahari’s show, “We Are One,” is Saturday, April 21st at 7 p.m. in Loeb playhouse, Stewart Center. Tickets are $7 general public/$5 students.

Joan Ogwumike, Staff Writer
Congratulations to the Class of 2012! I am proud of your achievement and wish you all the best as you accept jobs and careers of enormous responsibility. Whatever professional position you assume, I encourage you to embrace the challenge with the highest standard of excellence.

The BCC has many bright students who are focused, talented, committed and disciplined. I have been blessed and feel fortunate that these dedicated, energetic and committed students have been involved with the BCC. Our April newsletter highlights several graduating seniors who have been affiliated with the Center. As you view the profiles of these enormously talented students, you will conclude – we educated exceptional minds at Purdue. The BCC also does something else, we provide our students with countless opportunities to explore, grow and be challenged. The BCC provides students with valuable leadership roles, broaden their experience beyond the classroom and prepares them to be global citizens.

If you are one of those rare students who has not been engaged/affiliated with the BCC, I encourage you make a commitment to become involved. Take advantage of the opportunity to be associated with our stellar organization. Become a part of the energy and excitement. As a result of your participation, your critical thinking skills, analytical ability and artistic talent will be further developed.

The BCC Fall 2012 theme is “Motor City Soul: The Birth, Death and Rebirth of Black Detroit”. The Center will focus on Detroit as a cultural and industrial mecca. We will examine Detroit’s ascent and preeminence as a Midwest mecca for African Americans during the Great Migration as well as subsequent struggles following the turbulent 1960’s and 70’s and it’s slow rebirth in the 21st century. If you are not graduating, I invite you to join us in this exploration.

Renee Thomas
Director

Congratulations to all graduates.
We wish you future success in all of your endeavors!
Fall semester 2012 the Black Cultural Center will sponsor a Research Tour to Detroit, Michigan to explore the theme “Motor City Soul: The Birth, Death, and Rebirth of Black Detroit.” Goals of the tour are:

- Examine Detroit’s ascent and preeminence as a Midwest mecca for African Americans during the Great Migration as well as subsequent struggles following the turbulent 1960s and 70s and its slow rebirth in the 21st century.
- Understand how Afro-centrism and Black liberation Theology influenced the formation of non-traditional religious/spiritual expression in the Black community.
- Provide meaningful educational experiences with visits to the African American Museum, Motown Museum and Gospel Music Hall of Fame.
- Explore Detroit’s artistic and musical legacy including, Jazz, Blues and the Motown sound.

For more information contact the BCC. You must also register for AAS 491, Motor City Soul instructed by Langston Bates and Twana Harris.

The Forks of The Roads Enslavement Market Exhibition will be on display at the Black Cultural Center until June 1, 2012. This exhibition tells the story of the United States of America’s internal slave trade. Professional dealers, traffickers and speculators devised a way to continue the supply of free labor after the United States Congress made it illegal to bring captives directly from Africa in 1808. According to Clifford Boxley, Coordinator of Friends of the Forks of the Roads Society Inc., and exhibit curator, “This interstate trafficking of slaves was referred to as America’s domestic slave trade industry.” Natchez, Mississippi became the epicenter of this industry. In addition to presenting at the Black Cultural Center, Boxley visited James Cole Elementary School and talked with a class of fifth and sixth graders about the “... freedom fighting actions of runaway enslaved people as U.S. Colored Troops, Sailors, Nurses and civilian supporters in the Mississippi Valley region during the Civil War.” (excerpt from Boxley’s blog about his Purdue trip).

One of the banners from the Forks Of The Roads Exhibit which detail the history of slave trading in the United States, especially the routes from the upper old South and Mid Southern States which eventually lead to Natchez, Mississippi and the Forks of the Road markets.

Clifford Boxley at James Cole Elementary School
Accolades for Success.....

Hats off to Niambi Carter and Susan Curtis. Carter, an assistant professor of political science and African American Studies, has been appointed a visiting scholar at the James Weldon Johnson Institute of Emory University. Her appointment is for 2012-13 academic year. Curtis, professor of history and director of American Studies, has been appointed the Maxwell C. Weiner Distinguished Visiting Professor of History at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. She will be in residence at the university during the spring semester of 2013.

Congratulations to MFA student and BCC employee LaToya Hobbs whose work will be featured in Costa Rica for the event, “Promising Artists of 21st Century” honoring the Heritage of the African Diaspora through a visual arts exhibition. LaToya will be traveling to Costa Rica in June as part of her recognition. Additionally Hobbs has also been awarded honorable mention in the graduate category of the Berenice A. Carroll Awards. The Berenice Carroll Awards recognize undergraduate and graduate student initiatives in research, scholarship, and activism in the fields of Women’s Studies, Peace Studies, or related interdisciplinary subjects directed to social justice, feminism and peace.

Applause to Toyinda Wilson-Long, supervisor in Men’s and Women’s Track and Field & Cross Country Operations, on being inducted into the Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

Special Accolades to the following faculty and staff who presented papers and chaired panels at the National Council of Black Studies 2012 conference:

Dr. Venetria Patton
Dr. Marlo David
Casarae Gibson
Tony Perry
Nick Krebs

Heather Moore
Elizabeth Canela
Stephanie Allen
Arthur Banton

Also at the same conference Dr. Patton received the NCBS Presidential Award and Casarae Gibson, Black Thought Collective Scholar - in- Residence, was awarded 3rd place in NCBS Essay Contest for her essay “We Still Conscious”: Hip Hop Activism in the 21st Century.”

Applause to Breeanna Walker, Jahari Student Coordinator, who is now on Mortar Board.

Congratulations to Jolivette Anderson-Douoning, BCC Cultural Liaison & Program Specialist who is the 2012 recipient of the Black Graduate Student Association Distinguished Service Award. This award honors a faculty or staff member who has mentored African American students pursuing higher education in the state of Indiana.
Graduates...

Each spring we give graduating BCC employees and ensemble members an opportunity to reflect and share feelings about their time at Purdue University. Read and enjoy!
Profiles of graduating seniors are continued on pgs. 6 & 7.

Arneetrice Thompson, Black Thought Collective Student Coordinator, Selling and Sales Management

“My initial involvement in the Black Cultural Center started my freshman year as I was a member of Haraka. I did not complete the entire semester but always planned to get back involved into the ensembles at the BCC. Four years later, I returned and joined the Black Thought Collective as the Student Coordinator. This semester I have learned so much about the Black Cultural Center and have built great relationships with members of the other ensembles and the BCC professional staff. After graduation, I will be working in Chicago as a Legal Practice Liability Broker with Arthur J. Gallagher. Working and living in downtown Chicago will change my life, but I will never forget the Black Cultural Center for making a difference in my undergraduate experience at Pur-

Maya Christie, Library Clerk, Political Science

“The BCC will always hold a special place in my heart. I have worked in the library since my freshman year and could not have asked for a better job. I will definitely miss working there. Plans for the future: Upon graduation I will be working at ING Financial Partners in downtown Chicago as a Financial Advisor.”

Francis Mbakogu, Chemical Engineering

“Coming all the way from Nigeria, the BCC has been a home away from home for me. The people, the art and the sense of community has made my time here at Purdue worth every second.” After graduation Francis will be working in Texas in the oil and gas industry.
Graduates Continued...

Bobby Chen, Accounting/Management, Student Archivist and Receptionist

“Being a Chinese guy from the Bahamas, I wanted to bring to BCC a taste of cultural diversity. Since my start with the BCC family, the staff has been nothing but mentors to me especially, Ms. Jolivette, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Juanita. I truly enjoyed this humbling experience and certainly will miss it a lot.” Bobby will be working at Ernst & Young in Indianapolis as a tax auditor.

Lisa Young, Night Manager, American Studies Graduate Student

“Being a part of the BCC family has provided me with many different opportunities and a kind of connectedness that I would not have had otherwise. I’m grateful that I was able to get involved my first year as it has profoundly impacted my graduate experience. Amongst many other things, I’ve gotten the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico and I am continuously getting exposed to numerous other opportunities pertaining to my research. After graduating with my Master’s degree in May, I plan to continue my doctoral studies here at Purdue and I plan to remain just as much a part of the BCC family as I did during my Master’s phase.
Christopher Warren, Night Manager, American Studies Graduate Program

“From the moment I stepped into the Black Cultural Center as a prospective student in the HBI Program, I knew I would spend a great deal of time there. There was a feeling of “home” that I had not experienced while visiting the campus, a feeling of warmth although it was the dead of winter. Speaking with Miss Renee and cracking jokes with Jolivette within minutes of our introduction helped to cement my decision to come to Purdue. As a student from a HBCU, it was important to me to maintain culturally relevant connections to my chosen college, as well as the campus community as a whole and the BCC offered that connection and then some. I started out as a front desk employee and soon became ingrained in the ensembles, moving from Black Thought Collective, to the New Directional Players, then to Haraka; and even dabbling in a little BVOI and Jahari from time to time. The relationships that I have forged with fellow employees, administrative staff and various students who visited the center have manifested into familial relations, mentorships and friendships that I will be blessed with for the rest of my life. The research tours broadened my global perspective which made me a better scholar; the Cultural Arts festivals multiplied my skills as a performer ten-fold, and the interactions with my fellow students helped me to make through some pretty tough times here in Boilmaker-land. As a 2012 graduate, I plan to take all I have been given from lessons learned and talents honed at the BCC, and improve the lives our people. As an educator, my work will never cease, and I pray that one day I can return and impart all that I have taken in love, and give back to my BCC!

Ebony James, BVOI, Student Receptionist

“My involvement at the BCC has been an incredible experience. Ever since I stepped foot in the BCC, I’ve been involved in something. I joined the Black Voices of Inspiration performing arts ensemble and then I became a student worker. Each gave its own separate experiences. I will definitely miss the BCC when I’m gone. I love the BCC! It offers a lot of resources and support. I enjoyed giving the tours and helping around the BCC. It is definitely the best job I ever had. It truly is my home away from home! After I graduate, I plan on attending University of Indianapolis to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner. I definitely will be coming back to visit my second home. I will miss everyone at the BCC.”

The BCC also congratulates the following …..

Cameron McGhee
Christopher Pulliam
Tony Perry
Lindsay Taylor
Haraka Fest: Mixed Media & Spoken Word Poetry

Juanita Crider, Editor

On April 6 and 7 Harakafest presented their spring show, “Haraka After Dark.” The idea and title for the show came from conversations that often occurred in Haraka during the last hour of their session. These conversations are best described as intentionally not politically correct! The show featured poetry interspersed with film clips about recurring topics during these conversations. Haraka Artist -In- Residence, Khari Bowden always encourages members to explore new and creative ways to perform their work. This show was no exception. Poets incorporated film, dance, dialogue, and singing in their work. Additionally some artists were accompanied by the Friday night Funk Out band. Poets were very creative in expressing the multiple meanings of “after dark.” Some pieces were erotic, while others spoke about things people often see and experience during the dark hours. Audience members were excited to see a show where ensemble members incorporated music, film, and dance to seamlessly blend with the poetry. Haraka reached new performance heights in this show and are excited that it was very well received!