On December 5, 2014, it was the 41st Annual BCC Cultural Arts Festival (CAF)! The festival showcased a semester’s worth of research about the tradition of Carnival, though the lens of our fall research tour to the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. The goal of CAF is to share with the campus and greater Lafayette community what students learned about the characters, origins, and history of Carnival. The show provides students an opportunity to display how their experience studying and traveling to the islands of Trinidad & Tobago affected them.

The title of this year’s show derived its name from the practice of enslaved Africans in the spying; i.e. peepin’ on the activities of the master and other occupants of the main house. While touring Trinidad & Tobago through a series of master classes and panels participants learned that the Carnival tradition is grounded in resistance.

This year’s CAF was under the direction of Haraka Artist-In-Residence, Khari Bowden. According to Khari the audience was encouraged to enjoy the traditional celebrations and folklore of Carnival. Yet they were reminded that each and every character and performance has meaning related to very specific and intentional ways to resist oppression. Also many of the characterizations and performances during Carnival are signifying the cultural practices and behavior of white colonial rulers.

Throughout the course of a semester, the cast has collected various ways to express Carnival and other aspects of Trinidadian culture. after the performance, BCC ensemble, Black Thought Collective, conducted a talk back where audience members were able to ask questions about aspects of the show and Carnival traditions. If the audience reaction was any indication, the event was a tremendous hit!
Seven Principles to Live By...

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan African holiday developed by Dr. Maluana Karanga which celebrates family, community and culture. The seven core principles of Kwanzaa are called the Nguza Saba. These principles are believed to have been keys to building strong, productive families and communities in Africa. The Nguzo Saba stands at the heart of the origin and meaning of Kwanzaa. The seven principles of the Nguzo Saba are:

Umoja (Unity)
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self Determination)
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
To build and maintain our community together and make our brother’s and sister’s problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose)
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity)
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith)
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated December 26 – January 1 and it is the world’s fastest growing holiday with over 20 million celebrants worldwide. This year the BCC will co-host (with multiple student organizations) a university wide celebration Kwanzaa on December 7. The 2014 national theme is “Practicing the Culture of Kwanzaa: Living the Seven Principles.”

The BCC embraces and exemplifies the seven principles throughout the entire academic year. We understand the importance of practicing the culture of Kwanzaa on a consistent basis. The performing arts ensembles are excellent examples of the principle of Kuumba (creativity) the Jahari Dance Troupe, Haraka Writers, New Directional Players and Black Voices of Inspiration all excel in their presentation of the arts to the Purdue community. The BCC practices Umoja (unity) by providing space for African American students

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The BCC wishes all December graduates success in all of their future endeavors!

Save these dates:

Soledad ’Brien Presents Black in America
February 10, 2015
6:00 pm Elliott Hall of Music

Dr. Carl Hart
February 11, 2015
7:00 pm Fowler Hall

Angela Davis
February 25, 2015
5:00 pm Elliott Hall of Music

Please check with the Division of Diversity and Inclusion’s web site for updated information concerning campus MLK Day events at: http://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/
Terri Hill is the Director of Development for Purdue’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion. With a degree in African-American studies from University of Cincinnati, Hill moved to Indiana to pursue a Masters in Philanthropic Studies from IUPUI’s Lily School of Philanthropy. During time there she was fund-raising intern at small private high school and fund-raising assistant for the Howard County Historical Society. What she likes most about working in development is the relationship building aspect. She became interested in philanthropy when working in Public Relations and marketing with a small branch campus of University of Miami. Hill attended the donor visits with the development director of the branch campus that focused on the need in marketing. While listening to her colleague build these relationship, she thought, “This is something I can do. I like this.” After graduation she became a donor relations officer at Planned Parenthood which led to her discovery that what she really had a passion for was Higher Education.

Coming to Purdue was exciting for Hill. “Having the opportunity to fund raise in an area that I am passionate about worked for me,” says Hill, “all of the areas of the division make who I am as an individual.” Hill emphasized that a focus on culture, people, and activism aligned her personal beliefs with what she does professionally. It was not just the institution itself that was appealing about joining the Purdue family; it was what she could do for the institution.

What she loves most about Purdue is the people she has met. “I’ve met wonderful administrators, and wonderful students…we have great intellectually challenging conversations that make me questions some of things that I think. I’ve been able to transfer this into my professional life.”

When asked about goals for diversity and inclusion, Hill discussed growing the donor base of diverse alumni. Hill understands that this goal comes along with certain challenges. Diverse donors tend to have a different Purdue experience that can leave them questioning whether they want to give back to the university. Hill suggested that part of that healing is about creating a legacy that can positively impact future students. In the past donors have expressed a concern about where their dollars are going. Hill says that on numerous occasions she has heard the question “How does this money benefit students who are like me?” Hill was excited to announce some new initiatives for Purdue development. Donors have always had multiple ways to give to the university, but a major change is now there are easier ways to specify where that money is going. For example, it is often said the BCC is a home away from home. Now donors can give specifically to programs at the BCC so that the legacy continues and more students can enjoy the safe haven. Additionally, employers are trending towards matching gifts that their employees make to organizations up to a certain dollar amount. Hill says it is “…an easy way to double your gift.” She suggested asking your employer if a similar program is available. Hill was sure to stress that giving is not only about money. It is about building relationships. More information about giving at Purdue can be found at www.purdue.edu/giving.
In *High Price: A Neuroscientist’s Journey of Self Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society* Dr. Hart writes, “the primary reason I wrote this book was to show the public how the emotional hysteria that stems from misinformation related to illegal drugs obfuscates the real problems faced by marginalized people” (xi). Just to show you how seriously Hart believes the above statement he opens the book on his life to support his argument.

In seventeen riveting chapters Dr. Hart intersects his life story while asserting that drug addiction is a reflection of societal ills rather than the other way around. Dr. Hart shares in detail his work with research subjects as he explores how addiction manifests in individual lives. Hart’s study also reveals the role that social constructions of race and class play in developing the stereotype of the drug user.

The author’s style engages readers and he is especially adept at making the scientific details of his work understandable to a broader audience. Dr. Hart is a convincing advocate for disrupting the most common beliefs surrounding drugs because he once believed the most common assumptions himself. I highly recommend this book if you are even remotely interested in our nation’s drug policies and the far reaching implications these policies have throughout the world.

Dr. Hart is an Associate Professor of Psychology in both Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at Columbia University in New York. He also is Director of the Residential Studies and Methamphetamine Research Laboratories at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. The book is the recipient of the 2014 Pen/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. According to PEN America this award “celebrates writing that exemplifies literary excellence on the subject of physical and biological sciences.”

The BCC will feature Dr. Hart as part of our Black history month events on February 11, 2015 at 7 pm in Fowler Hall. This event is co-sponsored by the Colleges of Pharmacy, Health and Human Sciences, and University Libraries.

**Recommended Reading**

*The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks* By Jeanne Theoharis

*Brown Girl Dreaming* By Jacqueline Woodson
The statue of Neil Armstrong in front of the building bearing his name has become one of the most popular locations for photographs on campus. Hardly a day goes by when someone is not posing for a picture with the likeness of Armstrong as a Purdue undergraduate. Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, is one of Purdue’s most famous alumnae.

Armstrong, who graduated in 1955, began donating documents to the university before his death in 2012. However, recently his widow, Carol Armstrong, donated the remainder of his papers to Purdue Libraries. This donation was recently honored at an event in the Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center. In celebration of the donation, Archives and Special Collections have established an exhibit, “Steps to the Moon: Selections from the Neil A. Armstrong Papers and the Eugene A. Cernan Papers.” This exhibit will be on display until February 27, 2015. On January 17, 2015 from 1-3:30 pm there will be an open house specifically geared towards parents and children. Visitors will be able to view the exhibit and participate in a space facts scavenger hunt.

One of the most interesting facts about Armstrong’s papers is the extent of the collection. The collection includes items from his grade school years through college and of course his career with NASA. Armstrong also saved many of the hundreds of letters people wrote him from across the globe. According to Purdue news service “the papers include approximately 70,000 pages of fan mail, the bulk of which Armstrong received in the months and years following the moon landing” (http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2014/Q4/purdue-libraries-celebrates-gift-of-armstrong-papers.html). As Purdue President Mitch Daniels stated at the event “Neil Armstrong epitomized in a very literal sense just how far an education could take a person. He came to Purdue with natural talent and a dream, and through hard work and a strong code of personal value, became an American icon. Only a few achieve such status. But he is an example to all young people to dare to dream.”

The papers are a part of the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives and is open for scholarly research. For more information and to schedule an appointment to view the papers please contact Tracy Grimm, archivist for the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives, at grimm3@purdue.edu.
On November 20-22, the Purdue University African American Studies and Research Center held its 29th Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy. The theme was “Black to the Future: Black Culture Through Time and Space.” The event opened with a Thursday evening keynote address, “Out of the Shadows, Into the Stars: Science and Technology in African American Studies,” by Dr. Alondra Nelson. Nelson is professor of sociology and gender studies and Dean of Social Science at Columbia University, where she has served as director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Her research focuses on the intersections of science, technology, medicine, and inequality. Dr. Nelson was presented with the African American Studies & Research Center African American Culture and Philosophy Award, by department chair, Dr. Venetria Patton. The award is given to honor a scholar whose work has contributed significantly to the clarification and development of critical issues in African American culture and philosophy.

Friday and Saturday consisted of over ten concurrent panel sessions on topics as wide ranging as: Afrofuturism and Queerness to Race and Identity in the Supernatural and the Heroic. Professors and graduate students from the United States and abroad were in attendance presenting work across a variety of academic disciplines. Interdisciplinary in nature, this conference showcased cutting edge scholarship from scholars engaging with multiple media platforms. The symposium was a tremendous success!

Juanita Crider, Editor

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to unite by utilizing the BCC library for study sessions or discussing current issues in the formal lounge. There are several programs we sponsor to promote unity on campus including Boilerfest. The BCC also practices Kujichagulia (self-determination). The BCC shares African American culture with the community through the Cultural Arts Series. The center plays a central role in enhancing the understanding of culture and ethnic diversity on campus; we educate individuals about African American history and culture. The Center also works with student groups and organizations in the spirit of Ujima (collective work and responsibility) by co-sponsoring programs and activities that address issues relevant to the African American experience at Purdue. Through our work with student groups, the BCC promotes academic excellence and social responsibility. On several occasions the BCC has practiced Ujamaa (cooperative economics) by patronizing local Black owned businesses.

These seven key values offer standards of excellence and models of possibilities which aid in building and reinforcing family, community and culture. Dr. Karanga stated, “Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm our culture and the bonds between us as a people.” The BCC has expanded the practice of Kwanzaa to all areas of our operation year round and not just during the Kwanzaa season.

Renee Thomas, Director
2014 has been a rough year! There have been too many names of young black people in the news who have been gunned down in police action shootings and by citizens who perceived them to be a threat just because they were black. Rekia Boyd, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, John Crawford are the names that first come to mind but there are more! I am sure as you are reading this you have most likely seen and/or heard of the hashtag: #Blacklifematters. It was started as a result of the failure of a grand jury in Ferguson, Missouri to indict police officer Darren Wilson for the murder of Michael Brown, an eighteen year old young black man. Resistance erupted in Ferguson. This public display of frustration, rebellion, and resistance was not merely about the fail of the grand jury to indict but it was also about years of pent up angst from unjust treatment by the local systems of criminal justice and stagnant social and economic conditions in their community. As if this wasn’t enough, merely a few weeks later a New York grand jury also failed to recommend indictment for a police officer who murdered Staten Island resident, Eric Garner. What makes the Garner case so egregious is that a New York coroner ruled Garner’s death a homicide that resulted from the officer placing Garner in a choke hold, which were outlawed by the department several years prior to this incident. Additionally there is videotape of the incident which clearly reveals the officer placing Garner in a choke hold as Garner repeatedly states “I can’t breathe!” As I listen to students, faculty and staff express anger, frustration, sorrow and despair over these incidents, I am reminded how important it is for us to acknowledge our feelings. As we embrace family, friends and other loved ones during the holidays, let’s remember to reflect on this contemporary moment and the continuum of injustice and ask ourselves what contributions can we make in our spheres of influence for change and what risks are we willing to take? Also bring your questions and concerns to several events next semester where you can ask some prominent scholars and social justice activists their thoughts. Marc Lamont Hill, Morehouse College professor and frequent CNN contributor will be our MLK commemoration keynote speaker. Angela Davis, philosopher, social justice activist, and prison abolitionist will be on campus in February as well as Dr. Carl Hart who will be challenging some of our conceptions about the war on drugs and also journalist Soledad O’Brien with her Black in America Series. I hope to see you there.