December 4, 2015 was the 42nd Annual BCC Cultural Arts Festival (CAF). The festival showcased a semester’s worth of research about the Black struggle for freedom from the Civil Rights Movement to our contemporary time through the lens of the fall research tour to Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. The goal of CAF is to share with the campus and greater Lafayette community what students learned about the Civil Rights Movement and continuing efforts for freedom by African Americans today. James Dekle, BCC full time Artist-In-Residence and choir director for the Black Voices of Inspiration, described the show’s significance this way, “many people are afraid to talk about American history; however, when told through the performing arts ensembles in a show it leaves a lasting impression as well as educates the audience and hopefully encourages further discussion.”

The title of this year’s show was decided by tour participants and inspired by them actually crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This year’s CAF was under the direction of Haraka Artist-In-Residence, Khari Bowden. According to Khari it was very important and intentional to make connections to the Black Lives Matter movement and other current organized resistance to social injustices because this is one purpose of art. “Just as the artists during the Black Arts Movement created work to respond to and express the injustices of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, many artists today continue in the same tradition.”

Master classes from artists while on tour and regular ensemble rehearsals prepared the Cultural Arts Festival cast to authentically share their feelings and respond to current events nationally. Brandi Smith, senior and member of Jahari expressed it this way, “This show made me feel like I was speaking for a cause!” If the audience reaction was any indication, the event was a tremendous hit!

Juanita Crider, Editor
Jeffrey Page, a choreographer who has worked with Beyoncé' Knowles and has been featured on Fox Network’s “So You Think You Can Dance,” conducted a master dance class sponsored by the Black Cultural Center.

The class was free, opened to the public and took place in the feature gym at the France A. Cordova Recreational Sports Center.

Page’s choreography has been featured on Beyoncé’s Tour – “The Beyoncé Experience,” MTV’s Video Music Awards, the BET Awards, the World Music Awards, and Oprah Winfrey’s “25th Anniversary Special.” He also has worked with R. Kelly, Jada Pinkett Smith, Cirque du Soleil, the Long Beach Ballet and has performed in “Fela!” a Broadway musical.

“Religious Ritual and Social Experience in the Context of African Art” December 1-17, 2015

This show was a collaborative effort combining works of art belonging to Purdue University’s Permanent Art Collection, The Black Cultural Center and private individuals. Purdue Professor of Art History, David Parrish worked with four undergraduate students who researched the objects. The special exhibit was in Pao Hall and included sculptures by the Nigerian artist Lamidi O. Fakeye, Kente cloth, Yoruba twin figures and Mende helmet masks.
John Carlos Visits Purdue

John Carlos is a former track and field athlete and professional football player. He was the bronze-medal winner in the 200 meters at the 1968 Summer Olympics. He is most known for his Black Power Salute on the podium with Tommy Smith and Peter Norman.

He came to Purdue University to speak on October 29th and opened with “Good welcome, but anyone else who applauds will get escorted out.” He said what he did was really for his kids and his grandchildren. His grandson is a student here at Purdue University and his impact has reached as far as this campus. John Carlos knew at a young age he wanted to make a mark in life but didn’t know how or with what purpose. While growing up in New York, he heard about the Olympics from the radio. His father described it as the greatest athletics competition of who’s physically fit and who’s mentally fit.

He originally had dreams of being the first black to bring a medal to America for swimming, but after two years of practice his dad said you won’t be able to go to the Olympics for swimming. After two years of practice with slow but recognizable improvement, his father explained to him, “It’s hard to go to the pools already because of the color of your skin, the only pool you can go to is too far and you will lose all your friends over the summer.”

Carlos stated, “I noticed when I went to pools with friends at the good white pool, adults would pull their children out of the pool while I and my friends were swimming. I had to learn from experience that when a black person has fair skin and goes to the other side it’s not cause they’re ashamed, it’s just that one side has all this fun and festive activities, but on the other side it’s dark and no one is playing. Why would you not put yourself in the better situation?”

Carlos remembered hearing Malcolm X on the radio at a young age. He recalls it this way, “I knew I needed to hear him in person. When I saw him I thought he was too light skin to be Malcolm X.” Why? Because John Carlos thought someone with Malcolm’s skin complexion couldn’t be so racially charged. He had to listen to him speak a few times before mustering up enough courage to even talk to him.

Carlos also spoke of meeting Dr. King, “I remember meeting Dr. King (Martin Luther King Jr.) sometime before the year he was assassinated. I asked him once was he afraid he would get killed (during the heat of the Civil Rights Movement). He looked at me and said, “John, you know they could stop me, but they could never stop me.”

Mr. Carlos mentioned that moment always sticks with him because Dr. King told him that and looked him in the eyes without fear. He would think of that time and would say to himself “If I were to give advice it would be to not bail when things get hot. You don’t get burns from a moment but you get burns from a movement. Consistency gets people to follow. I remembered that as I was on my journey to make it to the Olympics and meeting these Civil Right activists.”

Carlos’ closing advice to the audience was, “Don’t let nobody stop you from being the better person that you are.”

By Javon Walker, staff writer
What is Kwanzaa?

By Alexis Porter, staff writer

In 1966 Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa. Dr. Maulana Karenga held the positions of professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University. Dr. Karenga’s intention was for Kwanzaa to bring the African American community together after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. In order to harvest this concept, Dr. Karenga combined aspects of Ashanti and Zulu traditions to form the basis of Kwanzaa.

The word Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which translates to “first fruits.” The Festival of First Fruits or Kwanzaa centers around a feast table of the harvest. Kwanzaa is a contemporary African American holiday that honors African culture. Each family celebrates the holiday by singing, dancing, storytelling, and poetry reading with a traditional meal that gathers everyone together.

There are seven nights of Kwanzaa in which the family comes together and a child lights one candle on the Kinara, or candleholder. As each candle is lit, the seven principles (called Nguzo Saba in Swahili) are discussed to reinforce the values of African culture and the community in which African Americans share. The seven principles of Kwanzaa include: unity, purpose, self-determination, faith, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, and creativity. One candle is lit each evening as the appropriate principle is discussed. Each evening a candle is lit, the opportunity to discuss the meaning of Kwanzaa arises.

Along with the principles, the holiday has several symbols that add to its celebration. The Kwanzaa symbols include: the crops (Mazao), a placemat (Mkeka), the ear of corn (Vibunzi), the seven candles (Mishumaa Saba), the candleholder (Kinara), the unity cup (Kikombe Cha Umoja), and the gifts (Zawadi). On December 31st, the African feast, Karamu is set forth. Essentially, Kwanzaa is a living tradition that reflects the best Africa values and traditions. The concepts involved with the celebration emphasizing the dignity of a person in their community and culture. Kwanzaa strengthens African Americans as a community to help them engage in the ancient and living African traditions.
Purdue’s Social Media Footprint

By Kathrine Boyer, staff writer

As 2016 approaches, it’s evident that social media is still rising in full force ever since the middle school days of Myspace and Friendster. For Purdue students, there are numerous ways to utilize social media to help them build on a professional level, whether by creating a LinkedIn or boosting their Twitter. Purdue University has accounts on various social media outlets in order to communicate with and benefit Purdue students.

Christy Jones, the social media manager of Purdue through Marketing and Media, oversees Purdue’s top social media accounts, such as Purdue’s Facebook page, @LifeAtPurdue on Twitter and Instagram, Purdue’s Pinterest, the LinkedIn education page for Purdue, and Purdue’s snapchat account. Additionally there are 4 social media interns working with Jones. She stresses that there is no way one person could do everything needed to be done in order to maintain the university’s social media presence. Jones said, “We help share messages from the administration, information about news and events, and share items from students, staff & alumni. We also are tasked with listening to conversations on social media about Purdue.”

Although social media isn’t perfect, and the occasional grandparent might share an old, embarrassing photo on Facebook or the high school classmate might post an offensive, poorly written tweet – social media is a new generation in itself that students should take advantage of. Companies and future employers look at social media, whether personally or on a larger scale, and they take note of what’s being posted.

For most social media outlets, it’s best to be professional on the account, or otherwise keep it private and be selective of who to allow access to view the account. It’s probably not a good idea to add a boss on Snapchat, but connecting with your supervisor on LinkedIn is a must and maybe even following on Twitter, so long as there are not subtweets about the manager being posted.

For Purdue students, engaging with Purdue on social media can be beneficial. By following the Purdue page on Facebook, students can be up to date on whatever it is that they post, typically longer comments and more pictures.

Twitter is more personal and @LifeAtPurdue it’s a great way for students to find other Purdue Twitter accounts and what events they’re holding. Purdue on LinkedIn is a must, because employers really do look at LinkedIn accounts and the more credit tied to Purdue the more credible and professional a LinkedIn profile looks. As for Purdue’s Instagram, Pinter est, and Snapchat, those are more of ways for students to engage with each other, by sharing ideas, events, and images on campus, and the day to day life of a Boilermaker. We all have things we want to share, why not share them online with the rest of the Boilermaker family. In addition to the general Purdue social media also connect with the Purdue Black Cultural Center utilizing Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.
BCC Alumni Speaker Series
“Climbing Out of Entry Level Hell”
Cheryl Pearson-McNeil
February 10, 2016

If you’re scared witless that you won’t get your first job, and will therefore be forced to either live at home with your parents forever, you won’t want to miss this presentation. This hands-on session with Purdue alumnus will arm you with the 12 tips you need to head into the workforce confidently and succeed. Some of the tips include: Ask for What you Want, Get Everything in Writing and Ditch your Bad Habits, just to name a few.

McNeil graduated from Purdue in 1984 with a BA in Public Relations from the School of Liberal Arts. Currently McNeil is a corporate executive with a global research company and recently completed her first book, *Climbing Out of Entry Level Hell: The Newbie’s 12-Step Guide Up the Corporate Ladder of Success*. She is the recipient of numerous awards and was recently honored by a group of Purdue alumni with The Freida and Winifred Parker Pioneering Purdue Women Award during its inaugural presentation on November 7, 2015 as part of Purdue’s Homecoming weekend of celebration. The award is named after the two pioneering Parker sisters, who in 1946, were the first Black women to live in a Purdue University residence hall. This award was established by the Sagamore Sankofa Awards committee. This group is a collaboration of Purdue alumni who come together periodically to recognize individuals who have made positive contributions to improving diversity within the greater Purdue community. Additionally Cheryl has been a featured guest on such shows as the Tom Joyner Morning Show and Roland Martin’s TV One News. Cheryl’s son, Kenneth McNeil, is currently a sophomore at Purdue in the College of Science and a member of the BCC Performing-Arts-Ensemble, The New Directional Players.

Purdue Alumus and former BVOI pianist and Haraka member, Dr. Veena Graff M.D., is making news in her position as an anesthesiologist at the University of Vermont Health Network. You can read more about her recently launched project that provides surgical patients an opportunity to listen to music during their surgical period at: [http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/?Page=news&storyID=21920&category=spot1](http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/?Page=news&storyID=21920&category=spot1)

Dr. Graff is currently a pain medicine fellow at the University of Vermont Medical Center. She will begin a faculty position as an anesthesiologist and pain medicine physician at the University of Pennsylvania in July.
A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE FIERCE Urgency OF NOW

TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 2016, 7 P.M.
LOEB PLAYHOUSE | STEWART CENTER

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Address by FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI III

Mathematician, educator and inspirational leader, Freeman Hrabowski serves as president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County — which he has transformed into an academic powerhouse that graduates STEM majors of all races. His research and writings focus on innovating American schools, with special emphasis on minority participation and performance.

As a child in Birmingham, Alabama, he marched in the Children’s Crusade of 1963, a pivotal civil rights campaign. Among his many honors, in 2012 Hrabowski was named chair of the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

For a complete listing of events and more on Dr. King, go to purdue.edu/mlk
Like Purdue MLK events on Facebook at PurdueBCC

Sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion

www.purdue.edu/BCC
The concept of Sankofa comes from the Akan people of West Africa. It is one of the many Adinkra symbols of western Africa. Each symbol has a meaning. Sankofa means to reach back and get what you forgot. This is visually captured in the symbol of the mythic bird that flies forward while looking back with an egg in its mouth which symbolizes the future. I have been thinking a lot about the concept of Sankofa as it relates to the recent student movements across college campuses. Whether or not you agree with the protestors cause and lists of demands it is exciting to see students harken back to public demonstrations of civic engagement while also framing it to fit their contemporary moment and technologies. It is through the challenges, joys and struggles of living in community where our knowledge, skills and values are forged. As we move forward to 2016 let us all be mindful of our capacity for transformation. It is in our past and also in our future!