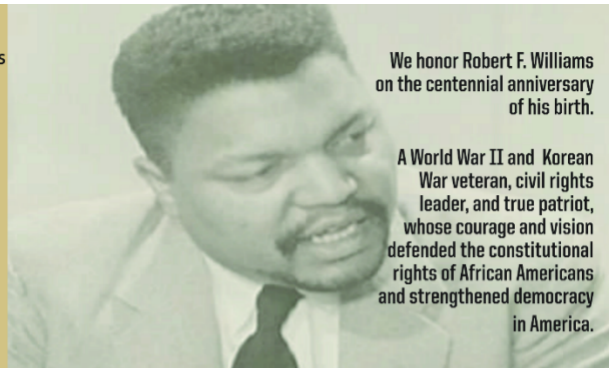




Presented by:
School of Interdisciplinary Studies
African American Studies

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

October 22-23, 2025 | Black Cultural Center (BCC)



We honor Robert F. Williams
on the centennial anniversary
of his birth.

A World War II and Korean
War veteran, civil rights
leader, and true patriot,
whose courage and vision
defended the constitutional
rights of African Americans
and strengthened democracy
in America.

DAY 1 - OCT 22

All video viewing will occur in the formal lounge on the first floor.



10:30 - 11:15

Robert F. Williams: Crusader for
Justice, 1962



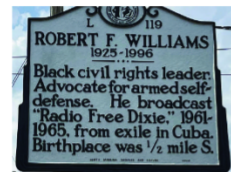
11:30 - 12:20

Robert F. Williams in China
-Aukram Burton



12:30 - 12:45

Welcoming



12:45- 1:20

Poetry Readings
-Dr. Daniel Morris
-Juanita Crider
-Armani Bearden
-Myla Cantrell



3:00 - 4:15

Let it Burn: The Coming
Destruction of the USA



4:30 - 6:00

Negroes with Guns

DAY 2 - OCT 23

Panel book discussions held in MP 3, on the second floor.

12:00 - 1:15

NEGROES WITH GUNS

J. Carrington Warren
Jala Cheryl Lee Birtha
Steven Tyrone Hall II

1:30 - 2:45

ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS SPEAKS

Clarreese L. Greene
Ovie "Richard" Agezeh
Syan Timothy Lopez

3:00 - 5:00

REFLECTIONS ON THE LEGACY OF ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

Akinyele Umoja and Gloria House
"The Memoirs of Robert and Mabel Williams"
Bill V. Mullen
"Robert Williams and the Black Antifascist Tradition"
Miron Javionne Clay-Gilmore
"Blood to the Horse's Brow and Woe to Those who Cannot Swim"
Judson L. Jeffries
"Robert F. Williams and the Black Panther Party"
Ronald J. Stephens
"The Power of Strategic Communication: Rob and Mabel's
Transnational Crusade for Justice"
Errol A. Henderson
"Progressive Black Nationalism: The Serpentine Politics of RFW"

5:30 - 7:30

RECEPTION

FIRST FLOOR IN THE FORMAL LOUNGE

Join us for 2 days of In-Person /Virtual Presentations
@ <https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/my/rjs67>

With support from:
College of Liberal Arts, Philosophy, History, Anthropology, English and
School of Languages and Cultures



School of Interdisciplinary Studies

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Ovie Agezeh is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology at Purdue University. His area of research are cultural heritage management, landscape and settlement studies in archaeology, and the application of geospatial science and technology to explore human socio-cultural environments. Ovie's Ph.D. research is titled "Beyond the Walls: Memory, Landscape, Identities and the Politics of Heritage Management at Old Oyo, Nigeria."

Presentation Title: Echoes of Resistance: A Review of Robert F. Williams Speaks: A Documentary History.



Armani Bearden is a junior, from Gary, Indiana majoring in English with a concentration in literature.

Poetic Renditions: "A Spark of Reconciliation"



Jala Cheryl Lee BIRTHA is a Senior majoring in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Structures at Purdue University in the College of Engineering. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Jala hopes to continue her studies in Structural Engineering, while also making time to incorporate non-STEM focused activities.

Presentation Title: RFW and Negroes with Guns



Aukram Burton is an educator, media artist, and producer, currently serving as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville, Kentucky. For over forty years, his photography has documented African and Asian-descended communities worldwide, spanning the Americas, Africa, and Asia. During the 1970s, Burton's work with Robert F. Williams in Boston as a community activist inspired his long-standing engagement with China, where he organized nine educational and cultural exchanges between 1977 and 2015.

Presentation Title: Exile in China: Robert F. Williams and the Global Black Freedom Struggle



Myla Cantrell is a junior, from Fishers, Indiana, with a double major in African American Studies and English with a concentration in literature.

Poetic Renditions: "The Freedom Man" & "Re-Run"

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Miron J. Clay-Gilmore is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Ethics and the Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society at the University of Toronto. His research examines racialized applications of artificial intelligence, big data, and predictive policing within broader regimes of counterinsurgency and state violence. He is published in *AI and Ethics*, *Res Philosophica*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, and *The Journal of African American Studies*.

Presentation Title: “Blood to the Horse’s Brow and Woe to Those who Cannot Swim” – Huey P. Newton’s Conceptual Evolution of Black Militant Thought and Practice through the Adaptation of Robert Williams’s Philosophy of Pre-emptive Self-Defense



Juanita Crider is an assistant director of the Black Cultural Center, an instructor in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and a PhD candidate in American Studies.

Poetic Renditions: “Birmingham, USA” & “Tomorrow Past”



Clarreese Greene is a graduate student majoring in Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue University in the College of Engineering and a Black Cultural Center Black Thought Collective Scholar-in-Residence.

Presentation Title: A Review of Robert Franklin Williams Speaks: A Documentary History



Steven Hall II is a junior at Purdue University majoring in Psychological Sciences and minoring in African American Studies and Computer Information Technology.

Presentation Title: RFW and Negroes with Guns



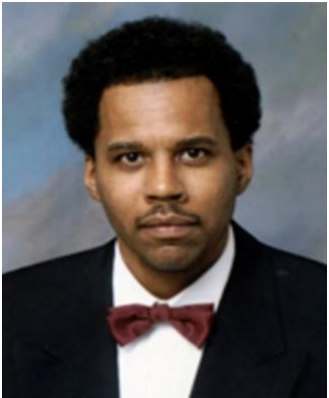
Errol A. Henderson is an International Relations specialist. He has authored more than 50 scholarly publications; and has an international reputation as a scholar of war.

Presentation Title: Progressive Black Nationalism: The Serpentine Politics of RFW

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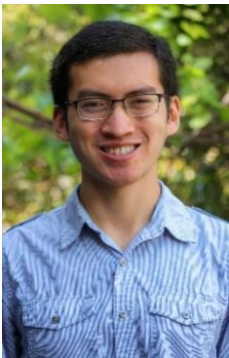


Gloria House, Ph.D. (also known by her African pen name, Aneb Kgositsile) is Professor Emerita of Humanities and African American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Associate Professor Emerita in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program of Wayne State University. She is the former Director of the African American Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, from which she retired in 2014. Dr. House is co-editor, with Akinyele Umoja and John H. Bracey Jr., of *The Memoir of Robert and Mabel Williams*. Dr. House's poems have been featured in numerous anthologies and reviews. She has published five poetry collections, *Blood River*, 1983, *Rainrituals*, *Shrines*, *For You This Circle*, and a book of commentary on the political uses of environment in the U. S., *Tower and Dungeon: A Study of Place and Power in American Culture*. She is also lead editor of *A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press*.



Judson L. Jeffries, PhD, MPH, is professor of African American and African Studies at The Ohio State University. His interests include police-community relations, race and medicine to state violence and revolutionary movements of the 1960s. He is the author, co-author, and editor of 12 books, many journal articles as well as book chapters and newspaper articles. Professor Jeffries' most recent work is a two-volume edited book titled *Leading Figures in the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.* He is a Phi Beta Kappa and editor-in-chief of *The Journal of African American Studies*.

Presentation Title: Robert F. Williams and the Black Panther Party



Syan T. Lopez is a philosophy PhD student at Columbia University specializing in philosophical anthropology, anticolonial thought, and the history of Africana philosophy.

Presentation Title: Hold Heat and Preach Nonviolence: The King-Williams Debate and the Efficacy of Black Organized Self-Defense



Daniel Morris is Professor of English and affiliated faculty in: Jewish Studies, Comparative literature, and Film & Video Production.

Poetic Renditions: "Pusher Man" & "Black Madona of Harlem Square"



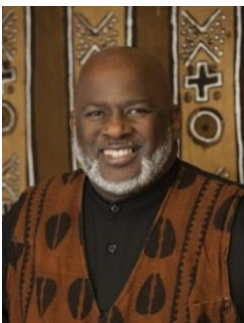
Bill V. Mullen is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at Purdue. His books/edited books include *The Black Antifascist Tradition: Fighting Back from Anti-lynching to Abolition*, *Afro-Orientalism*, *James Baldwin: Living in Fire, Un-American: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Century of World Revolution*, *Popular Fronts: Chicago and African American Politics*, and *Against Apartheid*

Presentation Title: Robert Williams and the Black Antifascist Tradition



Ronald J. Stephens is professor and coordinator of African American Studies in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at Purdue University. His scholarship centers on African American leisure culture, Black resistance, and African American biography. He is the author or editor of six books, with a seventh forthcoming, reflecting his deep contributions to Black Studies and cultural history, including *Robert Franklin Williams Speaks: A Documentary History*, *Idlewild: The Rise, Decline, and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town*, and *Global Garveyism*, with Adam Ewing. Professor Stephens is currently completing *Robert and Mabel Williams: Matrimonial Partnership in Black Resistance History*.

Presentation Title: Power of Strategic Communication: Rob and Mabel's Transnational Crusade for Justice



Akinyele Umoja is a Professor of African American Studies, co-editor of *The Memoirs of Robert and Mabel Williams* and the author of *We Will Shoot Back: Armed Resistance and the Mississippi Freedom Movement*, which earned him the 2014 PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature. He is also co-editor of Greenwood Press *Black Power Encyclopedia*.



J Carrington Warren is a second-year Purdue Honors student, majoring in Biochemistry and Chemical Biology with minors in Sociology, African American Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her interests stem from research in Medical Mistrust, Antibiotic Resistance, and American Racial Disparities.

Presentation Title: Black Plight and the Emergence of Black Militancy