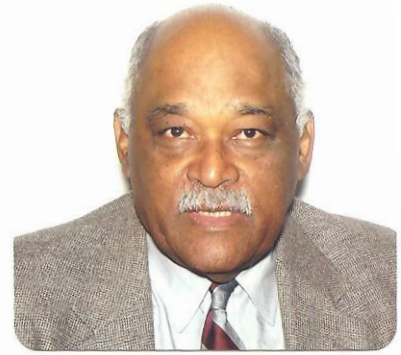


## WILLIAM H. WIGGINS JR. BIOGRAPHY

William H. Wiggins Jr. is professor emeritus of African American and African Diaspora Studies and Folklore and Ethnomusicology at IU Bloomington. During the 30-plus years of his IU career, Wiggins has served as interim director or chair of the Office of the Dean of Afro-Americana Affairs, the Department of Afro-American Studies, and the FASE Mentoring Program.



Among the courses that he taught and, in some instances created, are: Afro-American Folklore, American Folklore, Folklore and Literature, the American Folk Hero, Black Religion, Survey of the Culture of Black Americans, and Sports and the Afro-American Experience.

Wiggins is a fellow of the American Folklore Society, a trustee of the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, a former trustee of the Indiana Historical Society, a member and former chair of Indiana's African American Landmarks Committee, a board member of the Historical Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, editorial board member of *Southern Folklore* and *The Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, and founding-former president of The Association of African and African American Folklorists. He is also a regional liaison for the Ford Foundation's Minority Fellowship Program and a governor-appointed member of the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

His publications include *Jubilation!: African American Celebrations in the Southeast* (University of South Carolina Press, 1994), *Joe Louis: American Folk Hero* (Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation, 1991), and *O Freedom!: Afro-American Emancipation Celebrations* (University of Tennessee Press, 1987). Wiggins reviews books of Afro-American fiction for *The World & I Magazine*.

He has appeared on *CBS News Night Watch*, BET's *Other Voices*, and NPR's *All Things Considered*. Additionally, Wiggins has served as either a consultant or a participant in numerous folklore documentary films, such as the award winning PBS series *Keep Your Eyes On the Prize*, and the History Channel's productions of *Sarge!* and *Jesse Owens*.

Wiggins has produced, with a major National Endowment for the Arts Folk Art Film Grant, two folklore documentary films: *In the Rapture*, a 60-minute

documentary of a religious drama (1978), and *The Rapture Family*, a 30-minute companion film that interviewed the cast about the origins and cultural meaning of the drama.

Wiggins, who was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1988, is currently writing a folk biography of Joe Louis, the former heavyweight-boxing champion, for the University of Illinois Press. Wiggins has been married to Janice Louise Slaughter Wiggins for more than 40 years and is the proud father of two children: Wesley Howard and Mary Ellyn Wiggins.