In this issue

Spring Fest 2013 1
Grants & Awards 2
  – IDIS Outstanding Senior Award 2
  – Community Engagement Grants 3
  – Service Learning Grants 3
  – Charles B. Murphy Award 3
  – Ernest A. Lynton Award 3
Calendar of Events 4
IDIS Program Updates 5
  – Religious Studies 5
  – Peace Studies 6
  – African American Studies 7
  – Film & Video Studies 8
  – Linguistics 9

IDIS News

Spring Fest 2013

This year at Spring Fest the CLA tent was the place to be! A big thank you to those departments who participated making our tent a fun, hands-on learning environment for all the community who visited. We had 5 stations for visitors to explore.

1. The **Interior Design Program** gave visitors a chance to participate in solving problems related to people’s physical environment and interior spaces. Common activities designers deal with include space planning, furniture layout, material and finish selection, environmental awareness, and safety codes in buildings. Visitors also got a chance to design their dream kitchen, layout a restaurant, and help save people from a burning building!

2. The **Confucius Institute** provided hands-on activities to attendees with a taste of Chinese art and language. Paper cutting, M&Ms with chopsticks and China-knot assembling, just to name a few. Visitor were given a glimpse of Chinese folk handcrafts, and writing a dragon character with Chinese brush on rice paper definitely provided an authenticity of Chinese calligraphy.
3. **Fast Track** is a weekly, 30-minute news program produced by students in the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University. Young visitors to the tent had the opportunity to be interviewed on TV by a student journalist. The recorded interview was emailed home to the young person’s family which allowed the individual to share with friends and relatives.

4. The **School of Languages and Cultures** had a variety of word searches, crosswords puzzles and word jumbles for visitors to take home and enjoy. They also had an interesting video about Languages and Cultures that looped throughout the day as well.

5. We welcomed the **Art History Student Organization** this year as well. They hosted a giant finger painting for visitors to leave their mark as well!

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### Grants & Awards

**IDIS Outstanding Senior Award**  
*Nancy Gabin*

Elizabeth Hudson meets and exceeds all the criteria for an Outstanding Senior. A Purdue Presidential Scholar, Dammon Dean's Scholar, and member of CLA's Honors Program, Elizabeth has taken a rich variety of challenging courses and achieved an impressive GPA. She also has amply and ably demonstrated a commitment to American Studies in particular and Interdisciplinary Studies in general. Elizabeth was one of the first students to select American Studies as a major. In her first course—an interdisciplinary honors course called “Living History”—she not only discovered her intellectual passion for archival work, she also set a standard of disciplinary commitment for others to follow. Elizabeth excels in integrating her studies from across the disciplines—she is not only an American Studies major, she also is a Professional Writing major and a History minor. Elizabeth also has served the American Studies program in particular and IDIS programs more generally; for example this year she served as a member of the Search Committee for the AMST director position. Elizabeth has balanced a demanding academic load with her work as a business writing consultant for the Purdue Writing Lab and as journal coordinator for the Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research. Elizabeth has also served as a Resident Assistant in Shreve Hall. For all these reasons, Elizabeth Hudson was the obvious choice for the American Studies Outstanding Senior and, I'm delighted to add, for the IDIS Outstanding Senior Award. the new officers and to all the exciting firsts that surely await them!
2013 Community Engagement Grant Recipients

Jennifer Bay (BIO), Associate Professor, English Department
Railroad Relocation Collection Project

Alejandro Cuza (BIO), Assistant Professor, School of Languages and Cultures
The Effect of Dual Language Instruction of Children’s Academic Growth

Lisa VanZee (BIO), Assistant Professor, Interior Design Program
Moses Fowler House Project

2013 Service Learning Grant Recipients

Evelyn Blackwood (BIO), Professor, Anthropology
Course, Community Engagement in Anthropology

Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Mariko Wei (BIO), Professor, Japanese and Linguistics

Ernest A. Lynton Award Nominee

Cory Brenner

Dr. Alejandro Cuza, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Linguistics, was nominated for the annual Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty. This award recognizes a full-time faculty member who is pre-tenure who connects his or her teaching, research, and service to the community engagement. Dr. Cuza developed a program to help Spanish-speaking children in Indiana grow their bilingual skills by helping them learn to spell and read in their native language. The Program, “Aprendiendo a Leer,” or Learning How to Read, is an afterschool program that involved 14 Purdue students who worked with 55 kindergarten through fourth graders at Lafayette’s Wea Ridge Elementary and Franfort’s Suncrest Elementary. “A number of children grow up speaking Spanish at home but never learn to read or write it until later in life, and we are evaluating how encouraging these children to be bilingual at a young age will improve their overall academic skills,” said Dr. Cuza.
Key AA = African American Studies; JS = Jewish Studies; RS = Religious Studies

August
RS Thursday, August 29 - PMU, Anniversary Drawing Room - 7:30 p.m.

October
JS Wednesday, October 2 - Stewart Center, Room 202 - 12:30
Saul Lerner, Professor, Department of History and Political Science, Purdue University Calumet, "Creating a Master Race: American Eugenics and Nazi Racial Policy"

RS Wednesday, October 9 - PMU East Faculty Lounge - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Annual Religious Studies Open House for faculty, students, and friends.

November
RS Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2 - Location

AA Thursday, November 14 - PMU, South Ballroom - 7:30 p.m.
Cummings-Perrucci Lecture on Class, Race and Gender Inequality: Michelle Alexander, "Mass Incarceration As The New Jim Crow." Book signing & reception to follow at 9:00 p.m.

Spring, 2014
JS Wednesday, February 5 - Stewart Center, Room 318 - 12:30
Harry R. Targ, Professor, Department of Political Science, Purdue University, "Jewish Influences on Labor and Other Progressive Movements in 20th Century America"

JS Wednesday, March 5 - Stewart Center, Room 318 - 12:30 Stuart Robertson, Continuing Lecturer, Biblical Hebrew, School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University, "The Hebrew Bible in Church and Synagogue"

JS Wednesday, April 9 - Stewart Center, Room 318 - 12:30 Deena Linett, Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Montclair State University, "Seder, a Reading by Deena Linett"
Meet the New Director

Melinda S. Zook

I feel very privileged to be able to direct Purdue’s vibrant Religious Studies program. My first order of business is to give heartfelt thanks to Angelica Duran for all she has accomplished. She has been a determined and graceful leader, enriching the curriculum and enhancing the program’s profile on campus and in our community.

Now allow me to introduce myself. I have been teaching at Purdue since 1993 when I graduated from Georgetown with a PhD in early modern British history. I teach a wide range of courses: from the medieval history survey to courses on Shakespeare, gender, and religion. I have also been active the History Honors program. My first book, *Radical Whigs and Conspiratorial Politics in Late Stuart England*, is a study of political culture in late seventeenth-century England; and my second, *Protestantism, Politics and Women in Britain, 1660-1714*, explores the religiosity and political actions of women of various social castes and confessions in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

Over the next few years, I hope to build on the successes of previous directors, Angelica Duran and Jacqueline Mariña. I would like to see the program grow in terms of majors and minors, course offerings, and interdisciplinary scope. I hope to keep the program’s many achievements in the sights of administrators. Above all, I want to the program to continue to provide a community for the students: a place of learning, engagement and sociability.

Religious Studies co-sponsored numerous events this past spring, including The Aquinas Educational Foundation’s presentation, “End of Life Issues: Life Sustaining Treatment Choices” by Bishop Timothy Doherty. The Bishop’s stimulating discussion was attended by many people from around our community. More recently, this past May, Religious Studies faculty and students participated in the 6th Sino-American Symposium: Comparative Literature, Religion, and Society.

This coming fall semester, Religious Studies will host its annual Open House for faculty, students, and friends on Wednesday, October 9 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the PMU East Faculty Lounge. On November 1st and 2nd, Religious Studies is proud to co-sponsor, “Global ReOrient: Chinese Pentecostal/Charismatic Movements in the Global East,” An Interdisciplinary Conference. And on November 7th, Religious Studies is hosting the annual Larry Axel Lecture. This year’s speaker is Wendy Furman-Adams (English, Whittier College) and she will be speaking on “Visualizing Paradise: Artists Representing Eden Before and After Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.” More information on all these events will be forthcoming.
Peace Studies Sponsors Spring Lectures and Class on “Introduction to the Study of Peace”

Harry Targ

During the spring, 2013, the Committee on Peace Studies organized and co-sponsored a lecture series entitled “The Empire in Disarray: Global Changes and Responses.”

Vince Emanuele, an Iraq war veteran and activist with Iraq Veterans Against the War gave a public lecture to a standing room audience on “21st Century Militarism: Climate Change, Drones and the 99%” on February 20, 2013. The event was co-sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honorary; the Lafayette Area Peace Coalition; and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Emanuele also spoke in Political Science 230, Introduction to the Study of Peace.

Alicia Decker, Professor of History, Purdue University, spoke on “Rethinking Security: A Feminist Analysis of United States Militarism in Post 9/11 Africa,” on March 28, 2013. That event was co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Program in Women’s Studies, and the Lafayette Area Peace Coalition.

Robert Naiman, Policy Director of Just Foreign Policy, gave a presentation on “Why Drone Warfare is Wrong and What We Can Do About It,” on April 25, 2013. The Lafayette Area Peace Coalition was a co-sponsor.

Finally Raul Rodriguez, Professor of History of the English Speaking Peoples, University of Havana, Cuba, and the Center for the Study of the United States gave a presentation on “United States/ Cuban Relations: Before and Beyond the Cold War.” This event was co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Program in Latin American and Latina Studies, and the African American Studies and Research Center. Professor Rodriguez also met with Purdue faculty in the College of Liberal Arts, Health Sciences, and the College of Agriculture about building research and educational collaboration between Purdue University and the University of Havana.

In addition to the speaker series organized by the Committee on Peace Studies, Coordinator Harry Targ taught the required course for the Peace Studies minor Political Science 230; Introduction to the Study of Peace with 44 students enrolled.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the Committee on Peace Studies expects to continue its lecture and video series, offer the Peace Studies course during the spring, 2014 and explore further engagement with sectors of the Greater Lafayette community active in issues of peace and justice.
African American Studies

Ghana Trip
Venetria Patton

Venetria Patton, center, led a study abroad trip to Ghana during Maymester. “In the Spirit of Sankofa: Ghana and the African Diaspora” was a collaboration between the African American Studies and Research Center and the Black Cultural Center. The 2013 Maymester class was in session on the West Lafayette campus from May 13-17, then in Ghana from May 20-31, and back in class at Purdue, June 3-7, 2013. The courses were taught by Patton and Casarae Gibson, AASRC teaching assistant and English doctoral candidate. Patton offered AAS 359: “Black Women Writers” and Gibson taught AAS 373: “20th Century discussions on Pan-Africanism and Black Power Ideology.” Graduate students enrolled in the study abroad course took ENGL 590: African Diasporic Women Writers. While in Ghana, Purdue students had the opportunity to attend lectures and discussions with professors from the University of Ghana and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Students also went on cultural/historical tours emphasizing the general history of the region and its impact on African American identity and culture.

Cummings-Perrucci Lecture on Class, Race and Gender Inequality
Michelle Alexander Discusses Mass Incarceration As The New Jim Crow
Thursday, November 14, 2013
PMU, South Ballroom
Lecture-7:30pm
Book Signing & Reception-9:00pm

Michelle Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar. In recent years, she has taught at a number of universities, including Stanford Law School, where she was an associate professor of law and directed the Civil Rights Clinics. In 2005, she won a Soros Justice Fellowship, which supported the writing of The New Jim Crow (website), and that same year she accepted a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Since its first publication, The New Jim Crow has received rave reviews and has been featured in national radio and television media outlets, including MSNBC, NPR, Bill Moyers Journal, Tavis Smiley, C-SPAN, and Washington Journal, among others. In March, the book won the 2011 NAACP Image Award for best nonfiction.
Film & Video Studies

Highlights from Film & Video Studies
Patricia Hart

Film and Video Studies is enjoying a busy and productive summer. Here are some quick highlights:

On May 18th, two Purdue FVS students were in Baltimore at the Pimlico Course, helping to film the Preakness Stakes thoroughbred race and project images on the jumbotron. The footage they produced was also fed live to satellites for television. This opportunity came about thanks to Bill Callison, who is a former instructor from Film and Video Studies. Bill is once more providing top internship opportunities for our outstanding advanced students.

Seniors Erik Hartman and Nick Faubion were invited to spend three days at Big Pete’s TV company (for whom Bill freelances) learning about different types of LED panels, operating a jib, and the latest in elite steadicams. They students already had experience with steadicams thanks to a series of free workshops that have been offered in recent years by FVS graduate, Will Cabral.

In preparation for the Preakness, students spent several days working on image magnification at all of the graduations at the University of Pennsylvania. One of the sessions involved running the camera for close-ups with Vice President Joe Biden, who was a speaker. Nick told me, “because of how close I had to be, I was given a special pin that allowed me to basically go up and touch the him without getting tased or tackled.”

Erik performed so well that Bill promised to let him work several days on the Taylor Swift tour. When that happens, believe me, we will let you know!

Another exciting development is that Film and Video student teams, under the supervision of Steve Hall and Bobby Chastain from Hall of Music Productions, will begin immediately to make a series of videos for the Human/Animal Bond Research Initiative-Central. The initial projects will illustrate research underway locally, possibly involving equine therapy, dog walking and health, dogs and autism, and possibly one with fish and Alzheimer’s patients. This is made possible thanks to an agreement between Purdue University Press/Libraries, represented by Charles Watkinson, HABRI CO-PIs, Alan Beck and Christopher Charles, and Hall of Music Productions.

We think this is an exciting way to involve FVS undergraduate students more in the research carried out by the university.

Lastly, seven Purdue students and two alternates have been invited to participate in the 3rd Annual Lake Maxinkuckee Film Festival on August 30th in Culver Indiana. Films will be screened at the George Steinbrenner Auditorium, and students will compete for cash and glory. Purdue students have swept the competition in past years, taking home thousands of dollars in prize money.

We send hearty congratulations to all these and other students who are spending their summers working hard to perfect their talents!
Dr. Ronnie Wilbur was selected for a CSS Fellowship for Spring, 2013. Below is a short description of her project.

**Sign Language Structure and Evolution: A 21st Century View:** My goal is to integrate existing research on American Sign Language to present a new view of how sign languages are structured by grammaticalization of resources from physics and geometry to fit the visual perceptual and production systems while conveying the meanings that humans wish to express. I argue that experimental data support analyzing sign languages using modern linguistic theory. I discuss the idea that sign languages could have been used as full-fledged languages, with fully developed neurological processing areas, before evolutionary modifications enabling speech took place. The target is a high quality publication.

**PLA**

*Alex Kasztalska*

ELAN, emotion predicates in Copala Triqui, and Dr. Niepokuj's college stories. These are some of the things I learned at various PLA-sponsored events last year. Being the PLA President means that you inadvertently attend all the Get-To-Knows, Ling Lunches, Monthly Dinners, and of course the annual Symposium. Read on for the highlights!

Among our Ling Lunch presenters were Purdue professors, including OEPP Director, Dr. Ginther—and graduate students—like Linguistics student, Yuanyuan Wang. We Got To Know numerous faculty and staff, from our new Assistant Professor of Spanish and Linguistics, Dr. Olson, to our Bibliographer and Reference Librarian, Dr. Freeman, who showed us a whole new world of library resources in linguistics. We also got hands-on practice using linguistics software during the Technology Workshop, we shared our experiences with undergraduates who attended Dr. Wilbur's Workshop on Applying to Grad School in Linguistics, and we listened intently as Sunny Park-Johnson, Alex Cristia and other Purdue alumni discussed Finding a Job in Linguistics during our first-ever online Workshop.

Speaking of firsts, last year we revamped our website, which now features a regularly-updated Events calendar and a Resources page. Another first was our Panel on Participatory Action Research at the 2013 Symposium, which featured two of our own professors, in addition to Mr. Baldwin of the Myaamia Center and Dr. Broadwell of SUNY-Albany.

I may be biased, but I think last year was PLA's best one yet. Here's to the new officers and to all the exciting firsts that surely await them!

**Promotion Announcement**

*Chuck Bradley*

Congratulations to Becky Brown, Languages and Cultures, on her recent promotion to full professor. Additionally, Becky has written written a new book *A Table! - The Gourmet Culture of France* (2010; Focus Publishing/R. Pullins Co.).