In March, the Jewish Studies Program co-sponsored the 25th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Conference along with the Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Committee, the Diocese of Lafayette, St. Thomas Aquinas Center, Hillel Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Lafayette, Congregation Sons of Abraham, and Temple Israel, in addition to several departments and colleges from Purdue. The week-long event included several keynote speakers, lectures, films, forums and performances.

The conference, entitled “Never Again?: Genocide Around the World,” focused not only on the Holocaust but other genocides world-wide. Topics such as genocides in the Sudan, Guatemala, El Salvador, Rwanda and Kosovo; Jewish-Catholic relations in the past 40 years; and a concentration camp which interned Jewish-American soldiers were introduced through several panels and discussions.

The opening ceremonies were held on Sunday, March 26th, and included three area Holocaust survivors. Each year the conference opens with the lighting of a memorial candle and a candle of hope by Holocaust survivors and children of survivors.

Following these ceremonies, keynote addresses were kicked off with Professor Omer Bartov who spoke on “The Holocaust as Leitmotif of the 20th Century.” Professor Bartov is a Professor of History at Brown University. “Transcending Ethnicity: Peace Building through Leadership Training,” was presented by Dr. Howard Wolpe, consulting director of the Africa Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Holocaust survivor, Doris Fogel, presented “From Internment to Rescue to the America Dream”.

On Monday, March 27th, a round table discussion, Genocide Around the World, included Leonard Harris, Professor of Philosophy, American Studies, and Philosophy and Literature, Purdue; Fr. James Barnett, OP, St. Thomas Aquinas; Harry Targ, Professor of Political Science and American Studies, Purdue; Charles Ingrao, Professor of History, Purdue; Ray Dumett, Professor of History, Purdue; Kheang Un, Professor of Political Science, Northern Illinois University; and Robert Melson, Professor of Political Science and Jewish Studies, Purdue.

On Tuesday, March 28th, a panel on “Jewish-Catholic Relations: 40 Years After ‘NOSTRA AETATE’” included Professor Tom Ryba, Theologian in Residence, Notre Dame; and Rabbi Gary M. Breton-Granatoor, Director of Interfaith Affairs, ADL, NYC.

Sam Harris, Director, Illinois Holocaust Foundation, survivor and author, spoke with children at Happy Hollow Elementary on his children’s book, Sammy: Child Survivor of the Holocaust, on Wednesday, March 29th.

A video tape entitled “Berga” was followed by discussion on this little-known concentration camp by Leon Trachtman, survivor and Professor Emeritus, Purdue, and a panel of World War II veterans.

On Saturday, April 1st, the Lafayette Civic Theater Players presented scenes from “The Diary of Ann Frank” and the Lafayette Klezmorim presented “Caberet” at Temple Israel.

For further information on these events and the Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Committee, please visit their website, www.glhrc.org.
Several IDIS faculty members have published books this past year.

In June 2005, Janet Afary, Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies, and Kevin B. Anderson, Associate Professor of Political Science, published *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: Gender and the Seductions of Islamism.*

Daniel Frank, Director of the Jewish Studies program and a Professor of Philosophy, co-edited two books in 2003. The first, *History of Jewish Philosophy,* will appear in a Polish translation. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy* is being reprinted by SDX Joint Publishing for publication and distribution in China. Both books were co-edited with Oliver Leaman.

Anne Knupfer's *The Chicago Black Renaissance and Women’s Activism* was published with the University of Illinois Press. Anne is a member of the American Studies faculty and also an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Studies.

Jacqueline Mariña edited *The Cambridge Companion to Friedrich Schleiermacher* with the Cambridge University Press. Friedrich Schleiermacher is known as the “Father of Modern Theology” and has been called the greatest Christian theologian since the middle ages. Professor Mariña wrote the chapter on Schleiermacher’s Christology, the introductory chapter, and translated two contributors’ pieces from German. She is the Director of the Religious Studies Program and an Associate Professor of Philosophy.

Bill Mullen, Director of American Studies and a Professor in the Department of English, published *W.E.B. Du Bois on Asia: Crossing the World Color Line.* The book is a co-edited collection (with Cathryn Watson) featuring newspaper columns, essays and articles by Du Bois on the Asian world.

Antonio Tillis, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures and African American Studies, published *Manuel Zapata Olivella and the “Darkening” of Latin American Literature* with the University of Missouri Press.

Mangala Subramaniam, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies, published her new book in March 2006. It is titled *The Power of Women’s Organizing: Gender, Caste and Class in India.*

**Professor’s Study Analyzes Class in India**


The study traces the formation of the “bhadralok” class in Bengal from 1848-1885. Bhadralok, which means gentleman or polite man, is the result of British colonialism in the 18th and 19th centuries. It makes up less than two percent of the Indian population; however, myths about the group’s intellectual prowess are still dominant today. In 1835, the traditional Indian education system was replaced with a Western one to educate a class of men who could serve as interpreters and work in the new government. Eventually, members of this Western-educated class led the nationalist movement against the British.

In her research, Professor Bhattacharya reviewed 19th century registers, documents and digests kept by the British, and spent more than a year in India where she studied stories, magazines and other materials produced by members of the bhadralok. She identified how the lower part of the bhadralok group differs from the upper-crust. These two segments of the bhadralok think of themselves as culturally above the working class but differ greatly in terms of education.

According to Professor Bhattacharya, historically, education is open to anyone in India, but only the truly wealthy can afford the best education. The lower bhadralok section had access only to the ability to read and write English and not the classics, such as Shakespeare and Milton. This distinction is rooted in colonialism, when the British authorities wanted to educate Indians in Western ways at a minimal cost.

The bhadralok led and developed reading clubs, various community organizations and secured these networks further by marrying into each other’s families. It was truly an ‘old boys’ network’. This study traces the history of the connection between social power and education.

Professor Bhattacharya is currently researching the Bengali middle class in the early 20th century and the occult and religion. She is also looking at the reason that the traditional Indian ghost story was replaced in the 1920s by the modern gothic.
Four students in Interdisciplinary Studies graduate programs have been awarded Purdue Research Foundation grant support for researching and writing dissertations. The subjects of their dissertations reflect the range of student discovery in Liberal Arts and share the common goal of deepening our understanding of the human experience.

Two American Studies students will be examining aspects of the multicultural and multiethnic U.S. experience. Lee Bebout, under the direction of Nancy Peterson, will examine literature written by men and women in the Chicano/a Movement of the late twentieth century. So far, Lee has discovered that Chicanos/as, frequently omitted from official histories of the United States, employ mythical figures in their writings, art, and speeches to construct an alternative history that provides the groundwork for citizenship and social activism. Charles Park, working with Bill Mullen, wants to explore how and why particular masculine ideals emerged in the United States at the end of the nineteenth century. He has found already that the way white middle-class men were defined necessarily cast a negative light on minority men. He recognizes important policy decisions that flowed from these ideals and stereotyped, but he wants to discover how minority men struggled against their negative image to define themselves in their own, meaningful, ways.

Catalina Florina-Florescu, in Comparative Literature wants to explore “Body’s Languages,” in an attempt to bring literature, art, and medicine together in order to generate awareness of how health and illness affect self-understanding. She proposes an “enlightened travelogue through some flesh-and-blood people’s suffering” by reading their memoirs against the visual and verbal representations of encounters with cancer and AIDS. She will be working under the direction of Thomas P. Adler.

Michael Michau, in the Philosophy and Literature program, will study the ethical and religious thought of Søren Kierkegaard and Emmanuel Levinas in order to lay bare the fundamental structures of ethical human interactions. In particular, he hopes to see how a comparison of Kierkegaard’s and Levinas’s philosophy can be applied to a Jewish-Christian dialogue in a post-Holocaust era, an application designed to promote interfaith understanding of the Judeo-Christian heritage. He will be working closely with Sandor Goodhart.

### American Studies Student Publishes First Book


A passage from the book’s jacket reads, “To Be Suddenly White offers new readings of traditional passing narratives from the African American literary tradition, such as James Weldon Johnson’s *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man*, Nella Larsen’s *Passing*, and George Schuyler’s *Black No More*. It is also the first full-length work to consider a number of Jewish American and Italian American prose texts, such as Mary Antin’s *The Promised Land*, Anzia Yezierska’s *Bread Givers*, and Guido d’Agostino’s *Olives on the Apple Tree*, as racial passing narratives in their own right. Belluscio also demonstrates the contradictions that result from the passing narrative’s exploration of racial subjectivity, racial difference, and race belief.”

Dr. Belluscio is an Assistant Professor of English at the Borough of Manhattan Community College/City University of New York. He received his Ph.D. in 2003 from the American Studies Program.

### Professor of Linguistics Collaborates to Teach Sign Language to Children

Ronnie Wilbur, Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Director of Linguistics, collaborated with Nicoletta Adamo-Villani, Assistant Professor of Computer Graphics Technology, to create an animated teaching program whose rabbit character uses American Sign Language and finger spelling.

The pair were honored with a Focus Award on March 1, 2006. These campus awards recognize outstanding contributions in the area of disability, accessibility, and diversity.

Deaf education, specifically in science, technology, engineering, and math, is a pressing national problem. Mathsigner addresses the need to increase deaf children’s abilities in math with a unique approach - realistic and grammatically correct 3D animated signing. The software is designed to engage deaf children and their parents in “hands-on, minds-on” learning, leading to deeper understanding of fundamental ideas.

The project seeks to use advanced technology to teach mathematics to K-6 students and to provide a model for teaching technology for deaf people that can improve deaf education around the globe. The project is informed by linguistic research on American Sign Language structure and grammatical use of facial expressions.
Sandra Barnes, Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, begins to address the issue of being poor in rust belt cities in her new book, *The Cost of Being Poor: A Comparative Study of Life in Poor Urban Neighborhoods in Gary, Indiana*. Professor Barnes interviewed families in and around Gary about their experiences providing for their families. She also examined census and local data.

Quoting Barnes, “Rust belt cities—such as Detroit and Flint in Michigan and Gary, Indiana—suffer because the primary industry, such as steel, is no longer driving the local economy. Using casinos and tourism as a way to bring money back to the communities is an option, but we know very little about how casinos affect people in these cities, especially poor people in urban areas.” She focuses her research on casinos in Gary, which have been mandated to provide money for community activities.

The poverty level in these rust belt cities is often on the national average. Barnes says, “Being poor, as well as working class, is a challenge for anyone, but residents in urban areas must often contend with an absence of large grocery stores and retailers in their neighborhood that provide alternatives to feed and clothe their families. When industry leaves urban areas, many businesses follow. Often, these resources relocate to the suburbs.”

Existing stereotypes about life in urban spaces such as Gary are also dispelled by Barnes’s research. “One of the most common myths is that poor people and racial and ethnic minorities do not work hard, but that is not true,” Barnes says. “Again, many people living in poverty maintain full-time jobs, and living in an urban area can create even more of a disadvantage.”

Professor Barnes’ study on casinos was funded by a Faculty Development Incentive Grant from the Purdue Alumni Association, which provided start-up funds for her project “Hollywoodizing the Holocaust? Depictions of the Nazi Past in Recent German Film.” The project focuses on the aesthetic, narrative, and ethical issues involved in the cinematic representation of the Hitler era and the Holocaust. By examining recent German films that portray this era, as well as researching their reception by different audiences, William seeks to address the problems as well as the possible advantages of these films’ conspicuous Hollywood style. She presented a paper on these issues at the conference of the Popular Culture Association in April 2006, and she will discuss the results of more advanced research on the topic at Purdue’s Jewish Studies Noon Lecture Series in the Fall.

Johnny Walter, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts and an independent filmmaker, has a dream of entering a piece into the Sundance Film Festival but for now he is just having fun. He likens his latest project, “SunUp,” to the Good Samaritan story of the Bible.

This is not his first venture into filmmaking. He has been “messing around with video” since he was a kid. Walter attended high school in Seymour, Indiana, where he co-produced and hosted “The Johnny Walter Show,” a local variety show. He moved to Los Angeles after graduating where he produced “Pure Hope.” The film was praised as a breakout student film at the Angelus Film Festival and CSLA Student Film Fest. He has also worked on projects at Warner Brothers, Fox, Disney, NBC-Universal and Paramount.

However, despite his experience, he was unable to move his career forward. He decided to return to Indiana and attend Purdue, his parents’ alma mater.

He is an amazing individual not only because his talents in filmmaking but also because he suffers from Friedrich’s Ataxia, a condition which affects his coordination and muscles. However, this condition does not get in his way. Quoting from his web site—“He has already lived a full life ten times over. Now he’s just having fun, and helping others have fun, too. Johnny lives on the brink of heaven. A budding filmmaker, a brave warrior, a political power, the perfect role-model for America’s youth... He’s only one man, Johnny Walter. - Zack Morris.”

On Friday, April 22, 205, the students in Arezki Ighemat’s French 640 class did a performance of Aucassin et Nicolette, one of the most popular of all French medieval works. Professor Paula Leverage (FLL) helped coach the players in their pronunciation.

In May, 2005, some of the students in Dorsey Armstrong’s IDIS 220 (Medieval World) class performed a medieval play about Noah’s Ark and the Flood. The whole class gathered for a medieval banquet, displayed their medieval “creations” (including food made from medieval recipes, costumes sewn according to medieval patterns, stained glass, a trebuchet, etc.), and watched the performance of the Noah play.

In December, 2005, students in Ann Astell’s ENGL 441 class did a lively performance in Middle English of Chaucer’s “Miller’s Tale”. Students built scenery, devised costumes, and advertised the performance, which was taped.
Over the past years, my research and publications have focused on the intersections of race and gender in the Andean region of Bolivia. Most recently, I have studied indigenous movements that are engaged in the struggle for territorial rights and the revitalization of indigenous ways of knowing. A central part of this work has included examination of the ritual, cultural, and economic significance of the Andean camelids (llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos) in their native context. Two years ago I began to expand on this research by looking more closely at the impact the Andean camelids have had internationally within the economic circuits of empire. We know from Claudia Lazzaro’s work that as cultural signs, animals embody culturally defined, and frequently competing ideas about nature, wildness, savagery and barbarism, as well as about civilization and modernity (1995). The study of animals in a transnational context raises compelling questions regarding how they fit into native and non-native epistemological frameworks, as well as about how products and their cultural significance travel from the Americas to Europe.

This project has taken me in directions where traditional disciplinary boundaries are increasingly hard to make out. Last year I participated in Purdue University’s Program of Study in a Second Discipline. For two semesters I studied with faculty in the School of Veterinary Medicine, combining specialized study of camelid anatomy, llama medicine, and the history of medical illustration with herd visitations where I learned about the practical side of the care, maintenance, and handling of llamas and alpacas. By enhancing my training in humanistic studies with the fundamentals of veterinary medicine as it relates to the camelids, I became better prepared to assess the ways science, nature, and culture are intertwined in Europe and the Americas from the sixteenth century to the present.

One outgrowth of the study of veterinary medicine has been my interest in the art of dissection as a methodology of inquiry. I draw from Barbara Stafford’s work (1991) to show how anatomy and the practice of dissection are central metaphors for the acquisition of knowledge and understanding for eighteenth-century travelers to the Viceroyalty of Peru. Because dissection entails a series of “surgical strategies” for the purposes of cutting, extracting, and even transplanting, it also serves as a metaphor for eighteenth-century narratives of acquisition that called for excising the animals from their native environments. I have found it useful to read accounts of eighteenth-century dissections carried out by European travelers alongside accounts of native forms of dissection, more commonly known as sacrifices, to show how the performative act of reading the dead body signifies differently for each group. In each case, the nature of the incision made as well as the way the organs are extracted, displayed and studied shift the signification of the dead body from lifelessness and decomposition to the active process of rememorization and the generation of knowledge.
A Busy Year in Religious Studies

The Religious Studies program has been active this year sponsoring or co-sponsoring several public talks.

The first lecture, “The Politics of Religion: Nation, Identity and Difference in South Asia”, was held November 3, 2005. This event was co-sponsored with the Departments of History and English, the Women’s Studies and Asian Studies programs, the Dean of Liberal Arts and the Vice President for Human Resources. Further information on this talk is featured on page 8 of this newsletter.


Dr. Dedong Wei is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Renmin University of China, Beijing, specializing in Buddhist philosophy and empirical research on religion in China.

In March, 2006, continuing the Christian Society and Religion Lecture Series, Professor Richard Madsen presented “Religion and the State: The PRC and Taiwan.” Richard Madsen is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of California, San Diego. These two events were co-sponsored with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Dr. Barbara R. Rossing, Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago spoke on “Apocalyptic Violence and Politics: End-Times Fiction for Christians and Jews” on March 24, 2006. Dr. Rossing previously served as chaplain to Harvard Divinity School, pastor and teacher at the Holden Village retreat center, and pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. This event was co-sponsored with the Society for Religious Studies.

George Weigel, Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., presented “From John Paul II to Benedict XVI: Achievements and Challenges,” on March 31, 2006. Weigel is a Roman Catholic theologian and one of America’s leading commentators on issues of religion and public life. The Albertus Magnus Institute, the Aquinas Educational Foundation, and the Haigerty-Piguet Memorial Lecture Series all co-sponsored this event with Religious Studies.

On April 7, 2006, Dr. Bin You presented “Bible Translation and Cultural Transformation: Christian Growth among Ethnic Minorities in Southwestern China,” as part of the Christian Society and Religion Lecture Series. Dr. You is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the Central University for Nationalities in Beijing, China.

The final event for the year is “God and Morality” presented by Dr. Richard Swinburne on April 24, 2006. Professor Swinburne is Emeritus Professor of the Philosophy of the Christian Religion, University of Oxford, Emeritus Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford and Fellow of the British Academy.

Several IDIS Faculty Members (Past and Present) Featured at the 2006 Books and Coffee

The Books and Coffee lecture series, co-sponsored by the Purdue Student Union Board and the Department of English, provided complimentary coffee and tea and the chance to learn more about popular books. Each Thursday in February, books that are current and of wide interest, both to students and the campus community were reviewed by members of the College of Liberal Arts faculty. This year all of the reviews were given by members of IDIS program faculty.

Kicking off the series, Samantha Blackmon spoke on My Freshman Year by Rebekah Nathan. The book is a cultural anthropologist’s one-year study of university life for first-year students. It is a complex discussion of how undergraduates cope, succeed, and struggle with changing cultural expectations and meanings of education today. Professor Blackmon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and an affiliated member of Women’s Studies.

I am Charlotte Simmons by Tom Wolfe was presented by Janet Alsup, Associate Professor in the Departments of English and Curriculum and Instruction as well as an affiliated member of Women’s Studies. The book is a story of a bright, beautiful, but naïve first-year scholarship student’s discovery that, for others, partying, athletics and sex take precedence over all else and her struggle to find her own niche at fictional Dupont University.

Bill Mullen discussed On Beauty by Zadie Smith. The book is set at an elite university on the outskirts of Boston and is a contemporary story of two academic families—the liberal Belseys and the conservative Kippses—and is loosely patterned on E.M. Forster’s Howards End. Dr. Mullen is the Director of American Studies and a Professor in the Department of English.

The final discussion was given by Dr. Harold Woodman, Professor Emeritus of History, former Louis Martin Sears Distinguished Professor of History, and former Director of American Studies. Professor Woodman reviewed The Plot Against America by Philip Roth. What if an anti-Semitic Charles Lindbergh had run against Franklin Roosevelt in the presidential election of 1940 and won? That scenario is the premise of this cautionary tale of the loss of personal freedom and political innocence.
A newly initiated exchange program between Purdue and Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, France, will involve Purdue students pursuing master’s degrees with the intent of teaching French language classes at the middle or high school level. In Fall 2005, a Purdue graduate teaching assistant traveled to France to teach English language courses and a French teaching assistant came to Purdue to teach French language courses.

In October, John Sundquist, Assistant Professor of German and Linguistics, went to Marc Bloch to meet faculty and students, give lectures and conduct seminars. In turn, Jean-Christophe Pellat, Professor of French Grammar and Vice President for Finance at Marc Bloch, came to Purdue to do the same.

For several years, Purdue and Strasbourg have exchanged undergraduate students and graduate research assistants. The new program is different in that it involves graduate teaching assistants. This initiative has been difficult because of the great need to have teaching assistants in Purdue classrooms and the cost of sending them abroad. The program was made possible by a $15,000 grant from the French American Cultural Exchange in cooperation with the Cultural Service of the French Embassy through its Fund for University Partnerships.

According to Andrew Gillespie, Associate Dean of International Programs at Purdue, “This is a new partnership stemming from long-established ties that offers a fresh way to exchange graduate students that will benefit both Purdue and Marc Bloch. An immersion program is an excellent way to teach not only about another country’s language, but also about its culture.”

A second program between Purdue and Robert Schuman University also received a $2,000 grant from the French American Cultural Exchange to fund a joint collaboration in European and American studies and will be geared toward Purdue students seeking master’s degrees in political science. The program is in its initial stages but will develop over the next three years. Mark Tilton, Associate Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies, says, “Studies at Robert Schuman University offer an excellent opportunity for Purdue master’s degree students to work with French professors and learn firsthand about the rocky process of integrating the European Union.”

Purdue experts in American politics, comparative social policy, international security policy and environmental policy will be involved in this collaboration. Faculty members from Robert Schuman will instruct Purdue students about European government.

Professor Tilton along with Patricia Boling, Associate Professor of Political Science and Interim Director of Women’s Studies, traveled to Robert Schuman University in the summer of 2005 initiating a new summer study-abroad course. The collaboration has the potential to involve undergraduate, graduate and faculty research.

Dean Gillespie would like Purdue to develop similar exchange programs in Spain and Germany as well.

The American Studies Program launched its “Globalization, Transnationalism and the Future of American Studies” lecture series on September 9, 2005 with a special guest lecture by Malini Schueller, University of Florida. Schueller’s lecture explored the application of postcolonial models of scholarship to American Studies. In October, Professor Sonia Saldivar-Hull, Director, Women’s Studies Institute, University of Texas-San Antonio, offered a lecture on border feminism and Chicana Studies.

The lectures anchored efforts by American Studies this year to interrogate the impact of new scholarship on borders, national identity, globalization and transnationalism on both the field of American Studies and Purdue’s own program. Linked to these efforts was a student-centered workshop on contemporary border theory organized by AMST Ph.D. student Lee Bebout, which included presentations by Ph.D. student Charles Park, Purdue, and Sujeay Vega, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, University of Illinois.

In the Spring semester, the lecture series continued its transnational theme while foregrounding political activism and scholarship by Purdue faculty. On February 9, Northwestern Law School Professor and former Weather Underground member Bernardine Dohrn spoke on “Activism and Social Justice: Then and Now” before a large crowd in the Math and Sciences Building. On February 23, Sociology Professor and AMST affiliated-faculty member Rich Hogan spoke on the topic “Resisting Redemption: The Black Middle Class in Darien, Georgia, 1870.” Evie Blackwood, Anthropology, a newly-affiliated AMST faculty member, spoke in March on the subject of “Lesbians, Modernity and the Problems of Global Transition: Female Sexualities in Indonesia.” Other speakers in the series have included Purdue AMST faculty Dan Morris, English, on Marjorie Perloff; Harry Targ, Political Science, on Paul Robeson; as well as Mark Bernstein, Professor of Philosophy on the topic “Animal Rights and Wrongs.”

The culminating event of the year for American Studies was the annual American Studies Symposium held March 30-31 on campus. Organized by students Megan McDonald, Brian McCallmack and Courtney Thompson-Enaye, the Symposium featured the theme “Queering American Studies.” Keynote speakers included Martin Manalansan III, Associate Professor of Anthropology at University of Illinois, and Tiya Miles, Assistant Professor of English and American Culture, University of Michigan. The Symposium also featured numerous presentations by American Studies students from Purdue and presentations of awards including new programs for teaching, community service and internationa scholarship, as well as the Chester E. Elsinger Prize. The prize was awarded to Brian McCallmack for his essay, “Hot Damned America: Evangelical Entry into the Climate Change Policy Debate.”

Several hundred members of the Purdue and Lafayette community have participated in the American Studies lecture series, which has earned co-sponsorship from African American Studies, Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology and History.
Professor Tithi Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Asian Studies Program, organized a one-day symposium at Purdue on South Asian history. The event, entitled “The Politics of Religion: Nation, Identity, and Difference in South Asia,” was supported by various interdisciplinary programs, the office of the Dean of Liberal Arts, and the office of the Vice President of Human Relations and featured both international and domestic scholars.

It was a great opportunity to hear prominent historians of South Asia speak on the relevance of religion and religious identities in the modern-day world. Whether the issue is building, restructuring, or maintaining a nation, the process in recent years has been deeply infused with religious rhetoric and symbolism. Participants discussed how people understand religion in an era of democratic rights and citizenship and whether the very idea of religion is backwards in light of modern institutions such as the nation-state.

Speakers for the symposium included Sumit Sarkar from Delhi University, Tanika Sarkar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Barbara Metcalf from the University of Michigan, and Ali Riaz from Illinois State University.

Center Fellowships Awarded to IDIS Professors

Several faculty members in IDIS programs were awarded fellowships for the 2005-2006 semesters from the Center for Humanistic Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. The Center offers fellowships that include a semester release from teaching so that faculty can devote themselves full time to a scholarly or creative project.

For Fall 2005, the awards were given to Dino Felluga (English & Linguistics) for “Byron and the Constitution of the British Novel,” Martin Matustik (Philosophy & Philosophy and Literature) for “Postsecular Meditations on Radical Evil,” and Nancy Peterson (English, American Studies and Women’s Studies) for “Tribal Relations and Trickster Liberties of the Work of Sherman Alexie.” In Spring 2006, an award went to Victor Raskin (English & Linguistics) for “The Semantics of Sophistication.”

Faculty members were also awarded fellowships from the Center for Undergraduate Instructional Excellence. The Center promotes excellent undergraduate teaching by enabling faculty to engage in discovery that is directed to teaching. It supports faculty who desire to research and implement innovative pedagogical and curricular projects. For Spring 2006, awards were granted to Emily Allen (English & Women’s Studies) for “Victorian Pedagogies On Line” and Kristina Bross (English & American Studies) for “Raiders of the Lost Archive: A Service-learning Research Course for Undergraduates.”

2nd Graduate Student Conference of the Philosophy & Literature Ph.D. Program

“Globalization and Resistance,” the 2nd Graduate Student Conference of the Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. Program, was held on March 3 and 4, 2006. The conference included a keynote address, plenary address, book sessions with authors and several panels on a variety of topics.

The keynote address, “Crises of Money and Terror,” was given by Dr. Pheng Cheah, Associate Professor in the Department of Rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley.

A plenary address, titled “Why Anarchism Now?,” was given by Dr. Todd May, Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Clemson University. Dr. May also hosted a lunchtime discussion on “Activism and Anarchism.”

Book sessions with authors were held on both days of the conference. They included Janet Afary, Associate Professor of History, Film Studies and Women’s Studies and Kevin B. Anderson, Associate Professor of Political Science, on their book, *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: Gender and the Seductions of Islamism* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). The second book session featured keynote speaker Pheng Cheah’s book *Spectral Nationality: Passages of Freedom from Kant to Postcolonial Literatures of Liberation* (Columbia University Press, 2003).

Special panels were held on such topics as citizenship in a global world, counter-violence and the left, poststructuralist politics, Levinas and the political, the 9/11 aftermath: “with our hands tied,” articulating a non-normative identity: discourses of resistance, resisting corporate hegemony, and rethinking the multitude and democratization.
Comitatus, the Medieval Studies student group, organized the 4th Annual Conference for Medieval Studies which was held on February 17 and 18, 2006. The theme of this year’s conference, “(Re) Imagining Arthur: Cultural and Theoretical Contexts of the Arthurian Legends,” featured several panels along with a plenary address by Bonnie Wheeler, Professor of English and Medieval Studies and Director of Medieval Studies at Southern Methodist University and editor of Arthuriana, the world’s only academic journal devoted solely to Arthurian topics.

Professor Wheeler’s talk was entitled “Mastering Humiliation in Arthurian Literature.” She has written extensively on medieval literature and culture.

Panels included titles such as Victorian Arthuriana, Arthur Beyond Borders, Arthurian Texts and Readers, The Alliterative Morte Arthure, and Knighthood and Gender. They included student presenters from not only Purdue but SUNY-Binghamton, University of Tennessee, Catholic University of America, Indiana University, University of Rochester, Graduate School for Social Research, Warsaw, Poland, University of Kansas, Brandeis University, and Cornell University.

The officers of Comitatus are April Toadvine, Richard Severe, and Karen Robinson. Dorsey Armstrong serves as the faculty advisor for the organization.

The theme for next year’s Comitatus Conference has already been announced: “Saints and Sinners.” This theme is broadly defined; it should be of interest also to Religious Studies students at Purdue and elsewhere.

**Jewish Studies Spring Events**

The Jewish Studies Program has been active this spring with their Noon Lecture Series and several public lectures. The Noon Lecture Series is a discussion series and has included from Purdue University: Donald W. Mitchell, Department of Philosophy, presenting “Forty Years After Nostra Aetate: Eavesdropping on Jewish-Catholic Conversations at the Gregorian,” Christopher A. LaCrosse, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, presenting “Jewish Communities in Bavaria Today: Interviews with Community Leaders,” and Rachel L. Einwohner, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, presenting “Explaining Jewish Resistance in the Ghettos of Warsaw, Vilna, and Lodz.”

As part of the public lecture series, Zev Garber, Department of Judaic Studies, Los Angeles Valley College, Valley Glen, California and co-editor of Shofar and founding editor of Shofar Monographs in Jewish Studies, presented “Is There a Redeeming Voice?: Theological Reflections on Job 38-41 and Matthew 27,” on February 27, 2006. Rabbi Michael A Signer, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, presented “Rashi and Jewish-Christian Relations in the Medieval Period,” on April 10, 2006.

Further information on the Jewish Studies lecture series can be found on their website, http://www.cla.purdue.edu/jewish-studies/.

**“Hip Hop in the African Diaspora”: 21st Annual Symposium**

The 21st Annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy, “Hip Hop in the African Diaspora,” sponsored by the African American Studies and Research Center was held November 17 and 18, 2005. The symposium included plenary sessions, a keynote address, a Hip Hop Showcase and the presentation of the African American Culture and Philosophy Award.

Dr. Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar presented the keynote address, “Beyond Stereotypes: Culture, Politics and the Hip-Hop Generation.” Dr. Ogbar is the Director of the Institute of African American Studies at the University of Connecticut. He is the author of Black Power: Radical Politics and African American Identity and his research interests focus on black nationalism and radical social protest.

A special plenary session, “Hip Hop Visual Aesthetics and the Promise of Black Masculinity,” was given by Dr. Jo-Ann Morgan. Dr. Morgan is an assistant professor in the Departments of History and Visual Arts at Coastal Carolina University. She recently completed a book manuscript titled “Uncle Tom’s Cabin as Visual Culture.”

Other panel topics were Hip Hop’s origins, development and maturation as an art form; its impact and influence on popular culture; a global phenomenon, especially within the African Diaspora; gender, including representation, image, and contention with feminist/womanist ethics; as a form of community engagement, activism and spirituality; and as an area for academic research and discourse.

The African American Culture and Philosophy Award was also presented during the symposium. This year’s recipients were Dr. Sandra Barnes for The Cost of Being Poor: A Comparative Study of Life in Poor Urban Neighborhoods in Gary, Indiana and Dr. Antonio Tillis, for Manuel Zapata Olivella and the ‘Darkening’ of Latin American Literature. The award is in honor of a scholar who has devoted his or her work to the clarification and development of critical issues in African American Culture and Philosophy that have contributed to intellectual and social community building. The award recognizes work that critically challenges our society’s assumptions of what it means to be human, as well as work that compels reevaluation of methodological assumptions involved in the study of communal experiences in the African American context.
New Chairs/Directors Join IDIS Programs

The IDIS programs have several new faces, or at least new to IDIS, this year. The first of the new faces is Bill Mullen. He joined Purdue as the Director of American Studies and his home department is English. Bill has breathed new life into the American Studies program as you can see from the various articles on American Studies in this newsletter. He comes to Purdue from the University of Texas at San Antonio where he was graduate advisor to the Ph.D. program in the Department of English.

Dr. Daniel Frank assumed the position of Director of Jewish Studies during Summer 2005. Prior to coming to Purdue, he was a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kentucky in Lexington and since 1996 directed the Judaic Studies Program there.

Finally, Charlene Haddock Seigfried assumed the position of Chair of Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. Program in August 2005. She is a Professor of Philosophy. Under her direction, the program has continued to host the graduate student conference and attract students from both Philosophy and English.

They have all contributed greatly, not only to their programs, but to Interdisciplinary Studies as a whole.

Linguistic Graduate Students Take to the Road!

Thanks to supplemental funding provide by the Graduate School at Purdue, Linguistics graduate students took to the road this year.


Kazuaki Nakazawa has presented a paper and will present two more as he completes his doctoral work and heads out into the real world. They include “Teachers’ Practices and Students’ Perceptions regarding Teacher Feedback on Student Writing in Japanese,” at the Central Association of Teachers of Japanese in Ann Arbor, Michigan on March 4-5, 2006; “Study of Efficacy and Effects of Various Types of Teacher Feedback on Student Writing in Japanese” at the American Association for Applied Linguistics in Montreal, Canada, on June 17-20, 2006; and “Examining the Efficacy and Effects of Various Types of Feedback on JFL Student Writing” at the International Conference on Japanese Language Education in New York, New York, on August 5-6, 2006.

Katrina Triezenberg is also receiving her Ph.D. this year. She is delivering a plenary address at the 18th International ISHS Humor Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in July 2006. Her talk is titled “The Semantic Script Mystery.”

Xiaoju Zheng heads to France to present “Voice Quality Variation with Tone and Focus in Mandarin” at the International Conference on Tonal Aspects of Languages in La Rochelle, France, on April 27-29, 2006.

Debarchana Basu received her M.A. degree in May 2005 and is continuing for her Ph.D. She presented her poster “Complex Predicates in Bangla: An Event Based Analysis,” at the Rice University Symposium on Language at Inter-theoretical Approaches to Complex Verb Constructions in Houston, Texas, in March, 2006.

Fulfilling the Legacy, Charting the Future: A Leadership Roundtable

As part of National Black History Month in February, the African American Studies and Research Center sponsored “Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions.”

The event served as an opportunity to explore a vital aspect of the African American experience as it relates to the broader campus community. The discussion provided valuable insight into the issues facing African American fraternities, sororities and social and civic organizations. The contributions of fraternal, social and civic organizations were recognized, while future directions for these valuable African American institutions were discussed.

Purdue-e-gift

It is now even easier to donate to the Interdisciplinary Studies Programs using Purdue-e-gift. Purdue-e-gift makes it simple to make a gift by credit card to Purdue. Go to the following web address:

http://www.purdue.edu/UDO/pages/how_to/eGift.html

Click on “Make a Gift”, choose “Other” from a drop-down menu, then type in the program you wish to contribute to, enter some information about yourself, submit your payment information, and the transaction is completed through Purdue’s secure server. Make your gift now in three easy steps. It takes just a few minutes.
American Studies Earns Funding Awards and Forms Steering Committee

The American Studies program was awarded a $3,000 Recruitment Initiative Award from the Purdue Graduate School. The award was used to bring top-ranked students admitted to the American Studies program to campus March 23-25 to meet with students and faculty in American Studies.

The program also received a $6,800 award from International Programs at Purdue. The award funded a proposal by the program to explore study abroad opportunities at two universities: East China Normal University in Shanghai, China, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, India. This summer, American Studies Director Bill Mullen and Ph.D. student and program assistant Charles Park will travel to Shanghai and Delhi to meet with faculty, students and administrators at each University to discuss establishing a study abroad course for American Studies students and possible long-term exchange of faculty and students.

In October, the American Studies faculty voted to establish a new governance structure for the program. The new structure calls for the establishment of an American Studies Steering Committee comprised of at least five faculty from three departments or programs affiliated with American Studies. The Steering Committee faculty will be responsible for serving on admissions and awards committees and for advising the program director on policy related to the program.

Six American Studies faculty were named to the Steering Committee for the present academic year. They will serve staggered terms of one to three years. In accord with the new governance structure, a student representative to serve a one-year term was elected by a peer vote held in the Fall semester.

The current Steering Committee is as follows: Susan Curtis, Professor of History, Director, Interdisciplinary Studies; Tom Hertweck, M.A. student in American Studies; Rich Hogan, Professor of Sociology; Judson Jeffries, Associate Professor of Political Science; Ryan Schneider, Assistant Professor of English; Charlene Haddock Seigfried, Professor of Philosophy; and Harry S. Targ, Professor of Political Science.

The Director of American Studies thanks these dedicated members of the Committee for their service to the program!

Professor Awarded Grants for Research Projects

Dr. Fenggang Yang, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Asian Studies and Religious Studies, received a grant for the research project, “Faith and Trust in the Emerging Market Economy in China.” The project focuses on trust in business relations that might be generated and shaped by religious faith. Rooted in two related sets of literature on social capital and Max Weber’s classic Protestant Ethic thesis, with systematically collected qualitative data, this project attempts to offer theoretical insights about the impacts of spirituality on economic behavior. He won the grant through open competition from the Spiritual Capital Program of the Metanexus Institute/Templeton Foundation.

Dr. Yang also received a multiple-year grant for the Advancement of the Social Scientific Study of Religion in China from the Henry Luce Foundation. The project includes (1) the annual Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion in Beijing, (2) small research grants for scholars to conduct empirical research on religion in China, (3) Chinese visiting scholars at Purdue University, and (4) a lecture series on “Chinese Religion and Society” at Purdue.

Women’s Studies Adopts New Peer Mentoring Program for Graduate Students

In Fall 2005, the Women’s Studies teaching assistants proposed the creation of a new mentoring committee for the new/incoming TAs. Current TAs provided incoming TAs with sample syllabi and textbook recommendations, pedagogy, scholarship, and more importantly, a supportive forum for discussing questions and teaching concerns.

In addition, several senior TAs will meet the new TAs on a regular basis in order to provide support and information as questions arise throughout their first semester. As TA Lynette Osborn states, “Joining forces with experienced TAs in Women’s Studies would allow those new to the program and/or new to teaching someone to directly interact with and learn from.”

The new committee is intended to benefit the new TAs, their Introduction to Women’s Studies classes and students by fostering support and connections within the program and among all of the TAs.

Medieval Studies Rocket-Launching to MARS?

The Program in Medieval Studies was founded at Purdue University in 1970. It thus stands as one of the oldest of the Interdisciplinary Programs in the College of Liberal Arts. In Fall, 2005, the faculty in Medieval Studies worked together on a proposal for the first comprehensive revision in almost thirty years of the requirements for the major and minor.

“It is high time for us to revise the Major,” observes Ann Astell, Professor of English and Chair of Medieval Studies. “Our faculty has changed over the years. New courses have been added, and others deleted. Many more graduate and undergraduate students have been attracted to the field. The faculty is creative and energetic. After a period during which strong foundations were laid, we are ready to enter a new period in the history of the program.”

The revised Major will expand to include interdisciplinary studies in the Renaissance. Such courses have always been electives for Medieval Studies majors, and Renaissance scholars—especially Professors Paul White and Charles Ross of the Department of English—have been active participants in the program. The proposed MARS Major in Medieval and Renaissance Studies allows students to specialize in either the Middle Ages or the Renaissance.

“The proposal for the MARS Major and Minor looks toward a future of expanded possibilities for the program,” says Astell. “It is the product of an engaged discussion by our faculty.”

“MARS is ‘out of this world,’” remarks Thomas Ohlgren, Professor of English and former Chair of Medieval Studies, who strongly supports the expansion of the program.
Classics Lecture Series

The Interdisciplinary Program in Classics continued its annual lecture series in 2005-2006 with “East/West: The Occidental and Oriental Classics in Comparative Perspective.” The aim of the series was to situate East/West classical discourses in comparative perspective. The result should be an increase in what we know, or at least the acknowledgement of our limitations. The series began in the fall with poetry and visual arts in comparative perspective, and moved in the spring to areas of myth and science. The series also featured a field trip to the Chicago Art Institute.

The first event in the fall were poetry discussions including “Translating Status’ Theaibid,” by Charles Ross, Professor of English and Director of Comparative Literature, and Daniel Hsieh, Associate Professor of Chinese and Chair of Chinese and Japanese in Foreign Languages and Literatures, presenting “Tang Poetry: Some Favorite Translations.”

In October, students in Classical Studies took a field trip to the Chicago Art Institute to view the Classics collection and the Asian galleries, including artifacts from Southeast Asian religion and classical Asian artifacts that pointed to occidental influence. The trip was well attended and the students showed enthusiasm.

Individual faculty presentations included David Parish, Professor of Art History in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, with “Ancient Mosaics in Turkey,” and a keynote lecture at the conclusion of the series in April by Keith Dickson, Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Chair of the Classics section. Professor Dickson’s lecture was titled “Signs of the Body.”

The Purdue Classical Association presented a dramatic reading of Aeschy- lus’ Persians in March. In Spring 2005, the student association, in conjunction with the IDIS Classics Program, started a local chapter of the national honors society for Greek and Latin: Eta Sigma Phi. The society recognizes achievements by students in Classics. The student organization has been a strong force in the continued development of the IDIS Classics Program.

On March 30, Dr. Thomas Michael, George Washington University, presented “The Pristine Dao.” Dr. Michael received his Ph.D. in 2001 from the University of Chicago with a dissertation focusing on early Taoism in China. Dr. Michael also hosted a roundtable discussion with faculty and students on The Expressiveness of the Body and the Divergence of Greek and Chinese Medicine.


Linguistics Program Active in 2005-2006

Purdue was well represented at the 42nd Chicago Linguistics Society annual meeting. The photo shows First row L-R: Professors Elaine Francis, Diane Brentari, Ronnie Wilbur; Second Row L-R: Graduate students Charles Smith, Donovan Grose, Debachana Basu, Research Associate Evgenia Malaia, and graduate student Engin Arik.

The Purdue Linguistics Association (PLA) will host the second annual Purdue Graduate Symposium in Linguistics at the end of the spring semester 2006. Please check the Linguistics website for more information and updates (http://www.cla.purdue.edu/linguistics/).

Medieval Studies Events, 2005-2006

The 2005-2006 academic year began well for Medieval Studies with the annual picnic, hosted by Comitatus on Saturday, September 17, at the home of Professor Dorsey Armstrong, faculty advisor to that student organization. Many students and faculty members and their families participated. The picnic was a way of saying a cordial “welcome back” to familiar faces and “welcome” to new ones.

The second “kick-off” event for the year was the Medieval Studies Symposium, “Two Visions of the Cross,” on Thursday, September 22. After a reception, people convened in a large classroom in Beering Hall to hear two papers: “Prophetic Vision in The Dream of the Rood,” by Professor Thomas Hall (English, University of Illinois at Chicago) and “Envisioning the Ruthwell Cross,” by Professor Catherine Karkov (Art History, Miami University of Ohio). The room was filled to over-flowing. Professor David Parrish (VPA) introduced the speakers. The papers complemented each other well and provided a truly wonderful, interdisciplinary occasion.

Soon thereafter the Medieval Mondays Brownbag Series of noontime lectures, organized by Professor Paula Leverage (FLL) began. On October 3, Professor Paul Whitfield White (ENGL) gave a paper, “From Corpus Christi to ‘Club Law’: Tudor Cambridge’s Town/Gown Conflict and the Ends of Festive Culture.” On October 17, Professor Leverage gave a presentation of her forthcoming essay, “Macrobean Dreams in Girart de Roussillon.” On November 7, Professor Ann Astell (ENGL) led a discussion entitled “Exegetical Criticism: Dead or Alive?”

A full slate of speakers is being scheduled to present their ongoing research during the Medieval Mondays in Spring, 2006.

In Spring ’05, Professor Bill Burgwinkle of Cambridge University (Medieval French and Medieval Occitan) visited Purdue at the invitation of Professors Thomas Broden and Paula Leverage. He gave a seminar on “Sex and Gender in the Lais of Marie de France” to the students in FR 640. On April 11, he gave a public lecture titled “Pious Pornography: Visual Memory, Georges Bataille, and the Lives of the Saints.”