

AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Magic Dust: History in the Archives

See the American
Studies Chair
position
announcement
on Page 2

For the second year running, American Studies has sponsored a series of talks and discussions centered on archival studies—theory, practice, and research. Building on the successful NEH Humanities



The "Archive Trio", Susan Curtis, Shirley Rose and Kristina Bross

Focus Grant, Kristina Bross (English and American Studies), Susan Curtis (History and American Studies), and Shirley Rose (English), convened a seven-week series of events to celebrate and continue the partnership between Purdue University and the Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA).

Kristina Bross summarized in fliers advertising the series by saying, "These presentations are designed for anyone with a stash of old family letters in the back of a closet, Great-Grandfather's photo album in the attic, or Mom's wedding dress in the basement. These treasures are precious to us. We keep them for the connections they give us to our past, and we hand them down to our children and grandchildren so that they will have some sense of who we were and are. They make our personal



Leah Witherow

and family memories tangible. As a community, we also collect and keep treasures that connect us to a shared past. The archives of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association have been handed down to us from our community's grandmothers and grandfathers, and they are an unmatched resource for making our social memories tangible."

The series kicked off on August 26 with a presentation by Leah Witherow, archivist at the Starsmore Center for Local History in the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum.

Speaking to a packed room, Leah argued for the significance of local archives and offered innovative ideas for raising the archival consciousness of a community.



Alexis Ramsey

The next three weeks were dedicated to graduate student presentations, which drew on work begun last spring in the inaugural "Archival Theory and Practice" seminar. Sponsored in part by an American Studies Association Community Partnership grant, Alexis Ramsey (English), Mark Bousquet (American Studies) and Tarez Graban (English) spoke to a crowd of students, faculty, deans, TCHA members and staff, and members of the community. Alexis explored the rhetoric of fashion through case studies of several turn-of-the-twentieth-century dresses in the TCHA clothing collection. Mark mused on how a seemingly non-narrative text (the "Personal War Sketches" of a local civil war veteran's association) can be made to release its stories with careful and prolonged attention. Tarez linked our local political scene to the movers and shakers of the national women's rights movement in the nineteenth century through her attention to the papers of activist Helen Gougar. (Continued on Page 2.)



Turn-of-the-century dresses in the TCHA clothing collection.

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Magic Dust Series (cont.)



Mark Bousquet

We wrapped up the series with three presentations by faculty on their works in progress. Sammie Morris and Katherine Markee walked a group of faculty and librarians through the Special Collections and Archives of the Libraries at Purdue. Richard Hogan (Anthropology and Sociology, American Studies) gave us insight into the value of reading old newspapers. Finally, Whitney Walton (History) provided a glimpse of her research into traces of student life, especially exchange student life, as found in university archives.

The series has been an exhilarating one—proving the value of the town-and-gown partnership and beginning to build a new kind of audience for American Studies work, one drawn from beyond the confines of our campus. The TCHA has asked if we can mount another series as early as this spring. Stay tuned for updates!



Helen Gougar,
"Little Woman at Lafayette".



Audience at one of the Magic Dust series talks.



Personal War Sketches
of G.A.R. Post No. 475



Tarez Graban

American Studies Chair Position Announcement

The Department of English at Purdue University invites applications for the Chair of the American Studies Program at the rank of Associate or Full Professor of English. We seek a person to lead an interdisciplinary graduate program noted for race/ethnicity and gender/sexuality studies, as well as intellectual and cultural history. The program involves faculty from English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology, and Communication. A strong record of scholarship and teaching in American Studies and American literature is required; administrative experience is desirable. Teaching will involve graduate courses in American Studies, including courses in methods and theories, as well as graduate and undergraduate courses in English.

Starting date: August 15, 2005. Credentials will be reviewed beginning November 1, 2004, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Preliminary interviews at the MLA convention. To apply, send letter of application, c.v., a sample of recent scholarship, and three letters of recommendation to Daniel Morris, Chair of Search Committee, Department of English, 500 Oval Drive, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2038. Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Purdue-gift

Online giving to Purdue

It is now even easier to donate to the American Studies Program using *Purdue-gift*. *Purdue-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 dropdown menu, then type "American Studies Program" in the text box, 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.

Meet the New American Studies Students

Christina Abreu, a Master's student, comes to us from Ursinus College in Pennsylvania after earning her B.A. in American Studies and Communication Studies. Her concentration is in Communication.



Christina received a Lynn Fellowship.



Malcolm Foley, also a Master's student, received his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Southern University A & M College. While at Southern, he studied under Purdue American Studies alumnus Eva Baham.

Malcolm's concentration is History.

Brian McCammack is a Purdue undergraduate having received his bachelor of science in Electrical Engineering in May 2004. He is the



recipient of the prestigious Charles C. Chappelle Fellowship from the Purdue University Graduate School. He will be working toward his Master's degree with a concentration in Literature.

Daniel McKay, a Doctoral student, hails from England. He took his Master's in American Literature from the University of Sheffield and his bachelor's degree in Classical Studies from the University of London. His concentration is in Literature and he received a Lynn Fellowship.



Kathleen Mullins is a Doctoral student concentrating in History. She received her master's in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and her B.A. in History from Indiana University, South Bend. Kathleen also received a Lynn Fellowship.



Melissa Peck is seeking her Master's with a concentration in History. She comes to us after earning a bachelor's

Introducing Nancy Gabin, Interim Chair of the American Studies Program for 2004-2005—by Laura Beadling

Whether dealing with students in History, Women's Studies, or American Studies, Nancy Gabin says that her interest as an administrator "has always been the grad students and making sure that they're taken care of and that they're not lost in the tangle of bureaucracy." Gabin wears many hats at Purdue; not only is she an Associate Professor of History, has served as the Graduate Director in the History Department, and an associated faculty member in Women's Studies, but she is also the newly-appointed Interim Head of the American Studies program. A member of the American Studies committee since last year, Gabin was asked to step into this latest role after a search for a permanent director last year ended unsuccessfully. "I really consider myself a caretaker," she says. "There's a search on to find a director – and there will be one – and the person will be in the English department. I don't want to institute anything that that person doesn't have a hand in shaping."

Gabin has been involved in the American Studies program almost since she got here in 1983. "I have lots of memories of serving on special field committees and advising Masters students," she laughs, "and when I became director of grad studies in History in 1993, I took on advising for American Studies/History people and became even more intimately familiar with the American Studies program." Reflecting on how her involvement in American Studies has affected her, she says that "having the benefit of students who are themselves

interdisciplinary has made my teaching very interesting and provocative." In addition, she says that reading exams and dissertations in American Studies has intellectually influenced her as well as helped her respond as a teacher in new ways



Gabin teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in American women's history, labor history, and social history as well as the second half of the United States history survey and a new course on 1960s America. She has also received the School of Liberal Arts Excellence in Education teaching award in 2002. Her book, *Feminism and the Labor Movement: Women and the United Auto Workers, 1935-1975*, was selected as both an Outstanding Book on the subject of human rights in the United States by the Gustavus Myers Center for 1991 and as a Choice Outstanding Academic Book for 1992. Currently, Gabin says she is working on a one-volume history of women in Indiana that is very close to completion. Of this newest book, she says "it will end up being a study of the ways in which notions of female autonomy and independence have played out in various arenas in Indiana in the 19th and 20th centuries." She is already looking forward to focusing on her third project, which will involve female factory workers in Indiana.

Student News

Christina Abreu co-authored a paper with Sheryl Baratz Goodman that was accepted to the New York State Communication Association Conference held in October. The paper is entitled "Are Good Discussions Intellectual?: An Ethnographic Study of Communicative Tensions in a Liberal Studies Seminar." Christina is a new master's student.

Cicely Cobb's article, "If You Give a Nigger an Inch, They'll Take an Ell: The Role of Education in Mildred D. Taylor's Fiction," has been published in a collection of essays on children's and adolescent literature. Cicely is a Ph.D. candidate who will receive her degree in December 2004.



Sabine Klein, a Ph.D. student, presented at the Southwest/Texas American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association in San Antonio in April. The paper was entitled, "Captive in the English Wilderness: Thomas Shepard's Spiritual Autobiography as a Captivity Narrative." She was also



awarded a Purdue Graduate Student Association Travel Grant to present at the "Beyond Colonial Studies: An Inter-American Encounter" conference in November in Providence, RI. She will present a paper—"Daughters' and 'Mothers' in the Transatlantic World: A Comparative Analysis of Anne Bradstreet's *A Dialogue between Old England and New; Concerning Their Present Troubles, Anno, 1642* and Jacob Steendam's *Klagt van Nieuw-Amsterdam*."

Mark Lewellen-Biddle, a Ph.D. student with a concentration in Political Science, had his article, "Voting Machines Gone Wild," selected as the #6 story on Project Censored's list of Top 25 Censored News Stories of 2003-2004. It will be published in Censored 2005, Project Censored's yearbook of uncovered news.



Julie Lester, a Ph.D. student, accepted an appointment at Bloomsburg University for Fall 2004.

Daniel McKay, a new Ph.D. student, presented "Sex, Lies, and Red Tape: The Representation of Asians in the Journal of Townsend Harris, American Consul to Japan," at the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies in October.

Aubrey Thamann presented at the Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association in October. Her paper was entitled "The Magic Mask: Folklore Motifs in John Carpenter's Halloween," in which she argues that as we have moved from being an oral culture to a visual culture, we have needed a new medium for our folklore—film and television, and horror films specifically function as urban legends. Aubrey is a Ph.D. student in the American Studies program.



Erik Wade, Master's student, presented "Can't See for Lookin': Hidden Politics used by Positive Hip-Hop Artists," at the Popular Culture/American Culture Association in the South's conference on September 23.

Brandon Wallace, Master's student, presented two papers in October. The first, at the Modern Popular Culture



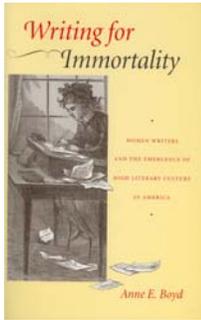
Association, was entitled "Women in the Black Power Movement: Angela Davis and Elaine Brown." The second, "Tapping the Rest: An Analysis of Double Consciousness Through the Works of James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, and Alice Walker," was at the Southern Conference of the Modern Language Association.

Mark Whittemore, Master's student, presented "Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* as Protest Literature," at the 9th International Arthur Miller Conference at St. Francis College in April 2004. While attending the conference, he met Arthur Miller.



Alumni News

Steven Belluscio (Ph.D. 2003) accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of English at the Borough of Manhattan Community College beginning August 2004.



Congratulations to **Anne Boyd**, who recently published *Writing for Immortality: Women Writers and the Emergence of High Literary Culture in America* with The Johns Hopkins University Press. Anne earned her Ph.D. in American Studies at Purdue in 2000 and is currently Assistant Professor of English at the University of New Orleans.

Andrew Busch (M.A. 2004) is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. He is employed in the Chemical Engineering department and is enjoying the strong liberal intellectual community.

Lawrence Davis, who received his Ph.D. in August 2004, has a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. He is affiliated with American Culture, the Center for African American Studies and the Department of English.

Jacob Jones successfully defended his dissertation entitled “The World Was Our Garden: U.S. Plant Production, Empire, and Industrial Agri(culture), 1889-1948,” in August

2004. He will earn the Ph.D. in History in December. Jacob is a graduate of the M.A. program in American Studies at Purdue, finishing that degree in 1994. He resides in Germany with his wife, Inga Dorothee Rost, who is the coordinator of interdisciplinary programs at the University of Hanover.

Fuifuilupe “Lupe” Niumeitolu (M.A. 2004) is teaching a course entitled “Activism and Social Change” at the New College of California in San Francisco.

Selene Phillips (Ph.D. 2003) accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Louisville beginning August 2004.

John Stauffer (M.A. 1993) was awarded tenure in the Department of American Language and Literature at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Black Hearts of Men Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race* (Harvard University Press, 2002), and editor of a new edition of *My Bondage and My Freedom* by Frederick Douglass for the Modern Library. While at Purdue, he was the 1992 Eisinger Prize Winner.



Ph.D. Degrees Awarded August 2004

Lawrence A. Davis,
“The Black Masculinist
Agenda: Desire and
Gender Politics of Pro-
test Era Literature”



Kevin M. Scott, “Rituals of
Race: Mount, Melville, and
Antebellum America”

M.A. Degrees Awarded December 2003-August 2004

Marilee Gregoire Althoff, August 2004
Philathia R. Bolton, August 2004
Andrew M. Busch, May 2004
Alexandra E. DeMonte, May 2004
Christopher T. Eklund, May 2004
Carla R. Hostetler, May 2004
David J. Kemp, May 2004
Olga Medvedeva, May 2004
Lupe A. Niumeitolu, May 2004
Hui-Min “Mindy” Tan, December 2003
Vanessa A. Vazquez, May 2004

2004 Chester E. Eisinger Awards

On March 27, 2004, American Studies students and faculty gathered to celebrate the American Studies 40th Anniversary Symposium and also to present the Chester E. Eisinger awards. Joel Eisinger, son of Chester Eisinger, was on hand to present the awards.

The Chester E. Eisinger Prize for the best unpublished essay in American Studies went to Laura Beadling for an essay entitled, "Arthur Penn's *Little Big Man*: Racial Allegory in 1970's Hollywood." The second place prize was awarded to Sabine Klein for "Captive in the English Wilderness: Thomas Shepard's Spiritual Autobiography as a Captivity Narrative."

The essays by Lisette Blanco-Cerda, Vanessa Hall, Jay Hopler, Sabine Klein, Megan MacDonald, and Erik Wade, some of which appear on the following pages, explain how winners used the Chester E. Eisinger Research Awards to further their research.



Joel Eisinger presenting the Eisinger Research Awards



Eisinger Award Winners Sabine Klein, Laura Beadling, Erik Wade, Lisette Blanco-Cerda and Vanessa Hall with Joel Eisinger



Susan Curtis congratulates Erik Wade on receiving the Eisinger award.

The Chester E. Eisinger Prize and Research Award

Two Eisinger Prizes are awarded annually to recognize excellent scholarship among American Studies students. The Prizes are named in the honor of the founder of American Studies at Purdue, who encouraged such excellence by his example as a scholar and teacher.

The Program invites you to make a contribution to fund the Eisinger Prizes. Checks should be made out to the "Purdue Alumni Foundation—Chester Eisinger Fund" and sent to the Foundation at: Purdue Memorial Union, 101 North Grant Street, West Lafayette, 47906-3574.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Erik Wade, Eisinger Research Award Winner

Winning a research grant during my first year as a graduate student definitely boosted my confidence. Yet, earning an award named after the founder of Purdue University's American Studies program was truly an honor. The Chester E. Eisinger Research Award allowed me to extend my research goals from a previous spring course,

Archival Theory and Practice. Over the course of the summer I gained a wealth of experience through field research, conducting interviews, and interacting with numerous scholars, regional museum and archival directors, and local Hoosiers.

My work this summer focused on a scarcely researched vigilante group known as the Horse Thief Detective Association (HTDA)—which had connections with the Ku Klux Klan (KKK)—and was common in Indiana during

the late nineteenth century and ceased to exist in the early twentieth century. I began my study at the Tippecanoe County Historical Association here in Lafayette but over the course of the summer I visited museums all over Indiana. I was greeted by museum directors in Delphi, Logansport, Crawfordsville, Peru, Indianapolis, among other cities and remained in contact via electronic mail and postal mail with scholars and historical hobbyists in Jeffersonville, Terre Haute, East Chicago, Columbus (Ohio) and at Eastern Michigan University, IUPUI, and Indiana University. Those connections were great but I met two retired couples in Shelbyville and Five Points, Indiana who have become personal friends. A whole day of interaction due to the HTDA, led to discussions of present-day race relations and conflicts, and in turn I received some Hoosier hospitality (home cooking and personal tours of their towns) which provided me with a

richer experience than I could have anticipated. Without the Eisinger Research Award I would have been denied the opportunity to continue my interesting research and create new professional and personal relationships.

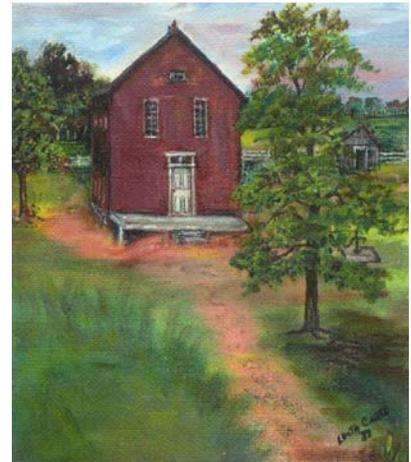
I would advise any student with research interests in need of funding to apply for the Chester E. Eisinger Research Award. The work I was able to complete this summer gave me a head start on my MA thesis and a fresh perspective on the narrative and theoretical methodology I plan to apply to my chosen subject. Other than meeting good people I think the most fun I had over

the course of this summer was to see people's reaction to the fact that I am an African American academic and not the usual White scholar working on vigilante groups like the KKK, Night Riders, and now the HTDA. You can only imagine the surprised smiles and wide eyes encountered over the course

of the summer because of my curiosity about a history that negatively impacted my people; it can be terrifying when a people's history may be used against them for the uplifting of another group. Nevertheless, hopefully my visits impacted and shifted frames of thought regarding history's use and its ability to create a mutually beneficial outlook for our society. Man, I am such an egalitarian! In closing, I found the Eisinger Award to be a great investment towards my academic and personal growth and would recommend students to apply for this grant.



Members of the HTDA



The Five Points Schoolhouse where meetings of the HTDA were held.

Vanessa Hall, Eisinger Research Award Winner

The Chester E. Eisinger Research Award enabled me to travel to the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Ohio State University in Columbus during July. While Columbus is not necessarily the most glamorous of research destinations, it was choice destination number one for me this summer since Ohio State University contains a collection I needed to peruse for my dissertation. (Opening disclaimer: my descriptions of local color are limited by the fact I spent the majority of time in the archives—a small room on the third floor of the main library staffed by a very kind archivist and student assistants—and in my room at the Holiday Inn—need I say more? There was, however, a picturesque fountain and lake—NOT a duck pond, several affronted employees of OSU corrected me—near the library where I ate my lunch.)

I spent my week in Columbus examining The Raymond Carver Papers, which contain drafts of many of Carver's stories, business and personal correspondence he received between 1978 and 1985 (from editors, agents, and well-known writers including Richard Ford, John Barth, and William Kittredge) as well as letters from Carver to family members. Since my dissertation will examine Carver's life, writing, and the reception of his bi-

ography and writing in popular and literary publications from a cultural and historical perspective, extrapolating to illuminate preoccupations and anxieties of the 1970s

and 1980s, I was particularly interested in finding sources, or references to sources, that will help me establish these connections. Anxiety surrounding whiteness, masculinity, and class identity circulating during the decades in which Carver achieved literary prominence provides a fertile context within which to examine Carver's biography and work. Since most of Carver's earlier papers have been lost or destroyed, this collection, although limited in range and scant on correspondence actually authored by him, did succeed in giving me a fuller sense of Carver's preoccupations and influence in the late 1970s and early 1980s.



Professional Development Series

Fellowship Opportunities

October 7, BRNG B206, 4:00 p.m.

Presentation by Cyndi Lynch, Director of Fellowships & Professional Development, Graduate School

Proposal & Grant Writing

October 21, BRNG B206, 4:00 p.m.

Presentation by Dr. Kristina Bross, Associate Professor of English

Professionalization Strategies

November 4, BRNG B206, 4:00 p.m.

Presentation by Cyndi Lynch, Director of Fellowships & Professional Development, Graduate School

American Studies Travel Grants

Every year, the American Studies program supports many of its students traveling to national and international conferences. Funding is available for students at both the M.A. and Ph.D.-levels.

In order to receive travel support please submit the form on the American Studies website (located under Events & Awards) to Professor Nancy Gabin either through email at ngabin@sla.purdue.edu or by regular mail to Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Room 1289, 100 North University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098.

2004 Fall Party



Harold Woodman and Lottie Hirsch



Brian McCammack and Daniel McKay



Students were able to meet and greet.



Christina Abreu and Malcolm Foley



Guests enjoyed the wonderful food.



Penn Whiteside, Sabine Klein and Mark Lewellen-Biddle



Malcolm Foley, Susan Curtis, Erik Wade, and Leeah Durkee



Students enjoying the food and conversation

Symposium Marks 40th Anniversary of the Program in American Studies

The Program in American Studies marked its first forty years with an Anniversary Symposium held on March 25-27, 2004. It was a celebration of scholarship and community that drew students, faculty, alumni, former Program chairs, and two keynote speakers from across the country to West Lafayette. The T-shirt designed by a student committee captured the theme of the symposium—“Looking Forward”—by featuring a map of North America with a signpost firmly planted in West Lafayette, Indiana, which marked the many directions faculty and students in Purdue’s Program in American Studies have gone and are beginning to explore.



T-shirt designed by students for the 40th



*Eric Lott
Keynote Speaker*

The symposium was kicked off by a series of student and alumni panels where current and former students shared the fruits of their research. On Thursday evening, Professor Eric Lott (University of Virginia) presented the first keynote address on contemporary literature and political culture in the United States, offering keen insights and witty reflections on the Presidency and American society. The address was followed by a reception in the Kranert Drawing Room.

On Friday afternoon, students and alumni panels resumed, with scholarly presentations, video montages, and performance. The students presented flowers to Delayne Graham, Graduate Secretary for American Studies, for her outstanding efforts to make the Symposium a success. Former chairs of American Studies, Harold Woodman, Leonard Neufeldt, and Susan Curtis, as well as Joel Eisinger, representing his late father, Chester E. Eisinger, recounted the founding and development of American Studies at Purdue University. Having had only four chairs in forty years, the Program in American Studies has enjoyed great stability and continuity, even as students and faculty have explored innovative, cutting-edge theories and methods in the field. On Friday evening, Harold Woodman hosted a lovely dinner buffet in his home, which gave all participants a chance to continue conversations begun in the past two days and to recall the many gatherings in the Woodman home during his years as chair.



Past Chairs Panel—Joel Eisinger, Susan Curtis, Len Neufeldt, and Harold Woodman



Student presentations at the TCHA.

Students in the American Studies course, Archival Theory and Practice, organized a poster session, which was held at the Tippecanoe County Historical Association archives in Lafayette on Saturday morning. In addition to the colorful and informative posters, which showed the work each student had done preserving and analyzing original documents housed in the TCHA archives, three students Brandon Wallace (American Studies), Gregory Johnson (History), and Beth Lyons (English), representing the interdisciplinary make-up of the class, presented short papers, respectively, on African Americans in Tippecanoe County at the turn of the twentieth century, Lafayette’s experience of the Blizzard of 1978, and George Winter’s art and writing in the period of Indiana Removal in early nineteenth-century Lafayette. All of the student work was the result of their research in the TCHA archives and reflected the significance of local materials and events to greater understanding of the American experience. Len Neufeldt pronounced the archives project and



Len Neufeldt speaks to the audience at the Archive student presentations

the remarkable research projects that have emerged thus far to be “electrifying.”

At the concluding luncheon, held at Duncan Hall, in Lafayette, winners of the Chester E. Eisinger Prizes and Research Awards were announced. It was an especially memorable occasion, since Joel Eisinger was on hand with his wife, Barbara Eisinger, to



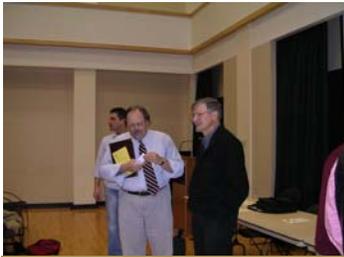
Charles Cutter and Susan Curtis with their leis.

present the awards that honor his father. Current students also made a surprise presentation of gorgeous orchid leis and certificates of charitable contributions made in their honor to Charles Cutter, who served as Interim Chair of the program in 2003-2004, and to Susan Curtis, who served as Chair from 1999 to 2003, as symbols of gratitude for their support. These unexpected gifts were deeply appreciated. The awards ceremony was followed by the final keynote address by Professor Julie Ellison (University of Michigan), who discussed her project, “Imagining America,” a network of scholars and artists committed to bringing to the general public diverse perspectives on and insights into the meaning of America. She connected the work presented by the Archival Theory and Practice class to this larger project of encouraging local communities to imagine America in new and socially productive ways.



*Julie Ellison
Keynote Speaker*

40th Anniversary Photos



Alumnus Rick Anderson with Len Neufeldt



Audience at the Closing Luncheon



Rebecca Saulsbury, Eva Baham, Nicole Livengood, Sabine Klein and Clark Maddux



Lupe Niumeitolu and Susan Curtis at the Closing Luncheon



Christina Abreu, Charles Park and Stephany Spaulding



Aubrey Thamann, Laura Beadling, Manuel Apodaca, Alexandra DeMonte and Selene Phillips



Erik Wade, Stephany Spaulding, Chris Walker and Andrew Busch



Matthew Wavro, Dolores Alcaide, Cicely Cobb and Jasmina Starcevic



Chris Walker, Stacy Weida, Delayne Graham and Rebecca Saulsbury

American Studies Students Plan trip to ASA

American Studies students are planning a trip to the American Studies Association Annual Meeting, "Crossroads of Cultures", in Atlanta, Georgia, November 11-14.

Please contact Lee Bebout, bebout@purdue.edu, for further information or to reserve your space.

Mark Your Calendars for the American Studies Spring Symposium

Students and faculty are in the process of planning the annual Spring Symposium. The dates are set for Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5, 2005. There will be lunches and dinners as well.

Look for further information and a call for papers soon. After the terrific response we had last year for the 40th Anniversary Celebration, we are looking forward to another successful gathering!

Spring 2005 Course Offerings



Ryan Schneider

AMST 602: Contemporary Issues in American Studies, P. Ryan Schneider, W, 3:30-6:20. American Studies 602 examines the multiple methodologies and theoretical approaches that shape current developments in the field; it places special emphasis on the analytical categories of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, class, religion, and nationality. The course is designed as a research seminar: most class sessions will

be devoted to discussions of selected readings and will include student-devised presentations. The final research project, which is determined in consultation with the instructor, will allow for flexibility in form and content to accommodate the interests of individual students.

AMST 650T: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Afro-Latin American Women Writers and Feminist, Womanist Discourse, *Cross-listed with FLL 593A and ENGL 596A*, Antonio Tillis, Th 3:30-6:20. This seminar examines the contributions to World literature by female writers of African ancestry in Latin America and the Caribbean. The approach is multi-genre, as works will be read in order to examine critically the relationship(s) between literature, history, race, class and gender. As theoretical paradigms, feminism, black feminism, womanism, Africana womanism and post-colonial feminism will be discussed and



Antonio Tillis

used for critical analysis of a given text. Selected works represent a sampling of the corpus of works by female writers from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, English-speaking Caribbean, the French Antilles, and the Americas.



Rich Hogan

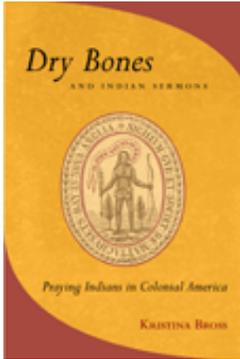
AMST 630: M.A. Research Seminar, Richard Hogan, Th, 2:30-5:20. A research seminar required of all M.A. students in their final semester.

AMST 660B: Research Seminar in American Studies: Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the United States, *Cross-listed with POL 631A*, Harry Targ, M, 2:30-5:20. This course will be a reading and research seminar. We will spend ten weeks exploring recent literature on globalization, neoliberalism, and the role of the United States in the international political economy. Particular attention will be given to debates about globalization and the state and the claim that a new transnational capitalist class has arisen superseding national ruling classes. Further, impacts of neoliberalism will be debated. Finally, the continuing relevance of theories of imperialism and dependency will be addressed. In addition to extensive reading and discussion students will prepare research papers.



Harry Targ

Faculty News



Kristina Bross published *Dry Bones and Indian Sermons: Praying Indians and Colonial New England* with the University of Cornell Press. She was also promoted to Associate Professor of English and received the Charles B. Murphy Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

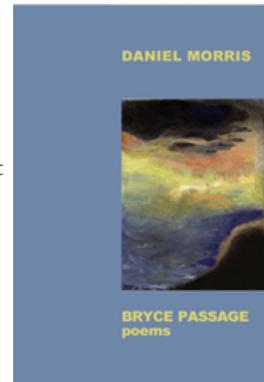
Susan Curtis was appointed Chair of the Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize Committee of the American Studies Association. The Gabriel Prize is awarded

annually to the author of the best dissertation in the field of American Studies. The other members of the 2005 committee are Kevin K. Gaines and Priscilla Wald.

Susan was also one of the plenary speakers at the John Whitmer Historical Association meeting, held in Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 23-26. Curtis, Roger Launius and Alfred Bush constituted a panel charged with "Assessing Clyde Forsberg's Arguments about Early Mormonism."

Robert Lamb has several articles and essays that will appear in upcoming publications. Along with G. Richard Thompson, he co-edited a book coming this spring, *A Companion to American Fiction, 1865-1914*, from Blackwell Publishers. It is a collection of 30 new essays and is appearing as part of their series on Literary and Cultural Studies. His essay, "America Can Break Your Heart: On the Significance of Mark Twain," will appear in a volume of the same series on Mark Twain. An article entitled "Fast Fish and Loose Fish: Teaching Melville's *Moby Dick* in the College Classroom," will appear in *College Literature*. Finally, an entry on Ernest Hemingway will appear in *The Encyclopedia of the Midwest* through Indiana University Press.

Daniel Morris published his first book of poetry entitled *Bryce Passage* with Marsh Hawk Press.



Feast of the Ascension, 2004. Planting Hibiscus

A Poem by Jay Hopley, Ph.D. Candidate

From being to being an idea,
 Nothing comes through that intact.
 Look at the garden:
 Dew-swooned and with wet
 Blooms swollen, with shade leaf-laced beneath the lemon
 trees—
 It's hard to believe that beauty is the new
 Ugliness, but why else would we distrust
 It so? I guess it's true what they say, that once a man
 falls, he never again puts faith in the ground on which he
 walks.
 Putting faith in the ground, is that what I
 Am doing? Is that what these blooms
 Have been trying to tell me—
 Is that what all their swooning has been about?
 The shade grows long. The shade grows long
 Upon the lawns and the green, green leaves of the lemon
 trees are still in the coming evening.
 I could be buried here.
 No; that is, I am.
 I am buried here.

Jay has received several major awards for his poetry and his work has appeared in numerous magazines, journals and anthologies. *Green Squall*, his first full-length collection, was honored as a Finalist in both the 2004 Ohio State University Press/*The Journal Award* in Poetry and the 2004 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. Before coming to Purdue to study hit men and the American culture of violence, Jay studied poetry at The Iowa Writers' Workshop with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jorie Graham.



2004 Fellowships Awarded in American Studies

The Program in American Studies has outstanding students and many of these students were awarded fellowships this year from the University. Below is a list of the recipients along with a brief description of the fellowship received. The Program congratulates all of these students!

Brian McCammack was awarded the **Charles C. Chappelle Graduate Fellowship**. This fellowship provides support to students with undergraduate degrees from Purdue University. Chappelle Fellows are selected on the basis of character, intellectual ability, and promise of attainment.

Christina Abreu, Daniel McKay, and Kathleen Mullins received **Lynn Fellowships**. These are awarded to recruit outstanding students to interdisciplinary graduate programs at Purdue.

Several students received support from the Purdue Research Foundation. Sabine Klein is the recipient of the **PRF Research Fellowship**, a two-year award. **PRF Summer Research Grants** were given to Laura Beadling, Lee Bebout, Lisette Blanco-Cerda, and Vanessa Hall.

David Kemp and Courtney Thompson, who are both returning students after receiving their Master's from the American

Studies Program at Purdue, were both awarded **Purdue Doctoral Fellowships**. The Purdue Doctoral Fellowship seeks to enhance the diversity of the graduate student body through the recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds with diverse views and experiences.

Special Initiatives Fellowships were awarded to both Lee Bebout and Erik Wade for proposals they submitted to the Graduate School. Lee's proposal focuses on community building within the American Studies program. Several workshops and brown bag lunch series are being planned by Lee this year. Erik's proposal will establish a writing workshop for new graduate students called *The Prose*. These workshops will introduce new students to writing at graduate level and the resources available on campus. Only 10 Special Initiative Fellowships were awarded University-wide. What a honor for the American Studies Program!

The Leonora Woodman Lecture Series Presented Hortense J. Spillers



Hortense Spillers

The Department of English, with support from African-American Studies, American Studies and Women's Studies, and the School of Liberal Arts, presented the Leonora Woodman Lecture Series on September 30. The featured lecturer was Hortense J. Spillers, the Frederick J. Whiton Professor of English at Cornell University and one of the most important, inspiring, and influential voices in African diasporic literary and cultural criticism over the past twenty years. Working at the intersection of psychoanalysis and Black feminist criticism, she is best known for her race-centered revision of psychoanalytic theory and for her subtle account of the relationship between race and gender. Her collection of essays, *Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 1993, spans her work from the early 1980s, in which she pioneered a poststructuralist approach to African American literature, and extends through her turn to cultural studies in the 1990s.

The Leonora Woodman Lecture Series was established to honor the memory of a cherished colleague. Professor Woodman represented the breadth of interests and inquiry in contemporary English studies. During her tenure, she played a central role in the department's Rhetoric and Composition graduate program, helping to shape the program's early course offerings and regularly teaching in it. She also taught and published American Literature and American Studies.



Leonora Woodman

H. Clark Maddux Receives NEH Summer Stipend

H. Clark Maddux, who received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Purdue University in 2001, received a prestigious NEH Summer Stipend in 2004. Clark states that, "The stipend was awarded for my work in preparing a critical, authoritative edition of one volume of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana*. This is a commentary of Mather's on the Bible, which was never published in his lifetime." Clark's responsibility was for the volume that contains Mather's notes on Ezra through Psalms.

The *Biblia* as a whole is interesting for two reasons. First, Mather tries to reconcile everything that was then known about history and the world with scripture. This means that his commentary is not a verse-by-verse explication of the Bible. Rather, he pays attention only to those verses and chapters that appear problematic or particularly interesting. In the process, he reveals the exceptional range of his reading and knowledge.

Second, because it is the AMERICAN Bible, Mather's commentary tries to fit the colonial experience into the chronology

of sacred history. Mather is one of the first colonists not only to think of himself as American, but to think of America itself as exceptional and specially blessed by Providence.



With the money he received from the stipend, Clark donated to Tennessee State University the entire set of the Mather Family Papers on microfilm, something few libraries possess. The remainder of the money was spent traveling to Boston to collate his initial transcription with the actual manuscript, housed at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Clark was recently appointed to be the Director of Graduate Studies at Tennessee State University beginning in 2005. While at Purdue, he was the 2000 Eisinger Prize Winner.

The Prose Writing Group—By Erik Wade

This past spring I earned a Special Initiatives Fellowship from the Graduate School to support a writing workshop group known as *The Prose*. *The Prose* aims to enhance the recruitment of new students, to retain current students, and to improve the quality of scholarship produced by American Studies students in the social sciences and humanities. It also hopes to foster interdisciplinary graduate education through cultivating relationships among scholars and students of diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

The improvement of the quality of life for current and incoming graduate students is achieved through the mentoring relationship between faculty and current students and between older students and their new colleagues encouraged by *The Prose*. I hope to explore the possibility of attracting external and internal resources of funding, because organizations, corporations, and Purdue University do provide financial support to individual students and groups like *The Prose* that contribute to the development of future scholars and the reputation of the University.

I believe *The Prose* offers a forum in which graduate students can learn more about graduate life at Purdue University and the high expectations for graduate students to produce cutting-edge scholarship. *The Prose* helps ease the transition to graduate school, to Purdue University, and to the rigorous demands of scholarly writing for students new to the American Studies program.

The Prose Fall 2004 Schedule

All sessions are in BRNG 1232 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

October 14

Writing Lab Presentation: Cover letter and resume workshop

October 28

Book review session by Dr. Nancy Gabin

November 11

Writing Lab presentation: Peer response/editing and brainstorming/invention

December 2

Presenting a Theoretical Argument by Dr. Susan Curtis

Former Students—Send us your news! Please help us keep you with your achievements and career successes by completing and returning this form.

New address: Yes No

Year Degree Received: _____ M.A. Ph.D.

Name

Publications:

Home Address

City, State and Zip

Current Position and employer: _____ New Position? Yes No

News Item:

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