

AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Internationalizing American Studies

Welcome to a new year in American Studies at Purdue and to a new edition of our program Newsletter. We come together again after a year of change, growth and joy. Last year was marked by the dynamic contributions of students who organized a very successful Spring Symposium on the topic of “Queering Traditional American Studies: Crossing Borders and Boundaries,” helped to revise the American Studies curriculum, hosted a successful recruitment weekend in March, and continued to create exciting, groundbreaking scholarship in the field.

Students also helped to lead the internationalization of the American Studies program at Purdue. In May, Ph.D. students Lee Bebout, Sabine Klein and Charles Park, as well as M.A. student Karen Salt, presented papers at an American Studies conference at Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference included participation by CLA Associate Dean Susan Curtis, who gave a keynote address at the conference, and scholars from Turkey, Canada and Central Asia. It was a glorious and successful trip for the Purdue contingent. Every student paper was well-received; there was dynamic exchange with students and colleagues from the host University, particularly around the role of American Studies in a globalizing world, and a world at war.



The Hagia Sophia at night.

Purdue students and faculty were meanwhile immersed in one of the world’s greatest and most ancient cities: activities included an organized cruise on the Bosphorous, Istanbul’s great commercial waterway; visits to the Haj Sophia, one of the world’s oldest and most grandiose mosques; and late nights of tea and talk at open-air cafés ambient with Sufi music and Dervish dancing. Perhaps the most exciting development for Purdue, along with the personal contacts and academic exchange, was the commitment by two student attendees at the Fatih conference---one from Istanbul, one from Kyrgyzstan---to apply for admission to Purdue doctoral study next year.

The Istanbul trip helped to kickstart efforts at Purdue to internationalize our American Studies program. Why internationalize? The imperatives are everywhere. This year’s American Studies Association meeting in Oakland features the theme “The United States From Inside and Out: Transnational American Studies.” The program title reflects nearly ten years of scholarship in the field dedicated to re-centering the discipline of American Studies in a global context. The conference incorporates themes that now dominate the discipline: Immigration. Citizenship Debate. Global Capitalism. Imperialist Wars. Polylingualism. Hybridity. Next year, the annual ASA meeting will take a bolder step in the direction of transnationalism, titling its conference “America Aqui: Transhemispheric Visions and Community Connections.” ASA describes the 2007 conference as an effort to “open up introspective spaces in which to explore the changing nature of American communities, cultures, politics, economies, and identities across historical periods from the colonial/borderlands era to the present.” The conference theme clearly reflects the important influence of Chicano/a Studies, North/South paradigms for discussing culture and capital, and the internal debate within the U.S. about border policing and immigration.



View of the Sultanahmet (Blue Mosque) in Istanbul.



Egyptian Obelisk in Istanbul.



Internationalizing American Studies (continued)

American Studies, in other words, is now the study of **the world** and the place of the U.S. within it. This was certainly the lesson felt by students and faculty at Fatih University, who's zeal for studying the U.S. was matched by a dedication to establishing a trans-U.S. perspective on the nation.

To this end, American Studies at Purdue is dedicating a good part of this year to international outreach and exchange. This past August, myself and Ph.D. student Charles Park traveled to Jawarhalal Nehru University in Delhi, India, home to the oldest and most prestigious American Studies program in India. Founded in 1955, the year of the important Bandung Conference of decolonizing countries attended by Indian Prime Minister Nehru---American Studies at JNU was initially dedicated to the study of Indo-U.S. relations. Today, the program is housed in the School of International Studies along with other "Area Studies" programs like East Asian Studies and African Studies. In Delhi, Charles and I met with the Chair of American Studies, Christopher Raj, and all five faculty dedicated to teaching in the program. We also met with more than forty M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. students in American Studies.



Entire group at Faith University, Istanbul, Turkey.



Sabine Klein and Professor Charles Cutter.

Out of our meetings came a provisional agreement to bring Purdue students to JNU in January, 2008 for a credited two-week intensive seminar on "Contemporary Issues in American Studies." The seminar will include students from JNU and Purdue, and feature lectures by JNU and Purdue faculty. In summer 2008, the provisional agreement calls for a select number of JNU students to come to West Lafayette for a four-week Maymester or Summer Seminar in American Studies. The seminar will be open to American Studies students from Purdue, and will, we hope, be the first-ever summer seminar offered by the program. In October, Charles and I will travel to Shanghai, China, where we hope to establish a second agreement for cooperation and exchange with East China Normal University.

These undertakings will offer Purdue students an opportunity to gather insight into Asian and South Asian American Studies perspectives and methodologies; they will allow for dynamic interchange between students at Purdue and abroad; they will provide opportunities for faculty to compare research agendas, and for everyone involved to apprehend the radically altering experience of studying outside the confines of their respective nations. The exchanges will arguably provide a chance to examine recent American Studies scholarly claims that it is circuits of migration and exchange, or border-crossing and intersectionality---that have supplanted the 'nation-state' as the subject of the field of American Studies.



Karen Salt presenting at the Faith University conference, Istanbul, Turkey.



Professors Charles Cutter and Susan Curtis enjoying the cruise on the Bosphorous.

In conjunction with these programmatic efforts, our year-long lecture and symposia series will be organized around the themes of "Nationalism, Immigration, and Citizenship." Featured speakers will include Latino/a Studies scholar William Nericcio in the Spring, and a one-day Symposium on the Future of Asian American Studies on November 10th with featured speakers Jo Lee, University of Minnesota, and Kent Ono, University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana. Stay tuned for more information on these and other events.

As always, we will organize as collectively as possible this year. We encourage everyone in the program to participate, plan, join in---if you are not active now, get active! American Studies at Purdue is an endless series of possibilities---decide which ones are best for you.

Bill Mullen, Director of American Studies

Bill & Charles' Excellent Adventure: Making International Connections

—By Charles Park



Bill Mullen and Charles Park at in front of a stature of Jawarhalal Nehru, India's first Prime Minis-

For the last decade or so, transnationalism has played an integral part in the way American Studies has framed much of its inquiries examining subjects and citizens. Because of the nature of my work, looking at Americans of Asian descent, I am deeply invested in the idea of transnational American Studies. But this discussion of transnationalism has not diminished the importance of place and, in particular, of an individual's immediate surroundings. In fact, the theme for the next Association for Asian American Studies' national conference is "Crosstown Connections: Asian American Urbanism and Intergroup Encounters," which asks scholars to "explore the correlations and interactions between the experiences of Asian Americans and those of other groups and communities that make up the urban landscape."

This exploration, of course, is impossible without first acknowledging that the American urban landscape is made up of transnationals. But it also means that the place—the urban, in this case—is also important in informing how divergent groups of people interact. Indeed, recent discussions within American Studies have also reinforced the importance of place and of the local; people, after all, do not move from one blank slate to another, nor do they mold the landscape freely as they move about. It is for this reason that we travel in the first place. There is a sense of grandeur that cannot be mediated via a

photo or video when experiencing a monumental site, or of history that permeates a space, or of the realization that the rest of the world simply goes on without us. The smells, the sounds, the colors of a place cannot truly be described to someone who has not smelled, heard, nor seen for him/herself. That is when one realizes that the place is just as important in shaping a person as the person is in shaping the environment around him/her.

So what makes India special for American Studies? This is the question I was asking myself when Bill Mullen asked me to go to Delhi with him to meet with the faculty and students of Jawaharlal Nehru University's American Studies program.

I came to Delhi without expectations, not because I expected little, but because I didn't know what to expect. My notions of India had been informed by Indian restaurants that catered to the Western palate, by Bollywood, and by what little I've read in various South Asian or postcolonial lit courses. As it enters full tilt into the global economy, the sign of internationalization is clearly present. There are, of course, McDonalds, the global chameleon that seems to succeed wherever it goes. But more often than not, I was likely to see a Chinese noodle shop or Japanese or a Thai restaurant.

According to my Lonely Planet guide, Delhi is a hotbed for quality international cuisine, with a particular convergence of East and Southeast Asian fares. Part of this is due to the increasing number of South, Southeast, Central, and East Asians who come to Delhi—and to the other Indian metropolitan areas—to work, study, and live.

In a sense, the nature of migrations of Indians to the United States has been changing as well. With the rise of the tech industries in places like Bangalore, the so-called Silicon Valley of India, Asian Indian Americans are beginning to look at India as a viable place to live and work, while maintaining their ties to the U.S. This is a phenomenon that has garnered much attention from the American press over the last few years and a trend that should continue as the infrastructure in India improves.

More importantly, though, India is going through the same types of developmental and psychological changes that have been occurring in Asia as a whole over the last fifty years or so. And I am reminded about what Korea is currently going through. The economic booms of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan in the seventies and the eighties made transpacific crossings much easier between East Asia and the United States. This meant that there was an increase in the bidirectional migrations and Koreans (at least those who were affluent) began to see the United States as an extension of Korea.

This view of the United States is most clearly expressed in contemporary Korean soap operas, such as the wildly popular "Winter Sonata." In these shows, watched by Koreans all over the world, as well as tens of millions of East and Southeast Asians, who have been swept up in the "Korean Wave" (*hallyu*), the United States exists as a place that is far off but where one can easily go to "disappear" or to "get away." When these characters come back—and they all inevitably come back—they are older but otherwise unchanged by their migrations.

When I went to Seoul in 1993, the street vendors chastised me for my passable but far from fluent Korean. On the other hand, my fellow Korean émigrés from Western Europe and Russia—whom I met on my trip—were given a "pass" despite their inability to speak any Korean at all, waving it off by saying, "That's different." Perhaps that has changed now also, given the increase in Korean migration to Europe and the rest of the Pacific Rim in the last decade.



Taj Mahal

(Continued on Page 4)

Bill & Charles' Excellent Adventure: Making International Connections —Continued from Page 3

Of course, people are affected by their migrations, whether these changes are acknowledged or not. In fact, some of the largest Korean *American* churches are in Korea (with no less than three dedicated English-language congregations in Seoul alone) to accommodate the thousands of English-speaking Korean Americans who are in Korea to study and work, and who want to worship with others from “home” who speak their “native” language.

For many Korean Americans, going to Asia means learning to deal with their Korean American-ness away from the type of stereotypes and prejudices that one associates with being an Asian in America, only to face other stereotypes and prejudices with being an Asian American in Asia. This is the same type of experiences that Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese Americans find themselves in—albeit slightly different in each case—as more and more Asian Americans migrate to Asia as a part of their career or education.

As South and Southeast Asia continues to develop economically, the migration of people between the U.S. and Asia will continue to increase. With these changes, so will our understanding of transnationalism, changing as well as reinforcing our understanding of the importance of the local to the movements of people.

Still, as I stand in the midst of the torrential Delhi traffic, I can't help but think about the impact of the changes that are already underway in this country. Delhi is a city of contrasts, as I imagine all developing metropolises are, with the signs of economic affluence next to some of the worst forms of poverty that I have ever seen. I know that my clothes and the accessories—my watch, my sunglasses—are worth about what an average Indian will make in a year. Despite the rapid growth and the overall optimism of the Indian workforce in the direction of their economy, some people are going to be left behind.

I imagine this is what Tokyo or Beijing or Seoul or Hanoi looked like during each of their struggles to develop economically. I also imagine that just as many lives were left behind, and are continually cast aside with no part in the “new” economies of the empires now rising and falling.

So I ask myself again: why is India important to American Studies? Why is it worth visiting and studying? And I realize that it is because it just is. India and the rest of the developing world have much to teach us about ourselves and our actions and our understanding of the world. But the so-called third world does not exist solely for my first-world enlightenment or for me to profit by making them into an academic case study. That is not to say that I will not turn my experiences into profit, or that I will not yet romanticize my travels. But India exists because it exists and, until one goes and sees for him/herself, the importance of a place and its inhabitants cannot fully be realized.



JNU Ph.D., Ramesh Babu, Charles Park and Bill Mullen at the Taj Mahal.

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.

2007 American Studies Symposium

Save the date—The American Studies Spring Symposium has been scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20, 2007. More information will follow in the upcoming months. The American Studies web page (www.cla.purdue.edu/american-studies) will also have updated information.

We hope to see you there!

2008 International Conference Announced for American Studies

American Studies will sponsor an international conference in 2008 titled "American Studies and Imperial Designs: New Scholarship and Perspectives on the U.S. in the World." The conference will be held September 11-14, 2008 at Purdue.

We seek papers, panel proposals and performances that demonstrate bold new ways of thinking about the role and place of American Studies in challenging and describing current moments and acts of imperialism. These can include but are not limited to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, global economic restructuring, new forms of global culture, threats to academic freedom, censorship, forms of anti-globalization activism, media, the arts and building cultures of resistance. The conference especially invites papers which articulate new forms of social organizing and resistance to imperialist designs. That is, the conference seeks to bring together scholars and activists committed to the theory and practice of social change, on one hand, and an intellectual project rooted in transformative goals. Finally, the conference seeks to refresh understanding of the terms imperialism and empire on one hand, resistance and revo-

lution on the other. The conference seeks to create a dialectical moment and space for the production of new work and ideas, and new networks of alliance that may move us past the 'imperial moment' into a just global future.

Individual paper proposals with abstracts of up to 250 words; panel proposals no more than one page, with a complete description of the panel and individual papers; roundtables and open hearings on crucial issues and ideas up to 250 words in length; performances and/or readings on the conference theme up to 250 words are all acceptable. All proposals must include mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number for all proposed participants.

Proposals may only be sent via e-mail to Bill Mullen, Director of American Studies, Purdue at bvmullen@purdue.edu or to Delayne Graham, Program Assistant in American Studies at dkgraham@purdue.edu. Only e-mail submissions will be considered for review. Deadline for submission: Dec 15, 2007.

Off for a Year Exploring the Mini-Apple— By Megan MacDonald

Aanii! This summer I left the great city of West Lafayette and transplanted my partner and myself to Minneapolis. The goal here is to conduct dissertation research. For those of you dissertating, you know this is easier said than done! My research involves so many people, places, attitudes, and so much listening, that I do not feel like I've begun anything yet! I came to Minneapolis with the goal of collecting oral histories of Indigenous lesbians. I have become involved with the American Indian Center in greater Minneapolis. So many people with so many different stories frequent the center and they all bring varying pieces of their cultural histories. I also have become involved with the huge gay and lesbian population in Minneapolis only to find that somewhere there is some tolerance and that somehow I have managed to rent a house in "dyke heights"... J Good times! I am just beginning to discover how these two rather discrete populations overlap and I am sure it will take the rest of the year for me to build on the connections I am making with some amazing women and men, both native and queer.

The CIC-American Indian Studies Consortium was kind enough this year to grant me a Graduate Research Assistantship

for the Fall semester. As part of this funding for traveling and researching graduate students between the CIC schools, I have acquired the mentorship of Professor Jeani O'Brien at the University of Minnesota and am an active participant in the bi-weekly graduate student Indigenous Studies workshop. Look for some of the University of Minnesota indigenous papers at the ASA in Oakland, as we are work-shopping those papers right now! With the help of Professor O'Brien, I am using my assistantship time to write a book chapter on Indigenous Twin Cities lesbians for an oral history book project at University of Minnesota, which will also be the stepping off point for my dissertation! If the year turns out as fabulous as the summer did, I am going to love this adventure in oral histories!

Ka waabmin,

Megan



Meet the New American Studies Students

Heidi Freeman joins us as a Ph.D. student. Heidi received a Master's in English from Ohio University and her bachelor's degree from Robert Morris College where she majored in English Studies. She is the recipient of a Purdue Doctoral Fellowship and she will concentrate in African American Studies and Literature.



Hofstra University (Drama/English) and Seattle Pacific University (Sociology). He is also the recipient of a Lynn Fellowship.

Cynthia Rocha Diaz is a Master's student who took her bachelor's degree in English from Mount Holyoke College. She will concentrate in Literature and is a teaching assistant in the Department of English.

W. Neal Gill, Jr. is a Ph.D. student having received his bachelor's degree from Naropa University in writing and literature. He also received a Master's in English Literature from Western Washington University and a Master's in Creative Writing from Purdue. Neal will concentrate in Literature and is a teaching assistant in the Department of English.

Kevin Smith comes to Purdue from Lancaster University in England where he earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies. He is a Master's student concentrating in History and is a teaching assistant in the Department of History.

Jeffrey Spanke received his bachelor's degree in English from Purdue. Jeff is a teaching assistant in the Department of English and is concentrating in Literature. He is a Master's student.



Alexandra Hill took her bachelor's degree from Temple University where she majored in English and Women's Studies. Alex will concentrate in Literature and is a Master's student. She is also a teaching assistant in the Department of English.

H. Reid Nolte is a Ph.D. student returning to the classroom after earning his Master's in 1973 from the New School for Social Research. He also holds a bachelor's degree from Carleton College.

Erik Wade is a Ph.D. student who comes to us from Bowling Green State University. Erik may be familiar to most of you as he received his Master's in American Studies from Purdue in 2005. He is the recipient of a Purdue Doctoral Fellowship and will concentrate in History.



Christopher Norlund is a Ph.D. student and is concentrating in Literature. He comes to Purdue from the University of Pennsylvania after receiving his Master's in American Studies from Brown University. Christopher also holds a Master's in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds bachelor's degrees from both



Jeanine Wood is a Master's student concentrating in History. She received her bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego. Jeanine is a teaching assistant in the Department of English.



Student News



Kirstin Eismin was one of the featured local artists in the "Art on the Wabash, A Local Artists' Fair" on September 24, 2006. Kirstin displayed her "Wearable Art".

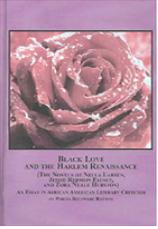
Russell Gunsalus received a Lilly Scholarship Award from Indiana Wesleyan University to fund his research on women ministers in the Holiness movement during the first half of the 20th century.



Jay Hopley is now an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing/Poetry at the University of South Florida. Congratulations Jay!

Julie Lester co-authored (with Margaret Binkley) a journal article that will be published in January. The article is entitled "The Utility of Media Frames as a Research Tool in Foodservice Operations" and will be published in the *Journal of Culinary Science and Technology* in January 2007 (vol. 5, issue 1).

Alumni News



Portia Boulware Ransom (Ph.D. 2001) published *Black Love in the Harlem Renaissance—The Novels of Nella Larsen, Jesse Redmon Fauset, and Zora Neale Hurston: An Essay in African American Literary Criticism* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2005).

Kenya Davis-Hayes (Ph.D. 2005) has been named a Distinguished Alumna of Campbell University's Department of Government, History and Justice. Kenya is currently an assistant professor of history at California Baptist University in Riverside.

Deems Morrione (Ph.D. 2003) recently published his essay "When Signifiers Collide: Doubling, Semiotic Black Holes, and the Destructive Remainder of the American Un/Real". It appeared in *Cultural Critique*, Spring 2006.

Rebecca Saulsbury (Ph.D. 1999) was recently promoted to associate professor of English at Florida Southern College.



Ph.D. Degrees Awarded

December 2005—August 2006

Angela D. Hilton, "Motherhood on Trial: Black Mothers with Incarcerated Sons Negotiating the Criminal Justice System in African American Literature." December 2005



M.A. Degrees Awarded

May 2006

Christina Abreu

Malcolm Foley

Brian McCammack

Daniel McKay

Melissa Peck

Kimberly Ellis Speaks at Purdue's Black Cultural Center



Kimberly Ellis at the BCC.

Kimberly C. Ellis, a Purdue alumna and scholar of American Studies, spoke at the Black Cultural Center on September 21. Her talk, entitled "Understanding August Wilson," drew upon her background in African-American studies, the early civil rights movement, and black theater in order to illuminate Wilson's work. Her talk coincided with the opening day of *Seven Guitars*, co-produced by the BCC and the Purdue Division of Theater.

Ellis, who received her Ph.D. in American Studies from Purdue in 2002, is an activist, scholar, choreographer, actress, writer, and speaker. Her diverse accomplishments and interests can be seen in the range of her work; Ellis choreographed 14 dance theatre pieces for Purdue's Jahari Dance Troupe; she has spoken and published both scholarly and creative work on not only August Wilson, but also the Tulsa

Race Riot of 1921; and, as a result of her activism and scholarship seeking justice for victims of the Tulsa tragedy, she was appointed as the literary and historical expert consultant to the Reparations Coalition Committee legal "dream team" headed by Harvard Law professor Charles Ogletree.

In addition, she wrote and performed a one woman show called "Dr. Goddess" that toured between 2004 and 2006. She performed her show at universities, including Miami University of Ohio, Slippery Rock University, and Vanderbilt University, as well as at a variety of conferences and performing arts festivals



Susan Curtis and Kimberly Ellis.

2006 Chester E. Eisinger Awards

The 2006 Chester E. Eisinger Awards were awarded at the annual spring symposium on March 31, 2006. The Chester E. Eisinger Prize for the best unpublished essay in American Studies went to Brian McCamrack for an essay entitled, "Hot Damned America".



The winners of the Chester E. Eisinger Research Awards were Sophie Ho for archival research on Asian Americans, Erica Morin for research in the Adirondack Mountains, and Melissa Peck for research on the 1960s. Some of the essays which appear on the following pages explain how the winners used the award money to further their research.

The Chester E. Eisinger Prize and Research Award

One Eisinger Prize is awarded annually to recognize excellent scholarship among American Studies students. The Prize is 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.

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek in New York: An Imported Icon—By Sophie Ho

Summer in Taiwan is hot. Yet the political climate there is even hotter. Street demonstrations against the alleged corruption charges against President Chen Shui-bian, his family and cabinet members were of weekly occurrence when I was in Taiwan this summer (they have developed into a month-long daily sit-ins and rallies since September). It was in this heated environment that I set out to research a political icon of a by-gone era, although her legacy is still strongly felt today. Soong Mei-ling, also known as Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, was widow of former Nationalist Party leader of the Republic of China. She occupied a curious place not only in Chinese history; she played a significant role in the Sino-American relations during World War II and Cold War. After her famous speech in front of the United States Congress and the much celebrated Hollywood Bowl in 1943, she had also become an American icon. *The New York Times* wrote on its obituary page when Soong passed away in 2003 that she had become "a model of what many Americans hoped China to become." Because of her ardent stance against communism, her fervent nationalistic attitude, her strong Christian belief, along with her American education, some even argued that she was the ideal of American womanhood. Due to her prestigious



Street demonstration in Taipei, September 9, 2006.

position within the Nationalist government in R.O.C., some feminists in the U.S. also saw her as a representative of the feminist movement.

Thanks to the Chester E. Eisinger Research Award, I was able to visit four locations of archives in Taipei, Taiwan. Since the change of political regime in 2000, Chiang's Nationalist Party had fallen out of favor and the current administration tried to change many of Chiang's policies and undo the harms caused by the party's authoritarian past. Researches on things related to Chiang were limited. Yet with the decline of popularity of President Chen, the passing of Madame Chiang brought about many nostalgic remembrance of the glamorous former first lady. Therefore, in addition to the official documents housed in the libraries, there are many biographies and documentaries published and produced after her passing; some are serious scholarly work, but many are filled with anecdotes and undiluted praise for Madame Chiang. They provide ample samples of what Lauren Berlant called "the silliest, most banal" everyday materials. Together they will help with my decoding of her status as an American icon.



Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

Adventures in the Adirondacks—By Erica Morin

As I descended into the Albany, NY Airport, I smiled at the sun glistening off the Adirondacks Mountains to the north.



Looking west from Swede Mountain, Gore Mountain is easily distinguishable nearly 25 miles away because of the ski slopes.

(Little did I know, that would be the last sunshine I would see for the next 11 days.) During the last two weeks of May, with the help of the Chester A. Eisinger Research Award, I planned to travel to several libraries in the Adirondacks, as well as conduct an “amateur geological survey” of the area surrounding the proposed site of the

Adirondack Wind Energy Park (AWEP). Currently in the Adirondack Park a hot controversy is roaring over the creation of the AWEP, which will involve the erection of seven wind turbines on the north face of Gore Mountain in North Creek, NY, on the property of the abandoned Barton Garnet Mines. Opponents of the project assert that the turbines are “visual pollution” and their presence would mar the pristine wilderness landscape of the Adirondacks.

For my “amateur geological survey,” I intended to hike five mountains that flank Gore Mountains on separate cardinal points to prove that the AWEP would not be unattractively visible from great distances. However, some of you may recall the record-breaking rainfall and flooding that graced New York and New England near the end of May. For the entire two weeks that I was in New York, the weather ranged from torrential downpour to the even more frustrating low-hanging overcast. Ironically, these unusual weather patterns, no doubt the result of continued global warming, prevented me from completing the outdoor aspects of my research on



Due to the heavy overcast that day, Gore Mountain was not visible looking south from Goodnow Mountain, although it is only 16 miles away.

wind power. In my own stubbornness, I attempted to climb three different mountains on the few *semi-clear* days that I had,



In the early 1900s, the Adirondacks contained over 60 fire towers monitored by the park rangers. Swede Mountain is one of the few towers still privately maintained.

but those efforts were wholly unproductive given the increased cloud cover at the higher elevations.

Despite the weather failures, I was able to conduct a great deal of other research (indoors). At the Adirondack Museum Special Collections and Johnsbury Historic Society and Library, I examined a variety of local history sources, newspapers from the late 1800s, and several rare fictional stories and novels from local authors, as well as State Land Surveys, atlases, and censuses from the 1800s. I also traveled to the Adirondack Park Agency archives in Ray Brook, New York to find

out about other environmental impact debates that had occurred in the Johnsbury area.

Perhaps the most valuable portion of my trip was several tours of the proposed wind park site. The site manager is infinitely helpful and informative. We are in regular contact now, and his position “on the ground” keeps me up to date a great deal more than is published by local newspapers or New York State.

Thanks to the Eisinger Award, I gathered a wealth of new information for my research project. When this endeavor is finally completed, I hope to present an interdisciplinary examination of the entire environmental issue, using historical, literary, geographic, and ecological sources to discuss the Adirondack Wind Energy Project from multiple angles. I will definitely attempt to hike the mountains again, and hopefully global warming will stay out of it the next time.



This boulder is just a meager sample of the rich vein of garnet that the Barton Mines Corporation extracted from the granite mountainside.

Faculty News



Susan Curtis was promoted to Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Programs and Engagement beginning August 2006. Her new responsibilities will include working with departments, faculty and students to forge a focused engagement strategy.

Richard Hogan published a journal article, "Gender, Educational Credentials, and Income Inequality in Late Career," *International Journal of Humanities* (2006). He also completed two book chapters: "Political Opportunity and Capitalist Crisis," in Charles Tilly and Maria Koussis (editors), *Economic and Political Contention in Comparative Perspective* (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Press, 2005); and "Dual-Earner Couples' Expectations for Joint Retirement: A Study of Typical and Atypical Congruent and Non-Congruent Couples," with Autumn Behringer and Carolyn Perrucci in Marcia Texler Segal and Vasilikie Demos (editors), *Advances in Gender Research* (Stamford, CN: JAI, 2005).



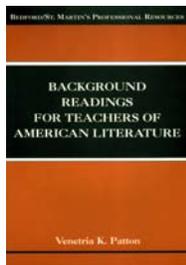
Judson Jeffries accepted a full professorship in the Department of African American and African Studies at The Ohio State University beginning August 2006.

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.

On December 2, 2005, **Robert Lamb** gave the keynote address at a special conference hosted by the New York Metro American Studies Association and the CUNY Graduate Center, "Reframing the Real—Recent (Re) Visions of American Realism: A Celebration of Blackwell's *A Companion to American Fiction, 1865-1914*, edited by Robert Paul Lamb and G.R. Thompson." Professor Lamb's address was entitled "'In a Barrel of Odds and Ends It Is Different': Recovering and Syncretizing the African American Contexts of Late-Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature."

Daniel Morris' book *The Poetry of Louise Glück: A Thematic Introduction*, will be released in November 2006 from the University of Missouri Press. A collection of essays, co-edited with Ethan Goffman: *The New York Intellectuals and Beyond*, has been accepted for publication by Purdue University Press. His essay on the Jewish-American Photographer Tyagan Miller will be published in the fall issue of *Visual Communication Quarterly*.

Venetria Patton edited *American Literature: Background Readings* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2006).



Nancy Peterson recently began a three-year term as Assistant Head of English and accepted an invitation to serve a two-year term on the American Studies Steering Committee.

Professor Peterson also received a CLA Research Initiative Grant in the spring 2006 semester. She used it to travel to Spokane, Washington

this summer to conduct research for her book-in-progress on Spokane-Coeur d'Alene author Sherman Alexie. Alexie will visit Purdue in April 2007 to be the keynote speaker for the English Department's annual Literary Awards competition. During her trip, she attended the amazing Coeur d'Alene-sponsored Julyamsh Powwow and to a day-long tournament for the traditional stick game, where five-person teams try to outwit, out-sing, and out-drum each other. She also tracked down several historical sites and markers from the nineteenth-century Indian wars and uprisings in the area to see how such moments are described and remembered.



Steptoe Battlefield where in May, 1858, a coalition of tribes defeated Lt. Col. Steptoe

In early 2007, Teachers College Press will publish *Ideas and Action: Enduring Visions of the Philosophy and Practice of Education*. Among the chapters are two by Purdue American Studies faculty: **Charlene Haddock Seigfried**, "Learning of Life from Life Itself: Jane Addams's Theory of Education," and **A. G. Rud**, "Reverence for Life as a Path to Teaching and Learning," on Albert Schweitzer's legacy for education. Developed by the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century (<http://www.brc21.org>), the volume is edited by David T. Hansen of Teachers College, Columbia University. A flyer on the book states that "the purpose of this volume is to bring together in a single text the ideas of some of the twentieth century's most dynamic and courageous educational philosophers from a diversity of cultural and historical perspectives."

Harry Targ recently published *Challenging Late Capitalism, Neo-Liberal Globalization, and Militarism: Building a Progressive Majority* (Changemaker, 2006). The volume addresses the human tragedy of Katrina as a metaphor for the impact of late capitalism and imperialism on the lives of workers. After analyzing capitalism today, its international manifestations, and the uses of militarism, Targ examines progressive movements in U.S. history. He then discusses what can be learned from the past to build a progressive majority today. A downloadable or print version of this book can be purchased at <http://www.lulu.com/content/315778>.



Meet Our New Affiliated Faculty Members

This fall, the American Studies program is proud to introduce new affiliated faculty as well as new faculty whose work may be of interest to American Studies students. These faculty have graciously agreed to introduce themselves, their work, and their teaching interests in our newsletter so we can all get to know them.

Lance Duerfahrd received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Yale and has taught film studies at Columbia University and Amherst College. His teaching interests include the history of film and photography, cinematic sound, Film Noir, profoundly bad films, and street photography. He has just completed an article on the Marx Brothers and is working on a film textbook.

Christian Knoeller, Associate Professor in English and Curriculum & Instruction, has joined the American Studies Program as an affiliated faculty member. Dr. Knoeller earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Language and Literacy. He also holds an MA in theoretical and applied linguistics and an MFA in English and creative writing, both from the University of Oregon. Among his most recent international publications are articles on teaching contemporary Native American literature appearing in both Canada and Australia, and his chapter "Narratives of Rethinking: The Inner Dialogue of Classroom Discourse and Student Writing" in *Bakhtinian Perspectives on Language, Literacy, and Learning* from Cambridge University Press. In addition, Dr. Knoeller has published creative writing widely, with over 150 poems appearing in 65 literary journals nationally. His current research focuses on Henry David Thoreau's interest in American history and indigenous cultures from an American Studies perspective. He and his wife Julie, Program Coordinator for Purdue's



Women's Studies Program, make their home in a Victorian farmstead on Deer Creek.

Anne Meis Knupfer is a Professor in the Department of Educational Studies in the College of Education. She received her Ph.D. in Cultural

Foundations in 1992 from the University of Iowa. She has published three historical monographs which focus on women's activism and African-American urban communities in Chicago. She is currently working on a book about the first female presidents of American colleges.

Christopher Lukasik joined Purdue University in the Fall of 2005. Prior to his appointment at Purdue, he was an Assistant Professor of English and American Studies for four years at Boston University, where he also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies for American Studies. He earned his B.A. in English and B.F.A. in Painting at the University of Illinois and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Johns Hopkins University. His teaching and research interests include American literature before 1900; Early American Studies; visual culture and theory; history and theory of the novel; literature and science; and American literary history and criticism. He has published articles in *Early American Literature*, *Blackwell's A Companion To American Fiction, 1780-186*, *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, *Common-place*, and *New England Quarterly*. He is currently completing a book manuscript entitled, *Discerning Characters: Social Distinction and the Face in American Culture, 1775-1850*.

A. G. Rud (www.edst.purdue.edu/rud/) teaches graduate courses in the philosophy of education, higher education, and a seminar on John Dewey, as well as a large required undergraduate course in the history and philosophy of education, in the Educational Studies department. He graduated from Dartmouth College and holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Northwestern University. A. G. is the editor of *Education and Culture*, the peer reviewed international journal of the John Dewey Society (docs.lib.purdue.edu/eandc/). His current research includes a book on Albert Schweitzer's legacy for education and a coauthored book with Jim Garrison of Virginia Tech on reverence and education.



Spring 2007 Course Offerings

AMST 602: Contemporary Issues in American Studies, Bill Mullen, Th, 3:30-6:20.

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

AMST 650A: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Feminist Theories of War, Peace & Revolution, *Cross-listed with POL 693A and WOST 680A*, Berenice Caroll, W, 6:00-8:50.



AMST 650B: Reading Seminar in American Studies: American Community, Richard Hogan, M, 3:30-6:20.

This will be an interdisciplinary graduate seminar that pursues the elusive American Community.

AMST 650D: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Moses and Modernism, *Cross-listed with ENGL 596D*, John Duvall/Sandor Goodhart, W, 6:30-9:20.

AMST 650R: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Rhetorics of Archival Theory, Research and Practice, *Cross-listed with ENGL 696R*, Shirley Rose, TTh, 1:30-2:45.

The third offering of an interdisciplinary course in "Archival Theory and Practice"—a graduate-level service-learning course that engages innovations in the theory and methods of archival research central to scholarship in rhetoric, literature, and American Studies—this seminar will use analytical approaches grounded in rhetorical studies. The purpose of the course is to introduce graduate students to archival research by exploring how archives are created, organized, described, and maintained, with particular attention to the ways collections are discursively constructed. In addition, the course gives students an opportunity to study not only the long tradition of recovering and analyzing significant but neglected texts and artifacts in the humanities, but also the conventions of the rhetoric of "discovery" in scholarship using archival methods. Working under the supervision of Professor Sammie Morris, Purdue University Archivist, students in the seminar will participate in a shared class project offering them the unique privilege of contributing to preservation, arrangement, and description of Purdue University's collection of over 1,000 original cartoons drawn by John T. McCutcheon, the "Dean of American Cartoonists," and a 1889 graduate of Purdue University. In addition to this behind-the-scenes processing of the collection, students will work together to mount a public exhibit about the collection for presentation and



display in Purdue Archives and Special Collections during Gala Week and to create a permanent online digital exhibit about the collection as well. Students will be expected to draw from their particular areas of special interest and expertise—such as visual rhetoric, humor, critical race theory, history of media technologies, or literary regionalism—to contribute to the intellectual and scholarly credibility of this collaborative course project. In addition to contributing to the shared class project, seminar students will complete two major assignments—an analytical research paper based on archival materials found locally and a paper exploring theoretical issues raised in some aspect of the seminar's shared archival processing project itself.

AMST 650S: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Critical Race Theory, Ryan Schneider, W, 3:30-6:20.

This course offers students an introduction to Critical Race Theory (CRT). After a survey of CRT's origins as a movement among legal scholars in the early 1980s, the course moves on to examine its current influence on the disciplines of American Studies, History, Literature, Political Science, Ethnic Studies, Whiteness Studies, and African American Studies. In addition to participating in weekly discussions of key texts, students will produce a final research project (in consultation with the instructor) that relies on some dimension of CRT to supplement, shape, or otherwise develop their own intellectual interests. Dr. Schneider wishes to advise potential enrollees that the reading load for this course is not light; that expectations for class participation are not low; and that his willingness to tolerate whiners and slackers (no matter how entertaining) is non-existent.



EDST 590: Higher Education in Film and Fiction, A. G. Rud, T, 5:30-8:30. This course will examine American and British college and university life through lenses of novels and films. Fiction and cinema can illuminate character, motive, and cultural context, allowing access to meaning and significance beyond theoretical and analytic inquiry. Current descriptions and analyses of higher education will form context for discussions of art. The following questions plus others shall guide our inquiry: What images of American college and university life are presented in film and fiction? How are different American institutions (liberal arts colleges, land grant universities, and such) portrayed? How do these portrayals match other descriptions and analyses? What can we learn about American colleges and universities from film and fiction?

American Studies Excellence in Teaching Award

This year the American Studies Program will honor one of its students with the first-ever American Studies Excellence in Teaching Award. The award will go to a student who demonstrates an outstanding, innovative record of teaching. The award will be determined by a committee of American Studies faculty and presented at the American Studies Spring Symposium. A certificate of recognition and check for \$500 will be included with the award.

Students may be nominated or self-nominate for the award. To be eligible, a student must be employed in at least two consecutive semesters of teaching concurrent with and prior to the semester in which the award is received. Students eligible for the award must also be enrolled in the American Studies Program and be in good standing.

Nominees should submit a 1-2 page statement of teaching philosophy, a CV, a copy of teaching evaluations from the two most recent consecutive semesters of teaching, and a letter of recommendation from one faculty member familiar with their teaching. Materials should be submitted to Delayne Graham in IDIS by April 1, 2007. Please contact Bill Mullen at bvmullen@purdue.edu or at 494-4735 if you have questions.

American Studies Community Service/Social Justice Award

This year the American Studies Program will honor one of its students with the first-ever Community Service/Social Justice Award. The award will recognize outstanding engagement with a local, regional, national or international agency, entity, or community meant to positively impact the lives of people within the scope of the project. The award is meant to recognize work that is partially complete, complete or ongoing but which shows clear potential for success. The project may include Purdue personnel and resources but should be focused outside of the University. Nominees for the award must be enrolled in the American Studies Program at Purdue and be in good standing.

The award will carry a certificate of recognition and bring a \$500 check to be presented at the American Studies Spring Symposium. Students may be nominated or self-nominate. Nominees must submit a 1-2 page description of their project. Supporting materials relevant to the project may be appended. A one-page letter from a person connected to the project attesting to its value and merit for the award must be included.

The award will be determined by a committee of American Studies faculty. Nominees for the award must submit materials to Delayne Graham in IDIS by April 1, 2007. Please contact Bill Mullen at bvmullen@purdue.edu or at 494-3735 if you have questions.

American Studies Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies Award

This year the American Studies Program will honor one of its students with the first-ever Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies Award. The award recognizes original, innovative scholarship, service or teaching focusing on some area outside of the borders of the United States. The award is in recognition of the outstanding international cultural, political and social work undertaken by Americans Paul and Eslanda Robeson, who between them visited and served many of the world's communities.

The winner of the award will receive a certificate of recognition and a check for \$500 at the American Studies Spring Symposium. Students may be nominated or self-nominate. Nominees must be enrolled and in good standing in the American Studies Program. Nominees should submit a 1-2 page description of the project for which they seek the award. The award is meant to recognize work that is partially completed, completed, or in progress, and which shows clear potential to succeed and to make a contribution to American Studies. Nominees should also submit a one-page letter from a person connected to the project attesting to the work and potential of the project.

The award will be determined by a committee of American Studies faculty. Materials for the award should be submitted to Delayne Graham in IDIS by April 1, 2007. Please contact Bill Mullen at bvmullen@purdue.edu or at 494-4735 if you have questions.

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 Bill Mullen either through email at bvmullen@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.

“Nationalism, Citizenship, Immigration and American Studies” Fall 2006 American Studies Lecture Series & Colloquia

- Friday, September 1, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Lawson Hall, Room B151. **“Hitting the Job Market Running: A Workshop for American Studies Students”**
- Friday, September 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Lawson Hall, Room B151. **“Seeking and Finding Funding: A Workshop on Grants and Fellowships”**
- Tuesday, September 12, 7:30 p.m., Hicks Undergrad. Library Bookstall. **Steve Yarbrough, Fiction Reading**
- Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m., Hicks Undergrad. Library Bookstall. **Steve Yarbrough, Fiction Discussion**
- Friday, October 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Lawson Hall, Room B151 **“The Chicago Black Renaissance and Women’s Activism”**. *Dr. Anne Meis Knupfer*, College of Education
- Friday, November 10, 8:00-4:00 p.m., Johnson Hall, Room B002. **Asian American Studies Symposium**
Dr. Josephine Lee, University of Minnesota; *Dr. Kent Ono*, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

Upcoming Events in Related Areas

Committee on Peace Studies Video Series - War and Peacemakers

All events begin at 7:00 p.m. in BRNG 1268

October 16—“Hearts and Minds”: The classic documentary of the Vietnam War which raises questions relevant to all war.

October 30—“U.S. Involvement in Torture: Legal, Historical and Security Issues”: A videotaped speech by Jennifer Harbury, lawyer and human rights activist around issues of torture in Central America.

November 6—“Sir: No Sir”; A new documentary on resistance to the Vietnam War from within the military.

November 13—“Fidel: The Untold Story”; A documentary on the life of the Cuban leader by Estela Bravo.

November 27—“You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train”; A filmed biography of the civil rights/peace activist historian, Howard Zinn, who wrote *The Peoples History of the United States*.

The Committee on Peace Studies offers an interdisciplinary minor field in the social sciences and humanities. The Committee also brings speakers to campus, sponsors and co-sponsors panels and discussions of issues relating to war and peace, and offers a video series of relevant films and recorded speakers.

The video series and all Peace Studies events are free and open to the public.

Blacker than Thou: Authenticity and Identity in the Diaspora—African American Studies 23rd Annual Symposium on Philosophy & Culture

December 7-9, 2006

The symposium will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, with a keynote address by Dr. Michael Gomez, Chair and Professor of History at New York University and Director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). The lecture is entitled, “Perception and Reality: Diasporic Identities Through Time and Space,” and will be held in Stewart Center 214 A&B. Dr. Gomez received his Ph.D. in African History from the University of Chicago and has held faculty positions at Washington University, Spelman College, and the University of Georgia. His research interests include West Africa, the African Diaspora, Antebellum American South, Islam, and slavery. His most recent book is an edited volume, *Diasporic Africa: A Reader* (NYU Press, 2006).

There will be several panel discussions on such topics as: configuring blackness in specific geographic regions, identity formation, and interrogating blackness. All symposium events will be held in Stewart Center. Schedule and registration information is available on the African American Studies and Research Center website (<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/african-american>); Purdue University faculty, staff, and students may attend all events free of charge with the exception of Friday’s luncheon and reception.

Queering Traditional American Studies: Crossing Borders and Boundaries—2006 American Studies Spring Symposium

The 2006 American Studies Symposium, which was held Thursday March 30 and Friday March 31, gave students, faculty, and guests many opportunities to network, hear great presentations on a variety of topics, and listen to several fascinating keynote addresses. Last year's symposium, *Queering Traditional American Studies: Crossing Borders and Boundaries*, featured a keynote address entitled "Black Spots Upon the Memory: Writing the Stories of Subaltern Lives" given by Dr. Tiya Miles of the University of Michigan on Thursday evening and another address on Friday evening by Dr. Martin Manalansan of the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign entitled "Queer Love in the Time of War and Shopping."

In addition to these keynote speakers, the symposium featured many panels on a wide range of topics, including Asian American Experiences in American Studies; Editors, Audiences, and Popular Culture since 1965; and Global Regionalism. These panels fea-

tured speakers from all over the Midwest and, in true American Studies fashion, addressed a multiplicity of texts and cultural objects from diverse eras, locations, and contexts, including Ann Petry's novel *The Street*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, songs by Destiny's Child, Michal Witkowski's *Lubiewo*, Randall Keenan's *A Visitation of Spirits*, *Cosmopolitan* magazine, a variety of corridos, and many more.

On the final evening, the traditional Chester E. Eisinger Awards were presented as well as several new awards instituted by American Studies Director Bill Mullen. The Eisinger Prize went to Brian McCammack while Sophie Ho, Erica Morin, and Melissa Peck received Eisinger Research Awards. The new awards were the American Studies Community Service/Social Justice Award, Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies Award, won by Lee Bebout, Megan MacDonald and Karen Salt, respectively.



Ernest Gibson, Philathia Bolton and Sophie Ho.



Bill Mullen and keynote speaker, Dr. Martin Manalansan.



Susan Curtis, Charles Park, Vanessa Vazquez and Lee Bebout.



Melissa Peck, Laura Beadling and Karen Salt.



Keynote speaker, Dr. Tiya Miles.



Professors Kristina Bross and Charles Cutter.

Former Students—Send us your news! Please help us keep up 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

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Purdue University
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