Department publishes online student journal

We are excited to announce that the Department of American Studies will be starting an online academic journal to feature numerous forms of interdisciplinary scholarship. The journal will present research projects from the graduate and undergraduate levels from within the Department, highlighting the work of students examining the everyday lives of people and constructions of identity and difference.

In addition to scholarly papers, the journal will feature roundtable discussions on pressing local and national issues, as well as artistic submissions that engage a broad set of cultural subjects. Some of the benefits of creating the journal in an online format will be our ability to offer students early career publication, to feature information about their larger academic interests, and to link to other publications or pertinent information in each article. The editorial board for the journal will be made up of current graduate and undergraduate students, Department faculty, and community members. There will also be space dedicated to alumni of the Department to respond to scholarship and stay connected with our community.

The first issue of the journal will be published in April 2012, with the first call for papers going out in early November 2011. Our Department is always growing and changing and the journal, to be called PowerLines, is just another way that American Studies at the University of Maryland is responding to the needs of its students and the academic community. We encourage and look forward to receiving submissions for the first issue! For further information about the journal, please contact Paul Saiedi at psaiedi@gmail.com.

Alumni welcomed back to campus

On May 12, 2011, the Department of American Studies hosted a dinner at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center to welcome Department alumni from over the years back to campus. According to lead organizer Professor Sheri Parks, the event was a great success: the total attendance filled the Orem Alumni Hall. She is happy to report that throughout the evening “there was mingling and laughing and talking.”

The dinner featured Department alumni speaking about “American Studies and Cultural Innovations.” Sam Cooper (’10) provided entertainment for the cocktail hour with his band, Sam Cooper and the Sleepwalkers (www.samcoopersleepwalkers.com). During the program, Cooper spoke of how his experience in American Studies courses opened up his way of thinking.

Domonique Foxworth (’04) spoke of how his major in American Studies had “profoundly changed him.” Foxworth’s name is well-known for his career as a cornerback for the Baltimore Ravens (though he is on injured reserve for the current season) and for his service as an Executive Committee Member of the NFL Players Association.
From the American Studies Chair

By Dr. Nancy Struna

We got our newsletter out earlier than usual this fall, thanks to our wonderful co-editors Douglas Ishii and new Dean’s Fellow Terrance Wooten. We wanted to get the word out about the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, which will be held in Baltimore on October 20-23. We’ve included information about sessions featuring University of Maryland faculty and students; as you’ll see, the Department and Program will be well represented. I also invite you to our reception, Friday evening, October 21, 5:30-7:00 pm in the Hilton Key Ballroom East Foyer. This is just before the ASA’s awards presentation and presidential address. Please join us for food and conversation with friends old and new.

Let me catch you up on happenings and accomplishments by the American Studies community since last spring’s newsletter. In May we celebrated our graduating students with a dinner and evening of short comments and great food and laughter. Shortly thereafter, we hosted a dinner welcoming back alumni. About 75 people attended, including majors from the 1970s, and we heard three graduates—Sam Cooper (B.A., ’10), Domonique Foxworth (B.A., ’04), and Alis Sandosharaj (Ph.D., ’08)—speak profoundly and movingly about how their work in the major has shaped their lives and careers. Ending with a silent auction, it was a great evening!

Our good fortune continues. Along with the rest of the College of Arts and Humanities, we are thrilled that our great colleague and affiliate from Women’s Studies, Dr. Bonnie Thorton Dill, agreed to serve as our new Dean, and we all look forward to helping her realize her goals. The hard work of Drs. Sies and Williams-Forson on a Smithsonian seed grant, which Dr. Shannen Hill in ARTH spear-headed, has paid off. The grant was approved, and they all will produce an exciting symposium in February 2012. Our students finally have a room to call their own. When the ARHU tech folks moved to Taliaferro, we inherited a great space for students to study in between classes. It’s already a busy place, and we’re grateful to Lori Owen for making this happen. Our new faculty member whom we introduced last spring, Dr. Perla Guerrero, has joined us as the first core faculty member in the U.S. Latina/o Studies Program. Welcome, Perla! Work on the minor proposal for what’s now being called the Native Peoples of the Americas Program has come through the faculty and student committee and will move into the approval system shortly.

Finally, in one of her first acts, Dean Dill approved our request for a faculty search in Transnational American Studies. This position realizes one of the major recommendations of our external reviewers, and we are really excited about this very important search. Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson is leading the search committee.

Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter, and please join us at the ASA in Baltimore on October 21 and then again for our “Tavern Night” in Frederick on November 18!
The Department of American Studies is proud to open the American Studies student lounge, located across from the U.S. Latina/o Studies Program office at 0128 Holzapfel Hall.

Since the ARHU Academic Technology office’s move over the summer, the room has been filled with tables, desks, file cabinets, bookshelves, couches, and chairs. The space is open to all American Studies undergraduate majors and graduate students – you can even expect professors to pop their heads in!

The student lounge is open every weekday during regular business hours. Our only request is that individuals clean up after themselves and keep this an inviting space for all. Stop by and take a load off!

Where everybody knows your name

Department Chair Nancy Struna hopes that the lounge will encourage interaction within our AMST community.

Introducing Assistant Professor Perla M. Guerrero

You may have noticed that, in the past few months, a fresh face has joined us in American Studies. That face belongs to our most recent addition to our faculty: Assistant Professor Perla M. Guerrero, who has moved into 1110 Holzapfel Hall.

Before joining our Department’s faculty, Professor Guerrero served as a Smithsonian Latino Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Museum of American History. Professor Guerrero explained that this has eased her transition to her new life as a professor: “I lived last year in D.C. Now, I’m just adjusting to the University.” Her current residence in the nation’s capital is just one of the many interesting places she has called home; the list includes California, where she grew up and where she later completed her doctorate at the University of Southern California; Mexico, where she was born; and Arkansas, where she and her family moved when she was 16.

In fact, it was her adolescence in Arkansas that shaped her future research. She found that her peers had no idea how to understand her racial and ethnic identity. In college, she began to investigate the factors that contributed to her experiences as a Latina in Arkansas. These preliminary investigations later led to her research on race, space, and place. She is currently expanding her dissertation on Asian American and Latina/o migration to Arkansas into a book manuscript. Part of her goal is to create a longer historical perspective on race relations in the U.S. South with a focus on race and labor.

Professor Guerrero will also be continuing her work with the Smithsonian. She is a contributor to a planned exhibit on immigration, tentatively entitled Americans All. This exhibit, currently scheduled for 2016, examines how different immigrant populations have adapted to life in the U.S. She is also participating with Professors Judith Freidenberg and Julie Greene in the UMCP/Smithsonian Immigration Initiative, a campus/community partnership that will document and work with the area’s immigrant communities.

Professor Guerrero has been enjoying her first months at the University of Maryland, particularly in teaching AMST 498N/USLT 498I: Citizens, Immigrants, and Refugees and getting to know our exciting undergraduate community. She will teach another section of this course in the spring semester, along with USLT 488B, the U.S. Latina/o Studies senior seminar. Please join us in welcoming her to the department!
Nuestra Comunidad :: USLT News

Café con Leche

U.S. Latina/o Studies will be hosting our Café con Leche of the semester on Thursday, October 20 from 12:00-1:30 pm. Café con Leche is an informal meet and greet for all U.S. Latina/o Studies minors and students interested in the minor. This is also an opportunity for students to meet U.S. Latina/o Studies affiliated faculty and learn more about our courses. We will also talk about future directions for the program and ask students for feedback. Please come socialize with U.S. Latina/o Studies and join us for pizza and lemonade as we discuss USLT upcoming events and address your questions and concerns.

Dr. Michelle Habell-Pallán

USLT is excited to welcome Dr. Michelle Habell-Pallán as our fall guest speaker, on Monday, October 17 at 5:30 pm. Dr. Habell-Pallán is an Associate Professor of Women’s Studies at the University of Washington. She is the author of Loca Motion: The Travels of Chicana and Latina Popular Culture, and co-editor of Latina/o Popular Culture with Mary Romero. Dr. Habell-Pallán also curated the award-winning exhibit American Sabor: U.S. Latinos in Popular Music, a collaboration between the University of Washington and The Experience Music Project Museum. More details will be distributed as they become available.

D.C. Latino Tour

USLT is proud to announce that the D.C. Latino Tour that Dr. Ana Patricia Rodriguez and her USLT students created and organized will be officially offered by the National Park Service through Ranger Mike Balis. The D.C. Latino tour is part of Hispanic Heritage Month 2011 and will be offered October 15 in English and October 22 in Spanish. Please come embark on the D.C. Latino Tour.

Alumni event a success

Continued from page 1

However, he is also the President and Founder of the Baltimore Boys Opportunity Resource Network, or Baltimore BORN (baltimoreborn.org). Foxworth thanked the Department of American Studies, and specifically noted Professor Sheri Parks’ course in social activism and popular culture (offered in the spring as AMST 429J), for inspiring this non-profit organization.

Dr. Alis Sandosharaj (’08) concluded the program of speakers by reading from her soon-to-be-published Ghetto Proclivities: Race and Class in a Model Minority Memoir. Sandosharaj, a D.C.-based writer, currently teaches with the English Department at Howard University. Professor and Department Chair Nancy Struna closed the evening by providing attendees with an update on Department news and events.

A silent auction was held throughout the evening. Items up for bidding included a wide range of faculty contributions, such as signed books, behind-the-scenes museum tours, and private consultations with faculty members. Alumni also generously donated items to the silent auction, such as a Sage Body and Mind gift basket from Dr. Chyann Oliver (’09) and NFL footballs autographed by Foxworth.

The next alumni dinner is projected to be held in 2013. The Department of American Studies thanks everyone who helped make this event such an outstanding success.
Undergraduate liaisons provide student perspective

Each year, the Department asks students to represent the concerns of undergraduate majors at faculty meetings. Meet this year’s representatives:

Laurel Kays

Laurel is a junior American Studies and Government and Politics double major. She is excited to be one of our representatives, and she promises to do her best to “be a vocal and effective representative for undergraduate interests.”

Laurel grew up in Fairplay, MD, a town of 765 people. In Laurel’s words, “It’s a tiny place outside Hagerstown with lots of trees, tractors, and clean air. It’s also the sort of place that seriously needs to be gotten out of after 18 years.” Because of her small town upbringing, Laurel is very interested in the internal dynamics and external perceptions of small town life, such as the Christian religion and “redneck” culture.

Besides being an undergraduate representative for the Department, she is involved in Young Americans for Freedom and Terps for Life. Laurel plays trumpet in the University Band. She encourages students to contact her with any comments and concerns they would like addressed at meetings. As Laurel says, “I hope to hear from some of you, good luck with the semester!”

Virginia Kays

Virginia is a senior American Studies and Finance double major from Laurel, MD by way of Chicago, IL. A political news junkie, she is particularly interested in issues at the intersections of media, race, and social justice. She is writing an honors thesis which analyzes network news coverage of the myth that President Obama is not an American citizen, focusing on the role the news plays in conversations about race, religion, and American identity.

She is a graduate of the Honors Humanities program and an intern in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Division. After completing her undergraduate degrees, Virginia plans to begin law school. She hopes to use her cultural studies and business training in communications and media law.

Virginia hopes to provide valuable feedback to improve the major, and to assist in fostering closer relationships between undergraduates and faculty. She was primarily motivated to take the position to better understand the important work of the Department in her final year. Virginia is a die-hard fan of the Chicago Bulls; she enjoys non-fiction novels and board games.

Brewing up community education for tavern night

On November 18, 2011, the Department of American Studies will be hosting “Tavern Night,” a fundraiser at Brewer’s Alley Restaurant and Brewery in Frederick, Maryland. This dinner is the inaugural event of what will be a semi-annual fundraising series of community education dinners on the history of Maryland. Professor Nancy Struna will give a brief talk about taverns, race, gender, and class in Maryland. Brewer’s Alley brewmaster Tom Flores will speak on the historically-accurate 17th century rye beer that will be served with dinner. Recent alumna Erin Ryan will share her research on St. Mary’s stuffed ham, a gourmet item that finds its origins in the slave quarters of St. Mary’s County. This dish will also be served as the dinner’s main course. Please join us on the evening of November 18 for what Professor Sheri Parks promises will be a night of “great conversation, great food, and great drink—all in a great environment.” Brewer’s Alley is located at 124 North Market St. in Frederick and can be contacted at (301) 631-0089.
American Studies at home and abroad

Katrine Leganger-Krogstad is a 21-year-old international student from Eidsvoll, Norway. She is studying North American studies at the University of Oslo, which brought her here to Maryland this semester. This semester will be her fifth semester in her studies and is the last year of her bachelor’s degree.

Katrine has yearned to study abroad for many years, and her current field has allowed her to do so. In fact, studying abroad is encouraged at her university. As Katrine writes, “What better way is there to experience American culture instead of just reading about it in books? Studying abroad will provide me with a lot of knowledge about American culture, and it will improve my English significantly.” She chose the University of Maryland because of our American Studies program, which fits perfectly with her studies in Oslo. She also notes the many interesting courses our program has.

According to Katrine, “all of the professors have so much knowledge about their field, and I am so impressed by their skills. I am spellbound in every class.” Compared with the workload she had at the University of Oslo, she considers herself to have a lot more homework and reading to do here, which she thinks will definitely be beneficial. Katrine has been in Maryland for five weeks now, and her experience of being here so far has been everything she could ask for. She loves campus and thinks it is beautiful. She is “generally really happy about living here in Maryland” and is already having the time of her life.

Undergraduate Student Spotlight

This summer, Corie Stretton was a Media Intern for Planned Parenthood Federation of America in Washington D.C., the national headquarters for Planned Parenthood. She was responsible for drafting press releases and op-eds, tracking relevant stories, and conducting research for future projects. Besides these practical research skills, her internship also introduced her to social protest; Corie attended rallies in D.C. to stand up for women’s health and was introduced to several representatives who champion such issues. According to Corie, this internship perfectly combined what she has been studying with how it applies to the real world.

J’aime Elskoe-Drayton is a dual degree student in American Studies and African American Studies. She was a 2010-2011 Rawlings Undergraduate Leadership Fellow. She was honored with awards such as the OMSE Academic Excellence Award, OMSE Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award, and the Nyumburu Cultural Center Barack Obama Presidential Award due to her dedication to the campus community.

Next Steps :: 2011 Graduate Placements

Dr. Robert Chester – Adjunct Faculty, Department of American Studies, University of Maryland
Dr. Robb Hernandez – Carlos E. Casteneda Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Mexican American Studies, University of Texas at Austin
Dr. Kristen N. Hodge – Policy Analyst, Association of American Universities, American Council of Learned Societies
Dr. Tamara Wilds Lawson – Director, Posse D.C., D.C. branch of The Posse Foundation
Dr. Justin Maher – Postdoctoral Fellow in Graduate Education Administration, University of Maryland Graduate School
Dr. Manon Perry – Curator at the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health
Dr. Vincent Stephens – Director, Office of Multicultural Student Services, Bucknell University
Dr. Amelia Wong – Production Coordinator, Division of Outreach Technology, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
Jarah Moesch has been named a HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Collaboration) Scholar, and was a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award from the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Maria Velazquez has become a book reviewer for Strange Horizons, a blogger for The Angry Black Woman, and the interview editor for FemSpec.

Douglas Ishii received the University of Maryland Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship.

Dr. Henrike Lehnguth, Maria Velazquez, Tiffany King, and Douglas Ishii received the 2010-2011 Center for Teaching Excellence Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award for American Studies.

Daniel Greene reviewed Bonnie Nardi’s My Life As A Night Elf Priest: An Anthropological Account of World of Warcraft, which will appear in a February 2012 special issue of Convergence. He also presented his “Internet Infrastructure: ‘Access’ Rhetoric, Neoliberalism, and Informational Politics” at George Mason University.

Fast Facts :: Graduate Student News

Dr. Ruth Orstein Bergman
Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Goes Upscale: Redevelopment as Neighborhood Cleansing
Prof. Mary Corbin Sies, Chair

Dr. Robert Keith Chester
World War II and U.S. Cinema: Race, Nation, and Remembrance in Postwar Film, 1945-1978
Profs. Nancy L. Struna and Gary Gerstle (Vanderbilt University), Co-Chairs

Dr. Robert Lyle Hernandez
Prof. Mary Corbin Sies, Chair

Dr. Henrike Lehnguth
Into the Dark Chamber of Terror: "The War on Terror" in Visual Culture
Prof. Nancy L. Struna, Chair

Dr. Justin Thomas Maher
The Capital of Diversity: Difference, Development, and Placemaking in Washington, D.C.
Prof. Mary Corbin Sies, Chair

Dr. Christine Marie Muller
The World is Old and New Again: Cultural Trauma and September 11, 2001
Prof. John L. Caughey, Chair

Dr. Manon Sian Perry
Broadcasting Birth Control: Family Planning and Mass Media, 1914-1984
Prof. Sonya Michel (HIST), Chair

Dr. Manouchka Poinson
Creating Spaces of Home: Haitian Women’s Journey of Migration, "Lakay!"
Prof. Augusta Lynn Bolles (WMST), Chair

Dr. Amelia Selene Wong
Museums, Social Media, and the Fog of Community
Prof. Mary Corbin Sies, Chair

Congratulations to the successfully defended dissertations of 2010-2011!

November 18
Doctoral Students: Final date to electronically submit Dissertation to the Registrar; Final day to submit Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Publication Form to the Registrar; Final day for Dissertation Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form to the Registrar

December 7
M.A. Thesis Students: Final date to electronically submit Thesis; Final day for Thesis Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form; Final day to submit Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Publication Form to the Registrar
M.A. Non-Thesis Students: Final date to submit Certification of Master’s Degree Without Thesis Form to the Registrar

Additional Useful Resources

NEW! Terrapin Learning Commons (TLC) and Graduate Lounge
McKeldin Library, voted by students to be among the nation’s top 20 college libraries, just got better. Visit the 2nd floor of McKeldin for all that you need to succeed: technology, services, information, and a place for group work. There is also a graduate student lounge opening in the TLC in room 2105.

Late Night Study www.lib.umd.edu/PUBSERV/latenight.html
McKeldin Library offers you a safe and quiet 24-hour late night study service on the 1st and 2nd floors. During the fall and spring semesters, Late Night Study is open Sunday to Thursday nights from 11:00pm-8:00am. Bring your UM I.D. card.

Study Carrels (i.e. private offices)
Study carrels are individual study spaces available to graduate students on a semester basis. These study rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis; however, priority consideration is given to faculty and doctoral students in candidacy. Applications should be submitted to the Public Services Office, Room 4119, McKeldin Library.
Taking Food Public is part of Professor Williams-Forson’s ongoing scholarship on the themes of identity, difference, and everyday life first addressed in her award-winning book, Building Houses Out of Chicken Legs (2006). In a forthcoming project, she examines class, consumption, and citizenship among African Americans through late 19th to early 20th century domestic interiors. Please join us in congratulating Professor Williams-Forson on her publication.

Christina Hanhardt has been quite busy completing her book manuscript, which is now under contract with Duke University Press. She also contributed to a roundtable published in the Fall 2010/Winter 2011 issue of Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy. Professor Hanhardt has presented papers at numerous conferences as well as given an invited lecture at Gettysburg College; in September she was a keynote speaker for the University of Minnesota conference, “Contingent Belongings: Queer Reflections on Race, Space, and the State.” Professor Hanhardt serves on the Executive Committee of the Cultural Studies Association and the Minority Scholars Committee of the American Studies Association. Professor Hanhardt is restarting the Carceral Studies Working Group and is planning with Professor Mary Corbin Sies a lecture series for the Cultural Landscapes/Urban Studies Working Group.

Welcoming Our Fulbright Fellows

Professor Jo Paoletti is mentoring Mohamed Abdou of Morocco, a Distinguished Fulbright Teacher. Mohamed teaches secondary school English and is interested in using popular culture to enhance his language classes and promote cross-cultural understanding. He meets biweekly with Prof. Paoletti to discuss the progress of his action research project and attends Prof. Psyche Williams-Forson’s graduate course: Race, Class, and Material Culture.

Saniye Canci Calisaneller is a Fulbright Visiting Researcher in American Studies. A Ph.D. candidate in the Department of American Culture and Literature at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, she is currently writing her dissertation on Gore Vidal’s Narratives of Empire. She received her M.A. and B.A. in American Culture and Literature from Baskent University. Her interests include postmodernism, historical fiction, American historical fiction, and American history.

We Want to Hear from You

As part of AMST’s efforts to create a stronger community among its alumni and former students, we want to know what you’re up to!

Send professional or personal news to americanstudies@umd.edu for inclusion in a future department newsletter.
Awards and Recognition:

Faedra Carpenter (TDPS), elected to Board of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas
Erve Chambers (ANTH), CTE Lilly Fellow
Marilee Lindemann (ENGL), appointed to Equality Maryland Board of Directors
Martha Nell Smith (ENGL), Chair-elect, Campus Senate
Orrin Wang (ENGL), promotion to Professor

Recent Book Publications:

Jonathan Auerbach (ENGL), Dark Borders: Film Noir and American Citizenship (Duke U. P.)
Jane Donawerth (ENGL), Conversational Rhetoric: The Rise and Fall of a Women’s Tradition, 1600-1900 (Southern Illinois U. P.)
Sharon Harley (AASP), Dignity and Damnation: The Nexus of Race, Gender, and Women’s Work (W.W. Norton contract)
Katie King (WMST), Networked Reenactments: Stories Transdisciplinary Knowledges Tell (Duke U. P.)
Randy Ontiveros (ENGL), In the Spirit of a New People: The Cultural Politics of the Chicano Movement (NYU P. contract)
George Ritzer (SOCI), co-edited, The Companion to Major Social Theorists (Wiley-Blackwell) and Globalization: The Essentials (Wiley-Blackwell)
Orrin Wang (ENGL), Romantic Sobriety: Sensation, Revolution, Commodification, History (Johns Hopkins U. P.)

And from Our Affiliates

During Summer 2011, American Studies faculty, students, and alumni contributed to the sold-out re-staging of Clybourne Park at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, D.C. Professor Mary Corbin Sies, a specialist on American suburbs, joined the theatre’s Clybourne Park working group to plan programming to supplement the Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Clybourne Park, by Bruce Norris, explores the evolution of race relations and urban development during the past fifty years by depicting the conflicts that surround an African American family, the Youngers, as they purchase a home in a white Chicago suburb in 1959 and as that suburb experiences gentrification fifty years later.

The working group focused their programming on the theme, “Is your neighborhood Clybourne Park?” Prof. Sheri Parks, alumnus Dr. Justin Maher, Ph.D., student Izetta Mobley, and Prof. Howell Baum from Urban Studies and Planning led lively audience discussions about how the play was reflective of the changes in D.C. neighborhoods. Both Maher and Mobley recorded podcasts for Radio Woolly exploring their experiences of gentrification in Columbia Heights. Professor Sies organized a Mammoth Forum, a panel on what gentrification is and how it manifests differently in Washington’s neighborhoods. The AMST participants give a shout out to Rachel Grossman, Connectivity Director, for welcoming us so warmly into the Woolly community for this show!

Jason Farman’s book, Mobile Interface Theory: Embodied Space and Locative Media, will be released this December by Routledge Press. He presented research from his book at the Oxford Internet Institute’s Symposium this past September, and will be presenting more of his work at the American Studies Association’s annual meeting. He is also editing a special issue of Future Internet titled “Social Transformations from the Mobile Internet,” which will be released later this fall. Professor Farman was interviewed by the Christian Science Monitor for a story about Google Maps and quoted in an article in the Baltimore Sun about mobile phone games.
Congratulations to all UMD presenters at the ASA!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20**

12:00–1:45
Christopher Perez, “Spatial (Dis)Comfort and Political Asylum ‘Testimonio’: Queering the Intersections of Ethnography and Asylum Interviews”

Affiliate Professor Sangeeta Ray (ENGL) and ENGL Professor Keguro Macharia, Roundtable Discussion on “Imagining ‘Preposterous Encounters’ between Postcolonial Studies and American Studies”

Dr. Barbara Shaw (AMST alumna, Allegheny College), “The Political Economy of Sexual Violence and Affect in Transnational Texts”

4:00–5:45
Dr. Amelia Wong (AMST alumna, Smithsonian Institution), “Imagining Community: Museums, Social Media, Democracy”

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**

8:00–9:45
Professor Jason Farman, “Mobile Media Narratives: Community Histories and Oral Storytelling for the Mobile Phone Era”

10:00–11:45
Professor Christina Hanhardt, Session Chair for “Critical Prison Studies Reenvisions Carceral Space: Critical Perspectives on Incarceration and Location”

12:00–1:45
Dr. Patrick Ryan Grzanka (AMST alumnus, Arizona State University), “Feeling Biomedicalization: Affect in the ‘DNA’ Age”

Dr. Emily Mann (SOCY alumna), “Mapping the Debates over Abortion Coverage in Health Care Reform: An Intersectional Approach to Critical Discourse Analysis”

2:00–3:45
HIST Professor Holly Brewer, Session Comments for “Black Children and the ‘Tender Years': Race and Age in Law, Literature, and Photography”

Dr. Edwin A. Martini (AMST alumnus, Western Michigan University), “Agent Orange as Global History”

Affiliate Professor Randy James Ontiveros (ENGL), “The Suburbs in U.S. Latina/o Literature”

***Please join us on the evening of Friday, October 21 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Key Ballroom East Foyer for the Department of American Studies Reception***

8:00–9:45
Dr. Asma Naeem (ARTH alumna, Capital Historical Society), Roundtable Session “American Quarterly Theme Session I: Sound in American Studies”

Affiliate Professor Tara Rodgers (WMST), “The Liveliness of Synthesized Sound: From Helmholtz and Darwin to the Cybernetic Imagination”

Professor Nancy Struna, Session Comments for “The Labors of Leisure: Critical Perspectives on Work and Sport”

Maria Vargas, “De-Sexualized Bodies, Torture, and Trauma in the Guatemalan Civil War”

10:00–11:45
Former Affiliate Professor Kandice Chuh (ENGL, City University of New York, Graduate School), Session Chair for Roundtable Discussion on “What Constitutes ‘The Political’?”

Affiliate Professor Robert Levine (ENGL), Session Chair for “A Forum on Frederick Douglass: Issues, Legacies”

Alyssa Samek (COMM), Roundtable Discussion on “Cranky Demeanors and Reparative Relations: Imagining a Politics of Responsibility and Accountability for Queer Studies”

12:00–1:45

Tanesha Leathers (AMST alumna), Stephanie Stevenson, and Professor Sheri Parks, Roundtable Discussion on “Black Women and Girls in Baltimore: Ethnography and Intervention”

Dr. Donald Snyder (AMST alumnus, University of Maryland, Baltimore County), “Hoardng Knowledge: Excess and the Ethel Index”

ENGL Professor Edlie Wong, “Futures Past: Comparative Racialization and the Chinese Invasion Narrative”

2:00–3:45
Affiliate Professor Carla Peterson (ENGL), Roundtable Session on “Re-imagining African American Life in the Antebellum City”

4:00–5:45
Professor Jeffrey McCune, “Queer Foreclosure: Limiting Hip-Hop, Framing Black Men”

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**

10:00–11:45
ENGL Professor Vincent Carretta, Session Comments for “Southern Crucible: Paradigms of Race and Religiosity in Colonial Georgia”

Dr. Nicole King (AMST alumna, University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Roundtable Discussion on “Baltimore City as Laboratory: Transformations of Urban Neighborhoods Through Public History Programming”
Introducing the New Ph.D. Cohort :: Class of 2011

Ilyas Omar Abukar is a McNair Fellow. He received his undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature with a minor in English from Pennsylvania State University. Ilyas’s research focuses on African American history, culture, and ethnicity; Africa’s relationship with the United States; critical race theory; hip-hop and popular culture; social movements; American cartoons; and performances of Islam in the U.S.

Mary Savig earned her B.A. in Classical Humanities and Art History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and her M.A. in Art History from George Washington University. Her broad research objective is to understand the historical development of craft in the 20th century and how it has functioned as an indicator of culture.

T’Sey-Haye Preaster received her B.A. in Afro-American Studies and Sociology from Smith College. T’Sey-Haye’s research interests include Black women’s history (particularly the “women’s club era”, 1896-1950); philanthropy; Black feminist theory; and the intersections and impact of race, gender, and class on cultures of giving, identity formation, and group uplift for/by Black women.

Xinqian Qiu earned her M.A. in Chinese Ceramic Art History and B.A. in English from Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute in China. Her research interests involve historic preservation and museums of Asian American heritage.

Cassy Griff received her B.A. in American Studies and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Cornell University. Her research examines the various forms of control and discipline enacted upon fat bodies, especially those belonging to Latina and African American women. She is currently focused on material mechanisms of control and how these modes of discipline shape actual and imagined bodies.

Terrance Wooten earned his B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in African American and African Studies from The Ohio State University. His current research focuses on the ways in which nonheteronormative black bodies have used popular media, visual art, social spaces, and literature as a way to assert their agency and their political and cultural citizenship rights as well as make claims to racial authenticity.

Izetta Autumn Mobley received her B.A. in American Civilization from Brown University. Izetta’s research interests focus on how the disabled black body is framed and constituted within visual culture, museum spaces, and art practices; the intersection of gender, race, and class; and critical race theory. Prior to pursuing her graduate study, Izetta worked in the education field, focused on college access for low income and first-generation students.
Support the Next Generation of American Studies at Maryland

American Studies students are accomplishing great things in and out of the classroom. Our faculty’s teaching, scholarly publications, and presentations have earned awards and are making an impact within and outside the University.

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