Prof. Psyche Williams-Forson awarded Foxworth grant

Prof. Psyche Williams-Forson was one of three recipients of the inaugural Foxworth Creative Enterprise Initiative grants. Made possible by the generosity of two ARHU alumni, Domonique (AMST) and Ashley (ENGL) Foxworth, the Foxworth Initiative’s goal is to enrich the education and scholarship of Arts and Humanities students by supporting projects that address central themes of the arts and humanities. The award aims to encourage faculty to enrich the classroom experience and enable our students to enter into collaborative learning and working relationships with under-represented communities.

Prof. Williams-Forson received the grant for one of her current courses, AMST418G. The class, titled Cultural Themes in America: Food, Trauma, and Sustainability, focuses on examining the issue of food insecurity and how this issue affects cultural sustainability. Unlike most people, Prof. Williams-Forson views food as more than mere sustenance; she sees it as a large part of culture and realizes that the cultural aspect is greatly impacted when populations migrate or otherwise undergo large changes in the way they are able to live their lives. AMST418G is being taught this spring semester with 35 seats, all of which are currently filled with enthusiastic students.

For the same course, Prof. Williams-Forson also was awarded a “Fearless Ideas” course designation by The Academy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIE). AIE received over 30 pre-proposals and 20 full proposals, from which 14 were selected to be UMD’s inaugural Fearless Ideas courses! The selections were made by an outstanding and rigorous committee of 16 reviewers representing multiple schools and departments. The goal of Fearless Ideas courses is to develop innovators who will have the skills and mindset to embrace, explore, and analyze real-world problems and attempt a variety of innovative solutions to the world’s toughest challenges. Prof. Williams-Forson’s course, Food, Trauma, and Sustainability, is working with the Food Equity Council of Prince George’s County and other groups in an effort to help reduce issues of food insecurity in the local community.

We look forward to all the great work surely to come from this innovative course!

Another successful student recruitment!

On Monday, March 24, the Department of American Studies welcomed the newly admitted cohort to Susquehanna Hall for the annual Admitted Students Visitation Day. The ten admitted students enjoyed an invigorating day with the Department faculty and current graduate students.

Admitted students got to experience life in the Department through an agenda that included the introduction of Department faculty, individual meetings with potential faculty mentors, and the fifth annual Graduate Student Mini Research Showcase. The Showcase, facilitated by Prof.
I’m beginning this update with a particularly timely decision: our endless winter is now over!! Even those of us from the North who actually like winter have had it! But since I’m an eternal optimist, I’ve also decided things are looking up. We finally got our prospective graduate students to campus, and they look like another wonderful cohort. We completed our search for an assistant professor focusing on African American/African diasporic cultural production and are very happy with our new colleague, Prof. La Marr Bruce, from Yale University. And just last week, we finally got the last installment of last year’s state government largesse, 2013 merit increases for 2014 salaries!

Jokes aside, it actually has been a productive winter for American Studies. Our young colleague, Prof. Perla Guerrero, just received a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. Congratulations, Perla! She’ll spend the 2014-15 academic year working on her book manuscript, Latinas/os and Asians Remaking Arkansas and working with Professor Paul Ortiz and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida. Prof. Jo Paoletti’s second book in three years, Sex and Unisex: Fashion, Feminism and the Sexual Revolution, is in production at Indiana University Press and will be out shortly. We’re also very pleased that three grad alums, Cheryl LaRoche, Patrick Grzanka, and Rebecca Krefting have recently completed books. Prof. LaRoche published Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad: The Geography of Resistance with the University of Illinois Press; Westview Press produced Prof. Grzanka’s Intersectionality: A Foundations and Frontiers Reader; and Prof. Krefting published All Joking Aside: American Humor and Its Discontents with Johns Hopkins University Press.

Shortly, the second issue of our nationally renowned student online journal, PowerLines, will be out. The unique digital roundtable this spring focuses on a timely and complex topic, the Black-White binary. Look for it soon on our website.

There is much more news about current faculty and student work inside, but I would be remiss if I did not highlight two other things here. First, Professor R. Gordon Kelly is retiring at the end of this semester after 36 years in the Department. We all wish Prof. Kelly the very best! Second, we now have two foundation funds to support student endeavors. The John Caughey Fund, begun last year to support graduate and undergraduate research is growing, and we’re about to launch a campaign to expand it. In December, Prof. Savneet Talwar (Ph.D., 2010) presented the Department with a gift that will be used to recognize the most outstanding senior research paper. Prof. Talwar is now an associate professor and chair of the Department of Art Therapy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. We are most grateful to Savneet’s love of undergraduate learning and her strong desire to give back to American Studies at Maryland.

Thanks, too, to the great editors we’ve had of this year’s newsletters – Tatiana Benjamin, Robert Jiles, and Terrance Wooten. They make my job so much easier.
Saying goodbye to Professor Kelly

After thirty-six years of teaching and service to the Department and the University, Professor R. Gordon Kelly will retire at the end of the spring 2014 semester.

Prof. Kelly earned his B.A. in English from DePauw University, his M.A. in English and American Literature from the Claremont Graduate School, and his Ph.D. in American Civilization at the University of Iowa. Before he came to Maryland, Prof. Kelly was a faculty member in the American Civilization Program at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also began his long administrative career. During his years at Penn, he was elected to the International Research Society for Children’s Literature and received the British Petroleum Fellowship in American Studies, which took him to the University of Dundee, Scotland. Not long after his return, he took a position as chair of the American Studies Committee (a pre-department formation) at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Professor Kelly’s recruitment to Maryland was one dimension of the transformation of American Studies here, from program to department. He arrived in 1978 as associate professor with two administrative hats: associate director of the program and director of graduate studies in American Studies. With the untimely passing of the Department’s first chair, Gene Wise, Prof. Kelly became acting chair and then chair, a position he held until 1995. Under his watch, the faculty as well as both graduate and undergraduate programs expanded, and he contributed the popular specialization in Literature and Society. Two chairs later, he willingly stepped back into a leadership role as director of undergraduate studies and put his legendary organizational skills to good use.

With his scholarship in literature and society, Kelly became a prominent figure nationally in post-myth-and-symbol American Studies. He published two edited collections, *Mother Was a Lady: Self and Society in Selected American Children’s Periodicals* and *Children’s Periodicals of the United States* in addition to a seminal, and still widely reprinted, article, “Literature and the Historian.” The latter provided one answer to the lingering question of interdisciplinary methods, as Professor Kelly explained how and why books about children were important sources from the past for scholars of everyday life. His final book, *Mystery Fiction and Modern Life*, cemented his national reputation as a scholar committed to redefining American Studies as a field focused on ordinary people and everyday life.

All of us thank Gordon for his many contributions to the field and our Department and wish him and his family a wonderful retirement.

Be on the watch for Powerlines

*Powerlines* is happy to announce the upcoming publication of its second issue! In addition to student articles, art reviews, and book reviews, the second issue will also feature an exciting Digital Roundtable headed by Dr. Nancy L. Struna, Chair of the Department. As a collaborative endeavor, the Digital Roundtable creates a space for multiple contributors to engage a pressing cultural topic. In response to Dr. Struna’s provocation, respondents Drs. Psyche Williams-Forson, Nancy Raquel Mirabal, and Shannon Gibney participate in a critical conversation about the Black-White binary. The pieces featured in this issue’s Digital Roundtable question the usefulness and complexity of the Black-White binary in the classroom, the academy, and everyday life. We hope you read and respond to our second issue, due to be published in May 2014. To view last year’s issue visit [http://amst.umd.edu/powerlines/](http://amst.umd.edu/powerlines/).
March 31 kicked off this year’s Semana de la Latina with a talk titled, “Ask Us Anything: Latinas Navigating Higher Education.” Discussion topics included self-care, mentorship, accessing university resources, and disciplinary differences. Among the attendees were postdoctoral fellows, professors, graduate students, and staff from English, History, Women’s Studies, and American Studies. Semana reconvened April 1 with an event/potluck titled, “What Do You Bring to the Table?” It was designed to bring Latinas/os across the campus together around a spread of foods that represent the diversity of U.S. Latina/o cultures and create dialogue around cultural authenticity and ownership. The final event was a screening of Aurora Guerrero’s 2012 film Mosquita y Mari, which tells the story of two Latina high school students who struggle to navigate the daily travails of being teenagers. The screening was followed by a fruitful discussion.

Dr. Randy Ontiveros published a book!

On March 13, Dr. Randy Ontiveros (ENGL) sat down with Dr. Mary Helen Washington (ENGL) to discuss his new book In the Spirit of a New People: The Cultural Politics of the Chicano Movement (NYU Press, 2013), which reexamines the Chicano civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s through fiction, visual arts, poetry, theater, and other expressive forms produced by Chicano/a artists and activists as a way to challenge inequality in the U.S. and to trace the significance of the movement to postwar America. During his discussion, Dr. Ontiveros addressed the difficulty of doing interdisciplinary scholarship, of developing a creative and expansive archive, and of really capturing those neglected stories about the Chicano movement and its impact. The talk was well attended and full of highly engaging audience members. Congratulations, Dr. Ontiveros!

USLT hosted Prof. Andrew Friedman

On April 3, the U.S. Latino/a Studies Program’s Speaker Series featured historian and cultural critic, Prof. Andrew Friedman. Friedman, an assistant professor at Haverford College, discussed his recently published manuscript Covert Capital: Landscapes of Denial and the Making of U.S. Empire in the Suburbs of Northern Virginia. Friedman’s talk touched on many of the USLT Program’s academic and social investments, including the creation of community, the nature of migration, and the organizational techniques Latinas/os use to challenge subordination. The talk was well attended by faculty and students from various departments in the College of Arts and Humanities including English, the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SLLC), and American Studies. Profs. Perla Guerrero and Randy Ontiveros organized the talk as well as a graduate student drop-in where Prof. Friedman discussed graduate school life with current American Studies graduate students.
Department Sponsors Summer Institute

The Department of American Studies is excited to host the Critical Ethnic Studies Association’s (CESA) 2014 Summer Institute. The Institute will take place June 26-28 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

CESA, which held its second annual meeting at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2013, is a new and growing academic association dedicated to elaborating the field of academic inquiry known as “critical ethnic studies.” This field is animated by the various intellectual traditions of ethnic studies, including but not limited to African American Studies, Native American Studies, Latino/a Studies, Arab-American Studies, and Post-Colonial Studies. Among its many other investments, CESA is strongly dedicated to the implementation and execution of new and existing social justice projects.

The theme of this year’s Summer Institute will be, “What is Critical Ethnic Studies?” The Institute will explore how the processes of academic institutionalization affect current ethnic studies departments and their abilities to carry out projects of social transformation. In the online overview of the Summer Institute, CESA questions, “What kinds of works can critical ethnic studies do across academic institutions, community organizing, and advocacy efforts?”

The Department of American Studies welcomes this and many of the other key questions and investments raised by CESA. Scholars in the Department of American Studies have sought to apply their theoretical work to address and ameliorate social inequality. CESA’s Summer Institute will be an invaluable forum for cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty and students which may further these activist and intellectual goals.

The Institute will comprise three full days of seminars devoted to intensive discussions of how critical ethnic studies as a field can stifle the tide of academic marginalization and how scholars can engage broad social justice-based movements.

CESA is organizing the Summer Institute with a planning committee composed of UMD faculty and graduate students. The planning committee includes American Studies associate professors Drs. Christina Hanhardt and Mary C. Sies; American Studies graduate students Bimbola Akinbola, A. Anthony, and Michael Casiano; and African American Studies graduate assistant Robert Choflet. Dr. Christina Hanhardt is also a member of CESA’s International Working Group.

Dr. Williams-Forson moderates talk

On March 10, a critical dialogue on gender, race, and mass incarceration was held at Busboys & Poets-Hyattsville. Panelists included Dr. Nikki Jones (Associate Professor, African American Studies at UC-Berkeley), Andrea James (Families for Justice as Healing), and Ashley McSwain (Consultants for Change, Inc.). Our very own Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson moderated the dialogue. Audience members and panelists enjoyed great food, great conversation, and an amazing panel. The event was sponsored by the Department of Women’s Studies, the Department of African American Studies, and the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity.
Director of Undergraduate Studies: 10 reasons to become a major

10. Our department is ranked in the top 5 American Studies departments nationally.

9. We have two broad intellectual themes which we apply to the study of America, broadly defined—the themes are the cultures of everyday life and constructions of identity and difference. We place these in a global framework.

8. We have a wonderful faculty made up of 13 core faculty members who infuse their research into their classes to make them exciting. We also have roughly 70 affiliate faculty members from 22 units across the campus.

7. In our department all of our professors serve as advisors to undergraduate students, so you get to know faculty members as mentors and as people during your time with us.

6. American Studies as a field today and in our department has a strong commitment to diversity. You can see this in our support of students from all walks of life and through our partnerships with groups and communities both on and off campus.

5. Each of our majors builds a focus area in order to concentrate a cluster of courses and skills geared toward his or her career goals and interests.

4. We provide each major with a robust two-semester primary research experience—the Senior Capstone Project or, alternatively, a Senior Honors thesis.

3. In American Studies we teach skills foundational for success in the 21st century job market, where people can expect to work in at least 3 careers over their lifetime. We emphasize strong verbal and written communication skills, analytic and problem-solving skills, and research and critical thinking skills.

2. Our department also has a strong internship program that takes advantage of our contacts within a range of agencies and institutions in the greater Washington region—so our students gain on-the-job experience in government, education, entertainment, law enforcement, law, business, advertising, and culture industries.

1. Our majors tend to be innovators who think outside the box: we have many happy students and they give us great testimonials. I’ll close with this one from Kenny Gresham: “When I enrolled in an American Studies course, I finally found the major I belonged in. I have loved being an American Studies major mostly because I love studying the relationships people have with each other in the U.S. and why things are structured the way they are. Also, the teaching style of the professors makes the material very interesting to learn…This major forces me to think about my own life, where I have come from and where I am going.”
Dr. Savneet Talwar (Ph.D., 2010) has graciously approached the Department to establish a recurring prize for one outstanding senior paper. The Savneet Talwar Best Senior Thesis Prize will be presented to a student whose work exemplifies interdisciplinarity, rigor, and a commitment to our focus on cultures of everyday life and cultural constructions of difference and identity. Dr. Talwar established the award to give back to an institution and department she feels has contributed so much to her scholarship, learning, and future in academia. She hopes that the award will encourage undergraduate majors in their work in American Studies. This is important because American Studies offers the opportunity to enrich the experiences of students as they “learn to question received knowledge and examine their own life experiences, allowing them the freedom and flexibility to critique systems of power, privilege, and oppression,” in her words.

In addition to being a philanthropist, Dr. Talwar is now Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Art Therapy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work focuses on feminist politics, critical theories of difference, and gendered labor practices. Currently, she is engaged with crafting and fabrication as forms of social practice in community settings to create critical dialogue surrounding issues of reproductive freedom, sexuality, the body, cultural trauma and social inequity.

The Department would like to thank Dr. Talwar warmly for her selfless commitment to our students. She is a testament to the strength of our program and of our growing alumni community.

Undergraduate Student Spotlight

Marissa Laliberte is a sophomore American Studies and Journalism major. After taking two American Studies courses this semester, Marissa knew that she wanted to delve deeper into the rich field and chose to add it as a major. Through her coursework, Marissa realized how often systems of privilege and subordination go unnoticed in American society, and she hopes to learn more about how to fight such systems and promote social justice.

Marissa has been a copy editor for The Diamondback since spring 2013 and is the beauty editor for on-campus publication The Campus Trainer. She plans to work with magazines after graduation by applying her American Studies knowledge to create images of equality in the media.

Santiago Morales is graduating this spring with a minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies and a major in Criminology & Criminal Justice. As a Latino born in Colombia, USLT has helped Santiago form a better understanding of his own identity while providing a broader focus on what it means to be Latino in the United States. Courses in USLT have encouraged Santiago to consider how race plays a monumental role in the U.S. criminal justice system. Some of the racially motivated concerns that interest Santiago include the ways in which corruption and prejudice within law enforcement lead to disproportionate crime statistics, racial profiling, and underrepresentation of people of color working within the system.

Santiago is also a proud member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity as well as the Criminal Justice Student Association. After graduating, Santiago plans to pursue a career in Criminal Justice and eventually earn a law degree.
Student recruitment is a success!

Perla Guerrero, featured the work of Ph.D. students Bimbola Akinbola, A. Anthony, Michael Casiano, Jason Ezell, Cassy Griff, and Tony Perry. This showcase presentation differed from previous years by emphasizing the journey to graduate school as well as how one’s research interests change over time. Students presented snapshots of their research and provided advice on how to navigate graduate school to newly admitted students. The running theme throughout each presentation was that students should read broadly and be open to varying shapes and shifts of their research. Each presentation engendered a lively, intellectually stimulating discussion between graduate students, faculty, and the admitted students.

The day concluded with great food and conversation amongst admitted students and Profs. Jason Farman, Perla Guerrero, and Jan Padios at The Commons Restaurant.

If this day is telling of what the future holds for the Department, the new cohort will continue to maintain the Department’s intellectual excellence and social vigor. Special thanks to everyone who gave time and energy to make this such a successful day. We look forward to seeing more of this new group in the Fall.

What’s new in Asian American Studies?

On February 20, the Asian American Studies Program hosted an event on “Race in the Workplace: Asian Americans and Communication” with ASCEND (a student organization dedicated to pan-Asian American business leadership) at the Smith School of Business. The event featured an exciting panel, including Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner Jenny Yang who discussed accent discrimination in the workplace, and Greg Cendana, the first openly gay and youngest-ever Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement.

On April 10, the Asian American Studies Program presented a program on “Spiritual Connections: Asian American Religions and Spirituality” as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This interactive session allowed students to gather in small groups to discuss topics such as Asian American spirituality and the environment, interfaith relationships, and spirituality and taboos.

Sitting down with Anthony Romero

On April 16, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Anthony Romero, spoke informally with advanced undergraduate and graduate students about careers outside of the academy. The interactive conversations focused on public law, non-profit work, and social justice endeavors as well as his professional trajectory.

Later that day, he gave a formal talk to the University community as part of the 2013-2014 WORLDWISE Arts & Humanities Dean’s Lecture Series.

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 newsletter.

Student recruitment is a success!

Continued from page 1

Current and admitted students bonding over dinner at Busboys & Poets
Fast Facts :: Graduate Student News


Darius Bost published “Traumatizing Black Masculinities: Bearing Witness to Male Rape in the African Diaspora” in the Journal of West Indian Literature. He also presented “At the Club: Washington, DC’s Queer Nightlife and the Local Roots of National HIV/AIDS Activism in Black Communities,” at the Whose Beloved Community? Black Civil and LGBT Rights Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dan Greene received one of ARHU’s Goldhaber Travel Grants to present at the Association of Internet Researchers. He also presented his paper “Virtual Fixes: The Production of Digital Spaces and the Crises of Contemporary Capitalism” at the American Association of Geographers in Tampa, Florida.

Cassy Griff will be presenting “Chubby Baby is an Anchor Baby: Culturally-Induced Fatness, Bad Mothers, and Latina/o Threat” at Imagining Latina/o Studies: Past, Present, and Future, an International Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Paul Saiedi presented “‘Equality Wins Again?’ Erasures and Violence: Performing Affinity through Allied Subjectivity on Facebook” at the Neil Postman Graduate Conference in New York, New York.

Stephanie Stevenson was awarded the ARHU Graduate Student Travel Award, Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award, and International Conference Student Support Award (ICSSA) in support of her trip to the UK where she presented her paper “Teaching Each Other How to Survive, Live, and Thrive: Black Early Adolescent Girls’ Engagements in Consumer Practices and Peer Mentoring in Schools and on Social Media Websites” at the Child and Teen Consumption 2014 Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. She also participated on a panel at Scholars of the Culture: The Wiley College Conference on the Hip-Hop Experience in Marshall, Texas.

Portia Hopkins presented “Liberating Voices: Pushing Sociopolitical Boundaries through Historic Preservation” at the Social History Society Annual Conference at the University of Northumbria in New Castle, United Kingdom.

Maria Velazquez recently provided her research expertise for the documentary To Me It Will Always Be the Calliope. She was also voted in as Member-at-Large for the National Women’s Studies Association.

News from the DGS

Professor Christina B. Hanhardt will be organizing an exciting set of events to finish out this spring semester. In April, she will host a workshop on the politics of identity and negotiating categories of difference while on the academic job market. To close out the semester, she will sponsor a town hall meeting to discuss program developments, future plans for the Department, and answer any questions graduate students might have about graduate life in the Department.

Although she is due to be on leave next fall, she is also doing preliminary ground work for a future workshop on preparing students for the skills and knowledge to pursue non-traditional academic careers. These events will surely prove to be invaluable, so please be on the lookout for the finalized schedule!
Occasion for Accolades :: Faculty News

Dr. Jan Padios published an essay, “Queer Confessions: Transgression, Affect, and National Crisis in the Philippines’ Call Center Industry,” online at the Center for Art + Thought’s (CA+T’s) website as part of its “Queer Sites and Sounds” exhibit. An interview of Dr. Padios by Matthew Andrews of CA+T is forthcoming. To read the essay, follow this link: http://www.centerforartandthought.org/work/item/queer-confessions-transgression-affect-and-national-crisis-philippines%E2%80%99-call-center-industry.

Dr. Perla Guerrero has received a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for the 2014-15 academic year. She will be working on her book manuscript, Latinas/os and Asians Remaking Arkansas, which provides a framework that scrutinizes the ways southern history has dealt with racial difference and has driven economic development, and considers how refugees and immigrants negotiate these dynamics in their daily lives and interactions. While working on her manuscript, Dr. Guerrero will be collaborating with Professor Paul Ortiz and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Paging all Ph.D.s :: Alumni Updates

Dr. Patrick Grzanka (Ph.D., 2010) published Intersectionality: A Foundations and Frontiers Reader (Westview Press, 2014), a new comprehensive study that maps the origins of intersectionality, particularly in sociology and Black feminist thought. Dr. Grzanka’s book offers new directions for understanding intersectionality as a theory and a method, drawing on foundational classics as well as emerging scholarship. Intersectionality is truly interdisciplinary, placing a wide range of fields in conversation with one another in order to map the rich terrain intersectionality travels. Dr. Grzanka’s highly accessible yet deeply engaging book is a must-read for upcoming scholars seeking to make rethink these familiar histories in new and vigorous ways!

Dr. Rebecca Krefting (Ph.D., 2010) authored a book! In All Joking Aside: American Humor and Its Discontents (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014), Dr. Krefting establishes a new genre of comedic production, “charged humor,” and charts its pathways from production to consumption. This book offers a history of charged comedy from the mid-twentieth century to the early aughts, highlighting dozens of talented comics from Dick Gregory and Robin Tyler to Micia Mosely and Hari Kondabolu. Along the way, Krefting explores the fault lines in the modern economy of humor, why men are perceived to be funnier than women, the perplexing popularity of modern-day minstrelsy, and the way identities are packaged and sold in the marketplace. Join us in celebrating Dr. Krefting’s publication!

Dr. Cheryl LaRoche (Ph.D., 2004) recently published her new book, Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad: The Geography of Resistance (University of Illinois Press, 2014), which uses archaeology to offer a new historical perspective on the Underground Railroad. Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad explores the lives of free African American communities, revealing the ways these communities were central to the Underground Railroad and the freeing of enslaved peoples. Drawing on cartography, oral histories, archaeological investigations, and memoirs, Dr. LaRoche provides a rich narrative that gives insights to the various modes of resistance and survival employed by African Americans in their struggle for liberation. Congratulations, Dr. LaRoche!
Expanding the AMST Library

On December 4, Prof. Christina B. Hanhardt discussed her new book Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence (Duke University Press, 2013). Safe Space examines how broader public policy initiatives around policing and privatization shaped LGBT calls for “safe space” and the disturbing effects this relationship has had along and across race and class lines. In her discussion, Dr. Hanhardt shared stories of her mining the archives and conducting extensive ethnographic research in New York and San Francisco in order to better trace the entwined histories of urban development, LGBT activism, and U.S. policy. She also shared reflections on the various other spaces in which she has discussed her book (Red Emma’s in Baltimore, City Lights in San Francisco, and Blue Stockings in New York) and how meaningful those opportunities have been for her work. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hanhardt once again!

Prof. Jo Paoletti’s current book project Sex and Unisex: Fashion, Feminism and the Sexual Revolution (Indiana University Press, forthcoming 2014) is scheduled to come out later this year. Her latest project grew out of the last two chapters of her previous book Pink and Blue: Telling the Boys from the Girls in America (Indiana University Press, 2012), particularly the chapter on unisex clothing of the late 1960s through the mid-1980s. She was intrigued by the dramatic shifts in fashion trends during this period. For example, in 1970, designer Rudi Gernreich was predicting miniskirts and caftans for everyone, and a futurist author was declaring the death of the gray flannel suit. But by 1980, preppy was all the rage and not only were men still wearing suits, but women were wearing them as well. Prof. Paoletti’s research began there and progressed to considering the present, because so much of our current cultural landscape is unfinished business from the 1970s. Chapters in the book include discussions on the interplay of the Baby Boom, the Civil Rights movement, the sexual revolution, women’s fashion, feminism and antifeminism, the so-called Peacock Revolution in men’s clothing, unisex children’s clothing, and the legal battles over men’s long hair and pants for women.

Prof. Jason Farman’s recent book, The Mobile Story: Narrative Practices with Locative Technologies (Routledge Press, 2013), brings together 31 scholars, artists, and designers to investigate the intersection of storytelling practices and emerging technologies. The book covers a range of topics such as site-specific narratives, issues in design and practice, space and mapping, mobile games, narrative interfaces, and the interplay between memory, history, and community. These issues are covered in chapters ranging from analyses of mobile media for cultural heritage sites to a chapter on the practices of day laborers in Los Angeles who use cell phones to document their everyday lives, from mapping as a storytelling interface in the mobile era to location-aware games that immerse users in spatial narratives. Ultimately, this book uses a truly interdisciplinary approach to demonstrate that site-specific storytelling is thriving in our mobile media era. Written for a broad audience, The Mobile Story is accompanied by a website (themobilestory.com) that offers hands-on explorations of each chapter that can be implemented in the undergraduate classroom.
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.

We invite you to be a part of our exciting and meaningful teaching, learning, and scholarship:

- Can you offer our students internships and research experiences?
- Would you like to serve as a guest speaker to help students translate their academic experiences to professional skills?

With State funding on a steep decline, we are also grateful for your financial support that helps us to expand undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, lecture programs, and professorships. Your gift is tax deductible and creates opportunities for members of the American Studies community.

To reconnect and contribute, contact Nancy Struna at nlstruna@umd.edu.

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