Department leadership changes

As many may know, the Department has transitioned into new leadership. After tirelessly serving the Department, Prof. Nancy Struna has decided to step down as chair and, as she jokingly tells faculty and students, “journey back to the eighteenth century” to work on her next book manuscript during her long overdue one-year research sabbatical. As Chair, Prof. Struna helped create a nationally acclaimed department that is composed of outstanding faculty, staff, and students doing cutting-edge research and acting as leaders in the field. Under her leadership, the Department has seen the expansion of an ever-growing U.S. Latina/o Studies (USLT) program; a deep commitment to faculty and student diversity and recruitment, for which the Department has received institutional recognition; an ongoing investment in and celebration of engaged research and scholarship; and the continued dedication to creating a welcoming and supportive departmental culture—to name just a few examples from the endless list.

Effective August 1, Prof. Psyche Williams-Forson has graciously accepted a well-deserved appointment as the new chair. Throughout her tenure, Prof. Williams-Forson has served as an affiliate faculty member of Women’s Studies African American Studies, and the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity; functioned as Director of Graduate Studies in the Department; been the recipient of several campus teaching awards and fellowships, including a Smithsonian Institution Senior Fellowship, Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Diversity Fellowship, and a teaching award from the [Domonique and Ashley] Foxworth Creative Enterprise Initiative; and authored Taking Food Public: Redefining Foodways in a Changing World (Routledge, 2011) and the award-winning book, Building Houses Out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food, and Power (University of North Carolina Press, 2006). Prof. Williams-Forson will undoubtedly lead the Department into new terrains of excellence as the new chair.

Please join the Department in thanking Prof. Struna for all her hard work and service as chair and congratulating Prof. Williams-Forson on her new appointment!

We have a new home in Tawes!

After two years of temporary relocation to Susquehanna Hall, we have officially moved to our brand new space as of January 7. Our new three-floor home was built where the second-floor stage in Tawes Hall used to be. It features office and meeting spaces for faculty, staff, and graduate students, new academic classroom spaces, and a seminar and media classroom space. We even have a kitchen!

The renovation was part of an estimated $17 million project on the building that includes two collaborative lecture halls with roughly 115 seats each; three 30 seat general purpose classrooms, and one 80 seat collaborative classroom. We are excited to finally move into our new home, and we welcome you to stop by!
From the American Studies Chair

By Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson

Every new year brings a new beginning. For some, we consider it a fresh start on life or a new project; for others it is a time for reaffirmations of promises to ourselves or others—some of us resolve “this is the year,” or “I’ve had enough of this writing,” or whatever. This year, this academic year in particular, American Studies is experiencing several transitions—a new chair, a new location, and soon, a new administrative coordinator. With each new welcome, sadly also comes a goodbye.

But first…

I am pleased that since August 2015, I have been welcomed as the new chair of American Studies. For the last few months I have been learning a fraction of what Nancy Struna did for this Department over the last several years. In addition to getting an opportunity to experience our awesome faculty and staff through a new lens, I’ve been quickly learning more about undergraduate studies, scheduling classes, and a host of administrative issues, especially budgets. I am excited to be entrusted with such responsibilities and look forward to working with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to move the Department in a direction that benefits all.

And what better way to move us forward than to be situated in a new home. The first week of January we began moving over to the first floor of Tawes to join the English Department and the Professional Writing Program. The Department will be housed on three floors, with most of the top floor offices facing a rooftop patio! Please come visit us.

With these “hellos” come several goodbyes…

Late last spring faculty, staff, and students gathered to say thank you and kudos to outgoing chair, Nancy Struna. We thanked her for her leadership, guidance, and wise decision-making during her tenure. We look forward to having her rejoin the faculty and to her sharing her Baltimore tavern research.

In December we gathered together to bid a fond “adieu” to Betsy Yuen, one of our fabulous administrative coordinators. After six years, Betsy has moved on to further hone and expand her administrative skills. We wish her all the best!

So, a lot is happening with us here in the Department. We invite you all to come visit us in Tawes and join in the growth and change that we are experiencing. See you soon.
Congratulations are in order!

The Department is very pleased to announce the following three faculty promotions:

Prof. Jason Farman has been awarded tenure with his promotion to Associate Professor. Prof. Farman came to the Department in 2010 and is also Director of the Design | Cultures + Creativity Program, a living-learning program in the Honors College, as well as faculty of the Human-Computer Interaction Lab. He is author of the acclaimed book, Mobile Interface Theory (Routledge, 2012) and editor of The Mobile Story: Narrative Practices with Locative Technologies (Routledge, 2013), and he has also published articles on topics such as mobile technologies, social media, videogames, digital performance art, and surveillance. Prof. Farman is currently working on his latest book project, Technologies of Disconnection: A History of Mobile Media and Social Intimacy. Congratulations, Prof. Farman!

Prof. Jo Paoletti has been promoted to the rank of full Professor. Prof. Paoletti has spent over thirty years researching and writing about children’s clothing in America, particularly in consumer culture and the development of gender differences. She is a widely sought after public scholar for her knowledge of apparel design and the history of textile and clothing and has been interviewed and provided commentary for many news outlets and media publications. She has recently published two books in the field, Pink and Blue: Telling the Boys from the Girls in America (Indiana University Press, 2013) and Sex and Unisex: Fashion, Feminism, and the Sexual Revolution (Indiana University Press, 2015). She is currently working on a third book project centered on the intersection of age and gender in fashion, to be published through Indiana University Press as the concluding book in the trilogy. Great work, Prof. Paoletti!

Prof. Janelle Wong has been promoted to the rank of full Professor. Prof. Wong joined the Department in 2012 and is also Director of the Asian American Studies Program. Prior to her joining the faculty at the University of Maryland, Prof. Wong was faculty in the Departments of Political Science and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California as well as the Executive Director of the Institute of Public Service at Seattle University. Wong’s research is on race, immigration, and political mobilization. She is the author of Democracy’s Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions (University of Michigan Press, 2006) and co-author of two books on Asian American politics, Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities (Russell Sage Foundation, 2011) and The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community (Routledge, 2004). Her current book project focuses on how growing numbers of Asian American and Latino evangelical Christians will impact the traditional conservative Christian movement and immigrant political participation. Well deserved promotion, Prof. Wong!
U.S. Latina/o Studies has been actively recruiting new minors to the program, reporting record-high numbers of currently enrolled students. USLT is heavily dedicated to increasing its campus presence and resources by attending various outreach events and student organizations committed to engaging in critical dialogues about the needs, histories, and experiences of Latina/o people in and beyond the academy. If interested in learning more about the minor or programming, students are encouraged to contact the USLT Director, Prof. Nancy Mirabal (nmirabal@umd.edu), or Graduate Assistant, Cassy Dame-Griff (ecgriff@umd.edu). We look forward to another great year! Here’s a look at some of the great events so far:

On September 29, USLT co-hosted an event, “What’s in a Name?: An Open Discussion on the Use of Latina/o/@/x at UMD,” with the Office of Multicultural Involvement & Community Advocacy. During the event, students had the opportunity to explore the use and meaning of language to refer to people of Latin American identity and culture. The purpose of the event was to create a space for open dialogue and assessment of the preferences and needs of the campus community. The event was well attended and offered a starting point for a larger series of ongoing conversations on campus about race, gender, sexuality, language, and identity.

On November 4, USLT hosted “Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Past, Present, and Future of U.S. Latina/o Studies,” an event that reflected on the program’s history at UMD, the growth of Latina/o Studies as an academic discipline, and the future of Latina/o Studies locally and nationally. These reflections and provocations were guided by the knowledge sharing of Profs. Nancy Mirabal, Perla Guerrero, and Ana Patricia Rodriguez. The event ended with a career panel featuring past and present USLT minors, who remarked upon the power and value of the minor as well as the minor’s impact on their career paths.

**Department hosts Alicia Garza**

On October 20, USLT and the Department hosted a catered luncheon with civil rights activist and #BlackLivesMatter co-creator Alicia Garza in the McKeldin Special Events Room. The luncheon provided an opportunity for Department faculty, affiliates, and students to meet and speak more personally with Alicia Garza before a larger public event offered as part of the 2016 “Rise Above -isms” week organized by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. During the evening event, our very own Prof. Nancy Mirabal facilitated an exciting conversation in a packed room of active audience members interested in discussing engaged scholarship, activism, and social justice initiatives that center race, gender, sexuality, and nationality. Both events were a resounding success!
Undergraduate liaison provides student perspective

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

Emily Weiss is a senior American Studies major with minors in Public Leadership and Innovation & Entrepreneurship from Marietta, Georgia. On campus, she is a Resident Assistant, a Director of Student Entertainment Events (SEE), a Presiding Officer on Student Honor Council, and a representative on various advisory councils. Last year, Emily was one of the 2014-2015 Rawlings Undergraduate Leadership Fellows along with 20 other undergraduate students from majors across the board. Emily is interested in digital cultures and identities, digital advocacy, social innovation and technology geared toward social justice. She believes that her background in American Studies will be an asset to her when learning about and discussing social problems and solutions.

Emily is excited to be the undergraduate liaison this year. She hopes to provide feedback between the AMST faculty and the undergraduates and to serve as an effective and helpful representative.

Undergraduates student spotlights

Alison Clark is a senior American Studies major who worked last Fall as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Robert Chester for AMST340. Aside from keeping up with her last few undergraduate courses, Alison enjoyed working with her students to develop their senior thesis proposals. Alison’s own American Studies thesis is an ethnography of drug addicts and alcoholics who live at Champ House Recovery Center in Bowie, MD. In her project she also analyzes the cultural landscape of the facility itself. Last month Alison got to participate in UMD-Winter Study abroad in Chile. She will be studying Chilean culture, democracy and social change. She has many obsessions including, but not limited to, travel, fitness, her cats, and frozen yogurt. After graduation Alison plans to collect plane tickets from around the world and possibly pursue a career in Human Services or the non-profit sector.

Anuraag Sharma is a senior American Studies major, who is minoring in Religious Studies and Astronomy. Last semester Anuraag began working with Dr. Ronald Yaros in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism as a Teaching assistant for JOUR289i-- Information 3.0: Exploring Technological Tools. Anuraag loves helping develop students as both writers and fellow students. His own senior thesis examines gay hook-up culture in and through the mobile application Grindr and the inclusion of straight and married males. When not teaching, researching, or sleeping, Anuraag works for Apple as a mentor for the Maryland market. In addition, Anuraag served as an assistant to the newsletter, where he helped write, edit, and collect submissions.

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Prof. Christina B. Hanhardt resumed her position as Director of Graduate Studies in the Department in the Fall. Her recent publications include a roundtable in a special issue of Radical History Review titled “Queering Archives” (with Anjali Arondekar, Ann Cvetkovich, Regina Kunzel, Tavia Nyong’o, Juana María Rodriguez, and Susan Stryker) and a review of Christopher Agee’s book *The Streets of San Francisco* in American Historical Review. Last spring she also gave invited talks at the University of Michigan, University of Southern California, Marquette University, UNC Wilmington, George Mason University, Sonoma State University, GLBT History Museum (SF), and the “Resisting Arrest” conference at NYU. She also appeared with her book *Safe Space* at King’s College (London), the CUNY Graduate Center, Outwrite (DC), and Modern Times Bookstore (SF); on the podcast *Who Makes Cents: The History of Capitalism*; and the KPFA radio show Women’s Magazine.

Prof. La Marr Jurelle Bruce received an inaugural Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement (SITPA) Fellowship at Duke University. Prof. Bruce delivered a talk entitled “Electric Intercourse” at the Erotics and Popular Music Symposium at the University of Pennsylvania in October. He also delivered a talk entitled “No Wiggles in the Dark of Her Soul: Black Neurosis, Art, and Murder” on the “Race and Psychoanalysis” panel at the Modern Language Association this month. Additionally, Prof. Bruce participated in a roundtable discussion on “Critical Intersectionalities of Race and Sexuality” (co-convened by the Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada and the GL/Q Caucus for the Modern Languages) at the Modern Language Association.

Prof. Jan Padios participated in a refereed junior faculty workshop hosted by the East of California caucus of the Association for Asian American Studies in Evanston, Chicago this past April 2015. In September 2015, Prof. Padios gave an invited presentation at the Race and Media Conference at the University of New Mexico. The talk was entitled “From Racialized Servitude to Race as Resource: Shifting Cultural Politics in the Global Knowledge Economy.” In November 2015, Dr. Padios gave an invited talk as part of UMD’s Center for the New Americas’ symposium entitled “The Hart-Cellar Act and Its Legacy.”

Prof. Janelle Wong was the inaugural speaker for the newly formed Asian American Studies Working Group at Harvard University this past October as part of her work to support ethnic studies programs around the country. Last month, she was a panel discussant on Melissa Harris-Perry along with Janai Nelson, associate director council for the NAACP legal defense fund, Halley Potter, fellow at the Century Foundation, and Dr. John McWhorter, associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. During the panel, Prof. Wong shared her expertise on affirmative action policies and the ways in which these policies directly impact admissions and issues of diversity on college campuses. Wong also discussed how affirmative action policies are impacting Asian Americans, which she pointed out as a new element of current debates around affirmative action. To watch Prof. Wong’s appearance, please follow this link: [http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/watch/supreme-court-to-hear-affirmative-action-case-580905027595](http://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/watch/supreme-court-to-hear-affirmative-action-case-580905027595).
DGS Corner :: student professionalization continues

On Sept. 17, there was a workshop on applying for academic jobs and fellowships. During the workshop, Profs. Hanhardt and Padios shared tips and models for crafting job letters, and Profs. Guerrero and Wong did so for fellowship applications. Students had the opportunity to receive feedback on letters, CVs, research statements, teaching statements, and other materials in progress in order to help prepare them for the next stages of their careers.

On Sept. 29, an informal session was offered focusing on skills and tips for managing graduate student life. During the session, faculty and graduate students had a lively discussion about the things they wished they had known as a student and/or effective strategies they adopted for navigating the classroom, research, teaching, professional development, and social life throughout their respective graduate careers.

A workshop on submitting conference abstracts and publications was hosted on Oct. 27. Profs. Farman and Bruce shared their expertise and answered questions on how to write conference abstracts and to submit academic essays for publication consideration; Prof. Hanhardt moderated. A lively discussion followed, and students were offered feedback on materials.

During the last workshop of the semester, held on Nov. 17, Profs. Williams-Forsom, Mirabal, Wong, and Hanhardt each presented on issues of navigating power and difference in the academy relating to race, gender, sexuality, class, citizenship, and ability. Participants then had a lengthy, productive discussion about how to support each other in the academy.

These events could not have happened without the hard work and contributions of faculty, staff, and students alike.

Director of undergraduate studies announcements

By now you are aware that Prof. Sies is on sabbatical leave for the year, and Dr. Jo Paoletti is filling in for her. She has assembled a few suggestions for making the most of what the Department of American Studies has to offer:

1) Be informed. The amst-major listserv is our main undergraduate communication channel; you are subscribed using the email you gave us when you entered the major. Not using that one anymore? Let us know, so you won’t miss any important announcements.

2) Stay connected. Like our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/umd.amst), join our LinkedIn community (University of Maryland Department of American Studies, a subgroup of University of Maryland College of Arts & Humanities), or follow us on Twitter (@umd_amst).

3) Get to know us. Talk to your teachers and advisors. You are in a small department, which means by the time you graduated you should have several people who know you well enough to write you a recommendation or let you know about a job opening.

4) Get your money’s worth. We’re not just talking about being present and engaged in class -- though that is an excellent start. You are seated in the middle of an unparalleled all-you-can-eat buffet of experiences and ideas. Use the Career Center, attend lectures and guest speakers (even if you don’t get extra credit), enjoy performances at CSPAC. Get off campus and explore D.C. and Baltimore.

5) If you need help, ask. Little problem? Big Problem? Let people know, and you will find that the Department has a heart as well as a mind.
Check out Powerlines

As a student-run journal, Powerlines sets out to create a laboratory-like space where researchers, activists, and artists at all stages of their careers, regardless of disciplinary or institutional affiliation, can experiment with style, form, and thinking. For the upcoming issue, they invited scholarly blog posts as well as conference-style papers that foregrounded disability, sexuality, gender, race, class, and nation from vantage points in American studies, material and visual culture studies, performance studies, women’s studies, public or social history, anthropology, English, sociology, geography, the digital humanities, and related fields. To read articles from the previous three issues, please visit [http://amst.umd.edu/powerlines/](http://amst.umd.edu/powerlines/).

There, you will find invigorating scholarship exploring issues of sustainability, hactivism, and the politics of self-care, to a name a few of the great scholarly contributions you might find interesting!

AY 15–16 graduate student fellowships and awards

**Tony Perry** received a Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, which provides summer support to graduate students so they can concentrate fully on their own scholarly activities.

**Portia Barker** received an Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, which provides support to University of Maryland doctoral candidates who have excellent qualifications and are in the latter stages of writing their dissertations.

**Terrance Wooten** received the Dr. James W. Longest Memorial Award for Social Science Research, intended to support doctoral dissertation research in the social sciences with potential benefits for small and/or disadvantaged communities as well as an Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, a recognition of being named among the top 2% of campus GAs in a given year.

**Kelsey Michael** received a Flagship Fellowship, a multi-year enhancement award use to support and recruit outstanding doctoral students.

**Jacqueline Partida** received a Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship, an award that spots support entering graduate students who are alumni or alumnae of a McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program.

**Jessica Kenyatta Walker** received a Marylin Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellow at Kenyon College and a Boston College’s African & African Diaspora Studies Program Dissertation Fellowship (declined). She was named honorable mention for the 2015-2016 Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship and was award the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Dissertation Grant 2015-2016 (declined).

**Michael Casiano** received the Sara Berry Award for Excellence in Comparative Scholarship at the Fifth Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Baltimore, MD.

**Kevin Winstead** and **Robert Choflet** were named 2015-2016 Graduate Teaching Fellows. The Graduate Teaching Fellows Program (Formerly Graduate Lilly Fellows) is a venue to develop and sustain a cross-disciplinary learning community of graduate students as future faculty.
Fast Facts :: Graduate Student News


Ashley Minner won the Sentinel Prize at the 2015 “Art to End Hurt” visual arts competition. She also had three recent art exhibitions: Trace at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center in Frederick, Maryland; Exquisite Lumbees at the Trickster Gallery in Schaumburg, Illinois; and Henry Berry Lowry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.


Nicole Currier presented “‘Like a State Within a State’: Inside the Gated World of Sandals Resorts” at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association in Philadelphia, PA.

Xinqian Qiu presented “Evolution, Gentrification and Preservation of D.C.’s Chinatown” at the Power Session of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Schillica Howard presented “Black Hair and Politicized Aesthetic Turns” at the centennial annual meeting and conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Atlanta, GA.

Joseph Meyer was accepted into the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Scholar Class of 2016.

Michael Casiano presented “‘In Perpetuity’: The Case of Fantex and the Racialization of Investment” at the Fifth Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Congratulations to the successfully defended dissertations of 2015!

Dr. Andrew Nelson  
“With Sight and Sound: Black Photographic and Musical Expression in Rural Alabama, 1900-1930”  
Profs. Nancy L. Struna and Psyche Williams-Forson, Co-Chairs

Dr. Maria Velazquez  
“Reclaiming Black Beledi: Race, Wellness, and Online Community”  
Prof. Psyche Williams-Forson, Chair

Dr. Mark Barron  
“Tax Rebels: The Rise of the White Property Owner in Cobb County, Georgia”  
Prof. Mary C. Sies, Chair

Dr. Gabriel Peoples  
“Viral Bodies: Uncontrollable Blackness in Popular Culture and Everyday Life”  
Profs. Jason Farman and Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr. (University of Washington in St. Louis), Co-Chairs
Congratulations to all UMD presenters at the ASA!

2015 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Toronto, Canada (October 8 to 11)

Thursday, October 8

10:00 - 11:45am
Professor Nancy Raquel Mirabal, Panelist for “Facing Post-gentrification. On the Politics of Home in an Era of Rapid Change”

2:00 - 3:45pm
Professor Jo B. Paoletti, Session Chair for “How Do We Teach Research? Pedagogical Practice in Interdisciplinary Methodologies”

4:00 - 5:45pm
Jessica Kenyatta Walker, Session Chair and Panelist for “Accept, Articulate, Mis(use): What’s Afro-pessimism Without Misery?”
Bimbola Akinbola, Panelist for “Accept, Articulate, Mis(use): What’s Afro-pessimism Without Misery?”
Izetta Autumn Mobley, Panelist for “Accept, Articulate, Mis(use): What’s Afro-pessimism Without Misery?”

8:00-9:45pm
Ilyas Abukar, Panelist for “Beyond Ayaan Hiirsi Ali: On Being Black, Muslim, and from East Africa in Liberal North American Societies”

Friday, October 9

8:00 - 9:45am
Professor Christina Hanhardt, Panelist for “Students’ Committee: Mock Job Interview Forum”
Terrance Wooten, “Lost in the Crowd: Recovering the Narratives and Regulating the Lives of Black Queer Homeless Youth in New York City”

12:00 - 1:45pm
Professor Christina Hanhardt, “Dead Addicts Don’t Recover: The Politics of Pain and Suffering in Harm Reduction History”

2:00 - 3:45pm
Affiliate Professor Mary Helen Washington (ENGL), Session Comments and Chair for “Liberating Politics Through Culture: Recovering the Voices of African American Activist-artists Through Talk and Performance”

Saturday, October 10

10:00 - 11:45am
Professor La Marr Jurelle Bruce, “Laugh Until it Hurts: Rape Jokes, Queer Laughter, and the Comedy of (Black) Masculinity”

12:00 - 1:45pm
Affiliate Professor Randy Ontiveros (ENGL), Panelist for “Minority Scholars Committee: The Invisibility and Performance of Labor of Diversity”

4:00 - 5:45pm
A. Anthony, Session Chair for “Entanglements of Pathologization and Criminalization”

Sunday, October 11

12:00 - 1:45pm
Kalima Young, Panelist for “Regional Chapters Committee: A Discussion with ASA Regional Student Award Winners”
Tony Perry, “Enslaved, Clothed, and Cold: The Material Eco-Culture of Slavery In Antebellum Maryland”
Cassy Griff, “Too Fat to Fight: Contingent Citizenship, Latina/o Youth, and the War Against Childhood Obesity”

Dr. Cheryl Janifer LaRoche, “AME Minister William Paul Quinn, Militant Soldier of the Cross”
Next Steps :: 2015 Graduate Placements


Dr. Gabriel Peoples (Ph.D., 2015), Postdoctoral Fellow, Gender Studies, Indiana University.

Dr. Maria Velazquez (Ph.D., 2015), Postdoctoral Fellow, Africana Studies, Bucknell University.

Dr. Kirsten Case (Ph.D., 2014), Research Associate and Director of the Potomac Gorge Project, National Park Service and Historic Preservation Program, University of Maryland.

Introducing the New Ph.D. Cohort :: Class of 2015

Kelsey Michael is a first-year doctoral student in the Department. Kelsey received her M.A. in Folklore from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her B.A. in English from Harding University. Her research examines feminist movements among evangelical Christian women. Originally from Florence, Alabama, Kelsey is happy to be back in Washington, D.C. after interning at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 2012.

Schillica Howard is a doctoral student, native to Southern Maryland. She received her B.A. in Gender and Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland: Baltimore County (UMBC) in 2013 and her M.A. in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Georgia State University in 2015. Her research interests include Black hair, gender performance, and popular culture.

Jacqueline Beatriz Partida is a doctoral student in the Department and a McNair Fellow. She received her B.A. in Chicana/o Studies and Feminist Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research interests include Latina/o experiences in K-12 and higher education, Chicana feminism, women in social movements, borderland and immigration studies.

Christina Simone Sessoms is a first year doctoral student from Federal Way, Washington. She received her B.A. in Comparative Ethnic Studies with a minor in Political Science. She was a McNair Scholar. Her research interests currently include the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality; post-raciality; and Black Greek letter organizations and how one’s racial identity is developed through participation. Since she is new to the area, Christina enjoys visiting the Smithsonian, volunteering in the community, and eating at food trucks.
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 Dr. Psyche Williams-Forsøn at pwforson@umd.edu.

Please make checks payable to:
   University of Maryland
   College Park Foundation

Mail to:
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