Department receives diversity award

On May 16, 2013, the Department received the President’s Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues Instructional Unit Award for its longstanding commitment to and work on behalf of advancing equity and diversity. Among the accomplishments cited were:

- 20% increase in undergraduate students of color over the past decade; currently 43% of undergraduate majors are students of color.
- As of Fall 2012, 69% of graduate students are students of color, compared to 18% for ARHU.
- In the spring and summer of 2009, AMST graduated six African American Ph.D. students, five of whom were women. This is likely a national record.
- Intellectual transformation of the Department’s research and teaching to focus on cultural constructions of difference and identity and cultures of everyday life, both embracing transnational perspectives.
- Faculty and students well known nationally for their research on topics associated with critical race and ethnic studies, engaged scholarship locally in communities such as Lakeland, and commitments to U.S. Latina/o Studies and Asian American Studies.

We are very proud of this award and grateful to the PCEMI for its recognition!

Powerlines calls for papers!

Interdisciplinary research asks questions and explores subjects single disciplines cannot address. It draws from disciplinary frameworks without being bound to normalized mandates and conventions. This issue of Powerlines engages the prospect of Interdisciplinarity and its possible futures.

According to feminist theorist, Marjorie Pryse, interdisciplinary approaches create “intellectual flexibility,” which facilitates (inter)disciplinary crossings in order to create new questions, knowledge, and areas of study. Such scholarship is often strategically transgressive, disruptive, and challenging as it moves between and across boundaries when needed. We are expressly interested in featuring papers that cross, disrupt, and challenge routinized modes of analysis as well as demonstrate the heterogeneity of interdisciplinary scholarship.

Issue 2 of Powerlines, “Interdisciplinary Crossings,” invites submissions of original interdisciplinary graduate student research produced at the University of Maryland, College Park. While remaining committed to Powerlines’ roots in Americans’ Studies, we welcome papers from other programs in Arts and Humanities with similar investments, as well as cultural studies writ large. Authors should submit original work of 4000-9000 words directly to the editors in MS Word format (.doc) by Jan. 3, 2014. These submissions should be sent to powerlines.umd@gmail.com with the title “Submission-Author Name.”
From the American Studies Chair

By Dr. Nancy Struna

We’ve moved!! Holzapfel Hall had the advantage of a great location, but Susquehanna seems like two, or more, steps up! Our friends in English, who spent nearly two decades here, might not agree, but all our faculty now have windows, the air conditioning has worked, and the classrooms actually facilitate teaching and learning. The grad students now share offices with one or two other folks rather than the mass (and prone to flooding) housing they had in Holzapfel. Our lesson: it’s all a matter of perspective! If you haven’t been over, come see all the smiling faces on the 4th floor. Planning is proceeding on what will be our home in Tawes. We hope to be over there in two years in brand new facilities.

American Studies continues its forward motion in other ways, too. You’ll see much evidence of that in this newsletter, so I’ll highlight just a few things here. We’re so pleased that our colleague, Dr. Christina Hanhardt, earned promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. This is a well-deserved honor! Several of our affiliate faculty members also received tenure and/or were promoted, as you’ll see in the Affiliates Corner, and we’re proud of all of them. We miss seeing our recently retired colleague, John Caughey, but we’ve “captured” his spirit and commitment to students in the form of a Foundation fund to support their research and travel (p. 3). We think the new student online journal, PowerLines, is a brilliant piece of work and is getting a good bit of national play because it’s so good and unique in its professional quality. Finally, our research and publication agenda continues apace. Dr. Farman’s next book, The Mobile Story: Narrative Practices with Locative Technologies (Routledge), is out, and Dr. Parks published an expanded version of her Fierce Angels with a new subtitle (Lawrence Hill, 2013). Dr. Hanhardt’s Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence will be out shortly from Duke University Press, and Dr. Paoletti is finishing her second book, Sex and Unisex: Fashion, Feminism, and the Sexual Revolution, for Indiana University Press. Professors Guerrero, Padios, Sies, Williams-Forson, and Wong are also hard at work on manuscripts. A new hire in African American and African Diaspora cultural production will further enhance our core research and teaching missions, as does—I can finally announce—the addition of Dr. Nancy Mirabal, who will be joining us in Fall 2014 as an associate professor in the Migration Studies cluster.

We’re once again lucky to have the American Studies Association annual meeting in our backyard, Washington, D.C., November 21-24. Our faculty and students will be there in force, and we hope to see some of you in sessions and at the University of Maryland Reception, Saturday, Nov. 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please join us!

In Memoriam

We are sad to include this announcement. Our vivacious and valued colleague, Marvette Pérez, passed away on August 19, 2013 at the age of 52. Marvette joined us as an instructor in the Museum Studies and Material Culture graduate certificate program, teaching the Introduction to Museum Scholarship seminar and co-teaching the Museum Scholarship Research Seminar. An anthropologist by training, Marvette was the first curator of Latino History and Culture at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. She will be remembered for her encyclopedic knowledge of Latina/o cultural production, her unique interpretation of the new museology, her humane and robust advocacy of Latinas/os and other marginalized groups, and for challenging normal practice in museum culture and scholarly settings. A full tribute to Marvette is available at http://americanhistory.si.edu/press/releases/marvette-perez.
Department alumn produces documentary

Newly minted Ph.D., Gary Ford, recently produced the award-winning documentary film Justice is a Black Woman: The Life and Work of Constance Baker Motley. The film debuted on PBS in 2012 and received the 2012 Best Higher Education Film Award of Seeding Film Association’s Offshoot Film Fest and the 2013 Telly Award. Ford’s documentary, based on his dissertation research, focuses on Judge Motley, who was the only woman trial lawyer to have served on the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the NAACP during the 1950s-60s. According to Ford, he wrote his dissertation and produced the film to “fill in a gap in the scholarly literature and to make the history of the Civil Rights movement more complete and accurate.” In January 2013, Ford contacted the Connecticut Congressional delegation and suggested that a bill be introduced to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Motley. Ford’s documentary demonstrates the power of American Studies in real life.

Student fund honors John Caughey

At the end of the spring semester, our outstanding colleague, Dr. John Caughey, retired from the University. We all had a marvelous time at his retirement party in May, and with his support, we established a fund that would continue one of his greatest contributions: working on behalf of students. John is renowned for his above and beyond work with students, both graduate and undergraduate. His commitment to advising, helping students craft research papers, serving on dissertation and theses committees, and just plain listening to any and all students is legendary. This fund will continue his legacy, providing students with funds for travel and other expenses associated with their research, and it will be open to applications from both graduate and undergraduate students. A Department committee consisting of both faculty and students will oversee annual awards from the fund, which John, and other members of the Department, affiliate faculty, and his advisees have seeded. If you would like to contribute to the Caughey Fund, please contact Nancy Struna (nlstruna@umd.edu) or Mary Corbin Sies (marycorbinsies@yahoo.com) or contribute directly to the University of Maryland College Park Fund, using the identification number 22155.

AMST partners with D.C. theatre

A team of material culture, digital humanities, and suburbia experts from AMST teamed up with the Woolly Mammoth Theatre to support the run of Detroit, a play by Lisa D’Amour, which ran from September 9 to October 6, 2013. Grad students Dan Greene and Jessica Walker, AMST Ph.D. Asim Ali, and Professors Jo Paoletti, Mary Corbin Sies, and Psyche Williams-Forson consulted on the visual images used in the play and helped to design Woolly Mammoth’s lobby experience in collaboration with Woolly’s Connectivity Director, Jocelyn Prince, and IT Consultant, Alli Houseworth. The team created a museum of artifacts and visual culture depicting leisure practices of post-World War II classic suburbs in the theatre’s upper lobby. Visitors scanned QR codes and listened to podcasts of Professors Sies and Williams-Forson interpreting the material culture and advertisements on display. In the lower lobby, the group designed an inviting arrangement of contemporary suburban outdoor furnishings and games. Members of the AMST team were featured in a special House Lights Up talkback: “American Suburbia: Real and Imagined,” after the September 29 matinee performance, which students from Prof. Williams-Forson’s Advanced Material Culture and Jessica Walker’s Material Aspects of American Life classes attended.
Alumni Banquet is a success

On April 13, 2013, the Department held its annual Alumni Banquet in the Stamp Student Union’s Colony Ballroom. This year’s alumni speakers were Dr. Tamara Wilds Lawson and Prince George’s County Councilman Eric C. Olson. Dr. Lawson, the current director of the Washington, D.C. division for the non-profit group Posse, reflected on how her time in the Department gave her the consciousness and opportunity to study policy and its effects at the ground level. Councilman Olson, who received his M.A. in American Studies, shared how his ethnographic training currently influences his relationship with his constituents.

Recognition of the retirement of Dr. John Caughey and the introduction of the Department’s new online peer-reviewed scholarly journal Powerlines were also a part of the event.

Join our working group!


This interdisciplinary working group will gather to exchange intellectual ideas, workshop papers, and review literature in the field.

Facilitator: Janelle Wong (Associate Professor, American Studies and Director, Asian American Studies)

If you would like to join, contact janellew@umd.edu.

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.

AMST goes abroad

Raul Alvarenga is a senior American Studies major with a minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies. Last spring, Raul had the opportunity to study abroad through the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), an association of 33 U.S. universities that provides programs in 25 countries at 40 program sites. Following the advice of his older sister, who told him he should study abroad before graduating, Raul chose to spend five months in Florianópolis, Brazil. Raul’s interest in Brazilian culture and his desire to learn another language made the otherwise difficult decision of choosing a location an easier one.

While in Brazil, Raul lived with five other Americans in an apartment, though he wishes he would have had the chance to stay with a host family; none were available when he arrived. He spent the first five weeks in class every day learning Portuguese in the morning and practicing his Portuguese in the evening. For him, practicing Portuguese was not that easy because, as he writes, “a lot of Brazilians wanted to practice their English with me instead of me practice my Portuguese with them." Despite not being able to immerse himself in the language as much as he would have liked, he made many meaningful relationships he continues to foster.

Raul’s experience was one he will never forget. As he writes, “there’s something about the atmosphere in Brazil that makes you want to stay and not come back.” He encourages all majors to study abroad if they have the chance, because, in his words, “sometimes we fear leaving our comfort zone, but the world has a lot to offer, and that’s what American Studies teaches us: to think more critically about ourselves and the world around us.”
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:

Pamela Marquez is an American Studies major with a minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies who is also obtaining a certificate in Latin American Studies. Prior to attending the University of Maryland, College Park, Pamela worked seven years in corporate America.

Last semester Pamela helped organize the A10 Immigration Rally Reform March in Washington, D.C. and volunteered at Estudios Universitarios giving tours to Spanish-speaking parents from Prince George’s County interested in sending their children to the University of Maryland, College Park. Over the summer, Pamela spent a month studying abroad in Santiago, Chile. After graduation this year, she plans to find work in the non-profit sector and possibly move with her son to Ecuador.

Pamela’s role as liaison is important to her because as a non-traditional student returning to school after being in the workforce, she understands anxieties that students might have about starting careers after college. Pamela would like to help develop effective ways to address these anxieties.

Katie Sint is a senior American Studies major from Silver Spring, Maryland. She is interested in social justice and human rights and has interned for non-profit organizations such as EarthRights International and Women for Women International in Washington, D.C.

Katie is also interested in studying popular culture and the representations of marginalized groups in the United States. In her free time, Katie enjoys reading, writing, television, and hiking.

Katie is excited to be one of the undergraduate liaisons this semester. She hopes to provide feedback between the AMST faculty and the undergraduates and to serve as an effective and helpful representative.
Dr. Jo Paoletti spent the summer completing the first draft of her second book, *Sex and Unisex: Fashion, Feminism and the Sexual Revolution*, which is under contract with Indiana University Press. After exploring the origins and evolution of gendered clothing for babies and toddlers in *Pink and Blue: Telling the Boys from the Girls in America* (IU Press, 2012), Paoletti turned to clothing and fashion as a means of understanding the early culture wars in the 1960s and 70s.

Dr. Mary Corbin Sies presented a paper entitled, “The Lakeland Archive: Community Strategies for Cultural Sustainability,” at the Fifteenth Biennial National Planning History Conference in Toronto in October. She and her students are finishing up their most recent collaborative project with the Lakeland Community Heritage Project. “An Urban Renewal Timeline” documents the sequence of urban renewal events that brought about the loss of territory and relocation of many former residents of this historic African American community, adjacent to the UMD campus in College Park.

Dr. Janelle Wong recently published a chapter, “Immigrant Political Incorporation: Beyond the Foreign-Born vs. Native-Born Distinction” in *Outsiders No More: Models of Immigrant Political Incorporation* (Oxford University Press, 2013). The chapter addresses challenges to modeling immigrant political incorporation and raises concerns about essentializing group boundaries.

Prof. Parks expands *Fierce Angels*

In April 2013, Prof. Sheri Parks published the second edition of *Fierce Angels* with an updated subtitle, “Living with a Legacy from the Sacred Dark Feminine to the Strong Black Woman.” What makes this edition different than the first? Besides the updated cover and move from an academic to a popular press, there are two new chapters and an updated final chapter. In this edition, Prof. Parks traces the sacred dark feminine from ancient creation to the present through textual, cultural, and ethnographic approaches. It is written for a public audience, making it a text that balances scholarship and popular culture. The two added chapters (2 & 7) are “The Alchemical Mistress of the Dazzling Darkness” and “Making a Way Out of No Way.” Between these two chapters, Prof. Parks is able to expand her argument about the sacred dark feminine by exploring the alchemy of the “Nigredo” overtime, the sacred dark feminine as an embedded ideal, and advocating for dark women to own their image. Lastly, she incorporates how the first edition was received. Overall, Prof. Parks is happier with this edition because of the cover, its updated media images, the continuity of the arguments, and her emphasis on the sacred dark feminine belonging to black women as well as other communities.
News from the DGS

Professor Christina B. Hanhardt has an exciting lineup of events this fall! This semester, she will be organizing two professional development workshops. On Monday, Nov. 4, she will host a workshop on applying for jobs and fellowships. On Monday, Dec. 9, there will be a workshop on publishing and presenting research. These workshops will be a continuation of her ongoing commitment to the professional development and excellence of our students. She will also be hosting a one-day “Get to Know your DGS” open house, where students can—and are encouraged to—stop by to reintroduce themselves, ask any graduate school-related questions, and/or have a more informal conversation with their DGS. Lastly, Prof. Hanhardt hopes to sponsor an end of the semester social hour for graduate students to celebrate their accomplishments, accolades, and the finish of what will undoubtedly be another productive and successful semester in the Department!

Director of undergraduate studies announcements

During Fall 2013, Stephanie Stevenson (AMST Ambassador) and Prof. Mary Corbin Sies are organizing a series of workshops to help AMST majors and USLT minors take advantage of opportunities available to UMD students and prepare for their future careers.

Already successful workshops include:
• October 14 : Workshop on Advice for Applying to Graduate Schools
• October 30 : Workshop on Applying for Internships

Still to come:
• Choosing a Focus Area to Support Your Career Goals
• What You Can Gain from Studying Abroad

Please let Prof. Sies and Stephanie Stevenson know what other workshops you would like AMST to develop!

Asian American studies updates

Asian American civil rights activist, Nobuko Miyamoto, will be giving a lecture for the Asian American Studies Program on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 3:30 p.m. In 1973, together with Chris Iijima and Charlie Chin, Miyamoto created the first album of Asian American music, "A Grain of Sand," now part of the Smithsonian Institution collection. Since 1978, Miyamoto has been Artistic Director of Great Leap, Inc., a non-profit arts organization which uses the arts to promote deeper understanding between the diverse cultures of America. This event is part of the Asian American Studies Program Series on Art and Activism funded by the UGST Initiative Fund. For more information or to RSVP, email aast@umd.edu.

What makes the issue of citizenship so divisive? What does the current “path to citizenship” look like now and what obstacles already exist for immigrants? What impact might the different plans have on this country? To explore these issues, Public Radio International invited immigration scholars, including American Studies Associate Professor Janelle Wong, researchers, and activists to participate in an online panel on Thursday, Oct. 17. More information available at: http://www.pri.org/stories/2013-10-14/discussion-why-citizenship-so-significant-debate-immigration-reform.
And from Our Affiliates

**Awards:**
- Erve Chambers (ANTH), Dean’s Medal, BSOS, 2013
- Julie Greene (HIST), RASA, Fall 2013; Fellow, National Humanities Center, North Carolina, 2013-14
- Sharon Harley (AASP), RASA, Summer 2013
- Regina Harrison (CMLT/SPAN), RASA, Fall 2013
- Marie Howland (URSP), ADVANCE Professor, 2013-14
- Seung-kyung Kim (WMST), promoted to Professor
- James Maffie (PHIL), Resident Associate, National Humanities Center, North Carolina, 2013-14
- Robert Levine (ENGL), Distinguished University Professor, campus, 2013; visiting faculty fellow at Institute for Advanced Study, Texas A & M University, 2013-14
- Marilee Lindemann (ENGL), Kirwan Undergraduate Education Award, 2013
- Lisa Mar (HIST), Faculty Minority Achievement Award, President’s Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues, 2013
- Randy Ontiveros (ENGL), promoted to Associate Professor with tenure
- Sangeeta Ray (ENGL), Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies, UMD, Spring 2013
- Joe Richardson (AASP), promoted to Associate Professor with tenure
- Michele Rowley (WMST), RASA, Fall 2013
- Patrick Warfield (MUSC), promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

**Books and Film:**
- Regina Harrison (CMLT/SPAN), *Gringo Kullki: Sucres to Dollars in Ecuador* (supported by Fulbright-Hays fellowship)
- Brian Richardson (ENGL), *A Poetics of Unnatural Narrative* (Ohio State Univ. Press, 2013)
- Patrick Warfield (MUSC), *Making the March King: John Philip Sousa's Washington Years, 1854-1893* (Univ. of Illinois Press, 2013)

**Scholarship established in honor of Dr. Jesse James Scott**

We are sad to report that AMST Ph.D. alumni, Jesse Scott, passed away in Cleveland, OH, on May 20, 2013. His husband, Michael Anderson, reported that he lost a valiant battle with liver disease, diagnosed early in 2013. Jesse hailed from Hampton, Virginia, and received his B.A. in English from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1996. He completed his Ph.D. in 2007, writing a memorable dissertation entitled, *Transgressing the Law: Reparations and African American Cultural Narratives*, directed by Prof. Sheri Parks. Jesse was the recipient of three prestigious fellowships and he landed a tenure track Assistant Professor position in the English Department at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) after graduation. He was a cherished colleague in the Department of African American and African Studies at The Ohio State University when he became ill earlier this year.

The Department has established a fund to provide the Jesse James Scott Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to students who dedicate their studies toward the social good. Please consider a contribution and be sure to designate your gift to the Department of American Studies, Jesse Scott Fund: [https://advancement.umd.edu/giving/quickGiving.php?Amount=100&Fund=&add_gift=Continue&add_gift_btn=Give+Now](https://advancement.umd.edu/giving/quickGiving.php?Amount=100&Fund=&add_gift=Continue&add_gift_btn=Give+Now).
Fast Facts :: Graduate Student News


Cassy Griff will be presenting “He Ain’t (Just) Heavy, He’s an Anchor Baby: Anti-Fat and Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric and the Production of the Immigrant Threat” at the National Women’s Studies Association annual meeting.

Darius Bost was awarded the Penn Predoctoral Fellowship for Excellence through Diversity at the University of Pennsylvania. He also received the Martin Duberman Visiting Scholars Award.

Jarah Moesch presented “Digital Humanities: Egalitarian or the New Elite?” at the Digital Humanities Conference and “Designing Queer Families: Normative Values in Sperm Bank Website Design” at the Cultural Studies Association Conference. She also presented at the Sixth Annual D.C. Queer Symposium.

Jennie Chaplin, Darius Bost, and Daniel Greene received the Distinguished Graduate Teaching Assistant Award from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Kevin Winstead hosted a workshop entitled “Can We Still See and Hear? Is There a Black Catholic Movement Today?” at the 2013 James P. Lyke Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Maria Velazquez was elected as one of the three Members at Large for the National Women’s Studies Association.

Paul Saiedi has been accepted as a HASTAC Scholar (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory) for the 2013-2014 academic year.


Stephanie Stevenson will be presenting “Listening to her Desires: Using Participatory Action Research to Re-imagine & Restructure Black Adolescent Female ‘Empowerment’ Programs” at the NWSA annual meeting.

Congratulations to the successfully defended dissertations of 2012-2013!

Dr. Tiffany King
In the Clearing: Black Female Bodies, Space, and Settler Colonial Landscapes
    Prof. Psyche Williams-Forson, Chair

Dr. Elise White
“Pushed Out” and Pulled In: Girls of Color, the Criminal Justice System, and Neoliberalism’s Double-Bind
    Prof. Mary Corbin Sies, Chair

Dr. Asim Ali
Subjacent Culture, Orthogonal Community: An Ethnographic Analysis of an Online Buffy the Vampire Slayer Fan Community
    Prof. John Caughey, Chair

Dr. Gary Ford
The Only Woman Trial Lawyer Who Helped Dismantle Jim Crow: Constance Baker Motley
    Prof. Nancy Struna, Chair
Congratulations to all AMST presenters at the ASA!

2013 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Washington, D.C. (November 21 to 24)
****All sessions will be held at the Washington Hilton****

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00-9:45
Affiliate Professor Marilee Lindemann (ENGL), Panelist for “ASA Students’ Committee: The Public Intellectual”
Stephanie Stevenson, Panelist for “ASA Students’ Committee: The Public Intellectual”

10:00-11:45
Affiliate Professor Melinda Chateauvert (AASP), Session Comments for “Debt Trafficking: Sex Work, Deficit, and Radical Insolvency”
Affiliate Professor Robert S. Levine (ENGL), Session Comments for “Political Melville?”

2:00-3:45
Affiliate Professor Carla L. Peterson (ENGL), Session Comments for “This Debt We Pay: Black Identity, Labor, and Performance at the Nadir”

4:00-5:45

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

10:00-11:45
Darius Bost, Session Comments for “Queer Politics and the Debt of Representation”

12:00-1:45
Izetta Autumn Mobley, Session Comments for “ASA Site Resources Committee: Real Estate, Revision, and Resistance: Washington, D.C., Then and Now”

4:00-5:45
Stephanie Stevenson, “Baltimore Knows Best: The Politics of Policing Urban Black Adolescent Female Bodies, Sexual Citizenship, and Desire”

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

10:00-11:45
Professor Christina Hanhardt, Session Comments for “ASA Site Resources Committee: Fighting Foreclosure Across Scales”
Professor Jan M. Padios, “Transnational Ethical Economies: Global Frontiers in Investment, Poverty, and Entrepreneurialism”

2:00-3:45
Professor Sheri L. Parks, Panelist for “Intersectionality: Foundations and Frontiers in the Shadow of the Crisis”
Affiliate Professor Ralph Bauer (CMLT), Caucus Panelist for “Early America Matters: Colloquy with Annette Kolodny on In Search of First Contact”

4:00-5:45
Professor Psyche Williams-Forson, Session Comments for “The Good, The Bad, The Unforgivable: Black Women’s Food Work as Spaces of Dissent and Strategic Acquiescence”
Jessica Walker, Panelist for “The Good, The Bad, The Unforgivable: Black Women’s Food Work as Spaces of Dissent and Strategic Acquiescence”

***Please join us the evening of Saturday, November 23 for the University of Maryland Department of American Studies Reception from 6:30-8:00pm in the International Terrace II***

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:00-9:45
Professor Janelle Wong, Session Comments for “Contemporary Asian American Politics: View Through the Lens of the 1882 Project”
Xinqian Qiu, Participant for “Contemporary Asian American Politics: View Through the Lens of the 1882 Project”
Cassy Griff, Panelist for “ASA Students’ Committee: Making Your Work Do Work: A Conversation with ASA Regional Student Award Winners”

10:00-11:45
Aaron Allen, “Legacy Preferences: On the Politics of Mixed Race Student Organizing”
Daniel Greene, “Access to Self and City: Internet Entrepreneurs and the Politics of Presentation and Space”

2:00-3:45
Affiliate Professor Renee Ater (ARTH), Panelist for “Historical Debts and Public Commemoration: Questioning the ‘Good War’s Memory and Meaning in Contemporary America”
Affiliate Professor Mary Helen Washington (ENGL), Session Comments for “Collecting Social Debt: Twentieth Century Political Reaction and Right-Wing Dissent”
Introducing the New Ph.D. Cohort :: Class of 2013

Robert De’Von Jiles is a doctoral student and a native of the Inland Empire in Southern California. He received his B.A. in English Composition with an emphasis in Literature from California State University, San Bernardino and an M.P.S. in Africana Studies from Cornell University. Robert is a McNair Scholar with research interests in the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and class; fiction and prose of James Baldwin; masculinity studies; media studies; hip hop studies; pornography studies; and working-class studies.

Anton Andrei Medvedev is a first-year master's degree student in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. Anton holds B.A.s in Philosophy and Government and Politics, as well as a Certificate in Women’s Studies, from the University of Maryland, College Park. Anton’s current research interests include anarchism, social movement sustainability, intentional communities, and self-determination.

Joseph Meyer is a first-year doctoral student in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He hails from Yorba Linda, CA. He holds an M.A. in American Studies from California State University, Fullerton where he also received a B.A. in American Studies and History as well a teaching credential in Social Studies. His current research interests focus on community formation in digital space and its impact upon identity.

Kalima Young received her M.A. in Mass Communications at Towson University and a B.A. in Communications and Women’s Studies at Goucher College in Maryland. She is currently a project director at the Maryland Institute College of Art and lecturer at Towson University in LGBT Studies. Kalima’s research focuses on intersectionality in marginalized communities and the ways in which issues of identity and trauma are expressed through media, art, and material culture.

Next Steps :: 2013 Graduate Placements

Dr. Robert K. Chester has published two articles: “‘Negroes’ Number One Hero’: Doris Miller, Pearl Harbor, and Retroactive Multiculturalism in World War II Remembrance” in American Quarterly and “Crusading in Africa: Religion, Race, and Post-9/11 Intervention in Antoine Fuqua’s Tears of the Sun (2003)” in War & Society. He is also giving an invited talk at Seaver College at Pepperdine University entitled, “Identity Unknown: Race and World War II Remembrance in Early Postwar U.S. Culture.”


Paging the Doctors :: Ph.D. Alumni Updates

Dr. Robert K. Chester – Assistant Professor, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Georgia State University
Dr. Elise White – Deputy Director, Midtown Community Court, New York
Dr. Gary Ford – Faculty Fellow, Quinnipiac University
Dr. Manouchka Poinson – Lecturer, University of Maryland, Baltimore Country

Dr. Robert K. Chester – Assistant Professor, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Georgia State University
Dr. Elise White – Deputy Director, Midtown Community Court, New York
Dr. Gary Ford – Faculty Fellow, Quinnipiac University
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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 nstruna@umd.edu.

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

Mail to:
Julia John, Coordinator
4113 Susquehanna Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

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Newsletter Contributors

- Tatiana Benjamin
- Jason Farman
- Cassy Griff
- Christina Hanhardt
- Robert Jiles
- Julia John
- Jo Paoletti
- Sheri Parks
- Paul Saiedi
- Mary Corbin Sies
- Nancy Struna
- Psyche Williams-Forson
- Kevin Winstead
- Janelle Wong
- Terrance Wooten
- Betsy Yuen

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Contact Information

American Studies
University of Maryland
4115 Susquehanna Hall
College Park, MD 20742

amst.umd.edu
americanstudies@umd.edu
Phone: 301-405-1354
Fax: 301-314-9453