A Word from
Dr. Venetria K. Patton

I spent the fall semester away from campus on sabbatical focusing on two Harlem Renaissance book projects. In my absence, Professor Alfred Lopez served admirably as acting Head. I appreciate the dedication of our program directors, administrative staff, and faculty in working together to provide excellent courses and programs for our students while maintaining active research agendas. While I was away, the energy continued as we continue to take SIS one brick higher in all we do. The Film & Video Studies program has established a wonderful collaboration with SONY to allow our students to use some of their equipment and has also developed a new learning community focused on women and film which will begin this fall. Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies launched their new gender inclusive residential learning community this fall. FVS and WGSS are two of the four programs with new directors this year. Information about our new directors follows in the next few pages.

The newsletter also includes updates regarding our alumni. We encourage you to send us information regarding such things as awards, new positions, publications, and other noteworthy achievements. When we can, we like to bring our alumni back to campus to connect with our current students as it’s very inspiring for them to see what Purdue graduates are doing with their degrees. Last spring, Peace Studies organized a conference with a keynote by an American Studies alum and this spring a Comparative Literature alum will be visiting campus. These visits are very enriching for our current students, so please stay in touch with us and let us know what you are doing. As you will see from the pages that follow, our students and faculty are winning awards and we are continuing to engage in innovative research. While SIS is relatively young, our programs have a rich history, and we are looking forward to being a part of Purdue’s next 150 years of giant leaps.
Faculty Promotions and Awards

Congratulations to our newly promoted Faculty and Affiliated Faculty!

Promoted to Associate Professor:

Lori A. Czerwionka, Spanish/Linguistics Affiliate

Jennifer Freeman Marshall, English/Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Director

Daniel J. Olson, Spanish/Linguistics Affiliate

Promoted to Full Professor:

Elena Benedicto, English/Linguistics Affiliate

Kristina K. Bross, English/Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Affiliate

Rayvon D. Fouché, American Studies Director

April Ginther, English/Linguistics Affiliate

Kevin M. Stainback, Sociology/Affiliate Faculty: African American Studies, American Studies, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Congratulations to our Faculty and Staff Award Recipients!

Lupita Acosta-Roberts, Academic Advisor: African American Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies received the 2017 Earl B. Nottestine Award for staff members who demonstrate outstanding service to a department or student services area.

Dr. Jean Beaman, Assistant Professor, Sociology/American Studies and African American Studies Affiliated Faculty won the Faculty Excellence in Research Award from the Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion for her book, Citizen Outsider: Children of North African Immigrants in France.

Dr. Cheryl Cooky, Associate Professor, American Studies and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies won the 2018 Outstanding Sociology of Sport Article of the Year Award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.

Dr. Leonard Harris, Professor, Philosophy/AMST and AAS Affiliate won the Herbert W. Schneider Award from the Society for Advancement of American Philosophy.
Faculty and Staff Awards

Congratulations to our Faculty and Staff Award Recipients!

Terry Knight, Program Coordinator for Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies was recognized with a BRAVO Award. The Bravo Award Program recognizes the excellence that exists among employees across the University. The award provides after-the-fact recognition for substantial accomplishments when an employee exhibits excellence beyond what is asked and at another level.

Dr. Venetria Patton, Head, School of Interdisciplinary Studies received the Violet Haas Award for 2017-18. The Violet Haas Award recognizes individuals, programs, or departments that have facilitated the advancement of women in hiring, promotion, education, and salary, or have enhanced a positive professional climate for women at the university. Dr. Patton was also selected for the inaugural class of the EVPRP Faculty Leadership Academy for Interdisciplinary Research (FLAIR).

Dr. Yvonne Pitts, Associate Professor, History/AMST and WGSS Affiliate and Lowell Kane, Director LGBTQ Center/WGSS Affiliate won the Gender and Sexuality Knowledge Community’s Exemplary Program Award for 2018 from the national Students Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA).

Dr. John Sundquist, Associate Professor, German/Linguistics Affiliate, won the Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.
African American Studies

Dr. Marlo D. David is the new Director of African American Studies and Research Center. She received her PhD in English from the University of Florida in 2009. Her research has focused on contemporary African American cultural studies as well as feminist gender and sexuality studies. Dr. David’s interdisciplinary research traces the ways black writers, artists, and performers respond to inter- and intra-racial representations of blackness and contemporary American politics in the post-Civil Rights era. Her work offers ways of interpreting African American literature, performance, and popular culture that emphasize the multiplicities of black identities and challenge stereotypes that stigmatize black people, particularly black women and girls.

Her first book, *Mama’s Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression*, examines the ways African American writers and performers use methods of vernacular signification to modify controlling images about black mothers in contemporary American culture. By identifying a new literary trope and five new categories of maternal signification in her book, she provides alternative ways of reading transgressive mother figures that are deemed “bad mothers” within dominant discourses. Her work is applicable in the fields of U.S. literary studies, American Studies, African-American Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies. In addition to her book, her essays have been placed in *Tulsa Studies of Women’s Literature*, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, *The African American Review*, and *Home Girls Make Some Noise: A Hip Hop Feminist Anthology*. Dr. David teaches courses on black women writers, motherhood in American literature, black gender and sexuality studies, black feminism, African American satire, postmodern black cultural studies, and feminist theory and methodology.

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Professor Jennifer Freeman Marshall was appointed as Director of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in August of 2018. Dr. Freeman Marshall received a PhD in women’s studies from Emory University, a master’s in anthropology from Georgia State University, and a bachelor’s in English from Spelman College. She holds academic appointments as an associate professor in English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is an affiliate faculty member in African American Studies and American Studies.
New Program Chairs

Comparative Literature

Beate Allert, Professor of German & Film Studies, became Director of Comparative Literature in August 2018. Professor Allert has published widely on perception and language, optics and metaphor, languages of visuality, ekphrasis, international cinema, poetics, and critical approaches to literatures and cultures.

Professor Allert’s vision for the Comparative Literature program is based on the idea that the stronger our undergraduate program is, the more strength that our graduate program will gain. To that end she is developing a new Comparative Literature and Film Major, in addition to developing new courses to be integrated into the current program. In keeping with continuing the growth of our already strong graduate program in Comparative Literature, students will receive support to present their work at conferences and be encouraged to pursue their own research activities and publications. Students in the graduate program also have opportunities to build a varied teaching portfolio, as part of their professional preparation for postdoctoral careers.

The program will continue to recruit excellent students from diverse backgrounds and with a broad range of interests in Literatures, Cultures, and Film Studies. Finally, the program will reach out to alumni, organizing events and establishing links that will bring them back to campus to share their valuable professional and academic experiences.

Film and Video Studies

In 2018, Bobby Chastain was promoted to clinical faculty for the film and video studies program. He currently holds a joint position as interim director of Film and Video Studies Program and assistant director of Hall of Music Productions. Professor Chastain earned a Ph.D. in technology and education, an M.S. in computer graphics and a B.A. in theatre technology, all at Purdue University.

Professor Chastain’s academic focus is on all aspects of film and video production and technology, including editing, cinematography, videography, visual effects, directing, producing, and live events.

Professor Chastain was awarded a Bravo Award in 2018. The Bravo award provides after-the-fact recognition for substantial accomplishments when an employee exhibits excellence beyond what is asked and at another level.
Peace Studies

The Committee on Peace Studies, the Department of Political Science, and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies sponsored the “Visiting Peace and Justice Movements in the 21st Century” conference. It included presentations by three distinguished scholar-activists and six panels organized by students of Political Science 230, Introduction to the Study of Peace.

The conference encouraged formal and informal dialogue and debate among guest speakers, students, and members of the broader Greater Lafayette community. The conference consisted of nine sessions over a day and a half. Each session had from 35 to 45 participants.

Heidi Lewis, assistant professor and associate director of feminist and gender studies at Colorado College spoke about “Feminisms, Race, Culture and Justice Movements.”

Joseph Varga, professor of labor studies, Indiana University, and longtime labor activist spoke on “The New Working Class, Labor Movements, and Economic Justice.”

Carla Wallace, organizer for the national network Showing Up for Racial Justice and its Louisville chapter, discussed “Movements for Racial Justice.” Carla wrote about her participation in the conference: “I have been telling everyone who will listen, about the Peace Conference at Purdue. What a great model for other universities to adopt—the focus on resistance movements and space for students to fully engage is not the way it is often done. So inspiring.”
Program News

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

On December 5th at the Patti and Rusty Rueff East Gallery at Yue-Kong Pao Hall, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies hosted their first bi-annual Feminist Salon. The event supports faculty affiliate and program supporter discussions regarding contemporary feminist issues. Associate Professor Jennifer Freeman Marshall, Director of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, welcomed attendees and dedicated the evening’s gathering to the memory of Dr. Berenice Carroll, former director of Purdue's Women's Studies Program. Associate Professor Cheryl Cooky, serving as moderator, offered a critical perspective on teaching feminism within our current political moment. Attendees informally discussed a broad range of subjects including effective teaching strategies, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and local and global politics. Associate Professor Marlo David, Director of African American Studies, provided a summation and closing comments. The event was co-sponsored by The Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion, The Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership and Excellence, and The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Cultural Center. The Feminist Salon will be held every semester during the last week of classes.

Intro to WGSS Class Creates Quilt

The quilt pictured, named "We All Showed Up," was the creative culmination of Kadari Taylor Watson’s 2018 Fall WGSS 280 course. The quilt tells a story from the student's perspective about the issues most important to them as young women, women of color, male allies, international citizens, and activists that we all have something to fight for. Whether you are fighting against sexual violence and police brutality, or fighting for the right to speak up and honor the women that strengthened, it is crucial that you show up. In WGSS 280, topics that are covered are difficult to have and often make people uncomfortable, but in the end all of the students showed up and brought something to the class community. It is with this quilt that they are remembered for doing the hard work of growing.
Staff News

Message from the SIS Staff

All the SIS staff would like to express our thanks to Dr. Alfred Lopez for leading us during Fall of 2018 while Dr. Venetria Patton was on sabbatical. During this time, Professor Lopez shared his knowledge, guidance, humor and music. We are glad to see that Dr. Patton has returned and are happy that Dr. Lopez will be staying up on the sixth floor of Beering Hall. His office is now located in BRNG 6175.

Promoting SIS and its Programs

During alternating weeks of the spring semester of 2018, SIS reserved two side-by-side display cases in Stewart. The object was to get the word out about the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, its programs and its faculty. SIS used one display case to promote the school and individual programs used the second case to highlight their programs. Staff and graduate students worked together to design and install the displays.
**Faculty News**

**Elena Benedicto,** Professor, English/Latin American and Latino Studies, Linguistics, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Affiliate, received a Global Synergy Research grant.

**Thomas Broden,** Professor, French/Comparative Literature Affiliate, co-edited two special issues of a peer-reviewed international journal, *Semiotica: Journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies/Revue de l’Association Internationale de Semiotique* (Berlin: De Gruyter).

**Dr. Cheryl Cooky,** American Studies/Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, was elected as Vice Chair of the University Senate. Cheryl began her term June 1, 2018. During the 2019-2020 year, Dr. Cooky will serve as Chair of the University Senate.

**Alejandro Cuza-Blanco,** Professor, Spanish/Linguistics received an Exploratory Research in Social Science Grant. This grant seeks to encourage faculty to aim for what the University’s strategic plan labels as “breakthrough advancements” that give Purdue a national and international reputation in the social sciences.

**Dr. Rayvon Fouché,** Director, American Studies, interviewed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar about basketball and his iconic skyhook shot, black athletes and the importance of social/political/cultural activism, and STEM education and his children’s book, *What Color is My World: The Lost History of African-American Inventors* for the Inventive Lives speaker series hosted by the Smithsonian Institutions Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

**Matthew Hannah** has joined American Studies as a new affiliated faculty member. Matthew is an Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities in Purdue University Libraries.

**Rebekah Klein-Pejšová,** Associate Professor, History / Jewish Studies received a grant from the Faculty Development Center for Humanistic Studies. The Center for Humanistic Studies supports scholarly endeavors of a humanistic nature, those encouraging the understanding of ideas, values and experiences.
Faculty News (cont.)

Daniel Olson, Professor, Sociology/Religious Studies Affiliate concluded a year as president of the Association for the Sociology of Religion with his presidential address at the organization’s annual meetings in Philadelphia. Dan’s address, “The Influence of Your Neighbors’ Religions on You, Your Attitudes and Behaviors, and Your Community” highlighted research he has conducted with graduate student Joey Marshall showing that the types of religious groups concentrated in a geographic area (for example, the percent Catholic) influence the behavior and attitudes of all people living there.

Jeremy Sklar, Visiting Scholar, Film and Video Studies, has a short film STUDIO that was nominated for the Jean Luc Godard Award at the Calcutta International Cult Film Festival. His feature film, TOM OF YOUR LIFE, finished its picture edit at the end of December and headed into its post-audio phase in January which shall also include the recording of 8 original songs by his band Black Strap Molasses. The movie will be completed by May 2019 in time to be submitted to the film festivals and markets for the end of 2019 and 2020 season, with the hopes of major distribution to theaters and VOD by Thanksgiving 2020.

Dr. Daniel Smith, Professor, Philosophy/Philosophy and Literature Affiliate, received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to translate a series of seminar lectures given by French philosopher Gilles Deleuze.

Years of Service

A special “ThankYou” to those faculty who teach in IDIS and honored for their years of service to Purdue University!

10 Years
Dr. Cuza
Dr. Kantor
Dr. McMullen
Dr. Ryba

15 Years
Dr. Francis
Dr. Patton

20 Years
Dr. Wei

25 Years
Dr. Zook

30 Years
Dr. Channon

40 Years
Dr. Raskin

45 Years
Dr. McBride
Arthur Banton (2016 AMST PhD) has accepted a tenure-track position at Tennessee Technical University. Arthur defended his dissertation in 2016 after one year on a post-doc at Middle Tennessee State University.

Jesse Bohlin (2018 WGSS BA) is currently interviewing for human rights positions and has been accepted to the Ameson Year in China teaching program. Congratulations Jesse!

Rebekah Cho, undergraduate student, Linguistics, received first place in the Kneale Award for Linguistics at Purdue’s Literary Awards. She was recognized for her work, “Korean-English Bilingual children: Case Marking Ellipsis in Developing Grammars.” Rebekah’s work developed from her research internship with Professor Elena Benedicto’s iELLLab.

Jonathan Freeman (2018 AMST PhD) has accepted a position at BridgeEdU as the Academic Innovation Coordinator. BridgeEdU is a tech-driven company that addresses solutions for strengthening persistence and improving academic performance for underserved students while targeting students of promise (Pell Grant eligible students and first-generation college students). Congratulations Jonathan for continuing to make positive change in the world!

Riham Ismail, PhD Student, Comparative Literature, and Jason Wright PhD Student, French have been awarded $1000 from the Provost’s office—more specifically, Dr. Steve Abel, Associate Provost of Engagement—for their community service-learning project “Relinking the French cultural heritage of Greater Lafayette” with Harrison High School!

Andrew Koch (2008 AMST PhD) was named President & Chief Operating officer of the non-profit Gardner Institute. The Institute’s missions is to help colleges and universities improve teaching, learning, and student success and, in the process of doing so, advance broader societal goals of equity and social justice.

Heidi R. Lewis (2011 AMST PhD) was recently recommended for tenure by Dean Sandra Wong at Colorado College. Heidi joined the Feminist & Gender Studies program at the college as a dissertation fellow through the Consortium for Faculty Diversity in 2010, and was subsequently promoted to Visiting Assistant Professor after successfully defending her dissertation and to Assistant professor the following year. In January 2018, Heidi was also promoted to Director of Feminist and Gender Studies at Colorado State.
Drake Meed, undergraduate student, Film and Video Studies, won first place in the Purdue Literary Awards in the category of Original Play/Screenplay for a film he wrote in screenwriting class. This is the second win in a row for Drake and he plans to produce the short film from that script. Wonderful news Drake!

Keturah Nix, PhD Candidate, American Studies, for being selected for the Humanities Without Walls Predoctoral Program! This is an excellent opportunity for Keturah for continued professional development.

Neda Taherkhani, PhD Candidate, Linguistics won a prestigious Language Society of America fellowship for a summer school, the Institute on Collaborative Language Research provides an opportunity for communication language activists and linguistics to receive training on community-based language documentation and revitalization. Congratulations Neda!

Hatam Tamimi, PhD Candidate, Linguistics, for recently being invited to serve as a reviewer for the Journal of World Languages (JWL), Journal of Language and Education (JLE), and Journal of Second Language Teaching & Research (JSLTR).
2018 Outstanding Senior Awards

Emma Noelke, African American Studies
Saad Mukhtar, American Studies
Olivia Rose Mannin, Critical Disability Studies
Hayden Cole Smith, Critical Disability Studies
Tiffany Hunsinger, Comparative Literature
Shelby Wilson, Film and Video Studies
Erica Timmons, Jewish Studies
Marie Cinatl, Linguistics
Michael Seretny, Religious Studies
Jesse Bolin, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies & School of Interdisciplinary Studies

2018 American Studies Graduate Student Awards

Katje Armentrout, Chester E. Eisinger Prize
Rocio León, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Jingyi Liu, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Ariel Smith, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Stephen Horrocks, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Megan Williams, Excellence in Teaching Award
Malik Raymond, Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies
Rocio León, Community Service/Social Justice Award

2018 Graduate Teaching Award

Emily Dick, Linguistics
Kadari Taylor-Watson, American Studies/Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies & School of Interdisciplinary Studies

2018 Remmers Award ~ African American Studies and Research Center

Ariel Smith, American Studies
Student Awards and Graduations

2018 Excellence in Research Award
Hana Lee, American Studies

2018 Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Student Awards
Michelle Manzo, Caroline Perrucci Undergraduate Award
Elizabeth Ply, Leadership Award
Ingrid Carolina Ramon Parra, Bernice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace & Social Justice Award (Grad)
Jory Goff, Bernice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace & Social Justice Award (Undergrad)
Bianca Batti, Bernice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace & Social Justice Award (Honorable Mention, Grad)

2018 Jewish Studies Award
Andrew Fahrenbach, The Edward Simon Essay Prize

Congratulations to the 2018 Graduates!

American Studies
Michelle Carreon, PhD (Summer 2018)
Jonathan Freeman, PhD (Spring 2018)
Jaimeleone Hough, PhD (Summer 2018)
Arslan Jumaniyazov, PhD (Fall 2018)
Hana Lee, PhD (Fall 2018)
Rocio León, MA (Spring 2018)
Ping Qui, PhD (Summer 2018)
Bethany Scetrini, MA (Spring 2018)
Abby Stephens, PhD (Fall 2018)

Philosophy and Literature
Matthew Kroll, PhD (Summer 2018)
Ibrahim Marazka, PhD (Spring 2018)
Stephanie Parrish, PhD (Spring 2018)
Strand Sheldahl-Thomason, PhD (Spring 2018)

Comparative Literature
Malick Coly, PhD (Summer 2018)
Yingying Huang, PhD (Summer 2018)
Yuhan, Huang, PhD (Summer 2018)
Wei Lu, PhD (Summer 2018)
Laura Ramiro Moreno, PhD (Spring 2018)
Tulin Ece Tosun, PhD (Spring 2018)
Luyang Wang, PhD (Summer 2018)

Linguistics
Amy Hutchinson, MA (Fall 2018)
Kailey Preston, MA (Spring 2018)
Adelle Rogers, MA (Summer 2018)
Up-Coming Events

American Studies
February 25th
4:30-6:00pm, GRIS 103
AMST Colloquium—Dr. Gajjala
“Is there a Â body in the Hashtag?: When Feminist Politics Transgress Physical Infrastructures”

April 1st
4:30-6:00pm, HEAV G4
AMST Colloquium—Dr. Beza Merid
“Joking in Prognosis: Richard Pryor, Tig Notaro, and the Temporalities of Illness”

April 27th
5:00-8:00pm, Sgt. Preston's—Boiler Room
AMST Awards Banquet
RSVP by March 22nd
Brandi Plantenga (bplante@purdue.edu)

Asian American Studies
March 28th
12:00-1:30pm, GRIS 134
ASAM Colloquium—Dr. Chia Vang
12:00-1:30pm

Jewish Studies
February 20th
12:30pm, STEW 313
Roy Holler, PhD Candidate, Comparative Literature Department, Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University, Bloomington,
“Multiple Identity Politics: Dahn Ben-Amotz and the Negotiation of Identity/Difference in Readings of Modern Hebrew Literature”

March 27th
12:30pm, STEW 313
Ephraim Fischbach, Professor of Physics, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Purdue University,
“How I Became a Quasi-Professional Torah Reader”

April 6th-11th
38th Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Conference
**Please Support SIS**

- [ ] I/We would like to make a gift today
- [ ] $500 [ ] $300
- [ ] $150 [ ] Other $_____
- [ ] Check enclosed (payable to Purdue Foundation)
- [ ] Credit Card Payment—I authorize the above payment to my:
  - [ ] Visa
  - [ ] MasterCard
  - [ ] Discover

Credit Card #: ____________________________  Exp. Date: ________

Name on Card: ____________________________

Signature: ________________________________

Please contact me, I have other thoughts to share with SIS.

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ___________________

Mail to:

School of Interdisciplinary Studies  
College of Liberal Arts  
Purdue University  
100 N. University Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098

or visit the Purdue E—gift website and designate SIS for your gift.  
http://Giving.purdue.edu/sis