A Word from
Dr. Venetria K. Patton

The 2019-20 academic year got off to a busy start as we were wrapping up our celebration of Purdue’s 150th anniversary. SIS contributed to the celebration by co-sponsoring various speakers, but our focus has been continuing to strengthen and enhance our programs. The African American Studies and Research Center has welcomed a postdoctoral scholar, Faithe Day, who looks at the intersection of race and digital studies. The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program has been able to welcome back American Studies alum, Christopher Munt to work with their gender inclusive learning community. The Film and Video Studies Program has rolled out a new learning community focused on women in film and supported by SONY which is allowing the program to use some of their cameras. Each of these hires or initiatives expands the opportunities for our students, so we are excited to be able to provide them.

The newsletter also includes announcements about our faculty and staff. Our faculty continue to stay on top of their research, so that they can provide our students with an exceptional education. And as I’ve said many times—we wouldn’t accomplish anything without our amazing staff who keep the trains running on time. Inside, you’ll learn more about our newest staff addition, Andrea Furrer, Administrative Assistant in American Studies. We also continue to include alumni updates. We encourage you to send us information regarding awards, publications, new positions, and noteworthy achievements. American Studies and Comparative literature recently hosted graduate alumni who spoke to current graduate students about their career paths. These events were very beneficial for our students and we are looking forward to bringing more of our amazing alumni back to campus. Your success is our success, so help us celebrate you!vvvv
Faculty Promotions and Awards

Congratulations to our newly promoted Faculty and Affiliated Faculty!

Promoted to Associate Professor:

Cara Kinnally, Spanish/Portuguese, SIS Affiliate

Congratulations to our Faculty and Staff Award Recipients!

Dr. Cheryl Cooky, Associate Professor American Studies/Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies received the Trailblazer Award.

Dr. Alejandro Cuza, Professor and Chair of Department of Linguistics received the Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award.

Dr. Yvonne Pitts, Associate Professor, History/American Studies Affiliate received the 2019 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy.

Dr. Derek Pacheco, Associate Professor, English/American Studies Affiliate received the 2019 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in Memory of Charles B. Murphy.
Dr. Faithe Day, Post-doctoral fellow in African American Studies and Libraries and School of Information Studies. Faithe earned her Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in English and Digital Humanities from Wesleyan College. As a Council on Library Information Resources Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Curation for African American Studies, she will undertake data curation projects in collaboration with scholars from the African American Studies and Research Center and faculty from Purdue’s university libraries. Her research focuses on the intersection of race, gender, class, sexuality, and other identity markers as they are performed within various spheres of digital media. Specifically, she studies the role that online commenting communities play in the construction and consideration of Black Queer identity as well as the algorithmic underpinnings of social media platforms.

Dr. Christopher Munt, Lecturer in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. On August 1st, Dr. Munt began his new position as Inclusive Excellence Specialist in the Diversity Resource Office. In addition to his regular duties in DRO, Dr. Munt will teach a course for WGSS each semester and lead its Gender Inclusive Residential Learning Community. Dr. Munt recently graduated from Purdue with his PhD in American Studies and has previously taught for WGSS, so we are pleased to have him join us in this new capacity.

Andrea Furrer, Administrative Assistant in American Studies. We offer a warm welcome to Andrea. She grew up 30 minutes from Purdue and, just like her six siblings, decided to get a degree from here. She completed her BS in Human Services in 2016 and went on to work in the nonprofit sector in Houston and Chicago before returning to the area and, in December 2019, joining our SIS Staff.

Brandi Plantenga, Sr. Administrative Assistant to Dr. Venetria Patton & SIS Graduate Coordinator. Brandi, previously the administrative assistant in American Studies, has been promoted to Sr. Administrative Assistant. In January, Brandi celebrated her 9th year at Purdue University.
Faculty News

Dr. TJ Boisseau, Associate Professor, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, is publishing two journal articles: “Leaning In…by Taking a Stand, or the historical production of women’s leadership.” Special issue on “Feminisms and Leadership,” Psychology of Women and Equalities Review 2:2 (Autumn, 2019) and “Coming of Age with Anne Moody: Looking Within and Without for the Origins of Black Women’s Activism in the Civil Rights Movement,” Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism 19:1 (Winter, 2020). Her book chapter: “Women with the World at their Feet? Representing Women at Chicago’s Worlds’ Fairs” in Where the Future Came From: A Collective Research Project on the Integral Role of Feminism in Chicago’s Artist-run Culture, from the late nineteenth century to the present, Edited by Meg Duguid is forthcoming from Soberscove Press in spring 2020.

Dr. Nadia Brown, Associate Professor, Political Science and African American Studies received the 2019 Democracy Fund for Women Also Know Stuff (co-PI, with WAKS board) of $50,000. Nadia E. Brown, Christopher J. Clark and Anna M. Mahoney received the American University’s Program on Legislative Negotiation 2019 Understanding Legislative Negotiation Grant for “Bridges: How Black Women Coordinate the Lawmaking Efforts of Identity-Based Caucuses.” Also, Nadia along with colleagues Stella Rouse (University of Maryland College Park), Libby Sharrow (UMASS Amherst), and Rebecca Gill (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), have been awarded a million-dollar collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation’s ADVANCE program for their project titled "#MeTooPoliSci Leveraging A Professional Association to Address Sexual Harassment in Political Science,"

Dr. Cheryl Cooky, Professor American Studies/Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, recently published an article in New Media & Society, with former WGSS and Communication graduate students Jasmine Linabary (now at Emporia State University) and Danielle Corple (now at Wheaton College) titled “Feminist Activism in Digital Space: Postfeminist Contradictions in #WhyIStayed.” The paper, part of a larger project originating from a research proposal Dr. Linabary wrote in Dr. Cooky’s WGSS 681 course “Feminism in/ and Popular Culture” in fall 2014, examined over 50,000 tweets and includes interviews with those who tweeted using the hashtag #WhyIStayed.

Dr. Marlo David, Director of African American Studies and AMST Affiliate recently had a book chapter “What Does #BlackGirlMagic Look Like? The Aesthetics of Black Women’s Afropunk Citizenship” published in the collection *Black Girl Magic Beyond the Hashtag: Twenty-first Century Acts of Self-Definition*, edited by Julia S. Jordan-Zachary and Duchess Harris (University of Arizona Press, 2019). Marlo, also with and Dr. Kim Gallon, Assistant Professor of History and AMST Affiliate led a Study Abroad trip to three cities in Ghana in May 2019. Eleven undergraduate students traveled with them to Accra, Kumasi, and Cape Coast to study the culture and history of Ghana through pan-African social movements.

Dr. Rayvon Fouché, Professor and Director of American Studies gave at talk "Can Technology Change Sports?" Science Pub, Science matters RVA, Virginia Commonwealth University. Ray also presented a paper "The New Technology is Black: Afronauts, Afrofutureengineering, and the Racialization of a New Future’s Past" at the Social Studies of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. Ray was also featured in the College of Liberal Arts THiNK Magazine.


Dr. Shannon McMullen, Associate Professor in Art & Design and American Studies, along with Dr. Fabian Winkler, Associate Professor in Art and Design had their artwork, Soybots, featured in this Science and Culture section article about robotic gardens in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America in July.

Dr. Bill Mullen, Professor in American Studies had a new book published in September 2019, *James Baldwin: Living in Fire*.

Dr. Monica Trieu, Associate Professor and Director, Asian American Studies had a recent publication come out online first: Trieu, Monica M. Forthcoming. “Understanding the Use of ‘Twinkie’, ‘Banana’, and ‘FOB’: Identifying the Origin, Role, and Consequences of Internalized Racism within Asian America,” *Sociology Compass*.

Dr. Sharra Vostral, Associate Professor of History/American Studies and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies Affiliate was featured in Purdue Today In the Spotlight for Giant Leaps Research and quoted in an article in CNN Business. Last year Sharra also gave an interview with Kate Clancy, Toxic Shock and “Technologies of Passing.” Sharra also gave an interview in Popular Science. In addition, Sharra was interviewed and referenced in this article “How Tampons and Pads Became so Unsustainable” on National Geographic.
Student News

Students:

Matthew Ball, Undergraduate Student in Department of Linguistics, received Second Place in the campus-wide Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference for their poster, *P’urhepecha Classifier Morphemes*, Mentor: Dr. Elena Benedicto.

Rebekah Cho, Undergraduate Student in Department of Linguistics, was elected to membership in Purdue’s Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Stephen Horrocks, PhD Candidate in American Studies, recently had his article on medical devices and T1D bodies included in the most recent issue of *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*.

Xuan Hu, Undergraduate Student and Paula J. Rodríguez Monroy, Department of Linguistics and Indigenous and Endangered Languages Lab (IELLab) jointly presented their research, *A Comparative Analysis of Classifiers within the DP System*, at the Fall Undergraduate Research Expo. They were 1 of only 2 from CLA, out of 42 selected for oral presentations, out of 220 presentations (178 as posters).

Xuan Hu, Undergraduate Student in Department of Linguistics, was elected to membership in Purdue’s Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Sophia Rose McCabe, Undergraduate Student in Department of Linguistics, was elected to membership in Purdue’s Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

L. Nikolai, Undergraduate Student in Department of Linguistics, received First Place in the campus-wide Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference for their poster *Facial Expressions in Sign Language Grammar: What does the 'flat chin' mean?*, Mentor: Dr. Ronnie Wilbur.

Madelina Nuñez, PhD Student in American Studies, published an article in July entitled "*Latino Muslims in the United States.*"
Ricardo Quintana Vallejo, PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature, published an article: “Geografía humana de la colonia Roma: Las ciudades imaginadas en El vampiro de la colonia Roma (1979) y Las batallas en el desierto (1981).” Chasqui Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana, vol. 48, no. 2, 2019. He participated in the German Studies Association Conference: “Breaking the Bildungsroman: How Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre Breaks the Mold It Is Said to Create.” Ricardo also received the Purdue University Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award for his outstanding job in teaching with stellar teaching evaluations and running the German Film Series.

Lucinda Charlotte Ray, Undergraduate Student in Department of Linguistics, was elected to membership in Purdue's Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Jessica Rohr, PhD Candidate in Linguistics, received the Kruhe Fellowship for Fall 2020-Spring 2021. The Kruhe Fellowship offers funding in several Purdue graduate programs that includes Foreign Languages and Literatures. It was established as a “means for promoting a deeper interest in world problems, to the end that a better understanding of international relationships and world affairs may be advanced.” It’s an honor for her to receive this!

Ariel Smith, PhD Student in American Studies, recently published her first article, "Black Food Trucks as Agents of Change" in Cuisine Noir Magazine. Ariel also was invited to close out the Food Truck Segment for WLFI News 18. Ariel also has a podcast, The Food Truck Scholar Podcast; it is now on iHeartRadio and will soon be on Tuneln w/Alexa and other several other platforms.

Stephanie Allen (PhD 2015, AMST) recently published Black From the Future: A Collection of Black Speculative Writing. The book also earned a starred review in Publisher's Weekly. Stephanie also has been given the title of Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor in Gender Studies. In the fall, Stephanie began teaching a section of Gay Histories, Queer Cultures, and began developing a course entitled Gender, Sexuality, and Black Women's Writing at Indiana University.

Eliot Blackburn (MA 2015, AMST) was recently features in the IP Spotlights article at the IU's McMinney School of law. Eliot has been very busy since finishing with his MA in American Studies at Purdue.

Malik Coly (PhD 2018, CMPL) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of French at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in Slippery Rock, PA.


Chelsea Frazier (MA 2013, AMST), recently interviewed artist Folayemi (Fo) Wilson at an event In Dialogue: Fo Wilson and Chelsea Frazier at the Hyde Park Art Center in honor of Wilson's solo exhibition, "Dark Matter: Celestial Objects as Messengers of Love in These Troubled Times."
**Jonathan Freeman** (PhD 2018, AMST) won the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) 2019 National Alumni Council Outstanding Young Alumni Award.


**Yuhan Huang** (PhD 2018, CMPL) is now an Assistant Professor of Chinese at Rochester Institute of Technology.

**Yingying Huang** (PhD 2018, CMPL) is now a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

**Nicholas Krebs** (MA 2013, AMST) successfully defended his dissertation. Nick graduated from Washington State University in May with his PhD in American Studies. Nick also was the recipient of two awards from WSU, the first being the Doctoral Student Achievement Award in Humanities from the College of Arts and Sciences at WSU. The second award he will be receiving is the Outstanding Senior Doctoral Student Award from the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race at WSU.


**Heidi Lewis** (PhD 2011, AMST) was selected by Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler to confer Oprah Winfrey with an honorary doctorate degree during the 2019 commencement.

**Laura Ramiro Moreno** (PhD 2018, CMPL) is currently a Limited Term Faculty in Spanish at the University of North Georgia.

**Jennifer Sdunzik** (PhD 2019, AMST) was selected to receive the 2019 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Dissertation Award. Congratulations!

**Tulin Ece Tosun** (PhD 2018, CMPL) began working at PLaCE (Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange Program) as a continuing lecturer where she is teaching introduction to American Language and Culture. Tulin is co-editing an anthology titled “Women Rewriting History: Critical Resistance through Literature, Film, and Art” with Dr. Lis Bernstein. In this edited anthology, she is also publishing her article “Kadinin Destani: A Contemporary Rewriting and Revision of the Epic of Gilgamesh in Turkish in Literature.”
2019 Outstanding Senior Awards

Jada Franklin, African American Studies
Mohan Ge, American Studies
Jennifer Chen, Asian American Studies
Samantha Adams, Critical Disability Studies
Brenae Newhard, Comparative Literature
Ceira Ostber, Film and Video Studies
Stephen Sutton, Jewish Studies
Yajaira Martinez, Latino and Latin American Studies
Lauren Nikolai, Linguistics
Hope Kelham, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies & School of Interdisciplinary Studies

2019 American Studies Graduate Student Awards

Paula Ashe, Chester E. Eisinger Prize
Katje Armentrout, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Rachel Bonini, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Ariel Smith, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Kadari Taylor-Watson, Chester E. Eisinger Research Award
Yu Dou, Excellence in Teaching Award
Ryan Schnurr, Excellence in Teaching Award
Megan Williams, Excellence in Teaching Award
Esme Barniski, Innovation in Teaching Award
Kadari Taylor-Watson, Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies
Annagul Ýaryyeva, Community Service/Social Justice Award
Jolivette Anderson-Douoning, Howard Zinn Memorial Research Award

2019 Remmers Award ~ African American Studies and Research Center

Breeah Carey, Psychological Sciences
Student Awards

Graduations

2019 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Student Awards

Hanya Malik, Caroline Perrucci Undergraduate Award
Kadari Taylor-Watson, Bernice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace & Social Justice Award (Grad)
Rachel Baker, Bernice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace & Social Justice Award (Undergrad)

2019 Jewish Studies Award

Sarah Weaver, The Edward Simon Essay Prize

Congratulations to the 2019 Graduates!

American Studies
Katje Armentrout, PhD (Spring 2019)
Esme Barniskis, MA (Spring 2019)
Olon Dotson, PhD (Summer 2019)
Yu Dou, MA (Fall 2019)
Jingyi Liu, PhD (Fall 2019)
Christopher Munt, PhD (Spring 2019)
Keturah Nix, PhD (Fall 2019)
Malik Raymond, MA (Summer 2019)
Pamela Sari, PhD (Spring 2019)
Jennifer Sdunzik, PhD (Spring 2019)
Jeffrey Wimble, PhD (Spring 2019)

Comparative Literature
Whit Laga, MA (Fall 2019)

Linguistics

Charles Bradley, PhD (Spring 2019)
Jenna T. Conklin, PhD (Summer 2019)
Brittlea Jernigan-Hardrick, MA (Summer 2019)
Mirisen Ozpek, PhD (Spring 2019)
Neda Taherkhani, PhD (Summer 2019)

Philosophy and Literature

Lacey J. Davidson, PhD (Summer 2019)
Reyes Espinoza, PhD (Summer 2019)
Joel D. Johnson, PhD (Summer 2019)
Robert M. Spears, PhD (Summer 2019)
The School of Interdisciplinary Studies has been working hard to transition our courses to an online environment, so that we can continue to deliver a world-class education to our students. The unexpected complications of the Coronavirus or COVID-19 has led Purdue and numerous universities across the country to abandon in person instruction and to shutter their residence halls, so that we can protect the health of our students, staff, and faculty. I have been impressed by the “can-do” spirit of our faculty as they re-evaluated their courses and determined the best means to deliver course content for the remainder of the semester. Our graduate student instructors balanced the need to revamp their teaching with concerns about how their own course work might be disrupted. Yet, only a few days from our first day of full-scale online teaching and learning, SIS stands ready to continue to serve our students.

Will these online courses be the same as our in person classes—no, but they will be based on the established learning outcomes for the course and the course delivery methods will be thoughtful. I have reviewed the online transition plans for our courses and our instructors have consistently considered how to replace in class teaching methods with online approaches. They have also taken into account technology access of our students. For example, I’m teaching a graduate seminar that is discussion based and the easiest thing would be to shift our course to a virtual class session on WebEx; however, this would require students to have the requisite bandwidth to sustain our three hour class session. After surveying my students, I realized that this was not an option for several of them, so I opted for asynchronous discussion platforms within Blackboard after confirming that everyone would have access to Blackboard. These discussions will not be the same as our on the spot in class discussions, but they are based on my lesson plans and will allow for engaged discussion of the material. In some ways the additional reflection time may allow for even richer conversations. In literature classes, instructors often consider utilizing journals, reading responses, in-class writing, small group discussion, large group discussion, pair and share, and other tactics to stimulate discussion. None of these approaches is necessarily the best approach; it’s how the methods are used that matters. Thus, my students will be engaging in stimulating discussion while maintaining a safe social distance and still meeting the learning outcomes of the course.

Boilermakers rise to the occasion, and SIS and Purdue are responding to the changing landscape of the Coronavirus while maintaining the centrality of our mission to educate, research, and engage. While many of our operations may move to a virtual environment to protect the health of our students, staff, and faculty, we remain accessible and ready to assist. Be well and stay safe.
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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
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West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098

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