

AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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American Studies International Conference Takes Place at Purdue University

Seven years of radical global geopolitical change since September 11, 2001 and new challenges for global justice movements were debated, and discussed at the "American Studies and Imperial Designs: New Perspectives on the U.S. in the World" conference September 11-14 at Purdue.

The conference brought together approximately 75 students, scholars and activists urged by questions of how the war in Iraq, the recent crisis of neoliberalism, Islamophobia and scholarship in the university have altered the political landscape since 2001.



Cem Ceyhan, Ph.D. Candidate; Michelle Carrion, M.A. Candidate; and Ruxandra Radulescu, Ph.D. Candidate read their papers.

The conference featured a number of presentations by Purdue graduate students and faculty, including Michelle Carreon, Cem Ceyhan and Ruxandra Radulescu, who took part in an opening session entitled "Legitimizing Ideologies: What American Means"; Philathia Bolton presented her research on the contemporary African American novel *Corregidora* by Gayl Jones; Arslan Jumaniyazov offered work on the Abu Ghraib crisis; Erik Wade took part in a closing plenary on academic activism which presented his recent work for the special field exam on vigilantism in America. Purdue American Studies faculty participants included A.G. Rud, Anne Knupfer (who braved a horrible cold to moderate a session); Nathalia Jaramillo (Education Studies) and Nadine Dolby (Curriculum Instruction) offered a plenary session on issues of transnationalism and democracy in higher education. African American Studies Director and American Studies affiliate Venetria Patton moderated a session on the

legacy of the Civil Rights struggle. Al Lopez, English, served as moderator and presenter of his research. Kristina Bross, English, moderated a Saturday panel on Early American literature. Antonio Tillis, Foreign Languages and Literature and now Director of Latin American and Latino Studies at Purdue, served as moderator for a session on Latino/a and Latin American literature which featured a presentation by 2007 Purdue American Studies Ph.D. graduate Lee Bebout, now Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University. Harry Targ, Political Science/American Studies, moderated a conference opening discussion of the documentary film *Hijacking Catastrophe*, a look at the coordination by neo-conservatives and the media after 9/11 to whip up war hysteria and repress dissent.

The conference was keynoted by pathbreaking American Studies scholar Amy Kaplan, University of Pennsylvania. Professor Kaplan, co-editor with Donald Pease of the *Anthology Cultures of U.S. Imperialism*, and author of *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture*, spoke to a packed room on the topic "In the Name of Homeland Security." Professor Kaplan provided a bracing analysis of the proliferation of "security" discourse in the post-9/11 era, from safeguarding of computer information to national intelligence to newfangled suburban protections like "gated" communities. Kaplan argued that "national security" had become a mantra as familiar as "manifest destiny" in the current parlance of U.S. empire-building. A lively question and answer session pressed Kaplan to distinguish between current rhetorics and practices of homeland security and earlier modes of American exceptionalism and isolationism.



Dr. Amy Kaplan

(Continued on Page 2)

International Conference (cont.)

The conference also featured a closing plenary discussion on academic activism. Participants included Professors Malini Schueller, University of Florida; Alex Lubin, Director of American Studies, University of New Mexico; Richard Hogan, Professor of Sociology and Assistant Director of American Studies at Purdue; Valentine Moghadam, Professor of Sociology/American Studies and Director of Women's Studies and Erik C. Wade, Ph.D. candidate in American Studies. The panel underscored disparate approaches to the crisis of neo-liberalism facing women and ethnic minorities, environmentalists, progressives and activists seeking resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Alex Lubin questioned how an Obama presidency would relate to a history of African American engagement with and support for Arab liberation and national independence struggles. Val Moghadam cited transnational feminist networks as providing an important location for scholarship and real world struggle against global patriarchy and the effects of capitalist crisis.

The American Studies International Conference was a huge success in part because of the tremendous turnout and participation by Purdue students and faculty. Thanks go to the "Imperial Designs" conference organizing committee of Richard Hogan, Anne Knupfer and Harry Targ. As always, I express my gratitude towards our Department Assistant Delayne Graham because nothing would occur without her indispensable help.

Best, Bill



Philathia Bolton, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, speaking on the contemporary African American novelist Gayl Jones.

Fall 2008 American Studies Lecture Series

October 17, Professor Harry Targ, from the Political Science Department and an affiliated faculty member with American Studies, discussed the role of educator/theorist/researcher/activist in higher education and he examined some of the dominant social science and American Studies paradigms in the Cold War era.

October 31, Professors Joy and John Kasson from the University of North Carolina American Studies Department made a presentation to students and faculty on teaching American Studies to undergraduates. The presentation was part of the program's Fall Lecture Series, "Teaching American Studies."

Joy and John Kasson have been important contributors to the field of American Studies scholarship and pedagogy. They shared the curriculum at North Carolina and some course syllabi that have contributed to their program's success. They discussed a problems-based approach that models interdisciplinarity by introducing students to perspectives and analyses from a range of disciplines and perspectives and by encouraging discussion in which students apply "critical concepts" to the subject being studied.



Professor Lukasik discusses the concept of creating an undergraduate program with Professor Kasson.



Professor Curtis introduced the Kassons.



Professor Kasson talks to students prior to the lecture.

North Carolina's program as being attentive to racial and ethnic diversity, constructions of gender and sexuality, class relations, regional variations, and international military and economic ventures in the study of American life and culture.

The Kassons' presentation has leavened ongoing discussions at Purdue, where we are working to develop an undergraduate major to complement our highly successful graduate program.

~Professor Susan Curtis

November 7, former American Studies student and Ph.D. graduate Scott Hoffman gave an entertaining presentation on the work he recently took part in the award winning documentary, "The World, The War, and Texas," based on Texas veteran's memories of their experiences during World War II. Specifically he discussed the issues and concerns that he had to confront when creating a documentary that would be influential in educating the public about an important event in U.S. history. For instance, his training in American studies helped him analyze the language that would be used in the narration—specifically discerning the educational level of the viewers and the transitions that would weave the various narrations together. Dr. Hoffman has graciously donated a copy of his documentary to the American Studies program; it is available at the main office.



Dr. Scott Hoffman

Critical American Studies: Examining the Intersections of Race, Class and Gender—2008 American Studies Spring Symposium

The 2009 American Studies Symposium, “Critical American Studies: Examining the Intersections of Race, Class and Gender,” was an amazing success. Two titans of the Critical Race Theory field, Mari Matsuda, John Carroll Research Professor of Law at Georgetown University, and Dr. Cheryl Harris from the University of California, Los Angeles, brought their extraordinary brand of intellectual fire and political passion to the Symposium.

Professor Matsuda’s opening keynote address, entitled “The Last Public Place: Critical Race Theory, Public Schools, and Organizing for Social Change,” analyzed the problematic issue of racism that is apparent in the Los Angeles public school system. She not only spoke about the concern that she and other educators have about this issue, but she cited examples of mobilization of the community and efforts that have been made to represent the parents’ of the students. In one of her anecdotal stories she talked about making life size cardboard pictures of the parents who were unable to attend community hearings because they were held during working hours. Professor Matsuda inspired American Studies faculty and students through her call for not only identifying the problem, but also being active in creating a solution with those most affected.

Professor Harris’s keynote, “The New Racial Preferences,” was an intriguing discussion of Affirmative Action and the consequence of its demise for minorities applying for jobs and colleges. Her presentation and the visual aids she used to emphasize her argument, using Clarence Thomas’s recently published memoir to illustrate her point, exemplified her concern over the removal of any racial markers from

job applications and application letters. Professor Harris expertly fielded many questions from the audience, and left all of us present with many new ideas to think over. Both speakers emphasized the activist side of Critical Race Theory, which reminded faculty and students alike that action is a necessary component of our fields of study.

As always, the Symposium culminated with the presentation of student awards. Winner of the Chester Eisinger Award for Outstanding Essay in American Studies was 2008 Ph.D. recipient Sabine Klein for her essay, “Shires and Sachems: Language of Political Theory in Dutch and English Narratives of Conduct.” Recipient of the American Studies Paul and Eslanda Robeson Award for Transnational Scholarship was Ph.D. student Arslan Jumaniyazov. Winner of the American Studies Community Service/Social Justice Award was Ph.D. student Heidi Freeman for her innovative Tarajia Project for African American women at Jefferson High School in Lafayette. Winner of the American Studies/Women’s Studies Teaching Award was master’s student Sherrema Bower.

The 2008 Symposium was organized by student committee members Heidi Freeman, Kendra Unruh, and Jennifer Lindquist. Congratulations to all and onward to the 2009 Symposium!

(Note: The Symposium Committee Members are always interested in receiving input on themes for the symposium and people who you are interested in bringing in for the keynote addresses. If you would like to share an idea please contact one of the members for the 2009 Symposium Committee—Philathia Bolton, Michelle Carreon and Ruxandra Radulescu.)



Newbies congregate at their own table.



Faculty discusses how they are going to torture the students next fall.



Students converse with Professor Ryan Schneider.

Participating on the 2008 Symposium Committee—by Heidi Freeman

For me, being nominated to the Symposium Committee was one of the biggest highlights of the 2007-2008 school year. I knew that it was a tremendous responsibility, but I welcomed all of the rewards and challenges. The Symposium Committee is responsible for deciding on a theme, developing and distributing a call for papers, securing keynote speakers, organizing panels, scheduling panel moderators, and so much more. Thankfully, I had the pleasure of working with both Jennifer Lindquist and Kendra Unruh on the Symposium.

Together, we decided that the theme for the Symposium would be Critical American Studies: Examining the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender. This arose, in part, out of the Critical Race Theory (CRT) classes taught by Professors P. Ryan Schneider and Bill V. Mullen here at Purdue. American Studies students who took the Critical Race Theory course appreciated CRT as an accessible theory that explains social categories and the ways that social positioning informs varying concepts of justice. In order to emphasize the growing interest in CRT in the American Studies Department, the Committee secured Professors Mari Matsuda (Georgetown) and Cheryl I. Harris (UCLA), two prominent Critical Race theorists, as the keynote speakers. Professor Matsuda gave a talk titled “The Last Public Place: Critical Race Theory, Public Schools, and Organizing for Social Change.” Professor Harris gave a talk titled “The New Racial Preferences.”

Because of the increasing popularity of Critical American Studies and the prominence of the keynote speakers, graduate students across the country expressed an unprecedented interest in presenting their work at the Symposium. Students from Brown University, the University of Mississippi, the University of New Mexico, St. Louis University, and many others joined graduate students from various departments here at Purdue to share their ideas in the Black Cultural Center (BCC) where the Symposium was held. Panel themes included studies of the body, Queer studies, music, literature, film, citizenship, and history, just to name a few.

Also, for the first time, the Symposium included a plenary session focused on the American Studies trip to East China Normal University in Shanghai during the summer of 2007. Jamie Hickner, Charles Park, Erik Wade, Adryan Glasgow, and Professor Mullen shared their experiences and several pictures taken during the trip. The Committee also continued the tradition of inviting American Studies alum and current students (Charles Park, Laura Beadling, and Sabine Klein) to speak about their experiences on the academic job market. American Studies faculty members Nancy Peterson, P. Ryan Schneider, and Bill V. Mullen also shared their insights during this panel. Another panel highlight was the performance, theory, and methodology panel presented by Juanita Crider (BCC) and Jolivette Anderson-Duoning (BCC), and Casarae L. Gibson (English).

By the end of the day on Friday, we were extremely exhausted. Jennifer, Kendra, and I had been running around all day making sure that we met all of the needs of the presenters and moderators. Needless to say, Delayne Graham (our Administrative Assistant) was there doing the same and providing us with invaluable guidance and support. Thankfully, everyone had a fantastic time and we were able to take plenty of great pictures. It is an experience that we will never forget.

This year, I'll be there presenting, hopefully, and rooting for the new committee to do well, knowing they will far exceed my expectations.



Ph.D. students Mark Bousquet and Megan MacDonald catch up on the recent gossip.



Bill Mullen facilitates a panel that includes American Studies students Erik Wade and Jamie Hickner. (I think that is the back of Jen Lindquist's head in the foreground.)



David and Maryland Kemp enjoy the festivities.

Purdue Students Experience the 2008 American Studies Association Annual Meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico (October 16-19)

Karen Salt

This year's American Studies Association's meeting brought scores of scholars, critics, graduate students, and museum advocates to Albuquerque. Purdue's American Studies program played a visible role in the midst of the madness. Erik Wade worked this year on behalf of the Student's Committee (SC) of ASA, and spent many early mornings in meetings and many additional hours at breakfast forums sponsored by the SC. I participated in my caucus's business meeting, and also attended a Caucus of Caucuses meeting that brought representatives from all of ASA's Caucuses together with the outgoing and incoming Presidents of ASA. After speaking with Joanna Brooks, a professor at SDSU and a co-chair for next year's meeting, I am more convinced than ever that it is possible to get placed on the ASA program. Look out for more on that topic before the semester ends.

Other meeting highlights include:

- 1) An evening of musical performances that included some soulful singing by Kevin Gaines, ASA president-elect.
- 2) A fantastic Native American film screening off-site.
- 3) A visit to Acoma Pueblo—a true highlight. Our tour guide took us through the community with grace and wit. She also proudly displayed her support for Obama.
- 4) A session with Hazel Carby that offered personal reflections of and responses to Stuart Hall's Policing the Crisis.

I also attended the launch for the peer-reviewed on-line journal, *The Journal of Transnational American Studies*, coming out of Stanford. They are actively looking for articles as well as book chapters to reprint.

All in all, I enjoyed this year's meeting. I can say this without any trepidation: I can't wait until next year!

Rachel Smederovac

I just want to start off by thanking the program for encouraging and supporting their students to attend the American Studies Association annual conference, especially in their first year. The entire weekend was such an amazing, eye opening experience. The conference was an excellent introduction to not only the field but to the people that contribute to this vast body of scholarship. There were so many excellent panels and lectures to attend that sadly I did not get to experience them all.

Of particular interest to me were a handful of environmental panels that critically discussed the state of affairs the world is currently in. I came away from the conference with so many new ideas and potential approaches that would have taken much longer for me to reach had I not gone.

I can without a doubt state that this experience has been a critical launching point for my research interests. I now have more confidence in my ideas and on which direction I want to head. I encourage those who have not gone to take the time to experience ASA. You may not have the same reaction that I had, but I guarantee that you will walk away having learned something valuable. Once again I thank the program for its support and I can't wait for the conference in D.C. next year!



Group photo of some of the Purdue Students that attended the 2008 ASA meeting. (From Left to Right: Michelle Carreon, Philathia Bolton, Karen Salt, Rachel Smederovac and Erik Wade)

A Report on the American Studies Association Students' Committee—by Erik Wade

This year I had the good fortune of becoming a member of the ASA's Students' Committee (SC). The SC was established in order to advocate for the needs of graduate students during the annual ASA conference. Our primary goals are to create breakfast forums, roundtables and forums which support the professional and personal development of graduate students dedicated to interdisciplinary studies and public engagement.

At present the SC is comprised of Master's and Ph.D. students from every region of the country. SC membership involves a two-year commitment. Each member participates in sub-committees which focus their energy on the improvement of student events and the fundamental steps in supporting these events such as publicity and fundraising. After a year, new members take on more responsibilities by fostering new relationships with other committees and producing forums which speak to the evolution of American Studies as a field of study and graduate student's role therein (from TA to tenure).

The SC is a great opportunity for those interested in working with peers who are dedicated to serve fellow graduate students and gaining an insider perspective on how ASA works as a business organization dedicated to American Studies. If you have any specific questions about the SC, please feel free to contact me or go to our website: http://www.theasa.net/committee_students/.



The Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM where ASA was held.



Purdue students take a break from the conference and socialize at a local café. (From left to right: Shivohn Garcia, Ping Qiu, and Philathia Bolton)



Purdue students Karen Salt and Aubrey Thamman (who presented at ASA) discuss the day's events.



The ASA conference handbook.

Meet the New American Studies Students

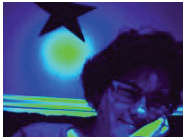


Shivohn Garcia enters our Ph.D. program having earned her Master's from Brown University in English. She completed her baccalaureate from SUNY New Paltz in English/Education. Shivohn is the recipient of a Lynn Fellowship will concentrate in Educational Studies.

Karl Germeck is a Ph.D. student concentrating in History. He took his baccalaureate from West Texas A&M University in English and his Master's from Utah State University in American Studies. Karl is the recipient of a Lynn Fellowship.



Caroline McKenzie comes to our Ph.D. program after earning her Master's in Critical Theory from the University of Nottingham-England and her baccalaureate from the University of Toledo in Women's Studies. Her areas of interest are queer theory, Feminist Theory, and the Men's Movement. She enjoys traveling abroad and a wide variety of music: *Flogging Molly* being her latest discovery. Caroline is a teaching assistant in the Department of Communication.



Heather Moore took her bachelor's degree from Trinity College where she majored in Educational Studies and American Studies. She enters our Master's program where she will concentrate in Educational Studies. Heather is a teaching assistant in the Department of Educational Studies.



Ping Qiu comes to our Ph.D. program from East China Normal University. While at East China Normal, Ping Qiu earned her Master's degree in American Studies. She also received the bachelor's degree in English from Jiangsu Teachers University of Technology. Ping Qiu is concentrating in English and is a teaching assistant in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Chinese division.



Manuela-Ruxandra Radulescu enters our Ph.D. program in English. She received her Master's degree from Emporia State University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Bucharest-Romania, both in English. Ruxandra is a teaching assistant in the Department of English.

Rachel Smederovac joins us as a Master's student after having earned her baccalaureate from Purdue with a double major in History and Women's Studies. She enjoys horseback riding, walks at Happy Hollow, good food, and she is an adoring mother to her two guinea pigs, Ryoko and Kiyoshi. She is a teaching assistant in the Department of Sociology and concentrates in Sociology.



Abby Stephens enters as a Ph.D. student, specializing in History and Political Science. Her interests include women in politics and education, voting behavior, media studies, and message framing. For fun, she likes to go running, shoot hoops, or watch a little HGTV. She is slightly competitive and loves to put the burn on her opponents during board games.



Julie Truesdell enters our Master's program after transferring from the Anthropology Master's program here at Purdue. She is concentrating in Anthropology and is a teaching assistant in Women's Studies. She earned her baccalaureate from Purdue in Organizational Leadership.



Christopher Warren joins our Ph.D. program after earning his Master's from Florida A&M University. He is a teaching assistant in Sociology and will concentrate in Sociology.



David Weir enters our Ph.D. program and is concentrating in History. He earned both his Master's and bachelor's degrees from Texas Tech University in American History and History and Anthropology, respectively. David is the recipient of a Lynn Fellowship.



Student News

Sherrema Bower is having quite a busy year. She received word her essay "Nawal El Saadawi," will be published in *Emerging Perspectives on Nawal El Saadawi* by Ernest Emenyonu, ed. She will also be traveling to three conferences this fall to present papers: Society of Scientific Study of Religion; Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender Conference; and the American Anthropological Association Conference. Fortunately for Sherrema, she received the Brown-Forman travel grant to help pay for her travels.

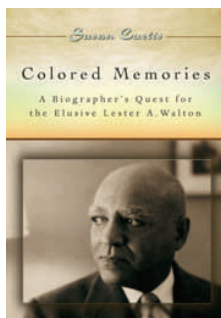
Kendra Unruh won 1st place in the first annual Justin S. Morrill Mini-Saga Contest for her story "Care to Dance?". Kendra used her experience and interest in swing dance to put together a mini-saga. A mini-saga is an extremely short story (only fifty words) that still has a beginning, middle, and end.

Erik Wade learned that his essay "Black Masculinity in U.S. History and Literature, 1790-1945," will be published in an upcoming book. The book will be a compilation of essays put together by editors on black masculinity in U.S. History and Literature.

Props to the Profs: American Studies Affiliated Faculty Update

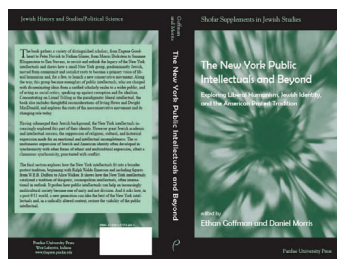
Evelyn Blackwood won the 2008 Martin Duberman Fellowship, a prestigious national award given by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, City University of New York, for her book project entitled, *Tombos and Femmes: Gender, Sexuality, and Desire in Indonesia*. She also recently published an article in *GLQ: Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* entitled "Transnational Discourse and Circuits of Queer Knowledge in Indonesia."

Susan Curtis recently published a book on the life of Lester Walton, a black journalist and diplomat who lived between 1879 and 1965. The book, titled *Colored Memories: A Biographer's Quest for the Elusive Lester A. Walton*, is not only about uncovering this influential, yet forgotten, African-American, but also about the author's mission to piece together the history of a story with few archival remnants.



Robert Lamb published three articles this past year: "A Little Yellow Bastard Boy": Paternal Rejection, Filial Insistence, and the Triumph of African American Cultural Aesthetics in Langston Hughes's 'Mulatto,'" *College Literature*; "A Post-modern Subject in Camelot: Mark Twain's (Re) Visions of Malory's *Morte Darthur* in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*," in *A Companion to Arthurian Literature*, ed. Helen Fulton; and "Flight of the Raven: A Retrospective on the Scholarship of G.R. Thompson," in a "Festschrift in Honor of G.R. Thompson," eds. Steven Frye and Eric Carl Link, *Poe Studies: Dark Romanticism: History, Theory Interpretation*. This last item was for a festschrift dedicated to former Purdue faculty member Dick Thompson, who founded *Poe Studies* back in 1968. The issue includes a nice mix of articles by such major scholars as John Carlos Rowe, J. Gerald Kennedy, Grace Farrell, and Michael Colacurcio, and by former graduate students of Dick's who are now professors, concluding with a memoir of Dick by Len Neufeldt, who directed the Purdue American Studies Program during the 1990s.

Lamb's book, *Art Matters: Hemingway, Craft and the Creation of the Modern Short Story*, was also accepted for publication by Louisiana State University Press and will be coming out in fall 2009. In December, he will be traveling to Cambridge to present an address to the History of American Civilization Program at Harvard University on his current book project on race, realism and Mark Twain. That same month he will be in Boston to give an address to *Primary Source* on the literature of Gilded Age America. This past year, Bob received two more English department awards, for undergraduate and graduate teaching; was nominated for the John Foster Cherry award, a national teaching prize; and has been named 2008 Indiana Professor of the Year. But most important to him by far, one of his two beloved football teams, the New York Giants, defeated evil and won the Super Bowl!



Daniel Morris co-edited a book titled *New York Public Intellectuals and Beyond* that will be coming out this month. This book is an eclectic mixture of articles that explore the legacy of New York intellectuals written by distinguished scholars.

Also, Professor Morris will be holding the distinguished Fulbright Walt Whitman Chair in American Culture Studies at Radboud University, Nijmegen Netherlands this spring.

Bill Mullen co-edited a book with Fred Ho on the connection between African Americans and Asian Americans. The book, *Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political and Cultural Connections Between African Americans and Asian Americans*, is a collection of writings by activists, artists, and scholars about the alliances and connections that link African Americans and Asian Americans.



Venetria Patton recently joined the Board of the National Council for Black Studies. Her contributions to the field of Black Studies were recognized with the presentation of the Paul Robeson and Zora Neale Hurston Award for Leadership in the field of Black Studies at the NCBS national conference.

A.G. Rud has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Educational Studies. This appointment is effective until June 2010. Dr. Rud has a national reputation in the cultural foundations of education. He has conducted research on the educational influence of Schweitzer and is editor of *Education and Culture*, the journal of the John Dewey Society for the Study of Education and Culture.

Ryan Schneider published articles in the journal *ATQ: American Transcendental Quarterly* and in the edited collection *The New York Intellectuals and Beyond*. He presented a paper on the reform writings of Maria Stewart at last winter's MLA conference in Chicago and was invited by the Thoreau Society to present his work at the upcoming MLA meeting in San Francisco. He also was elected to serve a three-year term as an MLA delegate representing the Great Lakes region. This year Professor Schneider received his second Certificate of Appreciation for contributions to the American Studies Program and his fourth Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award from the English Department.

Antonio Tillis has been appointed as President of the prestigious College Language Association. He has also accepted the position of Director of Latin American and Latino Studies at Purdue University. Professor Tillis's home department is in Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Alumni News: Life After Grad School

Malcolm Foley (M.A. 2007) is currently teaching at the San Fernando High School (part of the Los Angeles Unified School District). He has been assigned to teach the U.S. History class to 11th graders and Advanced Placement Government and Politics to 12th graders. Malcolm is hoping to eventually use his experience working for this school district to write a paper critiquing the U.S. educational system.



Scott Hoffman (Ph.D. 2005) worked as an historical consultant for a documentary for KLRU-TV, Austin PBS, that examined how World War II affected Central Texas.

The documentary premiered on September 23, 2007. Scott helped to provide historical context for the many stories and interviews collected and also assisted in writing the script. For more details about *KLRU Presents: The World, the War and Texas* and KLRU's events surrounding the series, see www.KLRU.org.

Update on this Story: KLRU put the program and its script up for consideration for an Emmy nomination for the Lone Star Emmy Chapter of the National Television Academy, a regional chapter. The Lone Star Emmy Chapter accepted his nomination in September. Dr. Hoffman did not win at the awards ceremony held at the end of October, but he mentioned at his presentation a couple of weeks ago that being nominated was in itself a great recognition for the work he had done. As Scott stated, "Never in a million years did I think that I would even have a remote chance of being nominated for an Emmy."

Sabine Klein (Ph.D. 2008) reports that her teaching position at the University of Maine, Farmington is going well, even though teaching classes in a new environment is a challenge; she spends most of her time preparing for classes and grading.

This leaves her with little time for her own research or planning for future projects, but she does have an essay coming forth in the next issue of *Early American Literature* (November 2008). She will also be presenting at two conferences in the spring: she is co-presenting a paper on Dutch-English-Indian interactions during Kieft's war at this year's meeting of the Society of Early Americanists in Bermuda (Sabine would you please pack me in your bag and take me with you?) and she is also presenting another paper on the cultural roots of Anglo-Dutch border contestations in the 1650s at a conference at SUNY at Stony Brook sponsored by the McNeill-Center for Early American Studies.

Next semester, she will be teaching two new classes: a senior seminar on American captivity narratives and a writing seminar exploring "The Simpsons" through the lens of American cultural studies. She will be responsible for offering a new course every semester, but she is hoping to find time this summer to revise her dissertation and extend the focus of her project.



American Studies students helped Sabine Klein pack for her move to Maine this summer. (Sabine is second from the left).

M.A. Degrees Awarded December 2007

Barbara Leonard

May 2008

Kevin Smith

Jeff Spanke

Jeanine Wood

Ph.D. Degrees Awarded

August 2008

Sabine Klein

"The Dutch Threatened Them Hard:" Dutch and English Colonial Writings, 1620-1664

December 2008

Andrew Koch

Rage Against the Machine: The University-Military-Industrial Complex and Contemporary American Democratic Culture

The “Golden-Age” of American Whaling—By Mark Bousquet

With my Eisinger Research Grant, I was able to spend several days researching for my dissertation at the New Bedford Whaling Museum Library. Located in southeastern Massachusetts, the NBWM Library contains an extensive archival collection of the American whaling industry, especially as it pertains to the first-half of the nineteenth century, the so-called “Golden Age” of American whaling. My dissertation, entitled “I Am the Bloody Hand!': Nineteenth-Century American Whaling Narratives,” is an examination of the writing generated from the existence of the industry in the nineteenth-century, which makes the NBWM’s collection vital to my research.

Popular in the mid-nineteenth century, whaling narratives quickly fell out of favor with the American reading public. As a result, the surviving narrative exists mostly as parts of collections and are not readily available through typical channels: archives are often unwilling to lend out their texts through Interlibrary Loan, and online archives like Sabin Americana have low numbers of scanned copies in their database. The Eisinger Research Grant helped to make travel to New



Bedford possible and gave me access to documents that I would otherwise have been unable to study.

From the narratives, we are able to read the reactions of ordinary, working class seamen to traversing the globe in search of sperm whales. The documents are an amalgam of working class and travel narratives,

all bound together by the fact that something about their experience caused them to put pen to paper to record what they experienced. Or knife to turtle. J.C. Mullett writes of putting in to Terrapin Island to replenish their food stores. Thousands of terrapins roamed the island and among them they discover one that has dates and names of ships carved into its shell going back 30 years. They mark him, and leave him as a testament to their presence.

New York City Archival Research Trip—By Jamie Hickner

A couple of years ago, I took a great course—History Methodology—with Professor Farr. One of our evening class discussions turned to the “cult of the archives”—the tendency among historians to develop strong feelings—reverence, dread, love—for the collections they use in their research. I imagined monks sitting before illuminated manuscripts. I was secretly jealous; having started out in modern literature, not history, I had never worked with any archival materials. I wanted to experience this for myself.

This past summer, I had my chance. The generous Chester E. Eisinger travel grant took me to New York City, a city I knew well from having lived there for several years in the mid-1990s. But this trip left no time for nostalgia—no late nights at Veselka Café or strolls through Tompkins Square Park. Instead, I checked into a Harlem hostel and burrowed into collections at four libraries: the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the New York Public Library’s Main Library, Columbia University’s Butler Library, and New York University’s Tamiment Library.

My dissertation is a transnational study of how American discourse on “the Congo” has influenced racial constructions in the U.S. There has been a long history of U.S.-Congo relations: Congolese were kidnapped and brought to the U.S. as slaves; Henry Morton Stanley published his Congo exploits in the *New York Herald*; King Leopold’s Congo atrocities were condemned by Mark Twain, George Washington Williams, William Henry Sheppard, and others; Congolese uranium was mined for use in the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the U.S. propped up dictator Mobutu Sese Sekou through three decades of kleptocracy; and so on. However, my current research is particularly focused on the figure of Patrice Lumumba, the democratically elected Prime Minister of the Congo who was assassinated in January 1961—only

months after leading his nation into independence. My New York City archival research bore significant fruit.

At the Schomburg Center, I began with the Ralph Bunche Papers. Bunche, who was Acting Representative to the U.N. Secretary-General in the Congo during Lumumba’s demise, delivered numerous speeches on the “Congo Crisis” in the U.S. in the months following Lumumba’s assassination. I read through these addresses, fascinated by Bunche’s proximity: both how close he was to me (as I touched pages whose graphite marks bore witness to his own hands) and how close he had been to Lumumba—and to the powers that brought Lumumba down.

I read on through other collections. I read through drafts of the great historian John Henrik Clarke’s unpublished biography of Lumumba, *A Life of Patrice Lumumba*. It left me wondering why Clarke had never published this work. In the papers of David McAdams—Director of the Ford Foundation’s Institut Politique Congolais in the early 1960s—I found a copy of a document purporting to be Lumumba’s “Last Will and Testament.” It differed from other versions I’ve seen, and I wondered how it came to be in McAdams’s possession.

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Patrice Lumumba in his home in Stanleyville Belgian Congo, May 1960.

New York City (cont.)

At Butler Library, reading through an oral history of James William Barco, who represented the U.S. at the United Nations commission, I read his honest account of how much Dag Hammarskjold, U.N. Secretary-General, had disliked Lumumba, and of efforts by the U.S. to collude with the U.N. in overthrowing Lumumba.

Petition, a letter written to President Kennedy in the form of a *cantata*, in which Patrice Lumumba is invoked in a plea for Kennedy to address wide-ranging social and political crises.

Nestled inside the New York Public Library, I found a review of Jean Paul Sartre's "Lumumba Speaks," a story that the *New Yorker* curiously decided to kill back in November 1972. And, on the last day of my visit, just hours before I had to fly out of the city, a librarian at the Schomburg center who had taken an interest in my work carried out to me an as-of-yet-uncatalogued box from what will be their "Central Africa Collection." I nearly cried. Inside, among other treasures, were original works of propaganda that were used in the Congo to force Lumumba from office. Bizarre accusations were

brought against him, in newspaper articles, propaganda posters, and flyers: he was a servant of the Soviet Union, an agent of genocide, a cannibal. Such telling lies.

This first foray into the "cult of the archive" was bittersweet. I found terrific leads in my quest to better understand the transnational discourse on Lumumba and Congolese independence. I better understood what Lumumba meant to intellectuals and political figures. But I left wishing that I had months—not hours—to sort through the thousands of pages I had found. I was left wondering—but also, in wonder.



Schomburg Center

(Note: the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture can be accessed at: <http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/about/history.html>)

2008 Chester E. Eisinger Awards

The 2008 Chester E. Eisinger Awards were presented at the annual spring symposium on April 18, 2008. The Chester E. Eisinger Prize for the best unpublished essay in American Studies went to Sabine Klein for an essay entitled, "Shires and Sachers: Language of Political Theory in Dutch and English Narratives of Conduct."



Sabine Klein accepts her award.
(From left to right: Dr. Susan Curtis,
Sabine Klein, and Dr. Bill Mullen)

The winners of the Chester E. Eisinger Research Awards were Mark Bousquet, Neal Gill, Jamie Hickner, Melissa Peck, Karen Salt, and Erik Wade. The Eisinger Research Awards are meant to encourage graduate student research in archival and library collections.

The Chester E. Eisinger Prize and Research Award

One Eisinger Prize is awarded annually to recognize excellent scholarship among American Studies students. The Prize is named in the honor of the founder of American Studies at Purdue, who encouraged such excellence by his example as a scholar and teacher.

The Program invites you to make a contribution to fund the Eisinger Prizes. Checks should be made out to the "Purdue Alumni Foundation—Chester Eisinger Fund" and sent to the Foundation at: Purdue Memorial Union, 101 North Grant Street, West Lafayette, 47906-3574.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Spring 2009 Course Offerings

AMST 60200: Contemporary Issues in American Studies, Richard Hogan and Harry Targ, M, 2:30-5:20. This course will serve a number of educational purposes. First, as the second course in the American Studies seminar sequence it will continue the discussion of what America is and how it can be studied. Second, the course will examine specifically competing and different methodologies that can be used to study America. These include political economy, social science history, culture studies, historical, quantitative, and/or literary approaches. Third this course will give special attention to Marxist political economy approaches to understanding America. Fourth, Marxist and other approaches will be used to examine communities, the nation-state, and America in the global political economy. To serve these multiple purposes, the seminar will discuss a thorough array of texts reflecting substantive and methodological traditions in American Studies and affiliated disciplines. Texts will address a variety of "levels of analysis," from the community, to the state, to the international system. Students will participate actively in seminar discussions, will present a critical examination of an assigned text in the seminar, and will complete a seminar research paper on a particular level of analysis about the American experience, using an approach or synthesis of the approaches highlighted in the seminar.

AMST 60300: American Studies Interdisciplinary Project, Bill Mullen, W, 1:30-4:20. American Studies 603 is a seminar/workshop which will give students instruction, feedback and peer review of first drafts of the Special Field Examination required for the Ph.D. in American Studies. The course will be run as an independent research seminar. The first few sessions will be dedicated to students workshopping ideas for their Special Field in dialogue with other students and the Professor. The middle period of the seminar will be dedicated to independent research with periodic group and individual meetings between the Professor and each student.



The final portion of the seminar will be peer-reviewed workshopping of drafts of the Special Field examination. The seminar will also dedicate discussion to questions of research methodology, resources and the nature of interdisciplinary research. The

seminar will lead students to consider these questions in relationship to the question of how their own Special Field examination both fits into and comments on the current state of the field of American Studies. Finally, the seminar will lead students to better understanding of how the Special Field examination relates to their own Ph.D. dissertation.

AMST 63000: M.A. Research Seminar, Bill Mullen, T, 2:30-5:20. A research seminar required of all M.A. students in their final semester. Students write substantial essays based upon original research in which they seek to crystallize, in practice, methods and concepts of American Studies.

AMST 65000: Caliban and His Sisters: Gender and Race in Early British Atlantic Literature, Cross-listed with ENGL 65700, Kristina Bross, Th, 3:00-5:50. Four hundred years ago the English sailing ship *The Sea Venture* ran aground on the coast of Bermuda. This crash landing was described by William Strachey a year later in a letter that we will read as initiating a tradition of English-language literature in the British Atlantic. This literature deals with slavery, violence, ethnicity, cultural contact, faith, magic, identity, mobility, and class. Readings may include Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, John Smith's descriptions of Pocahontas, the Salem witchcraft trials, Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko*, the anonymous Robinsoniad *The Female American*, the personal narratives of Olaudah Equiano and Mary Prince, William Earle's *Obi; or, the History of Three-fingered Jack*, Leonora Sansay's epistolary *Secret History*, among others. This course will take an American literature/American studies perspective, but because we



will be using texts that have been claimed by American and British national scholarly traditions, we will also be tapping into British and Caribbean scholarship. More specifically, students will interrogate constructions of race and gender as we apply transatlantic, hemispheric, postcolonial and other methodologies both to our texts and to the space variously termed "the Atlantic world"; "the Caribbean"; "the West Indies." For more information, contact me at kbross@purdue.edu.

AMST 65000: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Critical Race Theory, Ryan Schneider, Th, 6:30-9:20. This seminar offers students an introduction to the field of Critical Race Theory (CRT). After a brief survey of CRT's origins as a movement among legal scholars in the late 1970s and early 80s, the course moves on to examine its current influences on multiple disciplines including American Studies, History, Literature, Political Science, Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, Whiteness Studies, and African American Studies. In addition to participating in weekly discussions of key texts, students will produce a final research project (in consultation with the instructor) that relies on some dimension of CRT to supplement, shape, or otherwise develop their own intellectual interests. Potential enrollees should know that the reading load for this course is not light; that expectations for class participation are not low; and that tolerance for slackers and whiners is non-existent.



AMST 65000: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Sociology of Education, Cross-listed with EDST 59100, Nathalia Jaramillo, T, 6:00-8:50. Sociology of Education' spans various levels of analysis, ranging from the individual to the structure of relations among social and educational actors. Part of this course will examine several of the key figures associated with the field in the U.S. We will then move to

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Spring 2009 Course Offerings (Continued)

more contemporary work that takes issue with the increasingly complex dynamics that shape education and society today. Feminist, post-colonial, ritual performance and studies of communities, race/ethnicity, families and 'culture' will expand our discussions and understanding of the sociology of education. Part of our analysis will focus on the individual, and other aspects of the course will be more geared toward institutional-societal dynamics. Questions about how subjectivities, knowledge, teaching/learning are shaped by the logic of capitalist society will also be discussed.



AMST 65000: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Politics, Race, Class and Gender Social Inquiry. *Cross-listed with EDST 60000*, Nathalia Jaramillo, W 6:00-8:50. In this course we will

examine qualitative studies in the field of education, sociology and anthropology. Of specific concern are the politics of race, class and gender as constitutive elements in the research process. This includes an understanding of the subject position of the "researcher" and the "researched" and the ways in which race, class and gender inform and shape the processes, methods and outcomes of social inquiry. Readings will cover various schools of thought that include: humanist, post-colonial, indigenous, and feminist philosophy.

Meet Our New Affiliated Faculty



Antonio Tillis

Antonio D. Tillis is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and a graduate of Memphis Central High School. He completed his undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Span-

ish Language. After Vanderbilt, he worked as a Hospital Products Specialist for Merck, Sharp and Dohme in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Subsequent to Merck, he worked as an Area Sales Manager for Miller Brewing Company in Montgomery County Maryland. He completed his Master of Arts Degree in Twentieth Century Peninsular Spanish literature at Howard University in 1995. In 1996, he began his doctoral studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia completing the Doctor of Philosophy in Romance Languages with specializations in Latin American, Afro-Hispanic, African American and African Diaspora literature in August of 2000. His research includes literature and cultural development of the Spanish-speaking African Diaspora in Latin America, in particular Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba. His research also includes comparative analysis between literature of the African American tradition and that of the Afro-Latin American tradition. His current research projects include two book-length studies: one focusing on the fictional works of Afro-Colombian writer Manuel Zapata Olivella published between 1980-2000 and one investigating the development of a literature representation of Black Venezuelan culture identity in the works of Juan Pablo Sojo.

Valentine Moghadam

Professor Moghadam comes to Purdue on a joint appointment as Director of the Women's Studies Program, and as Professor of Sociology. From 2004-2006 she served as Chief of the Section on Gender Equality and Development in the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, in Paris, France. Prior to this appointment she was Professor of Sociology and Director of Women's Studies at Illinois State University.



Born in Iran, Dr. Moghadam has devoted much of her research to development, social change, and gender in the Middle East, North Africa, and Afghanistan, but she also studies and publishes on the social and gender dynamics of globalization. Her first book, *Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East* (1993, 2003) was selected as a *Choice Outstanding Academic Book* for 1993-1994. She also has edited and contributed to seven books, most recently *Social Policy and Economic Development in the Middle East* (2006) and *From Patriarchy to Empowerment? Participation, Rights and Women's Movement in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia* (2007).

She is founding member and past president of the Association for Middle East Women's Studies and a founding contributor to the *Journal of the Middle East Women's Studies*.

Fred Ho and Afro-Asian Music Ensemble Blow the Roof of the BCC—By Bill Mullen

Those who liked their jazz out, their politics left and their West Lafayette evenings memorable thrilled to the vanguard sound of Fred Ho and the Afro-Asian Music Ensemble Saturday, November 1 at the Black Cultural Center.

Fred Ho is a New York-based composer and baritone saxophonist, winner of the Duke Ellington Lifetime Achievement Award. His band, the Afro-Asian Music Ensemble, features a six-piece ensemble, three saxophones, bass, drums and piano, melding jazz, blues and traditional Asian instrumentation and notation. The Ensemble was formed in 1982.

The Afro-Asian ensemble, as described by Ho, is dedicated to producing “social relations” in the sphere of music---interracial, collaborative and dedicated to social justice. The Black Cultural Center concert was a 75 minute set featuring compositions including Fred Ho’s “Black Panther Suite,” a tribute to Chinese immigrant laborers killed in a human trafficking episode in New York harbor, and a dedication to Ho’s longtime sideman Sam Furnace.

The concert was performed in the BCC Multipurpose Room. BCC Director Renee Thomas made the event possible by providing the venue and technical support for the music.

BCC Program Director and friend of American Studies Jolivette Anderson-Duouining took the lead in making sure the concert went off without a hitch.

The crowd, a diverse cast of Purdue faculty, students and community, packed the room. The concert was followed by a 30 minute question and answer session which explored the Ghanaian roots of drummer Royal Hartigan’s percussion, saxophonist Salim Washington’s take on the Obama-McCain election, and Fred Ho’s vigorous defense of Third World internationalism. Ho explained that the Afro-Asian Music Ensemble owed its origins to the famous 1955 Bandung Conference in Indonesia in which 29 African and Asian decolonizing countries came together to challenge the political dominance of the so-called “First” Western capitalist nations and “Second” Communist ones.



Jolivette Anderson-Duouining, her daughter Nadja, and musician/band leader Fred Ho celebrate after the November 1st Afro-Asian Music Ensemble concert at the BCC. The concert was co-sponsored by American Studies, the BCC and the Council of Asian American Studies at Purdue.

For more information about Fred Ho and the Afro-Asian Music Ensemble visit www.bigredmedia.com

Students Take a Break from the Graduate School Grind

Turkey Run Trip—by Kendra Unruh

After seven weeks of hard work, a group of American Studies graduate students went to the woods to live deliberately—or perhaps just to take a vacation. On the first day of fall break, October 11, fourteen members of ASGSO headed to Turkey Run State Park in Marshall, Indiana, for a day away from studying, reading, and researching. With the leaves starting to change colors and sunny, warmweather, it was an ideal day to be outdoors. In the morning, several students went horseback riding while the rest braved the trails for some not-too-rugged hiking. Jen Lindquist led the hiking group through some beautiful canyon bottoms (or “runs”) and successfully navigated the way back to the Visitor’s Center. In the afternoon, the entire group met for a picnic lunch followed by a 3.5 mile canoe trip down Sugar Creek. Though a few students ended up a little wetter than expected, all of them and their canoes made it safely to shore. Tired from all of the walking and paddling, the students headed back to West Lafayette after they returned the canoes. Rachel Smederovac and Brett Werenski were kind enough to volunteer to drive the two Purdue vans. The trip was a great success, and hopefully ASGSO will sponsor another trip in the spring.



American Studies Community Service/Social Justice Award

This year the American Studies Program will honor one of its students with the Community Service/Social Justice Award. The award will recognize outstanding engagement with a local, regional, national or international agency, entity, or community meant to positively impact the lives of people within the scope of the project. The award is meant to recognize work that is partially complete, complete or ongoing but which shows clear potential for success. The project may include Purdue personnel and resources but should be focused outside of the University. Nominees for the award must be enrolled in the American Studies Program at Purdue and be in good standing.

The award will carry a certificate of recognition and bring a \$500 check to be presented at the American Studies Spring Symposium. Students may be nominated or self-nominate. Nominees must submit a 1-2 page description of their project. Supporting materials relevant to the project may be appended. A one-page letter from a person connected to the project attesting to its value and merit for the award must be included.

The award will be determined by a committee of American Studies faculty. Nominees for the award must submit materials to Delayne Graham in IDIS by April 1, 2008. Please contact Bill Mullen at bvmullen@purdue.edu or at 494-3735 if you have questions.

American Studies Travel Grants

Every year, the American Studies program supports many of its students traveling to national and international conferences. Funding is available for students at both the M.A. and Ph.D.-levels.

In order to receive travel support please submit the form on the American Studies website (located under Events & Awards) to Professor Bill Mullen either through email at bvmullen@purdue.edu or by regular mail to Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Room 1289, 100 North University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098.

American Studies Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies Award

This year the American Studies Program will honor one of its students with the Paul and Eslanda Robeson International Studies Award. The award recognizes original, innovative scholarship, service or teaching focusing on some area outside of the borders of the United States. The award is in recognition of the outstanding international cultural, political and social work undertaken by Americans Paul and Eslanda Robeson, who between them visited and served many of the world's communities.

The winner of the award will receive a certificate of recognition and a check for \$500 at the American Studies Spring Symposium. Students may be nominated or self-nominate. Nominees must be enrolled and in good standing in the American Studies Program. Nominees should submit a 1-2 page description of the project for which they seek the award. The award is meant to recognize work that is partially completed, completed, or in progress, and which shows clear potential to succeed and to make a contribution to American Studies. Nominees should also submit a one-page letter from a person connected to the project attesting to the work and potential of the project.

The award will be determined by a committee of American Studies faculty. Materials for the award should be submitted to Delayne Graham in IDIS by April 1, 2008. Please contact Bill Mullen at bvmullen@purdue.edu or at 494-4735 if you have questions.

American Studies Excellence in Teaching Award

This year the American Studies Program will honor one of its students with the American Studies Excellence in Teaching Award. The award will go to a student who demonstrates an outstanding, innovative record of teaching. The award will be determined by a committee of American Studies faculty and presented at the American Studies Spring Symposium. A certificate of recognition and check for \$500 will be included with the award.

Students may be nominated or self-nominate for the award. To be eligible, a student must be employed in at least two consecutive semesters of teaching concurrent with and prior to the semester in which the award is received. Students eligible for the award must also be enrolled in the American Studies Program and be in good standing.

Nominees should submit a 1-2 page statement of teaching philosophy, a CV, a copy of teaching evaluations from the two most recent consecutive semesters of teaching, and a letter of recommendation from one faculty member familiar with their teaching. Materials should be submitted to Delayne Graham in IDIS by April 1, 2008. Please contact Bill Mullen at bvmullen@purdue.edu or at 494-4735 if you have questions.

Purdue-gift

Online giving to Purdue

It is now even easier to donate to the American Studies Program using *Purdue-gift*. *Purdue-gift* makes it simple to make a gift by credit card to Purdue. Go to the following web address:

http://www.purdue.edu/UDO/pages/how_to/egift.html

Click on "Make a Gift", choose "Other" from a dropdown menu, then type "American Studies Program" in the text box, enter some information about yourself, submit your payment information, and the transaction is completed through Purdue's secure server. Make your gift now in three easy steps. It takes just a few minutes.

2009 American Studies Symposium

Save the date—The American Studies Spring Symposium will again take place in mid-April. More information will follow in the upcoming months.

The American Studies web page (www.cla.purdue.edu/american-studies) will also have updated information.

We hope to see you there!

This newsletter was edited and written by Melissa A. Peck, Ph.D. student in American Studies.

Former Students—Send us your news! Please help us keep up with your achievements and career successes by completing and returning this form.

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