

AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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AMERICAN STUDIES AT PURDUE—"LOOKING FORWARD"

American Studies Program Celebrates 40 Years

After forty years, American Studies at Purdue University is still looking forward. From the program's inception in 1964, it has been an innovative venue for interdisciplinary study in the School of Liberal Arts.

As a field, American Studies is a relative newcomer to the American academy. From the 1930s through the mid-1950s, the first American Studies programs took shape as academic sites for investigation into American culture and national character through a melding of history and literature. In the 1960s a second major wave of American Studies program-building took place, and it was in this new burst of interest in American Studies that the program at Purdue was founded.

Under the leadership of Chester E. Eisinger, Professor of English, American Studies at Purdue offered the traditional focus on literature and history but also anticipated the central role to be played by the social sciences in the field. From 1964 on, Sociology, Political Science, and Communication were integral to the plans of study of American Studies majors and graduate students. In looking over some of the theses and dissertations written in the early 1970s, one finds a study of Black suburbanization and a critique of the "New Journalism" that reflect the profitable intertwining of traditional humanities disciplines with theories and meth-

ods from the social sciences.

Support from the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology as well as the Deans of the School of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School nurtured the new program in its early years.

The arrival of Harold Woodman, Leonora Woodman, Cheryl Oreovicz, Harry Targ, and Leonard Neufeldt in the 1970s, pushed the program in new directions—toward political-economic concerns, feminist issues, and the politics of the Left. American Studies students translated these perspectives into examinations of popular culture and popular periodicals as well as more traditional subjects of study, and many assumed that their research, informed by a variety of critical disciplinary practices, served a social purpose.

Under the leadership of Harold Woodman, who became Chair of American Studies in 1981, students and faculty looked forward again—this time to the "cultural turn," the "linguistic turn," and the theoretical perspectives of the postmodernists and poststructuralists. These new frames of analysis bore fruit in the 1990s with dissertations on such subjects as tattooing, science fiction and gender, masculinity and popular magazines, and cloning. Students and faculty working in these areas enriched the tradi-

tional emphasis on literature and history.

Leonard Neufeldt became chair of the program in 1994 and charted new territory by incorporating growing student and faculty interest in Race/Ethnicity and Gender/Sexuality into the program's signature strengths. The American Studies web site and promotional literature highlighted the faculty and students working in these fields and attracted new students to the program who shared these research concerns. With these shared interests, students in American Studies represent the most socially diverse student body on campus in the dawn of the twenty-first century.

In 1999, Susan Curtis became chair of American Studies and worked to extend earlier initiatives by developing stronger ties with other interdisciplinary programs, notably African American Studies and Women's Studies, and by offering focused instruction in contemporary interdisciplinary methods.

The 40th Anniversary of American Studies at Purdue is a time to celebrate the past accomplishments of the program and to look forward to new directions in American Studies for the twenty-first century. Join us in March 2004 as we look back in order to move forward in the coming years!

New Office of Interdisciplinary Studies

On August 18, 2003, the School of Liberal Arts at Purdue University opened the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies in Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education. Dean Toby Parcel made a historic decision to create this office as a way to support in new ways ten undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary programs in the School of Liberal Arts: American Studies, Asian Studies, Comparative Literature, Classical Studies, Film Studies, Italian Studies, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Philosophy and Literature, and Religious Studies. In addition to these programs, African



New Interdisciplinary Studies Office in Beering 1289

American Studies, Jewish Studies, and Women's Studies offer interdisciplinary programs of study in the school.

Susan Curtis, Professor of History and American Studies, directs the office, assisted by Delayne Graham. The office

oversees the administration of graduate student files for American Studies and Linguistics, offers

meeting space for all of the programs, provides web support, generates informational literature, houses modest libraries and special collections for American Studies and Linguistics, and serves as the headquarters for the Indiana Dialect Survey, an



Delayne Graham,
Interdisciplinary Studies Office
Secretary

ongoing Linguistics project.

American Studies, the oldest and largest of the interdisciplinary programs in

the school, enjoys the visibility and administrative support that comes with the office. Students on fellowships receive mail in the office and can browse through American Quarterly, materials in the Harry and Dena Targ Collection of Progressive Literature and the Victor Schuster Collection of Leftist Literature, and dissertations completed in the program since the 1970s.



New Interdisciplinary Studies Office in Beering 1289

American Studies Chair Position Announcement

The Department of History at Purdue University invites applications for an Associate or Full Professorship in Twentieth-Century U.S. Social/Cultural History and Chair of the interdisciplinary American Studies graduate program. Appointment begins August 16, 2004. Teaching responsibilities include both halves of the U.S. survey and upper-level and graduate courses in specialty and in American Studies. Must have a distinguished record of scholarship and publication and a commitment to lead an American Studies program noted for race/ethnicity and gender/sexuality studies. Applicants should submit a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation to Susan Curtis, Chair of Search Committee, Department of History, Purdue University, University Hall, 672 Oval Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2087; e-mail: curtis@purdue.edu. The search committee expects to conduct preliminary interviews at the AHA convention in Washington, D.C. Review of applications will begin November 21, 2003, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Purdue University is an AA/EOE.

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.

Annual American Studies Fall Party

Every fall American Studies students and faculty kick off the new academic year with an informal gathering and buffet supper that gives old and new students and faculty an opportunity to get acquainted. The tradition continued this year at the home of Rich Hogan and Nicole Roger-Hogan on September 20, 2003. Aside from the great conversations that filled the Hogan home, the main feature of the evening was Nicole's fabulous French onion soup.

As you can see from the photographs on this page, a good time was had by all!



Professor Hal Woodman



Nicole Roger-Hogan making her French onion soup.



Sophie Ho and Lindsey Carnick.



Nancy Peterson and Minrose Gwin



Harry Targ and Hal Woodman



Scott Hoffman and Mark Whittemore



Stephany Spaulding, Erik Wade, Leeah Durkee and Brandon Wallace.



Lupe Niumeitolu, Ruqaliba Desmond, Mark Whittemore, and Tof Eklund.



Brandon Wallace and Donna Akers

New Faculty Join American Studies Program

The American Studies Program is pleased to welcome two new faculty members. John Duvall, Professor of English and Editor of *Modern Fiction Studies*, joined the American Studies faculty this fall. Professor Duvall brings expertise and a distinguished scholarly record in modern fiction as well as years of experience working in the American Studies Program at the University of Memphis. He is the author of: *The Identifying Fictions of Toni Morrison: Modernist Authenticity and Postmodern Blackness*; *Faulkner's Marginal Couple: Invisible, Outlaw, and Unspeakable Communities*; and *Don DeLillo's UNDERWORLD*. In the fall of 2004, *Modern Fiction Studies* will celebrate its fiftieth year in print, a landmark event that Professor Duvall hopes to celebrate with a program made up of distinguished contributors, past editors, and editors of special issues.



John Duvall

Charles Cutter of the Department of History accepted the position of Interim Chair of American Studies for 2003-2004. Professor Cutter's scholarship focuses on colonial Mexico, especially in the Borderlands, what is now Texas and New Mexico. His interest in the Hispanic legal and cultural legacy in the United States align him with current American Studies efforts to expand the understanding of competing social groups in the construction of institutions, laws, and cultural meaning. He is the author of *The Protector de Indios in Colonial New Mexico, 1659-1821* and *The Legal Culture of Northern New Spain*. He currently is working on a cultural biography of Don Ignacio de Zubía, an eighteenth-century Spanish-born cleric in Mexico whose life illustrates the impact of transatlantic conflicts between the Old and New Worlds on institutions, beliefs, and the lives of ordinary people.



Charles Cutter

In Memory of Dr. Cheryl Z. Oreovicz

On Saturday, August 30, family, friends, colleagues, and students gathered at historic Duncan Hall in Lafayette to celebrate the life of Cheryl Z. Oreovicz. Leonard Neufeldt, Harold Woodman, Ann Astell, and Susan Curtis shared fond memories of this remarkable woman. Clayton Lein served as emcee and directed the Lafayette Chamber Singers' musical tribute to Dr. Oreovicz, who performed with them for more than two decades.

We will miss her keen intelligence, her sharp wit, and her embodiment of academic mentor—demanding and supportive of students.

Dr. Cheryl Z. Oreovicz passed away at 9:08 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2003, in her home. Born February 23, 1943, in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, she graduated from Lewisburg High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Bucknell University prior to earning her doctorate in English from The Pennsylvania State University in 1972. On March 27, 1971, she married Frank S. Oreovicz. She is survived by her husband and daughter, Mary Kate Oreovicz of Bloomington, a son, John Oreovicz (wife: Kathleen) of Indianapolis; and sister Dorothy Vaughn (husband: Frank) of Sanibel, Florida.



In 1974, she accepted a position in the English department at Purdue University, specializing in American Studies and women and minority writers. She wrote on numerous figures in early American literature, particularly Mercy Warren, and chaired and served on 100 master's and Ph.D. committees. From 1993 to 1997, she also served as director of graduate studies for the English Department.

She was a member of the Lafayette Chamber Singers for more than 20 years. She was also a member of the Modern Language Association, the American Studies Association, the Society of Early Americanists and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. She enjoyed music, mystery novels, nature and oceanside walks.

NEH and ASA Support the “Making History” Project

American Studies faculty are “Making History” with the project to introduce “Archive Theory and Practice” as an AMST 650 course in spring 2004. Kristina Bross, Shirley Rose, and Susan Curtis are working this semester to develop a syllabus for the course, which was underwritten by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Students enrolled in “Archive Theory and Practice” will consider conceptual, theoretical, and practical issues surrounding the creation and use of archives. Why are some items saved and others not? How are collection’s organized and described? What can be learned about past times and what eludes us, given uneven archiving practices? What ethical matters and professional practices govern who can gain access to and use of fragile remains of the past? These are some of the issues to be raised in the course.

One unique feature of the “Making History” project is the collaboration between American Studies at Purdue University and the Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) in Lafayette, Indiana. Students will be using

TCHA as a “laboratory” of sorts, where they can work with unprocessed materials as they wrestle with issues of description, organization, access, preservation, and cultural significance. At the same time, student learning will serve the community. As students

complete projects, they will assist TCHA in making more texts, images, and artifacts available to future patrons.

It is the service learning aspect of the “Making History” project that convinced the American Studies Association (ASA) to award the American Studies program a grant in the Community Partnership Grants program. The ASA grant has funded a six-week workshop in the fall of 2003. Faculty from American Studies, English, Sociology, History, and the

Library, as well as the director and archivist at TCHA read and discuss literature on the theory and practice of creating, maintaining, and using archives. The Archivists and Faculty Interest Group share knowledge, archival experience, and particular expertise. Weekly discussions have helped Bross, Rose, and Curtis refine the course to be offered in the spring semester and have sparked interest among others in the group to offer the course in the future.

While archives are ostensibly about the past, “Making History” is also about the future. In October, Purdue University will welcome Sammie Morris, who will begin her tenure as the university’s first archivist. Last June, Bross and Curtis visited the Immigration History Research Center housed in Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota to consult with the director, Joel Wurl, and some of his staff on the challenges of building and developing an archival collection. Their visit revealed important preservation issues and valuable state resources available for those interested in establishing significant research repositories.



Professors Bross, Curtis and Rose

Welcome the New American Studies Students

- **Mark Bousquet:** Ph.D.; M.A. University of New Hampshire, B.A. & B.S., Syracuse University
- **Kurk Bright:** Postbaccalaureate; B.A. Purdue University
- **Lindsey Carnick:** M.A.; B.A. University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
- **Ruqaiba Desmond:** M.A.; B.A. Purdue University
- **Leeah Durkee:** M.A.; B.A. Loyola Marymount University
- **Marilee Gregoire:** M.A.; B.S. North Dakota State University
- **Laura Hammer:** M.A.; B.A. Purdue University
- **Aubrey Thamann:** Ph.D.; M.A. Purdue; B.A. Miami University
- **Erik Wade:** M.A.; B.A. University of South Florida
- **Christopher Walker:** Ph.D.; M.A. Ohio University; B.A. James Madison University
- **Brandon Wallace:** M.A.; B.A. Huntingdon College
- **Stacy Weida:** M.A.; B.A. Purdue University
- **Mark Whittemore:** M.A.; B.S. Fitchburg State College

Harry and Dena Targ Collection of Progressive Literature

Students interested in the study of social movements, democratic socialism, American economic and political hegemony abroad, and U.S.-Latin American relations will soon have valuable resources at their disposal. Thanks to Harry and Dena Targ, the American Studies program has hundreds of issues of such progressive periodicals as *Nation*, *Dollars and Sense*, and *In These Times* in the Interdisciplinary Studies library in 1289 Beering Hall. In addition to these noted periodicals, the Targ's contributed *Barricada* and *Envío*, which provide news about and analysis of political and economic conditions in Latin America in the late twentieth century.

Sabine Klein has been working diligently since the beginning of the fall semester to inventory and catalog the massive collection. The Targ Collection joins the Victor Schuster



Professor Harry Targ

Collection, which consists of pamphlets, books, periodicals, and ephemera from the 1940s through the 1960s. Both collections display the intertwined commitments against racism, fascism, imperialism, and war that characterize various progressive movements in twentieth-century America.

No member of the faculty has been involved in the American Studies program longer than Harry Targ, who is a Professor of Political Science. Over the years, he has offered numerous American Studies seminars on the American Left, Radical Politics and Culture, and Working-Class Political Movements. He currently is collaborating with scholars in Cuba to create formal avenues for the exchange of ideas. In May 2004, Professor Targ will teach a course in Cuba, which will offer a unique learning opportunity to undergraduates and graduate students alike.

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.-level.

In order to receive travel support please submit a letter indicating acceptance of a paper at a conference to Professor Charles Cutter, Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Room 1289, 100 North University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-2098.

The Chester E. Eisinger Prize

Two Eisinger Prizes are awarded annually to recognize excellent scholarship among American Studies students. The Prizes are 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.

2003 Chester E. Eisinger Research Award

On May 2, 2003, American Studies students and faculty gathered in the John Purdue Room for a banquet to celebrate the end of the academic year, to congratulate those about to complete degrees, and to present awards to the Chester E. Eisinger Prize and Research Award winners.

The Chester E. Eisinger Prize for the

best unpublished essay in American Studies went to Megan MacDonald for an essay entitled, "Self-Determination and Fishing Rights: The Anishinaabe and Treaty Fishing Rights in the Twentieth Century." The second place prize was awarded to Scott Hoffman for "Democratizing the Kingdom: Matthew Shepard, Homosexuality and

Popular Martyrdom in America."

The essays by Dagmar Frerking, Lisette Blanco-Cerda, Vanessa Vazquez, Paul Reich, Megan MacDonald, and Lee Bebout, which appear below and on the following pages, explain how winners used the Chester E. Eisinger Research Awards to further their research.

Dagmar Frerking, Eisinger Research Award Winner

The Chester E. Eisinger Travel Grant allowed me to go to Minnesota this summer to research yet another unknown Native American novelist, Joseph Anthony Northrup. Northrup wrote a novel with the interesting title *Wawina: a beautiful story of an Indian princess. A tradition based on personal records as handed down in primeval wigwam lore, which can be considered more truth than fiction* under the pen name Chief Northwind. It was published in 1937 after having been serialized in a Minnesota newspaper. The novel is a romantic 'Romeo & Juliet'-like story of an Ojibwa 'princess' who ends up killing her Sioux lover and herself with a



Joseph Northrup with wife, Angeline, daughter, Julia, and dog Danger.

knife. There is no secondary material and only four copies of the novel are extant in libraries.

I first visited the author's grandson, Jim Northrup, on the Fond du Lac Reservation. He told me what he knew about his grandfather, such as that Joe Northrup went to prison before attending Carlisle Indian School. He later moved back to the reserva-

tion and worked in a paper mill. Jim took me to the idyllic spot on a beautiful lake where his grandfather used to live and brought up seven children with his wife.

I then went to St. Paul to research the issue further in the Minnesota Historical Society archives. There I was able to take a look at one of the four extant copies of the novel. In looking through the microfilm of the newspaper which had first published the novel, I found that Joe Northrup had had prior contact with it. For a while a few years earlier, it had published a small column "Wigwam Ramblings" that consisted of witty sayings which were allegedly translated from the Ojibwa by Northrup. The paper had also repeatedly included a call to readers for stories of local history. The novel is such a local history story. Northrup might have had the idea for it when people in the area reported seeing apparitions of white lights above an old Indian cemetery and it was said that these were the spirits of the two dead lovers.

I checked both the regular and the BIA census for background on the Northrup family. That proved difficult since they apparently didn't start using this name until Joe Northrup's generation. The BIA census also could never decide on a birth date, it was either in 1877 or in 1887. However, the regular census of 1900 listed him at an Indian boarding school in Minnesota. He therefore knew how to write English which served him well when his legal troubles started. The archive had his whole criminal file and I also found newspaper reports on the crime. It was an incident in 1905,

which in the case of a white man would probably have been called self-defense.

Northrup as an Indian, however, got accused of murder. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter and ended up in the state reformatory instead, from where he then wrote letters to the governor and other influential persons asking for a pardon so he could accompany his two destitute brothers to Carlisle Indian School. This pardon was granted in 1908. He later used his knowledge of the English language to write letters for other Indians, which led him into tribal politics. He seems to have been secretary of the local tribal group and in the 1930s often presided over Ojibwa meetings in the region. Another important find at the archive was a manuscript by Northrup on Ojibwa religious beliefs. This piece was apparently never published.

With the information I found on this trip, I am now able to piece together at least some of the life of this author and the meaning of his writing which will allow me to compare him in my dissertation to the other Native American novelists of the time.



Dagmar Frerking

Lisette Blanco-Cerda, Eisinger Research Award Winner

This summer, courtesy of the Eisinger Research Grant, I went to San Antonio and Austin, Texas, exploring various missions, churches, and the occasional *tiendita* wall for bodily manifestations of the religious experience for Tejanos/as, along with exploring



artifacts and assorted documents at the Catholic Archives in Austin. Since my area of research centers around the Spanish and American colonizations of Tejanos, I'm interested in exploring the contestations occurring before/during/after these colonizations. And because, I think, intersections of gender, class, race/ethnicity, religion, and identity become manifest on the body, I chose to examine anything that I felt captured or, at least, suggested such contestations.

Throughout San Antonio, the Spanish missions dot the south side landscape. Some of these physical manifestations of the Spanish colonization occurred hundreds of

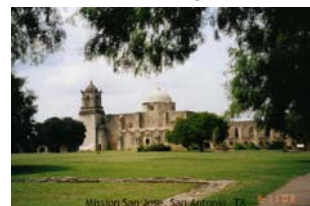


years ago but within a mile of my parents' house. I found myself in a strange, almost disembodied state of being as I examined these familiar haunts. (On an almost daily basis, I used to go horseback riding with my father along the Mission trail, frequently stopping and tying our horses at various missions so they could graze while we walked the grounds and talked.) I noted incredible images of the Spanish, Anglo, Tejano cultures coming together and creating their own *mestizaje* culture. Throughout San Antonio, it's easy to find beautiful, frightening, and, sometimes, sorrowful images of religious symbols that suggest these contestations. One such image that grabbed my attention while I drove from Mission Concepción to Mission San José was a memorial called "In Loving Memory of Margaret Lopez" and painted on the outside of *La Tiendita* Grocery & Bakery, along Mission Road. This image features a decidedly white *Virgen*, an interesting mixture of Aztec and Catholic religions, and a worshipful peasant, a Spanish-looking Juan Diego, who was himself one of the colonized Indians. This appearance occurred on ground significant to Aztec beliefs, but because the Christian Virgin Mother appears there, that ground became the home of a Catholic cathedral.

I also spent time at the Catholic Archives in Austin, Texas, where

I found some fascinating artifacts and documents. One artifact was a 16th century family Bible, of

which I was quite hesitant to get too near lest I should somehow rip the pages! However, the pieces that caught my eye were a few documents with women taking center stage. One is a detailed clothing bill from October 1698 while the other is a series of letters written from a husband to his wife and vice versa dating from 1826 and ending



in 1829. From my understanding, that year the wife, Sra María

Teresita de la Rosa, requested a divorce from her husband. As of now, though, that's all I can say about that series of documents. Nevertheless, I'm determined to push my way through the translation because I want to find out just what the heck happened. Also, of course, because I know these documents house a goldmine of information for my particular research interests.



Lisette Blanco-Cerda



Vanessa A. Vazquez

Vanessa A. Vazquez, Eisinger Research Award Winner

While most of my friends and colleagues spent their summer pontificating over theoretical mazes of thought and the possibility of having to live off of 99 cent cheeseburg-

ers, I had the great pleasure of finding myself in the middle of a wonderfully chaotic music wonderland. As the recipient of a 2003 Eisinger Research Award, I was provided with the opportunity to discover the underground world of alterlatino in Chicago's Latino community.

My travels took me to numerous (and remote) spots in Pilsen/Little Village where I befriended local ska band *Vicios de Papa*. The members of *Vicios de Papa*, which

translates into "Dad's bad habits," were eager to describe the musical ideology that permeates throughout the local scene. Armed with a tape recorder and a video camera I plunged myself into a world full of spiked hair, Guevara t-shirts, greasy Mexican tacos, and most importantly, a music scene that is propelled by nostalgia, anger, and pride for their motherland, Mexico lindo y bonito.



Paul D. Reich

Paul D. Reich, Eisinger Research Award Winner

learned the value of primary research.

If you had approached an earlier me in 1993 and told me that I was going to be working on a doctorate ten years later, I would have said you were crazy. The 1993 version of me was in the midst of an inauspicious year at the University of Florida; U.S. History was the only course I passed during my freshman year. Flash forward a year later and I was working full-time and trying school again, this time at a night school affiliated with Rollins College. The first class I took was one that cemented my interest in history, but also gave birth to another interest: research. It was a course aptly suited for research enthusiasts; titled Library Research, the class was co-taught by the head of the history department and the head librarian and focused on techniques successfully used by researchers. My peers and I learned many things that semester, but most importantly, we

As the 2003 version of me sat down in front of a vacant microform machine in the library of the Wisconsin Historical Society, I could barely contain my excitement. In many ways it was a continuation of that first course at Rollins, as I found myself using yet again the basic research techniques I learned in that class. This research trip also marked the conclusion of a semester of preliminary research on African-American newspapers, using as my bible James Danky's *African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography*. Danky is the head archivist for the Wisconsin Historical Society, and I passed his office daily during my treks to the Society's library. As part of my dissertation will be a recovery project focusing on African-American literature produced in the American West, I found it necessary to visit the Society's extensive holdings (much of which was collected by Danky during his research), and I arrived in Madison with the ambitious goal of looking at close to a hundred newspapers in three days.

As you would expect, this type of research is most closely analogous to an Easter egg hunt; you know there's some candy out there, you just hope you can find

it. As it is the repository for Wisconsin's birth and death records, the library's microform room was by no means deserted; I often had to thread my way between other egg hunters doing genealogical research. And in the dull glow of the microform machines, I saw on their faces the same emotion I was feeling: absolute ecstasy. As the hours and days wore on, that feeling never faded and was renewed each time I found another poem or short story written by a local resident in a Western newspaper. Finding R. Baker's series of poems in *Taft Enterprise* and J. Madison Bell's work in two San Francisco newspapers, *The Pacific Appeal* and *The Elevator*, represented everything I had hoped to accomplish on this trip; their work and the others I collected will become a major part of my dissertation.

As a recipient of the Chester E. Eisinger Research Award, I was able to begin recovering some of the work produced by African-American inhabitants of Western towns. These writers wrote of love, longing, and place and found opportunities for expression in the only places they could. The Eisinger prize also allowed me the opportunity to cultivate anew my love for something young undergraduates only dream of: undiscovered primary sources.

Megan A. MacDonald, Eisinger Research Award Winner

The Eisinger Prize allowed me to continue a project that was started in the Fall of 2002, when I began exploring the Ojibwe treaty fishing rights of the Great Lakes from the 1960's through 1980's. In that project, I discovered that the fishing rights controversy stretched far beyond legal history, branching into identity, U.S./Canadian border sharing, popular conceptions of Indianness, and sport and commercial fishing, among many other areas. I also found that the scholarship and commentary focused primarily on the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Using the Eisinger Prize, I was able to spend 8 days in the State Archives of Michigan and the State Library of Michigan

searching for any documents that may help establish a unique take on the fishing rights controversy in that State, especially from the implementation of treaty rights by the State. What I found completely exceeded my expectations! Records of "treaty violations" by Ojibwe fishers in the state were all intact. Personal letters of complaint to the DNR from Indian fishermen were also found, as well as letters from the sport and commercial fishermen protesting any "special" rights given to Indians. Not only did an abundance of "official documentation" exist regarding the legal side of the treaty rights, but a number of "unofficial" suggestions, comments, opinions and interoffice memos between the



Megan A. MacDonald

Governor and the Director of the DNR also came to light, lending a different perspective on the controversy from the side of the State. I am still working all of these documents into a potential article.

Lee Bebout, Eisinger Research Award Winner

This summer my practice of American Studies moved beyond the classroom, extending to archival research and community involvement. Through the assistance of a generous Chester E. Eisinger travel grant, I conducted a survey trip to the Walter P. Reuther library at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. There I delved into the papers of the United Farm Workers and César Chávez. Because my larger research goals include understanding how narratives (symbols/myths) of religion and history interact with the formation of cultural nationalism, I was surprised and delighted by my findings. I noticed that while the farm workers invoked religious icons and practices, the use of more nationally/culturally specific narratives was rarely employed, and then for specific audiences. I also gained an appreciation for the interconnection of social movements and desire for social change during that time—I read letters from African American farms/sharecroppers in the rural South who protested the table grape industry because of the oppression and exploitation of other minorities; I found articles about rabbis who supported the boycott with Talmudic law. Besides these valuable lessons, which will be complemented by further trips to Wayne State, I learned, or began to, the process of making the past into history, filling the gaps, weaving a story.

The rest of the summer, along with my “spare time” this semester, has been spent working with the Latino Student Union and the Latino Cultural Center at Purdue. The LCC officially opened in the Spring of 2003 through the effort of student volunteers and the support of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association. I began volunteering at the center because I had an extra four or five hours per week to donate. But, more importantly, I joined because I believe that American Studies can and should move beyond the halls of the university. While

the LCC provides a location for Latino-based organizations to meet, it was founded on the desire to build bridges between communities through education—something I see as central to

American Studies. The center seeks to create a dialogue and place of interaction/learning between Latinos and non-Latinos. Also, the center provides an excellent opportunity for interaction and exchange between the Purdue and Lafayette/West Lafayette communities.

As of now, Purdue is engaged in a search for an LCC director, and in a few months we will begin working more with those outside of the Purdue community. Currently, the LCC and LSU are entrenched in planning and carrying out events for National Hispanic Heritage Month. Along with the help of others, I have taken on the responsibility of working on a dinner and lecture featuring Luis Alberto Urrea, a writer who focuses on identity, Chicanismo, and border issues. Not only are we bringing in one of my favorite authors, but I feel that I am utilizing skills and energy garnered from the American Studies program here at Purdue in order to see this event through, an event that has the possibility of bringing the non-academic communities Urrea writes about to the consciousness of those at Purdue.

Thank you, American Studies for supporting this type of work and these events at Purdue. I leave you with the theme of this year’s National Hispanic Heritage Month: ¡*Adelante Juntos!* Onward Together!



Lee Bebout

40th Anniversary Symposium/Reunion—March 25-27, 2004

Plans are underway for our celebration of the American Studies Program’s 40th Anniversary. The two and one-half day program will include two keynote speakers—one who will help us reflect on developments in the field of American Studies in the past four decades, and one who will discuss future directions for the field. Former chairs of Purdue University’s American Studies program will be on hand to consider how our program has evolved over the years and to share fond memories. Afternoon panels, consisting of graduates and current students will discuss approaches to the study of American culture across the decades.

All afternoon panels will be held in the Black Cultural Center. Professor Harold Woodman plans to host a party at his home at 1100 N. Grant Street—remember the great Fall Parties and post-Symposium gatherings held in the Woodman home in the 1980s and 1990s?

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! If you would like to be a participant in one of the afternoon sessions, please contact Susan Curtis at curtis@sla.purdue.edu.

See you in March!

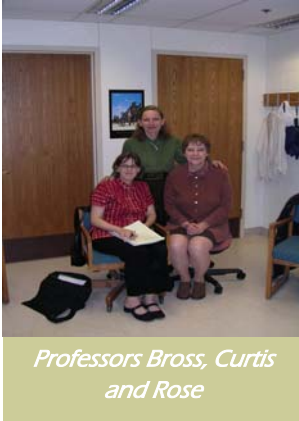
Spring 2004 Course Offerings

AMST 630: M.A. Research Seminar.
Charlene Siegfried, W, 3:00-5:50

AMST 650A: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Archive Theory and Practice. *Cross-listed with ENGL 696A and HIST 652C*, Kristina Bross/Susan Curtis/Shirley Rose, TTh, 12:00-1:15

This course is for the student who thrills to the real deal, the thing itself: the musty letter, the neglected journal, the undeveloped photograph. This course is for the student who wondered where such a romantic notion as the “thing itself”

came from, anyway. Above all, this course is for the student who is not afraid to get his or her hands dirty. This multidisciplinary, team-taught



Professors Bross, Curtis and Rose

course engages exciting innovations in the theory and methods of archival research and for the first time at Purdue brings these new approaches to the humanities classroom. The seminar will mine the rich holdings of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association and of Purdue University, much of which is uncatalogued and largely unknown. Students will help to catalog and process these hidden treasures, and use the materials for their original research projects. Join the course and delve into the past. Who knows what you’ll discover?

AMST 650R: Reading Seminar in American Studies: Race and Social Movements in the United States of

America: Abolitionism to Civil Rights. *Cross-listed with HIST 651V and SOC 693*, Richard Hogan and Vernon Williams, W, 2:30-5:20

Weekly readings and discussions will offer historical and sociological analyses of “colorblind universalistic” social movements – specifically, movements promoting racial justice and equality in the U.S., from abolitionism to Civil Rights. We shall argue that these movements might be considered to be more important and, generally, more successful than the “racially elusive” contemporary (or “new”) social movements. Among the issues that we shall consider are: how and why these movements emerged, when and why they waxed and waned, how they affected and were, in turn, affected by large-scale institutional transformations.

This is a graduate level seminar for students in American Studies and related disciplines. We will read a book a week and discuss the readings in our weekly meetings. There will be no exams. Students will be expected, however, to attend class each week, having done the assigned readings, and to contribute to our discussion. There will be no lectures, but each week one of the instructors will introduce the topic, offer a few comments on the assigned reading, and offer a few ques-



Professors Hogan and Williams

tions to inspire discussion.

Students will be expected to produce a term paper (25-35 page double-spaced analytical paper), which is due at our last class meeting. The paper should deal with some aspect of the course topic and should conform to the disciplinary standards (of history, sociology, or whatever) regarding original analytical papers.

POL 611: Research Seminar in American Government and Politics. Judson Jeffries, W, 2:30-5:20

This course is designed to introduce students to the role that the mass media play in American life. We will examine the interaction among elected officials, news media and citizens in the construction of political messages and meaning. The course will begin with an overview of research on the effects that the media may have on individuals and the political process. Competing theoretical perspectives about the influence of communications will be introduced. We will then take a closer look at the news: how it is created, possible biases, and what impact news may have on people’s priorities and beliefs. A third section of the course focuses on media coverage of elections with special emphasis on presidential elections as well as biracial elections. This course will conclude with an examination of the relationships among the public government leaders and the press.



Professor Jeffries

“¡Cuba, Cuba! Lost in Translation”

By Stephany Spaulding

Any hint of latent anxiety transforms into pure kinetic energy as one who has always lived outside the margins of normality disembarks a high security chartered airliner onto “forbidden” Cuban soil for the first time. Stepping into the Havana sun and dry heat was electrifying as my expectations met realities during my first trip to Cuba on a research/study abroad program sponsored by Purdue University held May 31 to June 11, 2003. Though I had visited the Caribbean on other occasions, this trip generated unprecedented excitement based on the possibilities for discovery that the historical, political, social and cultural atmosphere Cuba presents. Experiencing Cuba first hand allowed me to confront any tainted or romanticized notions one may have regarding a place where all one’s knowledge is derived from a book.



As an academic whose interest lies in African Diaspora literatures and the performance of race, my trip to Cuba juxtaposed theory with praxis. The research tour, designed by Dr. Antonio Tillis, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures, was constructed in a manner that allowed students from various disciplines and programs throughout the university to explore Afro-Cuban history and culture as it pertained to one’s specific area of interest. Some of the lectures provided by world-renowned scholars were Prof. Digna Casteñeda’s discussion on the history of slavery in Cuba and the process of cultural identity formation, and the African influence in Cuban religious practices



with Tomás Robaina. We also had primary access to Casa del Caribe and Casa de Africa, two institutions of phenomenal Cuban research. Yet, the most informative discussions took place in the cobblestone plazas, during late night street festivals

and house parties, and tours through Bayamo City, El Cobre and Guanabaco.

The unscheduled and unmediated experiences proved most edifying for the traveler who did not

want to be a checklist tourist. The conversations with the local rapper who sees the next revolution brewing in development of younger generations detached by time from Castro’s rise to power; the tour guide who can not identify with racial struggles



of African Americans, but consciously and fully aware of what it represents proclaims “I have the job of a White man”; and the mother who despite having

access to medical care, shelter, and education for her children truly wants the American’s left over bar of soap used or unused. These moments provided the kind of education that no lecture or book could ever adequately translate.

When I left Santiago de Cuba, I left with more questions than before arriving, but they were *my* questions. They weren’t given to me by CNN’s Headline news or an expert opinion derived from watching Cheyenne in *Dance with Me*. My questions emerged based on what I know or don’t know, what I have experienced and what I have not and it is my responsibility that I don’t get lost in someone else’s translation.



Faculty Areas of Specialization and Published Books

Donna Akers (History) - Native American History; *Living in the Land of Death* (forthcoming).

Kristina Bross (English) - Colonial American literature; *Dry Bones and Indian Sermons* (forthcoming).

Susan Curtis (History) - American intellectual and cultural history; Director of Interdisciplinary Studies; *The First Black Actors on the Great White Way*, *Dancing to a Black Man's Tune: A Life of Scott Joplin*, *A Consuming Faith: The Social Gospel and Modern American Culture*.

Charles Cutter (History) - Latin American history & the Spanish Southwest; Interim Director of American Studies Program; *The Legal Culture of Northern New Spain, 1700-1810*, *The Protector de Indios in Colonial New Mexico, 1659-1821*. Edited work—*Libro de los principales rudimentos tocante a todos juicios, criminal, civil y executive, Año de 1764*. Transcription and introduction (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 1994).

John Duvall (English) - 20th century American literature; *Don DeLillo's UNDERWORLD*, *The Identifying Fictions of Toni Morrison: Modernist Authenticity and Postmodern Blackness*; *Faulkner's Marginal Couple: Invisible, Outlaw, and Unspeakable Communities*. Edited works—*Productive Postmodernism: Consuming Histories and Cultural Studies*; *Faulkner and Postmodernism*.

Nancy Gabin (History) - American women's and labor history; *Feminism in the Labor Movement: Women and the United Auto Workers, 1935-1975*.

Minrose Gwin (English) - 19th and 20th century literature of the U.S. South; Contemporary women writers; Gay and lesbian literature; African American literature; Feminist theory; Queer theory; Theories of space and gender; *The Woman in the Red Dress: Gender, Space, and Reading*; *The Literature of the American South*; *Black and White Women of the Old South: The Peculiar Sisterhood in American Literature*; *The Feminine and Faulkner: Reading (Beyond) Sexual Difference*.

Leonard Harris (Philosophy) - American philosophy; African American philosophy; Race and realism; *Philosophy Born of Struggle: The Philosophy of Alain Locke*; *Children of Chaos*; *Exploitation and Exclusion*.

Richard Hogan (Sociology) - Social theory; social history; American social movements; American frontier; Political economy; *The Failure of Planning, Permitting Sprawl in San Diego Suburbs, 1970-*

1999; Class and Community in Frontier Colorado.

Judson Jeffries (Political Science) - Politics and media; American politics; African American politics; *Urban American and Its Police: From the Postcolonial Era Through the Turbulent 1960s*; *The Radical Theorist*; *Virginia's Native Son: The Election and Administration of Governor L. Douglas Wilder*.

Robert Lamb (English) - 19th and 20th century American literature; Literary history; Intellectual history

Daniel Morris (English) - 20th century American literature; American poetry; 20th century American art; Popular culture; *The Writings of William Carlos Williams: Publicity for the Self*; *Remarkable Modernisms: Contemporary American Authors*.

Nancy Peterson (English) - 20th century American literature; Minority studies; Gender studies; *Against Amnesia: Contemporary Women Writers and the Crises of Historical Memory*; *Toni Morrison: Critical and Theoretical Approaches*.

Randy Roberts (History) - Modern American history; Mass culture; *"But They Can't Beat Us": Oscar Robertson and the Crispus Attucks Tigers*; *Papa Jack: Jack Johnson and the Era of White Hopes*; *Jack Dempsey: The Manassa Mauler*.

S. Kip Robisch (English) - 19th and 20th century American literature; Literature of ecology

Ryan Schneider (English) - Antebellum American literature; 19th and 20th century public intellectuals and intellectual history

Charlene Haddock Seigfried (Philosophy) - Classical American philosophy; Pragmatist feminism; *Pragmatism and Feminism: Reweaving the Social Fabric*; *William James's Radical Construction of Philosophy*; *Chaos and Context: A Study in William James*.

Harry Targ (Political Science) - American politics; American labor; International relations; *International Relations in a World of Imperialism and Class Struggle*; *Strategy of an Empire in Decline: Cold War II*; *People's Nicaragua*; *Cuba and the USA: A New World Order*.

O. Michael Watson (Anthropology) - Visual anthropology; Nonverbal behavior; Ethnography of communities in U.S.

Vernon Williams (History) - African American history; American cultural history; *Rethinking Race: Franz Boas and His Contemporaries*; *From a Caste to a Minority: Changing Attitudes of American Sociologists Toward Afro-Americans, 1896-1945*.

Student News

Philathia Bolton presented “The Powers that Could Be Me: The Historical Relevancy of Gayl Jones’s Corregidora in Respects to Anne Moody’s Coming of Age in Mississippi,” at the *Women in Conflict: Historical Perspectives* conference at the University of California at Santa Barbara in October 2003. Her paper addressed the unique ways in which the movement and its aftermath affected the identity of African American women and how this paradigm surfaces thematically in Jones’s text. She built an historical context for this assertion and offered a couple of close readings of *Corregidora* that speak to the experiences of black women and the Civil Rights Movement.



Lawrence Davis was awarded the PRF Dissertation Grant for his projected entitled, “The Black Masculinist Agenda: Desire and Gender Politics of Protest Era Literature.” Congratulations!

Vanessa Hall presented a paper at the *Western American Literature Conference* in Houston, Texas, October 29-November 1, 2003.

In September 2003, **Megan MacDonald** was selected to participate in the CIC-American Indian Studies Consortium Fall Seminar at The Newberry Library entitled “American Indian Literature and Indigenous History” and led by Professor Chadwick Allen from Ohio State University. The seminar focused on American Indian literary representations of the significant past, as well as the indigenous aesthetics of the texts read, such as Dallas Chief Eagle’s *Winter Count* and James Welch’s *Fools Crow*.

In June 2003, **Lupe Ni-umeitolu** was an Invited Artist at the Pacific Poetry Workshop by the Utah Arts Council in Salt Lake City, Utah. She will be presenting “Kainga: Reinventing a Tongan-American Feminism,” at the *Feminism(s) & Rhetoric(s) Conference* at Ohio State University in November 2003. Also, she is currently working as a member of the organizing committee and board for the Pacific Film Festival in San Francisco, California to be held in September 2004.



Ph.D. Degrees Awarded May 2003

Steven J. Belluscio, “To Be Suddenly White: Realism and the Problem of Agency in U.S. Passing Narratives”

Selene G. Phillips, “Mending Baskets: The Process of Using Indigenous Epistemology to Reinterpret Sacagawea”

M.A. Degrees Awarded May 2003

Adrienne Embree
Mark Lewellen-Biddle
Courtney Thompson
Jeremiah Thompson
Ting Yi

New Faculty Books

Richard Hogan, recently published *The Failure of Planning, Permitting Sprawl in San Diego Suburbs, 1970-1999* (Ohio State University Press, 2003). “*The Failure of Planning* is a literate and cogent study of a major U.S. city and its suburban and exurban areas. It uses class analysis and other highly respected paradigms in a way to help us profoundly understand how planning under the present structure of 'republican capitalism' rewards those who learn how to engage and use the planning system, those who can afford to be patient and who can finesse planners and politicians alike, and those who understand that popular citizen initiatives can actually be used to frustrate the search for viable solutions to community problems that will be sustainable, fair, environmentally sensitive and sensible, and just. This is an important post-modernist critique of contemporary urban/regional planning.”—Mark Lapping, Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine

By 1970, uncontrolled growth plagued San Diego County suburbs and threatened to destroy the "paradise" of postwar San Diego, which had attracted a flood of immigrants since 1945. Fortunately, Mayor Pete Wilson, fresh from a Rockefeller Brothers land-use policy forum and armed with the latest progressive planning vision, sponsored a "big picture" planning solution, which has since been institutionalized as "smart growth."

Despite the triumph of progressive planning, however, and the multimillion-dollar-planning effort that continues to characterize suburban development, suburban sprawl continues. Freeway gridlock continues. Already exorbitant housing costs keep rising. In short, progressive planning has failed. This book explains how and why this has happened, not only in San Diego but more generally, and considers conservative, liberal, and radical paths toward a more successful future.

In this critique of city planning based on "republican capitalism" (the supposed base of all things "American"), Richard Hogan argues that planning in San Diego has been an abysmal failure and offers his own utopian view for the future of urban planning. This book, it is sure to get attention from urban historians and city planners alike.

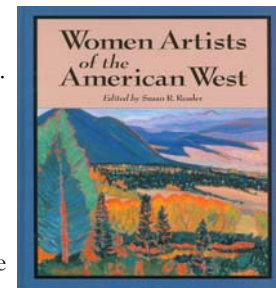
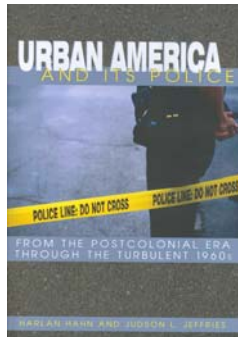
Judson Jeffries new book co-authored with Harlan Hahn, professor of political science at the University of Southern California, entitled *Urban American and Its Police: From the Postcolonial Era Through the Turbulent 1960s*, co-authored with Harlan Hahn, was recently published by the University Press of Colorado. In *Urban America and Its Police*, Harlan Hahn and Judson L. Jeffries

present a broad and comparative overview of urban policing in the United States. Synthesizing their own research with information from an eclectic array of sources—seminal social science studies of urban police departments, government documents, reports from organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, and think tank monographs—they present a nationally oriented and historically informed understanding of the diverse and often conflicting roles police officers play on city streets.

Hahn and Jeffries also demonstrate the ways in which race and ethnicity have influenced law enforcement in the United States since the creation of the nation's first police force. Ultimately, the authors call for a renewed emphasis on the social service dimension of police work—a shift they argue would reduce crime and enhance community support for those who are sworn to protect and serve.

“*[Urban America and its Police]* covers an impressive amount of ground, and addresses the full complexities and nuances of the role of the police in society. Its command of the early social scientific literature on the police is remarkable, and its treatment of that literature is level-headed, fair, and non-dogmatic. [Its] main argument—that the police should accentuate their social service role and downplay their emphasis on crime fighting—is one that deserves a broad hearing.”—Steven Herbert, Author of *Policing Space: Territoriality and the Los Angeles Police Department*.

Professor Susan Ressler presented the American Studies program with a copy of her new book, *Women Artists of the American West*. In the preface she writes: “This book, which covers artists west of the Mississippi River, represents a step forward in the attempt to make visible the hidden histories of women artists. My goal in bringing this selection of authors, artists, and images together is to provide new perspectives for understanding and appreciating the diversity of women's expressive culture, presented in an engaging and useful form. It is my hope that this collection will set the stage for further inquiry and encourage others to expand the archive, reclaiming and reexamining women's cultural production within and beyond the American West.” The book presents the work of more than 150 women artists who live or once lived west of the Mississippi River. It includes fifteen interpretive essays examining the work and concerns of nineteenth and twentieth-century artists as well as an alphabetical directory of the artists discussed in the essays.



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

New address: Yes No

Year Degree Received: _____ M.A. Ph.D.

Name

Publications:


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City, State and Zip

Current Position and employer: New Position? Yes No

News Item:

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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

American Studies Program
Purdue University
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