



The University of Iowa American Studies Newsletter

April 2004



“SPRING FREE- FOR-ALL”

It has been a long while since our last newsletter although things have continued apace here at Iowa. Since early October, our special year-long lecture series “Cultural Frameworks of Civil Liberties: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v the Board of Education” welcomed several Iowa professors as well as Professors Mary Dudziak, David Wilkins, Kimberley Phillips, George Lipsitz, and James Hall. We welcomed as a Visiting Professor and Fulbright Scholar Hans Bak from Nijmegen University in the Netherlands as well as Associate Professor and visiting American Councils Fellow Tsira Chikvaidze from Tbilisi University in Georgia. We sent – through the sponsorship and hard work of Jane Desmond and IFUSS – students and faculty to a week-long seminar in Havana, Cuba.

In addition, we Iowans welcomed (or endured) the international press and media spotlight that accompanied the January Presidential caucuses, and many American Studies students participated in this Iowa grass roots political tradition. Our spring recruitment of new graduate students resulted in one of the highest acceptance rates ever, and we will greet a new class of ten students in August. No sooner had we wound down from our pride in Eric Sandeen as a 2003 College Alumni Fellow than we learned that Leola Bergmann, the first woman to receive an Iowa PhD in American Civilization, would be named a 2004 College Alumni Fellow.

Also, my personal thanks to my many well-wishers who wrote after I had a heart attack last October. I could not individually return heartfelt thanks to everyone who was so supportive of me. I have been back full-time as Chair of American Studies since January, and I have a new outlook and greatly improved health with (amazingly to me) no permanent damage to my heart. The longest-lasting effect of my experience is my resolve to take care of myself and to encourage everyone else to do likewise. The academic workplace does not encourage healthful habits, and it even rewards unhealthy workaholicism. I bought fully into that but urge all of you not to wait for a life-threatening situation to live healthy, exercise, and keep work demands and stress in perspective with a well-balanced life.

As we begin preparations for the academic year 04-05, we face some exciting opportunities – we are planning a full year of events highlighting our strengths in the arts and in internationalist American Studies – but also new challenges. The failing economy has led to severe budget reductions across higher education, and we are all feeling the effects. While College support for our graduate program has not diminished and encouraged us to maintain our competitive edge, we are subject like everyone else to reductions in available resources. Beginning this summer, the shared American Studies and Women’s Studies administrative office will be merged with two other departmental offices in our building, and one administrative staff will serve four units. Both Laura Kastens and Carrie Louvar, our longstanding dedicated staff, will continue their positions in this office but with their job responsibilities altered somewhat – Laura, however, will remain the departmental liaison to American Studies.

In addition, the reason we have not reached out more frequently with this newsletter as we have customarily done in the past is that the rising costs of printing and mailing the newsletter four times annually now exceed our available funds. Sadly, this is the last print newsletter that you are likely ever to receive (most of you are receiving this issue electronically). We do believe

that our community wants to hear from us regularly, and we will continue to publish our newsletter electronically beginning with the next issue. Each edition of the newsletter will continue to be posted on our website, and Laura Kastens will electronically notify our subscriber list with the URL link each time a new issue becomes available. We must reluctantly let go of a cherished tradition, but we see no other way without external subsidies for production and mailing costs.

A final word of thanks (since we did not issue a December newsletter where I annually acknowledge our contributors) to our 2003 donors: Dorothy M. Paul, Dr. Valerie Halverson Pace & Mr. David Pace; Paul Deaton; Dr. Stephanie M. Bennett-Smith; Ms. Teddi Barron; Chrys Poff; Greg Easley & Lauren Rabinovitz; Dr. Eric and Mrs. Susan Sandeen; Dr. Susan Coultrap-McQuin; and Dr. Franklin Lloyd. Your donations made it possible for four graduate students to participate in regional and national American Studies conferences and for students and faculty to benefit from formal and informal meetings with Assoc. Professor James C. Hall from University of Alabama as our 2004 Albert E. Stone Distinguished Alumni Speaker (an honor particularly treasured by Jim since Al was his dissertation advisor).



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Fellow

Mrs. Leola Bergman has been chosen as a member of the 2004 class of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Fellows at The University of Iowa. The three-day celebration, to be held September 8-10, honors the College's most distinguished alumni. Mrs. Bergman is the second American Studies alumnus to be so honored in the last two years.

Leola Bergmann received a BA from St. Olaf and a Ph.D. in American Civilization from the UI in 1942, and was the first woman to receive a PhD in the American Studies program. Her dissertation was subsequently published as *Music Master of the Middle West: The Story of F. Melius Christiansen and the St. Olaf Choir* (1944). She is also the author of *Americans from Norway* (1950). As an editor at the State Historical Society of Iowa in 1948, she wrote *The Negro in Iowa*, a path breaking work still in print. She recently wrote the forward for *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000*. In the 1960s, Dr. Bergmann turned her attention to the visual arts, studying drawing, painting and printmaking. Her works were exhibited at the UI Museum of Art in 2003 and, in March 2004, her portrait of May Brodbeck was presented to the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Library.



Congratulations

Katie Dunham, Rixa Freeze, Brian Hallstoos, Erica Hannickel, Hyunll Park, and Danielle Rich were admitted to PhD Candidacy; **Patrick Naick, Sam Graber,** and **Sharon Lake** passed their PhD comprehensive exams; **Ellie McConnell** held a successful prospectus meeting; and **Maryann Beecher** and **Chrys Poff** successfully defended their dissertations.

Sharon Romeo received a Ballard-Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship; **Kristin Solli** received a Graduate College Summer Fellowship.

Honors Student News

Jane Desmond, honors advisor

Brandi Jones, an American Studies major and honor student, is assistant curator of the new exhibit at the Amana Heritage Museum that opened on March 23. Entitled "Continuity and Change: Amana Since 1932," the exhibit traces the development of the Amana Colonies from the end of the communal system through the present.

A few years ago the museum began to actively collect artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and documents from the more recent past. "Many of our guests at the museum ask about what happened after the change in 1932," explains museum curator Jennifer Engelkemier. "We can use our collections as resources to interpret that history."

Anna Kendall is completing her honors thesis. Entitled "*Sex and the City: Feminism and Fashion*," it analyzes the television series *Sex and the City* and compares it to third wave feminism. She is also analyzing the fashion on the show, such as its impact on society and its relation to third wave feminism.

Student News



Ulli Adelt presented a paper entitled "Hard to Say the Meaning: Neil Young's Enigmatic Songs from the 1970s" at the Jakobsen forum, and again at MAASA, which he attended as the UI student representative. In addition, his paper "Ich bin der Rock 'n' Roll-Übermensch: Globalization and Localization in German

Music Television" was accepted at the peer-reviewed journal *Popular Music and Society*. He encourages other grad students to submit their work to journals – "if I can do it, you can definitely do it too!"

Rixa Freeze has been very active in the birth community recently. It's related to her dissertation project (homebirth and midwifery in Iowa).

"In November, I took a doula training course through DONA (Doulas of North America). A doula is a woman who offers continuous emotional, physical, and informational support to a pregnant woman and her family. Birth doulas provide several prenatal visits, continuous support during labor and the immediate postpartum period, and at least one postpartum visit. Several major randomized controlled trials have found that the presence of a doula leads to a reduction in cesarean sections, fewer requests for epidurals, fewer assisted deliveries (forceps and vacuum extraction), higher breastfeeding rates, and shorter labors.

In January, Sarah Coleman (a doula, La Leche League leader, and childbirth educator) and I founded the Eastern Iowa Doula Association, a non-profit organization for doulas, labor assistants, and prospective doulas. The purpose of the EIDA is to be a forum for all doulas, labor

assistants, and prospective doulas. We provide a supportive environment for networking, peer review, and education. We also focus on current events and debates facing childbirth professionals in the area. Our goal is to "doula the doula"--to give like-minded women a place to share their joys, hopes, fears, and feelings about birth and the roles they play in the process.

EIDA supports the empowerment of mothers and families during the birth experience. We are currently preparing brochures and a website for prospective parents and hope to play an active role in helping Iowa City and Cedar Rapids families have better birth experiences."

Jennifer Pustz's review of *Interpreting Historic House Museums*, edited by Jessica Foy Donnelly, was published in the latest issue (Spring 2003) of *The Annals of Iowa*, the scholarly journal of the State Historical Society of Iowa.



Susan Birrell is working on a book, *Reading Mount Everest: History, Narrative, Power*, which explores the way meanings of Everest expeditions are constructed through expedition dispatches, news accounts, expedition films, biographies, and other forms. A primary concern is how themes of

nationalism, imperialism, ethnicity, social class and gender shift over time in response to particular cultural conditions. She was on leave in the fall, and an AHI grant helped fund several trips to London throughout the year. Susan was there in June to attend a Royal Gala celebration (complete with Queen!) of the 50th anniversary of the first climb to reach the summit by Hillary and Tenzing. In November and over Spring break she did archival research on the British climbs of the 1920s in the Newspaper Library of the British Library and the Alpine Club Archives.

Jane Desmond "March was a very busy month for me and stretched my brain! In the first week of March, I gave a keynote address at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis for the conference "Translations and Transferals: Vernacular and Popular Culture on the Concert Stage." This was a wonderfully organized event that included a dance concert featuring both professional concert choreographers working in modern dance but drawing on popular forms like Indian Banghra and break dancing, and young local B-boy and B-girls improvising in dance and spoken test in concert. A lecture-demonstration on the history of hip-hop rounded out a

weekend of talks and performances. It was great to be in a setting that fostered conversations between artists and scholars, and, I must say, where everyone had read all my books!

The next weekend I traveled to Nevada to speak at the annual convention of the International Association of Pet Cemeterians ...yes, a mental whiplash of sorts given the previous weekend's talk, but still, for me having to do with issues of embodiment, and connected to my current book project *Displaying Death/Animating Life*. There I gave a talk titled "Public Grieving: Pet Obituaries On-line and in Newspapers." Part of the research for this piece was done with the dogged (no pun intended) assistance of McKinze Cook, one of our honors students and a USA Intern with me, who helped me analyze data from 500 on line memorials. Thank you McKinze! This is the first time I've ever spoken to a room full of business people, and it was a challenging experience to make sure I was presenting the research in a way that was directly relevant to them. It's also the only time I've had as co-speakers two reverends and one business consultant.

While there I was also fortunate to make some progress on research for the chapter I am writing on the history of pet cemeteries. Did you know there are now more than 600 pet cemeteries in the U.S. alone?

IFUSS (The International Forum for US Studies) was in high gear this spring also, with a trip to Cuba that I led for 7 graduate students for a series of discussions with faculty at the Center for the Study of the U.S. in Havana. As usual, preparations for any official academic travel to Cuba were nightmarish, but we won the bureaucratic battle. The trip was the culmination of last fall's American Studies proseminar on U.S. -Cuban Relations sponsored by IFUSS and taught (long-distance) by Prof. Soraya Castro-Marino of Havana University and coordinated on this end by myself with help from Virginia Dominguez.

In April, IFUSS will sponsor visits by scholars from Germany and South Africa for a planning meeting for the new project on "Discourses of 'Americanization' and 'Anti-Americanism'," and in June, in Rio, Brazil, IFUSS will sponsor the culminating conference of our four year Rockefeller-sponsored initiative on Latin American scholarship on the U.S. Former fellow Dr. Sonia Torres, whom several of you studied with during her residency here, will co-host the conference at her university."

Rich Horwitz writes: All I can offer the AmStuds is a reading to recommend. The article is on the WWWeb, but since it comes from an East Coast journal, I thought I might make sure that it doesn't pass below the local radar. It's a very smart (even if still very arguable) version of the history of American Studies by Leo Marx: <http://bostonreview.net/BR28.6/marx.html> If nothing else, I appreciate some details that complicate a common oversimplification of past vs. present Am Studies (even if it's less pervasive than Marx says.)

Rob Latham recently spent three weeks in the J. Lloyd Eaton Collection at the University of California at Riverside researching science fiction fanzines. The research was part of Rob's ongoing work on a book on "New Wave" science fiction and its connections to the '60s counterculture. Rob has four articles and book chapters from that project forthcoming: an essay on "The New Wave" in *The Blackwell Companion to Science Fiction*, edited by David Seed; an article entitled "The Big Space Fuck: Sex and Science Fiction in the Sixties," in *Queer Universe: Sexualities in Science Fiction*, edited by Joan Gordon, Veronica Hollinger, and Wendy Pearson; and a chapter in a festschrift volume covering major science fiction critic John Clute. Rob has also been invited to write up his fanzine research for articles in *Science Fiction Studies* and *Vector: The Journal of the British Science Fiction Association*. Rob will be presenting a paper based on his New Wave project at a conference on British science fiction to be held in August in Liverpool, England. While there, he will also pursue research at the Science Fiction Foundation Collection at the University of Liverpool library. Finally, Rob recently contributed a number of entries to three major reference volumes: *The Encyclopedia of Supernatural Literature*, edited by S.T. Joshi and Stefan Dziemianowicz; *The Encyclopedia of Themes in Science Fiction and Fantasy*, edited by Gary Westfahl; and *The Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics*, edited by Carl Mitcham.

Lauren Rabinovitz *Memory Bytes: History, Technology, and Digital Culture* (Duke University Press, 2004), co-edited by Lauren and Abraham Geil, came out in January. My CD-ROM *Yesteryear's Wonderlands: Introducing Modernism to America* is now slated to appear in late 2004 or early 2005 through University of Illinois Press.

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Celebrating May Brodbeck and Leola Bergmann

Iowa Women's Archives, March 4, 2004

Excerpt of a talk by Linda K. Kerber, May Brodbeck Professor in the Liberal Arts & Sciences and Professor of History, Lecturer in Law

I used to think that Charles Dickens played too many tricks when he wrote novels in which just the right people ran into each other on a London street corner, but for me the story I am telling has elements of a Dickens novel. It begins at Columbia University in 1962, when Hanna Bergmann Weston and I found ourselves students in the same history graduate seminar; we have been friends ever since. What I did not know then was that May Brodbeck was in Turin writing a remarkable series of letters to her dear friend Leola Bergmann [Hanna's mother]...or that Leola would, a decade later, paint May's portrait. As an American Studies major myself, I would have been deeply interested in knowing that Leola Bergmann was the first woman to receive a PhD in American Studies at the University of Iowa, and that she was already the author of the path-breaking, first monograph on the history of African Americans in Iowa. The Negro in Iowa, reprinted and enlarged in 1968, became the . . .base for [all further] research in the field. It made possible its successor Outside In: African American History in Iowa 1838-2000. . . [for which Leola] wrote the forward. Throughout Outside In, contributors. . .pay tribute to her.

So we drifted to Iowa, May and I, in the early 1970s, in the midst of a transformative moment in American history. May had been a brilliant young chemistry major, who was hired to work on the Manhattan Project – the now legendary part that was in Chicago – and then could not get a fellowship for graduate work in physics because she was a girl, and it mattered, too, in many places, that she was a Jewish girl. She came here, where Prof. Gustav Bergmann supported her, and she earned a PhD in the Philosophy of Science and became one of the most distinguished scholars in the field.

Remember that it was not until 1971 – in the midst of the struggle for the ERA – that the U.S. Supreme Court first ruled that different treatment of men and women could be denial of the equal protection of the laws. Every year, sometimes every month, brought a widened understanding of what that principle might mean in practice: in 1972, Title IX; in 1973, the decision in Roe v. Wade; and through the 1970s, the idea that rape is a crime of violence, not of passion, energized a remaking of rape law and a new understanding of the meaning of domestic violence (to which our beloved colleague, Susan Schechter, for whom we now mourn, devoted her career).

I can now see that when May and I came to Iowa we would be part of a grand new re-envisioning of university life. . . .May was perched here at the absolutely right moment, with a bully pulpit and the authority to make a wide range of decisions -- and no fear of using her power to reconstruct a university in which both men and women would flourish. She understood that it is a hapless sort of co-education that recruits women and then places them in a curriculum that conveys that over time women did not think thoughts worthy of study, do things worthy of emulation or criticism, and belong only in roles that help men achieve their full potential.

So it was May who devised the strategies that support the Faculty Career Development Assignments that may be the single most significant sustenance of intellectual life on this campus. It was May who envisioned the productive use of the Ida Cordelia Beam legacy. At a time when many regarded Women's Studies as a passing, frivolous fad, it was May who turned the Women's Studies Program from an ad hoc, volunteer effort into a College unit.

A historian brings chronology to bear on questions that we ask, and so I find myself now thinking generationally. My cohort of academic women has few predecessors; even the practitioners who are chronologically in their 80s usually built their careers belatedly, entering the profession when we did in the 1970s. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a decade older than I, two decades younger than May and Leola, still trembles when she tells the story of how the Dean of Harvard Law School gathered the dozen women students at dinner and went around the table, asking each to justify taking up a place in the School that could have been filled by a man. If Ruth Ginsburg is a survivor of a generation that was harshly treated, how are we to appreciate May's and Leola's survival and flourishing?

Only at the end of her career did May write, "I can remember too well being virtually the only tenured scholarly woman in liberal arts in a huge university [Minnesota]. . . .I was tolerated and even pampered just because I was among so few. Now it is less lonely for women like ourselves – and how much richer we and the universities are for it! . . .Still too many departments. . . remain bereft of significant numbers of women scholars. And do not forget the deep need the women who join us have for psychological support from their sisters."

We gather today in the spiritual presence of Louise Noun, who invented these archives and endowed them with the resources that make them flourish and Mary Louise Smith, her beloved partner in conceptualizing and supporting this enterprise, of May Brodbeck, and in the real and invigorating presence of Leola Bergmann. They are all women who made their life choices and did their life's work in a social setting sharply different from the one in which we now live. In different ways, they used their energies to support the expansion of knowledge and understanding, progressive social and political change, and the documentation of those changes so that they can be understood and drawn on by later generations as they address their own problems. We are that posterity who inherit that legacy.

Far more than any photograph, Leola's stunning portrait captures May's essence and conveys what it felt to be with her. . . .In one of the few speeches for which we have her text, a 1979 commencement address, May wrote words that strengthen us now:

The university is not a trade school. . . .The university is not, as some have held, a public utility – a Reddy Kilowatt of education, providing a service and a product. The metaphor debases language and the analogy is misguided. . . . [The educated person makes judgments] in the context of knowledge of the past, of sensitivity to human needs, and of the effects of certain actions and attitudes on other people. . . .[The] educated person's horizons [include]. . . .knowledge of the infinite varieties of human motivation, of our capacity for suffering, for cruelty, as well as for heroism—this background adds a broad reflective dimension...to the specialist's expert knowledge and. . .technical skills.

Speaking directly to the students, she concluded: "You are not products. The university is not a factory. You are educated human beings who will each in his or her own way improve the quality of life for all of us."

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I will be doing a workshop on the CD-ROM at the American Studies Association meeting in Atlanta next fall.

I recently attended the Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA) meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, where I gave the Presidential Address, "More than Meets the Eye: Movies in American Studies Scholarship." This was an opportunity to follow in the long tradition of MAASA presidential addresses that are "cantankerous" jeremiads (e.g., Rich Horwitz's address was entitled, "Shit Happens," and Stephen Watts' was entitled "The Idiocy of American Studies"), and so I got a few things off my chest! The speech will be revised and is expected to appear in a forthcoming issue of *American Studies*.

The first week in June, I will attend the 3rd international Women and Silent Screen conference in Montreal, Canada. I am very excited to be the keynote speaker, giving a talk entitled: "Synthesizing Feminist Film Theory and History."



Brett Beemyn (PhD '97) has had two articles recently published:

"The Silence Is Broken: A History of the First Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual College Student Groups." *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 12 (April 2003): 205-23.

"Serving the Needs of Transgender College Students." *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Issues in Education* 1 (2003): 33-50.

He has also been appointed to the staff of two journals: the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Issues in Education*, and Editorial Board of the *Journal of Bisexuality*.

Susan Coultrap-McQuin (PhD '79) will be the new provost and vice president for academic affairs at SUNY-Oswego. Currently the dean of social and behavioral sciences at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Coultrap-McQuin will assume her position at Oswego in July. As a professor of women's studies and humanities at the University of Minnesota at Duluth, Coultrap-McQuin received an outstanding faculty award from the Student Association. She rose to serve progressively as a program director, department head, institute coordinator, study abroad director and acting associate dean at Duluth before becoming dean at Mankato. She has twice served as acting vice president of academic affairs at Mankato.

She is the author of numerous scholarly publications and presentations. Her book *Doing Literary Business* on women writers and their publishers won an "outstanding academic book" award from *Choice* magazine in 1992.

Charlie Dee (MA '73) "was appointed Fulbright Roving Scholar in Norway for 2003-2004. I will work under a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Education, traveling around the country, doing in-service sessions for secondary school teachers of English and then visiting their classrooms to talk on a variety of American Studies topics. I was already in Norway on my sabbatical when this opportunity presented itself. It will be a great opportunity to see many areas of the country I would not otherwise get to and meet many educators and students. Best of all, I have been assured that I can take my cross-country skis wherever I want. Since above the Arctic Circle it's pretty dark right now, all the towns have "lysløyper" -- lighted ski trails. Oh, the life-style enhancements that North Sea oil money can provide!"

Drake Hokanson (MA '88) "I've joined the 20th century at last--is it too late? My website has gone up, and I think it rather nice. Take a look and let me know what you think. www.drakehokanson.com. Also, it has finally happened--*America from the Air: An Aviator's Story*, the book Carol Kratz and I edited with pilot and writer Wolfgang Langewiesche is finally out from Johns Hopkins University Press, and we hope you'll take a gander at it. If you want a copy, we urge you to order it from your local independent bookstore, but for some info, look at:

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0801878195/qi_d=1082948711/sr=2-2/ref=sr_2_2/103-3053306-7702261 (Don't search under Hokanson or Kratz; it turns up a title for a book that doesn't exist.) We are delighted to see it out at last."

Dan Jones (PhD '84) writes "I left Iowa City to accept a teaching position in Wyoming in 1982, completed my dissertation in 1984, and moved to Houston in 1985 to take a tenure-track job at the University of Houston-Downtown. I'm afraid I haven't been a very good correspondent. Still, through all these changes of address, I continued to receive the UI American Studies Department newsletter.

Since January 2003, I've been at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, as the provost and vice president for academic affairs. I left Houston as dean of University College at UH-Downtown. The administrative life has its challenges, but overall, I'm having a great time."

Alison Kibler (PhD '94) reports a high concentration of UI American Studies sightings in Lancaster, PA recently. "One of my students wrote a paper about the comic book code and cited Matt Pustz's book extensively. Another student wrote about gender & tourism and cited Jane Desmond. Around the same time I corresponded with Dan Nathan at Skidmore about teaching a pop culture class. Go Hawks."

Daniel Lewis (PhD '00) is the director of a three-year Department of Education grant -- Teaching American History Program -- for K-12 teachers at Portsmouth City Public Schools and Norfolk Public Schools at Tidewater Community College. The groundbreaking initiative will create quality programming for the schools using local historical institutions, and will pair TCC faculty as "teacher-scholar trainers" with the city schoolteachers.

Lewis, a history instructor at TCC, looks forward to applying his dual passions for American history and teaching to this program he helped conceive. "So much of my work has led me to this program, from my graduate and doctoral work in the Civil War era to my current job as an historian for an internet publisher of *Harper's Weekly* and other 19th-century sources. . . With this program, the excitement of bringing history to life for K-12 teachers through our rich local history is a rare opportunity."

From a national standpoint, Lewis sees a compelling need for the Teaching American History program in southeastern Virginia. "This professional development program aims to assert the pivotal importance of our nation's cities by bolstering and reinvigorating public schools. By embracing the area's local history in the teaching of traditional American history, the project showcases the vital importance of America's urban landscape as a site worthy of sustained historical exploration."

Megan Nelson's (PhD '02) first book (rewritten from her dissertation) entitled *Trembling Earth: A Cultural History of the Okefenokee Swamp* will be published with University of Georgia Press in April 2005.

Jay Satterfield (PhD '99) has been appointed head of Special Collections at the Dartmouth College Library, beginning July 1. The Dartmouth Library's Special Collections department holds some 100,000 rare books and 6,500,000 manuscript items, from cuneiform tablets dating from 2000 BCE to the papers of such luminaries as Daniel Webster, Augustus St.-Gaudens, and Robert Frost. Jay's responsibilities will include collection development

and promoting the use of the collections in the Dartmouth curriculum. He and his wife Jen and two children (second child, Nathan Lee Satterfield, was born on February 22nd) will be moving from Chicago (where Jay is now in Special Collections at the University of Chicago) to Hanover on July 1.

Ningping Yu (PhD '99) "On the second weekend in March, I went with three of my American students to a village in Henan. The place is called Nanjiecun, in English, South Street Village. We heard about this place from a lecture on rural China. It is known for its insistence on collective/communist system when elsewhere in China things are getting privatized. We rode the train--hard sleeper--for about 12 hours, got off at Luohe at a little after 7 am, hopped on a bus and in 40 minutes or so, were dropped off at the South Street Village. The wide paved streets and the storied apartment buildings make this place anything but a rural village. The painted slogans and portraits on the buildings are clearly Mao era both in content and style. The center is a square with a statue of Mao Zedong made of marble and portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin standing on both sides of the statue. Two militia (sorry for not having a better word for uniformed unofficial military men and women) stand in front of the Mao statue day and night. As the words carved on the back of the statue say, "the plants need the sun and rain to grow, the South Street Village depends on Mao Zedong Thought for development." About 20 years ago, when China started its economic reform from the rural areas, the South Street Villager tried and failed the grand contract system, a system that gave the peasants household autonomy in planning and farming the contracted piece of land. The Communist Party committee of the village took the responsibility and led the way of economic development by collectivize the land and production tools. In a few years, with the profit made from two small-scale industries, nicknamed the clay egg game and the flour egg game, for producing bricks and processed wheat flour, the 840 households of 3100 villagers moved to apartments owned and furnished by the village. Today, the residents of the South Street Village enjoy free medical care, housing, food, tuition from kindergarten through college and other subsidies such as wedding and funeral ceremonies. The village owns and runs 26 factories, most of them food-processing enterprises, with 11,000 workers, most of who are from nearby villages. The villagers attributed their good fortune and success to the leadership of the party branch headed by Mr. Wang Hongbin, a man in his early fifties. The

Chinese media reporting emphasized the triumph of communist ideology. It was a pity that we were not able to interview Mr. Wang. We spoke to the deputy head, a veteran from the Korean War. “

scholarly relationships that invite a continued commitment to an American Studies that resists the facile acceptance of the national imaginary.

IFUSS Activities

By *Charlie Williams*
PhD Candidate

The International Forum for United States Studies (I.F.U.S.S.), co-founded in 1995 and subsequently co-directed by the Anthropology department's Professor Virginia Dominguez and American Studies' own Professor Jane Desmond, is an independently funded project that seeks to internationalize the practice of “American Studies” in the U.S. by placing foreign and domestic scholars in dialogue. Simultaneously, it fosters scholarly relations across multiple national boundaries and regions outside the United States by bringing scholars from all parts of the globe together for shared research residencies and conferences.

In addition to the important work of bringing together a wide range of geographically and methodologically diverse senior scholars from around the world, IFUSS also has orchestrated a series of research and networking trips to American Studies institutions outside of the United States. In the last nine years IFUSS has sponsored repeated visits by teams made up of University of Iowa faculty and graduate students to India, Germany, Chile, Brazil, and South Africa. And, as this newsletter goes to print, Dr. Desmond is with several graduate students in Cuba. In each instance, Professors and students alike engage with prominent scholars of the United States from a whole range of disciplinary perspectives engage in ethnographic comparative research relevant to their own scholarly projects, and invariably make transnational friendships that last long after the initial introductions made possible by IFUSS.

In short, the American Studies Department, thanks to the influence of Professors Desmond and Dominguez, has an expanding number of strong connections to non-U.S.-based American Studies programs throughout the world. It adds to the number of current and former graduate students who have personally experienced the embodied reality of practicing American Studies outside the geographic and cultural boundaries of the nation itself, and who leave our department with perspectives and

Fellowships & Scholarships

The ASA offers a variety of travel grants and prizes, including **Annette K. Baxter Travel Grants**, the **Gene Wise - Warren Susman Prize**, and the **Yasuo Sakakibara Prize** to student members. For a complete listing of this year's opportunities, please visit <http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/AmericanStudiesAssn/about/prizes.htm>

Visit the American Studies website at

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~amstud/>

Among the features are links to American Studies newsletters, course information, updated faculty information, news and events, and undergraduate internships.

Check it out!

**The American Studies newsletter is moving to the web,
and can be located on our website at
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~amstud/Events/Newsletters.htm>**

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