

American Studies Newsletter

July 2007



FROM THE CHAIR



Lauren Rabinovitz

“American Studies: Apply Directly to the Forehead”

I’ve been waiting for months to use this line (pathetic, no?) and, although it’s corny, it seems appropriate in a banner year when so many from American Studies have accomplished so much. As the pages of this newsletter indicate, more people have won prestigious awards, published new work, and done remarkable things than in any year I can remember. Because “annually” is really insufficient to announce, notify, and brag about people, events, and upcoming things, we are going to launch an online monthly news digest beginning on September 1. Each month, we will post a summary of awards, publications, activities, conferences, calls, and other announcements on our website; old digests will also be available and archived on the site for one year. We’ll send one announcement monthly to the American Studies listserv when each news digest is released. This new strategy should allow all of you to keep current with American Studies *all* the time and not just periodically!

This banner year of activity also marks the first year that the Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts has been in operation. The Center’s activities are an indication that the relationship of ethnic studies to American Studies – an ongoing national issue at the American Studies Association and elsewhere – will continue positively and regularly for some time to come. In addition, the Department of American Studies has been conducting faculty searches in African American studies and in Latino/a studies. We are very happy to welcome Assistant Professor Deborah Whaley, who will hold a joint appointment in American Studies and African American studies. We plan to re-evaluate our hiring plan for Latino/a studies and search again in the near future.

Just as we rededicate our commitment to ethnic studies within American Studies, we also find that as another year goes by, changes occur that cause us to become introspective and re-evaluate our future plans. Professor John Raeburn has announced that he will retire at the end of 2009-10, and he will begin a “phased retirement” this coming year by teaching only one semester each year for the next three. John has been central to the success of American Studies for three decades, and his departure -- no matter how slowly it occurs -- will be huge. Associate Professor Jane Desmond has also left UI to join the faculty of University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. 2007-08 will also mark my last (and 8th) year as chair of the Department. Never say “never,” I’m always warned, but I’m looking forward to completing the research and writing of my current book manuscript on multi-media spectacle in 19th and 20th century America and to resuming a full-time teaching position in American Studies.

CENTER FOR ETHNIC STUDIES AND THE ARTS

The Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts (CESA), part of the Department of American Studies, finished its first year – and a successful first year it was!

Highlights were:

- CESA hosted six speakers in its “Thinking Outside the Box: Ethnic Identities and the Arts” lecture series: Frances Aparicio, Director, Latin American and US Latino Studies, U. Illinois Chicago; Leslie Bow, Director, Asian American Studies, U. Wisconsin-Madison; Bluford Adams, Assoc. Professor, English and American Studies, UI; Bridget Harris-Tsemo, Asst. Professor, Rhetoric and African American Studies, UI; E. Patrick Johnson, Director, Performance Studies and Assoc. Professor of African American Studies, Northwestern University; Noliwe Rooks, 2007 Albert E. Stone Distinguished Alumnus Speaker in American Studies, Associate Director, African American Studies, Princeton.
- In conjunction with the series, CESA and American Studies ran a 2006 proseminar on “The Future of Ethnic Stud-

ies,” and 17 graduate students and 4 faculty from multiple departments participated.

- A February 2007 dinner-book discussion was so over-subscribed that we ran the event twice: discussion leaders Laura Rigal, Kevin Mumford, and Aimee Carrillo Rowe led over 40 faculty and graduate students separated into groups of 18 who convened for dinner and discussed Walter Benn Michaels' *The Trouble with Diversity*, 2006.

Plans for 07-08 include: a publication workshop for junior faculty from UI and other Midwest schools on Nov. 1-3; more book discussions in both fall and spring, and “The Cookbook Project.” [See Call for Recipes on the next page.] CESA has received a generous grant from the University of Iowa, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Harry Oster Memorial Fund for promoting activities for this project.

You can reach the CESA Website from a link on the American Studies website: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~cesa/>

New Faculty in 2007-08

Deborah Elizabeth Whaley was born in Wheatridge, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, where she spent her early childhood years, but was mostly raised in San Jose, California. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz where she received a BA in American Studies and then went on to receive a MA in American Studies from California State University, Fullerton and a PhD in American Studies from the University of Kansas. She has taught at the University of Kansas, the University of Massachusetts, Boston, the University of Arizona, and has most recently been a Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies at Saint Louis University. Her research and teaching fields include Comparative American Studies, Black Cultural Studies, Popular Culture and the Visual Arts, and Feminist Theory. She has been a Resident Visiting Scholar at the Center for Cultural Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and was a recipient of a grant from the Monroe Trotter Institute for Black Culture for her research on responses to 9/11 in Black art and popular culture. Dr. Whaley teaches courses on history, ethnic studies, popular culture, film, and literature. Her courses seek to examine the social relationships, historical, and cultural frameworks that shape the self and the lives of aggrieved communities in national and transnational contexts. She has been active in transforming secondary education through the creation of inclusive curriculums and transformative pedagogies, and has maintained a mentorship website for undergraduate students, graduate students, and junior faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences since 2003.



Dr. Whaley has published original art, poetry, as well as articles on popular culture, fine art, documentary photography, and film. She is a contributor to the anthologies *The Persistence of Whiteness: Race and Hollywood Cinema* (Routledge, 2007); *Afro-Asian Encounters* (New York University Press, 2006); *African American Fraternities and Sororities: the Legacy and the Vision* (University Press of Kentucky, 2005); and *Fields Watered with Blood: Critical Essays on Margaret Walker* (University of Georgia Press, 2001). Whaley has also published in the *Journal of Pedagogy, Pluralism, and Practice*, *Contours, American Studies*, *49th Parallel*, and the *Trotter Review*. Professor Whaley's first book length project is titled *Disciplining Women: Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Cultural Politics of Black Sororities*. In it, she examines the cultural practices, work, and politics of the oldest historically Black sorority. Her current project explores graphic novel production and comic book fandom, looking in particular at how the “sign of Africa” and the bodies of African, African American, and Multi-racial Black women are used and deployed in television, film, and print representations of comic book and graphic novel characters. Her favorite activities include swimming, kick-boxing, and yoga, and her guilty pleasures include watching romantic comedies and the Home and Garden Network (HGTV). She wishes she had more time to paint, and hopes to one day exhibit her art and publish a book of poetry.

Call for Recipes

We're back at it again! The American Studies Cookbook was so successful that the Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts is producing a Volume 2. The Ethnic Heritages Cookbook is slated to come out in spring 2008. This volume will be produced by CESA and an Honors seminar in Food in America. It will be launched at a spring 1-day symposium on Cookbooks, Identities, and Memory.

But we're looking for recipes from everyone. A community cookbook is only as good as the friends and community that contribute to it! We need LOTS of recipes in order to acknowledge everyone's ethnic backgrounds and identities, and food is one of the primary ways that

we all experience and understand ethnic identity.

So, if you have a favorite recipe, a family recipe that has been handed down, or a recipe associated with a memory that you'd like to contribute, please e-mail your recipe and any notes or prose you'd like to share as well

to: cesa@uiowa.edu. Even if you're not sure about how "ethnic" your recipe is, we'd still like to see it. Please include your name so that we can acknowledge you in the cookbook.



Please send all recipes by December 1, 2007. We'll keep you posted on the progress of the cookbook and when it is available. The students, faculty, staff, alums, and friends of American Studies made volume 1 a huge success – all proceeds from its sales benefited graduate students in American Studies. All proceeds from Volume 2 will be used for ethnic studies activities in the Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts.

If you have any questions, please contact: Lauren Rabinovitz, Director, CESA; cesa@uiowa.edu or lauren-rabinovitz@uiowa.edu

Rabinovitz Named One of Four 2007 Collegiate Fellows

Lauren Rabinovitz, Chair and Professor of American Studies, was one of four University of Iowa professors who have been named Collegiate Fellows in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in recognition of their years of distinguished teaching, research and service to the college. CLAS Dean Linda Maxson said the distinction is a way for the

college to honor outstanding faculty members at the rank of full professor who have consistently demonstrated their dedication to the three-pronged mission of the college, "All of these professors displayed a deep commitment to the college and the university as a whole, giving generously of their time, talents and energy for many years. I am pleased

to be able to recognize their achievements and honor their dedication."

Collegiate Fellows receive a salary increase as well as a discretionary fund to support their teaching and research. Fellows were honored at an April 2007 ceremony.

Yablon Wins Getty Foundation Research Fellowship

Assistant Professor **Nick Yablon** won a research fellowship from the Getty Foundation for 2007-8, and will be doing nothing but reading, writing, and dreaming about American ruins until the book gets done.

In the past few weeks, two articles have hit the bookshelves. One is an article he wrote on "pyro-dramatic" re-enactments of the Last Days of Pompeii at amusement parks, for a



lavishly-illustrated Getty publication called *Antiquity Recovered: The Legacy of Pompeii and Herculaneum*. The other, an article on

auditory experiences of urban life around 1900, appears in the current issue of *American Literary History*.

Nick will be delivering a paper on squatting and homelessness in mid nineteenth-century New York at the American Studies Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia this October. The panel is on "Spaces of Identity: Citizenship and the City."

New Faces in the Graduate Program, 2007-08

Tom Collins recently received an M.A. in American Culture Studies from Washington University in St. Louis. He worked in publishing for several years before deciding to return to school, including a stint as a writing fellow for Oxford University Press's *American National Biography* series, specializing in actors and directors from Hollywood's studio era. His essay on the impact of technology on American popular music was published this June in *The Columbia History of Post-World War II America*. His girlfriend, Beth, will be joining Tom in Iowa, teaching middle school art in Cedar Rapids. Their two "kids" are coming along, a Siberian husky and a mutt. Tom looks forward to exploring Iowa City's roots music scene and road-tripping for minor league baseball games.

Barrett Gough hails from Lexington, Kentucky, Horse Capitol of the World. He received his B.A. in English from the University of Kentucky, and his M.A. in American Studies from the University of Alabama. His main research area is the Cold War, specifically the counter-culture movement. His hobbies include backgammon, verbal sparring, playing piano, and hiking/camping.

Sara Shreve is originally from Albuquerque, NM, and grew up Tucson, AZ. She majored in American Studies at Mills College in Oakland, CA, and received an MA in Historic Preservation from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Her Master's thesis focused on the social history of San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts. Also while at Cornell, Sara researched the spatial expression of masculinity in early days of Play-

boy Magazine. She has worked as an architectural historian in San Francisco, Austin, Upstate New York, and post-Katrina New Orleans. Her research interests include the intersections of gender, consumerism, popular culture, and architecture. To celebrate moving to the Hawkeye State, she is participating in RAGBRAI this summer with the intention of eating corn and pie in as many Iowa towns as possible.

Nathan Titman is originally from Bangor, MI. He received an BA in English (History minor) from Western Michigan University, followed by an MA in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University. His Masters thesis analyzed John Travolta's film work in the 1990s, arguing that his resurgent popularity was at least partially attributable to the decade's privileging of "new" men who seemed to temper Reagan-era masculinity through sensitivity and appreciation of multicultural society, while actually reinforcing the tough white patriarchal figure so valued in the 1980s. While Nate's previous work focused on masculinity and media, he'd like to concentrate more on intersections of sexuality and class in future research. Spare time includes movies and music, beaches, roller coasters, and singing karaoke off-key.

Florian Vlad "My first name is Florian, but in informal circumstances most people call me by the Anglicized version of my second name (Andy), so, well, take your pick. I'm from Constantza, Romania's oldest city and close to the best beaches on the Black Sea coast. I

have a BA in English and German from Ovidius University, Constantza, and an MA in American Studies from the University of Heidelberg. My academic interests revolve around literature, history, cultural theory and cultural studies, and for my dissertation I intend to explore and analyze the ways in which a number of significant post-war literary texts construct and dramatize the cultural and political dynamics of totalitarian subversion, while problematizing the relationship between totalitarianism and American cultural identity (a relationship which in political discourse is often formulated in terms of a conflict between "the domestic" and "the alien"). Other than that, I'm a compulsive traveler, and avid theater-goer, a huge fan of ska and reggae, and somewhat of a party animal parading as a quiet person (to lull people into a false sense of security, I guess)."

Larissa Werhnyak received a bachelor's degree in History from Cornell University and a JD from the University of Michigan. With regard to research, she is interested in the intersection of law and culture and in American social and alternative movements. Non-academic interests include running, swimming, reading, independent music, cooking, and travel. Larissa is also a borderline-obsessive fan of Michigan football.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Ulrich Adelt has accepted a one-year position in American Studies at the University of Wyoming.

Jennifer Ambrose was selected as a recipient of an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Brian Hallstoos had an essay, entitled "Pageant and Passion: Willa Saunders Jones and Early Black Sacred Drama in Chicago," published in the Spring 2007 issue of *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. Brian also won a Ballard Seashore Fellowship for 2007-08.

Erica Hannickel received an American Association of University Women (AAUW) dissertation year fellowship. The UI External Funding Office says this is the first time in 5 years someone from Iowa has won, and coincidentally, this is the same scholarship Lauren Rabinovitz had when writing her dissertation.

Richard Landon won the IAFA Graduate Student Award at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts for my paper "A Half-Naked Muscleman in Trunks: Charles Atlas, Superheroes, and Comic Book Masculinity." With the award, the paper will be published in the summer issue of *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*.

Betsy Loyd was selected as a recipient of an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Eleanor McConnell has a one-year position teaching History at St. Mary's College in Maryland.

Patrick Naick has received a

Consortium for Faculty Diversity Doctoral Fellowship at Coe College.

Matt Thomas gave papers at three conferences this past spring: the Studies in Sound: Listening in the Age of Visual Culture conference held at Iowa in February, the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2007 National Conference held in Boston in April, and the Eighth Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association held in Mexico City in June.

Though he enjoyed himself and learned a great deal at the first two conferences, Matt had the most fun at the MEA convention in Mexico City. Mexico City is home to as many as 25 million people (no one really knows for sure how many people live there), it's noisy, the air is polluted, the traffic is terrible, you can't drink the water, the extremes of wealth and poverty are disturbing, it's in an earthquake zone, and it's within range of a smoking volcano. In spite of all this, those intrepid enough to give it a chance will find it has many charms. At the very least, it gives those who are primarily English speakers an opportunity to practice Spanish, currently the second most widely spoken language in the United States.

Gyorgy Toth has finished his coursework and is looking forward to taking his comprehensive exams in the fall. He has also thoroughly enjoyed his tenure as graduate assistant at the Office of International Students and Scholars, and is excited to be back teaching Understanding American Cultures this fall. Among other things, George

has presented in the International Mondays speakers series a paper on the historical memory of the 1956 Hungarian Uprising that is being published in the *Bard Journal of Social Sciences*, and he has won a Stanley Graduate Award to conduct summer research on the re-enactment of American Indian lifestyles in Germany. Greetings from your crazy Hungarian Americanist! :-)

Thank you to our donors!

Gift fund:

Dr. Robert Urstein, in memory of Prof. Ken Cmiel
 Ms. Ann Kelley and Dr. Vijayan Pillai
 Mr. Mike Dominguez
 Ms. Sally Lindgren
 Dr. Susan Coultrap-McQuin
 Dr. Stephanie M. Bennett--Smith
 Mr. Paul Deaton
 Dr. Valerie Halverson Pace & Mr. David Pace
 Mr. Thomas Ellbogen
 Drs. Paul and Virginia Kouidis
 Dr. Bradley Williams
 Mr. Paul Kleiman
 Dr. Michael & Mrs. Elizabeth Maves

Kern Award:

Dr. Eric Sandeen
 Dr. Franklin Lloyd, in memory of Prof. Alexander Kern

Albert Stone Account:

Mrs. Dorothy Paul

Faculty News

Susan Birrell was a keynote speaker at the Australia Sport History Association meetings June 27-30. The title of her talk was *Suspended on Everest: Intertextuality and the Narrative Condition in the Pursuit of the Past*. The meetings were held in Canberra.

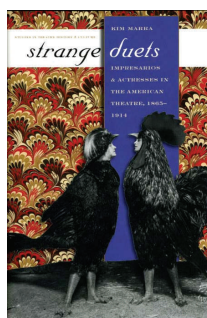
Richard Horwitz (Prof. Emeritus) In the Spring term of 2006, Rich Horwitz returned to the University of Iowa to teach "An Introduction to Ethnographic Fieldwork." Since Rich is still primarily engaged in research and writing in Rhode Island, it was an unusual arrangement, with him jetting back and forth, alternating between virtual and face-to-face interactions. But Rich reports that it was great fun, reconnecting with Iowa Graduate students and seeing that fieldworkers will continue to contribute to cultural studies.

At the 2006 meeting of MAASA, Rich Horwitz was awarded the Stone-Suderman Prize for the outstanding article in the prior volume of *American Studies*. His winning article is "Americans' Problem With Global Warming," based on field research during his last couple of years in the Midwest. He now continues his research, chiefly for the state Department of Environmental Management. In the past year, for example, he researched and produced the state's agricultural emergency plans, including the state response to highly-pathogen avian Influenza (H5N1 HPAI or "bird flu"). He also researched and produced the annual assessment and plan for highway safety for the RI Department of Transportation. This

past year (October 2006 through January 2007) Rich worked in Mid-delburg, the Netherlands, where the Roosevelt Study Center has awarded him the first Roosevelt-Dow Senior Distinguished Chair. He will be writing about his experience over the past few years, shifting from academic to applied cultural studies, from ivied halls (and hog lots) to environmental emergency response.

Rob Latham's essay "Biotic Invasions: Ecological Imperialism in New Wave Science Fiction" will appear in a special issue of the *Yearbook of English Studies* in July. He has also recently been asked to serve on the editorial boards of two new journals: *The Journal of Science Fiction Film and Television* and *Writing Technologies*, an online publication whose debut issue features brief essays by the founding board members, including Rob. The journal is available at: http://www.ntu.ac.uk/writing_technologies/Currentjournal/index.html

Kim Marra published *Strange Duets: Impresarios and Actresses in the American Theatre, 1865-1914* in the Studies in Theatre History and



Culture Series of the University of Iowa Press in November 2006. The book examines the dynamic star making relationships of three couples-- Augustin Daly and Ada Rehan, Charles Frohman and Maude Adams, and David Belasco and Mrs. Leslie

Carter--at a time when the "whitest" men claimed the greatest sexual as well as socioeconomic and political control, and the legitimate Broadway theatre was the nation's leading entertainment medium. She was also named Author of the Year by the University of Iowa Press.

Faculty

Lafayette (Bluford) Adams
(English)

Susan Birrell
(Health & Sports Studies)

Richard Horwitz (Emeritus)

Rob Latham (English)

Kim Marra (Theatre)

Russell Peterson
(Visiting Assistant Professor)

Horace Porter (English)

Lauren Rabinovitz
(Cinema & Comparative
Literature)

John Raeburn (English)

Laura Rigal (English)

Albert Stone (Emeritus)

Deborah Whaley

Nick Yablon

Staff

Laura Kastens

Carrie Louvar

Alumni News

Lynn Adrian (PhD 84) has been appointed Chair of the American Studies Department at The University of Alabama.

Eliot Blake (PhD 02) and his partner Kelly have a new daughter, Eva Josephine, born November 14, 2005.

Hannah Brenner (BA 94, JD 98) works as the Director of Women's Leadership Programs for the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma, and teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the University of Oklahoma's Women's Studies Department. She and her partner Adam, an Associate Professor at OU, live with their three children in Oklahoma City.

Julie Deuble (MA 89) reports that turning 40 has brought many changes in her life. She took up running and completed her first half marathon in October. She also went back to school. Julie will be starting her second year at Buffalo State College this fall, earning a BFA in Interior Design.

Harvey DuMarce (MA 96) is reaching the midway point of his doctorate in educational leadership through the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. He began his ED.D in August 2005. He is continuing in his position of Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Sisseton Wahpeton College, a tribal college in South Dakota. Harvey also teaches one or two classes each semester in the fields of American Indian education and history.

Marlene Frantz (MA 86) has earned a Masters degree in clinical

psychology from Antioch University in Los Angeles (2006).

Brett-Genny Janiczek Beemyn (PhD 97) got married on June 2 and is currently co-writing a book with Dr. Sue Rankin from Penn State University entitled The Lives of Transgender People for Columbia University Press.

Alison Kibler (PhD 94) is still at work on Paddy, Shylock and Sambo: Irish, Jewish and African American Protests against Mass Culture, 1890-1930. In addition, her students at Franklin and Marshall College did some research on a defunct local amusement park (Rocky Springs), which has led to a larger project on the history of segregated swimming in her city, Lancaster, PA. She got to see Dan Nathan (Iowa PhD) twice this past year--once when she was on the team that reviewed Skidmore's excellent American studies department and again when he went to speak at F&M about the Baltimore Black Sox. Alison's children, Therese (10) and John (7) got to play with the Nathan kids--Ben and Zoe--while the parents reminisced about Iowa City.

Michael Lewis's (PhD 00) edited book, American Wilderness: A New History (Oxford, 2007) was released this spring. He and thirteen other contributors attempted to summarize wilderness scholarship in the US, and hopefully provide a new introductory text for readers currently relying upon Nash's classic (and forty years old) *Wilderness and the American Mind*.

David Marcou (MA 78) published

two books in 2006 -- Spirit of the World: A Group Photographic Portrayal of Nature, People, Stories, and Miracles (edited by him, it earned a Governor's Commendation from Wisconsin Governor James Doyle), and Pictures of Human Life: Documenting Personal Spirit in My Little Black-and-White Photobook (authored and photographed by him, with a photo-appendix by his son, Matthew A. Marcou). David has seen more of his freelance journalism published - including 'Operatic Entrance', in the March 2007 'Smithsonian' Magazine; and 'James Cameron, Wisconsin's Own Civil Rights Pioneer,' in 'The Historian', the (spring) newsletter of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum in Milwaukee.

Kay Mussell (PhD 73) Dean of Arts and Sciences at American University, and former head of American Studies there, has received a University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Jan Olive Nash (JD 79, MA 89) was awarded a Ph.D. in United States history from Loyola University Chicago in December 2006. Her dissertation focused on the survival of small-town Iowa.

Dan Nathan (PhD 97) reports that an essay he co-wrote with two former Skidmore College students, "The Truth Wrapped in a Package of Lies": Hollywood, History, and Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*," can be found in *Lights, Camera, History: Portraying the Past in Film* (Texas A & M University

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Press, 2007). This spring, he introduced Skidmore commencement speaker Tom Brokaw, and helped organize and host this year's Sport Literature Association meeting. In July, he is presenting at a symposium on Transnational American Studies in Dublin, Ireland. This past year Dan had the good fortune of seeing two Hawkeye alums, Alison Kibler and Paul Gutjahr, in their natural habitats. He's happy to note that both Alison and Paul are thriving.

Matt Nelson (BA 05) is at Cal State Fullerton (Fall 2006) working towards an MA in American Studies.

Eriko Ogihara (MA 05) has been at Dortmund University to write her dissertation. She has received two scholarships from DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and one-year scholarship from The Matsushita (Panasonic) International Foundation. In June she delivered a paper at the annual conference of the German Association for American Studies, and has delivered conference papers in German. She is writing a book review for the journal Amerikastudien/American Studies in German :-). With teaching a course titled "Religious Culture in the United States" and 3 Japanese language courses, it has been fun to be able to deal with 3 languages constantly!

Fred Pratter (PhD 72) reports that after 25 years of the East Coast urban lifestyle in Boston, he headed to Missoula to get another MS degree from the University of Montana, in Computer Science. Currently, he holds a tenure track position in the Computer Science Multimedia

Studies Program at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. In addition to a full load of CS courses, he also teaches the seminar in Colonial US History. (It's a really small school.) Most recently, he spent six months as a Visiting Professor at the Technological University of Tajikistan, teaching Computer Science in a country where the electricity is only on a few hours a day, and that unpredictably. "I will always be grateful to the American Civilization Program at the University of Iowa for teaching me the analysis skills I use every day in my teaching and research, and for introducing me to the idea of the university as a Utopian experiment."

Natalie Robertston (PhD 96) was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure at Hampton University in Spring 07; was named Senior Scholar at the United States National Slavery Museum; and has a book under contract for publication by Praeger, entitled The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Making of Africa-Town, U.S.A.

Roy Romans (BA 04) has been named Program Coordinator for the US Department of Veterans Affairs' Compensated Work Therapy Program at the Iowa City VA. The program is a three-year congressionally funded program of psychosocial rehabilitation, implementing evidence-based practices in the support and recovery of veterans who desire assistance with community and vocational reintegration. (Also worthy of note: his daughter, Alexandra Romans, is now registered and will be starting at the UI as a math major in the Fall.)

Eric Sandeen (PhD 77) recently completed a Fulbright Senior Spe-

cialist posting at the University of Tartu, Estonia. He taught a course on Cold War America and consulted with the Baltic Center for North American Studies. This was Eric's fifth trip to Estonia but the only one that allowed him to stay for a month (in a fine, Stalin-era apartment, he adds). During the month, he held two teleconferences with a class at the University of Wyoming and sent the Tartu students out into communities, looking for Cold War era artifacts and landscapes. This produced some real finds that make him think about ways of teaching material culture abroad in a comparative framework. He's on sabbatical during the coming year, working on several projects. He was appointed to an ASA task force that will look at graduate education in American Studies, so if any alums have any reflections on the subject, he'd be happy to receive them.

Keith Shandalow (MA 79) is a lawyer at Caplan and Earnest in Boulder, CO. He focuses on the representation of businesses, employment law, and litigation.

Sarah Toton (BA 02) is currently pursuing a PhD in American Studies in the Institute of Liberal Arts at Emory University. She is also Managing Editor of the Internet journal, Southern Spaces.

Sharon Wood (PhD 94) won the 2006 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award for her book, The Freedom of the Streets: Work, Citizenship, and Sexuality in a Gilded Age City. With this award, the State Historical Society of Iowa recognizes the most significant book on Iowa history published each year. (Reported by Marvin Bergman, editor, The Annals of Iowa.)

Congratulations!

Bachelor's Degrees

Fall 2006

Conrad Carlozzi
Mckinze Cook (With Honors)
Michael Kuta

Spring 2007

Daniel Brinkheide
Megan Harbour
Ryan Hingst
Jacqueline Montoya
Kristina Rappold
Candace Richards
Kathryn Royal
Gabriel Schaapveld
Tim Storhoff
Courtney Yoelin

Summer 2007

Jacob Bender
Tyler Bleau
Adam Goldman

M.A.

Spring 2007

Richard Landon
Beth Marino
Robert Ostheimer
Karen Smith
Lauren Clodi Whitehead

Summer 2007

Hyun Il Park

Ph.D.

Fall 2006

Kristin Solli
"North of Nashville: Country Music, National Identity, and Class in Norway"

Admitted to PhD Candidacy

Craig Eley
Mark Mattes

Comprehensive Exams

Karen Smith

Successful Prospectus Meeting

Patrick Oray
Danielle Rich
Karen Smith

Tyler Bleau (BA 07) was invited to accept membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Anne Marfisi (undergraduate major) was awarded the Ralph K. and Maxine J. Hibbs Scholarship.



Helpful links

Share your news with us at:

<http://amstud.wufoo.com/forms/submit-alumni-news/>

Donate to the Department of American Studies

<https://www.uifoundation.org/GiveTolowa/WebObjects/GiveTolowa>

Fall 2007 Floating Friday Schedule

- August 31 **Lauren Rabinovitz** Chair, Department of American Studies
"Annual State of the Department Address"
- September 14 **Jane Simonsen** Assistant Professor of History, Augustana College
"'Baby Factories' and Squatting 'Primitives': The Woman Worker in Natural Childbirth Texts, 1945-1965"
- September 28 **Harry Stecopoulos** Assistant Professor of English, The University of Iowa
"Take Your Geography and Trace It": W.E.B. Du Bois and the South
- October 5 **Barbara Mooney** Associate Professor of Art & Art History, The University of Iowa
"From Jumping Jack to Jump Jim Crow: Lessons from a French Pantin."
- October 8-10 **Allan Guttman** Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor, Professor of English & American Studies, Amherst College, Sponsored by The Department of Health and Sports Studies
- October 19 **Michael Chibnik** Professor of Anthropology, The University of Iowa
"Oaxacan Wood Carvings in the American World of Fine Art"
- November 9 **Erica Hannickel** PhD student, Department of American Studies, The University of Iowa
"An Imperial Vineland: Fortunes in Fruit and Midwestern Real Estate: 1830-1860"

All talks begin at 4:00 p.m. in 704 Jefferson Building, and will be followed by an informal reception.

Announcement

T.M. Scruggs (School of Music) will offer a new course at the upper undergraduate level [100 listings] in spring 2008: "Popular Music in the United States."

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