

# American Studies@ The University of Iowa



Dear Friends and Alumni,

Welcome to a report of two years worth of news and activities in the Department of American Studies. Since our last September 2016 newsletter, Professor Horace Porter has completed his term as chair of the department, and I assumed those responsibilities beginning in fall of 2017.

I am pleased to announce that Associate Professor Naomi Greyser has shifted her University of Iowa appointment and joined the Department of American Studies. She will also continue to hold appointments in the Departments of English and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies. Prof. Greyser is also the Director of POROI, Iowa's Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry. Her first book, *On Sympathetic Grounds: Race, Gender, and Affective Geographies in Nineteenth-Century America* was published by Oxford University Press in November 2017. It is a provocative study of nineteenth century literary sentimentalism as a way of evoking sympathy to express a desire for place that was both emotional and territorial. She addresses how these feelings map out a political and moral efficacy in such different writers as Sojourner Truth, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Harriet E. Wilson, bringing to the forefront the ways that the politics of gender and race played out in sentimental fiction.



Lauren Rabinovitz, DEO

Professor Greyser brings important assets to the department, as she specializes in critical race and gender studies, the rhetorical arts, American literature, affect studies and the new materialism, American studies, and critical university studies. She has significant experience as a writing coach, both for graduate students and faculty and for both those at UI and other schools nationally. She has been head writing coach for the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, a center that helps under-represented faculty enhance their writing, research, and life-balance. In fact, Prof. Greyser is working on a book on writer's block, a timely subject when productivity and efficiency demands have heightened at universities and colleges. We are delighted that she is joining our faculty and is teaching our undergraduate seminar this spring on love and romance in America as well as supervising professionalization workshops for the graduate students throughout the year.

We also said good-bye last semester to two important American Studies friends. Associate Professor Nicholas Yablon has shifted his appointment to the Department of History. He will retain a 0% courtesy appointment in American Studies and will still be able to sit on graduate students' committees but will no longer be teaching or working for the department.

An even bigger milestone occurred fall semester as we said good-bye and celebrated Professor Horace Porter's retirement from the University of Iowa. [See the separate article in this newsletter written by Professor Marra on Professor Porter's accomplishments as a scholar, teacher, and member of the UI American Studies community.] The Departments of American Studies, English, and African American Studies celebrated Professor Porter's career, mentorship, and achievements at a special event on October 12, where we had the opportunity to thank Professor Porter for his important contributions, to express our sadness at his departure, and to wish him well on the next chapter of his life.

The faculty and graduate students continue to thrive, publishing important books and articles, editing special issues of journals, and presenting papers at scholarly conferences. [Elsewhere in this newsletter, there are numerous citations of those accomplishments.] Certainly, a highlight of the last academic year in this regard was the 2018 Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA) meeting that we hosted in Iowa City on April 6-7, thanks in large part to Associate Professor Thomas Oates' superb organization and leadership. The theme was "Migration/Politics/Sport in the Global Midwest." This was a wonderful opportunity for many of our graduate students to share their current research with American Studies scholars across the region.

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## CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF HORACE PORTER

KIM MARRA

Last Fall, American Studies celebrated the career of Horace Porter, F. Wendell Miller Professor of English and American Studies, who retired in December 2018, after twenty years on the University of Iowa faculty. In 2006, Professor Porter became the first faculty member in American Studies at Iowa to hold a named chair. He served as DEO of American Studies and African American Studies from 2012 to 2017 and of African American World Studies from 1999 to 2004. Prior to joining the Iowa faculty in 1999, he taught at Stanford University (1990-1999) where he was Director of African and Afro-American Studies, Dartmouth College (1979-1990), University College, London (1988-1989), and Wayne State University (1977-1979). Professor Porter holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University (1981) and a BA from Amherst College (1972, magna cum laude).

A specialist in twentieth-century American and African American fiction, memoirs, and autobiography, Professor Porter has published five books, beginning with *Stealing the Fire: The Art and Protest of James Baldwin* published by Wesleyan University Press in 1989 and spanning three books from the University of Iowa Press. *Jazz Country: Ralph Ellison in America* (2001) examines the influence on Ellison of jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Charlie Parker. *The Making of a Black Scholar: From Georgia to the Ivy League* (2003) chronicles Professor Porter's own journey in education from segregated schools in rural Georgia to teaching and administrative positions at Dartmouth and Stanford amid the turmoil of the civil rights movement, the war in Vietnam, and affirmative action. Along the way, he experienced formative interactions with Tillie Olsen, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, John Blassingame and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. His move to Iowa, where he has spent the longest portion of his career, evoked some of the memories and values of his childhood on a Georgia farm. Most recently, the University of Iowa Press, which carries the imprint of "the writing university," published his *Dreaming Out Loud: African American Novelists at Work* (2015), a collection of essays by many of the most well-known and respected African American writers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries discussing various aspects of the vocation, craft, and art of writing fiction. Selected writers include Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, National Book Award-winners Ralph Ellison and Charles Johnson, Pulitzer Prize-winners Alice Walker and James Alan McPherson, and well-known canonical writers such as W. E. B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston, and Margaret Walker.

In addition, Professor Porter is one of the editors of *Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition* (1998). His articles and reviews have appeared in *The American Scholar*, *The Journal of Negro History*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Black Renaissance*, *The Antioch Review*, *American Studies*, *Change*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Washington Post*. Professor Porter has presented on panels at annual conferences of the American Studies Association and the Modern Language Association, as well as at numerous other venues. He also consulted on *Movie Star: The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg* (2014), the first documentary film to focus on the private side of the famous Marshalltown, Iowa native. Directed by Garry McGee and Kelly Rundle, the film examines Seberg's American and international film career as well as her mysterious death in Paris. Professor Porter's commentary focuses on her civil rights activism and support of the Black Panther Party.

For many years, Professor Porter taught the popular American/African American Studies course The Civil Rights Movement, first with Professor John Raeburn and then on his own after Professor Raeburn's 2010 retirement. Using the famous documentary series *Eyes on the Prize* as a primary text, the course focuses on the major historical events and leaders involved in the struggle for justice and equality in the United States during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His seminars also engagingly reflect the interdisciplinarity so fundamental to American and African American Studies. Primarily for undergraduates, Jazz in American Culture covers the origin, history, and influence of jazz on various literary and media forms down to examples in contemporary television and cinema. Professor Porter's Graduate Seminar in American Literature and Culture examines James Baldwin's literary career from the 1940s to the 1980s, considering the writer's involvement in protest literature and civil rights, the challenges of his racial and

(Continued on page 4)

## SUSAN BIRRELL, 2018 JEAN Y. JEW WOMEN'S RIGHTS AWARD HONOREE

TINA PARRATT

There are people whose generosity of spirit and unassuming goodwill, whose wish for the best for everyone (even those they might not really like), and whose commitment to serving the best interests of their communities make the rest of us feel like fakers. If you've managed to come upon one or two of these folks in your life, you have been blessed.

The University of Iowa, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and a number of departments (American Studies, Women's Studies, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, and Health and Sport Studies) have been the beneficiaries of just such generosity, goodwill, and service. This is true also for the academic communities of sport studies scholars – the North American Society for Sport History (NASSH) and the North American Society for Sport Sociology (NASSS) – with which Professor Susan Birrell is most closely affiliated; and for the generations of scholars, athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and staff whose careers she has nurtured, cheered, or influenced.

Susan's achievements as a scholar and her service as a citizen who is truly, wholeheartedly concerned with advancing social justice and equity have been recognized numerous times. She has received lifetime achievement awards from NASSS and NASSH; the latter's Seward Staley outstanding scholar award; and the UI Michael J. Brody Service Award for Faculty Excellence in Service. In 1993 she was inducted into the St. Lawrence University's Athletic Hall of Fame (I wouldn't be surprised if this is one of the honors she most appreciates) and in 1982 she was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America (I did not know this, though I'm not surprised – and I will tease her relentlessly about it from now on).

But perhaps the award that most nearly touches the essence of Susan's generous work and of her concerns, is the most recent: the 2018 Jean Y. Jew Women's Rights Award. In 1973, Professor Jew joined the UI medical school and soon found herself in a nightmare of sexual and racial harassment that she endured for seventeen years. It would be 1991 before she finally secured legal redress – a judgment that the university and the Board of Regents initially appealed. Susan joined the Department of Health and Sport Studies in the midst of this and pitched herself into the campaign in support of Professor Jew. And for nearly forty years she has contributed her energy, intellect, and dogged persistence to maintaining a feminist community here that prods the institution into being a better for all, one in which sexual and racial harassment is not supposed to happen.

Kismet? My rudimentary sense of the concept inclines me to think so. In 1980 Susan was beginning to map out a crucial new area of critical, feminist sport studies of which she continues to be a leading light. It's hard to imagine there being a time when sport scholars did not take gender and sexuality seriously but it was so, and we owe the fact that it is no longer the case in large measure to Susan and, as she would be the first to point out, peers such as Nancy Theberge and Patricia Vertinsky. Faculty in the Department of Health and Sport Studies that she joined – Peg Burke, Chris Grant, Bonnie Slatton – were renowned on campus and nationally for advancing girls' and women's sport; advocating for racial, gender, and sexual equity; promoting educational and athletic excellence; and modelling civic engagement and leadership, so she found her new academic home a congenial place. For those of us who arrived later, it continued to be so, and if it was possible, we stayed; and it was Susan, Peg, Chris, and Bonnie who made it possible for some to do that. I was one. Absolutely clueless about feminism when I arrived, especially the generous, welcoming variety they practiced, I thank the lucky stars (kismet?) that they took me in. I hope that in some small measure I've merited their trust and the hard work they put in to my feminist making.

Doubtless, very many others feel the same. There are scholars throughout the nation and far outwith its borders whom Susan has mentored; numbers of them are now leading lights in their fields and/or leaders in their institutions, in very large part because of her. And it is no exaggeration to say that the UI's sport studies programs continue today because of her. Her affiliation with and service to the Department of American Studies, her collegial relationships

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Porter, Continued from page 2)

sexual identities, the uses of autobiography in essays and fiction, and the consequences of literary fame. Professor Porter has also regularly taught the gateway course Introduction to African American Culture, which covers relevant developments in music, art, literature, drama, philosophy, and has fulfilled general education requirements in Values, Society, and Diversity for hundreds of Iowa students over multiple generations.

As Department Chair from 2012 to 2017, Professor Porter guided American Studies through a crucial period of solidifying major changes, including the merger with Sport Studies and the streamlining of our graduate program, which we had initiated in 2010 partly as a result of the budget crisis and mandates following a College-wide task force on graduate education. These administrative efforts culminated in a positive departmental review in 2014-2015; the team of external and internal evaluators affirmed the success of the merger and the overall operations of the Department. A number of beneficial curricular refinements emerged from that process, which Professor Porter led us in implementing. He also instituted the Graduate Recognition Ceremony, an event we now hold every Spring to honor the accomplishments of our graduate students. During his five years as DEO, Professor Porter presided over the hiring of four new faculty members, namely Tom Oates, Travis Vogan, Stephen Warren, and Jennifer Sterling, who have been instrumental in sustaining our vitality and building our curriculum.

Professor Porter carries the rich American Studies/Sport Studies nexus into retirement with plans to finish his current project, *Writers in the Ring*, a book on American writers and boxing. As we extend deep appreciation for his many contributions to American Studies, we wish him new vistas of fulfillment and look forward to continued interactions in the Jefferson Building and elsewhere with our newest Professor Emeritus.

(Birrell, Continued from page 3)

with its faculty, and her stellar scholarship were crucial to making possible the 2010 merger that allowed sport studies to continue to exist, and they eased the way for those of us who did not have such a profile.

It seems fitting that Susan should have been honored with the Jean Y. Jew Women's Rights Award at this time (though she could have been a deserving recipient before now). There is a pleasing pattern in the way these two women's careers, shared concerns, and experiences as feminists have unfolded and interwoven. It is also a disturbingly familiar pattern, one that underscores how perennial are the issues shaping their alignment.

And to end on a *familial* note that speaks to the work on those issues that it seems always needs to be done, and to the gentle but powerful ways in which Susan works her magic. My Dad was a lifelong socialist but he couldn't quite get his head round feminism and the need for gender and sexual equity. Towards the end of his life he met Susan, shared a few drams in her company, and enjoyed what the Irish call the *craic*. I do not think it was coincidental that about the same time he began to entertain some decidedly more progressive views on these things. To my delight, he finished up not just a socialist, but a newly minted socialist feminist. Thank you, Susan, for that and for everything else that you continue to do: "Wha's like you? Gey few!"

## 6-ON-6 BASKETBALL AND THE LEGACY OF GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S SPORT IN IOWA

JENNIFER STERLING

A new online and traveling museum exhibit for 2018-2019, "*6-on-6 Basketball and the Legacy of Girls' and Women's Sport in Iowa*," has been curated by Lecturer Jennifer Sterling, Professors Susan Birrell and Catriona Parratt, and Kären Mason, curator of the Iowa Women's Archives. "6-on-6" celebrates 25 years of the Iowa Women's Archives and 25 years since the end of girls' 6-on-6 basketball in Iowa. A unique form of girls' and women's sport, 6-on-6 was hugely popular in Iowa, and this exhibit utilizes personal stories from the Women's Archives to contextualize 6-on-6 in sport history and to celebrate a major development in the history of girls' and women's sports. The physical exhibit is currently visiting six different Iowa sites (Mount Vernon, Ottumwa, Guthrie Center, Jefferson, Ames, and Conrad) in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's Museums on Main Street *Hometown Teams* exhibition. It is an understatement to say that these communities are excited about an opportunity to historicize and celebrate the sport. They are incorporating a range of activities related to the exhibit, including window displays, performances, and videotaped interviews with former local players. Mason, Sterling, Parratt and Birrell are also participating in talks and collection days at each of the sites to engage with communities across Iowa, hear the stories of Iowa women, and collect new histories about the experiences of Iowa girls' and women in sport. The exhibition has received attention and support from the university and beyond, receiving funding from the University of Iowa Office of Outreach and Engagement and the State Historical Society, Inc. and features in *IowaNOW* and Iowa Public Radio's *Talk of Iowa*.

In addition, the department's Sport Studies faculty have been engaging the exhibit in the classroom. In SPST:2078 Women, Sport, and Culture, Jennifer Sterling has students research girls' and women's sport at the Iowa Women's Archives, and select, digitize, and curate items in exhibits for a new Omeka-based website on women and sport ([womeninsport.lib.uiowa.edu](http://womeninsport.lib.uiowa.edu)) supported by the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio. In SPST:1847 Hawkeye Nation: On Iowa and Sport, Catriona Parratt uses the exhibit and the Iowa Women's Archives larger sport-focused collections for studying identity and sport in the Midwest.



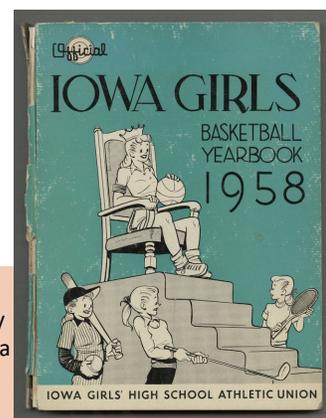
Susan Birrell talks with a woman who brought in memorabilia during a collection event in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Photo by Trude Elliot.



1930 Whitten High School team with coach Melba Gardemann, who played on the 1927 state champion Newhall team and later coached at Conrad. Photo courtesy of the Melba Gardemann Olson papers, Iowa Women's Archives.



The *6-on-6 Basketball* exhibition alongside *Hometown Teams* exhibit in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Photo by Jennifer Sterling.



IGHSAU *Iowa Girls Basketball Yearbook*, 1957. Photo courtesy of the Janice Beran papers, Iowa Women's Archives.

## CONGRATULATIONS! AMERICAN STUDIES MILESTONES, 2016-2019

### Ph.D.

Tom Collins, Summer 2017

*The Creation of Cultural White Supremacy in Arizona, 1925-1940*

Laura Rigal, chair

Dain TePoel (Sport Studies track), Summer 2018

*Endurance Activism: Transcontinental Walks and the Politics of Movement Culture*

Laura Rigal and Thomas Oates, co-chairs

Michael Winslow, Fall 2016

*Cultivating Leisure: Agriculture, Tourism, and Industrial Modernity in the North Carolina Sandhills*

Bluford Adams, chair

Stacey Moultry, Spring 2019

*Mixed Race, Mixed Politics: Articulations of Mixed Race Identities and Politics in Cultural Production, 1960-1989*

Deborah Whaley, chair

Katie Walden, Spring 2019

*Remapping and visualizing baseball labor: a digital humanities project*

Thomas Oates and Lindsay Mattock, co-chairs

### M.A.

Chris Henderson (Sport Studies track), spring 2017

Shelby Dill, Spring 2018

Sophie Kreeger, Spring 2018

### Successful Prospectus meeting

Diane Williams, Fall 2016, Thomas Oates, chair

James Oudenhoven, Spring 2018, Lauren Rabinovitz, chair

Diann Rozsa, Spring 2018, Laura Rigal, chair

Katie Walden, Fall 2017, Thomas Oates, chair

Chris Henderson (Sport studies track), Fall 2018, Tina Parratt & Kim Marra, co-chairs

Greg Rozsa, Spring 2019, Stephen Warren & Laura Rigal, co-chairs

Michael West, Spring 2019, Brooks Landon, chair

### Comprehensive Exams

James Oudenhoven, Spring 2017, Deborah Whaley, chair

Diann Rozsa, Spring 2017, Lauren Rabinovitz, chair

Katie Walden, Spring 2017, Laura Rigal, chair

Greg Rozsa, Spring 18, Deborah Whaley, chair

Michael West, Spring 2018, Deborah Whaley, chair

Chris Henderson (Sport studies track), Fall 2018, Laura Rigal, chair

Taylor Henry, Fall 2018, Lauren Rabinovitz, chair

Kacie Rubalcava, Spring 2019, Lauren Rabinovitz, chair

### Ph.D. Candidacy

Greg Rozsa, Fall 2016

Michael West, Spring 2017

Chris Henderson, Fall 2017

Taylor Henry, Spring 2018

Kacie Rubalcava, Spring 2018

Laurel Carlson, Spring 2019

### Bachelor of Arts

Fall 2016

Drake Eberling

Spring 2017

Laura Kerr

Summer 2017

Alexander Brown

### Spring 2018

Tanner Stephens

Jennifer Hughes

Grace Pateras

Fall 2018

Clarissa Klostermann

Atticus Roberts

Elaine Stewart

## MEET OUR NEW GRADUATE COHORTS

### Entering August 2017

**Laurel Carlson** is a second year PhD student in American Studies. She received her BA in English from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota and her MA in English Literature from the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research interests include popular American cinema, popular culture, and gender and women's studies. More recently, she has been particularly interested in female-centered horror films as well as the racial and gendered politics of American film awards, including the Academy Awards and Golden Globes. At the University of Iowa, Laurel has taught in both American Studies and English and enjoys working closely with students from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

### Entering August 2018

**Dominic Dongilli** is an MA student in American studies. His research interests center around American zoos and their constructions of visitor agency, human/animal relationships, regional identities and indigeneity. He is specifically interested in the question of what it means to know and experience nature, including considerations of human action and ability as "natural" or "un-natural." He spent the past three years as a gorilla and orangutan zookeeper after completing his bachelors of science with a biology major and art history minor at Creighton University. When not in class he enjoys contemporary art, reality television, "Law & Order: SVU," and (re)reading "Just Kids" by Patti Smith.

**Lilian Hachenberg** Lilian Hachenberg is a graduate exchange student from Germany where she received her B.A. in American and British Literary and Cultural Studies, Protestant Theology as well as Foreign Language Teaching and Secondary Education from Dortmund University of Technology. Her research interests include women and gender studies in relation to nineteenth century American literature and culture with a special focus on the connectedness and interdependence of feminist movements and abolitionism. Lilian is further interested in cultural geography, particularly with regard to island studies. After having taught German as a Second/Foreign Language to international students in Dortmund, she continues to share her enthusiasm for languages and their cultures with students at the University of Iowa as a teaching assistant in the German Department. In her free time Lilian enjoys long walks and hiking trips with her dogs as well as relaxing evenings with books and ice-cream.

**Ashlyn Kerner** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of American Studies. Her research interests are widespread but primarily include American literature, history and pop culture. She is looking to work on a dissertation situating 90s cult classic television show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* within the context of the vampire literary tradition preceding it, paying special attention to themes of gender and sexuality throughout the vampire genre's history. Ashlyn holds an M.A. in Social Sciences (focus on 19<sup>th</sup> Century American History) and a B.A. in English, both from the University of Chicago (2017 and 2015, respectively). Ashlyn loves teaching and enjoys working with students from a wide variety of backgrounds, disciplines, and ages. She has coached gymnastics for 15 years and worked with elementary-aged students in classroom settings through a variety of tutoring programs. Ashlyn is currently teaching in the rhetoric department here at the University of Iowa. She spends her down time watching television, playing board games, and cuddling with her dog, Teddy.

**Ashley Loup** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of American Studies. Her research interests include race and sports, resistance and the body, American popular culture and the lawyer in American Culture. She is particularly interested in the role of the body in resistance through sport. Born and raised in California, Ashley completed her BA and MA degrees in American Studies at California State University, Fullerton before coming to Iowa City in 2018. Her other interests include fashion in American culture, depictions of lawyers on television and in popular culture, notions of identity and work, and the public memory of athletic achievements.

**Jesse Motiff** Jesse Motiff is a Ph.D. student in the Department of American Studies. Originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin, Jesse is married with a young son. He enjoys music, watching all types of sports and spending time with his family. His research interests include the works of James Baldwin, and the implementation of Baldwin's theories in education. Jesse studies the effects of music in American life, believing it is the link to communicating with our current generation. With his implementing of music and popular culture, Jesse is able to connect with his students and give a safe environment for critical reflection. He received his M.A. in Afro-American Studies from the University of Wisconsin, and his B.A. in History with emphasis in Africology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Outside of music and literature, Jesse has researched American Sports and Racism, with a focus on Negro Leagues baseball.

## 2017-19 FLOATING FRIDAY LECTURES

### 2017-18

**Lauren Rabinovitz**

"The State of the American Studies Department"

**Michael Sakamoto**

"Michael Sakamoto and the Breaks: Remixing the Butoh/Hip-Hop Archive"

**Laura Rigal**

"Memory as *Communique*: Imperialist Amnesia and the Art of Remembering U.S. Intervention in Chile"

**Naomi Greyser**

"*On Sympathetic Grounds*: Race, Gender and Affective Geographies in Nineteenth-Century North America"

**Travis Vogan**

"Ali's *Super Fights*: The Contested Politics and Intermedia History of Closed-Circuit Boxing Broadcasts"

**Asha Bhandary**

"A theory of liberal dependency care"

### 2018-19

**Lauren Rabinovitz**

The State of the American Studies Department"

**Seth Friedman**

"Masculine Masquerade in the Contemporary Hollywood Misdirection Film"

**Roxanna Curto**

"Soccer Politics in France from 1998-2018"

**Sarah Eikleberry**

"Curating Black Girlhood in Greater Des Moines, 1915-1946"

**Daniel Fine**

"Virtual Reality and Live Performance"

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We gratefully recognize alumni, faculty, and friends who contribute to the Department of American Studies through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University. Your support allows us to intervene and assist struggling graduate students who may need plane tickets for one last trip to an archive or to a professional conference, to bring distinguished guests to campus, co-sponsor events hosted by others, or support faculty travel to national conferences. We thank you for playing a crucial role in the department.

Every gift is greatly appreciated and we thank everyone for their support of the Department of American Studies.

Ways to [donate](#) to American Studies:

*American Indian and Native Studies Program Fund* — undesignated

*American Studies Gift Fund* — undesignated

*Alexander C. Kern American Studies Award* — supports graduate student travel

*Albert E. Stone Fund* — supports visiting speakers in American Studies

*Department of American Studies B.A. Sport Studies Fund* — supports Sport studies B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. students



## FACULTY NEWS



**Naomi Greyser** In the past year, I am delighted to have shifted my appointment to 50% AMST and 50% GWSS, and formally joined the Iowa American Studies community this fall! In the past year, my book *On Sympathetic Grounds: Race, Gender and Affective Geographies in Nineteenth-Century North America* came out at Oxford UP. I also authored a piece on Stuart Hall, "Far from Any Center," for Deborah Whaley's collection on Hall. Attending to knowledge cultures in an increasingly neoliberal academy in the 1980s, this essay maps the Birmingham school's efforts to ground cultural studies by maintaining a critical relation to the institutions and practices it aimed to transform. In the vein of this essay, I've continued to work on my new monograph on knowledge and writer's block this year, delivering my first plenary address from the project at John Carrol University's symposium on critical university studies in March. I also developed a workshop that comes out of this book on "Finding (and Keeping!) Joy in Our Writing and Research." It has been really rewarding to gather together with faculty to critique and craft critical alternatives to the productivity regimes that often shut down our writing and thinking. In addition to acting as Director of Graduate Studies in GWSS, I will be organizing graduate student professionalization events in American Studies. If you have a professional development topic that you'd love to see our department come together to address, definitely let me know!

**Steven Horowitz** gave a presentation on August 8 at the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids entitled "1968 in American Rock and Roll" as part of their History on Tap series.

**Kim Marra** co-edited [\*Showing Off, Showing Up: Studies of Hype, Heightened Performance, and Cultural Power\*](#) (University of Michigan Press, 2017) with Laurie Frederik and Catherine Schuler. Kim's essay in the volume is "Saddle Sensations and Female Equestrian Prowess at the National Horse Show." She also published "Horses Queer the Society and Stage of *Shenandoah*" in *Performing Animals: History, Agency, Theater*, eds. Karen Raber and Monica Mattfeld (Penn State University Press, 2017) and

"*Equus* and the Production of Queer Historical Memory," *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, Volume 31, Number 2, Spring 2017, pp. 33-53. With the UI Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio, she is completing a digital video project "The Pull of Horses in Urban American Performance, 1865-1930." In the summers of 2017 and 2018, she co-directed the Animals and Society Summer Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with Jane Desmond.

**Thomas Oates** led a team that organized and hosted the Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA) biennial conference in Iowa City this April. Matthew Frye Jacobson delivered the keynote address.

**Lauren Rabinovitz** guest edited the new issue of the *American Studies Journal* titled *The Food Issue*. The volume (Volume 57, number 3, published January 16, 2019), with an introduction by Professor Rabinovitz, contains a heterogeneous mix of articles approaching food in American culture. Topics include the roles of food in immigration history and in histories of the counter-culture of the 1960s, representations of food in art and literature, food and popular culture, and views on contemporary political concerns regarding slaughterhouses as factory food businesses and the sociological post-incarceration employment in food businesses. For access to PDFs of the table of contents and the articles (requires subscription), visit <https://journals.ku.edu/amerstud/issue/view/1112>.

**Laura Rigal** will publish two articles this year. "In the Shadow of His Office: Architectures of Affect in Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*," will appear in *The Cambridge Companion to Southern Literature*. It situates Jefferson's only published book within the plantation household and settler-colonial ideologies of race, gender and family feeling that make the text such a notorious act of national imagining. The second article, in the last issue ever of Iowa's long-lived linotype journal *The Wapsipinicon Almanac*, is "Road to Resistance: The Winnebago Removal from Iowa in 1848." It revisits the Iowa "clearances" of more than 2500 Winnebago/Ho-Chunk people from the so-called Neutral Ground (northeast Iowa) by a troop of Iowa cavalry originally recruited to fight the U.S./Mexican War, but reassigned to the Iowa/Minnesota borderlands. The article focuses on Winnebago/Ho-Chunk resistance to removal and their return from reservation land in Minnesota, as well as the cynical U.S. manipulation of food, security and vagrancy

law required to enforce national expansion/consolidation in 1848.

Otherwise, American Studies teaching goes apace: I have spent much of the summer rebuilding and updating the Department's longtime Gen Ed course "Understanding American Cultures" to make it more intellectually coherent and digitally deliverable. In the process, I've learned a TON from Jen Sterling, the Department's remarkable new instructor of Sports Studies/American Studies.

**Jennifer Sterling** was interviewed on NPR Only a Game! On June 30, 2018 about six-on-six girl's basketball. <http://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2018/06/29/iowa-girls-high-school-basketball>

**Travis Vogan's** new book, [ABC Sports: The Rise and Fall of Network Sports Television](#), was released in November 2018.

**Stephen Warren** Last year, Stephen Warren wrapped up a three-year research project sponsored by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Entitled "A Search for Eastern Shawnee History," and funded by the Administration for Native Americans, the project focused on repatriating their history from archives and repositories scattered across the United States. The Eastern Shawnees also sponsored a series of essays on their history, which resulted in a volume Steve edited entitled *The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma: Resilience through Adversity* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017). A second research project, co-researched and co-authored with Benjamin Barnes, the Second Chief of the Shawnee Tribe, came to a close last year: "Salvaging the Salvage Anthropologist: Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin, Carl Voegelin, and the Future of Ethnohistory," *Ethnohistory* 65:2 (April 2018). Warren and Barnes are co-editing a second volume entitled *Community-Engaged Scholarship in Indian Country*. Ben and Steve hope to publish this book with SUNY Press, and their "Tribal Worlds" series, sometime in 2019. This project draws on a host of non-Native and Native scholars who have made community-engagement their primary research methodology. Most of the essays focus on Native nations whose ancestral homelands were in the Midwestern states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

### Faculty (joint appointment)

Susan Birrell (*GWSS*)

Naomi Greyser (*GWSS and English*)

Richard Horwitz (*Emeritus*)

Kim Marra (*Theatre Arts*)

Thomas Oates

(*Journalism & Mass Communication*)

Tina Parratt

Horace Porter (*Emeritus*)

Lauren Rabinovitz (*Cinematic Arts*)

John Raeburn (*Emeritus*)

Laura Rigal (*English*)

Jennifer Sterling

Travis Vogan

(*Journalism & Mass Communication*)

Stephen Warren (*History*)

Deborah Whaley (*African American Studies & Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio*)

### Adjunct Faculty

Steven Horowitz

Russ Peterson

### Staff

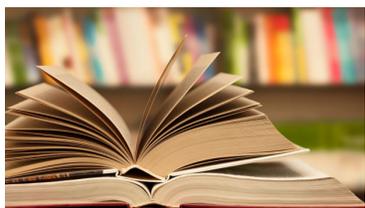
Laura Kastens (Administrative Assistant)

Maureen Walterhouse (Admin supervisor)\*

Ronna Mayberry (accountant) \*

\* off site

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



**Greg Rozsa**, PhD student in American Studies, was awarded a prestigious summer 2018 fellowship at the Digital Studio. His project while there was

mapping nuclear waste transportation routes from existing plants to Yucca Mountain. A digital map allows for greater opportunity to educate the public on the dangers of transporting such waste through one's hometown since many of these routes traverse the hearts of densely populated urban areas and affect not only those within Nevada.

**Katie Walden**, now a fifth-year Sport Studies PhD candidate, accepted a job at Grinnell College in May 2018 as a [Digital Liberal Arts Specialist](#) in the College's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment. In that role, she works with faculty and students to integrate digital technologies in research and teaching by promoting digital pedagogies, supporting the implementation of digital applications, and encouraging faculty to use technology in innovative ways for their scholarship and teaching. She and Tom Oates have a co-authored article that will appear in the forthcoming *The Digital Dissertation* edited collection. In Spring 2018, she earned a second MA in Library and Information Science, with a Certificate in Public Digital Humanities, and was nominated by UI for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools' Excellence in Teaching Award. She presented at the University of Iowa's *Beyond the PDF: Planning for the Future of the Dissertation* event and received a scholarship to attend the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria. She had an article published in the 2017/18 School of Library and Information Science newsletter on her internship at the Library of Congress during the summer of 2018. The newsletter can be found at this [link](#) and the article is on page 4 and 5.

## ALUMNI NEWS



**Thomas Doherty** (PhD 1984) has published [Show Trial: Hollywood, HUAC, and the Birth of the Blacklist](#) (Columbia

University Press, 2018). He reports "I first encountered the topic in a memorable AMST class I took, team taught by John Raeburn and Richard Dyer McCann, back in a previous century: American Film and Culture of the 1940s. I think John especially would have made a very unfriendly witness before the House Committee on Un-American Activities."

**Sarah Eikleberry** (PhD 2013) reports: I recently accepted the position of Assistant Chair in the Department of Kinesiology at St. Ambrose University. We currently have 400 undergraduate majors and two cohorts of graduate students. This summer I trained first-time graduate employees planning to embark on teaching their own physical activity and health promotion courses. In November of 2017 I attended the annual conference of Western Conference for the Physical Education of College Women in Pacific Grove, CA. The scenery and Iowa alums provided plenty of inspiration to return. In summer of 2018 my article, "Rearing Race Relations at the Des Moines Young Women's Christian Association, 1918-1948," was published in the *Annals of Iowa*. Also, a chapter titled "Imagining Football Fandom in the United States: The Home of the Free or Another Example of Manufactured Belonging?" will appear in *Touchdown: An American Obsession* (Great Barrington: Berkshire Publishing, 2018), edited by Gerald R. Gems and Gertrude Pfister.

**Craig Eley** (PhD 2013). After two years of working at the [UW-Madison Center for the Humanities](#) and then the [Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes](#), Craig has moved full-time into audio recording and production. From early grad school experiments in "audio essays" to learning how to produce honest-to-goodness public radio at [To the Best of Our Knowledge](#) to the labor of love that is [Field Noise](#), sound production is something that he just can't shake.

**Marlene Frantz** (MA 1986) I have been in a training program for the last 5 years and was Certified in December 2018 as a Jungian Analyst at the Jung Institute of Los Angeles. It is amazing to me, but not surprising, how often I use my training in American Studies in my writing now as an

Analyst. Last fall I spoke in Los Angeles on utilizing the presence of living animals and animal symbolism in Jungian analysis and will be speaking on "Living Life in the Face of Death" at the Jung in Ireland Conference in April in Northern Ireland at a site located on Lough Erne.

**Sam Graber** (PhD 2008) reports his first book is being released. [Twice-Divided Nation: National Memory, Transatlantic News, and American Literature in the Civil War Era](#) will be published by the University of Virginia Press in 2019. He is also recently tenured at Valparaiso University.

**Paul Gutjahr** (PhD 1996) has published two books in the past year: [Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America](#) (Oxford University Press, 2017) and [Voyage to the Moon and other Lunar Flights of Fancy](#) (Anthem Press, 2018).

**Sara Elizabeth Jordan-Heintz**, 27, (BA, 2012 with honors) was one of three newspaper workers in the state of Iowa to win the 2018 Genevieve Mauck Stoufer Outstanding Young Iowa Journalists Award, presented by the Iowa Newspaper Association in February 2018 in Des Moines. The Young Iowa Journalists Award is one of several honors presented during the INA ceremony. Only three people, under the age of 30, earn the Young Journalist accolade each year, and must be nominated by his/her employer. The contest wasn't just open to reporters: photographers, graphic designers and advertising reps were also eligible.

Jordan-Heintz won the award for the Daily 1 newspaper category for the Marshalltown, Iowa Times-Republican newspaper in which she has worked as the features reporter for over three years. The judges for this year's contest represent the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

Jordan-Heintz also works as a freelance writer for the following publications: *Antique Trader*, *Collectors Journal*, *Antique Back Roads* and *Antique Doll Collector* magazine, among others. Many of her articles have also been republished by the Associated Press. Her essay on the cultural impact of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was published in 2011 by the *Iowa Historical Review*.

**Sharon Lake's** (PhD 2010) article, "Nuclear Power on Trial: The Acquittal of the Palo 13," was published in the Fall 2018 edition of the *Annals of Iowa*. It demonstrates how social, political, and cultural factors influence legal outcomes by analyzing the trial of 13 Iowans who committed civil disobedience at Iowa's only nuclear power plant in 1979.

**David Joseph Marcou** (MA 1978) authored & published his 151st book in April 2018, as WI's most prolific author (including everything he's authored). In addition to UI, he's graduated Aquinas HS, UW-Madison, & UM-Columbia, lived/worked in London, Seoul, et.al., & has covered countless everyday subjects & celebrities too, including 5 US presidents, St. Mother Teresa (whom he photographed in Asia & received 18 letters from), Elie Wiesel, Eva Schloss (Anne Frank's step-sister), Mariah Idrissi, Nam June Paik, Crd. Ray Burke, Bert Hardy, James Cameron, Lord Runcie, et.al. At UI David learned photo-ideas from John Raeburn & Hanno Hardt, from Al Stone autobiography, from Rich Horwitz independent thinking, & from Jon Walton & Linda Kerber empathy. Among his 155+ books are 70+ volumes of his award-winning Spirit of America series. David's so far been twice-Pulitzer-nominated, incl. for "Remembering Davy Crockett" (drama). Son Matt is an electrical engineer.

**Dan Nathan** (PhD 1997) published a chapter on Toots Shor in Stephen H. Norwood's *New York Sports: Glamour and Grit in the Empire City* (2018) and another on sport films in Wayne Wilson and David K. Wiggins's *LA Sports: Play, Games, and Community in the City of Angels* (2018). He celebrated completing his eight years of service as department Chair by starting work on a project about Siena's Palio, which he attended in July 2018. It was fantastic. Before that, though, he visited with Iowa alums Alison Kibler and Dennis Deslippe at their home in Lancaster, PA. It was a short but sweet get-together.

**Eric Sandeen** (PhD 1977) In May 2017 I retired from the University of Wyoming after 35 years there. I directed the American Studies Program for 32 years and was the Founding Director of the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research for the last four years of my tenure at Wyoming. I'm grateful to Iowa for giving me the freedom to develop my career interests during grad school. Representing students on regional and national councils led to my career in leadership -- except for my first semester, I directed a program until my retirement. I defended an area on German culture for my comps; this led to the first of five Fulbrights, to West Germany, in 1977. I've been involved in international American Studies ever since. Iowa encouraged me to be an autodidact -- a life-long learner. My career now moves to a different stage, one which I will explore over the next (hopefully many) years.

**Barbara Shubinski** (PhD 2009) was recently promoted to

## Graduate Student University Awards 2016-2019

### Department of American Studies Awards

#### Kern Dissertation Travel

Diane Williams, 2016-17

Chris Henderson, 2018-19

#### Kern Conference Travel

Chris Henderson, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018

Diane Williams, Fall 2017

Taylor Henry, Fall 2017, Fall 2018

Dominic Dongilli, Fall 2018

Greg Rozsa, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

#### Joann Castagna Dissertation Travel Award

Diann Rozsa, 2017-18

Greg Rozsa, 2018-19

#### C. Pauline Spencer Scholarship

Katie Walden, 2017

Cathryn Lucas, 2018

Diane Williams, 2018

#### Miriam Taylor Scholarship

Chris Henderson, 2017, 2018

Taylor Henry, 2017, 2018

#### Jean Homewood Memorial Scholarship

Dain TePoel, 2017

Taylor Henry, 2018

### University of Iowa Awards

#### African American Studies Cultural Research Award

Stacey Moultry, 2017

#### Ballard-Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Dain TePoel, Spring 2017

Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton, Fall 2017

#### CLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship

James Oudenhoven, Summer and Fall 2019

#### Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio

##### Summer Fellowship

Greg Rozsa, 2018

Ashley Loup, 2019

#### Graduate Student Senate Travel Award

Taylor Henry, 2018

#### Hugh Volrath Ross Scholarship

Holly McKee, summer 2017

Greg Rozsa, summer 2017

#### Obermann Institute on Engagement and the Academy

Diane Williams, 2017

#### Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Award

Diann Rozsa, 2018

Chris Henderson, Spring 2019

Greg Rozsa, Spring 2019

#### Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Summer Research Award

Diann Rozsa, Spring 2018

#### Marcus-Bach Dissertation Fellowship

Stephanie Grossnickle-Batterton, Fall 2016

Chris Henderson, Fall 2019

#### Obermann Graduate Institute Senior Fellow

Diane Williams, 2017

#### Outstanding Teaching Award from the Council on Teaching

Katie Walden, 2017

Diann Rozsa, 2018

#### Stanley Award for International Travel

Chris Henderson, 2017

### Outside Awards, Fellowships, Grants and Honors

#### Library of Congress Junior Fellowship

Katie Walden, Summer 2017

#### NASSH Dissertation Travel Award

Diane Williams, 2017

#### Walter Rundell Award of the Western History Association

Greg Rozsa, 2018

*(From the Chair, Continued from page 1)*

Participating from Iowa's American Studies program were: Laurel Carlson, Shelby Dill, Christopher Henderson, Taylor Henry, Cathryn Lucas, James Oudenhoven, Diann Rozsa, Kacie Rubalcava, Katherine Walden, and Diane L. Williams.

I feel that I should add a note about the evolving role that American Studies is playing at the University during a time when both humanities and liberal arts educations seem less valued than in the past. A new generation of undergraduates (and their parents) are more concerned and focused on how a college education provides vocational training rather than on the important role that a liberal arts education plays in one's life. We are seeing more students enrolled in majors that emphasize a direct link to job training and in a myriad of new certificate programs (more courses than a minor but fewer than a major) that identify practical skills seemingly associated with the job marketplace. This has meant fewer majors in both the American Studies major and in the Sports Studies major (the two undergraduate degrees offered by the department), and it has meant fewer students in general in humanities courses both here and nationwide. At the same time that we have cut the number of upper-level focused topics courses that were typically populated by majors and students taking electives, we have increased the number of courses that we offer for fulfilling the College's General Education Requirements. Both Sports Studies and American Studies are playing a popular and expanded role in helping students fulfill course requirements in diversity and inclusion, values and culture, and international and global issues. While addressing a large, diverse undergraduate population has always been part of the department's mission, it is increasingly central to our role in the College.

At the same time, our graduate program remains on a steady course, and our alums have been successful at finding employment in both the variety of academic and non-academic positions in which they have always ventured. We continue to be dedicated to the mission of American Studies training of MA and PhD students, who rely on coursework offered in the department and in affiliated departments as well as on individual mentoring by faculty (although we have seen an important shift over the past decade of American Studies faculty playing the more dominant roles on student committees over a past record of faculty from affiliated departments being equally responsible for mentoring our interdisciplinarily-trained students). We continue to complement departmental training in graduate seminars with a dissertation workshop (being led this year by Laura Rigal) where students present and get feedback on developing their dissertation prospectuses and individual chapters and a weekly sport studies workshop (convened this year by Tina Parratt) where faculty and grad students specializing in sport studies network, discuss ongoing research, and read drafts of conference papers, articles, and book chapters. These two activities have been very helpful in ensuring the success and timely degree completion of our graduate students. Of course, we continue to supplement these efforts with the important building blocks for young scholars of travelling to conferences to give papers (thanks to the Alexander Kern Professional Travel Award fellowships funds), the ability to travel to accomplish dissertation research (thanks to the Alexander Kern Dissertation Research Travel Awards and the JoAnn Castagna Award), and professionalization workshops (being led this year by Associate Professor Naomi Greysen) that offer training in such things as job interviewing, CV writing, preparing conference and journal submissions.

Lastly, we continue to come together as a community on a regular basis at our Floating Friday Lecture Series throughout each semester. These lectures are free and open to the public, and we especially invite you to attend [See separate heading in this newsletter for this year's roster of events]. Floating Fridays bring to the foreground interesting and often innovative scholarship and creative work being accomplished by our faculty and graduate students, by our colleagues in other UI departments, by alums, and by scholars in related departments and disciplines at other schools.

Let me close by thanking all of you for your continuing support of American Studies, especially to those of you who so generously donate to the American Studies Fund, the Alexander Kern Awards, or to the JoAnn Castagna Award. All of us appreciate your generosity, which is vital to making important things happen in the Department of American Studies.

*Lauren Rabinovitz  
Professor of American Studies and Cinematic Arts  
Chair, Department of American Studies  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Collegiate Fellow*

(Continued from page 12)

Director of Research and Education at the Rockefeller Archive Center.

**Karen Smith** (PhD 2011) was named Executive Director of the Penobscot (Maine) Marine Museum.

**Yuval Taylor** (MA 1988) My book Zora and Langston: A Story of Friendship and Betrayal will be published by W. W. Norton in March 2019. It follows the friendship of storyteller Zora Neale Hurston and poet Langston Hughes from their first meeting in 1925 to their dramatic break-up in 1931 and beyond.

**Michael Winslow** (PhD 2016) An article based on my dissertation is forthcoming in the journal *Agricultural History*. On our first day of orientation at Iowa one of the faculty leading the morning session said we were training to be “autonomous professionals.” Almost a decade later I am scratching my head trying to figure out what profession that was, exactly. I spent the last year caring for my son and applying for jobs—Tenure-track, non-tenure-track, high school, state of California (flexible PhD, right?). Not so much as a phone interview. I’m unemployed. I regret the precious years spent working on a PhD that just hangs like a millstone around my neck. No one from my cohort has an academic job. I have nothing but love for the people I met at Iowa—seriously, I am so blessed to have worked with you—but your program is career training for a profession that doesn’t meaningfully exist.

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