

American Studies Newsletter

Summer 2009



FROM THE CHAIR

New Collaborations, Partnerships, and Marriage (!) along the Learning Curve



To say that my first year as chair has been challenging would be an understatement. Last summer I wrote about crossing over from Theatre Arts to American Studies amid the one of the worst natural disasters in Iowa's history. The effects of the Flood of 2008 of course reverberated throughout the year, and continue to do so. And with the unprecedented financial crisis hitting the university, it has been a trying year for all administrators, especially new ones. But for me, another part of the challenge of crossing over has been not only learning how to meet new administrative responsibilities, task enough in itself, but learning the disciplinary culture of American Studies locally, regionally, and nationally in many more encompassing ways than I had before as a quarter-time faculty member whose primary appointment was still in Theatre Arts. This would not have been possible without the sage and generous collaboration of my colleagues, all of whom have taught me a great deal about American Studies and how best to do things. Those who have been department chairs themselves—Lauren Rabinovitz, John Raeburn, Horace Porter, and Susan Birrell—have been endlessly patient in answering my questions and providing counsel throughout the year. And the secretarial and administrative support I receive on a day to day basis from Laura Kastens and Carrie Louvar has been indispensable. Their expertise and generosity will be tested still more as resources shrink in the coming year.

Even as I continue to ascend the learning curve amid these challenges, there is much to look back on and forward to that bodes well for American Studies at Iowa.

Michelene Pesantubbee, Associate Professor of Religion and American Indian and Native Studies and Coordinator of the American Indian and Native Studies Program (AINSP), has requested that AINSP share administration with American Studies. Our faculty and staff have enthusiastically agreed to the arrangement and welcome Professor Pesantubbee and the other members of the AINSP Steering Committee as administrative partners, beginning 1 July 2009.

We are extremely proud that Nick Yablon received tenure and was promoted to associate professor this year, and we look forward to the publication of his book, *Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of American Urban Modernity, 1819-1919*, from the University of Chicago Press this Fall. Professor Yablon will be taking over as Director of Undergraduate Studies. After generously and ably serving as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), and as Floating Fridays Coordinator, Laura Rigal is taking a much deserved Career Development leave in the Fall to finish her book, *Picturing Entitlement: Rhetorics of Expansion in American Visual Culture, 1776-1900*. Lauren Rabinovitz will be replacing her as DGS in 2009-2010 and co-leading the Fall 2009 Obermann Cmiel Semester on food studies. Deborah Whaley will be teaching our graduate theory and methods course in the Fall (45:201). With a flexible load to do more research in the spring, she'll continue work on her book on Black women in sequential art.

Welcome to Harry Stecopoulos, Associate Professor of English, who joins the American Studies faculty at quarter-time, beginning 1 July 2009. We are fortunate that Fay Botham will be with us again in 2009-2010 as Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies and American Indian and Native Studies, and we look forward to the publication of her book, *And God Created the Races*, from the University of North Carolina Press this Fall.

Hearty congratulations to the five new PhDs (Rixa Freeze, Sam Graber, Erica Hannickel, Pat Naick, and Barb Shubinski) and one new MA (Luke Stacks) we graduated in 2008-2009, and welcome to the five new graduate students (Becky Dewing, Kara Fagan, Eloisa Valenzuela-Mendoza, Allison Wanger, and Michael Winslow) who will be joining our program this Fall. (See p. 6 for more details.) Eloisa Valenzuela-Mendoza has been awarded a Dean's Graduate Fellowship. Our continuing graduate students also won an impressive number of fellowships this year (See p. 4 for more details). In addition, Gyorgy Toth won a 2009 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for his work in 45:001 Understanding American Cultures.

The department initiated a new series called Presenting American Studies for developing the art of the twenty-minute conference paper that provided a forum for sharing graduate student work. The series will continue in 2009-2010 with one session in the Fall and one in the Spring, each showcasing three papers for feedback and discussion.

(Continued on page 3)

CENTER FOR ETHNIC STUDIES AND THE ARTS (CESA)

09-10 was the 1st year of CESA's "Arts and Everyday Life" initiative. Each of the Center's three research collectives hosted a major event. CESA RAs **Cinda Nofziger** and **Gyorgy Toth** made the events come off flawlessly.

The Women of Color in Popular Culture hosted a Jr. Faculty Publication Workshop, September 18-20, 2008. Assistant professors from Williams, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Purdue, Pratt, Carroll College, and Iowa discussed articles or book chapters-in-progress. Iowa faculty **Lauren Rabinovitz**, **Corey Creekmur**, **Aimee Carrillo-Rowe**, **Deborah Whaley**, and **Miriam Thaggert** served as facilitators and mentors. CESA Fellows attended public sessions on publishing your first book (led by Iowa Press editor **Holly Carver**) and a keynote lecture by **Miriam Thaggert** on Josephine Baker's celebrity image. Fellows interrupted highly intensive sessions for an American Studies dinner at Lauren Rabinovitz's house and for a French dinner at an Iowa farm.

Critical Food Studies ran a day-long workshop (Dec. 6, 2008) directed by **Doris Witt** (English). Panels included: Literary Canons/Culinary Canons; Pop Culture/Cross Culture; Middle Age Modernities; Technofood and Its Discontents; and Enacting Alternatives. Panel participants represented History, American Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, English, Non-Fiction Writing, and Communication Studies. From American Studies, **Vanessa Nakoski** presented a paper on the debates surrounding high fructose corn syrup and **Philip Deslippe** talked about restaurants run by religious cults.

On April 3-4, 2009, CESA teamed up with the Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA) to co-host the "**Identities and Technoculture** Conference." Panels and workshops looked at contemporary and historical dimensions of relationships among individuals, technology and society – spanning from new medical technologies to 18th century arts instruments to photography to hip hop to MySpace and Facebook. Participants came from Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Auburn, Kansas State, Delaware, Central Arkansas, Case Western Reserve, Duke, Pratt, UCLA, Illinois-Chicago, South Florida, Michigan, Drury, North Carolina, UC-Davis, Truman State, Augustana, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Texas, and St. Louis. A number of American Studies faculty and graduate students participated in sessions.

Highlights included:

"**The Technology and Cultural Dynamics of Horse and Buggy Transport**," an on-site farm demonstration facilitated by **Kim Marra** (American Studies), **Teresa Mulhausen** and **Fred the horse!**

"**From Consumption to Production to Ecology: Tracing Pasts and Futures of American Techno-Identities**," a keynote address by American Studies Assoc. Prof. **Carolyn de la Peña**, UC-Davis.

The movie premiere of *Copyright Criminals: This is a Sampling Sport* (2009), a documentary by **Kembrew McLeod** (Communication Studies) and Iowa alum **Benjamin Franzen** on hip hop sampling and copyright piracy issues.

Looking ahead: Despite 2009-10 budget uncertainties, preliminary plans are underway for two spring symposia – one on Video Gaming and Identities and one on Food, Law, and Culture. Women of Color in Popular Culture plans to continue hosting an annual publications workshop.

Lauren Rabinovitz
Director, CESA



Lauren Rabinovitz and Carolyn de la Peña



Teresa Mulhausen



Kim Marra with her horse, Mylo



(FROM THE CHAIR — Continued from page 1)

American Studies will be represented in the new University-wide curriculum for the Certificate in Sustainability by four courses: 045:090 Culture of Nature (Rigal), 045:147 American Disasters (Yablon), 45:154 Food in America (Rabinovitz), and 045:163 American Ruins (Yablon). Additional courses related to sustainability, along with nature and religion, are also being offered by Fay Botham. Food in America (scheduled for Fall 2009) is one of two exciting new American Studies lecture courses that Lauren Rabinovitz is developing for next year; the second is Disney in America which will debut in Spring 2010.

Our Floating Friday Lecture Series featured eight speakers this past year, including our own Fay Botham, Susan Birrell, Lauren Rabinovitz, Barb Shubinski, Harry Stecopoulos (in a co-presentation with Kathy Lavezzo, Associate Professor of English), and Nick Yablon, as well as Paul Kramer, Associate Professor of History. Taking over from Laura Rigal as Floating Friday Coordinator, Nick Yablon is finalizing the roster for next year.

We capped our speaker line-up with a special visit in May by David Mayer, Emeritus Professor of Drama and Research Professor, University of Manchester, UK, marking the publication of his new book *Stagestruck Filmmaker: D.W. Griffith and the American Theatre* from the University of Iowa Press. Professor Mayer gave a talk and participated in a roundtable on the intersection of theatre and early cinema in American culture with Lauren Rabinovitz, Rick Altman (Professor of Cinema and Comparative Literature), Corey Creekmur (Associate Professor of English and Cinema and Comparative Literature), and myself.

From the 13th to the 16th of October 2009, American Studies will be hosting Tracy C. Davis, Barber Professor of Performing Arts at Northwestern University and President of the American Society for Theatre Research, as an Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor. In addition to attending classes, Professor Davis will be giving two public talks: "A Comedian 'Does' Race: Charles Mathews' Pioneering Depictions of African Americans" on Wednesday 14 October at 5:00 p.m. and "The Witness Protection Program: Making Theatre, Everyday" on Thursday 15 October at 5:30 p.m.

For Spring 2010, we are planning several special events to honor John Raeburn on the occasion of his retirement. Nick Yablon is chairing the planning committee that also includes Horace Porter, Lauren Rabinovitz, and Eric Sandeen (Professor of American Studies at the University of Wyoming and Iowa American Studies PhD 1977).

Along with participating in these events, both past and yet to come, I am representing the department to the American Studies Association and the Mid-American American Studies Association. I attended my first Program Director's Breakfast at ASA in Albuquerque in October 2008 and entered the critical national conversation on best practices in graduate programs, in particular strategies for addressing the pressing issues of time-to-degree and completion rates. We began taking these up in earnest in our Steering Committee and will continue to do so next year. As the Iowa faculty representative to MAASA, I am enjoying working with President Jane Simonsen (Assistant Professor of History at Augustana College and Iowa American Studies PhD 2001) and the other Board members. The 2010 MAASA conference will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the journal *American Studies* with a program interrogating directions in the field. Meanwhile, I will also be serving as MAASA's representative to ASA and hosting the MAASA reception at the ASA Conference in Washington in November 2009.

Certainly a major highlight of my first year as chair was this year's MAASA conference held jointly with the Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts (CESA) at the University of Iowa in April. We are very grateful for the leadership of CESA Director and Conference Program Chair Lauren Rabinovitz and her committee (Andre Brock, Kembrew McLeod, Deborah Whaley, and MAASA Board representative Michael Krysko) for a stimulating weekend exploring "Identities and Technocultures" through an innovative combination of formats. (Please see the full write-up on p. 2) It turned out to be an historic weekend for Iowa as well, because the first morning of the conference, the State Supreme Court announced its ruling legalizing gay marriage. While I might have predicted that at the end of this challenging first year as chair I would be exhausted and exhilarated, I never could have predicted that I would be married. Yet that is exactly what I and my partner of twenty-four years, Meredith Alexander, were suddenly able to do. Sharing that with the American Studies community as well as other friends and family has been especially meaningful. From learning curve to altar, this has been quite a journey already!

Kim Marra
Chair, Department of American Studies
Professor of American Studies and Theatre Arts

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Derrais Carter was one of ten PhD students nationally accepted into this summer's National Council for Black Studies Summer Institute sponsored by the Ford Foundation at Georgia State University, a two and a half day Institute for students currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Africana Studies or related disciplines.

Sharon Lake was elected to the University of Iowa Council on the Status of Women last year (2008-09). She served on the Herstory Committee, which produces "Women at Iowa," a television series of one-on-one interviews that document the work, experiences, accomplishments, and history of women students, staff, and faculty on the UI campus. Sharon was re-elected to the Council this year (2009-10) and will serve as the chair of Herstory.

She received a \$5000 dissertation grant from the State Historical Society, Inc. in June, 2009. Sharon was also invited to give the keynote address at the AAUW Iowa Convention in April 2009 at Wartburg College. Sharon, an AAUW Fellow this past year, presented her research on the sex discrimination case of Iowa City's breastfeeding firefighter, a case that many of the audience members recalled.

Betsy Loyd attended the Futures of American Studies conference at Dartmouth in June. The Grad College Summer Fellowship she received will allow summer travel from Colorado to New Jersey visiting and researching Chautauqua summer communities.

Mark Mattes won the 2009-2010 Stephen Botein Fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society. These fellowships are awarded for research in the history of the book in American culture. In Mattes' project, "Letter Interception and Publication During the Era of Good Feelings," he looks at how legal systems and periodicals of the early nineteenth century helped Americans negotiate how epistolary commu-

nications could engender sociability and political union.

Cinda Nofziger presented a paper at the MAASA/CESA conference called "The Camera, the Car and the Gaze: Negotiating an American Tourist Identity." She also received a Summer Research Fellowship from the Graduate College.

Barb Shubinski was invited to submit an article for a special issue on "Enclosure" of the Radical History Review.

Under her executive direction at Liars' Theatre, the organization, along with five other arts organizations they participated with, won two ICKY (Iowa Cultural Corridor Award) awards for an original, collaborative musical, "Moving Home" that told stories of the Iowa floods in July 2008.

Gyorgy "George" Toth is relieved to have successfully concluded his prospectus meeting in May, as well as teaching his self-standing section of *Understanding American Cultures*. This Spring he was also honored by the UI Council for Teaching's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. To celebrate, in June George visited family and friends in Hungary, where he also managed to get a new visa to the US. After his vacation, George is looking forward to attending the Summer Institute in Performance Studies at Northwestern University, after which he will go on a two-pronged research rampage at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, and at the libraries of Yale University. All this has been made possible by a Graduate College Summer Fellowship.

Steven Williams was awarded three grants this year: Lynn Reyer Award for Tribal Community Development from the University of New Mexico; Lewis and Clark Fund Award for Exploration and Fieldwork from the American Phi-

(Continued on page 9)

Graduate Student Awards 2008-2009

PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP

Rob Albanese – 2008-09
Julie Shanahan – 2008-09

GRADUATE MERIT FELLOWSHIP

Kirsten Archer – 2008-09
Derrais Carter – 2008-09
Nick Yanes – 2008-09

BALLARD-SEASHORE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

2008-09 – Sharon Lake

TEACHING AWARD

2009 – George Toth

GRAD COLLEGE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Eric Johnson
Betsy Loyd
Cinda Nofziger
George Toth
Mark Warburton
Steven Williams

EXTERNAL AWARDS

Brian Hallstoos — Lynn E. May, Jr. study grant awarded by the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive (2008)

Erica Hannickel — Annette Kolodny Paper Prize in Environment and Cultural Studies, American Studies Association – 2008

Sharon Lake — State Historical Society Inc., \$5000 grant, 2009; AAUW fellowship

Mark Mattes — 2009-10 Stephen Botein Fellowship by the American Antiquarian Society

Barb Shubinski
Publicly Active Graduate Education Award from Imagining America consortium

Steven Williams — 2009 Lynn Reyer Award for Tribal Community Development, University of New Mexico; 2009

(Continued on page 9)

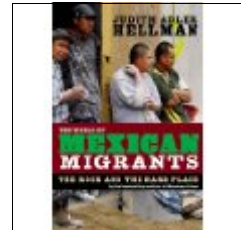
Book Reviews

- Rich Horwitz



One that I strongly suspect would interest current AmStuds is Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California, and Oregon by Lynn Stephen (Duke University Press, 2007). My justification for that is a bit complicated and, all-too-predictably, angst-ridden but also enthusiastic. Bottom line: I wish more of the "new [sic] American Studies" was associated with this kind of work, humane and political-engaged, I'd say, in the best sense of the words. In disciplinary terms, ownership rights probably belong to qualitative social sciences (especially anthropology). So you might consider this rec as yet another (and likely still futile) effort to help Am Studies see more value in that discipline crossing direction. I know: dream on. But the book really is worth a read.

People often ask me to recommend a newly published ethnography. So, here's my latest fav: The World of Mexican Migrants: The Rock and the Hard Place by Judith Hellman. It's flat-out terrific, including attention to both the push and pull on both sides of the border, with emphasis on important differences for men and women and among the different points of departure and destination, all organized around participants' own stories of their experiences. Even if you, yourself, are Mexican or Mexican American, I bet there is much to be gained here, if only because of the connections that Hellman provides to very recent economic and policy developments, through 2006.



Congratulations!

B.A.

Summer 2008

Jacob Bender

Fall 2008

Jensina Endresen
Robert Evans
MJichael Harvey
Neil Jennings
John Sodak
Joseph Weirather

Spring 2009

Josh Applegarth
Dorit Azoulay
Nathan Cooper
Racheal Marchand
Anne Marfisi
Tage Packebush
Ben Roberts

Phi Beta Kappa Society

Darcy Hansen

Admitted to PhD Candidacy

Barrett Gough
Sara Shreve
Nate Titman
Larissa Werhnyak

Comprehensive Exams

Jennifer Ambrose
Wayne Anderson
Mark Mattes

Successful Prospectus Meeting

Wayne Anderson
Eric Johnson
Cinda Nofziger
Gyorgy (George) Toth
Mark Warburton
Steven Williams

M.A.

Spring 2009

Luke Stacks (with thesis)

Ph.D.

Fall 2008

Rixa Freeze

"Born Free: Unassisted Childbirth in North America"

Sam Graber

"Twice-Divided Nation: The Civil War and National Memory in the Transatlantic World"

Erica Hannickel

"An Imperial Vineland: Grape Culture in 19th Century America"

Spring 2009

Patrick Naick

"Representations of the Black Metropolis: Place and African American Identity on Chicago's South Side"

Summer 2009

Barb Shubinski

DOCUMERICA's America: Environmentalism, Documentary Photography and Landscape in the Environmental Protection Agency, 1971-1977

Meet Our New Graduate Cohort!

Becky Dewing is a fiercely proud native of Troy, New York. After receiving a BA in History from Beloit College, she moved to Brooklyn where she has been working in the education department at the New York Transit Museum. Her research interests, in a nutshell, include youth/popular culture, American institutions, and transnational identity formation. In her free time she loves traveling, making art, and watching good and bad movies.

Kara Fagan grew up in Arlington, Virginia and graduated from Colby College in Maine with a B.A. in American Studies and English. She has spent the past three years teaching English and History and coaching varsity level sports at an all-girls boarding school in western Massachusetts. Her research interests include American classic film, with a focus on gender depictions in genre films of the 1930s and 1940s. Kara is also interested in the extent to which films reflect or distort the society in which they are produced. She enjoys watching movies, spending time on the coast of Maine, and playing sports.

Eloisa Valenzuela-Mendoza grew up in southern California, but has spent the last year exploring the city of Portland, Oregon. She graduated from University of California-Irvine as a double major in English and History. Eloisa also attended Cal State Long Beach and earned her MA in English, with an emphasis on 20thc American Lit. She's interested in literature as it pertains to social struggles and civil rights. She loves going to the movies, and browsing used bookstores. Her guilty pleasure is reading books by Jennifer Weiner.

Allison Wanger is from Fullerton, California. She has both her BA and MA in American Studies from California State University, Fullerton. Her research interests include public memory, memorialization, museum studies, and visual culture, particularly in relation to war and sites of tragic events. In her free time she loves walking her dog, Scout, going camping with family and friends,

listening to a good jam, contemplating the television show "Lost," and baking (and then eating what she bakes).

Michael Winslow hails from Tarboro, North Carolina, and graduated from Hampshire College with a degree in American Studies and Creative Writing. He has lived and worked in the Washington, DC area since college, spending most of that time teaching high school. He is excited to be heading to Iowa to pursue his interests in carnivals and festivals, ethnic and regional identity, and popular culture. In his spare time he likes to play music, go camping, garden, and ride his bicycle.

Faculty News

Bluford Adams' essay: "World Conquerors or a Dying People? Racial Theory, Regional Anxiety, and the Brahmin Anglo-Saxonists" appeared in "The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era" in April 2009.

Rich Horwitz I still spend most days consulting for the state -- the sort of "applied American Studies" that I'd hoped. I just finished a big (two-year) project on connecting emergency preparations for animals and people, concentrating on pets and hurricane evacuations. Now I am trying to figure out how to deal with state borders and disease outbreaks, especially a way to deal with the needs for quarantines but also milk and the survival of local dairies . . . when the cows and the processors tend to be on different sides of state (likely future quarantine) lines. Believe it or not, this stuff is quite cultural as well as technical. Challenging and fun. I am still, though, doing some more "straight" (academic) American Studies stuff, chiefly outside the U.S. I recently finished working for two weeks at Hong Kong University, finishing out my three-term as an "External Evaluator" of the program there. And in October and November, I will be working in the Republic of Georgia (not the one with the peaches and peanuts; the one on the Black Sea). At the request of about a half-dozen Georgian universities and with bi-national cost sharing, the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program out this together. Here's hoping I can do them some good. No doubt I will learn a ton. I am looking forward to it. . . and to seeing old Iowa friends before too long.

Kim Marra has been elected to become a fellow of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. She will attend an induction ceremony in April 2010 at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. The annual assembly of fellows begins with the April reception that celebrates the work and contributions of new fellows and provides an opportunity to meet present members.

Faculty

Lafayette (Bluford) Adams
(English)

Susan Birrell
(Health & Sports Studies)

Richard Horwitz (Emeritus)

Kim Marra (Theatre)

Horace Porter (English)

Lauren Rabinovitz
(Cinema & Comparative Literature)

John Raeburn (English)

Laura Rigal (English)

Harry Stecopoulos (English)

Albert Stone (Emeritus)

Deborah Whaley
(African American Studies)

Nick Yablon

Visiting Faculty

Fay Botham (American Indian &
Native Studies Program)

Staff

Laura Kastens

Carrie Louvar

Since 1965 the College of Fellows of the American Theatre has honored select persons who have achieved acknowledged national stature for their distinguished service and accomplishment in the field of educational and professional theatre.

Her book, [*Strange Duets: Impresarios and Actresses in the American Theatre, 1865-1914*](#) (UI Press 2006), won the Joe A. Callaway Prize, one of the most prestigious American awards for theatre scholarship.

Strange Duets explores three long-term theatrical partnerships, in which male directors who came from poor circumstances achieved fame and fortune by molding female stars: Augustin Daly and Ada Rehan, Charles Frohman and Maude Adams, and David Belasco and Leslie Carter.

Lauren Rabinovitz In the last year, I've returned to an area of research that I love: early U.S. cinema. My book review of Jonathan Auerbach's *Body Shots: Early Cinema's Incarnations* was published in the most recent issue of *American Studies*, and I contributed a chapter to *Screen Decades: The First Decade*, ed. André Gaudreault. *Screen Decades* is an interesting Rutgers University Press book series that looks at U.S. cinema decade by decade and year-by-year from 1895 to the present. I wrote the 1906 year – which means I got to include the San Francisco earthquake, the Thaw-White scandal, Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and subsequent U.S. food legislation, nickelodeons, and amusement parks. That list of "apples and oranges" tidily sums up the range of materials I love developing in an American Studies context. I am also completing a book-length manuscript on amusement parks, movies, and modernity.

In addition, I will be the co-director (with Doris Witt, English) of the 2009 Fall Cmiel Research Semester at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. The Seminar's topic is: World Fares: Food, Culture, and Society Since the Age of Industrialization. Six UI

scholars will work on individual projects and meet at a weekly seminar. My research project is on food at the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition and how focusing on food there reorients our understanding of U.S. industrialization and modernization.

John Raeburn gave a lecture in January titled "Modernity and Tradition in Ben Shahn's *American Scene: Photographs, 1938*" at Concordia University in Montreal; it was on the evening of January 19, and I delayed coming home so I could watch on Canadian TV the next day the inauguration of President Obama rather than being in an airport or airplane during it. The lecture was drawn from my forthcoming book from the University of Illinois Press titled *Ben Shahn's American Scene: Photographs, 1938*. I also did a paper at MAASA in April drawn from that book, "'We Cater to White Trade Only': Ben Shahn in Ohio." I reviewed Joseph B. Entin's *Sensational Modernism: Experimental Fiction and Photography in Thirties America* for the *American Historical Review*, and the PBS "American Experience" film, *Documenting the Face of America: Roy Stryker and the FSA/OWI Photographers* for the *Journal of American History*; the latter review was solicited by our PhD, Tom Doherty, who is the editor of the journal's movie reviews section.

Laura Rigal's essay on the environmental history of the Iowa River, "Watershed Days on the Treaty Line, 1836-1839," will be published this Fall 2009 in a Special Issue of the *Iowa Review*, devoted entirely to the Iowa River. Laura argues that the American Fur Company's trade with the Meskwaki Indians of Johnson County after 1834 explains the founding of Iowa City on the Iowa River after Black Hawk's War (1832). The issue also includes an article by U Iowa emeritus professor Bob Sayre titled "Life on the Iowa" as well as abundant State Historical Society photographs of the Iowa River before, during, and after its re-engineering for flood control. You'll remember that Bob Sayre and Joni Kinsey were co-editors of that COMPLETELY FABULOUS

American-Studies-ish essay collection titled *Recovering the Prairie* (U Wisconsin Press 1998) in which Jane Simonson, Tom Lutz, and Shel Stromquist were also published. For Laura's other recent essay, titled "Black Work at the Polling Place: The Color Line in the County Election," see the Special Issue on Politics (Fall 2008) of the journal [*Common Place*](#).

Deborah Whaley did a workshop for this year's MAASA conference on hip-hop and the humanities (Spring 2009) which included a short image film she did titled "Pink": <http://twoturntablesandamicrophoneexhibition.blogspot.com/2009/01/march-2009-two-turntables-and.html>

She is also curating an upcoming exhibition with Kembrew McLeod, "Two Turntables and Microphone: Hip-hop Contexts Featuring Harry Allen's Part of the Permanent Record" (Spring 2010). An explanation of the history and setbacks of the exhibition because of the flood and changing venues may be found here: <http://twoturntablesandamicrophoneexhibition.blogspot.com/2009/01/reflections-on-two-turntables-and.html>

She will be presenting her paper: Graphic Blackness/Anime Noir: Aaron McGruder's *Boondocks* & the Adult Swim (Fall 2009) at this year's ASA.

To catch up with the latest of Deborah's book projects, articles, and book reviews, including excerpts, visit her blog: <http://dwhaley.blogspot.com>

Nick Yablon has seen his book gradually evolve from draft to edited manuscript to proofs, and is looking forward to seeing it in print this fall. The title is *Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of American Urban Modernity, 1819-1919* (University of Chicago Press). He has also started to receive the revised article manuscripts for his edited collection, *The Politics of Display: Essays in Honor of Neil Harris*.

In March, he participated in an OAH

(Continued on page 9)

Alumni News

Margot Krippner Canaday (BA '92) had her first book published by Princeton University Press — [The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America](#). She received her Ph.D. from The University of Minnesota, and is currently an assistant professor of history at Princeton University.

Nikki Darter (BA '03) graduated in May with a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law. She also became the mother to son Parker this spring.

Drake Hokanson (MA '88) and his wife of 30 years, Carol Kratz, had a book published last fall. [Purebred and Homegrown](#) is an affectionate and thoughtful look at the history of county fairs and their tradition and persistence today, despite the diminished number of Americans who earn their living from agriculture. The author-photographers traveled 40,000 miles across America from Maine to Alaska, from Georgia to California, visiting ninety county fairs in thirty-five states.

Clenora Hudson Weems (PhD '88 American Studies/Africana American World Studies) A Ford Doctoral Student and current Professor of English at the University of Missouri, her dissertation, "Emmett Till: The Impetus of the Modern Civil Rights Movement," was the first to resurrect and establish Till as the true catalyst of the CRM. Later, it was published (1994) as *Emmett Till: The Sacrificial Lamb of the Civil Rights Movement* (AuthorHouse, 2006). Since then, she has completed two more Till books, constituting a Till Trilogy: *The Definitive Emmett Till: Passion & Battle of a Woman for Truth & Intellectual Justice*, and *Plagiarism--Physical & Intellectual Lynchings: An Emmett Till Continuum*.

She has another trilogy on my theory of Africana Womanism: *Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves*, *Africana Womanist Literary Theory*, and *Africana Womanism & Race & Gender in the*

Presidential Candidacy of Barack Obama.

She was a featured speaker at the 1st Africana Womanism Society (AWS) Symposium, based on her theory of Africana Womanism, which was held this past spring in Pittsburgh.

Patrick Irelan (MA '74) will have his third book, *Reruns*, a collection of short stories, available at fine bookstores in September. More information is available at http://licecubepress.com/wordpress/?page_id=421

Dan Jones (PhD '84) was appointed president of Texas A&M University-Commerce. A&M-Commerce is a regional, doctoral-granting institution enrolling approximately 9,000 students. The main campus is in Commerce, about 60 miles northeast of Dallas, with remote sites throughout the Metroplex as well as a growing online program. The university was founded in 1889, and is Texas's fifth-oldest public university.

David Marcou III (MA '78) has directed/edited several anthologies during the past year. *Spirit of America, The Second Volume: Reading the Resilience of a Nation's Mosaic/Melting Pot Via Photographs*, and *Spirit of America, The Third Volume: The Life of Photo-Portraits in Our American Morning*. He also wrote the preface and did some of the photography for the book, as did his son, Matthew, and others.

David Marr (MA '67) recently retired from The Evergreen State College, where he taught from 1971-2008 and served as Academic Dean from 1984-1987. He received his PhD from Washington State University.

Dan Nathan (PhD '97) newly appointed Chair of Skidmore College's Department of American Studies, recently gave an invited lecture at Penn State University's Department of Kinesiology graduate Colloquium Series titled: "What the hell's the matter with a society that offers a *football coach* a million

dollars?": American Sports Fandom, Civic Identity and the Politics of Belonging." In July, he will be giving a keynote lecture at Sporting Traditions XVII, the biennial conference of the Australian Society for Sport History, in Wellington, New Zealand.

Sarah Webber Rodriguez (BA '94) will be a research fellow at Northwestern University in the Center for Bioethics, Science and Society working as part of the Oncofertility Consortium.

Jane Simonsen (PhD 01) Mike Augspurger ('01) and I are both still at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL and are both, for better or worse, taking on more administrative roles. This summer I'll begin co-directing Augustana's Honors Program, and Mike started his new position as Director of Advising this spring—a job that means he needs to work summers, much to his chagrin. I was delighted to work with Lauren, Cinda Nofzinger, and Gyorgy Toth this past April when MAASA cohosted CESA's "Identity and Technoculture" conference in Iowa City. MAASA is planning its spring 2010 conference at KU in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of *American Studies*. Mike has an essay on Archibald MacLeish forthcoming in *College Literature* and the *Annals of Iowa* will be publishing a revised version of an essay on the Mt. Pleasant asylum that I wrote for Joni Kinsey's "American City" seminar ten thousand years ago. We're looking forward to doing some work on our house this summer and harvesting tasty Iowa-grown tomatoes. Finally, we welcomed our third child, Tobias, on the infamous date of December 7, 2008. Tobias has already had the defining experience of riding in a horse-drawn buggy near Swisher.

(FACULTY NEWS—Continued from page 7)

panel on “American Ruins” in Seattle, together with some University of Iowa American Studies alumni, Eric Sandeen and Megan Nelson. He also made a trip to Cornell University to give an invited talk on the 1901 actuality film, “Building up and Demolishing the Star Theatre,” as part of a colloquium titled, “Mean Streets: Violence and the Cinematic City.” And he is looking forward to going to the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California, this coming winter, to present a paper at a symposium on “Ruins and Antiquities,” organized by Karen Halttunen and Seth Cotlar. All good opportunities to plug the book!

Meanwhile, he has been working on several new projects, also related to urbanism, temporality, and representation...but no more ruins!

Last but not least, at some point in the last few months he became associate professor.

(GRAD STUDENTS—Continued from page 4)

losophical Association; and a UI Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students research grant.

(GRAD STUDENT AWARDS—Continued from page 4)

Lewis & Clark Fund Award for Exploration and Fieldwork, presented by the American Philosophical Association; UI Executive Council of Graduate & Professional Students research grant

Obituaries

The Rev. Tori Rae Randall, B.A. 1983, in Amherst, Virginia on January 9, 2009 at the age of 48. A graduate of the Union Presbyterian School of Christian Education with a master of divinity degree, she was the pastor of three United Methodist churches, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Horeb and Ivy Hill, all under the Mt. Pleasant Charge.

Walter “Rick” Knupfer, Ph.D. 1989, on March 31, 2009, at the age of 59. The former Executive Director of the Michigan Humanities Council from 1998-2002, he previously directed Humanities Iowa. He was passionate about food and had an early career in the restaurant industry before earning his Ph.D. in American Studies at the UI.



Helpful links

Share your news with us at:

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

Donate to the Department of American Studies

www.givetoioowa.org/clas-ak

Thank you to our donors!

The University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Department of American Studies Honor Roll of Contributors

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni, faculty, and friends who contributed \$100 or more from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, to the Department of American Studies through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University. Contributors are listed alphabetically.

The Presidents Club permanently recognizes those who make gift commitments of \$40,000 or more to any area of the University. Corporations, foundations, and other organizations are recognized in The Presidents Club Associates. Members of The Presidents Club, the University's highest honor club for contributors, are recognized in **bold type**.

A (PC) follows the names of those who qualified for membership in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club Patrons Circle by contributing \$2,500 or more to any area in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. Contributors that have contributed \$1,000 through \$2,499 from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, qualify for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Club, which is indicated by a (DC) following their names.

Bennett-Smith, Stephanie M., Brielle, N.J.
 Ellbogen, Thomas D., Monroe, Conn.
 Hall, James C., Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 Johnson, Rebecca L., Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Kouidis, A. Paul, Auburn, Ala.
Kouidis, Virginia M., Auburn Ala.
 Lloyd, Franklin R., Dallas, Tex.
Pace, David E., Roseville, Minn. (PC)
Pace, Valerie Halverson, Roseville, Minn. (PC)
 Sandeen, Eric J., Laramie, Wyo.
 Sandeen, Susan S., Laramie, Wyo.
 Smith, Orin R., Brielle, N.J.
 State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa (PC)
 Williams, Bradley B., Altadena, Calif.

Additional donors:

Allen, Dr. Jeanne Thomas
 Coultrap-McQuin, Dr. Susan M.
 Deaton, Paul A.
 Furlan, Dr. Laura M.
 Herman, Peter G.
 Moeller, Mr. Aaron T.

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

For more information about private support for the Department of American Studies, contact the UI Foundation at the address or phone number listed below.

Adam Blind
 The University of Iowa Foundation
 Levitt Center for University Advancement
 P.O. Box 4550
 Iowa City, Iowa 52244-4550
 (319) 335-3305 or (800) 648-6973
 e-mail address: adam-blind@uiowa.edu

Contact us

Department of American Studies
 The University of Iowa
 210 Jefferson Building
 Iowa City, IA 52242
 319-335-0320 (phone)
 319-335-0314 (fax)

american-studies@uiowa.edu

Department chair: Kim Marra

Kim-marra@uiowa.edu