

The University of Iowa American Studies Newsletter

November 2001



Thanks-giving

Friends of the program both on and off campus have been especially complimentary in the past month about the newsletter and the successes and achievements of the American Studies department. It was especially gratifying to see several alums at the American Studies Association in Washington, D.C., and I have enjoyed reading the notes you write and the article reprints you send. We are happy to be part of your circle.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everyone who made a donation in the last 12 months to one of the American Studies Gift Funds (the general gift fund, the Albert E. Stone Fund, and the Alexander C. Kern American Studies Award Fund): **Dr. Daniel B. Boylan, Dr. Paul A. Deaton, Dr. James C. Hall, Dr. Richard Horwitz, Dr. Virginia Kouidis** (who wrote a nice note remembering how Alex Kern gave her money to do her dissertation research), **Mrs. Elizabeth A. Maves and Dr. Michael D. Maves, Dr. Jean R. Moss, Dr. Valerie Halvorson Pace and Mr. David E. Pace, Dr. Dorothy M. Paul, Dr. Lauren Rabinovitz and Mr. Greg Easley, Dr. Eric J. Sandeen, and Dr. Robert M. Urstein.**

Although I haven't written each donor an individual thank you, please accept the department's gratitude and recognition of your generosity. For those of you who made a special effort to contribute to the revitalized Albert E. Stone Fund, I hope you will be happy to hear that with renewed foundation funds, we are bringing Al Stone to Iowa City in April for a public interview about American studies and its role in the life of an intellectual, to be conducted by Rich Horwitz. It will be an occasion for a new generation of American Studies graduate students to meet and spend time stockpiling special moments with Al.

Lastly, kudos and special thanks to our newsletter editor **Laura Kastens**, who is responsible for making this regular communication so appealing and of continuing interest to you.



Kern Travel Awards

It is a pleasure to announce the recipients of the 2001-2002 Alexander Kern Travel Awards, made possible by the generosity of the late Professor Kern and his wife, Jean Kern. Professor Kern was the founder of American Studies at Iowa and chaired the Department until his retirement in 1975. Shortly before he and Mrs. Kern moved east in 1995 to be nearer their children, he established an endowment that provides annual awards to subsidize two kinds of travel expenses incurred by American Studies graduate students in their professional work. After Professor Kern's death in 1997, a number of his former students contributed additional funds to the endowment.

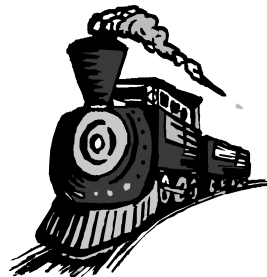
One award of \$500 was given this year to a student who was a presenter at the ASA meeting earlier this month. The original endowment also includes one award of \$500 to a dissertation writer who had need to work in an archive away from Iowa City.

The 2001-2002 recipient of the Kern Professional Travel award is Eriko Ogihara. Professor Robert Lee (Brown University) invited Eriko to present a paper at his "Made in U.S.A.: A Roundtable on International Students in American Studies Graduate Programs" at the ASA meeting on November 10 (see the text of her presentation on page 6).

The recipient of this year's Kern Dissertation Travel award is Russell Peterson. Russ's dissertation is concerned with the phenomenon of politically-themed jokes in late night television comedy. The Center for Media and Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., has been collecting data on this topic for a number of years and has compiled an array of materials of unique relevance and usefulness to his project. This award will allow him to conduct research there this coming spring.

The Kern awards support the important professional activities of American Studies graduate students and are an ongoing symbol for all of us in the Program of the heritage, intellectual as well as material, that Professor Kern bequeathed to us.

**AMERICAN STUDIES
CLASS RIDES THE
RAILS: SPACE. TIME
ANNIHILATED!**



By Sam Graber

On Saturday, September 22, a group of students and faculty hit the road and rode the rails on a field trip to the Boone and Scenic Valley Rail Road. The trip was a part of AS Seminar 45:260, "The Machine in the Garden, Technology and the Heartland," led by Professors Lauren Rabinovitz and Rich Horwitz. Spirits were high and coffee was in hand as the class boarded the van on a beautiful Saturday morning to go in search of a revolutionary technology from the past.

According to Wolfgang Schivelbusch, one of the featured authors of the course, the idea that the railroad annihilated space and time was a common nineteenth-century theme, but "must be seen as the reaction of perceptive powers that, formed by a certain transport technology, find suddenly that technology has been replaced by an entirely new one." Needless to say, reactions to such railway travel tend to be decidedly less

dramatic when one's perceptions have been shaped by high-speed freeways and jetliners. Most students found their ride on the Boone steam engine whimsical, relaxing, and enjoyable rather than earth shattering, and it was up to the conversation to provide stimulation. The modest Depot museum offered a historical context for the trip, but detailed analysis would have to wait for the following week's seminar discussion.

Disembarking from the train, the group split up. A small contingent headed back to Iowa City, but the majority drove on for dinner in Des Moines. These culinary adventurers returned with wild stories of Italian ambrosia, but those forced to dine on frozen pizza in Iowa City remained skeptical. On the whole the day allowed a welcome face-to-face encounter with the pastoral in Iowa's heartland.

Congratulations

American Studies senior Sarah Toton has been invited to accept membership in the Alpha of Iowa Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

ALUMNI NEWS

Derryn E. Moten (Ph.D. '97) has published "To Die in Dixie: Alabama and the Electric Chair," in *Alabama Heritage*, Fall 2001.

Shawn Peters (M.A. '95) published his first book, Judging Jehovah's Witnesses: Religious Persecution and the Dawn of the Rights Revolution, with the University Press of Kansas in April 2000. It received favorable reviews in a number of scholarly and mainstream publications, including the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of American History*, the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, and *USA Today*, which featured a long article on his research on its op-ed page. The book was nominated for several awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award, for which it was one of four finalists. The *Washington Post Book World* named Judging Jehovah's Witnesses a "Notable Book of the Year," and it won the preeminent national award for legal writing: the Scribes Book Award, presented by the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects. It also received Outstanding Achievement recognition from the Wisconsin Library Association as one of the best books published by a Wisconsin author in the year 2000.

His next book, on a religious liberty case involving the Amish in Wisconsin, will be published by Harvard University Press in the fall of 2002.

Dale Rigby (MA '90) "Bout time that Dale Rigby stops lurking and contributes to a newsletter that has been bringing back oodles of pleasant Iowa memories. I think I opted out with an American Studies MA in about '90, got my MA/W in '92, diddled around in the gypsy teaching life for awhile, before I met a fey Korean journalist, Jin Lee, which led to marriage and the finishing of my doctorate at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Right now finds me in my second-year of a tenure track position in Creative Nonfiction at Western Kentucky University. Can't see myself as a career Kentuckian, but it's a fine enough place to teach long as I don't start comparing it to Iowa City (which I am very prone to do). They are even giving me a chance to teach an American Studies course next year. Confirming my self-image as an essayist who doesn't know very much about anything in particular but can usually be trusted to know a little about a lot. Cheers to the many long lost friends I'm out of touch with. Maybe I'll

meet up with some of you at the 2nd annual Writing in the Academy conference in Iowa City next April!?"

Don Scheese (Ph.D. '91) has published Mountains of Memory: A Fire Lookout's Life in the River of No Return Wilderness, University of Iowa Press. BRAND-NEW! This is a memoir about his experiences as a fire lookout in Idaho's River of No Return Wilderness.

Leslie A. Taylor (Ph.D. '98) had "I Made Up My Mind to Get It": The American Trial of the *Well of Loneliness*, New York City, 1928-1929, published in the *Journal of History of Sexuality*, Vol. 10, No. 2, in April 2001.



New American Studies Courses Awarded Development Grants

Two new American Studies undergraduate courses have been selected by Interdisciplinary Programs for seed grant funding. This funding initiative offers development funds for research, travel, and other costs in preparing a new course that will be offered three times in the next few years. Eight awards are made annually.

Jane Desmond and Kim Marra won an award for *Performing America Queerly*. This new course will examine the relationship between performance and sexuality, looking at nineteenth and twentieth century performances both on and off-stage -- from the theater to film to drag shows to gay rights parades. The course will be first offered in Spring 2003. American Studies will cross-list it with Sexuality Studies and Theatre Arts.

Rob Latham won an award for *Sex and Popular Culture in the Contemporary US*, a new course that American Studies will cross-list with Sexuality Studies and English. This course will also be offered for the first time in Spring 2003.



Susan Birrell and Mary McDonald (Ph.D. 1995, now associate professor at Miami University) presented "Rethinking agency in postmodern times" at the annual meetings of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, in San Antonio, Oct 31-Nov 4.

Jane Desmond has just been appointed to the Editorial Board of the journal American Studies and would like to encourage all colleagues and advanced graduate students to submit work to this journal. And, her review article, "Making American Studies Dance" recently came out in the American Quarterly, the journal of the ASA, in its September, 2001 issue. In December, she'll be attending the meetings of the Chilean American Studies Association in Santiago, Chile.

Richard Horwitz presented a paper, "Relations Between 'Folk' and 'Expert' Knowledge of Climate Change," at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, in Anchorage, AK, October 20. In addition to meeting some scholars who shared his interest in integrating humanistic, scientific, policy approaches to environmental studies, he reports having had "one swell time" -- loading up on seafood, admiring the glaciers, mountains, and all, and jamming with local musicians. They ranged from the former director of the National Endowment for the Arts (Bill Ivey, who, Rich says, is "one heck of a fiddler") to day laborers for the Streets Department (also, he says, impressive on an array of stringed and reed instruments). A fiddler and a harmonium player invited him to join them for an after-theater gig at a coffee house one night, and on Saturday there was a marathon jam with moose chili, homemade cornbread, and local brew. (Lest anyone consider such pleasure an abuse, please note that none of his expenses was reimbursed from CLAS or Departmental funds.)

Rich also attended the ASA meeting in DC where he chaired a session on "Disease and Discourse." After the meeting he spent a day touring coastal environs with department alum Mike Lewis, who is now an Assistant Prof. at Salisbury State.

Lauren Rabinovitz attended an international conference on "Women and the Silent Screen" from Nov. 1-4 in Santa Cruz, California. She co-chaired a workshop on "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in Early Cinema."

In addition, the trip allowed her to do additional research on her amusement park project at the

Boardwalk, the 98-year old amusement park down the beach from the conference hotel : "I rode the roller coaster -- one of the best wooden roller coasters in the country, shot lots of photographs, studied the mechanical band organ, rode the merry-go-round, and grabbed for the brass ring. This is the first time in my career that my research LITERALLY meant grabbing for the brass ring!"

In addition, Lauren attended the American Studies Association conference in Washington, D.C. She demonstrated her new multi-media project, "Yesteryear's Wonderlands: How Amusement Parks Taught Modernism to America," at the conference as well as at a meeting at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lauren has received the 2002 Beckett-Baxter Lecture Award at Concordia University in Montreal. She will be in residency there from January 24-27 to deliver a public lecture and to lead a seminar.

John Raeburn has two articles in publication: "E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime* and American Cultural History," in the proceedings of the 2000 Summer Seminar in American culture sponsored by the State University of Moscow, Russia, pp. 41-45; and "Lost in the City: the New York of Berenice Abbott and Edward Hopper," in *The American Metropolis: Image and Inspiration* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2001), pp. 168-181.

Laura Rigal "I'm working on an essay on George Caleb Bingham's 3' X 4' painting *The County Election* of 1852, titled "Reading the Ballot in the Scene of Voting." It will be published by the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* in a forthcoming collection of essays on the history of the ballot. The paper was inspired by the Florida county elections, during the presidential race of 2000, and it originated at last summer's conference (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing) as part of a panel on "The Technology of Democracy: the Material History of the U.S. Ballot."

I presented another essay, "Imperial Attractions: Franklin's *New Experiments* of 1751," to the English Department at University of Pennsylvania on November 13, 2001. (This paper was written for *Memory Bytes*, the forthcoming volume of historical perspectives on American digital culture edited by Lauren Rabinovitz and Abraham Geil.)

And I'm chairing a panel and serving on the program committee at the March 2002 conference "From Bacon to Bartram: Early American Inquiries into the Natural World," organized by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. The conference will be held at the

American Museum of Natural History in New York. A draft of the conference schedule is available from the American Studies office for anyone interested in the history of science and early America."

Mary Dudziak, former UI professor of Law who is now at UCLA, has published the book she was working on while at Iowa regarding the central role of US foreign policy for formulating domestic civil rights policies during the Cold War -- a title that will be of interest to many of her former students and colleagues here: Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy (Princeton University Press).

Floating Fridays

November 30 Claire Fox (Associate Professor, English) will speak on "Cold War Cultural Policy and the Latin American Visual Arts."

January 25 William Bryant, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of American Studies, University of Iowa. "Nature as System: How the Ecosystem Concept Changed the Way Americans Think About Nature and Technology."

February 8 Michael Burk (Ph.D. '98) Director for Worship, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

February 22 Christine Pawley, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science The University of Iowa. "World of the Text . . . World of the Reader": Concretizing "Community" in the History of Print Culture.

March 1 Dr. Sonia Torres, Associate Professor at the Institute of Letters, Universidade Federal Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro. Vice-president of the International American Studies Association; former president of the Brazilian Association of American Studies. "Remembering the Alamo, Dismembering the Cowboy."

March 29 Chrys Poff, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of American Studies, University of Iowa. "The Western Ghost Town in American Culture, 1869-1950."

April 8-10 Albert E. Stone, Professor Emeritus, American Studies, University of Iowa.

April 19 Jackie Stewart, Assistant Professor, English, Cinema & Media Studies, African & African American Studies, University of Chicago. "Along the Stroll: Mapping Chicago's Black Film Culture, 1905-1920."

IFUSS TO HOST DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

Throughout spring 2002, the International Forum for U.S. Studies (IFUSS) will welcome several distinguished scholars to the University of Iowa. During their visits, which range from one week to two months, the scholars will conduct research, participate in the Ford Foundation's Crossing Borders Convocation (March 8-10, 2002), and give lectures on their areas of study. In addition, Dr. Sonia Torres will teach a special six-week course. Here is a brief introduction to the visiting scholars:

Dr. Kousar Azam is Professor of Political Science at Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. Her teaching and research interests include International Relations, Defense and Strategic Studies, and American Studies. From 1995-2000, she served as Senior Academic Fellow at the American Studies Research Center, now renamed as the Indo-American Center for International Studies, which hosted the March 2000 conference "Rediscovering American Studies" in Hyderabad attended by Dr. Desmond, Dr. Dominguez, and three UI American Studies graduate students. Dr. Azam was an IFUSS Fellow in 1999 and is returning to the University of Iowa in 2002 to participate in the Crossing Borders Conference.

Dr. Sabine Broeck, Professor of English and American Studies and Vice President for International Relations at the University of Bremen, will attend the Crossing Borders Convocation and discuss possibilities for establishing transnational collaborative research projects with IFUSS.

Dr. Eva Federmayer is Professor of American Studies at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary. A Keller Foundation grant recipient and IFUSS affiliate scholar, she will conduct research on her specialty area of African American literature and culture while in Iowa.

Dr. Leslie Marx is Professor of Literature at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She will visit Iowa in March to participate in the Crossing Borders Convocation.

Dr. Makarand Paranjape is Professor of English in the Centre for Linguistics and English, School of Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. (He received his Ph.D. from Univ. of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana). A well-known and regarded literary and cultural critic in India, he is the author of over 70 publications in scholarly journals in India and abroad. Dr. Paranjape recently was a guest lecturer in Drs. Desmond and Dominguez's Crossing Borders seminar on Foreign Scholarship in the U.S., and he will be returning to Iowa in April to conduct research on American Literature. In addition, he will be giving a public lecture co-sponsored by IFUSS and the South Asian Studies Program.

Dr. Lilea Rilea is currently Dean of Languages at Moldova State University. She has received a Fulbright grant to study at the University of Iowa under IFUSS' sponsorship as an affiliate scholar. Dr. Rilea will be working on developing American Studies curriculum for a new M.A. program in American Studies at her institution.

Dr. Christopher Saunders teaches in the History Department at the University of Cape Town. He first visited the University of Iowa in the spring of 2000 with the Crossing Borders "Reciprocal American Studies" program, and he hosted the visit of UI faculty and graduate students to UCT this past August. Dr. Saunders' current research involves comparative racial politics of the United States

and South Africa. He is the editor of the new journal *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Comparative Studies*.

R.S. SHARMA is Professor Emeritus, Department of English, and Dean Faculty of Arts, from Osmania University. One of the pioneers of American Studies in India, he has contributed to American Studies curriculum development in Indian universities. He is returning to the University of Iowa as part of the Crossing Borders delegation to South Africa and will participate in the Crossing Borders convocation in March.

Dr. Sonia Torres is Associate Professor at the Institute of Letters, Universidade Federal Fluminense, where she teaches English Language Literatures and Hispanic Literatures. She is also former president of the Brazilian Association of American Studies, and is currently Vice-President of the International American Studies Association. As an IFUSS Fellow, Dr. Torres will teach a special six-week course titled "America: Crossed Gazes, Close Encounters," which will focus on different national identity discourses as they are defined through representations of space, such as the domestic sphere, "contact zones," metropolitan spaces, and the open road. In addition, she will be delivering a lecture titled: "Remembering the Alamo, Dismembering the Cowboy" as part of the American Studies colloquium series.

More information on the lectures and opportunities for meeting with them will be forthcoming. Please direct questions to ifuss@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu.

From: "Made in the USA: A Roundtable on International Students in American Studies Graduate Programs"

Eriko Ogihara

American Studies Department, University of Iowa

In reflecting on myself as a Japanese graduate student, I began to notice that my experience could be considered unique. Although I was born in Japan, I lived in Singapore for six years of my teenage life and was educated in Singapore American School thus simultaneously exposed to both Japanese and Singaporean culture. Then I returned to Japan to obtain a B.A. in Literature and M.A. in Education; now I'm in the States pursuing Ph.D. in American Studies. This experience of transgressing different educational, social and linguistical systems shapes my view as an international student.

The American Studies Department at the University of Iowa has been the right place for a person like me, someone who often feels estranged from local propriety, from “my” nationality and language no less than academic convention. Much as interdisciplinarity serves American Studies, developing English as a second language and studying outside Japan have been liberating me. I’m now simply one of the bunch of many different people who take courses in different departments, who experience both the fear and excitement which come from their differences among others, and who can synthesize divergent ideas. I’m surprised, however, to find out that my experience in the American Studies Department is not necessarily representative of international students in other departments. Some international students told me that being an international student is absolutely a burden. This knowledge increased my appreciation of the environment generated specifically in American Studies in which being an international student becomes merely one of many differences among individuals.

I appreciate the interactive nature of the academic environment at the University of Iowa. There are three types of interactions that I specifically want to stress. The first is between professors and students. Professors really care about what their students are doing, and what they say. As an international student, this is something I admire as the essence of the American educational settings in general. For example, three weeks ago, each second-year graduate student met with the American Studies professors to review and approve his/her plan of study. One of my professors called it “an advice session” where I would get “tons of advice” from all the American Studies professors about my plan that I had been working on for so long. That was true! All the professors came to the meeting, read my plan, and gave me constructive feedback from different perspectives. I was so impressed because I’d never had such an experience before. All graduate students are obliged to be responsible for their own decisions and plans, but the additional opportunity of seeking professors’ suggestions and evaluations is a special example of the student-professor interaction that I find very helpful.

The second situation that I want to address is the classroom setting. One of the most astonishing experiences I had last year when I came to Iowa was noticing American students’ ability to read one book per class per week, embark on discussions smoothly and respond to their peers’ opinions promptly. By putting forth my maximum efforts, all I could do was speak once or twice in each discussion. The reason was not solely because of my English ability—it was more complicated than that. In the Japanese university where understanding the materials we were reading was of a higher priority than participating in the discussions, there was pressure to avoid speaking without a complete understanding of the materials. As a result, one book per week was never assigned and it was simply unrealistic especially if we were to read a text written in English. Because of the priority on the deep understanding of the materials, students were often required to translate texts from other languages into Japanese, which further slowed down our reading process. For example, we could spend one whole class deciphering a single paragraph from *The Scarlet Letter*. In fact, this close reading experience was very helpful to me because through this experience I gained a great respect for language. But I still think this habit must be well balanced with the American approach (which I call “efficient”) which focuses on capturing the arguments in broad terms.

The third example of the interactive nature of American education that I have noticed at the University of Iowa is the willingness of both the professors and the students to seriously respond to students’ and their peers’ papers. I always appreciate my professors’ comments and suggestions on any papers that I hand in. Sometimes I get pages of comments on a short paper, and sometimes I get a very critical review of a paper. Both of them help me see whether I really understand what I’ve written. When I was in Japan, there were only a few professors who would respond to my term papers so vigorously; indeed I was one of a few students who were lucky to encounter such professors. Some Japanese professors were hesitant to respond to their papers because they thought they would end up destroying or intruding upon the students’ own writing styles. They believed that through this process the writing becomes somebody else’s. Teaching about America in Japan, however, can mean teaching the English language. By teaching how to write in English while being insightful about the difference in the writing styles between languages, I would like to help my future students minimize the gap between their native language and non-native language ability, or the illusion that they can think and write in their native language better than in non-native language. For this purpose, special training in how to assist non-native English speakers to improve their English and build their confidence about the quality of their work in English will be helpful.

Finally, what is another kind of interaction that I can contribute to this environment that is giving so much to me? In addition to confidently proposing perspectives and opinions like my American friends do, there is something which I think is very important and that I'm willing to do in the near future. That is embodied in what one Japanese graduate instructor did recently. On the very first day of the class this semester, he bravely announced the following statement to his undergraduate class: "I know my English does not sound like yours, but please listen to me. In the near future you'll encounter people from all over the world who try to communicate with you in your language and you should not isolate yourself from the global network. If you don't understand what I say, just ask me to repeat. I'm happy to do so until all of you get my point." I believe that there are so many things I can do for undergraduates during their first year of their college life, which is the crucial moment when many of them encounter racial, linguistic and ethnic diversity for the first time in their life. As an international instructor, I wish to offer the gift of enriching this encounter through my confident attitude towards them.

(The above paper was presented at the 2001 American Studies Association Meeting.)



FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, Research Grants, 2002-2003

This collaboration of fifteen major cultural agencies will offer at least eight awards in 2002-2003. Visit their website at www.masshist.org/fellowships.html for complete information. **Deadline: February 1, 2002.**

Research Fellowships at the Massachusetts Historical Society, 2002-2003.

The Massachusetts Historical Society will offer two kinds of fellowships in 2002. Visit their website at <http://www.masshist.org/fellowships.html> for complete information. **Deadline: January 15, 2002.**

The Winterthur Fellowships 2002-2003 The Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library welcomes applications for residential research fellowships in: American Art, Material Culture & Design, and American History. Applications are welcome from professors, museum and public history professionals, doctoral students, and independent scholars. Visit www.winterthur.org for information and application forms. **Deadline: January 15, 2002.**

Historic Deerfield, A Museum of New England History and Art, 2002 Summer Fellowship Program in *Early American History* and *Material Culture*. For UNDERGRADUATES only. To learn more about the program, or request an application, visit: www.deerfield-fellowship.org **Deadline: March 1, 2002.**

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum seeks an intern for the Kerr Center for Chesapeake Studies' Folklife and Oral History program. Interns will work with the Maryland Traditions database of folk artists and events. Interns will conduct fieldwork on the Eastern Shore, assist in the documentation of folklife and folk arts and implement educational programs using the current artist roster. Documentation methods include digital audio, digital video and photography.

Interns will also process fieldwork materials for the Museum archive and the Maryland Traditions database. Interns participate in public program development, community research and maintaining museum relationships with folk artists, local organizations and community members.

Candidates should be graduate students or advanced undergraduate students with a major in Folklore, Public History or related field. Internships are available for 13 weeks-26 weeks in Spring 2002 and Summer 2002. Please send a resume and cover letter to Shelly Drummond, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, P.O. Box 636, St. Michaels, MD 21663-0636. Electronic resumes may be sent as a Word attachment with a letter of interest to sdrummond@cbmm.org.

Princeton University The Anschutz Distinguished Fellowship in American Studies will be awarded in the spring term of 2003 to a writer, critic, journalist, musician, artist, or other contributor to the arts, letters or commerce—not necessarily an academic scholar—who is interested in spending either the fall or spring semester at Princeton. The Anschutz Fellow is expected to teach one undergraduate seminar for the American Studies Program and deliver one public lecture to the University. Apply by

February 15, 2002. For additional information check the program website: <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/amstudies>

CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

MAASA Conference 2002 will take place in St. Louis from April 4-6, 2002. The theme of the meeting is Americans Study Their Environments. The program committee encourages the submission of papers and other presentations on the relation of environment to culture in America, as well as on the way Americans have reflected on that relation throughout their history. However, as is always the case with MAASA, the program committee welcomes papers and complete sessions on any aspect of American Culture. **Deadline: January 18, 2002.**

Matthew Mancini
Department of American Studies
Saint Louis University
3800 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

"Let America Be America Again": An International Symposium on the Art, Life & Legacy of Langston Hughes February 7-10, 2002, University of Kansas
<http://www.kuce.org/hughes>

Society of German-American Studies (SGAS) The 26th Annual symposium of the SGAS will be held April 18-22 in the Amana Colonies. Membership Chair and Treasurer Bill Roba (an alum of the UI American Studies Department) invites session proposals. For further information see <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/sgasin.html> or <http://www.uiowa.edu/~humiowa/br-1212001.htm>

symposiums

Lectureship in American Studies (tenure track)

Autumn 2002. The School of English and American Studies at the University of East Anglia invites applications for a full-time, permanent post in American Studies with an emphasis on the 20th and/or 19th century literature and culture. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to teaching across the full range of American literature, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, and to contribute significantly to the teaching of contemporary American writing. We are particularly interested in scholars whose research and teaching interests include one or more of the following: 19th-century American literature and culture, contemporary American literature, American poetry. Additional expertise in African-American literature and culture, diasporic or ethnic studies, critical race theory and/or postcolonial theory is desirable. The successful candidate will have a PhD in hand or soon to be awarded and will have demonstrated a strong commitment to research and publication.



The School of English and American Studies is a large and thriving Inter-disciplinary school that houses English and European literature, Film Studies, Drama, and Creative Writing in addition to American Studies, offering many opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and research. Located in the beautiful medieval city of Norwich, UEA is only an hour and forty minutes by train from London.

This job will be formally advertised at the end of November. If you are interested in receiving full details, please email: julia.crook@uea.ac.uk

University of California, Riverside announces a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in New Media Studies, to start July 1, 2002. Theory, history, aesthetics, political economics, and the social implications of new media technologies. Possible areas of interest include the internet and the Web, multimedia and interactive art, virtual reality, hypertext narrative, MUDs and MOOs, information technology, video and computer games, and digital video and television. Production skills and innovative multimedia pedagogy are desirable. Ph.D. at time of appointment is required, as are a record or promise of research publication, teaching experience, and dedication to teaching excellence. Applications are due November 26, 2001 and should include an application letter, curriculum vitae, 20 page, double-spaced writing

sample, and 3 letters of recommendation sent by the referees or in the educational placement file. Creative work also welcome. Candidates will be interviewed Dec. 27-30 at the Modern Language Association convention in New Orleans.

George Haggerty, Chair
 Department of English-40
 U.C. Riverside
 Riverside, CA 92521

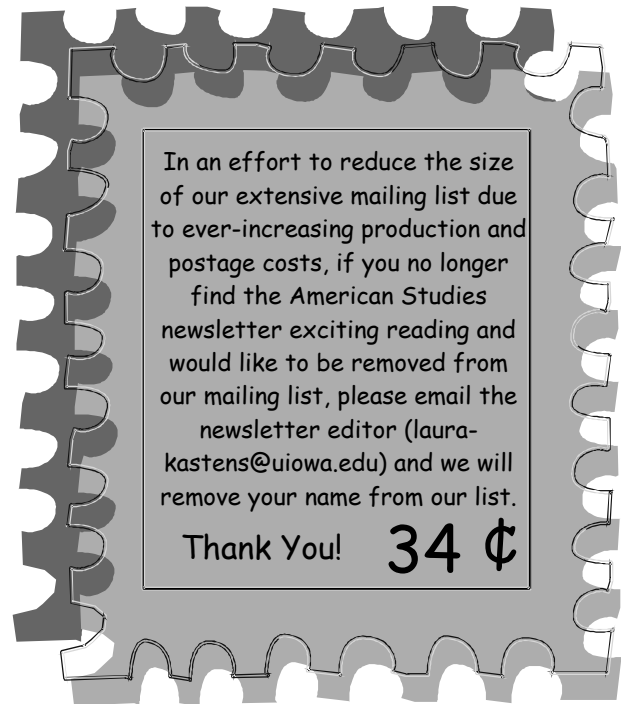
University of Southern California calls your attention to three position openings. The program is inviting applications in the areas of Chicano/Latino/a Studies and African American Studies. The URL for the faculty search announcement is:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/pase/Frames/NEWS/job.htm>

Deadlines vary for each position, but generally are November 30 or December 3.

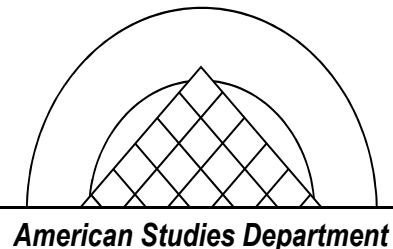
University of Washington at Seattle invites applications or nominations for a tenure track position in African American Studies. Candidates should approach AAS, broadly defined, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Preference will be given to candidates in African American and African diaspora literary studies or African American literature and comparative American ethnic literacy studies. Other areas will be considered including sociology, history, cultural studies, or other social science area. **Deadline: November 30, 2001**

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CORRECTION from SUMMER Newsletter:

We incorrectly reported the foreign exchange agency supervised by Ningping Yu (PhD, 99) from Nanjing University in China: it should be CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange). Ningping also writes, "I am so glad to read about the newsletter. I am homesick for Iowa City! Please include me in the [summer] reading group. I am interested."



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American Studies Alumni

We'd love to hear what you're doing, where you're living/teaching, what you're publishing and/or writing, interesting events in your life. Please take a moment to drop us an email (laura-kastens@uiowa.edu) and we'll include your news in the February 2002 newsletter.

In addition, next summer (2002) we'll publish a directory of MA alumni students as we did with Ph.D. alumni this past summer in a special edition of the newsletter. If you received your MA from The University of Iowa American Studies Department, please help us out and drop us a line letting us know where you are and what you're doing, as well as the year you received your MA.

Lastly, let us know if it's OK to give your email address to old friends who may ask for it. We've had some requests!

Happy Holidays!



Old Capitol Dome Burns

The landmark gold dome of the Old Capitol building was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, November 20.

Iowa City fire marshal Roger Jensen estimated that the fire caused \$1.5-2 million in damages. He said the exact cause of the fire has not yet been determined pending additional interviews with eyewitnesses.

Jensen said a concrete firewall, installed between the roof and the dome structure during a 1920s-era restoration project, was critical in preventing the flames from reaching the building below. "The fire was precariously close to igniting a great supply of heavy timber below the dome, the big, heavy timbers that are the construction beams in the building," Jensen said. "There would have been a great deal of energy released had the fire gotten going in that attic space. He said there is significant water damage in the middle of the building, directly below the dome area, but the House and Senate Chambers escaped serious damage.

George Hollins, UI director of design and construction, said that while reconstructing the dome and cupola is still a long way off, the project will be aided by the fact that pieces of the original cupola trim had been removed during the restoration project. Having those pieces intact, he said, will be a tremendous help in recreating the original design.

At the time of the fire, the Old Capitol dome and exterior surfaces were undergoing an \$895,000 renovation consisting, in part, of some 12,000 feet of wooden surfaces. The work involved stripping old paint, repairing broken and rotten wood and recoating the wooden portions of the building. Also included were removal of asbestos, placement of new liners for gutters, repair of flashing installation of attic vents and other work.

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