

# The University of Iowa American Studies Newsletter

April 2001

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## Springtime Speculations

Two subjects have recently sparked particularly lively discussion in steering committee meetings.

(1) International issues: Early on this year, we identified the growth of American Studies conceptualized as an international subject one of our top priorities. Our curriculum strongly reflects this next year with both undergraduate and graduate courses devoted to thinking about the U.S. in a global and international context. But we did not foresee some other significant developments.

In particular, while the number of our overall applications for graduate school is "way down," the number of foreign applicants has dramatically increased. This means that approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of this year's applications came from foreign applicants (this percentage was duplicated in other Iowa humanities departments and American Studies programs nationally). Such a demographic shift offers new opportunities but also new challenges: evaluating credentials from a wide range of schools worldwide is more difficult than making judgments about U.S. universities with which we are familiar; we depend upon teaching assistantships to support our graduate students, and some foreign students may require different periods of experience in the U.S. before they are ready to be certified to teach in English; we need to rethink our sense of mission – who we are trying to train and for what purposes.

In addition, we received a record number of requests to host foreign Fulbright non-degree scholars and to establish formal exchange programs with foreign universities. We have the opportunity to make a real contribution to the future of universities abroad, but we have to do some soul searching first. It is clear that we can neither support every request nor simply respond on an ad hoc basis – we have to think about our goals and priorities. I think it's important to report this here to the American Studies community because we are experiencing a profound event in U.S. graduate education – for the first time, humanities graduate programs are facing their biggest demand from abroad. Perhaps, this is entirely appropriate for the age in which we live. But we will need to decide what this means for how we run our program. At Iowa, we're awaiting the return of Profs. Jane Desmond from Hungary and John Raeburn from the Netherlands, whose time spent teaching abroad will surely provide beneficial perspectives for discussions on this subject that will preoccupy us next fall.

(2) The literature(s) of American Studies. Everyone who goes through graduate training (and beyond) in American Studies seeks that Holy Grail...the method of "doing" American Studies. If that has been a constant in our field over the years, what has changed is the voluminous literature devoted to defining, theorizing, defending, and strategizing American Studies. "Classical models" (e.g., Henry Nash Smith's *The Virgin Land*, Leo Marx's *The*

Machine in the Garden, RWB Lewis's *The American Adam*, Alan Trachtenburg's *The Brooklyn Bridge*) may still be read but may just as often be sidestepped for both a secondary literature that discusses and critiques influential scholarship and a growing tertiary literature that reinvigorates old debates and critiques within recent topical concerns and political positions. The question is not "Where is the American Studies tradition?" but "how can I possibly embrace ALL of it?"

The American Studies Graduate Student Association asked the steering committee to consider ways to more thoroughly permeate the graduate educational experience with this literature. I expect this to be an ongoing project, but several efforts are being exerted:

- A. As has been true for the past 15 years, all graduate students are required to take two semesters of Theory and Practice of American Studies. We have periodically fine tuned this course, and we are probably due for another such tune up, based on open discussion with the graduate students next year.
- B. Pat Naick and Sam Graber are organizing a summer reading "e" course on the literature of American Studies, based on one held a few years ago with Russ Peterson, Norbert Sarsfield, and Megan Nelson and led by Rich Horwitz. What is exciting about this project – one I hope will become a tradition carried on by groups of students and faculty every summer – is that new technology makes it possible to carry on weekly book reviews and daily discussions among a small group even when they are not all in town.
- C. I will offer a two month short course for 1 credit next fall, "The Machine in the Garden: Technology and the American Heartland," that will take up some influential American Studies readings in the context of field trips to the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, Plum Grove Historic Site, and the UI Theater Dept's musical adaptation of *O Pioneers*. This is our second annual September-October short course that can offer something special to enhance the regular curriculum.
- D. Faculty have expressed interest in establishing a reading group during the regular academic year.
- E. Laura Rigal and Abe Geil hope to develop at least one Floating Friday session next year – perhaps a roundtable or workshop – on this subject. (In the meantime, several Floating Fridays this year offered opportunities to see how American Studies faculty and scholars "practice" American Studies. Discussions following talks have been particularly revealing; participants have instinctively broached broader questions about approaches and practices of cultural analysis. FF sessions are a particularly good way to deepen one's understanding of theories and methods of American Studies.)
- F. The steering committee acknowledges the importance of offering graduate seminars on this subject beyond the one required of first and second year graduate students. We will try to work on planning this within the other constraints of our curriculum.
- G. The American Studies Association and the Mid-America American Studies Association annual meetings are great crash courses on this subject.
- H. Lastly...discovering the literatures of American Studies is a lifelong project and one that cannot and need not be done entirely for "credit." Everyone individually pursues this enterprise. I would welcome hearing from alums and others not currently enrolled in courses about what works are particularly influential on them now.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the graduate admissions process – the selection committee and everyone who advised and helped out prospective students. We will welcome five new graduate students in August. . . . Thank you to everyone who made this year's newly revamped Floating Friday lecture series such an astounding success and so much fun. Thanks especially to speaker organizers Laura Rigal and Abe Geil, reception hosts Barb Shubinski and Sam Graber, Laura Kastens for an amazing publicity effort, all the speakers but

especially Shirley Wajda and her helpers for an effort that included a banquet of Martha Stewart hors d'oeuvres and Alison Kibler for her graciousness as the first Albert E. Stone Distinguished Alumnus Speaker. Thank you to everyone who attended: the mix of faculty, archivists and librarians, students, alums, and interested Iowans made me feel part of an especially vibrant community.

Additional thank you's to everyone who has helped me during my first year as chair of the department, to everyone who has written me (I love hearing from you), and to everyone who has offered support in a variety of ways. It has been an emotional year, especially due to a death in my family, and many of you have been both supportive and forgiving of my several lapses. I am happy to state publicly that, much to my surprise, I am really enjoying this job! I look forward to what we can accomplish together next year.

Oh yes. Everyone here will literally be spring cleaning soon since "the move" is scheduled for May 21. Phone numbers will remain the same, but the new departmental address will be: 701 Jefferson Building. We'll hold a pent-house warming party when school begins in August. Have a good summer, everyone!

## UI American Studies Department Travels to MAASA

American Studies grad students and faculty traveled to this year's Mid-America American Studies Association conference, held in Madison, Wis. April 20-21. Rich Horwitz, Jaap van der Bent, Mike Augspurger, Kevin Quirk, and Jane Simonsen all were part of panels at the conference, and Barb Shubinski valiantly performed her duties as graduate student representative on the MAASA board. First-year Sam Graber had a reunion with his former professor, James "Dr. America" Farrell, and his questions during post-panel discussions suggest he may be presenting next year. Jane Simonsen's acceptance speech for her paper award at the conference luncheon was brief and jubilant: "You like me! You really like me!" Everyone indulged in Madison's plentiful and varied culinary offerings. While Rich was thwarted in his attempt to procure some smoked carp on the trip up due to flooding, it is rumored that his meal at a Nepalese restaurant on State Street proved to be one of the best he's ever eaten. The graduate students also enjoyed the fine view and large beers available at Madison's lakefront

Union Terrace. As always, the intimate and relaxed atmosphere at MAASA provided a great conference experience for graduate student presenters as well as seasoned faculty.

## *Congratulations*

**Leslie Abadie** and husband John joyfully welcomed daughter Thea Julian Boyne on Saturday, April 7. Mother and baby are doing great!

**Kirsten Bland, Jonathan Hansen, and Deborah Eve Lombard** were admitted to Ph.D. candidacy.

**Michael Wiseman** held a successful Ph.D. defense on March 7.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Mike Burke** (Ph.D. '98) has been named the Director for Worship for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. His degree in American Studies was seen as a real plus in the interviews. In that sense, he is clearly working "within the field." He'll soon be moving to Chicago.

**Gregory Conerly** (Ph.D. '97), assistant professor of history at Cleveland State University, recently had two articles published in an anthology edited by Delroy Constantine-Simms, The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities (Alyson 2001). The articles are "Are You Black First or Are You Queer" and "Swishing and Swaggering: Homosexuality in Black Magazines During the 1950s."

**Drake Hokanson** (MA '88) "is assistant professor in the mass communication department at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota, where I teach both journalism and photo communication classes. We've got some 300 majors and a very active program. I've been at WSU for four years. I have very good students.

I'm working on a couple of book projects, the first being a broad (and prolonged, as it turns out) look at the American county fair, its traditions, its current practices, its changes as agriculture changes. I'm working on this project with co-author and wife Carol Kratz, and in the last several summers we've attended some 80 fairs in 35 states. The research has perks; Carol was tapped to be wild blueberry pie judge at the Deltana Fair in Alaska last summer. We've done some speaking and have written a chapter called "Watching for the Ferris Wheel" in Agricultural Fairs in America: Tradition, Education, Celebration, ed. Julie Avery. And it's been great fun.

I'm also working on a book of essays about the nature of travel and the nature of the machines that take us; stay tuned for details. I also continue to work on a large body of photographs of the Great Plains from Montana to Texas. I keep thinking I'll get the job done, but always want to take off again for a

few weeks and camp in the sandhills of Nebraska with the excuse that I want to take photographs. I get to Iowa City about every other summer to teach in the Iowa Summer Writing Festival."

**Catherine M. Lewis** (Ph.D. '97) recently curated an exhibition entitled "The Masters: Then and Now" at Augusta National Golf Club for the 2001 Tournament (April 2-8, 2001). This project grew out of the permanent exhibition, "Down the Fairway with Bobby Jones," at the Atlanta History Center and her book, Considerable Passions: Golf, the Masters and the Legacy of Bobby Jones. Next year focuses on Bobby Jones's 100th birthday and, of course, Tiger's win. Though golf is only one of her interests (she is still an Assistant Prof. of English and History at Brenau University), it is certainly her most visible one, allowing her to act as a public historian on radio talk shows. In the fall, she is teaching a Sport and American Culture class, lamenting that she no longer shares office space with Dan Nathan (Ph.D. '97) who was such a good source for sports info.

**Dan Nathan** (Ph.D. '97) recently completed his fourth year as a visiting assistant professor of American Studies and history at Miami University. In the fall he will be the Fulbright Professor of North American Studies at the University of Tampere in Tampere, Finland. He has essays forthcoming in *American Studies* and the *Journal of American Studies*, and film and book reviews forthcoming in the *Journal of Sport History*. In addition, his review of F. X. Toole's *Rope Burns: Stories from the Corner* can be found on-line at [www.sportsjones.com](http://www.sportsjones.com). At long last, Dan and Susan Taylor are to be married. The ceremony will be this May in Oxford, Ohio.

**Natalie Robertson** (Ph.D. '96) delivered a slide-presentation titled "Slave-Trade Protocol In West Africa: The Fascinating Case Of Dahomey" at the conference of the National Associations of African-American Studies held in Houston in February.

Her article titled "Zion Poplars Baptist Church, Rooted In 135 Years Of History And Culture" was accepted for publication in *Heritage Matters*, a magazine of the National Park Service.

In March, she received Honorary Membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society, Hampton University Chapter, for her commitment to higher education and her outstanding job in her capacity as Assistant Professor of History.

**Jay Satterfield** (Ph.D. '99) "Last month I completed revising my dissertation, "'The World's Best Books': Taste, Culture, and the Modern Library," for the University of Massachusetts Press "Studies in Print Culture & the History of the Book" series. UMass expects publication in late-spring to mid-summer 2002. In the meantime, I have started work on an exhibition to be held at the University of Chicago Library exploring the University of Chicago's long and fascinating relationship with the "Great Books" and the "Great Ideas" of Mortimer Adler and Robert Hutchins. The exhibition is slated for May-September 2002."

**Sharon Wood** (Ph.D. '94) served as program coordinator of the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha this past March. At least two people with UI American Studies connections presented papers: Matthew Pustz and Barbara Shubinski. Sharon will be running the next conference as well, and would be delighted to have more American Studies participation (see call for papers section of the newsletter). Anyone who'd like to know more may reach her at MVHC@uomaha.edu.

**Ningping Yu** (Ph.D.'99) Her translation of Frank Mort's book, Cultures of Consumption: Masculinities and Social Space in Late Twentieth-Century Britain (London and New York: Routledge, 1996), is being published by Nanjing University Press in June 2001. She hopes to introduce UI American Studies works to Chinese students in the future. Recommendations of books, articles, etc. are welcome.

*American Studies Alumni - We'd love to hear what you're doing and where you're living. Please take a moment to drop us an email!*

## Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

by Eliot Blake  
eblake@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

As a number of readers know, I was one of the ten contestants on the April 3rd episode of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." I do not have any false modesty about this; like Homer Simpson after he bowled a 300 game, I have been dining out on this one for weeks. Having been asked to share some of my tiny thoughts on the experience, I offer them here. Anyone wanting more background and suggestions is welcome to drop me a line; I've written a longish essay for friends and family that goes into more detail.

If, deep down inside you there lurks even a microscopic desire to be on the show, and you haven't tried to get on: for heaven's sake, do it; after all, the questions are right up an Americanist's alley. The moment you get word you're a contestant, you've won -- not money, necessarily (I didn't get squat and was lucky to remember my own name), but a surreal, all-expense-paid journey to the other side of the fourth wall.

It helps to have an unhealthy obsession with trivia and a lingering desire to cash in on it. I'd done so in the past (total winnings: several hundred dollars in bar tabs and a pair of Hooters boxer shorts), so when the whole "Millionaire" thing started, I read the contestant rules, did the odds in my head, and added the toll-free number to our speed dial. I figured it would be just a matter of time before I got the promised round-trip ticket for two and free accommodations that, in turn, would enable us to visit our relatives in NYC without having to shell out a pile of dough.

So off and on, I would play the automated phone game, which originally involved three fastest finger-style trivia questions. Correctly answering all three in the time limit put players in a random drawing to play a second round. (The rules have recently been revised; in brief, there are now five questions and no second round.) Randomly selected for a second phone round held March 12, I found out that evening we were going on a show taping one week later.

The show sends a stretch Town Car and chauffeur (complete with fancy hat!) to pick you up at LaGuardia and gives you \$150 and a free t-shirt with the show logo on one side and "CONTESTANT" on the other. (I plan to wear mine at my next state funeral.) Here's the catch: \*you have to be on the show.\* Which is cool, because you can, like, get actual money; on the other hand, you can get so anxious about it that you don't have any fun. Happily, we decided to treat the whole thing like some Adventureland ride, hanging on for dear life and trying not to barf from all the excitement.

For anyone remotely concerned with contemporary popular culture, it's a fascinating look at the production process in action. There's too much to relate here; one of the most eye-opening things was how young the production staff is, given that the show's demographics skew older. They're all so perky and likable you'd almost think they were working for Disney. Having come to their positions through months and years of interning, the staff naturally tends to come from the same geographically and economically narrow background. (You think, good grief, there really \*are\* people like the cast of "Friends.") Regis himself is pretty cool, and the taping itself manages to be both thrilling and ridiculous.

Afterwards, when people find out you're on the show, you get old acquaintances and total strangers calling you just because your name was on TV. It's much easier than going to a reunion, and you get to meet Regis.

## GRAD STUDENT NEWS

The International Forum for U.S. Studies presented a panel chaired by Dr. Jael Silliman from Women's Studies, entitled "When 'Area Studies' Moves Abroad: Researching 'American Studies' in India" at the Crossing Borders Convocation "The Global Importance of Being Local" held March 2-4. **Sharon Romeo** read "When the Object of Study Moves Abroad" a preface written by Dr. Jane Desmond and Dr. Virginia Dominguez that will appear in the next issue of the Indian Journal of American Studies. **Leslie Abadie** presented "Talking America(n)

Studies: Indian and U.S. Scholars and Students," and **Kristin Solli** gave a paper entitled "The Local Uses of Knowledge: American Studies in Norway and India." The convocation as a whole presented lots of interesting, and in fact, sane, debates about the challenges and possibilities that the processes that are often collectively referred to by the nebulous term "globalization," present for the study of culture.

**Barb Shubinski** read a paper at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha in March. The paper was called "The Anthropological Lens: Documentary Photography, American History and the Concept of Culture in the 1930s."

**Jane Simonsen** was awarded the MAASA Graduate Student Essay prize for her paper, "Standing at the Gateway: Angel De Cora and the Leupp Indian Arts Studio." This is the first year the award has been given, and Iowa students should attempt to establish a dynasty.

Jane will be working next year as Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Central Arkansas Honors College in Conway, Arkansas. Mike Augspurger will be working as Conway's premier independent scholar and relishing his return to the long springs and falls of the Mid-South.

**Kristin Solli** presented "Twangin' the Vernacular: Country Music and National Identity in Norway" at the James F. Jacobsen Graduate Student Forum on March 30th arranged by the Graduate Student Senate here at the University of Iowa. Her paper won 2nd place in the Humanities division, which meant that she actually won money (a good chunk of it too)! By the way, in addition to giving out money, the Forum is a great place for graduate students to practice giving papers in a benign and supportive setting.





**Richard Horwitz** A few things Rich is up to:

— helped present “Musical Strings From Many Lands” (Tai Dam, Iraqi, Mexican, Bosnian Croatian) for the Folklife Strand of the Iowa Language and Cultural Concerns Conference of the state Department of Education and the Arts Council, the Bureau of Refugee Services, Midwest Equity Assistance Center, Heartland AEA, and MidTESOL, Des Moines, IA, February 8, 2001;

—will be presenting a paper, “Is It Getting Warmer or Is It Me? -- Stakes in Modern Climatology” at the MAASA Meeting in Madison, April 21;

—will be among the staff for the 2001 Festival of Iowa Folklife (“Cultural Crossroads”) to be held in Waterloo, June 15-17;

—just finished an essay that will be part of the Festival booklet. The essay is titled “A Welcoming Tradition;”

—has just been appointed to a 2-year term on the Peer Review Committee for Fulbright’s new Senior Specialists Program;

—has been reappointed by The Royal Society of New Zealand for the Advancement and Promotion of Science and Technology as a referee for research grants from the Marsden Fund.

“I hope, too, that people know *The American Studies Anthology* WILL be out in time for Fall classes. Since I put it together with courses like 45:1 in mind, please let me know if there is more I can do to help people consider it. FYI, the lead essay (“Roots of American Studies” -- about what “America” is and how a person might study it) and a table of contents are available from my WWWeb site:

<http://twist.lib.uiowa.edu/rhorwitz/index.html>

**Lauren Rabinovitz** demonstrated her web-courseware, “Iowans at the Fair,” at the Iowa State Forum, the annual gathering of historical societies at the Iowa State Historical Society on April 7.

She will demonstrate a prototype of her NEH-Educational Grant project, “Yesteryear’s Wonderlands: Introducing Modernism to America” at

the Society for Cinema Studies annual meeting in Washington D.C. on May 24. The prototype of Yesteryear’s Wonderlands will highlight a virtual fly-through of an imaginary turn-of-the-century amusement park (Wonderland), a postcard browser for accessing and studying 1000 hand-tinted postcards, and a selection of pre-1908 movies about amusement parks. American Studies honors student Sarah Toton has played a big role as a research assistant in readying the prototype of the multimedia software for this public demonstration.

**Bob Sayre’s** second book on the Iowa vernacular landscape, Take the Next Exit, is more beautiful than the first. Among its fifteen chapters are color pictures by Carl Kurtz, a portfolio of photos of small town fairs by Journalism professor Hanno Hardt, an essay on Iowa churches by Patricia Eckhardt, and an essay by Laura Sayre on how to spot and buy organic food. Bob’s own contributions are on Iowa hardware stores as indicators of local needs and tastes and “Iowa’s Lost Lakes,” about the 40-some natural lakes whose draining has utterly changed the appearance and hydrology of the state. He is currently president of the Johnson County Heritage Trust, Iowa’s oldest land trust, and a leader in opposing “Iowa CHILD,” the proposed plastic rainforest in Coralville. E-mail him ([bob-sayre@uiowa.edu](mailto:bob-sayre@uiowa.edu)) if you want to help.

## Floating Fridays

**May 4 Horace Porter** (African American World Studies Program) “Ralph Ellison and the Jazz Tradition,” 4:00 p.m., 204 Jefferson Building. An informal reception in the American Studies suite will follow.

**Events of interest**

Festival of Iowa Folklife: Cultural Crossroads, June 15-17, Waterloo, Iowa. The Festival of Iowa Folklife will feature 3 fun-filled days of traditional music, dance, food, crafts, stories, and more from all over Iowa and the upper Midwest. Folk artists from Iowa's refugee and immigrant communities as well as many of those from Iowa's Sesquicentennial Festival of Iowa Folklife will be featured at this state and locally-sponsored celebration of our diverse cultural heritage. For more information, please check out the IAC web pages at <http://www.culturalaffairs.org/iac/2001folklifeandinstitutes.htm>

**Miami University** The American Studies Program is seeking a visiting faculty member for the coming academic year in the general area of American cultural diversity, preferably with an emphasis on popular culture(s). Familiarity with new information technologies as teaching aids in American Studies is highly desirable. The person who holds this position will be working with the continuing faculty in developing an introductory course that will fulfill Miami's new distribution requirement in the area of U.S. Cultures.



Candidates should have a Ph.D. or ABD in American Studies/Civilization or closely cognate area from a major doctoral program. Teaching load 4/3; 6 sections of introduction, one advanced course for majors in topic of choice. Salary at M.A. or new Ph.D. level (+ excellent benefits). This position has been held by a number of highly able scholars (from Brown, George Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, Penn, Yale) who have found it a useful way to enhance their teaching credentials and experience.

Please send inquiries to [williapw@muohio.edu](mailto:williapw@muohio.edu), and letters of application/credentials to:  
 Peter W. Williams, Director  
 Program in American Studies  
 Miami University, Oxford OH 45056  
 Consideration of applicants will begin immediately; we hope to have an appointment made by 6/1/00.

**The University of Iowa** Two full-time, non-tenure-track, positions beginning August 2001 have opened in the Department of Rhetoric. Each has a 3/3 teaching load or equivalent. Beginning salary will be in the \$33,500-\$35,000 range with a full participation in Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, TIAA/CREF, Delta Dental, life and disability insurance. One or more full-time, non-tenure-track, positions beginning August 2001 also has opened in the Department of Rhetoric. Teaching load is 3/3 for the first two years, 2/2 for the third. Beginning salary will be \$34,000 with a full participation in Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, TIAA/CREF, Delta Dental, life and disability insurance. For more information, see the flyer under the Job Postings in 425 EPB, or call the office at (319) 335-0178.



**FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Fulbright Scholar Program**

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars has announced this years Fulbright Scholar Program for U.S. faculty and professionals who wish to pursue lecturing, research, and special programs abroad. A program overview is available at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~vpr/cgi/gb/process1.cgi?category=int#Fulbright-Scholar>



**CONFERENCES AND  
CALLS FOR PAPERS**

**Local Museums and Local Histories Call for Papers** Deadline: 7-15-01 Articles needed for book on small, quirky, or specialized museums, especially those in towns and rural communities. How do these museums contribute to America's regional and national cultures? Who is included and who is excluded? How do such museums engage in a dialogue with museums of "influence" about the ownership of culture? Are these institutions the domain of the elite or sites for the expression of America's diversity? Articles should include a theoretical framework and draw on current or past exhibits. Please submit hard copy and diskette versions. Contact information:

Amy Levin Director  
Women's Studies  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
(815) 753-1038  
Email: [alevin@niu.edu](mailto:alevin@niu.edu)

This announcement was submitted via the H-Net Announcements Website.

Find it at:

<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/announce/show.cgi?ID=127541>

**45th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference - Call for Papers:** March 7-9, 2002, Omaha, Nebraska

Proposals for papers and sessions in all areas of history are welcome. Send one-page abstracts and brief vitae by October 15, 2001, to:

Prof. Sharon E. Wood  
Missouri Valley History Conference  
Department of History  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Omaha, NE 68182

Those wishing to have their proposals acknowledged should include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. Email for information only: [MVHC@unomaha.edu](mailto:MVHC@unomaha.edu).

**Journal of Visual Culture - Call for Papers**

Visit the journal website for full details:

<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/j0376.html>  
The Journal of Visual Culture is a new international, refereed journal being launched in April 2002 as a site for astute, informative, and dynamic thought on the visual.

The journal will publish work from a range of methodological positions, on various historical moments, and across diverse geographical locations. It will promote research, scholarship, and critical engagement with visual cultures. For details about submitting a manuscript or subscribing either visit our website

<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/j0376.html>  
or contact:

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Website: [www.sagepub.co.uk](http://www.sagepub.co.uk)

**The Superhero Reader: An Introduction to Comic Books and the Superhero Genre**

Original essays are invited for a collection tentatively entitled *The Superhero Reader: An Introduction to Comic Books and the Superhero Genre*. Possible topics may include but are not limited to: Origins and History, Characters, Archetypes, Psychology, Gender, Ethnicity, Sexualities, Fandom, Creators, Corporate Structure, Cinematic/Television Adaptations, Themes and Trends, Marketing, Politics, Nationalities, Genre Cycles, Censorship. Please submit 2-page proposals or completed manuscripts (MLA style, 15-25 pages in length) by September 4, 2001 to:

Jeffrey A. Brown  
Department of Popular Culture  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0226  
Tel: 419-372-2982

E-mail: [jabrown@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:jabrown@bgnet.bgsu.edu)

Financial Resources

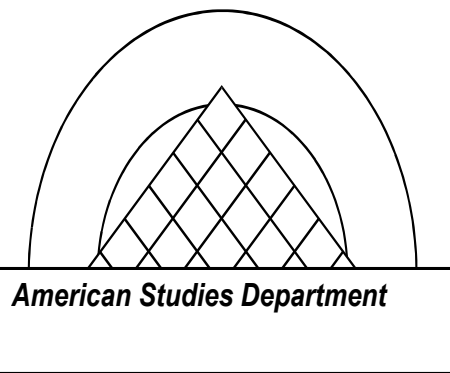
A good place to check intermittently is the Grad College for "Sources of Financial Support" <http://www.uiowa.edu/~gradcoll/sofs.html>

Among the new things you'll find linked there is a kind of classified ad section for Graduate Assistantships -- positions that are administered outside any one department. American Studies grads are eligible, even though we aren't doing the recruiting or funding.

See: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~gradcoll/bulletinboard.html>

-Rich

Our new address  
as of June 1, 2001  
will be  
701 Jefferson  
Building.  
Telephone and fax  
numbers will  
remain the same.



<i>Faculty:</i>	<i>Staff:</i>
Lauren Rabinovitz, Chair	Carrie Louvar
Jane Desmond (on leave)	Laura Kastens
Richard Horwitz	(newsletter editor)
Kim Marra	<b>The University of Iowa</b>
John Raeburn (on leave)	<b>202 Jefferson Building</b>
Laura Rigal	<b>Iowa City, Iowa 52242</b>
<i>Affiliate Faculty:</i>	<b>319-335-0320</b>
Joni Kinsey (on leave)	<b>Fax: 319-335-0314</b>
Eric Rothenbuhler	<b><a href="mailto:american-studies@uiowa.edu">american-studies@uiowa.edu</a></b>

## KEEP US POSTED

If you have information that you would like to pass on to The University of Iowa American Studies Program, please consider this your invitation to share the news.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you received any honors, made a presentation, or had an article or book published recently?
2. Have you attended any conferences, or do you know of any that may be of interest to American Studies?
3. Do you have information about possible fellowships, grants, or employment opportunities?
4. Would you write a paragraph or two to review or recommend music, a book, or a film?
5. What research are you currently involved in that you'd like the American Studies community to know about?

Feel free to respond to any or all questions by mail,  
e-mail ([laura-kastens@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-kastens@uiowa.edu)) or fax (319/335-0314).

The American Studies Department  
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202 Jefferson Building  
Iowa City, IA 52242