



The University of Iowa American Studies Newsletter

April 2002

Saying Good-by to Rich



*"If you go, then I'll be blue
'cause breakin' up is hard to do."*
Neil Sedaka

"Shit happens."
Professor Richard P. Horwitz

April is the month that reminds us that life rarely stands still. Here, in Iowa City, we saw a snowstorm on April 1 and nearly 90 degree temperatures on April 15 and 16. But we don't need the weather and changing seasons to tell us this news. As students start to get ready to finish the semester, some are already making plans to graduate or to leave Iowa City. Over the last two weeks, I and many others have been talking a lot to the seven new graduate students who will join us next fall. I've also had delightful correspondence with our new Visiting Assistant Professor for 2002-03, Mary Ellen Lennon.

But while change is change, sometimes there is a sea change, and American Studies is about to experience one: Rich Horwitz is leaving the University of Iowa after 25 years. I know that this news will mean something to every single person who reads this because Rich has touched the lives of everyone who has encountered American Studies in the last quarter of a century. Rich has been chair of the department, served on at least 46 dissertation committees (whew!), and been a *kvetch* to everyone at one time or another. Our core methods courses and both the graduate and undergraduate majors owe a considerable debt to Rich's vision, creativity, and intellectual strengths. He has been central in helping not only this program but the field in general more fully internationalize its conception of itself. He brought the pig culture (studies in swinalia) to our department and to the world. He has been our ambassador to countless American Studies Association meetings and to international meetings and gigs in the Netherlands, Denmark, South Africa, India, Hong Kong, China, Korea, and Taiwan (and that's only in the last few years) as well as to bluegrass music gatherings and a variety of folk life activities. He has been president of the Mid-America American Studies Association, which recently honored him with the Elizabeth Kolmer Mentoring Award, a distinction especially marked by the award presenter still expressing incredulity years later that Rich titled his formal presidential address, "Shit Happens."

So, Rich is making a career change and will become a Senior Fellow at the Rhode Island Coastal Institute, where he will help to create an Emergency Response Plan for that state. He plans to continue working as a consulting ethnographer on major grant projects, including a National Science Foundation grant for investigating wildlife conditions at Yellowstone National Park. I am happy to report that in three years he will also become a Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of Iowa.

Many students, colleagues, and friends who have recently heard this news have been first surprised and then puzzled by my calmness about Rich's departure. "Well, I've had since last July to digest this news," I tell everyone. Of course, it means that things will be different. Of course, it means that we're losing one of our best supporters. Of course, I'll miss Rich. But, I do believe that no program's strength rests on any single individual and, if it does, then the program wasn't very strong in the first place. So, while things will be different and we will have to adjust, I have no doubt that we will remain a thriving program.

That said, here's my list of ten things (although there are more) I'll miss about Rich : (1) his utterly unique sense of humor; (2) Rich's profound analyses of intellectual matters that teach me to see things in a completely new way; (3) home-made cider; (4) Rich's lack of class – actually, it's a lack of pretension that always reassures me no matter how lacking in gentility I am that

such "airs" in others are really only personality flaws; (5) his ability to interrupt me more than I interrupt him and to generate an excited and exciting conversation through that rhythm; (6) his total dependability for handling matters both mundane and grand; (7) his deep knowledge and wisdom about ethnography, culture, and people; (8) hearing Yiddish expressions on a regular basis; (9) his compassion; and (10) that he is a true intellectual who has not lost perspective about living large or living small outside the academy.

I invite everyone to a farewell picnic for Rich (typically, he has already labeled it a "good-riddance-to-Rich" party) on Wednesday, May 15, beginning at 5 p.m. at: 15 The Woods, Iowa City. Contact me or Laura Kastens in the American Studies office if you need directions. ***If you can't be there but wish to say good-by to Rich, please send an e-mail, fax, or note in care of me at American Studies, and we'll be sure to read everyone's greetings at the party.***

Rich, I've already filed your resignation under the category of "shit happens." But, shit, I will really miss you.



Jane Desmond "I just returned from the European Association of American Studies meetings in Bordeaux, France (yes, home of the famous wine, and they served lots of it at every occasion hoping, I think, that we would all purchase souvenirs to take home.) Sept. 11 was in the air, occasionally referred to directly, at other times more indirectly in a sense of urgency in understanding the U.S. in its relations with the rest of the world. While at the meetings I also attended the Executive Board meetings of the International Association for the Study of America, which will hold its first "World Congress" in the Netherlands in May of 2003. The real test of this new organization will be whether or not it can really attract scholars from all over the world and not just from Western Europe. For more information, please check the IASA website.

While in Paris I also met with the director of research for the new national French Center for Dance Research (Centre Recherche Nationale de la Danse) and managed to carry on a conversation in poor (but recognizable!) French with their researchers. It gave me special pleasure to see my books already on the shelves of their new national library, and made me think again about the necessity of speaking and reading more than one language so we can communicate with our colleagues."

Richard Horwitz will be on leave from the University of Iowa beginning in 2002-2003. He will be working as a Senior Fellow of the Coastal Institute and Visiting Scholar of American Civilization at Brown and Harvard Universities. As of June 19, he and Noni will have a new

address: 19 Joann Drive, Barrington, RI 02806. They are eager to stay in touch.

Rob Latham's new book, Consuming Youth: Vampires, Cyborgs, and the Culture of Consumption, a cultural study of consumer youth culture in the U.S. since the 1970s, has been published by the University of Chicago Press and is available at Prairie Lights.

Kim Marra announces the release of Staging Desire: Queer Readings of American Theater History, Kim Marra and Robert A. Schanke, eds., (University of Michigan Press, 2002), a collection of original essays by theatre historians analyzing the operations of queer desire in the lives and work of Pre-Stonewall playwrights, lyricists, critics, and designers. This is a sequel to Schanke and Marra's earlier co-edited volume, Passing Performances (Michigan, 1998), covering actors, directors, producers, and agents.

Christine Pawley received The Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award of the State Historical Society of Iowa for Reading on the Middle Border: The Culture of Print in Late-Nineteenth-Century Osage, Iowa (University of Massachusetts Press). This award recognizes the most important book on Iowa published during the preceding year. The award, which was presented on April 6 at the Iowa History Forum, is named in honor of Benjamin F. Shambaugh, for forty years the superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, professor of political economy at the University of Iowa, and one of the founders of the "new social science" at the turn of the century.



Mike Augspurger (Ph.D. '01) "has been awarded a Fulbright to teach in Regensburg, Germany (which is an hour north of Munich) next year as a Fulbright lecturer, which Jane and I are very excited about. I'll be leaving in September and Jane is going to take a leave in Spring term, and will join me in December. We try to practice our German, but eventually we want to be able to communicate what we're trying to say, so we give up and speak English."

Paul Gutjahr (Ph.D. '96) has been promoted to Associate Professor of English, American Studies, and Religious studies at Indiana University.

Alison Kibler (Ph.D. '94) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of American Studies and Women's Studies at Franklin & Marshall College (Lancaster, PA) beginning Fall 2002.

Dolly McPherson (Ph.D. '86) has retired from Wake Forest University where she has been Professor of English since 1974.

Dan Nathan (Ph.D. '97) sends his regards from Finland, where he is completing the academic year as the Fulbright Professor of North American Studies at the University of Tampere. Dan reports that he and his wife Susan Taylor have had an excellent adventure in Finland, the land of the incredibly long, dark winter nights and myriad varieties of herring. They are also proud to announce the March 6 birth of Benjamin Erik Nathan. To see pictures of BEN, go to <http://homepage.mac.com/jonn8/ben/> In addition to becoming a father, Dan has recently published an essay in the *Journal of American Studies* and a book review in *American Quarterly*. His book *Saying It's So: A Cultural History of the Black Sox Scandal* is to be published in the fall. Also in the fall, Dan will be joining the American Studies faculty at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Natalie Robertson (Ph.D. '96) accepted an invitation from The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder, former Governor of Virginia, to be one of several scholars who will delineate the intellectual content of the principal exhibition of The National Slavery Museum to be installed at Fredericksburg, Va. The first historic meeting of this cadre of scholars was held at Howard University's Law School in March.

She has also received a Visiting Scholars' Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Sciences (Department of History) at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) where she

will teach a Special Topics course on the trans-Atlantic slave trade as well as conduct research this summer.

After completing her course at Nebraska, she is off to Senegal where she will be one of ten scholars selected by the UNCF/Andrew W. Mellon Program to participate in its inaugural Faculty Seminar at Goree Institute on historic Goree Island. More importantly, she will work under the direct intellectual leadership of Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka who will guide her research on the slave trade and African religion.

Jay Satterfield (Ph.D. '99) and his wife Jen are proud new parents to Even Corey Satterfield, born January 7. All three are healthy and happy, though a bit sleep deprived.

In addition, Jay has recently curated an exhibition, "The Great Ideas The University of Chicago and the Ideal of Liberal Education," that will open May 1st in the exhibition gallery of the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Chicago Library. It takes a critical look at the University of Chicago's role as a champion of the "Great Ideas" with a focus on the 1952 publication of the Great Books of the Western World.

Kesho Scott (Ph.D. '88) has received a Fulbright which will permit her to conduct research dealing with third world women and development.

Leslie Taylor (Ph.D. '98) will begin law school at the University of Washington this fall.

Lori Vermaas (Ph.D. '00) has had her revised dissertation on the "big trees" accepted for publication by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Nan Wolverton (Ph.D. '94) and her husband, Ed Hood, are the parents of a baby daughter, Emily Ann, born October 13. Nan has had an essay, "A Precarious Living' Basket Making and Related Crafts Among New England Indians," accepted for publication in the forthcoming book *Reinterpreting New England Indians and the Colonial Experience* edited by Colin G. Calloway and Neal Salisbury. Old Sturbridge Village is opening a major exhibition entitled "The Enduring People Native American Life in Central New England" in April of 2002. It will run through December 2003. In June of 2002 she is organizing a symposium at OSV on specialized furniture in early America. She will be delivering a paper entitled "Sick Chairs and Healthy Beds Furniture for Invalids."

Student News

Ulrich Adelt (Ulli) gave a presentation entitled "Ich bin der Rock'n'Roll-Übermensch Globalization and Localizing in German Music Television" at the James F. Jakobsen Graduate Forum at the IMU on March 1.

Barb Shubinski will be presenting a paper at the ASA annual meeting in November, 2002, in Houston, Texas. Her paper is entitled "Edward Weston's Vision of Whitman's America: The Much Unsung *Leaves of Grass* Project," and is part of a panel called "Vanishing Points Nation, Nature and Intimacy in Documentary Photography." The panel will also include papers by Jane Simonsen, 2001 graduate of our program, now faculty at Central Arkansas, Jim Hall, also a graduate of our program and now faculty at University of Illinois-Chicago, and will feature John Raeburn as Chair and Commentator.

Jennifer Pustz made her fourth successful appearance as Bruce More Mansion's Easter Bunny at their annual Easter egg hunt. Never say that being a Ph.D. candidate doesn't get you the glamour jobs!



Kristin Solli was awarded the MAASA Graduate Student Essay prize for her paper on country music is Norway. This is the second year the prize has been given, and Iowa students have won both times (Jane Simonsen won in 2001). Looks like this is the beginning of a dynasty!

American Studies Welcomes Back Al Stone

By Richard Horwitz

During the week of April 8, the department was pleased to welcome back Emeritus Professor Albert E. Stone, now 78 years young.

American Studies at Iowa has benefited from many contributors since its inception in 1934. But none of them has left as bold a legacy and as many warm memories as Al. In his honor, the department hosted a special, Tuesday edition of "Floating Fridays" where Al shared his continuing experience with "American Studies as a Way of Life." It was an informal occasion, with Rich Horwitz

serving as an interviewer and moderator. He will eventually edit a transcript of the conversation. Editors of the MAASA journal *American Studies* have expressed interest in publishing it.

Al's comments ranged widely; so, no doubt, different quarters of the packed house took away different messages. But surely among them was Al's emphasis on the importance of war not only in his personal experience and that of a whole generation of Americanists but also among U.S. cultures more generally for centuries. In recognizable, American-studies form, he also stressed a feeling of his own marginality (even back within the canon-forming halls of Yale) and a sense of responsibility to exercise his educational privileges through critical but positive engagement with his surroundings. His practice in the field certainly did not end with university retirement. He is an active supporter of the Maine Maritime Museum (where he is a docent), the Genesis Fund (promoting affordable housing), literacy instruction, his church and community facilities like the local library and recreation center. All of this work is no less serious because he and Grace are "volunteers." Among the lessons that Al has taken from this work is the importance of the materiality of everyday life and one-on-one communication.

As always, Al reminds us how wondrously intellectual curiosity and social responsibility can intertwine. We are deeply grateful that he stays active, well, and in-touch with us.

New Faculty

American Studies is happy to welcome Dr. Mary Ellen Lennon as a Visiting Assistant Professor for 2002-03. Dr. Lennon will receive her Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization at Harvard University in May 2002.

Her dissertation, entitled "'Outside Agitators' and the Harlan County Coal Strike, 1931-32," examines how the confrontations between coal miners and coal operators in Harlan County in the 1930s played out on a national stage in shaping political and cultural attitudes about social class and state power. It takes on the labor strike as a national cultural event showing how it contributes to cultural symbols, rhetoric, and activities inseparable from the political battles but of farther-reaching magnitude than the event itself.

Dr. Lennon will supervise the new lecture-discussion version of 45:01 *American Values* and teach a topics

course in her research areas each semester. For fall, she will teach "The City in the American Imagination," under the number 45:05 *American Issues*. For spring, she will teach a course on three labor strikes in U.S. history (including the Harlan County miners' strike) as national cultural events.

MAASA, St. Louis, April 5th and 6th

By Kristin Solli

Jonathan Hansen, Rich Horwitz, Lauren Rabinovitz, and yours truly formed the Iowa troupe at this year's MAASA conference in St. Louis, the land of throwed rolls -- diners where the cooks literally throw rolls hot out of the oven to their customers -- and Schnucks -- the HyVees of Missouri. The weekend was filled with good food, old friends (recent Iowa alumni Jane Simonsen and Mike Augspurger say hi to everyone), and lively intellectual discussion.

The conference presented a mix of established and younger scholars. Lauren did a presentation of her work with the CD-Rom project Yesteryear's Wonderlands about amusement parks at the turn of the century. For those of you who haven't seen it, it is quite a remarkable project which you should check out. My paper on country music in Norway had somewhat mysteriously been placed in a panel entitled "Fictional Representations of Jewish-American Identities," but in good American Studies holistic-thinking-fashion, the audience in fact seemed quite pleased by the opportunity to make connections where none seemed possible.

In the awards department, Iowa walked away triumphantly by winning two out of two possible prizes. Rich was awarded the prestigious Elizabeth Kolmer Award for teaching and mentoring in the field of American Studies; i.e. the equivalent of MAASA's life time achievement award. As all those of us who have been fortunate enough to work with Rich know, this award could not have gone to a more deserving recipient. Hurrah and congratulations, Rich! I was grateful and honored to receive the award for the best graduate student paper. The MAASA board also welcomed Jonathan as our new graduate student representative (thanks to Barb Shubinski for being our rep the two previous years!), and Lauren as the Vice President & President-Elect. Next year MAASA is coming to Iowa City, so everybody get ready to rock (especially

grad students - this is a very welcoming environment to get some conference experience)!

Congratulations

Russell Peterson is the recipient of a Seashore Fellowship for 2002-2003. On a more personal note, he married Becky Joy, formerly of Mineral, VA, on March 16. The small ceremony was held at the home of former AS grad student Norbert Sarsfield & his wife Katie, who were instrumental in bringing the two of them together. Best wishes for MANY happy years together!

Richard Horwitz won the Elizabeth Kolmer Mentoring Award at the MAASA conference April 6. Established in 1996, the award recognizes an outstanding mentor, advisor, and teacher in the field of American Studies.

Laura Kastens received a Mary Louise Kelley Staff Excellence Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Staff Recognition Reception on April 2 for "enhancing the visibility of the American Studies and Women's Studies Departments."



*Alice Kelley, endowment
creator &
Laura Kastens*

Leslie Abadie, Abe Geil, and Kristin Solli have all received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards from the Council on Teaching. Awarded to teaching assistants who have demonstrated outstanding ability as teachers, it carries a substantial monetary award.

Sarah Toton, undergraduate American Studies student, held a successful defense of her Senior Honor's Thesis — "A View to Remember: Understanding the FSA Collection and the Brussels Loop." Lauren Rabinovitz is the director of her thesis. Sarah will graduate in May 2002 with honors in both American Studies and English.

Fall 2002 Reading Course

45:299 American Studies Proseminar

Food and American Culture

1 s.h. pass-fail course for graduate students

This semester-long effort will examine the field of food ways in American culture. It will consist of three components: (1) a series of background readings in the relationships of food and cooking to American cultural history; (2) collecting favorite recipes from the American Studies community both local and distant - testing, tasting, and discussing those recipes; (3) producing an American Studies cookbook based on the collected recipes and on individually-researched sidebars on the history of food, cooking, cookbooks in American life. The goal is to produce a community non-profit cookbook in time to sell it for the 2003 holidays (all proceeds will go to the American Studies Foundation account).

Meetings for readings will occur weekly on Tuesday evenings for the first month. Readings may include: John and Karen Hess, The Taste of America; Harvey Levenstein, Paradox of Plenty: A Social History of Eating in Modern America; Doris Witt, Black Hunger: Food and the Politics of U.S. Identity; Eric Schlosser, Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal; plus essays by Calvin Trillin, by Barbara Haber on Civil War nurses and diet kitchens and on pioneer chain-restaurateur Fred Harvey's female service corps, by Harvey Levenstein on the transformation of the American diet at the turn of the last century.

The middle of the semester will be devoted to making and eating the recipes proposed for the cookbook as well as to planning the cookbook during those meals. The schedule will be decided by members of the class in line with the small demands of a 1 s.h. course. Simultaneously, each student will be given a very short research assignment (e.g., the history of the Fanny Farmer Cookbook or the Settlement Cookbook, the origins of Grape-Nuts or Jell-O) in order to produce short 1-2 paragraph sidebars for the cookbook that reflect an American Studies tradition and interest in the cultural aspects of food, cooking, and cookbooks.

Cooking skills not required. The course will be directed by Professors Rabinovitz, Raeburn, and hopefully a few other faculty with kitchens and/or cooking skills.

2002-2003 Ida Beam Professor

David Hall, Professor of American religious history in the Harvard Divinity School, will be an Ida Beam visiting Professor in American Studies in Spring 2003. Hall received his Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale (1964) and has been at Harvard since 1989. Previously he was a member in the history departments at Yale and Boston University, and has held visiting appointments at Cornell and UCLA. Twice he has been Directeur d'Etudes Invitées in seminars at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, most recently in 2001. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities (twice) and the Guggenheim Foundation, and has been a member of the School for Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and a fellow in the Shelby Cullum Davis Center, also at Princeton. He was for five years editor of the *Intellectual History Newsletter*, and for nine years chaired the Program in the History of the Book sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society.

Hall's teaching interests span the entirety of American History, and although much of his scholarship has focused on colonial America, one of his current projects centers on nineteenth-century cultural history. While at UI, Hall will present one lecture on the history of the book and one of American religion, give a lunchtime talk to students and faculty from American Studies and our co-sponsoring units, and meet with two classes. One of the classes will be a special mini-seminar that will read some of his work in anticipation of his visit, and to which we will invite undergraduate majors and graduate students to join along with several faculty participants; the other will be our introductory seminar for graduate students that Jane Desmond will be teaching, which will take up as part of its syllabus Hall's work on religious practice. Hall's visit is co-sponsored by the Departments of History, Religion and the Center for the Book.



The American Studies Department of **George Washington University** is looking to hire two Visiting Assistant Professors to cover one-year sabbaticals beginning September 1, 2002. The candidate for the first position

must be able to teach core courses in American Studies undergraduate and graduate program as well as courses in twentieth century specialty. Candidate for the second position must be able to teach the first half of the American Studies survey (to 1876), junior seminar in theoretical approaches to American Studies, and graduate seminar on methods in American Studies. PhD preferred. Send a letter of application, vita and three letters of reference to:

American Studies Search Comm.
Dept. of American Studies
2108 G. Street NW
Washington, DC 20052

Review of applications will begin April 22, 2002 and will continue until the positions are filled. Further questions can be directed to:

Valerie Furey
American Studies Department
George Washington University
Amst@gwu.edu
<http://www.gwu.edu/~amst>
202-994-6070



Follow-up to Gladys Rife article in February 2002 newsletter:

The Iowa Women's Archives holds Gladys Rife's papers, including the research files for her dissertation, papers she wrote while a graduate student here, and material relating to her museum. We also have the papers of Gladys's sister Margaret Boedeker, who was a teacher and quite an adventurer; she taught in Alaska and on Indian reservations in North Dakota and elsewhere. And we have some papers of their mother Carrie Talcott.

Kären M. Mason
Curator, Iowa Women's Archives

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 next newsletter.

In addition, this summer we'll publish a special edition of the newsletter with a directory of MA alumni students as we did with Ph.D. alumni last summer. If you received your MA from the University of Iowa American Studies Department, and haven't already done so, please send a note to the department, or an email to lauren-rabinovitz@uiowa.edu and tell us where you are, what you're doing, and the year you received your MA. Then look for our directory in August.

American Studies Department

<i>Faculty:</i>	<i>Staff:</i>
Lauren Rabinovitz, Chair	Carrie Louvar
Jane Desmond (on leave)	Laura Kastens
Richard Horwitz	(newsletter editor)
Rob Latham	The University of Iowa
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John Raeburn	Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Laura Rigal	319-335-0320
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	american-studies@uiowa.edu

YOU'RE INVITED

What: Rich's Going
Away Party

When: Wednesday,
May 15

Start — 5:00 p.m.

Dinner — 6:00 p.m.

Where: Lauren's home
15 The Woods NE

