

The University of Iowa American Studies Newsletter

September 2001



The State of the Department

Looking over the 2nd State of the Dept. address that I had originally planned here, I thought how cheerful and light-hearted it now seems. Given the terrible events that have rocked us the last few weeks, much of it now seems too frivolous to reprint. As teachers and students, as public intellectuals, and as private citizens, we have all been grappling with our responses and with the importance of thoughtful reflection. From facilitating exchanges of information to serving leadership roles at community forums to rewriting our courses almost daily so that past and present collide in classroom discussion, we are all active and preoccupied with the same things that currently preoccupy the nation and the world. What follows then is a very brief excerpt from my address made at the beginning of the year:

Last year...

1. In May, we moved. We have wonderful new facilities – a bigger lecture room, more faculty offices, t.a. offices for the first time, a lounge, and a computer lab.
2. We had a great series of Floating Fridays, thanks largely to Laura Rigal, Laura Kastens, social mavens Sam Graber and Barb Shubinski, and FF committee member Abe Geil. Our speakers last year included: from Iowa—Rich Horwitz, Kim Marra, Eric Rothenbuhler, Horace Porter, and Michael Augspurger; John and Joy Kasson from the U. of North Carolina; Patricia Bryant and Tom Wolf also from U. North Carolina; Charlotte Canning from the U. of Texas; Tom Riis from the U. of Colorado; Shirley Wajda from Kent State; Lisa Gitelman from Catholic U.; Alison Kibler from the U. of Minnesota.
3. We gave out and received awards: Meghan Fritschel, Laura Baker, Bill Bryant, and Allison McCracken received Alexander Kern Fellowships. Kevin Quirk received a Seashore-Ballard Dissertation Fellowship. Allison McCracken's dissertation, "Real Men Don't Sing: Crooning and American Culture, 1928-1933," is a national finalist for the ASA Gabriel Prize – it's one of six with two from Yale, two from Harvard, and one from Minnesota...[longer list identified of awards already printed in past newsletters].
4. Under the initiative of Laura Rigal, we provided new incentives to our honors students: we enrolled Sarah Toton and Ginny Cronin in the undergraduate research assistant program.
5. If we didn't send people around the globe, we certainly shipped faculty and students to many parts of it: John Raeburn was a visitor at Katholieke Universiteit in Nijmegen, where we also sent junior Nancy Larson for the year. In addition, we hosted two visiting faculty from the American Studies program there. Jane Desmond taught in Budapest and then co-directed an IFUSS trip to South Africa that included Rich Horwitz and American Studies grad students Kristin Solli and Deborah-Eve Lombard.
6. And, we graduated 6 PhDs (Sarah Fields, Allison McCracken, Lori Vermaas, Michael Augspurger, Jane Simonsen, and Michael Wiseman).

Affiliate Faculty Changes: Affiliate faculty Eric Rothenbuhler is on leave this year as he tries out a new position as Dir. of Graduate Studies in Media Studies at the New School in New York City. And, we welcome Rob Latham, Assoc. Prof. English and Director of Sexuality Studies, as a new faculty member in American Studies.

Upcoming Special Events and Calendar: Several UI faculty are lined up for Floating Fridays. Our Albert E. Stone Distinguished Alumnus Speaker will be Mike Burk, Director of Worship for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and he will talk about sexual identity and the Church. On Sept. 21, we co-hosted a roundtable on careers and research in public history with some of Iowa's top professionals, and we've scheduled a field trip to Brucemore Mansion with a guided tour by Jennifer Pustz, Brucemore Historian (and current grad student) and Exec. Director Peggy Whitworth (an AMS alum). We're co-sponsoring an African American film series and hosting Jacqueline Stewart, Asst. Prof. of African American Studies and Cinema from the U. of Chicago, for a lecture on African American cinema prior to the Harlem Renaissance.

Our Goals:

1. Continue as a vibrant intellectual community with regular events. We aim to be the campus center for interdisciplinary work about America and to offer an important, special corollary beyond the limits of a core curriculum. For grad students, I especially want to extend an invitation to participate. Not only can you contribute tremendously to your education, but you can pick up a lot about American Studies methods, approaches, strategies, issues, etc., especially during the discussions that follow our lectures.
2. Our first cooperative efforts with African-American World Studies are being launched. In addition, John Raeburn and Horace Porter will team teach a class on the Civil Rights Movement in the spring.
3. Material culture study remains a top priority. Last year, we supported a conference and hosted a visitor to teach material culture courses. We're contributing two courses to the Museum Studies curriculum this year.
4. We plan to start developing programming, new courses, and other opportunities that will make more prominent the study of sexuality as a component of American Studies.
5. Renewed interest in the role of religion in American life will allow us to foster some links to the Religion Department for lectures and the curriculum.
6. Internationalism will be a subject of faculty meetings this fall to determine policy regarding admissions, exchanges, and visiting scholars. Our program is clearly becoming more international both in composition as well as in intellectual orientation and curriculum.



WELCOME NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

Ulrich Adelt arrived in Iowa from Hamburg, Germany. His degree is from the University of Hamburg, with interests in popular culture, especially popular music, and literary theory. Ullie has worked as a journalist for a local magazine and as a translator for digital TV (translating mostly snowboard shows and he's never even ridden a snowboard...). He chose Iowa for his graduate work because he liked the program's interdisciplinary approach and thought it'd been nice for his kids to live in a less urban setting and enjoy real seasons. He enjoys listening to popular music and playing with his 2 daughters (ages 3 and 4 months).

Erin Kaufman is originally from Perry, Iowa. She holds a BA from Central College (Pella, IA), and a Master of Theological Studies from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL). She is interested in American Religious History, Religion and Women, Women's Health, and Community Studies. Erin spent time working on a kibbutz in Northern Israel, and has worked with the Fullhart/Carnegie Museum Trust, a developing museum on small-town life. She accepted Iowa's invitation to join the department because of the great intellectual environment. When not studying, she enjoys travel, spending time with friends and family, and exercising!

Katja Seuster is here as part of the Dortmund Exchange. From Dortmund, Germany, that's also where her degree is from. In the past she has organized a summer school for

German and American Students at the University of Dortmund. She's here this year because of Iowa's good reputation, and she was able to combine teaching and studying American Studies. When not studying, she enjoys singing, playing basketball, going to movies, and watching TV.

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR UNITED STATES STUDIES (IFUSS) TRAVELS TO SOUTH AFRICA

In August three UI faculty members and four graduate students spent two exciting weeks in South Africa under the auspices of the International Forum for U.S. Studies (IFUSS). The purpose of the trip was to meet with South African faculty members and students from a variety of universities to discuss the ways in which the U.S. is studied, researched, and taught in South Africa. The group consisted of American Studies professor Dr. Richard Horwitz, IFUSS co-directors Dr. Jane Desmond and Dr. Virginia Dominguez, and graduate students Deborah-Eve Lombard (American Studies), John McKerley (History), Erica Still (English), and Kristin Solli (American Studies). In Johannesburg two Indian scholars invited by the Forum, former IFUSS Fellow Dr. Kousar Azam and Dr. RS Sharma from the University of Osmania joined this group.

The trip was funded by the Ford Foundation's Crossing Borders initiative at the University of Iowa, and it is a part the Forum's ongoing focus to build institutional links and networks, not just between U.S. institutions and institutions abroad, but also to foster links between non-U.S. scholars working on the U.S. in various countries around the world. For instance, during this trip Dr. Azam, who hosted an international American Studies conference in Hyderabad last year, re-connected with Dr. Christopher Saunders at the University of Cape Town, who was part of an IFUSS-sponsored group that attended the Hyderabad conference.

In preparation for the trip, the UI group met for pre-departure discussions of an array of texts and films about South Africa. During our two weeks there, we visited four cities - Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, and Cape Town - and met with faculty members and students from a total of seven institutions. We were also able to visit several cultural landmarks such as Robben Island and District Six Museum in Cape Town, and the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music in Durban. Our reflections on the meetings

and discussions that we had with our South African colleagues and on our trip as a whole will be the topic for an IFUSS luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th at 12:30 in 704 Jefferson Building. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for this event. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to ifuss-cics@uiowa.edu.

Of special interest to graduate students: the graduate students who went on this trip were selected through an application process; depending on IFUSS' funding situation, the Forum might hold similar competitions again. If you are interested in international American Studies, would like to know more about the Forum, or participate in the Forum's future events, please contact program assistant, Leslie Abadie at 335-2476 or ifuss-cics@uiowa.edu.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Sharon Romeo** and **Barb Shubinski** for passing their comprehensive examinations last spring; to **Courtney Becks** for receiving her MA; to **Russ Peterson** who held a successful prospectus meeting; and to **Jane Simonsen** for her successful Ph.D. defense.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Eleanor McConnell received a \$1,000 grant from the State Historical Society, Inc. for research leading to submission of an article-length manuscript for consideration for publication in *The Annals of Iowa*. Her manuscript is entitled "Troubles about Titles: Property, Race, Law and the Struggle for the Half-Breed Tract." Since 1995, 34 grants worth \$1,000 have been awarded—17 to Iowans and 17 to out-of-state scholars.

Eriko Ogihara has been invited by Professor Robert Lee at Brown University to speak at his ASA roundtable "Made in U.S.A.: A Roundtable on International Students in American Studies Graduate Programs" at the ASA convention in November.

Kristin Solli received second place in the Humanities division of the James F. Jakobsen Graduate Forum 2001 for her presentation "Twangin' the Vernacular: Country Music and National Identity in Norway."



Jane Desmond returned to campus this fall after spending last spring semester in Europe on the Global Scholar research award. While investigating the practice of American Studies in Eastern and Western Europe, she attended meetings of several national associations, including the Russian

American Studies Association meetings in Moscow, the Baltic Association meetings in Tartu, Estonia, a conference in Romania, and the British and French American Studies association meetings in Keele and d'Orleans, respectively. She delivered one of the keynote addresses at the Baltic Association meetings, titled "Transnational American Studies: the Politics of Knowledge and the Limits to Collaboration." She will be continuing this research this coming spring in Asia.

Her new edited collection, Dancing Desires: Choreographing Sexuality On and Off the Stage has just been published by the University of Wisconsin Press. A part of the publication series of the Society for Dance History Scholars, this book is the first to offer an extended examination of the potential impact of sexuality studies on the understanding of popular and elite dance practices during the twentieth century.

Rich Horwitz's new textbook — The American Studies Anthology — is finally out and being used in far-flung places. For a sample of some of the endorsement it has attracted:

"Richard Horwitz is one of the most thoughtful American Studies scholars when it comes to understanding what it means to build a fully interdisciplinary American Studies. This volume reflects his unerring sense of how we must weave theory and practice into a seamless garment where old distinctions between the humanities, the social sciences, and even the natural sciences now seem pointless."

—*Jay Mechling, Professor of American Studies, University of California, Davis*

"Those of us who teach American Studies outside of the United States have been waiting for this anthology. It provides historical grounding and a range of texts that is both foundational and fresh, and it reflects Horwitz's passion for artful prose and cultural analysis that is readable, teachable, transnational, and truly interdisciplinary."

—*Dr. Staci Ford, Lecturer, Programme in American Studies/History, The University of Hong Kong*

"*The American Studies Anthology* is imaginative and creative. It includes familiar texts in American Studies as well as unusual ones. Professor Horwitz locates American Studies in history and the present, in culture and ideas, in scholarly work and popular culture, and from the United States and abroad. He introduces each of the selections with a brief commentary that offers suggestions on where classroom discussions might go. This is the first anthology to capture the contradictory and interdisciplinary directions that comprise American Studies today, indispensable for the novice and veteran alike."

—*David Katzman, Professor of American Studies, The University of Kansas*

"This anthology answers a need felt by so many of us who teach both beginning and advanced courses in American Studies. The introduction is ideal, and the 'roots and soil' metaphor provides a wonderfully concrete way for us all, teachers and students to grasp some hitherto vaguely understood ideas about the field."

—*Matthew Mancini, Chair, Department of American Studies, Saint Louis University*

"Professor Horwitz has a shrewd eye for documents. He not only has gathered familiar expressions of U.S. national identity, but also ranged widely to find songs and images, reflective essays, and significant statements of public policy. His unusual selections and thought-provoking juxtapositions make this an invigorating collection to read to learn from."

—*Linda K. Kerber, May Brodbeck Professor in the Liberal Arts and Professor of History, University of Iowa*

"I have been invited to deliver a paper at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Anchorage Alaska, October 17-21. The session in which I will participate is called "Adversaries in Knowledge: Conflicting Claims and the Politics of Culture." My paper is entitled "Relations Between 'Folk' and 'Expert Knowledge of Climate Change.'" It will center on findings from the research I have done for "An Ethnographic Study of Climate Considerations in Regional Agricultural Decisions," a project funded through a seed grant from the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research (CGRER). The Co-Investigator for that project has been David McGinnis formerly of the Geography Department at the University of Iowa and now at Idaho State University. He and his former colleague, David Bennett, have just received a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project entitled, "Modeling Biocomplexity and Socio-economic Decision Making Under Uncertainty in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: A Proposal to Develop an Interdisciplinary Team." I am among the collaborators on that project. For that reason, I will be on the road,

meeting with McGinnis, Bennett and sundry Yellowstone folks ("GYE stakeholders") September 26 - 30.

I look forward to attending the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, November 8-11 in Washington, DC. I will be chairing a session on "Disease and Discourse" which will feature interpretations of stories about schizophrenia, depression, and fatness. The presenters hail from the University of Oregon, Dickinson College, and Michigan State University.

I was also proud to be among the presenters to speak out for peace and justice at the forum, "Reflecting on 9/11: What are Appropriate Responses?" that was organized by Jael Silliman, Professor of Women's Studies.

As for honors....I have been appointed a Senior Fellow of the Coastal Institute, an organization centered in Narragansett, Rhode Island. Its mission is "to advance knowledge and develop solutions to environmental problems in coastal ecosystems." People might want to check out it's WWWeb site: <http://www.ci.uri.edu/mission.htm>

Linda Kerber (History and Law) has been appointed to a two-year term on the United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange [CULCON], members of which simultaneously serve on the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. The Commission is an independent federal agency housed in the State Department that seeks to strengthen educational and cultural relations between the United States and Japan. JUSFC has, for example, made possible the American Studies Association's program of scholarly exchange with Japan, and also the Organization of American Historians' Japan Collaboration Program of Short Term Residencies. Other members of the CULCON Panel and of JUSF Commission come from government agencies, the private sector, the academy and the public arts. She's delighted to be helping to allocate funds rather than applying for them.

Linda also had an op-ed published in the Boston Globe on June 23, 2001 on the occasion of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Nguyen v. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Lauren Rabinovitz Memory Bytes: History, Technology, and Digital Culture, edited by Lauren Rabinovitz and Abraham Geil, will be published by University of California Press in fall 2002. This is a collection of essays stemming from the 2000 Obermann Summer Research Seminar on how old technologies help us think through issues related to digital culture. It includes essays by: N. Katherine Hayles, Vivian Sobchack, Lisa Gitelman, Laura Rigal, John Peters, Lauren Rabinovitz, David Depew and others.

The essays are completed, and Lauren and Abe are currently finishing the introduction.

Lauren has also just received the good news that University of Illinois Press will publish a second edition of her 1991 book, Points of Resistance: Women, Power, and Politics in the New York Avant-Garde Cinema, with a new foreword.

ALUMNI NEWS

Brett Beemyn (PhD '97) is now the coordinator of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Services at Ohio State University.

Greg Conerly (PhD '97) was interviewed in the July/August 2001 issue of The Graduate Bulletin publication of The University of Iowa. Currently in his fifth year as an assistant professor in the History Department at Cleveland State University, he credits "the support from the folks in American Studies more than anything else" as being the most helpful service during his graduate student career. "They were extremely supportive of me, especially in terms of the research I was doing. Plus, there was a core group of students in American Studies that made it a very cool time to be there. We were interested in each other's work. That sense of community, combined with the department's encouragement to do original research and present at conferences, helped me more than anything else the university had to offer."

Allison McCracken is presently Visiting Asst. Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of California at Berkeley. She recently presented "Playing with the Puppy: The Eroticized, Traumatized Male Body in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*" at the Society for Cinema Studies conference in Washington, D.C., and "'Bronzers for a Smut-Filled Environment': Reading Fans Reading Sexual Identity at Buffy.com ('The Bronze')" at Console-ing Passions: Television, Video, New Media and Feminisms in Bristol, England. The former essay will be published as "Angel's Body" in an upcoming anthology on *Buffy* forthcoming from Duke University Press. Speaking of Duke, the press will also publish McCracken's dissertation, "Real Men Don't Sing: Crooning and American Culture, 1928-1933," which should come out late 2003 (if she stays on schedule!)

Matt Pustz (PhD '98) was mentioned in the June 18 & 25, 2001 issue of *The New Yorker*. "By the time the comic-book industry was regulated, in the mid-fifties, television

was already supplanting its influence. Matthew J. Pustz's *Comic Book Culture* looks inside the fringe world of modern-day comics devotees, pointing out the split between "fanboys," who worship the heroes of mainstream comics, and the more sophisticated readers, who favor esoteric "alternative" fare. The sophisticates despise the fanboys but come in for some criticism themselves. They are "truly snobby people" says one comics vendor, "and they're usually involved in graduate-degree programs of some sort." "

Natalie Robertson (PhD '96) was appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science and History at Hampton University. Also, "The Nigerian Survivors of The Clotilda, Last Slave Ship To The United States" is a slide-presentation that will be delivered at the Conference on Nigeria at the University of Texas at Austin in March.

ALUMNI BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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!

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS —

HONORS STUDENTS

We are pleased to announce that four American Studies majors are now involved in the Undergraduate Scholar Assistant-IOWA Advantage Program. This innovative program matches students with faculty whom they assist in their research. In addition to a stipend, the students get to see the professional research process first hand, and to develop close working relationships with faculty. Sarah Toton is working with Lauren Rabinovitz, Deb Garbison with Johanna Schoen, Nicki Darter with Jane Desmond, and Whitney Soenksen with John Raeburn. Congratulations to those participants!

To be eligible for this university program, students must have at least a 3.0 gpa. The program is noted on their transcript as a zero-credit internship, and they become part of the IOWA Advantage web portfolio program. Students and faculty associated with American Studies who would like to become part of this program should contact Jane Desmond, honors advisor for American Studies. New opportunities may be available starting in the spring semester.

Floating Fridays

September 28 Rebekah Kowal (Assistant Professor, Dance) presented "Staging the Sit-Ins in Greensboro, North Carolina."

October 12 Rob Latham (Associate Professor, English and American Studies and Director, Program in Sexuality Studies) will talk on "Fast Sofas and Cyborg Couch Potatoes: Generation X on the Infobahn."

October 26 Jane Desmond (Associate Professor, American Studies) will present "From Taxidermy to Animatronics: Fictions of Liveness in Animal Display."

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

An informal reception in the American Studies suite will follow each talk. American Studies is located on the seventh floor of the Jefferson Building on Washington Street on the ped mall.



Laura Rigal writes: "I am so delighted with a book that I can't restrain myself from proclaiming its title.

JOSEPH ROACH, CITIES OF THE DEAD: CIRCUM-ATLANTIC PERFORMANCE (Columbia 1996)

Most of you (esp. Kim Marra and Jane Desmond) probably read it long ago, but I Just Now Got There! It's spectacularly good, though loaded with a kind of citation-heavy, interior genealogy of what can only be called/proclaimed/celebrated as "circum-Atlantic American Studies." There is no summarizing the book, really, except to say it examines the wildly rich performance history of two seaboard cities over several centuries of intercultural commerce (including the slave trade). The two cities are London 1700-2000 A.D. and New Orleans 1700-2000 A.D. Dang!

Rich Horwitz "For an accessible variant on the definition and history of American Studies in the U.S., I'd recommend an article by Scott McLemee in the June 15 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education: "A Star of American Studies (or is That 'Un-American Studies?)" It centers on an interview with former ASA President and editor of The Heath Anthology of American Lit, Paul Lauter. You can find a free copy of the article on the WWWeb at:

<<http://chronicle.com/free/v47/i40/40a01201.htm>>."



FELLOWSHIPS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities, with grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the

William R. Kenan Trust, will appoint a number of post-doctoral fellows in the humanities for the academic year 2002-2003. Fellows newly appointed for 2002-2003 must have received the Ph.D. between January 1, 1996 and July 1, 2002. The stipend will be \$27,000, one half for independent research and one half for teaching in the undergraduate program in general education. An additional \$3,000 is available to support research. Deadline for application is **October 15, 2001**. Application forms can be obtained by writing to:

Director

Society of Fellows in the Humanities

Heyman Center—Mail Code 5700

Columbia University
2960 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

Application is also available on their website at www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows

FREDERICK S. UPTON FELLOWSHIP IN PUBLIC HISTORY

The Department of History of Western Michigan University and the Ft. Miami Heritage Society invite applications for the Frederick S. Upton Fellowship in Public History. The Upton Fellowship has been established to train historians to engage diverse audiences in publicly and privately supported efforts to identify, preserve and interpret cultural resources integral to local and regional identity. It will be awarded to newly admitted, full-time graduate student whose area of concentration is Public History. Applications to both M.A. and Ph.D. programs will be accepted. Preference will be given to Ph.D. applicants.

The Upton Fellowship award will include an annual stipend of up to \$16,000 (renewable, pending annual review, for up to two years), and limited travel and research funds. Ph.D. students will receive full tuition remission. Applicants must complete the application process as required by the WMU Graduate School, found at: <http://www.wmich.edu/admi/grad/>. At least two of the letters of reference for graduate admission must address the candidate's specific qualifications for the Upton Fellowship. In addition, each applicant should submit a letter discussing his or her work in Public History and future career plans; a portfolio of work in Public History; two writing samples. These should be sent directly to Dr. Kristin Szylyvian, Chair, Upton Fellowship Committee, Department of History, Western Michigan University, 1903 West Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49008. All application materials must be postmarked by **February 1, 2002**.

For more information about Western Michigan University's Public History Program, please visit: <http://www.wmich.edu/history/publichistory/>

FULBRIGHT GRANTS

Applications are still being accepted for FULBRIGHT awards in a broad range of disciplines in American studies. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

Awards are for lecturing, research, or a combination of lecturing and research. Awards may be for three to ten months during the 2002-03 academic year and include travel, stipend, and living expenses for a grant holder and family. Obtain additional information at http://www.cies.org/cies/us_scholars/00_01awards.htm

Individual application form and guidelines may be obtained at
http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/application_02.htm
Deadline for receipt of applications is flexible within fall 2001.



Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, March 7-9, 2002, welcomes proposals for individual papers or panels in all areas of history. Prize of \$200 for the best graduate student paper presented at the conference. Proposals, consisting of abstracts) and one-page vitae(e) should be sent by OCTOBER 15, 2001 to the program chair, Prof. Sharon E. Wood, Missouri Valley History Conf., Dept. of History, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182.

(LAUREN NOTES: Sharon Wood is one of our alums, and she especially welcomes American Studies proposals from grad students and faculty here.)

CRAFT, CRITIQUE, CULTURE: The University of Iowa's 2nd Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Writing in the Academy

CRAFT, CRITIQUE, CULTURE invites scholars and writers from a range of disciplines, such as literary studies, cultural studies, communication studies, creative writing, theater, film, music, and art history, to present either formal papers or creative work, including poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and multimedia presentations. Selected papers will be published in the *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*. Please submit papers, abstracts, or panel proposals by **FEBRUARY 1, 2002** to:

Anthony Enns
English Department
308 English Philosophy Building
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-1492
anthony-enns@uiowa.edu

Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. See <http://www.uiowa.edu/~c3conf>.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ART HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (AHGSA) SYMPOSIUM, "Defining Ritual," provides a forum for graduate students in art history and related interdisciplinary fields such as visual culture, cultural studies, performance, etc, to present scholarly research and engage in intellectual debate. This year's symposium will examine the representation of ritual in the arts and ways in which art and ritual may relate to notions and constructions of personal and communal identity. One page abstracts of scholarly papers concerning all aspects of ritual accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a brief personal statement or letter of introduction will be accepted postmarked no later than November 21, 2001. The symposium will be held on Friday, January 25, 2002. Send to:

2002 AHGSA Symposium
c/o Courtney Hamrick
2048A East 1st Street
Tucson, Arizona 85719
Courtneyhamrick@hotmail.com

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, a full-text database containing articles from over 5,600 publications, is now available to University of Iowa faculty, staff and students. It is best known for providing current and archival stories from major newspapers worldwide but also contains the full text of television and radio transcripts, wire service stories, magazines, newsletters, and other publications. In addition, it provides basic sources for business, medical, and legal research. It represents a major addition to the electronic resources available on campus, expanding the number of publications available and making others available in a much more accessible format.

The University of Iowa Libraries are making this resource available to UI students, faculty and staff. On-campus access is available at <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/universe>. Off-campus access is available at <http://purl.lib.uiowa.edu/lexis/universe>. The Academic Universe is also available through the UI Libraries' Gateway to Online Resources at <http://gateway.lib.uiowa.edu/index.htm>. Click on the Power Reference Shelf link.

For more information about the Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe contact the University of Iowa Libraries Information Desk at 319/335-5299 or email at lib-ref@uiowa.edu.

American Studies Job Sites

Rich Horwitz

Curious about employment prospects for someone with a Ph.D. in American Studies? Consult the ASA's annual survey of Ph.D. recipients and employment trends. Full survey results are available on the WWWeb at: <http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/AmericanStudiesAsn/resources/survey/index.htm>

For a concise summary, I recommend the report that Christopher Just published in the ASA Newsletter (June 2001), p. 30. You are, of course, welcome to draw your own conclusions, but I find in the survey significant encouragement (at least in comparison to the usual sky-is-falling lore, especially when combined with the fact that the success rate of this particular department's graduates is at least half-again better than it is for the field as a whole.)

Also check out the regular H-Net job site: http://www.matrix.msu.edu/jobs/historyhumanities-open.html#American_Studies

6 NIGHTS OF CLASSIC 1930S AFRICAN AMERICAN MOVIES

All screenings are on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. in 101 Becker Communication Studies Building, and are FREE and open to the public.

Sun. Oct. 7: Sunday Sinners (1940) (65 min.)
Directed by Arthur Dreifuss. With Alec Lovejoy, Edna Mae Harris, and Mamie Smith.

Sun. Oct. 14: Murder on Lenox Ave. (1941) (61 min.)
Directed by Arthur Dreifuss. Starring Alberta Perkins, Sidney Easton, Alec Lovejoy, Edna Mae Harris. Featuring Mamie Smith.

Sun. Oct. 21: Moon Over Harlem (1939) (68 min.)
Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer. Featuring The Sidney Bechet Swing Band. With Bud Harris, Cora Green and Izinetta Wilcois.

Oct. 28: Harlem Rides the Range (1939) (58 min.)
Directed by Richard C. Kahn. Starring Herb Jeffries, Lucius Brooks, and Spencer Williams Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4

Corey Creekmur "Cocktails for Two: The Addictions of Cinema"
7:30 p.m.
UI Art Museum

October 5

Field Trip to Brucemore Mansion
3:30-5:30

October 7

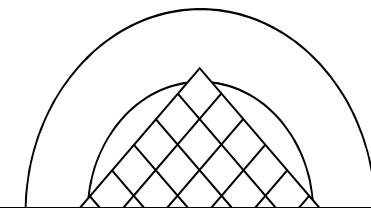
31st Annual Iowa Friends of Old Time Music Fiddler's Picnic
noon to 6 PM
Johnson County Fairgrounds
For more information, see:
<http://zeus.ia.net/~mayhem/FOTM/picnic.htm>

October 10

IFUSS (International Forum for U.S. Studies) South Africa Luncheon
12:30 p.m.
704 Jefferson Building
RSVP to 335-2476 or ifuss@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu to reserve a lunch

November 8-11

ASA Meeting
Washington, DC



American Studies Department

Faculty:

Lauren Rabinovitz, Chair
Jane Desmond
Richard Horwitz
Rob Latham
Kim Marra
John Raeburn
Laura Rigal (on leave)

Staff:

Carrie Louvar
Laura Kastens
(newsletter editor)
The University of Iowa
701 Jefferson Building
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
319-335-0320
Fax: 319-335-0314
american-studies@uiowa.edu

KEEP US POSTED

If you have information that you would like to pass on to The University of Iowa American Studies Department, 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 know 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) or fax (319/335-0314).

The American Studies Department
The University of Iowa
701 Jefferson Building
Iowa City, IA 52242