

# The University of Iowa American Studies Newsletter

Summer 2001

---



This special SUMMER edition of the newsletter is aimed at the alumnae of American Studies. It features some short items that we hope will be of special interest to you, and it has as up-to-date a list as we could compile of what all our PhDs are up to (an idea raised by Michael Lewis, PhD '00). Next summer, we'll provide a similar list of what all our MAs are currently doing, and the summer after that, we'll do the same thing for all the BAs who have kept up with us.

We would love to hear from any of you who want to let us know what you're doing and want to reach out to other Iowa alums.

It's also a moment for me to ask you to think of making a donation to the University of Iowa American Studies Department. American Studies has three funds with the University of Iowa Foundation based on donor contributions: **the American Studies General Fund** which supports a range of activities (including special events and graduate student recruiting), with a high priority given to graduate student development; **the Alexander Kern Fund** which is based on a bequest from former American Studies Professor and Chair Alexander Kern to specifically award annual fellowships to graduate students for dissertation research travel and travel for presenting a paper at national professional meetings; **the Albert E. Stone Fund** which is earmarked for funding annual alumnae speakers at the University of Iowa.

In addition to the speakers and annual fellowships that these funds support, we used these monies to send 14 graduate students to the American Studies Association meeting last November in Detroit and two students to the Mid-American American Studies Association in Madison, Wisconsin, in April.

We also used a modest amount of Foundation funds so that a group of graduate and undergraduate students could have sandwiches with John and Joy Kasson when they were here visiting from University of North Carolina. Joy Kasson, Professor of American Studies and English, lectured about her brand new book on Buffalo Bill; John Kasson, Professor of American Studies and History, previewed his forthcoming book on masculinity and turn-of-the-century America. Our American Studies brown bag lunch with the two scholars was only one event over a three-day schedule; but it gave about a dozen students a chance to talk informally and personally with two distinguished visitors.

There are a small number of alumnae who regularly remember this department with contributions, and I'll publicly thank all of you annually in the December newsletter. But I encourage everyone else to think about how much travel to a professional meeting means, how dear the prices are for graduate students, and how even a little donation combined with others help to defray expenses for which there are simply no other funding sources.

Lastly, in putting together the PhD alumnae list, I was very impressed by the successes and range of what Iowa's American Studies PhDs have been trained to do. I had no idea....In looking at your web pages, resumes, online c.v.s, I was always happy to see those words, "PhD from American Studies, University of Iowa." I'd like the connection to be more than mere words, and I'm interested in how your alma mater might serve you just as much as I'm interested in your help for your alma mater. Please let us know if there are ways we can keep the connection a strong one – the annual speaker and summer reading group are our first two efforts. But we'd like to do more.


---

**The Albert E. Stone Distinguished Alumnus Speaker.** Beginning in Spring 2001, we inaugurated a new annual event: bring back an alum each year to give a talk on his or her current interests and share with the American Studies community how life has worked out after graduate school. The event will carry both Al's name and a very modest honorarium for the speaker from the Albert E. Stone Fund.

This program allows us to see some of our alums (at least one at a time for right now given available funds) from time to time. We hope that alumni will welcome a return visit, especially one that honors Al. In deciding who we should bring, we make no claims for deciding the importance or distinguished achievements of any of our alums – you're all illustrious! So far, we've sought out people who share interests with and who we think will inspire the current crop of grad students.

In April of 2001, M. Alison Kibler (PhD '94), author of the award-winning *Rank Ladies: Gender and Cultural Hierarchy in American Vaudeville* and an American Council for Learned Societies 2000-2001 Fellow, was our first Stone Speaker. Her informal talk on her current research into Jewish and Irish rebellions at vaudeville's ethnic portrayals gave graduate students a chance to see into the process of conceptualizing and hypothesizing a big research project. The event was especially nice because other former Iowans joined in, too: Linda Yanney (PhD '91), Steve Horowitz (PhD '86), and Joyce Atkinson.

---



---

**Summer Reading Group for Current AMS Grad Students and Alums.** A few times the past few years, American Studies graduate students have taken the initiative of forming a summer reading group in order to read more "classics" of American Studies. But now, we're making this a more regular, more permanent fixture around here. For one thing, e-mail has changed the face of summer reading groups: our last two such groups have been electronic reading groups. Students propose a list of books to a faculty member sponsor and then post their responses to each book on a weekly basis, with the faculty member and reading group members posting electronic responses to the responses. This has made for some intensive discussions and allowed students who are not in Iowa City to participate fully. When Patsy Watkins (PhD '91), Chair of the Department of Journalism at the University of Arkansas, heard about the group, she asked if she could join this summer.

Thanks to Patsy's idea, I'd now like to extend this invitation on an annual basis to any alums who wish to participate either by partaking of the reading and posting their own notices or just by being on the listserv that gets the entire discussion. As the faculty sponsor this year, I can testify that the group's great discussions have given me new insights into Leo Marx's *The Machine in the Garden* and Henry Nash Smith's *The Virgin Land*, two of the chosen titles for this summer. Other titles covered this summer included: Frederick Jackson Turner's "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," Alan Trachtenburg's *The Brooklyn Bridge*, Warren Susman's *Culture as History*, Elaine Tyler May's *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*, Paul Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*, and Michael Denning's *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century*.

In April, we'll send out a query with the newsletter to see if anyone wishes to join in.

---



---

## *Directory of American Studies Ph.D.s*

Michael J. Augspurger (01), Adjunct Asst. Prof., University of Central Arkansas and Hendricks College, Conway, AR.

Jane Simonsen (01), Asst. Prof. of English Studies and American Studies, Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR.

Michael Wiseman (01)

Allison McCracken (00), Visiting Asst. Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies, U. California at Berkeley

Sarah K. Fields (00), Asst. Prof., University of Georgia

Daniel C. Lewis (00), Norfolk, VA

Lewis, Michael (00), Asst. Professor, Salisbury State University, MD

Lori Vermaas (00), Iowa City, IA

James Dorsey (99), Instructor of Sociology, College of Lake County, Chicago, IL

Franklin Hess (99), Post-doctoral Fellow in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University

Eileen Rorabeck (99), English, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio  
Jay Satterfield (99), Reader Services Librarian, Rare Books Collection, University of Chicago Library  
Markha G. Valenta (99), Post-doctoral Fellow, Leiden, Netherlands  
Ningping Yu (99), Assoc. Prof. of English and Director of CIEE, Nanjing University, China

Ilene Alexander (98), Teaching Consultant, Center for Teaching & Learning Services, University of Minnesota, Mpls., MN  
Michael Burk (98), Director for Worship, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Chicago  
Matthew Pustz (98), Instructor, Arts & Humanities, Kirkwood Comm. College, Iowa City, IA  
Leslie Taylor (98), Program Coordinator, Center for Health Education & Research, University of Washington, Seattle

John Baskerville (97), Asst. Prof. History, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA  
Brett Beemyn (97), Asst. Prof., Western Illinois U., Macomb, IL  
Gregg Conerly (97), Asst. Prof. History, Cleveland State Univ.  
Catherine Lewis (97), Asst. Prof., Humanities, Brenau Univ. & researcher, Atlanta History Ctr.  
Derryn Moten (97), Asst. Prof., Department of Humanities, Alabama State U., Montgomery, AL  
Daniel Nathan (97), Fulbright Professor of North American Studies, Tampere, Finland  
Rob Urstein (97), Chair, Dept of English, San Francisco U. High School, and Fulbright Fellow, Norway

John Groch (96), Asst. Prof, Dept of Communication & Design, Bilkent University, TURKEY  
Paul C. Gutjahr (96), Asst. Prof., English, Amer. Studies & Religious Studies, Indiana U., Bloomington, IN  
Natalie Robertson (96), Asst. Professor, Department of Political Science and History, Hampton University, Hampton, VA  
Jennifer L. Strayer-Jones (96), Project Manager, Arts in Transit, St. Louis  
Hongjun Su (96), Adjunct Asst. Prof., Center for International & Comparative Program, University of Iowa

Nan Wolverton (94), Curator of Decorative Arts, Old Sturbridge Village Museum, Sturbridge, MA  
Alison Kibler (94), Visitor, History, Australian National University  
Nancy Romalov (94), Adj. Asst. Prof., Women's Studies, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; self-employed furniture maker, Iowa City  
Noliwe Rooks (94), Assoc. Dir., African American Studies Program, Princeton U.  
Alan Spring (94), MCI, Ransomville, NY  
Sharon Wood (94), Asst. Prof., History, U. Nebraska-Omaha

Kay Aldrich (93), Instructor, Social Sciences, Rogue Comm. College, Oregon  
Hongchal Sohn (93), Professor of English, Taegu Univ., Kyunbuk, South Korea

James C. Hall (92), Assoc. Prof., English and African American Studies, U. Illinois-Chicago  
Terri Snyder (92), Assoc. Prof., American Studies, California State – Fullerton  
Ruth Trotter White (92), Academic Advisor to Minority Students, Washington High School, Cedar Rapids, IA  
John Zalenski (92), Information Director, National Resource Center on Family-Based Services (NRC/FBS), University of Iowa

F. John Herbert (91), Executive Director, Legion Arts, Inc., Cedar Rapids, IA  
Cheryl R. Jacobsen (91), Highland, IN  
Frank Moorer (91), Assoc. Prof., Humanities, Alabama State U., Montgomery, AL  
Maryann Rasmussen (91), Lecturer, English, University of Iowa  
Donald F. Scheese (91), Chair, Environmental Studies, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN  
Patsy Watkins (91), Chair, Department of Journalism, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR  
Linda Yanney (91), Oral History Interviewer, University Archives, University of Iowa  
Kathy Zawicki (91), Part-time instructor, Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY

James J. Stull (89), Instructor, Writing Program, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH  
JoAnn Castagna (89), Asst. to the Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, U. Iowa  
Walter R. Knupfer (89), Executive Director, Michigan Humanities Council, Lansing, MI  
Patrick Nunnally (89), Project Director, Mississippi River Bridger Project, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota

Clenora Hudson-Weems (88), Professor, English, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO  
Sahar A. Khalifeh (88), Director, Women and Family Affairs Center, Nablus, Jordan; novelist.  
Cynthia M. Larson (88), Barrington, NH  
Donnarae C. MacCann (88), Visiting Prof. in African American World Studies, University of Iowa  
Nicholas A. Natanson (88), Archivist, National Archives, Still Pictures Branch, Washington, D.C.  
Mark A. Reid (88), Professor, English and Film-Media Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Gladys Talcott Rife (88), Owner & Curator, Fayette Depot Museum, Fayette, IA  
Kesho Scott (88), Associate Professor, Sociology, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

Kenneth J. Brown (87), Grover Beach, CA. CalPoly Tech  
Andrew V. Martin (87), Associate Professor, Literary Studies and Film Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Jean R. Moss (87), Patient Education Specialist, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH  
Linda Schuppener (87), Coralville, IA  
Judy Lesniak Nolte Temple (87), Assoc. Prof., Women's Studies and English, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Emine L. Demirturk (86), Ankara, TURKEY  
Steven P. Horowitz (86), Adjunct Asst. Professor, American Studies, University of Iowa, and Journalist  
Dolly A. McPherson (86), Prof. of English, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC  
Suk-Bong Suh (86), Seoul, Korea  
Gretchen Sutherland (86), History, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA

Dian M. Gottlob (85), Advising Services Coordinator, Center for Credit Programs, University of Iowa

Mark Luccarelli (85), Westbrook, ME  
Kathleen Davidson March (85), Dir. of Admissions, Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC  
Ruth E. Williamson Drish (85), Columbia, MO.  
Lawrence H. Williams, Prof., Africana Studies and History, Luther College, Decorah, IA

Lynne M. Adrian (84), Assoc. Prof., American Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL  
Estella C. Alexander (84), NYC  
Thomas Doherty (84), Chair, Film Studies Program, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
Dan Jones (84), Houston, TX  
Richard J. McCann (84), Co-Director of M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing, American University, Washington, DC  
Mark Shadle (84), Associate Professor, English and Writing, Eastern Oregon State College, LaGrande, OR  
Bradley B. Williams (84), Executive Director, Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, Pasadena, CA

Kenneth L. Chambers (83), Durham, NC  
Robert L. Douglas (83), Prof., Art History and Pan-African Studies, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
Andrea B. Heiss (83), Prof., English, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

David Marc (82), Visiting Professor of Television-Radio-Film, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
Winifred A. Morgan (82), Professor of English, Edgewood College, Madison, WI  
Mary C. Rosebud-Harris (82), Louisville, KY  
Robert Slocum (82), Northwestern Mutual Insurance, Westchester County, NY

Charlene M. Hawks (81), Owner, Hawk's Antiques, Iowa City  
Andre J. Prevos (81), Associate Professor, French, Pennsylvania State U. Worthington-Scranton

James Gilson (80), Minneapolis, MN  
John Mullen (80), Prof., English, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA

Susan M. Coultrap-McQuin (79), Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN  
William H. Roba (79), Prof. of Social Sciences, Scott Community College, Bettendorf, IA

Australia Henderson Tarver (78), Assoc. Prof., English, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Steven R. Loevy (77)  
Robert L. McConnell (77), Adjunct Instructor, Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.  
Martin Pumphrey (77)  
Wilfred D. Samuels (77), Assoc. Prof., English and Ethnic Studies, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
Eric J. Sandeen (77), Director and Professor, American Studies Program, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Bill Fine (76), New Paris, PA  
James Hill (76), Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Albany State University, Albany, GA  
Patricia Hunt (76), Reseda, CA

Paul Seydor (76), independent music and film writer, LA  
Frederick Woodard (76), Assoc. Prof., African American World Studies, University of Iowa

Franklin R. Lloyd (75), Vice President, Executive Education, Thunderbird: the American Graduate School of International Management, Glendale, AZ

Thomas Morain (75), Ames IA

Lynn Munro (75), Independent consultant and freelance writer, Belton MO

Dennis K. Renner (75), Associate Professor, English, Adrian College, Adrian MI

Thomas H. Zynda (75), Fresno

Thomas F. Collins (74), Longwood, FL

Dale H. Ross (74), Ames IA

Amos J. St. Germain (74), Director of Student Retention, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA

Robert B. Thompson (74), Martindale, TX

Stephanie M. Bennett-Smith (73), President, Centenary College, Hackettstown, NJ

Carol P. Ehrlich (73), Tucson, AZ

Kay Mussell (73), Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, American University, Washington, D.C.

James W. Neatherlin (73), Greenville, TX

Frederick E. Pratter (73), Freelance writer, Hull, MA

Keith Swigger (73), Professor and Dean, Professional Education, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

Vincent T. Kohler (72), Professor of American Studies and Chair of the Humanities Division, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Bradford, PA

Virginia M. Kouidis (72), Associate Professor of English, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Nanacy Corson Carter (71), Professor of Humanities, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL

Timothy H. H. Thoresen (71), Springfield, OH

R. Gordon Kelly (70), Prof. of American Studies, University of Maryland College Park

J. Brooke Workman (68), North Fort Meyers, FL – retired chairman of the English department, West High School, Iowa City, IA

John O. Rees (65), Manhattan, KS

Jeanne Thomas Allen (?), Assoc. Prof., Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Joseph J. Arpad (?), Fresno, CA

Leola N. Bergmann (42), Iowa City

Vashti Lewis Holman (?), Wichita, KS

John G. Cawelti, Professor Emeritus of English, University of Kentucky, Louisville, KY

**Incorrect information listed? Help us out!**  
**Contact the American Studies Department office at**  
**701 Jefferson Building**  
**Iowa City, IA 52242**  
**319-335-0320**  
**319-335-0314 (fax)**  
**[laura-kastens@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-kastens@uiowa.edu)**

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