American Studies embraces Associate Professor Vivian Nun Halloran’s recent appointment to the Department. She is also a faculty member in the Department of English. Her current research focuses on non-fiction literature about food. What draws Professor Halloran to food studies is the chance to enjoy all the flavor of delicious ethnic food recipes with none of the guilt. Her book-length manuscript is about memoir with recipes which explicitly discuss an immigrant heritage—whether the writers, their parents or grandparents, were the people who chose to come to the United States—not only because of the prevalence of alimentary metaphors (such as the melting-pot, tossed salad, or stir-fry) for discussing our nation’s immigrant heritage, but because she was curious to see how these writers address the experience of growing up “ethnic” to a reading public fascinated by, and who are frequent consumers of, ethnic fare. Thus, although people like the playwright Eduardo Machado, novelist Diana Abu-Jaber, and cookbook writer Colette Rosen may have experienced various difficulties associated with trying to assimilate into a not always hospitable American society, there’s little question that foodies who pick up Tastes Like Cuba, The Language of Baklava, or Apricots on the Nile will find Middle Eastern or Cuban food to be either exotic or disgusting. The recipes in these books offer a greater opportunity for a mimetic engagement to their readers than other life-writing genres. The book examines how relatively recent food memoirs with recipes discuss citizenship and immigration and its familial repercussions through frameworks such as autoethnography, the expatriate experience, diasporic reevaluations of the legacy of colonialism, and invented or reclaimed traditions, for example.

Professor Bailey won two awards this spring. Most recently, he was the recipient of the 2012 Joan Heller-Diane Bernard Fellowship for his project in LGBTQ studies. This fellowship is awarded by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at CUNY. Bailey may participate in the CLAGS’s colloquium series next year to present his work. In March, Marlon was accepted into the Training Program for Scientists Conducting Research to Reduce HIV/STI Health Disparities, a program of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at University of California, San Francisco.

Inside this issue:
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- Alumni Lowdown 7

Special points of interest:
- Brenda Weber’s Exciting Year
- Gunderson & NAIS Award Winners
- Cara Kinnally
- American Studies Association
Brenda Weber, Associate Professor of Gender Studies (Adjunct Associate Professor of American Studies, Communication and Culture, Cultural Studies, and English), won the 2011 visiting scholar competition to study at the Australian Film Institute Research Collection (AFIRC) in Melbourne, Australia. As the inaugural AFIRC recipient of this international fellowship, Professor Weber utilized the AFI Research Collection in support of Reality Gendervision: Decoding Gender on Transatlantic Reality TV, of which she is the editor. Brenda Weber, Associate Professor of Gender Studies (Adjunct Associate Professor of American Studies, Communication and Culture, Cultural Studies, and English), won the 2011 visiting scholar competition to study at the Australian Film Institute Research Collection (AFIRC) in Melbourne, Australia. As the inaugural AFIRC recipient of this international fellowship, Professor Weber utilized the AFI Research Collection in support of Reality Gendervision: Decoding Gender on Transatlantic Reality TV, of which she is the editor.

During her stay at RMIT, she gave a public lecture entitled “An Insult to “Normal” Moms Everywhere: Kate Gosselin and the Contested Terrain of Celebrity Motherhood.” Based on her trip to Australia, Brenda is a founding member of an international research group on Gender and Media that brings together scholars from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe, Great Britain, and Asia.

In the fall, Weber keynoted two international conferences on the Gender Politics of Reality TV. The first plenary address was given in Dublin, Ireland and was titled “The Aesthetics of Authenticity in Age of Performativity: Gender Politics and Reality TV.” In early December, she traveled to Auckland, New Zealand and presented “Transatlantic Tensions: Tall Poppies in the American Field of Dreams and the Gender Politics of Reality Television”.

The Inside-Out Think Tank at Putnamville Medium Security Prison has been hard at work these past nine months. Students and faculty from Indiana University Bloomington meet with students incarcerated at Putnamville bi-weekly for approximately 2.5 hours. They typically function in working groups, with report-back and presentation to share the products and development of our work and garner support and ideas. Working groups have addressed topics including healthcare in the incarceration system, the privatization of food in the incarceration system, higher education cuts in Indiana prisons, re-entry, community organizing and resource-pooling, poetry, artistic expression through envelopes (“the Paper Walls Project”), and more. Recently, Think Tank members have been exploring ideas to develop a community center that 1) pools employment, housing, healthcare, and other important resources for persons coming out of the incarceration system and 2) provides a support space for families and friends of persons incarcerated to create dialogue and to organize. Without the structure of a class, the Think Tank allows for more horizontal discussion.

Associate Professor Micol Seigel, Core Faculty member in the Department of American Studies, has taught AMST-A 350 / AMST-G 620, the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, spring 2011 and spring 2012. This course was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility and included in its student body IU undergraduate and graduate students and incarcerated students.
ABSTRACT:
Profiles of artists and performers from around the world form the basis of this innovative volume that explores the many ways individuals engage with, carry on, revive, and create tradition. Leading scholars in folklore studies consider how the field has addressed the connections between performer and tradition and examine theoretical issues involved in fieldwork and the analysis and dissemination of scholarship in the context of relationships with the performers.

Special Publications of the Folklore Institute, Indiana University
ISBN: 978-0253223739

Pravina Shukla, Associate Professor of Folklore, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and Adjunct Associate Professor in American Studies.

Please visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxlHISmYWOc for a video profile of Dr. Shukla.

“Honoring Henry Glassie and his remarkable contributions to the field of folklore, these vivid case studies exemplify the best of performer-centered ethnography.”

Candy Gunther Brown is Associate Professor in Religious Studies and Adjunct Associate Professor in AMST.

When sickness strikes, people around the world pray for healing. Many of the faithful claim that prayer has cured them of blindness, deafness, and some believe they have been resurrected from the dead. Can, and should, science test such claims? A number of scientists say no, concerned that empirical studies of prayer will be misused to advance religious agendas. And some religious practitioners agree with this restraint, worrying that scientific testing could undermine faith.

In Professor Brown’s view, science cannot prove prayer’s healing power, but what scientists can and should do is study prayer’s measurable effects on health. If prayer produces benefits, even indirectly (and findings suggest that it does), then more careful attention to prayer practices could impact global health, particularly in places without access to conventional medicine.

Drawing on data from Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians, Brown reverses a number or stereotypes about believers in faith-healing. Among them is the idea that poorer, less educated people are more likely to believe in the healing power of prayer and therefore less likely to see doctors. Brown finds instead that people across socioeconomic backgrounds use prayer alongside conventional medicine rather than as a substitute. Dissecting medical records from before and after prayer, surveys of prayer recipients, prospective clinical trials, and multiyear follow-up observations and interviews, she shows that the widespread perception of prayer’s healing power has demonstrable social effects produce improvements in health that can be scientifically verified.

Harvard University Press, 2012

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Harvard University Press, 2012
Eric Sandweiss — The Day in Its Color


The book will serve as the basis for an exhibition at IU’s Mathers Museum of World Cultures, currently scheduled to open in July 2012.

FORTHCOMING MONOGRAPHS

Ed Linenthal, Professor of History (Editor, Journal of American History), joins art historian Christiane Gruber and documentary photographer Jonathan Hyman in co-editing A Photographer’s Journey: the Landscape of 9/11, to be published by the University of Texas Press in 2013.

Denise Cruz, Assistant Professor in the Departments of American Studies and English, looks forward to the publication of her book, Transpacific Femininities: The Making of the Modern Filipina (Duke University Press), by December 2012.

ACCOLADES


Colin Johnson Presents: “General Mills Made Me Gay” at the Food Networks conference sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, on January 26th. A week later, on February 4th, he presented a revised version on his essay “Corporate Forms” at the annual meeting of the Southern Humanities Council in Louisville, Kentucky. And, on February 18th, Johnson presented a paper entitled “Symptoms of Withdrawal: An Anti-Social History Reclusiveness in 19th Century America,” which is related to his new book project, at the annual meeting of the Indiana Association of Historians in Hanover, Indiana.


Alex Lichtenstein: Served as a historical consultant for the PBS film, “Slavery By Another Name (Premiered in February, http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/).

Michael Martin Publishes: “‘I Make Documentaries to Give Voice to the Voiceless...’: The Film Practice of Yoruba Richen,” Quarterly Review of Film and Video, 28 (3) 2011: 183-194.


Ellen Wu CSPAN came to Ellen Wu’s HIST-A 205 (Asian American History) class to film the session on Japanese American Internment. The taping was broadcast as part of the network’s “Lectures in American History” series in Dec. and Jan.
**AWARDS — AMST FACULTY**

**Core Faculty**

**DEBORAH COHN**  
Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in AMST (Associate Professor in Spanish & Portuguese).

2012 - Professor Cohn was selected to receive a Trustees Teaching Award for $2,500.

**KARE N INOUYE**  
Lecturer (AMST)

Received funding from the 2012 New Frontiers in the Arts & Humanities competition for her book project *The Long Afterlife of World War Two Incarceration, 1942-2011*.

**CHRISTINA SNYDER**  
Assistant Professor (AMST & History)

Christina has won an Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, given by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

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**Adjunct Faculty**

**JASON BAIRD JACKSON**  
Associate Professor in Folklore

With support from the Collaborative Research and Creativity Activity Funding (CRCAF) program, Jason will be spending the summer researching and writing about collections held by the Mathers Museum. The grant is funding a portion of the larger Southeastern Native American Collections Project that he and colleagues are pursuing.

Jason is doing work at the Smithsonian with support from a Smithsonian Short Term Visitor Award.

**KHALIL MUHAMMAD**  
Associate Professor in History and Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture


**RICHARD MILLER**  
Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions

Richard has been named a Provost Professor and the winner of the 2012 Tracy Sonneborn Award.

Additionally, Professor Miller received a 2011 Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award for his book, *Terror, Religion, and Liberal Thought* (Columbia University Press, 2010).

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*Patchwork Pot Holder, Florida Seminole*

Patchwork Pot Holder, Florida Seminole, Sturtevant Collection T111C, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian. Photograph taken by Jason Baird Jackson.
CONGRATS AMST STUDENTS!

PhD Students

MARK HAIN
Combined PhD student in AMST and CMCL — Mark was chosen to receive a Travel award of $400 from the College of Arts and Sciences. He used the award money to offset costs for his trip to Boston, MD where he presented his paper “Community History is Film History: Remembering through Repurposing in Echo Park Film Center’s Youth Filmmaking Project Edendale Follies” at the annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference.

CARA KINNALLY
Combined PhD student in AMST & HISP

Received TWO awards this spring!

Most recently Cara won the College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Research Fellowship for 2012-13. Her dissertation title is “Writing America: Transnational Discourses of Empire, Race, and Community Formation in the Nineteenth-Century Borderlands.” The fellowship stipend is $20,000.

AND THE WINNER IS . . . DANA LOGAN!

Dana Logan’s paper “The Crisis of Disestablishment and the American Prison” was recognized for the best essay written by an American Studies graduate student. She was honored at the AMST Gunderson Award event where she presented her paper.

Dana is pursuing a PhD in Religious Studies and minoring in American Studies.

The Virginia LaFollette Gunderson Award prize is for $1,000.

The School of Criticism (SCT), and Theory at Cornell University chose Cara Kinnally to participate in a six-week seminar, June 17–27, 2012, “Feminisms and Postcolonialities” led by Ania Loomba, Catherine Bryson Professor of English and Professor of Comparative Literature, South Asian Studies and Women’s Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

SARAH DEES
PhD student in Religious Studies (with a minor in AMST).

Sarah received the 2012 Native American and Indigenous Studies Fellowship offered by the College of Arts and Science for $18,000. She is a member of the Committee for Institutional Cooperation’s American Indian Studies Graduate Student Consortium and has presented at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association’s annual conference.

“I entered the field of NAIS seeking to engage curious representation of Native people I encountered while growing up in the Great Plains.”
Hollywood’s Italian American Filmmakers: Capra, Scorsese, Savoca, Coppola, and Tarantino (University of Illinois Press, 2011) is written by Jonathan J. Cavallero who graduated from IUB as a Combined PhD student in American Studies and Communication and Culture in 2007. Jon’s interest in studying Italian Americans spring from his own Italian American background. Cavallero’s great grandparents immigrated to the US with their families between 1910 and 1912. As a third generation Italian American growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC and Philadelphia, Cavallero often looked to the movies and television for a sense of cultural definition.

Jonathan J. Cavallero  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Communication  
University of Arkansas

Alumna Danille Elise Christensen recently received two grants to help her place current DIY “we can pickle that” enthusiasms in historical and ideological context. A Gerald E. and Corinne L. Parsons Fund award from the American Folklife Center will support archival research on home canning and food preservation at the Library of Congress, and a Charles Redd Fellowship in Western American History from Brigham Young University will underwrite a month’s research in Utah, where she’ll use materials in regional archives to trace how the now-common notion of (urban) homesteading intersects with rhetorics of self-sufficiency and pioneering in the West. Dr. Christen recently completed a visiting appointment in American Studies and Folklore at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; in August she’ll begin work as Senior Lecturer in Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy at The Ohio State University, Columbus.
Two new and exciting sessions have been added to the 2012 lineup:

**FOOD STUDIES**
Panels:
1) “Archives of Domesticity and Dissent: Cookbooks, Cooking Culture and the Limits of Culinary Exchange”;
2) “Culinary Occupation: Migration Identities and the Geopolitics.”

**SPORTS STUDIES**
Panels:
1) “Examining the Dimensions of Sport within the Empire of American Studies”;
2) “More than Game: Global Sports, Exotic Bodies, and Contested Spaces”;
3) Sport and Empire: from the Caribbean to MacArthur Park;
4) “Sports, Blackness, and the Body Politic”

To register for the conference, please go to [http://www.theasa.net/annual_meeting/](http://www.theasa.net/annual_meeting/).