

## Spring, Summer & Fall Student Research & Honors

Nicole Askew defended her MAST thesis: "The Real Atlanta: Representations of Black Southern Culture, Masculinity, and Womanhood as Seen in Season One of the of FX Series Atlanta." Capstone Adviors were: (L-R) Griselda Thomas and Nichole Guillory.



MAST student Mark Green successfully defended his capstone project, a screenplay titled *Stumbler*. Here he is (second from right) with his committee: (left to right) Robbie Lieberman, David King, and Bill Rice.



Congratulations to Gayle Anderson, for successfully defending her Master's thesis on artistic representations of Central American migrants in the U.S. Thank you to Dr. Ernesto Silva and Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar for co-chairing her thesis committee. Job well done.



Congratulations to Ben Rogers, who successfully defended his Capstone titled "Sequels of SAMs: Re-contextualized Media, Affective Memory, and Blade Runner 2049." Ben is pictured here (center) with his committee members Larrie Dudenhoeffer (left) and Sergio C. Figueiredo (right).



Outstanding AADS Studies Student:  
Robert Herrington



Outstanding Asian Studies Student:  
Sarah Barnett

## Faculty and Student Honors



CHSS Awards Ceremony May 2018:  
**Outstanding Diversity Advocate:** Griselda Thomas  
**Outstanding Engagement:** Heeman Kim  
**Outstanding Research & Creative Activity:** Roxanne Donovan

ISD Faculty Foundation Awards August 2018:  
**Outstanding Diversity Advocate:** Griselda Thomas  
**Outstanding Research & Creative Activity (Interdisciplinary):** Anne Richards  
**Outstanding Teaching Award (finalist):** Stacy Keltner  
Griselda Thomas was selected by the Presidential Commission on Racial & Ethnic Dialogue as 2017-2018 recipient of the R.O.H. Social Justice Award.

### Fall 2018 Homecoming Student Awards

Outstanding AADS Student: Robert Herrington  
Outstanding AADS Alumnus: Crystal Money  
  
Outstanding ASIA Student: Sarah Barnett  
Outstanding ASIA Alumnus: Anna Barnes  
  
Outstanding MAST Student: Elizabeth Hensley  
Outstanding MAST Alumnus: Gabriel Greaves



LtoR: Ernesto Silva, Robbie Lieberman, Gabriel Greaves, Outstanding MAST Alumnus, families and on the far right, Elizabeth Hensley, Outstanding MAST Student.

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<http://kennesaw.edu/give.php>



Laura Davis, Asst. Chair

Laura Davis has been at KSU since 2002. Her PhD in English Literature is from Georgia State University, where her primary emphasis was on gender, race, and sexuality in the literature of the US South with a secondary area focused on postcolonial literature of India, Africa, and the Caribbean. She relishes being in an interdisciplinary space and is truly honored to serve as assistant chair because it gives her the opportunity to support some of the most talented, social justice oriented, and dedicated faculty members she has ever met. Since joining ISD, she has seen the transformative power of the courses we offer to KSU's students and looks forward to facilitating our course scheduling as we seek to bring these courses to an even larger group of students in the years to come. Davis's most recent publications include an article for *The Faulkner Journal* on gender and the sense of smell in Faulkner's work, a chapter on team-teaching Ecofeminism (co-written with a fellow KSU professor and their shared students), and a chapter on interracial friendships between queer women. She won the KSU Outstanding Teaching Award in 2017.



Interdisciplinary Studies Department

### ISD is All About Change

So much has changed since I came to Kennesaw State five years ago to chair the Interdisciplinary Studies Department. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of ISD staff and faculty, we have grown in all sorts of ways and are able to provide many more opportunities for students. We now have more full-time faculty and as a department we offer many more courses, which enroll thousands of students each year. We offer multiple sections of a general education course in Science, Technology, & Society, new internships and ways to study abroad, and new programs, including a B.A. in Asian Studies, a Peace Corps Preparation Program, and a certificate in Diversity and Community Engagement. We are settled in our renovated suite on the second floor of the Social Sciences Building where we hope to continue hosting gatherings that facilitate exchanges with many departments and fields of study across the university. Even our web site has changed, and, thanks to our staff members Annie Moye and Cherie Miller we have more of a social media presence.

This fall we have several new faces in the department who are featured in this newsletter: Assistant Chair Laura Davis, Assistant Professor of Asian Studies and Gender & Women's Studies Elizabeth Miles, and jointly appointed Assistant Professor of History and GWST La Shonda Mims. We also welcome a new joint appointed faculty member, long-time GWST affiliate Federica Santini, who is Professor of Italian Studies. And we are pleased to have MAST graduate Meya Hemphill serving as a Limited Term faculty member this semester. We are currently engaged in a search for a tenure track faculty member in African &



Spring/Fall 2018

New Faces  
Faculty Research  
ISD Students  
Spring/Fall Honors

African Diaspora Studies (AADS), the first full-time line devoted to this program.

In the spring, we celebrated the 15 year anniversary of the Maya Project, led by Alan LeBaron. We also worked with others to host another successful SAUPO meeting in Atlanta and a wonderful talk by Dr. Suzy Kim, "Behind the Iron Curtain: Cold War Women in North Korea," on International Women's Day.

ISD faculty received a number of competitive awards from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Spring. Asian Studies coordinator Heeman Kim won the Engagement Award, Griselda Thomas won the Diversity Advocate Award, and Roxanne Donovan was one of two winners of the award for Scholarship and Creative Activity. In addition, Griselda received the R.O.H. Social Justice Award from the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

We honored our award winners at the college and university level and our recent graduates in AADS, Asian Studies, and the Master's in American Studies (MAST) program in the Spring and Summer. This Fall, we were able to honor our outstanding students and alumni at the CHSS Homecoming event—the creativity and commitment of our students continues to inspire us!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Roxanne Donovan, who is on a well-deserved research leave this semester, for all the important work she did as Assistant Chair in ISD over the past few years.

Robbie Lieberman, Chair  
[Robbie.Lieberman@kennesaw.edu](mailto:Robbie.Lieberman@kennesaw.edu)





As a child, **Liz Miles** never would have guessed her adult self would be studying Japanese men and sexuality; now, she can't imagine not doing so. Dr. Miles first went to Japan post-grad to teach English in Sendai with the JET Program. After a brief stint with the Asahi Shinbun, and a longer tenure with Stanford University Press, she returned to graduate school to pursue a M.A. in East Asian Studies at Yale. Realizing that "Japanese dudes are fascinating," she (foolishly, but understandably, per her mother) began her doctoral studies in 2010. Dr. Miles received her Ph.D. in Anthropology in May 2017 from Yale University, with a dissertation entitled, "Men of No Value: Contemporary Japanese Manhood and the Economies of Intimacy." She is currently working on a journal article on male virginity movements in Japan. Dr. Miles is new to the Atlanta area and is always looking for good food recommendations!



**LaShonda Mims** received her PhD in History at the University of Georgia in 2012. Dr. Mims comes to KSU most recently from Towson University in Baltimore. She is the recipient of the Catherine Prelinger Award and Scholarship, presented by the Coordinating Council of Women in History. In 2014, the National Park Service invited her to join its Scholars Roundtable for their ongoing LGBTQ Heritage Initiative research project. Mims regularly presents her work at a variety of scholarly conferences, including the Urban History Association, the National Women's Studies Association, the Library Orientation Exchange, the Southern Historical Society, and the American Historical Assn. Her manuscript in progress, *Drastic Dykes and Accidental Activists: Lesbians, Identity and the New South* explores lesbian life in Atlanta and Charlotte, NC, from WW II to present. Her publications include a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Women's History*.

**Federica Santini** joined ISD as a jointly appointed faculty member in Foreign Languages. She holds an M.A. in Comparative Literatures from the University of Siena, Italy, and a Ph.D. in Italian, with a focus on 20th- and 21st-century Italian literature, from UCLA. Her main research interests are modern and contemporary Italian poetry, gender and women studies/feminist literary theory, experimental writings, and translation studies. Her articles and translations have appeared in numerous publications in the United States and Italy, including *Rivista di Studi Italiani*, *L'illuminista*, *L'anello che non tiene*, *Il Verri*, *L'Ulisse*, and *Italian Culture*. She has written extensively on Amelia Rosselli, Alfredo Giuliani, and Elio Pagliarani among others. She is the co-editor of four volumes, the last of which, the American edition of Alfredo Giuliani's *I Novissimi, Poetry for the Sixties*, with Luigi Ballerini, was released by Agincourt in 2017.



**Meya Hemphill** graduated with an MA in American Studies in the Summer of 2017. She was formerly a Teaching Assistant (T.A.) for Dr. Griselda Thomas. She is "extra" busy this semester as a Limited Term instructor, which involves teaching five classes! She is teaching a Learning Community that's connected to the LGBTQ Resource Center and several AADS classes, including the popular AADS 3500: The Black Woman. Greet Meya if you see her hanging out in the ISD Suite this semester. We appreciate her good cheer, despite her heavy workload. Congrats to Meya for being named the 2018 Homecoming Outstanding Anthropology Alumnus!



Asian Studies students (left) met with **Dr. Heeman Kim** and others to get advising on opportunities with Study Abroad, internships, foreign language requirements, etc.

The BA in Asian Studies already has 70 declared majors despite only being around for two years.

Interested in Asian Studies? Email Heeman Kim: [hkim21@kennesaw.edu](mailto:hkim21@kennesaw.edu).

Ernesto Silva and Seneca Vaught took students to Peru for another Maymester adventure that examined the role of ethnicity, race and culture in Latin America. The trip used real-world experiences to develop critical thinking skills, cross-cultural adaptability, and leadership competencies in community engagement. After visiting famous archeological and historical sites, a team of KSU students [Hazel Lika, Sophia Smith, Labrittany Koger (AADS), Leif Womack (AADS), Stephanie Weisenburger, Chanel Holmes, and Morgan Harrison] met with administrators and students in the Universidad Nacional de San Augustin (UNSA) in Arequipa. This year, students participated in a cultural exchange with UNSA students in the Communication Department and were warmly received. One student, Sophia Smith, was interviewed on local television. She enjoyed her time so much there that she decided to remain for another month! The duo will return with students in May of 2019. For more details, email: [ahenriq2@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ahenriq2@kennesaw.edu) or <https://tinyurl.com>



Student Volunteers at SAUPO 2018 in Atlanta

Outstanding MAST Student:  
Ben Rogers, w/ faculty  
honoree:  
Rebecca Hill



Outstanding AADS Student:  
Arlene White, w/ faculty  
honoree:  
Roxanne Donovan



## Faculty Research

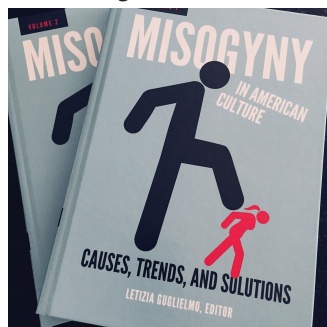
**Miriam Brown Spiers** has just been named an assistant editor at *Transmotion*, a journal that publishes “new scholarship focused on theoretical, experimental, postmodernist, and avant-garde writing produced by Native American and First Nations authors, as well as book reviews on relevant work in Indigenous Studies, and new creative work that seeks to push boundaries.” **Brown Spiers** also received this year’s “Safe Space” award from the office of LGBTQ Student Engagement presented to a member of the staff or faculty nominated by students as exemplifying the mission of the Safe Space Initiative.

**Danelle Dyckhoff**, Assistant Director of Learning Communities and an AMST faculty affiliate, published: “Global Citizenship in the First-Year: Making a World of Difference.” *E-Source for College Transitions* 15.1 (December 2017): 13-15 and “Haunted American Histories: Representing Spectral Subjects in Historical Crime Fiction,” *Arizona Quarterly* 73.3

**May Gao** had two peer-reviewed publications and one book chapter in 2018. Written about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China, they were: Chapter 17: Globalization 5.0 Led by China: Powered by Positive Frames for BRI. *China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Changing the Rules of Globalization* and Facilitators and Frames by China in Promoting the “Belt & Road Initiative.” *China Currents*, China Research Center.

**Rebecca Hill’s** “Capital or the Capitol?: The Hunger Games Fandom and Neoliberal Populism” will shortly be published in the *American Studies Journal*. She also had a review essay, “A Hundred Years of Fake News” published by *American Quarterly* in June 2018. Hill is working on a new book on political polarization in “geek culture.” She participated in the AMSTO (American Studies Student Organization) pre-Dragon Con Event with a talk entitled “Dragon Con Goes to College,” discussing what it is like to do research at fan conventions.

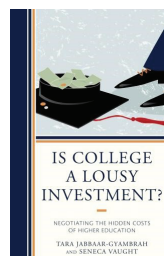
**Letizia Guglielmo**, GWST Coordinator, edited a timely collection entitled: *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends and Solutions*.



**Jalessah Jackson**, who teaches in AADS & GWST, was awarded an Errin J. Vuley Fellowship at the Feminist Women's Health Center. She will be participating in and facilitating workshops and other action-based events that focus on the necessary skills, content knowledge, and strategies through the lenses of reproductive, gender, and racial justice.

**Robbie Lieberman** had a chapter entitled “You’ll Never Hear Kumbaya the Same Way: The Diffusion and Defusion of a Freedom Song,” in the book *Songs of Social Protest: International Perspectives*, published by Rowman & Littlefield in August. She also presented a paper “Martin Luther King’s Triple Evils: Putting Militarism at the Center of the 1960s” at the 1968 in the Americas Conference at University College London.

**Anne Richards** participated in the U.S. Fulbright Scholar Alumni Ambassador Summit in Washington, D.C., on September 11 and 12, 2018. Among the topics addressed were: reaching out to academic administrators, engaging faculty, recruiting from underserved areas, and amplifying the impact of the Fulbright program worldwide. Anne has served as a Fulbright Teaching Fellow (Sfax, Tunisia, 2006–2007), a Fulbright Specialist (Davao, Philippines, 2014), and a Fulbright Ambassador (2010–2013). She vets proposals for the Fulbright Specialist program in the areas of Conflict Management and American Studies, and she is a Member of the Board of the Fulbright Association’s Georgia Chapter.



**Seneca Vaughn** co-authored a book with Tara Jabbaar-Gyambrah, *Is College a Lousy Investment?: Negotiating the Hidden Costs of Higher Education*. It was published by Rowman & Littlefield in February.

**Sarah Holliday**, a GWST affiliate, gave the keynote address at Queer Research Day, which also included a presentation by **Jessica Fisher**, a MAST graduate student.

**Linda Niemann** published *Cosas: Folk Art Travels in Mexico*. “Love and friendship, art and craft, language and culture are the subjects of this look back at one woman’s experiences in Mexico over a period of twenty years.” It was published by the University of New Mexico Press in February.

**Wendell McMurrain**, who teaches in RELS, attended two sessions of Summer at Yale, concentrating on ethics and religion.

**Federica Santini** published a chapter in *Journal of Italian Translation*, entitled: Italian translation of poems by Lynne McMahon.

**Annie Moya** was accepted into the Public History PhD program at Georgia State and has been taking classes this fall. Congrats, Annie!

**Cherie Miller** was accepted into the MAST Certificate program and plans on graduating in Spring 2019.





Diversity  
Social Justice  
Community Engagement

# **Interdisciplinary Studies Department**

**Student  
Mixer**

**October 22**

**11- 2 pm**

**Leadership Room,  
Student Center**

## **Learn more about us**

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Gender & Women's Studies  
Latin American/Latin@ Studies  
Peace Studies  
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