

# Student Engagement

Students enrolled in the ENGL 3330/GWST 4040 Ecofeminism class, Latonya Burrell, Ashley Dawson, Ashley Hay, Chantal Matthews, and Scarlett Peterson--participated in the 2014 Peoples' Climate March in New York City. The event was organized by a coalition of nonprofit and citizen action groups, and more than 400,000 people attended. Additional marches took place worldwide.

"The most overwhelming aspect of the entire experience was gaining visual and first hand insight on how exactly the issue of environmental degradation affects people from all ends of the spectrum. Looking at this issue intersectionality has truly opened my eyes," said Ashley Dawson. She further described the scene at the march: "Young, old, wealthy, poor, Republican, anarchist, drag queens, Muslims, Hindus, Christians. Bangladesh, Micronesia, Barbados, Fukushima. Armed with an arsenal of blaring percussion tambourines, bongos, weird-looking things, bells, whistles, microphones, didgeridoos, and intellectual discharge. Lethal. Butterfly and honeybee wings, polar bear suits, sea creatures, skyscrapers, sparkly floaty puppets, meditation, anger, tears, chants, roars, hand holding, handcuffs, vibrations, stillness. Colors, colors, colors exploded diagonally from every direction dripping over the city, symphonic fireworks. Dreadlocks, bike locks, arms locked woven in barricade. Warriors. Afro samurai. Vegan Viking. Thrusting fists and picket signs pierced the sky, cries were heard. We made history!"



In December approximately fifty concerned students staged a "Die-In" in front of The Commons to highlight the recent court decision about Eric Garner and the on-going protests in Ferguson, Missouri. A video of the protest can be found at: <https://player.vimeo.com/116064729>. This is a part of an on-going discussion on campus about race, class and gender. Several ISD students helped organize and participate in these events to raise campus awareness.



The Gender & Women's Studies Program launched a domestic violence and abuse resource project that will engage students in their community by offering education and information. The project is co-advised by Stacy Keltner and Corinne McNamara. MAST student Ashley McFarland is completing her Practicum by focusing on teen dating violence. Carina Browder is completing an undergraduate research assistantship on the project.



The LUCES (Latinos United in Commitment to Education) Program held a banquet on December 5, 2014, at The Commons to celebrate the end of a successful first semester at KSU and the completion of their work in Learning Community #21: From Latin America with Love. The learning community offered two courses taught by ISD faculty Ernesto Silva and Seneca Vaught. All twenty-two students were in attendance, accompanied by family members. Other faculty in ISD, including Neysa Figueroa, Robbie Lieberman and Dan Paracka were there to welcome these first-year students and encourage them to think of ISD as a space for academic learning and personal development.

ISD ...where ideas and identities connect



Interdisciplinary Studies Department <http://kennesaw.edu/isd>

Spring 2015

## ISD Chair's Message

ISD continues to grow. We now enroll nearly 2,500 students each semester. As consolidation with Southern Poly takes hold, we welcome a new lecturer, Trina Queen, and several part time faculty members (Michael Wade, Jan Potter, and Jessica Pierce) to ISD. This means we now feature yet another interdisciplinary focus, which is Science, Technology and Society. Julie Newell may join us as a department faculty member after this year (she is currently serving in an administrative position doing trouble-shooting and problem-solving during the early stages of consolidation). And we are in the midst of a search for a new joint appointee with History with a specialty in women and gender.

As you peruse this issue of our newsletter, please take note of the many exciting events we have planned for the spring semester. Among the highlights: our American Studies program is hosting the Southern American Studies Association meeting, with the timely theme of "Reconstruction: 2015 – 1965 – 1865," featuring Robin Kelley as one of the keynote speakers. The AADS conference keynote speaker is Kenyan writer Ngugoi Wa Thiong'o, Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California-Irvine. We are also delighted that GWST Focus Week will feature a talk by Dr. Michael Kimmel, a leading researcher and writer on men and masculinity, who holds the position of Distinguished professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University. His many books include *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*, *The Guy's Guide to Feminism*, and most recently *Angry White Men*.

This has been a great year for student engagement, in line with important national events and growing movements for social justice. Please read the stories about our students who attended the People's Climate March in New York City in September, as well as those who helped to organize a "die-in" on campus to call attention to the issue of police brutality in communities of color.

Look for upcoming changes in our curriculum. These include giving a course number to the "Year of" course, coordinated each year by Dan Paracka to educate our campus about a particular country or world region; revising several of our minors so that they are more consistent with each other; and working more closely with the Honors College to offer more ISD courses.

Last but not least, we owe a debt of thanks to Joe Thomas, Professor of Art History, who is serving as our Interim Assistant Chair this semester.

ISD programs continue to be sites for creative thinking, teaching, research, and engagement. We invite you to find out more about us by stopping in for a visit at our suite, SO 2005, and visiting our website: [www.kennesaw.edu/isd](http://www.kennesaw.edu/isd)

*Robbie Lieberman*

## ISD Welcomes Joe Thomas



ISD's new interim Assistant Chair, Joe A. Thomas, is a professor of art history in the School of Art and Design and adjunct curator at the Zuckerman Museum of Art. He earned a BFA in art (with a specialization in art history) from the University of North Texas; an MA in art history from Southern Methodist University; and a PhD in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin.

His research focuses on various aspects of sexuality and representation in art and popular culture. He has published in journals such as the *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte* and in the anthology *Sex for Sale*, among others. Last year he co-chaired a session on "The Erotic Gaze in Early Modern Europe" at the College Art Association meeting; in April he is presenting a paper, "Gay Male Pornography After the Digital Revolution" at the Popular Culture Association. He is affiliated faculty with American Studies, and has crosslisted courses with GWST and given guest lectures for Asian Studies. He also helped supervise the very first masters thesis in the MAST program.

**Note our department's new phone and fax numbers: 470-578-2431 (phone) and 470-578-9141 (fax)**



## Faculty News

**Rebecca Hill** presented at American Studies Association on a panel titled Critical Prison Studies: Keywords in Critical Prison Studies II.

**Alan LeBaron** published *The Education of Maya Families in Georgia: A Native American People at Risk*. LeBaron has received three grants totalling \$22,000 to establish a transnational engaged internship in Guatemala, the US and another one to work with Cherokee High School on Latino academic success. He presented his theories on transnational internships (with Sheb True of Coles College) at the Association of Academic Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. He also gave a presentation on Latinos/as in the South at the Latino Studies Conference in Chicago. And lastly, the Maya Heritage Community Project hosted a week-long exhibit of Mayan art and textiles, paired with a Maya cultural event that was presented at the request of the City of Canton. David Galban, a MAST student, served an internship with the Maya Project, doing research on Maya partners in Greenville, South Carolina.

**Robbie Lieberman** chaired a panel at the American Studies Association titled “The Cultural Front in the Twenty-first Century: Paradigms for a New Millennium.” She co-edited the January 2015 issue of *Peace & Change*, a quarterly journal of peace research. The focus of this issue is Art, Activism and Cultural Politics in the History of Peacemaking. Robbie Lieberman’s piece on the Peoples’ Climate March may be read at: [http://inthesetimes.com/article/17541/the\\_peoples\\_climate\\_march\\_is\\_still\\_changing\\_the\\_debate\\_on\\_climate\\_change](http://inthesetimes.com/article/17541/the_peoples_climate_march_is_still_changing_the_debate_on_climate_change)

Congratulations to **Mandy McGrew** for being selected as the Fellow for Part Time Faculty Support at CETL. We know Mandy will do a great job in this position.

**Jim Piecuch’s** first foray into fiction was published by Simon and Schuster, *Tim Cratchit’s Christmas Carol: The Sequel to the Celebrated Dickens Classic*.

**Scott Ritchie** published “Egocentrism in Self and Society” in the *Encyclopedia of Diversity and Social Justice*. He presented, “The Feminization of Literacy” at the annual Literacy Research Association and “Not born in the wrong body: How cisnormativity lies and elides” at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference. He also participated in a session at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference (Washington, DC) entitled “Never too young for fairness: Using LGBTQ themed literature with elementary school children.”

**Ernesto Silva**, Coordinator of the Latin American/Latino Studies Program led a KSU delegation to Peru from September 5-14. During the Mistura Food Festival in Lima, Chef de Cuisine Gary Coltek offered a presentation on sustainability and food production at KSU. In addition, the delegation visited the campuses of the Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola and the Universidad Nacional Agraria de La Molina to promote collaboration and future exchanges.

**Seneca Vaught** was awarded an O’Donnell Research Grant Award by the Scowcroft Institute Award Committee to assist with archival research at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. His proposal addresses the largely undocumented role of the George H.W. Bush White House in reversing American foreign policy toward South Africa following the Reagan Administration. This grant will enable him to consult documents in the White House Office of Records Management Collection that are important resources for an article he’s writing on the Bush White House’s role in addressing apartheid.

**Kathryn Walkiewicz** was chosen to participate in the Spring 2015 Manuscript Completion Program (MCP). She is using the course release to revise an article for publication about print culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Indian Territory.

**Yvonne Wichman** will be presenting at several conferences this spring on the topics of women and religion. They are: the Conference of the American Academy of Religion-Western Region; Women & Religion and Art & Religion Conference of the American Academy of Religion-Pacific NW Region; and the Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literature (SECCLL) in Savannah, Georgia.



**Ruth Yow** (AADS & AMST) was a runner up for the 2014 Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize for the best dissertation in American Studies. She received her award at the ASA Conference in November for “Home Team Colors: Race, Education, and Justice in the Resegregating South, 1964-2013.” The selection committee wrote, “*The Committee’s selection of your dissertation as the only finalist for this prestigious award indicates our deep appreciation of the extraordinary fieldwork you did for this project, as well as the insightful, broad-ranging analysis you bring to this evidence. Through your beautifully written narrative, the case of Marietta opens a window onto the recent history of race and education across the nation. We feel confident that the publication(s) that will eventually grow from this dissertation will have significant impact.*”

## Special Events

**February 19-21, 2015** - Kennesaw State’s American Studies Program will host the Southern American Studies Association Conference held at the Atlanta Westin Hotel. This year’s theme is “Reconstruction: 2015 – 1965 – 1865.” Keynote speakers are Shelley Streeby and Robin Kelley.

**February 24, 2015** - The 5th Annual Pathways to Peace will be held at 2:00 p.m. in BB151 featuring Greg Van Kirk, co-founder and president of the Social Entrepreneur Corps: Impact through Opportunity.

**March 19, 2015** - The 7th Annual AADS Conference with keynote speaker Ngugi Wa Thiong’o, a Kenyan writer who is the Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California-Irvine.

**March 23-27, 2015** - The Gender & Women’s Studies Focus Week will explore Gender and the Workplace with keynote speaker Dr. Michael Kimmel.

**April 17, 2015** - The Symposium of Asia-USA Partnerships (SAUPO) held at the St. Regis Hotel, Atlanta. This is the largest Asian business conference in the Suoth.



## Save the Date- Michael Kimmel at KSU! March 24, 2015

### ***ANGRY WHITE MEN: American Masculinity at the End of an Era***

Everywhere we turn, there are pockets of rage among American men. Why would middle class white men be so angry? In this lecture drawn from the book *Angry White Men*, Kimmel will discuss why men seem so angry, and the different groups that organize and express that anger -- from men’s rights groups, to men who "go postal" in their workplaces, to angry white boys, to the extreme right wing.

<b>Meet &amp; Greet:</b>	Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 3:00-4:30 pm – SO Atrium
<b>Lecture &amp; Book Signing:</b>	Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 5:00-7:30 pm SO Auditorium, 1021

Be on the lookout for related events, including a pre-lecture book discussion of Kimmel’s *Angry White Men* and a post-visit roundtable discussion on gender, work, and KSU with faculty, staff, and students on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Michael Kimmel is among the leading researchers and writers on men and masculinity in the world today. He is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University, where he directs the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities. Kimmel is the author of more than twenty books, including *Manhood in America: A Cultural History* (1996), which was hailed as the definitive work in the field. His best-seller, *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men* (2008) investigates young people’s lives today, based on interviews with more than 400 young men, ages 16-26. His most recent book, *Angry White Men* (2013) examines various groups of men who believe that they have become the new victims of discrimination in America – ranging from men’s rights activists to fathers’ rights groups to white nationalists. Kimmel served as an expert witness for the U.S. Department of Justice in the VMI and Citadel cases. He has consulted with all the Ministries for Gender Equality in the Nordic countries, and was the first man to deliver the International Women’s Day lecture at the European Parliament. He’s also spoken at the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and the European Space Agency. Kimmel has lectured at over 300 colleges and universities and offered presentations at many of the world’s leading corporations on engaging men in support of gender equality.

[www.michaelkimmel.com](http://www.michaelkimmel.com)