

On Thursday, February 9th, the American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) hosted its third graduate student research symposium. This year's event, "Perspectives on American from Across the Disciplines," featured a writing-workshop, a research-in-progress MAST capstone panel, and the energetic "Chat and Chew," a speedy research mingle. AMSTO was thrilled to invite Dr. Jack Halberstam as the keynote lecturer, but unfortunately his flight was cancelled last-minute due to inclement weather. This talk will be rescheduled for a date TBA.

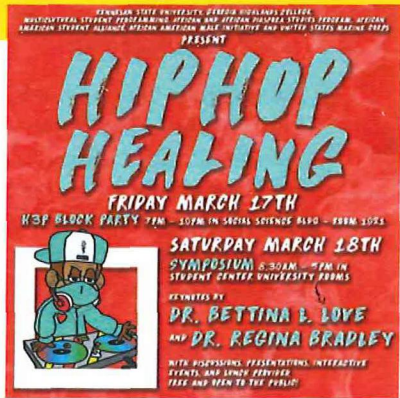
The day began with a writing workshop for graduate students. The panelists were Robbie Lieberman, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies; Letizia Guglielmo, Associate Professor of English; Ari Eisenberg, Assistant Professor of History and Interdisciplinary Studies; Stacy Keltner, Professor of Philosophy & GWST Coordinator; and Ashley McFarland, Program Coordinator of the MA in American Studies program. The panelists took turns sharing strategies about taking notes, organizing research, drafting, and publishing a finalized manuscript.

American Studies capstone students took the stage next to give presentations on their MA theses. Alex Vuich presented "Policing in a Sundown Town," a historical and ethnographic analysis of race, crime, and displacement in a North Georgia county. Anna Tussey discussed the Maya diaspora and presented her findings from interviews with metro-Atlanta educators in "Guatemala Maya Studies in North Georgia: Educators Perspective." Finally, Stefanos Milkidis gave a haunting examination of the surviving art and history from Manhattan's abandoned docks in "A Queer Space Narrative: Reclaiming Manhattan's Lost Waterfront."

The most anticipated event of the day was the "Chat and Chew" (pictured below), a speedy research-mingle that resembles a speed-dating event. Guests rotated through the extemporaneous research presentations of current and former MAST students. AMSTO president Stephanie Craven delivered "Black Gems: Race, Gender and Sexuality in Steven Universe," a portion of her capstone that analyzes queer identity and mental illness in children's television. MAST graduate and current Director of the KSU Digital Commons, Aajay Murphy, discussed the global coffee trade in "Coloniality in a Cup: A Look at El Salvador through Third Wave Coffee Ideations." Jacqueline Winters-Allen, MAST student and Department of Chemistry Administrative Associate argued for a new Equal Rights Amendment in "We Cannot Succeed When Half of Us Are Held Back." Naznin Sultana, MAST alumna, gave a timely look at Islamophobia in "Unmasked Gospels: Islam, slamophobia, and Ideologies of Bangladeshi Muslims in Atlanta."



Cherie Miller is the co-advisor for the KSU Humane Club which sponsored a kissing booth on Valentines Day for Mostly Mutts.



Spring 2017 Events

March

17-18-AADS Student Leadership
Hip Hop & Healing
22-CHSS Grad Fair (SO Atrium)
22-25-SEWSA sponsored by
GWST Program (Midtown)
28 - Pathways to Peace with
Yang Sophorn, Activist
28-Noche de Liderazgo
(Marietta campus Ballroom)

April

14-SAUPU sponsored by Asian
Studies Program (Loews Hotel)

May

8-MAST Wine & Cheese Party
9-MAST Graduation 7:00 pm.
10-CHSS Graduation for under-
graduates - Congrats to Cheyenne
Ashley who is graduating this
spring!

Study Abroad Opportunities: Summer 2017

May (PERU):

12-19: Students will learn about Latin American culture outside of the United States. Travel will include a trip to southern Peru to visit important archeological sites as well as meeting locals, while also engaging in cultural events. Travel with Ernesto Silva & Seneca Vaught.

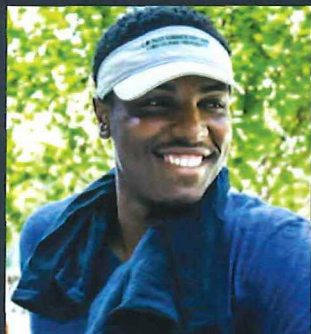
June (MEXICO):

6-July 11: Intensive Spanish and Creative Writing with Linda Niemann. Participants will spend four weeks in the historic and artistic city of Oxaca which is known for beautiful colonial architecture, bright artwork and a tranquil atmosphere. Students will live with host families and take Spanish courses (at the Instituto Cultural) and take creative writing courses.

July (COSTA RICA):

3-AUG. 5: The Latin American Studies Program in partnership with Coles College has developed an innovative internship program working with community cooperatives that protect community values and environmental sustainability. Students obtain six credit hours through internships and directed study. Spanish language proficiency required.

Fabeon Tucker New Student Asst.

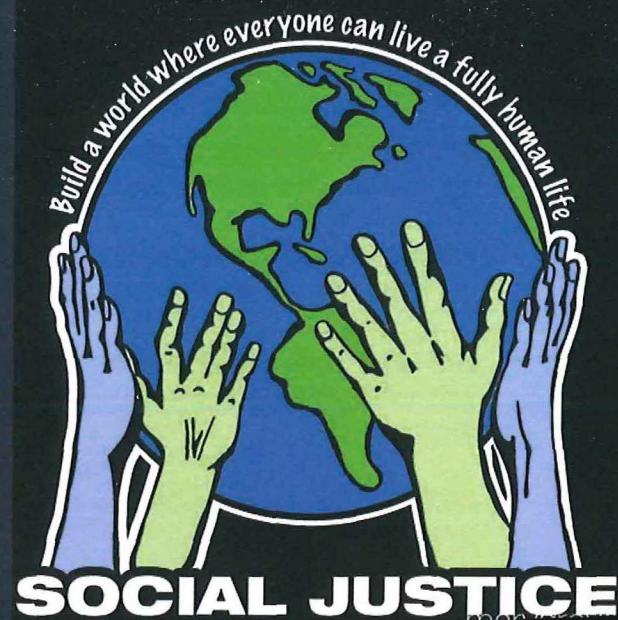


Determination, Discipline and Dedication are the three motivational factors that I used to propel me over the various hurdles that life presents. I am an international senior student-athlete who is humble and finds pleasure in helping others.

I am from Jamaica and majoring in Integrative Studies with a concentration in Leadership and a minor focus in Computer Technology. I have obtained my Associates Degree in Information Technology at Monroe College in New York, transferred to Mississippi and then later transferred to KSU.

My passions are traveling and leading. I aspire to travel the world to experience different cultures to gain a deeper understanding of others in order to influence and empower lives. In the future I will switch my career path to enter the field of aviation. I have always had a great love for airports and my dream job would be to become an Air Traffic Controller.

Stop by to meet Fabeon and say hello!



What's New in ISD?

ISD is growing and changing in any number of ways. We have a new major, Asian Studies, which is already attracting students. The number of minors in ISD programs also keeps increasing, especially in Asian Studies and Gender & Women's Studies. We just received word that we will be able to conduct a search for a new assistant professor in those two areas next fall, which is great news!

All of our programs continue to create opportunities for students to be engaged in the community and to get international experience. The Latin American and Latino Studies program has even created a combination internship and study abroad, in which students can spend a month in Costa Rica working at a Cooperative. ISD faculty will participate in a number of First Year Learning Communities next fall, including GLBTQ Histories and Communities, Religion in a Post-9/11 World, and Year of India. No one can accuse ISD of not being creative!

Our department will have a new look this fall. Our suite is being renovated over the summer to connect the parts and add some new office space. This will also provide us with a new conference room that can double as a classroom for graduate students and perhaps even a meeting place for students on occasion.

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We will have some new faces in ISD as well, as we are currently completing two tenure track searches. We are delighted that Dr. Rudy Aguilar has accepted the position focused on Chicano Studies (serving mostly American Studies and LALS). An offer will be made soon for a new joint appointed faculty member, whose home will be in English, specializing in Native American Studies. Sadly, for us, Dr. Ari Eisenberg will be leaving, but we know she will be happy reuniting with family in Memphis.

This newsletter highlights only part of what our faculty and students have been up to during Spring semester, including some exciting upcoming events.

Finally, please join me in congratulating this year's award winners in our department:

Diversity Advocate:	Laura Davis
Community Engagement:	May Gao
Part Time Faculty:	Mandy McGrew
Research/Creative Activity:	Roxanne Donovan
Professional Service:	Ernesto Silva

We invite everyone to come by and see us in our newly renovated space next fall, or stop in sooner to find out more about the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.

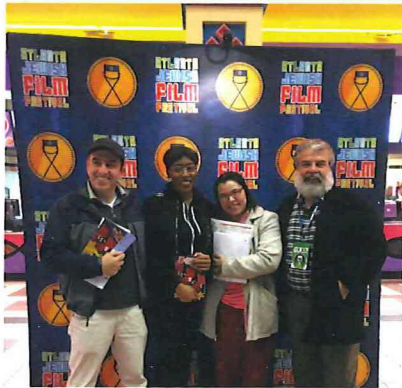
Robbie Lieberman, Chair

Rlieberm@kennesaw.edu

Community Engagement

Rodolfo Aguilar was the Prime Time Humanities Scholar at the Switzer Library in Cobb County this spring. Training was presented at New Orleans.

Ernesto Silva with students in his LALS 3770 course: Latin American Film



PAX instructor **Pranaya Rana** represented Nepal in the 33rd Mobile International Festival in Alabama Nov 17-19.

Over 15,000 people attended this multi-cultural event.

Ashley McFarland found out about a need at a Cartersville Homeless Shelter for women to have access to menstrual products, so she worked with KSU student **Shaina Kattaron** (pictured below) and her sorority sisters at Omega Phi Alpha to collect donations.



A Punk Prayer from Moscow to the World - Pussy Riot, Civil Disobedience and the Digital Age with ISD presenters: Stacy Keltner, Letizia Guglielmo, Ashley McFarland and Kayleen Justus from Music History at the Year of Russia event on March 9, 2017.

Student/Alumni Highlights

MAST Alumnus **Yen Rodriguez** accepted a new job as Assistant Director of Multi-Cultural Student Affairs.

MAST student **Alexandra Vuich** presented at the Diversity Forum on the topic of "Learning from our World" held on March 1, 2017.

Nikolas Baranco, a LALS Minor student, received the prestigious Gilman Scholarship for a summer study abroad. He has chosen to go to Argentina.

GWST student **Jessica Fisher** is presenting at SEWSA on a panel entitled "Tumblrina the Transtrender and Gender Language and Identity Developments" and a second panel on "Queer Rurality."

MAST student **Tanya Brinkley** will present at SEWSA on a panel entitled "Practicing Equality to Promote Social Justice."

Program Highlights

LALS: Minor in Latin American and Latino Studies: The expanded and enhanced LALS minor became official in January 2016, and the number of students with the LALS minor continues to grow. With a wide range of courses to choose from, the revised LALS minor provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the Latin American region and an understanding of the Latino peoples in the United States.

LALS recently hosted Chicano music scholar Ruben Molina (pictured below) who spoke on interactions between black and brown musicians in Southern California from the 1940's to the 1970's. It was a great event and we thank everyone who worked so hard to bring him!



Faculty Research Highlights

Rodolfo Aguilar presented at two conferences this spring:

1. "That's the Kind of Love: The Mystics, Soul Music, and Recovering the Musical Archive in 1970s Latino Chicago," paper presented to the Recovering U.S. Hispanic Literary Conference at University of Houston, February 9-11, 2017.
2. "'Cuando cruzo la frontera, conmigo llevo el sabor': Mapping Hemispheric Migrations of Cumbia Vinyl Records, Contemporary Cumbia Sonidera, and Mexican Immigrants," paper presented at annual meeting of the Southern American Studies Association, March 2-4.

Roxanne Donovan published an important article entitled "Four Ways to Stay Mentally Fit if You're Struggling with the Political Climate" that has been picked up by many news outlets, including the *Mail and Guardian Africa*.

Rebecca Hill chaired and presented at a round table at the Southern American Studies Association on "Right Wing Attacks on Southern Universities and How to Fight Back". There was a general conversation and information sharing session among faculty from a number of different schools across the South. She also has two book reviews coming out this spring. "Writing on the Wall: Selected Prison Writings of Mumia Abu-Jamal" for the *Journal of American History* and "Hanging Bridge: Racial Violence and America's Civil Rights Century, by Jason Morgan Ward for the *North Carolina Historical Review*.

Robbie Lieberman was the Chair and discussant for a panel, "Atlanta's Great Speckled Bird and the Long Global Sixties," at the Florida Conference of Historians, March 2017. She is presenting "The Black and Red Scare in the 20th Century United States," at a conference on Anticommunist Persecution in Bern, Switzerland, April 2017. She will also be presenting on a panel, "The Future for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies" at the Rotary International's 2017 Presidential Peace Conference in Atlanta, June 2017, where she will talk about the work of ISD and our Peace Studies program.

Sarasij Majumder contributed a chapter "Should the Son of a Farmer Always Remain a Farmer? The Ambivalence of Industrialisation and Resistance in West Bengal," in the book *Industrializing Rural India: Land, policy and resistance* edited by Kenneth Bo Nielsen and Patrik Oskarsson, published by Routledge in October 2016.

Tom Pynn delivered his paper "Go to Your Broken Heart: Jack Hirschman Performs Rumi" at the 56th annual meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Oxford, Mississippi, in January 2017. He also published his review of Andrew Schelling's "Love and the Turning Seasons: India's Poetry of Spiritual and Erotic Longing" in the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*, Vol. 38, Spring 2016.

Awards and Grants

Congratulations to **Stacy Keltner** for receiving a Faculty Leave Enhancement for the Fall 2017 semester. She will be working on her new book project.

Na-Rae Kim was been awarded the CHSS Summer Research Grant in the amount of \$6,000 for summer research in Korea.

Sarasij Majumder was selected to represent the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and KSU at the "Perspectives on Global Issues Workshop-Sustainability" to be held in May 2017 at the European Academy of Otzenhausen, Germany.

Julie Newell prepared and supervised the Invasive Species event for the second year in a row as part of the Georgia Science Olympiad Regional Tournament on the Marietta Campus on February 25th, 2017. She participated on Saturday, March 4, on a Womens' History Month Alumni Panel entitled "Women Helping Women."

Anne Richards was selected to participate in the "Year of India" Faculty Learning Community.

Faculty Presenting at the SEWSA Conference March 22-25, 2017

Rodolfo Aguilar will present "Virtual Transnationalism, Masculinities, and Hemispheric Latino Solidarity on Sonidero Web Programs," paper presentation.

Jayne Canty will present "Heterosexism in Black Queer Lives: An Analysis of the Visibility of Black Queer Relationships in the American South during the Digital Age."

Laura Davis will present a workshop on "Teaching Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Online." Joining in this discussion will be **Letizia Guglielmo, Stacy Keltner, and Tamara Powell**.

Roxanne Donovan will present "Creating Sista Circles: Chronicles from a Women Faculty of Color Pre-Tenure Support Group," with colleague **Griselda Thomas**.

A group of faculty will be presenting on #Misogyny. They include: **Elizabeth Gordon Letizia Guglielmo, Scott Ritchie and Erin Ryan**.

Sarah Holliday will present on the topic of "Women in STEM: a case study of the challenges during a consolidation." She will also co-present with Ugena Whitlock on the topic of "Reframing family in the U.S. South."

Ashley McFarland and Stacy Keltner will present "Engendering Change from A to Z-A Round Table Discussion of Teaching Engagement." They are also collaborating on a panel on Digital Activism entitled "In Nuda Veritas: Sex, Shame and Politics in the Digital Age."

Rebecca Robinson will present "Mediated Martyrdoms of Muslim Women: Victimization Tropes in the Transnational Connective Memory."

Debarati Sen and Linda Johnston will present "Family, Orientation and Women Playing Sports."

Elizabeth Venell will present on the topic of "Cluster Orgy: Embodiment and Networked Subjectivity in Sense8."

Saying Good Bye!

Ari Eisenberg has accepted a new position at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. We are happy for her on her new adventure! She is leaving KSU after the end of spring semester.



Cheyenne Ashley, our wonderful Student Assistant, will graduate in May 2017 with a degree in Psychology, with a minor in Applied Statistics and Data Analysis. Future plans include Graduate School.

Ashley McFarland will be leaving us in July to pursue a PhD in Communication at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

ISD will miss ALL three of you!

Consider donating to the ISD Foundation Account today!

Designate 310120 IDS & send to MD#9101