Farewell ... and Welcome!

Last May, a “Farewell and Welcome” gathering was organized by the American Studies Program and hosted by then-AMST Associate Director Joan Hawkins. The title chosen for the celebration raised a few eyebrows—but the choice was appropriate in its ability to express the event’s dual purpose: to bid farewell to outgoing Program Director Eva Cherniavsky (who becomes the Hilen Professor of American Literature and Culture in the English Department of the University of Washington) and to welcome Professors Matthew Guterl and Deborah Cohn as the American Studies Program’s new directorial team.

Director Matthew Guterl was trained as a cultural historian of the United States, but feels comfortable in a wider variety of academic arenas, including Ethnic Studies and African American/African Diaspora Studies (his “home” department). His research interests span the globe (from the U.S. to Africa, Europe and the Caribbean) and the academy (from history to politics to literature). Such breadth, however, has not been without depth. Dr. Guterl’s transnationalist and transdisciplinary methods culminated in the publication of The Color of Race in America (Harvard University Press 2001) and have led to contracts for other works (A World Without Slaves: Race and Work in the Age of Emancipation with Harvard University Press and Race, Nation and Empire in American History (an edited collection) with the University of North Carolina Press.) Each of these books takes a multidisciplinary look at the concept of race and the process of race-making, the latter putting these issues into a global political context by examining the role of the United States in shaping racial ideology in the world.

The natural interdisciplinarity of work such as this places Matthew Guterl at the center of the topics that continue to define American Studies for the present generation of scholars. He is extremely well fitted to the ideological and methodological direction(s) of American Studies nationally and locally.

Equally suited to the task is new Associate Director Deborah Cohn. An Associate Professor in both Spanish and Portuguese and Comparative Literature, Dr. Cohn combines those two fields to undertake comparative studies of the literatures of the Americas. Her History and Memory in the Two Souths: Recent Southern And Spanish American Fiction (Vanderbilt University Press 1999) examines points of contact and thematic commonality among modern Span-

(Continued on page 2)
ish American and southern novelists (William Faulkner, Mario Vargas Llosa, Ralph Ellison, Isabel Allende, Katherine Anne Porter, Juan Rulfo). As Dr. Cohn describes it, her analyses “compare and contrast these authors’ shared attempts to provide corrective to official mainstream historical discourse through alternate parallel strategies for reconstructing, recording and reclaiming the past.”

Professor Cohn takes care not to speculate on hierarchical relations of influence; instead, she reveals an understanding of the South and Spanish America as neighboring spaces with similar personalities without privileging one area (and its respective body of literature) over the other.

This type of intellectual challenge to geographical hierarchy was continued with Dr. Cohn’s second book, a collection of essays entitled Look Away! The US South in New World Studies (compiled with Jon Smith of the University of Montevallo and published by Duke University Press in 2004). The writings in this collection attempt to push scholars away from emphasizing the South as an exception within US culture and toward an emphasis on the region’s commonalities with other “New World” postplantation cultures.

Because Professor Cohn’s work breaks down typical geographic and regional boundaries within the United States, asserts the recognition of global literary culture(s), and grapples with the place of the United States in the Americas and the world, it plays a crucial role in helping to push the definitional boundaries of “American Studies.” All of this makes Deborah Cohn a welcome addition to the field and to the Indiana University American Studies Program.
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship on Race, Crime, and Justice

Application Deadline: 21 October 2005
Residency begins summer/fall 2006

This fellowship encourages new scholars of diverse backgrounds to work and publish in this important field. One fellowship is awarded each year for a two-year residency at the Vera Institute in New York. Fellows receive a generous annual salary and benefits plus research and travel allowances to pursue a scholarly project of their own design while gaining experience in policy-oriented research and writing. Applicants must have completed a doctorate within seven years of applying for the fellowship or be completing it by summer 2006. Details and an application are available at www.vera.org/mellon.

The Library Quarterly

The Library Quarterly, now under the editorial leadership of John C. Bertot and Wayne A. Wiegand, seeks original submissions that link scholarship on reading with the library as a reading institution, explore the library as a cultural space, evaluate library networked services and resources, examine collection development in networked environments, or address information architecture and telecommunication policy. The Library Quarterly seeks to interpret relevant issues and current research for the librarian, educator, administrator, and others involved with the collection and history of books. For more information visit Library Quarterly online at: http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/LQ

Special Issue of Life Writing
Mixed Race, Hybrid, Transnational: Writing Lives in National and Global Frames
Deadline 30 December 2005

The editors invite articles that theorize and read mixed race, hybrid, and transnational subjects represented in all forms of life writing—autobiography, memoir, biography, diaries, letters, autobiographical novels, other forms of creative non-fiction, and more. We are open to new research on hybridity, multiple subjectivities, interculturalism, flexible citizenships, and all forms of crossings and overlapping identities and narratives, and are particularly interested in studies that recuperate historical and neglected texts and that move their interpretative perimeters to include experimental and mixed life writing genres. All articles will be peer-reviewed. Please send submissions to guest-editor Shirley Geok-Lin Lim or associate guest-editor Caroline Hong at:
Department of English
University of California
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Newberry Library Fellowships in the Humanities

Fellowships at the Newberry Library provide assistance to researchers who wish to use our collections, but who cannot finance a visit on their own. Fellowships at the Newberry Library are of two types: short-term fellowships with terms of one week to two months and long-term fellowships of six to eleven months. Short-term fellowships are generally restricted to individuals from outside the metropolitan Chicago area and are primarily intended to assist researchers with a need to examine specific items in the Library’s collection. Long-term fellowships are generally available without regard to an applicant’s place of residence and are intended to support significant works of scholarship that draw on the Library’s strengths. For more information and application deadlines go to: www.newberry.org/nl/research L3rfellowships.html.

Great Comic Artists

The University Press of Mississippi is soliciting proposals of manuscripts for a new series of critical assessments and appreciations of the most important comic artists who have contributed to the history and development of comic strips, comic books, graphic novels, animation, editorial cartoons, comic illustration, and panel or gag cartoons in the United States and throughout the world. For information and the format of proposals, contact the series editor: M. Thomas Inge, Blackwell Professor of the Humanities and American Studies
Randolph-Macon College
Ashland, VA 23005-5505
(tinge@rmc.edu)

Renwick Gallery Smithsonian American Art Museum
Deadline 15 January

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery invite applications for research fellowships in art, craft, and visual culture of the United States. The stipend for a one-year fellowship is $20,000 for pre-doctoral fellows or $35,000 for senior and postdoctoral fellows. The standard term of residency is twelve months, but shorter terms will be considered; stipends are prorated for periods of less than twelve months. Email fellowships@si.edu for more information or visit www.si.edu/research+study for applications.
American Studies Department  
California State University Fullerton  
Postmark deadline 14 October 2005

Applications are invited for a tenure-track assistant professorship to begin Fall 2006. We seek a specialist in race and ethnicity within the larger context of American society and culture. Qualifications include: (1) Ph.D. in American Studies or American social/cultural history; (2) university teaching experience; (3) ability to teach AMST 201 (Introduction to American Studies) and AMST 301 (American Character); (4) ability to teach advanced courses in area of specialization. Evidence of successful teaching and potential for significant scholarly publication is essential. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications. To apply, send a letter of interest, curriculum vita, and three letters of recommendation to:

Michael Steiner, Recruitment Chair,  
American Studies Department  
P.O. Box 6868  
California State University, Fullerton,  
Fullerton, CA 92834-6868.

Ethnic Studies Department  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
Review begins 18 November 2005

Applications are being accepted for two A.Y. tenure track positions. The first tenure track position is at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor to begin in September 2006. The second tenure-track position is at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin in September 2006. Duties include teaching, scholarship, advising students, committee service, and contributing to the launch and development of a new major degree program in Comparative Ethnic Studies to begin in Fall 2006 (pending final approval by the CSU Chancellor’s office). For either position, candidates must have expertise in and be prepared to teach courses in any one or more of the following areas of Ethnic Studies: Africana Studies, Asian American Studies, Indigenous Studies, Latino/a Studies, Comparative Ethnic Studies, or Postcolonial Studies. Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies or comparable programs in Social Sciences or Humanities preferred, but advanced ABD candidates will also be considered. The degree, however, must be completed by the time of appointment. Salary and rank are commensurate with experience and qualifications. To apply, view detailed application instructions and submit required on-line faculty application at www.calpolyjobs.org for requisition #100639.

Department of American Studies  
University of Notre Dame  
Preliminary deadline 31 October 2005  
(for ASA interviews)  
Final deadline 15 November 2005

The Department is accepting applications for up to two tenure-track or tenured appointments (open rank). Areas of teaching and research are also open, but may include literary and cultural studies, comparative cultures/the Americas, social history, narrative nonfiction, and ethnic studies. The department is seeking outstanding interdisciplinary teachers and scholars. Salary commensurate with experience. Ideally, applicants should have completed a Ph.D. in American Studies or a cognate field. Experience in an American Studies program is desirable. Please send a letter of application, C.V., and three letters of reference to:

Benedict Giamo, Chair  
Department of American Studies  
314 O’Shaughnessy Hall  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Department of History  
University of California at San Diego  
Review begins 15 November 2005

The Department of History, in conjunction with the Institute for International, Comparative, and Areas Studies at the University of California, San Diego seeks applications at the assistant professor level for a position in the history of the United States and the world. The department seeks to attract a broad and diverse pool of applicants to teach and conduct research on the United States relations with the wider world. The successful candidate will offer courses in both history and the International Studies Program. Submit cover letter, C.V., and three letters of recommendation (sent under separate cover) to:

David G. Gutiérrez, chair  
U.S. search committee, Department of History  
MC 0104 AS  
UCSD  
9500 Gilman Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0104.
Shira Segal’s (Communication and Culture) article “From the Private to the Public: Photography, Film and The Transmission of Cultural Memory in Hollis Frampton’s (nostalgia)” is being published in the 6th issue of Text, Practice and Performance.

Since Michelle Brown (2003 Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and American Studies) left IU for an assistant professorship in Sociology at Ohio University, she has been garnering much academic attention. In May of this year she received a University Professor Award (honoring professors who are particularly admired by students) and will publish an article in an upcoming issue of American Quarterly.

Professor Helen Gremillion’s (Gender Studies) invited article “The Cultural Politics of Body Size” will appear in the September issue of the Annual Review of Anthropology.

An article by Nathan Carroll (Communication and Culture) will be published in this Fall’s edition of The Velvet Light Trap.

Professor John Louis Lucaites (Communication and Culture) will be delivering a keynote address on “Remembering the Civil Rights Movement: Figuring Citizenship in a Visual Democracy” at a conference on Contesting Public Memories at Syracuse University in October.

Professor Lucaites’ book (co-authored with Robert Hariman of Northwestern University), Icons of Liberal Democracy: Public Culture in an Age of Photожournalism, is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press. He will also be team-teaching a course in the Spring semester (“Public Intellectuals in an Age of Empire and Terror”) with Professor Robert Ivie (Communication and Culture).

McKinley Johnston and Anne Mylott were married on Saturday, 6 August 2005, at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Rockville Centre, New York. John earned a Ph.D. in Folklore and American Studies and an MLS in Library Science in 2004; Anne earned a Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science in 2002.

Following the successful defense of her dissertation this summer, Suzanne Enck-Wanzer (English) has begun a tenure-track position in the Department of Communication Studies at Eastern Illinois University.

Professor Sarah Knott (History) has just completed a year as a Mellon Fellow at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, working on her book on sensibility in revolutionary America, Women, Gender and Enlightenment, co-edited with Barbara Taylor, is out with Palgrave in early September 2005.

Earlier this year, Professor David Delgado Shorter (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) completed a website exploring religious rituals and ethnic identity among the Yaome/Yaqui Indians of the Sonoran Desert. Funded by NYU, a post-doctoral fellowship and an IU New Frontiers travel fellowship, the website is available at www.hemisphericinstitute.org/cuaderno/yeome/content.html
Throughout 2005, the Indiana University American Studies Program has been celebrating its 40th anniversary. To commemorate this occasion, the AMST newsletter will highlight particular milestones that have marked the path of the Program since its establishment during the early Cold War era. This month, we focus on how the Program was initially founded, and the ways in which it was broadly conceived, both academically and administratively.

During the 1950s, Indiana University had instituted several of its nationally recognized interdisciplinary programs and area studies departments: Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Folklore and African, Asian and Latin American Studies. Recognizing the academic successes of those undertakings, the American Studies Association approached the university about institutional membership in the ASA in 1960. Responding positively to that invitation, the University asked Robert Gunderson (a new member of the speech and theatre faculty) to head a committee to design a new “studies” program that would be broadly representative of various university departments (History, English, Folklore, Government and Zoology). By 1962, a plan for a graduate program in American Studies was in the works.

Those who worked on the blueprint for the American Studies Program called it “full of idealism,” and a look at their list of initial goals shows that it was nothing less than energetic. Requests for NDEA (National Defense Education Act) funding cited six areas in which the proposed Program could expand the work of the University: encourage the interdisciplinary study of American culture; train teachers of American Studies; provide an integrated course of study in American culture for foreign students; stimulate creative interdisciplinary research; establish American Studies seminars crossing the boundaries of history, literature, politics, art, drama, science and technology; and publish interdisciplinary studies in American culture.

With few changes, this proposal was officially adopted by the Graduate Council in 1964, and by the fall of 1965, the “interdisciplinary study of American culture” at Indiana University was launched. Basic to the success of that first semester was an attractive and engaging set of “core” courses. The next newsletter issue will take a closer look at that original curriculum.