



American Studies Program Newsletter

Cynthia Gwynne Yaudes, editor

'TRINITY' OF SCHOLARS VIE FOR FACULTY POSITION

The deadline for submissions in the Virginia LaFollette Gunderson Award Competition, which recognizes the best essay written by an American Studies graduate student, is 20 February 2006.

The winner will be invited to present an abbreviated version of the winning essay to a multidisciplinary audience of IU faculty and graduate students. Submissions should be addressed to:
Matthew Pratt Guterl
American Studies Program
Ballantine Hall 520
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405



The development of an American Studies undergraduate major at IU has led to the establishment of several new faculty lines within the Program. The faculty members who fill these positions will be responsible for teaching the core and elective American Studies courses for the major; they will also have responsibilities in their "tenure-home department." The three finalists for the first position, a shared faculty appointment between American Studies and Religious Studies, visited campus during the last few weeks, to introduce themselves to Indiana University and to demonstrate their scholarly and pedagogical achievements.

Dr. **John M. Giggie** is currently an Assistant Professor of History and Director of the American Studies Program at the University of Texas (San Antonio). His research and teaching focus on the interdisciplinary study of American religion, especially with regard to African-American history, race, capitalism, and visual and material culture. The sample lecture he presented to the IU commu-

nity, "Selling Faith: Black Southerners and the Commodification of African-American Religion, 1865-1915," brought these topics together in interesting ways.

Giggie's thesis surrounds the idea that minority groups have historically gained a degree of power by acting "in the market," even within constrained structural positions. Historians typically point to the 1950s as the era when Marcus Garvey and Martin Luther King, Jr. encouraged southern blacks to use the market in the push for equality, withholding bus fare, for example, in an effort to desegregate the mass transportation system in Montgomery, Alabama. However, Giggie maintains that such activity might be located earlier in time. Specifically, he outlines a tri-fold process of commodification and market agency at work in the South just after the Civil War. Northern (presumably white) manufacturers of inexpensive household items utilized southern black preachers as salesmen to market their products to congregants.

Preachers, in turn, used their traditional status as religious leaders (and their new status as salesmen earning small commissions) to raise money for their churches. Congregates, usually poor, rural whites and blacks, were the third part of the process, using the consumer market (and the purchase of its commodities) as a source of political authority and an act of independence. The commodification of a particular word is what drives the current research of Dr. **Kathryn Lofton**, presently visiting Professor of Religion and Humanities at Reed College. Her presentation "Que(e)rying Fundamentalism: The Case for John Balcom Shaw," uses the "problem of a biographical example" to deconstruct the idea of fundamentalism, asking if the biography of one man might be enough to reconstruct the parameters of an entire concept. Until 1916, Rev. John Balcom Shaw was a celebrated member of the Protestant ruling class, taking on the role of advisor to

(Continued on page 2)

“The Fundamentals,” leading several large urban congregations, and serving as President of the Elmira (NY) College for Women. In August of 1916, however, anonymous letters sent to four Elmira ministers accused Balcom of sodomy. Over the next year, the Presbytery assembled over fifty transcripts from letters, meetings, and individual testimonies regarding these accusations. In the end, Shaw was written out of the fundamentalist movement. Nevertheless, he seemed to remain one of its most attractive figures, who, Lofton asserts, might help us to embrace a broader understanding of fundamentalism. She points out that Shaw had a rather unique relationship to the more typical and traditional concept of fundamentalism (one which was intensely provincial narrow in its piety). Shaw “differentiated himself as a theological thinker,” demonstrating an intense spirituality and physicality in his relationships, acting on a “muscular Christianity” that was “active, adventurous and collegial.” Lofton explains that Shaw “loved

love,” focusing on the “local tokens of God’s grace;” he was disinterested in man’s sinfulness, never using the word in his writings; he comfortably linked religion to science; and he saw the typical Christian life as a burden. She wonders, therefore, whether the story of John Balcom Shaw might be seen as a misinterpretation of fundamentalism, with his heterosocial physicality (rooted as it was in his own type of Christian euphoria) misread as homoeroticism? Suggesting this might be so, Lofton argues for a broadening of the definition of fundamentalism so that it might grasp the depth of character shown by Shaw—a definition that moves beyond the easy contemporary descriptors and incorporates the complexities of Shaw’s identity that were enmeshed in his actions. Lofton concludes that the case of John Balcom Shaw might be used to explicate the gender dimensions of evangelicalism and his experiences moreover, might be used to examine the classificatory dynamics of religion in the United States.

Dr. **Candy Gunther Brown** is also interested in the intersections of theology and culture, questions of gender in spirituality and the content of popular religious cultures. Currently an Assistant Professor of American Studies at St. Louis University, Brown’s presentation “Miracle Cures? Spiritual Healing Practices in the United States, the Americas and the World, 1906-2006,” examined the intersections of religion and health, highlighting the place of supernatural healing in American religious life throughout history and contemporarily. There has been a shift within American religious circles, she argues, away from the traditional Protestant-Catholic divide and toward a tension between naturalist (more scientifically medical) and supernaturalist (more faith based) approaches to health and healing. She demonstrates this shift by pointing to the dramatic growth of charismatic Protestant and Catholic movements and the emergence of diverse spiritual and non-traditional medical alternatives (such as New Age, chiropractics, Christian Sci-

ence, homeopathy, macrobiotics, yoga and reiki). A broad critique of the failures and limitations of medicine and the expanding processes of globalization are the factors Brown attributes to the growth in popularity of spiritual healing. This increased need (whether driven by faith or desperation) exemplifies the growing complexity in the way religion functions within the political and economic systems of many nations (as complement rather than competitor), and might be used to examine the increasing diversity of healing practices and the widening range of sacralized spaces.

In undertaking such analysis, Brown considers herself an interpreter of these layers of religious phenomena that comprise belief and practice; she focuses specifically on the assumptions that underlie supernaturalistic ideals and attempts to play out the consequences of those assumptions. At stake are no less than the meanings of health, illness, and healing, and competing medical and religious claims to knowledge, authority and power.





FUNDING OPTIONS

United States Capitol Historical Society Fellowship

Application Deadline: 15 March 2006

Applications are invited for the twentieth year of the United States Capitol Historical Society Fellowship. This fellowship is designed to support research and publication on the history of the art and architecture of the United States Capitol and related buildings. Graduate students and scholars may apply for periods ranging from one month to one year; the stipend is \$2000 per month.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Barbara Wolonin, Curator
Architect of the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 228 1222
www.uschs.org

Post-doctoral and Dissertation Fellowships in Media, Religion and Culture

**The School of Journalism and Mass Communication
The University of Colorado (Boulder)**

Application Deadline 31 March 2006

Three Dissertation Fellowships for academic year 2006-2007 are offered by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Colorado (Boulder), at \$12,000 each. One, in-residence, Post-Doctoral Fellowship is also available, at \$32,000 + benefits. The residence period for the residency fellowship is August 2006 to June 2007. For guidelines and applications, visit

<http://mediareligion.org>
or contact: Monica Emerich
monica.emerich@colorado.edu

Lillian Gary Taylor Fellowship and residency

The Harrison Institute

The University of Virginia Library

Application Deadline: 21 March 2006

The Harrison Institute of the University of Virginia Library invites scholars working in the area of American literature to apply for the Lillian Gary Taylor Fellowship and residency. We currently offer a \$3,000 stipend.

For information and application guidelines, visit:
www.lib.virginia.edu/harrison/events/visitingFellows.html
Or contact:

Ellie Goodman
Taylor Fellowship Program
Harrison Institute
PO Box 400874
Charlottesville, VA 22904-04874



PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES



Reading Reggaeton: Historical, Aesthetic and Critical Perspectives

Deadline for abstracts 15 March 2006

Deadline for final manuscripts 15 June 2006

The editors of an anthology on reggaeton are seeking submissions analyzing reggaeton from the perspectives of production, dissemination, consumption or performance, which can include considerations of history, musical aesthetics, discourse and images, dance, technology, as well as other related issues such as transnational migration and media globalization. In-depth interviews, oral histories, relevant visual art (e.g. photographs, graffiti), poetry, and fiction will also be considered. Abstracts of 150 to 250 words should be submitted to raquelzrivera@aol.com. A carbon copy should go to deborah.pacini@tufts.edu. Final manuscripts should be 5000 to 8000 words in length.

Jazz Perspectives

Submission Deadline 1 April 2006

Routledge announces *Jazz Perspectives*, an international peer-reviewed journal entirely devoted to jazz scholarship. As an interdisciplinary platform for jazz studies, the journal will consider all articles reporting on original research and analysis. The first issue of *Jazz Perspectives* will appear in January 2007. All communications and article submissions should be submitted (preferably) via email to the editors, Lewis Porter (lrpjazz@gmail.com) and John Howland (jlhowland@mac.com). For further information, please see the journal's web site at: www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17494060.asp.

Food, Culture, and Society: Food and War

Submission Deadline 1 May 2006

Historically, war has been both an agent of destruction and a catalyst for innovation. We invite essays that look at the myriad ways that war has affected food production, distribution, and consumption. Write editor Warren Belasco (belasco@umbc.edu).

CONFERENCE INVITATIONS

Food Chains: Provisioning, Technology, and Science 3-4 November 2006

Submission Deadline 31 March 2006

The Center for the History of Business, Technology and Society invites papers on the provisioning systems that supply our world with food. We invite proposals that historically situate the connections among the array of institutions involved in food production, including but not limited to farms, food research laboratories, equipment suppliers, food processors, transportation systems, wholesale and retail outlets, government bodies, and non-government organizations. Proposals are also encouraged that examine the relationships between scientific and technological innovations and food processing dynamics. Papers may consider any area of the world since 1600. Proposals should be no more than 500 words, and should be submitted with a short CV. Travel support may be available. For more information or to submit, contact:

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(302) 658 2400, ext. 243
clockman@hagley.org



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AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSMAKERS



Professors **Portia K. Maultsby** (Folklore) and **Mellonee V. Burnim** (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) co-edited *African Music: A Introduction*, published recently by Routledge Press.

Professor Maultsby also presented "Black Power and the Ideology of Soul and Funk" for a series on Black Popular Culture, Black Popular Struggles at the Stone Center for Black History and Culture at the University of North Carolina in October of last year, and "Marginalizing and Mainstreaming Black Popular Music: An Interpretation of Marketing Labels" at the November 2005 meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Atlanta, Georgia

Professor **Phaedra Pezzullo** (CMCL) has been selected in a campus-wide competition to receive an Outstanding Junior Faculty Award from the Dean of the Faculties.

Telecommunications graduate student **Amber Smallwood** has accepted a tenure-track position at Bridgewater College as an assistant professor in their Communication Studies department. Bridgewater is a small liberal arts college in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Last November, **Don Maxwell** (History) presented "Canada as Destination and Destiny for Americans in the Vietnam War Era and the Early 21st Century" in St. Louis at the biennial conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States.

"Mitchell and Kenyon, Archival Contingency, and the Cultural Production of Historical License," by **Nathan Carroll** (CMCL) will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *The Moving Image*.

This month, he will present a paper at The Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The two-day graduate student conference will focus on the theme of "Archival Bodies."

In March, he will chair an open call panel titled "The Archive and the Collection" at SCMS in Vancouver, British Columbia and will present a CMCL departmental colloquium in preparation for defense of his dissertation in May.

Professor **George Hutchinson** (English) will be giving the Evangeline Bollinger Memorial Lecture at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, on February 23, on the topic "In Search of Nella Larsen: An Archaeology of the Color Line."

In May, he will give the opening Keynote address at an international conference on "Denmark and the Black Atlantic," at the University of Copenhagen.

With **Margo Crawford**, (English) he is also co-chairing the second annual conference at IU on "New Directions in African American Literature, Theory, and Cultural Studies" (April 7 and 8). Proposals for that conference are welcome. Details may be found at www.indiana.edu/~newdir/ Professor Hutchinson will be one of the plenary lecturers at the "Futures of American Studies Institute" at Dartmouth in June, and his book (*In Search of Nella Larsen: A Biography of the Color Line*) will be published by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press in May.



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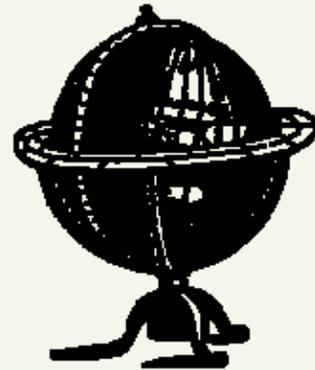
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MILESTONES

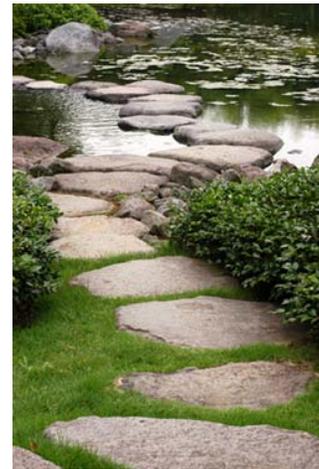
The evaluation and selection of the new crop of American Studies Associate Instructors each year is a natural and comfortable process for the Program. There was a time, however, when the prospect of students teaching their own classes for American Studies was unheard of. The Fall semester of 1968 marks the first time that a student-taught American Studies-centered course was offered at IU. The occasion was momentous enough for the American Studies Newsletter to devote an article to it. "Spinning Dreams" is reprinted here, in celebration of the progress the Program has made during its first 40 years.

"Many, though not all, graduate students in American Studies look forward to the day when they can burst loose the bonds of disciplinary surveys and canned courses and create their own Introduction and Study the Real America! In any case, from time to time they muse on the possibilities of fresh approaches to American civilization or a portion thereof. Three graduates in the IU Program have not only spun their dreams, they have designed a new course, defended it before the "experts," won their spurs, and are presently teaching an experimental study of the American City, H200 in the Honors Program.

Mary Kleinhans, Pat Allen and Bob Scandola designed model American Studies courses for their final examination in

the Urban America Seminar, Spring Semester 1967. Director of the Program David Smith was pleased with their ideas and asked them to work together in formulating a more complete proposal.

The course that is their final offering consists of fifteen sophomores and juniors, most of whom are Honors students. They study of the city is problem oriented: how is the physical environment created? What are the human relations in the city—black-white, bossism, social work? All students are required to complete an extensive list of readings, usually consisting of selections from a major work each week. At each class meeting, a student presents a short paper to open discussion, followed by a written critique by another student. Mary, Pat and Bob divide the weekly topics and counsel the students during the preparation of papers. Such an approach assumes broadly trained teachers, eager students, and depth in the material. All those factors are at work. Mary Kleinhans reports that one problem has arisen because the students come from various departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, and as a result their backgrounds vary considerably. Several have never had a college-level survey of American history. It is impossible to present sufficient material to give all of them a firm background in several disciplines and still have time left for The City. But the problem is usually over-



come by intelligent immersion in the materials at hand. In most cases the students are drawn into the subject through their papers, and their fellows quickly develop the confidence to challenge easy generalizations and defend their own views. Intelligent reading is, after all, a major goal of such a course; whetting the appetite for more advanced studies in urbanism and American culture seems to follow naturally. In all due respect, teaching a course, Mary claims, is more challenging than Freshman Composition or American History discussion groups, the normal fare for teaching associates. And the experience will provide the basis for such experimental interdisciplinary work as these graduates move out into their first full-time college positions. The reassessment of undergraduate education that is currently taking place can profit immensely from such a venture."