November/December 2005

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

# American Studies Program Newsletter

Cynthia Gwynne Yaudes, editor

**Make sure that the American Studies Program has your current address. If it has changed recently, please let Nancy May-Scott know (nam@indiana.edu)**

## The Gamesmanship of Baseball and Politics

With the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1940s, Jackie Robinson thrilled baseball fans by playing the game with a ferocious creativity, rattling pitchers and fielders with his daring base running. But in donning number 42, as the first black player in the U.S. major leagues, Robinson's importance transcends sport and intersects with political principle. Shattering baseball's color barrier made Robinson a spokesperson for the connections between race and politics, thus earning him an "invitation" to speak to the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in July of 1949.

Robinson appeared before HUAC at the height of the Cold War, to discuss the appeal of communism to black America. The controversial committee had turned its gaze on the black community following allegations by the celebrated black singer and actor Paul Robeson that most African Americans would be sympathetic to a communist form of government. Asked by HUAC to reflect on Robeson's comment, Robinson first acknowledged that minorities suffered greatly in America:

*"[Blacks] were stirred up long before there was a Communist Party, and they'll stay stirred up long after the Party has disappeared—unless Jim Crow has disappeared then as well."*

Referring specifically to Robeson's words, Robinson offered a rather innocuous challenge to the man he had idolized as a child:

*"I haven't any comments to make, except that the statement sounds very silly to me. [Robeson] has the right to sound silly if he wants to, but not to threaten 'an organized boycott by 15 million members of my race.'"*

**David Naze** (doctoral candidate in CMCL and AMST) won the AMST Virginia La Follette Gunderson essay contest with a piece that contextualizes Jackie Robinson's HUAC testimony (vis a vis Paul Robeson's commentary) and notes a space between the two distinct statements where "the tension between democratic dissent and patriotic assent might be negotiated." In *Rooting for the Home Team?* Naze argues that Robinson's HUAC testimony can be seen as a "synecdoche for black dissent." Robinson clearly understood his statements as a critique of the racial discrimination and segregation that defined the United States in the post-World War II era. However, Naze continues, Robinson was read by society as a "synecdoche for white political assent." National newspapers chose to overlook Robinson's direct criticism of racial injustice and, instead, emphasize "something else": Robinson's notation of the "silliness" of Robeson's statement. That rather simplistic commentary was shaped and used by the press to neutralize the support for communism in Paul Robeson's remarks—to, Naze suggests, denounce an agitator, seen as "the most dangerous man in the United States." In this way, Robinson could be represented as the model minority, read as "reinforcement of American exceptionalism rather than as a call to conscience."

The democratic process, Naze explains, is characterized by a balance between dissent and assent. In the Robinson-Robeson exchange, this process was privileged on the side of assent. Such an imbalance, Naze concludes, is dangerous, as it damages the credibility of democracy and creates a double consciousness: Jackie Robinson as black (giving his testimony on black terms) and as American (his testimony taken on white terms). In the end, Robinson's gamesmanship on the baseball field did not translate to his place at the HUAC table.

# OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT

*Directorship*
*The Carter G. Woodson Institute*
*The University of Virginia*
*Charlottesville, VA*
*Deadline for receipt of materials is 15 December 2005*

The College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia invites applications and nominations for Director of The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, with a tenured appointment at the Associate Professor or Professor level. Academic field of specialization is open. Ph.D. preferred but other terminal professional degrees considered.

We seek applicants with a record of scholarly leadership and successful administrative experience. The candidate should possess outstanding records of teaching, research, and service and a compelling vision to enhance the Institute's national and international influence. The successful appointee will have a joint appointment in the Woodson Institute and a tenure-home department. Direct report relationship is to the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Responsibilities include: directing the Institute's teaching, research, and community outreach programs; overseeing staff and budgets; service on university and college committees; fundraising; and coordinating the mentorship of junior faculty and research fellows. Salary is competitive and dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Electronic submission of materials in MS word format is strongly encouraged. Application materials should include curriculum vitae with cover letter detailing position qualifications and experiences as described above and contact information for three professional references. Confidential inquiries, applications and nominations should be sent to:

**Woodson Director Search Committee**
**c/o The Carter G. Woodson Institute**
**Minor Hall 108/McCormick Road/ P.O. Box 400162**
**Charlottesville, VA 22904-4162**
**Attn: Octavia Phillips**

*Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*
*Harrisburg,PA*
*Scholars in Residence Program*
*Application deadline 13 January 2006*

Open to all conducting research on Pennsylvania history, the program provides support for eight weeks of full time research between 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007, with a $375/week stipend.

**More information and application details are available at: www.phmc.state.pa.us.**

**Assistant Professorship**
**American Studies**
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
**Screening of applicants will begin 15 December 2005**

The American Studies Curriculum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position focusing on Native American literature and cultural expression. Applicants should have an interest in interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. We seek candidates with expertise in literature broadly considered; this might include fiction, poetry, oral traditional literatures, religious or intellectual traditions, film, or performance. The American Studies Curriculum comprises eight fully-appointed faculty and more than 30 affiliated faculty members. Teaching responsibilities will consist of undergraduate and graduate courses. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill supports research and teaching in American Indian Studies in a variety of departments, and the American Studies Curriculum offers a major, minor, and concentration for undergraduate majors and a graduate minor. More information can be found on our website: http://amerstud.unc.edu/. Projected starting date is July 1, 2006, with Ph.D. in hand. Candidates should send letter of application, curriculum vitae, writing sample of no more than twenty-five pages, transcript, and four letters of recommendation to:

**Professor Joy Kasson, Chair of American Studies**
**CB #3520/Greenlaw Hall/University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520**
**The first three items should be submitted as attachments in an email message to jskasson@email.unc.edu**

# Publication Opportunities

***The Journal of Illinois History***
***No deadline specified***

The *Journal of Illinois History*, the scholarly journal on the history of the Prairie State published by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, seeks manuscripts on all facets of the history of the state and its citizens. Contributions in social, political, economic, and cultural history are welcome, as are related Midwestern and Civil War topics, the history of the Northwest Territory, and Illinois biography. For more information, contact :

**Evelyn R. Taylor, Editor/*Journal of Illinois History*/1 Old State Capitol Plaza**
**Springfield, IL 62701.**
**Telephone 217-785-7949**

# Funding Options

***Rockefeller Humanities Residency***
***Latin American and Latino Studies Program***
***The University of Illinois at Chicago***
***Application deadline 1 February 2006***

We seek one junior and one senior Fellow whose research interests explore the diversification and internal hybridity of Latino communities in Chicago. Award: $37,100 (junior fellowship) and $47,700 (senior fellowship) plus fringe benefits, travel and research expenses.

**Please visit the web site for more details: www.uic.edu/las/latamst.**

***Quiet Mountain Essays***
***No deadline specified***

*Quiet Mountain Essays* is a monthly online journal of previously unpublished feminist writing by women. The editor seeks 1 to 4 page, scholarly or non-scholarly, essays by women on: Women and politics, economics, society, art, technology, race, sexuality, or disability.

**Please visit the web site for more details: www.quietmountainessays.org.**

***Studies in American Humor***
***No deadline specified***

*Studies in American Humor*, the journal of the American Humor Studies Association, will be edited by M. Thomas Inge beginning with the 2005 volume. Essays are solicited on any aspect of American humor in any genre or field of study. At present we are especially interested in essays on humor in the comics or on subversive humor among women and minorities. Send manuscripts (2 copies with MLA style documentation) or queries to:

**M. Thomas Inge, Blackwell Professor of the Humanities/Randolph-Macon College**
**Ashland, VA 23005**
**tinge@rmc.edu.**

The **Virginia Foundation for the Humanities** supports scholarly work on the humanities in the public interest. The VFH Fellowship Program offers time, space, and resources to scholars who bring the humanities to visibility--drawing on history, philosophy, ethics, cultural studies, and literary criticism to enhance understanding of critical issues. Proposals are welcomed on subjects of public interest in any field of the humanities. Particularly encouraged are projects on the South Atlantic U.S., Folk Culture, African-American Studies, Virginia History and Culture, and Violence and Survival.

**For more information on Fellowships, please see www.virginiafoundation.org.**

***Center for the Study of Religion***
***Princeton University***
***Application deadline 6 January 2006***

The Center for the Study of Religion (CSR), Princeton University, announces the availability of a small number of one-year postdoctoral fellowships for pre-tenured scholars. Fellowships will be offered in the areas of Christian Thought and Practice (focusing attention on the historical or contemporary religious life of North American Christians, congregations, or clergy) and Public Theology (emphasis on contemporary issues bridging theology and the social sciences; requires some training in theology or equivalent knowledge). Fellows will conduct own research, attend a weekly interdisciplinary workshop, and participate in Center-sponsored events. Applicants' doctorates may be in any relevant field.

**For application requirements, visit www.princeton.edu/~csrelig/opportunities/non_princeton_ops.html.**

# CONFERENCE INVITATIONS

**Faculty and Graduate Student Institute**
**Center for Working-Class Studies**
**Youngstown State University**
**Youngstown, OH**
**24-28 July 2006**

This institute is for graduate students and faculty interested in strategies for teaching about social class, especially in the context of courses that address other cultural categories and ideas about inequality. Participants will discuss readings, presentations, and resources; share their own experiences and strategies; and develop assignments, syllabi, classroom activities, and/or research plans. The organizers hope to gather a diverse group, including faculty and students from different academic fields, geographical areas, and kinds of institutions.

**For more information, visit the Center's website, www.ysu.edu/~cwcs, and click on "Class in the Classroom."**

**Views from the Edge: The Short Story Revisited**
**University of Lisbon**
**Lisbon, Portugal**
**21-25 June 2006**
**Submission deadline 15 December 2005**

The 9th annual International Conference on the Short Story in English will be held at the University of Lisbon, Portugal.

**Please visit http://www.shortstoryconference.com/ for more information.**

**Council on America's Military Past**
**40th Annual Conference**
**Chattanooga, TN**
**10-14 May 2006**
**Topic submission deadline 15 January 2006**

This 40th Annual Military History Conference emphasizes the United States military activities from the earliest history through the American Revolution, Civil War, the American Frontier, Spanish American War (including the War in the Philippines), the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and up to and including the confrontation with Cuba and the Cold War. Special emphasis will be placed on the military's role in the activities in the Tennessee-Georgia area and the Indian Removal and Civil War. The conference will include papers on these subjects and visits to the military history sites in the area, including battlefields and fortifications. Send topic for a 20 minute talk (with slides if desired) to:

**CAMP '06/ Conference Papers/ P.O. Box 1151**
**Fort Myer, VA 22211-1151.**
**Email camphart1@aol.com for more information.**

**2005-2008 Foundations of Humanitarianism:**
**"Humanitarian Responses to Inflicted Suffering" Humanities Institute and Human Rights Institute**
**The University of Connecticut**
**Storrs, CT**
**Abstract and cv submission deadline 1 March 2006**

We invite scholars from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Law to submit papers that analyze humanitarian responses to narratives of suffering inflicted by states, political groups and/or social, economic, or cultural forces. Submit a one-page abstract and current c.v. (up to 3 pages) to:

**Richard Brown/ Unit 4234/ 215 Glenbrook Road**
**Storrs, CT 06269-4234**
**For more information, visit the website at www.humanrights.uconn.edu/conf_2006.htm.**

# American Studies Newsmakers

Professor **Colin Johnson** (Gender Studies) presented "Camp Life: The Queer History of Masculinity in the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942" at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Washington, DC. Professor **Mary L. Gray** (Communication and Culture) presented "From Websites to Wal-Mart: Identity Work and the Productive Fragility of Boundary Publics" on the same ASA panel.

Professor **Helen Gremillion** (Gender Studies) has presented two competitive papers recently: Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the National Women's Studies Association Meeting and Feminist and Narrative Therapies at the annual international Therapeutic Conversations Conference (Vancouver, BC). She has also been invited to present a paper on race and class inflections of discourses about eating disorders at a conference entitled *Illness and the Contours of Contestation: Diagnosis, Experience, Policy.*

Inventing Radical Judgment (Michigan State University Press 2004), by **Robert Terrill** (Communication and Culture) has received the Kohrs-Campbell Prize. This distinctive award offers a biannual book-length manuscript prize in the amount of $10,000 through the Michigan State University Press. The Kohrs-Campbell Prize encourages original research and scholarship of the highest quality in the field of rhetorical criticism.

**Audrey McClusky**, Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies and Director of the Black Film Center/Archive, was a visiting scholar in residence at the University of Witwaterstrand in Johannesburg this past May. While there, she lectured, collaborated with Wits School of Arts faculty, and worked on a project about South African filmmakers.

Professor **Stephanie Kane** (Criminal Justice) presented a paper entitled "The Ethnography of Global Port Cities: Water, Culture and Law" at the Conference on People and the Sea, held at the Center for Maritime Research in Amsterdam (7-9 July 2005). She also published "In the Shadow of Extremes" in a special issue of *The Journal of the National Sexuality Research Center* [2(2): 89-94].

In May, Professor **Richard B. Miller** (Religious Studies) presented "The Ethics of Preventive War" (for the Sturm Dialogue with Henry Shue of Oxford University) at Bucknell University. He has published several pieces: "Role Responsibility in Pediatrics: Appeasing or Transforming Parental Demands?" in Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatrics: Cases and Commentaries; "On Making a Cultural Turn in Religious Ethics" in the *Journal of Religious Ethics*; and "Rules" in the Oxford Handbook of Theological Ethics. He also continues to work on his manuscript "9/11, War and Moral Memory." In his capacity as Director of the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, he is directing an interdisciplinary faculty seminar, focusing this year on "Nature in the Scientific and Moral Imagination."

Reforming Schools: Working Within a Progressive Traditiona During Conservative Times, by Professor **Jesse Goodman** (Education) will be published by the State University of New York Press next year. He will also be teaching a doctoral seminar next fall on "Sex and Sexuality Education"

*Please share your news, personal or professional, with us at any time. Email the editor at cyaudes or the Program at amst.*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.INDIANA.EDU/~AMST/


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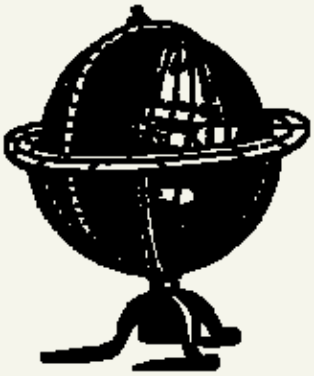

# MILESTONES

It seems that one of the best profiles of any graduate program is its list of doctoral dissertations completed and in progress. This final *Milestones* installment for the semester tests this adage for the IU American Studies Program during the 1968/1969 academic year.

The AMST Newsletter during that term proudly stated that the Program was "completing the fifth year of full-scale operation," and had thirteen students with dissertations in progress. "The titles indicate a wide range of interests within the social and intellectual history of America, and point to a trend from more students in Speech and Theatre to a larger number from the English Department, with History and Folklore represented in smaller numbers." With one exception, all of the candidates were working toward the combined degree. A glance through the titles shows just how much scholarship in American Studies has (and has not) changed.

**Nancy Woloch** (History): "The Image of the Reformer in America, 1830-60"
**Henry Hawken** (Speech and Theatre): "The Speaking of Henry Smith Lane"
**Donald Hines** (Folklore): "Dust Devils in the Desert, A Study of the Impress of the Frontier in Traditional Anecdotes of Humor and Exaggeration, in Folk Beliefs, and in Traditional Speech Gleaned from some Old-time Weekly Newspapers from the Inland Empire of the Pacific Northwest"
**Gordon Warren** (History): "The Trent Affair: A Study of Anglo-American Public Opinion, 1861-62"
**Richard Weaver** (Speech and Theatre/AMST minor): "The Lyceum Movement in Michigan"
**Judith Anderson** (Speech and Theatre): "Thomas Jefferson and the American City: A Rhetorical Dilemma"
**Larry Danielson** (Folklore): "Midwest Swedish Pioneer Community"
**Michael Owen Jones** (Folklore): "Style and Creative Imagination in American Folk Art with Special Reference to the Effects of Urbanization"
**Mary P. Kleinhans** (English): "Affluence and Potential Morality in American Fiction, 1873-1888"
**Stephen Scholl** (History): "Protestant Eschatology and Gilded Age Social Thought"
**John L. Sullivan** (Speech and Theatre): "The Development of the Counter-Image of Andrew Jackson, 1824-1840"
**David L. Thaxton** (History): "David Wark Griffith's *Birth of a Nation* and its Impact on American Society"
**Franklin R. Thomas** (English): "The Literary Admirers of Alfred Stieglitz"