Welcome to Jalessah Jackson. She is a mother and lecturer in Gender and Women’s Studies and African and Diaspora Studies. She earned her M.A. in Gender and Cultural Studies from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and her BA at Kennesaw State University. Her research interests lie at the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality but primarily include: cross-cultural solidarity and movement building, Black motherhood, and human, labor, and civil rights for sex workers.

Roxanne Donovan presented her stress research at the recent Nigerian Leadership Conference sponsored at KSU. Former AADS student Georgia Northcutt also participated in this conference with Nigerian educators, Georgia with Dr. Akanmu Adebayo.

What I did on My Summer Vacation:
May Gao’s research (with Deanna Womack) on intercultural learning and adaptation obstacles for expatriates in China was featured in a July article in the Shanghui Daily called “Hurdle Obstacles by Embracing Chinese Culture.”

Wendell McMurrain continued his academic studies as a self-proclaimed vagabond student by attending Yale University for coursework in Religious Studies “Religion Through Art & Artifact.”

Lauren MacVoor Thompson spent a month on a fellowship at the New York Academy of Medicine examining the early history of the birth control movement for her book project “Battle for Birth Control: Mary Ware Dennett, Margaret Sanger and the Rivalry that Shaped a Movement” which is currently under review with Rutgers University Press.

Steve and Cherie Miller welcomed their first grandbaby this summer - Welcome to the family - Aviana Marie!
New GWST Coordinator

Dr. Letizia Guglielmo was named the new Gender & Women’s Studies (GWST) Program Coordinator. She is an Associate Professor of English and teaches courses in professional writing and gender studies. Her research and writing focus on feminist rhetoric and pedagogy, gender and pop culture, the intersections of feminist action and digital communication, and professional development for students and faculty. She is editor and contributor for MTV and Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays on 16 and Pregnant and Teen Mom, co-author (with Lynne Lewis Gaillet) of Scholarly Publication in a Changing Academic Landscape: Models for Success, and co-editor (with Lynne Lewis Gaillet) of Contingent Faculty Publishing in Community: Case Studies for Successful Collaborations. She is currently author-editor for a two-volume set of twenty-five essays titled Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, Solutions to be published in 2018.

New LALS Coordinator

Dr. Gabriel Soldatenko was elected as the new Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program Coordinator. He completed his PhD in 2010 at SUNY Binghamton in the interdisciplinary program “Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture.” The following fall he joined the Department of History and Philosophy at Kennesaw State. Professor Soldatenko’s interests land at the intersection of three strains of thought: Latin American philosophy, social-political philosophy, and contemporary continental thought. More precisely, Soldatenko weaves these interests together to dwell on, critique, and generally reveal the philosophical richness of everyday life with a specific focus on the experience of U.S. Latinx/os. At the same time, and in collaboration with his colleagues, he has also become interested and active in the project of comparative and global philosophy by advocating and pushing for the inclusion of Latin American and Caribbean thought.

New ISD Faculty Members

Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar joins the Interdisciplinary Studies Department as Assistant Professor of Latin American/Latino Studies and American Studies. He earned his B.A. in Latin American & Latino Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota.

His scholarly interests include U.S. Latino Studies, popular music, American Studies, immigration, and Mexicans in the Midwest. His dissertation examines how Mexican Sondolos (DJs) and members of Chicagoland’s Mexican immigrant population engage in community formation and hemispheric cultural processes when they curate sonidero dances with Latin American soundscapes, especially the Colombian cumbia. His latest research venture looks at Latino soul groups in the Midwest to explore more in-depth race relations between Latino and Black communities during the sixties and seventies.

In his spare time Dr. Aguilar enjoys frequenting music stores in the seventies. His mother is Guatemalan, and he is proud of his Maya heritage.

Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers received her B.A. in English from Oglethorpe University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English, as well as a graduate certificate in Native American Studies, from the University of Georgia. Before coming to KSU, she taught at Miami University (Ohio) and the University of California Merced, where she had the opportunity to teach courses in Women’s and Gender Studies and Writing Studies, as well as English and Native American Studies. Her research and teaching interests include contemporary Indigenous literatures, formal and generic experimentalism, 20th and 21st century American literature, comics, and ethnic American literatures. Her current book project examines the ways that Native novelists have adapted the generic tropes of science fiction as a means of resisting cultural assimilation and reasserting the value of Indigenous knowledge in the twenty-first century.

Dr. Meya Hemphill, with her capstone committee, Dr. Griselda Thomas and Dr. Nicole Guillory after defending her thesis: The Anti-Black Hero: Black Masculinity Media Representation as Seen in Netflix Original Series Luke Cage and Fox Series Empire!

Welcome to our new ISD Student Assistant - say “Hi” to Nia-Imani the next time you visit ISD!

Nia-Imani Mason is a first-year Mass Communications major at KSU. She anticipates continued academic and personal successes in college based on her successful high school experience. During that time Nia grew through opportunities afforded her through participation in the Georgia Governor’s Honors Program, volunteering in the HS media center and dually heritage English and Theatre & Performance Studies Major and a minor in African & Caribbean thought.

Congratulations to Christi Williams who defended her thesis ‘American Horror Story: The Degeneration of the American Dream.’ Her committee members were Dr. Robbie Lieberman and Dr. Larrie Dudenhoeffer. Also pictured, Dr Rebecca Hill, MAST program director.

ISD Students

Carlos Gomez, a volunteer with the Maya Heritage Community Project, received an “Outstanding Student Award” in May 2017. His mother is Guatemalan, and he is proud of his Maya heritage.

Yesenia Fregoso won 1st Place in the People category in the recent Education Abroad Photo Contest with this photo “Festival Kid.” This is from the Study Abroad in Peru led by Emesto Silva and Semeca Vaught. The third place photo was taken by Maria Arrendondo who also went to Peru in May.