ISD continues to work on developing a proposal for an interdisciplinary major. Student survey results were very encouraging: out of more than 1,000 students who completed the survey, more than 25 percent expressed strong interest in a possible major. So far, the name is Global Diversity Studies, but we are still open to suggestions.

ISD has a number of exciting events planned for the Spring 2016 semester. These include officially launching the new Peace Corps Preparation program, in conjunction with the annual Pathways to Peace lecture on March 8, 2016. The lecture this year will be given by Winona LaDuke, an internationally renowned Native American activist, environmentalist and writer.

The day after Pathways to Peace, the American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) will host a one day Symposium. “American Studies: A Showcase of the Possibilities of Interdisciplinarity” will take place Wednesday, March 9, in the Social Science Building. Students will present their work, and the keynote speaker is Dr. Donald Pease, the Avalon Foundation Chair of the Humanities and Chair of the Liberal Studies Program at Dartmouth College. Proposals for student posters, papers, or panels will be accepted through Feb. 15; please submit these to tanyabrinkley@me.com.

Also this spring (April 22), our Asian Studies program will host its biennial Symposium on Asia US Partner-ships (SAUPO) workshop. SAUPO is the largest Asia business conference in the Southeast. In addition, for the first time there will be a special SAUPO Summit in Shanghai a month before the workshop in Atlanta. Hats off to Dr. May Gao, the seemingly tireless organizer who leads these efforts.

Looking ahead, the Call for Papers will go out soon for the Southeast Women’s Studies Association 2017 meeting. Which will be hosted by our own Gender and Women’s Studies Program. The theme is “Digital Feminisms: Embodying. Crafting. & Disrupting Networked Spaces.” Be on the lookout for more information, and feel free to call us with questions.

As always, please keep in touch and stop by the office to find out more about ISD. We would welcome feedback on our new website: http://isd.hss.kennesaw.edu

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ISD Chair’s Message

“...the essence of the problem is about consumption, recognizing that a society that consumes one-third of the world’s resources is unsustainable. This level of consumption requires constant intervention into other people’s lands. That’s what’s going on.”

Winona LaDuke

Dr. May Gao, SAUPO Chair

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To Donate in Support of ISD: http://kennesaw.edu/give.php

Please indicate that your gift will go to 310120IDS (Interdisciplinary Studies)

Robbie Lieberman
During Fall semester Alan LeBaron served as Chair of the Task Force to Enhance the Center for Latin America and Latino Studies in the Division of Global Affairs. He published La inmigración de los mayas guatemaltecos a Estados Unidos: ¿El amanecer de los mayo-americanos? in Experiencias de migración indígena en América del Norte Hoy, edited by Elaine Levine, National Autonomous University of Mexico Press, 2015. He received the Community Engagement Award for travel and research in Guatemala, to continue work on Maya migration into the United States. He received several grants, including one from the Division of Global Affairs, along with Gabriel Ramirez of the Finance Department, to establish internships with Cooperatives in Costa Rica.


Kristin Petersen presented on a panel at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference in Milwaukee (WI) that focused on dependent relations as models of precarity. Her paper “Lesbian Motherhood and the Right to Parent,” analyzed trends in custody cases between lesbian mothers and ex-partners that have implications for the full practice of women’s citizenship and for the intelligibility of women in same-sex/maternal relationships before the law. The NWSA conference (36th annual) theme was Precarity, “drawing attention to the experiences, structures, and relational aspects of systemic inequality.”


Kathryn Walkiewicz has just had an article accepted for publication at NAIS: Journal of Native American and Indigenous Studies. It’s entitled “Affirmative Exclusions: The Indigenous Exception in Oklahoma’s Official English.”

Fullbright Visiting Scholar Dr. Raul Fernandes (pictured here with Dan Paracka) is the Vice-Director of University Amilcar Cabral and Senior Researcher of INEP — National Institute of Social Science in Guinea-Bissau. A sociologist, archaeologist, and anthropologist, with studies in University of Paris VIII, France (DEA) and University of Coimbra, Portugal (PhD), his work focuses on coastal societies and cultures from Guinea Bissau. He analyzes the division between industrial and artisanal fishing. He is currently participating in a collaborative program with Bayreuth University (Germany) on local modes of dispute settlement in various regions of Guinea Bissau. Dr. Fernandes is visiting KU during the 2015-2016 academic year as a Fulbright scholar.

Introducing ISD’s New Spring Part-Time Faculty

ISD welcomes Doris Gamsztein, a current student in the PhD in International Conflict Management Program, who is teaching a section of PAC 1102, J. Steve Miller, teaching an early morning section of RELS 1102, Britta Spann, who is teaching one section of AMST 1102 and one of AMST 3700, Victor Willis, who is teaching for AADS & AMST and Li Wang, who is teaching one section of ASIA 1102. Welcome to the faculty and thanks for all you do for our students!

ISD will launch its new certificate in Diversity and Community Engagement in the Fall of 2016. Ari Eisenberg will teach the introductory class (ISD 2001) which will be cross-listed with GWST 3070: Gender & Social Justice.

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Dr. Raul Fernandes

ISD is Growing!

ISD is working on filling two new faculty positions. One is a joint appointment with English, specializing in Asian-American literary studies. The new faculty member might teach in such areas as Religious Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Asian Studies and American Studies.

The other position is in American Studies/Latino Studies. Possible courses might include introduction to Latin American/Latino Studies or other courses such as American Identities, Pop Culture, and U.S. in the World.