AMSTO Student Symposium Recap - February 9, 2017

On Thursday, February 9th, the American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) hosted its third graduate student research symposium. This year’s event, “Perspectives on America from Across the Disciplines,” featured a writing-workshop, a research-in-progress MAST capstone panel, and the energetic “Chat and Chew,” a speedy research mingle. AMSTO was thrilled to invite Dr. Jack Halberstam as the keynote lecturer, but unfortunately his flight was cancelled last-minute due to inclement weather. This talk will be rescheduled for a date TBD.

The day began with a writing workshop for graduate students. The panelists were Robbie Lieberman, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies; Letizia Guglielmo, Associate Professor of English; Ari Eisenberg, Assistant Professor of History and Interdisciplinary Studies; Stacy Kellner, Professor of Philosophy & GWST Coordinator; and Ashley McFarland, Program Coordinator of the MA in American Studies program. The panelists took turns sharing strategies about taking notes, organizing research, drafting, and publishing a finalized manuscript.

American Studies capstone students took the stage next to give presentations on their MA theses. Alex Yuih presented “Policing in a Sundown Town,” a historical and ethnographic analysis of race, crime, and displacement in a North Georgia county. Anna Tussey discussed the Maya diaspora and presented her findings from interviews with metro-Atlanta educators in “Guatemala Maya Studies in North Georgia: Educators Perspective.” Finally, Stefanos Milkidis gave a haunting examination of the surviving art and history from Manhattan’s abandoned docks in “A Queer Sense Narrative: Reclaiming Manhattan’s Lost Waterfront.”

The most anticipated event of the day was the “Chat and Chew” (pictured below), a speedy research mingle that resembles a speed-dating event. Guests rotated through the extemporaneous research presentations of current and former MAST students. AMSTO president Stephanie Ninters-Allen, MAST student and Department of Chemistry Administrative Associate argued for a capstone that analyzes queer identity and mental illness in children’s television. MAST graduate and current Director of the KSU Digital Commons, Aajay Murphy, discussed the global coffee trade in “Coloniality in a Cup: A Look at El Salvador through Third Wave Coffee Ideations.” Jacqueline Winter-Allen, MAST student and Department of Chemistry Administrative Associate argued for a new Equal Rights Amendment in “We Cannot Succeed When Half of Us Are Held Back.” Naznin Sultana, MAST alumna, gave a timely look at Islamophobia in “Unmasked Gays: Islam, Islamophobia, and Ideologies of Bangladeshi Muslims in Atlanta.”

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Spring 2017 Events

March
17-18: AADS Student Leadership Hip Hop & Healing
22-CHSS Grad Fair (SO Atrium)
22-25: GSWA sponsored by GWST Program (Midtown)
25-26: Pathways to Peace with Yas悯 Sophon, Activist
26-Noche de Literaczo (Marietta campus Ballroom)

April
14-15: SAUPO sponsored by Asian Studies Program (Lowes Hotel)

May
8-10: MAST Wine & Cheese Party
9-MAST Graduation 7:00 pm
10-ChSS Graduation for undergraduates - Congrats to Cheryne Ashley who is graduating this spring!

Fabeon Tucker New Student Asst.

What’s New in ISD?

ISD is growing and changing in any number of ways. We have a new major, Asian Studies, which is already attracting students. The number of minors in ISD programs also keeps increasing, especially in Asian Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies. We just received word that we will be able to conduct a search for a new assistant professor in those two areas next fall, which is great news!

All of our programs continue to create opportunities for students to be engaged in the university and to get international experience. The Latin American and Latino Studies program has even created a combination internship and study abroad, in which students can spend a month in Costa Rica working at a Cooperative. ISD faculty will participate in a number of First Year Learning Communities next fall, including GLBTQ Histories and Communities, Religion in a Post-9/11 World, and Year of India. No one can accuse ISD of not being creative!

Our department will have a new look this fall. Our suite is being renovated over the summer to connect the parts and add some new office space. This will also provide us with a new conference room that can double as a classroom for graduate students and perhaps even a meeting place for visitors on occasion.

We will have some new faces in ISD as well, as we are currently completing two tenure track searches. We are delighted that Dr. Rudy Aguilar has accepted the position focusing on Chicano Studies (serving mostly American Studies and LALS). An offer will be made soon for a new joint appointed faculty member, whose home will be in English, specializing in Native American Studies. Sadly, for us, Dr. Ari Eisenberg will be leaving, but we know she will be happy reuniting with family in Memphis.

This newsletter highlights only part of what our faculty and students have been up to during Spring semester, including some exciting upcoming events.

Finally, please join me in congratulating this year’s award winners in our department:

Diversity Advocate: Laura Davis
Community Engagement: May Gao
Part Time Faculty: Roxanne Donovan
Research/Creative Activity: Emesto Silva

We invite everyone to come by and see us in our newly renovated space next fall, or stop in sooner to find out more about the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.

Robbie Lieberman, Chair
Rlieberman@kennesaw.edu
Rodolfo Aguilar was the Prime Time Humanities Scholar at the Switzer Library in Cobb County this spring. Training was presented at New Orleans, EMERSON T. Silva

MAST Aumnus Yen Rodriguez accepted a new job as Director-Of-Multi-Cultural Student Affairs.

Rodolfo Aguilar presented at two conferences this spring:

Roxanne Donovan published an important article entitled "Four Ways to Stay Mentally Fit if You're Struggling with the Political Climate" that has been picked up by many news outlets, including the MSA and Guardian News.

Rebecca Hill presented and was invited to a round table at the Southern African Studies Association on "Dealing with Activism in Higher Education and How to Fight Back.

There was a general conversation and information sharing session among faculty from a number of different schools across the South. She also has two book reviews coming out this spring, "Writing on the Wall: Selected Poems of Huma Abu-Jamal" for the Journal of American History and "Hanging Bridge: Racial Violence and America's Civil Rights Century," by Jason Morgan Ward for the American Historical Review.

Robbie Lieberman was the Chair and discusser for a panel, "Atlanta's Great Speckled Bird and the Long Global Islands," at the Florida Conference of Historians, March 2017. She is presenting "The Black and Red Score in the 20th Century United States." at a conference on Anti-Communist Persecution in Berlin, Switzerland, April 2017. She will also be presenting on a panel, "The Future for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies" at the Rotary International's 2017 Presidential Peace Conference in Atlanta, June 2017, where she will talk about the work of ISD and our Peace Studies program.


Tom Pyon delivered the paper "Go To Your Broken Heart: Jack Hirschman Performs Rumi" at the 56th annual meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Oak, Mississippi, in January 2017. He also published in his review of Andrew Schelling's "Love and The Turning Seasons: India's Poetry of Spiritual and Erotic Longing" in the Southeast Review of Asian Studies, Vol. 38, Spring 2016.

A Punk Prayer from Moscow to the World - Pussy Riot, Civil Disobedience and the Digital Age with ISD presenters: Stacy Keltner, Letizia Guglielmo, Ashley McFarland and Kayleen Justus from Music History at the Year of Russia event on March 9, 2017.

Awards and Grants

Congratulations to Stacy Keltner for receiving a Faculty Leave Enhancement for the Fall 2017 semester. She will be working on her new book project.

Ha-Rae Kim was been awarded the OSU Summer Research Grant in the amount of $5,600 for summer research in Korea.

Sarasij Majumder was selected to represent the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and the 1st ISD at the "Perspectives on Global Issues Workshop Sustanability" to be held in May 2017 at the European Academy of Ghent, Germany.

Julie Newell prepared and supervised the Invasive Species event for the second year in a row as part of the Georgia Science Olympiad Regional Tournament on the Marietta Campus on February 25th, 2017. She participated on Saturday, March 4, on a Women's History Month Alumni Panel entitled "Women Helping Women." Faculty Keltner, Letizia Guglielmo and Kayleen Justus from Music History at the Year of Russia event on March 9, 2017.

Consider donating to the ISD Foundation Account today! Designate 310120 IDS & send to MD#9101

Saying Good Bye!

Ani Eisenberg has accepted a new position at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. We are happy for her on her new adventure! She is leaving Keltner the end of spring semester.

Cheyenne Ashley, our wonderful Student Assistant, will graduate in May 2017 with a degree in Psychology, with a minor in Applied Statistics and Data Analysis. Future plans include Graduate School.

Ashley McFarland will be leaving us in July to pursue a PhD in Communication Studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder.