2) Crystal Morris
1) Carlos Gomez

10 - Spring grades due!
8-10 - Spring Graduation
1-7 - Final Exam Week
25 - ISD Faculty Meeting
1-6 - Spring Break
21 - ISD Faculty Meeting
1-30 - GWST Women’s History Month
21 - ISD Faculty Meeting
8 - Year of India Speaker: Dr. Mrinalini Sinha,
17 - ISD Faculty Meeting
8 - 1st day of Spring Classes
1-30 - India Unveiled Photo Exhibit - SO Atrium

please email: Tpynn@kennesaw.edu
For more info about the program,

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February
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9:30 - 10:30 am SO 3021
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April
1-6 - Spring Break
13 - SAUPO - Renaissance Waverly Hotel
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Rudy Aguilar presented his paper at the American Studies Association Conference in Chicago. The title was: “I’ll Never Forget You: Chicago’s Mystics, Sixties Soul, and Shared Affinities between Latinos and African-Americans.”

Rebecca Hill contributed to a panel discussion at the ASA: Teaching Before and After Trump.

Robbie Lieberman presented a paper at the Peace History Society conference in October, which was held at the World War I Museum in Kansas City: “Red Scare, Black Scare: Lasting Effects of the World War I Era on African American Advocacy of Peace and Freedom.” She also presented the society’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the meeting. She chaired a session at the ASA meeting entitled “Can the University Teach Dissent?”

In ISD, KSU’s commitment to community engagement is interpreted broadly to mean making a difference in the world, especially when it comes to issues of social justice. This fall, AADS minor David Corinthian (pictured left) took what he was learning in the classroom about protest movements in another era and decided “this is our time.” He initiated a protest on the Campus Green, with a march around campus, in support of KSU’s African American cheerleaders, who were kept off the field after a game in which they knelted during the national anthem. Chants of “Land of the free, but we can’t take a knee?” were heard all over campus. A group of students continued to pressure the administration to rescind the changes it made after the kneeling incident. The cheerleaders have since been restored to their usual place in pre-game ceremonies, and there is wide agreement in the media that student protests made a difference. As the students themselves have pointed out, another similarity between their recent actions and many protests of the past was the participation and leadership of a number of strong women, whose role was less visible in the press coverage but was critical nonetheless.

Many of the photos inside this newsletter highlight student accomplishments: the first student to graduate with a major in Asian Studies; the first three students to graduate with a Peace Corps Preparation certificate; two more AADS graduates—one with a major and one with a minor; and a Master’s student who successfully defended her thesis. We were also able to honor an outstanding student and alumnus from each of our established degree programs—AADS and MAST—at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences homecoming ceremony, attended by AADS coordinator Griselda Thomas. Heartfelt congratulations to all of these deserving students!

In Spring 2018, in addition to the American Studies Student symposium in February and Gender & Women’s Studies Focus Week in March, ISD will be hosting a distinguished speaker for the Year of India, Dr. Mrinalini Sinha from the University of Michigan, a scholar of gender, colonial India, and the British Empire. Her public talk (details on page 4) is scheduled for the morning of Feb 8, but she will also be available for more informal discussions with faculty and students that day.

If you have not yet stopped by to tour the renovated ISD suite, we invite you to do so during the New Year.

Robbie Lieberman, Chair
On Saturday, November 4, Kennesaw State hosted the Latin American Association’s 18th Annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference. The Conference was attended by 2,000 students, parents, teachers and volunteers. The conference aims are to motivate Latino students to finish high school and pursue college; provide them with the tools and skills they need to access a college education; develop leadership skills; and promote career exploration. Presenters from Kennesaw State included ISD’s own Dr. Ernesto Silva, who spoke about study abroad experiences and opportunities and Dr. Rudy Aguilar, who spoke about music. Kennesaw State will again host the conference on Saturday, November 3, 2018. (Pictured (LtoR) Dr. Ernesto Silva, Dr. Darlene Rodriguez and Dr. Rudy Aguilar.)

Welcome Back Dr. Bradley!

ISD is thrilled that Dr. Regina Bradley is back at Kennesaw State. She was our part-time faculty member of the year before accepting a full-time faculty position at Armstrong State. (We missed her!) She was hired by the English Department in Fall 2017 and we welcome her back to teaching as an affiliated faculty member in ISD in the African and African Diaspora Studies and American Studies Programs. This spring she is teaching an innovative course entitled: Outkast and the Hip Hop South, which filled quickly.

She was the Nasir Jones HipHop Fellow (Harvard University, Spring 2016) and has a book under contract with UNC Press entitled, "Chronicling the South," which filled quickly. She is teaching an innovative course entitled: Outkast and the Hip Hop South. Welcome back Regina. We’re looking forward to great classes and collaboration in 2018 and beyond.

December Graduates

Anna Barnes graduated with her Asian Studies B.A. in December. She is the first student to graduate from this exciting new degree program. Anna chose the Asian Business concentration for her studies.

New ISD Limited Term Faculty Member

Jayme Canty found herself in the world of academia studying women of color. Ms. Canty is a native of North Carolina, where she completed high school at Millbrook High School in 2002. Ms. Canty graduated summa cum laude in 2006 from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T) in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she received her Bachelor in Arts degree in Political Science. After working as a paralegal in North Carolina for two years, she returned to school to complete her Master’s degree in African Women’s Studies at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. She obtained a Ph.D. in Humanities with concentrations in African Women’s Studies and Political Science at Clark Atlanta University in Fall 2017. She works as an adjunct professor at Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, and Kennesaw State University. She currently lives with her partner in Atlanta.

Welcome Jayme!

3rd Annual Latin American Film Festival

The Latin American Film Festival was a huge success this fall. Organized by Dr. Ernesto Silva and Dr. Dan Paracka, the festival introduced students to films from all of the South American countries and also invited local consuls general to participate in educating the students about their countries. Participants included the Consuls General of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru. This program is designed to highlight groundbreaking films from Latin America and to build awareness among the KSU campus and greater-Atlanta communities.

Welcome Back Regina!

If you support the work of the Interdisciplinary Studies B.A., please consider making a donation. Your generosity helps ISD students succeed.

Welcome to Stephanie Hogue who defended her thesis “Pink is the new Bull: The feminization of Pit Bulls in Visual and Literary Discourses as a Rescue Tactic.” Here she is pictured (center) with her committee members, Dr. Griselda Thomas (left) and Dr. Laura Beth Davis (right).

MST alumnus Gabriel Greaves (’16) just passed his GATES test and is substituting in the Cobb County School System. He is looking forward to teaching social studies and history to middle and high school students.

Wende Ballew (’11) through her work in prisons, was able to deliver Christmas gifts to every person on death row in Georgia. Wende is studying at UGA to earn her PhD in Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methodologies.

We welcome a new member to the ISD family - Sita joined Tom Pynn’s home in November. Sita is a central female figure in the Hindu epic Ramayana. Sita Sings the Blues, an animated film from 10 years ago is in the director’s works, “A tale of truth, justice and a women’s cry for equal treatment.” We wish Tom and Sita much happiness and many great days together!

Join Dr. Seneca Vaught and Dr. Ernesto Silva as they lead this adventure packed trip to Peru. Soak up the Incan sun and earn 6 credit hours in Latin American Studies as you learn the mysteries of ancient civilizations. Using a series of hands-on projects and interdisciplinary methods, you will feast on the finest foods, focus on fabulous feature films, delve in dance, and much more! In a series of challenges, you will explore archaeological wonders like Machu Picchu, analyze architectural treasures in cities like Lima and Cusco, and change lives through service learning projects.

http://dga.kennesaw.edu/educationabroad/