Faculty Scholarship and Presentations:

Roxanne Donovan received the award for Outstanding Diversity Advocate for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She will also be a Diversity Fellow next year in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Her project will be creating a mentoring program for faculty women of color.

Seneca Vaught will also be a Diversity Fellow, with a project to document, model, and analyze innovative strategies that have been used by university-based anti-racist centers to counter oppositional racial dialogue and improve the campus climate.

Ari Eisenberg presented the film United in Anger: A History of Act Up at the Zuckerman Museum in March, in support of the exhibit Art AIDS America.

Rebecca Hill presented “Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South” at the Organization of Americanists in April. Her review essay on Timothy Miscus-Kiser’s books on the Haymarket Anarchists of Chicago will appear in the May 2016 issue of Against the Current. In June, her article on teaching American Studies Research Methods will be published in a special forum on teaching in American Quarterly. She had an online publication in Germany with the Will Munzenberg Congress from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

Stacy Kettner and Ashley McFarland presented a joint paper in March entitled “Nude Awakening: Exploring Feminism’s Use of the Body in Intersectional Contexts,” at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association (SEWSA) meeting in South Carolina.

Tom Pynn was nominated for the inaugural Distinguished Honors Faculty awards. Students and staff in the Honors College nominate faculty members based on criteria that include having taught honors courses for at least four semesters and evidence of service through effective teaching and mentoring of students in honors courses. Tom has a book chapter coming out this spring, “Radical Ritual Performance in the Early Prophetic Poetry of Bob Kaufman” will appear in Beate Krone: Playwrights and Performances of the “NOW!” Generation, ed. Deborah Geis. He will present a version of this chapter as part of the Beat Studies panel at the American University of Mexico (Mexico City) in April.

Alan LeBaron traveled to Brazil in May to conduct research after receiving the CETL Research and Creativity Award for 2015-2016.

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ISD Chair’s Message

Hello to Rodolfo Aguilar

He received a one year limited term appointment with American Studies and Latin American Studies and will join us in fall.

Deniz Gumustekin, presented at two conferences in the spring: “Ethnicity and Conference in Government: The Case of Turkish-Kurdish Relations,” at the Internationa

ISD Chair’s Message

What’s New in ISD?

ISD continues to grow and change. We had an exciting year, with growing enrollments, new classes, and a number of successful events, including GWST Focus Week, a symposium on new directions in American Studies organized by our graduate students, and the biggest ever Symposium on Asia-U.S. Partnership Opportunities (SAUPO). There was even a SAUPO summit that took place in Shanghai.

We also helped organize other events that highlighted KSU’s and ISD’s focus on global engage- ment. Examples of these are a visit from the Director of the Peace Corps—that helped kick off our new Peace Corps Prep program—and from Native American environmental activist Winona LaDuke. Interim coordinator of Latin American and Latino/a Studies Alan LeBaron is working with a colleague in Coles College of Business to create a study abroad in Costa Rica that would feature work with economic cooperatives. Endeavors like these highlight how much ISD values offering creative opportunities for students that highlight peace and social justice.

ISD faculty and students received a number of honors, illustrated and described in other parts of this newsletter. But here I do want to dwell on a number of personnel changes that will take effect next year. We are sorry to lose our Native American scholar Katie Walkiewicz but delighted for the new opportunities she will have in San Diego. We will be happy to welcome a new visiting assistant professor, Rudy Aguilar, who gave a talk during his recent visit about his research on cumbia sonidera—music from Colombia that traveled to Mexico and then to the United States, a “cultural movement” in several senses of that phrase.

Two of our programs will have new coordinators come fall. May Gao has served two terms as Asian Studies coordinator, and she leaves behind an impressive record of accomplishments, not least of which is our new Asian Studies major. She will continue as Chair of SAUPO, a big job in its own right. Dr. Heeman Kim, from the Communications Department, was elected as the new Asian Studies coordinator. He has worked closely with May Gao for several years, and we know he will be a committed coordinator and a great addition to our department.

Tom Pynn has served many years as a dedicated coordinator of Peace Studies. He leaves the program on a firm footing, having created several new courses and recruited excellent faculty to teach in the program. He will continue as the adviser for the Peace Corps Prep program and will serve as interim coordinator for the Religious Studies program. He will also continue his fabulous work on Pathways to Peace, the university wide program that brings an inspiring speaker to campus each year. The new coordinator of Peace Studies, Anne Richards, has taught in the program and is working on a co-authored book about Muslims in America.

We know next year will be exciting as well and we invite you to join us by enrolling in a class and/or attending events, whether it be the “Year of Russia,” the AADS student conference, or another interdisciplinary showcase. Let us know if you’d like to be on our mailing list. Stop in to visit anytime, check out our website, follow us on Facebook or Twitter. And have a great summer!

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Twenty students received job and internship offers after volunteering at the recent SAUPO 2016 held at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel at the Cobb Galleria. The next SAUPO will be April 14, 2017.

CHSS Outstanding Diversity Advocate:
Roxanne Donovan, Psychology & ISD

MAST Alumnus Yen Rodriguez accepted a new job as a Graduation Coach in the RRPG Latino/Hispanic Program.

Ajay Murphy, MAST Alumnus, coordinated the KSU Library Systems Author’s Reception which honored KSU faculty who published research in the past year and a half. Kennesaw State President Daniel Papp commended the faculty authors for “helping your students by staying in the forefront of your respective fields.”

Ashley McFarland, was named the Outstanding Graduate Student for the MA in American Studies. Her faculty nominee was Dr. Stacy Keitner.

The AADS Program recognized Ariel Greenaway as the outstanding AADS B.A. student. Her faculty nominee was Dr. Jesse Benjamin.

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