Jan/Feb 2014 MAST News

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Application Deadlines for 2014 Admission:

Summer: April 1, 2014
Fall: July 1, 2014

We are excited to announce that we have three new students entering the MA Program in American Studies this Spring! Congratulations!

Jessica Duvall is a 2010 graduate of Kennesaw State University, where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management and Entrepreneurship. She currently works for KSU as the Program Coordinator for GLBTIQ Student Retention Services. Jessica chose the MAST Program because she wanted to apply an interdisciplinary approach to her work in student affairs as she learns about social movements, GLBTIQ identity development, and GLBTIQ history. After completing her MA, she intends to enter a doctoral program in Student Affairs to focus upon serving GLBTIQ students.

A 2012 graduate of West Georgia College, Walt Tillman received his BS in Political Science. He chose the MAST Program because it allows for wide-ranging study of American systems and institutions. While at KSU, Walt intends to study American political institutions and how they changed over the course of time, specifically the presidency as it developed in the early twentieth century. Upon completion of the MAST Program, Walt intends to continue his education by pursuing a PhD.

Jackie Horgan attended KSU where she majored in Integrative Studies. She graduated in May 2012 and now works full-time for Mike Hammersmith General Contracting. Jackie is interested in MAST because it allows for an interdisciplinary approach to studying American culture. She plans to focus on systematic oppression, poverty, race, and ethnicity, which will benefit her as she pursues a career in higher education or advocacy work.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jennifer Dickey
Assistant Professor of History & Coordinator of the Public History Program

The Civil War, Atlanta, and Gone With the Wind are inextricably linked in public memory. Dr. Jennifer Dickey’s new book “A Tough Little Patch of History”: Gone With the Wind and the Politics of Memory explores how a work of fiction serves as the cornerstone for the way a historical event is remembered. Politics, race relations, and even arson play a part in the complicated mix of memorializing a patch of history surrounding one the world’s most popular novels. The book, which is being published by the University of Arkansas Press, will be released in Spring 2014.

Part of Dr. Dickey’s work will be highlighted in the AMST 7230: Public History and Culture class that she is co-teaching with Dr. Catherine Lewis on Mondays this spring.

Important Dates

January 8: First Day of Spring 2014 Classes
January 17: Deadline for Proposals for Unconventional Wisdom Conference
**See AMST Website for Full Details
January 30: Deadline for Paper Proposals for AADS Student Research Conference
February 4: MAST Open House - Social Sciences Atrium - 4:00-6:00 PM
March 1: Clendenin Graduate Fellows Scholarship Deadline
March 4-5: Pathways to Peace Hosts John Hunter
March 13-14: Unconventional Wisdom - American Studies Student Conference
March 20: Race, Representation and Leadership: From Africa to the Diaspora - AADS Student Research and Community Engagement Conference
March 23-29: Gender & Women’s Studies Focus Week
March 29-April 4: Spring Break - No Classes
April 1: Final Deadline for Summer 2014 MAST Applications
May 1: Deadline for Fall 2014 MAST Applications (To Be Considered for GRA)
The American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) focuses on the study of American cultures, regionally, nationally, and transnationally by encouraging our members to understand and analyze the multitude of American communities. The organization not only seeks to promote American Studies on the KSU campus, but also to provide events for the development of students interested in interdisciplinary studies of culture in the Americas.

It has been a very exciting first year for AMSTO. Though the organization only has been active since June 2013, it has been able to host an event every month since its inception, including two film screenings. The first was titled *Disabled but Able to Rock*, which concluded with a Q&A with Director Blake Myers. The film chronicles the life of Betsy Goodrich, who uses the codename Danger Woman for her superhero alter ego. Goodrich, who has a high functioning form of autism, uses her karaoke super powers to fight for equal civil rights for all races, all sexual orientations, and all of those affected by a disability.

For the second film showing, *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, AMSTO collaborated with MAST alumna Wendi Ballew and her organization titled Reforming Arts. This not-for-profit organization, formed to provide arts and humanities education in Georgia prisons, believes that involvement in the arts provides a creative and intellectual outlet for incarcerated individuals. The film follows a theatre troupe on a yearlong performance of *The Tempest*. The film and the entire organization provides a chance for incarcerated individuals to overcome the label of “criminal” and be afforded dignity.

AMSTO also hosted a presentation by John Fleming of the Civil Rights Cold Case Project. This project is a collaboration of investigative journalists seeking to reveal the truth behind unsolved civil rights murders and facilitate reconciliation and healing. The semester concluded with a Transnational Potluck in which members brought dishes from their home countries to share with other students.

In the Spring 2014 semester AMSTO will be hosting its first ever conference titled “Unconventional Wisdom: Experiments with Sources Material, Research Methodologies, and Information Expression”. Look for more information on the AMST website or email ksu.unconventional.wisdom@gmail.com. Membership in AMSTO is open to anyone, as the organization yearns to be as inclusive as possible. If you are interested in actively crossing boundaries, building a community, and engaging culture, “Like” the organization on Facebook at “AMSTO of KSU”.

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**Upcoming Events in the KSU Interdisciplinary Studies Department**

**African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS)**
This upcoming March 20, 2014 marks the date of the sixth annual African and African Diaspora Studies Student Research Conference at Kennesaw State University. The theme of this year’s conference is “Race, Representation, and Leadership: From Africa to the Diaspora.” It is a particularly important time to reflect on these themes as we consider the recent passing of Nelson Mandela. This particular moment provides an opportunity to reminisce about Mandela’s legacy in a transnational context, analyzing international dialogue and solidarity that was central to his success. Mandela and many other leaders like him brought together complex, multi-faceted, multi-racial, and multi-layered movements in the United States and abroad. This conference seeks to engage panels and papers in the spirit of Mandela’s leadership emphasizing (inter)disciplinary cultural and intellectual perspectives in the following: literature and art, community engagement, Pan-Africanism and coalition building, activism and social change, music and hip-hop, and politics and policy. Please send a 150-word abstract of the proposed paper and/or panel and all inquiries to: ksuaadssconference@gmail.com by January 30, 2014.

**Gender and Women’s Studies (GWST)**
The third annual KSU Gender and Women’s Studies Focus Week will be held March 23 - March 28, 2014. Each year, GWST Focus Week aims to raise awareness regarding Gender and Sexuality topics and to create a space for meaningful and interesting dialogue regarding these issues both on our campus and in our local community. With much of the United States currently focused on issues of health care due to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the 2014 Focus Week theme of “Gender and Health & Wellness” should be particularly timely and interesting, especially to those students of American Studies. GWST Focus Week events will include speakers, student and faculty panels, film screenings, and more, with at least one event held each day during the week. Stay tuned to the Gender and Women’s Studies website (http://gwst.hss.kennesaw.edu) for a complete schedule of events.

**Peace Studies (PAX)**
Pathways to Peace is an annual celebration promoting the discussion of activities that significantly and meaningfully impact lasting peace across the globe. Each year the Pathways to Peace Committee selects an internationally recognized leader and worker for peace and invites that person to campus to meet with student leaders, faculty, and staff for a day-long series of events. Sponsors include the American Democracy Project, Coles College of Business, the Peace Studies Program in KSU’s Interdisciplinary Studies Department, and the Office of the President. Previous speakers have been Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof, Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams, and Kiva Microfinance co-founder Jessica Jackley. This year on March 4th and 5th, Pathways to Peace will host John Hunter, educator and inventor of The World Peace Game. See the PAX website (http://peacestudies.hss.kennesaw.edu) or email Program Coordinator Tom Pynn (tpynn@kennesaw.edu) for complete details.