Faculty Spotlight:
Dr. Jane Barnette
Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies

In theatre and performance studies, adaptation usually implies revising, devising, or interpreting a previously written text for the stage. Dramaturgy, the study of theatre from the page to the stage, is the very lifeblood of literary adaptation. Indeed, adaptation and dramaturgy have intriguing parallels - in both cases, the word (adaptation or dramaturgy) can be used to reference the process or the product. As the Resident Dramaturg for KSU’s Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, Dr. Jane Barnette’s dramaturgy has complemented approximately one adapted performance each year for the past six years. Her new book, *Adaptation for the Stage: A Guide for Dramaturgy* explores adaptation dramaturgy, the cultivation of a reflective, textured research milieu within which adapted works for the stage will thrive.

Dr. Barnette will feature parts of this research in the AMST 7410: Spectacular Adaptations in American Culture class that she is teaching this summer.

**Important Dates**

**March 4-5:** Pathways to Peace Hosts John Hunter  
**March 10:** Summer Registration Opens  
**March 13:** Unconventional Wisdom - American Studies Student Conference  
**March 20:** AADS Student Research and Community Engagement Conference  
**March 23-29:** Gender & Women’s Studies Focus Week  
**March 24:** Fall Registration Opens  
**March 28:** Clendenin Graduate Fellows Scholarship Deadline  
**April 1:** Final Deadline for Summer 2014 MAST Applications  
**April 9:** MAST Open House - Social Sciences Atrium  
**May 1:** Deadline for Fall 2014 MAST Applications (To Be Considered for GRA)  
**May 12:** Wine and Cheese Reception for MAST Students  
**May 13:** Spring 2014 Graduation - Congratulations to our MAST Graduates!

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**Application Deadlines for 2014 Admission:**

**Summer:**  
April 1, 2014

**Fall:**  
July 1, 2014

**Students Interested in GRA/GTA Positions Should Apply Early**

The American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) will be hosting the first ever student research symposium sponsored by the American Studies Program at Kennesaw State University on March 13, 2014. Titled “Unconventional Wisdom,” this symposium is the first student-organized event of its kind to come from the program and as such, organizers Blaine McCarty and Dugdrick Bevins are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to showcase the academic endeavors of students from several universities on the KSU campus.

The symposium is not about a theme in content but rather in spirit and purpose of research; that is, each of the students presenting is either approaching an unconventional topic or a conventional topic through an unconventional methodology. These papers and presentations are intended to push the limits of how early-career academics approach their subjects.

This one-day symposium features a student documentary film screening, multiple panels on topics such as music and identity, and paper presentations. The featured keynote speaker will be Dr. Paula Rabinowitz, Professor of American Studies at University of Minnesota. She is the author of the books *They Must Be Represented: The Politics of Documentary, Black & White & Noir: America’s Pulp Modernism*, and many articles and book chapters. Much of Dr. Rabinowitz’s work focuses on the area of American materialist feminist cultural studies and considers the interconnecting roles of cinema, photography, and painting in twentieth-century literature.

The American Studies Student Organization, the MA Program in American Studies, and the Interdisciplinary Studies Department would like to invite students and faculty to support this endeavor to create a space of academic growth and community. Further details available on the AMST Website.
Summer 2014 Course Offerings

**AMST 7410: Spectacular Adaptations in American Culture**
Dr. Jane Barnette - Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:00 - 7:45 PM
What role does spectacle play in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American literature and performance? How might the “sensation scenes” of American stage melodrama be read as activist texts? This course will examine the history and cultural work of page-to-stage adaptations from 1830-1930 with an emphasis on spectacle-based literary productions and performances. Texts to be considered include: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, *Under the Gaslight*, *The Drunkard*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

**AMST 7700: Practicum (Internship or Applied Research Project)**
Prerequisites: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 - Permission of Director Required

**AMST 7900: Capstone Experience (1-6 Credit Hours)**
Prerequisites: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 - Permission of Director Required

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Fall 2014 Course Offerings

**AMST 7000: American Studies Scholarship**
Dr. Rebecca Hill - Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:15 PM
This course explores a variety of themes, theoretical influences, and methodological approaches currently alive in American Studies and its related disciplinary fields. Particular emphasis is placed on the current controversies and scholarship focused on race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. The course is organized around broad thematic concepts, with attention to global perspectives. The course introduces some basic conceptual building blocks in the field, as well as explores some of the historical development of American Studies.

**AMST 7230: Historical Period - The US in the 1970s**
Dr. LeeAnn Lands - Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9:15 PM
Wedged between the activist 1960s and the conservative 1980s, the 1970s was a period marked by cultural and political tensions, rapid change, evolving opinions about the role of national and local governments, and the United States’ changing role in the world. Thus, it is a decade not readily described in easy, quick generalizations. It was Vietnam. And it was Watergate. And it was disco and fun, *All in the Family*, and *The Jeffersons*. It was conspiracy, ERA, Jimmy Carter, and malaise. This section of AMST 7210 will sort through the 1970s morass by examining cultural texts of the era - film, music, TV, ads, books, speeches - and completing close readings of recent scholarly work. Besides building an understanding of the latest scholarly interpretations of the period, students will enhance their ability to incorporate primary historical sources and analysis into their own educational programs.

**AMST 7330: Identities and Social Groups**
Dr. Ugena Whitlock - Mondays, 6:30 - 9:15 PM
This course examines the social construction of individual identities and social groups in American culture. Students survey and critique a range of texts expressing and representing the formation of identity constructions around such categories as race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, class, and sexuality. This section will focus specifically on LGBTQ Narratives, Southern Place, and religious fundamentalism. Students will consider various social forces that shape (and sometimes resist) various views of American identity both within and outside the US and the Americas.

**AMST 7460: Movements in American Culture**
Dr. Griselda Thomas - Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:15 PM
With a focus on the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality, this interdisciplinary seminar will examine historical and contemporary representations of Black women in the various mediums that serve to construct what is known as “popular culture”. Through the lenses of Black Feminist Studies, Cultural Studies, and Literary Studies, the course looks at the historical relationship of African-American women to mainstream culture through a critical examination of “popular” representations of Black women; analyzes the production and consumption of such representations; and further explores the ways these processes influence basic assumptions about social roles.

**AMST 7700: Practicum (Internship or Applied Research Project)**
Prerequisites: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 - Permission of Director Required

**AMST 7900: Capstone Experience (1-6 Credit Hours)**
Prerequisites: AMST 7000 and AMST 7100 - Permission of Director Required

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**Student Spotlight: Vanessa Schill**

Vanessa began the MAST Program in Spring 2013, immediately after completing her undergraduate degree in Communications at Kenneaw State University. She is also completing a Graduate Certificate in Digital and Social Media.

In addition to her studies, she is currently teaching two undergraduate classes this semester: COM 4425: Gender, Race and Media, which focuses on issues such as hypermasculinity, feminism, race, queer theory, and sexism and COM 3324: Contemporary Issues in Mass Communication which focuses on digital and social media, news values, and literacy.

Her research interests in the MAST Program include social media and pedagogy. Most recently, Vanessa gave a presentation titled “Remodeling Disney Princesses through Participatory Culture in the Gender, Race, and Media Course” at a Disney Studies workshop at the 2014 Western States Communication Association Convention in Anaheim, CA.