Kathryn Walkiewicz will join the Interdisciplinary Studies and English Departments this fall as an Assistant Professor. She is currently completing her PhD at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in the Department of English. This summer Kathryn will defend her dissertation, *Wide Open Spaces: Place, Empire, and U.S.-Indigenous Relations, 1817-1907*. In the project she argues that statehood debates were an important battleground for both the U.S. settler empire and indigenous sovereignty in the nineteenth century, and print functioned as a critical avenue for mapping these competing understandings of territory and nation. She is also a co-editor of the anthology *The People Who Stayed: Southeastern Indian Writing After Removal* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2010).

Her research and teaching interests include Native American and Indigenous studies, U.S. empire, territoriality, critical race studies, culture and the law, gender and women’s studies, queer studies, and print culture.

**Important Dates**

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
May 28: First Day of Summer 2014 Classes
July 1: Last Day to Petition to Graduate in Fall 2014
July 1: Final Deadline for Fall 2014 MAST Applications
July 29: Summer 2014 Graduation
August 14: Final Day to Register for Fall 2014 Classes
August 18: First Day of Fall 2014 Classes

**Application Deadlines for 2014-2015 Admission**

**Fall:**
July 1, 2014

**Spring:**
December 1, 2014

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

A full-time student and youth worker, Gabriel Greaves graduated from Kennesaw State University in 2009 with a degree in Human Services. He is interested in the MAST Program because of its transnational perspective and intends to study the ways that social movements, particularly within Black and Western Indian culture, and migrant experiences have impacted the development of American history. After completing the MAST Program, Gabriel would like to become a Social Studies teacher.

Casey Hampton received his degree in English from Jacksonville University in Florida. He is now working for the KSU Graduate Admission Office and decided to enroll in the MAST Program because of the variety, depth, and breadth of the program offerings. He intends to study LGBTQ history and social inclusion issues, Post WWII and Modern Southern literature, as well as emerging cultural issues in the contemporary South. Following completion of his MA, Casey intends to become a college counselor at a high school.

A 2002 graduate of Kennesaw State University with a degree in Theatre and Performance Studies, Kristen Walker is interested in the Civil Rights Movement, African-American culture, and the formation of social groups and movements. In addition to her studies, she is also a director and has experience as an actress in theatre, film, and television. Upon completion of her MA, Kristen intends to continue her education and receive a PhD, teach at the university level, and open her own theatre company.

Lynne Tipton is completing her BA in American History at Kennesaw State University this May. She is interested in MAST because she likes that it requires her to cross disciplinary boundaries, which she believes will be ideal for her future research objectives. While in the program, she intends to study environmental history as well as genealogy and cemetery studies. Upon graduation, she hopes to write a book and teach continuing education classes.
When she entered the MAST Program in Spring 2012, Crystal Money wanted to relate her coursework to her already existing interest in the nonprofit sector. Her capstone thesis, “Nonprofit Organizations and the Ever-Changing Culture of American Society: An Analysis of Values and Support” allowed her to do that. This thesis discusses the value civil society places on the nonprofit sector and what that value system says about a community. While completing her research, Crystal spent time volunteering for and researching two case study organizations, PAWS Atlanta and the Refugee Women’s Network, which helped her to better understand the value system of the Decatur area. Going forward, Crystal intends to study additional organizations in the community to gain a better understanding of its value system.

A Muslim student from Morocco, Ilham Ramram began the MAST Program in Spring 2012 and is graduating with the Transnational Concentration. For her capstone project titled “Marginalizing Muslims as the Other: Dominant and Persistent Prejudicial Imagery, Discourse, and Policy in the United States,” Ilham developed a curriculum to prepare students to thoughtfully consider history while exploring the experiences of various ethnic groups in America. She focused upon the media’s contributions in shaping knowledge and attitudes about Muslims and influencing policies with regard to their exclusion and isolation following the 9/11 attacks. With her multilingual background and the experiences she gained by working for the Institute for Global Initiatives at Kennesaw State University, Ilham will be looking to work for an international company and is also considering pursuing a PhD.

After researching, writing, and learning to design a website, Amber Martinez completed an online exhibit for her capstone project, which she titled “A Tragedy of War: Japanese-American Internment”. This project chronicled the history of internment in the United States and the impact that this era had on American beliefs about freedom, rights, and patriotism. She started her MA in American Studies in Spring 2011 after completing her undergraduate degree in American & Public History and was pleasantly surprised by how much she enjoyed the interdisciplinary approach to her interests. Following graduation, Amber intends to continue researching this era in United States history and has been accepted into the PhD program in History at Georgia State University. She would ultimately like to teach at the university level and continue with her research and writing.

Shelley McGinnis completed a capstone project titled “Haunted by the Spirits of Men in Blue and Grey: The ‘Ghosts of Marietta’ Tour, Selective History, and the Construction of Local Identity.”

Meghan Griffin graduated from the MA Program in American Studies in May 2013 and became the Director of the Canton Main Street Program in Canton, Georgia, later that year. While a student in MAST, Meghan took AMST 7220, which was presented as a special community engagement class with Mayan immigrants from Guatemala. Approximately half a million Maya Native Americans have escaped war, violence, and poverty by crossing borders. Students in this seminar discussed the question of ethnic and cultural identity among the Maya as well as among other Native American groups in the Americas. Meghan envisioned an exhibition of Maya culture and history done in partnership with local Maya in Georgia, but one semester of class was not enough time to organize such an event.

However, last month Meghan succeeded in this goal when the Canton Main Street Program, in alliance with an amazing group of Georgia Maya, and with the help of Dr. Alan LeBaron of the Maya Heritage Community Project, created a Maya art and weaving exhibit at the Cherokee Arts Center in Canton. The exhibit featured textiles, tools, and photographs curated by the local Maya community. Informational panels were borrowed from The Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Sioux City, Iowa, which had been produced as collaboration between scholars, including our Dr. LeBaron. The exhibit kicked off with an opening reception featuring Maya dancers and traditional marimba music. In addition to the exhibit, the Main Street Program held the first Latin American Festival, which featured music, food, and dance. As part of the festival, the Main Street Program partnered with Mi Familia Center and with local churches and restaurants.

Meghan, who also attended Georgia State’s Masters of Heritage Preservation Program, has plans to create an even larger Maya exhibit and festival in 2015, which may include partnership exhibits at Kennesaw State University.

Those interested in becoming involved should contact Meghan Griffin, Director of the Canton Main Street Program, at meghan.griffin@canton-georgia.com or Dr. Alan LeBaron at alebaron@kennesaw.edu.