MAST Alumni Updates

Emily Dolezal, ’12, accepted a new position at the Metropolitan State University of Denver as an Academic Advisor in the College of Professional Studies.

Paola Garcia, ’16, started a new position as Admissions Specialist at Year Up, a non-profit that empowers urban young adults through professional development.

Stefanos Milkidis, ’17, has accepted a position teaching at The City University of New York and is applying to doctoral programs across the country.

Sean Watkins, ’16, has been accepted in Harvard University’s PhD program at the Divinity School and will begin taking classes Fall 2018.

MAST Student Stephanie Craven Named CHSS Outstanding Student

During KSU’s 2017 Homecoming, MAST student Stephanie Craven was honored as College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Student. Craven served as president for the American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) while organizing and directing the annual Graduate Student Symposium. She has served as a graduate research assistant and has been a foster parent as well as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in foster care with Cherokee County, Georgia. She’s found that her organizational experience as a CASA has increased her MAST scholarship, and likewise, she’s been able to use her American Studies knowledge to better her role as a CASA for children. Her research in the MAST program has been singularly focused on Children and Youth Studies. She has continuously written about child citizenship, “high risk” children, marginalized families, and children’s media. Craven reflects, “It has been my goal to marry academia and activism—to fuse the privilege of scholarship with the responsibility of community action.”

Congratulations, Stephanie!

Summer 2018 Courses

AMST 7510: Passages to America, Monday/Wednesday, 5:00-7:45 PM, Dr. David King

AMST 7700: Practicum -- Internship or Applied Research Project

AMST 7900: Capstone Experience
MAST Faculty Participate in American Studies Association 2017 Annual Conference

Held in Chicago in early November, the 2017 annual American Studies Association (ASA) conference focused on the theme “Pedagogies of Dissent,” and KSU American Studies professors were well-represented at the meeting. Drs. Robbie Lieberman, Rebecca Hill, and Rudy Aguilar all traveled to the Second City and participated in different sessions. For example, Dr. Lieberman chaired a panel titled, “Can the University Teach Dissent?” Similarly, Dr. Hill sat in on a panel discussion titled, “Teaching X: Before and After Trump.” Finally, Dr. Aguilar, a native of Chicago, presented his research paper titled, “I’ll Never Forget You: Chicago’s Mystics, Sixties Soul, and Shared Affinities Between Latinos and African Americans.” Congratulations to all!

The 2018 ASA conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, November 8-11, three KSU professors are on the site resources committee for the 2018 ASA: Rudy Aguilar, Rebecca Hill, and Regina Bradley. The theme this year is “States of Emergence,” which will examine our national and global states of crisis in present times. The deadline to submit proposals is February 1, 2018. To learn more information, please visit https://www.theasa.net/annual-meeting-years-meeting.

MAST Student to Present at Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference 2018

MAST student Elizabeth Hensley and her mentor, Dr. Sandra Robinson, from Cal State Monterey Bay were recently accepted to an international interdisciplinary studies conference taking place in Granada, Spain this summer for their content analysis study on Spanish-language newspapers in California. According to their research, agricultural publications cater to white audiences while all but ignoring the growing Spanish-speaking farmers and laborers who make up California’s booming agricultural economy. Furthermore, many of these publications use Spanish translations of English articles from sister companies and replace images of white farmers with those of Latin@ farmers. This process privileges the white perspective, and these efforts do little more than to further marginalize and devalue the community of Spanish language speakers in California. In their proposal, Hensley and Robinson call these failings evidence of “the last bastions of whiteness,” which, they say, may account for the print industry’s general downward trend as audiences in America are less and less likely to fit the white target market model.

KSU Representatives Head to SEWSA 2018

At this year’s Southeaster Women’s Studies Association conference in November, there will be a few familiar faces from KSU. Former KSU professor of Gender and Women’s Studies and Disability Studies in the MAST program, Dr. Ari Eisenberg, will moderate a panel discussion with two MAST students, Elizabeth Hensley and Stephanie Craven, one MAST alumni, Tanya Brinkley, and one KSU English professor, Dr. Nancy L. Reichert. The title of the panel is “Advocating, Performing, Teaching: Disability Activism and Response to Ableism In and Oustide of Academe.” Tanya Brinkley will present her research titled, “Disabled Queer Feminist as Possibility for Relationality: Physical Embodiment as Theoretical Cartography” in which she uses feminist scholarship to analyze pain as an object of analysis throughout a body of cartography. Similarly, Stephanie Craven will present her research, “Living in/with Fantasy: Constructing Disability Spaces in Live-Action Role Play,” an examination of navigating the worlds of live action role playing and fantasy with real-world disabilities. Elizabeth Hensley will present “Teaching Disability Studies in American Identities Coursework,” in which she “explore(s) student responses to disability studies as entry-points and pedagogy in the undergraduate course, American Identities.” Finally, Dr. Nancy Reichert will discuss her research, “The Main Event: Disability Activism at Academic Conferences and Expos.” Beginning with the idea that activism is a fundamental domain of feminist disability studies, Dr. Reichert examines conferences and expos as potential sites for academic activism. She writes, “I focus on my role in creating a disability exposition and on the ways in which education can be impacted by what all involved learned.”