

## Notes from the Chair

by Chad Heap

Recently this column has heralded both a “banner year” and a “book year” for the Department of American Studies. Following this model, one might call the past twelve months our “renewal year.” From the surfaces of the department’s walls and floors, which recently received a much needed paint job and new carpeting, to its faculty, students, staff, curriculum, and website, the department experienced some major transformations in 2010-11.

The expansion and rejuvenation of the department’s faculty continued this year with the appointment of our new colleague Calvin Warren (about whom you can read more on page 7) and the tenure and promotion of Kip Kosek. Two members of the faculty published books touching on some aspect of renewal or preservation—Suleiman Osman’s *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn* (Oxford University Press, 2011) and Richard Longstreth’s edited collection, *Sustainability and Historic Preservation* (University of Delaware Press, 2011)—and several others took time to renew themselves on sabbatical or research leave. Richard Longstreth and Elaine Peña got head starts on their next projects, while Terry Murphy finished her second monograph as a Senior Fulbright Fellow in Indonesia this past spring.

The department’s new director of graduate studies, Tom Guglielmo, and our new MA advisor, Suleiman Osman, oversaw the arrival and acclimation of one of our largest-ever cohorts of new graduate students (5 PhD and 16 MA students), and Melani McAlister spearheaded the admission and recruitment of an outstanding new group of 4 PhD and 14 MA students scheduled to arrive this fall. Our current graduate students continued to distinguish themselves academically with no fewer than seven articles published or accepted for publication this year; at least 26 conference paper presentations at a range of venues in the US, Canada, France, Ireland, and the UK; and a number of other awards and honors outlined on page 5 of this newsletter. In addition, three of our PhD students—



American Studies majors gather with department chair Chad Heap prior to commencement.

### Professor Teresa Murphy Wins Trachtenberg Prize

American Studies Professor Teresa Murphy was named one of two university-wide recipients of the 2011 Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Prize for University Service. This prize was endowed by University President Emeritus Stephen Joel Trachtenberg to honor the memory of his parents, and it is presented annually to tenured members of the faculty.

Among her many contributions to GW, Professor Murphy served on the University Strategic Planning Committee on Academic Excellence, the Learning Committee of the Innovation Task Force and the Columbian College General Education Curriculum Reform Committee, which she chaired. Her reputation as a hard-working and highly collegial leader is the result of excellent standards combined with a supportive and receptive approach. She demonstrates, according to one nominator, “how university service can move the mission of the university forward.” ■

### Ramzi Fawaz Wins Philip Amsterdam GTA Award

American Studies PhD student Ramzi Fawaz was named one of three university-wide recipients of the 2011 Philip Amsterdam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. Established in Spring 2004 to honor university alumnus and Trustee Emeritus Philip S. Amsterdam (BA '62), this award recognizes “individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to GW teaching,” as well as “the important contribution the university’s graduate students make to the educational process.”

Since starting at GW, Ramzi has become an exceptional GTA, teacher, colleague, and all-around intellectual force in the American Studies Department. Last spring he taught his own class on “America in the 1990s.” His course generated passionate debates about the meaning of feminism, the policies of Ronald Reagan, and the early stages of the AIDS epidemic that routinely spilled into the department’s hallways. Students called Ramzi “one of the most engaging lecturers I have ever had at GW.” ■

2108 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20052  
Email: [amst@gwu.edu](mailto:amst@gwu.edu)



Phone: (202) 994-6070  
Fax: (202) 994-8651

<http://go.gwu.edu/americanstudies>

Laurie Lahey, Eid Ahmed Mohamed and Amber Wiley—secured academic job placements for the coming year (see page 6).

Our undergraduates continued to thrive in a major that now centers on three focus areas: Cultural Politics, Global Connections, and Space, Place, and Society. Faculty members introduced two new upper-level lecture courses focused on “World War II in History and Memory” (Tom Guglielmo) and “US-Middle East Cultural Encounters” (Melani McAlister), as well as two new freshman-oriented lectures on “Race, Gender and Law” (Jennifer Nash) and “Film and Politics” (Libby Anker). Renewing the department’s broader commitment to undergraduate education, the faculty qualified 24 of our undergraduate lectures and Dean’s seminars for inclusion in the Columbian College’s new general education curriculum, including at least four new lecture courses that will debut in 2011-12.

The department’s reputation for outstanding service to the GW community was renewed this spring when PhD candidate (and energetic American Studies Film Club organizer) Ramzi Fawaz was named one of three university-wide recipients of the 2011 Philip Amsterdam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, in honor of his “outstanding contribution to GW teaching.” And Terry Murphy was awarded the 2011 Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Prize for University Service for, among many other things, her “extraordinary dedication and high energy” in chairing the Columbian College General Education Curriculum Reform Committee. (See page 1 for more details about both of these honors.)

Finally, the past year saw major transformations in

the department’s main office. After three and a half years of dedicated service as department chair, Jim Miller took on a new administrative assignment as director of our Center for Public History and Public Culture, and the department’s executive assistant Maureen Kentoff departed after four years to focus on the completion of her dissertation in GW’s English department. In mid-spring 2011, we also bid farewell to our hardworking office assistant Beth Komisarek, when she was offered a full-time position at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

Fortunately, we were able to find the exceptional Samantha White (a master’s student at GW’s School of Public Health) to take over Maureen’s position at the end of last summer. In less than a year, Sam has not only mastered the daily operations of the department but has also overseen the recent renovations at 2108 G Street, the launching of the department’s new website, and the production of this newsletter. Given the extraordinary volume of change this past year, it’s hardly surprising that our new website is still a work in progress. Over the next few months, we plan to unveil new sections highlighting the department’s research activities and our alumni’s accomplishments, among other things. If you have updates we can include in our website’s new alumni section, please send them to Sam at [amst@gwu.edu](mailto:amst@gwu.edu), and remember to check back to see what’s new at: <http://go.gwu.edu/americanstudies>

My thanks to all of you—alumni, graduate students, undergraduates, and colleagues—for helping me ease into my first year as department chair. I look forward to reporting even more successes in the coming year! ■

## Congratulations to Our 2011 Graduates!

### Doctor of Philosophy Degrees Awarded

**Charity Fox**, “Manifest Mercenaries: Mercenary Narratives in American Popular Culture, 1850-1990”—Gayle Wald, director

**Sandra Heard**, “The ‘Bad’ Black Consumer: A Study of African-American Consumer Culture in Washington, D.C., 1910s-1930s”—Chad Heap, director

**Jeremy Hill**, “‘Out of the Barn and into a Home’: Country Music’s Cultural Journey from Rustic to Suburban, 1943-1974”—Chad Heap, director

**Clara Lewis**, “Tough on Hate? Addressing Hate Crime in a Post-Difference Society”—Thomas Guglielmo, director

**Lars Lierow**, “Gaps, Flows, and Networks: Social Space and the Cultural Work of Communication Theory in Social Science, Sci-Fi, and Political Movements, 1937-1980”—Melani McAlister, director

**Joan Fragaszy Troyano**, “Visualizing a Nation: Photographs, European Immigration, and American Identity, 1880-1980”—Tyler Anbinder, director

**Amber Wiley**, “Concrete Solutions: Architecture of Public High Schools during the ‘Urban Crisis’”—Richard Longstreth, director

### Master of Arts Degrees Awarded

<b>David Bietila</b>	<b>Melissa Luthman</b>
<b>Megan Black</b>	<b>Kent Peacock</b>
<b>Emma Byrnes</b>	<b>John Price</b>
<b>Shannon Davies</b>	<b>Katie Rademacher</b>
<b>Kate Gaskill</b>	<b>Sara Tenenbaum</b>
<b>Sarah Groesbeck</b>	<b>Amy Weishampel</b>

### Bachelor of Arts Degrees Awarded

<b>Emily Accetta</b>	<b>Priscilla Knox</b>
<b>Brian Austin</b>	<b>Natalie Lazaroff</b>
<b>James Benson *</b>	<b>Ahna Olson</b>
<b>Raven Burnett</b>	<b>Ashley Olt</b>
<b>Zoe Calish *</b>	<b>Lisa Peou</b>
<b>Max Cohen</b>	<b>Kaylen Poretzky *</b>
<b>Caroline Collins</b>	<b>Rebecca Reeves *</b>
<b>Devonne Cusi</b>	<b>James Rothpearl</b>
<b>Ariel Deitch *</b>	<b>Brianna Sacks *</b>
<b>Nicholas Dreckshage *</b>	<b>Colleen Shalby</b>
<b>Tyler Fishbone</b>	<b>Paulette Sutton</b>
<b>Andrew George</b>	<b>Kathryn Townsend</b>
<b>Laurel Gerard</b>	<b>Laura Warman</b>
<b>Audrey Joy</b>	<b>Anne Wernikoff</b>

\* Graduated with Departmental Special Honors

# American Studies Lecture Series

To provide a forum for the latest research in the field, we welcomed two more scholars to campus this year, as part of our ongoing Themes in American Studies Lecture Series. Both visits met with considerable success, sparking lively discussion among the GW students, faculty, alumni, and DC-area scholars in attendance.

Our October 2010 event featured **Nicole Fleetwood** (Assistant Professor of American Studies at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) who presented a portion of her newly published book, *Troubling Vision: Performance, Visuality, and Blackness* (University of Chicago Press, 2011). Focusing on a sample of African American photographer Charles “Teenie” Harris’s more than 80,000 images of Pittsburgh’s black Hill District, she argued that his work provides an important historical counterpoint to the images of African Americans that predominated in the early- and mid-twentieth-century mainstream press. Prof. Fleetwood also met informally with students from Jennifer Nash’s graduate seminar on “Race, Gender & Popular Culture” and others to discuss the process of designing and publishing a research project.

In March 2011, **Siobhan Somerville** (Associate Professor of English and of Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) offered our second public lecture, “Queering Like a State: Naturalized Citizenship and U.S. Empire.” Highlighting historical examples of naturalization without immigration, including the transformation of American Indians into US citizens under the Dawes Act, this talk explored how naturalization functioned performatively within the context of US territorial expansion as well as the ways in which race and sexuality mediated understandings of national belonging. While on campus, Prof. Somerville also visited Tom Guglielmo’s “20th-Century US Immigration” lecture course to meet with undergraduates who had read one of her articles for class.

As in recent years, these lectures were underwritten with funding from GW’s Signature Program. Supplementary funds from an earlier donation from alumna Margaret Whitehead (PhD ’07) also helped support Prof. Fleetwood’s visual studies lecture. The department is extremely grateful for this support and for the scholarly visits it makes possible. In the coming year, we will use similar funding to support public lectures by Bethany Moreton, author of the award-winning *To Serve God and Wal-Mart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise* (Harvard University Press, 2009), and Lauren Berlant, author of several books, including the forthcoming *Cruel Optimism* (Duke University Press). If you are interested in receiving more information about our upcoming lectures, please email [amst@gwu.edu](mailto:amst@gwu.edu). ■

## “Queering Like a State: Naturalized Citizenship and U.S. Empire” Siobhan Comerville, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Source: National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

## “Visual Indexes and Racial Iconicity: Charles ‘Teenie’ Harris’s Photographs of Black Pittsburgh” Nicole Fleetwood, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



Source: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

# AMST Film Club: To Hollywood and Beyond!

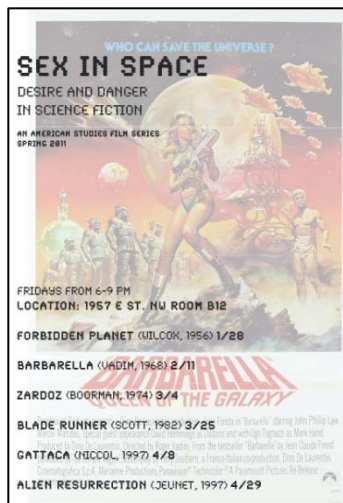
by Ramzi Fawaz

In the spring of last year, Professor Jim Miller and I started the American Studies Film Club in the hopes of galvanizing our students' interest in the culture of American movies. On every third Friday of that semester, we joined a group of our dedicated undergraduate majors for a tour of the most memorable films of the 1970s. With two new film series and a fresh group of eager students, this year we transformed the film club from an informal gathering to a department tradition.

Continuing our journey through American film history, in the fall we offered students a look at Hollywood's crusade to combat Nazism at home and abroad during WWII with a film series titled, "Hollywood Fights Fascism." Combining classics like *Casablanca* and *The Great Dictator* with lesser-known cult favorites like *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* and *Lifeboat*, we explored how Hollywood film became one of the United States' most potent weapons in the cultural war against fascist politics throughout the late 1930s and '40s. As part of our series, we were lucky to have Professors Tom Guglielmo and Kip Kosek present on two of our most fascinating features, Alfred Hitchcock's *Lifeboat* and Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove*. Offering their own perspectives on these rich films, Professors Guglielmo and Kosek helped galvanize some of our most exciting conversations, joining our students in the practice of analyzing film and encouraging them to use their own knowledge of WWII and Cold War history to make sense of these movies and their political investments.

Shifting our focus to the decades after WWII, in the spring, we moved into uncharted territory with a provocative look at a much maligned film genre, science fiction. Our series, "Sex in Space: Desire and Danger in Science Fiction," explored a variety of avant-garde and non-mainstream sci-fi cult classics that have used the formal qualities of the genre to talk about

modern conceptions of gender, sexuality, and desire. Alongside a variety of bizarre and often risqué films like *Forbidden Planet*, *Barbarella*, and *Zardoz*, we also took on the entire *Alien* series and explored science fiction's modern evolution in films like *Blade Runner* and *Gattaca* as well as the music videos of Lady Gaga. We engaged in heated conversations about the politics of sexual liberation in the 1960s and '70s, the representation of sexuality on screen, and the depiction of alternative forms of gender and sexuality in distant futures and alternate worlds.



Spring 2011 AMST Film Club Poster

This year's film club helped develop a sense of camaraderie among our students and faculty that we hope to continue far into the future. It also boosted students' confidence in themselves and their ability to articulate original ideas by providing a space to engage in cultural critique without the pressure of assignments or grades. All this, plus our students have now seen some of America's greatest films.

Although our final film selections for the coming year are still being decided, this fall we will host a series on film noir that may include *Double Indemnity*, *Detour*, *Mildred Pierce*, and *Sunset Boulevard*, among other titles. Focusing on both classic and contemporary iterations of this popular genre, we'll explore the dark side of the American dream. If you have any questions about the film club, please send an email to [ramzi@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:ramzi@gwmail.gwu.edu). ■

## Carper Prize for Outstanding Senior Thesis

This year's Elsie M. Carper Prize winner analyzes the relationship between two central aspects of American culture: religion and food. Rebecca Reeves received the award for her senior research project entitled, "Cultivating Christian Identity: Sustainable Food Movement in the American Christian Community." Reeves's work explores the emergence of a Christian environmentalism that is, in her words, "shaping a new religious identity based in anti-capitalist, anti-mass consumption ideals, and using sustainable foodways as its catalyst for change."

Reeves charts a shift among conservative evangelicals in particular. Once dismissive of environmentalism as a "liberal" cause, many of them came to embrace green foodways as a necessary spiritual response to the degradation of God's perfect world. A church in Boise, Idaho, for example, started raising organic vegetables to share with the city's poor, a venture dubbed the "Garden o' Feedin'." Studying this and other remarkable cases, Reeves discovers dramatic changes in the nation's religious politics. Her creative research and lucid prose represent the best of our American Studies undergraduate program. Great job Becky! ■



Rebecca Reeves receives the Carper Prize from Professors Chad Heap (L) and Kip Kosek



Honors students receive their awards (L-R): James Benson, Nicholas Dreckshage, Brianna Sacks, Zoe Calish, Rebecca Reeves, Ariel Deitch, Kaylen Poretzky

# Graduate Student News

**Katie Brian**, a fifth-year doctoral candidate, continues work on her dissertation project, tentatively titled, "Morbid Propensities: American Narratives of Self-Destruction, 1843-1897." She was honored to present work as part of the Regional Award Winners panel at the American Studies Association conference in San Antonio. She currently serves as a committee member of the ASA Students Committee and is also the senior coordinator of GW's annual graduate student conference, "Collected Stories and Twice-Told Tales."

**Emma Byrnes** graduated in May 2011 with an MA degree in Historic Preservation. This summer, she headed to Mount Rainier National Park to do an internship with the National Council on Preservation Education in cooperation with the National Park Service.

**Emily Dietsch** is now a fourth-year doctoral student. At the University of Rhode Island in 2010, she delivered a paper on differential readings of migration in 19th-century slave narratives and 20th-century post-soul novels. More recently, she completed her preliminary exams in the fields of Cultural Theory and Identity Formation, Urban Cultural Geography, and Twentieth-Century American Literature. In the 2011 spring semester she also designed and taught a UW1020 course entitled, "Death of the Hipster?: Hipsterism in American Culture, 1940s-present", which mapped a Raymond Williams-esque genealogy of 'hipsters' as a term and sociopolitical phenomenon through history, literature, film, and journalism. Additionally, with co-organizers Katie Brian and Emily Dufton, she helped put together the fifth annual Collected Stories conference. In June 2011, she began a year of uninterrupted work on her dissertation, made possible by a University Writing Preceptorship. Her project will begin with a trip to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, where she'll examine the personal archives of Black Arts architect Larry Neal and modernist painter Beauford Delaney.

**Ramzi Fawaz**, a sixth-year doctoral candidate, jumped headlong into his writing year, working towards a full draft of his dissertation and participating in a variety of scholarly conferences and workshops along the way. In October 2010, Ramzi participated in a dissertation writing workshop with the NYU Institute for Public Knowledge. He joined nine fellow grad students from the New York area and four distinguished faculty from NYU to discuss writing and research around the workshop theme, "The Workings of Gender and Power in a Heterogeneous World." In November, he presented material from his on-going dissertation research at the American Studies Association conference on a panel he co-organized titled, "Intimate Alliances: Visual Cultures of American Liberalism in the 1970s." Ramzi continued to facilitate the American Studies Film Club for undergraduate majors, developing two film series that explored WWII cinema and science fiction. He is spending the summer revising his dissertation, developing new research, and may even find some time to relax!

## Publications

- Brian, Kathleen.** "The Reclamation of Anna Agnew: Violence, Victimhood, and the Uses of 'Cure.'" *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies* 5.3 (2011): 279-302.
- Fawaz, Ramzi.** "'Where No X-Man Has Gone Before!' Mutant Superheroes and the Cultural Politics of Popular Fantasy in Postwar America." *American Literature* 83.2 (June 2011): 355-88.
- Fawaz, Ramzi.** "Space, that Bottomless Pit: Planetary Exile and Metaphors of Belonging in American Afrofuturist Cinema." *Callaloo* (forthcoming 2011).
- Hill, Jeremy.** "'Country Comes to Town': Country Music's Construction of a New Urban Identity in the 1960s." *Popular Music and Society* (forthcoming 2011).
- Kohlstedt, Matthew.** "Constructing the 'Oriental': Office of Strategic Services and Office of War Information Middle East Propaganda." In *Connections and Ruptures: America and the Middle East*, the 2010 conference proceedings of the Center for American Studies and Research at the American University of Beirut.
- Mohamed, Eid Ahmed.** "Who Defines Me: Orientalism Revisited and Occidentalism Redefined in the Post 9/11 Era." *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences* 5.10 (2011): 73-84.
- Wiley, Amber.** "LeDroit Park: A Study in Contrasts." *Vernacular Architecture Newsletter* 125 (Fall 2010): 1-9.

## Other Achievements

- Matthew Kohlstedt** was invited to participate in the Heidelberg Spring Academy on American History, Culture and Politics at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in March 2011.
- Scott Larson** was admitted to the prestigious School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University for the 2011 summer session.
- Joseph Malherek** was the recipient of four small grants during the 2010-11 academic year, including a research grant from the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, DE (\$1,600); a research grant from the Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History at Duke University (\$600); a travel grant from the Graduate Student Conference on the History of American Capitalism at Harvard University (\$300); and an Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grant from the Business History Association.
- Amber Wiley** won the Best Paper Award at the University of Texas School of Information's Engaging in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (EPOCH) student symposium.

# Graduate Student News

**Joseph Malherek** advanced to PhD candidacy in December with his dissertation prospectus, "Satisfying the 'Inner Jones': Market Segmentation as Social Constitution, from Demographics to Psychographics," a discursive history of marketing methodologies in postwar America. He presented papers related to this project at three conferences this past year: the U.S. Intellectual History Conference at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York; the History of American Capitalism Conference at Harvard University; and the Business History Conference in St. Louis. In October, he will present a paper at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Baltimore.

**Eid Mohamed** defended his dissertation titled, "Who Defines Me: Orientalism Revisited and Occidentalism Redefined in the Post 9/11 Era," this summer. In this project, he explores how Arab media, cinema, and fiction, especially after the election of President Barack Obama, assert the value of America as a potential source of 'change' while attempting to renegotiate the Arab and Muslim worlds' positions in the international system. During the past year, he presented at a variety of conferences, including the American Political Science Association, the Middle East Studies Association, and the American Comparative Literature Association. For the upcoming Middle East Studies Association meeting in Washington, DC, he has organized a panel on "Media(ing) Otherness: Visual Representations of "Islam" and "the West" in the Post-9/11 Era," where he will present his paper titled, "Occidental Fear of the Unknown East: America in an Egyptian 9/11 Movie." Eid's paper titled, "Reel Bad Americans: US in Post-9/11 Arab Cinema," is included in the APSA Working Paper Series, available online in *Political Behavior: Cognition, Psychology, & Behavior eJournal*.



PhD students (L-R): Katie Rademacher, Megan Black and Shannon Davies

**John O'Keefe** presented a conference paper titled, "Free Non-European Migrants in the Early American Republic," at the annual conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in June 2010. Under the title, "Who are Free White Men? Free Non-European Migrants in the Early American Republic," he presented another version of this research at an October meeting of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Colloquium. Additionally, he is credited as assistant exhibit curator for the exhibition, "HIV and AIDS Thirty Years Ago," which opened at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History on June 3, 2011, and is scheduled to run through October.

**Tara Owens** completed her first year in the MA program with a concentration in Museums and Material Culture. She took "Field Methods in Architectural Documentation" in the fall and discovered that she is very interested in architectural history. In the spring, she took a course on public history, museums and technology, and a research seminar called "Identity and Power." She wrote her research paper on the postwar American automobile industry's use of dogs in print advertisements to craft an American dream based on capitalism and a consumer culture defined by the car.

**Amber Wiley** successfully defended her dissertation, "Concrete Solutions: Architecture of Public High Schools during the 'Urban Crisis,'" which examines the cultural and political paradigms that informed the design of fortified, yet programmatically innovative, high schools built in African American communities. Her paper titled, "Worthy of Consideration? Recent Past Urban Educational Architecture," received the Best Paper Award at the Engaging in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (EPOCH) Symposium at the University of Texas-Austin. ■

## PhD Job Placements

Congratulations to the following PhD students on their recent job placements:

**Laurie Lahey** will be a Teaching Fellow in the Department of History at Rowan University for the 2011-12 academic year.

**Eid Mohamed** has accepted a three-year position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at SUNY Binghamton.

**Amber Wiley** was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Tulane School of Architecture for the 2011-12 academic year.

# Faculty News

**Libby Anker** had an exciting and productive year at GW. She had the pleasure of teaching our fabulous graduate students twice: once in a course on contemporary cultural theory, and then in a course called “Debating Democracy” that focused on critical theory. She also introduced a successful new undergraduate course, “Film and Politics.” Libby finished her book manuscript and signed a contract to publish it with Duke University Press. Titled *Orgies of Feeling: Melodramatic Politics and the Pursuit of Freedom*, the book examines how melodramatic narratives shape post-9/11 political discourse. Articles on her research are forthcoming in *Contemporary Political Theory* and *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought*. She also published essays this year in *Theory and Event* and *American Literature*. Libby presented her work at many invited lectures and conferences this past year, but her favorite experience was a weeklong seminar on her book project at the Universität St. Gallen in Switzerland.

**Frank Goodyear** taught two graduate seminars during the 2010-11 academic year, including a new course, “American Cool.” With Tulane professor Joel Dinerstein, he is currently developing an exhibition of the same title that will open in 2013 at the National Portrait Gallery and will investigate the origins and evolution of “cool” as an oppositional persona. He enjoyed the opportunity to explore with his students a range of issues that the exhibition will address. In addition to “American Cool,” Frank is also working on an exhibition for 2012 about eighteenth-century women’s rights advocate Judith Sargent Murray and a major retrospective in 2014 about photographer Alexander Gardner. In the next year, he will publish essays in the journal *History of Photography* and two anthologies, *The Magnum Collection: A Visual Archive of the Modern World* (University of Texas Press) and *Ways of Knowing Smithsonian Objects: Views from the Arts, History, and Sciences* (Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press).

**Tom Guglielmo** completed his first year as director of graduate studies and has so far managed to avoid any major catastrophes. This past fall and spring, he also taught three classes—two undergraduate courses on the history and memory of World War II and on twentieth-century US immigration, and a graduate seminar on social movements—all of which went swimmingly. He credits this success, in part, to the outstanding GTA work of Greg Borchardt, Emily Dietsch, Bess Matassa, and Pat Nugent. In the world of advising, Tom chaired Clara Lewis’s successfully-defended dissertation, an absorbing and sophisticated cultural history of hate crime in the United States; he served as a reader on six other dissertations, three at GW—those of Sara Berndt (History), Charity Fox, and Joan Fragaszy Troyano—and three at other schools; and he sponsored Fulbright fellow Tasuku Todayama, a doctoral student at the University of Tokyo, who is writing a dissertation about the US and Mexican governments’ attempts to deal with undocumented immigration. On the research front, Tom continues to plug away on his book-in-progress, *Race War: World War II and the Crisis of American Democracy*. A chapter appeared as “Red Cross, Double Cross: Race and America’s World War II-Era Blood Donor Service” in the *Journal of American History* in June 2010. He also presented portions of his research at Drexel University, the School Without Walls, the Organization of American Historians annual meeting, and his former high school in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY.

## Welcome, Professor Calvin Warren!

The department is pleased to announce that Calvin Warren, a 2010 PhD in American Studies and African American Studies from Yale University, will join our faculty this fall. His dissertation, “The Absent Center of Political Ontology: Ante-bellum Free Blacks and Political Nothingness,” is a fascinating, philosophical rethinking of the racial system that organized nineteenth-century US politics. Drawing on political and psychoanalytic theory as well as historical archives, Calvin argues that the very concept of black people who were not slaves and yet were not citizens was such a profoundly disruptive problem for antebellum political leaders that free blacks were essentially rendered incomprehensible and relegated to “political nothingness.”

The recipient of a number of prestigious fellowships, including a Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship and a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Academic Scholarship, Calvin has taught at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and at Southern Connecticut State University. This fall at GW, he will offer a Dean’s seminar (for first-year undergraduates) entitled, “Representing Black Men,” and next spring will present a new undergraduate lecture course on “The African American Experience” and a graduate readings seminar focused on African American cultural studies. With research and teaching interests ranging from African American history and philosophical thought to Lacanian psychoanalysis, deconstruction, and queer theory, Calvin is an exciting addition to our intellectual community. ■

### 🌲 Help Us Go Greener! 🌲

To help GW go green, for the past several years we’ve distributed our newsletter electronically to as many of our alumni and friends as possible. We’re now reaching nearly half of you that way.

Please help us raise our electronic distribution rate by updating your contact information at <http://alumni.gwu.edu/update> or by sending your e-mail address directly to the department at [amst@gwu.edu](mailto:amst@gwu.edu).

A limited number of print copies of the newsletter remain available upon request.

# Faculty News

**Kip Kosek** discussed his book *Acts of Conscience* (Columbia University Press, 2009) in a variety of settings. In the fall, he went to Atlanta to accept the 2010 award for “Best First Book in the History of Religions.” The book was also featured on an “authors meet critics” panel at the American Society of Church History conference in Boston, and in February, Kip traveled to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville to speak to classes and give a public lecture. (This summer, *Acts of Conscience* appeared in paperback.) Kip continued his work as the department’s director of undergraduate studies and taught a variety of courses on American religion, history, and culture. He also served on a grant review panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is currently finishing an article on civil rights protests at segregated churches and is also researching the history of American secularism. He will pursue these inquiries during a fall sabbatical before returning to the department in the spring of 2012.

**Richard Longstreth** devoted much of his time to preparing a new book, *Looking Beyond the Icons: A Legacy of Architecture and Landscape from the Recent Past*, while on sabbatical in spring 2011. Besides working on several chapters, he conducted research in several Southern cities (Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Jackson, Raleigh, Richmond, and Savannah) as well as in New York (city and state). He also secured an advance contract from the University of Virginia Press for an edited volume, tentatively entitled, *Additions, Subtractions, Adjacencies: Preserving While Modifying the Work of Frank Lloyd Wright*, on which he’s been working this summer. Another edited volume, *Preservation and Sustainability: Toward a Holistic View*, was released by the University of Delaware Press and Rowman & Littlefield in April. Longstreth delivered three keynote papers: “The Dilemma of Adding” at the annual meeting of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in Cincinnati, Ohio (September 2010); “Public Space and the Idea of Washington,” at the Ninth Biennial Symposium on the Historic Development of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Latrobe Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians (March 2011); and “The Parts and Their Whole,” at an invitational “Historic Preservation Colloquium on Thomas Jefferson’s Academical Village,” sponsored by the Office of the Architect for the University, University of Virginia, Charlottesville (April 2001). He also gave a lecture, “The Challenges of Urban Renewal,” for the Department of Architectural History at Savannah College of Art & Design (January 2011) and served as a session moderator at a symposium, “George Washington Lives Here: His Commemoration at Mount Vernon and in the District of Columbia,” sponsored by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, U. S. Commission of Fine Arts, and University of California, Washington Center, at Mount Vernon (May 2011). Longstreth continues to serve on the editorial boards of the University of Virginia Press, *Buildings & Landscapes*, *Journal of Planning History*, and *Washington History*. He remains active on the boards of the Fort Ticonderoga Association, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, and the Vernacular Architecture Forum, as well as in his capacity as chair of the Maryland Governor’s Consulting Committee on the National Register of Historic Places.

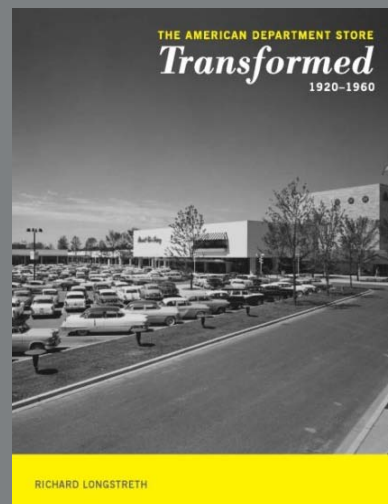
## The American Department Store Transformed, 1920-1960

by Richard Longstreth

Like my two previous books, this one grew, in part, out of historic preservation projects with which I had been involved, and like those books, it had relatively modest origins. Two initiatives, both successful, to secure landmark designation for the warehouses of the Hecht Company and Woodward & Lothrop

(long Washington’s two leading department stores) led me to explore the role of the giant, multi-purpose, off-site service facilities that were removed from the limelight, but nonetheless were essential for the grand emporiums to function effectively during much of the last century. Then, I gathered so much material on the development of branch department stores (a type that no longer exists, but one that radically changed the nature of retail operations) for one of my earlier books that I sought to pursue the subject further. So, in 1997, I made a proposal for a loose collection of essays—chapters on the modern history of the department store in the U.S., focusing on new tendencies that occurred largely outside downtown from the late 1920s to the mid-1950s. It was well received, but the reviewers thought it should be further developed as a history of that building type. I agreed, naively.

If I was to do a history, I did not want it to focus just on the most famous companies, such as Macy’s (New York), Wanamaker’s (Philadelphia), Marshall Field’s (Chicago), Hudson’s (Detroit), and the May Company (Los Angeles), but to analyze broad patterns across the country. To get that representation, I selected the sixty largest cities as of 1930 and looked at all the major department store companies in each – nearly 200 in all. As I progressed with my research, it became clear that the city center should figure as much in the account as developments in outlying areas. The 1920s was a period of immense expansion by these emporia downtown. It was marked by many innovations in design and operation, but also by new phenomena that would soon challenge the department store’s hegemony—the rise of major chain companies catering to the lower end of the middle-class market, intense outward movement of that market to locations ever further from downtown, and traffic congestion that spiraled to the point where the urban core seemed marooned in a sea of vehicles.



# Faculty News

There were many other revelations as well. Branch store development was so multi-faceted—from modest shops serving colleges and resorts to behemoths of 200,000 square feet duplicating much that could be found in the downtown store—that it had to be covered in two chapters, one focusing on the decades of experimentation before World War II, the other, on markedly different trends of the postwar boom. Branches that were added to or built as an integral part of shopping centers received two chapters as well, the second of which addressed the central role these retailers had in creating the regional shopping mall. That chapter is the first account to offer a detailed probe into the rise of a building type that radically changed the metropolitan landscape between the 1950s and the 1980s. And, contrary to widespread belief, major retailers hardly abandoned downtown once outlying development took off on a large scale; instead, they continued to make substantial investments in modernizing and sometimes in rebuilding their flagship stores well into the 1960s. The complexities of the retail story downtown during the postwar era were more than sufficient to warrant yet another chapter.

The challenge, of course, became controlling what seemed like an overwhelming amount of material and an equally formidable array of issues—from the intricacies of store layout to debates over the nature of parking facilities, from the complex service networks stores developed to the myriad planning issues entailed in creating a regional mall, from the department store as an emblem of modernity to the undertow of management's conservative inclinations—and delineating both coherence and diversity in such topics in different parts of the country. Much of the research could be done in Washington, but field trips of all the cities and to many other branch locations were essential. The fact that this was all virgin territory—the historical literature of department stores for the most part ends around 1920, where I begin—added to the challenge, but also to the excitement of helping to define a new era in the retail sphere. The only disappointment was that so many interesting topics had to be left out or given only a small space in a crowded room. I was fortunate in interviewing Stanley Marcus and other retired senior executives in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles, who could recall the details of their trade half a century before, but I know I missed the opportunity to track down many others.

The biggest reward was being able to produce a book that provides a fresh view of architecture and urbanism as well as of retailing in the twentieth century, a view that underscores how fleeting the environments of consumption are, but also how complex, varied, and intellectually engaging they can be. ■

**Melani McAlister** taught her course on US-Middle East Cultural Encounters in the fall and spent a good part of the spring watching events in the Middle East with hope and trepidation. As a member of the program committee for the American Studies Association's annual meeting in Baltimore (fall 2011), she helped to organize a featured panel on "Re-visioning Democracy" that will examine events in the Middle East and the responses of the U.S. public. Beyond these immediate political events, Melani returned to her roots this year, teaching classes in media and cultural studies. She had a great time teaching Cultural Criticism, the required seminar for American Studies majors, where the final papers covered topics ranging from the politics of hamburgers to the 1992 basketball Dream Team as a harbinger of globalization. (Yes, our majors are great.) In terms of research and writing, Melani published an essay in *American Quarterly* (summer 2010), and has two other pieces, drawn from her current work on American evangelicals and global politics, forthcoming in anthologies. She presented her work this year at Northwestern University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Cambridge University (UK), among others. In May, she went to Abu Dhabi, as a featured speaker for an international conference on Islam and the West.

**Barney Mergen** (one of our professors emeriti) received the 2011 Louis J. Battan Award from the American Meteorological Society for his book, *Weather Matters: An American Cultural History Since 1900* (University Press of Kansas, 2008). The award is presented to the author of a newly published book on the atmospheric and related sciences of a technical or non-technical nature, with consideration of those books that foster public understanding of meteorology in adult audiences. The book was described by the awards committee as "a colorful, entertaining, and detailed discussion of America's preoccupation with weather as expressed through a broad spectrum of media, history, and science." Past winners include Elizabeth Kolbert, Chris Mooney, and Kerry Emanuel. Following the announcement, Barney noted that he could be reached on cloud nine.

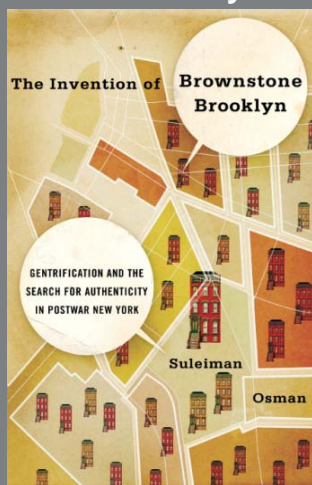
**Terry Murphy** spent the spring 2011 semester at the State Islamic University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where she was a Senior Fulbright Scholar. Contrary to popular stereotypes about what life is like for women in Islam, Terry found that the young men and women at the university mixed freely, challenged each other, and spent a lot of time riding around on motorcycles together. Being an American Studies scholar, she was particularly fascinated by the way female college students figured out how to drive their parents crazy with their sense of fashion: headscarves paired with tight jeans. Terry gave lectures there on her research on both religion and women's history. She also worked with faculty who are interested in developing an American Studies Program. It was a terrific experience that was pulled together by Fulbright conferences in both Bangkok and Jakarta, where Terry consulted with scholars working around Southeast Asia. Now that she's back in Washington, Terry plans to continue working with Fulbright on scholarly exchanges with Indonesia. Before leaving the country, she also attended a meeting of scholars at the Woodrow Wilson Institute who are helping to plan the new National Women's History Museum.

# Faculty News

## The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn

by Suleiman Osman

The gentrification of Brooklyn has been one of the most striking developments in recent urban history. Considered a slum by urban planners in the 1940s and 1950s, Brownstone Brooklyn by the 1980s had become a post-industrial landscape of hip bars, yoga studios, and beautifully renovated, wildly expensive townhouses. In *The Invention of Brownstone*



*Brooklyn*, I study the history of this unexpected transformation. I hope that by mixing architectural, cultural and political history, I can offer a new perspective on the origins of the post-industrial city. Challenging the conventional wisdom that New York City's renaissance started in the 1990s, I locate the origins of gentrification in Brooklyn in the cultural upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s.

Gentrification began as a grassroots movement led by young and idealistic white college graduates searching for "authenticity" and life outside the burgeoning suburbs. Where postwar city leaders championed slum clearance and modern architecture, "brownstoners" (as they called themselves) fought for a new romantic urban ideal that celebrated historic buildings, industrial lofts and traditional ethnic neighborhoods as a refuge from an increasingly technocratic society. I examine the emergence of a "slow-growth" progressive coalition as brownstoners joined with poorer residents to battle city planners and local machine politicians. But as brownstoners migrated into poorer areas, race and class tensions emerged, and by the 1980s, as newspapers parodied yuppies and anti-gentrification activists marched through increasingly expensive neighborhoods, brownstoners debated whether their search for authenticity had been a success or a failure. ■

**Jennifer Nash** enjoyed her first year at GW. In addition to teaching courses on feminist theory, popular culture, and critical race theory, she continued work on her book manuscript, *The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography*, and began work on an article, "Love and the Struggle: Love-Politics, Black Feminism, and Post Intersectionality." Her article "On Difficulty: Intersectionality as Feminist Labor" was published in *Scholar and Feminist*, and her article "Hometruths on Intersectionality" is forthcoming in the fall 2011 issue of the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*.

**Suleiman Osman** published his first book, *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn: Gentrification and the Search for Authenticity in Postwar New York* (Oxford University Press), in March 2011. The book received positive reviews from the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *American Prospect*, and *Bookforum*, among other publications, and Suleiman was invited to speak about his work at the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Historical Society, 92Y Tribeca, the Harvard Club of New York, and the Museum of the City of New York, which held a panel discussion about the book. In addition to the book lectures and events, Suleiman participated on two conference panels: "Segregation Now: U.S. Suburbs" at the American Studies Association annual meeting, and "Jews and the American City: Planning, Developing and Imagining Urban Space and Jewish Space" at the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University. He also peer-reviewed a book proposal for a publisher and served as a grant reviewer for the National Endowment of the Humanities. Finally, Suleiman taught four courses which he enjoyed immensely.

**Elaine Peña** enjoyed her fourth and busiest year yet at GW. In addition to teaching classes on diasporic religion and transnational theory and method, she finished her first book, *Performing Piety: Working with the Virgin of Guadalupe*, which was published by the University of California Press in June 2011. Elaine also completed her tenure as the principal investigator of the Latino DC History Project, sponsored by the Smithsonian Latino Center, by submitting an annual report, "The Local is National," and a prototype case study, "The Cuban Presence in Washington, DC: International Relations and Local Voices," to her colleagues at the Smithsonian. The reports offer a model for future research for an exhibit at the National Museum of American History and provide tools to promote local outreach programs. Elaine presented her work at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the GALA Hispanic Theatre (Washington, DC), the Johns Hopkins University, the American Studies Association annual meeting, and the Young Scholars of American Religion meetings held in October and April. She also finished two articles, one of which is forthcoming in a special issue of *Women's History Review*.

**John Vlach** has given lectures at various museums and historical societies in the mid-Atlantic region over a period of thirty years—all of which will pale next to his next research project. Mary Jackson, a South Carolina basketmaker of extraordinary skill, has agreed to let him interview her and to transform their conversations into a book that will document her impressive career. In the same moment that she was informed of her status as a National Heritage awardee (an honor bestowed by the National Endowment for the Arts), she was also given a MacArthur Fellowship. John has known of Mary Jackson and the sweetgrass basket tradition for twenty-five years. Since he has written biographies for other South Carolina artists, he thought the time was right to create a descriptive volume for Mary Jackson. This fall John will be hanging out in the village of Mt. Pleasant while he gets her story on tape. Her words will form the core of this text along with images of her at work, finished baskets, and baskets in their everyday context. ■

# American Studies 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Collected Stories” Symposium

On April 8, 2011, members of the American Studies community came together for the department’s fifth annual “Collected Stories and Twice-Told Tales” symposium. The event was coordinated by doctoral students Katie Brian, Emily Dufton, and Emily Dietsch, with the invaluable help of Samantha White, the department’s executive assistant. This year’s program featured presentations by nine graduate students, whose work traversed topics such as race, gender, and liberalism in law and popular culture, spatial and visual politics, and the ever-fraught negotiations of national identities. These graduate papers were joined by Ashley Olt, an undergraduate major who shared the results of her research on the nascent Central Intelligence Agency and the resultant “spook culture.”

We were also excited to welcome as our keynote speaker Professor Lennard J. Davis of the University of Illinois (Chicago). Davis is Professor of English in the School of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Disability and Human Development in the School of Applied Health Sciences; and Professor of Medical Education in the College of Medicine. He also serves as the director of Project Biocultures, a think-tank devoted to issues around the intersection of culture, medicine, disability, biotechnology, and the biosphere. His presentation, “Between Between: Academic Writing during the Aporia and Across the Disciplines,” offered a snapshot of his current projects along with an argument for occupying the difficult yet generative position of the interdisciplinary scholar, a topic always relevant to those invested in the American Studies project. In short, this year’s Collected Stories was a resounding success, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next spring for a continuation of this departmental tradition. ■



Master’s student Sara Tenenbaum with PhD students Joe Malherek & Ramzi Fawaz (L-R)



Master’s student Kent Peacock with PhD students Katie Schank and Greg Borchardt (L-R)



Graduating senior Ashley Olt



PhD students Scott Larson & John O’Keefe with master’s student Chris Hayashida-Knight (L-R)



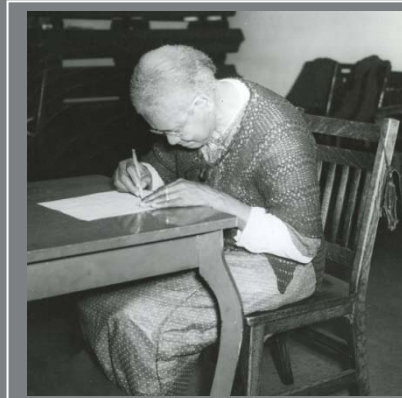
Dr. Lennard Davis, University of Illinois at Chicago

# Center for Public History and Public Culture

After the charter for the Center for Public History and Public Culture was renewed for another two years (2010-12), the center's new director, Jim Miller, began to forge an agenda for the 2010-11 academic year. In the fall of 2010, he oversaw the renewal of the center's memorandum of understanding with the Gilder Lehrman Institute and DC's School Without Walls (SWW), agreeing to support SWW programs and coordinate lectures that emphasized the analysis of primary sources. With the part-time assistance of American Studies PhD candidate Kimberley Yates, the center provided support for SWW's Saturday Academy, which focused on teaching for the sake of learning—with no testing and no homework. It also coordinated a series of U.S. history lectures on topics selected by SWW: Jim Miller gave a presentation on mythology and history; Terry Murphy, on women in U.S. history; Tom Guglielmo, on race and nation; and Kim Yates conducted a workshop on the research process.

In addition to this ongoing project, the center sponsored a photography exhibition at Gelman Library with the assistance of the Special Collections staff and co-sponsorship from GW's Africana Studies Program. Entitled "Claiming Citizenship: African Americans and New Deal Photography," the exhibition celebrated Black History Month in February 2011 by displaying images of African Americans claiming

some of the new freedoms made possible by government programs during the Great Depression. The center also joined GW's Africana Studies Program in presenting a March 2011 public discussion with curators from the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture on the opportunities and challenges of presenting black history in a national forum. Finally, the center coordinated the donation of African American author E. Ethelbert Miller's papers and helped coordinate the donation of the papers D.C.'s famed Ben's Chili Bowl to Gelman Library Special Collections. ■



**"One is never too old to learn"**

This photo of a 101-year-old ex-slave learning to read was included in the February photography exhibition at Gelman Library. The original image is held by the Ohio Historical Society.

## Alumni News

As Boehringer Ingelheim's spokesperson for U.S. media, **Emily Baier** (BA '01) is responsible for strategic development and tactical implementation of all public relations activities for respiratory products. In 2010, she co-led the development and launch of DRIVE4COPD, a public health awareness campaign focused on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the nation's fourth leading cause of death. The effort set out to get one million people to take a five-question screener to see if they are at risk for the disease. Emily's work on the campaign included coordinating a team of representatives from more than ten internal departments and identifying corporate partners, such as the COPD Foundation, NASCAR, and the Country Music Association. She also secured the participation of several high-profile celebrities, including Danica Patrick, Michael Strahan, Jim Belushi, Bruce Jenner, and Billy Ray Cyrus. As of May 2011, the campaign had screened more than 1.5 million Americans, and it was recently recognized by *PRWeek* as the best healthcare campaign of 2010. Emily is a two-time recipient of the President's Award, Boehringer Ingelheim's highest honor, and in 2011 was recognized as one of the top-25 direct-to-consumer marketers in the US by *DTC Perspectives* magazine.

**Jacob Balter** (BA '00) currently works in the strategic investments department at MTA Long Island Rail Road, where he is a regional transportation planner. He is focused on the

capital program and a host of other planning efforts at the nation's biggest commuter railroad. He lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Jacob's brother, Benjamin, is continuing the family's GW traditions. After graduating with a BA from GW, his brother is now pursuing a JD/MBA degree at the university.

**Richard Brown** (BA '84, MA '90) is the vice president of CAI/SISCo, a Maryland-based international boutique business development consulting firm that provides competitive intelligence, "Price To Win," and pricing strategy support to Fortune 500 engineering, manufacturing, logistics, IT, and professional services firms. In this capacity, he is responsible for new business capture and for managing and executing client services and consulting engagement delivery responsibilities. Richard has been a key contributor to numerous competitive analysis, merger and acquisition, market sizing, and other business case studies and analyses involving major U.S. federal, state and local, and foreign government procurements in the civilian, defense, and intelligence sectors. Prior to his tenure at CAI/SISCo, Richard served as director of business development, account manager, and project manager in commercial and federal-facing services and products companies, including an initial stint with the History Factory, a business history consulting firm in Ashburn, VA. At every step of the way he has enjoyed applying the research, critical thinking, and writing skills honed at GW.

# Alumni News

After a 40-year career as professor of American Studies at Towson University in Maryland, **Paul Douglas** (M.Phil '70, PhD '73) recently retired. While at GW, he was the recipient of a fellowship in material culture at the Smithsonian, where he was given a space under the building to park his beloved 1962 TR4! He has also taught as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer in Turkey and as an exchange professor at Renmin University in Beijing. Paul's work has been published by *National Geographic*, the *Smithsonian Journal of History*, the *International Journal of the Book*, *Pennsylvania Folklore*, and the *Journal of American Folklore*. His books include *Architecture, Artifacts, and Arts in the Harmony Society of George Rapp* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2008) and an edited translation of Louis Jacolliot's 1876 *Voyage to the Country of Liberty: Communal Life in the United States* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2007). Papers he has delivered at conferences reflect the variety of topics that have interested him: the student folklore of drinking games, Baltimore's painted window screens, the journal of a French traveler in nineteenth-century California, the publications of the notorious Charles Carrington, and the material culture of communal societies in America. This last interest was piqued when Paul took the late Professor Bob Walker's course in American intellectual history and realized that material history might tell us something important as well. For Paul, the field of American Studies has never failed to offer the opportunity to explore something new or to learn something fresh and unexpected.

In 2004, **Shelly Foote** (MA '85) retired from her position as assistant director of the Division of Social History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History to return to her native Ventura, CA. She is currently president of the Western Region of the Costume Society of America and serves as chair of the Accessions Committee of the Museum of Ventura County. Shelly is also a "volunteer consultant" for that museum, especially helping them to develop long-range collections plans and re-housing their costume collection. Lastly, she is working on a book on the early Hollywood costume designer Howard Greer.

**Rebecca Freeman** (MA '08) is a specialist in built heritage on the policy team of the newly amalgamated Auckland Council in Auckland, New Zealand. Prior to this position, she worked for a year in London as a city planner specializing in heritage conservation and management.

**Molly Gannon** (BA '07) has put her writing and critical thinking skills to work at the *Washington Post* as a community relations specialist. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Washington Post Charities, including the development and execution of its external and internal fundraising strategies. Building high-impact partnerships between the *Post* and local organizations, she helps to extend the company's brand throughout the DC area while increasing the *Post's* involvement within the community. Prior to joining the community relations team, Molly worked in the *Post's* digital marketing and public relations divisions. She resides in Arlington, VA, and looks forward to her wedding in October.

## ??? What's New ???

We welcome news and updates from AMST students and alumni. Please e-mail content for the newsletter to the Department at: [amst@gwu.edu](mailto:amst@gwu.edu)

We also encourage you to visit the GW Alumni website to update your contact information: <http://alumni.gwu.edu/update>

After graduating from GW, **Daniel Garson** (BA '70) completed dual graduate degrees in landscape architecture and city and regional planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. His professional career began with stints in planning, architecture and engineering firms, which led to his present position as director of environmental and permitting services at Woodard & Curran, a firm of which he is also a partner. Daniel says that his experiences in the Department of American Studies were instrumental in his choice to become a planner and landscape architect as well as in his decision to focus professionally on environmental management, resource protection, and permitting. His firm is a 600-person engineering, science, and operations company that provides a wide range of environmental consulting services to municipal and private clients.

After serving as dean for the past five years, **Loren Ghigione** (PhD '76) is now the Richard Schwarzlose Professor of Media Ethics at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The American Journalism Historians Association named him the winner of their 2010 Distinguished Service to Journalism History Award for his work to promote journalism history during his 26 years as editor/owner of the *Southbridge [Mass.] Evening News*. He is currently working on a book about the future of news as portrayed in fiction and film.

**Cassandra Good** (BA '04, MA '05) is currently finishing her American history dissertation, tentatively entitled, "A Golden Mean": Heterosocial Friendship and the Formation of Political Culture in America, 1770-1830," at the University of Pennsylvania. She has presented her work at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and the American Historical Association. This summer, she worked as a curatorial research associate for the American Revolution Center, a new museum on the history of the revolution that will be located near Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

**Michael LaPlace** (BA '85) is the planning director for the County of Passaic, NJ, and lives in an historic, 100-year-old bungalow in Westfield. His career after GW started in the management training program at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He then went on to work as assistant township planner in Montclair, NJ, before returning to the DC area as director of long-range planning for the City of Gaithersburg, MD. Since that time, Michael has served as the first executive director of the Downtown Business Improvement District in Westfield, NJ, and as community development director in Plainsboro, NJ. Prior to his present position in

# The Department of American Studies extends a special thanks to our generous donors this academic year!

Mr. Jacob A. Balter (BA '00)  
Ms. Jean B. Bernard (BA '70)  
Prof. Jackson C. Boswell (M.Phil '73, PhD '74)  
Ms. Patrice C. Brown (MA '76)  
Cary B. Cheifetz, Esq. (BA '76)  
Ms. Judy Cheifetz  
Ms. Mary Ann Eaddy (MA '85)  
Ms. Erica L. Evans (BA '08, MS '09)  
Dr. Patricia R. Evans (PhD '87)  
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Mr. Joel D. Silver (BA '07)  
Ms. Laura M. Spina (MA '96)  
Dr. Kathleen A. Steeves (PhD '87)  
Dr. Philip G. Terrie (PhD '79)

*If we have accidentally omitted your name, please accept our apologies and our sincere thanks for your generosity.*

Passaic County, he spent two years in Vermont as the planning and zoning director for the City of Burlington. Michael reports that his undergraduate work in American Studies, focusing on architectural history and urban development, was an excellent base for his graduate work and subsequent career in urban planning. He is very active as a GW alumnus—from his work on the Board of Directors of the George Washington Alumni Association to his support of the Colonials as a season ticket holder for men's basketball at the Smith Center.

**Antoinette (Toni) J. Lee** (M.Phil '73, PhD '75) is in her 22nd year as a historian with the National Park Service (NPS). Over the past six years, she has served as assistant associate director of historical documentation programs, where she has oversight of the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks Program, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, Historic American Landscapes Survey, Cultural Resources GIS facility, and the cultural resources periodical publications. During her NPS career, Toni has worked for the National Register of Historic Places, established the NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Program, and was assigned to develop and edit *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*. Prior to working at the NPS, she worked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and as a historic preservation consultant.

For the past twenty-nine years, **Carl Lounsbury** (MA '77, PhD '83) has worked in the architectural research department at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where he has been involved in many projects, including the investigation of eighteenth-century courtroom fittings, English and American churches and meetinghouses, theaters, row houses, and the language of building. For the past ten years, he has taught courses in architectural history and directed a summer architectural field school (GW students welcomed) for the College of William and Mary. His recent publications include *Bruton Parish Church: Architectural History* (Williamsburg: Bruton Parish Church, 2011) and *Essays in Early American Architectural History: A View from the Chesapeake*, to be published later this year by the University of Virginia Press.

After 30 years of museum work, **Melissa McLoud** (PhD '88) decided to take a break to teach in Goucher College's new

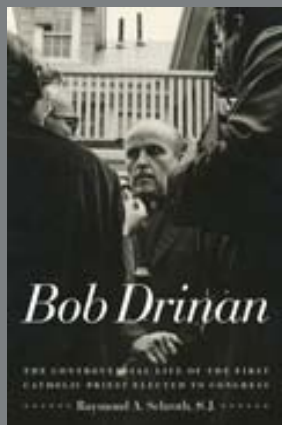
MA program in Cultural Sustainability and to consult. She's enjoying her newfound freedom, catching up on all her reading, and learning about Maryland's Eastern Shore.

**Robert Michaels** (BA '74) is the owner of Robert Michaels and Associates, a community planning consulting firm in Randolph, NJ. He was recently elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Housing Partnership of Northwest Jersey. The Housing Partnership is a nonprofit that provides homebuyer education and counseling services, down payment assistance, foreclosure intervention and other services to strengthen communities through home ownership. The Housing Partnership is a NeighborWorks chartered member.

In 2005, **Susan Block Moores** (BA '90) obtained a master's degree in architecture from Syracuse University. A few years later, she became a registered architect as well as a LEED accredited professional. For the past 5 years, she has worked at Davis Buckley Architects. Awards to date include the 2008 AIA/DC Award of Excellence in Historic Resources for the restoration of the Decatur House entry and stair hall, (Washington, DC), and the 2010 AIA/DC Merit Award in Historic Resources for the restoration of Woodlawn Plantation's smoke house (Alexandria, VA). Davis Buckley Architects recently broke ground on the National Law Enforcement Museum, which will be adjacent to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial. Susan looks forward to seeing the museum and many other projects through to their completion. She reports that she lives in the DC area with her husband and "bright, shining 3-year-old daughter."

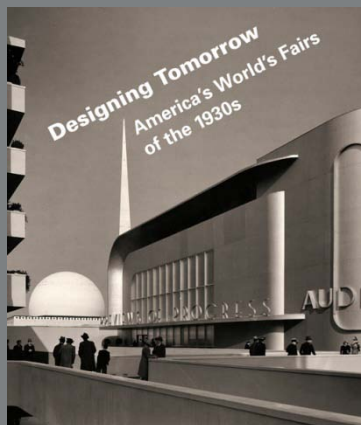
**Shari Newman** (BA '05) received an MS in Integrated Marketing Communications from Northwestern University and has pursued a career in digital (specifically email) marketing. She currently works at Time Inc., where she plans email marketing strategies for titles such as *People*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Prior to Time Inc., she worked as an email marketing strategy consultant at Epsilon, helping to optimize email marketing practices at some of the nation's top companies. She helped to get the email marketing program off the ground at Rent the Runway, a fast-growing startup that is a Netflix for designer dresses. She contributes a lot of her success to the critical thinking skills she learned at GW!

# Alumni Books



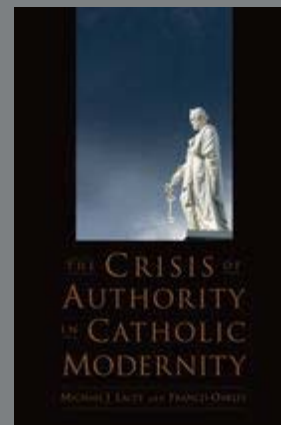
*Bob Drinan: The Controversial Life of the First Catholic Priest Elected to Congress*

Written by Raymond A. Schroth, S.J. (M.Phil '69, PhD '71)



*Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s*

Co-edited by Laura Burd Schiavo (M.Phil '99, PhD '03)



*The Crisis of Authority in Catholic Modernity*

Co-edited by Michael J. Lacey (M.Phil '74, PhD '79)

In May of 2010 and 2011, **Peggy K. Pearlstein** (PhD '93) was called upon by the White House to create a small display of items from the collections of the Library of Congress that underscored the contributions Jewish Americans have made to the nation. The items were displayed during Jewish American Heritage Month receptions held at the White House. In 2009, she presented her paper "The World Digital Library and Other Digital Internet Resources for Jewish Studies" at the World Congress of Jewish Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Later that year, she delivered another paper, "The Shpall Family of New Orleans, 1922-1935," at the Southern Jewish Historical Society's annual conference in New Orleans, LA.

**Danielle Rich** (BA '02) recently defended her dissertation titled, "Global Fandom: The Circulation of Japanese Popular Culture in the United States," in the Department of American Studies at the University of Iowa. This fall, she will join the Liberal Arts Program at Ringling College of Arts and Design in Sarasota, FL, as an adjunct faculty member.

**Brian Rideout** (BA '07) graduated from GW's Law School with honors this past May.

Since July 1994, **Helen P. Ross** (MA '89) has been an historic preservation practitioner at the Virginia Department of Transportation. She recently received the 2010 Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Achievement for her innovative and strategic historic preservation planning of the Falmouth historic boundary.

Currently semi-retired in California, **Darlene Roth** (M.Phil '72, PhD '78) is doing museum consulting and writing about what she calls "quantum history"—non-linear approaches to history

that work within a quantum view of reality. Her many career accomplishments include co-founding the National Council on Public History and creating historic preservation objectives that are still being followed in Gainesville, FL, and Atlanta, Decatur, and Cobb County, GA. She also conceptualized the 7,000-square-foot permanent exhibit on Atlanta history at the Atlanta History Center, the only urban history exhibit to be honored by the annual Curators' Workshop of the American Association of Museums. In addition, Darlene wrote the script for the Washington Monument Interpretive Center, produced jointly by the Discovery Channel and the National Park Service, and turned the Blue & Gray Museum in Fitzgerald, GA, from a dusty corner into a destination museum. She was the first member of the faculty at Emory University to teach women's studies and is the author of nine works of Atlanta and Georgia history, including two histories of the city of Atlanta and one of Piedmont Park. Darlene's book, *Matronage: Patterns in Women's Organizations, Atlanta, Georgia, 1890-1940* (Carlson Publishing, 1994), was selected for Gerda Lerner's series in American women's history.

**Raymond A. Schroth, S.J.** (M.Phil '69, PhD '71) has taught journalism, English and theology and served as dean at five Jesuit colleges and universities—Fordham, Rockhurst, Holy Cross, Loyola New Orleans, and Saint Peter's College—and has also taught part-time at NYU and Brooklyn College. At the same time, he served as associate editor and book editor of *Commonweal* magazine in the 1970s and as a media critic and book reviewer for the *National Catholic Reporter* from 1990 to the present. Since August 2010, Ray has been associate editor of *America*, the 100-year-old Jesuit opinion weekly on religion, politics and culture. He's also published nine books, including *The "Eagle" and Brooklyn* (Greenwood Press, 1974), a history

# Alumni News

of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, based on his GW dissertation; *The American Journey of Eric Sevareid* (Steerforth Press, 1995); *Fordham: A History and Memoir* (rev. ed., Fordham University Press, 2008); *The American Jesuits: A History* (NYU Press, 2007); and most recently, *Bob Drinan: The Controversial Life of the First Priest Elected to Congress* (Fordham UP, 2011).

**Stephanie Ricker Schulte** (MA '02, PhD '08) continues her professorship in Fayetteville, AR, where she gardens and her children grow like weeds. This year she taught her first honors course and first graduate seminar, published three articles, and almost finished her book, which is slated to appear in the Critical Cultural Communication series at NYU Press next spring.

**Laurel Clark Shire** (PhD '08) is assistant professor of history at the University of Hartford, where she won an Innovations in Teaching and Learning Award and an Engaged Learning Fellowship in 2010. She was chosen to participate in a 2011 NEH summer seminar on the ethnohistory of Indians in the American South at UNC-Chapel Hill and is also the recipient of a Greenberg Junior Faculty Grant at the University of Hartford for 2011-12. She planned to complete the revisions of her book, *Taming the Territory: Women and Gender on the Florida Frontier*, this summer. Laurel and her wife, Carolyn Arber Shire, have chosen a new family name (Shire) and are expecting their first child in early November 2011.

Upon graduating from GW, **Martin Smith** (BA '03) invested in the DC real estate market and ran the 14th Street Heights Main Street program. In 2008, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an M.A. in City and Regional Planning. He is now the executive director of Barracks Row Main Street, an award-winning 501c3 dedicated to the commercial and economic revitalization of 8th Street, SE, between Pennsylvania Avenue and the Washington Navy Yard on Capitol Hill. He hopes GW will one day establish an official city planning major!

**Ron Tipton** (BA '70, JD '73) is the senior vice president for policy at the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). He is involved in campaigns to establish new national park units and in advancing the national park idea through an ambitious agenda for the 2016 centennial celebration of the founding of the National Park Service. The NPCA is a 92-year-old organization with 350,000 members and 23 field offices that is often described as America's "leading voice for the national parks." Ron says his American Studies degree was ideal preparation for his career as a national parks advocate.

**Andrea Wagner** (BA '10) is the associate community manager of the social media department at Gotham, Inc., an advertising firm based in New York City. She works on the firm's account with Denny's, co-managing its online social properties, including Twitter (@dennysgrandslam) and Facebook, in an effort to foster and grow the Denny's virtual community. Recently, *Nation's Restaurant News* ranked Denny's as having the "most active Facebook fans" out of 312 foodservices companies. She also co-manages Gotham's Twitter handle (@Gothaminc), which launched in April.

**Charan Sue Wollard** (BA '73) worked for Bay Area newspapers for 27 years, starting as a reporter for the local paper and continuing on as the assistant managing editor for news, metro, sports and business for the *Oakland Tribune*. Later, she moved to the *San Jose Mercury News*, where she held several positions, including executive news editor of the PM edition, Sunday news editor, executive editor of the copy desks, and reader representative. Cher now works as a realtor with Prudential California Realty and writes a weekly column about real estate for the *Independent* in Livermore. She also writes poetry and prose and is the current poet laureate for the City of Livermore. A book of her poems, *In My Other Life*, was published by Richer Resources Publishing in 2010. Cher is lead practitioner for the Center for Spiritual Living in Fremont, CA. She has been married to Reece Wollard since 1971; they have three daughters and five grandchildren.

**James Zarsadiaz** (BA '08) recently finished his third year in the Ph.D. program in U.S. history at Northwestern University. Having completed his qualifying exams and taught courses on Asian American literature and U.S. gay and lesbian history, he looks forward to beginning work on his dissertation. Tentatively titled, "Immigrant Love and Fear in the Frontier: Romanticizing, Controlling, and Racializing Space in Suburban Los Angeles, 1945-2000," James's dissertation will explore the rise of suburban Asian enclaves in a moment of postwar suburbanization and urban neglect, immigration reform, and late-twentieth-century liberal individualism and conservatism. He is the 2010 recipient of Northwestern's Lacey Baldwin Smith Prize for Teaching Excellence and was recently awarded a Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences dissertation grant. James is currently a national student representative to the American Studies Association, co-chair of the NU Colloquium on Ethnicity & Diaspora, and co-founder and co-chair of the NU Ethnic Studies Graduate Student Committee. ■

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