

American Culture News

The Program in American Culture
at the University of Michigan

Spring 2007



Exploring citizenship: American Culture concentrators Theresa Martin, Jawuan Meeks, Julia Ris, Trisha Barua, Max Sussman, Cynthia Biro, and Claire Smith relate the LSA Theme Year to their experiences in our Program. Read what they have to say on pages 4 and 5.

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Dear friends, colleagues, students, and alumni,

My usual newsletter greeting begins with an inevitable musing on the weather, then moves on to my excitement at the doings in American Culture, and closes with the promise that there is a lot more news inside. This time around, things are different (though there is still news inside).

I will conclude my term as director of the Program on June 30, 2007. Leading American Culture during the last three and one half years has been one of the most satisfying and challenging things I've ever done. During that time, we've redesigned our graduate and undergraduate curriculum, undergone a successful external review, tenured nine faculty members and promoted another to full professor, conducted seventeen junior faculty manuscript workshops, hired three new faculty members and innumerable lecturers, continued to build Arab-American studies, established new standards and resources for ethnic studies, inaugurated new funding opportunities for graduate students, and started several programs for our undergraduates. We've redesigned our space, creating smarter, more flexible classrooms, while commemorating our past and present on our walls and hallways.

The "we" I'm using refers to the entire Program, of course, but more particularly to several individuals who have worked incredibly hard on behalf of American Culture. Professor Jay Cook has served as graduate director throughout my term, and I've appreciated his hard work and dedication. I am also grateful for the commitment and labors of our three ethnic studies directors, Amy Stillman, Catherine Benamou, and Greg Dowd. Our newest staff member, undergraduate coordinator Amy Roust, has in a short time transformed our undergraduate processes; there is much more to come from her! All of our veteran staff members are well-deserving recipients of the LSA Staff Spotlight award. Tabby Rohn has taken firm control of our financial processing, and Marlene Moore continues to be the much-beloved rock that holds the graduate program together. This year, as we

worked through five tenure cases, Mary Freiman showed the entire college the wave of the future as she moved the whole process into electronic form. At the same time I began my term as director, Judy Gray began her appointment as our new key administrator. We struggled through steep learning curves together, and I simply could not imagine a better or more excellent administrative partner. It is no exaggeration to say that American Culture has the finest staff at this university, and I'm not sure I can adequately express how much I will miss working closely with these fine, fine colleagues and friends.

In this issue, we feature some of our outstanding undergraduates. When I began my term, I understood one of my mandates to be the generation of a significant increase in the number of American Culture majors. I have come to see things differently now, less in terms of numbers and course offerings and more in terms of quality and mission. Recently, I found myself traveling through mid-Michigan, meditating on the troubles of the auto industry, the closing of Pfizer's Ann Arbor research facility, and the economic troubles that dog our state. A bleak winter day without even the blessing of snow, it would be hard for most people to think Michigan beautiful. And yet, even in its bleakest moment, it is a beautiful, complicated, fantastic place. It is one that I, a Colorado boy used to those gorgeous mountains, have come to love in the last six years. But Michigan, I think we can safely say, is in trouble. It is the obligation of the state's flagship university to direct its intellectual resources to the crises that beset our state. My wish for this institution is for a serious and prolonged pedagogical engagement, not only as a national and international university, but as one focused on our state, and on training the next generation of Michigan leaders to think hard about Michigan and its future. In any large, complex institution, things trickle down slowly from above, and they rise equally slowly from below. And yes, I'll be on leave next year



to finish up a scholarly writing project that has been with me for two decades. But when I return to the classroom, I will follow the example of my American Culture colleagues by directing my teaching "homeward," hoping that our courses and students will make a positive impact to our institution and state.

The Program in American Culture will continue to thrive under the leadership of Greg Dowd, an extraordinary scholar and colleague who will take up the baton in July. Greg brings a wealth of administrative experience to the job, including four years directing Native American Studies, and a stint as an Associate Dean at Notre Dame. It is the Program's great fortune that Greg has expressed his willingness to confront the challenges that await us. It was my great fortune to serve the Program over the last few years. As director, I've tried to embrace a servant-leadership model, and my humble hope is that it has helped to enhance the character of this impressive community of scholars, teachers, and learners. I close, then, with sincere thanks to my faculty, staff, student, and alumni colleagues and friends for their strong and unwavering support. Good wishes to you all!

Paul Dube

American Culture News

Director: Philip Deloria

Ethnic Studies Directors: Amy Stillman, Asian / Pacific Islander American Studies; Catherine Benamou, Latina/o Studies; Tiya Miles, interim director, Native American Studies

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Please submit any changes, corrections, letters, updates, and/or suggestions to Amy Roust at aroust@umich.edu.

The Program in American Culture promotes publicly engaged and socially committed scholarship and teaching aimed at understanding the struggles and creativity that have produced the societies and cultures of America. In particular, we seek to illuminate the significance, the lived experience, and the relation among race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, and class, both within and beyond national borders. The Program brings the history and interpretive strategies of ethnic studies into conversation with critical approaches to literature, history, cultural studies, and social sciences, as well as with knowledge produced outside the boundaries of the University.

President of the University of Michigan: Mary Sue Coleman

Regents of the University of Michigan: Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Olivia P. Maynard, Rebecca McGowan, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White

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African-American Studies

In May 2006, the African-Americanist caucus was formally established within the Program in American Culture (AC). The purpose of the caucus is to codify and strengthen a space within American Culture for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students to pursue African-American studies from interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, as well as to facilitate the collective participation of African-Americanist faculty and students in comparative ethnic studies dialogues within AC. Specifically, the African-Americanist caucus seeks to: 1) Sponsor occasional workshops with a combination of faculty and graduate-student papers, outside speakers, and discussions of new texts within African-American studies; 2) Serve as a resource to African-Americanist graduate students and undergraduate concentrators, including encouraging American Culture students to pursue the graduate certificate in the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS); 3) Coordinate undergraduate and graduate teaching among African-Americanist faculty in American Culture to ensure that courses are being offered while minimizing overlapping courses; and, 4) Coordinate joint scholarly activities with CAAS. For its first event, the caucus co-sponsored a joint conversation with the graduate-student-led Black Humanities Collective entitled "African/American Studies: Exploring African-American Cultures and Histories within the American Culture Program" as part of the University's 2007 Martin Luther King Holiday Commemoration. *Matthew J. Countryman*

Arab-American Studies

In Fall 2006, as part of the LSA Citizenship Theme Semester, Arab-American Studies held a speaker series featuring Osama Siblani, founder and editor of the Arab American News in Dearborn; Rana Abbas, deputy director, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Michigan; and members of Zaytuna, an Ann-Arbor-based Arab and Jewish women's dialogue group. Arab-American Studies has also featured calligrapher Nihad Dukkhan and Palestinian Ambassador to the United States, Afif Safieh. Arab-American Studies has organized two Culture Bus trips (a program sponsored by Arts at Michigan) to the Arab-American National Museum. Recent events also include performance artist Leila Buck's one-woman show, "In the Crossing"; OTHER Art Collective's presentation on its objectives; and Rima Meroueh of the Media Empowerment Project. Arab-American Studies is expanding its course offerings and is planning to develop an undergraduate minor. Course offerings currently include: Introduction to Arab American Studies; Why do they Hate Us?: Perspectives on 9/11; Arab-American Literature; Muslim Americans; From Harems to Terrorists: Representing the Middle East in Hollywood Cinema; Arab Feminisms: Homelands and Diasporas; Arab-American Writing and Art; and, Women and War in the Middle East. Arab-American Studies is also proud to be involved in the second national conference on Arab-American Writing (Dearborn, Michigan, May 17-20), "Writing While Arab: Politics, Hyphens, and Homelands," organized by the Radius of Arab Writers, Inc. *Nadine Naber*

Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies

A/PIA Studies continues to offer a varied selection of courses, including "APA Women," taught by Prof. Emily Lawsin; "Psychology of Asian Americans," taught by Prof. Phillip Akutsu; "American Social Reflection," taught by Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Matthew Briones; and a new course, "World War II in the Pacific," taught by Prof. Damon Salesa. In November 2006, A/PIA Studies, in collaboration with the Center for World Performance Studies, hosted Los Angeles-based performance artist Kristina Wong, who presented her show "Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" to a large and enthusiastic audience. In February 2007, historian Greg Robinson presented a talk on new comparative research entitled "Fragile Alliances: Blacks, Japanese Americans and Mexican Americans in Southern California during the 1940s." In the fall, we are excited to officially welcome Matthew Briones to our faculty cohort as an assistant professor. *Amy Stillman* (continued on page 6)

Exploring Citizenship:



Trisha Barua
Senior

"I am personally practicing citizenship through trying to merge theory (or academics) and practice (or activism). I use what I learn in most of my American Culture courses in my work as a student organizer in the Asian / Pacific Islander American (APIA), student of color, and progressive communities on campus. The knowledge I have gained in APIA Studies courses, as well as the support from the faculty, has greatly helped me in educating and mobilizing others. American Culture gives me the tools to "practice citizenship," especially in terms of my knowledge in social history, as well as race and gender theory. I use this to provide "lenses" for others to look through when evaluating injustice in our communities, particularly with issues dealing with race, gender, and class. Practicing citizenship means trying to step outside of the ivory tower to tackle issues in the "real world." I am trying to do this and know that my American Culture concentration will continue to help me evaluate obstacles I come across."

"I am a citizen of three separate sovereign nations. I am a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians located in Harbor Springs, Michigan, a citizen of the state of Michigan, and of the United States of America. It was not until the 2007 National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session in Washington D.C. last February that I included my tribe alongside my two other citizenships. During the NCAI conference, I attended a meeting with my tribal chairman, Frank Ettawageshik, and Congressman Dale Kildee (D-MI). Here, concerns were expressed regarding the threatened status of the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver due to the recent passage of Proposal 2. The tuition waiver is under attack because it is often perceived as a race-specific program, offering funds to students simply because they are Native American. During our discussion with Kildee, it was brought to my attention that tribal leaders across the nation are taking the position that Native Americans are not a "race," as the argument against the tuition waiver claims. Rather, tribes are a political entity—interacting on a government-to-government level with the state of Michigan, as well as the United States. This stance may effectively protect the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver, but more importantly, it could alter the way many people perceive Native Americans. They are no longer referred to as "members" of a tribe, but "citizens" of a tribal nation. The effects of this simple word swap sends a powerful message. Using the word "citizen" instead of "member" reinforces tribal sovereignty, with which comes a greater ability for leaders to serve their nation and improve the lives of their people. The fact that this seemingly tiny modification can lead to a complete change of perception toward Native-American people goes to show that the notion of "citizenship" is vast and complex, and its implication is powerful enough to change the welfare of a nation. Experiencing the power of citizenship firsthand, I now hold a deeper respect for my citizenship of three separate, sovereign nations."



Jaquan M. Meeks
Senior

"The term citizenship taken at face value is a very narrow and nationalistic one. When we think about citizenship, voting is probably the first thing that comes to mind, followed by serving on juries, paying taxes, or running for public office. However, I have learned that citizenship can be approached from two perspectives. There is national citizenship, determined by borders, and there is global citizenship, which knows no borders. My idea of citizenship incorporates both of these things. In the national realm, people should be aware of the power and potential of citizenship that they explicitly exercise when they do something such as voting. When I voted for the first time in the 2004 presidential election, I cast not only a vote for myself, but a vote for marginalized citizens in countries where their rights to exercise the same right is restricted. Understanding the privilege that comes with being a citizen of the United States, I ultimately cast a vote for the candidate who would most adequately seek to bring these marginalized voices to the table. Here at U-M, I have taken many courses that have stressed the importance of scholar-activism, community organizing, and public service. These are all tenets of citizenship that fall under the category of engagement. Through my coursework, I have learned the importance of faculty and students to engage with communities and the larger public around issues of agency and citizenship."

In recognition of the 2006-2007 LSA Theme Year, we asked some of our outstanding American Culture concentrators to comment on how citizenship has found its way into their lives through their experiences in American Culture and at U-M.



Julia Ri
Senior

"Presently, there is a growing movement to unite theory and practice in a transnational framework. To me, this means connecting local and international struggles with the common understanding that they are inherently linked. This means that while the struggles are not the same, the fight to rebuild devastated communities in the Gulf Coast is intricately linked to ending the war in Iraq. It means that the current understanding and practice of citizenship in the domestic sphere that prioritizes the rights and livelihoods of some people over others is maintained by that same logic in U.S. foreign involvement. It means that stopping violence against women of color is a transnational issue; that the fight to end poverty and support the struggles of low-income people is as much about justly supporting the Global South as it is about supporting local communities. Through my work involved with ending the occupation of Palestine, facilitating a prison-art workshop, volunteering with Safe House Center, and doing some facilitation work with the Program on Inter-group Relations, I strive to push my theoretical understanding of citizenship toward community action."

"One path I've followed to explore my citizenship in Ann Arbor is to study how scholars I admire were impacted by this community, and how they in turn changed the lives of other people. My investigation of the legacy of these scholars, especially writers, who learned and created at U-M before me (Frank O'Hara, Arthur Miller, and Ted Berrigan, to name a few) has shown me intriguing ways one can cultivate a connection to a place. The next step in my exploration—seeing how these and other writers use the lessons of the University to develop their work after leaving—is particularly exciting. Citizenship at U-M is special because, while I hope to understand and contribute to my community here, the relationship is reciprocal. This community provides me with the background to later explore and interact constructively with other cultures. And this, in turn, is part of how studying American culture especially provides the tools for good citizenship—it allows us to zoom in and look at our place in smaller cultures and communities, while keeping the perspective of what role these smaller sects play in the world we'll encounter upon graduation."



Claire Smith
Junior



Vanessa J. Martin
Senior

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America..." To some, this may be the goal, to attain a piece of the American Dream; to others, it is simply part of their natural birthright to be an American citizen. For a Kanienkehaka (Mohawk), this pledge is a threat. As with many First-Nations Peoples, a constant threat of losing our sovereignty as individual nations is not worth sacrificing. By recognizing the United States as our government, we would have to give up the pledge to our own Nations. For the sake of our future generations, we still need to maintain the right to self-govern. We fall under the sixth amendment of the U.S. Constitution when it comes to our relationship with the American government. You see, citizenship may not be the attainable ideal for everyone as you may believe it to be."

"What does being a citizen mean to me? I recognize my role as a U.S. citizen as one of being an outspoken critic of those actions taken by the U.S., ostensibly on my behalf, which I oppose. One thing I have learned from American Culture is how to think about a concept such as citizenship not only in terms of what benefits it might have, but also from a critical perspective. Citizenship can confer rights and benefits to "official" members of a country such as the U.S. Yet in reality, certain groups might face greater obstacles in being accepted by the mainstream as "citizens," even though they meet the legal criteria. Even the very idea of citizenship, tied to nationalism as it is, might be a problem. But I also identify as an international citizen, and I think it's important to be concerned not just with what goes on inside the U.S. borders, but on the borders and outside of them as well."



Max Sussman
Senior

(continued from page 3)

Latina/o Studies

Revisions are now complete on the concentration curriculum, in which students are able to choose from a panoply of courses in American Culture ethnic studies, as well as courses offered across campus on race and racialization; Latin-American history, society, and culture; and, community-service learning. We have also officially embraced the emergence in the U.S. of Bra-
zuca Studies (or Brazilian American Studies) by expanding our language requirement to include Portuguese courses taught in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. As always, we have hosted and co-sponsored a full complement

of guest lectures and cultural events. In early December, cyber performance artist extraordinaire Ricardo Domínguez presented "Tales of Mayan Technologies" to a full house. In February, we co-hosted a preview of a documentary, *Milagros: Made in Mexico*, produced by Martina de Guzmán, on women's socioeconomic initiatives in Guanajuato in the wake of

outmigration to the U.S. We also featured a performance by New-York-based artist Susana Cook, who pondered resonances between the current U.S. "security state" and Argentina in the aftermath of the 1976 military coup. We are especially pleased with the partnerships we have developed with the School of Art & Design and the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, and look forward to future cultural initiatives. Latina/o Studies maintains active partnerships with Latina/o and multi-ethnic student groups across campus, assisting them in various programming endeavors. Recent events have included the Latina/o Cultural Show and informational meetings and symposia on immigration history and reform. Last, but certainly not least, we are extremely proud of our graduating concentrators, Sara Castillo, Jen Haynes, Cristina Faiver (with honors), and Patricia Oviedo, and minor Cristina Pérez! *Catherine Benamou*



Ojibwe elder and long-time language instructor, Hap McCue, with students Brooke Simon, Kristin Mantila, and Matt Perlman.

Native American Studies

Native American Studies (NAS) is in the midst of a notable transition. In July 2007, Director Gregory Dowd vacates his post after three years to accept the directorship of the Program in American Culture. Dowd moves into this position after having been a Helmut F. Stern Professor on an Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship in 2005-6 and making tremendous progress on his third book project, *Groundless History: Rumor in the American Woodlands, 1500-1850*. Michael Witgen accepted a Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship this year to complete his book manuscript, *An*

Infinity of Nations: How Indians and Immigrants Shaped National Identity in North America. Andrea Smith has been named the 2006-07 Human Rights Fellow, sponsored by the Center for Comparative and International Studies and the Humanities Institute at the University of Michigan. Barbra Meek received a 2007 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for her

book project, *When Ideologies Collide: Language Revitalization in Anthropological Perspective*. Joseph Gone has been awarded a Katrin H. Lamon Fellowship (2007) from the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the project, *Keeping Culture in Mind: Aboriginal & Western Therapeutic Integration in a First Nation Treatment Center*. Last fall, NAS welcomed Margaret Noori into our community. Dr. Noori joins long-time Ojibwe instructor Hap McCue as a lecturer in Ojibwe language and culture. As a team, Noori and McCue have enlivened and broadened the scope of indigenous midwest language instruction at Michigan by intensifying the Ojibwe language courses offered; hosting a weekly evening community meeting in Ojibwe language review; and by developing a website that features a digital archive of the spoken language (<http://www.umich.edu/~ojibwe/>). *Tiya Miles*

Bachelor degrees, American Culture

Alicia Elena Benavides
 Cynthia Cathleen Biro
 Zachary Blake Borden
 Cindy Bravo
 Kyle Nakamaru Brown
 Adam Philip Doster
 Vinchelle Love Evans
 Lindsay C. Farrell
 Rebecca Michelle Goldberg
 Bernice Maxine Hardman
 Mark William Hubinger
 Tamela Teara Jackson
 Kaitlin Elizabeth Jeziak
 Carissa L. Jones-Daniels
 Alena Rachelle Levine
 Theresa Jeannine Martin
 Jawuan Meeks
 Megan Lee Myers
 Julia Eden Ris
 Paula Margaret-Ann Rowley Rodriguez
 Rosalyn Lachelle Russell
 Rachel H. Shin
 Jillian Marie Sievert
 Beth Isabelle Spektor
 Sarah Audrey Stedman
 Max A. Sussman
 Robert Philip Ungar
 Rachel Bess Yura
 Zara Terez Zimmerman

Bachelor degrees, Latina/o Studies

Sara Jane Castillo
 Cristina Diane Faiver
 Jennifer Elizabeth Haynes

Patricia Oviedo

Minors, Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies

Beverly Ann Brooks
 Robinson Lee Chin
 Patrick Tze-teh Chu
 Stephanie Christie Dowerah
 Justin Glen Thorington
 Diana To Tran
 Theresa Quynh Tran (Fall 2006)
 David Bing Zhen

Minors, Latina/o Studies

Christina Pérez

Minors, Native American Studies

Brittany Grace Marino
 Priyanka Pathak (Fall 2006)
 Jessica Lynn Roberts
 Sean Reginald Shankin
 Lindsey Nicole Trainor
 Hollie Marie Wheeler

M.A.s, American Culture

Wendy Michael

Ph.D.s, American Culture

Shawn Kimmel
Freedom's Panopticon: The Constitution of the Liberal Police State in the Early Republic's Theater of Civil Society
 Chair: Carroll Smith-Rosenberg

Dolores Ines Casillas (Winter 2006)

Sound in Practice: The Politics of Spanish Language Radio in U.S. 1922-2004.
 Co-Chairs: Susan Douglas and Frances Aparicio

Lisa Harris (Summer 2006)
In Vitro Fertilization in the United States: A Clinical and Cultural History
 Chair: Regina Morantz-Sanchez

Robin Li (Winter 2006)
"Being Good Chinese": Chinese Scholarly Elites and Immigration in Mid-Century America
 Co-Chairs: Paul Anderson and Richard Candida-Smith

Michele Morales (Summer 2006)
Persistent Pathologies: The Odd Coupling of Alcoholism and Homosexuality in the Discourses of Twentieth Century Science
 Chair: Carol Boyd

Tracie Rubeck (Winter 2006)
Racial Harmony Through Clenched Teeth: Remembering the Civil Rights Movement in Newsweek and the CBS Evening News, 1990-1999
 Chair: Susan Douglas

Carla Vecchiola (Summer 2006)
Detroit's Rhythmic Resistance: Electronic Music and Community
 Chair: Gaylyn Studlar

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Faculty

Phillip Akutsu is the winner of a 2006-2007 Advisor of the Year award from the Michigan League for his work with the Asian / Asian-American Psychology Students Association (APSA).

Paul Anderson is the winner of 2007-08 academic year fellowship from the Michigan Institute for the Humanities.

Catherine Benamou announces the release of her new book, *It's All True: Orson Welles's Pan-American Odyssey*, through University of California Press.

Jay Cook is the winner of a fellowship at the New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars.

Phil Deloria is the president-elect of the American Studies Association. His term is from May 2008-May 2009. He is also the winner of 2007-08 academic year fellowship from the Michigan Institute for the Humanities.

Joe Gone is the winner of a 2007-08 Lamont Fellowship at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Paul Kramer is the winner of the Organization of American Historians' James A. Rawley Prize; and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations' Stuart L. Bernath Prize for best book on the history of U.S. foreign relations.

Tiya Miles is approved for promotion to associate professor with tenure. She is the author of the highly acclaimed book *Ties that Bind*, recently named the winner of the Hiatt Prize of the Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture.

Nadine Naber is the recipient of an OVRP grant for her proposal "De-Orientalizing Diaspora: Race, Gender, and Cultural Identity among Arab Americans in San Francisco, California." She also published the essay "The Rules of Forced Engagement: Race, Gender, and the Culture of Fear among Arab Immigrants in San Francisco Post 9/11" in *Cultural Dynamics* 18(3):235-267.

Susan Najita is approved for promotion to associate professor with tenure. She is the author of *Decolonizing Cultures in the Pacific: Reading History and Trauma in Contemporary Fiction*, recently released through Routledge's series on Research in Postcolonial Literatures.

Damon Salesa is approved for promotion to associate professor with tenure. He is the author of *Racial Crossings: Victorian Britain, Colonial New Zealand, and the Problem with Races*, under contract with Oxford University Press.

Andrea Smith is a contributor to the book *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion*, which is the winner of the American Historical Association's 2006 Waldo G. Leland Prize for best reference tool in the field of history.

Alan Wald announces the release of his new book, *Trinity of Passion: The Literary Left and the Antifascist Crusade*, through University of North Carolina Press.

Magdalena Zaborowska is approved for promotion to associate professor with tenure. She is the author of *James Baldwin's Turkish Decade: Erotics of Exile* scheduled for release in 2007 by Duke University Press.

Students

Congratulations to **Shanesha Brooks** on her marriage to Travis Tatum (Ph.D. candidate, Social Psychology, University of Michigan) on August 5, 2006. She also presented a paper at the American Studies Association in 2006, and has a forthcoming publication in a volume entitled *Blackness in Opera*, edited by U-M Associate Professor of Women's Studies Naomi Andre.

Sam Erman is the winner of a 2007-08 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship.

Joanne Hsu is the winner of a Rackham fellowship to attend the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University this summer.

Kathy Jurado accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of English at

Michigan State University, teaching Chicana/o-Latina/o literature.

Sharon Lee is the winner of a Community of Scholars Fellowship from the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

John Low completed a graduate certificate in Museum Studies in 2006. Additionally, his faux diorama entitled *Cowboys and Indians – 2007* was included in the U-M School of Art and Design's show entitled *If Other Please Explain*, which ran in January and February 2007.

Afia Ofori-Mensa, Sam Erman, and Taryana Hardin are all winners of one-time graduate-student research awards from the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

Alex Olson is a winner of a Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council.

Alumni

Howard Brick (Ph.D., 1983) announces the release of his new book, *Transcending Capitalism: Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought*, through Cornell University Press.

Shawn Kimmel (Ph.D., 2007) is in a two-year position as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Kellogg Health Scholars Program in the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. He also presented two papers: "Beyond White Governmentality: The Foundation of the Antebellum Colored Citizens' Convention Movement, 1828-1835," at the 2006 Pennsylvania Historical Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia; and "Scholarly Preparedness After Katrina?: American Studies and Health Policy in Crisis," at the 2006 American Culture Studies Conference, "Battleground States: Scholarship in Times of Crisis," at Bowling Green State University, Ohio.

Sonia K. Smith (M.A., 1997) was the senior assistant dean of admissions and director of multicultural recruitment at Reed College (Portland, OR) for four years. She is now assistant dean for undergraduate admissions at Princeton.