

American Culture News

The Program in American Culture
at the University of Michigan

Fall 2007



Jawuan Meeks, undergraduate student in American Culture and Political Science traveled to South Africa this summer. He reflects on his "trip of a lifetime" on pg. 7 of this issue.

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Dear friends, colleagues, students, and alumni,

Dear friends, colleagues, students and alumni,

Before stepping so publicly into the shoes of the previous director, Phil Deloria, I want to acknowledge just how flat my feet feel. It's not easy to summarize Phil's contributions over his three and one half years of arduous service, but he has in many ways been the soul of the Program. He instituted, just over three years ago, a marvelous manuscript workshop program for assistant professors that has become a model in the college and the envy of other institutions. He oversaw the hiring or promotion of numerous faculty members. He led us through an extensive internal review in preparation for our external review, which we passed with flying colors. He oversaw, too, a thorough curricular overhaul of our undergraduate program, one result of which, has been a recent rise in enrollments: as of the end of last term, our number of concentrators crested the 100 mark. But each of us will recall approaching Phil's open door, catching him with his hands on the keyboard and his eyes on the screen, only to see him scoot back in his office chair and greet us with a warming smile, ready to offer what we all knew was in short and irreplaceable supply: his time. Phil is returning to scholarship (which he never really left), but he will continue to serve the Program as the interim director of Native American Studies this fall, and he will continue to serve the broader project of American Studies as the next President of the American Studies Association. He will also be returning to a fuller course load, but not this year, for he has won a well-deserved fellowship from Michigan's own Institute for the Humanities, where he hopes to finish up a project that he began long ago. I know that I speak for the entire Program when I express my deep and abiding gratitude to Phil, and my wistfulness about the end of his term in service. It is a comfort to me that we have still in the AC community, in addition to Phil, several previous directors: June Howard, Jim McIntosh, Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, and Alan Wald, on whom I can count for guidance. Our fabulous staff, Mary Freiman, Judy Gray, Marlene Moore, Tabby Rohn,

and Kate Collins, have long demonstrated through their knowledge and initiative where much of the authority and guidance is truly to be found.

Joining us this year are two new faculty members, Matthew Briones and Anthony Mora. Matthew Briones we already know, as he has been with us for two years as a post-doctoral fellow and now begins the professorial life. We simply could not let him go. Matt, a Harvard Ph.D., is the author of "An American Type": The Kikuchi diaries: A Cultural Biography (1941-1947)" which, through the extraordinary diaries of Charles Kikuchi, explores a socially and democratically committed idealist's trenchant observations on American society, race relations and international relations from Pearl Harbor to Kikuchi's own internment and service in the U.S. Army, through his experience as a Japanese-American soldier in the segregated South and, finally, to his move to the urban North. The work will be published by Princeton University Press. Matt, already an accomplished teacher, is ideally suited to contribute to our continuing efforts to constitute an American Culture program where the concerns of American Studies and Ethnic Studies trouble each other. He adds strength to our already robust Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies program.

Anthony Mora we also already know from the not-so-very distant past. Anthony, a University of Notre Dame Ph.D., joins us from Texas A&M, where he has been teaching in the History Department. Jointly appointed with History and experienced in the classroom, Anthony is working on a book to be published by Duke University Press titled: "Local Borders: The Changing Meanings of Race, Nation, and Space in Southern New Mexico, 1848-1912." "Local Borders" aims to amplify our understandings of the historical distinctions between "Mexicans" and "Americans." Focusing on the Mesilla Valley in what is now southern New Mexico, the study examines the workings of identity in two towns, Las Cruces and Mesilla. Anthony, like Matt, brings interests and skills that advance our core mission. He will



undoubtedly become a key player in our own Latina/o Studies program and in the fields of Latina/o Studies, American History, and Ethnic Studies.

Newsletters are generally cheery and upbeat, but I am not happy about the new word in my vocabulary: "rescission." It refers to the state government's rescinding of promised funds to its public institutions of higher learning, which is now beginning to press through that shield to hit departments and programs. This calendar year has seen the state of Michigan in a budget crisis, as the regional economy has continued its slide and as an ideologically divided government has been unable to order its accounts. The University of Michigan, to be sure, is not as vulnerable as many public institutions to this sort of crisis, but we are nonetheless beginning to feel its affects as the university and college are taxing each department and program to shoulder a share of the general "rescission." The full dimensions of its affect on the program are still unclear; at the moment, these cutbacks, for such they effectively are, might best be described as sobering rather than alarming.

Our Ethnic Studies programs are in very capable hands. Not only is Phil Deloria directing Native American Studies this fall, but Catherine Benamou continues her service as Director of Latina/o

American Culture News

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Ethnic Studies Directors: Damon Salesa; Asian / Pacific Islander American Studies; Catherine Benamou, Latina/o Studies; Phil Deloria; Native American Studies

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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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(Continued from Pg. 2)

Studies, and Damon Salesa takes on the directorship of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies (A/PIA). We retain two faculty in our emergent Arab-American Studies program and a full baker's dozen of scholars in our African American Caucus. Since Phil, Damon and Catherine have columns in this newsletter, let me turn to the former and long-serving director of A/PIA, Amy Ku'uleialoha Stillman. Amy, an authority on Polynesian music and dance traditions since the late eighteenth century, led those who have built and sustained a program that contains a Pacific Islander Studies group envied not only on the continent, but in the Pacific itself. She has been a mentor to many of us outside A/PIA; I know I often found myself standing in her office seeking counsel as a fellow-ethnic studies director. She is now on a long-overdue scholarly leave, but if you wish to hear her, get the CD, *Kalākaua*, which records a concert—a vast collaboration in song and dance of fourteen master hula instructors and their students—in which Amy's research in the archives revives an indigenous repertoire.

About myself: After undergraduate years at the University of Connecticut and graduate work at Princeton University, I taught for fifteen years at the University of Notre Dame, with brief interludes at both UConn and the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg. My publications are primarily in Native American history and early American history, with a focus on popular and religious movements. I am currently working on a study of the role of rumor and legend in the entwined histories of colonists and Native Americans in eastern North America to 1850.

The Program in American Culture, once known for rapid numerical growth, is in the midst of a different kind of transformation. We are turning the corner from a program with a majority of untenured professors to one with a tenured majority. A program that has doubled in size over the past decade and increased its undergraduate program is not simply consolidating, however. Some of us will deepen our work in the disciplines. Others will work across the disciplines. Still others will transgress and blow holes in the disciplines. We will remain committed to the exploration of new interdisciplinary methods, theories, and research in our investigations of the power, productions, and peoples of (and entangled with) the United States of America.

Best regards to everyone!



Recent Faculty Publications!

Nadine Naber is the co-editor (with Amaney Jamal) of *Race and Arab Americans Before and After 9/11: From Invisible Citizens to Visible Subjects* (Syracuse University Press, 2007).

Susan Najita is the author of *Decolonizing Cultures in the Pacific: Reading History and Trauma in Contemporary Fiction* (Routledge, 2006).

John Bacon, has recently published his fifth book. *Bo's Lasting Lessons: The Legendary Coach Teaches the Timeless Fundamentals of Leadership* (Warner Books, 2007) was co-authored with former U-M coach Bo Schembechler.





Native American Studies

Native American Studies is in the midst of fantastic opportunities and challenges! With Greg Dowd serving as Director of the Program in American Culture, we have split our leadership for 2007/2008. Phil Deloria will serve as acting director in the fall semester, with Andy Smith stepping in for the winter. Several of our faculty will be on leave this year: Joe Gone and Tiya Miles will both be resident at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, while Barbra Meek will be working on her book project, "When Ideologies Collide", courtesy of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Michael Witgen will be back in town, following a year on a Ford Fellowship. Gavin Clarkson has received a \$450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study tribal finance, and his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee on discrimination against tribal governments in the capital markets led to the introduction of a bill that would put tribes on equal footing with other governments when issuing bonds. Margaret Noori, along with co-sponsors Gavin Clarkson and Michael Witgen, has received two significant grants to assist with her ongoing efforts to improve Ojibwe language instruction at UM and around the state. Dr. Noori, longtime language instructor Hap McCue, and others have been hard at work developing digital language archives and standards for assessing Ojibwe language competency. The Ojibwe Language Program received a Brighter Futures Grant to complete a project entitled, "Dreamseekers and Wisdomkeepers", bringing urban and campus youth and elders together at a weekly language table. Check out www.Ojibwe.net for an update on what has been added to the site, Noongo e-Anishinaabemjig (Those who speak Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin). You'll find new songs, stories and lessons all in Ojibwe. Most exciting of all, perhaps, is our upcoming "Keywords in Native American Studies" project. Over 20 leading scholars will soon be submitting essays on one of eight "keywords" (sovereignty, nation, blood, land and others), and they will join us in Ann Arbor this January for an intense exchange on the meanings and future of the concepts that have structured so much of our field. Of course, a book will follow!. -Phil Deloria

Arab-American Studies

Arab American Studies is pleased to announce an expansion in our course offerings. The following courses will be available in Fall 2007 and Winter 2008: Introduction to Arab American Studies; Muslims in America; Arab American Literature; Why do they Hate Us?: Perspectives on 9/11; and From Harems to Terrorists: Representing the Middle East in Hollywood Cinema. This fall, a series of distinguished scholars, artists, and community leaders have been invited to visit the course, "Introduction to Arab American Studies," includ-

ing Osama Siblani, founder and editor of the Arab American News; Joan Mandell, filmmaker of a variety of films including *Arab Detroit* and the *Arab American Road Movie*; and Amal David, Director of the Office of Bilingual Education at Detroit Public Schools. Please visit our new website featuring students' projects and experiences from Introduction to Arab American Studies (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~ncnaber/ac210>). We are also developing exciting new internship opportunities. Three Arab American Studies students will intern at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's Michigan office (ADC) in fall 2007. Arab American Studies continues to collaborate with various institutions and organizations. Arab American Studies was involved with the Radius of Arab American Writers' (RAWI) second national conference (May 2007) and continues to collaborate with the Arab American National Museum. Arab American Studies is also assisting the Office of Multiethnic Student Affairs in organizing Arab and Muslim student summits that will take place this fall.

-Evelyn Alsultany and Nadine Naber

Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies

This fall will be the first semester this decade when A/PIA studies will not be led by Prof. Amy Stillman. This year she takes an extremely well-earned leave, having served six years as director, during which time she navigated A/PIA with great skill and resource. Faculty and student numbers have increased greatly, A/PIA's campus and national profile have grown, and a new A/PIA minor was created under Amy Stillman's leadership. This fall A/PIA studies again goes to work in these areas, offering our varied and vibrant selection of courses, while continuing to engage and serve our communities and teach and mentor our students. We continue our core courses, especially those central to our minor taught by Profs. Emily Lawsin and Phillip Akutsu, and these are supplemented by exciting courses on Detroit (taught by Prof. Kurashige) and sports (taught by Prof. Diaz). This fall we also welcome a new faculty member, Matt Briones, who came to the department from Harvard as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow, and who this semester formally joins us as faculty. This semester also sees the inception of a colloquia our graduate students Brian Chung and Lee Ann Wang have put great energy and insight into planning, with the support of Prof. Sarita See. These efforts come to exciting fruition this fall, in a stunning program entitled, "Global/Local Contradictions: Movements, Negotiations and Identifications in Asian and Asian American Studies"--a series that will extend into the winter. We also mark the work of Susan Najita, whose wonderful book, *Decolonizing Cultures in the Pacific: Reading History and Trauma in Contemporary Fiction*, was published late last year." -Damon Salesa



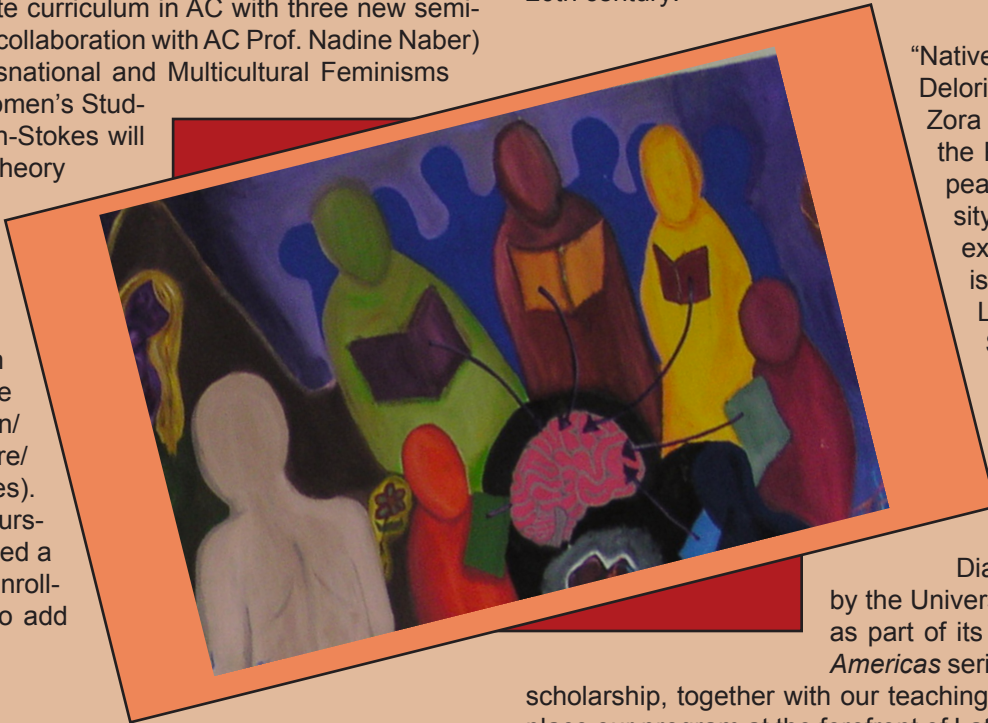
Latina/o American Studies

With its new curriculum approved (see spring newsletter), the Latina/o Studies Program continues to offer a rich array of humanities courses taught by its core faculty, as well as cognate and elective courses taught by affiliated faculty in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. In addition to the interdisciplinary, team-taught gateway course AC213: Introduction to Latina/o Studies taught by Prof. Cotera this fall, Prof. Hoffnung-Garskof will offer a course on the social history of Latin music, in the United States and Latin America (The Latin Tinge), while Prof. Amy Carroll will be teaching a praxis-oriented course on bilingualism in Latina/o literature and performance (Codeswitch), in which students will be engaged in creative writing. Our faculty will also be contributing to the interdisciplinary graduate curriculum in AC with three new seminars: Prof. Cotera (in collaboration with AC Prof. Nadine Naber) will be teaching Transnational and Multicultural Feminisms (American Culture/Women's Studies); Prof. La Fountain-Stokes will teach Queer Color of Theory (American Culture/English/Romance Languages and Literatures); and Prof. Benamou will teach Transnational Film and Television in the Context of Migration/Exile (American Culture/Screen Arts & Cultures). In nearly all of our courses we have experienced a dramatic increase in enrollments and continue to add new concentrators

and minors, now that four have just graduated with flying colors.

We heartily welcome our new faculty member, Dr. Anthony P. Mora (Ph.D., Notre Dame University, 2002), who holds a joint appointment in American Culture-Latina/o Studies and History. Dr. Mora will be teaching an American Studies first-year seminar on Chicano history this fall and a new course on the history of sexuality, along with a graduate seminar in winter term. As a specialist in late 19th and early 20th century Chicana/o history, Dr. Mora enhances the cultural, disciplinary, and historical scope within our Program and, through his research and teaching, will be adding to the exploration of inter-ethnic histories and relations in the American Culture Program as a whole. Anthony will be presenting a portion of his new research on African-American Latina/o relations in Chicago during the first decades of the 20th century at the American Studies Association meeting this fall.

We eagerly await a "bumper crop" of major publications from three LS faculty members during 2008. These publications will offer cutting-edge intellectual and social perspectives on Latina/o life and culture that reflect the pressing concerns - immigration, sexuality, gender politics, transnational formations, and urban and intellectual histories - reshaping our multilingual, interdisciplinary field of study. Professor Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof (American Culture-Latina/o Studies/History) is the author of, "A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York After 1950" (appearing soon from Princeton University Press); Professor Maria Cotera (American Culture-Latina/o Studies/Women's Studies) has written a comparative study and historical retrieval of the work of three feminist ethnologists and writers of fiction who were active in the early decades of the 20th century:



"Native Speakers: Ella Cara Deloria, Jovita González, Zora Neale Hurston and the Poetics of Culture" (appearing next fall, University of Texas Press). Also expected in Fall 2008 is a book by Professor Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes (American Culture-Latina/o Studies/Romance Languages and Literatures) entitled, "Queer Ricans: Cultures & Sexualities in the

Diaspora," to be published by the University of Minnesota Press as part of its *Cultural Studies of the Americas* series. The high caliber of

scholarship, together with our teaching initiatives, is certain to place our program at the forefront of Latina/o Studies programs in the United States.

For the first time this fall, Latina/o Studies was an official sponsor of the student-organized first-year orientation program, ALMA (Assisting Latinas/os to Maximize Achievement) held August 26-29, which assisted around 30 new UM students in adjusting to the academic and social demands of the large and complex UM campus. As usual, we look forward to collaborating with other units to host special visits by performing artists, mediamakers, and scholars on topics of interest to our community during Hispanic Heritage Month and beyond.

Last but not least, winter 2008 will usher in a new interim program director and a long-time LS faculty associate, Professor Silvia Pedraza (Sociology), who has graciously agreed to work closely with core faculty and students as the LS Program continues to expand and diversify its course offerings, while remaining attentive to community needs and interests. ¡Muchisimas gracias, Silvia!

The Program in American Culture is pleased to announce the addition of talented new faculty for the 2007-08 academic year

Anthony Mora (Ph.D. Notre Dame, 2002) joins American Culture as an assistant professor. His research focuses on Chicana/o history, nationalism, race, and sexuality. He received his BA from the University of New Mexico and his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. Mora's first project, "Local Borders" (under contract with Duke University Press), explores the ways that racial and national ideologies influenced the meaning of Mexican identity along the nineteenth-century border. In addition, Mora has started research on a second major project that explores the relationship between African Americans and Mexican Americans in the early-twentieth-century midwest. Before joining the University of Michigan, Mora served as a history faculty member at Texas A&M University and a visiting scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mora teaches courses on Mexican American history, Latino/a history, and sexuality in popular culture.



Matthew Briones (Ph.D. Harvard, 2005) joins American Culture as an assistant professor after a two-year Andrew Mellon post-doctoral fellowship in the humanities. He is the author of, "An American Type": The Kikuchi Diaries: A Cultural Biography (1941-1947)," under contract with Princeton University Press. His research focuses on comparative and intersectional race relations. He is teaching a freshman seminar entitled, "Interracial America," and a graduate seminar, "American Social Reflection: Thinking About Race & Society" this fall. Prior to Michigan, Matt taught at Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia and published articles in *African American Review*, *Prospects*, and an essay collection of the European Association for American Studies. He is joined in Ann Arbor by his partner, Eliza Parker, and daughters Cadence Skye and Ella West.



Undergraduate Writing Award

Each year, the Program in American Culture awards two prizes to American Culture concentrators for the best essays on a topic related to the field of American Studies/ Ethnic Studies.

Congratulations to our 2006-2007 winners:

Frances Martin, for her essay entitled, "Trace of an Accent: The Story of my Grandparents' Double Migration and an Exploration of the Personal, Social, and Historical Factors that Shaped their Journey". Frances tells her family's personal story that employs the tools of oral history and migration history in order to bring European and American histories to life. The award committee found "Trace of an Accent" to be a nuanced, evocative, and richly detailed analysis.

Max Pollock, for his essay entitled, "Blues Music as a Reflection of Black Sentiment Towards War". "Blues Music" analyzes the lyrics of key blues songs to explicate the character of Black sentiment during World War II and the Vietnam War eras. His paper was judged to be the best usage of secondary sources.

Welcome New Graduate Students

American Culture is pleased to welcome the entering class of 2007. We look forward to helping these students achieve their professional goals!

Robert Bell - BA University of Louisville,
Pan African Studies

Matthew Blanton - BA Dartmouth, Psychology, MA University of Wisconsin, Afro-American Studies

Paul Farber - BA University of Pennsylvania,
Urban Studies

Anthony Kim - BA University of California at San Diego,
Ethnic Studies

Annah MacKenzie - BA Ithaca College, Cultural
Anthropology, MA New School for Social Research,
Ethnic Studies

Isabel Millan - BA University of California at Santa Barbara,
Women's Studies and Anthropology, MA San Francisco State,
Ethnic Studies

Cristina Solis - BA University of California at
Los Angeles, Sociology

Sanibonani (hello in Zulu)!

My fascination with South Africa began in the fifth grade (1995). Thanks to a school project and my cousin, Jasmine's, computer, I discovered South Africa through Encyclopedia Britannica on cd-rom. The year 1995 was a watershed moment for South Africa as Apartheid was drawing its last breaths with the finalization of a new constitution. Nelson Mandela had been in the news a lot. He had been released from prison five years before after spending 27 years in a South African jail. He was the then newly elected President of South Africa in the country's first free and democratic election. On the Encyclopedia Britannica cd-rom, I looked up South Africa and found a wealth of information – pictures and all sorts of facts on population and obscure acronyms like GDP and GNP. The following week I returned to class with pictures of the new South African flag and a detailed explanation on what each colour represented along with the other information I had gathered on the country of South Africa and its people.

It was, in fact, the new constitution that South Africa officially implemented in 1996 which finally brought me to South Africa, some eleven years later. Of course, I did the typical touristy things such as visiting the markets and a weekend safari. And I am happy to say that despite my fear of being eaten while on the range, you are reading these words! But, the non-touristy things have left a longer lasting impression. I visited and volunteered at a few orphanages, one of which housed children with AIDS. Emotionally, this was unbearable. I also visited impoverished neighborhoods and was appalled at the living conditions in these shanty towns.

I read substantial portions of Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, while in South Africa. His book helped to contextualize and process what I had witnessed on my trip. I reflected on the challenge Mandela posed to South Africans in the conclusion of his autobiography. His words offered both predictions and hopes for the future, which are complicated by our varying notions of freedom. Is one really free when people are denied access to running water and clean air, when there continues to be economic disinvestment in largely minority populated urban areas, and your neighbor lacks healthcare?

South Africa is a beautiful country. Yet, there is still much work to be done to ensure that, as a nation, it lives up to the promises made to its citizens in that powerful document, the constitution. The same holds true for this wonderful country that I call home, as well. My time in South Africa moves me to challenge my country, government and fellow citizens and question if we are truly free. I close with Nelson Mandela's words, "We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

I would like to thank the Program in American Culture for their generous financial support which allowed me to embark on the trip of a lifetime through the study abroad program with the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies and American Studies this summer. -*Jawuan Miguel Meeks*

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Faculty

Evelyn Alsultany's essay, "Selling American Diversity and Muslim American Identity Through Non-Profit Advertising Post-9/11," is forthcoming in American Quarterly's special issue on religion (Fall 2007). She was on the organizing committee for the Radius of Arab American Writer's second national conference, "Writing While Arab: Politics, Hyphens, and Homelands" (May 17-19, 2007 at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, MI), for which she was presented a distinguished service award.

Andrea Smith's edited anthology, *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond The Nonprofit Industrial Complex*, has been published by South End Press. She also received a Rackham Faculty Grant for her research project entitled, "Scriptural Fundamentalisms in Native Communities."

Alan Wald has been named "H. Chandler Davis Collegiate Professor of American Culture and English Literature" for a five year renewable term, starting September 2007. This Collegiate Professorship was established by the U-M Regents in July 2007 in honor of "Chan" Davis, a professor who was dismissed from his U-M position in 1954 for refusing to co-operate with the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Davis subsequently served a sentence in fed-

eral prison for contempt of congress, and then found employment at the University of Toronto where he became a pre-eminent mathematician.

Graduate Student Updates

Jessi Gan co-authored *Pauline Park and Willy Wilkinson: A Conversation About Same-Sex Marriage*, which appeared in Amerasia Journal 32.1. She also published the essay, 'Still at the Back of the Bus': *Sylvia Rivera's Struggle*, in Centro Journal 19.

Laura Hymson, an AC graduate student, has just won the John W. Holmes Award, a scholarly award from Rackham Graduate School.

Jessi Gan co-authored, *Pauline Park and Willy Wilkinson: A Conversation About Same-Sex Marriage*, which appeared in Amerasia Journal 32.1. She also published the essay, 'Still at the Back of the Bus': *Sylvia Rivera's Struggle*, in Centro Journal 19.1.B.

Puspa Damai recently published a number of articles in scholarly journals. His article, *Messianic-City: Ruins, Refuge and Hospitality in Derrida*, has been published in Discourse; *Babelian Cosmopolitanism: Tuning in to Sublime Frequencies*, has been published in CR: The New Centennial Review. A forthcoming

publication "Interrupting Ethnographic Spectacles in Eric Valli's Himalaya," will appear in Postcolonial Text.

Welcome to Newest Additions!

Congratulations to Jay Cook and Rita Chin, on the birth of their son, Oliver; to Susan Najita and Toby Eckhause, on the birth of their son, Henry; Matthew Briones and Eliza Parker on the birth of their daughter, Ella; to Erik Morales and his wife Hannah, on the birth of their daughter Harmony. We extend a hearty congratulations and send our best wishes to these proud new parents!

Alumni News

Dreaming Big, a new book by Paul W. Swets, will be launched by Authentic Publishing in the USA on October 1, 2007 and English speaking markets world-wide after the first of the year. Co-authored with Bobb Biehl, an executive coach, the book leads readers through the process of discerning their greatest strengths and passions and then helps them formulate their Life Dream. Paul W. Swets received his Master of Arts degree in American Culture at the U of M in 1970 and his Doctor of Arts degree in English at the U of M in 1973.

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