

# American Culture News

The Program in American Culture  
at the University of Michigan

Spring 2008

Irving "Hap" McCue, 1933-2008.

Hap visited Guam and Hawaii during the summer of 2005 as part the "Canoe Crossings" cultural and educational exchange program between Pacific Islands and Great Lakes Native American canoebuilders, scholars, and cultural workers.



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### Alumni News!

The 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting was awarded to American Culture alumna

**Amy Harmon** (BA

'90) of The New York Times for her striking examination of the dilemmas and ethical issues that accompany DNA testing, using human stories to sharpen her reports.

### Dear friends, colleagues, students and alumni,

The Program in American Culture at the University of Michigan balances the strengths and capacities of a disciplinary department with the precocious energy of an interdisciplinary program. We have a terrific, prizewinning staff. Our faculty is increasingly tenured: if all goes as expected by June, eight of our faculty will have achieved tenure in just two academic years. The scholarship produced by our faculty is streaming into print and shaping the fields of American Studies and Ethnic Studies nationally. We have a full complement of undergraduates, whom we serve in courses ranging from "American Politics and Society" to the "Latin Tinge: Latin Music in Social Context in Latin America and the U.S.A.", from "Detroit Politics and Community Organization" to "Arts and Culture in American Life." And then, we have a large, active, and impressive group of graduate students. We are devoting a good portion of this issue of the newsletter to them.

Our graduate students comprise one of the most talented and diverse cohorts at this great university. One, Justine Pas, who began her American life as an undocumented immigrant teenager from Poland, is now an emerging scholar of Holocaust and immigrant literature, and she recently (2006) won an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award and a postdoctoral fellowship at Oberlin College. Another, John Low, a member of the Pokagan Band Potawatomi (headquartered in Michigan) and

a graduate of our Law School, has just recently assumed the directorship of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, Illinois. Our students have done remarkably well this year in terms of winning financial support for their innovative work. Dean Saranillio has won a competitive Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship for work on his dissertation, *Seeing Conquest: Intersectional Narratives and the Cultural Politics of Hawai'i Statehood*. It is worth mentioning that in 2005 Dean won the Wise-Susman Prize for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the 2005 American Studies Association annual meeting.



Kelly Sisson has won both the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship and the Graduate Student Research Award. Sharon Lee has won the Rackham Susan Lipschutz Award. Tayana Hardin was selected for the Graduate Student Research Award and the Community Scholars Fellowship and Afia Ofori-Mensa was also selected for the Community of Scholars Fellowship. Sam Erman, whose dissertation is on "American Aliens: Citizenship Struggles in Puerto Rico, 1898-1917" was admitted into a Mellon Humanities Dissertation Seminar.

President Mary Sue Coleman designated this year for graduate student

development. She has created a matching gift program: Every two dollars given to graduate student support before December 31, 2008 (or until the University raises \$40 million), will be matched with one dollar from the President's Challenge Fund. All gifts from \$1 to \$1,000,000 will be matched. Details on the program can be found online at [www.giving.umich.edu/where/presidentschallenge](http://www.giving.umich.edu/where/presidentschallenge). Donations can be designated to help the Program in American Culture directly, and gifts of all amounts will help us to meet our goals.

At the end of November, the program ran one of its signature events, a faculty manuscript workshop. Anthony Mora presented a draft of his fascinating book-in-progress, "Local Borders: The Changing Meanings of Race, Nation, and Space in Southern New Mexico, 1848-1912". It was a splendid event. George Sanchez, a former director of our program (now at USC), returned to see our glorious new space, and he critically engaged all of us in a discussion of Anthony's important work. Our own Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof and Alex Stern also provided superb commentary, as did members of the workshop. One assistant professor later told me it was the best professional event we've had since she arrived at Michigan. These workshops play an important role in our faculty's and, therefore, our program's development.

The University of Michigan is taking on a leadership role in the American Studies Association (ASA) nationally. This May, our former director, Phil Deloria, assumes the Presidency and Maria Cotera, who is slated to become director of our Latina/o Studies program, has just been elected to the ASA Council. The following year our program associate, Kevin Gaines, will become the organization's President. Dare we sing: "Hail to the victors"?

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## American Culture News

**Director:** Gregory Dowd

**Ethnic Studies Directors:** Damon Salesa; Asian / Pacific Islander American Studies; Sylvia Pedraza, Latina/o Studies; Andrea Smith; Native American Studies

**Editor:** Judith Gray

**Graphic Design and Layout:** Kate Collins

Please submit any changes, corrections, letters, updates, and/or suggestions to Kate Collins  
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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

The University of Michigan is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action employer.

**Susan Y. Najita** would like to announce the publication in paperback of her book, *Decolonizing Cultures in the Pacific: Reading History and Trauma in Contemporary Fiction*, now available from Routledge. Susan and her husband Toby also celebrate the birth of their son, Henry Kazuaki Eckhause, on September 6, 2007.

**Bruce Conforth** received a CRLT "Lecturers' Professional Development Grant" for his continuing research into Mississippi Delta Blues. As part of this research he accompanied 5 AC concentrators to the Delta over Spring Break where they did research into historic blues sites, located several important blues musicians graves, explored and documented long forgotten towns, villages, and plantations (many now in a state of complete decay), went to local blues performances, interviewed various informants, and even became, as musicians themselves, part of a documentary on contemporary Mississippi Delta blues. Several members of the group even formed an impromptu blues band called the Blues Hawks and played at a local juke joint called Reds. Bruce also recently published "Ike Zimmerman: the X in Robert Johnson's Crossroads" in the February issue of *Living Blues* published by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi. The article, based on his research, uncovers the previously unknown life of Ike Zimmerman, guitar mentor to Robert Johnson and, therefore, provides new insight into Johnson's early years.

**Penny Von Eschen** has co-curated a photography exhibition on The State Department's Cold War era jazz tours with Dr. Curtis Sandberg, Vice President for the Arts, at Meridian International Foundation in Washington D.C. The exhibit, "Jam session: America's Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World" opened on April 3, 2008. This exhibition of nearly 100 photographs will travel nationally and internationally. She also won the 2008 "Brubeck Institute Award for Distinguished Achievement".

**Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes** has received the prestigious Circle Award for 2008 from the University of Michigan. The Circle Award honors U-M faculty and staff members who contribute significantly to the university community and whose work, leadership and service have positively impacted Latino students.

**Matthew Countryman and Scott Kurashige** have received workshop fellowships for 2008-09 at the Charles Warren Center, Harvard's American history research center. The theme for the workshop is "Race-Making and Law-Making in the Long Civil Rights Movement."

**Maria Cotera and Matthew Countryman**, were selected recipients of the 2008 Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award.

### *IN MEMORIAM*

Irving Hap Mccue passed away suddenly on March 3, 2008. He is survived by his wife Dr. Cheryl Samuels-McCue, sons Lance and David, daughter Cindy, and step-children Joshua, Dara and Debbie. His dedication to all of his students over the years has been unparalleled. Pane igwa maaba gii aayaad waa naad ekinomaagaazininjin miinwa wii ge bizindawad miinwaa wii minoganawaamdaanid megwa aayaanid. He was always there for students and listened to them and saw them all as good. *Written by Brooke Simon and Translated by Howard Kimewon*

## Puspa Damai

I am a third-year doctoral student, who came to the Program in American Culture by way of Melauli village in Baitadi, Nepal. I first came to the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar in 2001 and completed my MA in American Studies at Michigan State University in 2004. My ongoing interests in Asian American and Pacific Islander literatures and transnational American Studies led me to pursue a PhD here at the University of Michigan. I will be pursuing research on comparisons between Pacific Island and Caribbean literatures, postcolonial theory, and theories of empire.



Puspa Damai

The route by which I found my way to American Studies can be characterized the serendipity of empire. My first encounter with transnational America occurred in elementary school in Melauli when an American Peace Corps volunteer came to teach English. Not long after, my father, Gopal Ram, joined the Peace Corps as a Nepali language trainer for the American volunteers. Discussion of America quickly became one of the favorite topics at home. Later, Paul Lauter and Shirley Geok-lin Lim, prominent figures in American Studies, visited Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu as Fulbright scholars to train faculty in the then new field of Interdisciplinary American Studies. A lecturer at the time, I was inspired to explore the complexity of United States imperialism, in particular the way race, gender, and class intersected in an interdisciplinary mode of analysis.

One of the founding concepts of transnational American Studies is the notion of borders. Sometimes these borders are all too real. In September 2007 my father, Gopal Ram, passed away. It took 3 days for myself and my family—wife Sarita and 2 children, Aakriti and Aayush—to reach Kathmandu by plane. From there, we voyaged 3 more days by bus to reach Melauli. The extent of travel prevented me and my family from observing my father's funeral rites. The voyage back to Ann Arbor required at least as much time. The financial hardship of returning home to Nepal on short notice was considerable for an international graduate student who is not eligible for Work-Study, Federal Loans, and the majority of fellowships which require U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. The U. of M. Rackham Emergency fund provided financial assistance to cover about one-third of the cost of travel only. In the uneven and evolving world of transnational American Studies, economic borders and immigration continue to trouble the permeability of borders.



## Kelly Sisson

I didn't come to Michigan to write a dissertation about corn. Five years ago, my plan was to write about unfree labor in the transnational North American West. Following my field exams, however, I started to think about teaching an undergraduate course that would be as relevant and interesting to take as it would be to teach. It dawned on me that Michigan's colors, "Maize and Blue," might provide an interesting "hook" into teaching an American Culture course. Why was Michigan's "Maize" a particular kind of yellow? What, for that matter, did the histories of the "Corn Belt" have to do with current discussions in the media and scientific communities about ethanol and high fructose corn syrup? And where *had* the corn mothers gone?

My dissertation, *King Corn in American Culture, 1862-1936*, explores the industrialization of corn and society between the Civil War and the New Deal. During these decades, American "Indian" corn became linked to the meaning of the United States and its economic growth. As people and products in the "Corn Belt," the South, and the Northeast joined and became yoked to these twin national projects, their efforts responded and contributed to key U.S. developments: growth of federal power and corporations, revolutions in food systems and environments, and evolving ideas about gender and race. By the 1930s, when U.S. subsidies of corn farming began, Corn had long been King. My dissertation examines the processes and implications of this change.

Thus far, my research has taken me to the National Agriculture Library, National Archives, Library of Congress, and New York Historical Society. I am planning a longer research trip this summer through Ames, Lincoln, Chicago, and Indianapolis, and will bounce around a few more archives before all is said and done.

While I never thought of corn beyond the sweet, buttered kind I'd eat on the cob at summer barbecues, I now feel enabled to use cultural, environmental, and agricultural history to explain why and how specific histories of production and consumption of corn have had enormous bearing on ideas about gender, race, state policies, foodways, public health, environmental change, and land usage, both in the United States and around the world.

## Eric Morales

Growing up in the predominantly Latino and industrial area of Southeast Los Angeles, I witnessed how the shift to a service economy changed lives and communities. I practiced cross country and track and field on running routes around factories and warehouses that slowly transitioned into abandoned spaces and mainstream stores. This experience, combined with viewing more affluent high schools in California, made me want to study and learn more about de-industrialization and how cities themselves function.

I received my Bachelors in Sociology and Urban Studies from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 2004. During my graduate school search, I found myself intrigued with the University of Michigan's investment and organizing in the Supreme Court case regarding affirmative action. My inquiries about ethnic studies and humanities eventually guided me to the program in American Culture. Once I visited the campus and met with the welcoming and down-to-earth faculty, staff and graduate students in AC, I felt Michigan was the right place to continue my studies.



Eric Morales with daughter, Harmony

My graduate life has been very exciting. I have been a GSI for various introductory courses and AC 301 History and Literature of the Rocky Mountains at Camp Davis in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I have also co-chaired the American History Workshop and worked with LIFEacademy, a learning enrichment program for Michigan youth. My primary research is in Latina/o Studies with an interest in the commodification of culture, the re-imaginings of zoot suits and the history/usage of machismo in America. I am also blessed to have my wife Hannah here with our seven month old daughter Harmony.

## Sam Erman

I am a sixth-year graduate student at the University of Michigan pursuing a joint J.D. and Ph.D. in American Culture. I originally came to the Program in American Culture as a former English major hoping to become a legal historian. As such, I needed a program with an unusual mix of strengths: excellent historians and a strong relationship with a history department, a commitment to research that crossed disciplinary lines, and openness to the dual institutional affiliations that I proposed to maintain. American Culture fit the bill to a tee, and I was thrilled when they offered me the opportunity to enroll.

My parents, by the way, were thrilled too; I was born in and raised in Ann Arbor where they still work and live. Since returning to Ann Arbor, the Program has helped me become a scholar, introducing me to smart, creative peers and giving me access to unparalleled training and mentorship. As a result, I am today writing my dissertation on struggles around U.S. citizenship involving Puerto Ricans between 1898 and 1917. My goals for the future are simple: with the continued help of the Program and my committee, I hope one day to finish my dissertation, preferably in the not-too-distant future.

Matt Stiffler



## Matt Stiffler

My primary research is on the intersections of culture, politics, and religion for Arab American Christians. I came to the U of M specifically to work with Prof. Nadine Naber and matriculate into the burgeoning Arab American Studies program. I knew American Culture at U of M was a top choice for my doctoral work way back when I was finishing my master's thesis on Mormon religion and culture at Utah State University in 2003.

Working with Prof. Naber and others in the Arab American Studies program, such as Profs. Andrew Shryock and Evelyn Alsultany, has afforded me many opportunities to present my research at conferences from Dearborn to Amman, Jordan. Currently, I am teamed up with Prof. Naber and Atef Said, a graduate student in Sociology, conducting interviews about the scriptural engagement of Arab Americans. The study is being directed by the Institute for Signifying Scriptures, a research center in the School of Religion at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. We are investigating how Arab American communities, both Muslim and Christian, engage with scripture.

### *Native American Studies*

In January NAS hosted a major symposium, "Keywords in Native American Studies." Twenty two scholars from outside the university flew in to join our own Native Studies faculty and several active members of the Asian American/Pacific Islander American Studies faculty to discuss some of the most critical and contentious words in the field: Colonialism, Knowledge, Sovereignty, Indigeneity, Blood, Tradition, Land, and Nation. Panelists included Vince Diaz, Jane Hill, Dale Turner, Alexandra Harmon, Robert Warrior, David Wilkins, Kim Tallbear, David Truer, Ofelia Zepeda, Wasiatawiyana, Jean O'Brien-Kehoe, Robert Porter, Angela Gonzales, Kehaulani Kauanui, Susan Krouse, Regna Darnell, Jennifer Denetdale, Brian Hosmer, Raymond Fogelson, Mishuana Goemann, Judy Kertész, Frederick Hoxie, Jacki Rand, and Audra Simpson. Held over three intense days, the conference revealed Native American Studies as at a critical moment in its development, as disciplinary and ethnic-studies approaches engage one another.

This year we have been joined by two new members. Professor Lincoln Faller, long a professor in the Department of English, whose interests have turned over the years toward the study of George Bent, a Cheyenne who witnessed a great deal of nineteenth century change, and whose correspondence shaped nineteenth century ethnography. Howard Kimewon, joins us as a Lecturer in the Ojibwe Language courses. Howard has experience in language immersion and interests in socio-linguistics. Already highly appreciated by our students, he is working with Meg Noori to make ours the most dynamic Ojibwe program in the country (apologies to many of our friends for boasting).

Our faculty remains active. Andrea Smith's second book, Native Americans and the Christian Right: the Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances, is just out with Duke University Press. Congratulations to Andy on this achievement! Greg Dowd's "Domestic, Dependent Nations: the Colonial Origins of a Paradox," appeared this term in Jean R. Soderlund and Catherine S. Parzynski, eds., Backcountry Crucibles: The Lehigh Valley from Settlement to Steel (Lehigh University Press, 2008), 125-157. Greg presented papers this term at the Organization of American Historians Meeting in New York (March 27-31), at Kalamazoo College (April 23), and he was the keynote speaker concluding the conference, "Prophetstown Revisited: A Summit on Early Native American Studies," at Purdue University (April 3-5, 2008)--Greg Dowd

### *Arab-American Studies*

During the Winter semester, three courses in Arab American Studies were being offered: "From Harems to Terrorists: Representing the Middle East in Hollywood Cinema," "Why Do They Hate Us?: Perspectives on 9/11," and "Arab American Literature." "Representing the Middle East in Hollywood Cinema" held a special event on April 7 in which documentary filmmaker Joan Mandell, independent filmmaker Rola Nashef, and multi

media artist Joe Namy presented their work. "Perspectives on 9/11" had two special guest lectures – one by Sunaina Maira (UC Davis) on the impact of 9/11 on South Asian Muslim Youth on January 29 and another by Neve Gordon (Ben Gurion University) on the Israeli occupation of Palestine on February 12. Four undergraduate students interned with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and plans are underway to offer internships at the Arab American National Museum in the fall. -Evelyn Alsultany and Nadine Naber

### *Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies*

Our students, at both the graduate and undergraduate level continue to be astonishingly active in academia and the community, and particularly in bringing the two together. Their presence on campus has been widely noted, not least due to a number of workshops and conferences they have organized. This past year also saw the inception of a regular monthly series of conversations and workshops that are jointly organized by the United Asian American Organization (the umbrella student group), A/PIA graduate students from across the campus, and A/PIA faculty. This series is overseen by an A/PIA Working Group, a new venue conceived to allow closer relations and better programming amongst the campus A/PIA community. This year we celebrate a number of important arrivals of very different kinds: the arrival of Eva, Vicente Diaz's new daughter; Henry, Susan Najita's new son; Ella, Matt Brione's new daughter; and Scott Kurashige's wonderful new book, The Shifting Grounds of Race: Black and Japanese Americans in the Making of Multiethnic Los Angeles (Princeton). With very heavy hearts we also prepare to part with our most treasured colleague, Prof. Philip Akutsu. We thank him for his extraordinary dedication and achievements, his deep commitment to our program, to his colleagues, his students, and his communities. We will miss him.

--Damon Salesa

### *Latina/o American Studies*

This year the Latina/o Studies Program saw the departure of its Director Catherine Benamou for a position at the University of California at Irvine. She will be greatly missed. Silvia Pedraza, Professor of Sociology, stepped in as interim Director. With new faculty and new courses, the Latina/o Studies Program continues to offer a rich array of 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 the Fall, in addition to the interdisciplinary gateway course AC213 Introduction to Latina/o Studies taught by Prof. Maria Cotera (AC and Women's Studies), Prof. Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof (AC and History) will offer AC 226 – The Latin Tinge where he experiments with multi-media lectures and podcasting to introduce the social history of key Latin musical styles, in the United States and Latin America. Our newly-hired Prof. Anthony Mora (AC and History) will add a great deal to the curriculum

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with his first-year seminar AC 103 – Mexicans in the US: Unity and Diversity, where he questions the meaning of a racialized Mexican identity and highlights the diversity of the Mexican-American community with respect to race, class, gender, and sexuality. Prof. Silvia Pedraza (Sociology) continues to teach her AC 304 – American Immigration, where she compares and contrasts the history of the “old” immigrants to the US (e.g., German, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Japanese, Mexicans) with the “new” immigrants (e.g., Koreans, Cambodians, Cubans, Asian Indians, Central and South Americans).

Our faculty make significant contributions to the interdisciplinary graduate curriculum in AC. With its newly-elected Director of Latina/o Studies for next year, Prof. Maria Cotera, the faculty plan on developing a graduate studies certificate that would be valuable for graduate students in other departments and programs interested in working with Latina/o populations.

Latina/o Studies continues to collaborate with other units to host special visits by performing artists, media makers, and scholars on topics of interest to our community during Hispanic Heritage Month and beyond. Most prominent among these this past year was the visit of the poet-artist-activist Cecilia Vicuña, hosted by Prof. Amy Carroll. In her one week in residence, Vicuña gave a keynote performance and two other lectures, while also visiting classes and participating in program discussions. Vicuña holds an MFA from the University of Chile, Santiago, and completed post-graduate study at the Slade School of Fine Arts in London, and went on to receive numerous honors, as she is well-known in literary and artistic circles. Her films and videos have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in NY and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Santiago, Chile, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid, Spain. Dwelling between cultures, Vicuña fuses the ancient tradition of wordplay from the pre-Columbian era with modern linguistics, to confront the contemporary realities of ecological disaster.

We are pleased to announce new books by our faculty. These publications 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. Prof. Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof is the author of *A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York After 1950*, just published by Princeton University Press; Prof. Maria Cotera will publish *Native Speakers: Ella Cara Deloria, Jovita González, Zora Neale Hurston and the Poetics of Culture*, with the University of Texas Press in the fall; and Prof. Silvia Pedraza just published *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus*, with Cambridge University Press, as part of its Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics series. Prof. Larry La Fountain-Stokes now has a book contract for his *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. At present, the high caliber of our faculty, their scholarship and the many interesting issues around which their work revolves has legitimated our enterprise in the academy. Together with our teaching initiatives, our publication record is certain to place our program at the forefront of Latina/o Studies programs in the United States

-Silvia Pedraza

## The Program in American Culture

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$150 \$300 \$500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

For the:

- Expendable-Pres Challenge Grad Support (312324)
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*Student News*

**Rachel Quinn** is heading to the Dominican Republic this May and June with funding from the Graduate Seminar on Global Transformations out of the International Institute. She will be in Santo Domingo talking with young women about racial identity formation. If anyone has contacts in the country or suggestions for resources or organizations in the capital that they would like to share, she would love to hear from you.

**John Low** passed his field exams in November and is ABD and just started as the Executive Director of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, Illinois, [www.mitchellmuseum.org](http://www.mitchellmuseum.org) where he hopes to continue working on issues of power, identity, memory, history and representation as he completes his dissertation.

**Jessi Gan, Kiara Vigil** and English PhD student Emma Garrett had their panel titled: "In & Out: Perversions of

Race and the U.S. Nation Building Project" accepted for inclusion in the National Women's Studies Association 2008 conference program: "Resisting Hegemonies: Race and Sexual Politics in Nation, Region, Empire" that will take place from June 19-22, 2008 at the Millennium Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Undergraduate Writing Awards*

Congratulations to **Helen Harding** for her paper entitled "Savage Yet Civilized, Primitive Yet Progressive: Indian Representation at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893" and **Xavier Segura** for his paper entitled "From Community to Commercial: The Popularization of Salsa", writing award winners for 2008!

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And if we did, might we not sing it in Ojibwe, as many of our undergraduate students could? This is because our program hosts a set of courses in the Ojibwe language, courses that

now flourish. Ojibwe is one of the first languages of Michigan. The courses began in the 1970's with Irving "Hap" McCue, who steadily taught them since. Early in March, our colleague Hap unexpectedly "walked on." I noticed many AC faculty at his memorial service and at the celebration of his life that followed in the Trotter house. Born in 1933, Hap grew up during the Great Depression on the Curve Lake Reserve in Ontario, not far from Peterborough. He had a hard life, facing residential schools, searing poverty, and harsh racism. Another native speaker of an endangered language is gone. Hap spent some 33 years embodying the Ojibwe program, keeping it alive, helping to preserve the language. The program has renewed vigor and rigor under the guidance of Meg Noori and Howard Kimewon, and we are grateful to Hap for sustaining it for decades.



Greg Dowd

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