

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2011**

**TO OUR AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS,**

I warmly welcome you to a new academic year at Cal State Fullerton. Being your graduate advisor for the past two years has been a tremendously rewarding experience, and I look forward to working with you over the coming academic year. You've been receiving piecemeal messages from me throughout the summer, and this newsletter will provide overview of your many recent accomplishments and an opportunity for me to express my genuine appreciation for all that you've done individually and as a group. It will also give me a chance to point forward to MA program related events and opportunities.

My office hours this semester are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3 PM in UH-410. I'm eager to meet with graduate students during these hours, but I'm also happy to see you anytime later on during Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, at least until 5 PM. I'm also free for appointments on Monday, during much of the day and early evening if necessary. Email or phone for an appointment, providing a range of available dates and best times for you—especially after 3 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Mondays--and I'll reply with the earliest times and dates that work for both of us. Please feel free to contact me: by email at: [msteiner@fullerton.edu](mailto:msteiner@fullerton.edu); or by phone at 657-278-3640.

**Welcome to our new graduate students—the 2011 cohort:**

Eighteen new students were admitted to our MA program for Fall 2011; due to unexpected financial and family issues, three admitted students will defer their admission until Spring 2012. I truly enjoyed meeting all fifteen of the new students who are beginning this semester at our orientation on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and followed this up with socializing at a new by brewpub afterwards. They are a talented group who will add a lot to our already vibrant American Studies community at CSUF.

Eight students join us with undergraduate degrees from other universities. They are: **John Ciulik** (BA American Studies, Long Beach State, 2011); **Patrick Heyer** (BA Humanities, San Francisco State, 2008); **Sukeinah Kassir** (BA Literary Journalism, UC Irvine, 2006; BA African American Studies, UC Irvine, 2009); **Jedediah Kuhn** (BA Applied Studies in English and Art, Northwest Nazarene College, Idaho, 2005); **Casey Ratto** (BA American Studies UC Santa Cruz, 2010); **Lorena Romero** (BA Chicano and Latin American Studies and Political Science, Long Beach State, 2011); **Diann Rozsa** (BA Political Science, CSU Channel Islands, 2011); and **Gregory Rozsa** (BA Economics, UC Santa Barbara, 1991; MA Humanities, CSU Dominguez Hills, current).

Seven new graduate students have undergraduate degrees from Cal State Fullerton. They are: **Nick Catt** (BA American Studies CSUF, 2011); **David Donley** (BA American Studies and Philosophy, CSUF, 2011); **Lisa Dresback** (BA Liberal Studies; American Studies minor, CSUF, 2011); **Monica Duboski** (BA American Studies and Ethnic Studies CSUF, 2010); **Joseph Meyer** (BA American Studies and History CSUF 2008); **Walter Santizo** (BA American Studies and Chicano Studies CSUF, 2009); **Jose Zamora** (BA Chicano Studies and Afro-Ethnic Studies, CSUF 2011.)

Three students new students are deferring their admission until Spring, 2012 are: **Alejandra Baltazar** (BA Liberal Studies, Cal State LA, 2010); **Paul Betancourt** (BA American Studies and English (CSUF, 2010); and **Courtney Brown** (BA Music/Ethnic Studies/English, Albion College, Michigan, 2007).

***Our New Graduate Students, Fall 2011***



***American Studies 2011 MA Cohort***

**Bottom row, left to right:** David Donley, Jose Zamora

**Second row, left to right:** Sukeinah Kassir, Lorena Romero, Greg Rozsa, Diann Rozsa, Lisa Dresback, Monica Duboski. Yuhi Miyazato (from the 2010 cohort).

**Second row:** Casey Ratto, Jed Kuhn, John Ciulik, Walter Santizo, Nick Catt, Joseph Meyer, Patrick Heyer.

**Not pictured:** Paul Betancourt, Courtney Brown, Alejandra Baltazar

***This is a talented cohort. Along with the rest of my colleagues, welcome to our American Studies community and to your careers as American Scholars, in best Emersonian sense of the term.***

***Congratulations to our Spring 2011 MA graduates:***

A large and memorable group of eighteen students completed their MA degrees and graduated this spring. Sixteen did comprehensive exams, while two did MA theses. Congratulations and best wishes to: **Heather Agnew, Heather Andrews, Christina Barbieri, Juliana Barone, Teresa Garcia, Amelia Herring, Nate Horton, Julia Junn, Andrew Lopez, Richard Morales, Stacy Moultry, Steven Ngo, Jessica Ordaz, Rahima Schwenkbeck, Joy Shannon, Emily Starr, Alin Vanciu, and Caitlin Wheeler.**

**Many of Our Spring 2011 Graduates, right before the graduation ceremony, May 22, 2011**



**Bottom row:** Juliana Barone, Teresa Garcia, Emily Starr.

**Tom row:** Stacy Moultry, Heather Agnew, Jessica Ordaz, Caitlin Wheeler, Steven Walters, Christina Barbieri, Steven Ngo, Heather Andrews, Nate Horton.



**Graduation Speakers:** Allison Paige Anderson (undergrad speaker), Rahima Schwenbeck (grad speaker) and Michael Steiner (faculty speaker).

**Moving on to PhD Programs, the Peace Corps, and a Book Publication:**

Four of our recent graduates have moved on to doctoral programs, and one is entering the Peace Corps. The people entering doctoral programs are: **Josh Legere**, who received a fellowship and TA duties in the PhD program in Geography at UC Davis; entering the PhD program in **Stacy Moultry** who accepted a multi-year fellowship in the PhD program in American Studies at the University of Iowa; **Rahima Schwenkbeck** who accepted a five year package and TA duties in the American Studies Program at George Washington University; and **Emily Starr** who received a fellowship in the PhD program in Sociology at Tulane University. **Teresa Garcia** will be living and teaching in Jordan for the next two years as a Peace Corps volunteer. **Joy Shannon's** recently completed MA thesis, "**The First Countercultural Celebrity: Oscar Wilde's 1882 North American Tour,**" will soon be published by Plain and Simple Books, North Bend, Oregon.

**American Quarterly Internships at USC:**

Following our tradition of placing interns every semester with the ***American Quarterly*** at USC, **Patrick Covert** and **Jason Ward** did their internships there this past 2011; **Corrigan Edmondson** and **Melissa Hoon** have just begin their ***AQ*** internships for Fall, 2011. **Two positions are open for Spring 2012.** I encourage interested students, especially those who have been in our program for several semesters, to contact me about this. Keep your eyes open for announcements about ***American Quarterly*** Internships for spring, summer, and Fall 2012.

**The Earl James Weaver Graduate Paper Prize for 2010-2011 and the 2011 Sekhon Award:**

The Weaver Prize Committee is pleased to announce the winner of this year's competition for the best paper submitted by a graduate student. This Committee included Professors Leila Zenderland, John Ibson, and Carrie Lane. This year's competition was very close, for an unusually large number of outstanding papers were submitted for consideration.

The Committee awarded the 2011 Weaver Prize, with its honorarium of \$250, to **Patrick Covert** for his paper entitled "**Politicizing your Mailbox: Extracting Motivation from Bob Mizer's Physique Pictorial.**" Honorable Mention in this competition is awarded to **John Carlos Marquez** for his paper entitled "**Jazz Out West: Dance Halls, Musical Migrations, and the Cultural Landscape of Los Angeles.**" Both papers will be published in this year's ***American Papers***. I'll keep you informed about criteria and deadlines for the Weaver Prize; I'll also pass along details about opportunities for publication and editorial experience with ***The American Papers***.

The Graduate Committee (Professors Steiner, Ball, and Lewinnek) is pleased to announce that **Jose Zamora** is this year's winner of the ***Margarete Liebe Sekhon Scholarship***, a \$1000 prize given to one member of every MA cohort in recognition of scholarly achievement and financial need. We heartily congratulate Jose for this well deserved honor.

**Spring 2011 CASA Conference Papers Given:**

We are extremely proud of the many papers our MA students delivered at local, regional, and national conferences last spring. Once again, our MA students were a dominant presence at the annual California American Studies Association (CASA) meeting at held at CSU Fullerton in early May. Two of our MA alumni—**Jonathan Cummins** and **Beth Kronbeck**-- and at least twelve of our current students gave papers. They included: **Yvonne England**, **Morten Kristensen**, **Bridget Kominek**, **Heather Andrews**, **Jessica Ordaz**, **John Carlos Marquez**, **Patrick Covert**, **Amy Kremer**, **Teresa Garcia**, **Rahima Schwenkbeck**, **David Donley**, and **Lisa Dresback**.

**Warm Congratulations to Our Campus and System-Wide Award Winners:**

Many of our MA students have won College and University awards over the past year, and among them, at least five stand out. Our department is, first of all, immensely proud of **Rahima Schweknbeck** who won the **President's Associates Outstanding Graduate Student Award for 2011**. Now working toward her PhD at George Washington University, Rahima left a remarkable legacy of achievement in her two years in our MA program. For details about her honor and many accomplishments, see the following link to an article: [Grad School Bound](#)

We are also extremely proud of four recent CSU system wide award winners. **Keith Kottenbach** was one of only six students from the Fullerton campus to receive a prestigious Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Scholarship. **John Marquez** earned an Honorable Mention for this award, and both students will receive financial support in their applications for PhD programs this year. We are also extremely honored that **Steve Estrada** and **Walter Santizo** recently received Graduate Equity Fellowships for 2011-2012. I know that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Rahima, Keith, John, Steve, and Walter for their impressive achievements.

**Rich Morales**, last year's winner of Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral, just finished an 8-week internship at Boston University as a research assistant for Professor Victor Coelho who is writing/editing a history of Renaissance instrumental music as well as ***The Cambridge Companion to the Rolling Stones***. Rich will be applying for doctoral programs this Fall.

**Graduate/Faculty Colloquium: Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

Continuing our long-standing tradition, the Graduate Faculty Colloquium will be ***Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>*** at 7 PM. Lucy and I are happy to host the event at our house at 3806 Rosehedge Drive in Fullerton, and the department is extremely pleased that **Professor Adam Golub** will be presenting a talk about some of his recent research. **His talk, "John Dewey vs. The Terrible Miss Dove: Education and Popular Culture in Postwar America,"** will discuss, among other things, the larger cultural significance of a southern-based literary and educational controversy in the 1950s.

The colloquium begins at 7 PM, allowing time for socializing with snacks and beverages (provided by the department) before the 45-minute research presentation begins at 7:30. After a brief break for coffee and dessert, we regroup for informal discussion and question fielding until around 10 PM or a bit later. This event is for you—a chance to be part of the CSUF American Studies community beyond the classroom. I will send out final details—including a flier and further details about Professor Golub's talk, and directions to our house—within a month or so. Along with the rest of my colleagues, I look forward to seeing you all at this important event.

**Los Angeles Walking Tour, Saturday, November 5:**

I'll be leading a day-long walking tour of down town Los Angeles on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. I've been doing versions of this for many decades, and I welcome grad students, undergrads, faculty, and alumni to be part of it. We gather at the Fullerton AMTRAK station at 8:30 or so to catch a 9 AM train and return to Fullerton by 4 PM. I'll send out details as the day approaches.

### **Some Conference and Workshop Opportunities:**

The **California Council for the Promotion of History** is hosting its annual conference at the Mission Inn in Riverside on October 20-22, and **stipends of up to \$350 are available** for graduate students to participate in this event. For further information about the CCPH conference and application procedure, see the follow link: [www.ccpghistoryaction.org#12B70F](http://www.ccpghistoryaction.org#12B70F)

**The Los Angeles History and Metro Studies research group** based at the Huntington Library in San Marino is continuing its series of workshops beginning in early October. Interested graduate students should consult the following link about these workshops: [ICW's L.A. History/Metro#12BA5A](http://ICW's L.A. History/Metro#12BA5A)

### **Professor Carrie Lane's Book Talk on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5PM in Humanities 112**

On September 21st at 5PM our American Studies colleague, Professor Carrie Lane will give a presentation on her newly published book, ***A Company of One: Insecurity, Independence, and the New World of White-Collar Unemployment*** in Humanities 112. Recognizing her achievement in this widely acclaimed book, **Professor Lane has just received the College of Humanities and Social Science's Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Creativity**. All interested students and faculty are invited to hear Professor Lane discuss her evocative and highly relevant book. As described by Cornell University Press, "In the American economy's boom-and-bust business cycle since the 1980s, repeated layoffs have become part of working life. In ***A Company of One***, Carrie M. Lane finds that the new culture of corporate employment, changes to the job search process, and dual-income marriage have reshaped how today's skilled workers view unemployment. Through interviews with seventy-five unemployed and underemployed high-tech white-collar workers in the Dallas area over the course of the 2000s, Lane shows that they have embraced a new definition of employment in which all jobs are temporary and all workers are, or should be, independent "companies of one.""

### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND REMINDERS:**

#### **AMST 596 TEACHING TUTORIAL:**

If you are available for and interested in future enrollment (Spring, 2012) in AMST 596 (teaching assistant and training for graduate credit which fulfills your 3 unit "alternative skill" requirement), please contact me when the Spring 2012 class schedule comes out—*well ahead of your actual early registration window*—so I can help you find the most appropriate match.

#### **AMERICAN QUARTERLY INTERNSHIPS:**

As mentioned earlier, two internships at the **AQ** office at the University of Southern California remain available for Spring 2012. I'll send out an email in the near future describing the application criteria and qualifications. I will also emphasize future openings for Summer and Fall 2012.

#### **GET CLASSIFIED:**

You are not a Classified Graduate Student until you have filed a study plan with the university through your graduate adviser. **If you have completed or are close to completing your first fifteen units of coursework as a graduate student and you have not already filed a tentative study plan for your required 30 units of coursework, you need to make an appointment to see me to fill out a study plan.** The study plan is not an irreversible contract but it is a required agreement that will help determine your course of study as well as identify the three faculty who will work with you as committee members in preparation for your comprehensive examination or thesis.

### **GRAD CHECK REMINDER:**

When you begin **your final year of study**, you must file for a graduation check through the Graduate Studies office, MH-112. Students who plan to graduate in Spring or Summer 2012 must file by January 2012. Fall 2012 graduates should have already filed by now; if not please contact me as soon as possible.

Here's how you apply for a grad check. Students apply online through the **Student Portal**. Once a student has logged in to the **Student Portal**, they will enter **Titan Online** and then their **Student Center**. Once they have entered their **Student Center**, they need to locate the **drop down menu on the left that reads "Other Academic."** Activate the drop-down menu, **select "Apply for Graduation"**, **click the >> icon and follow the remaining instructions. The Grad Check fee is still \$115, and students must pay the University Cashier (UH-180) within five business days."**

### **MYSTERIES OF GRAD STUDIES- 700, ONCE AGAIN:**

If you have finished the required coursework for your study plan, including enrolling in either AMST 599 (Exam Preparation) or AMST 598 (Thesis) and have received an open "RP" grade report for these courses (and if you are not enrolling in any further classes) **you must still register for GS 700 to maintain continuous enrollment with the University each semester** (except Summer) while preparing for the comprehensive exam or writing your thesis. **If you do not maintain continuous enrollment every semester the university will drop you from graduate study and you will have to reapply.** If you need to enroll in GS700 for Spring 2012 or future semesters, you can do this through:

**1. Regular registration (see GS700 listed in class schedule) but you will have to pay full fees.** By paying full fees for regular registration in GS700, you retain "active enrollment" status, which allows you to keep library and health center access, and will allow you to accept on campus employment as a grad assistant and to seek ICC funding for conference travel. All regular enrollment procedures and deadlines apply for active enrollment GS700. If you have had to reapply for admission to the grad program, you are required to take this more expensive option.

or

**2. You can do this through GS700 Waiver (continuous enrollment, waiving active enrollment benefits) for a reduced fee around of \$250 total** (Caveat: the lower cost means losing health center and student activities benefits as well as on-campus graduate assistant employment possibilities.)

**The registration deadline for the GS 700 WAIVER this semester is in mid September.** The GS 700 WAIVER forms are available online at <http://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/> (where you can click on "Graduate Forms") and in MH 103 (Grad Studies Office). The GS700 WAIVER requires the filing of a graduation check request (or updating/changing graduation date) *as well as my signature*. If you have finished your coursework and have an "RP" grade for either AMST 599 (exam prep) or AMST 598 (thesis) see me as soon as possible to sign your GS700 Waiver Form for Fall 2011.

### **MEETING FINAL REQUIREMENTS:**

If you are completing an **MA Thesis for Fall 2011 graduation (technically January 2012)**, the thesis **must be signed off by your committee and delivered to the Graduate Studies office (MH-103) by Friday November 18th. The university thesis reader will then go over your manuscript for possible revisions, and the final version must be deposited in the campus bookstore no later than Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.** For those interested in the details and technicalities of thesis writing, an updated Thesis Manual is available for you at the Graduate Studies Office, McCarthy Hall 103

If you are taking the **AMST Master's Comprehensive Exam for Fall 2011 graduation (technically January 2012)**, you must **begin no later than Friday December 2nd and complete by Tuesday, December 6th at the very latest to allow time for evaluation by your committee, due to me no later**

**than 3 PM on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** (so that I can file a completion memo on your behalf with Graduate Studies before the 5 PM that day).

**\*Be sure to talk over and schedule your dates with your committee chair**

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I'm looking forward to working with you throughout the coming academic year. I'll keep you informed about approaching student association events and stress again the upcoming **Graduate Faculty Colloquium on November 12th**. I hope to see you at this and other events. As always, I am extremely happy to meet with you as the semester develops. Please feel free to set up an appointment with me or simply stop by during my office hours. Welcome back to a new semester at in the American Studies community at Cal State Fullerton. Wishing all of you all the best,

Mike