

## Faculty Scholarship and Presentations:

Jesse Benjamin will chair a panel on Palestine and African Americans at the American Historical Association (Atlanta, January 2016).

May Gao is invited to give a featured speech at the 6th World Forum on China Studies, organized by Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences in Shanghai (November 2015). She will also be a respondent on a panel at the Association of Asian Studies (Seattle, March 2016).

Rebecca Hill has been appointed to the American Studies Association (ASA) task force on American Studies in Higher Education. She will participate in two panels at the ASA Conference in Toronto. The first is called "What is This Thing Called Interdisciplinarity?" which is sponsored by the committee on departments, programs and centers. The second is "Countering the State: Misery, Surveillance, and Narratives of Resistance." She has also been chosen to present her paper entitled, "Fascist Structures, Fascist Minds: How Theories of Fascist Bureaucracy and Psychology Have Transformed Our Understanding of Democracy" at the Global Forum for Racial Solidarity in Berlin. This conference is organized by the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation.

Robbie Lieberman will chair a panel at the American Historical Association on "The Whole World is Mobilizing: Global Dimensions of Peace and Antiwar Activism Around the Vietnam War" (Atlanta, January 2016).

Tom Pynn is presenting a paper called "What Just War Traditions Can Learn From Jainism" at the Peace History Society Conference in October (Hartford, CT). Pynn was invited to give the opening address at the first ever Student Leadership Conference at the Papua New Guinea Institute for Technology.

Ernesto Silva will present "Hollywood Latino: El Caso de Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu" at the XVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispana in Merida, Mexico (March 2016).

Seneca Vaught will give a paper at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, "Post-Brown to 'Post-Racial Era': Black Teachers and the Segregation of the American Mind" (Atlanta). He also had a paper accepted by the Society for the History of Technology, "The House that Slaves Built: African Labor and the Technopolitics of Tabby Construction."

Kathryn Walkiewicz is giving a paper, "From Muskogee to Marti: Indian Territory and the Spanish-American War," at the American Studies Association in November (Toronto, ON).

Trina Queen and Jan Potter published *Social Issues: Perspectives in Science and Technology*, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company (2015).

## Program News

**AADS** has a new coordinator, Dr. Griselda Thomas, who now has an office in ISD. (SO 2014).

**LALS** is now being led by Dr. Alan LeBaron, who directs the Maya Heritage Project. His office is also located in ISD (SO 2012).

**RELS** is revising the minor to feature a number of proposed new courses: Religion and Gender, Religion and Popular Culture and Ethical Issues in Religion.

**PAX** The Peace Studies minor is being revised with new proposed courses: Peace & Justice, Theories of Peace, Peacebuilding Methods and Peace & the Environment.

**AMST** The program has monthly discussions planned for fall around themes or topics chosen by the faculty. ISD faculty members and anyone interested in learning more about American Studies are welcome to attend. This semester's topics are:

**Sept. 10-3:30 pm:** American Studies Association "geek out" discussion. We'll look at the ASA program and use it as a jumping off point to talk about the "State of the Field" in American Studies. With snacks!

**Oct. 15-3:30 pm:** "Best class I ever taught"/"Worst mistake I ever made" at Mellow Mushroom. We'll laugh, we'll cry, and we'll have a good time and learn a lot.

**Nov. 12 (TBA):** We'll take a trip to the Marietta campus to hear Kyle T. Mays talk about indigenous hip hop, a part of Indigenous Peoples' History Month.

**ASIA** Along with ISD, the Asian Studies Program will be a university sponsor of the Atlanta Asian Film Festival, which takes place Oct. 9-24. The program has proposed a number of new courses, including Teaching English in Asia and Tea Cultures.

**GWST** has just launched an undergraduate certificate on Gender and the Workplace and is developing a graduate certificate that will be fully online and available nationally. The GWST Program will host the annual conference of the Southeast Women's Studies Association in March 2017.

**STS** Our new general education class in Science, Technology and Society is attracting large numbers of students. Each section focuses on one particular topic such as Science and Fiction, Space and the American Imagination, or Medical Ethics.

## Mark Your Calendars for Fall 2015!

### SEPTEMBER:

11 - ISD Retreat - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the CETL House, 9-noon is all affiliates, part-time faculty, plus DFMs. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. is for DFMs.

### OCTOBER:

28-30: International Summit for Civil and Human Rights, sponsored by the Center for African & African Diaspora Studies. (ISD is one of several co-sponsors.)

29-11/5 - GWST Focus Week: Gender, Work, & the Workplace in Local and Global Contexts.

### NOVEMBER:

*Indigenous Peoples' History Month*

1 - Stone Mountain Indian Festival and Pow-Wow (ticket discount and travel accommodations available. Email [ewells7@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ewells7@kennesaw.edu))

5 - Keynote Lecture: LeAnne Howe Prillaman Hall Plaza, 4:00-5:30 pm

17 - Chat 'n Chew: Kyle Mays, Student Center Faculty and Staff Lounge, 2:00pm

19 - Indigenous Hip Hop: Kyle Mays Marietta Campus, Time and Location TBD



*Sponsors: Multicultural Student Retention Services, the Department of English, the Department of Geography and Anthropology, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Bentley Rare Book Gallery.*

ISD ...where ideas and identities connect



<http://kennesaw.edu/isd>

Interdisciplinary Studies Department

Fall 2015

## ISD Chair's Message

### What's New in ISD?

Enrollments continue to climb. Our department has 1,800 students in classes this fall, and we are beginning to offer some courses on the Marietta campus. New courses coming in the spring semester include Love, Sex and Hip Hop, International Issues in Science and Technology; and Feminism and Disability Studies, among others. The major in Asian Studies should also be available by spring. More information will be available on our website, which is acquiring a new look come October: <http://isd.hss.kennesaw.edu/>

Two members of the ISD family were honored at the opening of the university. The Teaching Excellence Award for part time faculty in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences went to Regina Bradley. Regina told us that the opportunity to teach in ISD helped her land her current tenure track position at another institution. The Foundation's university-wide award for being the Outstanding Advocate for Diversity went to Dr. Ernesto Silva. It was great to see them recognized for contributing to KSU as they pursue their passions.

We have several new people in ISD this year. Ariel Eisenberg joins us as an assistant professor, jointly appointed with History, with expertise in gender, homelessness, and disability studies. Ashley McFarland, a graduate of our Master's in American Studies program, is our new administrative specialist (see her bio on pg. 3). She has been busily recruiting students to our programs and courses. We also have a number of new part time faculty—more about them elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year will feature some exciting events: Our annual Gender and Women's Studies (GWST) focus week (Oct. 29-Nov.5) will concentrate on gender and the workplace. Be on the lookout for specifics. In the spring, Pathways to Peace—which Peace Studies coordinator Tom Pynn helps organize--will feature environmental activist Winona LaDuke. A new course on peace and the environment is coming soon. KSU will also have a visit from the Director of the Peace Corps this spring, perfectly timed as we will be launching the new undergraduate Peace Corps Prep program next semester.

This newsletter features our part time faculty, on whom we depend to help offer our courses, especially in general education. But they also help develop curriculum and offer other courses as well. For instance, Rebecca Robinson will teach the introductory course for our certificate on Diversity and Community Engagement in Spring 2016 (ISD 2001, Introduction to Diversity and Social Justice), and Lizzie Venell is creating a course on Feminist Science Studies. Many of our part time faculty are active in the life of the department, contributing in many less visible ways. We are so appreciative of the work that they do.

## Student & Alumni Engagement



**Kevin Amaya**, a LALS student, spent the summer in Washington, D.C., as an intern at the Office on Latin America. He gained insight into the making of U.S. policy toward Latin America and conducted research to support the office's advocacy of human rights in the Americas. His favorite experiences included sitting in meetings with policymakers on Capitol Hill and witnessing the opening of the Cuban embassy in Washington. Kevin is a staff writer for *The Sentinel*; see his recent article "Debunking Donald."

**Yen Rodriguez**, an alumnus of the Master's in American Studies program, was the 2015 Convocation and Ignition Speaker.

## New Faculty: Ari Eisenberg



Ariel received a B.A. in History from Barnard College and an M.A. and PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ari's interests have always been strongly interdisciplinary, and she is thrilled to have a home in both the History & Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies Departments. Ari's research and teaching interests include the history of women, gender, and sexuality, the history of cities, LGBTQIA studies, disability studies, and the study of place, space and geography.

*Robbie Lieberman*

## ISD Celebrates our Part-Time Faculty



**Lauren Alford** - Hello! I am in my second year as a part-time faculty member of ISD, teaching Love & Sex and Intro. to Gender Studies. A native Atlantan, I completed my undergraduate degree program at Auburn and my graduate degree program at Georgia State, while also attending two summer semesters as a transient student at Kennesaw State. In my spare time, I enjoy playing tennis and also manage a custom perfume company in Buckhead. I look forward to an enriching fall semester at KSU as our community continues to grow.

**Mark Bryce** - received his BS from KSU and received his Juris Doctor from Georgia State University. He currently practices Family Law at J. Abernathy and Associates in Marietta, Georgia. His interests are wide ranging, and include the status of corporal punishment under international law, heterodox economic theory, and Black people and the Law.



**Jayme Canty** - found herself in the world of academia studying women of color. Ms. Canty, a native of North Carolina, graduated summa cum laude in 2006 from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T) in Greensboro, where she received her Bachelor in Arts degree in Political Science. She has a Master's degree in Africana Women's Studies from Clark Atlanta University. For her thesis, she conducted a case study of black women who participated in the Atlanta University Student Movement Protest in 1960 to determine how black maternal figures "passed down" this notion of activism. Currently, she is a Ph.D candidate in the department of Humanities concentrations in Africana Women's Studies and Political Science at Clark Atlanta. Her current research focuses on external factors that contribute to health disparities among African American lesbians and women in the American South.

**M. Tod Edgerton** - Tod "The Bod" Edgerton, as he was affectionately (yet oh-so ironically) known at Lafayette High School in Lexington, KY, holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Brown University and a PhD in English and Creative Writing from the UGA. His first book of poetry, *Vitreous Hide*, is available from Lavender Ink Press. Apart from reading and writing poetry, mixed genre works, and cultural criticism, he is a contemporary art lover, an opera fan, a once-upon-a-time would-be lay Lacanian psychoanalyst, and a karaoke superstar of cosmic proportions (in his own little universe). A change IS gonna come!



Greetings! My name is **Mazida Khan** and I teach for the Peace Studies Program at ISD. I am incredibly passionate about helping students transform their peace ideas from inspiration to action in their everyday lives and the world around them. In training students on how to engage in peacebuilding initiatives, my mottos are to 'Think big, start small' and 'Before going global, to think and act local'. I believe in teaching and building world peace, one relationship at a time.

**Dr. Toni Sims Muhammad** joins IDS this Fall with over 20 years of higher education experience. She has an interdisciplinary background that includes African & African American Studies, Sociology and Humanities. She has held faculty positions at the University of Louisiana and recently Salem College and Guilford College North Carolina.



**Nmadili Okwumabua** - A built environment enthusiast and urban designer at heart, I have always been intrigued by the ways in which people express themselves culturally in their homes and communities. My passion is about creating new architectural languages for Africa's emerging urban and rural landscapes, which is wonderfully documented on [cpdiafrica.org](http://cpdiafrica.org). My first life was all about travel and research; my second life focuses on sharing the amazing knowledge and experiences gained with my students! The Interdisciplinary Studies Department at KSU is an awesome place to continue learning and sharing with gifted scholars and faculty, and I am certainly glad to be part of the team!



**Dr. Robert Yaw Owusu** is a part-time professor at Morehouse College and Kennesaw State. Robert received his Ph.D. in Church-State Studies from Baylor University in 2003 after receiving his two Master's degrees in Religion and Theology from Boston University and Emory University respectively. Dr. Owusu is the senior pastor of Amazing Grace Baptist Church of Atlanta and immediate past president of the Ghanaian Ministers Association of Georgia. He is the author of *Kwame Nkrumah's Liberation Thought: A Paradigm for Religious Advocate in Contemporary Ghana* published by Africa World Press (2006), co-author of *Exploration of World Religions*, Kendall Hunt (January 2015), and has published articles and book reviews.



**Jan Potter** - Teacher, facilitator, adjudicator, trainer, health educator, and writer. I teach a class I designed called "Science and Fiction" and an online course on medicine and health. I also mentor a group out of Sewanee on the Old and New Testament. I have co-authored several history study guides and one math study guide (poor students). I recently completed a textbook for my class called "Social Issues: Perspectives in Science and Technology." Operators are standing by. My hobby is photography and I like sunsets, long walks on the beach and ice cream.



**Rebecca Robinson** - I received my doctorate in Justice Studies from the School of Social Transformation (SST) at Arizona State University in 2014. Similar to ISD here at Kennesaw State, SST was dedicated to interdisciplinary studies so I was thrilled to find a department so closely aligned with where I grew up academically. My research examines the collective actions of Muslim women in the Middle East and North Africa and Western countries, which is theoretically grounded in media studies, women and gender studies, postcolonial critiques, and sociological engagement with social movements, and veers toward anthropological methods. I hope to have lively cross-disciplinary discussions in the classroom and develop innovative collaborations.

**Elizabeth Venell** - I have a PhD in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Emory University, and I'm currently teaching Queer Theory and Sexuality for the GWST program. I'm also a participant in the Build a Web Course program this fall, so I'm working on my online teaching certification while designing a course in Feminist Science Studies for the department. During long weekends and university breaks, I'm building a mobile, micro living structure, commonly called a "tiny house on wheels." I look forward to living in 120 square feet next year!

*Additional part-time faculty include: Siobhan Cooke, Wendell McMurrain, Kristin Petersen, and Jessica Pierce.*

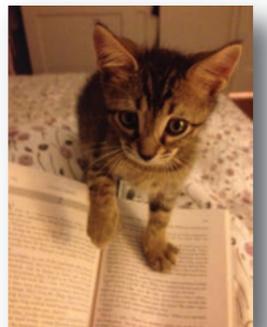
**Mandy McGrew**: I am the Faculty Fellow for Part-Time Faculty Support at CETL and I teach American Identities in ISD. This semester my class is touching on fandoms and identity, which has been really fun so far. It has allowed me to introduce students to big ideas like stereotypes and othering in a non-controversial way before asking them to apply these concepts in discussions about issues like gender and race later in the semester. My job at CETL is to provide faculty development opportunities about teaching and learning to part-time faculty. I will be providing workshops throughout the semester and am also available for one-on-one consultations. I love to talk about teaching and innovative new ways to engage students, so feel free to stop by my office in the CETL house to chat!

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*The Center for Excellence*  
*In Teaching & Learning*  
*House 54*



### Introducing our newest ISD/MA in American Studies Staff and Part-Time Faculty Member for GWST: Ashley McFarland!

Greetings! I am joining ISD as a new Part-Time Instructor for Gender and Women's Studies in addition to my new role as the Administrative Specialist for the MA Program in American Studies. Over the summer I defended my thesis, entitled "Cooking and Eating the Other: Contemporary Representations of Domestic Workers in Popular Media," and graduated from the MAST program. This semester I am teaching a section of GWST 1102: Love and Sex, focusing on gender and public policy in the U.S., with a special emphasis on women and work. My two favorite areas of research focus on gender/race/class/nationality and low wage workers, and current radical feminist activism. In my spare time, I hoard animals and practice the ukulele.



Frankie, Ashley's new kitten!