MAST Alumni Updates

Stefanos Milkidis, '17, has accepted a fully funded offer to begin a Ph.D. in the prestigious American & New England Studies program at Boston University. The program is highly selective, admitting no more than 5 students per year out of over one hundred applications. Milkidis also recently published an article at UCLA’s Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies.

Yen Rodriguez, '15, has been accepted into Vanderbilt University’s Ed.D program in Organizational Leadership. He will begin classes this May.

Kristen Walker, '17, accepted a new position at the Atlanta History Center as Manager of Youth Programs.

Faculty Spotlight:
Dr. Na-Rae Kim

Since joining KSU’s English and Interdisciplinary Studies Departments in 2016, Dr. Na-Rae Kim has taught classes in Asian Studies, Asian American Literature, and World Literature. Apart from her regular courses, she also has plans for two future classes on the impact of the Korean War on Korean and Korean diasporic aesthetics; and on how Asian American artists mobilize unreliable narrators to express their racial experience while resisting neoliberal consumption of their work. Her book project, Facing North Korea: Humanitarian Writing in a Global Age, contextualizes the changing discursive framework of North Korea in the lingering structures of the Cold War and unresolved Korean War in South Korea, North Korea, and the United States. To illustrate this point, she analyzes how cultural imaginations of North Korean people shift from seemingly incomprehensibly different people to potential future citizens in South Korea and the United States by examining literary and televsual representations, literary production history, North Korean defector narratives, newspaper and media coverage, and policy changes on both sides of the Pacific.

Summer 2018 Courses

AMST 7510: Passages to America, Monday/Wednesday, 5:00-7:45 PM, Dr. David King

AMST 7700: Practicum -- Internship or Applied Research Project

AMST 7900: Capstone Experience
MAST Representatives Present at SEWSA

Tanya Brinkley, Stephanie Craven, Elizabeth Hensley, and Nancy Reichert presented a panel, “Advocating, Performing, Teaching: Disability Activism and Responses to Ableism In and Outside of Academe” for the conference themed “Transformations,” in the Culture Track, during the Southeastern Women’s Studies Conference (SEWSA) at Clemson University, March 3, 2018.

These panel members all used auto-ethnography as method but used different methods of delivery. Tanya Brinkley explored relationality within a cartography of feminist theory and physical embodiment. Stephanie Craven used Live-Action Role Play (LARP) to construct the implementation of disability spaces not previously enacted in the Southern Organization for Live Re-enactments. Elizabeth Hensley taught disability studies, as pedagogical entry points, using Eli Clare’s, Exile and Pride and excerpts from Rosemary Garland Thompsons, Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature within her KSU American Identities undergraduate course instruction. Nancy Reichert located academic activism to examine ways conferences and expositions are activist spaces through the first 2016 KSU DiversAbility: Strategies and Awareness Expo, co-sponsored by the Presidential Commission on Disabilities, Strategies and Resources in coordination with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. The purpose of this expo was to connect, showcase and empower people of all abilities through conference sessions and exhibits.

They attended SEWSA 2018 with nine other KSU professors and students from KSU American Studies, the GWST program, and Human Services and Social Work Programs. They were also thrilled to attend with our very own MAST alumni and former ISD/MAST staff member, Ashley McFarland. Other KSU students and faculty present were Stacy Keltner, SEWSA President Elect, Letizia Guglielmo, KSU GWST Program Director, Cameron Greensmith, Jordan Hawthorn, Laine Magaletta, Andrea Petal, Dartricia Rollins, and Griselda Thomas.

SEWSA president-elect, Stacy Keltner, commented, “I hope that my term as President continues to strengthen our relationship to the organization, providing more visibility to our programs in ISD, offering new opportunities for our students, and forging connections with other scholars and students across the region.” She added that MAST students looking to fulfill the Practicum requirement are encouraged to apply for internships with SEWSA. Congratulations, everyone!

AMSTO Symposium a Success!

This year’s American Studies Student Organization (AMSTO) Symposium went off without a hitch on Wednesday, February 21, and this year was themed “Identities in America.” Three events comprised the day’s schedule, all of which were well attended. First, in the morning, the Research Panel Presentation, which was chaired by Dr. Robbie Lieberman, included talks from undergraduate students, graduate students, and KSU staff alike. Among those presenting were (pictured right to left) Savannah Findley, Jessica Fisher, Jacqueline Winters-Allen, and Dr. Jay Lavelle Ingram.

AMSTO kicked off the afternoon with a speedier lunch panel called Chat & Chew, which featured the research of various MAST grad students including, Elizabeth Hensley, Olivia Hopkins, Dr. Rebecca Hill, Ben Rogers, and Steven Gayle.

Finally, the last session of the day was co-hosted by Drs. Rudy Aguilar and Seneca Vaught in a more specialized session titled Black & Brown Collaboration. Thanks to all who attended and participated! Great work, AMSTO!