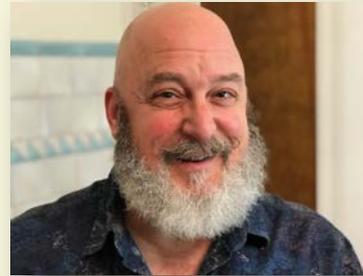


MAST Alumni Updates

Rob Hadaway, '15, presented at the Association of Midwest Museums Conference in Chicago last July. His session was based on his experience designing and curating an exhibit with the Fond du Lac Band of the Ojibwe people at the Duluth Children's Museum in Duluth Minnesota.



Stefanos Milkidis, '17, who has begun a PhD program in Human Geography in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the City University of New York, published "Queering the Classroom Space: Towards a More Inclusive Education" in *Inquirer*, a CUNY published journal for the Borough of Manhattan Community College last fall.



Ben Rogers, '18, accepted a full-time position as Office Manager in KSU's Writing Center last summer.



Summer 2019 Courses

AMST 7420/01: Hip Hop and Policy; Dr. Seneca Vaught; T/R
5:00-7:45pm



Spring 2019

In this issue:

Student Spotlight: Suzie McWhirter

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Rebecca Hill

Summer 2019 Courses

Application Deadlines for Admission:

Summer 2019
April 1

Fall 2019
July 1



MASTER OF ARTS AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Student Spotlight: Suzie McWhirter's Adventures in Foodways Studies



Inspired by her food movements class taught by Dr. Tom Okie, MAST student Suzie McWhirter attended an oral history workshop over the summer held at the Southern Foodways Alliance headquarters in the Barnard Observatory located on the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford. It was a week long intensive workshop on methods and approaches to oral history. In addition to basics in methods, the group learned about ethics & interpersonal relationships in oral history, interviewing strategies, how to use audio and video equipment, ways to conduct fieldwork, how to process and create digital exhibits with oral history content, and best practices. Additionally, McWhirter's paper on "Tomatoes in Southern Foodways" was accepted by the SFA and she presented it at the Food Studies Across The Disciplines SFA 2018 Graduate Conference last fall in Oxford, MS.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Hill Writes Featured Article in *American Studies Journal*



The article "Capital or the Capital? *The Hunger Games* Fandom and Neoliberal Populism," just published in *American Studies*, is a study of reader responses to the *Hunger Games* series of books and films. To analyze the views of fans, Dr. Rebecca Hill read hundreds of blogs and social media sites and interviewed fans of the *Hunger Games* at Dragon Con and at KSU. MAST grad students Stephanie Craven and Lynne Tipton did additional fan interviews while working as graduate assistants in 2014 and 2015, and Stephanie also helped by reading and copy-editing early drafts. This project connects back to some older work on reader response by American Studies scholar Janice Radway, whose 1984 book *Reading the Romance* is considered a classic. One of the reasons Dr. Hill is very happy to be in an American Studies program is that she has the freedom to do an interdisciplinary project like this one, which blends literary analysis with ethnographic techniques and perspectives. Prior to coming to KSU, Dr. Hill worked as an historian, and it might have been difficult to justify a project about contemporary culture. However, it's a perfect project for American Studies, and it also relates to a theme that she sees in all the work she does: intersections between social movements and popular culture. She's looking forward to continuing to expand her ethnographic research in a larger book project on political conflict in Science Fiction and fantasy fandom, which she's calling *Geek Wars*.

Welcome New Students!



Rhonda Baldonado holds an Associate's degree in Sociology from Georgia Highlands and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from KSU. She served in the U.S. Navy for ten years and later became president of a small family-run corporation. She was also a staff writer for a small subsidiary of the *Marietta Daily Journal*. She has three sons, five grandchildren, with another on the way, and she hopes to one day be a college professor.



Kacy Martin has a B.A. in Humanistic Psychology from University of West GA with a minor in visual arts and is a part-time climbing instructor at a local gym. She also volunteers with local climbing conservation organization, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, on trail building, trail maintenance, trash pick-up, and erosional control initiatives. Martin is passionate about female empowerment through outdoor recreation- specifically climbing- as well as bringing outdoor recreation to populations that traditionally would not have access to these activities.



Jordan Wilcox is a teacher in the Bartow County School system. She teaches fourth grade Language Arts at Emerson Elementary, but she has also taught three years of sixth grade English. Despite only having taught English and writing, Jordan's heart is in history. She is so excited to be starting her journey with the Master of Arts in American Studies program! When she is not teaching, she is reading or traveling. She is a Disney fanatic and uses her annual pass at least three times every year.