

Student Engagement

Students enrolled in the ENGL 3330/GWST 4040 Ecofeminism class, Latonya Burrell, Ashley Dawson, Ashley Hay, Chantal Matthews, and Scarlett Peterson--participated in the 2014 Peoples' Climate March in New York City. The event was organized by a coalition of nonprofit and citizen action groups, and more than 400,000 people attended. Additional marches took place worldwide.

"The most overwhelming aspect of the entire experience was gaining visual and first hand insight on how exactly the issue of environmental degradation affects people from all ends of the spectrum. Looking at this issue intersectionality has truly opened my eyes," said Ashley Dawson. She further described the scene at the march: "Young, old, wealthy, poor, Republican, anarchist, drag queens, Muslims, Hindus, Christians. Bangladesh, Micronesia, Barbados, Fukushima. Armed with an arsenal of blaring percussion tambourines, bongos, weird-looking things, bells, whistles, microphones, didgeridoos, and intellectual discharge. Lethal. Butterfly and honeybee wings, polar bear suits, sea creatures, skyscrapers, sparkly floaty puppets, meditation, anger, tears, chants, roars, hand holding, handcuffs, vibrations, stillness. Colors, colors, colors exploded diagonally from every direction dripping over the city, symphonic fireworks. Dreadlocks, bike locks, arms locked woven in barricade. Warriors. Afro samurai. Vegan Viking. Thrusting fists and picket signs pierced the sky, cries were heard. We made history!"



In December approximately fifty concerned students staged a "Die-In" in front of The Commons to highlight the recent court decision about Eric Garner and the on-going protests in Ferguson, Missouri. A video of the protest can be found at: <https://player.vimeo.com/116064729>. This is a part of an on-going discussion on campus about race, class and gender. Several ISD students helped organize and participate in these events to raise campus awareness.



The Gender & Women's Studies Program launched a domestic violence and abuse resource project that will engage students in their community by offering education and information. The project is co-advised by Stacy Keltner and Corinne McNamara. MAST student Ashley McFarland is completing her Practicum by focusing on teen dating violence. Carina Browder is completing an undergraduate research assistantship on the project.



The LUCES (Latinos United in Commitment to Education) Program held a banquet on December 5, 2014, at The Commons to celebrate the end of a successful first semester at KSU and the completion of their work in Learning Community #21: From Latin America with Love. The learning community offered two courses taught by ISD faculty Ernesto Silva and Seneca Vaught. All twenty-two students were in attendance, accompanied by family members. Other faculty in ISD, including Neysa Figueroa, Robbie Lieberman and Dan Paracka were there to welcome these first-year students and encourage them to think of ISD as a space for academic learning and personal development.

ISD ...where ideas and identities connect



Interdisciplinary Studies Department <http://kennesaw.edu/isd>

Spring 2015

ISD Chair's Message

ISD continues to grow. We now enroll nearly 2,500 students each semester. As consolidation with Southern Poly takes hold, we welcome a new lecturer, Trina Queen, and several part time faculty members (Michael Wade, Jan Potter, and Jessica Pierce) to ISD. This means we now feature yet another interdisciplinary focus, which is Science, Technology and Society. Julie Newell may join us as a department faculty member after this year (she is currently serving in an administrative position doing trouble-shooting and problem-solving during the early stages of consolidation). And we are in the midst of a search for a new joint appointee with History with a specialty in women and gender.

As you peruse this issue of our newsletter, please take note of the many exciting events we have planned for the spring semester. Among the highlights: our American Studies program is hosting the Southern American Studies Association meeting, with the timely theme of "Reconstruction: 2015 – 1965 – 1865," featuring Robin Kelley as one of the keynote speakers. The AADS conference keynote speaker is Kenyan writer Ngugoi Wa Thiong'o, Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California-Irvine. We are also delighted that GWST Focus Week will feature a talk by Dr. Michael Kimmel, a leading researcher and writer on men and masculinity, who holds the position of Distinguished professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University. His many books include *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*, *The Guy's Guide to Feminism*, and most recently *Angry White Men*.

This has been a great year for student engagement, in line with important national events and growing movements for social justice. Please read the stories about our students who attended the People's Climate March in New York City in September, as well as those who helped to organize a "die-in" on campus to call attention to the issue of police brutality in communities of color.

Look for upcoming changes in our curriculum. These include giving a course number to the "Year of" course, coordinated each year by Dan Paracka to educate our campus about a particular country or world region; revising several of our minors so that they are more consistent with each other; and working more closely with the Honors College to offer more ISD courses.

Last but not least, we owe a debt of thanks to Joe Thomas, Professor of Art History, who is serving as our Interim Assistant Chair this semester.

ISD programs continue to be sites for creative thinking, teaching, research, and engagement. We invite you to find out more about us by stopping in for a visit at our suite, SO 2005, and visiting our website: www.kennesaw.edu/isd

Robbie Lieberman

ISD Welcomes Joe Thomas



ISD's new interim Assistant Chair, Joe A. Thomas, is a professor of art history in the School of Art and Design and adjunct curator at the Zuckerman Museum of Art. He earned a BFA in art (with a specialization in art history) from the University of North Texas; an MA in art history from Southern Methodist University; and a PhD in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin.

His research focuses on various aspects of sexuality and representation in art and popular culture. He has published in journals such as the *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte* and in the anthology *Sex for Sale*, among others. Last year he co-chaired a session on "The Erotic Gaze in Early Modern Europe" at the College Art Association meeting; in April he is presenting a paper, "Gay Male Pornography After the Digital Revolution" at the Popular Culture Association. He is affiliated faculty with American Studies, and has crosslisted courses with GWST and given guest lectures for Asian Studies. He also helped supervise the very first masters thesis in the MAST program.

Note our department's new phone and fax numbers: 470-578-2431 (phone) and 470-578-9141 (fax)

