

When I first began attending Kennesaw State University for my Masters in American Studies, I never thought that I would learn so much about 19th century agriculture in rural Australia or phosphate mining in Soda Springs, Idaho. For the past two summers, I have worked under the supervision of Dr. Albert Way, checking sources and editing citations for articles submitted to *Agricultural History*, a journal housed at KSU.

Originally, I couldn't imagine much overlap between the articles in the journal and my own work, which focuses on barbecue traditions in the South, and more specifically North Carolina. As I've read more articles though, I have found that many of the sources that the authors use regularly lead back to issues of food production and consumption, an area of research that interests me greatly. I have also, suprisingly, found that the international scope of the journal has not only taught me about agricultural policies in postwar France, but has increased my abilities in French, a language I have not actively studied in almost ten years.

Each time I begin work on a new article, I am excited to see what sources I will be ordering from the Georgia Interlibrary Loan and the International Library Loan, two resources that I am incredibly thankful to have access to. I have received one hundred year old books and even older copies of newspapers and reports that have required extra care in order to keep them intact for future scholars. I am less excited about the minutiae of proper citation style, but I have to admit that learning the style guide thoroughly, which is based on the Chicago Manual of Style, has helped me greatly with my own citations and bibliographies.

Lastly, working with Dr. Way has been an absolute joy. For me, one of the most wonderful things about KSU are the professors. Not only are my advisors, Dr. Rebecca Hill and Dr. Tom Okie, incredibly helpful, but every other professor that I have been in contact with through ISD has always made time for me, giving me guidance and assistance. This is my last summer at KSU, and I can easily say that it is the ISD faculty and staff that I will miss the most.



Olivia Hopkins, MAST GTA

The Admissions deadlines for MAST are:

Fall: July 1, 2019
Spring: November 1, 2019
Summer: April 1, 2020

Apply here:

<https://graduate.kennesaw.edu/admissions/apply/online-application.php>

A New Coordinator of Latin American & Latino/a Studies



Maymester in Peru with Ernesto Silva and Seneca Vaught.

Nathalia Jaramillo was elected to serve a three year term as the Latin American & Latino/a Studies Coordinator (LALS). The program provides students with an opportunity to examine the Latin American region and understand the social, political and cultural experiences of Latino/as living in the United States. "I expect the 2019-2020 academic year to be an exciting one as LALS aims to enhance its course offerings, study abroad programs, and community engagement opportunities. With a minor in LALS, which pairs well with any number of majors, students increase their global awareness and expand their career prospects. We welcome your questions and ideas, and look forward to the year ahead!"



Nathalia Jaramillo

<https://chss.kennesaw.edu/isd>

Summer 2019



Great News! Our enrollments for summer increased dramatically. As of this writing (May 28), we were up 87% over last year, thanks to an incredible effort by our Assistant Chair, Laura Davis. Come see the banners on the wall outside our suite and peruse the schedule to see our increased online offerings. Fall banners will be up soon...
Robbie

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KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

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Spring Photos, Celebrations & Awards



This is Robert Herrington, who graduated in May with a double major in African & African Diaspora Studies and Music.

Helping him celebrate are: (LtoR): Dr. Seneca Vaught, Dr. Griselda Thomas, Dr. LaShonda Mims, and in front, Dr. Rudy Aguilar.

Spring may bring allergies for many of us in Georgia, but it's also a time of hope and celebration. This issue is all about congratulating faculty, students, and staff in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department (ISD) on their achievements, beginning with our graduates. I hope you will be pleased to find out more about those who won awards, grants, and honors; to welcome our incoming faculty member from Brazil; and to read about the details of our outstanding undergraduate students as well as those who completed our MA in American Studies (MAST) program.

Watch for our next newsletter as we prepare to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of MAST and ISD with a series of public events. Please come visit our suite if you have not done so -- kids and pets are also welcome!



Robbie Lieberman



Kennesaw State Foundation Awards:

Nichole Guillory, Secondary and Middle Grades Education and ISD (AADS), was named the KSU Outstanding Diversity Advocate Award. Nichole is truly an outstanding advocate on campus and in the community.

J. Steve Miller won the Outstanding Part-Time Teaching Award. While ISD prides itself on supporting and mentoring part-time faculty, we can't take much credit for this award--Steve is just a fantastic teacher! He also won the Distinguished Part-Time Teaching Award from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, **Stacy Keltner** was a finalist for the Outstanding Teaching Award, and **Cherie Miller** was a finalist for the Outstanding Team Member Staff Award.



Dr. Rocha, Our Newest Faculty Member, Arrives in July!

Luciane Rocha (Ph.D., University of Texas-Austin) a Brazilian sociocultural anthropologist, will be the first AADS faculty member with a full-time appointment in ISD. Her formation and research overlaps between African Diaspora and Gender Studies. Her academic interests are antiblack violence, Black motherhood, activist research theory and methodology, and African Diaspora theory and politics. She was a research associate at the University of Manchester, UK, and did postdoctoral research at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, BR. She is currently completing a book manuscript, *Outrage: Antiracism and the Significance of Black Motherhood*. Her ongoing ethnographic research project focuses on Black women's autonomous forms of collective political empowerment against violence in Brazil.

Letizia Guglielmo's two-volume reference text, *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, and Solutions*, was named among Library Journal's Best Reference Books for 2018!

Miriam Brown Spiers received the 2019-2020 Scholarship Support Grant to assist with her research.

May Gao won a Tenured Faculty Enhancement Leave for fall and **Seneca Vaught** won one for Spring. Seneca will teach for the Semester at Sea with Colorado State University in the Fall, which means he will be gone for the year!



In April, the Center for African and African Diaspora Studies and the Presidential Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity convened its annual workshop on Islamophobia entitled "Rejecting Bigotry: Building a Community of Respect for Human Dignity." A panel discussion was chaired by **Thomas Pynn**. Participants shown above are: Edward Mitchell, Exec. Director of the GA Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo, and students: Artis Trice, Kumba Gaye, and Alexa Vaca.

Stacy Keltner was elected President Elect of the Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA). **Jalessah Jackson** was elected Secretary. **Ashley McFarland** serves as the Director of SEWSA's Communications & Marketing.

Rebecca Hill was elected as Vice President of the Southern American Studies Association for 2019-2021.

MAST Spring Graduates



Johnny Ivansthenko successfully defended his thesis (a screenplay): "The Jeremiads: Mental Illness & Media," a screenplay. His committee members: David King and Gabrielle Fulton.



Congrats to Jessica Fisher for defending her thesis: "Transgender Digital Embodiments: Questions of the Transgender Body in the 21st Century." Her committee: Stacy Keltner, Debarati Sen and Amy Donahue.

Shawn Bunyard is the Outstanding Asian Studies Student in 2019. Shawn is graduating with an Asian Business concentration. She attended the SAUPO Conference in Shanghai in May.

Jessica Fisher, graduate of the MAST Program, was awarded the prestigious Pride Leadership Award by the LGBTQ Resource Center. It recognizes a student's extraordinary service and outstanding leadership in helping to build the LGBTQ community, promote LGBTQ issues, and raise awareness at KSU and in the greater community. Jessica was also the 2019 Outstanding MAST Student. She has been accepted into Georgia State's Ph.D. program in Sociology.

Joey Hammers, a spring Asian Studies graduate mentored by Elizabeth Miles, has been invited to join the Japan Experience and Teaching (JET) Program to teach English as a second language in Japan. ISD and the Asian Studies faculty are so happy to have been a part of his journey to achieve his goal.

Meya Hemphill, a MAST alumnus, was accepted into the PhD program at the University of South Florida to study Anthropology. We've so appreciated Meya lending her teaching time to us in AADS.

Robert Herrington is the Outstanding AADS Student in 2019. Robert is a double major in African & African Diaspora Studies and Music. He was a Teaching Assistant for Seneca Vaught's classes this year.

Jalessah Jackson, who graduated from AADS, will be attending a workshop in Brazil on Black Decolonialism/Black Feminism. Featured speakers are Angela Davis and Kimberle' Crenshaw.

Mia Jordan presented her research on gender in the Italian language at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April. She investigated how social changes affect the way feminine nouns and adjectives are used in Italian. After hearing her presentation, faculty from the Association of Teachers of Italian invited her to present her findings at their national conference. This is the first time an undergraduate has been invited to present! Thank you to **Federica Santini** for her work with Mia.

Ash Scarborough, a student mentored by LaShonda Mims, has been accepted to the PhD program in Sociology at the State University of New York-Albany.

Jennifer Simon, a current MAST student, presented her research "Elizabeth Cook-Lynn's That Guy Wolf Dancing and the Use of Storytelling to Heal Historic Trauma" at the Native American Literature Symposium in Minnesota in March. She developed her research project in a class Miriam Brown Spiers taught in MAST.

Jean Potter successfully defended her thesis: "Protest Music of the 1960s-1970s in Latin America and the United States: Exploring Transnational Connections." Her thesis committee was comprised of Rudy Aguilar and Robbie Lieberman.

First MAST Certificate!



Cherie Miller graduated with her MAST graduate certificate in American Studies - the first one in the program!