Dr. Rudy Aguilar Named CETL Faculty Fellow

Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar is the inaugural fellow for this position. His role includes working collaboratively with the CETL Division of Diverse and Inclusive Excellence (DDEI) to create workshops and programming focusing on the teaching of race. Dr. Aguilar will also offer one-on-one consultations to faculty seeking to implement or elevate their classroom pedagogies surrounding race.

MAST Alumni Update: Kara Ireland Accepted to Ph.D Program

Kara Ireland has been accepted to the University of Massachusetts Amherst Afro-American Studies Ph.D program, which only includes 5 cohort spots this year.

Kara is a 2021 graduate of the MAST program. Her capstone project, "The Vast Unsaid: Lesbian Erasure and Celebration," included committee members Dr. Griselda Thomas, Dr. Ashley Shelden, and Dr. Pete Rorabaugh. Kara's concentration will be literature and culture, and her research interests are Internalized Racism, Black Respectability Politics, and Afrocentricity. Congrats, Kara!
Standing Rock Sioux author Mona Susan Power will be visiting KSU on Monday, September 25. Please join the MAST program for a book club discussion and reading from Power’s latest novel, *A Council of Dolls*:

Dr. Bennett is a new Assistant Professor of Black Studies. She earned her Ph.D in Global & Sociocultural Studies from Florida International University. Dr. Bennett’s research is centered in race and processes of racialization in Latin America and the Caribbean; Immigration/migration in the U.S. South; Place, space, material culture, and affect; Blackness, identity, and subjectivity in the African diaspora; Black popular culture; Comparative histories of the Black Atlantic; Kinship and economic sustainability; and U.S.-Latin American/Caribbean relations in the early 20th century. This fall, Dr. Bennett will be teaching BLCK 1102: Issues in the African Diaspora.

Book Club 10:30am - 12:00pm (SO 2033)
Public Lecture 2:30pm - 3:30pm (SO 2038)

To participate in the book club discussion and receive a free copy of the novel, please RSVP to Miriam Brown Spiers at mspiers1@kennesaw.edu.
SASA 2023 Conference

MAST students Kelly Hoomes, Malika David, and Susan Ward have been accepted to present at the 2023 Southeastern American Studies Association Conference. Their panel, entitled “Unexpected Unity: Exposing the Potential of Common Ground,” will take place on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 2:15 to 3:45pm. MAST’s own Dr. Rebecca Hill is the current president of SASA, which will be held in Atlanta this year. Members of the MAST community are encouraged to attend. Find out more here: SASA 2023 Conference

Successfully Defended!

Breighlynn Polk successfully defended her capstone project, “The Second Side: A Historic Retelling of African American Life in Iberia Parish, Louisiana,” in May 2023. Her committee members were Drs. Rebecca Hill and Luciane Rocha. Find more here: The Second Side

Rasheed Hall successfully defended his capstone project, “Rhythm as Pedagogy of the Oppressed: Using Rhythms as a Critical Pedagogy to Fight Racial and Ethnic Stereotypes in the Classroom,” in May 2023. His thesis committee members were Drs. Seneca Vaught and Luciane Rocha.

ISD is Moving to the Library

Come visit us this fall in the brand-new Interdisciplinary Studies Suite on the 4th floor of the Sturgis Library (LB 401).
New Student Alert!

**Josh Lammert** graduated from KSU in 2019 with a BA in History and a minor in German Studies. As a lifelong resident of Kennesaw, he currently teaches history at The Walker School in Marietta, where he also coaches varsity football and baseball. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, live music, and spending time with his dog Nesta.

**Brandon Wagner** is the Box Office Manager for Event and Venue Management at KSU, returning for a Masters of American Studies with a focus on post-Cold War American cinema and comic books. On his off time, he lives in Sandy Springs with his wife and two cats.

**Ilaria Johnson** teaches high school history and government in Roswell, GA, as well as coaching cross country. Her husband Greg is a math teacher and they have a young son named Fred. She enjoys reading historical fiction and running.

**John Ely** is a husband and father of two daughters. Exploring new places, hiking and studying history are his hobbies and he loves taking his family on 'field trips.' They are brand new to Georgia; having moved from Guangzhou, China and the south side of Chicago before that. John will be starting his 18th year teaching this year in a Cobb County School District High School, and studying for MAST at nights.

**Alexis Paige** was born and raised in the magnificent city of Albany, GA. She is currently employed as a library technician at one of the local libraries within her city. Alexis' research interests include museum and curatorial studies. Her hobbies include freelance writing, reading, crocheting and playing golf. In addition, she also enjoys traveling to museums across the country.

These are just a few of the students joining MAST this year. Check out the next newsletter to meet more of our new students!