AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

ASA Students' Committee

By Hilary Miller, Penn State Harrisburg

Ever wonder how to get more involved in the American Studies Association? Or contemplate how the ASA connects to student members? The Students' Committee of the American Studies Association has the answers.

What is the Students' Committee?

The Students' Committee is composed of 6 to 10 students representing universities around the country. Members range from undergraduate students to doctoral candidates. The purpose of the Students' Committee is to be the voice for student members of the ASA. The committee works year-round to advocate for the needs of students and to provide other services, including professional development training and networking opportunities.

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Students' Committee Mission Statement: The core mission of the ASA Students Committee is to advocate for and support the needs of student members of the ASA. We work throughout the year and at the annual conference to facilitate dialogue among students, and to identify and develop ways ASA membership can empower graduate students and enhance their professional development.

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From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk

At EASA, we pride ourselves on the relevance of our newsletter articles and conference themes. Sometimes, it is our diligent vigilance that allows us to remain current. You may not know this, but members of our staff closely monitor any news relating to American culture, and it is their watchful eyes that keep our chapter abreast of the shifting trends shaping our nation. Other times, we succeed in being current simply by luck. If you were watching the inauguration, as I'm certain you were, you surely did not fail to notice the President's call for unity: "Now, more than ever, we must do these things together, as one nation, and one people." How fortunate it is that our conference theme of "*E Pluribus Unum*," concocted at a board meeting 10 months ago, happens to exist in perfect alignment with the President's vision!

This conference promises to be one to remember. First of all, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, we have an ideal venue, one which should be taking on all the splendors of spring right when we arrive. Second of all, in Mark Sawin of Eastern Mennonite University, we have a conference organizer without parallel. I want to thank Mark, and his capable staff, for the tremendous amount of preparation they have undertaken in anticipation of the great EASA throng about to descend on them. For though our conference theme stresses the democratic oneness of the diverse many, the conference organizer can only see the many – and their various needs, dietary restrictions, and Audio-visual requirements. I appreciate you, Mark. I don't envy you.

I would also like to thank Andrea Glass-Heffner, doctoral student in American Studies and desktop publisher *extraordinaire*. Instead of preparing for qualifying exams or researching her dissertation, Andrea has kept her steadfast gaze fixed on our beloved newsletter. Foolish move, Andrea, but we are truly grateful. Speaking of the newsletter, it is our hope that by perusing its pages, readers will be inspired to attend the conference if they have not already decided to do so (for conference information, please visit the EASA website: http://hbg.psu.edu/research/easa/). That said, the newsletter also has a second function. We have composed it with the idea that it can serve as a portable guide to the conference. So don't forget to pack the newsletter away in your suitcase or valise before you head out. We look forward to seeing you in Virginia! Until then, never forget our motto or fail to carry out its awesome mandate: *Enjoy Culture!*

John Haddad

Register for the 2013 EASA Conference at www.emu.edu/easa

What does the Students' Committee do?

The Students' Committee members work with the ASA on a number of projects. Each year, the committee hosts sessions at the ASA Annual Meeting on topics of interest to students. Recent examples include the "Lightning Shorts" that showcase student research projects, a mock job interview, a panel on digital humanities, and a roundtable discussion on careers outside of academia. The committee also manages the Roommate Connection Service to help students who want to share a room at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the Students' Committee organizes social events at the Annual Meeting so students can network while unwinding after a long day of sessions. In 2012, the Students' Committee sponsored a contest where participants answered trivia questions on social media sites in order to win one of 45 books donated by publishers exhibiting at the ASA Annual Meeting.

One of the recent projects completed by the Students' Committee was a survey assessing the needs of American Studies students and the current climate in academic programs. This survey, sent to American Studies programs around the country, garnered responses from a wide variety of students. The survey provided the committee with valuable information about the concerns of students that will guide the Students' Committee as it makes decisions about programs and events.

How do I get involved?

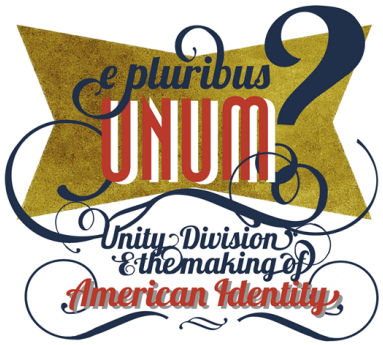
Any student member can be nominated for a position on the ASA Students' Committee. Self-nominations and faculty nominations are welcomed. This year, applications are due April 1. For information about how to apply, visit the committee's page on the ASA website: http://www.theasa.net/committee_students/page/apply/.

Each Students' Committee member serves a two-year, non-renewable term. The committee also includes two student councilor positions. Student councilors act as the committee's representatives on the ASA Council and serve staggered three-year, non-renewable terms.

Experience of Hilary Miller, Penn State Harrisburg Doctoral Student and Current Students' Committee Member

I was appointed to the Students' Committee in May 2012 and immediately got involved in several of the projects. In November 2012, I attended the ASA Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. At the Annual Meeting, I had the opportunity to work with members of various ASA committees. I attended many interesting sessions and presentations, including those planned by the Students' Committee. Meeting the committee members face-to-face after months of communicating through email was definitely a highlight of the trip. We are currently planning the sessions and activities for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Although my term does not end until 2014, I have already had a great experience as a member of the ASA Students' Committee!

Want to know more? Visit http://www.theasa.net/committee_students/ or like the Students' Committee on Facebook.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

E Pluribus Unum?: Unity, Division and the Making of American Identity

Eastern American Studies Association 2013 Conference

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia March 22-23

www.emu.edu/easa

FRIDAY, March 22, 2013

EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY, SEMINARY BLDG. 1181 SMITH AVE. HARRISONBURG, VA

Registration Open: 1:00 to 3:30pm: Eastern Mennonite University Seminary Building, Main Lounge

Eastern ASA Executive Board Meeting

12:30 to 2:00pm: Eastern Mennonite University Seminary Building (room 204)

SESSION I

2:00 to 3:15pm: Eastern Mennonite University Seminary Building

1A Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Identity: Who Defines the Other? (room 203)

- Rebecca K. Cecala, Penn State Harrisburg, Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Identity: Ecological
- Amy K. Milligan, Elizabethtown College, Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Identity: Gender and Sexuality
- Jared Rife, Penn State Harrisburg, Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Identity:
- James Eric Siburt, Alvernia University, Perspectives on Contemporary Religious Identity: Science Fiction and Fantasy
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Matthew Hedstrom, University of Virginia*

1B Motion and Races; Contests and Places (room 202)

- Mark Metzler Sawin, Eastern Mennonite University, There's Somethin' 'bout a Truck: America's Love Affair with the Pickup Truck
- Jonathan Silverman, U Mass Lowell, Real Horsepower: How Technologies Inform Racetracks
- Scott Hamilton Suter, Bridgewater College, "Enterprising Young Men": The Organization of Baseball Clubs in the Post-Civil War Shenandoah Valley
- Howard Zehr, Eastern Mennonite University, Trucks, A Love Story: A Study of Virginians and Their Pickups
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Charles Kupfer, Penn State Harrisburg*

1C From Revolution to Early Republic: Inventing America (room 204)

- Hannah Bailey, William & Mary, "Handing Down Remarkable and Interesting Circumstances": Elizabeth Carrington, Female Historical Memory, and American Identity in the Early American Republic
- Brian F. Carso, Misericordia, The Executions of Nathan Hale and John André, and the Shaping of American Identity
- Lindsay Keiter, William & Mary, Pious Devotion vs. Patriarchal Authority: Louisa and John Cocke and Issues of Authority in the Early 19th Century
- Spencer Wells, William & Mary, Friendly Fire: Free Quakers, Fatherhood, and Religious Identity in the Early Republic
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Laura Henigman, James Madison University*

1D Making Music, Making America: A Performance Panel (Martin Chapel)

- Gary Galván, La Salle / Fleisher Collection, America's First Training Orchestra and the Symphonic Declaration of Independence
- Lynne Mackey, Eastern Mennonite University, "Made in America": A Piano Lecture Recital
- *Chair/Commentator: TBA*

SESSION II

3:30 to 4:45pm: Eastern Mennonite University Seminary Building

2A Defining Identity by Making Memory: Festivals, Celebrations, & the Construction of the Past (room 204)

- Emily Blanck, Rowan University, Juneteenth: Official Memorialization of Slavery and Emancipation in the 21st Century
- Brant Ellsworth, Penn State, Harrisburg, This is Still the Place: The 1897 Pioneer Jubilee and the Construction of an American Religion
- David Grant Smith, University of Virginia, "Puritan Pasts: Clerical Intellectuals, History, and Regional Identity in Provincial New England"
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Lisa Jarvinen, La Salle University*

2B Imagining Womanhood: Science, Literature, Commerce, and Power (room 203)

- Carrie Dedon, Boston University, Scientists, Housewives, & Sex Objects: Gelatin and the Many Roles of 1960s American Women
- Mattie Lehman, Eastern Mennonite University, American Diversity and Division: Victoria Woodhull's Radical Challenge to the Women's Suffrage Movement
- Peter Lehman, Penn State Harrisburg, The New Woman's Real Adventure: The Suffrage Era Works of Henry Kitchell Webster
- Stefanie Strosnider-Hollis, Penn State Harrisburg, Mamie Eisenhower: Portrait of the First Wife
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Erin Battat, Penn State Harrisburg*

2C Folklore's Widening Spectrum (room 202)

- Anthony Bak Buccitelli, Penn State Harrisburg, The Reluctant Folklorist: Jon Y. Lee, Paul Radin, and Chinese American Folklore
- Angus Gillespie, Rutgers, Church and State in International Shipping
- Spencer Green, Penn State, Harrisburg, Digital Tracks on the Appalachian Trail
- Emily Senefeld, University of Virginia, Highlander Folk School and the Representation of Appalachian Culture
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Simon Bronner, Penn State Harrisburg*

Eastern American Studies Association Reception

5:00 to 6:00pm: Common Grounds coffee shop, Eastern Mennonite University

Dinner and Entertainment

6:15 to 8:00pm: Eastern Mennonite University Seminary Building, Martin Chapel

Plenary Session by Dr. Priscilla Wald, Duke University

8:00pm: Eastern Mennonite University Seminary Building, Martin Chapel

SATURDAY, March 23, 2013

LUCY SIMMS CENTER, 620 SIMMS AVE., HARRISONBURG, VA

Registration Open: 7:30 to 9:30am: Lucy Simms Center

SESSION III:

8:00 to 9:15am: Lucy Simms Center

3A Negotiating Global Frontiers (room 101)

- Jennifer Dutch, Penn State Harrisburg, Riding the Korean Wave: Translating the "Other" on Fansubbing Websites
- R. Claire Guest, Penn State, Harrisburg, Questioning Authenticity of Identities on the Globalized Frontiers of Cowboy Bebop and Firefly
- Carah Ong Whaley, University of Virginia, Republican Presidents and the Making (and Breaking) of the Party's National Security Identity
- Steve Jackowicz, Adelphi University, Two Worlds, One Mind: An Examination of the Struggle for Unity of Self-Perception in American Adherents and Practitioners of Chinese Medicine
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Sylvia Chong, University of Virginia*

3B Reading into Comics: Art, Icons, and Identity (conference room)

- Allan W. Austin, Misericordia, Defective Comics: Batman, Race & the Making of American Identity during WWII
- Peter Bryan, Penn State, Harrisburg, The Lingering Dreams of A Rarebit Fiend: Winsor McCay's Influence on the Art of Comics
- Patrick L. Hamilton, Misericordia, Frustrated Aims: Green Lantern/Green Arrow, Liberalism, and Race
- David J. Puglia, Penn State Harrisburg, Toying with Corporate Narratives: The Genesis of Mick(e)y Mouse
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Siva Vaidhyanathan, University of Virginia*

3C Counter Cultures/Combative Cultures (room 207)

- Mary Barton, University of Virginia, The Global War on Anarchism: The United States and International Anarchist Terrorism, 1898-1904
- Bonnie Price Lofton, Eastern Mennonite University, The Counter-Cultural Role of a Minority Sect, the Mennonites, Within the "American Identity"
- Carmen Phillips, New York University, In a Kingdom of Panthers and Lords: Tracing Communications between the Young Lords Party and the Black Panther Party
- Justin Rogers-Cooper, LaGuardia Community College, The Battle for the Brooklyn Bridge: Writing the 1877 General Strike into the "First" Red Scare
- *Chair/Commentator: Holly Scott, American University*

SESSION IV:

9:30 to 10:45am: Lucy Simms Center

4A Rogue Publics – Unity, Division, and Identity in Vernacular Media Communities (room 101)

- Andrew Miller, Penn State Harrisburg, Secular Apocalypses: "Preppers", American Media, and the End of the World
- Andrea Glass-Heffner, Penn State Harrisburg, Blogging for Urban Cultural Authority: The Media Battles of the East Village Blog Mafia
- John Price, Penn State Harrisburg, Digital Thunderdome: Performing Identity and Creating Community in a Facebook World"
- *Chair & Commentator: Dr. Anthony Bak Buccitelli, Penn State Harrisburg*

4B Fighting and Falling; Recovering and Redeeming (room 207)

- Danielle Holtz, Univ. Pennsylvania, Fallen Eidolon: Daniel Webster's Decay
- Megan C. McGee, Penn State, Harrisburg, The Divided House of Mouse: The Vacillating Popularity of Disney Animated Feature Films
- Kacie Morrell, Penn State, Harrisburg, Major General Daniel Harvey Hill: Author of the Lost Cause
- Lucius Wedge, University of Akron, Arresting the Ministers of Nashville: Andrew Johnson and Loyalty in Civil War Nashville
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Louise Stevenson, Franklin & Marshall College*

4C Reading Meaning into Place (conference room)

- Eileen Fresta, Penn State Brandywine, Pleistocene Rewilding in North America
- Brooke Messmer, Penn State, Harrisburg, The Mütter Museum: American Medical Education Advancements
- Andrea Quintero, Yale, Knowing Where to Go: Place, Mobility, and Belonging in Queens, New York City
- Douglas Peter Sefton, Independent Architectural Historian, Concrete Symbolism: The District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds Building
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Angus Gillespie, Rutgers*

SESSION V:

11:00am to 12:15pm: Lucy Simms Center

5A Defining the Self; Representing the Other (conference room)

- Meghan Bryant, William & Mary, "What Shall the Harvest Be?": Racialized Representations in Cream of Wheat Advertisements, 1900-1925
- Sarah L. Grunder, SUNY-Suffolk, Creating Americans: Constructing Identity in Joseph Medill Patterson's *New York Daily News*
- Liav Orgad, Interdisciplinary Center, Creating New Americans: The Essence of Americanism under the Citizenship Test
- Sharon Rogart, University of Virginia, Legislating Minority Children's Identities: the debate over Arizona's HB 2281
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. John Haddad, Penn State Harrisburg*

5B An Individual's Impact: Ideas, Inventions, Identities (room 207)

- Guy Aiken, University of Virginia, Man Religious, Forgotten, and Great: Darwin's Early Impact on American Thought
- Louise Barnett, Rutgers, Frederick Douglass: Race, Color, & Identity
- Gina Marie Occasion, University of Massachusetts Amherst, National Desires: Peter Parley and the Production of Childhood
- Lauren Silber, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Leo Frank in *The Crisis*: Reversing the Gaze of the Black-Jewish Alliance
- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. David Evans, Eastern Mennonite University*

5C Undergraduate Paper Roundtable (room 101)

- *Chair/Commentator: Dr. Francis Ryan, La Salle University*

Lunch, Awards Ceremony & Closing Remarks:

12:30 to 2:00pm: Lucy Simms Center (auditorium)

Helpful Information

Hotels:

Fairfield Inn: 1946 Medical Ave.
www.marriottharisonburg.com
Best Western: 45 Burgess Rd.
540.433.6089

Conference Locations

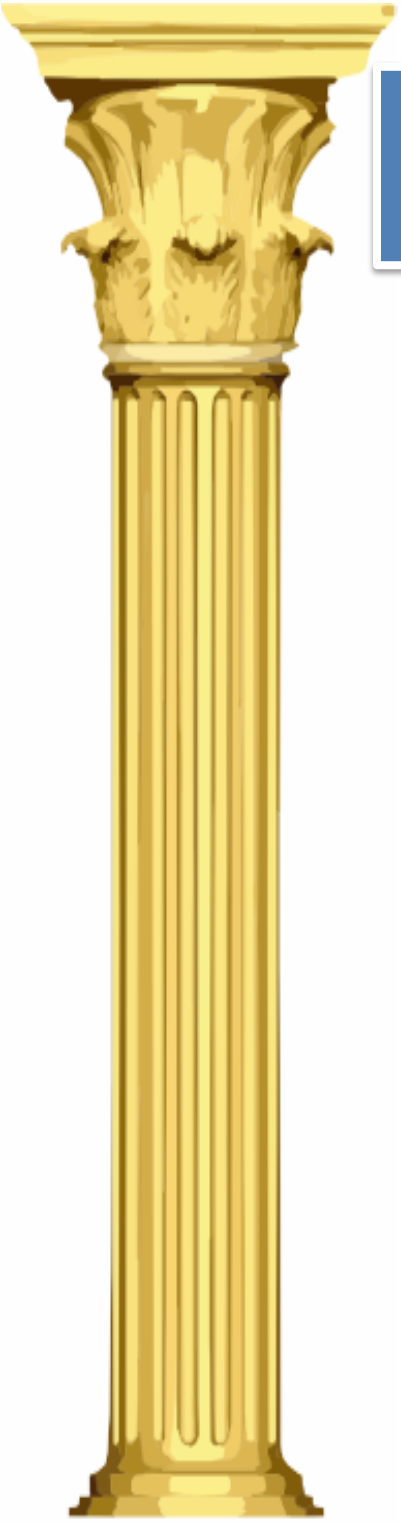
Eastern Mennonite University:
Seminary Bldg. 1180 Smith Ave
EMU map: www.emu.edu/map/#
Lucy Simms Center:
620 Simms Ave.

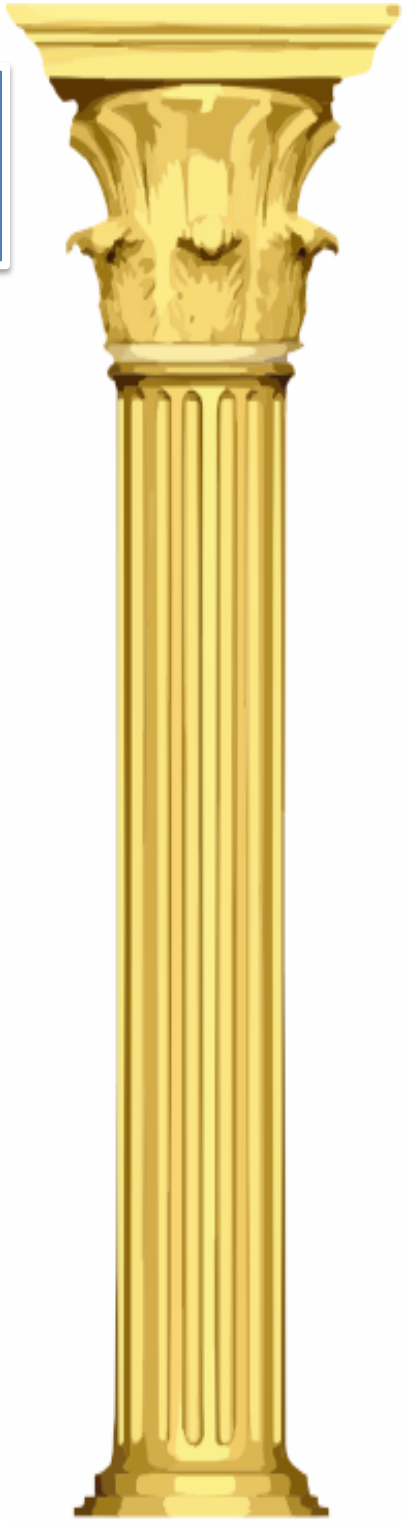
Honor Society Roars into Second Year

Members of *Epsilon Alpha Kappa*'s first class participate in the induction ceremony at EASA's 2012 Annual Conference held at Rutgers University.

Epsilon Alpha Kappa is off to a fast start! Last year, 25 students were inducted into the first ever Honor Society for undergraduate students in American Studies. A handful of these students were able to make it to Rutgers, the site of the 2012 EASA conference, for the induction ceremony. If you teach American Studies in this region, please keep an eye out for promising undergraduates who might like to join the Society. Likewise, if you are an undergraduate student seeking recognition for your academic work, please let your professor, advisor, or program head know about the Honor Society. The Nomination Procedure is outlined below in step-by-step fashion.

- Students eligible for induction will be identified by the respective AMST program director of each university located within the region.
- Eligibility will be restricted to undergraduate American Studies majors who have completed 6 courses or 18 credits in AMST or related courses.
- An inductee must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0, and a minimum GPA of 3.4 in all AMST or related courses.
- Inductees should exhibit active participation in and service to the AMST student association sponsored by the student's home department or program.
- Inductees must submit a research paper, project, film, or cultural/performative artifact assessed as "excellent quality" by an induction committee, consisting of three AMST professors (or professors from related disciplines) from the inductee's home campus.
- Once the induction committee has confirmed that the student has met all criteria, it should submit the student's name to John Haddad by February 1 if the student's name is to appear in the spring newsletter (students who miss this deadline will be listed in the following newsletter).
- After submitting a fee ($25), inductees will receive both an official certificate and a red, white, and blue honors cord to be worn at graduation.
- For any given year, inductees will also enjoy the option of being inducted into the Society at the annual EASA conference.
- Please contact John Haddad (jrh36@psu.edu) with any questions.



Epsilon Alpha Kappa
Congratulations to 2012-2013 Inductees!

Anne Areias, LaSalle University
Elix Colon, Rutgers University
Shanni Davidowitz, Franklin & Marshall
Aaron Delp, Penn State Harrisburg
Robyn Drag, Rutgers University
Molly Fay, LaSalle University
Eileen Fresta, Penn State Brandywine
Michael Haines, Franklin & Marshall
Samantha Hyland, LaSalle University
Nicole Isola, LaSalle University
Bridget Kennedy, LaSalle University
Kayla Kissel, Penn State Harrisburg
J. Casseia Lewis, Rutgers University
Kristin MacKenzie, LaSalle University
Rephael Mark, Rutgers University
Moira McEntee, LaSalle University
Kelly Meany, Rutgers University
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Gina Sesta, Rutgers University
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