EASTERN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

# American Studies Newsletter

Volume 24 Issue 2

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Welcome Letter
EASA Annual Meeting
March 30-31, 2012, New Brunswick, New Jersey

In this newsletter you can find what you need for conference registration, room reservations, and other information regarding the conference. The Board of the Eastern American Studies Association encourages you to attend since you will have a great opportunity to network and participate in panels that will enhance your skills and give you new ideas. We expect nearly sixty scholars from all over Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to be in attendance. A small, regional conference such as ours offers real advantages to its participants. There is a real sense of community, and presenters often benefit from constructive feedback.



The American Studies Department at Rutgers University is proud to serve as host for this meeting. Rutgers is the largest institution for higher education in New Jersey. It was originally chartered as Queen's College in 1766, one of the few colonial colleges founded before the American Revolution.

The meeting will take place at the Rugers Continuing Studies Conference Center, nestled on 21 beautiful wooded acres in the heart of the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. This facility is ideal since the meals, lodging, and sessions will all be under one roof, with free parking and wi-fi.

The City of New Brunswick is located on the Northeast Corridor rail line, 27 miles southwest of Manhattan on the southern bank of the Raritan River. The city is known for its three professional theaters, its world-class restaurants, its lively music scene, and many points of interest.

You may want to arrive sometime after 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon for registration. Between 5:30 and 6:30 there will be an open bar reception with beer and wine and soda, along with hors d'oeuvres. The reception will be followed by a dinner at 6:30 pm. Following the dinner, there will be a plenary address by Professor Simon Bronner of Penn State Harrisburg on "The Americanization of 'Barnacle Bill the Sailor': A Study in Tradition and Innovation." The song has roots in Great Britain during the eighteenth century, but as a result of a popular recording in the early twentieth century, it has taken on a decidedly American cast.

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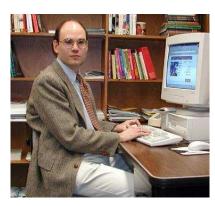
#### From the Editor's Desk

In 1955, Walt Disney opened Disneyland in Southern California. Though this theme park was remarkable for many reasons, we focus here on its creative use of the past and future. Two themed areas - Main Street, U.S.A. and Frontierland – mined the past for classic American myths, legends, values, and traditions. A stone's throw away (or a short floppy-eared Dumbo flight), Tomorrowland offered a glimpse of what the future might hold in store in terms of technological progress. Interestingly, Disney did not draw a firm line between the past and the future, labeling the former static and less relevant and the latter vibrant and highly relevant. Rather, Disney suggested that the past-oriented themed areas and his portrayal of the future existed within the same continuum. The past makes the future happen; the goodness of America's heritage contributes to the nation's promise.

I don't know if you buy that or not. Maybe you do, maybe you don't. However, if you are affiliated with American Studies, you almost certainly believe that the past – far from being irrelevant – is highly useful to those who shape the future. Herein lies the crux of this year's EASA conference theme: "Tradition and Innovation in American Culture." In selecting this theme, we did not think of ourselves as pairing polar opposites. Rather, we – like Walt Disney – envisioned the conference as a place to discuss the bridges and dialogues between the two. Traditions help us navigate through a modern world filled with innovation; innovations, in turn, circle back to keep traditions alive and relevant.

I could push the Disney analogy further by saying that our conference is an intellectual amusement park. I think, however, that I will not.

At this point, I would like to thank our friends at Rutgers University for being our hosts. Angus



Gillespie, Professor of American Studies and conference organizer, has been nothing short of tireless in organizing this event (in this newsletter, he even summarizes area dining options solely for your convenience!). While you should read everything in this newsletter, skipping nothing, I urge you to take an especially close look at Dr. Gillespie's Welcome Letter, which provides an overview of your experience at Rutgers.

I would also like to thank Francis J. Ryan of LaSalle University for putting together the Undergraduate Roundtable. For years, Dr. Ryan has urged the field of American Studies to pay closer attention to the experience of undergraduate students in the field. They, after all, are the field's future. This year, we will witness one of the fruits of his labor. During the awards portion of the conference, we plan to recognize the first class of inductees to *Epsilon Alpha Kappa*, the American Studies Honor Society. If you don't want to wait to learn who the future stars are, just flip ahead in this newsletter where we list them.

And where would we be without Peter Lehman, our Newsletter Editor, who put this issue together? Thanks to Peter, you now possess a handy guide to the EASA Conference. So in your rush to get to New Brunswick, don't forget to pack the newsletter away in your suitcase. We look forward to seeing you in late March! Always remember: *Enjoy Culture!* 

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# Material Culture Spotlight: John Vlach Interview by David Puglia



John Michael Vlach, Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at George Washington University, recently sat down for a chat about the study of American material culture. He holds a Ph.D. in Folklore from Indiana University and is director of George

Washington's Folklife Program. He has developed exhibitions for the National Museum of American History, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Library of Congress, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Henry Gallery, the Atlanta History Center, and the Milwaukee Art Center. His 2003 book *Barns*, a Library of Congress Visual Sourcebook, won the 2003 Fred B. Kniffen Book Award for best book on North American material culture.

Dr. Vlach will be giving a lecture on "Barns

Across America" at 7:00 p.m. on March 22 in the Gallery Lounge in the Olmsted Building at Penn State Harrisburg. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Recently, Dr. Vlach shared his perspective on a wide range of American material culture questions...both serious and lighthearted.

## How did you become interested in your current field of study?

I became very connected with my field of material culture study when I discovered that folklore was more than stories and songs.

Until 1970 I thought folklore the study of songs and stories. But in grad school I hooked up with Warren Roberts and Henry Glassie, and they (but mostly Henry) showed me the way to engage in the study of old traditional buildings (which would later be called "vernacular architecture"). I showed my dissertation

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#### Welcome Continued

Saturday morning begins with breakfast, followed by a number of panels throughout the morning, with a coffee and Danish break at mid-morning. A key feature that morning will be the Undergraduate Roundtable with papers presented by students from around the region. Lunch will be served in the sunwashed dining room surrounded by a panoramic view of the lawns and woods.

During the lunch, Professor Francis Ryan will deliver the Presidential Address, and he will make the presentation for the best undergraduate paper from the Undergraduate Roundtable. Then, Professor Simon Bronner will make the presentation for the best graduate student paper. Finally, Professor John Haddad will conduct the very first Induction Ceremony for the American Studies Honor Society.

Immediately after lunch, there will be a plenary talk by Professor Michael Aaron Rockland based on his new book "An American Diplomat in Franco's Spain." Rockland plans to present a behind-the-scenes account of the 1966 Palomares incident that occurred on January 17, 1966, when a B-52 bomber of the USAF Strategic Air Command crashed and broke apart scattering three hydrogen bombs on land and one that fell into the Mediterranean Sea.

Immediately following the luncheon, there will be an optional walking tour of the nearby Wood Lawn Mansion, led by architectural historian Elizabeth Reeves. Wood Lawn, the mansion which houses the Eagleton Institute of Politics, was built in 1830 by Colonel James Neilson (1784 - 1862), a member of the third generation of a prosperous family with historic ties to Rutgers and New Brunswick. The tradition of hospitality and lively conversation long associated with the Neilson family is maintained in the present-day Wood Lawn, where students, scholars and political practitioners come together to exchange ideas and explore mutual interests.

--Angus Kress Gillespie, Local Arrangements Chair



Material Culture Spotlight Continued

work to the Society of Architectural Historians (I think it was 1976 in Philadelphia), and I blew their socks off. I continue to pursue impressive buildings created without architects.

## In your opinion, what is the place of folklore and folklife in American Studies?

In American Studies, there is a clutch of artifact-driven scholars who are focused on the built environment. The Vernacular Architecture Forum (of which I am a founding member) allows us "marignals" to share our findings and broaden the understanding of everyday buildings or architecture without architects.

#### In your research and writing, how do you use material culture to tell stories about American history?

I don't see myself as doing history but rather as recovering the overlooked achievements of former creators whose work would rival contemporary builders —a great Pennsylvania barn can reasonably be set next to a county courthouse and viewers will come away wishing that there were more of these great barns around.

# Why is an oft-overlooked subject like "barns" a worthy object of study for Americanists?

I wouldn't say that barns are fading. There is a movement called "Barn Again" that works to rescue or provide useful new uses for barns—often with good results.

"I don't see myself as doing history but rather as recovering the overlooked achievements of former creators whose work would rival contemporary builders."

# In addition to your work on American barns, what other material culture research have you pursued?

Since my first days in grad school I turned to the study of ordinary local traditional buildings (my first work was a study of covered bridges in west-central Indiana). I have never moved off this kind of research and have done work in three continental zones (West Africa, the Caribbean, and coasts of South Carolina and Georgia). From buildings I would move on to traditional crafts (mainly blacksmiths and basket makers in the coastal regions of South Carolina).

#### Are you involved in any historic preservation?

As well as my studies of the histories of old buildings, I also served for five years on the Historic Preservation Review Board for the District of Columbia and with my fellow colleagues was able to stopped destruction of various 19th century buildings that were thought to be in the way of new development. Our efforts saved old buildings and restored the communal pride that had been failing.

## Have you had any disastrous fieldwork mishaps?

As for mishaps, I've not run into any major problems or issues. But once on a project headed by my then dissertation director Henry Glassie, we (three grad students) ran into a guy with a double barreled shotgun wondering what we strange and dangerous walking up to his house. We only wanted to see the log springhouse/meat storage building about 50 feet below this pretty neat log house. We didn't get to the house before its owner came around the corner with his double-barreled-shotgun cocked and ready. Henry Glassie sweet-talked him for a bit *Continued on final page* 

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#### **EASA Conference Schedule**

### 2012 Meeting of the Eastern American Studies Association **Conference Schedule Continuing Studies Conference Center Rutgers University-New Brunswick** March 30-31, 2012

Friday March 30, 2012

3:00pm to 6:00pm

Registration – Conference Center Lobby

4:00pm to 5:00pm

Board Meeting - Meeting Room D, Conference Center

5:30pm to 6:30pm

Reception – Conference Center Lobby

6:30pm to 7:45pm

Dinner - Conference Center Dining Room

#### 8:00pm

Keynote Address - Conference Room A Simon Bronner Distinguished University Professor of American Studies Pennsylvania State University of Harrisburg "The Americanization of 'Barnacle Bill the Sailor': A Study in Tradition and Innovation"

Saturday, March 31, 2012

8: 15 am to 9:30 am – Session I

Conference Room A

You Are What You Eat

Francis Ryan, LaSalle University *Moderator* Lissette Morales, Rutgers University Commentator

Jennifer Dutch

"Baking, Broiling, and Video Blogging: Tradition and Innovation in YouTube Cooking Videos" Katie Gorrell

"Going Against the Grain: The Slow Food Movement in Twenty-First Century America"

#### EASA Conference Schedule (Continued)

Jamie Hirami

"The Cult of "Wholesome" Food Labels"

Carla Pacitti

"Haute Cuisine Meets Homemade: Foodies in the Blogosphere"

#### Conference Room B

#### **Rethinking the Cold War**

Rosina Ryan, LaSalle University *Moderator*Michael Rockland, Rutgers University *Commentator*Julia Kaziewicz

"Family Forward: Edward Steichen's Family of Man as Cold War Propaganda"

Matthew Lavelle

"Spiritual Crisis in Early Cold War America:

Whittaker Chambers, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Perry Miller"

Victoria Hallihan

"No title (Russian Music and McCarthyism)"

#### Conference Room C

#### **Race and Gender**

Simon Bronner, Penn State-Harrisburg *Moderator* Kathleen Ballou, Rutgers University *Commentator* 

Brian T. Haughwout

"Philial Bonds: Italian-American Ethnic Continuity and Innovation in Philadelphia's City of Neighbor-

hoods"

Louis Prisock

"Racial Mascots: Black Conservatism's Role in

the Maintenance of White Supremacy in the 'Post-Racial' Obama Era"

Susan Ortmann

"Telling You Who I Am: Pioneer Women Creating a Traditional and Unique Identity, 1780-1811"

Andrew Urban

"Exceptions to Exclusion: Chinese Domestic Servants and the Creation of a Mobile, Colonial Labor Force"

#### 9:45 am to 11:00 am – Session II

Conference Room A

#### Wilderness and Health

John Haddad Penn State-Harrisburg *Moderator* Andrew Urban, Rutgers University *Commentator* 

Kathleen Brian

"The Suicide Contests": Metasomatization in the Life Insurance Industry, 1862-1883"

Steve Jackowicz

"Tradition and Innovation in the Cross Transmission of Chines Medicine to the United States"

Emma Newcombe

"Camping, Climbing, and Consumption: The Bean Boot, 1912-1945"

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#### EASA Conference Schedule (Continued)

#### Conference Room B

#### **Culture as Property**

Lee Clarke, Rutgers University Moderator Charles Kupfer, Penn State-Harrisburg Commentator

Jessie Swigger

"Chasing Rainbows: Dolly's Museum and Self-Made Womanhood"

Elliot Powell

"Sampling without Sampling: The Creative Ways that U.S. Hip-Hop is Challenging Copyright Laws"

Amy K. Milligan

"Covering Jewish Women: The Feminization of Kippot by Non-Orthodox Women"

Andrew Wasserman

"Walking with the Past (and with REPOhistory)"

#### Conference Room C

#### Virtuality, Media, and Cyber Communities

David Kiernan, Franklin and Marshall University *Moderator* Nicole Fleetwood, Rutgers University Commentator

Peter Lehman

"The Plurality is Near: Digital Maoism, Wikipedia, and the Death of the Newspaper" Spencer Green

"Tradition and Innovation in Appalachian Hiking Communities"

Jamie Caffier

"A Digital Freak Show: The People of Wal-Mart?"

Kim Trager Bohle

"The NOOK as a Corporate Sponsor of Literacy:

The Politics, Language and Discourse of EReading"

#### Conference Room D

#### **Empires, Nations, Migrations**

Lisa Jarvinen, LaSalle University Moderator Alan Isaac, Rutgers University Commentator

Martin Ponce

"'Our fundamental difference': Return and Sexploitation in Lawrence Chua's Gold by the Inch"

Tzarina Prater

"Pidgin and Patois: The Meeting of Vernacular Tradition in

the Fiction of Easton Lee and Kerry Young"

Rick Lee

"The Case of Rex vs. Singh:

Performance, Sexuality, and the New Uses of Canadian Public History"

#### EASA Conference Schedule (Continued)

#### 11:15 am to 12:30 pm – Session III

Conference Room A

#### **Undergraduate Round Table**

Francis Ryan, Moderator

Conference Room B

#### **Heroes and Anti-Heroes**

Elizabeth Reeves, Rutgers University *Moderator* Ben Sifuentes-Jáuregui, Rutgers University *Commentator* 

**Brant Elsworth** 

"Innovating Family Traditional Family:

Mormons, the Fifties, and the Fight for Religious Identity"

Peter Bryan

"You Are What You Eat: Cannibalism as a Symbol of Family Breakdown in the Horror Film" Rebecca Guest

""The Space Cowboy": A (Pop) Cultural Collection"

Megan McGee

"No title(Homosexuality in Popular Media)"

#### Conference Room C

#### **Cultural Change Through Popular Media**

Mark Sawin, Eastern Mennonite University Moderator

Holly Scott, Commentator

Amanda Chandler

"Hootenanny! and the Marketing of 'Traditional' Folk Music to the Masses"

Joel Nofzinger

"They're Just Like Us but Different!: The Agenda of Disney's Saludos Amigos in WWII"

Haleigh Hershberger

"Waves in America: Jean-Luc Godard's influence on New Hollywood"

#### Conference Room D

#### **Presentation of Self**

Nikolai Burlakoff, Independent Scholar Moderator

Caroline Wigginton, Rutgers University Commentator

Mary Kathleen Gillespie

"The History and Identity of the Masque of La Salle University"

Cecilia McNaughton

"Daubers and Drag Queens: A Scholar's Journey into Obscure Bingo"

Matthew Wittman

"The Circus, the City, and the Challenges of Interpretive Historical Exhibitions"

Katie Kitner

""The Most Fitting Hue:" Victorian Print Culture and the Rise of the White Wedding"

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#### EASA Conference Schedule (Continued)

#### Conference Room E

#### **Institutions in Transition**

Frank Popper, Rutgers University, *Moderator* Mark Krasovits, Rutgers University, Commentator

Frank Bridges

"The Hub City Rocks and Rolls with the Changing Times: How the New Brunswick music scene has developed over the past 30 years"

Hillary Miller

"No place is more suitable':

The National Road and Education in Washington, Pennsylvania"

Arjun Poudel

"Minor Science, Major Literature: Melville's Scientific Method in Moby Dick"

Daved Anthony Schmidt

"On the Progress of Prophetic Knowledge: Dispensationalist Perceptions of the Millenarian Revival in the Late-Nineteenth Century"

#### 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm – Luncheon

Angus Kress Gillespie Professor of American Studies Rutgers University-New Brunswick Master of Ceremonies

Francis Ryan Professor of American Studies Lassalle University Presidential Address & Presenter of Undergraduate Round Table Awards

John Haddad President of Epsilon Alpha Kappa Presenter of Inductees to the Honor Society

Simon J. Bronner Distinguished University Professor of American Studies Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg Presenter of Graduate Students Awards

> Michael Aaron Rockland Professor of American Studies Rutgers University-New Brunswick Plenary Address: "An American Diplomat in Franco's Spain"

#### EASA Conference Schedule (Continued)

#### 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm - Walking Tour of Wood Lawn

## Elizabeth Reeves Architectural Historian

Wood Lawn, the mansion which houses the Eagleton Institute of Politics, was built in 1830 by Colonel James Neilson (1784 - 1862), a member of the third generation of a prosperous family with historic ties to Rutgers and New Brunswick. The tradition of hospitality and lively conversation long associated with the Neilson family is maintained in the present-day Wood Lawn, where students, scholars and political practitioners come together to exchange ideas and explore mutual interests.

#### In and Around Rutgers

**Tomato Factory** - 268 Ryders Lane, Milltown, NJ, (732) 249-1199. Arguably the best Italian fare in the area. Great list of desserts and bring your own bottle of wine. Three words: Peanut Butter Gelato. www.tfitalian.com

**Fresco** - 210 Ryders Lane, Milltown, NJ, (732) 246-7616. Great steaks. Great steaks. Www.restaurantfresco.com

**Stage Left** - 5 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, (732) 828-4444. Located in New Brunswick's theater district. Upscale restaurant with an exquisite wine list and "New Jersey's Best Burger". www.stageleft.com

**Old Man Rafferty's** - 106 Albany Street, New Brunswick, NJ, (732) 253-7780. So much to choose from at this casual New Brunswick mainstay. Bring your sweet tooth for their extensive list of desserts. <a href="https://www.oldmanraffertys.com">www.oldmanraffertys.com</a>

**Clydz** - 55 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, NJ, (732) 846-6521. Shaken or stirred? New Brunswick's martini spot cooks up a delectable assortment of appetizers and unique entrees. Elk? Rabbit? Snake? www.clydz.com

**Makedas** - 338 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ, (732) 545-5115. Traditional Ethiopian cuisine and elegant décor accented by live jazz on Friday and Saturday nights. <a href="https://www.makedas.com">www.makedas.com</a>

**Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum -** 71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, (732) 932-7237. Features American, European, Japonisme, Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art. Current exhibitions include the children's book illustrations of Frank Asch and the witty conceptual art of Rachel Perry Welty. <a href="https://www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu">www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu</a>

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## **Registration Form**

2012 Conference of the Eastern American Studies Association Hosted by American Studies Department, Rutgers University **Theme**: Tradition and Innovation **Venue**: New Brunswick, NJ **Dates:** March 30 and 31, 2012

Name	Institution (for badge)			
Address				
City	State	Zip code		
Email	Phone#			
Please check <b>ONE</b> line:				
\$50 Graduate Students & Re	n Fee for Fri and	d Sat		
\$50 Undergrad Roundtable	•			
############################	############	+######################################		
\$25 Undergrad Roundtable	(Attending only S	Saturday panels w/lunch)		
\$25 Friends and Family (Att	ending only Satu	rday panels w/lunch)		
Please send completed registrat (Please make checks pa	=	<b>ayment to this address:</b> nerican Studies, Rutgers")		
EASA c/o John Johnson, American Rutgers—The State University of N 131 George Street, Room 024 New Brunswick New Jersey 08901-	lew Jersey			

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE DATE, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012



The Eastern American Studies Association (EASA) is a regional chapter of the American Studies Association organized to promote and encourage the study of American Culture in the Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania areas. EASA sponsors an annual conference, special lectures and events, and publishes the newsletter twice a year.

## **Hotel Registration Form**

2012 Conference of the Eastern American Studies Association Hosted by American Studies Department, Rutgers University **Theme**: Tradition and Innovation **Venue**: New Brunswick, NJ **Dates:** March 30 and 31, 2012

Name	Institution (for bac	Institution (for badge)			
Address			-		
City	State	Zip code			
Email	Pho	one#			

Hotel: Continuing Studies Conference Center 178 Ryders Lane New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8556

We are fortunate to have a large block of reserved rooms at the Conference Center. Reserving a room here enable you have your lodging and to attend the conference and all of its meals and activities under the same roof, with free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi. Nestled on 21 beautiful wooded acres in the heart of the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University, the facility offers an ideal setting for our conference. Rooms are relatively small, and each is furnished with two double beds. Rooms will be assigned on a *first come*, *first served basis* at \$80 for Friday night lodging. If we are sold out, we will promptly advise of other area hotels and we will return your check at the conference.

To make your reservation, send a separate check for \$80 (in addition to the registration check) to the address below

(Please make checks payable to "SAS American Studies, Rutgers)

EASA c/o John Johnson, American Studies Rutgers—The State University of New Jersey 131 George Street, Room 024 New Brunswick New Jersey 08901–1414

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DATE, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

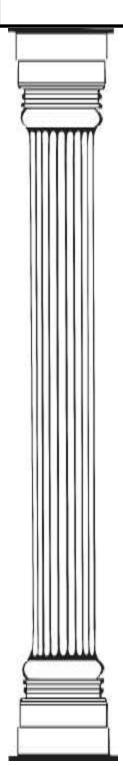


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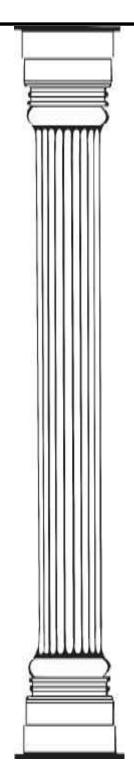
## EPSILON ALPHA KAPPA American Studies Honor Society Members of the 2012 Class





Christine Balestriere, Rowan University Megan Bennett, Penn State Harrisburg Rebecca Bickel, Rowan University Kelsey Bozarth, Rowan University Alana Catania, Rowan University Nathaniel Davis, Penn State Harrisburg Emily Felber, Franklin and Marshall College Mary Kathleen Gillespie, La Salle University Matthew Latessa, Franklin and Marshall College Leslie Lindeman, Franklin and Marshall College Amanda Loh, Franklin and Marshall College Alyssa Lorance, Penn State Harrisburg Katherine McLaughlin, Rowan University Abigail Milspaw, Franklin and Marshall College Samantha Nothstein, Rowan University Jill Novak, La Salle University Amanda Oliver, Franklin and Marshall College Adam Pennartz, Penn State Harrisburg Jacquelyn Roebuck, La Salle University Rebecca Rose, Penn State Harrisburg Jill Schwartz, Franklin and Marshall College Matthews Smith, Penn State Harrisburg Caleb Snader, Penn State Harrisburg Kristin Stobbe, Rowan University Alexis Teevens, Franklin and Marshall College





#### In and Around Rutgers (Continued)

**Rutgers Gardens** - 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, (732) 932-8451. Located two minutes from the Conference Center, the beautiful botanical garden offers diverse flora allotments and walking trails for nature lovers, bird watchers, or those seeking the serenity of babbling brooks. <a href="https://www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu">www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu</a>

**Mason Gross School of the Arts**- 85 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ, (732) 932-7511.

Rutgers University's school of performing and visual arts that features musical, theatrical, and dance productions. Check the website for a schedule of performances.

New Brunswick Theater District – Located at the corner of Livingston Avenue and George Street, the State Theater (<a href="www.statetheatrenj.org">www.statetheatrenj.org</a>), the George Street Playhouse, (<a href="www.georgestreetplayhouse.org">www.georgestreetplayhouse.org</a>), and Crossroads Theater (<a href="www.crossroadstheatrecompany.org">www.crossroadstheatrecompany.org</a>) are New Jersey's premier destinations for excellent stage productions. Check the websites for schedules of performances.

**Stress Factory**-90 Church Street, New Brunswick, (732) 545-4242. Plenty of laughs to be had at Central Jersey's premier comedy club. <a href="www.stressfactory.com">www.stressfactory.com</a>

#### Material Culture Spotlight (Continued)

and in less than 100 seconds, we measured up the details of the structure, made some photographs, and were gone with body and soul still connected.

# Rumor is you used to play some ball with Simon Bronner in your graduate school days. Who won?

As for the epic basketball that Simon and I played, it was he and I against two teenagers. We played to 40 by ones. We won by a large margin. The other guys threw the ball toward the rim yelling "Ice Cream" only to see it clunk off the backboard or rim. One of us would retrieve the ball, make a few passes, and drop the ball through the hoop. That was our "ice cream"—forty shots through the hoop. Not too spectacular, but we held up the honor of Indiana University. Who says folklorists can't jump?

#### PENN STATE HARRISBURG

Penn State Harrisburg American Studies Program W356 Olmsted Building 777 W Harrisburg Pike Middletown PA 17057



The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University.

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