On behalf of the faculty & staff of the American Studies Department, I’d like to welcome you back to the fall semester! Some changes are afoot in University Hall: Erica Ball will be the new external chair of African American Studies. While she assumes this exciting new role, she will remain housed in AMST and continue to teach courses & work with AMST students. Congrats Dr. Ball! Also, thanks are due to Mike Steiner for serving as grad advisor during the spring/summer of 2014 while Dr. Ball was on sabbatical. This year, I will be your new grad advisor, and I look forward to working with all of you. My advising hours this fall are: Tuesdays, 4-6 & by appointment (I’m on campus most days, so we can find a time that works for you).

Let’s make it a great AMST year!
Adam Golub
The department is thrilled to welcome another new full-time faculty member this year. Assistant Professor DUSTIN ABNET received his Ph.D. in U.S. History from Indiana University in 2013. Last year, he taught U.S. history courses at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. He is currently completing a book manuscript that explores the history of robots in America from the 18th century to the present. He has taught courses on American Radicalism, Computers in American Life and Culture, Sports and Fitness in American History, and American Consumer Culture. At CSUF, he hopes to teach courses on the cultural histories of technology and gaming as well as courses on Science Fiction and Fantasy in America and Digital Age Culture. Dustin’s outside interests overlap significantly with his professional interests. A frequent board and video game player, he also is a fan of much of contemporary television and 70s cinema. He runs regularly while listening to an eclectic mix of music. Stop by and introduce yourself to Dr. Abnet the next time you are up on the fourth floor of University Hall. His office is in UH-423.

The department is also happy to welcome Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher TURKAY GASIMLI. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in American Studies from Baku State University in Azerbaijan. She wrote her M.A. thesis on Baku oil fields and US-Azerbaijan relations in the early 20th century. She has taught Introduction to American Studies and the History of Canada at Baku State. During her Fulbright year at Cal State Fullerton, she is interested in learning more about American Studies pedagogy and using her knowledge to enrich the curricula at BSU. In the fall, Ms. Gasimli will be using Prof. Mike Steiner’s office while he is off for the semester, UH-410. Stop by and say hello!
Congratulations 2014 Graduates!

Students completing the M.A. thesis

PATRICK HEYER, Revolution of Spirit: Henry George, Leo Tolstoy, and the Land Value Tax

SUKEINAH KASSIR, Missions in Miniature: Cultural Constructions of California’s Mission Past

AMELIA (AMY) KREMER, Woods, Wolves, and Falcons: The Nature Writing of Jean Craighead George

EKATERINA (KATYA) KUZMINA, Russians in Post-Cold War American Films: Still a Foe or a Friend-To-Be? Looking for a Cultural ‘Reset’ Button

CASEY RATTO, From the Gunslinger to the Road Warrior: The Post-Apocalyptic and the Western in Literature, Film, and Video Games

JOSE ZAMORA, Ser Papa: The Experiences and Masculinities of Young Chicano Fathers

Students completing the M.A. Comprehensive Exam

ELAYNE ALLEBEST

DUSTIN ALTENA

JAMAL BATTS

MONICA DUBOSKI

JUSTYNA KUZNIAR

DIANN ROZSA

WALTER SANTIZO

CHRISTINE WILLIAMS

M.A. Graduates Moving On to Ph.D. Programs

JAMAL BATTS will be entering the Ph.D. program in African American Studies at UC Berkeley, where he has been awarded the Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship and the Townsend-Mellon Discovery Fellowship.

CASEY RATTO will be entering the Ph.D. program in American Studies at Washington State University with a fully funded four-year fellowship.

DIANN ROZSA is going on to the doctoral program in American Studies at the University of Iowa with a fully funded four-year fellowship.

JASON CANON (M.A. 2013) will begin a doctoral program in History at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth with a fully funded fellowship.
Meet the New Cohort!

Andrew Bahna, B.A., History and American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Judson Barber, B.A., American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Paula Beckman, B.A., American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Janet Bernabe, B.A., Political Science and Chicano Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Patricia Elizondo, B.A. Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Jasmin Gomez, B.A., American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Miriam Ogden, B.A., Communications, University of California, Santa Barbara

Evelyn Pina, B.A., Sociology and Social Science, University of California, Irvine

Amanda Ritter, B.A., American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Stepan Serdiukov (Fulbright Student), B.A., Journalism, Moscow State University

We welcome this talented new cohort to the American Studies community!

Awards & Honors

JASMIN GOMEZ is the winner of this year's $1,000 Margarete Liebe Sekhon Graduate Scholarship from the Department of American Studies.

MIKE WEST won the Earl James Weaver Graduate Essay Prize for his paper, “The Birth of the Pin-Up Girl: How Footlocker Art Swept the Nation and Influenced Gender Roles During World War II.”

JAMAL BATTS was the M.A. speaker at the American Studies graduation ceremony in May.

TATIANA PEDROZA won the department’s Susan Flinkingshelt Student Service Award.
Recent Graduate Student Conference Presentations


Aaron Mezzano, “Is Jurassic Park an Environmentalist Movie?” Earthweek Sustainability Symposium, CSUF, April 17, 2014.


Peter Stearns, “Mountain Thoughts: The Longevity of Aldo Leopold,” Earthweek Sustainability Symposium, CSUF, April 17, 2014.
ASSA Officers for 2014-2015

President: Tramanh Hoang
Vice President: Aaron Mezzano
Treasurer: Tatiana Pedroza
Secretary: Darcy Anderson
ICC Representatives: Kacie Hoppe, Evelyn Pina, Courtney Beachner
Faculty Advisor: Susie Woo

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Twitter: @assacsuf

Student Internships

Over the summer, Elliot Lam interned for the Asian American Writers’ Workshop in New York City.

In the past year, six of our M.A. students completed internships at the American Quarterly: Sophia Islas, Tatiana Pedroza, Justyna Kuzniar, Danielle Barraza, Danielle Lopez, and Alejandra Balazar.

M.A. Program in American Studies

Coming Soon…

• Grad Student Mixer. Come kick off the new semester and meet the new grad cohort at Oggi’s on Friday, August 22nd, starting at 5:00. Address: 2595 E. Chapman Ave. (corner of Commonwealth, walking distance to campus)

• The Fall Graduate/Faculty Colloquium will feature Dr. Susie Woo discussing her research. Dr. John Ibson will be hosting. Stay tuned for date information!

• The Annual American Studies Association Conference will be held in Los Angeles this year, November 6-9, 2014. Profs. Ball, Lewinnek, and Steiner are on the program, as is M.A. student Courtney Brown.

• The California American Studies Association Annual Conference will be held on the CSUF campus in the spring. Keep an eye out for the call for papers.