

# THE AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALIST

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WILLIAM AND MARY AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2016

On behalf of the American Studies Graduate Student Organization (ASGSO) at the College of William and Mary, I welcome you to the seventh edition of *The American Exceptionalist*. The newsletter presents student perspectives and program news to keep alumni and faculty informed, current students involved, and prospective students interested in our program.

In this issue, you will learn about some new faces in our community, the many impressive accomplishments of our grad students, news within the Program, and much more! We hope you enjoy this issue and we welcome your feedback.

Thank you for reading.

KHANH VO  
ASGSO SOCIAL CHAIR  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

## ACADEMIC "BRAG REEL"

Academic milestones in American Studies at W&M this year:

### Janine Yorimoto Boldt

- Research Fellowships from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts
- Presented a paper titled, "Boys in Livery: Picturing Slavery in English and Colonial American Portraiture" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
- Presented a paper titled, "Marriage, Trade & Colonial Authority: Picturing Power in a Portrait of Lucy Parke Byrd" at the Annual Virginia Forum

### Meghan Bryant

- Had a baby, Jack, on February 1!
- Successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Selling Race in America: Ideologies of Labor, Color, and Social Order in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Advertising Imagery."
- Graduated and earned the Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Humanities from the college.

## Jessica Cowing

- Presented a paper titled, "Embodied Sacrifice: Representations of Dis/ability, Recovery, and National Service" at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada (October 2015).
- Presented a paper titled, "Native Institutionalization and Imagined National Futures" at Crip Futurities: The Then and There of Disability Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan (February 2016).
- Her paper "Obesity and (Un)fit Homes: Health and Belonging in a Settler Nation" was accepted for a Critical Disability Studies Caucus sponsored panel at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting to be held in Denver, Colorado (November 2016).

## Mariaelena DiBenigno

- Passed comprehensive exams in September 2015.
- Presented a paper titled, "The Timeshare Ghost Hunt: Interpretative Techniques at a Historic House Museum," at the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association 26th Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA (November, 2015).

## Nicolette Gable

- Successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Morbid Love: Decadence in the American 1890s."

## Lindsay Garcia

- Successfully defended her MA thesis "Capitalist Architecture in a Posthumanist World," which won the Graduate Studies Advisory Board's

2016 Arts & Sciences Distinguished Thesis Award in the Humanities.

- Presented papers at multiple conferences this year including the American Comparative Literature Association, the Eastern Sociological Society, FemTechNet, Cultural Studies Association, and Gender, Bodies, and Technologies.
- Participated in various art exhibitions including *What's Right? What's Left? Democracy in America* at the Phoenix Gallery in New York City, *Vision: An Artist's Perspective* at Kaleid Gallery in San Jose, California, and the *iPhone Camera Sound* at No. 4 Studio in Brooklyn.

## Jan Huebenthal

- Passed comprehensive exams in September 2015.
- Presented a paper titled, "'Looking for Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now, Never Stop Talking' - HIV, Disability Studies, and Health in Times of LGBT Equality" at the American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting in Toronto (October 8-11, 2015).
- Served on the inaugural Graduate Fellow for the William & Mary Mattachine LGBTIQ Research Project: Documenting the LGBTIQ Past in Virginia.

## Leah Kurogano

- Presented a paper titled, "Wind "Wind Her Up! Watch Her Dance!: The Mechanization of the 'Hula Girl'" at the Twentieth Century America signal/noise FemTechNet Conference at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Presented a paper titled, "Pacific Islanders in Mass Culture and the Twentieth Century American Racial Imaginary" Eastern American Studies Association, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

## Barry Matthews

- Successfully defended his MA portfolio "New South(ern) Landscapes: Reenvisioning Tourism, Industry, and the Environment in the American South."
- Presented a paper titled, "Cary Fukunaga's True Detective, Richard Misrach's Cancer Alley, and the Posthumanist Landscape" at the 33rd Annual Art History Graduate Symposium at Florida State University, and published an accompanying essay in the journal *Athanos*.
- This summer will serve as the Havner Curatorial Intern at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

## Jennifer Ross

- Presented a paper titled, "Perceiving Reality: Narrative Space, Re-presentation, and Political Critique in City of Refuge" at the 7th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference in Natchitoches, Louisiana (September 2015).
- Presented a paper titled, "Appropriating the Past: Urban Exploration and Loft Living in De-Industrialized Detroit" at Spaces and Flows: 6th International Conference on Urban and Extra-Urban Studies in Chicago, Illinois (October 2015).

## Sarah Stanford-McIntyre

- Her article, "Reframing the Consequences of Industrial Development in the Texas Petrochemical Industry," has been accepted for publication in the edited volume *Contested Expertise and Toxic Environments*, edited by Brinda Swarthy, Vivien Hamilton, & Janet Brodie. The book is forthcoming from the University of Pittsburg Press.

## Khanh Vo

- Successfully defended her MA portfolio "Uncanny Objects: the Art of Looking and Moving Like Human."
- Presented a paper titled, "Build, Buy, or Modernize: Mechanizing America's Kitchen, 1900-1950," at the FemTechNet Conference in Ann Harbor, MI (April, 2016).



CONGRATULATIONS,  
EVERYONE! KEEP  
UP THE HARD  
WORK!

## GUESS THE BOOK TITLE:

Join the images phonetically to work out the title.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A special thank you to all contributors.

## Heard through the Grapevines

News updates  
within our Program



- ❖ Professor Francesca Sawaya will be stepping in for Professor Alan Braddock who will be at Princeton next year, as the new Director of Graduate Studies. Please join us in welcoming her.
- ❖ The Equality Lab will open in Morton this Fall to provide a collaborative space to foster interdisciplinary research by using digital tools to answer fundamental questions about the nature of in/equality across many different domains.
- ❖ 22 American Studies graduate students contributed to One Tribe One Day 2016, giving our Program the highest graduate participation rate and earning \$250 in support of our activities.

## New Faces I: The 2015/16 First Year Grad Students:

*Hello, everyone! I am Ari, future ASGO president, and one of the brave few who made it through our first year of graduate school. What a year it was! I cannot help but brag about my wonderful cohort, formed by a group of incredibly diverse and talented individuals. We are musicians, artists, activists, creators, and scholars, energized to take on a changing and complex world. Each and every person on this list inspires me; I admire the vast array of skills we have, as well as the incomparable support we provided one another throughout the year. Without Shana, Leah, Zarah, and Brian, I would be a far less educated and much more overwhelmed individual. So, take a minute to get to know us--I promise you won't be disappointed. —Ari Weinberg*



### **BRIAN JONES**

by Ari Weinberg

Let me introduce to you the incomparable Brian Jones, a man we all know as a jazz drum wizard and a genuinely cool cat. Brian lives with his wife, Caroline Browder, an attorney with the firm Roth, Doner, Jackson who also owns a daycare facility in the west end of Richmond, and his three children, Ella (12), Irish (9), and Levi (4).

Originally from the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA, Brian moved to Richmond, VA to earn his undergraduate degree at the University of Richmond in 1991 and never left. He came to W&M after hearing about the program from his friend Ben Anderson, and after some research about the field, he decided that it was a good fit--a place where Brian could both investigate jazz studies and interact with interesting people with brilliant ideas. Our amazing faculty sealed the deal for him when he visited.



## AIMING HIGH

- ❖ A well-deserved CONGRATULATIONS to all our new graduates:
  - Meghan Bryant, Ph.D.
  - Donna C. Dodenhoff, Ph.D.
  - Nicolette Gable, Ph.D.
  - Lindsay Garcia, MA
  - Travis T. Harris, MA
  - Edward P. Hunt, Ph.D.
  - John B. Matthews, MA
  - William B. Pipers, Ph.D.
  - Apostolos Rofaelas, Ph.D.
  - Jenna A. Simpson, Ph.D.
  - Helis Sikk, Ph.D.
  - Lita M. Tirak, Ph.D.
  - Khanh Vo, MA
  - Christian A. Wilbers, Ph.D.
  
- ❖ A numbers of our faculty and students are headed to Denver, CO for the ASA Conference this November:
  - Professor Liz Losh, James P. Padilioni, Janine Yorimoto Boldt, Amanda Stuckey, Jessica Cowing, Mariaelena DiBenigno, Jennifer Ross, Jan Huebenthal, Helis Sikk, and Nabeel Siddiqui

A panel titled, “Research (at) Home/Researching (in) Williamsburg, Virginia,” headed by Professors Arthur Knight and Michelle Lelievre with Lindsay Garcia, Travis Harris, and Ari Weinberg.

As a jazz drummer, Brian has interacted with a slew of famous people. When I asked him if he has ever had any especially negative interactions with musicians, he told me that he’s been lucky; most musicians have been great, but he does have qualms with a few producers. He played two concerts with avant-garde cult-hero Jandek. He describes Jandek as “fascinating,” “wraith-like” and “surprisingly down to earth.” The two of them wore the same all-black outfit at both gigs. He also enjoyed working with Jason Mraz who Brian describes as a “very humble, thoughtful dude...a technically amazing singer.” He also played with the jazz guitarist John Abercrombie in Virginia Beach for a couple of gigs a few years back. He describes Abercrombie as “the real deal” with fabulous stories. He got to have post-gig scotch with Abercrombie and talking about music with him which was a highlight.



*Jandek performing at the Suoni Per Il Popolo Festival in Montreal, Canada (June 24, 2007)*  
 Photographer: John Pham, CC by 2.0

You might not know that Brian also plays piano and guitar as composition tools, and began his transition to drum magician at the age of ten. He is also secretly talented at cooking; most nights he cooks for his family. If he could be anything, limitations aside, he would choose to be a virtuoso singer like Ella Fitzgerald or Sarah Vaughan, where he could enjoy a life of “vocal dexterity” without the burden of carrying around gear. He would also consider becoming a “big-wave type maniac” surfer. He is inspired by “creative people---those that consistently surprise with their limitless imagination,” “prolific artists,” those who work in their passion constantly. He admires their work ethic and love for the process, which to him is the most important part of creating art. He learned this year that Francesca Sawaya is a writing skills expert and she reminded him of the importance of the revising process. He’s trying his best to take her advice and work on his own writing!

## SHANA HAINES

by Brian  
Jones

Flight attendant, practicing attorney, lit/comp professor, animal rescue

advocate, AMST graduate student: trying to wrap your head around Shana Haines' intellectual and professional journey is an exercise in awe, admiration, and exhaustion. With such a myriad of skills and interests, it's no surprise that Shana revels in the interdisciplinary world of AMST, especially in the ways the field allows her to "interpret all the facets of our existence that create, enforce, and challenge our ideas about race, power, and resistance."

Although Shana loved the study of law, in practice she saw that the law wasn't so much about justice, but more rooted in the rapacious acquisition of power and money. After Trayvon Martin's murder and George Zimmerman's tragic vindication, Shana was mobilized to do more than just talk about law and power: "Law and order is more about using the law to keep social order - the status quo - than about equity and justice. I want to change that."

Though a New Yorker at heart, Shana is currently living in Franklin, Virginia with her spouse, Jamie, dogs Zora and Miles, and cat Parker. Shana plans to spend the summer



training Miles, working in her yard, and checking out Beyoncé in concert. Whatever you do, don't call her during The Walking Dead!



## LEAH KURAGANO

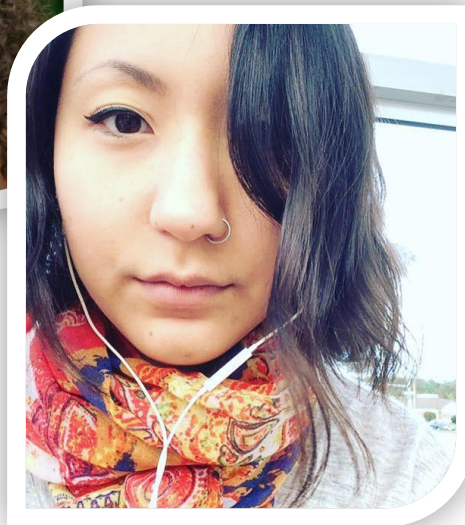
by Shana Haines

Leah Kuragano is completely unprepared for a zombie apocalypse. Ordinarily, this would send her to the bottom of my "People I Want

on My Team in a Zombie Apocalypse" list, but her skills in pitching tents, roasting marshmallows, and reality t.v. trivia have her hanging on to a top ten spot.

Leah's true passion is learning. She studies US-Hawai'i relations during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and how colonies can culturally and geographically infiltrate the metropole through music, art, and popular culture. Leah believes that race in America is a constantly shifting set of categories that is not always just black and white. Her studies in US-Hawai'i relations seek to expand the discourse about race in America.

When asked about her experience as a woman of color in the academy, Leah replied "I had a lot of strong women in my life growing up who never told me to step back and let anyone else have the



floor when you have something to say. I think that the biggest struggle for many women of color is when you are told from an early age to sit down and shut up. I am very grateful to have been told otherwise." She carries these lessons into her own academic career. One thing she wishes she had learned earlier in life is that "you don't have to prove yourself worthy in a white-male-dominated world by doing the same work as everyone else. Instead of trying to prove...that I could stand beside them, I speak loudly in favor of "alternative" scholarship and am working to gather as many fellow weirdos as I can to be on my side. There's not just one way to be a scholar, and I think that those who realize this early are going to be on the right side of history." Leah wants to be known as someone who uplifts others and urges people to live authentically without apology.

Not only is Leah intelligent, funny, and open-hearted, but she has a wisdom gained from her experiences traveling and interacting with a variety of people and cultures. Expect to see Leah on some 30 Under 30 list, soon followed by a 40 Under 40 List, ultimately resulting in a "Can't Touch This" retrospective of a career advocating for alternate and empowering perspectives on race and culture.

Leah takes her work seriously, but it is Charly, her nine-year old rescue dog, who has her heart. Both of them like to sleep and eat vegetables. One of them likes to chase squirrels. The other has impeccable fashion sense and a great sense of humor. Leah talks about the possibility of

opening a rescue for senior dogs someday. Her compassion and empathy for others is one of the many reasons she's a great colleague and friend.



## ZARAH QUINN

by Leah Kuragano

Hailing from a suburb of Rochester, New York, Zarah Quinn grew tired of the snowy weather and decided to move away after completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester. Ninety inches of snow per year, she claims, was a bit too

much for her to handle.

While abroad in England, Zarah visited an archive where she came across an original draft of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, one of her favorite novels. The manuscript was complete with Percy Bysshe Shelley's notes and corrections scribbled in the margins, and seeing it heightened her love of storytelling and inspired her to pursue graduate work. At William and Mary, Zarah's research concerns post-1945 American literature and film, and she works within the fields of genre studies and literary theory. She is driven by her desire to understand people, whether fictional, historical, or those she meets in day-to-day encounters. "At the end of the day," she says, "we are all just vulnerable people trying to be loved."

Zarah spends her time outside of her graduate work writing creatively, running, lifting weights, practicing yoga, and cooking. Although she



humbly claims that she's not very good at following a recipe, I can personally attest to her incredible skill, based on the few bites of her baking I have had the pleasure to take. Zarah is a caring person, a woman of many talents, an incredible human being, and a dedicated scholar. I recommend you keep an eye out for her future work, as it is sure to dazzle and inspire.



## ARI WEINBERG

by Zarah Quin

My fellow cohort Ari Weinberg was born and raised in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. She completed her undergraduate at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Ari is a self-proclaimed “theater kid” at heart, and singing and playing instruments is a major part of her everyday. I’ve seen her perform in the W&M Middle Eastern Ensemble—I highly recommend it. She loves to bake and cook (especially for friends and loved ones), hangs out with her “furbabies” AKA her two cats, gardens on her patio, does fancy makeup (I’m still waiting for my makeover), makes homemade cosmetics, and even dances and engages in the visual arts (i.e. painting, pastels), something I didn’t know before this interview. You could say she’s a bit of a renaissance figure. When I asked her what was on her desk right now, she had this to say:

*My desk is surprisingly empty and disorganized right now. I have been attempting a slow/messy spring clean. If you were at my desk, you'd see a*



*slew of random papers in stacks, 19th century hymn books, a fat binder full of ideas that I couldn't use throughout the semester, a computer screen, office supplies, and colorful pens. Depending on the time of day, you might encounter one of my cats sleeping there.*

Ari’s academic interests include nineteenth century to early twentieth century United States, popular music, portable music--most importantly songsters, music in war, identity

formation, race/gender/sexuality theory, affect theory, and media studies. Her current research on songsters is a continuation of her undergraduate work. When I asked her what she cared about the most (I stole this question--thanks Leah) she answered with this:

*It might sound corny, but I care the most about everyone in my life, especially friends, family, and my boo. I would drop everything and anything for those that I love. Of course, my cats Mordechai and Nocciola are*

*included in family :p*

I asked her what she was currently reading (for business or pleasure--or both).

*Right now, I am reading a book written by a friend and I am loving it! I am also working through the book *The Cherokee Rose* by Tiya Miles- also fabulous. I would highly recommend the book to anyone interested in the long-term effects of slavery, Native American history, black history, or southern literature.*

From my experience, Ari is always down for good conversation and a cup of coffee. Whether it’s an intellectual discussion or a conversation on your love life, Ari is a great interlocutor inside and outside the classroom.



## New Faces II: Elizabeth Losh

*Liz Losh, Associate Professor of English and American Studies began her work at William and Mary in fall of 2015. Professor Losh's body of work focuses on rhetoric, media history, digital literacy and publication, feminism and technology. I had a chance to ask Professor Losh about her work and thoughts on Colonial Williamsburg. Here are some highlights from our conversation:*

### Could you tell us about your academic background?

Before I came to W&M, I ran the Culture, Art, and Technology Program at UC San Diego, which was an interdisciplinary program that involved long standing collaboration between the program in science studies, the department of visual arts at UCSD, and a multi-campus initiative called Calit2.

What was interesting and challenging about that position is it had a very ambitious academic plan and very 21<sup>st</sup> century ideas about education. We had really amazing faculty members teaching in the freshman core curriculum—people like James Fowler and Teddy Cruz. We also had an upper division practicum where students had to do field work, laboratory work, study abroad, clinical work—something that applied theory to practice. We often focus on questions of online identity designed for graduating seniors. So if the freshman sequence was designed to help students make the transition from high school to college, the senior course was

designed to help them make the transition from being undergraduates to being citizens of the so-called “real world.”

That was a great environment to work in because it was intensely interdisciplinary and creative, but also very challenging in that it was difficult to do this at scale. Somewhere like W&M, which has much smaller class sizes and more resources to support undergraduate research, is a place where it's going to be much easier to do that kind of work.

### Who or what are some of your biggest influences?

The biggest influence for me has been being a part of FemTechNet, which is the Feminist Technology Network started by Anne Balsamo and Alexandra Juhasz. I got to know Juhasz back in 2005 when I first started teaching a digital rhetoric course that focus on questions of identity and performance at the same time that Juhasz was teaching a course about learning from YouTube,



which was a new thing then. That was a very important collaboration for me.

FemTechNet has been important in the ways that expanded my intellectual toolkit from my background in critical theory and rhetoric which is what I did my Ph.D. work in to incorporating science and technology studies, human-computer interactions (HCI).

The other group that was really influential was led by Paul Dourish at UCI doing research on HCI. I was at UCI for a dozen years before I went to UCSD. Having an opportunity to work on initiatives like Values in Design at UCI was very transformative as was the mentoring I received from Julia Lupton who helped found the UCI Design Alliance. I also did a lot of writing with her sibling Ellen

Lupton, the design curator at the Copper-Hewitt, about the questions of everyday design and how can we think critically about design practice and critical making.

### **What are your current research projects?**

I'm working on a book about the Obama presidency (*The Posthuman Presidency: Technology, Democracy, and Obama*) because my first book was about the Bush presidency and digital media, although my argument was that the Bush presidency was actually borrowing a lot of elements from the Clinton presidency. I was interested in how digital files could reach unintended audiences, be used for unanticipated purposes, and the challenges that pose to rhetorical actors in the government who had to deal with being both content creators and content regulators. I'm interested in the ways that we can think about ubiquitous computing and performances of political sovereignty. In other words, I'm interested in everything from selfies to drones when it comes to Obama.

I'm also working on two edited collections. One is, thankfully, in the final ends of the editorial pipeline, which is a collection for the University of Chicago called *MOOCs and Their Afterlives*. It looks at massive open online courses with tens of thousands of people enrolled in them often on subjects in computer science or



other technical fields and often from elite institutions. The basic argument of the book is what's most significant about MOOC mania or the enthusiastic adoption of MOOCs is that it facilitated a series of discussions about scale and access in higher education. What's more important is not the MOOCs, but the experiments, the reactions to MOOCs. What does it mean to prioritize things other than being massive and use technology in new ways?

The second edited collection is about feminist debates in digital humanities. I'm working on that with my frequent collaborator Jacqueline Wernimont of Arizona State University. And then I'm also working on a book about global media activism with Beth Coleman of the University of Waterloo.

### **One of your initiatives at W&M is the Equality Lab. What do you hope students will get out of this new space, and what are some long term goals?**

We're trying to highlight inequality research as an important form of scholarly activity for which students can also formulate meaningful

research questions. When we look at things like the Mattachine Project and the ways that students working with Leisa Meyer are looking at the history of gay and lesbian Americans in Virginia, we can open up these hidden archives and think a little bit about invisible forms of inequalities. So how things like different forms of regulation of public space, ways that the liquor laws were enforced unfairly on gay and lesbian Virginians, and funding for student organizations contained with it certain heterosexist biases. The question is how to take that kind of work and bring it to the digital environment whilst still maintaining privacy, dignity, consent, and all the things you want to maintain. One of the things I've been thinking a lot about is this question of what does it mean to drop the digital? What does it mean to reimagine the humanities differently?

One of the interesting things about the Equality Lab as it has emerged is that I'm now partnering with Brett Wilson in the English department who is a specialist in the 18<sup>th</sup> century while I, of course, specialize in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We want the Equality Lab to be space where people who are exploring many different kinds of questions around inequality can come.

We're looking forward to having designated digital scholarship space which will take place in a couple of phases. The

first phase is going to be moving into a space in Morton Hall that we will share with film and media studies next year. There's currently an advancement campaign going on to raise funds for a permanent home for the Equality Lab.

**As an interdisciplinary scholar, how do you balance maintaining specific research interests and discipline specific ties when you have connections to multiple fields?**

One thing I've tried to do is focus specifically on the field of digital rhetoric. My Ph.D. is in English although I did the critical theory emphasis at UC Irvine as a Ph.D. student during the days when Derrida, Lyotard, and a lot of these well-known French post-structuralists were there. Having a critical theory background was helpful for thinking



Elizabeth Losh. *Virtualpolitik: An Electronic History of Government Media-Making in a Time of War, Scandal, Disaster, Miscommunication, and Mistakes* (MIT Press, 2009)

interdisciplinarily, but a lot of what I do is really close reading. I often use textual explication as my primary methodology. That said, when you write about digital artifacts it's really easy to go wrong if you don't do some field work, if you aren't participating in those communities.

**What is your advice to students standing at the crossroads, deciding what to do and study?**

The most important thing is to pick research questions that you're deeply invested in, that you care about, and that speaks to your regular life. In the case of writing books, it's been a lot easier to finish writing when I feel like I have an argument to make and I want to make an intervention. My first book which was about e-government was really about what I saw as some very problematic tendencies when it came to how the federal government was using new technologies. I felt a strong stake in those debates as a political activist. For the second book, I'm an educator and, for better or for worse, a bureaucrat in higher education and someone who cares about fairness and equality, but also about things like transparency.

With both books I actually started with a story from my own life which in some ways risk being journalistic, but also gives people a way into sometimes very complicated arguments. I'm trying to intervene in a policy

issue where I feel like there's a policy question where a humanist, and particularly a rhetorician, might have something useful to say. I come from a discipline where rhetoric tends to get discounted. People assume that rhetoric is lies or hot air, but I argue that rhetorical activities are something that we're all doing all the time and increasingly digitally. Rhetorical competence is really about political participation and civic participation and people can't participate in their society if they don't have competency in digital rhetoric. So don't be afraid to draw on the materials of our own life even if the final product might be much more scholarly.

**What is it like living in Colonial Williamsburg?**

Living in Colonial Williamsburg is very surreal, particularly for someone whose specialty is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I often just say to my neighbors, "Oh, I'm in American Studies" rather than explain exactly what I do, but the problem is actually a lot of people in Colonial Williamsburg know what American Studies is and they'll ask you more detailed question where it's hard to get out of the fact that I study digital media. It's kind of nice though, in a way. I'm a walker so I really enjoy strolling about and being flâneur and sort of seeing what people are up to. Also because I'm always multitasking and in duties as a collaborator in these different scholarly



collectives I'm always trying to turn around my responses pretty fast, what's great about living in CW is you get to see people doing things really slowly. Because they're doing things with 18<sup>th</sup> century tools and they're doing them by daylight so it'll be like "Yesterday, you were working on one set of ruffles. Oh wow! You finished that row of ruffles and now you're starting a new row of ruffles." Or "Gee, you did another knot on that piece of woodwork.

Great!" So I just like seeing things evolve slowly and by hand.

### **What are you overall thoughts on being and working in American Studies at W&M?**

I'm just really excited about all the opportunities here. I think one of the things that have been really important in my own development as a scholar is having access to international networks because even though I'm in American Studies, digital media is an

international field as is American Studies, actually. And I think that having this ability to collaborate with people in Bangalore and Hamburg and different places in the world helps me understand the ways that American exceptionalism, and particularly some of the assumptions that we bring about technology, that those are not necessarily universal values that are shared by all.



*Professor Corinne Field, University of Virginia*

## **CORINNE T. FIELD VISITS WILLIAM & MARY**

Janine Boldt

In the fall, Professor Hannah Rosen contacted me about bringing Corinne Field, Professor of History and Women, Gender, and Sexuality at the University of Virginia to campus for a brown bag talk. In collaboration with the History department, we were able to invite Prof. Field to come to campus and meet with graduate students in early April. Prof. Field gave a paper representing her recent work titled, "The Mother of the Race and Modern Girls: Intersections of Racial and Generational Conflict in the US Women's Rights Movement, 1870-1920." The talk was related to her current book project on generational conflict within Anglo-American feminism. Students in Prof. Rosen's Race Theory class were introduced to her work in the fall when they read Prof. Field's book, *The Struggle for Equal Adulthood: Gender, Race, Age, and the Fight for Citizenship in Antebellum America* (2014). Aside from giving a paper and receiving feedback from W&M faculty and students, Prof. Field was also open to discussing methodology and her use of age as a category of analysis. Several graduate students whose research interests relate to Prof. Field's work were able to go out to lunch with her. I cannot thank Prof. Rosen enough for her aid in bringing a visiting scholar to campus. When a visiting scholar comes to campus, students have the opportunity to hear new and exciting work, network, and show off our graduate program.



## PROFESSOR FIELD'S BROWN BAG TALK: 1 April 2016

Alison Bazylnski, and Mariaelena DiBenigno

On April 1, 2016, Prof. Field, spoke with American Studies and History graduate students about age as a method for historical analysis. Age, an often-overlooked mode of inquiry, is a particularly useful way for scholars to understand how adulthood is tied to issues of gender and citizenship. Prof. Field discussed the social constructedness of chronological age and its relationship to embodied experiences of gender and race. However, age is a subjective category that is difficult to read on the gendered body. Using the early feminist movement in the United States, Prof. Field outlined how white suffragist movement emphasized generational differences by increasingly depicting the older white

woman as remnants of the antebellum abolitionist movement who passed the torch to younger white suffragists increasingly aligning themselves with white supremacy. Conversely, black suffragists stressed alliances across age groups and did not stress generational divides based on age. Age allows Prof. Field to look at different social categories and the way chronological age informed (and informs) conversations about who can participate in the political economy.

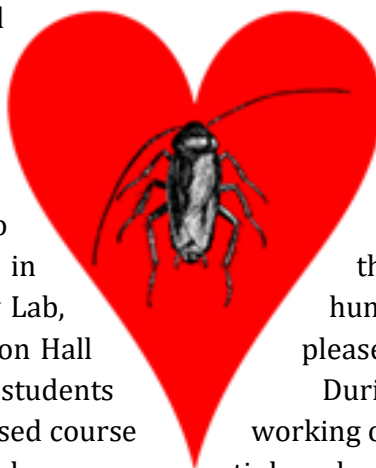
As a note, in her Q&A, Professor Field recommended that dissertations should be focused and succinct. "Just get it done," she said.



## MAY SEMINAR 2016: MAKERSPACE

Lindsay Garcia

As a graduate student in the American Studies program (and a video/performance artist), I chose to participate in the week-long May Seminar/Makerspace workshop for a variety of reasons. While May Seminars are intended to offer faculty continuing education and useful tools to engage in new ways in the classroom, I went as graduate student "hanger on." My purpose for attending was to develop skills as an aspiring digital humanist. This summer and into next fall, I will aid Professor Liz Losh in developing and promoting the Equality Lab, a new digital humanities space in Morton Hall and will hopefully teach workshops to students there. I also plan to develop practice-based course assignments for students when I teach my own classes that utilize both the Physics Makerspace and the Equality Lab.



For the time reserved to develop our own projects, I chose to tinker with Arduino technology and 3D printing. In my own dissertation research, I am developing an interdisciplinary art project called *Feminist Pest Control* which endeavors to apply DIY feminist technologies to issues that humans have with animals considered pests. In an independent study last semester, I used the Makerspace to create *The Cockroach Disco*, a space where cockroaches can enjoy themselves instead of living in fear of their human predators. (For more information, please visit [www.lindsaygarcia.com](http://www.lindsaygarcia.com).)

During the May seminar, I was able to begin working on two projects for *Feminist Pest Control*. I tinkered with electronics to enable me to build a motion sensor for a GoPro camera. Although I realized early on that this task was no easy one, I understand some basic electronics tools that I can



*Cockroach Disco*

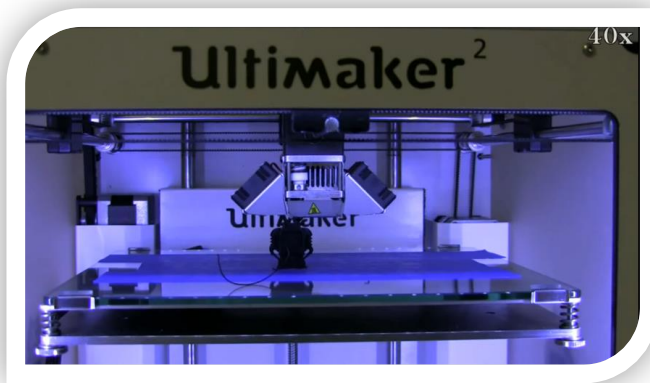
play with this summer. This technology will go into another device, *The Cockroach Hospice*, a space where already poisoned cockroaches can go to die. The motion sensor camera will be installed to document the dying process. This idea, of photographing dying pests, emerges from the notion that most animals that are killed at industrial scales are killed out of sight (either behind the walls of the slaughterhouse, if a feral animal, or in the walls of the home or other building, if a pest). If we could just visualize the pain of animals, then perhaps the killing could cease or more humane practices developed.

The second project was designed by Khanh Vo in Google Sketch Up: a 3D printed cockroach-shaped chocolate mold. The FDA allows a certain amount of insect fragments (and rodent filth) per gram into certain processed foods, and chocolate

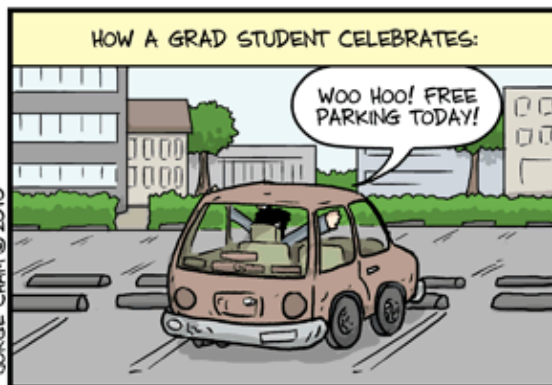
is a huge attractor of these bugs in its processing facilities. To be able to mold chocolate into the shape of the cockroach also allows us to visualize animal death in a more savory way.

The way that I see these kinds of projects developing into coursework is to allow students to develop their own technologies using different Makerspace tools. While I found electronics to be beyond my day-to-day comprehension level, 3D printing is easy (although troublesome at times getting all the settings right), and anyone could do it with just a few hours of training. Incorporating these technologies into humanities work allows for cross-disciplinary conversations between the humanities and the sciences and also questions whether citizen science and a practice-based approach to American Studies could be useful for developing new tools for disseminating information, shifting ideologies, and creating cultural changes that aren't loaded with the sometimes impenetrable walls of the academy.

*Ultimaker<sup>2</sup> 3D printer in the Small Hall Physic Makerspace*

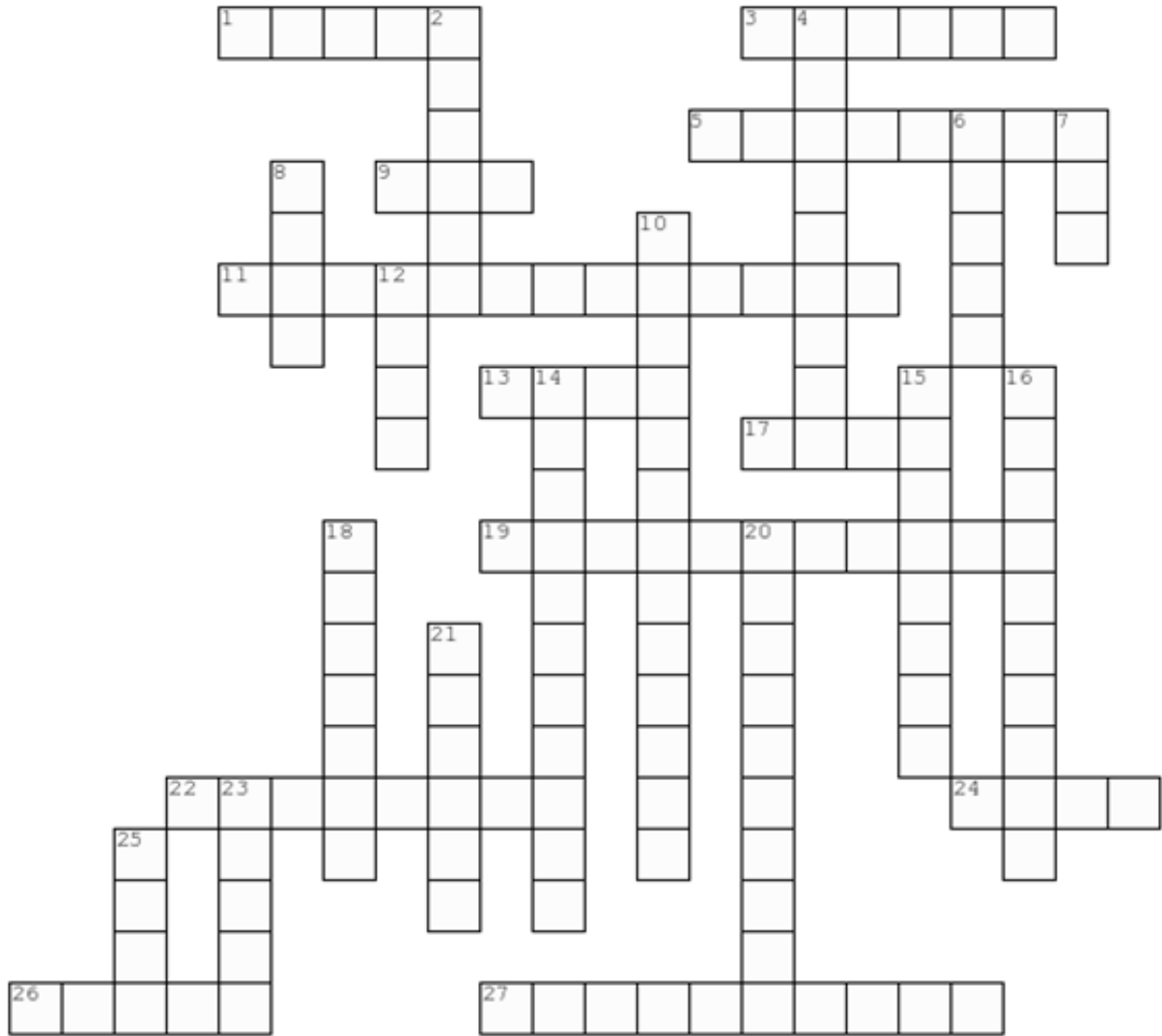


## HOLIDAY!



# Crossword

Janine Yorimoto Boldt



**Across**

- 1. 2016 commencement speaker
- 3. GSWS home
- 5. informal Wednesday presentation
- 9. AMST created March event
- 11. Best place to play 18th cricket or build a parking garage
- 13. Holds the program together
- 17. Newest faculty member
- 19. Latest campus eyesore
- 22. Left-side of James Blair
- 24. Theme of 2016 ASA meeting
- 26. W&M Journey of Reconciliation Project
- 27. Indian School

**Down**

- 2. Community Scholars Program
- 4. Institute of Early American History and Culture
- 6. artist Echo-Hawk
- 7. Film & Community
- 8. ASA president-elect
- 10. AMST annual review
- 12. Cross-cultural collaboration summer program
- 14. DH space opening in Morton
- 15. Wine night at Blue (Chicken) Talon
- 16. go-to lunch spot
- 18. Dean of Graduate Students
- 20. Documenting the LGBTIQ Past in Virginia
- 21. DGS
- 23. Career center
- 25. Houses W&M Hip Hop Collection