

**September**

- 8 - Fall ISD Retreat
- 15 - Asian Studies: Shamisen Musicians
- 20- ISD Dept. Meeting - SO 4060

**October**

- 11 - ISD Student Mixer - Leadership Room
- 19-20-SAUP0 Summit - Shanghai, China
- 18- ISD Dept. Meeting - SO 4060

**November**

- 15- ISD Dept. Meeting - SO 4060

**December**

- 11 - Last day of classes, fall semester
- 12&13- Fall Graduations
- 14 - Fall grades due



**Indian American Community Tour**

Throughout the Year of India, KSU students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in local Indian American Community tours. There will be two main stops on the tour –the Lilburn Swaminarayan Temple (<http://www.baps.org/Global-Network/NorthAmerica/Atlanta.aspx>) and the Global Mall (includes vegetarian lunch. Sign up:

<http://dga.kennesaw.edu/yearof/india>.

**What I did on My Summer Vacation:**

**May Gao's** research (with Deanna Womack) on intercultural learning and adaptation obstacles for expatriates in China was featured in a July article in the *Shanghai Daily* called "Hurdle Obstacles by Embracing Chinese Culture."

**Wendell McMurrain** continued his academic studies as a self-proclaimed vagabond student by attending Yale University for coursework in Religious Studies "Religion Through Art & Artifact."

**Lauren MacIvor Thompson** spent a month on a fellowship at the New York Academy of Medicine examining the early history of the birth control movement for her book project "Battle for Birth Control: Mary Ware Dennett, Margaret Sanger and the Rivalry that Shaped a Movement" which is currently under review with Rutgers University Press. She also has an article forthcoming in the interdisciplinary journal *Miranda*, based at the University of Toulouse, in France. The title is "*The Presence of a Monstrosity: Eugenics, Female Disability, and Obstetrical-Gynecologic Medicine in Late 19th Century New York.*"

**Steve and Cherie Miller** welcomed their first grandbaby this summer - Welcome to the family - Aviana Marie!



**ISD Faculty Awards and Accomplishments**

**Congrats to the ISD Award Winners:**

- Laura Davis**, Outstanding Teaching
- May Gao**, Outstanding Community Engagement,
- Roxanne Donovan**, Outstanding Interdisciplinary Research and Outstanding Diversity Advocate,
- Mandy McGrew**, Outstanding Part-Time Teaching

*We're so proud of all of you!*



**New ISD Limited Term Faculty Member**

**Welcome to Jalessah Jackson.** She is a mother and lecturer in Gender and Women's Studies and African and African Diaspora Studies. She earned her M.A. in Gender and Cultural Studies from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and her BA at Kennesaw State University. Her research interests lie at the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality but primarily include: cross-cultural solidarity and movement building, Black motherhood, and human, labor, and civil rights for sex workers.



**Roxanne Donovan** presented her stress research at the recent Nigerian Leadership Conference sponsored at KSU. Former AADS student **Georgia Northcutt** also participated in this conference with Nigerian educators. Georgia with **Dr. Akanmu Adebayo**.



*Interdisciplinary Studies Department*

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**Annie Moye**

With a background in English and a minor in Religious Studies from Georgia State University, Annie Moye graduated from Kennesaw State University's Master of Arts in American Studies program in 2012. Her research interests include the study and preservation of art environments in the South, and she has focused her work on environments that express spiritual and political significance, like St. EOM's Pasaquan, Howard Finster's Paradise Garden, and Joe Minter's African Village in America. Elected Chair of the Pasaquan Preservation Society in early 2016, Moye supports the evolving group on a range of projects, including grant writing, museum programming, docent training, collections management, archival maintenance, tourism research, and event planning.

**Fall 2017 In this issue:**

**Changes in ISD Graduates & New Faces Awards & Faculty News Coming Events**

**Fall Brings New Beginnings to ISD**

This newsletter starts with much good news. The ISD suite renovation was completed just before school started, and our new space is open for business. Please come and visit!

ISD made a great showing at the Faculty and Staff Awards ceremony, held Thursday, Aug. 9. May Gao, former coordinator of Asian Studies and currently chair of SAUP0, received the award for Outstanding Community Engagement. Former GWST coordinator Laura Davis, who teaches courses in a variety of modalities, received the Outstanding Teaching award. ISD Assistant Chair Roxanne Donovan won two awards, one for Outstanding Interdisciplinary Research and another for being the Outstanding Diversity Advocate. MAST alumnus Mandy McGrew, who teaches the General Education course in American Studies, was named the Outstanding Part-Time Faculty member for the university.

All four of these wonderful women conduct work that has a significant impact both on and off campus. It is great to see them recognized for their achievements.

If you heard at the end of spring semester that the AADS major was being "deactivated," please be aware that it was "reactivated" over the summer. The program is alive and well and accepting new majors and minors.

Our last newsletter promised there would be a number of new faces in ISD this fall, and you can see several of them in this issue. Annie Moye joined us in July as a new staff member, and she has already been hard at work creatively promoting our programs and working with our M.A. students. Rudy Aguilar and Miriam Brown Spiers are new tenure-track faculty, and we have two new Program Coordinators: Gabriel Soldatenko will oversee Latin American/Latin@ Studies and Letizia Guglielmo is the new coordinator of Gender & Women's Studies. We are also welcoming two new limited term faculty this fall, Jalessah Jackson and Lauren Thompson, as well as a new student worker, Nia -Imani Mason.

We had two more Master's students in American Studies graduate this summer: Christi Williams and Meya Hemphill are pictured inside with the members of their respective committees. The program will welcome a number of new students this fall.

Finally, go to the back page for some highlights of the upcoming Year of India and a list of other important events for ISD faculty and friends.

We hope to see you soon!

Robbie Lieberman, Chair

## New GWST Coordinator

## New LALS Coordinator

## MAST Summer Graduates



Dr. Letizia Guglielmo

**Dr. Letizia Guglielmo** was named the new Gender & Women's Studies (GWST) Program Coordinator. She is an Associate Professor of English and teaches courses in professional writing and gender studies. Her research and writing focus on feminist rhetoric and pedagogy, gender and pop culture, the intersections of feminist action and digital communication, and professional development for students and faculty. She is editor and contributor for *MTV and Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays on 16 and Pregnant and Teen Mom*, co-author (with Lynée Lewis Gaillet) of *Scholarly Publication in a Changing Academic Landscape: Models for Success*, and co-editor (with Lynée Lewis Gaillet) of *Contingent Faculty Publishing in Community: Case Studies for Successful Collaborations*. She is currently author-editor for a two-volume set of twenty-five essays titled *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, Solutions* to be published in 2018.

**Dr. Gabriel Soldatenko** was elected as the new Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program Coordinator. He completed his PhD in 2010 at SUNY Binghamton in the interdisciplinary program "Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture." The following fall he joined the Department of History and Philosophy at Kennesaw State.



Dr. Gabriel Soldatenko

Professor Soldatenko's interests land at the intersection of three strains of thought: Latin American philosophy, social-political philosophy, and contemporary continental thought. More precisely, Soldatenko weaves these interests together to dwell on, critique, and generally reveal the philosophical richness of everyday life with a specific focus on the experience

of U.S. Latinas/os. At the same time, and in collaboration with his colleagues, he has also become interested and active in the project of comparative and global philosophy by advocating and pushing for the inclusion of Latin America and Caribbean thought.



Meya Hemphill, with her capstone committee, Dr. Griselda Thomas and Dr. Nichole Guillory after defending her thesis: *The Anti-Black Hero: Black Masculinity Media Representation as Seen in Netflix Original Series Luke Cage and Fox Series Empire!*



Congratulations to Christi Williams who defended her thesis "American Horror Story: The Degeneration of the American Dream." Her committee members were Dr. Robbie Lieberman and Dr. Larrie Dudenhoeffer. Also pictured, Dr Rebecca Hill, MAST program director.

## New ISD Faculty Members

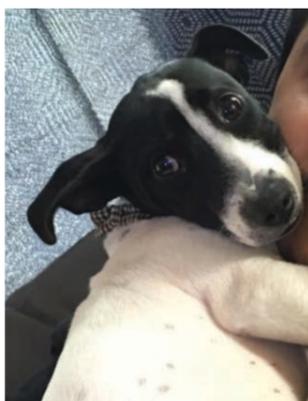


Dr. Rudy Aguilar

**Dr. Rodolfo Aguilar** joins the Interdisciplinary Studies Department as Assistant Professor of Latin American/Latino Studies and American Studies. He earned his B.A. in Latin American & Latino Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota.

His scholarly interests include U.S. Latino Studies, popular music, American Studies, immigration, and Mexicans in the Midwest. His dissertation examines how Mexican Sondidos (DJs) and members of Chicagoland's Mexican immigrant population engage in community formation and hemispheric cultural processes when they curate sonidero dances with Latin American soundscapes, especially the Columbian cumbia. His latest research venture looks at Latino soul groups in the Midwest to explore more in-depth race relations between Latino and Black communities during the sixties and seventies.

In his spare time Dr. Aguilar enjoys frequenting music stores in search for vintage vinyl records. Rudy and his wife Amy live in Marietta with the cutest puppy ever - Mr. Feeny



Mr. Feeny



Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers

**Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers** received her B.A. in English from Oglethorpe University and her M.A. and Ph.D in English, as well as a graduate certificate in Native American Studies, from the University of Georgia. Before coming to KSU, she taught at Miami University Middletown and the University of California Merced, where she had the opportunity to teach courses in Women's and Gender Studies and Writing Studies, as well as English and Native American Studies. Her research and teaching interests include contemporary Indigenous literatures, formal and generic experimentation, 20th and 21st century American literature, comics, and ethnic American literatures. Her current book project examines the ways that Native novelists have adapted the generic tropes of science fiction as a means of resisting cultural assimilation and reasserting the value of Indigenous knowledge in the twenty-first century.



Welcome to our new ISD Student Assistant - say "Hi" to Nia-Imani the next time you visit ISD!

**Nia-Imani Mason** is a first-year Mass Communications major at KSU. She anticipates continued academic and personal successes in college based on her successful high school experience. During that time Nia grew through opportunities afforded her through participation in the Georgia

Governor's Honors Program, volunteering in the HS media center and dually tasked as the Head Manager for her school's Wrestling and Lacrosse teams. Outside of the academic environment, Nia-Imani lends a helping hand within the community, helping to educate others about sustainable eating and living practices and promoting farm to table eating. In her free time she likes to spend time with a good book, sharpen her eye through photography, or work on her budding YouTube channel. She's currently pursuing plans of creating her own club on campus. Nia-Imani is excited to have the chance through the work study program to engage with others in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department and to meet all the professors who call it home.



**Damian Lockhart** appeared in the recent performance of "Father Comes Home from the Wars" presented at the Actor's Express in Atlanta. Damian graduated from KSU in 2015 with a Theater & Performance Studies Major and a minor in African & African Diaspora Studies (AADS).

## ISD Students

**Carlos Gomez**, a volunteer with the Maya Heritage Community Project, received an "Outstanding Student Award" in May 2017. His mother is Guatemalan, and he is proud of his Mayan heritage.



Carlos Gomez

**Yesenia Fregoso** won 1st Place in the People category in the recent Education Abroad Photo Contest with this photo "Festival Kid." This is from the Study Abroad in Peru led by **Ernesto Silva** and **Seneca Vaught**. The third place photo was taken by **Maria Arrendondo** who also went to Peru in May.



Festival Kid