

# Program in American Studies

*Critical. Interdisciplinary. Relevant.*



American Studies Program  
2320 North Kenmore Ave.  
Schmitt Academic Center  
5th floor

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# Message from the Director

## Prof. Amy M. Tyson

This past fall, anticipating that the next edition of *The Updater* ought to contain a few news-worthy items from our alumni, the Program in American Studies sent out a call for updates. To our delight, nine of our alumni responded. Quite a bit. Because we couldn't choose between them, featured here, in their own words, are **updates from nine of our American Studies alumni**.

**Our alumni make a positive difference in our world**, not only as the teachers, writers, lawyers, account executives, and political campaigners that they have become, but as inquisitive, thoughtful human beings. As you'll see in the pages that follow, our American Studies alumni have been busy — traveling the world, writing dissertations, leading workshops, fighting for social justice, curating exhibits, running marathons, campaigning for progressive political candidates, swimming with dolphins, serving as union reps, teaching humanities and social science classes, managing projects, becoming parents, harvesting vegetable gardens, and advocating for child welfare. We are delighted to share their stories with you here.



Beyond the alumni updates (including **Alumni Advice** to current majors, and **podcast and book recommendations**), this edition also features a few choice photographs from our Class of 2019 Senior Capstone Presentations. At this annual event American Studies majors presented their theses on topics as diverse as “Reshaping Consent Education in a U.S. Context” (**Jorey Dvorak**) to “The City of Broad Buns: An Ethnic History of the Chicago Hot Dog” (**Sophia Modzelewski**) to an audience of faculty, peers, partners, and proud parents—a number of whom flew in for the occasion.

As our soon to be graduates ready themselves for life after college, we hope they will take the stories of the alumni featured in this newsletter as inspiration.

*This newsletter was brought to you through the combined efforts of American Studies major **Elizabeth Cassidy** (Class of 2020), **Prof. Allison McCracken**, and myself — in addition to the author-alumni featured here.*

# The Updater

## ALUMNI EDITION. 2019



# Bristol Cave-LaCoste, class of 2012

I am starting my **5th year of my PhD program in History at the University of California-Santa Cruz**, which means I'm early in the dissertation writing stage. I just finished my first chapter so now I feel like I have to finish it all, I guess ;) I'm writing on prostitution/sexual policing and immigration law, 1875-1930 so Donaldina Cameron, the focus of my American Studies senior thesis at DePaul, still gets to make an appearance. I said I'd probably drop out but I'm still in it, in part because I am finding side hustles that make the job more tenable and because I'm enjoying having a lot of flexibility to do other things. I live in the mountains out-



side of San José in between a Christmas tree farm and a winery so it is a quite magical day-to-day existence when I don't think about the crushing expense of living in this state. **I organize a lot with Democratic Socialists of America (I am currently a Labor Working Group co-chair of Silicon Valley DSA, if that explains anything)** and I'm taking actual Spanish classes finally.

I am still really motivated by teaching over anything else, I've gotten to teach two of my own classes so far and looking forward to

hopefully teaching my queer history class next summer. When I finish, I might end up in the community college track, or teaching at a small liberal arts college, or even high school... I'm not so picky as long as I'm not at a Research 1 University because I still hate research and writing almost as much as I did in undergrad (although I did have a really wonderful time on my research trip through Indiana last year when I went to the Kinsey archives. I'm pretty lucky to have a job that counts looking at erotic sketches and reading old dirty letters as a work expense :)

Britstol's biography: <https://bit.ly/2SibXo6>

Bristol Cave-LaCoste interviewed (for 20 minutes) about her work on Voces Críticas, local radio station KZSC in Santa Cruz, April 5, 2018: <https://bit.ly/2UAhxiP>

# Caelin Niehoff, class of 2014

**I'm still at the History Factory, but now am working as an account executive.**

I served as the project manager for two pretty big projects over the last year: the second edition of the Brook's Brother's publication, *Generations of Style*, as well as the book *Verizon Untethered*. Our team got to interview Zac Posen for the Brooks book! And I was just in San Francisco facilitating a workshop, "From Catalog to Catalyst," at the communications network's annual conference, ComNet.

The workshop was about future-proofing an archives and making the most of an organization's archival assets. Last year, I did one in Miami about using historical content on social media. Fun tidbit: Martin Luther King's lawyer and speech writ-



er attended the workshop last year.

I just got back from a women's rock climbing festival in Chattanooga. I've been climbing all around the country since graduating. This past year I was in Yo-

semite and Hueco Tanks near El Paso. I was in Seattle in May staying with a friend from DePaul who works in higher ed at the University of Washington. We camped at La Push (#teamJacob) and went tree climbing up at Deception Pass state park. I was also in Guatemala in August and traveled around the country (including on the back of a motorcycle), and then in September I spent a few weeks traveling through Germany and the Czech Rep. I stayed with a

friend outside of Frankfurt, then went on to Berlin where I ran my third marathon. I stayed with two couch surfers in east Berlin before heading onto Prague. I am working towards running the six world majors. I ran NYC last year (PR of 3:36:48!)



**HISTORY FACTORY**  
LEADING THE AUTHENTIC CONTENT REVOLUTION



Caelin's profile at the History Factory: <https://bit.ly/2D2PxNW> | Follow Caelin's Twitter: @caelinniehoff

Caelin also writes for the History Factory: <https://bit.ly/2MMI2il>



# Rae-Anna Sollestre, class of 2016

Since I've graduated, I took a year before going to law school, so that I could break the fear of speaking to strangers a bit. And I am happy to note that I fear public speaking much less than I ever have before. **I'm currently in my second year at Marquette University Law School (MULS).** I'm also seeking the Sports Law Certificate and have begun to take sports law-tailored classes.

Because I'm at MULS, I am in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which makes me miss wonderful Chicago, but I'm glad that I'm close enough to visit. **I'm a member of the Sports Law Society and Black Law Student Association, and I am also the Secretary of the Asian Law Student Association on campus.** I'm currently working with the other diversity groups on campus to be more involved in the Milwaukee community and do some volunteer work.

I also am involved in **pro bono work for the Sojourner Family Peace Center** here. I'm conducting interviews of domestic violence victims in Milwaukee and providing attorneys with recommendations about cases. I think this work is difficult, but I also find it so incredibly necessary and fulfilling. There are so many people that seek help who unfortunately do not receive it, so I'm incredibly humbled by the opportunity to do what I can to help these people.

My brain is currently fried because I am taking 16 credit hours and approaching the end of the semester here. I've been applying for jobs and networking whilst attempting to make time to study and finish everything that needs to get done. For example, just this past weekend, I attended and worked the National Sports Law Institute's Fall Conference where I was able to network with people



from across the country. In light of all of the sexual misconduct and gender inequity, I'm trying to figure out the best way to work for change, and I talked to a lot of people in the industry about possible work with Title IX enforcement and compliance, which is where my passions intersect so deeply. Fighting the good fight and working with sports would be a dream come true!

When I did my student spotlight for the newsletter a couple years ago, I had plans to visit the Philippines, but they never materialized. Luckily, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit for two and a half weeks this past May, and it was one of the most humbling experiences I've ever had. Having visited when I was about five years old, I did not appreciate my time spent there as much as I did this time. Seeing the way that my family and others lived in the Philippines made me so incredibly grateful for every opportunity and amenity given here in the United States. There is

such an immense gap between people who "do well for themselves" there and those that "do well" here, and it was humbling to see it. I never completely understood why my grandparents always wanted to take my old clothes to the Philippines, but I definitely understand why they want to give my old clothes to family there now. Also, the immense beauty of the Philippines was awe-inspiring and breathtaking. Honestly, no pictures do the clarity of the water and greenery justice. It is such an amazing place, and I'm

hoping to go back soon.

I remind myself that everyone is plagued by their own tough times, and I remind myself that hardship is temporary. I will work through it, one step at a time. I am lucky enough to have such great family and friends to inspire me to keep working when times get





# Noah Barth, class of 2017

Things on my end are all over the place. Since moving to Minnesota, **I started my Masters program in Heritage Studies and Public History at the University of Minnesota.** The program was brand new when I started (I'm part of the first cohort), but since then, we have welcomed a new cohort and the program received a \$350,000 Mellon Grant (so it seems the faculty and students are doing something right). Most notably since starting the program, I started working for the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota for their 150th Anniversary. I'm tasked with processing their archival collection (it's huge) and then curating an exhibit in the Spring of 2019.

I did some brief work writing about fetish harnesses and how their styles, materials, and contexts worn create different types of class, sexual, and gender performances. I presented this work at the American

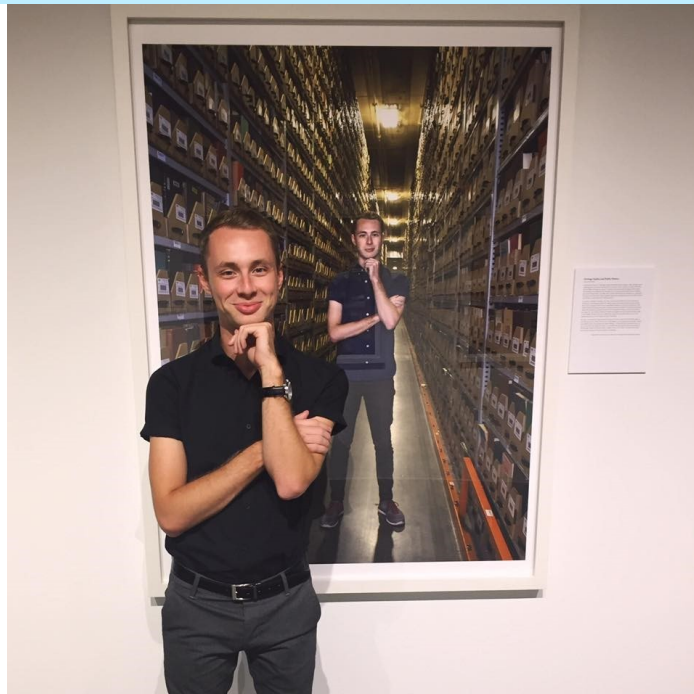
Men's Studies Association and received the Loren Frankel Memorial Scholarship for it. Outside of the conference, I wrote a small piece for Grindr's news site on the same topic, bringing it into the realm of popular culture.

As a part of my program's curriculum, we are guaranteed two paid internships and a paid fellowship, which are funded through the graduate program's collaboration with the Minnesota Historical Society. As a fellow and intern, I decided to start working on a documentary with the Tretter Collection for LGBT Studies on an organization that was founded in

1969, a few weeks before the Stonewall Rebellion, in Minneapolis called Fight Repression of Erotic Expression, or FREE. This has been an exciting process, and hopefully you'll get a chance to see it in the coming year. But I'll say it's been a fun challenge. Through the process, I've definitely found my affinity for oral history and interviewing.

Unrelated to school, but completely related to my sanity here, I've joined an LGBTQ+ kickball league and despite sustaining more than one injury in the

two seasons I've played so far, the community of people I've met via the league and my team has been remarkable. My team can be followed on Instagram @BottomsOfThe9th. One thing that keeps me grounded in Minnesota that I can say is a little different from Chicago is that the city seems to be much more in tune with the nature around it. With multiple lakes within the city limits and 10,000 more within the state, it's common to end up swimming, paddleboarding, tubing, kayaking, boating, ice skating, or visiting pop-up art exhibits on one of them on any given weekend. I have also become friends with a handful of writers--and on occasion, I make cameos in their pieces. I've made some trips--one to New York to conduct an interview and one to Miami for a conference. Both offered up amazing food, amazing environments, and even a sighting of the Real Housewives of Atlanta.



Noah's upcoming exhibition: <https://bit.ly/2SmQz0W> | Noah's article on Grindr's new site "The Soft Radicalness of Adam Rippon's Harness" March 6, 2018: <https://bit.ly/2SjwkgD>

# Shannon Faulise, class of 2012

I moved back to Minnesota in October of 2017. Since then, **I've been working in St. Paul for the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party as a Research & Communications Associate.** For the midterm elections, I covered the congressional races in the Second and Third Congressional Districts. My recent big assignments sent me down to Rochester, Minn. to see President Trump speak at a rally with Jason Lewis (R) MN-02 and other Minnesota GOP candidates, and later to Shakopee for a Jason Lewis fundraiser. To blend in at the rally, I borrowed a yellow "Don't Tread On Me" shirt. I met a man who told me all he did was travel around the country to attend Trump rallies in different states (he's been to more than 25), and a woman who told me she took her kids out of school for the day because the opportunity for her kids to see their "hero" was "too good to pass up."

At the Lewis fundraiser in Shakopee, GOP-endorsed attorney general candidate Doug Wardlow showed up unexpectedly. I got audio of him saying he would fire 42 Democratic attorneys if elected. The story ran on Minnesota Public Radio, *The Star Tribune*, and a few other local news sources. It was fun being an anonymous source.

I also write, proofread, and edit pieces for the DFL Dispatch, our weekly Friday newsletter. I spend weekends volunteering at the Eden Prairie Library, door-knocking for candidates during the midterms, or taking photos of DFL events for our Digital team. I'm loving every second of what I do here at the DFL.

In May/June of 2018 my family and I visited Italy, hitting up Rome, Florence, and Venice. We toured the Colosseum, Galleria Borghese, Sistine Chapel, the Uffizi Gallery, the Galleria dell'Accademia, and Doge's Palace. I loved Rome the most, it had the best gelato, pasta,

and public transportation. Florence was beautiful, but they don't put salt in their bread and I just can't get on board with that. I was also not a huge fan of climbing up some 600 steps to get to the top of the Duomo. Florence did, however, have an "American style" coffee shop near the Duomo that offered "iced coffee" (it was coffee with, like, six half-melted ice cubes in it). From Florence we went to Venice, taking a train and then a water taxi once we got onto the island. I wish we had had more time to explore Venice because there was so much history to soak in, but after our first few days traveling around Venice by water bus and water taxi, I was a little tired of feeling like the earth was moving beneath me every time I stepped off a boat.

I'm more inspired by people than anything else these days. The DFL Chairman Ken Martin tells us at our staff meetings that we should be inspired by values instead of candidates since values are forever and candidates come and go, but I can't help it! If I wasn't working at the DFL and surrounded by amazing

progressive candidates and people, I don't know what would keep me going right now. Candidates that inspired me in the midterms included:

- Beto O'Rourke (D) TX-SEN
- Paulette Jordan (D) ID-GOV
- Sharice Davids (D) KS03, elected
- Dean Phillips (D) MN-03, elected

I'm also still extremely inspired by former gubernatorial candidate Erin Murphy despite her primary loss in Minnesota back in August and I hope she runs for another office in Minnesota in the near future.





# Patrick Leonard, class of 1998

In the twenty years since I graduated from the DePaul AMS program I've been keeping pretty busy. A few years after graduating I received my master's degree from the DePaul Liberal Studies (MALS) program, my Illinois teacher certification from St. Xavier University, and became a high school social science teacher. In between DePaul and St. Xavier I worked for several years in non-profit grant writing at the Museum of Science and Industry in Hyde Park. **Since 2003, I have worked at Lincoln-Way East High School in Frankfort, IL. I currently teach United States History, Introduction to Sociology and AP Human Geography; a perfect mix for someone with an American Studies background!**

At work, I have also been very involved with my 400+ member union, the Lincoln-Way Education Association, an affiliate of the Illinois Education Association. In my roles as a union representative and currently as vice president

of the local association, I have had a remarkable experience fighting for better learning and working conditions for our students and teachers. Besides classroom teaching, my union activism is my other great passion.

Outside of my work life, I have also been keeping busy at home. My husband Eric (pictured with me right above) and I got married in 2014 and it's been an exciting trip so far. We share our life with Chewy, our sixteen year old rat terrier and the true queen of the castle. Our home is a 1913 craftsman bungalow in downtown Tinley Park and we are currently in a multi-year project to fully restore and update the

home. We're both pretty handy so we've been doing the work ourselves which makes it extra rewarding to see the transformation of the home as it continues to improve.

When I take a break from home improvement projects, I keep myself busy outside playing with Chewy and doing plenty of gardening. Our fruit and vegetable garden has been maturing nicely over the past few years and it's always fun when we get to harvest fresh produce (especially raspberries!).

On the travel side of things I've been honored with the opportunity to see many cool places. Since my graduation, I've been on a number of memorable trips, both with students and with friends and family. The ones that stand out as extra special are vacations to Spain and Portugal, Iceland, Vietnam, Peru, and our adventurous honeymoon in Puerto Rico.



As far as recollections from the AMS program, I have so many great interdisciplinary intellectual experiences that I remember. Some of the professors who were especially inspiring include: Ann Russo who taught me how to watch media with a critical thinking mindset; Chuck Suchar who got me excited about visual sociology; and Ellen Eslinger who inspired me to teach American history with passion. Also, at a recent alumni association event I was saddened to hear of the death of Carol Cyganowski. As the director of the AMS program when I was a student, Dr. Cyganowski helped me find an academic home at DePaul.

# Megan Pietz, class of 2017

**I am now a 7th grade English teacher on the west side of the city,** which has been quite the experience so far. Being a teacher anywhere is challenging! I think the hardest part of being a teacher in Chicago is seeing in action how disproportionately schools are funded and how it can impact students. My favorite thing about being a teacher is learning something new every day, whether it's about my practice or students. My students are amazing. We are working on *The House on Mango Street* and writing personal narratives based on ideas of identity and community. They have shared a lot of really personal moments with myself and my co-teachers, and it has helped us all build better relationships and learn about one another.

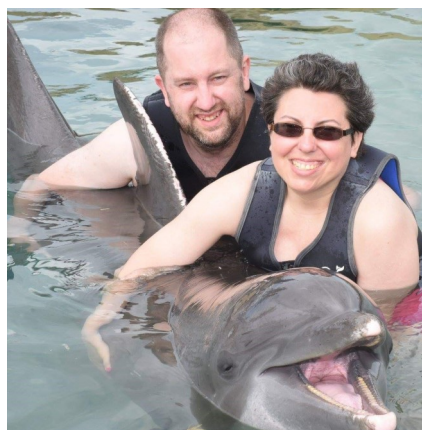


*"My favorite part of my AMS experience, despite just earning a minor, was that it encompassed all my interests. There is such joy in finding that what you love can intersect in many ways, and even become a topic of research."*

One of my favorite parts of my classroom is the library I've built for our 7th graders as our school does not have room for one. My favorite book in the library we've built in the classroom I share with my co-teachers is definitely a tie between the *March* graphic novel series about the Civil Rights Movement written by John Lewis and *Andrew Aydin and Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*, another graphic novel, written by Pénélope Bagieu, which gives mini-biographies of women from Nellie Bly to Las Mariposas. It's so exciting to get students covertly into non-fiction and learn about movements and people that can inspire them. Sharing a love of reading is such a joy--everyone forgets about the joys of the library! And the joys of reading off a screen.

# Mary Carol-Kobler, class of 2006

I have been living in Arlington Heights, IL. On April 27, 2009 I met David Kobler online. We met in person that day in Brookfield at my old house, fell in love and got engaged February 19, 2011, on my birthday. David and I got married on July 14, 2012 in Brookfield IL at St. Barbara church, and we honeymooned at Marco island, Florida. David and I bought a house from his grandma and we live together in Arlington Heights.



My husband David and I love to travel. This past September, we went on vacation to Florida and Florida keys. We drove all the way down to Key West. On our vacation, we went swimming with dolphins at Hawks Cay Resort at Duck Key and in the Atlantic ocean. We also fed sharks at Key West Aquarium and toured the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum. It was very historic and we learned a lot. We also went to the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in Florida,

where we saw the Space Shuttle Atlantis and toured NASA until it closed. It was a very memorable experience and excellent vacation.

**I have been a teacher assistant at Seton Montessori School in Clarendon Hills, IL since 2001.** I work in the afternoons from 2-5 PM. I assist with nap and snack, and help with dismissals. In the winter of 2011, I wrote a book for the students, teachers and community of Seton Montessori School; it is called The Im-

portance of Nature and Animals in a Montessori Environment and at Home.

Since 2012, I have also been cantoring at our church at St Barbara in Brookfield IL at the 10 am Mass on every Sunday. I also sing at College of Dupage in Dupage Chorale with my mom Sharon, and she also joins me at my cantoring masses.



# Alumni Advice

*“... majors should be taking advantage of the freedom to take classes they want to take and things they don't know if they'd even like. My current career advice is to find other things in your life that are also fulfilling because no job is going to be perfect in all ways and hinging all your self-worth on any one job or type of job is a recipe for misery in this economy.”* –**Bristol Cave-LaCoste**



*“... enjoy being in college and when it comes time to job search, to cast a wide net. While searching for my current job, I applied to any and all attorney (or even vaguely law-related) positions within an hour and fifteen minute radius of where I live[...] Most of those turned out to be very much NOT a perfect match for me, but it gave me great practice at interviewing and allowed me to keep an open mind about what I could see myself doing and figure out what was most important to me.”* –**Hattie Cable**



*“I really do encourage current students to talk to professors and develop relationships with them because they have so much knowledge and are so willing to help you.”* –**Patrick Leonard**



*“As far as career advice goes...Keep in touch with old coworkers, professors, friends, etc. Networking in person sucks so much, I know, but it can be helpful! Collect those business cards. Don't be afraid to apply to jobs you don't think you're qualified for. Apply anyway.”* – **Shannon Faulise**

# Alumni Recommendations

## Podcasts



-Hattie Cable



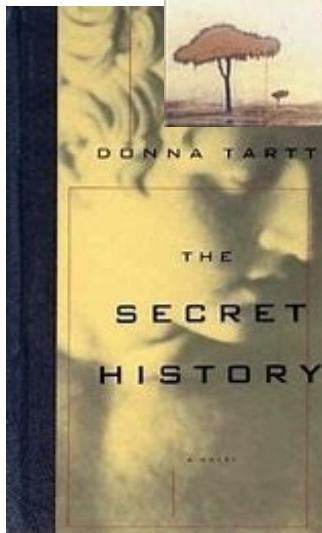
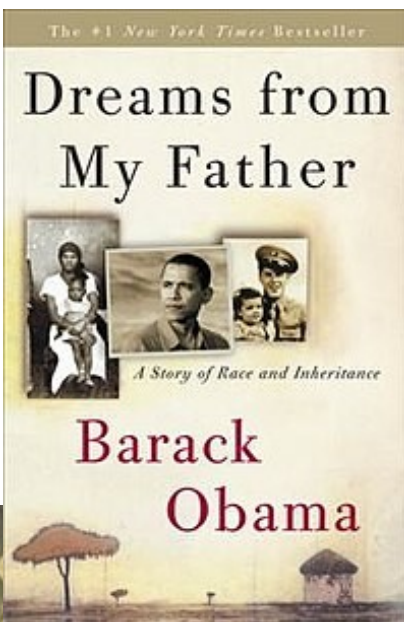
- Megan Pietz



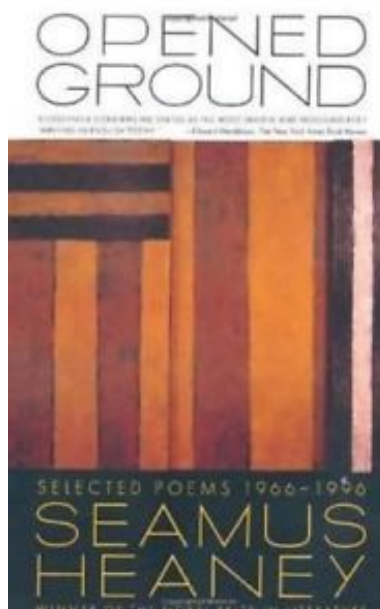
-Noah Barth

## Books

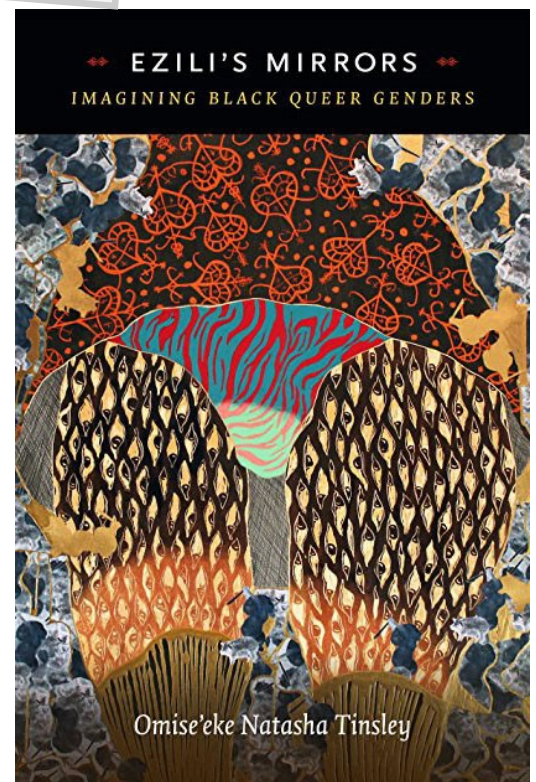
-Rae-Anna Solestre



-Megan Pietz



-Patrick Leonard



-Noah Barth



# Hattie Cable, Class of 2013

I am currently living in Columbus, Indiana (the hometown of Mike Pence, unfortunately, but also home to some of the most amazing modern architecture in the US). **I was admitted to the Indiana bar in January and have been practicing law for the last 8 months as the Staff Attorney for the Department of Child Services in Jennings County.**

I represent DCS on cases for all the kids in our county (around 250) who are involved in open cases where they are victims of child abuse or neglect. I love my job, even though I see some tough stuff, specifically a ton of methamphetamine abuse, but I love working in an office full of social workers, advocating for children, and helping families get the resources they need. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do after law school but I knew that I wanted to be in court advocating and that I wanted to make a difference in the abstract sense. Finding a job where I can help kids and where I get to be in court an average of three days a week is a dream!

My husband and I are also expecting our first child in January. We struggled with infertility for over three years before being able to conceive with a lot of help from many doctors, nurses, and holistic professionals. It is the hardest thing I've ever been through - a journey that has been incredibly invasive physically, emotionally, and financially. We are



way, that's been fascinating.

The thing that keeps me going in these dark times, other than the impending birth of my child, is Bollywood dance! I started dancing when I was in law school at Michigan State and I auditioned on a whim for a Bollywood show. When I got cast as co-lead actress and dancer, I was immediately hooked. That was four years ago and since then I've been on several auditioned Bollywood performance teams in Minnesota and Indiana. The dancing itself is great, but the friendships I've made have been the biggest blessing. I was lucky enough to travel to Ahmednagar, India in December for the 5-day wedding of a dear friend and got to perform at the Sangeet with the bride. The wedding was an unforgettable experience!

**Postscript: Hattie and her husband Nick welcomed daughter Holiday Clementine Cable on New Year's Day 2019. Congratulations, Hattie!**



so unbelievably excited to be parents after waiting for so long. From an AMS perspective, the most shocking thing about pregnancy has been how many people are genuinely horrified that we are waiting to find out the sex of our baby until he or she is born. The looks I get are wild - "How will you plan ANYTHING? How will you decorate? How can you do that??" As if an infant knows or cares anything about their gender! Any-



Class of 2019  
Senior Capstone Presentations  
Friday, November 9, 2018  
3-5:30 PM | Levan 100



Standing in Back Row (from L to R): Prof. Amy Tyson, Paul Kelley, Sam Christenson, Jorey Dvorak, Lauren Minga, Sophie Modzelewski Front Row: Katie O'Reilly, Prof. Allison McCracken, Anais Donald



Alexandra Bradbury, "Hope for a Dying Industry: How Donald Trump Won Coal Miners' Vote in 2016"

Sam Christenson, "Contemporary Culture Politics of Sampling in Music"

Anais Donald, "And What Am I? Creole Identity Displaced and Redefined Across State Lines"

Jorey Dvorak, "Reshaping Consent Education in a U.S. Context"

Paul Kelley, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Intergenerational Fandom"

Lauren Minga, "The Balbo Pillar: Italian-American Ethnic Identity and Assimilation in Chicago"

Sophie Modzelewski, "The City of Broad Buns: An Ethnic History of the Chicago Hot Dog"

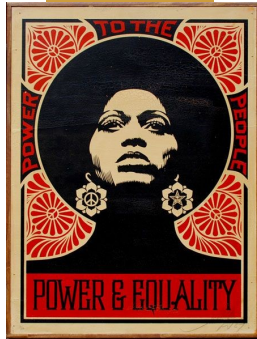
Katie O'Reilly, "'So, Are We Good?' The Systemic Empowerment of White Men in American Comedy"



# Looking for a major you can design, that speaks to your passions? Consider the Program in American Studies.

## Mission Statement

The Program in American Studies engages students in critical interdisciplinary inquiry of American Society and cultures. Trained to apply methods and theories drawn from the humanities and social sciences to a range of sources (digital, historical, literary, material, oral, textual, visual). American Studies students cultivate skills in critical thinking, clear writing, collaborative feedback, and public speaking. Courses in American Studies train students to situate their studies within historic contexts, to work within multicultural frameworks, and to reflect on the problems/issues raised in the classroom as they engage in the world outside. Through core class research projects and the senior capstone, the Program in American Studies prepares its students to be lifelong, independent learners.



## Program Requirements

The American Studies major requires thirteen courses.

- Three core courses: **AMS 200** (or a related, preapproved U.S. History course); **AMS 201** (Critical American Studies); and a pre-approved research method/theory course from outside AMS (see Catalog for details).
- The senior capstone: **AMS 301**
- **Six courses** from one of five concentrations. \* \* \*
- **Three elective** courses on U.S. topics.

## Concentrations \* \* \*

In consultation with AMS program faculty, students design a course of study within five broadly drawn concentration areas: Popular Culture and Media Studies; Social and Literary Movements; Politics, Institutions and Values; Race and Ethnic Studies; and Material Culture and the Built Environment. Courses may originate within the AMS program, or be drawn from other programs and departments.

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## Why American Studies?

**American Studies** allows students the freedom and flexibility to combine course work from a variety of disciplines and to design a plan of study that fits their individual interests.

The American Studies program also makes **double majoring** an especially attractive option for students because they can **double count** several courses for both majors. American Studies students receive individual attention and mentoring from program faculty, who work closely with majors to develop their courses of study and help them plan their postgraduate careers. **We also have a six-course interdisciplinary minor.**

## Post-graduation options?

**American Studies** graduates are highly sought after by graduate programs, law schools, and a wide variety of professions. About a third of our graduates go directly into the workforce, where they are currently employed by educational institutions, museums, political organizations, public service organizations (AmeriCorps, Teach for America, Peace Corps, etc.) & a variety of businesses. Recent program alumni also have done graduate work in a variety of disciplines, including American Studies, Media Studies, Journalism, History, Library Science, and Material Culture Studies; their institutions of study include University of Texas-Austin, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of California-Los Angeles, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, University of Chicago, and University of Minnesota. Recent graduates of our program have also attended law schools such as Cornell, Northwestern, the University of Southern California, Kent, Marquette, Michigan State and DePaul.

