



New Faculty in American Studies

We are thrilled to have three new faculty joining the department: **MAISHA WESTER**, **DINAH HOLTZMAN**, and **RASUL MOWATT**.

MAISHA WESTER: Trained in American Studies and English, Professor Wester’s research and teaching focus on representations of “otherness” in horror films and Gothic literature. Active in the field, she has attended the Future of American Studies Summer Institute at Dartmouth and the Clinton Institute for American Studies Summer Institute at University College Dublin. Before coming to IU, Professor Wester was a jointly-appointed Assistant Professor in American Culture Studies and English for six years at Bowling Green State University. She will split her time between American Studies and AAADS. Her hobbies include: gardening,

cooking, hiking, Krav Maga (Israeli hand-to-hand combat/ fighting style) and Kali (Philippine blade/ knife martial art style). She is certified to teach basic Krav Maga and has training in disarming armed opponents.



(Cont'd. on page 2)

Grace Boya Shen—a Shining Star!



Grace grew up in Beijing, China, the only child of a businessman and human resources Manager, and traveled to Bloomington to attend IU four years ago. She overcame culture and language barriers with courage, grit, and hard work and was employed by Starbucks in the IMU for three years. After taking a number of classes at IU, she discovered a love of research and writing, focusing on topics related to race and gender in American society. Among her many accomplishments, Grace received the Provost’s Award for Undergraduate

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Special points of interest:

- *New Faculty*
- *Grace Boya Shen*
- *The Chocolate Fountain*

New Faculty in American Studies *(Cont'd. from page 1)*

DINAH HOLTZMAN: Trained in visual studies (in particular art history and film studies), Professor Holtzman examines popular culture through the lenses of critical race, queer, feminist and psychoanalytic theory. Interested in a range of research topics, she is currently investigating the evolution of celebrity personae and fandom in relation to the ever-expanding range of social media and file-sharing platforms. Asked for the title of her favorite lecture, she pointed to a class she teaches on gender, sexuality and popular culture and the title “Ohhh Bey Bae: Pop Stars, Booty and Feminism” -- the title demonstrating her “deep love for crafting alliterative, punning titles referencing contemporary slang.”



RASUL MOWATT: Trained in cultural studies, Professor Mowatt is currently working on an analysis of the destruction of the black body in American society (through lynching, race riots, and state-sanctioned violence) in comparison with similar histories and incidents in South Africa and Australia. He has won the Trustees Teaching Award multiple times, and word continues to spread about his engaging, content-driven and passionate teaching style: Recently he won NUVO magazine’s “Best of the Best Professor Award.” When he is not researching, writing and teaching, you can find him DJing in Indy (& beyond) and blogging about music. Professor Mowatt will hold a joint appointment with the School of Public Health.

Grace Boya Shen—a Shining Star! *(Cont'd. from page 1)*

Research and Creative Activities for her project titled “**Liang Qi Chao Project.**” Liang Qi Chao (1873-1929) is a Chinese scholar who traveled to the United States in 1903 and published his travel journal in China in 1904. You can learn more about her project by visiting <http://www.indiana.edu/~kdlq/>. Her paper “‘I am not an American, I am a Human Being’: History of Estelle Ishigo, a White American Renouncing her Whiteness” won first place in the Asian American Studies Undergraduate Essay contest. Grace graduates with two degrees: American Studies and History, and is this year’s undergraduate student commencement speaker (watch at

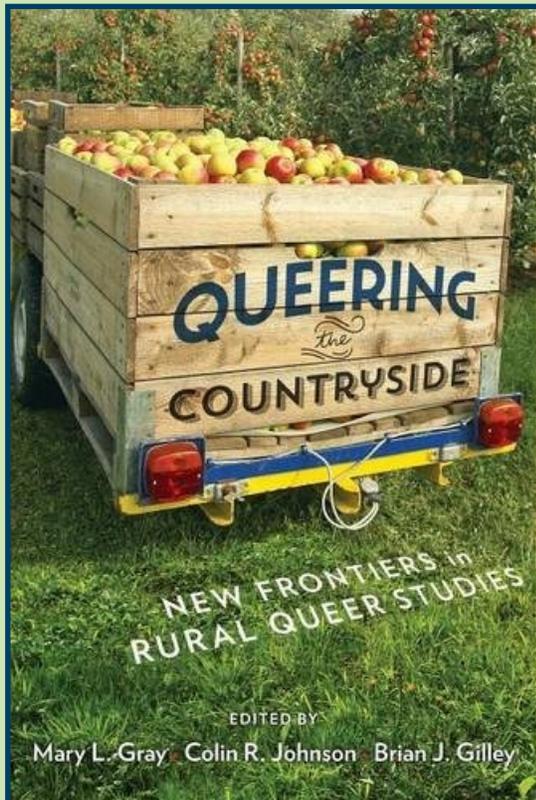
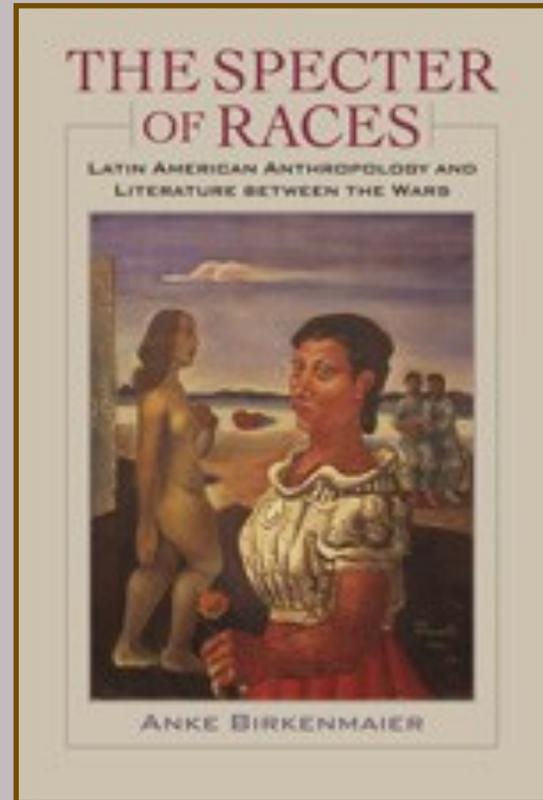
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYkCTiCiRWo>). During her time in the U.S., she has traveled to California, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Chicago, Arizona, Utah, Massachusetts, and New York.

American Studies is better for having known Grace whose future shines brightly!

Book Nook and Publications

ANKE BIRKENMAIER, Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, publishes *The Specter of Races: Latin American Anthropology and Literature between the Wars* (University of Virginia Press) and is now available for purchase. Emily McGuire, author of *Racial Experiments in Cuban Literature and Ethnography*, describes the book as a “bold, broad-reaching, and exciting exploration of cultural and literary history. Birkenmaier’s study synthesizes a large amount of primary scholarship and secondary criticism—in four languages—to produce a narrative that is clear, engaging, and compelling.”

Additionally, Birkenmaier speaks about her passion for Cuba in an interview with Carmen Siering of *Bloom Magazine*. You can read the full article in the April/May 2016 issue at <http://www.magbloom.com/2016/05/anke-birkenmaier/>.



MARY L. GRAY, **COLIN R. JOHNSON**, and **BRIAN J. GILLEY** just published a new edited collection called *Queering the Countryside: New Frontiers in Rural Queer Studies* with New York University Press. “This compilation of selected essays challenges the supposal that queer desires rely upon urban life for meaning (NYUP).”

Mary Gray is Associate Professor in The Media School, Affiliate Faculty of Gender Studies, and an Adjunct in American Studies and Anthropology. **Colin Johnson**, Associate Professor of Gender Studies, and Adjunct Associate Professor American Studies, History and Human Biology. **Brian Gilley** is Professor of Anthropology and Interim Chair of Native American and Indigenous Studies.

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Graduate Student Awards and Milestones

NZINGHA KENDALL successfully defended her dissertation prospectus in fall 2015 and is the recipient of a 2016-17 College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Fellowship, which will provide support while writing her dissertation titled “Imperfect Independence: Black Women’s Experimental Cinema.” She also was awarded a 2016-17 President’s Diversity Dissertation Fellowship by the University Graduate School, which she declined. And most recently, she received a Graduate Student Research Award from the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES).

YARÍ CRUZ RIOS is the recipient of a 2016-17 Latino Studies Dissertation Year Fellowship for her project “Negotiating a Hemispheric Latinidad: Latin American Representations of Latinos/as in the U.S.” She was also selected to be a 2015-16 Diversity Intern for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL).

CAITLIN REYNOLDS received a fall College of Arts and Sciences travel award. She also presented a paper at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Atlanta this spring and she was elected to be the grad chair of the Caucus on Class for the association. Finally, Caitlin is the recipient of the 2016 Department of American Studies Gunderson Award, in recognition of the best essay written by an American Studies graduate student for her paper “Disconnected Justice: The Denial of Internet Access in the United States Prison System.”

ALEX CHAMBERS secured a summer 2015 grant from the IU Office of Sustainability for his dissertation research project titled “The Idea of Progress at Krotz Springs: Imagining Social Ecologies at the Edge of Climate Change.” Alex defended his dissertation prospectus this past fall.

COURTNEY MITCHEL was selected as a themester instructor at the Collins Living-Learning Center and defended her dissertation prospectus fall 2015.

JED KUHN and **MATT ONSTOTT** passed their Qualifying Exams in spring 2016.

PhD Degrees Conferred in 2015—2016

Stand Alone

JORDACHE ELLAPEN, 8/31/2015 (American Studies), Dissertation Title: From Black to Brown: Race, Diaspora, and Post-apartheid in South Africa.

Combined

JUSTIN RAWLINS, 8/31/2015 (Communication and Culture), Dissertation Title: Method Men: Race, Gender, and Performance Style in U.S. Culture 1922-1957.

NATASHA RITSMA, 12/19/2015 (Communication and Culture), Dissertation Title: The Postwar “Arts Explosion” in an Age of Mechanical Reproduction: the Production, Distribution and Exhibition of Non-Theatrical Films on Art.

KIM STANLEY, 7/31/2015 (History), Dissertation Title: Pulling Down the House and Tearing Up the Yard: Constructing, Policing, and Containing Black Masculinity, 1920-1960.

AMST / NAIS Minor

SARAH DEES, 8/31/2015 (Major: Religious Studies—Minor: AMST)

JEREMY GORDON, 11/30/2015 (Major: Communication and Culture—Minor: AMST)

BRAD KROUPA, 12/19/2015 (Major: Anthropology—Minor: NAIS)

DANA LOGAN, 7/31/2015 (Major: Religious Studies—Minor: AMST)

ERIN PAUWELS, 8/31/2015 (Major: Fine Arts—Minor: AMST)

“Decolonial Americas: TransFeminista Queer Praxis”



Image inspired by Laura G. Gutiérrez *Performing Mexicanidad: Vendidas y Cabareteras on the Transnational Stage* (Texas10).

Collaborating with graduate students and faculty, Professor **LESSIE FRAZIER** organized a one-day workshop (May 12th) where shared readings and works-in-progress about decolonial theory across and beyond the Americas—significant for feminist scholarship—were discussed. Feminist contributions to decolonial theory debates include a recent turn to lesbian, transgender, and queer critique.

Participants: English Professor **ALBERTO VARON** and LATS / AMST VAP **MYRNA GARCIA**, and graduate students **MINTZI AUANDA**, **LINDSEY BREITWIESER**, **ALEX CHAMBERS**, **DANIELA GUTIERREZ LOPEZ**, **NZINGHA KENDALL**, **ELLEN RYAN ROBINSON**, and **DANIEL RUNNELS**.



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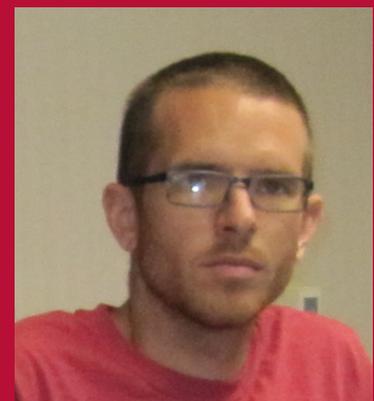
Robinson, Lopez, Breitwieser



Chambers



Kendall



Runnels



Frazier



Garcia



Varon

VIVIAN N. HALLORAN, Associate Professor in American Studies and English, recently published *The Immigrant Kitchen: Food, Ethnicity, and Diaspora* (The Ohio State University Press, 2016). During Spring 2016, Professor Halloran was awarded two grants: one for Learning Analytics, so she could track enrollment in A100 to better tailor the class to the department's needs and the second one was a New Frontiers exploratory travel grant for archival research at the Fishers Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto, where she will consult Derek Walcott's papers for a new book project. She has been presenting on various chapters from her third book project, *Invoking the Caribbean*, at the American Comparative Literature Association meeting in March (on Sonia Sotomayor's memoir), and at the Caribbean Studies Association meeting in Port-au-Prince, Haiti (on Edwidge Danticat's Scholastic publishing for kids and young adults). Her panel includes AMST faculty member Maisha Wester, and AMST-affiliate Walton Muyumba. In late June, Vivian will present her ongoing work on nutritionism by analyzing advertising for nutritional supplement shakes aimed at healthy adults at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society.

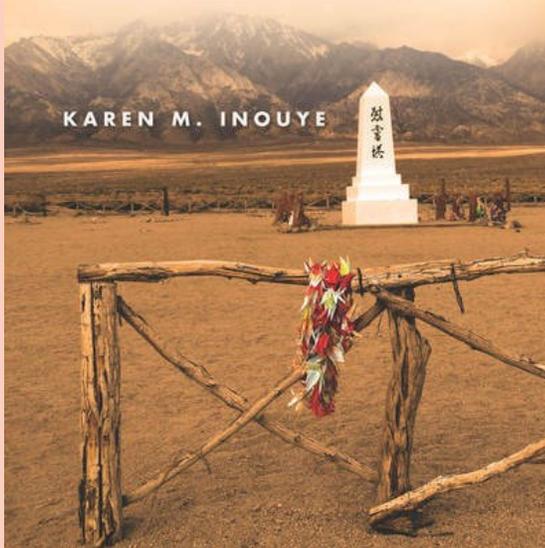
The Immigrant Kitchen

Food, Ethnicity, and Diaspora



Vivian Nun Halloran

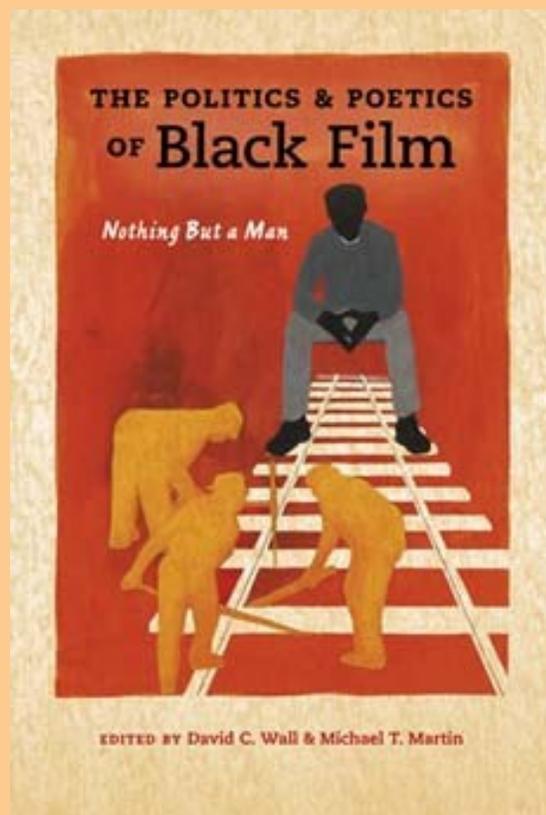
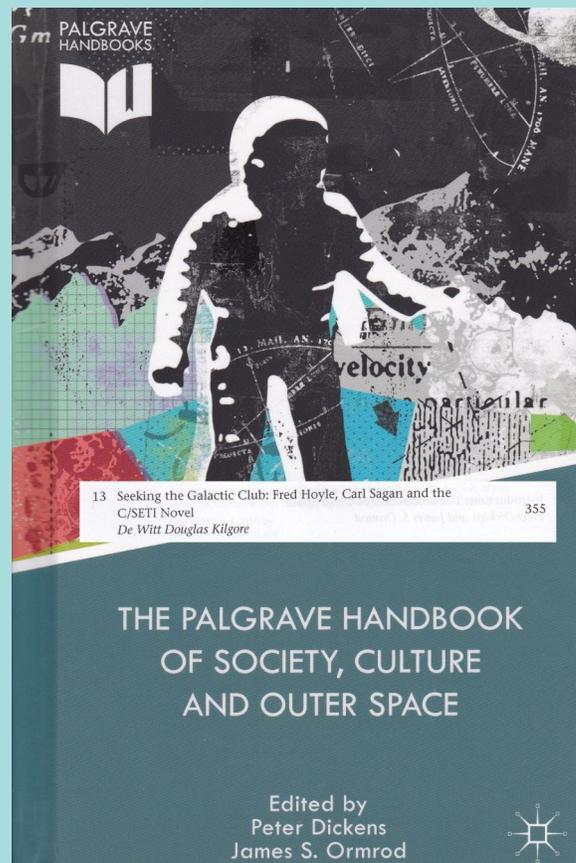
THE LONG AFTERLIFE of NIKKEI WARTIME INCARCERATION



KAREN M. INOUE, the department's first 100% tenure-track faculty member in the Department of American Studies, has had a prolific year. Her book, *The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration* (Stanford University Press), is scheduled for release this October. In addition, she co-authored an essay entitled "Visual Games and the Unseeing of Race in the Late Nineteenth Century," which will appear this coming June in the *American Quarterly* (pp. 287-314). She also won the 2016 Trustees Teaching Award and was chosen as one of four "Best of the Social Sciences Teaching Fellows." This summer she will begin serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department.

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DE WITT DOUGLAS KILGORE, Associate Professor, Department of English and Adjunct Associate Professor of American Studies, has published a chapter in *Palgrave Handbook of Society, Culture and Outer Space* (2016). "Seeking the Galactic Club: Fred Hoyle, Carl Sagan and the C/SETI Novel" recovers how their popular novels help make space science a culturally visible part of twentieth century life. They created science/fictions in which the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) is cast as the solution for dangerously intractable human differences around race, gender and nation. The political hope they offer is a space exploration that discovers an extraterrestrial civilization so radically different that it changes terrestrial social relations. Through readings of Hoyle's *The Black Cloud* (1957) and Sagan's *Contact* (1985) we learn, however, that their more immediate task is to valorize an international scientific community as the best working model for a utopian future.



MICHAEL T. MARTIN, Professor, Cinema and Media Studies, The Media School, & Director, Black Film Center/Archive (BFC/A), co-authored with David C. Wall, *The Politics and Poetics of Black Film: Nothing But a Man*. Indiana University Press, 2015. Additional publications this year include:

"Struggles for the sign in the Black Atlantic: Los Angeles Collective of Black Filmmakers," *L.A. Rebellion: Creating a New Black Cinema*, Allyson Nadia Field, Jan-Christopher Horak, and Jacqueline Najuma Stewart, eds. University of California Press, 2015: 196-224.

[with David C. Wall] "The Spook Who Sat by the Door." Entry in National Film Registry, Library of Congress.

"'I just Wanted My Figures to Move': The Filmmaking Practice of Mike Henderson," *Black Camera*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2015: 60-90.

[with Mark Hain] "Making Art, Making Life: The Paintings of Mike Henderson," *Black Camera*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2015: 91-109.

Accolades

MICOL SEIGEL

Associate Professor, Department of American Studies
Associate Professor, Department of History



Micol has had a productive year, publishing articles on prisons and policing in a range of venues. One on her current policing research appears in the premier American history outlet, the *Journal of American History*, in its special volume on the history of incarceration (June 2015), featured by the journal as a “state-of-the-art” issue, offered freely online. She also published “Nelson Rockefeller in Latin America: Global Currents of U.S. Prison Growth,” in the September 2015 issue of *Comparative American Studies* (which also featured a wonderful article by colleague Lessie Jo Frazier) and “Elsie Houston: Sound Legacy,” included in the volume edited by Ronald Radano and Tejumola Olaniyan, *Audible Empire: Music, Global Politics, Critique*, published by Duke University Press at the very beginning of 2016. One other article published in 2014 was not included in previous newsletters and may be of

interest is “Convict Race: Racialization in the Era of Hyperincarceration,” *Social Justice* (April 2014).

Micol is also steaming ahead on the volume she is editing out of the conference she organized in 2014 on “Global Moral Panics.” The volume has been accepted by Duke University Press and is in final revisions. It should see the light of day in early 2017. Most significantly, Micol’s monograph on policing in the 1970s, *Violence Work: Cold War Cops and the Nature of State Power*, has been favorably reviewed and the press has offered her an advance contract. Micol attributes her research accomplishments to her fellowship at the United States Studies Centre in Australia in 2014 and to a weekly writing session with a small group of AMST graduate students and faculty including Visiting Assistant Professor Myrna Garcia; (Contact Micol, mseigel@indiana.edu, if you would like to join the group).

Micol is most excited, overall, about the progress of her wonderful advisees, AMST Ph.D. candidates Courtney Mitchel, Alex Chambers, and Nzingha Kendall. All three successfully passed their qualifying examinations and defended the dissertation prospectus in the last year and are progressing beautifully in dissertation writing (graduate student accomplishments can be found on page 4). Micol also enjoys regular teaching and mentoring of graduate students at the Indianapolis Women’s Prison.

In undergraduate teaching, Micol continues to teach the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility in Plainfield, which she will do again in spring 2017. A recent article about the program was published in the *Indiana Daily Student*: <http://www.idsnews.com/article/2015/11/inside-out-prison-exchange-program-to-be-offered-this-spring>. She will also expand her prison-focused course offerings on the Bloomington campus to include “The American Prison in Global Context” in fall 2016.

ELLEN WU

Associate Professor, Department of History
Director, Asian American Studies Program
Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of American Studies
Affiliated Faculty, Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES)

Professor Wu won the History Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies for her book *The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority* (Princeton, 2014).

Keeping in Touch

JENNIFER HEUSEL, 2015 Combined PhD graduate in American Studies and Communication and Culture, reports that her first year as Assistant Professor of Communication at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina has been extremely rewarding. Engaging with students at the opening event of Black History Month, she was impressed by their meaningful contributions made to the larger discussion. Even though her research time has been extremely limited, she published “Chapter 12: Postracial Justice and the Trope of the ‘Race Riot’” in *Impact of Communication and the Media on Ethnic Conflict*, edited by Steven Gibson and Agnes Lucy Lando (London: IGI Global, February 2016): 196-213. While busy making connections in the community, she was asked to speak at the MLK Day celebrations.

AMY RUBENS, 2012 PhD graduate in English (AMST minor), transitioned to a new position (tenure track) as Assistant Professor of English at Radford University, in Radford, Virginia. She is the co-coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Professional Writing, a fully-online program that will enroll its first students in August of 2016.

HOLLY SCHREIBER accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Communication and Journalism at The University of Maine in Orono where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in journalism and mass communication. Holly graduated in 2015 with a Combined PhD in the Departments of American Studies and Comparative Literature.

The “Chocolate Fountain”—Fun with Food

The story of the chocolate fountain originated with Matt Guterl, a former chair of American Studies, who had a big imagination and dreamed of having a chocolate fountain for some fun with food. Upon his departure a few years back, the department hosted a going away party in his honor and everyone chipped in money to make his dream come true. In commemoration of dreaming big, the current chair of American Studies, Pam Walters, kindly donated her own chocolate fountain to the department, which was christened at the last faculty meeting of the semester.

