

# CAS NEWS

## Speakers' Series 2013-14

September 19, 2013

### ANTHONY STEWART

Bucknell University, Pennsylvania  
**Making Sense of the 'Post' & the 'Racial' in 'Post-Racial'**

October 8, 2013

### SERGEI ZHUK

Ball State University, Indiana  
**"Mediators":  
 Cultural Roles of Soviet  
 Americanists during  
 the Brezhnev Era**

November 12, 2013

### ALAN MACEACHERN

Western University  
**Canada's Best Idea?  
 Creating the American  
 National Park Service in 1916**

January 16, 2014

### FELIPE QUETZALCOATL

Middlebury College, Vermont  
**Archaeologies of [In]Visibility:  
 The Latin Soldier in  
 American Cinema**

February 6, 2014

### SONIA HALPERN

Western University  
**The Dark Room and Dark Side  
 of New York Photographer  
 Diane Arbus, 1960s-70s**

### FEATURE SPEAKER

March 18, 2014

### KATHLEEN HALL JAMIESON

University of Pennsylvania  
**The Implications of the Attack  
 on Fact in Politics**

## CAS Speakers' Series Presents...

Our Annual Speakers' Series once again offers an exciting and eclectic lineup of guest speakers. We kick off the 2013-14 series on **September 19** with Professor **Anthony Stewart**, Department of English, Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, **"Making Sense of the 'Post' and the 'Racial' in 'Post-Racial.'"** The event is co-sponsored by the Department of History. 3:30pm, Thames Hall, 342.



On **October 8**, we welcome Associate Professor of History, **Sergei Zhuk** from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, **"Mediators: Cultural Roles of Soviet Americanists during the Brezhnev Era."** This event is co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Visiting University Scholar Program. 3:30pm, Social Science Centre, 5220.

## New Graduate Journal

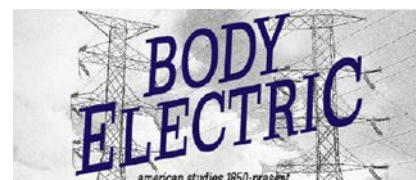
Volume I of the new CAS graduate journal **Body Electric** was published in April, 2013.

Founded by CAS Alumnus **Caroline Diezyn** (MA 2012), the peer-reviewed journal

focuses on the most dynamic and volatile period in America's history- from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present. Volume I focused on the themes of change, tradition, evolution, and nostalgia. The theme of Volume 2 will be related to wealth and deficit, literally or metaphorically. Look for the next Call for Papers in September. The journal is available online, and hard copies are available at the CAS office! Congratulations to Caroline and the whole editorial team !



[Follow Body Electric on Twitter](#)



## New Website Design

As part of Western's rebranding initiative in 2012, the Centre for American Studies and Canada-U.S. Institute launched their new websites earlier this year. The new web design, which reflects Western's new visual identity, will eventually be adopted by all faculties and departments across campus.

## UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTORS

**Tom Cull** (1020)  
**Aldona Sendzikas** (2200E)  
**Dylan Cyr** (2230F)  
**Rasmus Simonsen** (2231G)

## FACULTY AWARDS!

**Professor Michael Arntfield** received the USC's Honor Roll Award for Excellence in Teaching for his course American Studies 2231G: *Crimes of the Century*.

**Professor Tom Cull** (American Studies 1020) received a special recognition award at the 2013 Western Green Awards. Tom founded the organization, Thames River Rally which is dedicated to cleaning up the Thames River.



## CAS PUBLICATIONS

**Critical Issues of Our Time**  
**The Commodification of Aesthetic Feeling: Race, Sexuality and the 1920s Stage Model** by **Elsbeth H. Brown** University of Toronto, Vol. 11, February, 2013

**U.S. Pro-Choice & Pro-Life Groups' Strategies since 1960** by **Melissa Haussman**, Carleton University, Vol. 12, May 2013

**Body Electric** Vol. 1, April 2013

**Neoamericanist**,  
Spring/Summer 2013

## UNDERGRADUATE PAGE

### Award Winner

Congratulations to **Patrick Sackville** on receiving the Grad Pact '91 Award at the Spring Convocation Awards ceremony. The Grad Pact '91 award is given to a student who has demonstrated academic achievement and active citizenship, and who has made a contribution to the university and community.

### Student Council Department Reps

**Eric De Roos** and **Arielle Stirling** will be our Student's Council Department Representatives for 2013-14. Thanks to last year's Reps, **Richard Placzek** and **Patrick Sackville** for all the great work they did for the CAS and the student club!

### Selected Topics in American Studies 2013-14

American Studies 2230F:

**Subversive Democracy: Understanding the Tea Party Movement**

American Studies 2231G:

**Guns, Violence, & Freedom in the American Context**

## Student Feature: *Emily Jenkins*



This summer I had the privilege of working as an intern at the European headquarters of the [Robert F Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights](#) in Florence, Italy. The Center is a non-profit organization which seeks to realize the goals of the late Robert F. Kennedy through the advocacy of human rights both in Europe and internationally. The RFK CENTER's core programs focus on the power of the individual, working through alliances and organizations, to generate change. As an intern, my primary responsibility was running/facilitating the "Ladies for

Human Rights" exhibition, which consisted of 18 mixed media portraits that depicted women who were influential in the development of human rights. I met many incredible people including Kerry Kennedy who advocates for human rights worldwide in order to continue her father's legacy. It was truly a wonderful experience that increased my knowledge of human rights advocacy as well as greatly improved my Italian! *Emily is a third-year student in American Studies.*

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

**-Robert F Kennedy**  
**South Africa, 1966**

## GRADUATE INSTRUCTORS

**Bryce Traister** (9050A)  
**Thy Phu** (9000B)  
**Jeff Vacante** (9200B)  
**Alison Meek** (9301B)

## GRADUATE COMMITTEE

The CAS welcomes Professor  
**Geoffrey Stewart** (History) to  
the Graduate Committee!

**New Graduate Course!**  
**American Studies 9301B:**  
**Conspiracy Theories**  
**in American History**

## GSTA AWARDS!

Congratulations  
to **Brendan**  
**Clements** &  
**Kelsey Kilgore**



who were  
nominated for Graduate  
Student Teaching Assistant  
awards for 2012-13.

## Wedding Bells

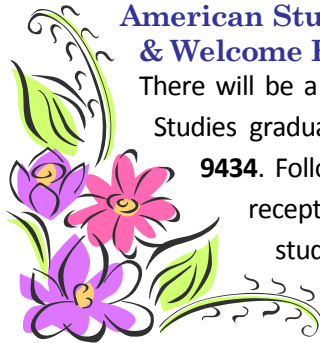


**Adam Payler** (2013) and  
**Michelle Valtas** were married  
at a ceremony in Mississauga  
on August 10, 2013.  
Congratulations and best  
wishes to the happy couple –  
from your friends at the CAS!

## GRADUATE PAGE

### Welcome New MA Students!

The Centre for American extends a warm welcome to our 2013-14 incoming graduate students, **Jeremy, Kiah, David, Susanne, Tristan, Steven, Michele, Alexandra, Noelle, Neil,** and **Brett**. We are very excited to begin the fourth year of our MA program and really look forward to meeting you at our September orientation session and welcome reception!



### American Studies Graduate Student Orientation Session & Welcome Reception: **Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

There will be a mandatory orientation session for incoming American Studies graduate students at **1:00pm Social Science Centre, Room 9434**. Following the meeting, students are invited to a welcome reception to enjoy some refreshments and meet fellow students, staff, and CAS faculty affiliates. The reception will take place at **3:30pm in SSC 3036**.

## Graduate Student Conference Presentations

**ROBYN SCHWARZ-PIMER** (2013) presented her paper, "Hockey and "The American Spirit": Situating the United States at Expo 67", at the History Graduate Student Association of the University of Ottawa's Annual Pierre Savard Conference, May 1-3, 2013.

**NICOLE WINGER** (2013) presented her paper "Making it in New York City: The Supremes at the Copacabana, 1965", at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music's 2013 annual conference "Music and Labour" at McMaster University, May 23-26, 2013. Her article was also published in the first issue of the new CAS graduate journal, *Body Electric* (April 2013). This fall, Nicole begins the PhD program in Media Studies at Western, where she plans to continue her studies in American popular music.



*Congratulations and Good Luck to the MA Class of 2013!*

## Faculty Publications

**BRYCE TRAISTER** (English)  
“Terrorism Before the Letter: *Benito Cereno* and the 9/11 Commission Report”, *Canadian Review of American Studies*, Volume 43, Number 1, Spring 2013.

**NINA REID-MARONEY** (History-Huron University College)  
[\*The Reverend Jennie Johnson and African Canadian History, 1868-1967\*](#), University of Rochester Press, April, 2013.

## CAS DIRECTORY

### **DON ABELSON**

Director

### **MONDA HALPERN**

Associate Director  
Speakers' Series Coordinator

### **ROB MACDOUGALL**

Associate Director (on leave)

### **BRYCE TRAISTER**

Associate Director  
Undergraduate Program  
Coordinator

### **ALDONA SENDZIKAS**

Graduate Chair

### **CHRISTINE WALL**

Administrative Assistant

### **ANNA ZUSCHLAG**

Events and Publications Assistant

Social Science Centre, Room 1003  
519.661.3938

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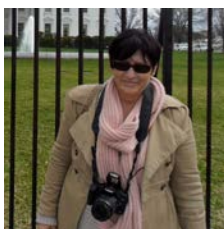
## Catching up with CAS Alumni!

**JESSICA FENSON** (Honors BA 2007) completed a law degree at Queen's University, and in 2010, became Director of Legal Counsel for the Cineplex Entertainment Corporation in Toronto. Jessica was a member of our first graduating class as well as a Gold Medal recipient. Congratulations Jess – thanks for staying in touch!



**LAURA MCGEE'S** (MA 2011) article, “First Steps – How to encourage corporate social responsibility” was published in the May 2013 edition of the magazine, *Policy Options*. A law student at the University of Toronto, Laura is actively involved with the U of T Law Society, and also volunteers as a workshop leader in Toronto high school classrooms through the Law in Action within Schools program.

**DAVID BEITELMAN** (MA 2011) participated in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council conference held in Vancouver this past June. Dave was one of 15 graduate student delegates representing Canada. Dave is a PhD Candidate of Political Science and a Doctoral Fellow for the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie University.



**LISA SUTTON** (MA 2011) recently completed a Bachelor of Education degree at Western's Althouse College, and is excited to be starting her first teaching post this September in Sweden. Lisa will be teaching English for grades 7-9 at Internationella Engelska Skolan in Eskilstuna, Sweden. Good luck Lisa!

**LINDSAY THORNTON** (MA 2011) has been working as a Volunteer Student Ambassador for King's College, London, UK where she is working towards an MPhil in American Studies. Lindsay also recently began an informative blog for prospective international students. [View Lindsay's blog.](#)



**TOM COOKE** (MA 2012) has been hosting a weekly radio show “On the Path to PhD” on 1290 CJBK for the past year. He is a PhD candidate of Science and Technology Studies, and recently became a Graduate Fellow at the Centre for International and Security Studies at York University.

**BRENDON DANTZER** (MA 2012) recently completed the NFPA's 1001 Fire Fighter's Professional Certification Program at Lakeland College, Vermilion, Alberta. Great job Brendon!



**CAROLINE DIEZYN** (MA 2012) presented a chapter from her MRP, *Masculinity, Trauma & Time in Michael Herr's Dispatches*, at the Time and Trace conference for the International Society for the Study of Time held on the island of Crete this summer.