

# CAS NEWS

## Speakers' Series 2012-13

September 19, 2012

**COLLEEN O'BRIEN**

University of S. Carolina Upstate  
**America's First Nightmare:  
 Lincoln, Obama, and Racial  
 Insurrection in U.S. Print Culture**

September 20, 2012

**PAUL SUTTER**

University of Colorado  
**Pulling the Teeth of the Tropics:  
 Towards an Environmental History  
 of Public Health During the  
 Construction of the Panama Canal**  
 Co-sponsored with the  
 Department of History

October 16, 2012

**ROB MACDOUGALL**

Western University  
**The Killer App: How the Cold War  
 Created Video Games and Vice Versa**

November 8, 2012

**MICHAEL IGNATIEFF**

University of Toronto  
**Us and Them:  
 Opponents and Enemies in Politics**

January 17, 2013

**JONATHAN PAQUIN**

Laval University  
**The U.S. War in Afghanistan:  
 Toward a Possible End in 2014?**

February 7, 2013

**PATRICK RYAN**

King's University College  
**Childhood and Disciplinary  
 Institutions in Anglo-American Culture**

March 8, 2013

**CHRISTINE BOLD**

University of Guelph  
**Beyond the Frontier Club:  
 Popular Westerns & Cultural  
 Power around 1900**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CAS Welcomes Fulbright Visiting Scholar



**Dr. Colleen O'Brien**, Assistant Professor of Early American Literature, Department of Language, Literature, and Composition at the University of South Carolina-Upstate has been appointed as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar with the Centre for American Studies & Department of History this fall. Her research interests include hemispheric American studies and the history, literature, and culture of the 19th century. Dr. O'Brien will be teaching the graduate seminar course, History 9377A -Revolutionary Americas, this fall, and will be the first guest of the [2012-13 CAS Speakers Series](#). Her presentation, "America's First Nightmare: Lincoln, Obama, and Racial Insurrection in U.S. Print Culture" will

take place on **Wednesday, September 19, 3:30PM, TH 3102.**

Please join us in welcoming Professor O'Brien to the CAS and to Western.

### A Panel Discussion on the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Join us for this always popular event as our panel of experts discuss the issues and possible outcome of the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election.

**MODERATOR:** **PAUL NESBITT-LARKING** (Political Science, Huron University College)

**PANELISTS:**

**RENAN LEVINE** (Political Science, University of Toronto)

**ERIC SAYERS** (Office of Congressman J. Randy Forbes, Washington DC)

**ELIZABETH PETRUN** (PhD Candidate & Risk Sciences Fellow, University of Kentucky)

**EDMUND GOHRING** (Music History, Western University & Co-Chair of the London Chapter of Democrats Abroad Canada)

This event is sponsored by the Centre for American Studies and the Canada-U.S. Institute with support from the U.S. Consulate General, Toronto, the U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, and the Department of Political Science.

**Tuesday, October 30, 2012, 4:30pm, UC 224 (Conron Hall)**

### Speakers' Series to Host Michael Ignatieff

Canadian author, academic and former politician **Michael Ignatieff** will be a special guest of the CAS Speakers' Series this November. Mr. Ignatieff was the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and Leader of the Official Opposition from 2008 until 2011. Known for his work as a historian, Ignatieff has held senior academic posts at the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, Harvard University and the University of Toronto., A book sale & signing will follow the presentation.



**Thursday, November 8, 2012, 4:30pm, SEB 1059 (Lecture), SEB 2100 (Book signing)**

## UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTORS 2012-13

**David Drysdale** (1020, 2230F)

**Aldona Sendzikas** (2200E)

**Michael Arntfield** (2231G)

**Tobias Nagl** (3330F)

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Critical Issues of Our Time*

**Still Exceptional? America's Role in the World** by **Stephen Brooks**, University of Windsor, Vol. 9 March 2012

### *Critical Issues of Our Time*

**Spectacular Olympic Bodies: From Hollywood to Hitler and Beyond** by **Kevin Wamsley & Katie S. Butler**, Western, Vol. 10 August 2012

### CUSI Visiting Fellows Program

**The High Cost of Home Insecurity in the United States: A Cautionary Tale for Canada?** by **Anita Hill**, Brandeis University, May 2012



### CUSI Research Paper

**Thinking Out Loud: Think Tanks and their Quest for Public Exposure** by **Don Abelson**, CAS & CUSI Director, August 2012

### CUSI Research Note # 2

**Canada's Arctic Policy** by **Elizabeth Riddell-Dixon**, Western, August 2012

### CUSI Research Note # 3

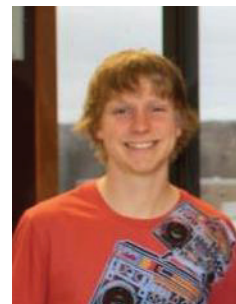
**U.S. Arctic Policy: Context and Currents** by **Amy Lovecraft**, University of Alaska Fairbanks, August 2012

**NeoAmericanist** Summer 2012

## UNDERGRADUATE PAGE

### Gold Medalist – Spring Convocation

**BRENDAN CLEMENTS** was the recipient of the Gold Medal in American Studies at spring 2012 Convocation. He specialized in Canadian-American Relations. The gold medal is awarded annually to the student who achieves the highest average in their Honors Specialization degree module. His undergraduate instructors have very high praise for Brendan:



*"Brendan's enthusiasm for scholarly pursuits and American Studies in particular is exceptional and also contagious! I am convinced that his intellectual curiosity, his work ethic, and his always-positive attitude will continue to lead him to further academic success."* - **Professor Aldona Sendzikas**

*"I have scarcely ever encountered a young man so determined to improve himself. Everything that Brendan has received, he has earned."* - **Professor Craig Simpson**  
Brendan will be continuing his education in Western's American Studies MA program in September. We congratulate him on a truly outstanding undergraduate career!

### Morrison Scholarship 2011-12

**PATRICK SACKVILLE** was awarded the Katherine and Russell Morrison Scholarship in American Studies for 2011-12. Patrick is completing an Honors degree Double Major in American Studies and Political Science. We congratulate Patrick on this achievement, and wish him all the best in the future!

### Dean's Honor List

The Dean's Honor List contains the names of all full time students who earned an average of 80% or higher during the previous fall/winter session. Three of our graduating students earned a place on the Dean's Honor List this year. Congratulations to **Brendan Clements**, **Spencer Davis**, and **Michael Taylor** on this accomplishment.

## Undergraduate Student Achievements

**CONNOR SCOTT** (third-year) presented his paper **The Profit Motive: U.S. Militarism in the Republic of Colombia** at the UWO 2012 Scholars' Conference as part of the themed session, "Class, Gender, and Culture in Global Contexts". The conference took place on March 31. Well done Connor!

**RICHARD SCHUETT** (third-year) received a Western Global Opportunities Award scholarship to participate in an international student exchange program. Richard will be attending Université Francois-Rabelais in Tours, France in the fall and Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands for the winter term. Congratulations Richard!

## Selected Topics Courses 2012-13

**Am Studies 2230F: Subversive Democracy: Understanding the Tea Party Movement**

**Am Studies 2231G: Crimes of the Century: The American Courtroom as a Place, Space, and Public Spectacle**

**Am Studies/Film Studies 3330F: German Exile Cinema: From Berlin to Hollywood**

**Other courses which may be of interest to American Studies students...**

**History 3320E: Global America: The U.S. in World Affairs, 1700- Present**

**History 3301E: Colonial British America**

**History 4305E: American Dreams: Radicals & Reformers (Huron)**

**History 4805E: Warfare - History of the U.S. Navy**

**Political Science 3200E: Understanding September 11th**

## GRADUATE INSTRUCTORS 2012-13

**Sasha Torres** (9050A)

**Thy Phu** (9000B)

**Jeff Vacante** (9200B)

## GRADUATE COMMITTEE

After serving as American Studies Graduate Chair since 2010, **Margaret Kellow** has retired from the position. Margaret was a founding member of the Centre for American Studies in the 1980s, and was instrumental in the formation of our graduate program in 2010. We give our sincere thanks to Margaret for her continued support of the CAS and wish her all the best in the future. We would like to welcome **Aldona Sendzikas** who will assume the duties of Graduate Chair on July 1, 2012. We also welcome **Thy Phu** to the Graduate Committee.

## GSTA AWARDS

Congratulations to **Drew Carney & Caroline Diezyn** who were nominated for Graduate Student Teaching Assistant awards for 2011-12. A reception for all nominees and award recipients was hosted by the Society of Graduate Student & the Graduate Students Teaching Association on June 21. Well done Drew and Caroline!



## Wedding Bells

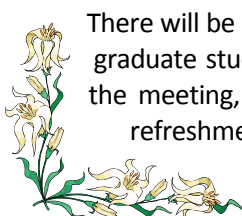
**Jessica Radzik** (2012) and **Adam Strongman** were married at a ceremony in Hamilton on August 4, 2012. Congratulations & best wishes to the happy couple!

## GRADUATE PAGE

### Welcome To Our New MA Students!

The Centre for American extends a warm welcome to our 2012-13 incoming graduate students: **Brendan, Kelsey, Joshua, Jeremy, Sinead, Dylan, Adam, Robyn, Graham, Mason, Alex, Eli, and Nicole**. We are very excited to begin the third 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 5, 2012



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 **3:00pm, SSC 3036**.

## Graduate Student Achievements

**TOM COOKE** (2012) has been invited by Martin Weber of Queensland University and author of *Writing Security*, David Campbell to join a research team to help launch their new media lab in Australia. Also, Tom's review of Claire E. Rasmussen's **The Autonomous Animal: Self-Governance and the Modern Subject** will be published in the next issue of *Somatechnics* journal out of Edinburgh. Tom will be attending York University in the fall to pursue a PhD in Science and Technology Studies.

**CAROLINE DIEZYN** (2012) has been invited to present papers at two conferences this fall. Caroline will present **Masculinity and the Vietnam War Memorial: Art as Enforcer** at the European Network for Avant-Garde and Modernism Studies Biannual Conference at the University of Kent, Canterbury, England September 7-9, 2012, and **Ecocriticism and the New Frontier in Michael Herr's Dispatches** at Geographies of Promise and Betrayal: the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for American Studies, University of Toronto, October 25-28, 2012.

**JACOB SKINNER** (2012) had two articles published in 2011-12. His article **US Republican Primaries: Romney Outmaneuvers Perry** appeared in the King's University College publication *The Regis*, Vol. 4, No. 2 October 2011, and his commentary **Mitt Romney- Five Reasons for a Lack of Enthusiasm** was published in the CAS online publication *Speaking Out*, March 2012.

Research papers written by our graduate students can be accessed on the CAS website.

### *A Fond Farewell to the Class of 2011-12...*



*Wishing you all the best of luck...thanks for a great year!*

## Faculty Publications

**DAN BOUSFIELD** (Political Science) with Jean-Michel Montsion "Transforming an International Organization: Norm Confusion and the International Olympic Committee" *Sport in Society*, Vol 15, Issue 6.

**ROSS BULLEN** (English) "'This Alarming Generosity': White Elephants and the Logic of the Gift", *American Literature*, December 2011.

**THY PHU** (English) *Picturing Model Citizens: Civility in Asian American Visual Culture*, Temple University Press (May 2012).

## CAS DIRECTORY

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Speakers' Series Coordinator

### ROB MACDOUGALL

Associate Director

### BRYCE TRAISTER

Associate Director  
Undergraduate Program  
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### ALDONA SENDZIKAS

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### CHRISTINE WALL

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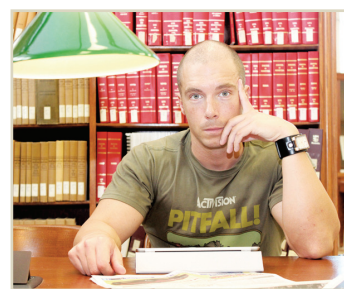
<http://cas.ssc.uwo.ca/>

## CAS FACULTY NEWS



**SONIA HALPERN** (Women's Studies) has been awarded the **2012 Arts & Humanities Teaching Excellence Award**. Specializing in Art History, Sonia applies a feminist approach to the history of art by examining and comparing the various social, economic, and gender-political factors that have contributed to men and women's distinct biographies, artistic production, and images of women. Sonia has previously been awarded two major teaching awards at Western and has been voted one of Western's most "Popular Profs" by the Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities for five years running (2000-2005).

**MICHAEL ARNTFIELD** (FIMS) and his extracurricular study group, the Campus Cold Case Club will be featured in an upcoming episode of CBC TV's documentary news series, *The National*. The students have been working with Detroit area investigative reporters to bring a Detroit area cold case known as the "Oakland County Child Killer" from the 1970s to conclusion. The police have already acted on one of the group's recommendations with respect to mitochondrial DNA testing on one of the original exhibits. In addition, a Detroit lawyer has used the group's report to build a case to get classified records unsealed for the mother of one of the victims of the Oakland County Child Killer. The report was also featured on the NBC Detroit affiliate, and Professor Arntfield has been profiled in the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press*. The CBC documentary is set to air in the fall. Professor Arntfield will be teaching the selected topics course Am Studies 2231G: **Crimes of the Century: the American Courtroom as a Place, Space and Public Spectacle** in the winter term.



## News of Alumni



**LAURA MCGEE** (MA in Canadian-American Relations, 2011) obtained a summer student position with Cassels Brock Law Firm in Toronto. She also recently became senior editor for U of T's *Journal of Law and Equality*. Laura is currently a J.D. candidate at the University of Toronto.



**LINDSAY THORNTON** (MA in American Cultural Studies, 2011) will be relocating to England this September to pursue a MPhil/PhD in American Studies at King's College, London. Congratulations and good luck Lindsay!



**DAVID BEITELMAN'S** (MA in Canadian-American Relations, 2011) paper **America's Pacific Pivot** will appear in the 'Coming Attractions' section of the autumn issue of *International Journal*. Dave is entering the second year of his PhD program in Political Science at Dalhousie University and is working as an intern for the U.S. Consulate General in Halifax.