

Centre for American Studies

News Archive 2011

Holiday Office Hours

Office hours Dec 8-21 are 9:00am-4:00pm. The office will be closed for the holiday season Dec 22 - Jan 2, and will reopen at 9am on Jan 3, 2012. From everyone at the CAS, we wish you all the joys of the Holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

Critical Issues Vol. 8 Published

Volume 8 of the CAS publication series *Critical Issues of Our Time* is now available. The featured article "First Impressions, Second Thoughts: Reflections on the Changing Role of Think Tanks in U.S. Foreign Policy" was contributed by Centre for American Studies and Canada-U.S. Institute Director, **Don Abelson**. The article as well as all previous issues can be viewed [here](#). *Posted December 15, 2011.*

Guest Speaker Stephen Clarkson Nov 24

Dr. Stephen Clarkson, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Toronto, and a recent recipient of the Order of Canada, will be giving a lecture "[Important to the United States but Impotent in Washington? How Canada and Mexico Construct US Power.](#)" Thursday, November 24, 12:30-2:00pm, SSC 4255, A light lunch will be available. Sponsored by the Canada-U.S. Institute and the Department of Political Science.

First MA Students Graduate

On October 28, 2011, our 2010-11 class of MA students became the first in Canada to graduate with a Master of Arts degree in American Studies! Congratulations and best wishes to the 10 students who graduated at fall convocation ceremonies last month. *Posted November 14, 2011.*

Morrison Scholarship Winner

The CAS is pleased to announce that **Patrick Sackville** has been awarded the Morrison Scholarship in American Studies for 2011-12. The scholarship is awarded annually to a fourth-year student who has a demonstrated record of academic excellence in the American Studies undergraduate program. Congratulations on this well deserved award! *Posted November 11, 2011.*

MA Student Stars in Dept. of English Play

American Studies MA Student **Caroline Diezyn** plays the role of the Duke's wife in [The Revenger's Tragedy](#); a play of "quirky humour, deception, betrayal, and revenge" (Kyra Allen, *Western Gazette*, Nov 8, 2011) produced by the Department of English. The full *Western Gazette* review can be found [here](#). See *The Revenger's Tragedy* at 8 p.m. on Nov 10, 11, & 12. Tickets may be purchased at Infosource or at Conron Hall prior to admission. Cost for students & seniors \$10, adults \$15.

Speakers' Series Presents Kevin Wamsley

The CAS is pleased to welcome **Kevin Wamsley**, Department of Kinesiology, UWO, as its third guest of the 2011-12 Speakers' Series. Professor Wamsley's lecture "[Children of the Cold War Came Marching In: The Case of Political Gymnastics in the Age of Hypercompetition](#)" will take place Tuesday, November 8, 4:30pm, SSC 5220. Everyone welcome.

Spotlight on Professor Michael Arntfield

FIMS and CAS Professor **Michael Arntfield** and his extracurricular study group (Campus Cold Case Club) are investigating a Detroit area cold case known as the "Oakland County Child Killer" from the 1970s.



Working with Detroit area investigative reporters to bring the case to conclusion, the group is being filmed by the CBC for a documentary series to air in 2012. Dr. Arntfield will be discussing the case in more detail as the featured speaker of the Senior Alumni Association Distinguished Speaker Series in the McKellar Theatre on Oct 25th. He will be teaching a new course, American Studies 2231G "[Crimes of the Century: The American Courtroom as a Place, Space, and Public Spectacle](#)" in the 2011-12 winter term. There are still a few spaces available in the course. *Posted October 24, 2011.*

New Department Representative

Congratulations to third-year student **Daniel Bain** who was elected as an American Studies Department Representative following the October 19th Social Science Student Council elections. Daniel joins fellow student rep Brendan Clements to represent the Centre for American Studies on the Social Science Student Council for 2011-12. *Posted October 21, 2011.*

Speakers' Series Presents Melissa Haussman

The CAS is pleased to welcome **Melissa Haussman**, Department of Political Science, Carleton University, as its second guest of the 2011-12 Speakers' Series. Dr. Haussman's lecture "[Glass Ceilings, Being 'Likeable Enough', and Hosting Tea Parties: Prospects for Women in U.S. National Politics](#)" will take place Thursday, October 20, 4:30pm, SSC 5220. Everyone welcome.

Michael Brescia to Present Fulbright Lecture

Professor Michael M. Brescia, associate curator of ethnohistory with the Arizona State Museum at the University of Arizona, is the current recipient of the Fulbright-Carlos Rico Award for North American Studies at The University of Western Ontario. Professor Brescia is currently teaching a graduate seminar on the comparative history of North America. Professor Brescia will be giving a lecture "**Water Rights, Competing Legal Traditions, and Comparative History**" on October 19, 2011, 4:30pm, SSC 5220.

Achievements of Our Graduates

Laura McGee's (MA 2011) paper "When Bomb Canada is Really Just a Metaphor: Using the American Jeremiad to Reinterpret Anti-Canadianism in the American Press" has been accepted for publication in the *American Review of Canadian Studies* journal. Laura's article will appear in the March, 2012 issue. Congratulations Laura! *Posted Sept 28, 2011.*

Critical Issues Vol. 7 Published

Volume 7 of the CAS publication series *Critical Issues of Our Time* is now available. The featured article "Monster in Muslin: Lizzie Borden, American Myth-Making, and the Regeneration of the New England Spinster" was contributed by Paula Uruburu, Associate Professor of English, and Vice Dean of the School for University Studies at Hofstra. This article as well as previous issues can be viewed [here](#). *Posted Sept 27, 2011.*

Research Talk with Tim Gravelle, Sept 26

Tim Gravelle, Vice President, Research Strategy Group will be giving a research talk on "Canadian and American Attitudes towards the Canada-U.S. Relationship", Monday, September 26, 2011, Noon-1:30pm, SSC 4255. A light lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the [Political Behaviour Research Group](#) and the [Canada-U.S. Institute](#).

Student Club Meeting, Sept 27

Students are invited to join American Studies Department Rep Brendan Clements for the first 2011-12 meeting of the American Studies Association student club. On the agenda: procedures for electing official members, potential events/ trips, and ways to attract new members. Everyone welcome. 3:00pm, SSC 1003.

Founder of New Patriot Publishing Personally Greets American Studies Class

Brent Morehouse, founder of New Patriot Publishing in California and author of *Tea Party: The Awakening* (2011) has posted a personalized greeting on YouTube to the students of the 3rd-year class, Understanding the Tea Party Movement, here at the Centre for American Studies. Upon discovering that the University of Western Ontario was the first to assign the book of unedited letters, Mr. Morehouse contacted the course instructor, Dr. Dylan A. Cyr directly. The greeting can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcbX8tacxyg>. Posted Sept 21, 2011.

David Frum to Visit UWO Sept 20

Western's [Canada-U.S. Institute](#) is honored to welcome renowned journalist, author, and former special assistant to President George W. Bush, **David Frum** as the second guest of the CUSI Visiting Fellows Program in September. Mr. Frum will deliver a lecture titled "The Unhappy Giant: U.S.- Canada Relations in the Great Recession" on **Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 5:00pm, North Campus Building, Room 101**. Tickets are available at InfoSource or online: frumatwestern.ca. A book sale and signing will follow the talk.

Speakers' Series Presents Elspeth Brown

The CAS is delighted to welcome **Elspeth Brown**, Director for the Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Toronto, as its first guest of the 2011-12 Speakers' Series. Dr. Brown will give a lecture titled "[The Commodification of Aesthetic Feeling: Race, Sexuality, and the 1920s Stage Model](#)." Thursday, September 15, 4:30pm, SH 3315. All are welcome to attend this event.

Remembering 9/11

September 11, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. The September 8th issue of *Western News* features a commentary by Centre for American Studies and Canada-U.S. Institute Director, **Don Abelson**. The article, [Does 9/11 Still Trump Everything?](#) explores the ways in which the tragic events of 10 years ago have impacted American foreign policy.

Grad Students Launch News Blog

American Studies graduate students **Laura McGee** and **Christen Cole** have combined their talents to develop a news blog. **NewsChecker** is a blog for those who want to become informed about current events, but find most news outlets complicated and hard to understand. This student-run blog takes tricky issues and events and distills them to a simple, exam-style format: facts, context, and significance. On the 'Concept' and 'Comment' pages, Laura, Christen, and guest contributors such as fellow students Brad St.

Croix and Doug MacLean, break down topics like 'the Dow Jones' and publish opinion pieces on controversial issues. NewsChecker invites readers to contribute by commenting on stories and by submitting longer opinion pieces. <http://newschecker.wordpress.com/>. Posted August 16, 2011.

2011-12 Speakers' Series Announced

The 2011-12 Centre for American Studies Speakers' Series once again promises a lineup of dynamic and diverse guest speakers. Our very special guest this year is author and Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies at Brandeis University, **Anita Hill**. Please visit the [Speakers' Series](#) page on the CAS website for more information about these upcoming events.

CAS Welcomes Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Michael Brescia, Head of the Research Division in the Arizona State Museum at the University of Arizona has been appointed as the Fulbright-Carlos Rico Award for North American Studies Visiting Scholar during the 2011-12 academic year. Dr. Brescia will be teaching a graduate seminar in Comparative Methodology and North American History this fall.

Selected Topics Courses 2011-12

Course descriptions for the American Studies 2011-12 selected topics offerings are now available on the [undergraduate course page](#). We are excited to be offering two new topics this year: 2230F; *The Superhero in the American Imagination*, and 2231G; *Crimes of the Century: The American Courtroom as a Place, Space, and Public Spectacle*. Due to popular demand we are again offering *Subversive Democracy: Understanding the Tea Party Movement* (3340F) and *The Fog of War: Screening the Vietnam Conflict* (3330G). Please note that American Studies students are given priority for enrollment in these courses. Posted June 27, 2011.

Don Abelson, CAS Students in Gazette

CAS and CUSI Director **Don Abelson**, and students **Laura McGee** and **Brendan Clements** were interviewed for an article in the June 10, 2011 edition of the *Western Gazette* which discusses the ways in which the United States is portrayed in Canadian universities. The entire article can be viewed [here](#).

NeoAmericanist Seeks Web Feed Editor

NeoAmericanist, an online multi/inter-disciplinary journal for the study of America, is requesting applications for a NEWS FEED EDITOR. The *NeoAmericanist* web feed is an easily updated RSS feed aimed at capturing and broadcasting professional and popular news to interested Undergraduate and Graduate students. The position is unpaid and takes approximately 3-5 hours per week. For more details about the position and to apply please visit the [NeoAmericanist](#) page. Posted June 3, 2011.

Don Abelson Participates in International Conferences

On May 12th, 2011 **Don Abelson** was interviewed by L'Observatoire Français des Think Tanks in Paris on the role and influence of think tanks in the United States. His videotaped remarks were used as an introduction to a conference entitled, "à un an des présidentielles, quelle est la place des Think Tanks dans le débat public, en France et aux Etats-Unis?". The conference took place at Sciences Po.

On May 15th, 2011, Don gave a presentation to the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI), a Jerusalem-based think tank at its International Conference entitled, "What Do Think Tanks Do?" His talk, "Think Again: How American Think Tanks Compete in the Marketplace of Ideas," was streamed live and is available on the IDI's website - www.idi.org.il

On May 18th, Don gave a presentation to the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies in Tel Aviv. The presentation entitled, "Can the American Think Tank Experience be imported to Israel?" was sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

GTA Award Nominations

Congratulations to MA students **Christen Cole** and **Lindsay Thornton** who have been nominated for Graduate Student Teaching Assistant awards for 2010-11. All award nominees and recipients will be recognized at a reception hosted by the Society of Graduate Students and the Graduate Teaching Assistant's Union on May 9th. Well done Christen and Lindsay! *Posted May 3, 2011.*

CAS Videos on YouTube

Videos featuring an overview of American Studies programs at Western can now be viewed on [YouTube](#). The videos were produced and directed by Eric Gaston Simard Productions. *Posted April 29, 2011.*

Book Launch for Faculty Author

Aldona Sendzikas (History) will be giving a free public discussion and illustrated talk about her recently published book, *Stanley Barracks; Toronto's Military Legacy* at the Fort York National Historic Site, Tuesday, April 26, 7:00pm. Admission to the event is free. Books will be available for purchase at the event with all proceeds going to support Fort York, one of the ten historic museums operated by the City of Toronto. More information about the book and the event can be found [here](#).

MER Conference Program & Registration Information Now Available

A preliminary program as well as registration information for the conference "**Taking Stock of a Turbulent Decade and Looking Ahead: Immigration to North America 2000-2010**" are now available. [Preliminary conference program](#), [Registration information](#), [Conference poster](#). For more information please visit the [official conference website](#). The conference takes place at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, April 28-30, 2011. Be sure to register early as spaces are limited. The conference is co-hosted by the Centre for Research in Migration and Ethnic Relations and the Canada-U.S. Institute.

Department Representatives 2011-12

Congratulations to American Studies students **Brendan Clements** and **Cody Kukay**, who were elected as our Department Representatives during the recent Student Council elections. Brendan and Cody will act as a liaison between the Centre for American Studies and the Social Science Student's Council for the year 2011-12. *Posted April 8, 2011.*

Speakers' Series Event March 22

The CAS Speakers' Series is pleased to present **Jonathan Burston**, Rogers Chair of Journalism and New Information Technology, FIMS "[Sound in the Service of Synergy: The American Musical in the Age of Digital Convergence](#)." Tuesday, March 22, 4:30pm, KB 203.

Student Social at The Wave, March 14

Current American Studies students as well as those who may be interested in joining the program next year are invited to the American Studies Association student club social at The Wave on Monday, March 14 at 5:30pm. [More information](#).

Canada-U.S. Institute to Host Ralph Nader

On March 15, 2011, Western's Canada-U.S. Institute will host consumer advocate, lawyer, presidential candidate, and author **Ralph Nader**. Ralph Nader has been named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 100 "Most Influential Americans in the Twentieth Century." He will be giving a lecture "Canadian Independence: Salvation or Sacrifice to Canada-U.S. Relations" which will be followed by a book signing. Tickets (\$5 students, \$10 non-students) are available at InfoSource or [online](#). Doors open 4:45pm, Lecture begins at 5:15pm, Natural Sciences Centre, Room 145, Book signing, Natural Sciences Centre, Room 7. Live streaming of the event will be available from the [Canada-U.S. Institute website](#).

March Calendar of Events

There are a number of events taking place this March, including guest speakers, [Ralph Nader](#) hosted by the Canada-U.S. Institute, [Jonathan Burston](#) for the CAS Speakers' Series, [David Vine](#) at King's University College, and [David Simpson](#) at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The CAS is also taking part in the Social Science Intent to Register Showcase, the March Break Open House, and hosting a Social Event at The Wave for the American Studies Association student club. The complete calendar of events can be viewed [here](#).

Grad Students to Participate in Conferences

Two of our MA students will be presenting their research at conferences this month. **Brad St. Croix** will present his paper "America's Tropical Suburb: The Attack on Pearl Harbor and Hawaii's Place in the United States During the Second World War" at the conference "Battleground States", Bowling Green State University, Ohio, Feb 24, and **Christen Cole** will be presenting her paper "In Order to Form a More Perfect Man: A Social History of American Masculinity and Football" at Western's Graduate Research Forum on Feb 26 and Graduate History Conference on March 26. *Posted Feb 16, 2011.*

Speakers' Series Event Feb 15

The Centre for American Studies Speakers' Series is pleased to present **Nina Reid-Maroney**, Department of History, Huron University College. Dr. Reid-Maroney will be giving a presentation titled "[The Promised Land Project: Black Settlements in Southwestern Ontario](#)" Tuesday, Feb 15, 2011, 2:30pm, SSC 9420. Everyone is welcome to attend this lecture.

New Book

Congratulations to **Aldona Sendzikas** (History); her latest book *Stanley Barracks: Toronto's Military Legacy* was released in February, 2011 (Natural Heritage Press, publisher). In addition to being the first comprehensive history of Stanley Barracks, the book also includes material about the role of the C.N.E. grounds as "Exhibition Camp" during the two world wars. More details about the book can be found [here](#). *Posted Feb 9, 2011.*

USC Teaching Honour Roll 2009-10

We are proud to announce that the following CAS Faculty affiliates are on the USC Teaching Honour Roll for 2009-10: **Andrew Ross** (American Studies), **Tim Blackmore**, **David Spencer** (FIMS), **Sonia Halpern** (Women's Studies), and **Don Abelson** (Political Science). Instructors on the USC Honour Roll received a cumulative average of 6.3 or higher out of 7 on the first fourteen questions of their teaching evaluation. *Posted Feb 8, 2011.*

Intent to Register: Feb 1- Mar 31, 2011

All students returning to Western for the 2011-12 academic year must complete an **Intent to Register** form online by March 31, 2011. Information about the Intent to Register process can be found on the [Social Science Academic Counselling website](#). There will be a Social Science Showcase, Wed, Mar 2, 12-3pm, in the main lobby on the second floor of the Social Science Centre where departmental representatives will be on hand to answer questions regarding their programs. American Studies program counselling: Mon-Fri, 9-12, 1-4 on a drop-in basis, SSC 1003.

Graduate Program Applications

The Centre for American Studies is currently accepting applications for its 2011-12 MA Program. The deadline for applications is **Feb 15, 2011**. Please visit the [graduate program](#) page for details.

American Studies Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to **Zale Skolnik** who has been awarded the Morrison Scholarship in American Studies for 2010-11. This award is presented annually to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated the highest level of academic excellence in their American Studies degree module. Zale is currently completing a double major in American Studies and English Language and Literature. *Posted January 18, 2011.*

Upcoming Event: The Morrison Lecture with Special Guest Linda McQuaig

The CAS is delighted to welcome journalist and best-selling author [Linda McQuaig](#) to Western for the fifth annual Morrison Lecture in American Studies. She will speak about her latest book, [The Trouble with Billionaires: How Wealth Concentration is Damaging North American Society](#). A book sale and signing will follow the talk. Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 4:30pm, HSB 240. Everyone welcome to attend.

January Course Registration Dates

Web registration for second term will begin on Monday, January 3 at 9:30am and will run until Saturday, January 8 at 11:59pm. Paper add/drop will be on January 10 and 11.

Winter Term Courses

Are you interested in taking a half course in American Studies in January? Some spaces are still available in American Studies 2231G (Subversive Democracy: Understanding the Tea Party Movement) and American Studies 3340G ("Quality" Television in the U.S.) For course descriptions please visit the [Undergraduate courses page](#).

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed for the holiday season Dec 23 - Jan 2, and will reopen at 9am on Jan 3, 2011. From everyone at the CAS, we wish you all the joys of the Holiday season, and a Happy New Year!