

American Culture Studies

Bowling Green State University || 2009 - 2010

Recent and Upcoming Faculty Publications

A Narrative Journey: Trends and Challenges in Presenting Life Experiences. (Routledge)

Vikki Krane

Beyond the Bonus March and GI Bill: How Veteran Politics Shaped the New Deal Era. (NYU Press)

Stephen Ortiz

Modern Noise, Fluid Genres: Popular Music in Indonesia, 1997-2001 (University of Wisconsin Press)

Jeremy Wallach

continued on p. 5

Production staff

Layout and Editor:
Tiffany Knoell

Graduate photos courtesy
of Gloria Enrique Pizana



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A Letter from the Director

Dear friends, colleagues, students, and alumni. The last year has been a period of continuing growth and change for the American Culture Studies program at BGSU.

One of our recent joint appointment faculty members, Dr. Radhika Gajjala, has been appointed as the acting director of the Women's Studies Program for 2009-10, joining Drs. Scott Martin (History), Vicki Patraha (Institute for the Study of Culture and Society), and Madeline Duntley (Chapman Learning Community) as ACS joint appointment faculty members who are directors or chairs of other administrative units at the University. It's been a successful year for the program as well, as nine ACS MA students and six doctoral students completed their degrees and graduated during the 2008-09 academic year.



In last year's newsletter, I mentioned that the ACS program was involved in discussions with the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Women's Studies Program aimed at joining to form a new interdisciplinary School. These discussions continued throughout the 2008-09 academic year, and in May 2009 we submitted to the BGSU Provost's office a plan to form a new School of Cultural and Critical Studies, including a proposed governance document for the school and a proposed reorganization of the majors for the three programs that would involve several new common school courses. We have recently been informed that the Department of Popular Culture has voted to accept our offer to join the new School.

This is an exciting development for the ACS program, one that promises to open a new period of even closer collaboration with the Ethnic Studies, Popular Culture, and Women's Studies programs. The enthusiastic support of the University administration for the new School marks an important commitment by BGSU to interdisciplinary collaboration in general and to the ACS program in particular. In recognition of the ACS program's contributions to interdisciplinary education at the graduate level, the College of Arts and Sciences listed the ACS program in its formal College Compact

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A Letter from the Director, continued

as one of six “signature programs” in the college. Once the documents for the new School have been formally approved by the University, we will make them available at the ACS program website.

It's been a tough year for the University, both in terms of overall enrollment and budgets. But despite the current difficulties, the ACS program has continued to do well. We have brought in a nicely-sized entering graduate class of twelve doctoral students and ten MA students for fall 2009, including an ACS program record of three new students in this year's entering class sponsored by the prestigious Fulbright program. This year's entering class also includes students from (in addition to the U.S.) Austria, Mauritania, Iraq, China, Jordan, India, and Vietnam making this the most nationally diverse entering class in the history of the ACS program.

And for the second straight year we have a visiting Fulbright dissertation scholar in residence in the ACS program. Ms. Mervi Miettinen is a doctoral student in English Philology and Literature at the University of Tampere in Finland. She is spending the year in residence in the BGSU ACS program while she works on her dissertation, “Who Watches the Watchmen?": Problems and Possibilities of the Superhuman Condition, taking advantage of the extensive comics holdings in the BGSU Popular Culture Library as well as sitting in on the occasional ACS graduate class. We're enjoying very much having her here in the ACS program for the year. Mervi will be giving a public lecture later this year to share her research; we will announce this lecture on the ACS e-mail list.

Despite the rigors of what has been the most difficult academic job market in memory for the last year, our ACS graduate students have continued to be highly successful, with recent graduates taking tenure-track positions in a variety of academic disciplines at a number of universities and colleges. Below is a list of new academic positions taken by recent ACS graduates for the 2009-10 academic year (and my apologies to anyone I may have left out—send us your new employment information and we'll list it in next year's newsletter).

Molly Brost, Assistant Professor of English, University of Southern Indiana

Alissa Burger, Online Instructor of ACS and Women's Studies, BGSU

Nathan Crook, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts, Defiance College

William Emerson, Academic Advisor/Recruiter, Siena Heights University

Andy Famiglietti, Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Literature, Communication, and Culture, Georgia Tech University

Colin Helb, Assistant Professor of Communications, Elizabethtown College

Christopher Johnston, Assistant Professor of English, Broward College

Michael Lupro, Assistant Professor of University Studies, North Carolina A&T University

Stephen Swanson, Assistant Professor of English, McLennan Community College

Dustin Tahmahkera, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Southwestern University

Patrick Vrooman, Director, Partners in Context and Community Learning Center, BGSU

Last year's Battleground States conference, held on the BGSU campus February 26-29, 2009 was very successful, with over a hundred participants attending. The theme of the conference was The Future. The 2010 Battleground States

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A Letter from the Director, concluded

conference, War(s) and Peace, will be held this coming February 26-27, once again on the BGSU campus. It's hard for me to realize that this will be the fifth straight year that the Battleground States conference has been held, entirely produced, funded, and organized by The Culture Club, the Cultural Studies Scholars' Association of BGSU graduate students in the humanities, including many ACS MA and PhD students. This is a remarkable accomplishment on the part of our students. For more information about this year's coming conference, as well as information about The Culture Club and other activities of that organization, such as the Tuesday Night at the Gish films series, visit The Culture Club website at: <http://www.battlegroundstates.org/>

We continue to work on the ACS website, updating and improving the content where we can. Any updated information that you would like to see listed at the ACS website should be sent to us at: acswebsite@gmail.com. You can visit the ACS website at: <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/>

This newsletter marks an effort on our part to reach out to and to communicate with our current students, faculty, and our alumni about recent accomplishments of our faculty and students and to inform them about recent and ongoing developments in the ACS program. If you have any personal or professional news that you would like to see included in future editions of this newsletter, please forward this information to the ACS program at penriqu@bgsu.edu. Also, we know that e-mail addresses often change and despite our best efforts, we do not have current e-mail addresses for all of our many former students. Please send us any new e-mail address you may add in the future, and if you find out that we have failed to send this e-mail to any of our former students, please forward the newsletter to them and let us know of their current e-mail address; we will add any new e-mail addresses we receive to our list for future newsletters.

Also, any contributions to the ACS Foundation Account, which supports graduate education in the ACS Program, will be much appreciated. Contributions may be made to either the ACS general Foundation Account, which supports graduate student awards like the annual Snook Award for best graduate student papers and other program activities, or to the Alma Payne Scholarship account, which originated with a very generous bequest from the estate of Dr. Alma Payne, the founder and director of the American Culture Studies program from 1957 until her retirement in 1979, and which supports summer dissertation scholarships for 3rd year ACS doctoral students. All contributions should be sent to the BGSU Foundation Office, Mileti Center, Alumni Drive, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403. In making a contribution, please specify which account you wish to donate to, either the ACS General Account (30-000030) or the Alma Payne Scholarship Account (30-001009).

Finally, as some of you may recently have heard, I will be stepping down as director of the ACS program at the end of this academic year and retiring from BGSU. The ten years I have spent as director of the ACS program have been the most rewarding years of my academic career. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the faculty and students in this program. Although I am looking forward to retirement, it will not be easy leaving such an incredibly rewarding job. I want to thank all of my former students, colleagues, and current students for having made my years in the ACS program, both as a faculty member and as program director, such a pleasure.

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An Interview with Babacar M'baye

-By Tiffany Knoell

While many success stories have developed for graduates of BGSU's American Culture Studies department, Dr. Babacar M'Baye (PhD., BGSU, 2002) parlayed his experiences in ACS into first success on the job market and then breaking into the book publishing field. Moving from a position at Evergreen State College to his current position at Kent State University, M'Baye used his interdisciplinary background to not only broaden his job prospects, but to also keep him in conversation with other scholars in his field.

Although he branched out into the academic community, M'Baye returned often to the lessons learned (and papers written) while in the American Culture Studies department. He also learned that the publishing of a book is a process and often an extended one at that. M'Baye's first book, *The Trickster Comes West: Pan-African Influence in Early Black Diasporan Narratives*, was not generated by his dissertation, but rather by a paper written for a class. What started as a small and simple project soon blossomed into a 600 page text and it was at this point that M'Baye found himself in need of advice. A well-timed seminar provided the assistance he needed. "I attended a seminar that was supervised by a professor of history by the name of Doctor Miller," he explained. "Doctor Miller met with each of the seminar participants and asked us about our projects. When I told him about the dilemma that I had, he just said 'You know, the best way to go about it is to just divide the project in two.'" The suggestion connected and helped M'Baye's book project move forward. "After I talked to Doctor Miller, I looked at the whole draft and I said 'Why didn't I just think of this before? It makes so much sense,'" he said. Finally he put the polish on the project, ensuring that "the writing was consistent, that the words were clear, that the arguments were cogent, and that everything said was original." *The Trickster Comes West* was released by University Press of Mississippi in 2009.

M'Baye took advantage of the resources at his disposal, both at BGSU and also at conferences. "Whenever I went to a conference and, at the time I had a habit of not wearing nametags, so anytime I went to a conference and presented something, I had a cohort of people who wanted to have a copy of my paper. So people would assume I was at these other schools. They thought I was at Harvard or Yale. So that's when I realized that BGSU does produce some good students and that the work we do is cutting edge. I was prepared by the interdisciplinary and the theoretical nature of the classes and the syllabi that were offered in those classes by Dr. McQuarie and Dr. Green," he related.

When it comes to those still proceeding through their graduate experience, M'Baye was full of useful advice. For the grad student: "My advice is to really seek out intellectual conversations that are of interest to them, whether these conversations deal with gender, race, equality, injustice, communication, you name it. Find out a conversation that they are really passionate about and understand it through a thorough literature review like reading some of the major texts and watching some of the major film documentaries on the subject. Find a voice and have a voice in that conversation, in that scholarship." For those ABD who are contemplating the job market: "I would recommend that they really emphasize the multi-cultural and interdisciplinary nature of their education. A lot of people graduate from one discipline and they have a harder time getting jobs unless they are hired by those specific departments. They really can't market themselves to as many different opportunities as we do." "Also, make certain you finish your dissertation," he added, remarking that ABDs, while hireable, will find a much different experience than those who have completed their dissertations.

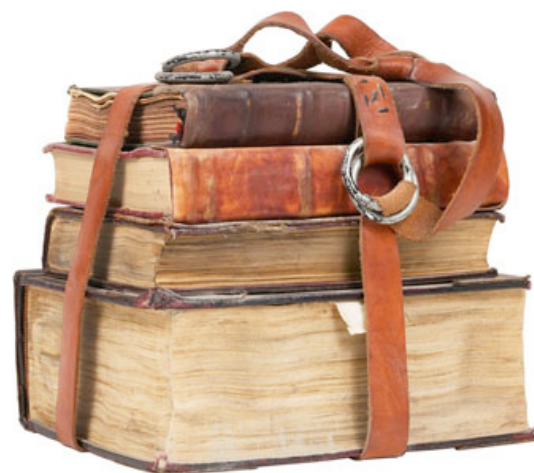
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Faculty News

Louisa Ha (Telecommunications and ACS affiliated faculty) has been appointed the special issue editor on "Emerging Media and Challenges in Chinese Communities" for the Chinese Journal of Communication. She attended the International Radio and Television Society's Faculty Seminar in Burbank California hosted by Disney Corporation on Disney Channels worldwide from August 10-12, 2009. She was invited to Shandong University to give a talk to faculty and students and also to the largest newspaper group in China on emerging media business models.

Rekha Mirchandani (Sociology) and **Albert W. Dzur** (Political Science) each received MacCormick Fellowships at the Law School of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15, 2009. Rekha conducted research on problem-solving courts and issues related to "new governance," ways in which the organization and administration of law is changing worldwide. Albert continued work on a book on lay participation in criminal justice entitled *Democracy, Punishment, and the Jury*.



Vikki Krane (Women's Studies Program/Professor, Sport Psychology) gave the keynote presentation at the International Conference for Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise, London.

Andrew E. Hershberger (Contemporary Art History) completes 2008-2009 FIL with Fellowships in NH, AZ, and UK. For his academic-year research sabbatical, Andrew E. Hershberger, Ph.D. won the inaugural Teti Library Fellowship for fall 2008 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA) in Manchester, NH. Hershberger spent his semester at NHIA researching in the Teti Library's newly donated Special Collections, a multi-million dollar private library of approximately 2,000 extremely rare history of photography texts. In the spring Hershberger accepted a Visiting Fellowship at St. Hilda's College, one of the many colleges that comprise the University of Oxford. While living at St. Hilda's College, he joined the very first group of male Visiting Fellows since St. Hilda's turned coeducational in 2008. In England, Hershberger continued his research projects on the history of photography, his area of research specialization. In the summer, Hershberger was invited back to the University of Arizona's Arizona Senior Academy (ASA) for a third stint as a Visiting Scholar. During the five-week event, Hershberger continued the projects he began during his 2004 Ansel Adams Research Fellowship at the Center for Creative Photography (CCP), and his 2006 and 2007 Visiting Scholarships at the ASA. Hershberger gave five lectures at the ASA on the history of photography while researching and writing at the CCP. Finally, in addition to co-authoring three peer-reviewed publications, Hershberger signed a book contract with Blackwell Publishing (Oxford and Boston) for a new edited volume entitled *Photographic Theory*.

Victoria Smith Ekstrand, Ph.D. (Journalism/Affiliate faculty, Dept. of American Cultural Studies) is an in-residence scholar for the ICS Fellowship this fall. She also got tenure in April 09.

Carlo Celli, Ph.D., UCLA (Romance and Classical Studies) published his book *Il carnevale di Machiavelli*. (Firenze, Italia: Leo S. Olschki Editore, 2009)

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Dr. Ellen W. Gorsevski (Communication) participated as part of a team of BGSU faculty in the prestigious summer training program of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, which was held June 14-19, 2009 at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. This is a competitive program and not all applicants were accepted, so it represents outstanding recognition for BGSU's Peace and Conflict Studies Minor with which Dr. Gorsevski is affiliated and it constitutes leading edge training for all faculty involved. Her research, co-authored with colleagues Dr. Canchu Lin and Dr. Raymond Schuck, was ranked as a top paper to be presented at the NCA 2009 Convention. The title of the paper is "Invasion of the Body Snatchers: How The Rhetoric of Globalization Elides Human Rights in 'The Bodies' Museum Exhibits." Additionally, her feminist rhetorical-critical research on the virtual world of SecondLife will be published by McFarland in a forthcoming anthology entitled *Millennial Mythmaking: Essays on the Power of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, Films and Game*. The title of Dr. Gorsevski's chapter is "Running Free in Angelina Jolie's Virtual Body: The Myth of the New Frontier and Gender Liberation in SecondLife." Dr. Gorsevski was awarded a BGSU Faculty Mentoring and Enrichment Grant of \$5,000 to enable her to work on book research and writing, plus associated grant applications. The book project is on the nonviolent rhetoric of the Women Nobel Peace Laureates.

Allie Terry (Art History) collaborated with Erin Labbie (English) on a collected volume of essays entitled *Beholding Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Culture* (under review, Ashgate Press). The project developed out of their mutual collaboration in the ICS faculty cluster on "Writing Visual Culture" and then an international conference that we organized at BGSU in the spring of 2008 (at which many ACS faculty and students participated). Recent and forthcoming publications include: "Donatello's Decapitations and the Rhetoric of Beheading in Renaissance Florence." *Renaissance Studies* (forthcoming 2009); "The Craft of Torture: Bronze Sculpture and the Punishment of Sexual Offence in Early Modern Italy." *Sex Acts and Visual Culture in Early Modern Italy*, ed. Allison Levy, Hampshire, U.K.: Ashgate, pp. 272-296 (forthcoming 2009/2010); "Criminal Vision in Early Modern Florence: Fra Angelico's Altarpiece for 'Il Tempio' and the Magdalenian Gaze." *Renaissance Theories of Vision*, eds. John Hendrix and Charles Carmen (forthcoming 2010); and "L'Arte della Tortura: Sculture in Bronzo e Punizione dei Reati Sessuali." *Sesso nel Rinascimento: pratica, perversione e punizione nell'Italia rinascimentale*, ed. Allison Levy, Florence: Le Lettere, 2009, pp. 215-228. These topics are all discussed and developed in the graduate course on "Violence & Art" that Dr. Terry teaches in the department of Art History at BGSU.



Ellen Berry (English) will celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge* in May 2010. Berry co-founded and co-edits this journal. She was invited to present a talk on our history last March at Florida State University and looks forward to giving another talk at the Culture Studies Association annual meeting at UC-Berkeley titled "Going Rhizomatic: Academic Publishing and Lines of Flight" in March. For more information on Rhizomes, please visit <http://www.rhizomes.net>

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The 2008-2009 academic year was an eventful one for **Jeremy Wallach** (Department of Popular Culture and ACS affiliated faculty). His first book, *Modern Noise, Fluid Genres: Popular Music in Indonesia, 1997-2001* (New Perspectives in Southeast Asian Studies, vol. 3, University of Wisconsin Press, 2008) was released in the fall and his first ACS doctoral advisee, Colin Helb, completed his dissertation on cinematic portrayals of amateur musicians. Wallach received the 2009 Richard Waterman Junior Scholar Prize by the Popular Music Section of the Society for Ethnomusicology for an article released in 2008. Dr. Wallach also published two reviews and gave seven academic presentations in 2008-2009 and was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year.



Sandra L. Faulkner, Ph.D. (Communication) published her book *Poetry as Method: Reporting Research through Verse*. (Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press. October 2009)

Andrew Schocket (History) won the Ohio Academy of History Outstanding Publication Award for his book *Founding Corporate Power in Early National Philadelphia* (Northern Illinois University Press) 2008 also saw the publication of an essay titled "Corporations and the Coalescence of an Elite Class in Philadelphia," published in Billy G. Smith and Simon Middleton, eds., *Class Matters: Early North America and the Atlantic World* (University of Pennsylvania Press). Schocket co-edited a special edition of the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* on the establishment of the Sierra Leone Colony. In 2010, *Reviews in American History* will be publishing a special essay he wrote on the state of the field concerning the American Revolution, titled "The American Revolution: New Directions for a New Century." He is currently working on a book tentatively titled "Forever Founding: The American Revolution in Contemporary Life," a project for which he has given invited talks at the Upstate New York Seminar in Early American History and the Newberry Library Seminar in Early American History and Culture.

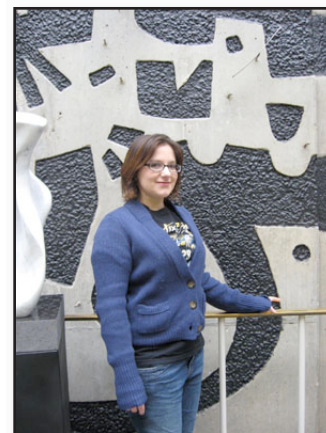
Radhika Gajjala (Womens's Studies) was involved in an array of publications during 2008 and 2009. These include Blair, K., Gajjala, R., & Tulley, C. (Eds.). *Webbing cyberfeminist practice: Communities, pedagogies, and social action*. (New Jersey: Hampton Press 2009); Gajjala, R "3D Indian digital diasporas" in A. Alonso & P. J. Oiarzabal (Eds.), *Digital diasporas*. (Reno, NV: The University of Nevada Pres, in press); Gajjala, R. and Birzescu, A. "Voicing and Placement in Online Networks" in Marina Levina, PhD and Grant Kien, PhD (eds.) *Denoting Danger, Connoting Freedom: Everyday life in the [post]global network*. (New York: Peter Lang USA, in press); Gajjala, R, Rybas, N and Zhang, Y. "Producing Digitally Mediated Environments as Sites for Critical Feminist Pedagogy" in Deanna Fassett and John Warren (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Communication and Instruction and Instruction* (USA: Sage Publications, in press); and Gajjala, R. "Placing South Asian Digital Diasporas in Secondlife" in RonaTamiko Halualani and Tom K. Nakayama (eds.) *Blackwell Handbook of Critical Intercultural Communication* (in press). Gajjala also published two articles: Gajjala V, Gajjala R, Birzescu A and Anarbaeva S "Microfinance in Online Space: A Visual Analysis of Kiva.org" in *Development in Practice* (Taylor and Francis Journal, accepted) and Gajjala R, Zhang, Y and Dako-Gyeke, P. "Lexicons of Women's Empowerment Online" *Feminist Media Studies* (forthcoming 2010).

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2009 Distinguished Thesis Award

Melinda Lewis received the 2009 BGSU Distinguished Thesis Award for her thesis "Renegotiating British Identity Through Comedy Television" (committee: Chair, Simon Morgan-Russell, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English; Member, Becca Cragin, Assistant Professor of Popular Culture.) This award is granted annually as a way of recognizing and promoting excellence in research and advising. Nominations, of which there can only be one per program, can be received from any discipline that offers a master's degree. The awarded thesis represents superior work in the nominee's discipline or interdisciplinary area of concentration. The thesis award is judged on substantive and methodological quality, originality of thought, and clarity.

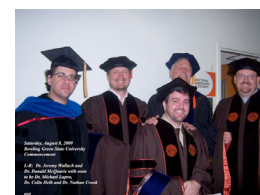


The award winning thesis is automatically forwarded as BGSU's submission for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Thesis Award. "The intent of this annual competition is to recognize the distinguished scholarship of two students in the MAGS region who are pursuing their first graduate-level research degrees."

We wish to extend our congratulations to Melinda for a thesis well-written and an award well-deserved.

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to our recent masters and doctoral graduates!



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BATTLEGROUND STATES 2010: WAR(S) & PEACE

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2010

INVITATION TO ATTEND

In recent years the rhetoric of political, social and cultural debate has taken a decidedly militaristic turn. The adversarial nature of contemporary politics is defined less by the issues at hand than by a base understanding of sides; Us v. Them, Democrat v. Republican, Good v. Evil. Social and cultural issues, too, are subject to these same forces. We are witnesses daily to the impact of culture war(s) and its “warriors” - the war on drugs, the war on poverty, class warfare - while open military conflict, “real war” provides a backdrop both spectacular and easily overlooked. The fifth annual **Battleground States Conference**, itself the product of a culture in conflict, considers **War(s) and Peace** broadly in an attempt to reconcile all aspects of a relationship that has become key to understanding the tendency to reduce the complex to the simple.

Our aim with **War(s) and Peace** is to present a multi-disciplinary, inclusive environment for young scholars to share their research and connect with other like-minded individuals from both within Bowling Green State University and the larger academic and artistic community, including presenters from across the US and the world. This year’s conference will feature:

- Panel presentations
- Roundtable discussions
- Film screenings
- Book sale and silent auction
- Visual art crafted with the conference theme in mind

Our keynote presentation will be a panel discussion combining scholars, military personnel, and other individuals whose personal experiences with war and peace illuminate more fully the long-reaching cultural effects of war and war discourse. Additionally, the conference will feature a memorial roundtable on the life and work of popular culture scholar Dr. Ray Browne, founder of the Bowling Green State University Department of Popular Culture.

Battleground States 2010: War(s) and Peace will be held February 26th and 27th, 2010 on the Bowling Green State University campus, chiefly the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The Culture Club: Cultural Studies Scholars’ Association looks forward to giving attendees an intellectually-stimulating and comfortable experience. There is a \$10 registration fee.

Please visit our website for more information about The Culture Club and the Battleground States 2010 conference:
www.battlegroundstates.org