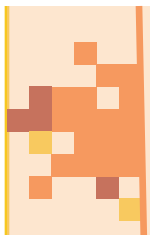


The Department of Popular Culture sends our condolences to the family and friends of Matthew Karasek, American Culture Studies graduate student, who passed away on May 6, 2011.



DEPARTMENT OF POPULAR CULTURE NEWSLETTER

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Edited by Jeremy Wallach and Esther Clinton

Layout by Menghan Liu

BRIEF EDITORS' NOTE

This is the final issue for Academic Year 2010-2011. Have a great summer!

ERRATA: Some of the electronic versions of the last issue of this newsletter that went out were missing a by-line for "BGSU POPC GOES TO INDIA, PART TWO." The author is Dr. Dan Shoemaker. Also, the following information was omitted from Esther Clinton and Jeremy Wallach's article about their visit to Indonesia: The authors would like to thank the following individuals and organizations that made their visit possible: the Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), especially Bart Barendregt, Peter Keppy, Roger Tol, and Henk Schulte Nordholt; and Soegijapranata Catholic University, especially Eka-wati Marhaenny Dukut, Dean Heny Hartono and Rector Prof. Dr. Ir. Budi Widianarko.

FROM THE CHAIR

By Marilyn Motz

This has been a momentous year for the Department of Popular Culture! Alumnae Eileen O'Neill and Karen Stoddard established a \$100,000 endowment to support graduate student and faculty research in popular culture (the largest gift ever made to our department). Pat Browne endowed a scholarship for an undergraduate Popular Culture major with financial need (our first undergraduate scholarship). For the second year in a row, Department of Popular Culture faculty won Fulbright awards. (This year Jack Santino is a Distinguished Fulbright Professor at the Sorbonne, and we recently learned that Kristen Rudisill has been selected for a Fulbright award to conduct research in India for six months starting next January.) Faculty and graduate students presented their research at numerous conferences, including keynote and invited addresses in India and Indonesia. Jeff Brown's book, *Dangerous Curves: Gender, Fetishism, and Action Heroines in Modern Popular Culture* (published February 2011 by University of Mississippi Press), was featured by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a notable new publication. With Jeremy Wallach as conference organizer, we hosted the annual meeting of the Midwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology at BGSU in April on the topic of Music in Everyday Life. Our proposal to create a new School of Cultural and Critical Studies that will include the Department of Popular Culture, the Department of Ethnic Studies, the Women's Studies Program, and the American Culture Studies Program was approved by the BGSU Board of Trustees last week, and we are looking forward to beginning to implement it next year. And these are just a few of the high points!

POPULAR CULTURE MA PROGRAM

Eileen O'Neill (POPC MA 1990), who was recently named group president of Discovery and TLC networks, was chosen as one of BGSU's 100 Most Prominent Alumni during the university's 2010 Centennial Year celebration. In September, when Eileen visited the BGSU campus to present the College of Arts & Sciences Centennial Address, she made the surprise announcement that she and her partner, Karen Stoddard (POPC MA 1975), were establishing the Stoddard and O'Neill Endowment for Studies in Popular Culture to support BGSU graduate student and faculty research in popular culture. In addition to the



gift of \$100,000 to establish the endowment, Karen and Eileen also donated \$10,000 to the department for our current use. This gift could not have been more timely: recent and anticipated cuts in state support have fallen heavily on graduate programs and graduate student funding at BGSU, and after an administrative review process, several graduate degrees were recommended for elimination or suspension. I am happy to report that the Popular Culture MA Program continues to thrive. In August we will welcome an incoming class of eight MA students who will join our nine returning MA students; all seventeen students are fully funded by BGSU graduate assistant stipends and tuition scholarships.

Thanks to the generosity of Karen and Eileen, we now are able to offer our MA students additional support that will enable them to explore opportunities for research, to present papers at conferences, and to invite POPC MA alumni to campus to discuss their research and careers, among other exciting possibilities. This year that support included travel expenses for eight MA students who presented papers at the national Popular Culture Association conference in San Antonio and another at the Midwest PCA in Minneapolis, and for three MA students presenting papers at other conferences (the Flow TV conference in Austin, the Meaningful Play conference at Michigan State University, and the 32nd Annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando). These funds also allowed us to provide support for two conferences held at BGSU: the Battleground States Conference, an annual cultural studies conference organized by BGSU graduate students, where six of our MA students presented papers, and the MIDSEM conference on Music in Everyday Life, where two of our MA students gave papers. In addition to presenting papers, Popular Culture graduate students participated in organizing and publicizing both conferences, which were free and open to the public. Students who completed the Popular Culture MA degree in 2010 and 2011 will be entering Ph.D. programs this Fall at the following universities: Rutgers University; University of Connecticut; University of California, Davis; St. Louis University; BGSU; and The Ohio State University.

POPULAR CULTURE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR & MINOR

The annual Arts & Sciences Honors and Awards Reception was a very special event for us this year. A Popular Culture faculty committee selected four outstanding undergraduate Popular Culture students as award and scholarship recipients, all of whom earned overall grade point averages of 3.9 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). We are delighted that Pat Browne was able to join us for the ceremony, where we awarded the first Ray and Pat Browne Scholarship in Popular Culture to junior Popular Culture major Rebecca Denes. Becky has a double major in History and Popular Culture and plans a career in Library Science, with a particular interest in archives and special collections in popular culture. Becky began college after several years in the workforce; she is a talented and highly motivated student who is supporting herself while she earns her degree. The Popular Culture Research Award went to Jacob Brown, a first-year student in the Honors program who came to BGSU to major in Popular Culture. The Popular Culture Achievement Award was given to two outstanding seniors: Michael Kneisel and Marisha Pietrowski. Michael is a Popular Culture major, and Marisha is earning a Journalism degree with a Popular Culture minor (but has taken enough POPC courses for a major): both Michael and Marisha are exceptional students. We are very proud of all four of these outstanding undergraduate Popular Culture students!

POPULAR CULTURE FACULTY

This has been a year of transitions and legacies, as we look to the past and future of the department. Last summer began with a memorial service to honor the memory of Ray Browne, founding chair of the

Department of Popular Culture and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus. We were joined by Pat Browne, who worked together with Ray to establish popular culture as an academic field, and by their children and grandchildren, as well as Popular Culture Professor Emeritus & former American Culture Ph.D. Program Director Michael Marsden, BGSU Sound Recordings Archivist Bill Schurk, and many other friends and colleagues. In October, Esther Clinton organized a panel at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society to discuss the legacy of Ray Browne at the intersection of the fields of Folklore and Popular Culture. Popular Culture MA alumna Giovanna Del Negro (faculty member at Texas A & M and outgoing co-editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*) joined me and BGSU colleague Lucy Long to explore the ongoing connections between these two fields that have always been central components of our department.

Jack Santino spent the year as Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Fulbright Professor of American Studies at the University of Paris at the Sorbonne. Jack was awarded this Fulbright grant as an expert on rituals and festivals, and especially to develop his theory of the ritualesque as a way to understand contemporary culture. In this current work, Jack draws from his background in both folklore and popular culture to explore political, spiritual, and national aspects of cultural expression. Other faculty also participated in international discussions of popular culture as an important aspect of national identity and transnational exchange. Kristen Rudisill and Dan Shoemaker presented keynote addresses at a workshop and conference in Hyderabad designed to encourage graduate students in India to study popular culture in order to understand American society. They revived a relationship with the University of Hyderabad dating back to 1979, when Ray Browne was a Fellow at Hyderabad's American Studies Research Center. Jeremy Wallach and Esther Clinton were invited participants at an international conference at Soegijapranata Catholic University in Indonesia (with Angela Nelson and ACS Director Radhika Gajjala also presenting via Skype connection). On both these visits, our faculty explored potential collaboration agreements between BGSU and the host universities.

SCHOOL OF CULTURAL AND CRITICAL STUDIES

Last Friday the BGSU Board of Trustees gave its final approval for the creation of a new School of Cultural and Critical Studies that will include the Department of Popular Culture and the Department of Ethnic Studies, along with the interdisciplinary programs in Women's Studies and American Culture Studies. We have been working together for several years to map out the details of the school configuration and gain the approval of administrators and faculty committees to move ahead with its implementation.

The School of Cultural and Critical Studies will be one of four schools located within the College of Arts & Sciences. Both Popular Culture and Ethnic Studies will remain tenuring departments, and the two interdisciplinary programs will maintain their affiliations with faculty outside the school. All four units will continue to provide all our current graduate degrees and undergraduate majors and minors. The school will offer a Ph.D. in American Culture Studies, MA degrees in Popular Culture and in American Culture Studies, graduate certificates in Ethnic Studies and in Women's Studies, undergraduate majors in American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, Popular Culture, and Women's Studies, and seven undergraduate minors: American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, Latino/a Studies, Popular Culture, Folklore, Sexuality Studies, and Women's Studies.

It is important to all the units that we each maintain our unique identities, traditions, and intellectual approaches, while we benefit from the exchange of ideas and sharing of resources that our collaboration



will provide. We are confident that this synergy will allow us to grow and flourish in ways that would not have been possible otherwise and will open up the potential for new initiatives that will help us all move forward to take advantage of emerging opportunities in our inter-related fields. Speaking of moving, the ultimate plan is for the units of the school to be housed together, with a shared central office and staff. However, the timing of that move is dependent on the relocation of other units, so we have not yet started to pack up our offices. We have enjoyed a close working relationship with the other units in the new school this year, especially the ACS graduate program, and we are looking forward to continuing our collaboration.

40th ANNIVERSARY IN 2012

Next year marks the fortieth anniversary of the first MA degree in Popular Culture. We plan to celebrate by inviting Popular Culture MA alumni to return to BGSU for a Popular Culture MA Alumni reunion sometime in 2012. We are looking for available dates in 2012 and will start to contact alumni soon for feedback and suggestions. If you are interested or have MA alumni contact information, please email me at mmotz@bgsu.edu or Jeremy Wallach at jeremyw@bgsu.edu.



L-R: Michael Kneisel, Pat Browne, Marisha Pietrowski, Rebecca Denes, Jacob Brown. Photo by Charles Coletta.



At the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony. L-R: Marilyn Motz, Montana Miller, Pat Browne, Rebecca Denes. Photo by Charles Coletta.

Dr. Kristen Rudisill Receives Fulbright Award

We are excited to report that Dr. Kristen Rudisill, Assistant Professor in the Department of Popular Culture, has been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru grant for her project, "Transforming Tamil Film Dance: Performance, Creativity, Competition," which documents and analyzes the processes by which Indian young people creatively transform and perform film song and dance sequences, in competitions on television and in the elite school system. This new project will draw on Dr. Rudisill's fluency in the Tamil language, her expertise as a scholar of South Asian performance, and her experiences as an adroit analyst of popular culture. To quote from Dr. Rudisill's abstract, "This project will document the changing ways that an emerging middle class in a post-colonial country is negotiating its status and identity as participants on a world scene not only through viewing practices and discourse, but also through performance. This adds a new dimension to reception studies, and shifts the academic debate from the simple consumption of media products to active negotiations and re-makings of



Dr. Kristen Rudisill

them.” This grant will allow Dr. Rudisill to spend all of spring semester 2012 conducting research in India. Congratulations Kristen!

Comings and Goings at the College of Musical Arts

The editors were delighted to learn that Dr. Katherine Meizel will be returning to Bowling Green as the new Assistant Professor in Ethnomusicology at the College of Musical Arts. Dr. Meizel’s research interests include American vernacular and popular musics and the aesthetics and politics of singing and the voice. On December 10, 2009, when Dr. Meizel was an Instructor at the CMA, she gave a Popular Culture Colloquium presentation titled “California Dreamin’: *American Idol*, Hollywood, and the Apotheosis of the American Dream,” which she later turned into a chapter for a forthcoming volume on popular culture studies edited by members of the Popular Culture faculty. Congratulations Dr. Meizel!



Dr. Katherine Meizel

But, as proof that every silver lining has its cloud, the announcement of Dr. Meizel’s hire was followed by the news that ethnomusicologist Dr. David Harnish has accepted a position at University of San Diego and will therefore not be returning to the CMA in the fall. An accomplished, versatile musician and specialist in the traditional musics of the Indonesian islands of Bali and Lombok, in recent years Professor Harnish also began writing on popular music and mass media in Indonesia and Tejano music in America. One of his final achievements at BGSU was bringing the world-famous Balinese guitar virtuoso Balawan to Bowling Green this past March. For the last eight years, while Drs. Harnish and Wallach were here, Bowling Green was one of the only universities in America with two Indonesian music specialists on the faculty. Starting Academic Year 2011-2012, we will be back down to one. Bowling Green’s loss is San Diego’s gain. Goodbye and good luck, Dr. Harnish! We will miss you.



Dr. David Harnish

North by Northwest Ohio: Eva Marie Saint and BGSU

By Charles Coletta



Robert Osborne and Eva Marie Saint on stage at the TCM event in Cleveland, March 16, 2011.

She has a passion for acting that was ignited at Bowling Green State University. She has used that passion to create a career filled with classic performances on film, television, and the stage. She has received the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an actress, including an Academy Award, Emmy Award, Drama Desk Award, and, earlier this year, the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Minister of Culture and Communication. She’s Eva Marie Saint ’46, ’82 (Hon.), and she’s both a theatrical icon and a proud BGSU alumna. “She’s a unique star who brings depth and sincerity in every role she performs,” says Ralph Haven Wolfe, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and Gish Professor of Film Studies. Earlier



this semester, a group of approximately 30 faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends of BGSU had the great privilege of meeting with Ms. Saint and Robert Osborne, host of Turner Classic Movies, as they welcomed hundreds of film aficionados to a special screening of Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* at the Cleveland Institute of Art's Reinberger Auditorium.

I have been a longtime fan of Eva Marie Saint based on her performances in such films as *On the Waterfront*, *Raintree County*, *Exodus*, *All Fall Down*, *A Hatful of Rain*, and *Grand Prix*. Her more recent credits include *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *I Dreamed of Africa*, *Don't Come Knocking*, and *My Antonia*. I could never have imagined that one day I would come to meet her and it's all thanks to Superman. Several years ago Ms. Saint portrayed "Martha Kent," the adoptive mother of the Man of Steel in *Superman Returns* and I had the opportunity to provide her with some information on the hero's mythology and significance to American popular culture based upon my years as both a scholar and comic book collector. We have continued to remain in contact and I was delighted to receive word that she and Robert Osborne would be coming to Ohio as part of the cable channel's national "Road to Hollywood" tour in celebration of TCM's Classic Film Festival, to be held this spring in California. They were joined by Jeffrey Hayden, an acclaimed television and theater director and Ms. Saint's husband of 59 years.

Our group from BGSU included members of Jeffrey Brown's "Spy Films & Television" course, which examines the cultural issues of the espionage genre in all media. Sean Ahern, a POPC grad student, shares two alma maters with Eva Marie Saint. Both attended BGSU and Bethlehem Central High School (Delmar, NY). Sean got the chance talk with Ms. Saint during the evening's Q&A session. She immediately went to shake his hand when she learned of their common academic path. Sean reflected on their meeting when he said, "Meeting Eva Marie Saint was great, I like the fact that we both went to Bethlehem Central High and BGSU....As soon as we got out of the screening I called my parents and they were blown away. They thought it was the coolest thing ever." Other BGSU students in attendance were members of Brett Holden's Theater & Film Course "War, Film, and the Soldier Experience." Several of them have expressed to me what a thrill it was to meet with BGSU's most celebrated graduate. Others who attended the event included BGSU friends Charles, Sr. and Mary Coletta, Mary Rose Donahue, Jacqueline Hanks, and Frank and Nancy Agh. Special thanks are due to BGSU faculty Matthew Donahue (POPC) and Jason Brown (Theater & Film) who helped guide everyone to the event. Although he was unable to attend, Brett Holden (Theater & Film) was instrumental in coordinating the entire evening. We were also honored to be joined by Ralph Wolfe, the renowned film scholar and Ms. Saint's close friend. Everyone from the BGSU group received VIP treatment as we were given front row seats in the auditorium and backstage passes to meet with Ms. Saint and Mr. Osborne prior to the screening. Ms. Saint discussed her days on campus and how she had originally planned on becoming a teacher before an advisor urged her to try out for the play "Personal Appearance." She soon switched her major to theater. Over the years, Eva Marie Saint has been a devoted friend to BGSU. She was the first person to receive the prestigious Distinguished Alumna Award and the main auditorium in University Hall was renamed the Eva Marie Saint Theater in her honor.

Several days after the screening, Ms. Saint wrote me a note expressing her pleasure at meeting our group: "Thank you for getting all those beautiful BGSU folks to Cleveland. It was so dear of them all to make the trip. The whole experience was memorable for Jeffrey and me. I just felt the warm feelings that came from the audience while I was sitting on stage with Robert Osborne...Later [Osbourne] said to

me, 'What a terrific group of students from Bowling Green.'" I can only echo these sentiments, as it was an honor to be part of this special evening.

MIDSEM 2011: Music in Everyday Life

The annual meeting of the Midwest chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology was held at BGSU's Bowen Thompson Student Union, April 8 - 10, 2011. This year's theme, chosen by MIDSEM president and conference organizer Dr. Jeremy Wallach, was "Music in Everyday Life." Over 120 people attended, including students and faculty from across BGSU. Other presenters came from as far away as York University in Toronto, Texas A&M University, and the University of Florida. Other institutions represented include Indiana University, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and The Ohio State University. Paper topics ranged from progressive rock to karaoke performance to popular music of the Peruvian Amazon to classical Arabic music. Besides Dr. Wallach, other POPC participants included faculty members Dr. Dan Shoemaker and Dr. Matthew Donahue and graduate students Menghan Liu and Sean Ahern, who each gave presentations, and Dr. Angela Nelson and Popular Culture Center Fellow Dr. Christopher Williams, who each chaired a panel. Dr. Esther Clinton, who served as Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair with Dr. Kara Attrep from the College of Musical Arts, organized and chaired a panel at which she presented a paper.

Dr. Harris M. Berger of Texas A&M University was the conference keynote speaker. Professor Berger, who is the current president of the Society for Ethnomusicology and a respected authority on popular music and phenomenological approaches to popular culture, gave a well-received keynote presentation titled "Stance and Meaning in Music." This stimulating and highly successful conference was sponsored by the BGSU Division of Research and Economic Development, the Cross-Cultural Music Club, the Ethnic Cultural Arts Program, the College of Musical Arts, the Department of Musicology/Composition/Theory, the Department of Sociology, the American Culture Studies Program, the School of Media and Communication, and the Department of Popular Culture. More information about the conference is available here: <http://midsem2011.blogspot.com/>.



Dr. Donahue rocks out at the Music and Everyday Life conference, April 9, 2011.



Esther Clinton with Keynote Speaker Harris Berger on Sunday, April 10.

Faculty and Graduate Student Notes: AY 2010-2011 in Review

It's been quite an extraordinary academic year, to put it mildly. In fact, the last nine months will almost certainly be remembered as one of the most eventful periods in recent history. Here are some of the past year's highlights and plans for the future from folks in our little corner of the world.

Sean Ahern: In March, I attended the Popular Culture Association's national conference in San Antonio, Texas, to present a paper on the punk band The Dropkick Murphys and Irish American hybridity. I am currently working on a paper for publication online that looks at the movie *Scott Pilgrim* and the use of "hipster geek chic" as presented in the film adaptation of the comic book.

Puja Batra-Wells (POPC MA '10) will be entering the Ph.D. program in Comparative Studies at The Ohio State University and working as an archivist in the university's Center for Folklore Studies.

Tim Bavluka will be graduating this spring, and has completed his thesis "Superheroes and Shamanism: Magic and Participation in the Comics of Grant Morrison." At the PCA meeting in San Antonio, he discussed some of the main ideas from his thesis in the Comics and Graphic Novels section. He plans to submit some papers to the Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics in the upcoming weeks. Tim should be appearing, along with Ted Freese, in the documentary film "Everything by Everyone," but the director is still editing things together; he has a lot of footage. Keep your eyes peeled: www.everything-by-everyone.com. Tim plans on taking a year (or more??) off before applying to PhD programs, so hopefully some jobs still exist in the outside world.

Dr. Jeffrey Brown: The big thing this year was the publication of my book *Dangerous Curves: Action Heroines, Gender, Fetishism and Popular Culture*. I just finished proofreading three comics studies-related articles that should be coming out sometime over the next year (one on fandom and ethnographic methods, one on issues of maternity in comics, and the third on orientalism and stereotyping). I am currently working on an invited chapter dealing with rape revenge narratives in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *Dexter* for a collection on the sublime in contemporary popular culture. I am also working on a follow-up book manuscript.

In addition to teaching the six-credit graduate theory and methods seminar and visiting Indonesia for the first time, **Dr. Esther Clinton's** highlights of 2010-2011 included presenting conference papers at the Society for Ethnomusicology's Annual Meeting in Los Angeles in November and the Culture, English Language Teaching and Literature (CELT) Third Annual International Seminar held at Soegijapranata Catholic University, Semarang, Indonesia in January. She also organized a panel discussion on the legacy of Ray Browne for the 2010 annual meeting of the American Folklore Society. Last month Dr. Clinton was Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair for the "Music and Everyday Life" MIDSEM 2011 Conference, where she organized and chaired a panel and presented a paper titled "Thor's Musical Hammer: Viking Imagery in Heavy Metal Music." She also served on six MA thesis committees for POPC and two other departments this year.

In the coming year, Dr. Clinton plans to focus on the anthology she is editing on popular culture research along with Drs. Rudisill and Wallach. She also plans to complete work on scholarly articles comparing Greek and Old Norse creation myths, examining the use of proverbs in the writings of J. R. R. Tolkien, conducting Proppian struc-



tural analyses of fairy tales and popular fantasy fiction, and performing cultural/historical comparisons of Gothic fiction of heavy metal music, among other topics, as well as work more on her book on tale-type classifications and genre theory. Last, but not least, she looks forward to continuing to work with students and co-editing this newsletter!

Dr. Charles Coletta: It has been a great academic year. I was invited to speak on the legacy of Ray Browne and the place of Popular Culture Studies in the Academy at Case Western Reserve University. I met with several former POPC students (including organizer Peter Coogan) at the academic panels at the C2E2 comics convention in Chicago. I was a guest speaker at the annual Comics Symposium at Lakeland Community College. Recently, I was invited to appear as a guest on the Comic Geek Speak podcast, which is co-hosted by former POPC grad student Adam Murdough '06. The episode featured a discussion of Wonder Woman, as the "Amazing Amazon" is celebrating her 70th anniversary. In the months ahead I will be presenting a paper at a popular culture seminar to be held at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. The seminar is titled "Comics & Medicine: The Sequential Art of Illness." I have also agreed to participate in a discussion led by the Worldview Forum Council at Malone University. The tentative title for the event is "Should Popular Culture Be So Popular: Is It Destroying Our Character or Bringing Culture to Millions?" Finally, I am contracted to be a contributing writer on two forthcoming comics-based encyclopedia projects.



Dr. Cragin in her Fall 2010 television seminar.

Dr. Becca Cragin: The highlight for me was my new grad seminar in TV Comedy. I had wanted to teach that for years, and finally had the time to pull it together. It was a great experience and I can't wait to teach it again. The lowlight was saying goodbye to Bernice. She was always good for a chuckle, and laughing with her was a daily break from the stress of our work. This summer I will be the faculty advisor for an ethnographic project on "house concerts" by undergraduate Bianca Garza. She received a \$3000 grant from CURS to build on the project she began in my POPC 2600 class. Moving into the future, I'm looking forward to my Spring 2012 sabbatical, which will give me the time to make progress on my book on queer representation in sitcoms.

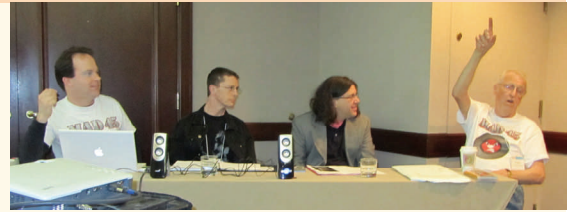
Kasey Cullors was accepted into the doctoral program in Performance Studies at the University of California at Davis with a McNair Fellowship.

In September, **Dr. Matthew A. Donahue** exhibited two of his art cars at the Hot Times Music and Arts Festival in Columbus, where he received a trophy for Most Innovative cars. In October and November he exhibited photographs of his art car creations as part of the Parkwood Gallery Series sponsored by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. In late December and early January, Donahue conducted research on the heavy metal T-shirt and the souvenir T-shirt in popular culture in Asia with stops in Japan (Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara), Singapore, and China (Hong Kong and Macau). In February, he was invited to participate in the Battleground States Conference on a panel recognizing Bowling Green State University's Sound Recordings Archivist Professor Bill Schurk. Donahue worked with Bill Schurk for nine years, collaborating on numerous sound recording reissue compilations for Time-Life and Smithsonian. In March he presented his research on the heavy

Second-year MA students at play. L-R: Sade Young, Kasey Cullors, Tierney Oberhammer, Racheal Cobb, Jared Brown.



metal T-shirt in popular culture at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music's national conference in Cincinnati, and in April he presented at the Midwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology's conference at BGSU. His presentation highlighted the electric guitar in popular culture and the Electra brand guitar, followed by a special instrumental guitar performance. Dr. Donahue received an award from BGSU's Friends of the Library as part of their annual Authors and Artists Recognition ceremony in April for his exhibiting two of his art cars and artwork at Maker Fair Detroit at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, where his display won the Editor's Choice Award from Maker magazine. Also in April, he participated in a panel at the Post45 Conference, highlighting Bowling Green State University's Sound Recordings Archives with Professor Bill Schurk, Brian Hickam from Benedictine University, and POPC colleague Dr. Jeremy Wallach. Related to his heavy metal research and interest in the genre, Donahue met up with Lemmy from Motörhead in Chicago in February and the German heavy metal band Accept in April.



The BGSU Sound Recordings Archives Panel at the Post45 Conference in Cleveland, April 29, 2011. L-R: Matthew Donahue, Brian Hickam, Jeremy Wallach, and the inimitable Bill Schurk. Photo by Esther Clinton.

What does the future hold? Dr. Donahue is working on another art car documentary project titled "Car Power," highlighting the making of his art car by the same name and wrapping up work on a short film on homelessness and economic struggle in the contemporary Midwest titled "The Home Project." On the music front, he is writing songs for a new album for his MAD 45 music project tentatively titled "Seduction of the Innocent" and will be hooking up with acclaimed music producer Adrian Sherwood, founder of London's On-U Sound Records. On the art car front, he hopes to exhibit his art cars at the Kentucky Art Car Weekend sponsored by the Louisville Museum of Art and Craft. He is also continuing to strategize with his colleagues Dr. Jeremy Wallach and Dr. Esther Clinton on setting up an international conference on heavy metal in 2013. Most importantly, he looks forward to teaching undergraduate students about popular culture in the coming academic year.

At this year's PCA meeting, **Mackenzie James** presented a paper titled: "No One is Ever on Your Side: The Character Assassination of Betty Draper."

Ora McWilliams (POPC MA '09): I am at the University of Kansas, a second-year PhD student in the American Studies department. I currently tutor for the athletic department and am adjuncting at Metropolitan Community College in Independence, MO. Next year I'll be back to TA-ing, this time in the Humanities and Western Civilization department.

I recently co-authored an article with Joshua Richardson (KU AMS student) titled, "You Kids with Your Hooola Hoops and Your Rosenbergs and Your Communist Agendas' - Double Poaching and the Subversive Operations of Riffing," published in the book *In the Peanut Gallery with Mystery Science Theater 3000: Essays on Film, Fandom, Technology, and the Culture of Riffing* edited by Robert Weiner on McFarland Press.

In 2010-2011, **Dr. Montana Miller** continued her work as a leader in the emerging field of Internet Research Ethics, serving again as a faculty member (and for the first time on the organizing committee) of the national conference for Human Subjects Review Boards held in December in San Diego, CA by PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research). Dr. Miller and two colleagues led a full-day pre-conference workshop, and Dr. Miller also presented three conference sessions on special topics in online qualitative research. Dr. Miller was also invited by St. Catherine University to speak at the IRB Summit Meeting for universities in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 1,



2011, presenting a talk titled "Wrangling with New Ethical Ropes in the Internet Age." She also traveled to Calgary, Alberta in November 2010 to facilitate workshops on Internet safety and social networking for the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter.

Dr. Miller gave three conference presentations on her folklore and ethnographic research this year. At the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, in October 2010, she presented "Breaking the Surface Tension: Professional High Divers' Storytelling Traditions, from Theme Park Survival to Facebook Revival." At the Western States Folklore Society Annual Conference, at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in April 2011, she presented "Going In: Folklore and the Discovery Process in Ethnography and Skydiving." Dr. Miller was also elected secretary of the WSFS Executive Committee at this conference. At the Popular Culture Association national meeting, in San Antonio, Texas in April, Dr. Miller continued to serve as Area Chair of the Internet Culture section, and presented a paper titled "It's Friday: Pattern and Generational Identity Expressed through Humorous Pseudo-Memories of a 'Classic' Song."

Dr. Miller also spoke to audiences at several local organizations on topics of risk-taking, cultural and subcultural perspectives: she was the speaker for Bowling Green's Kiwanis Club on October 21, 2010; for the BGSU Retirees Association on January 19, 2011; for The Common Good on February 3, 2011; and spoke to the undergraduate BGSU Arts Village Community on March 29 on "Taking Risks and Facing Fears in Art and Life."

Taking risks and facing fears in her personal life, Dr. Miller became a certified USPA skydiving coach in December 2010 and will be coaching students at Skydive Tecumseh over the summer when she is not teaching at BGSU and revising her book manuscript, "Playing Dead: Why High Schools Stage Drunk Driving Tragedies" (under review with Utah State University Press).

Dr. Angela Nelson: During the 2010-2011 academic year, I presented two papers: "Hip-Hop Culture, Crime, and Popular Culture" at the Second Annual International Crime, Media and Popular Culture Studies Conference: A Cross Disciplinary Exploration in September 2010 and "Tyler Perry's Gospel Musical Stage Plays and Black Popular Culture" at the National Popular Culture Association meeting in April 2011. My book chapter "Middle-Class Ideology in African American Postwar Comic Strips" was published in *From Bourgeois to Boogie: Black Middle-Class Performances* by Wayne State University Press in April 2011. I became President for the Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association during its October 2010 meeting and continued to co-chair the Black Music Culture Area of the 2011 PCA/ACA. This is the BMC's fifth anniversary and we are thinking of inaugurating a paper competition for academics who present in our area at the 2012 PCA/ACA. Finally, I will complete my appointment as Acting Chair in the Department of Ethnic Studies on June 30 and will return to the Popular Culture Department. I have been grateful for the experience and have been fortunate to meet and work with the faculty and staff in that unit. In my role in that department, I participated with the other department chairs and program directors of American Culture Studies, Popular Culture, and Women's Studies who have agreed to unite and form the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. We expect the School to be formally approved by the BGSU Board of Trustees on May 6, 2011.

Benjamin H. Olson (POPC MA '08): I am currently finishing my third year as a Ph.D. student in the Department of American Studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. I am writing my dissertation on the local metal and hardcore scene here in Oahu.

Nicholas Porter has been accepted into the American Studies PhD program at Saint Louis University, beginning in Fall 2011.

Chris Ryan recently presented his first paper (and chaired his first panel) at the PCA/ACA 2011 National Conference in San Antonio. This summer he will be serving as departmental Development Leader and coordinating the graduate student orientation week for the incoming Fall 2011 POPC graduate students.

Dr. Kristen Rudisill: It's been a big year for me. This year, I went through 3rd year review (successfully reappointed!), won two grants, an award from a professional organization, and have published a few small things. I received a Faculty Mentor Grant (along with Mentor Dr. Jeremy Wallach) to work on writing research grants this year. I submitted four grant applications and just found out that I am the recipient of a Fulbright Council for the International Exchange of Scholars Award and will be in India from January to July 2011 to do research on a project titled "Transforming Tamil Film Dance: Performance, Creativity, Competition." My paper "Everyday Flamboyancy in Chennai's Sabha Theater" won the 2011 Emerging Scholars Award from the Association for Asian Performance and will be presented at a sponsored panel at their annual conference in August and published next spring in the *Asian Theatre Journal*. I also published two encyclopedia entries for the *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media* (on Indian street theater and movement media during the Emergency) and four book reviews. On May 14th I am participating in a conference titled "Re-Orienting Asia: Southern Asian Performance Across Frontiers" at the University of Pittsburgh, which is organized around a special issue of *The Drama Review*.



An avatar of Dr. Rudisill designed by Austin Harrod, a member of her POPC 160 class.

Dr. Jack Santino is the 2010-2011 Alexis de Tocqueville Distinguished Professor, Fulbright Chair of American Studies, University of Paris IV-the Sorbonne. He writes: On April 1 and 2, I convened the 15th Conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display at the Sorbonne, University of Paris IV. Presenters attended from Ireland, the US, Italy, Romania, Lithuania, Germany, and of course France. The conference was excellent, and I am looking into publishing the proceedings as well as developing book-length monographs for the series I special-edit for the Utah State University Press.

On April 17, I attended the SIEF (Societe Internationale Ethnologie et Folklore) conference in Lisbon, Portugal, where I presented a paper on the "Sacralization of Space" and chaired a panel. And I visited the Shrine at Fatima!

Over the past academic year, I have tried to be involved in as many events—including Carnival in Dunkerk, French Burners, and strikes and demonstrations—as possible. I hope to develop more research on a pan-European scale. Toward that end, I have made a number of professional contacts here and throughout Europe.

It has been a remarkable stay.

The 2010-11 school year was very busy for **Dr. Dan Shoemaker**. In August, he was an invited guest speaker at his alma mater, Antioch College, as part of their Civil Rights Film Series. Dan spoke about the film *In the Heat of the Night* and the relative accuracy of its representations, in the context of the overall history of the Civil Rights movement (which Dan had studied while in the Scholar Intern Program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change when he was an undergrad). He was extremely gratified to give something back to Antioch



as it struggles to re-open and carry forward its legacy of principled pragmatism in the service of social justice.

In September, under the sponsorship of the U.S. State Department, Dan traveled to the University of Hyderabad, India, and gave two presentations at the International Conference on American Studies and the Popular. The first of these was the conference's Keynote Address, "The Democratic Impulse in Superhero Narratives," in which Dan mapped democratic values and discourse in superhero comics of the 1940s, 1960s, and the present, as well as subjecting contemporary superhero films to a similar analysis. The second presentation was offered as part of the University of Hyderabad's Humanities Lecture Series. Titled "The Erasure of Liberal Humanist Discourse in Recent Science Fiction Remakes," this paper involves close readings of sci-fi novels and their subsequent film adaptations, to argue that recent iterations of the texts (*Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *I Am Legend*, and *The Day the Earth Stood Still*) sport changes in their discourses that alter the ideological meanings of the original films, bringing the remakes in line with neoliberal discourses characteristic of Bush Administration policy. The second paper is part of Dan's ongoing research in changing patterns of representation and discourse in post-9/11 American cinema.

In April, Dan took part in MIDSEM, the annual conference of the Midwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology. Dan presented a paper titled "Twentieth Century Schizoid Land: Progressive Rock and Dystopian Suburbia in the 1970s," which attempted to explain the relevance that 1970s British Progressive Rock, itself the product of a specific social context, may have had for suburban Californian teenagers in their very different social context. For those who may have blotted out the 70s, Progressive Rock was the term applied to music by bands such as King Crimson, Yes, Genesis, etc. Dan has subsequently received positive feedback on the paper, and has been approached about pursuing further research on this topic in collaboration with other scholars.

All of the scholarship mentioned above is in various stages of refinement, in hopeful preparation for eventual publication. Dan will spend the summer of 2011 working on these projects; in his spare time, he will continue to see movies and read books (fiction and non-fiction) and comic books. He will also be developing two new (to him) courses for fall semester 2011.



Menghan Liu
and Brandi Venable

With editing help from Dr. Kristen Rudisill, **Brandi Venable** had a book review accepted for publication in the *Children's Folklore Review*. In March, she joined POPC alumni Nicholas Ware and Ora McWilliams in Orlando, FL for a round of butterbeers (they also presented at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts). In the fall, Brandi will begin the Childhood Studies PhD program at Rutgers-Camden.

May 2011 marks the conclusion of **Dr. Jeremy Wallach's** Faculty Improvement Leave. Since the leave began in mid-August 2010, he has given five conference papers (two of them invited presentations in Indonesia) and completed a co-authored article, a book chapter, and final manuscript preparations for *Metal Rules the Globe* (Wallach, Berger, and Greene, eds., Duke UP, forthcoming 2012), a groundbreaking collection of scholarly essays on heavy metal bands and scenes in fifteen different countries. In December, "Echoes of the Twentieth Century," a book review essay he wrote on Peter Doyle's *Echo & Reverb*, was published in *Ars Lyrica* vol. 18. On March 22nd he was recognized as one of three finalists for BGSU's Paul Olscamp Research Award and April 8-10 he hosted the MIDSEM 2011: Music and Everyday Conference at BGSU (see article elsewhere in this issue).

On May 6, as this newsletter was being completed, Dr. Wallach received an official letter of invitation to give a presentation on his research at the School of Music at the University of the Philippines, one of Southeast Asia's top universities. The presentation will be in early September.

Next year Jeremy looks forward to returning to teaching; continuing work on a forthcoming anthology of popular culture research studies he is co-editing with Esther Clinton and Kristen Rudisill; planning an international conference on heavy metal and popular culture for spring 2013 with Esther, Matt Donahue, and the other members of the international organizing committee, and continuing to co-edit this newsletter.

Nicholas Ware (POPC MA '10) has finished his first year in the Texts & Technology Ph.D. program at the University of Central Florida, during which he presented at four conferences all over the US: PCA—South in Savannah, Meaningful Play at Michigan State University, International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, and National PCA in San Antonio. He is spending the summer continuing his training in improvisational comedy and looking for opportunities to publish. He wishes all current and former Popular Culture students the best of luck, especially the graduating MA students. Stay phenomenological, y'all!

Nathan Winters: This semester I ended up presenting a paper at PCA titled "Representations of Blackness in Shounen Manga: Brutes, Beauties and Bleach." Next year, I hope to present at more conferences, as well as complete my thesis.

Sade Young: I would like to thank everyone in the department for your time, efforts, influence and knowledge. I'm very grateful to have spent the last two years here, growing, with you all. Upon spring graduation I will be relocating to Washington, D.C. in search of employment in the non-profit or education administration field. I wish everyone a great summer and I'll stay in touch!

Spring Commencement, May 9, 2011. L-R: Marilyn Motz, Jeremy Wallach, Esther Clinton, Sade Young MA '11, Kristen Rudisill.



We are planning a 40th Anniversary Reunion Weekend for all graduates of the Popular Culture MA Program (1972-2011) for 2012. More details forthcoming!