

CAS NEWS

SPEAKERS' SERIES 2009-10

September 22, 2009

To celebrate the 40th anniversary
of Woodstock:

DAVID CLAYTON-THOMAS

Former Lead Singer,
Blood, Sweat & Tears

"Reflections on the American
Music Scene in the 1960's and 70's"
3:30pm, SSC 3036

October 7, 2009

FRANK SCHUMACHER

Department of History, UWO

"Small Worlds: Visions of
Globalization and Empire at the
St. Louis World's Fair, 1904"

1:30pm, SSC 9420

November 26, 2009

ROSEMARY GARTNER

Centre of Criminology, U of T

"The Fascination with Female Crime:
Are Women Becoming More Like Men?"

4:30pm, 3M 3250

January 19, 2010

THE MORRISON LECTURE

HAROLD HOLZER

Civil War and Lincoln Scholar

"Lincoln and Obama: Lessons from
the Past: Inspiration for the Future"

Time & Location TBA

February 24, 2010

EMILY ABRAMS ANSARI

Don Wright Faculty of Music, UWO

"A Cold War Composer-Diplomat
in the Civil Rights Era:
The Case of Ulysses Kay"

2:30pm, SSC 9420

March 9, 2010

ANDREW KEEN

Entrepreneur and Author

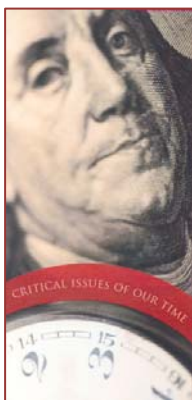
"Digital Vertigo:
Inequality, Anxiety and Loneliness
in the Social Media Age"

4:30pm, KB 203

IN THE NEWS

MA in American Studies: Proposal in Progress

The proposal for the new MA in American Studies at Western is well underway! Fifteen faculty members from across campus will serve as the core faculty of the proposed graduate program. Pending approval by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at UWO and OCGS, the MA Program is scheduled to begin **September 2010**. Regular updates on the status of the MA proposal will be available on the CAS website: http://cas.ssc.uwo.ca/In_the_News.html.



CAS Presents New Publication Series

The Centre for American Studies celebrated the first issue of its new quarterly publication series, *Critical Issues of Our Time* this summer. The inaugural issue featured an article on the historic 2008 Presidential Election. "Barack Obama's Moderate Moment" was contributed by our 2009 Morrison Lecture guest speaker: **Gil Troy**, Professor of History, McGill University. Upcoming issues will include articles by **Lori Cox Han**, Department of Political Science, Chapman University, and **Randall Balmer**, Department of Religion, Barnard College, Columbia University.

UPCOMING EVENT: CAAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

States of **Emergency**: Crisis, Panic and the Nation An Interdisciplinary Conference

November 13–15, 2009

Hilton Hotel, London, Ontario

Keynote Speakers:

RUSS CASTRONOVO

University of Wisconsin-Madison

WILLIAM NOVAK

University of Michigan



Conference program and registration information will soon be available on the conference web page: <http://cas.ssc.uwo.ca/CAASConference.html>. Sponsored by the Canadian Association of American Studies and the Centre for American Studies, University of Western Ontario.
Program Director: Bryce Traister

FACULTY NEWS

Teaching Awards

The CAS is pleased to announce that Professor **Peter Ferguson** (Department of Political Science, and Co-Instructor of American Studies 1020: An Introduction to American Studies) has been recognized with two prestigious teaching awards in 2009. Professor Ferguson was one of four Western faculty members to be awarded the 2008-9 USC teaching award. He was also the recipient of a Teaching Award from the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. Congratulations on these great achievements!

Rob MacDougall Invited to the University of Utah

CAS Associate Director Professor **Rob MacDougall** will be spending the fall 2009 term at the University of Utah as the Simmons Professor in Media History. We wish Rob and his family all the best and hope they have a great time in Utah!

New Book

CAS Director **Don Abelson** has a new book forthcoming. The second edition of his book *Do Think Tanks Matter? Assessing the Impact of Public Policy Institutes*, will be published by McGill-Queen's University Press in October, 2009.



Welcome to our new instructors!

Andrew Ross

(American Studies 2230F)

Anna Zuschlag

(American Studies 2231G)

S. Liam Van Beek

(American Studies 1020: winter term)

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

American Studies Scholarship & Gold Medal Winner 2008-9: Meghan Oliver



The Centre for American Studies is delighted to recognize **Meghan Oliver** as the recipient of the Morrison Scholarship in American Studies for 2009. Meghan was also awarded the Gold medal at spring convocation for the Honors Specialization in American Cultural Studies. She will be moving to the United Kingdom in September to pursue a Master of Science degree in European Political Economy at the London School of Economics. During her fourth year Meghan took a research trip to New York City to work on her thesis, with the assistance of a CAS research and travel grant. We would like to offer Meghan our warmest congratulations on her outstanding achievements during her years in the American Studies BA program and wish her continued success in the future.

American Studies Students Attend Toronto Workshop

In April, nine third and fourth-year American Studies students were invited to attend a workshop in Toronto hosted by the Richard Ivey Business School's Lawrence Centre for National Policy and Management. The theme of the workshop was "Redefining the Canada-United States Partnership in the Obama Era." The event was attended by a number of high-profile members of business and government.

New Selected Topics Courses in American Studies 2009-10

American Studies 2230F: Sport in America

(Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30pm)

American Studies 2231G: Being Bad in America: Morality, Deviance and Dissent in the United States (Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30pm)

(Priority for both courses to students enrolled in the American Studies program.)

Also: New English Course

English 2092G: The Poetics of Barack Obama

(May be counted towards the American Studies degree with special permission.)

American Studies BA Program Update

Now entering its fifth year, the undergraduate program in American Studies continues to enjoy steady growth. Enrollment numbers in American Studies 1020 reached over 100 for the first time in 2008-9. In addition, enrollment in the degree modules continues to increase as there are now approximately 35 students pursuing an American Studies degree. There has been particular interest in the Canadian-American Relations Honors Specialization in 2009. We are pleased to be offering two exciting new selected topics courses (American Studies 2230F & 2231G) to our curriculum this year and there are plans for these two courses to be offered as Distance Studies courses in the near future.

Important Dates:

Web Registration Closes: August 8, 2009

Classes Begin: September 10, 2009

Extended Web Registration Closes: September 15, 2009

Paper Add-Drop Period: September 16-18, 2009

ADVISORY COUNCIL

2009 Meeting

The second CAS Advisory Council meeting was held in Toronto this past March.

Andrew Pateman was appointed Chair of the Advisory Council and we welcomed the following new council members:

☞ **Benjamin Bloom**

(BA, UWO)

☞ **Chi Carmody**

(Faculty of Law, UWO)

☞ **Heather Stephenson**

(PhD Candidate, UWO)

☞ **Grant Stirling**

(Alumni Relations, UWO)

☞ **Joan Sumner**

(U.S. Consulate, Toronto)

NEW CAS TEAM MEMBER

The CAS is pleased to introduce **Lorrie Lefebvre** as the newest member of the administrative team. As well as taking on the role of Managing Editor of the new publication series, Lorrie will also be assisting Monda Halpern and Rob MacDougall with the CAS Speakers' Series. Welcome to the Centre Lorrie!

CAS DIRECTORY

Director:

Don Abelson

Associate Directors:

Bryce Traister

Undergraduate Program Advisor

Monda Halpern

Speakers' Series Coordinator

Rob MacDougall

Speakers' Series Coordinator

Staff:

Christine Wall

Administrative Assistant

Lorrie Lefebvre

Managing Editor:

Critical Issues of Our Time

Centre for American Studies

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

NEOAMERICANIST JOURNAL

New Look for *NeoAmericanist* Journal

This coming year, the student-run journal *NeoAmericanist*, will be undergoing a redesign. There are plans to move the publication to a "Web 2.0" format which will allow for a more interactive experience. Readers will be able to comment on articles, and print "thematic question" pages which will serve as possible teaching aides and conversation starters. The redesign will feature more thematic material by moving toward a format that highlights the international issues that matter to students studying the United States. In order to do this, the editorial board plans to open the floor to students and ask for "section proposals" that will develop themes or areas of study.

The editorial staff is also considering the use of advertisements in the journal and is currently determining the costs of this endeavor. Recently, the publication has entered talks, and has been formally offered membership in EBSCO Resources Open Access Directory. A partnership with EBSCO will mean that all of *NeoAmericanist's* articles will be searchable and packaged in a way that makes them available across the world through some of the most respected libraries institutions in the world.

The CAS is grateful to *NeoAmericanist* Editor-in-Chief **Brian Foster** for providing this summary of the journal's redesign plans.

NeoAmericanist journal website: www.neoamericanist.org

Student Interviewer Joins *NeoAmericanist* Team

In January 2009 King's University College student **Mark Filipowich** joined the *NeoAmericanist* team as student interviewer.



Mark's role as interviewer is to attend CAS guest lectures and summarize the speaker's studied opinion on a topic of general interest based on their lecture and the ensuing interview. The *NeoAmericanist* hopes to feature some of Mark's interviews in upcoming issues. Mark is a fourth-year student of English and Psychology at King's University College. In the past he has written for *The Interrobang* at Fanshawe College and he is a current contributor to *The Gazette*.

He recently joined the editorial board for *The Bridge*; a newspaper based out of the Social Justice and Peace Program at King's.

Interested in Getting Involved with *NeoAmericanist*?

The journal's editorial team is often looking for graduate students with an interest in American Studies who may be interested in joining their team. Positions available include peer-reviewers and marketing and promotional staff. If you would like to get involved, contact Editor-in-Chief **Brian Foster**: neoamericanist@uwo.ca.

*"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina
or softened the fiber of a free people.
A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President (1933-45) 1882-1945



We hope everyone had a great summer.
See you in September!