



OCT. 2007
IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2–3 Claiming Space, *Catalyst*, Catherine Gira, New BLC Program, Arlington Backstory
- 4–5 Great Ideas in Mathematics, Alison Pace, What's Happening, Doug Fox, ITEP in Sarajevo
- 6–7 New Faculty, Accomplishments
- 8 New Faculty (cont'd.), Clara Cheng

Photo: Brendan Steidle



Photo: Rick Reinhard

At its best, art confronts the world around it honestly and head on and forces the viewer to come face to face with the *reality* of the world in which he or she lives.

This truism will come to life again at the American University Museum from November 6 to December 30, with the showing of 90 paintings and drawings that depict the experiences of the inmates of Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. The AU exhibition, entitled Fernando Botero: Abu Ghraib, marks only the third time these works by the world-famous Latin American artist have been shown in the United States—and the first time in an American museum.

Unlike the now-famous photographs that revealed the inhumane treatment of the prisoners by American military personnel, Botero uses his signature volumetric style and large canvases to focus on a different subject: the suffering of the inmates.

“It becomes very personal,” says Jack Rasmussen, the museum's director. “With the photos, the viewer's focus was primarily on the people inflicting the torture: Botero does not show us the perpetrators but concentrates on their victims and their suffering and dignity.”



This season, AU's departments of art and performing arts have focused on illuminating the issue of human rights abuse through works of visual art, dramatic performance, and music. “It's an issue *of* our time and *about* our time,” says Gail Humphries Mardirosian, chair of the Department of Performing Arts. “Artists are often the ones asking the difficult questions—they are often the harbingers of change.”

The AU performing arts season opened on August 30 with a production of *Death and the Maiden*, Ariel Dorfman's play about a South American woman who, 20 years after being brutally tortured under a political dictatorship, confronts the man whom she believes was the perpetrator. Nearly 15 years after the play was written, it is still “horribly relevant,” says Humphries Mardirosian, who directed the production. “Watching it provokes thought and encourages us to grapple constructively with these issues.”

“Seeing *Death and the Maiden* again really got me thinking,” says Elisa Massimino, the Washington director of Human Rights First, an organization that promotes human rights and protects people whose rights are at risk. Following the show's second performance, Massimino participated in a panel discussion on human rights abuse. Also on the panel were Humphries Mardirosian and AU artist in residence Vladimir Angelov, the show's choreographer and movement consultant. Caleen Sinnette Jennings, a professor in the department and the show's vocal coach, moderated the discussion.

“A lot of things have changed over the past 25 years,” Massimino says. “One change for the better is the virtual explosion of human rights organizations around the world and the acceptance by most countries of these standards as binding. But since 9/11, the big shift has been that the global human rights leader—the country largely responsible for pushing forward the system of international human rights norms—is treating them as though they are negotiable. When the U.S. adopts a policy of official cruelty and abuse of prisoners in its custody, it makes it extremely difficult to maintain these standards as universal.”

The grisly reality of this policy is unmistakable in Fernando Botero: Abu Ghraib. By depicting the acts that Americans committed against political prisoners, the artist forces the viewer to confront the victims' pain.

“It's such an immediate experience. People *feel* the presence of these forms in space,” says Rasmussen. “Seeing this subject in this way is a little bit shocking.

Jennings is optimistic that, by exposing the suffering and dignity of abuse victims past and present, the arts can be a vehicle for change. “Even the darkest work you do is done in the hope that if you present it, people will be moved by it, people will be angered by it. Even if it changes only one person, your art has been effective.”

The departments of art and performing arts will continue to focus on the theme of human rights in the spring, with “Yom Hashoah: Let Us Remember,” a musical tribute to Holocaust Remembrance Day, performed by the AU Chorus under the direction of music professor Daniel Abraham.

—Jessica Tabak

More information on Botero-related events on pp. 4–5



Fernando Botero, *Abu Ghraib 66*, 2005. © Fernando Botero, courtesy Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY



COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, D.C.

4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016-8053

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Washington, DC
Permit No. 966

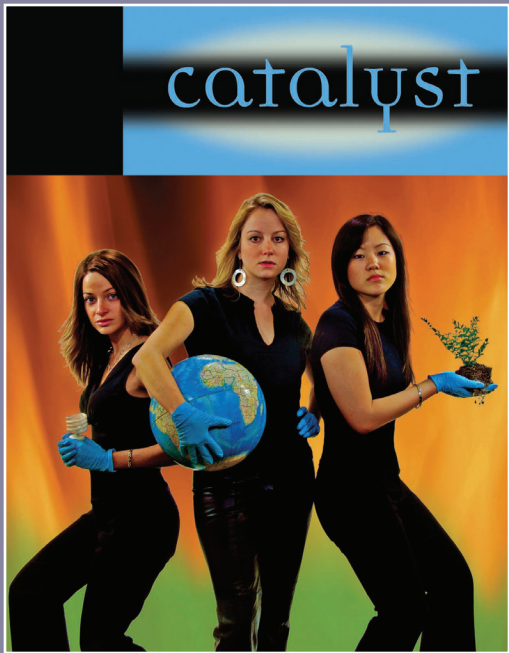


Photo: AU Publications

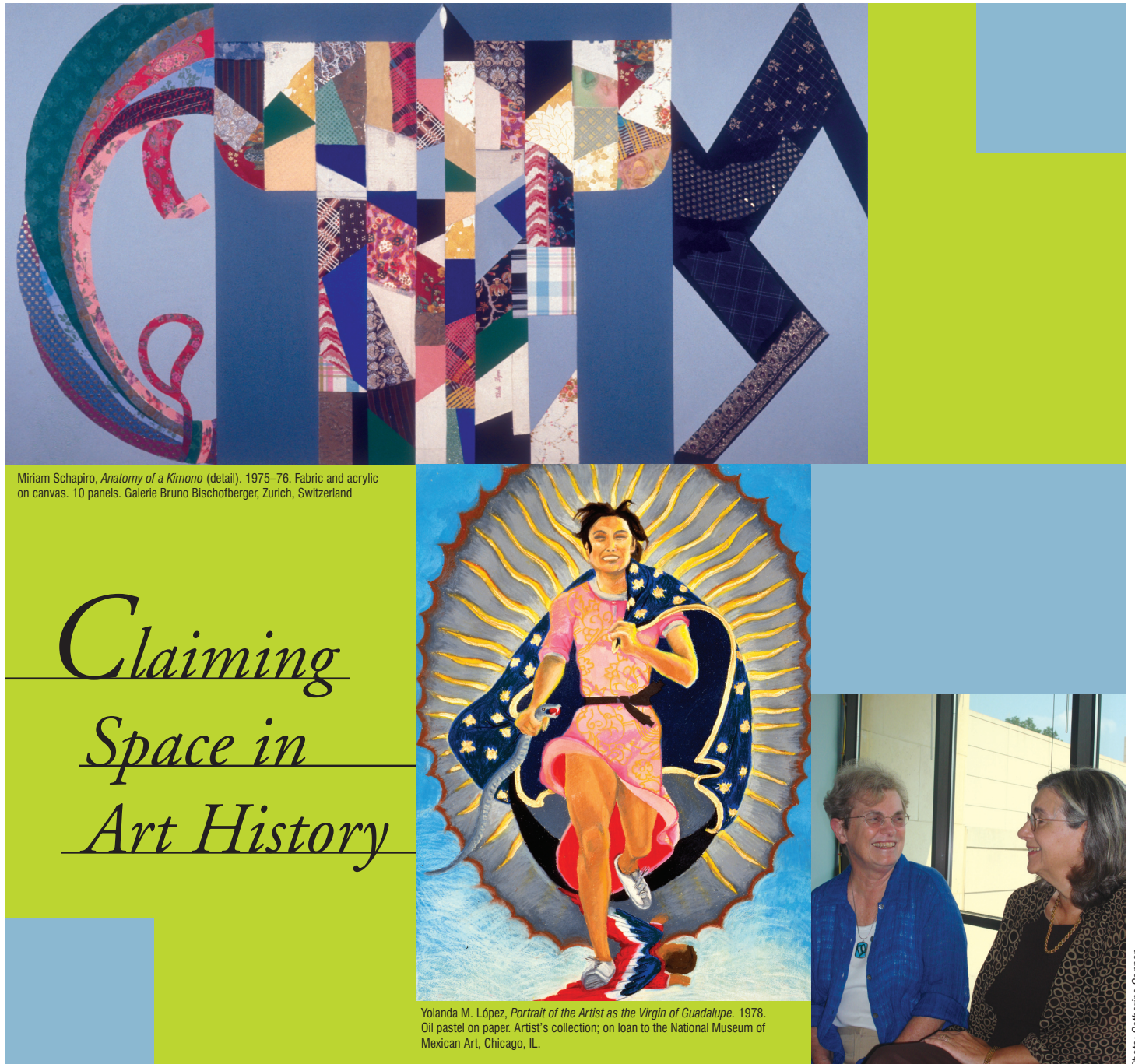
CATALYST SCORES AN APEX AWARD

The extra logo on the cover of the fall issue of *Catalyst*, AU's student-run science magazine, is getting as much attention as the *Shining*-inspired tableau. The message? *APEX 2007 Awards for Publication Excellence*. In May, the semiannual publication won this well-respected publishing award in the magazine and journal category.

"I remember [Dean] Kay Mussell, in a casual conversation last year, saying that the magazine was great and that we ought to see if there was an award we could find for these student writers and photographers," said Chris Tudge, biology professor and *Catalyst*'s supervising faculty member. With the assistance of his librarian friends, Tudge came upon the APEX awards and submitted the magazine for consideration. The competition—for writers, editors, publications staff, and business and nonprofit communicators—is sponsored by Communications Concepts, a Virginia-based organization that has provided support to business publishers across the country for over two decades.

Catalyst uses clever covers, eye-catching layouts, and fluid writing on current student projects, science faculty, and alumni to put AU sciences on the map for scientists and nonscientists alike. "This university is not known for its science programs, so to have a magazine that shows we have dynamic science projects and we generate all this student research tells people we do good science," said Tudge. "It's also letting students who come here know there's fun science being done that they can get involved in."

—Jessica Tabak



Miriam Schapiro, *Anatomy of a Kimono* (detail). 1975–76. Fabric and acrylic on canvas. 10 panels. Galerie Bruno Bischofberger, Zurich, Switzerland

Claiming Space in Art History

Yolanda M. López, *Portrait of the Artist as the Virgin of Guadalupe*. 1978. Oil pastel on paper. Artist's collection; on loan to the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL.

Mary D. Garrard (left) and Norma Broude (right)

Photo: Catherine Gannon

"The term 'great' has been much maligned by the feminist community as exclusionary, but what we are looking at here is truly great art," says Norma Broude, professor of art history at AU and cocurator of *Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators*—on exhibit at the American University Museum from November 6 to January 27. "It deserves to be recognized in these terms."

Claiming Space focuses on the origins of the feminist art movement in the twentieth century. Long before it became a global phenomenon, feminist art was a radical '70s movement headed by a close-knit group of maverick American artists, including Judy Chicago, Miriam Schapiro, and Faith Ringgold. "One of the distinct features of feminist art is that it was interconnected with the political and cultural movements of the time," says Broude. "The works were usually large because the artists were literally claiming space in the political and cultural world."

This desire to claim space is embodied in one of the show's most anticipated pieces, Schapiro's *Anatomy of a Kimono*. On exhibit in this country for the first time since the '70s, the 52-foot-long "femmage," Schapiro's term for collage, combines painted passages and fragments of fabric and embroidery that allude to women's traditional arts, joining craft and fine art imagery in one immense form.

Other pieces make political and cultural statements through unconventional depictions of the female form. Works that feature nude female bodies in powerful poses, such as Cynthia Mailman's *God*, are particularly provocative. "These artists have been criticized as 'essentialist,' but they were really using essentialist ideas as political propositions to confront the culture with what it was doing to women," says Mary D. Garrard, professor emerita of art history and exhibit cocurator. "Many of these images are still challenging today." Broude adds, "Gender is very much bound up in power—and those in power usually don't want to give it up."

"After two decades of theory and nonactivism," Garrard concludes, "we hope that this exhibition will help inspire a new generation of women to claim the cultural and economic equality that is still not theirs."

Several campus events are planned in conjunction with the exhibit, including a panel discussion on November 7 entitled "The Art of Confrontation: The Legacy of '70s Feminist Art Activism against War, Sexual Violence, Racism, and Environmental Destruction." The list of participants includes some of the best-known names of the feminist art movement, including Ringgold, Joyce Kozloff, Betsy Damon, Suzanne Lacy, Leslie Labowitz, and May Stevens. Garrard jokes, "We told a colleague about this all-star lineup and she almost fainted."

—Jessica Tabak



Photo Courtesy of Gira

A Life Loving Literature

Catherine Gira, president of Frostburg State University from 1991 to 2006, has been addicted to teaching since she was a child. “My parents used to tell the story of how I lined up my dolls and pretended to be their teacher,” says Gira. It’s a passion that has steered her career.

Gira started out as a high school English teacher at Catonsville Senior High School in Baltimore County. After taking time off to start a family, she returned to teaching as a writing instructor at Johns Hopkins University, where she earned master’s degrees in education and liberal arts. “I loved teaching literature. When you teach English, you really get to know students. They reveal their emotions, their perceptions.”

In 1975, she earned a PhD in literature from American University. “It was an incredible two years at AU—small classes, stimulating seminars, and tutorials with faculty who were very caring and close to the candidates.” For her final project, an exploration of Shakespeare’s Venus figures, she traveled to England and Italy to study the images that might have influenced him. “I was able to do it because my husband was a saint. A manager at Westinghouse, he cooked for the kids—handled all the family affairs.”

After 22 years of marriage, her husband died of cancer, leaving Gira a young widow with two children to raise. Despite this personal setback, however, she pressed on with her career, becoming first an English professor and then provost of the University of Baltimore. “I crossed over to administration—the dark side,” she laughs. In 1991, she was named president of Frostburg State. “I loved the job because of its diversity—dinners with students, coffee with faculty and staff, working with alumni and community business and political leaders.”

Now that she is retired, Gira spends time with her family and serves on the boards of various cultural organizations. She recently chaired an evaluation team representing the Middle States Commission on Higher Education at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania, as well as a task force on English composition for the Maryland State Department of Education and the University System of Maryland.

And once a year, she gets together with four classmates from her AU days and Jeanne Roberts, professor emerita and a mentor and role model. “We call them the ‘old girls AU lunches’ and they continue to provide wonderful opportunities for stimulating discussions and camaraderie.”

—Ann Bentzel

Globally Speaking

“The business world is a different place today than it was even yesterday,” says Jesse Boeding, director of undergraduate studies at the Kogod School of Business and codirector of a new program: the bachelor of science in business administration and language and cultural studies (BLC). “No longer can we operate solely within our small communities. At some point, someone will introduce an international connection to our work.”

This fall, to prepare students for the increasingly global economy, Kogod introduced the interdisciplinary degree in conjunction with CAS’s Department of Language and Foreign Studies. The program, which is the first of its kind in the country, combines 33 business credit hours with 32 language credits, at least 12 of which are earned during a required semester abroad. “Language is a window into a culture,” says Alina Israeli, who teaches Russian and codirects the BLC program. “When you know a language well, you begin to understand how another culture sees things.”

Entering students choose one of four language tracks: Spanish, French, German, or Russian. On completion of their course work, they take the American Council on the Teaching of a Foreign Language (ACTFL) oral proficiency exam, a requirement unprecedented at AU. According to Israeli, the exam gives students a distinct advantage in the competitive job market. “The graduates will know exactly what their abilities are—and since it is a standardized exam, prospective employers will also know who they are hiring.” Boeding adds, “We’re requiring that students establish a level of language proficiency that will be extremely valuable to a potential employer.”

BLC graduates earn their BS through the business school. During their course of study, however, students are considered members of both the business school and the language and foreign studies department. The BLC degree, says Israeli, makes combining business and language studies “much easier to manage.” She adds, “Having the program on the books also makes people more aware of the need to combine these disciplines.”

“We are really trying to forge new ground,” says Boeding. “Both schools are committed to making sure students get what they need to enter the work force.”

The BLC is supported by a \$100,000 gift from Kogod alumnus Bruce Taylor ’75. A partner with the investment firm Cortec Group and a fluent French speaker, Taylor knows the benefits of language skills and cultural awareness in the business world. In a recent AU capital campaign newsletter, he said that the program “will directly influence the ability of students to apply what they learn in the classroom to a real-world setting.”

Student response to the program has been positive and undergraduates already have declared the BLC as their intended degree. Boeding attributes this to its unique requirements and relevance to the current global economy. She says, “I think that our undergraduates understand that, in a world where a baseline requirement is a bachelor’s degree, they need to differentiate themselves from their competition.”

—Jessica Tabak



Photo: Ann Bentzel

ARLINGTON BACKSTORY

Arlington National Cemetery is regarded as a place of reverence and remembrance. But the catalyst for the first groundbreaking here was an act of vengeance by a grieving father. The site, originally the estate of Confederate general Robert E. Lee, owes its transformation into a burial ground to Union army quartermaster Montgomery Meigs.

“Meigs, devastated by the murder of his son John by Confederate forces, wanted to strike out at Lee, the man he held responsible for the war,” explained AU professor Edward Smith on a recent trip to the cemetery with students from the university’s Civil War Institute. “So he did the one thing he could think of to keep Lee from ever returning to his beloved house: he made Lee’s house into a burial ground—filled with thousands of dead soldiers.”

Learn more about the Civil War Institute and tour Arlington National Cemetery with Edward Smith in *CAS Connections* online edition at <http://american.edu/cas/connections/07summer1.cfm>.



COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Publisher: College of Arts and Sciences

Dean: Kay Mussell

Managing editor: Jessica Tabak

Writers: Anne Bentzel, Clara Cheng, Brendan Steidle, Jessica Tabak

Editor: Ali Kahn, UP

Design: Keegan Houser, UP

Thanks to Mary Schellinger, CAS

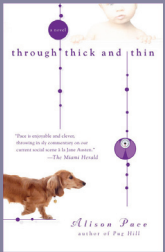
Send news items and comments to jt0707a@american.edu.



Photo: Brendan Steidle



STEADY PACE



With her third book out in as many years this summer, AU alumna Alison Pace (BA Art History '93) has become a force in the “chick lit” world. *Through Thick and Thin* (Penguin Group, 2007) follows two sisters in their

respective quests to better themselves by losing weight and finding companionship. “The inspiration for the current book,” says Pace, “was thinking about how friendships and relationships can and must change so much as people get older.”

Pace likes to change style, play with point of view, and reinvent conflict from one book to the next—and even within a book. “I do sometimes find myself disenchanted with a topic or with my ability to say anything new about it,” she says, “but as long as I commit to staying the course, I’ve been able to recapture the initial enthusiasm for a project.”

Certainly, others express enthusiasm for her work. Critics have praised her singular writing style and readers and reviewers hail her talent for creating endearing and realistic characters. Despite what anyone says about her, however, Pace remains true to her original goals as a writer: “I really just want to be able to keep writing novels. I hope that I’m telling some interesting stories that people might connect with; I hope I’m making readers laugh or smile and think about some things a bit, too.”

—Brendan Steidle

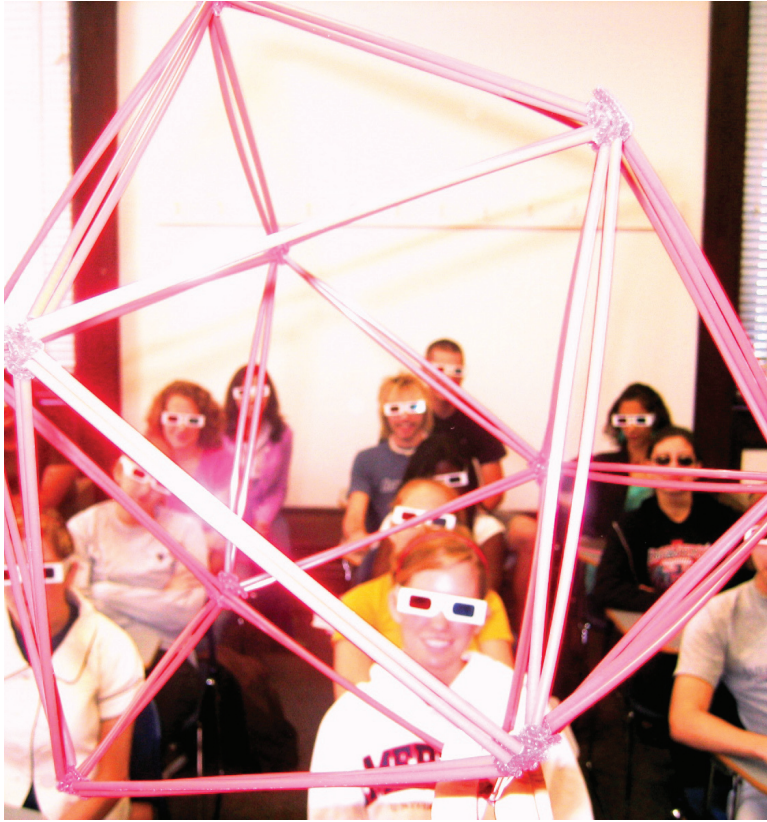


Photo: Brendan Steidle

If code breaking, comedy writing, and 3-D glasses are not things frequently associated with math courses, AU’s Department of Mathematics and Statistics is looking to change that with one of their new offerings. Tentatively titled Great Ideas in Mathematics, the class is being piloted under the Math 154 course heading, with an application for its own course designation currently pending.

“In a standard algebra class, most of the focus ends up on the specifics of manipulating equations,” says Michael Keynes, director of undergraduate studies in the math department and a course instructor. As a result, students rarely develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for math. “It’s like taking a writing class that focuses on grammar and spelling.”

Great Ideas in Mathematics is different. Instead of focusing on mechanics and equation solving, the course emphasizes the key concepts underpinning mathematics. Keynes explains, “The class is for students who have taken math but want to see more; instead of studying grammar and spelling, they want to read poetry.”

It’s also for students who have struggled in traditional math classes, either because those classes focused strictly on calculations or failed to

provide a deeper context. “This course really tries to teach students to think analytically—which doesn’t sound like much, but it is,” says Jeff Hakim, professor and math department chair. “In the past, we knew our finite math students did not have a deep understanding of the material because, when we tweaked the problems ever so slightly, they couldn’t do them.”

While the fact that the course textbook was cowritten by a *Tonight Show* contributor doesn’t hurt, the effectiveness of Great Ideas mainly has to do with its experiential approach to mathematical concepts. Instructors invite students to explore these concepts through experiments involving such activities as code breaking, puzzle solving, and examining platonic solids through 3-D glasses. Students then apply their findings to a variety of mathematical problems.

“The course helps critical thinking like no other,” asserts Vladimir Skoric ’08. Skoric, who took the class last spring, says its hands-on approach and text that “reads like a real book” increase students’ understanding of essential concepts and show them how to apply these concepts to diverse mathematical situations. “We did exercises that literally made us think outside the box.”

—Jessica Tabak

What's Happening

For a complete calendar of events, visit www.american.edu/cas/events.cfm.

NOV. 3–4

So Let Us Sing

Nov. 3: 8 p.m.; Nov. 4: 3 p.m.
Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
AU Chamber Singers perform choral selections from the sixteenth through the twenty-first centuries. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-3634.

NOV. 4

Washington Balalaika Society

4 p.m. Greenberg Theatre
Enjoy traditional Russian folk songs and dances, romantic chansons, and the classics of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, and Rachmaninoff. General admission: \$25. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-2587.

NOV. 6

Artists' Reception

6–9 p.m. American University Museum
Celebrate the opening of new exhibits: Fernando Botero: Abu Ghraib; Dark Metropolis: Irving Norman's Social Surrealism; and Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators. Free

NOV. 6–DEC. 30

Fernando Botero: Abu Ghraib

American University Museum
First U.S. museum exhibit of Botero's Abu Ghraib series features drawings and paintings about recent events at the Iraqi prison. Free

NOV. 6–JAN. 27

Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators

American University Museum
Curated by Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard, the exhibit features 40 works by 20 founders of the American Feminist Art Movement. Free

NOV. 6–JAN. 27

Dark Metropolis: Irving Norman's Social Surrealism

American University Museum
Exhibit in honor of the artist's would-be 100th birthday. Organized by the Crocker Art Museum. Free

NOV. 7

Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar: "Human Capital Risk Management: The Optimal Exercise of Career Options"

12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall, Room 101
Guest speaker is Boston University's Jonathan Treussard. Free

NOV. 7

TESOL Lecture: "The Communicative Approach in a Nutshell"

8:10–9:15 p.m. Mary Graydon Center, Room 245
Presentation by TESOL program codirector Brock Brady. More information at tesol@american.edu or call 202-885-2582. Free

NOV. 7

"The Art of Confrontation: The Legacy of '70s Feminist Art Activism against War, Sexual Violence, Racism, and Environmental Destruction"

6–8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Panel discussion features artists Betsy Damon, Joyce Kozloff, Leslie Labowitz, Suzanne Lacy, Faith Ringgold, and May Stevens; moderated by Carey Lovelace. Free

NOV. 8

Ghosts of Abu Ghraib: A Human Rights Film Festival

5:30 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
In conjunction with Fernando Botero's Abu Ghraib exhibit, the Center for Social Media and Washington College of Law's Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law present the award-winning documentary *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*. Producer Liz Garbus will discuss the making of this provocative film. Free

NOV. 9

Atrium Series: Bringing Music to the People

Noon. Battelle-Tompkins Atrium
Department of Performing Arts presents informal recitals for the community. Free

NOV. 10

D.C. Poets against the War: Evening of Poetry

6–9 p.m. American University Museum
In conjunction with Fernando Botero's Abu Ghraib exhibit, D.C. Poets against the War and the AU museum will host an evening of poetry. Free

NOV. 12

Professional Responsibility since Abu Ghraib

5:30–8:00 p.m. Weschler Theater, 3rd floor MGC
Training symposium sponsored by SOC, SPA, and Kogod School of Business. Free

NOV. 13

Dance Choreolab

8 p.m. Tenley Chapel Dance Studio
Dialogue with a panel of choreographers, including Vladimir Angelov, Rob Esposito, Maurice Johnson, and Lora Rutann. Free

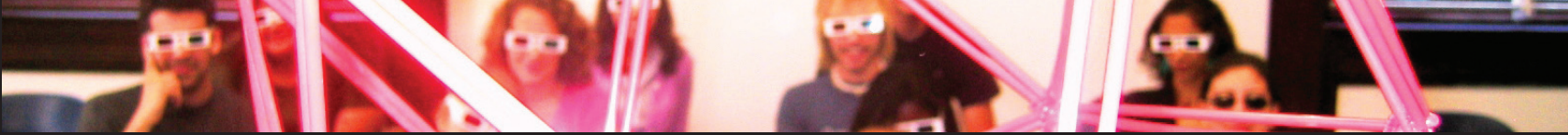


Photo: Brendan Steidle



Photo: Jessica Tabak

A Solvent Solution

“Douglas Fox always knew what he wanted to do when he grew up. It was just a matter of figuring out how to do it. “I’ve always liked the environment and had in the back of my mind how I could eventually apply my work to help improve it,” says the chemistry professor.

These days, the link between his work and environmental protection is clear. His primary research involves the development and use of “green” solvents—alternative solvents that, because of their chemical composition, are more environmentally friendly than the solvents used traditionally in industrial settings.

Much of Fox’s work focuses on a group of green solvents called room temperature ionic liquids. Their untraceable emissions, very low flammability, and manipulability have made them a popular research subject over the past 10 years. Fox explains: “There are hundreds of billions of possible compounds, so there’s a lot of interest in researching them. They’re a hot topic now.”

While ionic liquid solvents are in limited use today because they are expensive, the price is expected to decline. “In the meantime,” says Fox, “it’s important to characterize their behavior so that once costs come down, companies will be able to implement their use more quickly.”

Fox is also exploring green solvents made of the naturally derived compounds alpha-Pinene and d-Limonene. Used for years in such products as Pine-Sol and Citra Solve, their biodegradability and decreased toxicity make them another environmentally attractive alternative to traditional solvents.

In addition, Fox is conducting research on how altering plastic composition can improve its flame resistance, strength, and barrier properties. Beyond exploring various practical applications for these modified plastics, Fox hopes to develop one that will be able to sustain the rigors of space. “In space, all the atomic oxygen and solar radiation destroys plastic,” he explains. As a result, space hardware is currently built entirely of metals, which are expensive, heavy, and much less malleable than plastics.

When he isn’t in his laboratory, Fox is usually engaged in a “smorgasbord” of activities—from salsa dancing to Capitols games to throwing monthly parties for family and friends—with his new wife, Emilie, or climbing to the highest hikeable point in every state, a hobby that can lead to unexpected situations. “When a friend and I were hiking to the tallest point in Michigan, one of the bridges was out and we couldn’t cross the water,” he remembers. “We had to go back and find a new way. It was an adventure.”

—Jessica Tabak



REPORTING FROM SARAJEVO

When Cara Metell, a graduate student in AU’s International Training and Education Program (ITEP), arrived in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), this spring with nine of her fellow ITEP students, it was the wreckage of war that first struck her.

“Many buildings were scarred with bullet holes and shell marks, making the combat impossible to forget,” she wrote that night in her journal. “I wondered if the people of Sarajevo still see the marks as I do, or whether the bullet holes have blended into the scenery, making it possible to get through the day.”

Metell and her fellow students were in Sarajevo to evaluate the Child Friendly Schools project funded by UNICEF and sponsored in partnership with the Step by Step Center for Educational Initiatives.

For an in-depth look at the ITEP group’s Sarajevo experience and to read Metell’s travel journal and view photos, see the CAS *Connections* online edition at <http://american.edu/cas/connections/07summer1.cfm>.

NOV. 14
Department of Economics Brown Bag Seminar
12:10–1:15 p.m. Roper Hall, Room 101
Guest speaker is David McKenzie of the World Bank. Free

NOV. 14
MFA Alumni Lecture with Alex Glass: Working with a Literary Agent
8 p.m. Butler Pavilion, Butler Board Room
Literary agent and fiction writer Alex Glass MFA ’01 will discuss how to find and work with a literary agent and the state of the publishing industry. Free

NOV. 15–17
The Hundred Dresses
Nov. 15–16: 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Nov. 17: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Katzen Arts Center, Studio Theatre
Play based on the award-winning children’s book by Eleanor Estes. General admission: \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-228-3634.

NOV. 15
Panel on the Persistence of Torture
6 p.m. American University Museum
John Conroy, author of *Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People*, is the keynote speaker. Sponsored by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the International Human Rights Law Clinic at AU’s Washington College of Law. Free

NOV. 16
Jazz: It’s Academic
8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Concert by the AU Jazz Ensemble. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-3634.

NOV. 18
American University Wind Ensemble
3 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Concert by the AU Wind Ensemble features works by George Gershwin, John Philip Sousa, and Gustav Holst. Directed by Michael Rossi. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-3634.

NOV. 27
Feminism(s) Colloquia: Susan Fisher Sterling
Noon–1:15 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Series of informal conversations about art, gender, and power features art historian Susan Fisher Sterling, chief curator and deputy director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Free

NOV. 28
Arts in the Rotunda
Noon. Katzen Arts Center, Rotunda
Events and activities sponsored by the departments of art and performing arts. Free

NOV. 29
Atrium Series: Bringing Music to the People
Noon. Battelle-Tompkins Atrium
Department of Performing Arts presents informal recitals for the community. Free

NOV. 29–DEC. 1
New Works Reading: Dysfunction Spelled Backward
Nov. 29–30: 8 p.m.; Dec. 1: 2 p.m.
Location: Katzen Arts Center, Studio Theatre
Family comedy written by Carl Menninger. General admission: \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-3634.

NOV. 30–DEC. 2
American University Symphony Orchestra and Chorus: The Dance of Life
Nov. 30–Dec 1: 8 p.m.; Dec. 2: 3 p.m.
Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Works by Johannes Brahms and Franz Joseph Haydn. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5. Tickets available at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-3634.

DEC. 1
American University Gospel Choir: Holiday Carols
2 p.m. Kay Spiritual Life Center
Concert of traditional gospel carols. Directed by Sylstea C. Sledge. Free

DEC. 8
Winter Dance Informal Showcase
7 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall
Student dancers perform samples of work. Directed by Vladimir Angelov. Free

DEC. 9
Kids @ the Katzen with AU Arts
1:00–3:30 p.m. American University Museum
Designed for children age five and older, this diverse program is organized by the AU Museum and the art and performing arts departments. Advance registration is suggested; materials fee. Information available at www.american.edu/museum/family. Free

CAS

New Faculty

Jeff Adler

Mustafa Aksakal

Elizabeth Anderson

Michael Black

Erik Dussere

Max Paul Friedman

Kate Haulman

Jeff Adler

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics
BA Mathematics, Princeton University; PhD Mathematics, University of Chicago

Courses? Calculus 1, Linear Algebra

Why math? I liked mathematics even as a small child, but this is not unusual; what's unusual is that I failed to lose interest in the fourth grade. As an adult, I stuck with mathematics because it seemed cleaner and more beautiful than other options I considered (e.g., engineering or commodity futures research), it changes the way I look at the world, and it gets me out and about more than I would have expected.

Reading? Read? I'm too busy moving house.

Desert island companion? Second choice: any one of my close friends because we could keep each other entertained. First choice: Superman because he could get me off the island.

Mustafa Aksakal

Assistant Professor, Department of History
BA History, Monmouth College; PhD Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

Courses? Formation of Islamic Societies: 500–1500, Society and Culture in the Arab Middle East

Why history? Long lists of names, dates, and historical facts—just kidding! We all wonder how things got to be the way they are and the way things used to be before; some of us make it a profession. Human behavior is fascinating, and history tries to make sense of how and why it changes.

Reading? *Türkiye için necat ve itila yollari (Ways of Renewal and Reform in Turkey)* by Nahid Hashim

Favorite place? Oh, that's impossible to say—wherever there are friends, interesting conversation, books, or a soccer ball

Desert island companion? That's an easy one: my wife, Layla, if we could find a babysitter

Elizabeth Anderson

Assistant Professor, School of Education, Teaching, and Health
BA History, University of the South; PhD International Education, New York University

Courses? Comparative and International Education, International Education Exchange: Policies and Practices

Why international education? My experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Moldova inspired me to pursue a degree in international education as a means to understand how education can alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life in the developing world.

Reading? *Saturday* by Ian McEwan

Favorite place? In a hammock—especially if it is alongside Lake George in upstate New York

Desert island companion? Gilligan, of course

Michael Black

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Audio Technology, and Physics
BS Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; MS and PhD Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland—College Park

Courses? Introduction to Computer Science I, Introduction to Computer Networks

Why computer science? When I was a kid, I liked to tinker with electronics and build small digital circuits. My biggest childhood ambition was to build my own computer from scratch. Computer engineering—and, by extension, computer science—was a logical career path.

Reading? *The Caine Mutiny* by Herman Wouk and *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo

Favorite place? Parke County, Indiana, with its 31 covered bridges is pretty high on my list. I also enjoy the Appalachians around Cumberland, Maryland.

Desert island companion? Richard Feynman

Erik Dussere

Assistant Professor, Department of Literature
BA English, University of Massachusetts; PhD Literatures in English, Rutgers University

Courses? Critical Approach to the Cinema, Topics in American Modernism: Modernism High and Low

Reading? *The Way We Live Now* by Anthony Trollope

Why literature? I never stop being fascinated by the American twentieth century, by the present, by the effort to understand who we are and how we got to be this way.

Desert island companion? I never have understood this question. How about Debby Harry? Marcel Marceau? Kermit the frog?

Max Paul Friedman

Associate Professor, Department of History
BA History and Latin American Studies, Oberlin College; PhD American History, University of California—Berkeley

Courses? U.S. Foreign Relations: 1774–1914, America and the Cold War, Studies in History: Americanization and Anti-Americanism

Why history? I have a long-standing interest in U.S. foreign relations and international affairs and find that contemporary crises can be better understood by learning about how they developed.

Reading? *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* by Odd Arne Westad, *George Kennan: A Study of Character* by John Lukacs, and *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk

Desert island companion? The American studies scholar Katharina Vester. She's the most interesting person I've ever met. That's why I asked her to marry me.

Kate Haulman

Assistant Professor, Department of History
BA American Studies, Florida State University; MA History, Southern Methodist University; PhD History, Cornell University

Courses? First half of Major Seminar

Why history? I'm originally from Williamsburg, Virginia, which helps explain my interest in early America, and have long been committed to feminist politics, which underpins my study of women's and gender history.

Reading? *Nothing Remains the Same: Rereading and Remembering* by Wendy Lesser

Favorite place? Blue Mountain Beach, Florida

Desert island companion? It's a tie: Oscar Wilde and Bear Grylls

Accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

Richard Breitman (history) edited *Advocate for the Doomed: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald 1932–1935*, vol. 1 (Indiana, 2007).

Kathleen Franz (history) curated David Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture at the National Building Museum. The exhibit runs from June 23 through May 4, 2008.

Nathan Harshman's (physics) review of Donal O'Shea's book *The Poincaré Conjecture: In Search of the Shape of the Universe* appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*. He also published a series of peer-reviewed articles on quantum entanglement: "Continuous-Discrete Entanglement: An Example with Non-Relativistic Particles," *Quantum Information and Computation* 3 (January 2007); "Dynamical Entanglement in Non-Relativistic, Elastic Scattering," *International Journal of Quantum Information* 5 (Spring 2007); and, with Sujeev Wickramasekara, "Galilean and Dynamical Invariance of Entanglement in Particle Scattering," *Physical Review Letters* 98 (February 2007).

Consuelo Hernandez's (language and foreign studies) work was included in a collection of poetry, *Antología internacional de poesía amorosa* (Editorial Buho, 2006).

Philip Johnson (physics) coauthored "Preparing and Probing Atomic Number States with an Atom Interferometer," *Physical Review Letters* 98 (May 2007).

Ira Klein (history) published "Calcutta: Development, Society and Health, 1870–1950," *Journal of Indian History* (December 2006).

Amy A. Oliver (philosophy and religion) coedited *Feminist Philosophy in Latin America and Spain* (Ropodi, 2007).

Naima Prevots (professor emerita, performing arts) coauthored *The Returns of Alwin Nikolais: Bodies, Boundaries and the Dance Canon* (Wesleyan, 2007).

Charles White (professor emeritus, philosophy and religion) released *The Garden of Loneliness* (Motilal Banarsidass, 2006), a translation of "Ansu (Tears)," a 190-stanza poem by contemporary Hindi poet Jayshankar Prasad.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Graduate students **Elizabeth Auciello, Erin Danner, Jennifer Carpio**, and **Colleen Lawler (language and foreign studies)** presented papers on Latin American cultural movements at the March conference of the Mid-Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies.

In March, **Brock Brady (language and foreign studies)** presented "Suprasegmentals in English Pronunciation Instruction," "Principles and Practices of Teaching Pronunciation," and "Rethinking Assessment in Large Classes" at the annual TESOL Arabia Convention in Dubai, UAE.

Jack Child (language and foreign studies) chaired a panel on Latin American cultural movements and presented "The Malvinas-Falkland Islands 25 Years after the Conflict" at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies Conference at Albright College in Reading, Penn.

In June, **Esther Ngan-ling Chow (sociology)** presented "Shadowed Citizenship: Gender and Migrant Children's Right to Education in Urban China" in Athens. She coorganized the "Women and Citizenship in a Local/Globalized World" conference with the National Centre for Social Research in Greece. In August, she presented "The Social Transformation of Chinatown in Washington, D.C., as a Gateway City for Immigration" at the North America Chinese Sociological Association's annual meeting—and "Autonomy

or Filial Piety? Income Control, Ideology, and Remittances of Migrant Workers in South China" at the American Sociological Association's annual conference.

Nathan Harshman (physics) delivered "Entanglement in One-Dimensional Scattering" at the Workshop on Quantum Information Theory in Benasque, Spain.

In April, **Alina Israeli (language and foreign studies)** presented "Repetitions (reduplications and tautologies) in Russian: Egg Yolks and Witch Hats" at the University of Kansas–Lawrence.

Teresa Larkin (physics) delivered the keynote address, "Writing: A Global Active Learning Tool in STEM Education," at the International Conference on Engineering and Computer Education in Santos, Brazil.

Lucinda Peach (philosophy and religion) presented "Buddhist Perspectives on Religion and Ethnicity in Public Policy" to a delegation of South Asian journalists participating in the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program on Religious Diversity in America. Via a video teleconference from the State Department, she delivered "Feminist Theory" to a women's studies class at the University of Jordan in Amman. In April at Towson University, she gave a talk on "The U.S. War on Sex Trafficking as a War on Women," sponsored by the Women's Studies program.

IN THE MEDIA

In March, **Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies)** was interviewed by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* on the use of text messaging abbreviations in spoken language. Agence France-Presse interviewed her on the role of French words in contemporary English.

Thomas Hertz (economics) was quoted in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* ("Dice Loaded against Moving beyond Parents' Level," April 2007).

Laura Juliano (psychology) was quoted in the *San Antonio Express-News* (August 2007) about the increasing use of caffeine in consumer products, from lollipops to sunflower seeds.

Peter Kuznick (history) was interviewed by the Japanese newspaper *Akahata* (August 2007) about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Allan Lichtman (history) was quoted in a *Washington Post* article (August 2007) regarding the South Carolina Republican party's decision to move its presidential primary forward to January 19.

In April, **Sabiyha Prince (anthropology)** appeared on MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*. Guest host David Gregory interviewed him about lessons to be learned from the Don Imus debacle.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

Anthony H. Ahrens (psychology) received the University Faculty Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community.

Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies) and **Anthony Riley (psychology)** were awarded Presidential Research Fellowships.

Robert L. Beisner (professor emeritus, history) won the Arthur Ross Book Award Silver Medal and a prize of \$10,000 for his 2006 book, *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War*. The award recognizes the best books on international affairs published in the past two years.

In March, the superintendent of the District of Columbia Public Schools appointed **Brock Brady (language and foreign studies)** to the Joint Advisory Council for the Plan to Provide Services to English Language Learner Students.

On August 13, **Esther Ngan-ling Chow (sociology)** received an Outstanding Teaching Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Asia and Asian America. The award recognizes her pioneering research on Asian and Chinese-American women and their communities and her dedication to teaching and mentoring diverse groups of students.

Michael Gray (computer science) has been appointed technology editor for the bimonthly journal *Computing in Science and Engineering*.

David A. F. Haaga (psychology) received the University Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Other Professional Contributions.

In April, **Nathan Harshman (physics)** received the Teaching with Technology Award from AU's Center for Teaching Excellence.

In April, the American Educational Research Association selected **Noriko Ishihara (language and foreign studies)** as the 2007 winner of the Second Language Special Interest Group Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Teresa Larkin (physics) received an award in "Recognition of Extraordinary Achievements and Contributions to the Fields of Engineering and Computer Education World Wide" at the International Conference on Engineering and Computer Education in Santos, Brazil.

In August, CAS student **Thais Helene Miller (literature, BA '10)** received a \$1,000 Merit Award scholarship from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Kay Mussell (dean) received the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement from the University of Iowa in June.

Pamela S. Nadell (history) was named AU's Scholar/Teacher of the Year.

The Department of Kinesiology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison honored **Margaret Safrit (professor emerita; education, teaching, and health)** with the establishment of the Safrit Lecture Series. Beginning in 2007, the series will feature distinguished scholars—with a spotlight on women—in the field of kinesiology.

The James Mooney awards for undergraduate research in history went to **Jennifer Segal (history, BA '07)** and **Laura Neff (American studies, BA '07)**.

Two CAS students received the Janet Oppenheimer award for outstanding senior thesis: **Christina Stewart (history, BA '07)** for "‘Promises of the New Covenant’: How the Exemplary Deaths of Pious Children Solidified the Bonds of Puritanical Community in Early Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts" and **Elizabeth Perry (history, BA '07)** for "Education as a Means of Salvation: Jansenist Theology in the Little Schools of Port-Royal, 1638–1660." Perry received a five-year graduate fellowship to continue her history studies at Rutgers University.

Jessica Roberts Frazier (literature, MA '07) received AU's 2007 University Student Award for Outstanding Scholarship at the Graduate Level, and **Daniel S. Guarnera (political science and language and area studies, BA '07)** the University Student Award for Outstanding Scholarship at the Undergraduate Level.

Rachel Watkins (anthropology) has been appointed associate editor of the journal *Transforming Anthropology*. She has been elected to a two-year term on the American Anthropological Association's Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology.

Despina Kakoudaki

Shubha Pathak

Stacie L. Tate

David Keplinger

Younghee Sheen

David Vine

ONE YEAR DOWN A NEW FACULTY MEMBER LOOKS BACK



Photo: Jeff Watts

It is hard to believe that a whole year has gone by since I arrived on the AU campus as an assistant professor of psychology. While one year out of a lifetime may seem trivial, to me it was the year that set the tone for the rest of my academic career.

Being a new faculty member has meant adjusting to a new environment, which can be quite overwhelming at times. Fortunately, I have been blessed with colleagues who are always ready to offer a helping hand or useful advice. One of the things I have appreciated most about AU is the tremendous sense of community and support. Having attended two of North America's largest universities as a student, I enjoy the fact that I regularly see familiar faces and friendly smiles around campus. Moreover, many sources of support, such as the Center for Teaching Excellence and the CAS Mellon grant, are available to promote teaching and scholarship. These are immensely valuable, especially to new faculty members. I truly feel as though I am a part of a family—and that is a terrific environment in which to work.

I also have learned to appreciate AU students' enthusiasm for learning. Thus far, I have been greatly impressed by their level of performance. Students here are active, engaged, and curious, and they have high expectations for their educational experience. For these reasons, it is not only a pleasure to teach here, but it is also a challenge—in a good way. I have found that to be the kind of teacher I strive to be, I must constantly adapt and be creative in my approach. I have certainly found myself developing pedagogically since arriving at AU. In large part, this is due to the fact that my students' passion for learning inspires me to be a better teacher.

American University has been a wonderful place to begin my academic career. It is the people—faculty, staff, and students—who make it so enjoyable. I am glad I chose to come to AU.

—Clara Cheng

CAS New Faculty

Continued

Despina Kakoudaki

Assistant Professor, Department of Literature

BA English and American Literature, University of Athens, Greece; MA and PhD Comparative Literature, University of California—Berkeley

Courses? Critical Approach to the Cinema, Topics in Film

Reading? Lots of books on the history of technology

Why literature? I love reading, but I also love thinking about culture and history, about what makes people themselves fascinating, and what makes human culture so complicated and multifaceted. It seems that everything around us brings us in contact with the presence and thinking of other people—from the objects on our desk; to the literary, musical, artistic, and cinematic compositions of long ago; to the technological innovations of our age. I am interested in this contact with the past and with others as mediated by objects, by technologies, by documents, by words and images—by all the varied cultural products that surround us.

Desert island companion? A whole bunch of my AU students, clearly

David Keplinger

Associate Professor, Department of Literature

BA English and MFA Poetry Writing, Pennsylvania State University

Courses? The Experience of Poetry, Advanced Poetry Workshop

Why poetry? I was involved in music and theater as an undergraduate. In my third year, I took up an interest in poetry. My first poems seemed to explore aspects of the creative process as yet inaccessible to me. (In other words, I was a mediocre actor and musician.) So I switched majors.

Reading? *So Ask: Essays, Conversations, and Interviews* by Philip Levine

Desert island companion? That would be a person who could make fire, fish with a bamboo pole, and had committed to memory whole passages from the works of Shakespeare, Blake, Whitman, and Dickinson. Or I would choose Elaine Pagels.

Shubha Pathak

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion

BA Religion, Princeton University; PhD Social and Behavioral Sciences, John Hopkins University—Bloomberg School of Public Health; MA Divinity and PhD History of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School

Courses? Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East, Topics in Religious Discussion

Why religious studies? My field, comparative religious studies, accommodates my interests in mythology, philosophy, and psychology, allowing me to consider the particular ways in which the literatures and literary theories of ancient cultures address common human problems, such as mortality and immortality, which continue to be concerns today.

Reading? *The Redemptive Self: Stories Americans Live By* by Dan P. McAdams

Desert island companion? My ideal island mate would be my husband, Jim, whom I have not seen enough during my years of dissertation writing!

Younghee Sheen

Assistant Professor, Department of Language and Foreign Studies

BA Political Science and Diplomacy, Ewha Women's University, Seoul, South Korea; MA and MEd Applied Linguistics, Columbia University Teachers College; PhD Applied Linguistics, University of Nottingham

Courses? English Language Teaching I, Teaching Grammar

Why language and foreign studies? My own experience as a second and foreign language learner and speaker

Reading? *Any Human Heart* by William Boyd

Favorite place? Cake Love bakery. Nothing is fat free!

Desert island companion? The winner of the all-star *Survivor* reality show or *MacGyver*

Stacie L. Tate

Assistant Professor, School of Education, Teaching, and Health

BA English, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor; MEd Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership, Oakland University; PhD Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership, Michigan State University

Courses? Schools and Society, Methods and Materials in Secondary Education

Why teaching? I complained a lot about teacher quality when I was in high school. My mom said, "So what are you going to do about it?" I became the teacher that I wish I would've had in school.

Reading? *The Emergence of Folklore in Everyday Life: A Fieldguide and Sourcebook* by George Schoemaker

Desert island companion? Zora Neale Hurston

David Vine

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

BA Sociology, Wesleyan University; MA and PhD Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Courses? Human Movement: Migration, Displacement, Diaspora; Reinventing Applied Anthropology

Why anthropology? Anthropology's attempt to understand the world from the perspectives of others and to use that knowledge to help improve the world

Reading? *Zorba the Greek* by Nikos Kazantzakis

Favorite place? A good bakery or maybe a burrito joint in San Francisco

Desert island companion? Zorba