



CAS CONNECTIONS

College of Arts and Sciences, American University

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As the first semester draws to a close, the construction of the Dr. Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen Arts Center is proceeding quickly. Every day, as we watch the activity across Massachusetts Avenue, new details of this magnificent structure take shape. We have imagined this wonderful facility for so long that it is especially thrilling to see it grow in reality right before our eyes.

The center will house faculty and students from eight programs in the visual and performing arts: studio art, graphic design, art history, multimedia, theatre and music theatre, dance, music, and arts management. Its public performance and exhibition spaces include a 30,000 square-foot art gallery with sculpture garden, a 200-seat recital hall, and a studio theatre. Dedicated studios and teaching spaces will accommodate the various technical needs of the arts programs in the building, and two all-purpose classrooms will serve General Education and traditional classes. A soaring atrium will link the academic

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Lauren Kart BA '98, MA '00 and sophomore Camille Castro discuss the pros and cons of teaching at CAS' Take A Student To Work Day. Story on page 8.

VOL. 17, No. 2, DECEMBER, 2004

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CAS Connections

is published twice a semester
during the fall and spring terms.

CAS Dean
Kay Mussell

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Guidelines for Submission

Submissions to *CAS Connections* are encouraged and should be submitted via e-mail to <bentzel@american.edu> prior to the stated deadline. Faculty accomplishments and events posted into the CAS Master Database will also be automatically considered for publication (unless expressly requested otherwise). Please be sure to include a contact name, phone number, and e-mail address. We also welcome the electronic submission of photographs. Photos should preferably be scanned at no less than 260 dpi and saved in .TIF format.

Deadlines

For Fall issue no. 1 (September 8) - August 13
For Fall issue no. 2 (December 8) - October 11
For Spring issue no. 1 (February 18) - December 18
For Spring issue no. 2 (April 12) - March 29

Please direct any questions to Anne Bentzel in the
CAS Dean's Office, 202-885-1781

**Deadline for the February issue is
December 18, 2004**

wing and the public spaces. (See the photo insert in this issue of *CAS Connections*.)

Our new art gallery director, Jack Rasmussen, began in mid-December. He is planning for the opening exhibits in the magnificent three-story exhibition space. The gallery offers many opportunities for co-curricular programming with every discipline, and Jack is looking forward to working with you on ways to link the visual arts to the rest of the university's curriculum.

Current plans call for us to begin moving into the center toward the end of the second semester. We will spend the summer putting the new facilities into operation. Classes will begin meeting there in September. The grand opening will be in October, with gala events around the President's Circle dinner and alumni weekend. Be sure to watch for announcements as our plans proceed.

For those of you who have not yet visited the center, I invite you to call my office (x2446) to arrange for a hard-hat tour when the new semester begins in January. Some of our students have volunteered to help us introduce you to the facility by conducting tours while it is under construction. I know that once you have a chance to visit these beautiful spaces you will be as excited as I am about the potential of the facility to inspire student and faculty creativity.

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday, and I look forward to seeing you in January when the new semester begins.

Kay Mussell
CAS Dean



The AU Chamber Singers perform in Ontario, Canada, on East Coast tour

The Chamber Singers held the sixth performance of their tour at a picturesque 1820's church in the historic town of Niagara on the Lake in southern Ontario, Canada. "The setting inspired us. The acoustics were great; we gave what I think was our most expressive performance," says Daniel Abraham, director of choral activities at AU. "It was also a special performance because Dean Mussell traveled to Ontario to attend the performance which meant a lot to me and the chorus." Their performance helped celebrate Niagara on the Lake's International Music Festival and was part of an eight-city tour across southern Canada, western New York state, and western Pennsylvania.

COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

College to recognize outstanding scholarship at the annual student research conference, April 2, 2005

On Saturday, April 2, students from across the college will meet again to share their work at the annual College of Arts and Sciences Ann Robyn Mathias Student Research Conference, Fifteenth Year. The all-day event marks a decade and a half of such meetings. Thanks to a generous gift to the college from a CAS/WCL alumna and AU Trustee, the conference has now been named for its benefactor:

College of Arts and Sciences, Ann Robyn Mathias Student Research Conference, Fifteenth Year

With support from the Ann Robyn Mathias Program Fund for Faculty and Student Research, the college will set aside funds for awards to both undergraduate and graduate students who present exemplary scholarly and creative work. These awards are to be judged by faculty and student referees and presented at a reception.

The college looks to its faculty and students to strengthen support for the conference and to make it more efficient, more visible, and more competitive for our students. A student applying to the conference must provide the name of a faculty sponsor. Faculty are asked to include some reference to the student research conference in their spring syllabi. Some may also choose to allow course credit for presenting a paper or for attending a conference session. Full-time and part-time faculty are encouraged to identify especially promising student research projects to the conference organizers. Faculty could help facilitate student participation by including a conference application on their Blackboard websites. College capstone courses are in an especially good position to create sessions at the conference and will bring attention to major research projects.

At this year's event, the college is making an effort to have the conference activities include CAS alumni and retired faculty. CAS departments are being asked to invite distinguished alumni and retired faculty in the Washington area and graduates of their programs to also act as moderators and judges. The college hopes the conference will promote close relations, and perhaps mentoring opportunities, between our students and AU alumni.

Volunteers are needed to assist the conference organizers in preparing photography, advertising, graphic design, and marketing before the conference, as well as technical and logistical support during the meeting.

The entire campus community is invited to attend the conference. Sessions will run throughout the day, and lunch is provided to all participants and audience members. Entry forms for submissions will be sent to department chairs. Applications for competing at the conference will also be available on the CAS website early in the spring semester. In order to be eligible, student applicants should send their forms to Lauren Tabbara, SRC Project Coordinator, College of Arts and Sciences, Battelle 159. **Applications must be received by the organizing committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2005.** For more information, contact Lauren Tabbara at ext. 2436, e-mail at tabbara@american.edu, or James Mooney, special assistant to the dean for academic affairs, at ext. 2416, or email at jmooney@american.edu.

SOE awarded \$6.4 million grant

The School of Education was awarded a \$6.4 million grant over five years from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance the teaching skills and content knowledge of teachers and to increase the academic achievement of students in Washington, D.C., public and public charter schools.

Faculty will work directly with representatives from a few D.C. public and public charter schools in a "think tank" format to analyze and test methods to connect career ladders---teacher contracts, evaluations, and compensation strategies---and the professional development plans of individuals and schools.

The grant builds on the extensive partnership that the School of Education has developed with the District of Columbia Public Schools and other organizations to offer programs such as DC Teaching Fellows, Teach for America, professional development institutes for DCPS teachers in American History, the Arts, Mathematics, and the Sciences.

Friends and family remember AU student Andy Burr

I last saw Andy Burr in our class on environmental justice, where he gave a presentation on activism against military tests and waste in Vieques, Puerto Rico. Andy's favorite band, Anti-Flag, had inspired his interest in this struggle. About a month later, Andy was killed. He left many friends and admirers. His family has started a website in his honor at Andyburr.com. You can visit this site to view photographs of Andy, to read tributes to him, or, if you like, to make a contribution in his name to an organization that helps young adults.

--Professor Brett Williams, anthropology

Department News

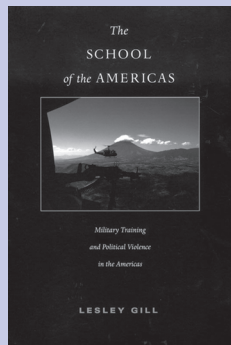
Anthropology

Joe Dent delivered the paper "Post hunter-forager worlds: The evidence from the Potomac river valley circa AD 1300-1600" at the Special Joint Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological and the Midwest Archaeological Conferences in St. Louis, Missouri (October 2004).

Lesley Gill's new book *The School of the Americas: Military Training and Political Violence in the Americas* (Duke University Press, 2004) was reviewed in the *Washington Post* book review section on Sunday, October 31, 2004. She gave two public lectures on her book at Smith College and Hampshire College and also spoke at a conference at Brown University entitled "Social movement responses to U.S. military bases" on October 23. Her book is currently being used as part of a fund-raising drive on New York City's listener supported radio station WBAI. Listeners who donate \$100 receive a copy of the book as a pledge-gift.

In her new book *The School of the Americas: Military Training and Political Violence in the Americas*, **Lesley Gill, anthropology**, offers an in-depth look into the infamous School of the Americas (SOA), its graduates, and its protestors. Located in Ft. Benning, Georgia, the SOA is the primary Spanish-language training facility in the U.S. which trains Latin American military personnel in leadership development, counter-drug operations, peace support operations, and disaster relief techniques. The school's association with controversy is tied to allegations of students being trained in torture techniques. According to Gill, some of the school's most notorious graduates including Manuel Noriega have been documented participating in torture, murder, and political repression.

Lesley Gill finds this pattern especially significant in light of the recent Abu Gharib prison scandal. "This scandal demonstrates that torture in the U.S. military is the rule not the exception," says Gill. Activists have been struggling to get the U.S. government to close down the school. Each November, the SOA Watch, an independent organization that seeks to close the school, holds a protest vigil at the school gates. This year's vigil took place November 19-21. Lesley Gill hopes her book and the vigil will encourage citizens to learn more about the SOA and be stirred to take on the issue.



Rhoda Kanaaneh received a Wenner-Gren Foundation grant to support a sabbatical year writing about Palestinian soldiers in the Israeli military. Her article "Boys or Men? Duped or 'Made'? Palestinian Soldiers in the Israeli Military" has been accepted for publication in the journal, *American Ethnologist*.

Bill Leap was awarded the Ruth Benedict Prize from the Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists for outstanding anthropological scholarship on a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered topic for the book *Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology* which he co-edited with Ellen Lewin (University of Illinois Press, 2002). His essay, "Language and women's place: Blueprinting studies of gay men's English" was included in *Language and Women's Place by Robin Lakoff: Text and Commentaries*, ed. Mary Bucholtz (Oxford University Press, 2004.)

Sabiyaha Prince published *Constructing Belonging: Class, Race and Harlem's Professional Workers* (Routledge, 2004). She is serving as a humanities scholar in residence for the Wolly Mammoth's Anacostia River Community Playbuilding Project, training project leaders and community members to gather oral history as a basis for constructing a play about social change in southeast Washington, D.C.

Rachel Watkins gave the keynote address at AU's 'Strengthening the Teaching of American History' conference on Saturday, October 30. The title of her talk was "Public anthropology and American history education."

Brett Williams's book *Debt for Sale* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Art

Kathe Hicks Albrecht served on the faculty of the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management at Duke University this past July.

Mary Garrard taught the art history segment of the National Endowment for the Humanities' National Summer Institute, "Worlds of the Renaissance" at Columbia University in New York, New York, on July 20-22, 2004. She gave the lecture, "Artemisia Gentileschi's Mary Magdalen in Seville: The Spanish Connection" at Georgetown University on September 23. She was one of four scholars invited to speak at the Symposium on the Life of Learning in Honor of Alessandra Comini at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, on October 2, 2004. In addition, she gave the 24th Annual Theodore L. Low Lecture entitled "Here's Looking at Me: Sofonisba Anguissola and the

Department News

Problem of the Woman Artist,” at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 24, 2004.

Biology

Cathy Schaeff co-authored the article “Biopsying southern right whales; their reactions and effects on reproduction” which appeared in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

Kiho Kim authored the following three articles, “The rise and fall of a 6 year coral-fungal epizootic” which appeared in the *American Naturalist* (2004) 164, 53-63; “The rising tide of ocean diseases: unsolved problems and research priorities which appeared in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (2004) 2: 375-383; and “Localized induction of a generalized response against

multiple biotic agents in Caribbean sea fan” which appeared in *Coral Reefs* (2004) 23: 397-405.

David Carlini published the article “Experimental reduction of codon bias in the drosophila adh gene results in decreased ethanol tolerance of adult flies,” *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, vol 17, July 2004. His book *Encyclopedia of Caves* which he coedited with William B. White was recently published by Academic\Elsevier Press.

Computer Science, Audio-Technology, Physics

Paul Oehlers’s film *Most High* won the Golden Starfish award at the Hamptons Independent Film awards. The film was reviewed in *Variety* magazine on October 26. In addition, he scored and coproduced the experimental short film *Character*, which was selected for the Video House film screening at Emerald City, Philadelphia in September.

Chemistry

Graduate student **Grace Gu** presented the poster “Method for assessing polymer branching in polyethylenimine by ESI-MS” at the August 2004 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia, PA. At the same meeting, **Susan V. M. Maharaj** presented the paper “Platinum and platinum species in explanted silicone gel breast prosthetic devices using IC-ICP-MS” and **Milena Shahu** presented the poster “Ab Initio Study of Excited Electronic State of C₃H₃ Radical.”

In June 2004, **Susan V. M. Maharaj** co-authored the paper “Lead isotope composition of Central American volcanoes: Influence of the Galapagos plume” published in *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*. In September 2004, her article “Platinum concentration in silicon breast implant material and capsular tissue by ICP-MS” appeared in *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*. Also in September 2004, **Maharaj** co-authored the paper “Identification and environmental significance of the organic compounds in water supplies associated with a Balkan endemic nephropathy region in Romania” which was published in the *Journal of Environmental Health Research*.

Economics

Robert Feinberg’s article “The measurement and effects of barriers to trade in basic telecommunication services: the role of negotiations” in the July 2004 issue of the *World Trade Review* (co-authored with Richard Brown).

New Faculty Profile: Sabiyha Prince, Anthropology

Educated at: City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School and University Center, Ph.D 2000

Teaching: The Roots of Racism and Culture: The Human Mirror

Primary interest: Ethnographic analysis of how minority communities respond to police misconduct in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. This field study will also involve researching the history of policing in Washington area with a particular focus on African Americans to



contextualize current events and conditions.

Currently reading: *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners and The Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* by Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker. I am also reading

Walter Mosley’s latest novel, *Little Scarlett*.

Favorite AU thing: Working with stimulating colleagues and engaging students with anthropology --- a field that is simultaneously old and new.

Spend spare time: Being my husband’s best friend, trying to understand my kids (3 and almost 13), dabbling in photography, hearing live music in DC, reading and being politically active - especially now.

Favorite food: Fried plantains (preferably served with curried chicken, rice and peas made with coconut milk, and a green salad).

Department News

Education

David Sadker discussed single-sex education on NPR in May. Sadker and **Karen Zittleman's** article "Test Anxiety—Are Students Failing Tests—Or Are Tests Failing Students?" appeared in *Phi Delta Kappan* this June.

History

Allan Lichtman's comments on President Reagan's death and legacy were printed in numerous national and international media, including the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Australian Financial Review*. Lichtman was a panelist speaking on the election for CAS Homecoming and Alumni Reunion. He appeared regularly on CNN as a commentator during the election.

Eileen Findlay presented the paper "Filming Migration: Visual Images of Operation Bootstrap Migrants and the Munocista Political Project," and commented on a panel entitled, "Haciendo Patria, Estudiando 'lo nativo': Etnografía Desde Puerto Rico" at the Puerto Rican Studies Association in October 2004.

Laura Kamoie received a summer stipend award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her work on *Irons in the Fire: The Business History of the Tayloe Family and Virginia's Gentry, 1700-1830*. In addition, she taught an introductory oral history workshop at the Oral History of the Mid-Atlantic Region's (OHMAR) Annual Workshop Day at the Library of Congress in October 2004. She also served as a commentator for the panel, "Oral History: Race, Sexuality, Religion," at the annual DC Historical Studies Conference as well as the program chair

for the conference. Kamoie also received a book contract for *Images of America: Adams Morgan* which will be published by Arcadia Press. She was also nominated to the board of the Oral History Association of the Mid-Atlantic Region and was the featured speaker at CTE's Noontime Conversation for Faculty where she presented the paper "The Synergy of Academics and Community Engagement: Service-Learning Practices at American University."

Ira Klein's article "Medicine and Culture in Britain and India" was published in the *Journal of Indian History*. Spring 2004.

Peter Kuznick was interviewed in a *Popular Science* article comparing scientists' heightened political activism in 2004 with scientists' activism at previous times in the 20th century. His comments also appeared in a *New York Times* piece placing current scientists' political effort within the broader context of the 20th century politicization of scientists. Finally, he was interviewed by the *New York Times* about approaches to warfare and violence in Oliver Stone's movies for an article about a major battle scene in the film *Alexander*.

J. Samuel Walker's review "Three Mile Island: A Nuclear Crisis in Historical Perspective" appeared in *History: Reviews of New Books*. Fall 2004.

Andrew Lewis' article "Swallow Submersion and American Natural History Practice" was accepted for publication in *William and Mary Quarterly*.

Eric Lohr served as a consultant for Intermedia and Radio Free Europe on their Russian language news programming.

Pamela Nadell presented the lecture "Then, Now, & Always.....: Celebrating Women's Contributions to Jewish Life through the Years," for the Women's Affinity Network of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. She was quoted in The Washington Post's article "Displays of Perseverance; Library of Congress Exhibit Celebrates Three Centuries of U.S. Jewish Heritage" and quoted in the *U.S. News and World Report* article "Coming to America: Fleeing religious persecution, the first Jews arrived in the Colonies 350 years ago." She also gave the lecture "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America," to the Temple Beth Ami in Rockville, Maryland, and the Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C. Her article "The Impulse to Jewish Women's History at the Tercentenary" appeared in *Jewish Quarterly Review*, fall 2004.

New Faculty Profile: Maria Heracleous, Economics

Educated at: London School of Economics

and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Teaching this fall:

Graduate Econometrics, Principles of Macroeconomics

Primary research

interest: Theoretical and applied Econometrics, Financial

Econometrics and applied Macroeconomics

Currently reading: *A Beautiful Mind* by Sylvia Nasar

Favorite thing about AU so far: Interacting with students and faculty

Spend spare time doing: Exploring Washington, D.C.

Favorite food: Chocolate



Department News

Cambridge University Press will publish an expanded edition of **Richard Breitman's** *U. S. Intelligence and the Nazis* in January 2005.

Language & Foreign Studies

Naomi Baron was interviewed by the *Sunday Times of London* on instant messaging in May. She presented the paper "Issues in College Student Use of IM," at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association in New Orleans in May.

Consuelo Hernandez lectured on the poetics and poetry of Alvaro Mutis at the Haskell Center of the Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Hope Doyle D'Ambrosio presented the paper "Pragmática, sociolingüística y pedagogía de los pronombres de tratamiento en lengua española" at the *Estudios de Lingüística Aplicada* # 29, UNAM, Mexico, July 2004.

Brock Brady presented the paper "Principles and Practice of Teaching Pronunciation" at the Virginia English Literacy Institute.

Sachiko Aoshima's article "Processing filler-gap dependencies in a head-final language" appeared in the *Journal of Memory and Language*, 51: 23–54.

Paul Cote coauthored *Winter Passage*, published by Behler Publications in 2004.

Literature

Richard Sha presented the paper "Romantic Sexual Liberation" at the Wordsworth Conference in Grasmere, England.

An updated and expanded version of **Betty Bennett's** book *British War Poetry in the Age of Romanticism: 1793–1815* was published on-line at Romantic Circles, www.rc.umd.edu/editions/warpoetry/

Performing Arts

Caleen Jennings was featured in a *Washington Post* article on the opening of her two plays, *A Monday Night with Bess and Tess* and *Pumping Josey: Life and Death in Suburbia*.

Philosophy/Religion

Jeffrey Reiman's essay, "Why the Death Penalty Should be Abolished in the United States" (excerpted from his coauthored book, *The Death Penalty: For and Against*) was published in the

anthology *Analyzing Moral Issues*, third edition, 2004. He also coauthored the pamphlet, "A tale of two criminals: We're tougher on corporate criminals, but they still don't get what they deserve," to accompany the seventh edition of his book *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison*, Allyn and Bacon, summer 2004.

Charley Hardwick, emeritus, presented the paper "Betweenness, Melancholy, and Ecstasy: Questions for Robert Corrington's Ecstatic Naturalism," at a seminar on the thought of Robert Corrington at the Highlands Institute of American Religious and Philosophical Thought in Highlands, North Carolina.

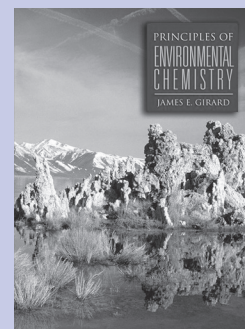
Psychology

Bryan Fantie presented the paper "Nonverbal Learning Disabilities from a Neuropsychological Perspective," at the 31st Annual Conference of the Spina Bifida Association of America in Crystal City, Virginia, last June.

Sociology

Bette J. Dickerson was appointed to a three-year term on the Cultural Race and Ethnic Minorities Committee for the Southern Sociological Society. In addition, she was appointed to a three-year term on the DuBois-Johnson-Frazier Award Selection Committee that honors outstanding work done in the tradition of the three scholars for whom it is named. She was quoted in the article "How to Survive Infidelity in Marriage," which appeared in the June 14 edition of *JET*. At the American Sociological Association annual meeting this past August, she conducted the workshop "How to Talk in Public about Gender and Race Politics Without Getting Burned."

The Principles of Environmental Chemistry, a textbook by **Jim Girard, chemistry**, was recently published by Jones and Bartlett. The book is the only chemistry textbook that stresses the analytical techniques and methods used by the EPA to measure pollutants and determine standards. "I want students to understand what the standard is and to determine what an acceptable method of measuring our environment is. When they understand this, they can better understand the chemical composition of an unpolluted environment," says Girard.



CAS ALUMNI AND CAREER CORNER

CAS alumni take students to work

On October 12, AU sophomore Camille Castro experienced an eye-opening day with the second grade at D.C.'s Phoebe Hearst Elementary School. Castro, who is considering becoming an elementary school teacher, participated in Take a Student Work Day, sponsored by the CAS alumni chapter. The program which connected alumni with CAS students offered students a chance to shadow alumni at work and gain a first-hand look at potential professions. AU students spent the day in locations everywhere from the U.S. State Department to a residential home for troubled teens. For sophomore Camille Castro, the experience was invaluable. "I got a brutally honest look at teaching," she says. Her mentor Lauren Kart, BA' 98, MA' 00, brought her to a faculty staff meeting where teachers talked honestly to her about the pros and cons of teaching. "I had some teachers who flat out told me 'Don't do it. You'll burn out.' Others said it was the best job they have ever had. One thing is for sure; it gave me a lot to think about."

AU alumna joins CAS development staff

AU alumna, Sarah Green, MA/CAS/Arts Management 1999, recently joined the CAS Office of Development and Alumni Programs as assistant director. Sarah comes back to AU after serving as Assistant Director of Development for the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to her position at U of I, she worked at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts and DePauw University School of Music. Sarah also received a Bachelor of Music in music/business from DePauw University and an MBA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "I am thrilled to be back at AU working in the College of Arts and Sciences. I look forward to working to grow CAS alumni programs and assist with the campaign for *AnewAU*."

To make your gift, or to stay abreast of CAS alumni events, please visit the alumni website, <http://alumni.american.edu/>.



From left: Patricia O'Connor-Finn, Virginia Hawke, and Margaret Safrit attended the Dean's Emeriti Tea on September 28.

Message from development and alumni programs

Thanks to the generosity of many alumni, friends, staff, and faculty, CAS has seen an increase in the number and amount of gifts given in support of departments, programs, and institutes. The number of alumni participating in our events continues to be on the rise as well. The Campaign for *AnewAU* is having a positive effect on the future of CAS. Visible progress of the campaign is evident in the Dr. Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen Arts Center which is slated to open in the fall of 2005. Gifts in support of the building along with others like those highlighted in the last issue of *Connections* from the Abensohns and Ann Robyn Mathias make a significant impact on the college.

Many other individuals continue to step forward to make their own commitment to the college. One of my greatest pleasures is getting to know and work with our esteemed faculty. I am deeply moved by faculty members who give of themselves, not only in the classrooms, but through their own financial support. For example:

- Haig Mardirosian, associate dean of Academic Affairs and DPA faculty member, made a commitment to help with restoration of the small organ in the music program.
- Susan Maharaj, assistant professor of chemistry, established a restricted fund to assist students with grants for the purchase of textbooks.
- Roger Brown, professor emeritus of history, funded awards to Ph.D students to help with completion of their dissertations.

Others have chosen to give to departmental funds that honor the achievements of some of their faculty colleagues lost in recent years – Nina Roscher, Steve Grebe, and Leon Clark. Gifts from faculty along with those of our alumni and friends to the Dean's Discretionary Fund have allowed the college to provide seed money for faculty research projects, offer assistance for the development of grant proposals, support summer research by faculty and students, and sponsor special events such as the DPA First Friday Series. Every department has at least one fund that supports its most important activities; and every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Please consider joining with faculty, staff, alumni, and friends like those mentioned above to help us continue to build upon our success through participating in alumni programming or by making your gift to CAS.

---Katie Stratton, CAS Director of Development

CAS Alumni Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

6:30 p.m., Battelle-Tompkins, Atrium

Join the governing body and leaders of CAS' alumni chapter to plan events and projects for the 2004-2005 academic year. For more information, contact Sarah Green at 202-885-2435 or sgreen@american.edu

CAS Graduate and Undergraduate Councils foster communication between students and faculty

Graduate council celebrates 2nd anniversary

The CAS Graduate Student Council at American University addresses student concerns and interests, using its members to speak to their departments and providing a system of communication within the student body and the university as a whole. The CAS GSC celebrates its second birthday this year.

The council has allocated budgets to each department and within the CAS GSC to develop and promote lecture series, speakers, social events, and a graduate student colloquium. It is also creating a CAS student journal that will give students an opportunity to publish their research and otherwise reach the whole campus community.

The council offers many opportunities for volunteer work such as ongoing volunteer projects to aid people in need in the surrounding neighborhoods. A specific goal this year is to raise money through student socials to buy toys and other needed items for patients at Children's Hospital. If you have suggestions for us, would like to take part in a committee aimed at promoting the interests and policies of CAS, want to become a representative on the Council, or wish to pass on your special concerns, academic or social, please let us know.

With a bi-weekly email newspaper, we will keep students, faculty, and staff aware of our activities. Each department also has a suggestion box, which we urge students to utilize. For further details and for updates throughout the year, visit our website: <http://www.aucasgsc.org/> or contact the executive officers at casgsc@american.edu.

—Christine Boyd, president of CAS Graduate Student Council

Undergraduate Student Council update

The Undergraduate Student Council provides students with an opportunity to organize academic activities and work with the faculty and administration to create an identity among the students that stretches beyond their majors so students gain a recognition that academic disciplines speak to one another: that a knowledge of history enriches the background of a student of politics; that grace and clarity in the use of English is vital to the accuracy of a paper in one of the sciences; and that a study of a foreign language allows American students to see what is distinctive about the way their own language expresses ideas. Each CAS department selects a student representative.

The council is planning a series of academic and social gatherings so students can exchange their views and experiences, learn something about potential research opportunities, and meet informally with faculty, distinguished guest speakers, and college alumni.

Council members also sit with faculty on boards that hear cases involving academic integrity. Students are needed to make the charged students aware that the system is not stacked against them. Service on the boards also allows students to inform other students about the central place of integrity in scholarly work and to be able to explain in detail exactly what constitutes plagiarism.

Currently the council is working with the Dean's office to coordinate financial support for a group of five students who will be attending a conference of the American Medical Student Association at Harvard University. On December 13, the council hosted a breakfast just before study days. Please contact our office in Battelle T07, ext. 2687 if you are interested in representing your school, department, or discipline as a member of the CAS Undergraduate Student Council.

—Zee Elovich, president of CAS Undergraduate Student Council



The Graduate Student Council presented Dean Kay Mussell with a painting from the art department to express their appreciation and gratitude for her support. The painting, "Untitled," was created by Madeline Adams, a 2004 MEA graduate of CAS. From left to right: Zee Elovich, President, Undergraduate Student Council; Christine Boyd, President, Graduate Student Council; Dean Kay Mussell; Associate Dean Thomas Husted.

Q &A with Jack Rasmussen, four-time AU alum and new director of the art gallery at the Katzen

You have four degrees from AU. What is it about this place that keeps you coming back?

I've found AU to be a very friendly place... ever since I first walked into the Art Department 30 years ago and Glenna Haynie knew my name before I could open my mouth. AU has also been consistently open to new ideas and interests that overlapped traditional academic boundaries. I have always been able to follow my own path, but with the encouragement and active collaboration of a wonderful faculty.

Tell us a little bit about your career journey. You earned your PhD in anthropological linguistics. How did you end up in the art world?

Well... I started out in the art world and never left. It just happened that after many years in the Departments of Art and Performing Arts, anthropology was the discipline that gave me the best tools to pursue my developing interest in what artworks were revealing about the cultures that produced them.

The Katzen Galleries will be opening in a city with great world-class museums and small, intimate galleries. How do you see the Katzen fitting in?

The Katzen consists of small, intimate spaces and breathtaking, soaring expanses. Underneath it all, a 550-car parking lot! AU has the raw material necessary to compete in the world of art and ideas. We will take it to them!

What kinds of exhibits will we be likely to see in the Katzen Galleries? Can you tease our readers with a few hints at what they'll see in the opening exhibitions?

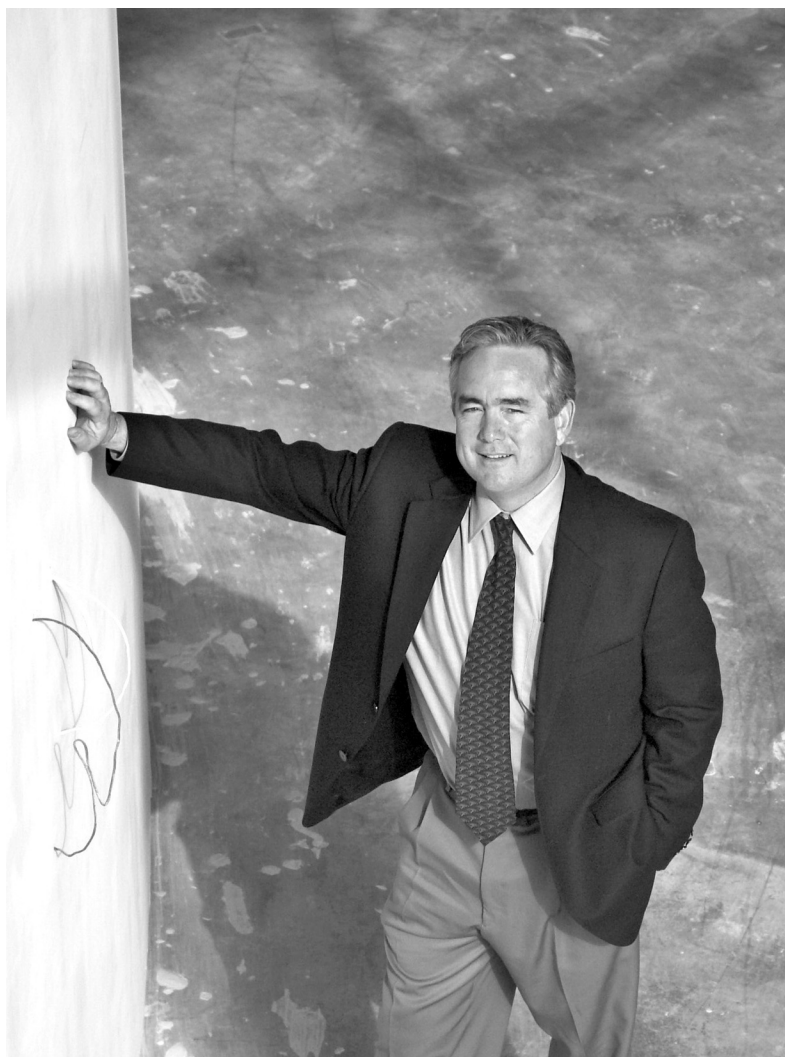
I am toying with an idea for the opening exhibition... artists who might interpret the building rather than expect the building to be a neutral backdrop for their art. Could be fun.

What kind of niche do you think we should carve out in the D.C. arts community?

The DC arts community needs a center, a professional, world-class space that celebrates the talent living here, in our midst. That doesn't mean we won't reach outside DC for the best we can find in the world. But it does mean we don't need to look elsewhere for validation. We have the goods right here.

Have you had a chance to take a look at the Katzen Collection? What do you think are the true treasures? What about the Watkins Collection?

I have seen a list of works in the Katzen Collection, so I know there are plenty of pieces with exceptional aesthetic and educational value. I am intimately familiar with the Watkins Collection. It is a great resource and a rich trove of outstanding twentieth-century art. I especially love a little painting by Karl Knaths.



What would you like to see us acquire more of? A sense of humor.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

For the last two years I have been singing in an a cappella Doo-Wop group in San Francisco, as well as in the Napa Valley Chorale.

What books are you reading right now?

Super-Cannes by J. G. Ballard

This week, what is your favorite film? "Criminal"

Favorite foods? Tacos and artichokes.

Your hero in the art world? Wally Hedrick

photo by Matthew Billings

Faculty Spotlight: David Culver

David Culver spent six weeks this summer delving into sinkholes, sinking streams, and hard to reach caverns in the wilds of West Virginia. His mission: to take an inventory of all



the invertebrates—tiny cave clams, delicate shrimp, and rare spiders—that make their homes deep in the caves of West Virginia. His data will be collected and placed into an international database that will be used to map the existence of cave dwellers around the world and help provide valuable data for scientists to examine patterns of species reproduction and climate change. Culver has been studying

caves and the obscure species of beetles, salamanders, and other organisms that live in them for more than 30 years. He explored his first cave as an undergraduate while conducting a biology research project and was hooked. “Every time you get into a cave, you find yourself face to face with a new possibility—a new discovery,” he says. Not all the discoveries are pleasant—like the nest of Turkey Vulture chicks and their angry mother that he found in a cave this summer. “In a tight space like that you don’t want to take any chances. You just retreat as fast as you can.” Culver also faces other challenges—like battling claustrophobia—while out in the field. “As I have grown older, I have to contend with claustrophobia. But now, it’s mostly gone.” Culver conquered his fear by crawling into what he calls “tight squeezes” and staying there until he calmed down.

This summer Culver found himself in plenty of tight places. Along with a team of other scientists and graduate students, he spent his days crawling on his belly into small recesses and rappelling down ropes into 70 foot vertical drops. His nights were spent in a primitive field station—a house with no telephone or computer connection. “I like living like that. Without any outside distractions, you gain a great focus and energy to get the job done.” Culver and his fellow teammates were able to complete the survey and compile their data. Culver will travel to Paris this December to work on a comparative study and input the data into an international database. There are more caves in Culver’s future. His project, an international effort funded in part by the Cave Conservancy, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris, France, lasts another two years, and Culver has signed on to continue his search for rare salamanders and other organisms that make their homes in the dark recesses of the earth.

CAS EVENTS

Jan. 10 – Feb. 5 — Watkins Exhibit: Deborah Kahn

Reception: TBA

Professor Deborah Kahn was named a 2004-2005 Guggenheim Fellow in the Visual Arts. She will exhibit recent paintings. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/art/watkins/gallery/Gallery.htm

January 13 — Professional Science Master’s Lecture

6:45 p.m., room 245, Mary Graydon Center

Robert Clerman, vice president of Corporate Initiatives for Mitretek Systems, will present the lecture “The Multidisciplinary leader: Jack of all Trades, master of what?” Clerman’s lecture will address the attributes of being multidisciplinary in today’s specialist world. For more information, email: psm@american.edu.

January 26 — Visiting Writers Series: Faculty Benefit Reading

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion

Our annual reading of poetry and fiction by members of American University’s creative writing faculty. Proceeds from this reading will be donated to Food & Friends, a local nonprofit organization providing meals to people with HIV and AIDS. Suggested donation at the door is \$5.

January 29 — Visiting Writers Series: Poetry and Psychoanalysis

co-sponsored by the MFA Program in Creative Writing

1:30-5:00 p.m., Ward 1 Auditorium, Ward Building

This conference focuses on how emotional life can block poetry and how deep psychoanalytic understanding can release the poetic mind. For registration information, please contact Dr. Nancy Goodman at 301-951-3440 or Dr. Elizabeth Fritsch at 703-356-4710 or visit www.NYFreudian.org/PoetryandPsychotherapy. Registration fee: \$50. Free to AU students.

February 11-13 — 12th Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference

The Lavender Languages and Linguistic conference, sponsored by American Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, and AU-GLBTA, offers three days of workshops, panel discussions, presentations, and conversation about language—broadly defined, in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer life. This year’s conference features a plenary panel discussion of *Marginal Lives*, *Marginal Sexualities*, and presentations on the lesbian erotic language, urban gay geographies, queer messages in *Sex in the City*, language and sexuality in Biblical translation, and more. Registration is \$10 for employed persons, and \$5 for students, those between jobs, and others with limited income. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, visit www.american.edu/cas/anthro/lavenderlanguages

Feb. 14 – March 5 — Watkins Exhibit: Olive Ahyens

Reception: TBA

New York painter Olive Ahyens, temporary faculty appointment in the studio program, will exhibit paintings. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/art/watkins/gallery/Gallery.htm

February 16 — Visiting Writers Series: Leslie Pietrzyk

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion
A 1985 MFA graduate, Leslie Pietrzyk, is the author of *Pears on a Willow Tree*, a novel about four generations of Polish-American women.

February 28 — Bishop C.C. McCabe Lecture

7:00 p.m., Atrium, Battelle-Tompkins
Lisa Farrington will discuss her book *Creating Their Own Image - A History of African-American Women Artists*. Her book explores how, for centuries, African-American women artists have created an alternative vision of how women of color are represented in American culture. For more information, contact sgreen@american.edu

March 17- 23 — Watkins Exhibit: Student Exhibitions

Design Expo. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/art/watkins/gallery/Gallery.htm

March 24 – 30 — Watkins Exhibit: Student Exhibitions

Undergraduate exhibition. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/art/watkins/gallery/Gallery.htm

March 31 – April 6 — Watkins Exhibit: Student Exhibitions

First Year MFA group show. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/art/watkins/gallery/Gallery.htm

March 23 — Visiting Writers Series: Poetry Reading with Gail Mazur

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion
Gail Mazur is the author of *The Pose of Happiness*, *The Common*, and *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, which was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award in Poetry.

April 6— Visiting Writers Series: Leila Aboulela

8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Board Room (sixth floor), Butler Pavilion
Sudanese writer Leila Aboulela's first novel, *The Translator*, was published to critical claim in 1999 and was a finalist for both the Orange Prize 2000 and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards 2001. Aboulela currently lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. This reading marks her first appearance in the United States.



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