



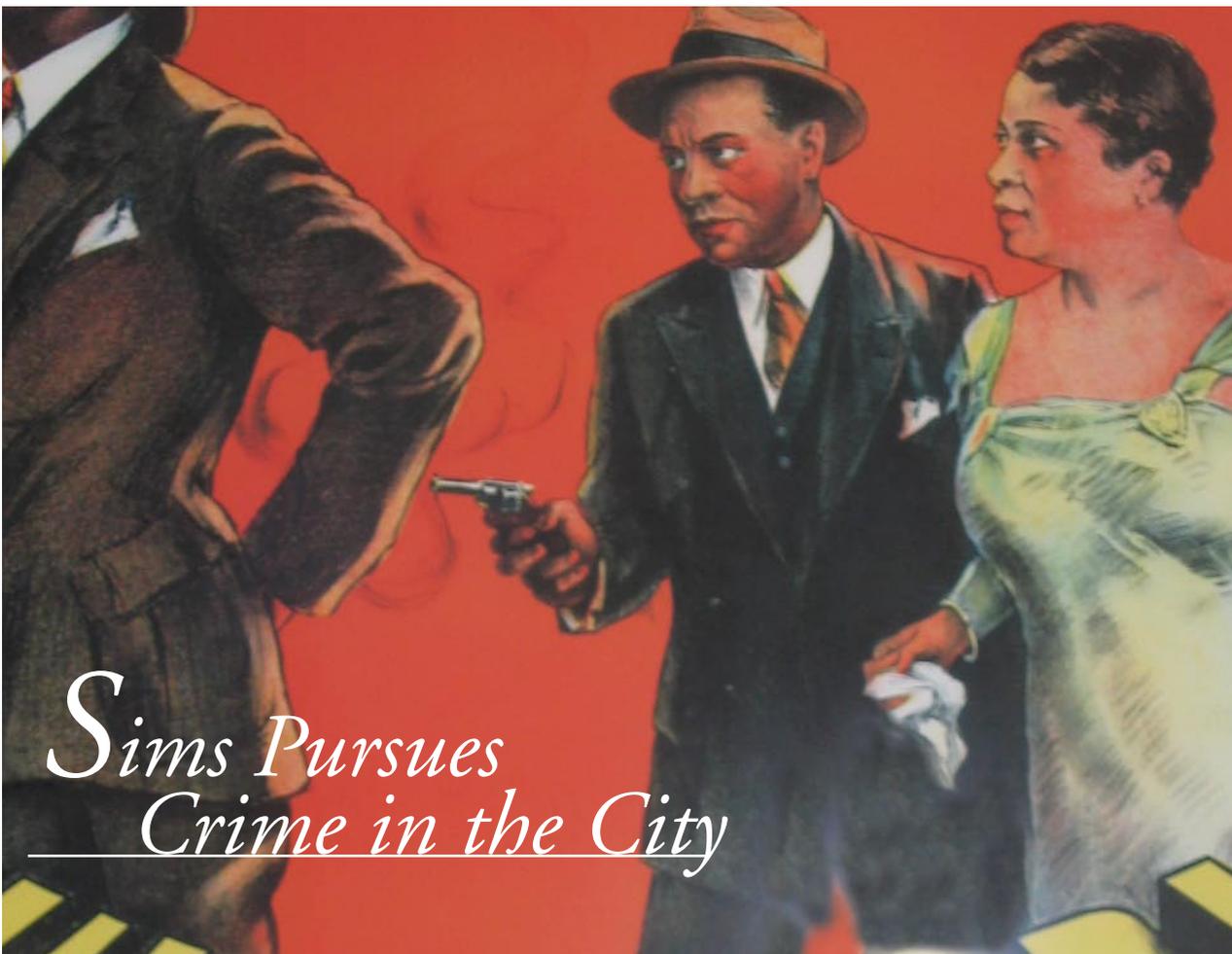
CAS

connections



Photo: Jeff Watts

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Detail from poster for 1937 film *Underworld*

Sims Pursues *Crime in the City*



Photo: Anne Bentzel

Kimberly Sims, assistant professor of history, spends much of her time immersed in the shadowy confines of New York City's criminal past. Her research focuses on the link between race and crime during the first half of the twentieth century. "It is a fascinating era," she says, "a time when desperately poor immigrants and southern blacks poured

into northeastern cities, a time when vigilante crime-fighting societies sprang up across the country, and when new scientific disciplines seemed to provide objective proof that there was a causal relationship between race and criminality."

Sims scours such archival sources as the records of New York City's Urban League and the police department, mayoral papers, and newspapers to explore how Americans' ideas about race and crime have developed and changed. Her research is going into a book, tentatively titled *Blacks, Italians, and the Politics of Crime in New York City, 1900-1945*.

The subject first captured Sims' interest in graduate school. She was researching the assassination of President McKinley when she stumbled across the testimony of a guard who was assigned to the president the day he was assassinated. The guard claimed he did not notice the blond, blue-eyed man who actually fired the gun because he was distracted by, in his words, a "suspicious-looking, swarthy Italian man with a large mustache." Meanwhile, a now-famous black man named James Parker tackled the real assassin, Leo Czologosz, before he could fire a third shot at the president. "It made me stop and think about historical relationships between race, crime, and politics," said Sims.

"I chose New York because the city is a great laboratory. The city is watched by the world. For much of its modern history, it has had a reputation as a hotbed of criminal activity and as a place people of all races called home."

Her research examines familiar stereotypes. "Blacks and immigrants from southern Italy," she says, "were stereotyped in some similar ways at the beginning of the century—as racially inferior, violent, reckless, and sexually deviant. These perceptions began to diverge after World War I. My work aims to uncover and explain the reasons why."

SHAKESPEARE AT AU

This spring, American University joins the D.C.-wide *Shakespeare in Washington* celebration with several productions written or inspired by the Bard. Come enjoy the final two of the series:



Elsewhere in Elsinore

Written and directed by Caleen Sinnette Jennings
March 27-31
Katzen Arts Center, Studio Theatre

Shakespeare in Song: Choral Setting of the Bard

AU Chamber Singers
Daniel Abraham, conductor
April 14, 15
Katzen Arts Center,
Abramson Family Recital Hall

For more information, see **What's Happening** (pp. 2-3) or visit www.american.edu/cas/shakespeare/.





Photo: Anne Bentzel

IN ALL HONESTY

American University places academic integrity at the heart of intellectual life. To reinforce this philosophy, AU has established a code of standards and regulations. Overseeing the effort at the College of Arts and Sciences is Michael Manson. A member of the literature department since 2000, he was appointed academic affairs administrator for CAS in fall 2006.

Manson's primary concern is to adjudicate violations of the university's Academic Integrity Code, which defines standards for conduct, rights and responsibilities of members of the community, and procedures for handling allegations of dishonesty. He has also tackled issues concerning curriculum and assessment and worked on the Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference.

Manson is participating in three ongoing initiatives: The first focuses on revising the academic code. The second involves testing a system called Turnitin, which helps professors match text and identify plagiarized material. (Twenty-one professors, including nine from CAS, began using the system on a trial basis last fall.) The third explores ways to apply the code as a teaching tool to guide students in their academic endeavors.

Nothing Lost in Translation

Cast of *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* Photo: Jeff Watts

In December, a month after the last curtain call for their production of *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, the cast of 18 students from American University's Department of Performing Arts took their show on the road—all the way to Yaroslavl, Russia, to participate in the Seventh International Theatre Festival. It was not only the first AU theatre production to tour outside the Washington, D.C., area but it was also the first time a U.S. university had participated in the festival, which takes place at the historic Volkov Theatre.

The dark and muscular musical was adapted by Nagle Jackson and Robert Sprayberry from a 1930s novel and an Oscar-winning 1969 film starring Jane Fonda. Its setting is quintessentially American: a Depression-era dance marathon in Venice, California, where couples compete for weeks or months to win \$2,000, awarded to the last pair on the floor. But the plot and the music are universal. Expressed through action and

emotion, the meaning was conveyed to the Russian audience in English with simultaneous translation by AU student Yuliya Iskhakova.

During their visit, AU students engaged with their Russian counterparts in cultural-exchange workshops at the Volkov's prestigious drama academy. Activities included theatrical presentations, a festival performance, a recital, and a tour of the historic city of Rostov.

The exchange originated with a 2004 visit by the Volkov Theatre Company to Washington, D.C., where they performed at AU's Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre. Gail Humphries Mardirosian, department chair and show director, subsequently received an invitation to bring an AU production to the festival. An ongoing exchange program, Project ARTS (American-Russian Theatre Symposia), has been established, with a schedule of events planned through 2008.

What's Happening

MARCH 23–24

Interrogating Diversity Conference

Noon. Battelle-Tompkins Atrium

The Department of Anthropology presents a two-day multidisciplinary forum on issues of contemporary surveillance and policing. Scholars from many fields of study will discuss problematizing surveillance, policing, and positioning, as well as aspects of U.S. society and other topics. For more information, visit www.american.edu/anthro/indiv/.

MARCH 27–31

Elsewhere in Elsinore

March 27, 29, 30: 8 p.m.; March 28: 10:30 a.m.; March 31: 2 p.m.

Katzen Arts Center, Studio Theater

What are the women of Elsinore Castle doing while Hamlet plots revenge? *Elsewhere in Elsinore*, a new verse play by Caleen Sinnette Jennings, explores Ophelia's and Gertrude's motives and introduces us to other castle residents. Shakespeare's most famous play assumes new dimensions as we meet the maids, wives, and girlfriends. Tickets available online at www.american.tix.com. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5

MARCH 27–MAY 13

Student Shows

American University Museum

Undergraduate Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, and Design:

March 27–April 1

First-year MFA Candidates: April 4–15

MFA Thesis Exhibition: April 18–May 13

Admission is free.

MARCH 28

Open Arts Night

6–9 p.m. American University Museum

An after-hours open-mic-and-gallery night at the museum. If you are a musician, poet, or otherwise talented, come prepared to perform (piano is available). Visual artists are invited to bring a piece to display. Admission is free.

MARCH 31

2007 Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference

9 a.m.–5 p.m. Battelle-Tompkins Atrium

Now in its 17th year, this annual conference provides a competitive forum for CAS undergraduate and graduate students to present their original creative work. The conference is funded in part by a generous grant from Robyn Rafferty Mathias, an AU trustee and alumna. For information, including entry forms, visit www.american.edu/cas/src.cfm.

MARCH 31–APRIL 1

AU Jazz Ensemble: La Noche Caliente—A Hot Night for Jazz

March 31: 8 p.m.; April 1: 3 p.m.

Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall

Featuring the AU Jazz Ensemble and George Washington University's Latin Jazz Ensemble and directed by William Smith. Experience some hot jazz that is sure to warm you up for spring. Tickets available online at www.american.tix.com. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5

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

Accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

On a new CD released in December, **Daniel E. Abraham (performing arts)** conducts George Frideric Handel's *Alexander's Feast or The Power of Music* HWV 75; and J. S. Bach's *Alles mit Gott und nichts ohn' ihn* BWV 1127. Performers include the Bach Sinfonia; Handel Choir of Baltimore; Amanda Balestrieri, soprano; Scot Cameron, tenor; and David Newman, baritone. Dorian Records (International): DSL-20604.

Lynne Arneson and **Stephen MacAvoy (biology)**, with E. Bassett, published "Correlation of Metabolism with Tissue Carbon and Nitrogen Turnover in Small Mammals," *Oecologia* (November 2006). Also with Bassett, they published "Metabolic protein replacement drives tissue turnover in adult mice," *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, 84 (July 2006).

Robert Beisner (professor emeritus, history) published *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War* (Oxford University Press, August 2006).

Consuelo Hernandez (language and foreign studies) published *Poems from Debris and Ashes—Poemas de escombros y cenizas* (Xlibris, 2006).

Charley Hardwick (professor emeritus, philosophy and religion) published "Metaphysical Priority and Physicalist Naturalism in Robert Corrington's Ordinal Metaphysics," *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* (May–September 2006).

Alan Kraut (history) coedited *American Immigration and Ethnicity: A Reader* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

Eric Lohr (history) edited *The Papers of Grigori Nikolaevich Trubetsko*, published in the Online Archive of California, Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He also published "The Ideal Citizen and Real Subject in Late Imperial Russia," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 7, no. 2 (Spring 2006). Another article, "War and Revolution, 1914–1917," appeared in *The Cambridge History of Russia: Volume II Imperial Russia, 1689–1917* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Celine-Marie Pascale (sociology) published *Making Sense of Race, Class and Gender: Commonsense, Power and Privilege in the U.S.* (Routledge, December 2006).

Last summer, **Jeffrey Reiman (philosophy and religion)** published the eighth edition of *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class and Criminal Justice*.

An essay by **David Sadker** and **Karen Zittleman (SETH)**, "Gender Bias: From Colonial America to Today's Classroom," was published in *Multicultural Education: Issues and Perspectives* (Wiley, 2007).

David Sadker (SETH) and Ellen Silber coedited *Gender in the Classroom: Foundations, Methods, and Strategies across the Curriculum* (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2006).

Jurg Siegenthaler (professor emeritus, sociology) is publishing a monthly column, "View from America," for the Swiss Internet news service, Swissinfo.org.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

In April, **Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies)** lectured at the Pordenone, Udine, and Gorizia campuses of Italy's University of Udine. She gave the keynote address, "Beyond the Age of the iPod: Reading and Writing the Future," at the Loft Literary Center's conference in Minneapolis. She was also keynote speaker at the President's Day Convocation at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y.

Brock Brady (language and foreign studies) addressed the State Department's University Administration and Exchanges Visitor Project in June about trends in ESL teacher-education programs. He also spoke at the International Reading Association's conference on D.C. public schools. As a State Department ESL specialist, he presented a lecture series in South Africa, where he also delivered the keynote speech at the 20th anniversary conference of the South African Educators Teaching Institute and consulted at the University of Limpopo. In October, he gave a talk at Catholic University's annual WATESOL Fall Convention.

Joan Gero (anthropology) in April presented "Belles and Beaus of Recuay: An Analysis of Gender and Politics in the Iconography of Ancient Peru" at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. This was in conjunction with the exhibit "Divine and Human: Women in the Art of Pre-Columbia America." She also lectured on "Sex Pots of Ancient Peru: The role of Cultural Context in Sexual Activity" at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

In April, **Robert Goler (performing arts)** delivered a paper, "Passing the Torch: Succession Planning for Museums," at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Boston.

In April, **Consuelo Hernandez (language and foreign studies)** read from her collection *Poems from Debris and Ashes* and signed books at the Folger Shakespeare Library's Haskell Center. She also read from *Maratón de la Poesía* at Casa de la Luna.

Eric Lohr (history) was a visiting scholar in May and June at L'École des Haute Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. He delivered two lectures there and one at L'Institut National d'Études Démographiques on the history of Russian citizenship and nationality.

In June, **Richard McCann (literature)** led a fiction workshop at the 66th annual Indiana University Writers' Conference.

Flavia Ramos (SETH) participated in two panels—"Challenges, Opportunities, and Trends in International, Comparative, and Intercultural Education Programs in the United States" and "The Agency and Structure of Women's Education, Part II: Asia, Europe, and North America"—at the 50th annual meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society in Hawaii.

In April, **Jeffrey Reiman (philosophy and religion)** presented "Being Fair to Future People" at the University of Maryland's third annual Evelyn Barker Memorial Lecture.

Richard Sha (literature) delivered a lecture, "Towards a Physiology of the Romantic Imagination," at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism.

At the University of Syracuse's November conference, "Feminism and War," **Lucinda Peach (philosophy and religion)** presented "Liberating Women through Abolition: The U.S. War on Sex Trafficking and Prostitution" with graduate students **Alison Long** and **Kristin Rawls**.

In April, **Russell Stone (sociology)** lectured on gender in the Palestine elections at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba. He also presented "Sociology and Social Anthropology: Political Science and International Relations and Communications" at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's annual meeting of the Israel Political Science Association.

In May, **Howard Wachtel (economics)** presented "Euro-Dollar Competition as Reserve Currencies" at the international conference "Political Economy of Currency Unions in a Globalizing World," held at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Josette Wisman (language and foreign studies) gave a talk on writer Christine de Pizan at Chapters bookstore in Washington, D.C.

In February 2006, **Brian Yates (psychology)** presented a paper, "Doing and Using Cost-effectiveness and Cost-benefit Analysis," at the 19th annual research conference, "A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base," in Tampa.

IN THE MEDIA

In September, the *Washington Times* interviewed **Anthony Ahrens (psychology)** about the correlation between expensive homes and happiness.

Naomi Baron (language and foreign studies) was interviewed in August by *Technology Daily* about the language style that politicians use in their e-mail, blogs, and Web pages. In September, she spoke to the *Washington Times* about ways in which computer-mediated communication is affecting face-to-face interaction.

THROUGH APRIL 13

Robert Brady: Sculpture 1989-2005

American University Museum

West Coast artist Robert Brady has been creating wooden sculptures for 16 years. Complex forms pared down to their essence, they are unique for their quiet simplicity and poeticism. This traveling exhibit was organized by the Palo Alto Art Center. Admission is free.

APRIL 14–15

Shakespeare in Song: Choral Settings of the Bard

American University Chamber Singers

April 14: 8 p.m.; April 15: 3 p.m.

Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall

Join the AU Chamber Singers in an evening of music inspired by the words of William Shakespeare. The program features the music of Thomas Morley, Dominic Argento, Amy Beach, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Emma Lou Diemer, George Shearing, and many others. Tickets available online at www.american.tix.com. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, students \$5

THROUGH APRIL 15

Richard Cleaver: Family Fictions

American University Museum

Sculptor Richard Cleaver creates hand-built ceramic objects covered with unusual details, such as painted imagery, gilding, pearls, and beads. In his pieces, he typically incorporates clues to a hidden story or scene. Admission is free.

THROUGH APRIL 15

Stanley Lewis

American University Museum

This exhibit is a retrospective of the work of renowned landscape artist Stanley Lewis. For 40 years, Lewis has drawn and painted the backyards, side streets, and countryside around Washington, D.C.; western New York State; Kansas City, Missouri; and Northampton, Massachusetts. His technique, physically demanding, involves deconstructing and reconstructing the canvas, then applying thick paint, which he subsequently scrapes off. The result is a multilayered visual experience. Admission is free.

THROUGH APRIL 15

Dennis Oppenheim: Alternative Landscape Components

American University Museum

New York-based conceptual artist Dennis Oppenheim has been making art since the 1960s, when he helped to redefine the possibilities of artistic expression. He often uses outdoor public spaces—and even his own body—as vehicles for his work, which expresses themes of temporality, discomfort, and chaos. Admission is free.

THROUGH APRIL 15

Duane Hanson: Real Life

American University Museum

Duane Hanson became famous in the '60s and '70s for his lifelike sculptures of everyday people. His work, often misinterpreted as simply a form of extreme realism, grew out of a highly developed social conscience. Hanson worked from photographs, which he used as "sketches" for his sculptures. For the first time, these original photos are on public view, exhibited alongside his sculptures. Admission is free.

APRIL 20–22

Student Capstone Performances

April 20–21: 8 p.m.; April 22: 3 p.m.

Katzen Arts Center, Studio Theatre

Senior theatre and music majors celebrate with performances representing the culmination of their work. Admission is free.

APRIL 21

American University Wind Ensemble

8 p.m. Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Family Recital Hall

This program features works by John Philip Sousa and Johann Nepomuk Hummel, as well as Johan de Meij's Symphony no. 1, *The Lord of the Rings*. Admission: adults \$15, AU community and seniors \$10, and students \$5. Tickets available online at www.american.tix.com or call 202-885-3634.

Accomplishments Continued

In October, Hearst-Argyle Television interviewed **Jack Child (language and foreign studies)** about parallels between the 1968 Vietnam Tet Offensive and the current situation in Iraq.

Consuelo Hernandez (language and foreign studies) was quoted in *Diario Co Latino* (San Salvador) in May 2006.

In September, **Laura Juliano (psychology)** appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition* to discuss caffeine, the drug, and how it affects people's coffee-drinking habits.

The *Birmingham News* quoted **Alan Kraut (history)** in an October article about the public health lessons to be taken from the pellagra outbreak a century ago.

In October, **Allan Lichtman (history)** spoke with the *New York Daily News* about whether Mark Warner's decision not to run for president in 2008 is more advantageous to Hillary Clinton or John Edwards. He was quoted in another article on how scandals on Capitol Hill have contributed to a negative perception of Congress.

Fox 5 interviewed **Stephen MacAvoy (biology)** in September for a *10 O'Clock News* story on how fish are used to detect terror attacks on municipal water supplies.

The *Wall Street Journal* interviewed **David Sadker (SETH)** in October about his opposition to new regulations supporting single-sex schools and the risk of promoting sexism and gender stereotyping as a result of weakening Title IX.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* quoted **Brett Williams (anthropology)** in an article about problems facing Adrian Fenty, the mayor-elect of Washington, D.C.

APPOINTMENTS AND HONORS

In October, **Zoltan Bay (computer science, audio technology, and physics)** was inducted into the Portrait Gallery of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

In June, **Brock Brady (language and foreign studies)** was named board representative for TESOL Inc., as well as the organization's representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information, NGO section. He attended the annual conference at the U.N. to consult on how TESOL could expand its international advocacy efforts.

Gene Fielden (history) was accepted by Fulbright's *Pädagogischer Austauschdienst* program to teach English language and American studies to German high-school students.

Nadia Harris (language and foreign studies) was elected to the board of the Conseil International d'Études Francophones (CIEF) for a two-year term, beginning in July 2006.

In October, the Southeastern College Art Conference honored **Helen Langa (art history)** with an award for excellence in scholarly research and publication for her book *Radical Art: Printmaking and the Left in 1930s New York* (2004).

Sally Smith (SETH) was featured in *Child Magazine's* first annual tribute to leaders in learning in September.

In September, **David Sadker (SETH)** received an offer from the U.S. State Department to present a series of lectures on gender issues. He was also invited to meet with government officials and media representatives in Mumbai and New Delhi in an effort to improve the status of women in India.

In October, **Caleen Sinnette Jennings (performing arts)** interviewed Richard Thomas and George Wendt, lead actors in the production of *Twelve Angry Men*, for the Kennedy Center's distance-learning television program. She also interviewed the director and actors from Dublin's Gate Theatre production of *Waiting for Godot* for the Kennedy Center's Performance Plus series.

Charles White (professor emeritus, philosophy and religion) was appointed to the advisory board of the Post-Graduate Diploma Program in Buddhist Studies at India's Central University of Hyderabad.



Clara Cheng

Douglas M. Fox

Philip Johnson

CAS



Andrea Lawrence

Kate Resnick

Brenda Werth

New Faculty

Photos: Jeff Watts

Clara Cheng
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
BS Psychology, University of Toronto
MA and PhD Social Psychology, Ohio State University.

Research? My main area of research focuses on nonconscious processes. I am interested in how the environment affects our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in ways that are outside of our conscious awareness.

Why AU? I wanted to be in an environment where both teaching and research are valued. In addition, I wanted to teach and work with bright, motivated students. American University was clearly the perfect choice.

Courses? Psychology: Understanding Human Behavior and Social Psychology; Social cognition, an upper-level seminar course.

Hero or inspiration? I have had the fortune of learning from a lot of people—from great teachers to the guy who runs a small deli in my neighborhood. I think that everybody is an inspiration in some way.

Douglas M. Fox
Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry
BS and PhD Chemical Engineering, Michigan Technological University

Research? Physicochemical and electrochemical properties of alternative (green) solvents and their solutions, and the preparation and characterization (mainly thermal and electrical) of polymer nanocomposites

Why AU? I liked American University because it emphasized teaching; it is near my previous position, allowing me to continue my research collaborations; the chemistry department and the College of Arts and Sciences embraced and encouraged my environmental aspirations; and it is a campus rather than a city university.

Courses? Advanced Physical Chemistry, both lecture and lab, with a focus on quantum mechanics and spectroscopy.

Free-time activities? What free time? Seriously, though, it depends on the day and my mood. I play leisure sports—darts, bowling, croquet, cards. I play tennis (horribly), snowshoe (obviously not locally), attend performing arts (I especially like musicals and operas), listen to live bands (local, in concert, and on CD), taste local wines (reds), watch movies (usually comedies, but I also like indies), read (I'm in a classics phase right now), or participate in volunteer events (most often walkathons or cleanups).

Reading? *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good* by Jonathan Balcombe.

Philip Johnson
Assistant Professor of Physics; Computer Science, Audio Technology, and Physics
BS and PhD Theoretical Physics, University of Maryland—College Park

Research? I am interested in understanding the manifestations and possible uses of quantum phenomena in the macroscopic world, beyond the microscopic scale of molecules, atoms, electrons, and the like. As part of this quest, I build and study computer simulations of many different kinds of quantum systems. Experimental physicists are testing my ideas and predictions at some of the most advanced quantum physics laboratories in the world.

Why AU? I love teaching and sharing my love of science with students. I am also interested in the broader role and impact of science in society, and I think it is important for science classes to engage students in thinking about such issues. I see the same balance of interests in American University students, who are extremely interested in learning about the frontiers of science but are also focused on what is happening in the world and how they can make a difference. This balance makes American University the ideal place for me to pursue my research and my goals in the classroom with students who really want to make a difference in the world.

Courses? College Physics I and II. One of my goals is to explore beyond the usual boundaries of physics courses, because I strongly believe that scientific thinking can help students solve problems both within and beyond the realm of science. I am also teaching Modern Physics. We look at topics, such as the theory of relativity and the idea that time slows down when things go faster. I have been very impressed with my students' desire to really scrutinize and understand the arguments and mathematics.

Free-time activities? I like to spend as much of my free time as possible with my wife, three-year-old son, and one-year-old daughter.

Reading? *Ilium* and *Olympos* by Dan Simmons. Okay, it's science fiction, I admit, but I'm enjoying it!

Andrea Lawrence
Assistant Professor; School of Education, Teaching, and Health
BA American Studies and MA Secondary Social Studies Curriculum and Instruction, University of Colorado—Boulder; PhD Education Policy, Indiana University

Research? I study education policy through historical and ethnographic lenses. In my dissertation, I examined the letters between a white teacher (who ran a day school for children under 12 years of age) in northern New Mexico and her supervisor (who ran the Santa Fe Indian boarding school) to look at how federal Indian policy was implemented at the turn of the 20th century. I have also studied contemporary American Indian education and I am very interested in race and education.

Why AU? I really like the interdisciplinary nature of the university and the collegial atmosphere of the campus. Also, being in Washington, D.C., was a draw, since much of my research happens at the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Courses? Methods and Materials in Secondary Education: Social Studies; Schools and Society; and Foundations of Education.

Free-time activities? I enjoy fishing, camping, and hiking, as well as ultimate frisbee. When I'm home in Colorado, I like to ski and snowshoe.

Reading? I'm reading a book called *1491* by Charles C. Mann. He surveys the anthropological and historical data to ascertain what the Americas were like before Europeans began settling in the western hemisphere. What he has uncovered is startling and contradicts what many textbooks have taught us over the years about indigenous peoples in the Americas.

Hero or inspiration? My grandmother—she was a railroad woman who raised four children on her own. Several of my friends from graduate school are also doing some amazing work as scholars and teachers. I feel very lucky to know them.

Kate Resnick
Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Department of Art
BA Multimedia design and development, American University; MFA Communication Arts and Design, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Research? Utilizing the mechanics and processes of cognitive association and perception to enhance the creative process and the development of effective and powerful design

Why AU? Departmental philosophy and goals, facilities, faculty, and Washington, D.C.

Courses? Advanced Design 1: Systems Design; Computer Literacy for Design; and Kinetic and Sequential Graphics

Free-time activities? Reading, Pilates, and listening to NPR

Reading? *Big Bang: The Origins of the Universe* by Simon Singh

Hero or inspiration? Milton Glaser, Ellen Lupton, and Max Wertheimer

Brenda Werth
Assistant Professor, Department of Language and Foreign Studies
BA German Literature, University of Minnesota; MA Hispanic Literature, New York University; PhD Hispanic Literature, Rutgers University

Research? Contemporary Latin American theatre and Southern Cone studies. Until now, my research has focused on literary and cultural responses to authoritarianism in postdictatorship Argentina. I am particularly interested in memory politics and performance in contemporary Argentine theatre.

Why AU? There are so many reasons. Of course, the principal attraction was the opportunity to join the Department of Language and Foreign Studies. I was also very drawn to the joint emphasis placed on scholarship and teaching, the option of collaborative research, and the advantages of being in a cosmopolitan international city.

Courses? Intermediate Spanish I and II, Southern Cone, and Southern Cone Post-dictatorial Literature

Free-time activities? Travel, film, theatre, yoga, and long walks around the city

Hero or inspiration? I am fortunate to be surrounded and inspired by many amazing individuals. Perhaps my sister is my hero. She is a computer genius and I am constantly in awe of the fact that we share the same genes.