



Spring 2017 Newsletter

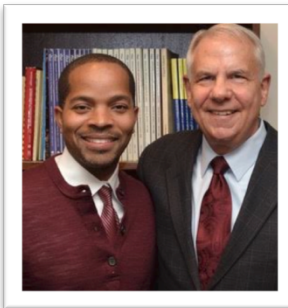
December Graduates

The Fall 2016 semester saw three of our graduate students become PhDs and one of our undergraduate students graduate! We are so proud to see our students create such original and valuable scholarship, and wish them the best as they move into their professional careers!



Fun Fact: All three Fall Dissertation Defenses had the same committee! We thought that deserved a rare committee-only photo op: Drs Emily Lutenski, Heidi Ardizzone, and Matt Mancini each chaired one dissertation. We didn't plan this. Honest.

Dr. Trevin Jones, (Dr. Mancini)
"African American Prison Writers: Masculinity, Identity, and Spirituality"



Dr. Lou Robinson (Dr. Ardizzone)
"Without Consent: White Women, Black Rapists, and Mob Violence in the Midwest, 1880–1930."



Dr. Maurice Tracey (Dr. Lutenski)
"Seeing Unseeable Things: Blackness, Queerness, and Homonormativity in U.S. Popular Culture, 1989–2016,"



LAUREN REMSPECHER, B.A.

With a double major in American Studies and German, Lauren was our star graduating senior. (Okay she was the only one, but she was still a star.)

Lauren joined a panel of graduate students in presenting her capstone project to the department.

"The Individuals behind the Mops: Race, Class, and the Perceptions of University Custodians," examined SLU's janitorial staff through multiple disciplinary methods: history, race theory, interviews, media representation, and labor practices.

Graduation Day Selfie



Faculty News



In a few months, Matt Mancini will become Professor Emeritus of American Studies at SLU. For the last two years Matt has been in phased retirement, and he promises to still be a presence in Adorjan Hall and American Studies after June 30th. He will continue to work with several advanced graduate students, and no doubt will continue his scholarship as well. Still, it's a new chapter, and one that merits attention and celebration.

The department has already begun to honor Matt's work, nominating him for an award through the American Studies Association, naming an internal SLU award after him (the Matthew J. Mancini Outstanding Dissertation or Thesis), and planning a summer gathering to mark the transition. Keep a look out for more on Matt in future newsletters!



Above: American Studies Department Faculty, 2016

Right: with Melissa Ford, PhD 2016, a Mancini Award winner and Assistant Professor of History at Slippery Rock University



Left: Liz Wolfson (MA, 2010) pictured here with PhD students Karen Smythe and Tori Herrera, gave a lecture on her current research on American photographic encounters in the Middle East in the early 20th century. Liz is a PhD candidate at Brown University.

Below: Elizabeth Eickmann presents her seminar research on a local museum installation. Other panelists: Cindy Lyles Reed, who spoke on fandom and Beyonce, Tori Herrera, on a black-owned brewery in the 1970s, and Michael Brickey, on connections between black St. Louisans and Africans working at the 1904 Fair.

Visitors and other Events!



Above: SLU Law professor Brendan Roediger talks with students about social activism and his legal work as part of our "How Did You Get Your Awesome Job?" series.

