ES WELCOMES
DR. CHARISE CHENEY
TO DEPARTMENT

Charise Cheney is the newest addition to the UO Ethnic Studies Department. She joins us from Binghamton University, where she was a professor of History and Africana Studies. She came to the UO as a senior faculty member, and is now a tenured associate professor. She was interviewed by our Department Head, Michael Hames-García.

MHG: Welcome to the University of Oregon’s Ethnic Studies Department. Can you tell me a little bit about why you wanted to come here and what you have found rewarding since your move to Oregon?

CC: The Ethnic Studies Department itself was the main attraction. The ES faculty are politically-engaged, feminist, intelligent yet approachable people. The fact that three members of the Ethnic Studies department are also members of the Department of Women and Gender Studies makes the U of O unique. The Administrative Assistant, Donella-Elizabeth Alston, is smart, knowledgeable and delightful. In fact, the department is very supportive of its members, which unfortunately, is not as common in the academy as it should be. These were all very strong factors in my decision to accept the position here. I also appreciated the fact that, when I came for my interview, the department thought it important to meet with students at the Multicultural Center, which shows its commitment to students of color. All of these factors made the opportunity to come to Oregon very intriguing.

Since joining the department, I have really enjoyed getting to know the Ethnic Studies majors. They are a close-knit diverse bunch of smart, (continued page 3)
ES Alumni Melinda von Reis-Iglesias Received Martin Luther King Award

by Professor Irmary Reyes-Santos

Melinda von Reis-Iglesias is a cherished alumni of the Department of Ethnic Studies. During my first year teaching at UO, I had the privilege of having von Reis-Iglesias in my classroom. Her enthusiasm proved to be invaluable in various courses that year. During the past few years, she has excelled as an Opportunity and Outreach Coordinator for the Division of Undergraduate Studies at UO. She creates and implements programming that targets prospective students and families, paying particular attention to underrepresented populations. She works closely with the First-Year Programs Office and the FIG Program, among other units. With the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, the Office of Multicultural Academic Success, the Clark Honors College, the Office of Admissions, and the Lane Education Service District, she has participated in the creation of a high school outreach program for students underrepresented at the university. Her goal is to increase the educational opportunities available to low-income youth and students of color. Her deep commitment to these projects has earned her the Martin Luther King award for community service.

Meditating on her experience as an Ethnic Studies major, Melinda says: “The Ethnic Studies Program (now Department!) provided the most sacred space for me during my time as a student at the University of Oregon. You can often find me at our summer orientation program, IntroDUCKtion, promoting the Ethnic Studies 101 class saying, “every freshman at the UO should have to register for ES101 fall term as a requirement”, and I truly believe that. Ethnic Studies, the discourse, the pedagogy, and once again the spaces it creates (for previously and continuously silenced voices to be heard) is an experience I believe every human could learn from.”

Alumni Profile:
Melinda von Reis-Iglesias

"Ethnic Studies provided the most sacred space for me during my time as a student...”

ALUMNI: What are YOU doing now?

Alumni Questionnaire: Please fill out and return to us at the address on the back cover or email to ethnic@uoregon.edu. Your story could be in the next edition!

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Class of: __________________________________________________________

Address (if different than mailing label): __________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________________________ State: _____________________

Zip code: _______________ E-mail: ____________________________________________

What would you like to share with the Ethnic Studies Department and other alumni?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
interesting, politically-minded students. The U of O is fortunate to have a major in Ethnic Studies and I look forward to being a part of its evolution. I also enjoy the intellectual community and kinship with my colleagues. People share their work and support one another’s research projects. The Ethnic Studies faculty are a very special group of people. I can’t say enough positive things about them.

MHG: What has your professional history been like before coming to the UO, and what is your relationship to the field of ES?

CC: I received my Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois, and my first job was in the Ethnic Studies Department at Cal Poly State University-San Luis Obispo. After spending three years teaching African-American History in a History Department back east, I didn’t realize how much I missed teaching Ethnic Studies until this year. Ethnic Studies is my intellectual home. I love teaching from an interdisciplinary, multivocal perspective. We learn so much more about how race and racism has evolved in the United States by using a comparative approach. African-American history becomes more textured and nuanced when juxtaposed against the histories of indigenous peoples, Latinos and Asian-Americans. I’m a better researcher because of my teaching experiences in Ethnic Studies. I also enjoy the “A-ha” moments that I get when teaching Ethnic Studies courses. I didn’t get as many of those epiphanies from students in the traditional history courses that I taught. Teaching Ethnic Studies is more challenging on a personal level, but it is also more rewarding.

MHG: You have published a book on hip hop, Brothers Gonna Work It Out: Sexual Politics in the Golden Age of Rap Nationalism (New York University Press, 2005). What’s one thing that potential readers might want to know about it?

CC: This book grew out of my experiences as a young adult being a hardcore female hip-hop “head” and a fan of politicized rap artists like Chuck D, KRS-One and Ice Cube. Its my feminist exploration of black men’s attempt to reclaim their masculine sense of selves through black nationalism and hip-hop culture. As a woman of color, it is challenging to be inspired by a tradition of race politics from which women’s voices have been excluded. Black nationalism is a political tradition that appears to be inclusive, but in actuality, ...
From Our Faculty...

Michael Hames-Garcia began his second three-year term this year as Department Head for Ethnic Studies. He has also completed two books that are expected to be out early in 2011: Identity Complex: Gender, Race, and Sexuality from Oz to Abu Ghraib, which focuses on theories of identity and intersectionality and is being published by the University of Minnesota Press, and Gay Latino Studies: A Critical Reader, a collection of 20 essays co-edited with Prof. Ernesto Martínez that is being published by Duke University Press.

Shari Huhndorf’s new book, Mapping the Americas: The Transnational Politics of Contemporary Native Culture, appeared from Cornell University Press in the fall, and her co-edited volume, Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Culture, Activism, will appear this summer. This year, she gave an invited talk at Stanford University and a keynote address at the University of Alaska.

Irmary Reyes-Santos received a Future of Minority Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship at Syracuse University and was in residence in Syracuse, NY in Fall 2009. For next year, she has received research awards from the Center of the Study of Women in Society and the Oregon Humanities Center. In Summer 2010, she will be a Visiting Scholar at the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.

Dan HoSang finished his book manuscript titled Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives and the Making of Postwar California. It will be published by the University of California Press this October. He is also coordinating the upcoming conference “Teaching Race and Gender Beyond Diversity” at the UO May 6-8.

Check out ES on Facebook! facebook.com/UOEthnicStudiesDept

Ashley Nesmith, Class of '08

...I’m currently in my 2nd year of law school in Jackson, MS. I love my school and I am finally adjusting to the Southern way of life lol. I’m happy to be a part of the Black Law Students Association, and am pleased to be a part of a group that cares about similar issues as myself and fellow ESers! It’s definitely a challenge dealing with the blatant racism of some people in this area, but I would much rather have it be upfront, than have the rug pulled out from under me, so to speak. It’s a challenge, but I’m for it! Until next time! I hope everyone enjoys 2010!!

With the generous donation of Mr. Jon Ballew of Eugene, the Ethnic Studies Program and now Department, has been able to award the Marian Ballew Thomas Memorial Scholarship to majors and minors over the past three years. The scholarships are designed to recognize undergraduate students who are engaged in studies that further the development of their social awareness and analytical skills and who are actively engaged in community service.

The Ethnic Studies Department is currently soliciting applications for the
2010 Marian Ballew Thomas Memorial Scholarship.

Open to Ethnic Studies majors and minors, the award is designated for undergraduates engaged in studies that support the development of social awareness and analytical skills. Preference will be given to students who need financial help with their tuition and/or who have documented community service, and/or are minoring in natural sciences, social sciences, peace studies, education, business or planning and public policy. Up to two awards of $500 each will be given this year.

Applications must include:
a short personal statement (two to three pages in length) addressing the applicant’s focus of study and relevant community work; transcripts; and two letters of reference.

To receive full consideration, applications must be delivered to the Ethnic Studies office no later than May 1st 2010.

Kira Lee, Class of ‘07 and Trevor Atkins

Kira and Trevor just made 7 years! Kira just wrote a big grant to continue helping students from underrepresented groups attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa and to provide scholarships for kanaka maoli (indigenous Hawaiians). I’m still teaching math at a Hawaiian-focused charter school. We’re currently putting together a new film project that documents the histories (and herstories) of Hawaiian resistance and love for the land. Specifically, we’re talking story with elders who got the Hawaiian renaissance movement off the ground in the mid 1970s. We’ll keep you posted. We’re in a community group to learn to ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i (speak Hawaiian). To all our fellow activists, ho‘oikaika! Keep getting stronger. Keep organizing. Keep eating right. Keep resisting corporate capitalism. Keep studying. Keep singing. Keep laughing. Keep happy or our work is futile!
Book Award from back cover

(University of Minnesota Press, 2008). This award recognizes Professor Fujiwara as a leading scholar in the field of Asian American Studies, and honors her nuanced understanding of citizenship and agency in the lives of Asian immigrant women and their families as they respond to welfare reform. The Social Science Book Award will be presented to Professor Fujiwara at the upcoming annual meeting for the AAAS in Austin, Texas.

An alumna has asked to see a listing of what current ES students are reading. Well, here are selected titles from this year’s fall and winter terms!

COURSE READINGS FALL 2009

ES 199, Special Studies: Hip-Hop Politics & Poetics
   • THAT’S THE JOINT! THE HIP-HOP STUDIES READER, Forman & Neal, eds.

ES 252, Introduction to Asian American Studies
   • YELLOW: RACE IN AMERICA BEYOND BLACK AND WHITE, Wu

ES 456/556, History of Naive American Education
   • BOARDING SCHOOL SEASONS: AMERICAN INDIAN FAMILIES, 1900-1940, Child
   • THE SCALPEL AND THE SILVER BEAR, Alvord

WGS 341, Women, Work & Class
   • CLASS QUESTIONS, FEMINIST ANSWERS, Acker
   • WHERE WE STAND: CLASS MATTERS, hooks

COURSE READINGS WINTER 2010

ES 250, Intro to African-American Studies
   • SISTER OUTSIDER, Lorde

ES 330, Women of Color: Issues
   • FEMINISMS WITHOUT BORDERS, Mohanty
   • THIS BRIDGE WE CALL HOME, Anzaldua & Keating

ES 407/507, Native American Ethnohistory
   • TIES THAT BIND: THE STORY OF AN AFRO-CHEROKEE FAMILY IN SLAVERY AND FREEDOM, Miles
   • ALOHA BETRAYED: NATIVE HAWAIIAN RESISTANCE TO AMERICAN COLONIALISM, Silva

WGS 321, Feminist Perspectives: Identity, Race & Culture
   • BLACK MALE OUTSIDER: TEACHING AS A PRO-FEMINIST MAN, Lemons

E.S. NETWORK

Shanté Stuart, B.S. Ethnic Studies 2008, has coordinated the Oregon E.S. Network. The purpose of the Oregon E.S. Network is to provide a space for Ethnic Studies alumni to announce news, events, and milestones in their lives. The E.S. Network is currently an emailed update list, with the potential development of an internet forum. If you would like to participate in this exciting networking opportunity, please contact Shanté Stuart at skstuart5@gmail.com.
it marginalizes the experiences of women and blacks who are not heterosexual. My book looks at those dynamics in the context of black nationalist rap music.

MHG: What’s your current research project?

CC: My current research project is on the black anti-integrationist movement in Topeka, KS before Brown vs. Board of Education. I think its interesting that Topeka is at the center of this landmark historical case to dismantle segregation, but it appears that there were more blacks organized against integration than against segregation in Topeka during the 1940s. Many black Topekans wanted to preserve all-black schools because they were relatively equal to all-white schools and because they fostered a familial and nurturing learning environment for black children. So, once again, I am exploring a quotidien manifestation of black nationalist politics. I am thankful that Dr. Ernesto Martinez helped me figure that out.

MHG: You grew up in Kansas, right? What do you miss most about home?

CC: I was born and raised in Topeka, KS. My family still lives there. I escaped as a young adult, but now that I have a daughter, I really miss being around my mother, my aunts, and my sister.

MHG: Your classes at the UO have been very popular: Critical Whiteness Studies, Critical Race Theory, Hip Hop Poetics and Politics. What do you try to bring to the classroom to motivate students to think critically about race, gender, and ethnicity?

CC: Not an easy question, but I guess my most recent mission as a teacher of Ethnic Studies is to get students to complicate their own subjectivity and to challenge their political standpoint. Most Ethnic Studies majors have a race consciousness and are familiar with race privilege, but how do we situate ourselves in relation to our own set of privileges? How are we also responsible for dismantling all systems of domination? Sexism and homophobia affect communities of color, and I think it is important to highlight how gender and sexuality discourses shape our sense of self and community. I think my most powerful tool as a teacher in upper-division courses is to expose students to the ways that I interrogate myself. My most powerful tool in lower-division courses is compassion and a sense of humor.

Panelists include:
• Rusty Barcelo
  Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota

• Ines Hernandez-Avila
  Professor of Native American Studies and Director, Chicana/Latina Research Center, UC Davis

• Angela B. Ginorio
  Associate Professor, Women Studies, University of Washington and Director of Rural Girls in Science Program, University of Washington

The conference will include a series of collaborative workshops rooted in teaching race and gender within intersectional and interdisciplinary frameworks.

There is no fee to attend the conference but advanced registration via the web is required to participate in workshops.

FFI contact:
Daniel HoSang,
Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies and Political Science, University of Oregon,
dhosang@uoregon.edu

Please visit our conference website at: http://www.uoregon.edu/~ethnic/Beyond_Diversity_2010/home.html for information and conference registration, including a full description of all workshops.
Remember when you attended the university and wished there was more you could achieve but the finances weren’t always available? While the Ethnic Studies Department is growing and making a significant impact on students’ lives, our needs remain the same as when you were here. And, we want to improve.

We’d appreciate your help.

The Marion Ballew Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund is one way you can make a positive difference for students following in your footsteps. This scholarship fund provides annual scholarships for undergraduate students engaged in studies furthering the development of their social awareness and analytical skills. Awarded to culturally diverse undergraduates who’ve declared their major or minor in Ethnic Studies, preference will be given to students who need financial help with their tuition and/or who have documented community service and/or are minoring in natural sciences, social sciences, peace studies, education, business or planning and public policy.

You chose to make a difference when you selected Ethnic Studies as your principle area of study. Continue to make that difference by supporting your alma mater and its students, who, like you, also want to make a positive difference with their lives.

Please make a gift online at https://supportuo.uofoundation.org by entering ETHNIC STUDIES in the OTHER designation box, or respond with a “Yes!” when you receive a letter or phone call for the Annual Giving Program.

Enclosed is my contribution of $_________ for the Ethnic Studies Foundation Fund.

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Please be sure to designate your gift to the Ethnic Studies Foundation Fund.  
Please mention donation code **AS1010** in the comments section.

If you have any questions related to how to make your gift, please contact the College of Arts and Sciences Development office at (541) 346-3950.
Hello Everyone!

...Since the last update I had a couple more odd jobs, but settled into being a personal trainer at LA Fitness. I absolutely love the industry and hope to some time soon uses my knowledge to serve youths low-income neighborhoods. As for school (you know we ESers can't get enough education lol) I began a master’s program for Teacher Education at UCLA. The program seeks to “Prepare Social Justice Educators”. It’s awesome because we are placed in urban schools and work with many students of color and students from families of low-socioeconomic. Although the work we do is good, I have been a little bit let down by the lack of progressive politics from the program. Thankfully I have found some students that have a similar viewpoint and we have been meeting to come up with a plan of attack for being more political as educators. If you have a moment, please take a look at our website, it just started two weeks ago! <criticalTEP.wordpress.com> Soon I will be working on a research project for my master’s so I will probably be consulting some of you soon for ideas! Always take care of yourself, live inspired, and keep moving forward!

Much Love, Shanté

The icon in the Ethnic Studies logo is the Sankofa. Sankofa is an Akan term meaning “go back and retrieve,” which is reflected in a bird that is looking backward as it moves forward. While the word is specific to a West African lexicon and is most often associated with black cultural nationalism, the term’s essential meaning – that one must understand one’s past in order to comprehend the present and actively work toward a more just future – is equally applicable to those groups who are the focus of the Ethnic Studies Department’s intellectual and social mission.
Associate Professor Lynn Fujiwara joins the ES Department core faculty this year, after 8 years of teaching at the UO in the Departments of Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology. This welcomed move serves to formalize Professor Fujiwara’s long-standing commitment to the field of Ethnic Studies and to the study of race, gender, citizenship, and class. Among her accomplishments this year, she has been honored with the national Social Science Book Award issued by the Association for Asian American Studies for her book, Mothers Without Citizenship: Asian Immigrant Families and the Consequences of Welfare Reform.

MORE ON PAGE 7!