NEW PROFESSOR TO ENERGIZE ETHNIC STUDIES WITH TEACHING AND NEW CENTER

In many ways, Michael Hames-Garcia is returning home. A native Portlander, Hames-Garcia attended Willamette University where he received a bachelor of arts degree in English in 1993. The next twelve years found him on the East Coast, and particularly New York State. He pursued his graduate studies at Cornell University, obtaining an M.A. and Ph.D. in English, and for the past seven years he has been a professor of English at Binghamton University, State University of New York. “I am excited to be returning to Oregon,” Hames-Garcia says, “and hope to be able to contribute something to the communities in which I grew up.”

Given his research and teaching interests as well as his plans to develop a research center that will support inquiry into the intersections of race, ethnicity, and sexuality, it is certain that Hames-Garcia will contribute to the intellectual vitality of the program and the university. His prolific scholarly production – all of which centers on questions of race, gender, sexuality, and identity – has put him at the forefront of academics working in the areas of Chicana/o-Latina/o and comparative ethnic literatures. His single-authored book, Fugitive Thought: Prison Movements, Race, and the Meaning of Justice (University of Minnesota Press, 2004), is an incisive examination of how black and Latina/o prisoners in the 1970s and 1980s, through literary texts, conceptualized meanings of freedom, justice, and community. “From a critical moral realist perspective,” Hames-Garcia argues, “this book demonstrates how the critiques and moral visions of participants in prison movements can contribute to the production of better and more adequate ethical conceptions and to their eventual real-

(Continued on page 2)
New Professor Energizes Ethnic Studies

(Continued from page 1)

ization.” Hames-Garcia has also co-edited two anthologies: Reclaiming Identity: Realist Theory and the Predicament of Postmodernism (University of California Press, 2000) and Identity Politics Reconsidered (Palgrave, forthcoming, 2006). He is currently working on another book-length manuscript, tentatively entitled What Identities Can Do, as well as co-editing an anthology on gay Chicano literature and politics.

In addition to his teaching, Professor Hames-Garcia will make enormous contributions to the intellectual life of the campus through the standing research center that he plans to develop. During his year as Moore Distinguished Professor, he will begin the process of assembling the component parts of an as yet unnamed center that will, according to a proposal submitted earlier this spring, “advance the cutting edge of scholarship in both ethnic studies and sexuality studies by crossing not only the well-defined boundaries between traditional academic disciplines, but also by helping to breach the less visible but no less substantial walls separating these two areas of inquiry.” The center will be affiliated with the Future of Minority Studies Project (FMS), of which Hames-Garcia is a founding member. FMS is a national network of scholars who are committed to breaking down the walls between what heretofore have been somewhat compartmentalized areas of inquiry: racial and ethnic studies, women’s and gender studies, queer studies, and disability studies. Rich Linton, the Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies, has generously provided Hames-Garcia with initial seed money that will allow him to hire a Graduate Teaching Fellow to assist in identifying external sources of funding and writing grant propos-

His prolific production... has put him at the forefront of academics working in the areas of Chicana/o-Latina/o and comparative ethnic literatures...
The Ethnic Studies Program is pleased to host Wilma P. Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, during the Fall 2005 quarter. Chief Mankiller has been appointed as the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics. Her appointment is part of the Morse Center’s 2005-06 program, “Indigenous Peoples: National Policy and International Human Rights.”

Chief Mankiller was born in Oklahoma but moved to San Francisco in the mid-1950s as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation program. It was in the Bay Area where Mankiller’s political consciousness and commitment to community development and grass roots activism cohered, as she witnessed the famous occupation of Alcatraz Island by Native American activists in 1969. In the early 1980s, she was elected as deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation. When Chief Ross Swimmer resigned in 1985 to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mankiller succeeded him, becoming the first female chief of a major Native American tribe. In 1987, she was re-elected as Principle Chief and served in that position until 1995. Chief Mankiller has been extensively involved in tribal self-help programs, particularly rural community development projects, commercial horticultural initiatives, and health care programs. She is a highly sought after speaker and she has received numerous honors, including American Indian Woman of the Year (1986); Woman of the Year, Ms. Magazine (1987); and the U.S. Public Health Service’s Indian Health Service Award (1989).

In the fall, Chief Mankiller will co-teach, along with Philip Knight Professor of Law Rennard Strickland (Osage and Cherokee), ES 452/552: Race, Ethnicity, and the Law. The focus of their class will be on Native American life, law, and leadership and will include topics such as Native art, women in tribal culture and leadership, termination and self-governance policies, fishing and water rights, gaming, and Indian images in popular culture. During her brief time in Eugene, Chief Mankiller will participate in many university events; she also plans to actively work with tribal groups in the Northwest region. A list of her public addresses and other events sponsored by the Morse Center can be found in our Events Calendar.

For more information on Chief Mankiller, read her autobiography, Mankiller: A Chief and Her People (New York, 1993) and visit the following websites:

www.uic.edu/depts/owa/history_month_97/mankiller.html

www.powersource.com/gallery/people/wilma.html

www.library.okstate.edu/about/awards/winners/mankill.htm
Professor Imada brings the research interests that are embodied in her dissertation – U.S. empire, popular culture, race, and sexuality – into the classroom. She has offered courses in Asian American studies, racial formation and performance, and race, gender, and sexuality in the U.S., and will teach courses in theories of race and ethnicity and Pacific Islander American studies in the future.

Originally hired in 2003, Assistant Professor Adria Imada joined the Ethnic Studies faculty in the summer of 2004 after spending a year at UCLA’s History and Asian American Studies departments on a prestigious University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship. Imada holds a B.A. in American Studies from Yale University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in American Studies from New York University, where she completed her dissertation, “Aloha America: Hawaiian Entertainment and Cultural Politics in the U.S. Empire.” Her dissertation explores the cultural uses of hula performance, both in terms of its exploitation as a means to legitimizing the incorporation of Hawai‘i into the U.S. nation-state and as a form of cultural production that allowed Hawaiian entertainers to pursue educational and employment opportunities as well as to cultivate diasporic networks in the U.S. The dissertation received the American Studies Association’s 2003 Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize for the best dissertation in the field of American Studies. With the assistance of a grant from the UO’s Center for the Study of Women in Society, Imada is completing research that will enable her to revise her dissertation for publication. Once published, the book promises to be “the first extended study on hula performance as it circulated on the U.S. continent.”

Native American ethnohistory, constructions of racial identity in the twentieth century U.S., and hybridity/borderlands theory are the broad academic interests of assistant professor Brian Klopotek. He joined the Ethnic Studies faculty in the fall of 2003, after receiving a B.A. in anthropology from Yale University and a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. Klopotek’s dissertation, “The Long Outwaiting: Federal Recognition Policy in Three Louisiana Indian Communities,” won the American Studies Association’s 2004 Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize for the best dissertation in the field of American Studies. The dissertation examines the multiple, interrelated and complex factors – such as racial composition, cultural identity, and economic status – that determined different patterns of federal recognition of three Indian communities in the Southeastern United States. It also explores the effects that those patterns have had on the cultural and material conditions of these communities, including language retention and wealth and poverty levels. In academic year 2005-06, Klopotek will be a Resident Scholar at the University of Oregon’s Wayne Morse Center for the Study of Law and Politics. This will provide him an opportunity to continue his research as well as organize an event related to the center’s theme this year, “Indigenous Peoples: National Policy and International Human Rights.” Professor Klopotek’s teaching interests are wide, including courses in Native American education, Native American environmentalism, and Indian-black relations. He has also researched and written on Native Americans and popular culture as well as gender and Native American communities.

As an externally-appointed Program Director, Martin Summers, associate professor of history, is excited about contributing to the growth of Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon. Professor Summers holds a B.A. in History-Social Sciences Education from Hampton University and a Ph.D. in History from Rutgers University.

(Continued on page 6)
The American Museum of Natural History’s Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival

Sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Program and Department of Anthropology at University of Oregon; co-sponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center, Wayne Morse Center, Center for the Study of Women in Society, and the Women and Gender Studies Program

Thurs. Oct. 27 – Radical Politics 180 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, 6 pm

A Panther in Africa - Aaron Matthews. 2004. 71 min. (Tanzania)

In 1969, Black Panther Pete O’Neal was arrested on a gun charge in Kansas City, Missouri. To avoid conviction, he fled to Africa, where he has spent the last 34 years living in exile in Tanzania. During the past three decades, he and his wife have devoted themselves to intense community work dealing with health, literacy, and anti-racism. Now, faced with the possibility of returning to America, O’Neal reflects on his life and confronts his radical past.

a/k/a Mrs George Gilbert - Coco Fusco. 2004. 31 min. (U.S.)

This hybrid video blends fictional and documentary source material in an imaginative re-creation of a crucial political moment in U.S. history. Co-scripted by Rick Moody (The Ice Storm), it tells the story of an FBI agent who confesses to his involvement in the nationwide search for Angela Davis, the famous radical philosopher and black activist who was on the FBI’s “Ten Most Wanted” list in 1970 and an underground fugitive for two months.

Thurs. Nov. 10 – Alternative Ideologies 182 Lillis Hall, 6 pm

How to Fix the World - Jacqueline Goss. 2004. 28 min. (U.S./Uzbekistan)

This highly inventive digitally animated film brings to life the celebrated work of A.R. Luria’s research with the Uzbek Soviet farm collectives in the 1930’s. Photographs of the collectives taken during this same period serve as the basis for the animated images. The restaged conversations between the famed cognitive psychologist and the “subjects” reveal the impact of Soviet socialism on these Muslim oral-based agricultural communities.

Oscar - Sergio Morkin. 2004. 61 min. Video. (Argentina)

Oscar is a taxi driver, family man, and intrepid guerrilla artist who rebels against the bombardment of advertisements in Buenos Aires. In doing so, he attracts attention from both the media and academia as an artist/activist whose story resonates strongly. But can he pay his bills without selling out?

Thurs. Nov. 17 – Women and Healing 182 Lillis Hall, 6 pm


52 min. (Afghanistan)

Filmed by the first team of women video journalists trained in Afghanistan, this rare film explores the effects of the Taliban’s repressive rule and recent U.S. military campaign on Afghan women. Shot in rural regions of the country, the filmmakers present footage of Hazara women whose lives have been decimated by recent events, and yet manage to also find moving examples of hope for the future. The film demonstrates the power of independent film to bear witness and reveal truth.

Madam Ti Zo (Mrs. Littlebones) - David Belle. 2004. 60 min. (Haiti)

Madam Ti Zo, a midwife and herbal doctor, runs her own clinic in Jacmal, Haiti. “Mrs. Littlebones” examines pregnant women, helps to birth babies, and aids the steady stream of men, women, and children seeking her expertise. The film provides an intimate look at traditional health practices.

Events Calendar

October 20 –
Sovereignty and Native Education Symposium, Many Nations Longhouse, 1-9pm

October 21-22 –
Tribal Water Rights Conference, UO School of Law

October 27 –
Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival/first screening, PLC 180, 6-8pm

November 11 –
Ethnic Studies reception, McKenzie lobby, 4-6pm

November 9 –
Wilma Mankiller public address, EMU Ballroom, 7pm

November 10 –
Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival/second screening, Lillis 182, 6-8pm

November 16 –
Farewell reception for Wilma Mankiller

November 17 –
Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival/third screening, Lillis 182, 6-8pm
He joined the History Department in 2000, after teaching for four years at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University, Newark. In 2004, the University of North Carolina Press published his revised dissertation, *Manliness and Its Discontents: The Black Middle Class and the Transformation of Masculinity, 1900-1930*. The book examines how middle-class African American and African Caribbean immigrant men constructed a gendered self through organizational life, work, leisure, and cultural production. It attempts to broaden our understanding of the way that gender works along with class, sexuality, and age to shape identities and produce relationships of power. The book recently received the 2005 American Historical Association’s Pacific Coast Branch Book Prize. Summers’ current research interests are in the area of race and mental illness. He is in the middle of researching for a book-length social history of patients of color at a federal insane asylum in Washington, D.C. Professor Summers’ courses in African American history, history of masculinities in America, gender and sexuality, and black radicalism, are regularly cross-listed in Ethnic Studies.

Donella-Elizabeth Alston has been the office coordinator of Ethnic Studies for almost as long as it has been a degree-granting program. Alston, who grew up in New Jersey, graduated cum laude from Seton Hall University, and taught English in a New Jersey public high school, came to Oregon in 1992. She has been with the Ethnic Studies Program since 2000. Part of what makes her work with the Program satisfying is facilitating the education of our majors and minors. She says that her experience in Ethnic Studies has “given me the opportunity to see our students in various lights – from completely in tears to fantastically exhilarated over a job well done and all points in between.” When not handling the day-to-day administrative duties of the office, Alston likes to quilt, garden, and perform in theatrical productions. Over the past few years, she has performed in numerous plays and musicals, including “Cabaret,” “Hair,” “The Dinner Party,” and “Stepping Out,” in local theaters in Eugene and Cottage Grove.
With the generous donation of Mr. Jon Ballew of Eugene, the Ethnic Studies Program 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. This year we were able to make two awards of $750 each.

Christine Finley (class of ’05) is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. She began her college career at Portland Community College and she has acquitted herself extremely well at the University of Oregon, graduating with departmental honors. Christine was also a McNair Scholar and, in the spring of 2005, she completed her research project, which is entitled, “Indigeneity in the Early Slave Narrative: Creating a ‘Family of Resemblance’ Between African Americans and Native Americans.” She has been active in the Oregon Students of Color Coalition, the Native American Student Union, and the Native American Healing Circles, which addresses “therapeutic jurisprudence, restorative justice, and conflict resolution.” She is heading to the University of Michigan where she will begin her work in the Ph.D. program in American Cultures.

Khanh Le (class of ’06) is a first generation immigrant from Vietnam. His life story, scholastic achievements, and commitment to social justice are nothing short of remarkable. He is a triple major (Ethnic Studies, Political Science, and Spanish) and a double minor (History and Women and Gender Studies). Khanh is also very active in community service on the local, regional, and global level. He is involved with the Oregon Students of Color Coalition, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon, the American Friends Service Committee, and the World Social Forum. In the summer of 2004, he worked with Mexican and indigenous youth in Mexico to promote sustainable environments and greater solidarity across the U.S.-Mexico border. Khanh is also a McNair Scholar and, this past summer, he began working on his research project on the relationship between racist representations of Vietnamese and hate crimes in the U.S.
**PROFILES FROM CLASS OF 2005**

**Maria Hwang**

Maria Hwang's commitment to academic excellence and political activism is admirable. Her involvement in the ASUO Multicultural Center and the Oregon Students of Color Coalition has helped create and sustain an environment in which students are energized to work toward social change. She managed to juggle her extra-curricular service with her school work, maintaining a high enough GPA to receive departmental honors. Maria plans to continue this commitment to academic excellence and social change by attending law school and eventually providing legal assistance to working-class immigrants.

**Allison Prasad**

Allison Prasad is another one of our students whose commitment to academic excellence and public service is inspiring. She has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and she has also been involved in numerous student and service organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Oregon Students of Color Coalition, the Black Student Union, and the Women's Center. Allison plans on working with students of color in Student Affairs before attending school to pursue a graduate degree in Ethnic Studies.

**Ma Vang**

Ma Vang is another one of our graduates who is entering one of the top Ethnic Studies Ph. D. programs in the country. Ma, an Honors College student, double majored in Ethnic Studies and General Science. In order to fulfill her Honors College requirements, she completed a thesis entitled “Nation, Citizenship, and Identity: Reimagining Hmong Trans-nationalism in The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down.” She has already presented selections from this thesis at conferences in Riverside, California and Minneapolis. Ma begins her graduate studies at the University of California, San Diego, this fall.

**Angela Morrill**

After a circuitous route through journalism, anthropology, and comparative literature, Angela Morrill became an Ethnic Studies major in 2003. She credits English Professor David Vazquez’s class on Chicana/Latina literature with inspiring her to get her degree in Ethnic Studies. Angela was a McNair Scholar in 2004-05 and her research project was an autoethnography that examined questions of Oregon Indian identity and history through her own extended family's story. She plans to develop this project into a dissertation as she enters the Ph. D. program in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, San Diego on a multi-year fellowship.

**Tanachai Mark Padoongpatt**

Excellent academic record and strong leadership is the best way to sum up Tanachai Mark Padoongpatt's career at the University of Oregon. Mark double majored in Ethnic Studies and History. He graduated magna cum laude and with departmental honors; he was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Mark was extensively involved with the Asian Pacific American Student Union and the Oregon Students of Color Coalition. He also volunteered for the Ethnic Peer Mentor Program and “Connections.” Mark will be heading back home to the L.A. area where he will begin his first year in the Ph. D. program in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California.

**Dana T. Hori**

Dana T. Hori leaves the University of Oregon with a superb academic record and much experience in working toward the recruitment and retention of students of color in higher education. She double majored in Ethnic Studies and Political Science and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. While at Oregon, she also worked extensively with the Office of Multicultural Affairs’ program, “Reach for Success” and the Office of Admission’s program, “Connections,” both of which are aimed toward exposing middle school- and high school-aged children to the possibilities of higher education. Dana will begin her first year at the University of California, Davis School of Law this fall.
YOUR HELP WILL MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE.

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 Program 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 or who’ve documented community service and 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 principal 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 www.Isupport.uoregon.edu or respond with a “Yes!” when you receive a letter or phone call for the Annual Giving Program.

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 Program’s intellectual and social mission.
Alumni Questionnaire: Please fill out and return to us at above address.

Name: __________________________________ Year of Graduation: _______________________

Address (if different than mailing label): ______________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip code: ________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________________________

What are you doing now? ____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Ethnic Studies Program and other alumni?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________