



THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM  
IN THE HUMANITIES

# IPH Graduate Studies Newsletter

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*Welcome to the first issue of the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities (IPH) graduate newsletter. The Office of the Director of Graduate Studies has established the following goals for our Program:*

1. To foster, examine and approve graduate students' academic projects that are consistent with their development as future scholars in the field of Interdisciplinary Humanities.
2. To guide graduate students in the process of becoming better teachers and researchers and to sustain the academic excellence of the graduate program.
3. To develop a graduate interdisciplinary academic community of the highest academic excellence.
4. To promote diversity, intellectual curiosity and interdisciplinary dialogue in order to create an advanced community of inquiry.

We hope that this newsletter documents our journey toward excellence in interdisciplinary inquiry.

*Sapere Aude*

Maricarmen Martinez PhD,  
Director of Graduate Studies

## Diversity Dinner

The FSU Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities, in cooperation with the Florida Commission on Human Rights and Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille, will be presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity Dinner on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Organized by Jason Gibson, this evening of dialogue will address issues of diversity and human rights. The dinner will be held at Harry's Seafood, Bar & Grille. Registration begins at 6:00 pm and the dinner begins at 6:30, with a cost of \$15 per person. Limited seating will be available. Please RSVP by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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## InterDisciplines

During April 7-8 of the 2006 spring semester, the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities Organization will sponsor the first in a series of annual conferences titled InterDisciplines. This conference series will promote the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities' (IPH) goal of encouraging discourse across traditional academic disciplines by drawing academics from various fields to engage in discussions centered on a common theme. The theme for this first conference will be "Inter-Disciplining the Body" and it will consider a wide variety of topics including "the Aging Body," "Constructing the Body through Media," "Bodies in Community," "the Aesthetics of Body Modification," and "Humans, Robots, and Cyborgs." Spencer Tunic, the keynote speaker for InterDisciplines, photographs nude figures in public spaces. His site-installations range from one body to thousands, and bring to the forefront issues regarding the social and political construction of landscapes.

The conference was proposed and designed by Erika Johnson-Lewis and Katherine Wright, with significant input by Melissa Reddick and the guidance of Dr. Maricarmen Martinez, with the intention of providing a lens through which an exhibition and discussion of academic thought, visual art, and performances might encourage interdisciplinary discourse. In addition, several other graduate students of the IPH have volunteered to raise funds, advertise, and organize the event. For submission guidelines, further information, or to volunteer, please go to <http://www.fsu.edu/%7Eproghum/interdisciplines/> or contact the organizers at [interdisciplines@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:interdisciplines@admin.fsu.edu).

## I.P.H. Stars

Ginger Assadi's short story, "The Boy Who Forgot Arabic," is forthcoming in the Tampa Review. She was the winner of the 2005 Graduate Award in Creative Writing at Florida State and is currently in her first year as a Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities at Florida State University.

Genevieve Brackins will be presenting a paper entitled "Fallen Angels Fly Away: Psychic Vampirism As Romanic Love From Werther To Wimpster" at the 4th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities this upcoming January. She has also been elected to the Congress of Graduate Students and will use her voice to provide the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities with more agency within the university system.

In February, Erin Dicesare presented a paper titled "The Fight for Multiculturalism in the Film Glory" at the "Cinematic Agendas" panel of the National Association for the Humanities conference on "The Humanities: Ideas, Forms / Dreams, Agendas" held in Richmond, Virginia.

Belle Harrell, sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning, developed an online survey to be taken by all our undergraduate students. The survey will assess undergraduates' perceptions of the IPH curriculum and help determine the extent to which the program's courses are interdisciplinary. This survey is required by SACS and is conducted in cooperation with Academic and Professional Program Services (APPS). The results of the survey will be published in the next newsletter.

Johann Pautz recently presented a paper titled, "Globalized Classes, Dissent, and the Political Economy of the Media" at the National Communications Association Pre-Conference on "Marxism and Communication Studies" in Boston. He has also been accepted to present a paper titled "Gardening on a Golf-Course: Reading Fight Club as a Template for Eco-Masculine Discourse" at the Literature, Eco-Criticism, and the Environment conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in February.

Rheanna Routledge designed the cover for the new MultiCultural Film Reader to be used in the course HUM 3321: MultiCultural Film.

Chris Vinsonhaler performed *Beowulf* on Oct 30 for the English Department of the University of Southern Mississippi and will be giving another performance of *Beowulf* this spring for the English Department of Oklahoma State University. She presented a paper on *Beowulf* October 5 at the Southeastern Medieval Association annual conference and has a paper accepted at the New College Conference on Medieval Culture in March 2005.

Katheryn Wright presented a paper entitled "From Site to Screen: Urban Screen Sites and the Production of Posthuman Landscapes" at the UCLA Art History Graduate Student Symposium on October 28. On November 20, she presented a paper in the National Communication Association entitled "Creating the Other in 'A Clockwork Orange.'"

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on New Directions in the humanities accepted Katheryn Wright, Erin Dicesare, Jessica Lowe, and Genevieve Brackins' proposal for a 90-minute colloquium entitled "Teaching Multiculturalism through Film." The papers to be presented by these students are titled, respectively, "Balancing Form

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## **Cultural Imperialism Instructors Collective (CIIC) News**

The Fall 2005 semester has been an exciting time for the Cultural Imperialism Instructor's Collective (CIIC). After hard work during the Spring and Summer semesters, the fruits of the collective's labor are being enjoyed. Among the new developments for the Cultural Imperialism course (HUM 3324) are a redesigned course structure and an accompanying text-book, edited by the collective, with contributions by the instructors.

A very beneficial partnership has developed between the Center for Teaching and Learning and the IPH (and the C.I. Collective in particular). With the generous help of Mr. Robert Smith and Mr. Dave Simpson, the IPH and C.I. Collective have received valuable training in the use of technology in the classroom. The ability to efficiently utilize digitized video and audio resources in multimedia-enhanced lectures increases the interdisciplinarity and study of media forms which are the backbone of the IPH's academic program. This increased integration of technology into the IPH's classes not only lays the groundwork for hybrid courses but also enhances the university's competitiveness in the use of classroom technology. In addition, the IPH and C.I. Collective are very grateful both for the Center for Teaching and Learning's financial support as well as Mr. Robert Smith's helpful advice in course design which was incorporated into the new Cultural Imperialism reader.

In other news, the instructors of the Cultural Imperialism Collective have developed a new course, titled Globalization (HUM 3930) which seeks to establish a connection between the social theories discussed in Cultural Imperialism and the historical approach of the core sequence through its examination of current events. Thus, the new course uses interdisciplinary methods to examine the world's increasing social, cultural, and economic integration through a unification of the two major academic tracks which are the hallmark of the IPH's mission.

and Content in Multicultural Film,” “The Cinematic Institution and Multiculturalism,” “Mainstreaming Multiculturalism in Film,” and “Film as Propaganda, film as Protest.” The conference will be held at the University of Carthage in Tunis, Tunisia 3 – 6 July, 2006.

## InterCulture

*InterCulture* is a new international Humanities e-journal focused upon interdisciplinary scholarship. The e-journal is registered and refereed and only accepts high quality submissions that are chosen for their subject matter, style, and thought provoking ideas. Graduate students are encouraged to submit work in order to develop skills necessary for publication and to gain experience with the publication process. *InterCulture* publishes independent work on a rolling basis in addition to sending out a call for papers each semester that specifies a particular theme. The e-journal project is part of the departmental service to provide research initiatives for graduate students. Headed by Dr. Maricarmen Martinez, vision of the e-journal began in the summer of 2004 and was further developed and coordinated by doctoral candidates Nicholas Ruiz and Drew Philbeck.

Presently, Drew Philbeck is the managing editor and website administrator for the e-journal, and *InterCulture* has celebrated its first full year as the Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities’ official graduate journal. Please visit the site at <http://interculture.fsu.edu>.

## IPH Reading Group

The Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities Reading Group was initiated this fall 2005 semester out of the desire for graduate students in the program to further develop a scholarly atmosphere and sense of academic camaraderie. Officially coordinated by Dr. Maricarmen Martinez and moderated by Drew Philbeck, the IPH Reading Group provides three texts per semester that are read and discussed by students at the IPHRG meetings. The texts are chosen to help expand the field of vision for those who are seeking a direction in the Humanities field as well as provide themes that are relevant to those at any phase of graduate education and beyond. Meetings are held in a relaxed atmosphere and encourage interaction and dialogue amongst students in order to flesh out themes and subjects that are relevant to Humanistic endeavor and research goals. The Reading Group belongs to the IPH’s initiatives for developing solidarity and interdisciplinary study, and enhances the goal of interdisciplinary education within the program’s mission

## Events Coordinated by IPH Students

*Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices* Screening

IPHO Members Jessica Lowe, Katie Clark, and Genevieve Brackins organized an on-campus screening of Robert Greenwald’s 2005 documentary, *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices*. The film addresses some of the unethical business practices employed by the world largest retailer and explores the means by which Wal-Mart retains its corporate power. The documentary’s November release is part of a national action week conceived by a coalition of advocacy groups concerned about Wal-Mart’s labor, economic, and environmental practices.