

# THE AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALIST

WILLIAM AND MARY AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER V.2 SPRING 2012

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS!

HELIS SIKK

This year was a great year for American Studies. It is very likely that in 2011/2012 a record number\* of our fellow brothers and sisters successfully defended their theses and dissertations. The topics these young creative minds focused in their dissertations were very characteristically to American Studies incredibly varied. So hopefully soon we'll all be able to read new exciting books on Nina Simone, the making of modern psychiatry, or sororities in the South, just to name a few. People awarded a brand new PhD degree were Margaret Freeman, Erin Krutko-Devlin, LaShonda Barnett, Wendy Gonaver, Jeffreen Hayes, and Ryan McDonald.

Although shorter in length than dissertations, the theses

defended this year, covered topics as intriguing and controversial as ever: transgression in Virginia State Fair, the complicated politics of fatherhood in *Maury*, racialization of advertising cards, and the list continues. Students who defended or will be defending their theses in a matter of days are Sarah Chasse, Meghan Holder, Amber Hodge, Sarah Stanford-McIntyre, Liz Howard, and Robyn Markarian.

Congratulations to all on such a great year full of successful defenses!

\*The author of this article is not responsible for the truthfulness of this claim. Nevertheless, considering and analyzing the extremely long list of defenders, it is very likely the case. As we say in American Studies, it's basically science.

## GRAD LOUNGE UPGRADE

SARAH STANFORD

It is my pleasure to report that the Graduate Student Lounge on the third floor has received some necessary TLC this semester. In a day of heavy lifting, Sarah Stanford, Helis Sikk, and Nicolette Gable rearranged the furniture, removing two study carrels to give the room some much needed space. The refrigerator received a thorough scrubbing and the coffee pot is clean and ready for use.

Due to a generous donation from the program the grad lounge is now home to a new sofa, ready for long nights of studying and – on occasion – napping. Please come take a look, and give the new couch a test drive. Finally, ASGSO gives many thanks to Sarah Glosson who provided a beautiful area rug to brighten up the space.

Please note, now that the large metal cabinet is gone, those looking for snacks can find them in their new home inside the cubby shelf next to the bathroom. Also, students who would like to donate excess pillows, artwork, lamps, or furniture are welcome to add to the space.

## CHANDOS' CAT EMPURRIUM

### SUMMER STUDY BUDDY SALE

ADOPT TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE



LIMIT 10 CATS PER STUDENT. NO RETURNS.

## THE SPRING SOCIAL SCENE

### DAVID PRATT

While the fall semester presents a challenge to students to balance the demands of graduate study with at least the semblance of a healthy social life, the spring semester finds American Studies graduate students new and old in their grooves, studying and socializing together without the aid of their graduate student organization. All the same, ASGSO held two big events this semester to bring us all together outside of College Apartments.

First, back in February, following requests for a display of her famous abilities as a host and baker, fourth-year MA/PhD

student Liz Howard graciously hosted her fellow ASGSO members for a Valentine's Day celebration. Thanks to a marvelous spread of baked goods and conversation hearts, not to mention a skillfully crafted musical playlist, Virginia was most decidedly for lovers and friends that Valentine's Day weekend.

In late April, ASGSO ended the social year as it began: on the dance floor at karaoke night. Not many American Studies scholars got up the nerve to sing at the Hospitality House that Friday night, but those who took the dive behind the mic got ample support from both their dancing brothers and sisters and the History and Anthropology students who came out for the party.

All in all, the spring semester was socially quieter than the fall for ASGSO, as students settled into the rhythms of graduate work and enjoyed their friendships with each other in less structured settings. However, the many students who attended this semester's ASGSO events can testify that the social bonds in our program, and within the broader graduate student community, are strong. With the ever-amiable Jan Hübenthal taking the helm as social chair in the fall of 2012, there is no reason to doubt that ASGSO will only continue to strengthen those bonds next year.

# GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FIFTH YEAR

KATE HOUSE PREVITI

Over President's Day Weekend in February, the William & Mary Global Film Festival celebrated its fifth year, showcasing films and programming under the 2012 theme, "Film and the City." From the bright lights of grand Parisian boulevards to the gritty streets of Hong Kong, this year's theme took audiences into some of the world's most iconic cityscapes, including our very own Williamsburg with the student city symphony production, *A New Olde Town, The World Turned Upside Down: A Williamsburg City Symphony*. The festival kicked off Thursday night with a local and global city symphony showcase and a Nawab-catered reception. The evening ended with a special screening of the New York City cult classic, *The Warriors*, with an introduction and post-screening Q&A by special guest and star of the film, David Patrick Kelly. Friday and Saturday's events included a marquee screening of *Fauteil d'orchestre/Avenue Montaigne* in partnership with the W&M French and Francophone Film Festival, the first annual W&M Student Short Film Competition, and a

celebration of Chinese film and culture presented in partnership with W&M's newly launched Confucius Institute – with a surprise visit from Richmond's Boka Taco Truck that dished out Asian-inspired tacos right outside the Kimball Theatre! Another new initiative this year, which many American Studies graduate students experienced, was the Festival's first official after party held on Saturday night at the Crust in Tribe Square, featuring raucous musical sets from Brooklyn band Tough Luck, W&M's Digging Up Virgins, and our headliner from Tokyo, The Suzan.



The W&M Global Film Festival was especially proud to host the Virginia premiere of *Mosquita y Mari*, a moving coming-of-age story about two Chicana teenagers growing up in East Los Angeles. The film's director Aurora Guerrero and one of the film's stars Fenessa Pineda traveled from California to introduce *Mosquita y Mari* and participate in a post-screening Q&A on the heels of the film's world premiere at the Sundance



Film Festival in January. In addition to this special screening, Sunday's programming highlights also included a showcase of 1960s street films from Havana and Chicago, introduced by Professor Ann Marie Stock and Professor Arthur Knight, and held at the Muscarelle Museum of Art – a new venue for the W&M Global Film Festival. Thank you to those members of the American Studies community, cinephiles and newcomers alike, who came out to sample films, tacos, and support the 2012 W&M Global Film Festival. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 2013 W&M Global Film Festival!



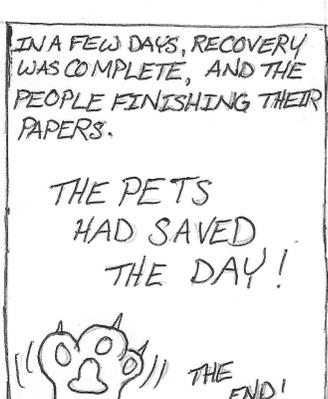
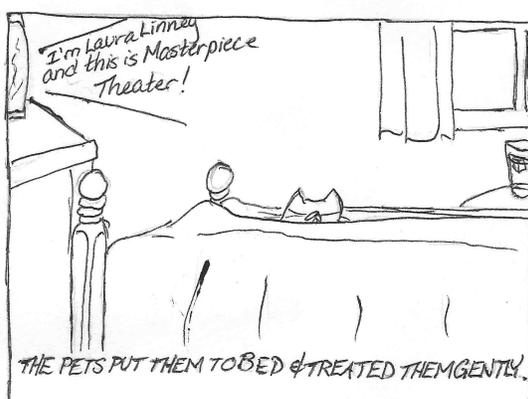
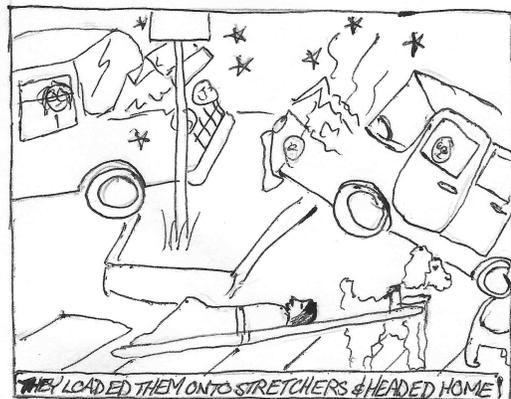
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE: THE TOKYO-BASED BAND, THE SUZAN, PERFORM AT THE GFF AFTER PARTY; JUDY PINEDA, FENESSA PINEDA, AND AURORA GUERRERO OF *MOSQUITA Y MARI* POSE AT THE FILM SCREENING; PROFESSORS ARTHUR KNIGHT AND TIM BARNARD ENJOY THE FESTIVAL.

# THE LEAGUE OF EXCEPTIONAL PETS

ZOEY ALDERMAN-TUTTLE

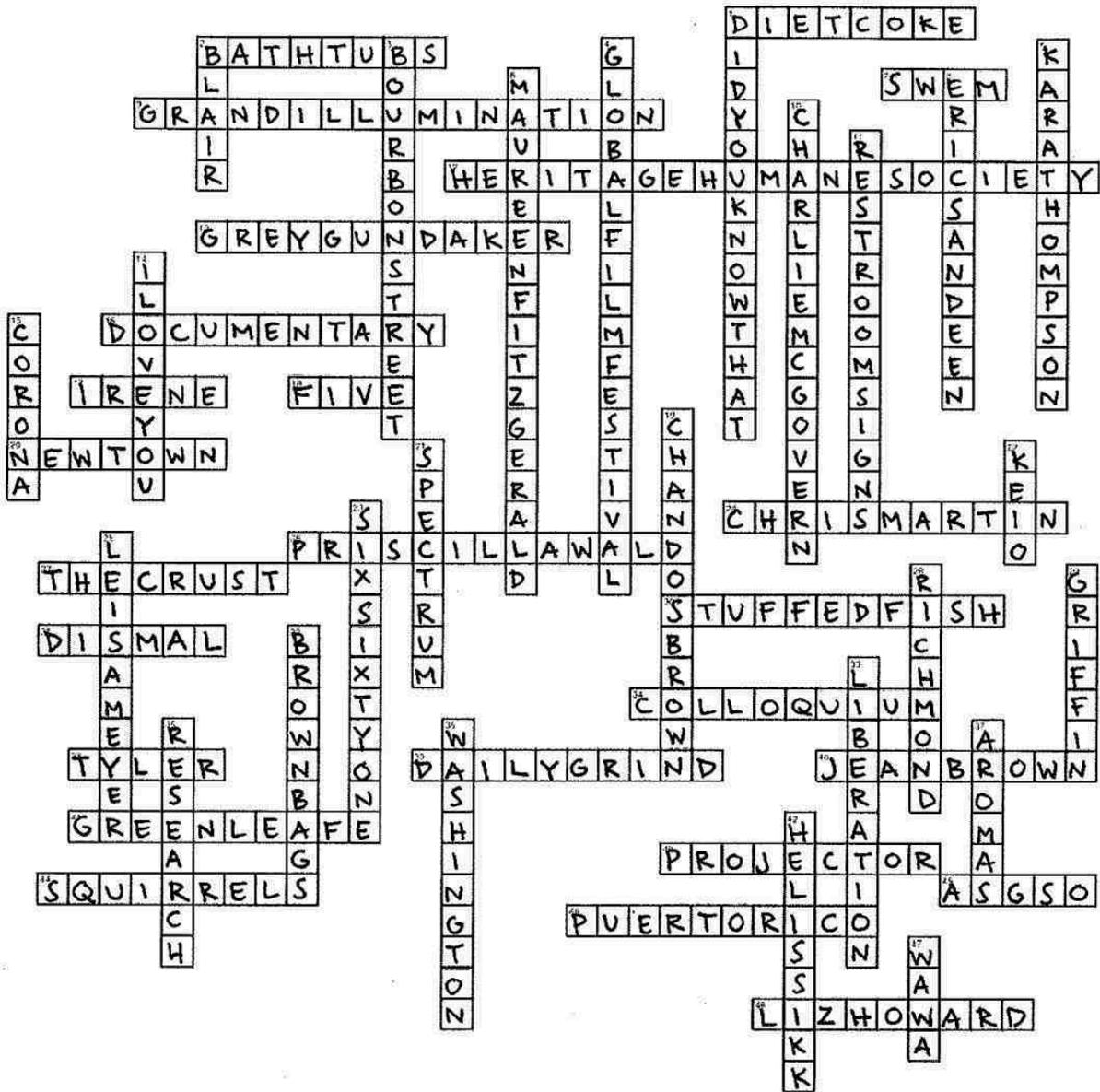
THE LEAGUE OF EXCEPTIONAL PETS - Z. ALDERMAN-TUTTLE

IN OUR LAST ISSUE - RUSTY AND PUK THE DOGS AND TONY, MINOS, AND BANDIT THE CATS BAND TOGETHER TO GO IN SEARCH OF THEIR MISSING PEOPLE.



# AMST INSIDER - SOLUTION

NEEVE KELLY



Across

- 1 AMST drink of choice
- 2 creepiest CA feature
- 7 scene of viral video with swarms of students
- 9 (Christian) festival of lights
- 12 where to adopt a study buddy
- 13 current DGS
- 16 Williamsburg \_\_\_\_\_ Project
- 17 she delayed the semester
- 18 most popular classroom
- 20 new colonialism
- 24 GSA president/Coldplay singer
- 26 ASA president
- 27 another pizza place
- 30 third floor resident
- 31 location/condition of swamp fire
- 34 clock starter
- 38 English homebase
- 39 campus caffeine
- 40 program MVP
- 41 dirtiest deli
- 43 some students say it's too loud and bright
- 44 aggressive locals
- 45 grad student council
- 46 2012 ASA location
- 48 unofficial baker

Down

- 1 (more) annoying newsletter
- 2 history home
- 3 ho house alternative
- 4 cinematic celebration
- 5 new professor
- 6 former director
- 8 Fall 2011 guest
- 10 former DGS
- 11 gender specific and grammatically incorrect
- 14 refrigerator magnet message
- 15 \$1 on Wednesdays
- 19 current director
- 21 LGBT grad group
- 22 international summer camp
- 23 first class
- 25 2011 host with the most
- 28 urban retreat
- 29 tribe mascot
- 32 monthly mini-conferences
- 33 "L" in ASLO
- 35 Graduate \_\_\_\_\_ Symposium
- 36 anthropology quarters
- 37 mediocre but convenient
- 42 ASGSO president
- 47 midnight snack shack