AMS Program Updates
This semester, the American Studies program has undergone significant growth.

AMS has appointed Dr. Samuele F. S. Pardini as the new program coordinator, as of Fall 2012. He is joined by the new advisory board, which includes the following professors: Lawrence Basirico, Jim Bisset, Michael Frontani, Charles Irons, Amy Johnson, Cassy Kircher, Tom Mould, Yoram Lubling, Prudence Layne, Paul Miller, Aaron Peeks, and Kirstin Ringelberg.

The number of students enrolling in the minor has quadrupled and keeps increasing. Enrollment has skyrocketed in the introductory class as well. In the Fall semester, 30 students have taken the introductory course, which is now offered in both the fall and spring semesters.

AMS Received Fund for Excellence Grant
The AMS Program received a Fund for Excellence Grant to establish the first American Studies Interfaculty Research Colloquium which is scheduled for Spring 2013. The Fund for Excellence Grant is awarded to projects that enhance studies within the liberal arts and sciences.

Wake Forest Professor Teaching Introductory Course
A visiting professor from Wake Forest University, Dr. Kathleen McClancy, will be teaching the introductory course, American Concepts: Introduction to American Studies, this upcoming spring.

Dr. McClancy received her Ph.D. from Duke University and currently teaches English at Wake Forest.

What is American Studies?
American Studies (AMS) is an interdisciplinary program, engaging students interested in a variety of topics and disciplines in a unifying study of American culture. Recent modifications to the curriculum have increased its flexibility and therefore allowed for diverse student and faculty involvement; 8 disciplines, 7 departments, and 2 schools are represented.

Current Program Curriculum
The AMS curriculum has been modified. Students minoring in American Studies are required to take the following courses:

AMS 210 Concepts in American Studies
One course from the following:
- HST 121 United States History through 1865
- HST 122 United States History Since 1865
- HST 123 United States and North Carolina since 1865
- POL 111 American Government
- COM 100 Communications in a Global Age

An Additional 200 Level Course
Three Approved 300-400 Level Courses

*The approved 200 Level and 300 level electives are within the following departments: Communications, English, History, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, and Sociology

Check out the updated American Studies website at:
www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/american_studies/
Faculty Work

The AMS Faculty is very active in the academic community. Faculty publish scholarly papers, speak on panels, and lecture at events across the country.

**DR. PARDINI’S BUSY YEAR**

The program coordinator, Dr. Pardini, has been very busy this year. Pardini lectured at UNC Greensboro in March, presented a paper at the Calandra Italian American Institute in NYC in April, and was in a panel on the ASA Committee on American Studies Programs and Centers: Revising and Developing American Studies Curricula/Programs in the Twenty First Century in November. Others on the panel included program coordinators from Wayne State University; University of Texas, Austin; Brown University; Rutgers University, New Brunswick; and Radboud University Nijmegen (in the Netherlands). Pardini was also regarded for his work on “The Boss,” Bruce Springsteen. Pardini’s essay, “Bruce Zirilli: The Italian Side of Bruce Springsteen” was reprinted in *Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream* (edited by Kenneth Womack, Jerry Zolten, and Mark Bernhard).

**DR. YORAM LUBLING ON JOHN DEWEY**

Professor Yoram Lubling presented a paper called “John Dewey and the ‘seat’ of Intellectual Authority” at *The Pragmatic Workshop* at The College of William and Mary in March.

This was not Lubling's only extension of Dewey’s work. In 2011, Lubling’s book, *The Person Vanishes: John Dewey’s Philosophy of Experience and the Self*, was regarded for adding a “missing chapter” to John Dewey’s philosophy of personality by tracing the philosopher’s developing understanding of personhood.

**DR. AMY JOHNSON ON JAMAICA**

Professor Amy Johnson presented a paper at the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association Conference in Mobile, Alabama. The title of her paper was “Slavery, Freedom, and Memories of Slaveholding among the Maroons of Jamaica.” This past June Dr. Johnson also published an article called “Slavery on the Gold Coast and the African Resistance to Slavery in Jamaica during the Early Colonial Period” in LIMINA: A Journal of Historical and Cultural Studies. She spent the summer in Jamaica doing research on her book project, thanks to a Hultquist and FR&D grant.

Student Work

**SURE FOR SHAPIRO**

AMS Minor Robert Shapiro received a $3,000 SURE summer grant. Shapiro worked with Elon English professor, Dr. Kevin Boyle, on his project, *Inner Lives on the Page: Studying Craft in Reading and Writing Poetry.* The project focused on studying contemporary American poetry and then creating original poems integrated with techniques from the poets studied. Shapiro compiled the eight original poems he wrote into a portfolio, showcasing his work.

**ALUMNUS AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS**

Elon Graduate Andrew Dispensa began his graduate degree at the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC.

The program’s alumni include Robert Redford, Danny DeVito, Lauren Bacall, and Kirk Douglas.