



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES

August 26, 2010

Administrative Boards
General College and
College of Arts and Sciences
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

227 GREENLAW HALL
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<http://amerstud.unc.edu>

To the Administrative Boards:

I am pleased to submit the proposal to establish a new Ph.D. program in American Studies. The request for permission to plan was approved by the Administrative Boards on April 1, 2009. We have taken into consideration helpful comments by the Administrative Boards when it reviewed the earlier proposal. In particular, I hope we have made it clear that an M.A. degree in American Studies will be created as part of the doctoral program, but that no students will be admitted for the purpose of seeking a terminal M.A. in American Studies. The M.A. in Folklore will remain a terminal degree.

Thank you for considering the proposal so early in the semester. It will help us to move forward as quickly as possible with the aim to admit the first class of students in the fall of 2012.

Warmest wishes,

Joy Kasson
Chair, American Studies Department



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August 17, 2010

Professor Joy Kasson
Chair, Department of American Studies
CB #3520, Greenlaw Hall
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520

Dear Joy,

I write to let you know that the College enthusiastically supports your proposal for a new Ph.D. program in American Studies. I am convinced the new program will be an important addition to the graduate offerings in the Humanities at UNC-Chapel Hill. Your department already has a distinguished faculty with an impressive record of teaching and research in several fields that will be of great interest to outstanding applicants. Your program will be unique because of its strengths in interdisciplinary American Studies, international American Studies, American Indian Studies, Folklore, Southern Studies, and material culture studies. I expect your Ph.D. to be one of the top programs in the nation and the best in the South.

As you and I have discussed, the College plans to support the program with additions to the instructional budget of American Studies as the program grows; this will provide support to your graduate students and also increase your department's capacity to teach the courses that your outstanding undergraduate program provides. We will work together to implement the necessary budget as the program begins to admit its students.

Sincerely,

William L. Andrews
E. Maynard Adams Professor of English & Comparative Literature
Senior Associate Dean for the Fine Arts and Humanities



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May 5, 2010

Joy Kasson
Chair, American Studies
CB 3520
226 Greenlaw
Carolina Campus

Dear Joy:

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for your proposed doctoral program in American Studies. There are clearly a number of ties between your department and Communication Studies, and this new program can only enhance those ties and the possibilities for collaborative teaching and research.

As you know, there are already a number of Communication Studies faculty members who enjoy affiliate status in your program, including Carole Blair, Larry Grossberg, Rich Cante, Della Pollock, and Eric Watts. In addition, our graduate students pursue research interests that intersect with your program specializations and course offerings in a number of ways. For example, several of our graduate students and faculty have interests in southern studies as well as visual culture, and all adopt a strong interdisciplinary approach to theory and research methods. I full expect that, with this new degree program, an increasing number of our Ph.D. students will take courses in American Studies, and that American Studies Ph.D. students will, in turn, take courses in Communication Studies.

The creation of a Ph.D. program in American Studies can only strengthen the important interdisciplinary teaching and research efforts at UNC, and will certainly further strengthen the ties between our two programs. I hope that GA approves this program, and does so expeditiously.

Cordially,

Dennis K. Mumby
Department Chair



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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
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16 August 2010

Professor Joy Kasson
Chair, Dept. of American Studies
Greenlaw Hall

Dear Joy:

I support the proposal to inaugurate a doctoral program in American Studies with the greatest enthusiasm. Graduate students in English and Comparative Literature have long profited from the generous support of faculty in American Studies, both through taking AMST classes and having AMST faculty as members of their exam and dissertation committees. As you know, a significant number of our Ph.D. students each year choose to minor in AMST, so your faculty are already very much involved with doctoral education. In English & Comp Lit we value the interdisciplinary breadth fostered in our students' work by exposure to the methodologies of your discipline. Faculty in English and Comparative Literature will be glad to continue this beneficial exchange by welcoming AMST graduate students into our classes as well, where our work will be enriched by their multifaceted perspectives.

The community of interest between our departments is evident in our shared faculty, with you, Tim Marr, and Philip Gura having joint appointments, four colleagues from DOECL holding adjunct appointments in AMST (Minrose Gwin, Jennifer Ho, Eliza Richards, and Ruth Salvaggio), and another ten maintaining affiliated status in AMST. Graduate students in both departments will continue to profit from the teaching and research collaborations between our faculty manifested in these dual affiliations.

I congratulate you on your careful planning for a doctoral program and look forward to greeting your first class of students. Please let me know if I can support your proposal in any way.

Sincerely,

Beverly Taylor
Chair



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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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brundage@email.unc.edu

April 7, 2010

Prof. Joy Kasson
Chair, American Studies
Greenlaw Hall, CB #3520
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520

W. FITZHUGH BRUNDAGE
William B. Umstead Professor

Dear Joy:

I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the proposal to launch a doctoral program in American Studies. This proposal can only bolster and enrich the tradition of close cooperation and shared research interests between History and American Studies. The institutional ties between History and American Studies are conspicuous: three American Studies faculty – John Kasson, Theda Perdue, and Bill Ferris – have History appointments; two American Studies faculty hold adjunct appointments in History; and a total of nine History faculty have either Adjunct appointments or are Affiliated with American Studies. Cooperation between the departments is especially close in Southern Studies and American Indian Studies. A new doctoral program in American Studies would inevitably generate new classes and learning opportunities of interest to History graduate students. Our students will benefit from exposure to the distinct methodological orientation of American. Simultaneously, doctoral students in American Studies would undoubtedly add numbers to and valuable perspectives in our graduate courses. In sum, I can only envision positive consequences for our department and our students by the initiation of a doctoral program in American Studies. Please let me know of any ways that I can contribute to this welcome proposal.

Sincerely,

W. Fitzhugh Brundage
William B. Umstead Distinguished Professor of History
Interim Chair



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125 SAUNDERS HALL
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13 April 2010

Dear Joy:

It is a great pleasure to write to endorse with enthusiasm the proposal to offer a PhD program in American Studies here at UNC-Chapel Hill. I have read your planning document and am confident that this doctoral program will be an outstanding addition to graduate study here at Carolina. Many of our students in Religious Studies already take graduate courses and work with faculty in your department, and we benefit greatly from your expertise. Having a graduate program can only deepen the resources that we can offer in the field of American religious history, and I welcome the prospect.

Please know that you have my wholehearted endorsement and let me know if I can be of assistance as the program takes shape.

Best wishes,

Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp
Chair, Department of Religious Studies