

AIS CURRENTS

The Birth of South Sudan

By Keisha Haywood



Photo courtesy of Keisha Haywood

Professor Keisha Haywood with several SPLA officers, including Spokesman Colonel Philip Aguer (Right)

On July 9, 2011, South Sudan became the world's newest country, and Professor **Keisha Haywood** (Political Science & International Studies) was in the capital, Juba, for the Independence Day celebrations. The atmosphere at the Independence Day Ceremony was jubilant, not only for the people of the new country, but also for

the hundreds of dignitaries and guests, including United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who came from around the world to offer their support and heart-felt best wishes. After decades of enduring multiple civil wars and a lack of food, clean water, hospitals, security, and other basic necessities, the people of South Sudan were filled with a new-found hope that things will get better. Several Generals in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), who fought in the struggle for independence, openly wept as Sudan's flag was lowered and South Sudan's flag was raised. Along with the singing of the new national anthem, the

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Cuba Report (May-June 2011)

By John Gronbeck-Tedesco

In May I traveled to Havana, Cuba, to complete research for my book manuscript. Over my month's stay, I worked in various archives and libraries, poring over documents, books, and periodicals that specifically related to political and artistic exchange between Cuban and U.S. women around themes of revolution between 1930

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This issue of *AIS CURRENTS* was produced and edited by Professors Todd Barnes, Keisha Haywood, Rebecca Root, and Natalia Santamaria Laorden.

New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College

Letter from the Dean

By Hassan Nejad



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Herring

These are exciting times at the School of American and International Studies. I am proud of our tradition and the

accomplishments of our faculty and students. We have an excellent record of educating outstanding students who understand the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world and the

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Birth of South Sudan

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flag ceremony served as a symbol of victory for all the new citizens of South Sudan. Another important moment in the ceremony was the unveiling of a new statue of Dr. John Garang, who led the second war for independence but died only months after the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that led to independence.

Though he was not there to see it, Garang is considered the father of the new nation. He led the SPLA in its decades-long war against the government of Sudan. This civil war between Sudan and South Sudan was actually the second war between North and South. Sudan's first civil war began even before its 1956 independence from Britain and Egypt. In fact, between independence and the 2005 CPA, Sudan only saw 11 years of peace. During the almost four decades of war, over two million people were killed, many more were displaced, and the region fell behind the rest of Sudan in economic and human development. Despite its tragic history, or perhaps because of it, the citizens of the new South Sudan have exhibited the kind of hope that can only come from a new birth. There is no question that South Sudan has a great deal of work ahead, but there have already been early signs that the work is under way, including the finishing of the new international airport in Juba and the re-opening of the University of Juba.

Professor Haywood also attended the parliamentary session in which there was another major accomplishment: the completion of South Sudan's Transitional

Constitution. Professor Haywood has already had the opportunity to discuss her trip with several students from her Spring 2011 courses, all of whom are very familiar with the events in South Sudan because of their participation in mock peace talks between Sudan and South Sudan. In addition, Professor Haywood gave a talk on her experiences as part of the Great Decisions lecture series. After conducting several years of research on the conflict and peace agreement in South Sudan, she was grateful to be present for the historic day for which so many people fought and died. Professor Haywood is also grateful for grants she received from the Ramapo College Foundation and Ramapo College's Separately Budgeted Research funds. □

Cuba Report

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and 1970. I was also able to share my work with Cuban scholars and international researchers, whose advice and expertise have benefited my study in unimagined ways.

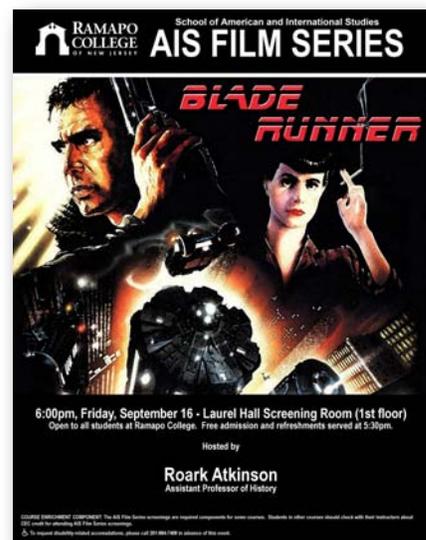
As always, trips to Cuba inspire much more than scholarly investigation. I have always appreciated the opportunity to immerse myself in a society that is in constant flux, which produces heartbreaking accounts of familial separation as well as provocative instances of inspiring creativity and improvisation that form the contours of Cuban daily life. This entails Havana's highly active and intoxicating cultural scene: tantalizing sounds of hip hop/reggaeton, flurries of vibrant colors throughout street art fairs, and spectacular dancing that includes everything from classical ballet and flamenco, to hybrid

forms of salsa, timba, and rumba. It is in these moments that I cherish life in higher education and the dialogue produced among students, scholars, and administrators that fosters fruitful interaction and collaboration. □

Photo courtesy of John Gronbeck-Tedesco



Professor John Gronbeck-Tedesco with Cuban scholar Ana Suarez



AIS Film Series

AIS FILM SERIES

The AIS Film Series during the Spring of 2011 featured Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* (1982), Icíar Bollaín's *Even the Rain (También la lluvia)* (2010), Charles Ferguson's *Inside Job* (2010), and Scott Cooper's *Crazy Heart* (2009). □

AIS FACULTY UPDATES

Lisa Cassidy was selected to participate in workshops at the first annual Publicly Engaged Philosophy Conference, sponsored by the Public Philosophy Networks in Washington D.C. this October. Workshop topics included “Feminist Bioethics” and “Bioethics and Biopolitics.” Cassidy’s article “Thoughts on the Bioethics of Estranged Biological Kin” will soon be published in a 2012 issue of the journal *Hypatia*. This article addresses what bioethical obligations exist between people who are related ‘by blood’ but are not in contact with each other (due to adoption or other estrangement, for example).

Rosetta D’Angelo presented the paper “The Use of Cultural Events to Promote Studies in World Languages in General and in Italian, in Particular, Literature and Culture” at the conference “New Trends in Global Education International Conference” held in Cyprus in November.

In 2011, **Paul Elovitz** edited the book *Psychohistorical Explorations*, published nine articles, and has two others forthcoming. His June symposium article, “Extreme American Exceptionalism: Narcissism and Paranoia,” was published with a companion piece on exceptionalism in American foreign policy by a Northwestern professor and commented on by 18 colleagues from Harvard, Chicago, Colorado, York, Rutgers, Maryland, McGill, Boston,

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Letter from the Dean

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opportunities for peace and prosperity in this world. Last year, several of our graduates were accepted to some of the best graduate programs or law schools in the country. They included Johns Hopkins, Drew, Fordham, George Washington, Rutgers, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, Seton Hall, University of Arizona, and Pace. Fifteen of our students conducted joint research with the faculty and several presented research projects at national and international conferences. In Fall 2011 seven students conducted joint research with the faculty and six students presented papers at professional meetings. More than half of the faculty presented researched articles at professional conferences, and a dozen received acceptance for the publication of their works in refereed journals. For this academic year (2011-2012), working together, faculty and students have planned over a dozen co-curricular events. These events started early in the fall semester and will continue into Spring 2012. In addition, an exciting alumni/student/faculty networking gathering is scheduled for April 2012. The AIS website contains detailed information about these events. My sincere thanks to the faculty, students, staff, and our alumni who have made our success possible.

In Fall 2011, AIS received a generous gift from Lawrence and Theresa Salameno. The gift will be used to support renovation of the physical facilities of the School, create a center for British Studies, and establish a dean’s scholarship. The faculty and students of AIS are delighted to

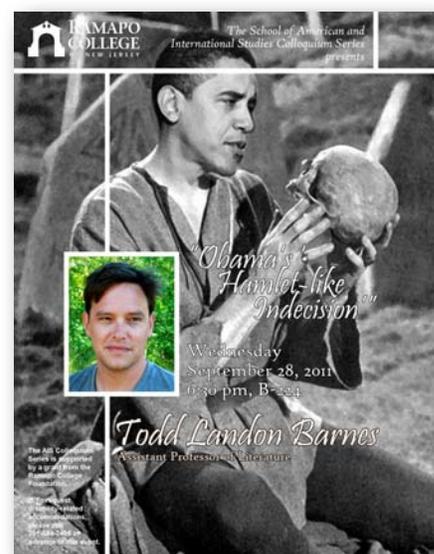
have received this gift and appreciate the generosity and the commitment of the Salamenos to a school which has an outstanding faculty and an excellent curriculum that is a gateway to learning about and succeeding in an increasingly complex, inter-dependent, and interconnected world. □

STUDENT NEWS

The **Philosophy Club** hosted an ongoing discussion and book club this semester on the television show *House*. “House and Philosophy” featured free books for the first 35 people. They watched episodes of *House* and discussed their philosophical implications. Free snacks, too! This has been a wonderful experiential activity, held on October 18, November 14, and December 6 from 5:00-6:15 pm in J. Lee’s.

Several AIS students presented papers at conferences. Graduating AIS student **Tim Kelly** presented a paper on Hitler and Milošević and junior **Lauren Serebransky**

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AIS Colloquium Series

AIS FACULTY UPDATES
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UConn, and elsewhere. Among his other articles were thoughts on the American family, blind spots in foreign policy, Obama's personality, the Tea Party, a scholar of Russian history, a UCLA political scientist, and a memorial for a distinguished Brandeis historian. All of Elovitz' articles passed through a double-blind refereeing system, for which he is rewriting a piece on creativity to be published in December. Two English professors have just invited him to write 8,000 words on the relationship of psychology and history for a Cambridge University volume on the subject and the editor of the *Journal of Psychohistory* wants him to write a lengthy article on the 2012 election. He continues his considerable work as the editor of *Clio's Psyche*. Elovitz' professional presentations were on April 30, 2011 on "The Psychology of American Exceptionalism," at the Training Institute for Mental Health in Manhattan and on June 8-9, 2011 he gave separate presentations on the Tea Party movement and Barack Obama at an international conference at Fordham University's Lincoln campus.

Susan Hangen delivered a paper called "The Concept of the Himalayas in an Age of Globalization and Identity Politics" on a plenary panel at the First Conference of the Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies, held at Macalester College in October 2011.

Yvette Kisor's essay "Making the Connection on Page and Screen in Tolkien's and Jackson's *The*

Lord of the Rings" appeared in the collection *Picturing Tolkien: Essays on the Peter Jackson Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, ed. Janice Bogstad and Philip E. Kaveny and published by McFarland. In addition, her paper "Words, Deeds, Gender, and Genre" has been accepted to the session Words and Deeds in Anglo-Saxon England at the Forty-seventh International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, May 2012.

Iraida H. López presented her research on Ana Mendieta at the Cuba Futures International Conferences sponsored by the Bildner Center for Hemispheric Studies, CUNY Graduate School, March 31-April 2, 2011. Her article on Mendieta's legacy in Cuba has been accepted for publication in *La Gaceta de Cuba*. In January, also at the Bildner, she participated in a panel discussion with critic Luisa Campuzano on contemporary Cuban literature and culture. Additionally, she presented her annotated editions of Ena Lucía Portela's fiction at McNally Jackson Books in Soho in February.

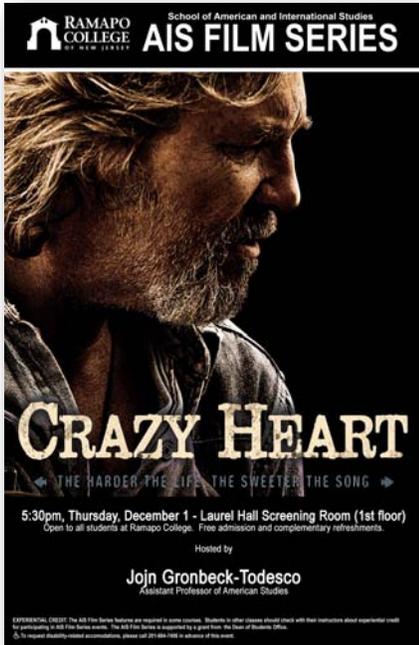
Jennefer Mazza and **Michael Unger** will attend the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago next March and present a paper entitled "Assessing the Impact of Incorporating Service Learning/Field Experiences into the Capstone Political Science Course". Using data compiled over the last three years, this paper examines the impact of service learning and field experiences on student learning in a capstone Political Science course which focuses on theories of democracy and democratic

practice. Do these experiences build on student capacities to link the theoretical with the practical, theory and praxis? Do these experiences increase student understanding of democratic processes and the context of democratic politics? What kinds of placements work better than others in terms of advancing these learning goals? Data has been collected regarding the impact of these experiences on job placements, career selection and job opportunities. This paper will link that information with the data on student learning to assess the overall impact of the course and to develop strategies for improvement.

Steven Rice (Professor of American Studies) co-directed two one-week summer workshops for K-12 teachers held on campus this past July. The workshops focused on the history and culture of the Hudson River in the nineteenth century and were funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture grant which Rice and his co-director, **Meredith Davis** (Associate Professor of Art History, School of Contemporary Arts), received last year. The workshops included lectures and discussions on campus and visits to various sites along the river, from Manhattan to Newburgh. Participating teachers came from all over the United States.

Rebecca Root's article "The Fujimori Effect" appeared in the September 2011 issue of the *Journal of Human Rights*. Her book, *Transitional Justice in Peru*, will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2012. The book

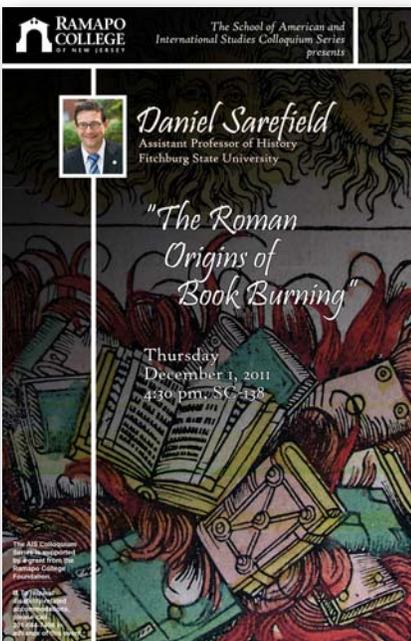
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AIS Film Series

Readings at Ramapo

In October, New Jersey poets **Laura McCollough** and **Kevin Clark** read at Ramapo, followed by young, acclaimed poets **Camille Dungy** and **Jeffrey McDaniel** in November. □



AIS Colloquium Series

STUDENT NEWS
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addressed why the world mostly ignored the plight of Jews in the face of Nazi anti-Semitism and genocide. This Ramapo student panel was at the International Psychohistorical Association (IPA) Conference on June 10-12, 2011 at the Lincoln Center Campus of Fordham University. **Paul Elovitz** mentored one of these students with the support of a 2010-11 faculty/student research grant from the Provost facilitated by Dean Nejad.

Four AIS students presented papers at the October 2011 conference held by the Conference of Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) in Keene, New Hampshire. **Jacqueline Thomas** presented a paper on “Intertextuality and the ‘Rape’ of Miranda in *The Tempest* and *Eastwolds*.” **Amanda Lentino’s** paper dealt with “Special Needs and the Public School System.” Both papers were developed under the guidance of Prof. **Todd Barnes**. **Alison Culvert** presented her work on “Education as a Common Ground”, the result of research conducted under Prof. **Monika Giacoppe**, and **Maria Zampetoulas** presented “Yoga Within the Yoga Club: The Epicenter of Healing” with the help of Prof. **Susan Hangen**.

Political Science major **Yamehsa Woodley** presented a paper entitled “Toeing the Party Line? Examining the Effects of Congressional Seniority on Issue Trespassing” at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association in Philadelphia, PA. Using data on

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Events Organized by the Center for Genocide and Holocaust Studies

By Michael Riff

The Center for Genocide & Holocaust Studies organized a series of excellent events on campus this fall. The events brought students from across the college into contact with historians, filmmakers, writers, and activists who work on issues of genocide, and helped AIS draw attention to the school’s new minor in Human Rights & Genocide Studies. Fall 2011 is the first semester this minor has been offered, and it already has ten students enrolled. Here are a few highlights.

On September 22, Dr. Sylvia Flescher, a psychiatrist/psychoanalyst in private practice in Ridgewood, N.J. and a faculty member at Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York City, gave a talk entitled “Googling for Ghosts: A Meditation on Writer’s Block, Mourning and the Holocaust.” She described her decades-long struggle with writer’s block and how her voice was overshadowed by her analyst father, a writer and Holocaust survivor. Themes of survivor guilt, incomplete mourning and the transmission of trauma to the second generation were discussed.

On October 6, Elissa Bemporad, the Jerry and William Ungar assistant professor of History at Queens College of the City University of New York, gave a talk on “The Blood Libel and Soviet Anti-Semitism.” The blood libel dates from medieval times

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AIS FACULTY UPDATES
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deals with efforts by the Peruvian government and public to restore human rights accountability after two decades of civil war and human rights violations. Individual chapters examine Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, prosecutions, reparations and other measures of transitional justice implemented over the last decade. She is also looking forward to leading a group of students on an Alternative Spring Break trip to Ecuador in March.

Natalia Santamaría Laorden gave a lecture entitled "The Return of the Ships: 'Hispanic' Encounters after 1898" in the New York Public Library on August 9. The lecture was part of the series "Cinco Ventanas: Five Windows to the Politics and Arts of the Spanish Speaking World." Also, Santamaría Laorden's review of Carmen Morán Rodríguez's *Figuras y figuraciones femeninas en la obra de Rosa Chacel* will be published in a forthcoming number of the *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*.

Jeremy Teigen recently published "Barack Obama's 'American' Problem: Unhyphenated Americans in the 2008 Elections" in *Social Science Quarterly* (with Brian Arbour of CUNY-John Jay) and is spending fall 2011 teaching American government and research methodology at Tbilisi State University in Georgia on a Fulbright Scholar award.

Michael Unger's article, "'New Style' Campaigning, Citizen Knowledge and Sources of

Legitimacy for State Courts: A Case Study in Texas" was published in the October edition of *Politics and Policy* (with Mark J. McKenzie, Texas Tech University). He also presented papers at the 2011 Meetings of the New England Political Science Association (Hartford, CT) and Northeastern Political Science Association (Philadelphia, PA).

Two of **Lisa Williams'** poems were accepted into *The Japan Anthology*, which will be published by Pirene Fountain Press. It is forthcoming around December 2011, and all proceeds from the book will go to the Earthquake relief fund in Japan. She also read some poetry at the benefit reading for the Museum of Motherhood, temporarily located at "pop-up" quarters 401 East 84th St (at 1st Ave Lower Level) MOMmuseum.org, on Saturday, September 24. □

Genocide and Holocaust
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and deals with the blatantly untrue and defamatory accusation that the Jewish religion calls for the periodic ritual consumption of the blood of Christians. The accusation is intimately intertwined with the history of anti-Semitism. Bemporad's talk addressed the blood libel canard as it manifested itself in the Soviet sphere. This event was co-sponsored by the History Club.

The History Club also co-sponsored an event on November 3, at which Columbia University Professor of History Samuel Moyn discussed his new book *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in*

History, which traces the genesis of the idea of human rights and how it has become a motivating force on the world stage. On October 26, Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian & Italian American Studies at Hofstra University **Stanislao Pugliese** discussed "Answering Auschwitz: Primo Levi's Science and Humanism after the Fall." The title alludes to the questionable circumstances of Levi's death, and Levi's legacy in charting a course to help understand what actually occurred on a human level in the Holocaust. In Primo Levi's telling of the tragedy that befell the Jews of Europe, according to Pugliese, we see revealed the second "fall" of humankind in which barbarity became commonplace and ordinary to the point that even liberators of concentration camps felt collective shame. This event was co-sponsored by the Italian Club.

In conjunction with the Communication Arts major's Cinematheque series and with the support of the Platinum Series, the Center for Genocide & Holocaust Studies also sponsored a screening of the highly-acclaimed recent

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Prof. Jeremy Teigen near Mt. Kazbek
Georgian Military Road

Photo courtesy of Julie George

GLOBAL CHALLENGES LECTURE SERIES

By Cliff Peterson

Profs. Susan Hangen and **Cliff Peterson**, in collaboration with **Jim Woodley**, School of Administration and Business and **Rob Mentore**, Director of the First Year Seminar Program, designed a five-part lecture series called "Global Challenges" for the Fall 2011 semester. The series examines five major global issues facing the United States in the twenty-first century and is based on the annual "Great Decisions" publication of the Foreign Policy Association that Prof. Peterson regularly incorporates into his "International Politics" course. The five topics selected this semester were: "National Security after 9/11" (9/14); "Remembering Haiti" (9/28); "World Financial Crisis" (10/13), "Global Governance" (10/26) and "The Horn of Africa" (11/10). AIS faculty and alumni have been featured in this lecture series.

Dr. Keith Cozine of the Department of Homeland Security and a 1993 Political Science graduate of Ramapo College delivered the first lecture in the series on "National Security" with Profs. Peterson and **Mike Fluhr** serving as panelists. Prof. Emeritus **Charles Carreras** served as a panelist for the "Rebuilding Haiti" lecture while Fluhr and Peterson were panelists for the "Global Governance" lecture. Finally, Prof. **Keisha Haywood** gave the lecture on "The Horn of Africa" based, in part, on her research this summer in South Sudan at the time independence was gained by the world's newest nation. The "Global Challenges" series

provided an excellent Curriculum Enrichment Component opportunity for Ramapo students in general and with a particular focus on students in the First Year Seminar Program. The lecture series was well-attended and hopefully will become an annual program at the college. □

Student News *continued from page 5*

congressional campaign websites (2002-2006), Woodley investigates issues trespassing by congressional candidates, which is when candidates of one party campaign on issues traditionally associated with the other party. She found that Republican candidates were more likely to engage in issue trespassing in the 2002, 2004, and 2006 election cycles than Democratic candidates, and that challengers were more likely to engage in issue trespassing than incumbents in some cycles. She conducted her research under the guidance of Prof. **Michael Unger**. □

Several others carried out joint faculty/student research projects. Prof. Todd Barnes and student Amanda Lentino conducted research for a manuscript entitled "Geek Chic Shakespeare: Bookworms, Computer Nerds, Drama Queens." Prof. Erick Castellanos and students Keysi Castillo and Rebecca Ramos researched "Food, Culture, and Identity among Latino Restaurant Workers." Prof. Paul Elovitz collaborated with students Alexander Djurdjinovic and Thomas Colella on a paper about "Presidential Politics and Governance in America's Celebrity Culture" and with Senior History major Amy Jarvis

and Ben Figueroa on an article invited by a journal editor. □

The **American Studies Club** organized a trip to Broadway to see a production of the musical *Memphis* in November. Eighteen students were accompanied by Profs. **Steven Rice** and **John Gronbeck-Tedesco** to the show and dinner afterward. □ AIS Students working for the Community Service Center brought **Invisible Children** back to campus this Fall.



From Left to Right: **Kerry Duda**, **Jen Alfonso**, **Sarah Galo**, **Lauren MacDonald**, **Nora Dougherty**, **Carlos (roadie)**, **Erin (Invisible Children Intern)**, **Tim (roadie)**, **Elissa (roadie)**, and **Brenda (roadie)**

Invisible Children is a creative NGO whose website proclaims their mission to "use film, creativity and social action to end the use of child soldiers in Joseph Kony's rebel war and restore LRA-affected communities in central Africa to peace and prosperity." Senior International Studies major **Nora Dougherty**, one of the organizers, was pleased to announce that over 70 students attended their event in November, at which a film was shown, a survivor of Uganda's civil war and volunteers from Invisible Children spoke, and President Obama's recent deployment of troops to Uganda was discussed. The club is advised by Prof. **Keisha Haywood**. □

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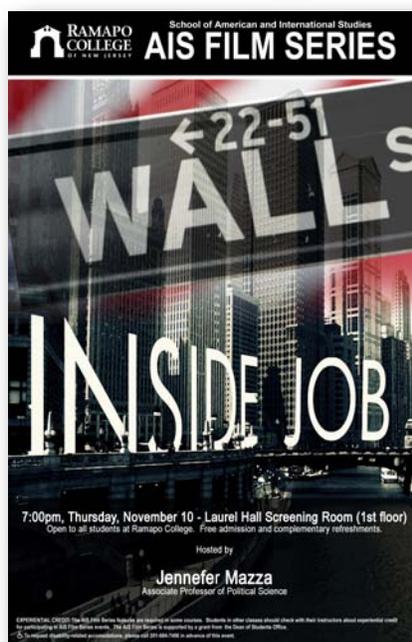
On Sunday, November 13 the **First Year Seminar (FYS)** students went to see the Broadway musical *Billy Elliot* at the Imperial Theatre in New York City. Caught between boxing and ballet, Thatcherism and a labor strike in his small English town, the play's protagonist struggles with this year's FYS course theme: insiders vs. outsiders. The performance was followed by a delicious pizza dinner at John's Pizza in NYC.

FYS: Introduction to Liberal Studies is the common course for all incoming AIS students. Faculty from all the AIS disciplines and interdisciplines participate in the course, either as guest lecturers or as instructors. This year's faculty include **Todd Landon Barnes** (Literature), **John Gronbeck-Tedesco** (American Studies), and **Jennefer Mazza** (Political Science). This year's guest lecturers included Profs. **Paula Straile-Costa** (Language), **Roark Atkinson** (History), and **Jeremy Teigen** (Political Science), who joined the class via Skype from Tbilisi State University in Georgia, where he is studying on a Fulbright Scholar award. This semester also featured a guest lecture by Prof. **Pania Te Maro** a visiting scholar from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. In keeping with the course's "insiders vs. outsiders" theme, she led the class in a discussion about Kaupapa Maori educational programs in New Zealand. □

Genocide and Holocaust*continued from page 6*

documentary, *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*, conducted by its director, Pamela Yates and co-producer, Paco de Onís. This extraordinary documentary not only addresses the civil war and genocide that plagued Guatemala in the 1980s, but also the use of film footage in contemporary efforts to bring those responsible for the genocide to justice. Finally, on November 14, an event on "Women in War Zones: Sexual Violence in the Congo" was held, co-sponsored by the Human Rights & Genocide Studies minor, and by the newly established Human Rights Club. □

This and other issues of AIS CURRENTS are now archived online at <http://www2.ramapo.edu/ais/newsletter.aspx>



AIS Film Series

AIS Colloquium Series

The Fall 2011 AIS Colloquium Series featured four lectures. On September 28, Ramapo Prof. of Literature **Todd Landon Barnes** presented his talk, "Barack Obama's 'Hamlet-Like Indecision'." On October 19, a talk entitled "A Report from the Ground in Pakistan: Surviving and Confronting Earthquake, Flooding, and the Devastation of an Expanding 'War on Terror' in a Post-9/11, Post Osama Bin Laden World" was given by Schomburg Fellow Prof. **Shafiuddin Khan**, visiting from the Department of Literature, Government Post-Graduate College, Bagh, Pakistan. On November 9, Prof. **Lukasz Fyederek**, from the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland gave a talk entitled "Syria Under the Two Assads." Finally, on December 1, Prof. **Daniel Sarefield**, from the Department of History at Fitchburg State University spoke on "The Roman Origins of Book Burning." □



AIS Colloquium Series