

New Errands



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Welcome to New Errands!

The Eastern American Studies Association and the American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg are pleased to present the fifth issue of *New Errands*, an online journal that publishes exemplary American Studies work by undergraduate students.

Seeking to develop the next generation of Americanists, *New Errands*' mission is both to provide a venue for the publication of important original scholarship by emerging young scholars and to provide a teaching resource for instructors of American Studies looking for exemplary work to use in the classroom.

New Errands will be published semi-annually, after the end of each academic semester. The goal of this timetable will be to collect and publish essays produced during the previous term, so that they can be made available as quickly as possible for use in the following term. We encourage both self-submission by undergraduate students and nominated submissions by instructional faculty. They must have an American focus, but can employ a variety of disciplinary methods. Submissions can be emailed as Word documents to: newerrandsjournal@gmail.com.

Essays can be of any length, but they must have a research focus. Any visual images should be placed at the end of the manuscript, and tags should be placed in the text to indicate the intended placement of each image. Manuscripts should conform to MLA guidelines. Papers found in this volume were presented at the Undergraduate Roundtable of the Eastern American Studies Association Annual Conference in March of 2015.

New Errands Staff:

Supervising Editor– Anthony Bak Buccitelli

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For further information about the Eastern American Studies Association, including the annual undergraduate roundtable and the EASA undergraduate honors society, please visit:
<http://harrisburg.psu.edu/eastern-american-studies-association>.

A Message from the Editors—

The essays in this volume come from student presentations at the Undergraduate Roundtable of the March 2016 Eastern American Studies Association Conference. Together, these essays demonstrate both the range of methodologies and quality of scholarship attainable by exceptional undergraduate students. Essays presented here grapple with topics that include conservative readings of the Declaration of Independence; the successes and limitations of Title IX; the role of *The Chicago Defender*, an African American newspaper, in shaping black identity; the role of medical language during the Cold War; and the relationship between Phyllis Schlafly and Transgender rights. To that end, these essays demonstrate the broad umbrella that encompasses American Studies scholarship.

Though these essays respond to a range of topics, they share key themes that reflect the richness and diversity of American Studies scholarship at all levels. First, several of these essays engage with issues of law and demonstrate the role that scholars of American Studies can play outside of traditional academia in shaping our understanding of policy and its effects on the lives of everyday people. In addition, many of the essays presented here apply an intersectional approach to topics, seeking in particular to present the voices and stories of those often left out of the historical record. These lines of inquiry show great potential for the future of American Studies scholarship.

It is the goal of *New Errands* to encourage and promote undergraduate research into issues of American culture and society. The essays included here both meet that goal and offer useful models for others seeking to conduct successful undergraduate research and writing on American Studies topics.

We hope you enjoy these essays.

Caitlin Black and Brittany Clark

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