

# *New Errands*



Volume 4, Issue 2

May 2017

**Welcome to New Errands!**

The Eastern American Studies Association and the American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg are pleased to present the Spring 2017 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](mailto: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.

**New Errands Staff:**

**Supervising Editor**– Anthony Bak Buccitelli

**Co-managing Editors**– Brittany Clark and Caitlin Black

**Layout Editor**– Ugur Ozturk

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 Spring 2017 edition of *New Errands* includes five exemplary essays. These essays cover topics including the effects of World War II on female consumption patterns; the passport as a text for navigating national and global identity; perceptions of the homeless in 1980s Los Angeles; race and gender in the work of artist Carrie Mae Weems; and Lin-Manuel Miranda's articulation of Latino culture in *The Heights*. This collection of papers certainly touches on a wide range of topics and methodologies.

Since one of the goals of *New Errands* is to identify strong models of undergraduate writing, we have decided to include the course, instructor, and assignment with each essay in this edition. This information provides context for the essays included and highlights the range of courses and prompts that promote strong American Studies scholarship.

We would like to thank Ugur Ozturk for his efforts to produce the superb formatting and layout for the essays published in the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 editions of *New Errands*. In addition, we thank Kiernan Gladman and Peter Bryan for their aid in the selection process. Finally, we would like to thank our contributors for their dedication to American Studies scholarship.

We hope you enjoy these essays.

Caitlin Black and Brittany Clark

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