

## **Kendra Rae Unruh**

### **EDUCATION**

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Ph.D., American Studies, August 2012

Dissertation: "*Jubilant Spirits of Freedom*": *Representations of the Lindy Hop in Literature and Film from the Swing Era to the Swing Revival*

Committee: Bill Mullen (chair), Venetria Patton, Marlo David, and Susan Curtis

Preliminary Exam Area: American Literature

Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies

Wichita State University, Wichita, KS

M.A., English, May 2006

Thesis: Bored to Death: William Inge's Women and *The Feminine Mystique*

Pass with distinction on thesis

Sterling College, Sterling, KS

B.A., English, May 2003, summa cum laude

Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS

A.A., May 2001, Honors Graduate

### **PUBLICATIONS**

"From Kitchen Mechanics to 'Jubilant Spirits of Freedom': Black, Working-Class Women Dancing the Lindy Hop." *The Journal of Pan African Studies* 4.6 (2011): 213-233.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Purdue University, 2010-2011

American Studies/Women's Studies Outstanding Achievement Award in Teaching, Purdue University, 2010

Chester E. Eisinger Research Award, Purdue University, 2010

Graduate School Summer Research Grant, Purdue University, 2009

Justin S. Morrill Mini-Saga Contest winner, Purdue University, 2008

Lynn Fellowship, Purdue University, 2007-2008

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Teaching Assistant at Purdue University, 2008-2010 and Fall 2011-May 2012

Responsible for designing the syllabus, lessons, teaching, and grading for the following course:

WOST 280: Introduction to Women's Studies

Adjunct instructor for Ivy Tech College, Fall 2010

Responsible for designing the syllabus, lessons, teaching, and grading for the following course:

HUMS 110: Women's Issues

Lecturer for Wichita State University, Fall 2006

Responsible for designing lessons, teaching, and grading for three sections of the following course:

English 101: English Composition 1

Adjunct instructor for Hutchinson Community College, Fall 2006

Responsible for designing lessons, teaching, and grading for the following course:

English 120: Children's Literature

Graduate Teaching Assistant at Wichita State University, 2003-2006

Responsible for designing lessons, teaching, and grading for the following courses:

English 011: Syntax, Logic, and Organization, Fall 2004, Fall 2005

English 015: Basic Skills ESL 2, Spring 2006

English 101: English Composition 1, Fall 2003, Spring 2006

English 102: English Composition 2, Spring 2004, Summer 2004, Spring 2005, Summer 2005

Volunteer with the Hutchinson Correctional Facility Prison Arts Program, 2005-2006

Responsible for designing lessons, teaching, and reviewing student work for a Creative Writing course

## **INVITED PAPERS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The War on the Dance Floor: White Women Lindy Hopping During WWII.” Delivered at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, November 2011. Panel organizer and Moderator for “Transformation Through Dance: Feminist Interpretations of Popular Dance in the 20th Century.”

“‘Jubilant Spirits of Freedom’: Black Working-Class Youth Dancing the Lindy Hop.” Presented as a guest lecture to the AMST 201: Introduction to American Studies course at Purdue University, October 2011.

“From Kitchen Mechanics to ‘Jubilant Spirits of Freedom’: Black Working-Class Women Dancing the Lindy Hop.” Delivered at the Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Reception, Purdue University, April 2011.

“Khaki's Swing?: White Youth Dancing the Lindy Hop During the Swing Revival.” Delivered at the American Studies Symposium, Purdue University, April 2011.

- “From Kitchen Mechanics to ‘Jubilant Spirits of Freedom’: Black Working-Class Women Dancing the Lindy Hop.” Delivered at the Ivy Tech School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Annual Lecture Series, February 2011.
- “‘Jubilant Spirits of Freedom’: The Lindy Hop as Freedom for Black Working-Class Women.” Delivered at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference, November 2010.
- “Swingin’ Out White: The Racial History of the Lindy Hop.” Presented as a lecture at the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association’s African American History and Culture Class, October 2010.
- “Swingin’ Out White: How the Lindy Hop Became White.” Delivered at the Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Reception, Purdue University, April 2010.
- “Swingin’ Out White: Changes in the Cultural Ownership of the Lindy Hop.” Delivered at the American Studies Symposium, Purdue University, April 2009.
- “Just a Dream: An Ecofeminist Approach to *The Great Gatsby*.” Delivered at the College English Association conference, March 2008.
- “The Nature of Dominance or the Dominance of Nature: An Ecofeminist Approach to *Women in Love*.” Delivered at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture & American Culture conference, February 2006. Selected to serve as the panel chairperson.
- “Freeing Kate Chopin: A Re-evaluation of Chopin’s Place in the Classroom.” Delivered at the Graduate English Society Conference, Texas Tech University, February 2004. Paper published in the conference proceedings [electronic publication].

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Graduate Teaching Certificate from the Center of Instructional Excellence, Purdue University, May 2012
- College Teaching Workshops through the Center of Instructional Excellence, Purdue University, attended six hours of workshops, May 2011

## **OTHER ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

- Graduate Assistant to the American Studies Program at Purdue University, Summer 2011
- Academic Advisor/Tutoring Coordinator for Disability Support Services at Wichita State University, December 2006-August 2007
- Tutoring Coordinator/Advisor for Student Support Services at Hutchinson Community College’s Newton Outreach Center, Fall 2006
- Tutor in the Writing Center at Wichita State University, 2003-2006
- Research Assistant to Dr. Mary Waters of Wichita State University, Summer 2005

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Coordinator for the Women’s History and Culture Course at the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, Spring 2012
- Coordinator and Instructor for the Dance Course at the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, Fall 2011
- Volunteer with the Elderhostel program at Purdue University, Summer 2011

Coordinator and Instructor for the Basics of Swing Dance Course at the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, Spring 2011

Co-Coordinator for the African American History and Culture Course at the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, Fall 2010

## **SERVICE**

Co-editor of the Women's Studies Newsletter, Purdue University, 2011-2012

Founder and Coordinator of the American Studies Dissertation Support Group, Purdue University, 2011-2012

Chosen to serve on the American Studies Director Search Committee, Purdue University, 2009

Elected Social Chair of the American Studies Graduate Student Organization, Purdue University, 2009-2010

Member of the Women's Studies Noon Lecture Series Committee, Purdue University, 2008-2010

Elected to serve on the American Studies Symposium Committee, Purdue University, 2007-2008

Elected president of the English Graduate Student Association (EGSA), Wichita State University, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006

Chosen to serve on the English Department Policy Committee, Wichita State University, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006

Selected by EGSA to serve on the English Education Committee, Wichita State University, 2003-2004

Elected Vice President of the Alpha Theta Omicron chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, Wichita State University, 2005-2006

## **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Member of the Modern Language Association, 2012

Member of the National Women's Studies Association, 2010-2011

Member of the American Studies Association, 2010

Member of the College English Association, 2008-2009

Member of Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society), 2003-present

Student member of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English (KATE), 2002-2003