



The Past in The Present

News for Alumni and Friends from the Department of History

Exploring Emancipation, 150 years later

On Sept. 22, 1862, in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln announced that on Jan. 1 all slaves in states still in rebellion against the United States would be forever free. On New Year's Day he made good on that promise, issuing the document we know as the Emancipation Proclamation.

For 150 years, people have argued about the meaning of that document. Was it a revolutionary assault on the hemisphere's largest slave system or a halting half-measure that left hundreds of thousands in bondage? Some see it as committing the Union to an antislavery policy and encouraging enslaved people to flee their captors and enlist in the Union military. Others, contemplating the postwar history of disfranchisement and subordination of African Americans, ask what kind of freedom the former slaves actually acquired.

Despite these continuing questions, and perhaps because of them, the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation



John Steuart Curry's mural "The Freeing of the Slaves" in the UW Law School portrays the slaves themselves as drivers of their emancipation, says history Professor Steve Kantrowitz. Photo by Greg Anderson.

Proclamation is a perfect occasion to think about them together, aided by some of the best historians now working. During the 2012-13 academic year the University of Wisconsin-Madison will host "Emancipations: Thinking about Slavery and Freedom 150 Years after the Emancipation Proclamation," a series of talks and events exploring both the richness of that historical moment and ways in which its project remains unfinished.

Events in the fall trace the

experience of U.S. wartime emancipation from a variety of perspectives, beginning with Pulitzer Prize winner Steven Hahn's bold reinterpretation of slave emancipation's relationship with the dispossession of Native Americans in the West. The spring's exploration of the legacies of emancipation begins with lectures on the rise and consequences of mass incarceration in the post-World War II U.S., and continues with MacArthur "genius" awardee Tiya Miles' exploration of

"haunted" plantations in the American South. The series will conclude with a symposium on the meanings of freedom in African American Christianity.

These events are all free and open to the public, and we hope many people will come to take part in this anniversary – not just to commemorate, but to listen, learn, reflect, respond, and continue a conversation about slavery and freedom that is older than the nation, and which shows no sign of stopping.

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Chair's Welcome



Florencia E. Mallon, Department Chair and Julieta Kirkwood Professor of History.

What a busy year we've already had! Despite tough economic times, we are currently conducting four new faculty searches. Two of them — Ancient Greek History and the

History of U.S. Sport and Society — are due to the generosity of donors Jeanne and John Rowe and Commissioner of Major League Baseball Allan H. "Bud" Selig, respectively. We are truly lucky to have such generous supporters! The other two searches, in Medieval and East-Central European History, are funded by the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU).

We are delighted to welcome three new faculty this semester. Emily Callaci, a historian of modern East Africa, works on urban migration and cultural politics during Tanzania's socialist era. Judd Kinzley, a historian of modern China, researches the relationship between state power and the natural world along China's borders. Viren Murthy, a historian of East Asia with a transnational focus, is currently working on the politics of Asianist identity.

Bringing new faculty to campus helps us fulfill our mission of providing an

outstanding education to our undergraduates. As you will see inside, this is reflected in our peer advising program and in the presence of Lindsay Williamson, our new Historical Humanities Career Advisor. And as you will also see in the following pages, our amazing undergraduates continue to amass prizes, scholarships and awards, both at the departmental and university-wide levels.

We are also marking the accomplishments of our colleagues. As you will see inside, six published new books this year, two received Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorships, and one garnered a Hilldale Award. Brenda Gayle Plummer became the Merze Tate WARF Professor and Steve J. Stern was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. More details about Plummer and Stern can be found on our department website. Finally, as you will note on the back page of the newsletter, our

colleague Bill Cronon is currently President of the American Historical Association and will give his presidential address in New Orleans in January.

One of my greatest satisfactions as Chair is supporting such an outstanding group of colleagues, both faculty and students, and celebrating the many ways in which they bring credit to our community. And it certainly bears repeating that we could not do it without the generous support of our alumni and donors. Thanks so much for all you do for our department, and we look forward to continuing our relationship and expanding it in the years to come.

Please keep in touch and visit us if you can.

On, Wisconsin!

Florencia E. Mallon, Chair

Save the Date!

Emancipation Project Events –

- Feb. 19, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Ingraham Hall, Room 206 - *The Costs of the Carceral State*, by Heather Thompson, History and African American Studies, Temple University
- Feb. 20, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Social Sciences Hall, Room 8417 - *Distorting Democracy: Rethinking Politics and Power in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, by Heather Thompson, History and African American Studies, Temple University
- Feb. 28, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Conrad A. Elvehjem Building, L160 - *Haunted Emancipations: Seeking Ghosts of Slavery in the South*, by Tiya Miles, History and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
- March 7, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Conrad A. Elvehjem Building L140 - *Democracy in Black: Identity Politics in a Post-Soul Era*, by Eddie Glaude Jr, Religion and African Studies, Princeton University
- March 8, 12:00-12:30 p.m., location TBD - *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize: Black Christianity and the Unfinished Quest for Emancipation*

Merle Curti Lectures -

- Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Julia Cherry Spruill Professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, will be the Curti Lecturer. Professor Hall's research interests include U.S. women's history, Southern history, working-class history, oral history and cultural/intellectual history. The series is tentatively scheduled for the last week in April. Please check our calendar and website for more information as the week gets closer. <http://www.history.wisc.edu/calendar.htm>

2013 Spring Reception -

- May 10, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Pyle Center-Alumni Lounge

Stay Connected

We'd like to hear from you. Please send any news we can include in future newsletters or any changes in your contact information to:

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Fax: 608-263-5302

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From the Dean's Desk

I am delighted to write to you from the College of Letters & Science, the heart of UW-Madison where students learn to make a good living and lead a good life. When I think of the contributions that our departments make to the University, the state and the



Dean Gary Sandefur. Photo by Sarah Morton, College of Letters & Science.

world, through research, teaching and public service, I am reminded why I have spent 30 of my happiest and most rewarding years here. As you have heard, public higher education is at a crossroads. State support for this university now only comprises 15 percent of our annual budget. I have asked all departments to carefully consider innovations that give us new tools and strategies for ensuring a world-class 21st-century education.

The Department of History has truly risen to this challenge while maintaining one of the most popular undergraduate majors on campus. Last year, the department created new, intermediate-level, writing-intensive research courses that allow students to hone their research skills. The department is also utilizing online skills tests to measure the effectiveness of the new classes and track student learning outcomes.

These innovations ensure that our History graduates will

continue to be among the best educated in the country. Our History Ph.D. graduates have an 86 percent placement rate in a sluggish job market, a powerful testament to the department's excellence.

Indeed, History has much to celebrate. Alumni and friends should feel proud of the vibrant, engaged community of faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as the department's outstanding ranking among peer institutions.

I invite you to stay connected to your alma mater. I appreciate your feedback and support and I want to thank you for all that you do.

On, Wisconsin!

Gary Sandefur, Dean
dean@ls.wisc.edu

L&S Social media
www.ls.wisc.edu
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Supporting Excellence

Gifts of any size make a difference for our faculty, staff and students. Alumni and friends of the Department of History contribute to our excellence and ensure the value of a History degree for current and future Badgers.

Giving Options

By Mail

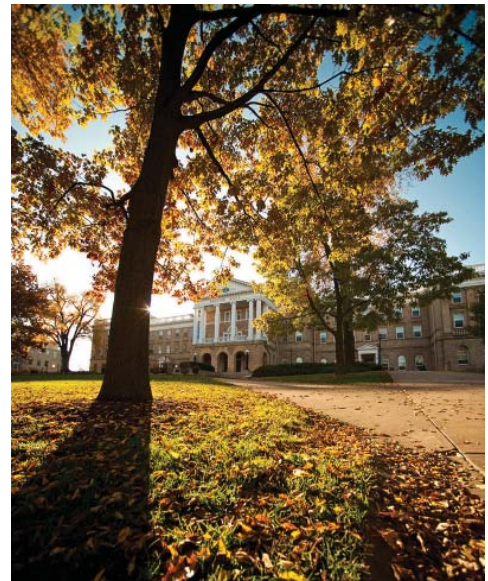
Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation (indicate "Department of History" or your choice of specific fund) to:
University of Wisconsin Foundation
U.S. Bank Lockbox
Box 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Online Giving

Make a gift online through the UW Foundation at:
<http://go.wisc.edu/ql0ty2>

Planned Giving

If you are considering a planned gift, such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds, real estate, or bequests, please contact Ron Luskin at the UW Foundation at Ron.Luskin@supportuw.org or (608) 265-3526.



With a tall oak tree in the foreground, Bascom Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is backlit by the late-afternoon sun. Photo by Bryce Richter/UW-Madison.



Suzanne Desan



Jim Sweet

Keeping the brightest minds at UW-Madison

The Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorships recognize professors who have advanced knowledge through research while achieving excellence through teaching or service. The Vilas Trustees approved 16 Distinguished Professorships for 2011-2012. Two of these, later supplemented by generous private donations, were awarded to the following members of the History Department:

Suzanne Desan, the Vilas-Shinners Distinguished Achievement Professor, is internationally known for her work on the French Revolution, which combines discourse analysis, legal and political history, and anthropologically-informed social history. In 1992 she won the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize for best first book in European history. She won the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007 and has been repeatedly named to lists of favorite instructors by student organizations. Most recently, she has been hired by The Teaching Company to

produce 48 lectures of 30 minutes each, recorded both as video and audio, on The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Empire.

James Sweet, the Vilas-Jartz Distinguished Achievement Professor, established his reputation in the field of African Diaspora history when his first book won the 2004 Wesley-Logan Prize for the best book published in the discipline. His second book (featured in our faculty publications list) won the 2012 James A. Rawley Prize for Best Book in Atlantic History. The History Department recognized his teaching contributions by awarding him the 2009 Karen F. Johnson Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching. He is currently a Faculty Fellow at UW-Madison's Institute for Research in the Humanities, where he is working on his next book project: "Diaspora's Democracy: The International Dimensions of Slavery in the Making of the United States."

Our Outstanding Undergraduates

PRIZES

BAENSCH PRIZE: *Kristen Schumacher*, We Have Just Begun to Fight: Radical Labor, Cold War Politics, and the 1952 United Electrical Workers Strike at Marathon Electric.

WILLIAM F. ALLEN PRIZE: *James Duncan*, No Place for Art: The Di Tella and the Auto-Destruction of the Argentine Avant-Garde; John McCarthy, After Gandhi: A Study of Indians in South Africa; Macy Salzberger, Maria Montessori vs. The United States.

ANDREW BERGMAN PRIZE: *Aubrey Lauersdorf*, "For we are the owners of this land, and it is ours": Traditional Female Influence in the Great League of Peace and Power and Changing Role of Iroquois Women in the Era of Colonization; Alexis Brown, Rhetoric and Representation in the 1895 Atlanta Cotton Exposition and Paris Exhibition of 1900.

FRED HARVEY HARRINGTON PRIZE: *Susan Burns*, Reflecting Tragedy: A Comparison of Public Sites of Memory in Vietnam and the United States.

SCHOLARSHIPS

William K. Fitch Scholarship: *Meredith J. Keller*

Margaret E. Smith Esther-Butt Scholarship: *Sarah M. Smith*

Orson S. Morse Scholarship: *Kirsten Moran*

Willard L. Huson Scholarship: *Macy Salzberger*

Hilldale Recipient: *Anna Chotzen*, Faculty: *Alfred McCoy*

Holstrom Recipient: *Meredith Keller*, Faculty: *Nils Ringe*

Hilldale Recipient: *Aneidys Reyes*, Faculty: *Finn Enke*

Hilldale Recipient: *Crescentia Stegner-Freitag*, Faculty: *Marc Kleijwegt*

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

KAPLAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: *Amanda Armstrong*, Jose Carlos Mariategui: A study on his influence across time and space in 20th century Latin America.

DAVIS/GERSTEIN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD: *Meghan Knapp*, Seythian Irish Planting Sarmation Poland in Eastern Europe: An Analysis of English Travel Accounts and Authors on Poland, 1604-1772, and the Effect of Irish/Polish Ethnicity; Bryce Luttenegger, Sovereignty, Europe and the World: The British and their relationship with the rest of Europe.

MOSSE DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AND SERVICE AWARD: *Kathryn Dreps*, Following Their footsteps: A Walking Tour of Milwaukee's Civil Rights Movement; Gina Slesar, UW-Madison's 1962 Gay Purge and Early LGBT Activism in Wisconsin.



Peer Advisor guides History majors in right direction



Anna Chotzen. Photo provided by the Department of History.

Anna Chotzen is one of three student peer advisors in the History department. Her job is to help guide students interested in declaring a history major through course selection and general academic planning. Anna and two more peer advisors (Colin

Rohm and Bryce Luttenegger) free up time for Scott Burkhardt, the professional advisor, to address more complex or sensitive issues.

We asked Anna to tell us a bit about her important role in the History department.

Why did you become a peer advisor?

Having transferred here from Hampshire College, I have seen and experienced many different ways of learning and approaches to teaching, and I saw peer advising as a chance to share my diverse experiences.

What is great about working in the History department?

When I transferred to UW at the beginning of my junior year, I was looking for my niche. History

is a convivial environment that is appropriately professional but friendly as well.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in the rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin known as the Driftless Region, in a little town called Viroqua, surrounded by lovely woods, organic farms, and the winding Kickapoo River.

How did you decide to be a History major?

After taking classes in Political Science, Anthropology, Philosophy, and Economics, I finally realized that History allowed me to ask the questions that truly drove my desire to learn. Studying history helps me to understand why the world is the way it is.

What influenced your decision to transfer to UW-Madison?

I was looking for a larger institution with more academic structure. I was also ready to come home to the sincerity and down-to-earth, make-what-you-want-to-happen attitude of Wisconsin.

What will you do with your History degree?

I hope to work in international affairs in some capacity, and I am particularly interested in small-scale projects that bring diverse people together to imagine new forms of collaboration and to effect change in small but tangible ways. History will always inform the way I see and interact in the world.

What can I do with a History degree?

Even while business leaders and journalists extol the value of a degree in history, students often find themselves lost in their search for a challenging, rewarding job. This year, the Department of History teamed up with five other historically-minded degree programs (Art History, Classics, History of Science, Jewish Studies, and Religious Studies) to help our students find solutions.

We now provide comprehensive career advising to our majors. Lindsay Williamson, who joined us in January as the Historical Humanities career advisor, advises students, organizes career workshops and panels with alumni, and guides our majors to a myriad of resources and opportunities through weekly emails and

social media.

We are always looking for more insights and advice. If you would be willing to speak with our students, be interviewed or write a few words for our website, or provide suggestions about improving or developing our career resources, please email Lindsay at lbwilliamson@wisc.edu. We would be delighted to hear from you.

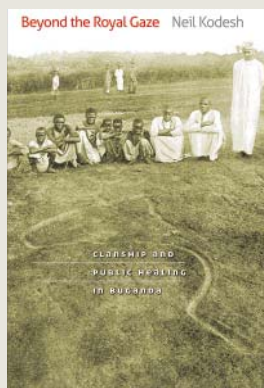


The above photo was taken at the Spring Career and Internship Fair, held at the Kohl Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Jan. 31, 2012. Photo by Jeff Miller/UW-Madison.

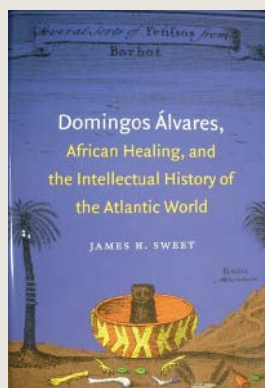


Left is the Historical Humanities Career Advisor, Lindsay Williamson. Photo provided by the Department of History.

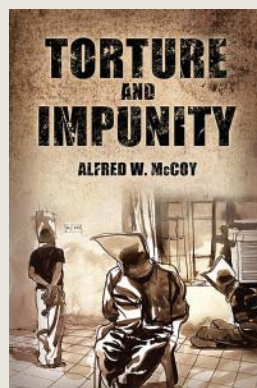
History Faculty Builds on Impressive Publication Record



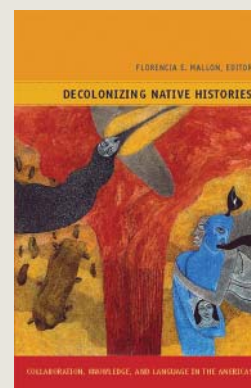
Neil Kodesh's *Beyond the Royal Gaze: Clanship and Public Healing in Buganda* (University of Virginia Press, February 2011) won the Melville J. Herskovits Award.



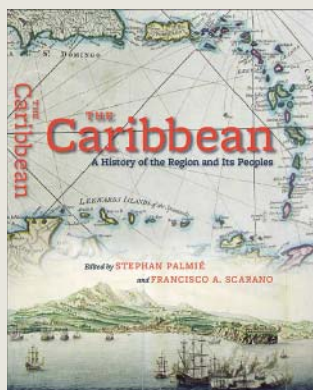
James Sweet's *Domingos Álvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World* (The University of North Carolina Press, February 2011), won the James A. Rawley Prize and Frederick Douglass Prize.



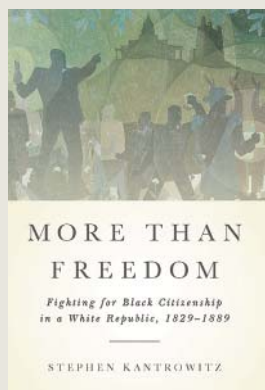
Alfred McCoy's *Torture and Impunity* came out in UW Press' "Critical Human Rights" series in July 2012.



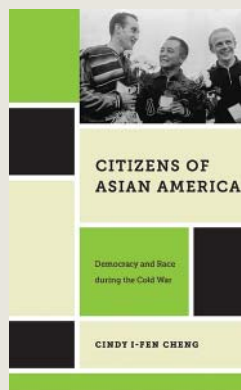
Florencia E. Mallon edited *Decolonizing Native Histories: Collaboration, Knowledge and Language in the Americas* (Duke University Press, December 2011).



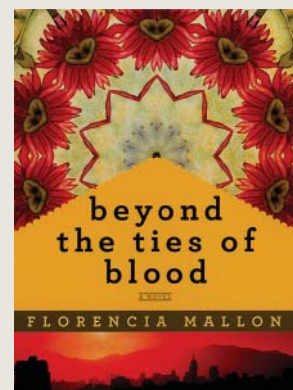
Francisco Scarano co-edited, with Stephan Palmié, *The Caribbean: A History of the Region and Its Peoples* (The University of Chicago Press, September 2011).



Stephen Kantrowitz's *More than Freedom: Fighting for Black Citizenship in a White Republic* was published by Penguin Press in September 2012.



Our recently tenured colleague Cindy I-Fen Cheng's *Citizens of Asian America* is forthcoming from NYU Press in Spring 2013.



Mallon published her first novel, *Beyond the Ties of Blood*, with Pegasus Books in June 2012.

McCoy challenges students to think critically



Alfred McCoy. Submitted photo.

When Professor Alfred McCoy addressed History majors at their graduation ceremony in May 2011, he reflected on History's broad appeal, adding that sometimes it "forces us away from the sure path of law, business, or medicine into an uncertain, lifelong pursuit of the past." History's essential power, he concluded, lies in "its particular kind of narrative."

McCoy has been exploring the power of historical narrative at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1989. His course on the Vietnam Wars has inspired generations of undergraduate students to rethink the

history of Vietnam and Southeast Asia in relation to U.S. politics. His research has transformed our understanding of the international drug trade, the history of torture, and the history of imperialism.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, it seems especially fitting to recognize McCoy's courageous contributions. While accepting the Hilldale Award in the Humanities in April, he remembered that when he published his first book as a Yale graduate student in 1972, the FBI tapped his phone, the CIA harassed his sources, and his own university put him on academic probation. With Ph.D. in hand, the only job he could find was in Australia. UW-Madison brought him back stateside and nurtured his controversial research. Recently the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association agreed with UW-Madison by granting McCoy the 2012 Wilbur Cross Medal.

McCoy attributed UW-Madison's willingness to support and recognize him to "the special ethos on this campus bequeathed us by past generations." It is our duty, he concluded, "to hand on this great state University of Wisconsin to succeeding generations who will certainly need its unbounded capacity for fearless, unchecked, untrammled inquiry." We couldn't agree more.



Studying in the Humanities Courtyard. Photo by Jeff Miller/UW Madison.

History alum passes on power of stories



Abigail Goldman. Submitted photo.

When Abigail Goldman graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1992, she took with her the emphasis on people and stories she learned from her favorite History professors. She joined the Los Angeles Times as an intern in 1993 and became a business writer in 1998, always continuing to ask first how events affected people. Her favorite pieces have always been the ones connected to history and to human beings.

The act of giving a person a name and a concrete life, she explains, has always inspired her most.

In 2004, Goldman was part of a four-reporter team that won both a Pulitzer Prize and a George Polk Award for an in-depth report on the impact of Wal-Mart across the world entitled "The Wal-Mart Effect." The three-part narrative series focused on individuals, both those who benefited as workers or consumers through their relationship with Wal-Mart and those whose unions or factories were damaged or destroyed by Wal-Mart competition. Taken as a whole, the story of Wal-Mart can seem overwhelming, especially from the point of view of workers or small businesspeople. Goldman agrees that in journalism the whole is overwhelming, which is why one needs to focus on the human elements. These, she says, are writable and understandable.

Since leaving the Los Angeles Times in 2009, Goldman has taught undergraduates at the University of California, Los Angeles, how to focus on human beings and their stories. Her course, "Introduction to Newswriting," is required for students planning to work for media outlets. In this way, she transmits that passion for stories she learned from her professors at UW-Madison.



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Past issues of the Department of History
Newsletter can be found online at

<http://history.wisc.edu>

under the "Alumni & Friends" tab.



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**Bill Cronon, AHA President and
Frederick Jackson Turner and Vilas
Research Professor of History,
Geography, and Environmental Studies.**

Cronon to lead AHA annual meeting

When historians gather in New Orleans in January for the 127th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, the UW-Madison History Department will be especially well represented. Bill Cronon, Frederick Jackson Turner and Vilas Research Professor of History, is the president of the AHA. His presidential address, "Storytelling," is in keeping with the general theme for the meeting: "Lives, Places, and Stories." In addition to inviting scholars to present papers sensitive to questions of place, geography and environment – all themes that have marked Cronon's career as a teacher and researcher – the theme invites reflections on lived experience, and how humans talk about and narrate this experience.