



**Message
from the
Chair,
Florencia
Mallon**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's edition of our Department Newsletter. Because of the many transitions and events of this past year, we did not produce a newsletter during the academic year 2010-11, and need to catch you up on the many developments since we were last in touch. As I enter my second year as department chair, having undergone an important transition in the department last year and weathered dramatic events in the history of the University and the state, I am delighted to be able to share with you that our department is doing very well. We were especially lucky, during this time of change and turbulence, to welcome Margaret "Maggie" Brandenburg as our new Department Administrator.

Despite tough economic times, we have been graced with the opportunity to continue hiring new faculty. Last year we welcomed four new colleagues, and this year we are welcoming three more. You will find more details about these new colleagues in the "Arrivals" section of this newsletter. Of these seven, four are due to the generosity of a Mellon Grant to support the expansion of Asian Studies; one is a Cluster Hire in collaboration with American Indian Studies; one is thanks to the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU) put into effect by former Chancellor Biddy Martin; and

Leonora Neville is the new occupant of the John and Jeanne Rowe Chair in Byzantine History. Please refer to the section on the "Featured Friends of our Department" for additional details on the wonderful opportunities our alumni continue to provide for us to expand the fields we cover.

Speaking of expansion, we are currently searching, thanks to the Mellon Grant already mentioned, in Transnational Asia and Modern China. Thanks to MIU, we are also looking to fill a position in Sub-Saharan Africa. Jeanne and John Rowe have completed donation for an additional chair in Ancient Greek History, for which we will begin searching this coming spring. And we are looking toward the future with much optimism, since the following year (2012-13) we expect to search in East/Central and Medieval Europe, thanks to MIU, and in the History of Sport in the Twentieth-Century United States, thanks to the generosity of our alumnus Commissioner of Baseball Allan "Bud" Selig (please see the section on the "Featured Friends" of our Department).

As we expand our faculty, we are pleased to say that we can welcome our new colleagues to a department full of dynamism and new initiatives. As you will see inside, our faculty continues to do award-winning work and their broad visibility brings credit to our department. Our graduate and undergraduate programs continue to grow in new directions while maintaining the excellence for which we are already known. Our Mosse Program celebrated its tenth anniversary last year with a stimulating program of events, including a wonderful visit from our alumnus Errol Morris. And as we hire new faculty in transnational and diasporic fields, we are working to expand our teaching in those directions as well.

I look forward to another year as Chair with a great sense of enthusiasm about our future. I thank all of you for the continued support that makes such a bright future possible.

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NEWS

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It's easier than ever to update your profile and email address in the online Alumni Directory at uwalumni.com

Faculty Honors

Professor William Cronon

- In November 2010, Professor Cronon was elected president of the American Historical Association, a position considered one of the highest honors in the profession.
- In June 2011, Professor Cronon was designated a Distinguished Fellow by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Professor Joe Dennis

- Professor Dennis is President-Elect for the Society for Ming Studies, with his term beginning next spring.

Professor Susan L. Johnson

- Professor Johnson is the Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America at the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University during this fall semester.

Professor Alfred W. McCoy

- At its annual meeting in Honolulu in March 2011 the Association for Asian Studies awarded the George McT. Kahin Prize, awarded every other year to recognize distinguished scholarly work on Southeast Asia beyond the author's first book, to Professor McCoy for his book *Policing America's Empire: The United States, the Philippines, and the Rise of the Surveillance State* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2009).

Professor Steve J. Stern

- Professor Stern received a Hilldale Professorship. Hilldale Professorships are awarded to faculty who excel in scholarly activity, have outstanding research records and show promise of continued productivity.

Senior Guests Audit Undergraduate Lectures

Each semester, over 100 Senior Guest Auditors enroll in undergraduate history lecture courses. Senior Guest Auditors receive permission from the instructor to sit in on their lecture and actively listen, but not participate, in the course throughout the semester. Since Spring 2008, over 220 Senior Guest Auditors have registered for courses in the History Department. Of those 220 auditors, 119 have taken 2 or more courses in the History Department, 30 have taken 6 or more courses, and one has taken 17 courses! Here is what a few senior guest auditors have had to say about their experience auditing history courses:

Ray McCool, '54 Education – History major, English, Economics, Geography minors; '58 MS Counseling & Guidance; '76 PhD Behavioral Disabilities Mr. McCool is a UW alum who began auditing courses in 2000 after retiring from the Madison Metropolitan School District. History has always been his first love and he states, "for me, it's a high to

see the young fresh minds in action." He has audited over 10 courses with the history department and his favorite courses have focused on American History, especially those taught by John Milton Cooper and Jeremi Suri. Mr. McCool plans to continue auditing as long as he is able!

Michael Giese, '62 Political Science and Pre-Law major, History minor. Mr. Giese, also a UW alum, began auditing in 2005 after reading an article in the newspaper about it. He has always been interested in history and loves to read both historical fiction and non-fiction. His favorite subject is military history and his favorite course thus far has been "The US since 1945," taught by Professor John Sharpless. He has audited over seven courses in the department and plans to continue auditing in the History Department until he runs out of courses!

Wisconsin residents who are at least 60 years of age can audit courses at UW-Madison for free! If you are interested in becoming a Senior Guest Auditor, please contact the Adult Career and Special Student Services at 608-262-1156 to get registered.

SAVE THE DATE! The Department of History invites you to attend the **2nd Annual Bud Selig Distinguished Lecture in Sport and Society** on Tuesday, January 24th, 2012. Samuel O. Regalado, Professor, Department of History California State University Stanislaus, will be the guest speaker. The topic for this year's lecture will be "One Base at a Time: Baseball and the Nikkei People". Check out the Department of History's event calendar for more information on this event and future events!
<http://history.wisc.edu/calendar.htm>

News from the Graduate Program

Our Department is home to a diverse and vibrant graduate program that has consistently ranked among the top 10 to 15 in the country. We have trained generations of historians who are teaching at a broad range of institutions— from major research universities to small teaching-oriented colleges. We currently have 200 graduate students pursuing advanced degrees and we award some 15 to 20 new Ph.D.’s each year.

We have long had one of the best graduate programs in American history in the nation, and this tradition is continued to this day by our pioneering fields in environmental history and the history of the American west. Our Latin American and African history programs have, over the past fifteen years, consistently ranked among the top three in the country, and have trained many of the top historians in these fields. And our program in Gender and Women’s history has played a leading role in the development of this discipline. The History Department retains unusual strength in European history and it has moved quickly to hire six faculty in the emerging field of transnational history. Finally, thanks to a grant from the Mellon Foundation, we have now four new faculty in Asian history (China, India, Asian Diasporas, Central Asia) and will thus be expanding our training of graduate students specializing in this crucial part of the world.

Our graduate students match the accomplishments of our faculty. Keith Woodhouse, who worked with Prof. Bill Cronon, won this year’s Nevins Prize for the best dissertation in American history. His award winning research traced the history of radical environmentalism in the late 20th Century United States. Four of our 2011 PhDs have tenure track jobs (Wellesley, U. of Wyoming, U. of Houston, and Knox College) and others have postdoctoral positions and visiting assistant professorships. Our students wrote path-breaking PhD’s on topics such as restaurants and social change, museums and nation-making in Argentina, the formation of Dayak identity in Borneo, the shaping of American Catholicism in the late 18th century, and black representation politics and civil rights work in the United States.

The field of history is undergoing rapid change both in terms of how it is practiced and taught. We are making a concerted effort to introduce our students to emerging fields in history and prepare them for the rapidly evolving higher education landscape. Historians need to rethink and reaffirm what makes their work and their skills so central to an undergraduate Liberal Arts education. The economic downturn has led many universities to cut back on hiring in the humanities and history is no exception. To prepare our new PhDs for a difficult job market, we have launched a workshop series on “alternative careers” to encourage them to consider careers outside of academia where their critical thinking skills are needed – in business, the non-profit sector, and government. We have also cut back on the size of our entering class (21 new students in

the fall of 2011 versus 40 new students the previous year) both in order to adapt to the changing realities of the job market and to provide our students with better financial support.

Funding remains the central difficulty that we face. Limited fellowship support makes it challenging to recruit the very best students and compete with wealthier peer institutions. Substantial cuts in Federal support for graduate education will have a painful impact on our students (the Jacob Javits Fellowships are no longer offered; the Fulbright fellowships for research abroad have been cut back; and subsidized graduate student loans have been eliminated). One of the central reasons attracting top graduate students remains such a key priority is that they play a vital role as Teaching Assistants, leading small classroom discussions and providing undergraduate students with individualized instruction. The strength of our graduate program thus has a crucial impact on the quality of our undergraduate major.

At this time, our main fund-raising priority is the History Graduate Student Opportunities Fund. It was established to encourage graduate students to seek outside fellowships, especially those funded by major foundations and scholarly associations. The fund provides critical supplementary financing when grantors require matching funds from the University or do not cover tuition. In many cases, the Opportunities Fund has provided “top-off” money to help graduate students combine two or more small awards into a year’s worth of dissertation research support.

Links to this fund and to other graduate funds can be found on the History Department website (“Alumni and Friends”). Thanks so much for your support!



Katie Jarvis,
Charlie Cahill, and
Sarah Cushing



James Homsey and
Terry Peterson

The George L. Mosse Program in History Celebrates its First Ten Years

Last fall, the George L. Mosse Program in History celebrated its tenth anniversary with a series of events in Madison and Jerusalem. The celebration began with “The Invisible Jews of Budapest” a series of enriching lectures by Prof. Mary Gluck (Prof. of History, Brown University) on the origins of secular Jewish culture in Nineteenth and early Twentieth-century Budapest. The well attended lectures were followed by a banquet in honor of students, faculty, and members of the community who have contributed to the success of the program in its first decade. A highlight of the banquet was a heartfelt talk by former Chancellor Carolyn “Biddy” Martin on her personal recollections of George Mosse as a teacher, mentor, and colleague. Another highlight was a talk by Vanessa Walker Gordon (PhD ’11) who spoke of her own experiences as a Mosse Exchange Fellow:

“The relationships that the Mosse Program has fostered goes to the heart of the program’s purpose and success. Our profession is one big, ongoing conversation—between past and present, and among our peers. I never met George but he has introduced me to any number of people and it is this continuing conversation that the Mosse Program and George’s own life and work have enriched, not just for the students who are fortunate enough to participate in the program directly, but the academic communities in Madison and Jerusalem, and beyond.”

The celebration continued with a visit by documentary film maker Errol Morris (BA History, ’69) who spoke eloquently of his own recollections of George Mosse, the History Department in the 1960’s, and the role the department played in the political and ethical concerns evident in his work. Other events included a talk by noted historian Michael Wildt

(Humboldt University-Berlin) on a group of scholars who went on to administer the Holocaust, and largely escaped justice in post-war Germany.

At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the tenth anniversary was marked by a major international conference that also honored the impending retirement of Mosse student, and chair of the Mosse Program at the Hebrew University, Prof. Steven Aschheim (PhD ’80). The conference brought together graduate students who have participated in the Mosse Graduate Exchange with the Hebrew University, and other scholars from Israel, Europe, and the United States. In his remarks at the conference, Prof. Aschheim spoke of the impact of George Mosse and the Mosse Exchange Program:

“The Mosse Program has been a beacon of opportunity, hope, and inspiration in a challenging time. How fitting it should be that George Mosse’s legacy should not only be passed on by his friends and students but also transmitted not just through buildings and plaques (though there are some of these in Madison) but by a vital, living exchange of students from Madison and Jerusalem (two of his most favored places) and that, in turn, their impact is already being felt. May the next ten years of the Mosse Program be as successful as its first decade.”

To date, the vision and generosity of George Mosse has provided direct support to 127 graduate and undergraduate students, offering opportunities that are often not available at public universities. This fall, seven graduate students will be funded through the Mosse Graduate Exchange with the Hebrew University. In addition, the Mosse Faculty and Post-Doc Exchange will allow Prof. Neil Kodesh to spend the fall semester in Jerusalem, and Post-Doc Anat Stern to teach a course on Israeli history at UW during spring semester, 2012. For more information on the Mosse Program, please visit: mosseprogram.wisc.edu



Professor Gerda Lerner with Mosse Exchange Fellows - Arik Dubnov, Karin Michaeli, Naama Cohen, and Talia Berner



John Tortorice and Vanessa Walker Gordon (PhD '11)

New Directions in the Undergraduate Program

The goal of the history major is to offer students both deep and broad knowledge of the past. In studying history, students can develop skills that enable them to define important historical questions, analyze the relevant evidence with rigor and creativity, and present convincing conclusions based on original research in a manner that contributes to academic and public discussions.

So begins the new statement of the “Goals of the History Major,” approved by the history department faculty on March 23, 2011. In many ways, this statement merely records what faculty in this department have taught for decades. However, this is the first formal statement by the department that we value not just geographical and temporal coverage in the major, but also a specific set of skills that students should acquire.

Our new statement of goals highlights two important initiatives that we have begun in the undergraduate program this year – both of which grew out of what we learned from the extensive self-assessment and alumni survey we conducted in 2009-2010.

First, we have reaffirmed our commitment to undergraduate research. We have developed a set of new, intermediate-level research courses to provide earlier, and more explicit, training for undergraduates in the skills of primary research. The “Historian’s Craft” courses, which will debut in fall 2011, focus on topics ranging from “Native Americans in the Middle West” (using extensive collections in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives) to “Shanghai Life and Crime” (using the Shanghai Municipal Police Files held on microfilm in Memorial Library). These courses are designed to introduce students to the excitement of primary research early enough in their university careers that they feel prepared for, and excited

about, independent research projects, capstone seminars, and senior theses. The smaller class sizes and discussion groups necessary for this effort will be made possible by funds received from the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates.

Second, by clarifying not just the content, but also the skills, learned in the history major, we are working to help students understand the analytical, communicative, and managerial strengths they can bring to possible interests or career paths outside of the formal study of history. We have begun a series of career workshops to help students “translate” their academic skills into job skills, and have started inviting alumni back to campus to share their own career paths with students. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in helping our students see connections between the history major and the world outside academia, please contact our undergraduate advisor, Scott Burkhardt, at stburkhardt@wisc.edu.

Finally, student involvement in the major has grown impressively this year. Under the excellent leadership of senior Kristin Cassarini, the Undergraduate History Association has more than tripled its membership. UHA activities have included social events, study nights, field trips, and lunches with faculty. In May 2010, we held our first history graduation and awards ceremony at the Wisconsin Historical Archives, where graduates and their families received tours of the newly renovated reading room. Our chapter of the history honors society, Phi Alpha Theta, which has existed on campus since the mid-1990s, held its first formal induction ceremony in February 2011. All of these activities seem to have increased students’ sense of involvement and community in the undergraduate major: attendance doubled at our second graduation and awards ceremony, in May 2011.

This has been a transformative year for our undergraduate program – both its curriculum and its community. We look forward to many exciting opportunities in the year to come, and encourage alumni, friends, and students to join us as we move forward.



Undergraduate Advising Team - Amy Schultz, Cate McCraw, Anna Chotzen, and Scott Burkhardt



Kristen Cassarini and John Hall

Transitions

Arrivals:



Sana Aiyar

- Sana Aiyar
A specialist in Modern South Asia, Professor Aiyar works on the inter-regional, colonial and post-colonial history of South Asia and South Asians across the Indian Ocean. Her current project is a political history of the Indian diaspora in colonial Kenya. She joined our faculty in the fall of 2010.



Shelly Chan

- David Brophy (No Photo Available)
A specialist in the history of Central Asia, Professor Brophy bridges the geographical divide between China and Russia, offering a new international approach to the study of the lands and peoples of the region. He is currently on a postdoctoral fellowship at Australian National University, and will join our faculty in fall 2013.

- Shelly Chan
A historian specializing in the history of the overseas Chinese community in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, and its effects on the evolution of the twentieth-century Chinese state, especially after the 1949 Revolution, Professor Chan is a specialist in issues of Asian Diaspora. She started teaching this fall.



Joe Dennis

- Joe Dennis
A historian of late imperial China, especially the Ming (1368-1644), Professor Dennis focuses on Chinese social and legal history, and on the history of print culture. He is completing a manuscript on the writing, publishing, and reading of local gazetteers. He joined us in the fall of 2010.



Miranda Johnson

- Miranda Johnson
A historian of indigenous peoples and settler colonialism in the Anglophone post/colonial world, most specifically in North America and the Pacific, Professor Johnson is completing a book manuscript that explores the political and social significance of indigenous rights in Anglophone settler states in the post-war era of decolonization. She joined us in the fall of 2010 after holding a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan.



Leonora Neville

- Leonora Neville
A historian of the medieval eastern Mediterranean, Professor Neville specializes in the society and culture of the eastern Roman Empire (the Byzantine Empire) in the ninth through twelfth centuries. She is the author of *Authority in Byzantine Provincial Society: 950-1100* and is completing a second book entitled *Heroes and Romans in Twelfth-Century Byzantium*. She joined us last year as the John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Associate Professor of Byzantine History.



Daniel Ussishkin

- Daniel Ussishkin
A historian of Modern Britain with a comparative interest in social and political theory, Professor Ussishkin began teaching with us this fall. He is working on a manuscript on the evolution of the concept of morale and its growing importance in the management of military, social, and political life, both in the United Kingdom and comparatively in other parts of Europe.

Promotions:

- Neil Kodesh, Assistant Professor of African History, to Associate Professor with tenure.
- Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, Merle Curti Assistant Professor of U.S. cultural/intellectual history, to Associate Professor with tenure.

Departures

- Maureen Mazzaoui, historian of Medieval Europe, retired from our faculty and was granted Emerita Status.
- David Sorkin, Professor of History and Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Jewish Studies, retired from UW-Madison to join the faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City.
- Jeremi Suri, E. Gordon Fox Professor of U.S. and International History, left UW-Madison to join the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin.

Obituaries

- Our beloved colleague Robert McCune Kingdon, Hilldale Professor Emeritus, died on Friday, December 3, 2010 in Madison, Wisconsin. He was the preeminent American historian of the French Reformation, and will be missed by many friends, colleagues and students.
- We were greatly saddened and shocked by the unexpected death, in May 2010, of Skott Vigil (Southern Ute/Dakota), Ph.D. Candidate in American Indian history and beloved friend and colleague. The Skott Vigil Memorial Lecture has been created in his honor.

Featured Friends of the Department

- John and Jeanne Rowe - As is already clear from the hiring of Leonora Neville, we are blessed by the continuing generosity of our alumni. In addition to the Chair in Byzantine History, John and Jeanne Rowe have finished endowing another Chair in Ancient Greek History, and we will be searching for the first occupant of that position beginning this spring. We thank Jeanne and John for their ongoing generosity to our department, for their passionate participation in the discussion about why History continues to matter in today's world, and for their deep and broad commitment to the education of future generations.
- Commissioner Allan "Bud" Selig - We are also honored by the support and generosity of another alumnus, Commissioner of Baseball Allan "Bud" Selig. In addition to his prominent role in UW-Madison's fundraising campaign to increase need-based aid, Commissioner Selig is funding the Allan H. Selig Chair in the History of Sport and Society in the United States, 1900-present. Upon his retirement, currently projected for 2012, Commissioner Selig will be spending time in Madison, in the History Department, writing his memoirs and contributing to the life of our department. In preparation for filling the Selig Chair, Commissioner Selig has funded a Selig Distinguished Lecture in the History of Sport, which helps us to bring to campus prominent scholars in the field as a way of educating our department about this emerging and important area of historical scholarship.

Emeritus News

- Professor William Courtenay - Professor Courtenay was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.
- Professor Robert Frykenberg - Professor Richard Fox Young edited *India and the Indianness of Christianity: Essays on Understanding - Historical, Theological, and Bibliographical* - in Honor of Robert Eric Frykenberg
- Professor J. Rogers Hollingsworth - Professor Hollingsworth published, with Ellen Jane Hollingsworth and with the assistance of David Gear, *Major Discoveries, Creativity, and the Dynamics of Science* (Vienna: edition echoraum, 2011).
- Professor Maurice Meisner - In June 2011, Professor Meisner was presented with a copy of *Radicalism, Revolution, and Reform in Modern China: Essays in Honor of Maurice Meisner* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011).
- Professor Stanley Payne - In May 2011, Professor Payne received the award of the Order of Isabel la Católica at a ceremony in Chicago hosted by the Consul General of Spain.

Check out the new Alumni and Friends section on the website for ways to get involved with the department!