

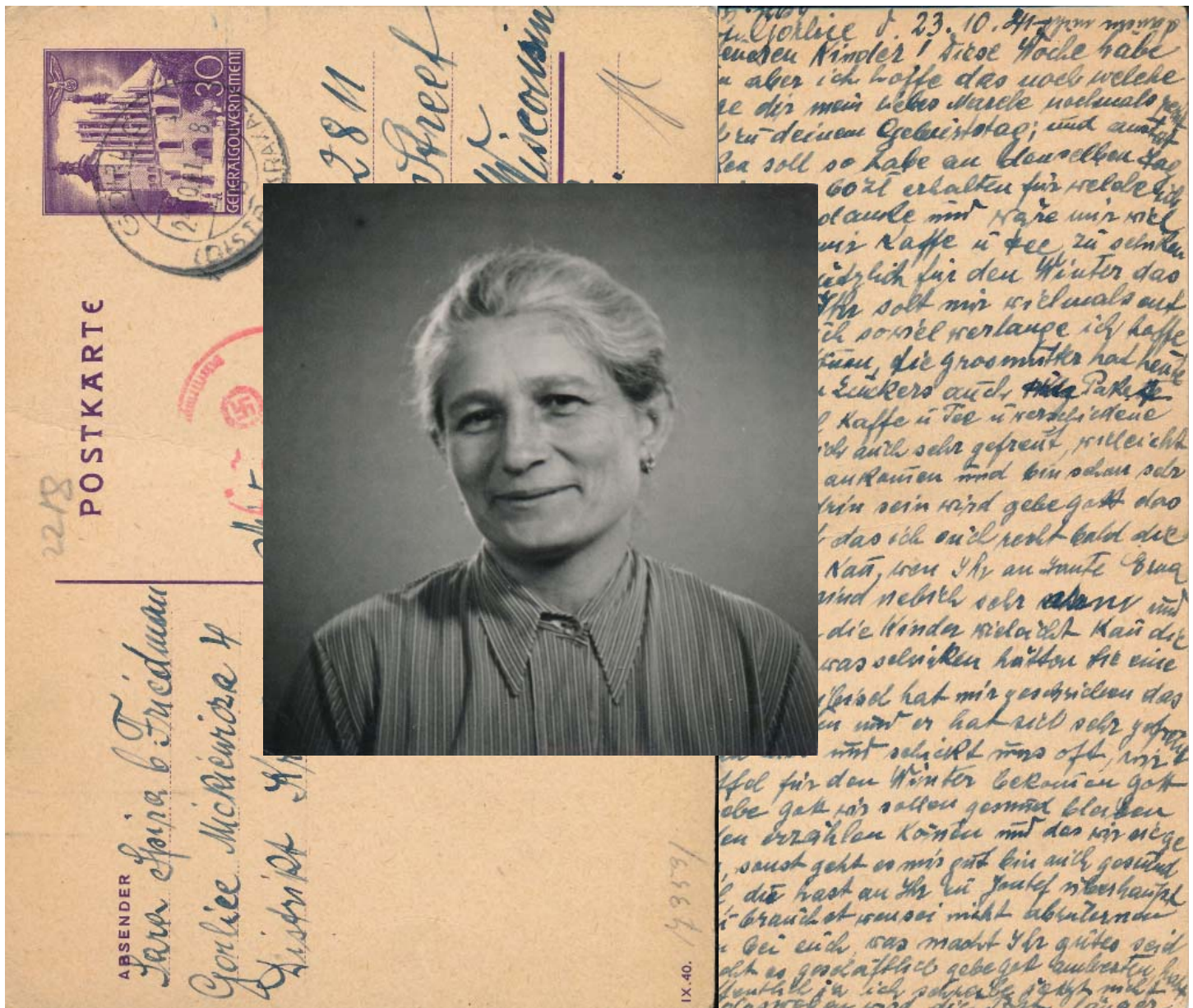


College of Letters & Science

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# The Past in The Present

News for Alumni and Friends from the Department of History



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### Photo Credits:

**Front Cover:** Sara Spira Project. Images from Michael Stern's family archive.

**Inside Back Cover:** David W. Blight photos, TKO Photo Arts

**Back Cover:** Night of the Living Humanities. Photo by Jeff Miller, UW-Madison.

## Chair's Welcome



Laird Boswell, Department Chair

As I settle into my new role, I want to extend my thanks to our outgoing Chair, Jim Sweet, who has done so much to reinvigorate our relationship with our alumni, expand the newsletter you're reading in breadth, depth, and color, and undertake a sustained fundraising effort that is key to our future. Jim was instrumental in setting up our Board of Visitors, now in its second year. The Board is off to a fantastic start and is already conducting mock job interviews for our majors and helping them plan for their future careers. In the inside pages of this newsletter you can read about the Board's latest initiative: The History Department Giving Societies. The good news is that Jim is staying on as Associate Chair to pursue outreach and fundraising with alumni and friends of the Department. Feel free to be in touch with both of us if you have suggestions that would help us do a better job on both fronts.

## Save the Date!

### American Historical Association Conference, Denver, CO

- American Historical Association Conference, Denver, January 5-8, 2017
- UW History Department Reception, Marlowe's, 501 16th St. Denver, 80202, January 6, 2017, 5:00-6:30 PM

### 2017 Spring Reception, Madison, WI

- Annual Spring Reception, Lee Lounge, Pyle Center, Friday May 5, 2017, 3:30-5:30 p.m.



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Our recently hired faculty continue to push History in new directions. Gloria Whiting (PhD Harvard, 2016), who started teaching in January, is a specialist of early American history, race and slavery. She is already teaching our staple History 101 (American History to the Civil War) that many of you fondly remember, and serves notice in the first line of her syllabus that “this may not be the sort of history you learned in High School.” We’re fortunate to have in our midst twelve Assistant Professors—from Emily Callaci in African history to Charles Kim in Korean history and Claire Taylor in ancient Greek history—who have played a major role revitalizing our teaching approaches and reinvigorating our intellectual debates. Charles Kim has taken the lead devising Korean history courses that are simultaneously run “live” on the Madison campus and paired, via a video link, with students at the University of Minnesota and other Big Ten schools. Giuliana Chamedes has ventured beyond her expertise in Italian and European history to devise a course on “Writing for the Academy and Beyond” that trains graduate students to write for an audience that reaches beyond a small circle of specialists and opens their eyes to the public humanities. April Haynes’ pathbreaking book, *Riotous Flesh: Women, Physiology and the Solitary Vice in Nineteenth-century America* received the James Broussard best first book prize awarded by the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic. We could easily devote this entire newsletter to the accomplishment of our young faculty. They are the future of our department. Your financial support sustains their professional development (by providing them with research funds, for example) and guarantees that new generations of students benefit from the best teachers and scholars we can recruit.

History faculty continue to shine on many fronts, gathering prestigious awards and fellowships and pursuing our teaching mission both in Madison and abroad. Lee Wandel, who spent the spring semester teaching in UW’s London program, was awarded a WARF Professorship, one of the University’s highest recognitions for scholarly accomplishment. Marc Kleijwegt taught in the 2016 Spring semester at UW’s program in Florence, Italy. Steve Kantrowitz holds this year’s Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, while Pernille Ipsen is on sabbatical conducting research in Copenhagen for her next book project. Our faculty have garnered fellowships from a range of institutions, including the ACLS (Emily Callaci) and the new Berggruen Institute’s Philosophy and Culture Center (Viren Murthy). This has also been a year of transitions. Viren Murthy and Pernille Ipsen both earned tenure. Two of our colleagues, Francisco Scarano and Thongchai Winichakul, retired over the past year and we will sorely miss their vibrant contributions to our Department. We continue to do well in a highly competitive market for academic talent: Six of our faculty members received outside offers from other universities in 2015-16, and only two left.

Our undergraduates continue to distinguish themselves. Colin Higgins, who took classes with Neil Kodesh, was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford. Working under the supervision of Suzanne Desan, John Rizner won the Harrington Prize for his senior thesis entitled “Supermen on the Silver Screen: Nietzschean thought and postwar memory in Stanley Kubrick’s *unmade* ‘Napoleon’.” In response to the changing needs of our students, our faculty have developed new classes at an impressive pace. In 2011, we introduced

*Historian’s Craft* courses that are designed to teach first and second year students the fundamental writing and research skills necessary to pursue work in the major. These courses have reinvigorated how we train students in the first stages of their university career, and faculty have offered them on topics ranging from *Conspiracy Theories*, to *Shanghai Life and Crime*, a *History of your Parents’ Generation*, and the *End of Empires*. Our History Lab has been an enormous success: a tutoring and resource center staffed by advanced graduate students, the Lab helps undergraduates craft research topics, formulate cogent arguments, and compose persuasive sentences. The History Lab held over 900 forty-five minute consultations with students in the past academic year and provided assistance to students writing papers in more than 130 classes. Writing is one of the core skills we teach, and we are constantly adapting our classes to students who have grown up in a digital world and whose relationship to the written word differs from previous generations. We are also doing much more to prepare students for their careers. We regularly offer a *History at Work* seminar that prepares our students for the workplace and brings in alumni who have successfully used the skills they learned as History majors in a wide variety of professions. Finally, we are fortunate that Christina Matta has joined our team to serve as our Career Advisor and Alumni Coordinator. Christina, who has a PhD in History of Science from the UW, advises our undergraduates as they explore career paths, and will be reaching out to build stronger bridges between alumni, current students, and the department.

The major transition of this academic year is our merger with the oldest History of Science Department in the nation. Six History of Science faculty will join our faculty and move into the Mosse Humanities Building in July 2017. Their presence will expand our intellectual community and increase the breadth of our undergraduate offerings in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. The merger enables us to become leaders in the humanistic and interpretive social scientific approaches to the study of STEM. We will gain colleagues who will contribute to our strengths in multiple areas including transnational, environmental, and intellectual history. Three faculty from History of Medicine and Bioethics (housed in the Medical School), and one from Gender and Women’s Studies are taking up appointments and teaching undergraduate classes in History, diversifying the scope of our offerings in the natural and medical sciences. We expect to attract new students to our classrooms and expand the horizons of our current majors by having them explore the connections between the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. You’ll be hearing much more about this merger in the years to come. We expect that it will have a transformative effect on our intellectual debates and our pedagogical approaches.

The History Department is deeply grateful for your support. Please stop by if you’re in town. We’re always glad to welcome alumni back. Thank you for all you do for UW History.

**On Wisconsin!**

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# The Sara Spira Project: Teaching the Holocaust Through Postcards



Sara Spira. Image from Michael Stern's family archive.

by Amos Bitzan

In late October 2015, I received an email from a Wisconsin alumnus by the name of Michael Stern. He had recently discovered a collection of postcards that had been sent between 1940-1941 to his parents, George and Mary Stern, then residing in Racine, Wisconsin.

George and Mary were Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany and the letter writer was Mary's mother, Sara Spira, writing from Nazi-occupied Poland. While her children had managed to make their way to the United States in September 1938, only shortly before Kristallnacht, Sara Spira had not been able to leave Europe before the escalation of anti-Jewish measures by the Nazis and the eventual outbreak of WWII.

The postcards were written in German and Michael initially wanted a faculty member who would be able to translate them and help him make sense of the contents. I was in the midst of my first very busy semester at Wisconsin, so I did not think I would be able to help much. But when I opened the scan of one of the postcards that Michael had emailed me, I realized that a gift had just fallen into my lap.

I had planned to teach a course on the History of the Holocaust in the spring from which my students would emerge knowing the what, how, and why of the Nazi genocide. But in the process of designing this course,

I had become increasingly concerned that my emphasis on the policies and institutions of the perpetrators of the Holocaust ran the risk of reducing its victims to mere numbers on a page. The course was missing a component that would allow students to engage with these victims as individual human beings whose thoughts, deeds, and experiences were a crucial part of understanding what happened in the Holocaust.

What struck me, as I read and summarized the first letter and the information contained on the physical postcard (the stamp, the format of Sara Spira's mailing address, and the specific time and place in which it was written), was that here was a woman writing to her daughter and son-in-law to Wisconsin from a world that must have been utterly incomprehensible to them and to her—a world of cruel decrees, death, and destruction, which had uprooted, ghettoized, and abused her because she was a Jew. The postcard bore witness to this process as it was unfolding. By itself the letter could not offer an analysis of its causes or insights into the motivations of its perpetrators. But Sara Spira's letter invoked the language of family and human connection. It carried the personality of an individual bound up in large collective forces beyond her control but sustained, in the meantime, by the concern for her daughter and her son-in-law on the other side of the Atlantic.

I realized that Sara Spira's postcards could be a way for my students to integrate two facets of the study of the Holocaust: an analysis of victims and perpetrators. Thanks to the generous support of Michael Stern, the Mosse Program, and the History Department, I was able to hire Rebekka Grossmann, a gifted visiting Mosse Fellow from Hebrew University, to transcribe and then translate the remaining thirteen postcards before the spring semester. In her outstanding translations, these postcards became the centerpiece of the course, accessible to a class of 41 undergraduates.

I designed the course so that we would spend Mondays and Fridays studying chronologically the ideas, decisions, and institutions behind what became the Holocaust. On Wednesdays, we studied the postcards of Sara Spira, examining one letter each week. The long-term assignment of the students was to annotate these postcards—to construct a historical commentary on them that would explain and analyze what Sara Spira was saying and what she was not saying—the context in which she was writing. To do this, students had to research and master everything from Nazi censorship laws to food supply in ghettos to the timetables of deportations to death camps. They also had to immerse themselves in the very personal world of Sara Spira: constructing family trees, plotting out networks of relatives and friends, and trying to keep up with the whereabouts of refugees, deportees, extermination and concentration camp prisoners over the course of the war—often until the deaths of the individuals. The students picked their own missions, concentrating on topics that especially interested them. What they found surprised us all.

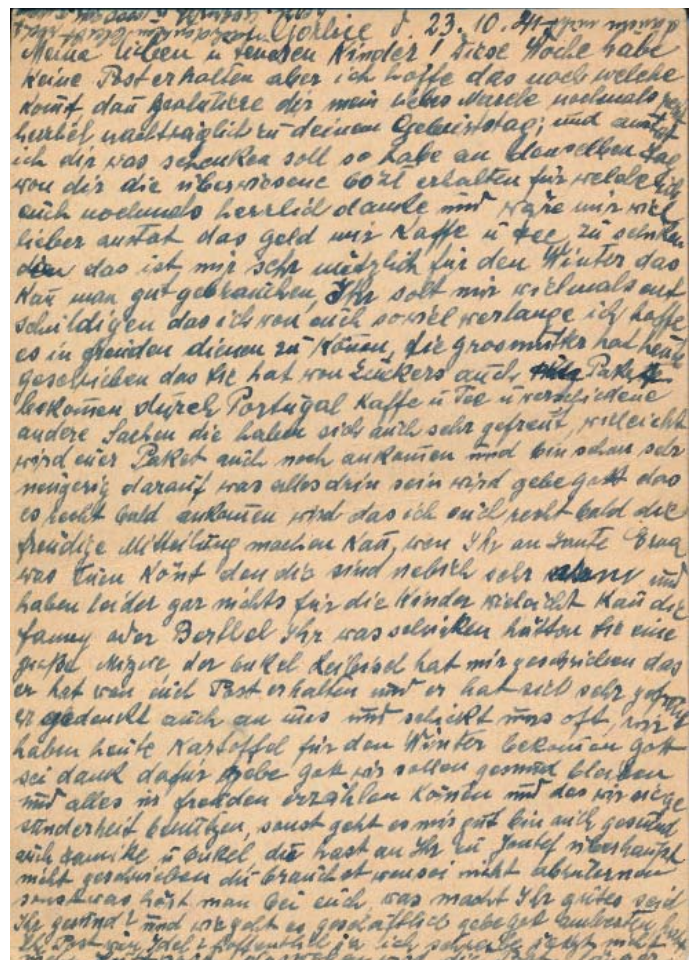
Some of the greatest discoveries made by the students, who scoured print sources as well as the online databases of Yad Vashem and the U.S.



Holocaust Memorial Museum, were details about the fate of Sara Spira and other relatives that had been hitherto unknown to Michael Stern. They discovered documentation referring to Sara Spira's initial deportation to Poland, a subsequent move from Krakow to a small nearby town under duress, and they figured out where and when she was most likely killed by the Nazis. One student also reconstructed the incredible journey of a relative of Michael's who survived imprisonment by the Nazis in Holland, Auschwitz, and Buchenwald, largely due to his expertise as a scrap metal dealer. In many of the annotations that students produced, they used historical scholarship produced by experts to illuminate the fate of individuals. But in the case of this scrap metal dealer, the fate of one individual led students to an understanding of specific mechanics of Nazi persecution and its various competing institutions (one of which wanted the man for his skills in procuring metal for the German war industry and one of which relentlessly pursued him as part of the "Final Solution"). Learning that and how he had survived was perhaps one of the most inspiring insights of the course.

As the students accumulated ever more knowledge about Sara Spira and the Holocaust as a whole, I thought of some way in which they could organize their research collectively and present it to the university community. I appointed several students to oversee such a project and they came up with a design for a web site that would present both the raw materials of the postcards and their research on them as part of a "Sara Spira Project" designed to take visitors on a journey through her experience. It was a proposal for a brilliant work of public history designed to appeal directly to other undergraduates, the alumni community, and their families and friends at home. It can be accessed at [saraspira.wordpress.com](http://saraspira.wordpress.com).

For me, the students' project embodies the Wisconsin Idea, bringing rigorous knowledge about the past to the larger public and thereby helping us handle present challenges. To cite only one of these: earlier in the academic year, in a dormitory on campus, a student had plastered the door of two fellow students, both of whom were Jewish, with printed swastikas and images of Hitler. For him, Hitler and swastikas seemed to be mere abstractions that one could invoke in a joking manner to insult other students. In contrast, the postcards show the stark, human side of the Holocaust. In an unsolicited reflection that I received after the semester, one of my students described the course as being "about regaining agency for voices that have been silenced [through] analyzing primary source material from Holocaust victims." For her, the Sara Spira project was a way to "oppose instances of ignorance and discrimination."



Above images are the front and back of a postcard from Sara Spira to her family in Wisconsin. From Michael Stern's family archive.

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# The Land Beneath Our Feet: Filmmaking and History in Liberia

by Gregg Mitman



Gregg Mitman. Submitted Photo.

Fifteen years ago Gregg Mitman learned of a private collection of digitally restored film chronicling the exploits of a Harvard University expedition to Liberia and the Belgian Congo in 1926. Nearly four hours in length, the raw footage records Liberia's landscapes, peoples, diseases, and commodities, revealing a deeply contested path to development. The Harvard expedition traveled to Liberia to investigate the human and natural environment on behalf of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. In 1926, Firestone secured a 99-year lease from the Liberian government for up to one million acres of land to establish rubber plantations. The biological and medical surveys taken by the Harvard scientists demonstrated the numerous challenges that Firestone faced as it tried to impose a new industrial order onto the rainforest. Nevertheless, the company plowed ahead, irrevocably transforming the social and economic future of the nation.

The film footage of the Harvard expedition was a rare find, not only for its early vintage, but also as some of the first moving pictures revealing life in Africa. In 2012, Mitman met UW graduate student Emmanuel Urey, a graduate student from Liberia. Mitman knew the Harvard film footage had been screened privately in the United States in the 1930s, but it had never been shown in Liberia. Urey was astonished by what he saw—political leaders, cultural practices, landmarks—all familiar, but radically transformed by generations of change. Mitman subsequently enlisted Urey as an interlocutor, consultant, and intellectual partner. The two of them took six trips to Liberia together between 2012 and 2015, sharing the footage with a broad cross-section of Liberians.

Working with filmmaker Sarita Siegel, Mitman set out to make a documentary film utilizing the raw footage from 1926, alongside contemporary histories of Firestone and other multi-national companies, in an effort to understand issues of land rights in Liberia.

Today, multi-national companies own concessionary rights to one-quarter of Liberia, and land disputes are the source of frequent confrontation and violence. In the midst of filming the documentary on land rights, Mitman and Urey were caught up in the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Liberia. This prompted yet another short film, *In the Shadow of Ebola*, detailing the ways that Urey's family and country were torn apart by the epidemic. Mitman's short film on Ebola aired on PBS/Independent Lens in 2015 (<http://intheshadowofebola.com>.) Since that time, Mitman has been completing the documentary on land rights in Liberia. The result is *The Land Beneath Our Feet*, which will be officially released this fall. You can find the trailer at (<https://vimeo.com/166601524>.) Mitman is also the curator of an online, public history web site, "A Liberian Journey: History, Memory, and the Making of a Nation." Here, you can find documents, photographs, and films related to the 1926 Harvard expedition (<http://liberianhistory.org/>.) Finally, Mitman is completing a book tentatively titled *Forgotten Paths of Empire: Firestone and the Remaking of Liberia*.

**1) You have described your work on Liberia as a "multimedia" project. Do you envision the documentary film, website, and book as a single project? What will the whole tell us that the individual pieces cannot?**

Yes, I see the films, website, and book as all related to one another. I came to this project through the expedition film and photographs. I knew little about Liberia when I started and nothing about Firestone's history in Liberia. I was fascinated by the question of why a Harvard team of scientists would go to great expense and effort to film such an expedition. And I was intrigued by what could be gleaned from these materials, and what value they might have in post-conflict Liberia, despite the troubling ethical and political issues the footage and photographs raise in relationship to representation, race, and colonialism.

When we saw people's engagement with the photos and footage in Liberia, it became clear to us that we needed to find a way to digitally repatriate this material to Liberia so that people there could debate, discuss, and tell their own stories about this transformational moment in Liberian history. Hence, the website. The oral histories that we've begun to include on the website begin to add other voices and meanings to this material.

The more time we spent in Liberia, the more I also came to understand how central issues of land are to Liberia, both in the past and in the present. Firestone played a major role in transforming the country into a plantation economy, which is being duplicated again in post-conflict Liberia with the arrival of large oil palm concessions. Most Americans have little knowledge or understanding of Liberia; they either know it was "founded" by free blacks from the US in the 1820s (which isn't actually correct) or that it went through a brutal civil war. We wanted to get beyond these simple characterizations and stereotypes. *The Land Beneath Our Feet* offers an opportunity



for viewers to see a different picture of Liberia—one not about war, violence, and disease—but the beauty of its landscape, the importance of land to Liberia's rich cultural heritage, and the struggles of local people to retain their community rights and access to land in the face of global economic forces pushing toward privatization. Film enables us to tell this story in a much more evocative, visceral, and visual way not possible in a book.

Finally, the book offers an opportunity to tell a largely forgotten history about the transnational ties between Liberia and the U.S. that were not only important to the development of American business, science, and medicine but also to the careers of African-American professionals, whose opportunities were limited in the U.S. during the Jim Crow era, but who rose to positions of power as U.S. diplomats, physicians, and technical experts in Liberia. We cannot understand why the Ebola crisis unfolded the way it did in West Africa without understanding the deeper history of U.S.-Liberia relations over the course of the 20th century.

So, while the Harvard expedition materials link the website, films, and book, the projects use these materials in quite different ways to reveal different facets of the history of Liberia in relationship to the history of American empire.

## **2) Tell us about the relationship between Harvard and Firestone. Why would Harvard scientists put themselves in the position of doing Firestone's bidding in Liberia? Has Firestone been cooperative with you during your research?**

Richard P. Strong, head of Harvard's Department of Tropical Medicine, lived through a period when U.S. firms like United Fruit and Firestone were expanding their global economic reach. He was an expert in tropical diseases and one of the pioneers in disease ecology. Strong created a savvy business model whereby members of his department would get access to free transportation on company steamships and a ready supply of patients and parasites in company hospitals in exchange for medical advice. One of the greatest impediments to Firestone's success in Liberia was disease. Maintaining a healthy labor

force of 15,000 workers and keeping a rubber plantation the size of Los Angeles free from disease was a huge undertaking. Strong and his colleagues, as well as experts from the Yale School of Forestry, were eager to help.

Firestone has not been exactly cooperative. They did permit us to film on the Firestone plantations. But the Firestone archives, which were given to the University of

Akron by Harvey Firestone, Jr. as an important resource for American business history, have, to this day, been closed to researchers. Only one historian to my knowledge has ever been granted access to the collection. It is a shame because it is an incredibly important archive for Liberian history. Incidentally, some of the best early work done on the history of Firestone in Liberia came out of this department. Frank Chalk, working under the eminent diplomatic historian William Appleman Williams wrote a fantastic dissertation on the subject in the 1960s that has been important to my own research.

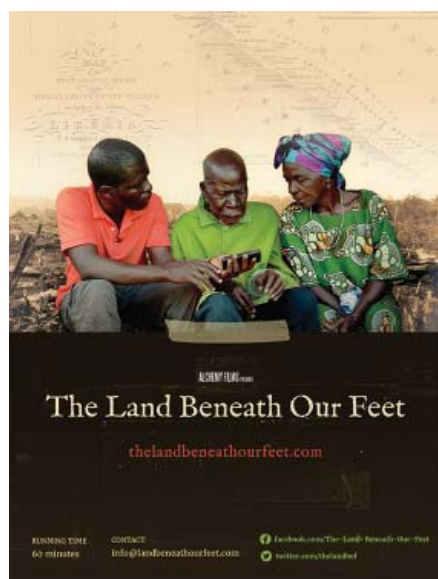
## **3) When you and Emmanuel Urey traveled around Liberia sharing the 1926 footage, how did people react?**

There have been so many different responses. In Queezahn, a Bassa place name meaning "the civilized or whites pushed us away," elders—upon watching traditional dances performed by their great grandfathers and grandmothers on film—spoke painfully of the still-open wounds sustained when Firestone displaced them from their ethnic homelands. In Gbarnga, Chief Flomo Barwolor, seeing his father dancing in the footage, remarked that his face was like his heart, smiling. We met women educators, like Reverend Yatta Young, who are eager to use the only known footage and photographs of the great chief and Zo healer, Madame Suah Koko, to recollect memories of this mythic hero, now an inspiration and symbol of women empowerment in post-conflict Liberia. And still others looked to the footage and saw ways in which it might help post-conflict reconciliation or, in contrast, projected lingering ethnic tensions back onto the footage.

## **4) You were in Liberia in 2014 during the Ebola outbreak. Describe your experience. How has that experience shaped your thoughts about the country and its people?**

When I came back to the U.S. in early July of 2014, after the first Ebola deaths occurred in Redemption Hospital in Monrovia, I was very dismayed by the Western media coverage. It reinforced so many Western stereotypes of West Africa going back to 18th century depictions of the region as the "white man's grave." Much of the initial coverage focused on the alleged irrationality and superstition of West Africans for attacking international healthcare workers, without any historical or cultural understanding of why people in Liberia may have acted initially with disbelief and suspicion. That is why we made *In the Shadow of Ebola*. We felt it was important to have a film that told a story of the Ebola outbreak from Liberian voices and perspectives. And what I've come to appreciate is the resilience and fortitude of local people in Liberia, who came together and organized at the community level to combat the epidemic. If you look at the epidemiological curve of the outbreak, you will see that such community efforts began to have an impact before the large-scale arrival of international aid.

*(continued on page 8)*



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## 5) The issue of land rights is one of the most vexing in Liberia's history. Do you see a solution in the near future?

If you asked me a year ago, I would have been optimistic. The Land Rights bill, which would for the first time in Liberian history recognize customary rights to land, was being debated in the Liberian legislature and it looked like it was going to be quickly passed. Unfortunately, it has come to a grinding halt because of corruption, despite the fact that there is a groundswell of support for passage of the bill within Liberian civil society, particularly among women's civic groups. Many people in Liberia believe the land issue is a "time bomb" waiting to explode. I worry about Liberia's future if community rights to land are not recognized at a moment when the Liberian government is giving away massive tracts of land for large-scale palm oil concessions, taking away local people's access to land, which is so important for their food security and livelihood.



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## Historians at Work: Recent Alums Join the Job Force

Farha Tahir



Farha Tahir holding a sign surrounded by youth leaders from around East Africa at a training cosponsored by the African Union.

At first glance, my job looks like any other office job. I sit at a desk, go through emails, and spend much more of my day in meetings than I probably should. And, in some ways, my job can be fairly "normal." But the fun part of my job isn't what I do, but what I get to do. I work for an organization that advises governments all over the world on how to be more democratic and better respond to citizens' needs. The real fun rarely happens at my desk, but when I go abroad: training

government officials and political parties, talking to youth leaders, and meeting with citizen groups. It's in those settings where I get to roll up my sleeves and support them in creating the governments they want. Whether preparing for an election, advising political parties, or facilitating greater women's participation in politics, my history major comes in handy almost every day.

To step into another country with sensitivity and credibility, one must understand its history. It's about more than just knowing what has happened in that country's past, but understanding how it got them to today: what shaped the political, ethnic, and social dynamics that govern their lives, their collective goals, and their conceptions of government. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "we are made by history." And I see it every time I study and work in a new country: age-old grievances and cultural forces shape how people think and act to this very day. Knowing about and appreciating those forces helps me work more effectively.

I knew I wanted to be a history major when I stepped onto campus over a decade ago. I've always been fascinated by what's happened in the past and what we learn, and fail to learn, from it. In addition to shaping the regional focus of my college education, my history major prepared me for the foreign policy career I began after college. It provided a framework for how I approach each new country I work in. It contextualized the people and governments I work with.



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It taught me how to think critically and strategically. And, on a more practical, operational note, reading 500 pages a week for every class and writing thirty-page papers multiple times each semester is exactly the training I needed for briefing my bosses and preparing for my travels.

But there's one thing that I didn't have the opportunity to do in college that I encourage everyone to consider, regardless of what career they see for themselves: get out there. You can study history all you want, but until you see history's implications in a context outside your own, it's hard to have that "aha" moment.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "The more you know about the past, the better you are prepared for the future." I cannot think of a sentiment more fitting for history majors embarking on new careers. On both personal and professional levels, look back to look forward. Reflect on what you've learned, what you've gained, and what you've accomplished. Learn from moments of weakness and great accomplishment. And understand that your history is shaped by our history, and your future shapes our future.

## William Marx



William Marx, founder of Wm Chocolate.

My path to UW and through life after graduation has been anything but direct. Above all, I hope the story I have to tell is evidence that there's nothing wrong with taking a winding, uncertain path—and that for some of us, it's what we have to do to eventually find satisfaction in life and in work.

I started college at the University of Minnesota, intending to study biochemistry. That was the first of many plans over the past ten years that I ended up scrapping; after all, I quickly learned that I was more interested in the human experience—and that I wasn't quite ready to leave my native Madison. So I transferred back home to UW, where it only took one survey of American history course to convince me of the discipline's value. In short, history made the world a more meaningful place, and I knew right away that I was happier when the world had more meaning.

I liked history and the significance that it brought to the world so much that when college ended, I decided to pursue a teaching career in high-school social studies. When the day-to-day work of teaching didn't match the intellectual rigor I'd enjoyed in college, I decided to change course again. Naturally, I started an online music business while working as a dental assistant to pay the bills. Naturally, that didn't work out. Next I took a job testing software at Epic. Turns out that didn't click for me either.

On the surface, it's easy to see these episodes as failures. But as the years passed and the jobs changed, I was quietly figuring out what I really cared about—in other words, when the job satisfaction just wasn't there, what did I do to make life meaningful for myself in other ways? Don't get me wrong, college can teach us a lot. But if it has a weakness, it's that our professors, our books, our social lives, and our senses of progress towards graduation are all very good at endowing our worlds with meaning. When school's over, well...those sources of meaning can fade, and the burden of finding meaning rests more heavily on each of us. And for most of the people I know, pinning it down takes a few years (and a few missteps). But until you've discovered what makes your life meaningful, it's incredibly hard to visualize the path you want, make sound career choices, be happy, and all that good stuff. So give yourself some time and space to iterate toward what's most meaningful to you. Stay moving while you're looking (at least cover your expenses!)—but be patient with yourself and the world. The right doors will open to you once you know what the right doors for you look like!

To conclude my story so far, the right doors for me ended up being made of something delicious and unexpected. As I bounced between places and jobs, I started to care deeply about food, and then, more specifically, about chocolate. I became obsessed with making the most delectable, healthy, ethically sourced chocolate possible. And eventually, thanks to curious, intelligent people—affiliated with UW, I might add—I made connections that allowed me to turn my obsession into a tiny but growing business. Today, I have a real shot at making chocolate for a living. It's not necessarily an easy pursuit, but five years after graduating from college, I've finally managed to align what is most meaningful to me with my work. Speaking from experience, that's a great recipe for happiness. Keep looking for it, even if it takes years. Don't let go when you find it.

## Lindsey Melnyk

I've been enraptured by history my whole life. I remember poring over those Eyewitness books on the Aztecs, Vikings, and Ancient Egyptians as kid. I realized history was something I was legitimately interested in when I actually enjoyed studying for my AP U.S. History test in high school.

I started at UW-Madison in Fall 2011 as a History and Political Science major with a certificate in European Studies. I was probably the happiest history major, and I enjoyed being active in the History Department participating in Phi Alpha Theta and *ARCHIVE*. Right before graduation, I realized I could pursue a career sharing my passion by working at a museum or an arts organization.



Lindsay Melnyk at Stonehenge.

Because I was able to graduate in three years, I didn't bother looking into internships while I was in school. I thought I was set by having an "extra" year to figure it all out than my peers. I definitely regret not interning or volunteering more while I was in school, even though working an unpaid internship after graduation is probably a reality in the non-profit world. Just getting experience and trying out different roles is so important in determining what is right for you.

After graduation, I spent a summer living with my parents while interning at a large outdoor museum in the suburbs of Chicago. I had to make the decision between being the girl dressed up in period costume on the grounds or the girl dressed in business casual in the administrative offices. I chose the Development track, which concerns all aspects of fundraising, membership, donor relations, special events, stewardship, and database management.

For the last year, I've worked as a Development Assistant at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. We are a curated arthouse cinematheque that presents independent, classic, and foreign film. The Film Center is a public program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), which is the educational branch of the Art Institute of Chicago. Being a smaller organization within a much larger one has its challenges, but I'm very proud of being part of the Art Institute network. Every day is different and chaotic. Because our office is so small, we are in constant panic mode. But I love working at a non-profit that perpetuates art and culture. And my friends are jealous that I have a cool job.

If you are interested in working at an arts organization, find one that you are passionate about. Other than the Programmers, nobody in the Film Center office knows about film (which can make our job difficult at times). While I've picked up some talking points during my time here, our members like to know that we genuinely appreciate film as much they do. Being a friendly and knowledgeable face of an organization is so important.

Moving forward, I'm trying to connect back with history and find a position in a museum. I think it's important for us to sustain that love after the research and seminar papers are done. Keep reading, start traveling, and find people who care about what you care about.



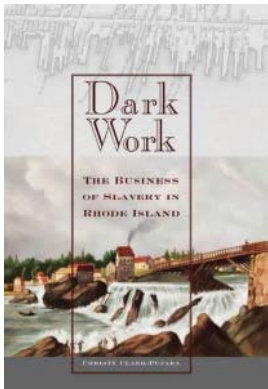
**ARCHIVE is UW-Madison's undergraduate journal of history. The newest edition of ARCHIVE is now available to read online. Here's a look at the contents:**

- Cody Dunn, "When My Brother Fell: Gay Men, Manhood and HIV/AIDS"
- Jacob Lokshin, "The Starvation of a Nation: The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 as a Soviet Engineered Genocide"
- Sam Gee, "Enlightenment Through Solitude: The Age of Reason, Rousseau, and the Importance of Being Alone"
- Kelsey Beuning, "Corporate Conservatism and Civic Engagement By General Electric in the Mid-20th Century: A Spark of Modern Social Responsibility?"
- Emma Wathen, "Women, Good People, and Bad People: Women in Early Shanghai Cinema"
- Liliana Silverman, "Masculinity and Violence in the Weather Underground"
- Riley Sexton, "Contested Discourse of Liberal Trade in Chiapas"
- Brita Larson, "The Female Who Forgot to be Coy"
- Dylan Rindo, "Phoenix's Ashes: The CIA, the Phoenix Program, and the Development of U.S. Coercive Interrogation Doctrine"

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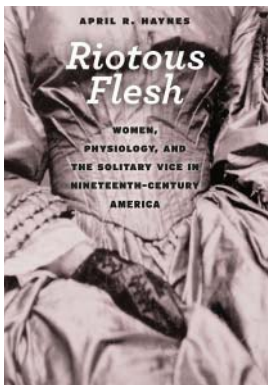


# Faculty Honors, Awards, and Books



**Christy Clark-Pujara** published *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island* (NYU, August 2016). Historians have written expansively about the slave economy and

its vital role in early American economic life. Clark-Pujara tells the story of one state in particular whose role was outsized: Rhode Island. Like their northern neighbors, Rhode Islanders bought and sold slaves and supplies that sustained plantations throughout the Americas; however, nowhere else was this business so important. During the colonial period, trade with West Indian planters provided Rhode Islanders with molasses, the key ingredient for their number one export: rum. More than 60 percent of all the slave ships that left North America left from Rhode Island. During the antebellum period Rhode Islanders were the leading producers of “negro cloth,” a coarse wool-cotton material made especially for enslaved blacks in the American South.



**April Haynes** published *Riotous Flesh: Women, Physiology, and the Solitary Vice in Nineteenth-Century America* (Chicago, 2015). Nineteenth-century America saw numerous

campaigns against masturbation, which was said to cause illness, insanity, and even death. The crusade against female masturbation was rooted in a generally shared agreement on some major points: that girls and women were as susceptible to masturbation as boys and men; that “self-abuse” was rooted in a lack of sexual information; and that sex

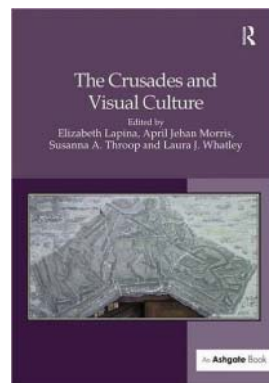
education could empower women and girls to master their own bodies. Yet the groups who made this education their goal ranged widely, from “ultra” utopians and nascent feminists to black abolitionists. *Riotous Flesh* explains how and why diverse women came together to popularize, then institutionalize, the condemnation of masturbation, well before the advent of sexology or the professionalization of medicine. The book recently received the James Broussard Award for the best first book on the history of the Early American Republic.



**Steve Kantrowitz**

won the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies to lecture and conduct research at the University of Southern

Denmark. There, he is teaching courses in American history and working on his next book project, “*Belonging to the Nation: Race and Citizenship in the 19th-Century U.S.*”

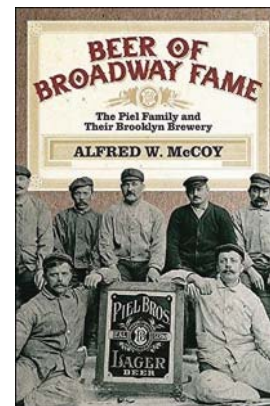


**Elizabeth Lapina**

co-edited a collection of articles, *The Crusades and Visual Culture* (Ashgate, 2015). The crusades, whether realized or merely planned, had a profound

impact on medieval and early modern societies. Numerous scholars in the fields of history and literature have explored the influence of crusading ideas, values, aspirations and anxieties in both the Latin States and Europe. However, there have been few studies dedicated to investigating how the crusading movement influenced

and was reflected in medieval visual cultures. Written by scholars from around the world working in the domains of art history and history, the essays in this volume examine the ways in which ideas of crusading were realized in a broad variety of media (including manuscripts, cartography, sculpture, mural paintings, and metalwork). Arguing implicitly for recognition of the conceptual frameworks of crusades that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries, the volume explores the pervasive influence and diverse expression of the crusading movement from the twelfth through the fifteenth centuries.



**Al McCoy**

moved away from his usual interests in the history of Southeast Asia to publish a somewhat unconventional book with SUNY Press in September 2016. *Beer of Broadway Fame:*

*The Piel Family and Their Brooklyn Brewery* is the story of four generations of McCoy's extended family in the brewing industry. For nearly a century, New York was the brewing capital of America, and Piel Bros. shared in that prosperity, growing from Brooklyn's smallest brewery producing only 850 kegs in 1884 into the sixteenth-largest brewery in America, brewing over a million barrels by 1952. By tracing the hundred-year history of this German-American brewery, McCoy explores the demoralizing impact of pervasive U.S. state surveillance during World War I and the Cold War, the forced assimilation that virtually erased German American identity from public life after World War I, and the market forces that consolidated 2,000 of these family firms into a single global cartel that now controls 75 percent of the beer sold in America.



**Viren Murthy** won a multi-year fellowship from the Berggruen Institute for Philosophy and Culture. The Berggruen Institute brings together some of the world's sharpest

minds to develop innovative ideas through comparative and interdisciplinary work and relate these insights to the pressing issues of our day. Murthy is working on a project tentatively entitled, "Pan-Asianism and the Conundrums of Post-Colonial Modernity."



**Leonora Neville** published *Anna Komnene: The Life and Work of a Medieval Historian* (Oxford, 2016). In the middle of the 12th century the Byzantine princess Anna Komnene wrote

a history of the reign of her father Emperor Alexios Komnenos (1081-1118). No other woman wrote a formal history in Greek before the middle of the 20th century. In her new book, Neville explains why Greek

ideas about history writing and gender made it so difficult for women to write histories. The answers to that puzzle turn out to explain not only the oddities of Anna's history, but also why modern historians have believed that Anna was a power-hungry and bloodthirsty woman who wanted to murder her brother to become empress.

## Faculty Milestones



**Francisco Scarano** retired in 2016 after 27 years of service to the University of Wisconsin. Scarano began his career on the faculties of Sacred Heart University (Puerto Rico) and the University of Connecticut. His areas of specialization are the history of Latin America and the Caribbean, with particular emphasis on the latter. During his career, he authored several books, edited or co-edited several more, and published dozens of articles and chapters. His

*Sugar and Slavery in Puerto Rico: The Plantation Economy of Ponce, 1800-1850*, which earned him coveted prizes from the Association of Caribbean Historians and the New England Council on Latin American History, was widely lauded as an economic history that integrated the local with the global in trying to understand a regionally dominant industry. In 1993, Scarano published a general history of the country of his greatest concentration, *Puerto Rico: Cinco Siglos de Historia*, a book that has become, over four editions across a quarter century, the most widely-read general island history ever.



**Thongchai Winichakul** retired in 2016 after 24 years of service to the University of Wisconsin. Winichakul began his career at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. During his time at UW, Winichakul established himself as one of the world's pre-eminent experts on Southeast Asian history, especially the history of Thailand. His book *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation* (1994) challenged the very idea

of Thailand, offering field-defining contributions to the history of nationalism and the history of geography. The book was awarded the Harry J. Benda Prize from the Association of Asian Studies in 1995 and the Grand Prize from the Asian Affairs Research Council (Japan) in 2004. In 1995, Winichakul was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for research that became the basis of a long-term project on the intellectual foundation of modern Siam (1880s-1930s). In 2003, Winichakul was named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has published three books, dozens of articles in English, and a multitude of articles and book chapters in Thai.



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# Faculty and Emeriti Profiles

**Christy Clark-Pujara's** book, *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island*, was released for publication on August 30, 2016, by New York University Press. The book examines how the business of slavery—economic activity that was directly related to the maintenance of slave-holding in the Americas, specifically the buying and selling of people, food, and goods—shaped the experience of slavery, the process of emancipation, and the realities of black freedom in Rhode Island from the colonial period through the American Civil War.

**Charles Cohen** has submitted the manuscript of "Nostra Aetate and the Future of Interreligious Dialogue: A Multi-Religious Conversation," to Orbis Press. He edited the book with Paul Knitter and Ulrich Rosenhagen. The publication date has not yet been announced.

**Joe Dennis** created two new courses, "Chinese Economic and Business History: From Silk to iPhones," and an online version of "Shanghai Life and Crime: Historian's Craft." He also worked with professors Kinzley (History), Huntington, Nienhauser, and Meulenbeld (Asian Languages and Cultures), and Li (Art History) to create an interdisciplinary graduate training program for pre-modern Chinese studies. With support from the Graduate School, the program provides three-year fellowships to four incoming graduate students.

**Linda Gordon** has been doing more work on photography: she curated the Aperture Masters of Photography book on Dorothea Lange (Aperture, 2014), and her book on photographer Inge Morath will be published 2017 by Magnum/Prestel. She continues to work on her history of social movements in the 20th-century U.S.

**John Hall** published "To Starve an Army: How Great Power Armies Respond to Austerity" in *Sustainable Security: Rethinking American National Security Strategy* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and continues work on *Dishonorable Duty: The U.S. Army and the Removal of the Southeastern Tribes* (Harvard). A busy speaking schedule included a paper

from this project presented at the Society for Military History's annual meeting in Ottawa and a pair of lectures aboard *The American Queen* somewhere on the lower Mississippi (courtesy of the Wisconsin Alumni Association). Two more talks on the wars of Indian Removal have aired (or soon will) on Wisconsin Public Television. He also led efforts to restore UW's membership in the Newberry Library's Consortium in American Indian Studies and serves as a "principal investigator" in UW's POW/MIA Recovery and Identification Project.

**Elizabeth Hennessy** won a Writing Fellowship from the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, where she will spend the spring semester working on her manuscript on the history of the Galápagos Islands. This past spring, she taught a new global environmental history course on the "Anthropocene"—a proposed new geological epoch in which humans have reshaped the nature of the planet. Her students made a website—*anthropoceneobjects.net*—featuring objects that reflect debates about when and why this age began. Essays about each object—from a prehistoric axe to the Mars Rover—explain how understanding their histories can help us understand changing human relationships with the world we inhabit.

**Stephen Kantrowitz** has been researching the Ho-Chunk people's persistence in DeJope ("Four Lakes," or, for non-Ho Chunks, "the Madison area") since the era of treaties and removals in the mid-nineteenth century, and exploring the ways previous generations of scholars at UW and the Wisconsin Historical Society made sense of that past and present. He hopes to carry that work forward during the 2016-17 academic year, when he'll be the Fulbright Danish Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark. He'll return to Madison in the fall of 2017.

**Neil Kodesh** co-hosted an international conference held at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery. "Big Stories and Close-Up Research: Health and Science in the African World" (<http://africa.wisc.edu/health/>)

brought together a diverse group of scholars to explore the relationship between deeply grounded research and the larger narratives we tell about health and science in the African world. The conference was the culmination of a three-year program on "Health, Healing, and Science in Africa" coordinated by Kodesh, Claire Wendland (Department of Anthropology) and Pablo Gomez (Department of Medical History and Bioethics). This fall, Kodesh begins a new collaboration with Tony Goldberg (Department of Pathobiological Sciences) and Josh Garoon (Department of Community and Environmental Sociology). Funded by an Incubator Grant from the Institute for Regional and International Studies and a Thematic Cluster Grant from the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies at UW-Madison, "Mapping Hot Spots: 'One Health' and the History of Infectious Disease Research" aims to develop an interdisciplinary program that bridges the biological and biomedical sciences, humanities, and social sciences to examine questions about the historical constitution and mapping of disease "hot spots," and the relationship between these processes and the "One Health" paradigm currently promoted by the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and a range of other global health and development agencies.

**Rudy Koshar** published short stories in *Stockholm Review of Literature*, *Corium*, *Riptide Journal*, *Eclectica*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *Black Heart Magazine*, *Halfway Down the Stairs*, *Open Road Review*, *Danse Macabre*, *Ad Hoc Fiction*, *Empty Oaks*, and other literary magazines. He was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, which recognizes the best short fiction published in the small presses. He was also an invited blogger for *Huffington Post*, for which he wrote pieces on a range of topics including gun control, the Flint water crisis, Donald Trump and fascism, and neo-liberal economics in the contemporary Balkans.

(continued on page 16)



Professor Jim Sweet, AKA Polish Sausage, along with our UW Foundation Representative Katie Rather (Hot Dog) competed in the "Sausage Race" during a trip to a Milwaukee Brewer game.

## 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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[historynewsletter@lists.wisc.edu](mailto:historynewsletter@lists.wisc.edu)



The W flowerbed in front of the George L. Mosse Humanities Building.  
Photo by Jeff Miller/UW-Madison.



Jeanne Rowe, John Rowe, Lou Roberts, and John Hall at the Pritzker Liberty Gala in Chicago, November 2015.

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**Elizabeth Lapina** co-edited a collection of articles, *Crusades and Visual Culture* (Ashgate, 2015) and is in the process of co-editing two more, *The Bible in Crusader Sources and Games* and *Visual Culture in the Middle Ages*. She continues working on her monograph, *Depicting the Holy War: Crusader Imagery in Programs of Mural Paintings in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries*. Her latest article, "The Memory of the First Crusade: Visual Representations of the Miracle of Intervention of Saints in Battle" will soon appear in the edited volume *Remembering the Crusades and Crusading*. A forty-minute interview with her on Crusades aired on Wisconsin Public Television as part of University Place series. This fall, she is integrating Reacting to the Past (RTTP) role-playing game into her class on Crusades. Last but not least, her daughter, Constance, was born on March 5, 2016.

**David O. Morgan's** career and contributions are honored in the *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 3rd Series, vol 26, 1/2 (January & April 2016). The issue, titled "The Mongols and Post-Mongol Asia: Studies in Honour of David O. Morgan," contains 27 articles, including one by History Professor André Wink and one by Ovamir Anjum, (PhD, UW, 2008). The volume is edited by Timothy May (PhD, UW, 2004), who also contributed an article and the introduction, and by Peter Jackson of the University of Keele, UK.

**Leonora Neville** published *Anna Komnene: The Life and Work of a Medieval Historian* (Oxford) in September 2016. Leonora found this book—part literary and gender analysis, part whodunit—far more fun to write than her first one about Byzantine administration. In 2016 she also won a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship and gave a headlining paper at the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Belgrade. Meanwhile her daughter joined the Madison Black Star Drumline and her son took up football.

**Lou Roberts** had another busy year teaching and writing. The Chinese and Japanese editions of her book *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American G.I. in World War Two France, 1944-1946* appeared. She published a critique of key concepts in Gender History in *Gender and History*, and was asked by *Time Magazine* to choose

one of 25 moments that changed U.S. History. (She chose General Eisenhower's pardoning of African-American soldier Leroy Henry on June 17, 1944.) She wrote an essay on "Women and Gender in War," for the *Encyclopedie de la second guerre mondiale*, published by Editions Laffont in Paris. And she spoke widely about her new project, "The Body of War," providing the keynote address at the national conference for French Historical Studies, as well as invited talks at West Point Academy, University of Alabama, University of Rochester, Northwestern University, the First Division Museum and the Chicago Humanities Festival. She concluded her term on the Professional Division of the American Historical Association by helping to found a permanent committee on LGBTQ History.

**Lee Palmer Wandel** was awarded a WARF Professorship, the Michael Baxandall Chair of History. This past year, her book, *Reading Catechisms, Teaching Religion* was published. She taught in the UW in London Program this spring, where she and her students could see and touch history as well as study it. She is a member of the international working group on youth, media, and knowledge, which met this summer in Utrecht in the Netherlands.

## Emeriti Profiles

**Mike Clover**, History Department regular service 1966-2001. Still working on the Vandals, not the ones in 5th century North Africa but their forebears in the Middle Danube of the 3rd-century. Principal source is a lost 3rd-century history, written in Greek and surviving in a 10th-century Byzantine collection of historical writing. An understanding of the entire collection precedes the study of details therein. Almost ready: a public talk on early Byzantine historical reading habits: "Reading History in the Roman East, A.D. 500-1000." By training I am a classical philologist, and by practice an ancient historian. The Early Byzantine Empire is not my bailiwick. Wish me luck!

**Bill Courtenay** thought that when he retired he was leaving teaching for a life of pure research. But despite vows to avoid lecturing, he doesn't seem to be sufficiently good at saying 'no'. Alongside work on a book on magisterial authority at Paris,

Courtenay gave seminars in Leuven and lectured in Rome in November, a paper at Münster in December, and taught a course in Diplomats at the Pontifical Institute in Toronto in June. Courtenay will give the Conway Lectures at Notre Dame this fall on "Religious Ritual and Prayers for the Dead in the Medieval University of Paris."

**Rogers Hollingsworth** received a \$98,000 grant in March from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for his study on research organizations. His scholarship is built on hundreds of interviews and archival research. He is conducting research and writing on the basic biomedical sciences, primarily in the United States. In addition, he is studying creativity in art and making soft comparisons between creativity in art and science. He continues to receive and accept invitations to lecture around the world.

**Stanley Payne** was awarded another honorary doctorate (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) and Madrid publishers brought out two new books within days of each other—*Alcalá-Zamora: El fracaso de la República conservadora* (FAES) and *El camino al 18 de julio: La erosión de la democracia en España (diciembre de 1935 – julio de 1936)* (Espasa). The first of these will be published in English by Sussex University Press in the UK in 2017. In addition, the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos published in Payne's honor a new volume of studies on *La Transición democrática: Estudios, testimonios y reflexiones*.



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# History-Making Gifts: William Courtenay Creates \$50K Graduate Student Endowment



William Courtenay. Photo submitted.

## **Q: What led you to make a significant gift to the graduate program in Medieval History?**

A: In the first few years of my tenure in the department, there was sufficient funding of graduate studies because Wisconsin was one of several research universities that received money from the Ford Foundation for the support of graduate education. Their generosity was based on the belief that with retirements and the expansion of new fields, there would not be a sufficient supply of PhDs to meet the demand for university professors. That assumption proved incorrect, the Ford Foundation grant ceased, and the funding of our graduate program, which in Medieval History had long been one of the strongest in the country, from Charles Homer Haskins, through Carl Stephenson, to Gaines Post and beyond, had subsequently to depend on the small number of fellowships offered by the Graduate School each year, teaching assistantships, and project assistantships if obtainable. Consequently, throughout my time teaching here we have been less than competitive with other research universities, particularly the private universities, which are able to offer five-year packages of financial support in order to attract the top applicants. This is alongside the continual decline in university funding from the State of Wisconsin. My gift to the Department and its Medieval Program is a small attempt to offset those disadvantages and to try to maintain a strong program.

## **Q: How did your graduate students enrich your research and teaching during your time at UW?**

A: Wisconsin students in general, both graduate students and undergraduates, have enriched my research and teaching. My experience has been that research provides new information and perspectives that improve classroom teaching, and that questions from students in the classroom have helped shape some of the research questions that I ask. The view that research detracts from teaching, or that teaching interferes with research, is simply wrong. Strong teaching goes hand-in-hand with research and productive scholarship, for which our department has many examples, the late

George Mosse being one of them. Graduate students have helped my own research through project assistantships, but they have had a larger impact in later years when their own discoveries and approaches have added to our knowledge of the past and have helped transform it.

## **Q: Why should undergraduate History alums care about our graduate program?**

A: As long as some of our instruction is provided by teaching assistants, the quality of undergraduate education is dependent almost as much on the contribution of teaching assistants, i.e. graduate students, as on that of the faculty lecturer. Having knowledgeable and effective teaching assistants is important, as undergraduates will remember. Moreover, the research dimension that good graduate students bring to the classroom can be as important as that of the instructor. Thus, having high-quality and well-trained graduate students is crucial in providing the best undergraduate training and experience.

## **Q: How do you imagine the next generation of graduate students in Medieval History will benefit from the Courtenay Fellowship? What exciting new topics or avenues of inquiry do you see emerging in the field?**

A: The job market in Medieval History and History in general has been and will remain tight, and the competition for the few openings intense. One of the preferred categories when evaluating job candidates is teaching experience, meaning lecture courses, not teaching assistantships. That is why one of the prioritized uses of the fellowship is to allow the recipient to teach his or her own course while completing the graduate degree. That, in turn, allows a dissertator to share his or her own specialized knowledge with undergraduates. Another use is for support for research abroad, which for medievalists means archival research in Europe. I remain a strong believer that a properly trained medievalist must be well-trained in Latin Paleography, Codicology, and the other archival sciences. But that training must be applied and perfected in the field, specifically in the manuscript and archival collections in England, France, Germany, Italy and elsewhere in Europe. That is the place where theories can be tested through original sources, where new discoveries are made, which in turn can lead to ground-breaking dissertations and first books.

As to the direction of future research, that is up to the interests and approaches of young scholars. Rather than choosing a dissertation topic according to the current interests of one's major professor or what topics seem to be attractive to search committees at present be it social, economic, political, religious, or cultural/intellectual history, one should follow one's own interests, uncover new perspectives and insights, and be able to explain to non-specialists the importance and excitement of that work. The questions asked and consequently the direction and topics of one's research will shift across time, as mine have. Future doctoral students will determine where the field of medieval history goes.

## Alumni Profile: Joseph H. Parkes, S.J., M.A., '70 (Medieval History)



Father Joseph Parks. Submitted Photo.

I grew up in Jersey City, NJ, the son of Irish immigrants. Like most immigrant parents then and now, my parents wanted a first-rate education for my sister and me. I attended the Jesuit high school in Jersey City, St. Peter's Prep. Those were the days of classical education. All 1,000 guys in the school had Latin every day, every year. I was in the Greek Honors program, so in addition to Latin I took Attic Greek my last three years, and German my last two years. Reading *The Aeneid*, *The Odyssey* and Goethe in the original as a teenager were experiences I came to appreciate more and more as I grew older.

In 1962, right out of high school, I joined the Jesuits. After a two-year novitiate I majored in History and Philosophy (Fordham and the U. of Detroit). During my year in Michigan I had John O'Malley, S.J., for three history courses. He had just finished his PhD at Harvard where he overlapped with Bill Courtenay and he knew the late Bob Kingdon from professional conferences. I had always loved history, and John's classes inspired me to pursue a graduate degree. He encouraged me to apply to Wisconsin since I had an interest in the Medieval and Reformation eras, and he thought Bill and Bob were the best combination in these areas.

I arrived in Madison in the summer of 1968 and stayed through September of 1969. The campus was lively: National Guardsmen in front of Bascom Hall with flowers on their rifle butts; Gene McCarthy speaking to raucous applause before 15,000 in the fieldhouse just prior to the 1968 election; town-gown battles galore as the student paper and the state legislature attacked one another like the Guelphs and Ghibellines.

But my fondest memories of Madison are of the professors: History greats Bill Courtenay, my adviser, whom I had for Paleography and Research, and who directed my thesis ("The Epistemology of Pierre D'Ailly"); Bob Kingdon, The Reformation; and David Herlihy, The

Renaissance. Bill also steered me to Frank Horlbeck's History of Medieval Art class and Julius Weinberg's seminar on Medieval Philosophy. These men took a personal interest in me and my interests and have been lifelong inspirations. Their classes, their writings, their dedication to scholarship and to the University, taught me lessons I carry with me to this day.

My life took several unexpected turns after I left Madison. I taught for two years at the Ateneo de Manila High School and University. After theology studies and ordination in New York, I worked at *America*, the Jesuit weekly magazine. I then continued my career as President of St. Peter's Prep School, before becoming the Assistant to the Provincial and eventually the Provincial of the New York Province of Jesuits (which included Nigeria, Ghana and Micronesia). From 1996 to 2004, I was President of Fordham Prep School.

For the past 12 years I have served as founding President of Cristo Rey New York High School ([www.cristoreyny.org](http://www.cristoreyny.org)). We are part of a network of 32 small, Catholic, inner city high schools that serve students from low income families ([www.cristoreynetwork.org](http://www.cristoreynetwork.org)). We are the largest such group of high schools in the country. We have a unique Corporate Work Study Program—all of our students work one day a week in major corporations and not-for-profits, and earn approximately 45% of the operating costs of the school. The rest of our operating costs come from philanthropy (45%) and tuition (10%). Our graduates enroll in college at four times the rate of their socio-economic peers, and graduate from college at six times the rate.

I am pleased that a member of our first class, 2008, will be a third year law student at UW this year. One of her classmates just finished her first year in doctoral studies in American History at Northwestern—despite my best efforts I was not able to entice her to enroll at UW, but our Big Ten sister school is not a bad second choice!

In all of the positions I have held, my Madison experience has never been far from my mind. Personal interest in students, intellectual curiosity, love of research-writing, devotion to alma mater—all of these and more have remained with me over the past 48 years as I started, ran or supervised schools in Micronesia, Jersey City, Nigeria, the Bronx and East Harlem.

So I have come full circle in my life: the son of Irish immigrants who did not have the opportunity to attend high school, much less college, now runs a college prep high school for first generation students from low income families (Average Adjusted Available Income of our Class of 2020 is negative \$10,440) who matriculate at some of the finest colleges and universities in the United States.

If you live in New York City, or plan to visit, and would like to visit CRNYHS, please just drop me an email ([jparkes@cristoreyny.org](mailto:jparkes@cristoreyny.org)). Jim Sweet, former History Department Chair, visited last year and spoke to our Juniors about UW and his own research. The students loved his presentation and the Q&A.



## Alumni Profile: Murray Casey - Numen Lumen or “Enlightenment through Others?”



Murray Casey as a Navy SEAL. Photo submitted.

In my mind's eye there is an image that always brings a smile to my face. It is the sight of Madison students, many in red, cheering from Camp Randall. The thought of the crowds' optimistic lilt is liberating and anchors me with hope. I used this image particularly while I was deployed over this last decade as our nation sent men and women to Iraq and Afghanistan. Last February I retired from the military after serving 26 years as a Navy SEAL; 28 years ago I graduated with a B.A (History '88).

I was a transplant to Cedarburg, Wisconsin, via Connecticut, in 1980, and that Labor Day before my first day of high school I attended a Badger football game. We sat across from the student sections, O and P. From that distance I felt envy and motivation to join them. The last time I had felt that envy was as a ten-year-old watching the animatronic figures of Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean* ride. With one goal in mind, I worked hard, I studied hard, and by Thanksgiving of my high school senior year I received my acceptance to the University of Wisconsin.

From 1984-1988 it took me eight semesters to gain 122 credits. I declared History as my major in my fifth semester because I enjoyed it and I did well with it. Dr. Frank Clover's History 111, *Ancient Near East and Greece*, was my first history course at Madison. He introduced me to the many ways historians interpret ideas, people, and stories of the past. For example, Professor Clover gave credit for working with the university's drama department recreating an ancient Greek play. To an eighteen year old out of Cedarburg High School, the fact that I could use acting in studying ancient history was fantastic but strange and I liked it, and became interested in seeing things through different perspectives. This attraction eventually helped me choose History as a major.

In my fifth semester I registered in Professor Steve Stern's course, *Colonial Latin America: From Conquest to Independence*. Professor Stern made a comparative analogy of Cortez's first meeting with Mesoamericans, Toltec people, with how the United States would have reacted to a space ship landing in our country offering to help us defeat the Soviet Union. He challenged the class, "Would we make a deal with the aliens or would we join forces with our enemy to eliminate the aliens?" Stern's innovative teaching showed how history could be relevant to current issues—in this case, the Cold War. My professors taught me that history was relevant. I never had difficulty explaining why I had majored in History. Certainly I was asked, but I always had an answer.

Military life requires preparation for any contingency overseas. Deployment was our opportunity to use those skills we had been developing and training for as a team. As an individual in a team, our personal talents at times amplified our unit's capabilities. Every day I served the American people, my education at the University of Wisconsin touched my life. It gave me the ability to gain the trust of my leadership, both military and civilian. I owe a debt to Madison because it taught me how to think, not what to think.

Since September 11, 2001, I have made eight combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Over that time, I have served with two other SEALs who are also Wisconsin alumni. I came to realize my feelings of gratitude to the University through conversations with one of the alumni-SEALs and through reflection as I prepared to retire last winter.

The University of Wisconsin is more than just college courses. I learned a great deal being clustered with that many people over my four years. Besides hockey games, swimming in Lake Monona during registration week, and meeting the film crew for Rodney Dangerfield's *Back to School*, I loved hanging with my friends. I still maintain these friendships today, with people with whom I formed a collective, positive, growth mindset.

I call this the clustering effect of Madison. We became optimistic skeptics thanks to our broad education at the University of Wisconsin, both inside the classroom and outside of it. This is why the simple thought of Camp Randall still brings hope and promise to me.



Murray Casey at his retirement with family.

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# Graduate Student Research: John Boonstra

## ***Mandate to Protect: Imperial Encounters and Affective Ideologies between France and Lebanon, 1900-1930***

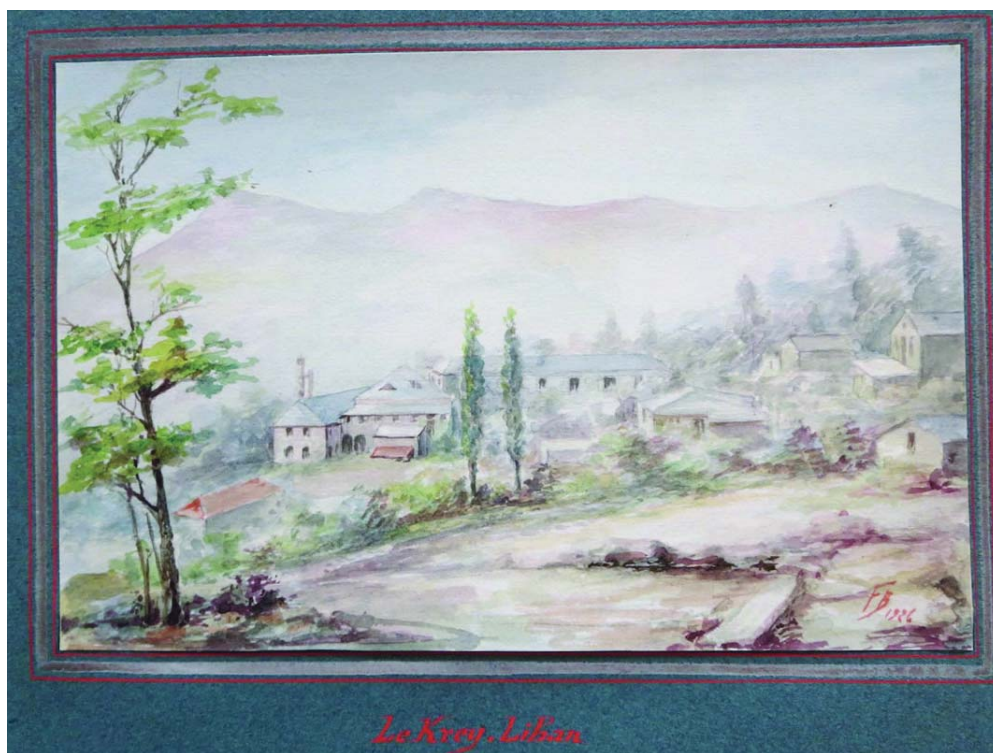
My dissertation asks how a “mandate to protect” shaped the imperial relationship between France and Lebanon in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Lebanon, a small mountainous region of the eastern Mediterranean, was not even a formal colony within the expansive—and increasingly troubled—French empire. Yet it represented, in the words of a French government and industry spokesman in 1913, “a younger sister of our fatherland,” bound not only by historic religious, cultural, and commercial interests, but also by traditions of sentimental attachment and ideology of protection.

At the heart of an imagined “France du Levant,” Lebanon was regarded as a natural sphere of French influence and involvement. Idealized ties of mutual affection, I argue, also engendered a colonial fantasy of filial devotion and paternal authority, maternal care and parental responsibility. My project explores how these bonds were envisioned and adapted in a range of particular political, social, cultural, diplomatic, and military contexts: from a colonialist conference in Marseille to a silk factory and orphanage in Mount Lebanon, from disputes between travelers at the Beirut harbor to meetings with wartime informants off the Mediterranean coast. I am interested in how notions of familial connection between France and Lebanon provided everyday men and women with a potent language with which to negotiate local conflicts, contest colonial practices, and stake claims to imperial protection.

My research has taken me to some two dozen archives and libraries in several cities and towns of France (Lyon, Paris, Marseille, Nantes, Besançon) and Lebanon (Beirut, Kaslik, Bkirke). I have been fortunate to receive support from a Fulbright Fellowship, the Social Science Research Council, Mellon Foundation, the Wisconsin Alumni Association (France Chapter), and the UW-Madison History Department and Institute for Regional and International Studies. I am currently a Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, where I am working to complete my dissertation and enter the academic job market.

### **Bio:**

John Boonstra is a seventh-year PhD candidate in the History Department. He grew up in Massachusetts (and remains a loyal Red Sox fan), earned a BA with High Honors from Swarthmore College in 2007, and worked for several years at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC. He received his MA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012, and has since revised this work—on French colonial troops stationed in the occupied Rhineland after World War I—into an article, published in *German History* in December 2015. He is planning to defend his dissertation in Summer 2017.



Painting of silk factory and orphanage complex in Qraiye, Mount Lebanon by a Sister of Charity of Besançon (1926). Source: Archives des Sœurs de la Charité de Sainte Jeanne-Antide Thouret – Maison provinciale – Besançon



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# Graduate Student Research: Anthony Medrano

## *History between the Tides: Scientific Currents, Fishery Resources, and the South China Seas, 1878-1948*



Anthony Medrano with friends in Purwakarta, Java, Indonesia. Photo Submitted.

My dissertation approaches the study of Southeast Asia through its scientific currents and biological waters. Rather than framing the region's ocean as a surface between shores, I engage its seascape as a site of encounter and production. Looking closely at fish as specimen, protein, and contraband, I analyze how people came to know, use, and contest over Southeast Asia's marine environment in the late colonial period. In this way, my work historicizes the fraught politics, which animate these Asian waters in the present. From Penang to Papua, this arc of ocean houses the world's greatest concentration of marine biological diversity, but also one of its hottest post-Cold War flashpoints. My study links this colonial past to postcolonial concerns about food security and illegal fishing in maritime Asia.

Through the use of ethnographic and archival sources, I argue that the ocean's fish and the scientists who studied them were central to the rise of urban society and industrial agriculture in colonial Southeast Asia. The mass extraction and seemingly endless

supply of oceanic protein transformed the region's lands and seas, but also its place in the modern world. Based on two years of fieldwork conducted in the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, England, and The Netherlands, I show how local knowledge, scientific expertise, and commercial fishing coalesced to open these interstitial waters, creating an unprecedented protein boom in the first half of the twentieth century. This protein boom fed the interwar growth of plantations, mines, and cities, and powered the reach of pelagic states. The opening of new fishing grounds not only brought ashore new food fish, but it also mobilized colonial claims to offshore spaces. As my research reveals, local and foreign scientists and the fish they tracked were at the center of these changes in knowing the ocean, working its fishery frontiers, and fueling the urban and agricultural transition switch forged modern Southeast Asia.

And while I write about fish with endless enthusiasm, I am not much of a fish eater (except for ahi poke). I think the scope of my dissertation topic was borne more from my history with the ocean. I grew up by the ocean; I went to school by the ocean. And I followed the ocean to Southeast Asia, where I lived and worked for a few years before starting the PhD at Wisconsin. These days, with lakes on either side, I bring the ocean ashore by reading Steinbeck, Carson, and Kishinouye (and listening to Keola Beamer).

### **Bio:**

Anthony Medrano is a Morgridge Distinguished Graduate Fellow in the Department of History. He is currently writing a dissertation on the interplay between fish, scientists, and the South China Seas between 1878 and 1948. His work draws on marine environmental history, the histories of science and technology, and Southeast Asian studies. He and his fish stories have benefited from the support of Fulbright, Mellon, Boren, ASEH, SHOT, KITLV, and UW-Madison. Originally from the SF Bay Area, Anthony has completed degrees at Humboldt and Hawaii, and has undertaken advanced language study at the National University of Malaysia and the University of Indonesia.



Red fish house with net, Pulau Bum-Bum, Malaysia. Photo Submitted.



Fish market, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Photo Submitted.



## 2015-2016 PhDs Awarded

- **Ashley Barnes-Gilbert** - "River Town Brothel Culture: Sex Worker Mobility, Policing, and Agency, 1870-1940" (May 2016)
- **Ingrid Johanna Bolívar Ramirez** - "El Oficio de los Futbolistas Colombianos en Los Años 60 Y 70: Re-Creación de las Regiones, Juegos de Masculinidad y Vida Sentimental" (May 2016)
- **Charles Cahill** - "Rescuing the Individual: The Kierkegaard Renaissance in Weimar Germany" (May 2016)
- **Matthew Cosby** - "The Cambridge Platonists and the Pre-History of the Enlightenment" (August 2016)
- **Skye Doney** - "Moving Toward the Sacred: German Pilgrimage Practices, 1832-1937" (May 2016)
- **Jerome Dotson** - "Consuming Bodies, Producing Race: Slavery and Diet in the Antebellum South, 1830-1865" (May 2016)
- **Daniel Hummel** - "A Covenant of the Mind: American Evangelicals, Israel, and the Construction of a Special Relationship, 1948-1980" (May 2015)
- **Gregory Jones-Katz** - "'The Hermeneutical Mafia' and the Age of Deconstruction" (August 2016)
- **Maureen Justiniano** - "Navigating Manila's Labyrinth: Nineteenth-Century Colonial Manila in the Making of a Revolution" (August 2016)
- **Jessica Kirstein** - "Making Their Place: Jews, Immigrants, and the Politics of Alternative Workers' Citizenship in Argentina, 1900-1922" (December 2015)
- **Arthur Scott Mobley** - "Progressives in Navy Blue: Maritime Strategy, American Empire, and the Transformation of U.S. Naval Identity, 1873-1898" (December 2015)
- **Jason Michael Morgan** - "Equity under Empire: Suehiro Izutarō and the Birth of the Law-and-Society Movement in Japan" (May 2016)
- **Valeria Navarro-Rosenblatt** - "Jewish Communists in Chile: Experience and Memory in the Life Stories of Dora Guralnik and Carlos Berger, 1930-1990" (August 2016)
- **Patrick Otim** - "Forgotten Voices of the Transition: Precolonial Intellectuals and the Colonial State in Northern Uganda, 1850-1950" (August 2016)
- **Britt Tevis** - "May It Displease the Court: Jewish Lawyers and the Democratization of American Law" (August 2016)
- **Scott Trigg** - "From Samarqand to Istanbul: Astronomy and Scientific Education in the Commentaries of Fathallāh al-Shirwānī" (August 2016)
- **Jed Woodworth** - "Horace Mann and the Revolution in American Childhood" (August 2016)

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## Graduate Job Placements and Post-Doctoral Fellowships for 2015-2016

- **Ashley Barnes-Gilbert** – assistant professor, UW-Whitewater
- **Charles Cahill** – trainer, Epic Systems
- **Skye Doney** – archivist, George L. Mosse Program, UW-Madison
- **Jerome Dotson** – assistant professor, University of Arizona
- **Daniel Hummel** – post-doctoral fellow, Harvard University
- **Gregory Jones-Katz** – assistant professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen
- **Arthur Scott Mobley** – post-doctoral fellow, U.S. Naval Academy
- **Patrick Otim** – assistant professor, Bates College
- **Scott Trigg** – post-doctoral fellow, Notre Dame University
- **Jed Woodworth** – historian, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

## Departmental Graduate Student Teaching Awards (2015-2016)

- **Neal Davidson**, Capstone Award
- **Bill Warner**, Capstone Award
- **Rachel Gross**, Exceptional Service Award
- **Joy Block**, Exceptional Service Award
- **Sam Timinsky**, Early Excellence Award
- **Ben Kasten**, Early Excellence Award
- **Kate Turner**, Phi Alpha Theta Undergrad Teaching

## Graduate Fellowship Awards (2015-2016)

- Fulbright Fellowships
  - David Fields
  - Jeff Guarneri
  - Kayci Harris
  - Galen Poor
  - Bridgette Werner
  - Caitlin Tyler-Richards



Front: Maya Holzman, Jessica Kirstein, David Harrisville. Middle: Greg Jones-Katz, Ashley Barnes-Gilbert, Maureen Justiniano, Back: Jed Woodworth, Charles Cahill, Patrick Otim.



Florencia Mallon, Steve Stern, Colleen Dunlavy, Ashley Barnes-Gilbert, Jessica Kirstein, Finn Enke, Neil Kodesh, Patrick Otim, Maya Holzman, Fran Hirsch, Michael Cullinane, Maureen Justiniano, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, Gregory Jones-Katz, Jed Woodworth, Charles Cahill, Rudy Koshar, Bill Reese, & David Harrisville.

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# In Memory

## Jim Baughman 1952-2016



James L. Baughman, the Fetzer Bascom Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died Saturday, March 26, 2016 after a short illness. He was 64.

Baughman was born in Warren, Ohio, January 10, 1952, the son of Lewis E. and Ann B. Baughman. He grew up in Warren, attending Warren City Schools. He earned his BA from Harvard in 1974 and PhD in History from Columbia in 1981.

Baughman joined the UW Journalism faculty in 1979. He revived and regularly taught the History of Mass Communication lecture course and frequently taught reporting classes. A popular instructor, Baughman won the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003.

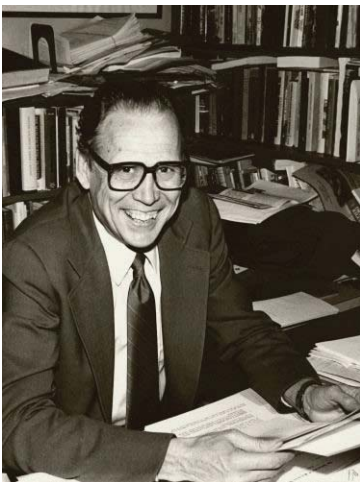
Baughman served two terms as director of the journalism school, from 2003 to 2009. He oversaw the School's successful centennial celebration in 2005 and helped to establish the Center for Journalism Ethics several years later. As director, he gave many public service talks. He was the first recipient of the Ken and Linda Ciriacks Alumni Excellence Award in 2005, sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

Baughman developed a national reputation for his work on the history of 20th century American journalism and broadcast news. He was the author of four books, including *Same Time, Same Station: Creating American Television, 1948-1961* (2007).

Baughman served on the Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1985 to 1992, the last two as chair. At the time of his death, he was chair of the advisory committee of the UW's Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture.

Friends and former students will remember Jim's humor and skill at mimicry. No UW faculty member did a better imitation of Eleanor Roosevelt or Bill Clinton. Less fondly, those who knew him will recall his lifelong and often inexplicable devotion to the Cleveland Indians baseball team.

## Allan Bogue 1921-2016



Allan George Bogue, 95, died August 1, 2016. He was born May 12, 1921, to George and Eleta Britton Bogue in London, Ontario, Canada. He was a Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 1964-1991. Bogue's education includes; PhD: Cornell University (1951); MA: University of Western Ontario (1946); and BA: University of Western Ontario (1943). He served as a lieutenant while in the Royal Canadian Armored Corps, 1943-1949.

As an academic he began as a Lecturer in Economics and History at the University of Ontario, 1949-1952, was an Assistant Professor at State University of Iowa, and was the Chairmen of the Department of History, State University of Iowa, 1959-1963. In 1964 he became a Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1968 he became the Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History. He was Chairman of the History Department from 1972-1973. He also served as a visiting professor at various universities including the Thord-Gray Lecturing Fellow, Uppsala University, Sweden, 1968 and in 1971-1972, was a visiting professor at Harvard University.

Bogue won numerous awards for his work including, a Guggenheim Fellowship, 1970, Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Fellow (Cal Tech), 1975. He was elected and inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, 1985-1986 and shared in the Caughey Prize for best book in Western American history in previous year, 1995. He wrote seven books including *From Prairie to Corn Belt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century*, 1963, and *Frederick Jackson Turner: Strange Roads Going Down*, 1998. He also collaborated on 12 other books and published 73 articles during his career.

He served in numerous historical organizations as president, including: the Organization of American Historians; Agricultural History Society; Economic History Association; Social Science History Association. He was a fellow of the Agricultural History Society, an honorary life member of the Western History Association, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.



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Bogue had various hobbies outside of his career; he was a member of the Badger Kennel Club where he taught dog obedience for 20 years, and competed his Samoyeds in area obedience trials. An avid gardener, his dahlias, which grew in the front yard, were much admired by the neighbors and those who walked by.

He and his wife Margaret were avid Badger basketball fans, holding season tickets for 44 years. A die hard Cubs fan, he was sure every spring they would win the World Series. He and his family vacationed in northern Wisconsin since 1968 where all enjoyed canoeing, hiking, and bird watching. Always thinking about history, he planned many family vacations to include historic sites and one year the family even followed the Lewis and Clark Trail.

## Bob Koehl 1922-2015



Bob Koehl, age 93, fought prostate cancer for over a year before deciding on his terms to decline more treatment. He died where he had lived since 1977 early in the morning of July 6, 2015, as the sun was rising. Bob joined the faculty of UW- Madison Department of History in 1964 and served until he retired in 1997.

His life in Madison reached far beyond the university and he is beloved by many over the decades for saving lives and turning around messed-up lives. He was also an avid historical site visitor, music collector, stamp collector, and train and trolley supporter. And, he was an Internet whiz with an iPad that was state of the art.

Upon retirement, he was awarded Professor Emeritus status by Wisconsin in 1997 and continued to supervise students for years. Bob was also a founder of the Department of Educational Policy Studies and specialized in comparative and international education. Many of his students are world leaders in

international education and have remained close to Bob.

Bob Koehl is a graduate of Harvard College and University, BA, MA and PhD as well as member of Phi Beta Kappa. He received a scholarship and worked his way through college. Bob's studies were interrupted by World War II. He served in the European Theatre of Operations where his knowledge of language was useful as an interrogator in U.S. Army Intelligence. The war helped frame Bob's world view and priorities. As a man of peace and opportunity for all, he knew evil waited and had to be revealed to be defeated. Bob wrote about European history and specialized in Nazism and fascism. His World War II course was extremely popular all the years he offered it.

## Al Senn 1932-2016



Professor Emeritus Alfred Erich Senn, age 83, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 8 March, 2016, in his home, surrounded by his family.

Alfred Erich Senn was born in Madison, Wisconsin, April 12, 1932. His Swiss father, Herr Dr. phil. Alfred Senn and Lithuanian mother, Marija Eva Vedlugaite, along with sisters Marie and Elfrieda Senn had newly emigrated from Lithuania to the U.S. Al's father joined the German department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison after a very brief stint at Yale. When Al was 7, his father accepted a position with the German department at The University of Pennsylvania and the family moved to Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. Al grew up speaking Polish, Lithuanian, Russian, and German in his home and English in school.

Al was deeply interested in Eastern European political history, WWII espionage in Switzerland, and later the influence of politics on sports. He received a BA in 1953 from the University of Pennsylvania and then both an MA (1955) and PhD (1958) from Columbia University in Soviet Studies. He taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1961-2008 and retired as Professor Emeritus. He also taught as Doctor Honoris Causa at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas.

Al was a prolific historian—he authored eight books and over 150 articles, encyclopedia entries, reviews, commentaries and essays over his career. He was also intellectually curious and widely respected—his involvement in topics often extended far beyond his pen. Little did Al know when he wrote his doctoral thesis on *The Emergence of Modern Lithuania* (1959) that the work would be heavily referenced 30 years later

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by leaders looking to reestablish Lithuanian independence (this time from the Soviet Union). His relationship with the fledgling independence movement grew and resulted in a riveting first-hand account of the struggles over glasnost and perestroika in his book *Lithuania Awakening* (1990). With the support of a gift from his sister and brother-in-law in the early 1990s, he established a “Senn Scholars” program to host young Lithuanian scholars at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Al’s works extended beyond political history into sports. His book *Power, Politics, and the History of the Olympics* (1999)—an insightful exploration of how modern Olympic Games became an arena for ideological as well as athletic competition—is standard reference for historians of modern sport and the ground-breaking research formed the foundation of his now legendary course on sports history. Al’s foray into sports history led to a role he thoroughly enjoyed—acting as an interpreter for European athletes competing in the U.S. such as Arvydas Sabonis (Lithuanian basketball) and the Soviet hockey teams. Over the years Al’s works earned him numerous honors and awards, but there was one in particular that deserves mention: in 2004, Al (Alfredas Erichas Sennas to Lithuanians) was awarded the Officer of the Order of Vytautas the Great Cross by the country’s president. Al was deeply honored to be recognized by Lithuania for his “distinguished services to the State” and touched that family members traveled with him to witness the ceremony.

For all of Al’s success in academics, what he loved most was his family—he would do anything for family and enjoyed nothing more than spending time with them. When his children were young, Al received extended research grants abroad and took the whole family with him to live first in Germany and later Switzerland. As his children grew up, he never missed an opportunity to brag about them. And as his children became parents, he redoubled his enthusiastic sharing of grandchildren accomplishments to whomever would listen and proudly sported the title emblazoned on his prize baseball cap—“Opa”.

Al loved telling stories, reading books, teaching, writing, music, and sharing a beer (and an evening) with friends. His knowledge of historical events and leaders was unbelievably deep and he was always ready to debate (and patiently explain) both past and current events. He was an avid Badger and Packer fan, but couldn’t bear to watch them lose—if they weren’t on their game, he had to turn them off.

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## WISCONSIN 101

### OUR HISTORY IN OBJECTS

## Wisconsin 101

A participatory history project that invites Wisconsin residents to retell moments in state history through objects. From soda bottled outside Milwaukee in the 1920s, to bowling pins manufactured in Antigo in the 1960s, Wisconsin’s everyday objects reveal new perspectives on the people, places, and ideas of our state’s past. Stories from the project are also featured each month on Wisconsin Public Radio’s Wisconsin Life: [www.wi101.org/wisconsin-life/](http://www.wi101.org/wisconsin-life/).

The project is currently recruiting contributors from across Wisconsin and also developing a new outreach project to serve K-12 classrooms. Explore Wisconsin 101’s virtual collection of objects and the stories they tell at [www.wi101.org](http://www.wi101.org) and follow the project on Facebook for regular updates.

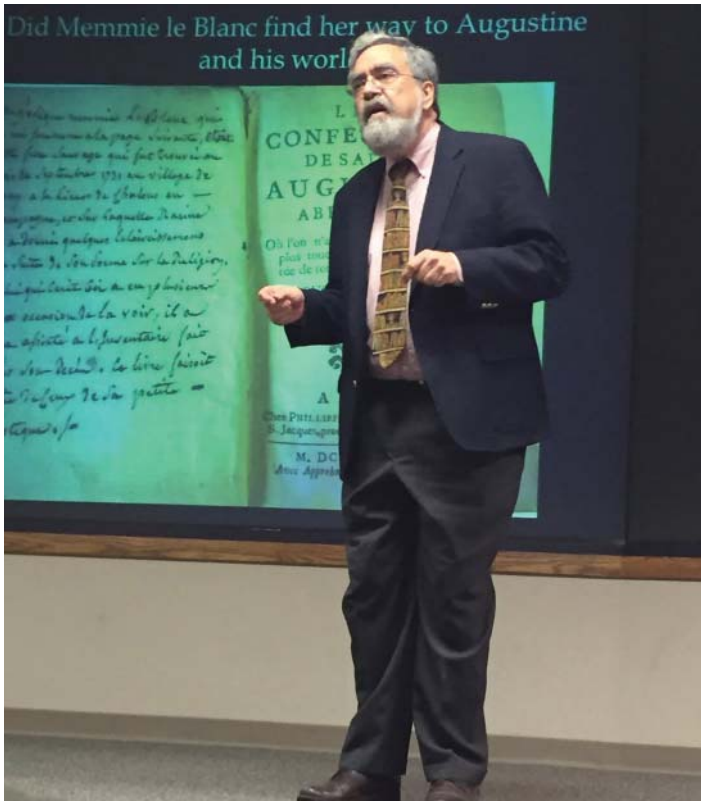
## Merle Curti Lecture Series

### *"Past Belief: Visions of Early Christianity in Early Modern Europe"*

**Anthony T. Grafton**

Princeton University

November 3-5, 2015



### *"Writing the Life of Frederick Douglass: Why and Why Now?"*

**David W. Blight**

Yale University

October 26-28, 2016







DEPARTMENT OF  
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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Dressed as German composer and musician Johann Sebastian Bach, Jamie Henke, a distinguished faculty associate of the Division of Continuing Studies, mingles with guests during Night of the Living Humanities, a pre-Halloween benefit for the UW Odyssey Project, held at the University Club at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Oct. 27, 2016. The Odyssey Project offers a free two-semester humanities class for 30 adult students with economic barriers to college. The costumes at Night of the Living Humanities are inspired by the writers, philosophers, artists, and historical figures that students learn about in class. (Photo by Jeff Miller/UW-Madison)