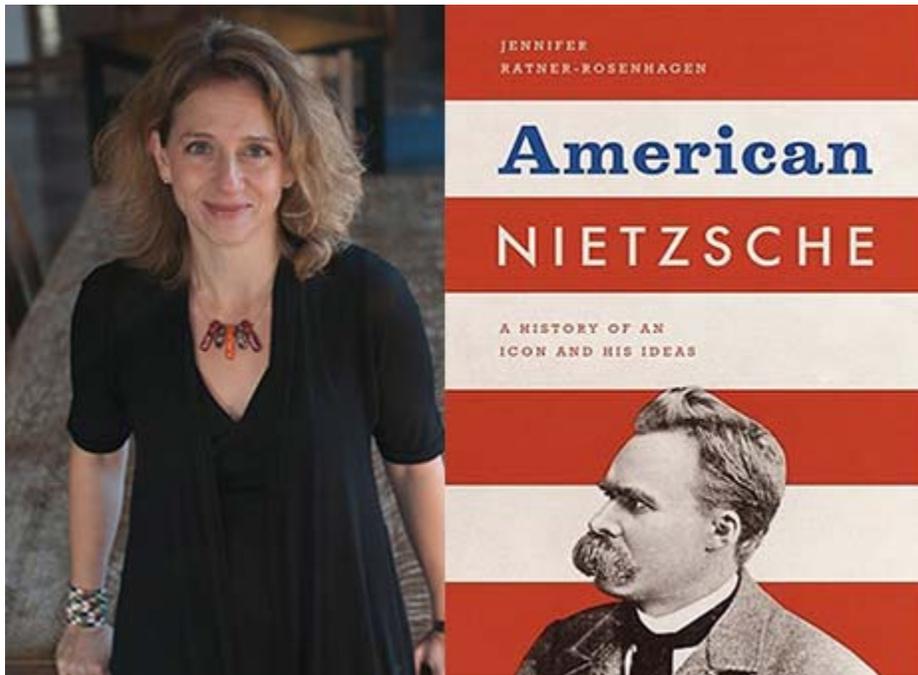


Spring break(s) in Madison!

As the melt-off begins, I wanted to update you on our long winter's work. It has been a remarkably productive and distinguished couple of months, starting with the American Historical Association meeting in Washington from January 2-5. There, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, Merle Curti Associate Professor, accepted the Dunning Prize for best book in US History for her *American Nietzsche*.

<http://news.ls.wisc.edu/announcements/ratner-rosenhagen-wins-american-historical-association-book-prize/>



The department also hosted a reception at which we welcomed more than a dozen DC-area alums, as well as current faculty and students. The reception was a great success. We thank all of our friends for coming out and look forward to next January's reception in New York!



In January, Mary Louise Roberts traveled to Épinal American cemetery in eastern France to pay her respects to Wisconsin's fallen soldiers in World War II. She also shared the fruits of an amazing research project conducted by the students in her fall 2013, History 357 course. At the request of French "godparents" who care for the individual gravesites of American soldiers, Roberts' students conducted research on the biographies of more than 25 Wisconsin "boys" who lost their lives in Europe. Thanks to the students' research, Roberts was able to reward the godparents' dedication to their adopted gravesites, providing them with biographical sketches of each Wisconsin soldier. The Épinal project is being widely celebrated in France, at US Army Command in Washington, and of course here in Wisconsin!

<http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/ep.php>

http://history.wisc.edu/home/announcements/epinal_project.htm



The start of semester saw the inaugural offering of the lecture course “American Sports History” by Sean Dinces, Allan “Bud” Selig Assistant Professor. When enrollment opened, we anticipated that the course would attract 72 students; however, it surpassed its enrollment capacity in just eight hours. Remarkably, the course capped out at 269 registered students, our largest class this semester!

<https://history.wisc.edu/people/faculty/dinces.htm>



First the winter Olympics in Sochi, and now the crisis in the Ukraine: David McDonald, Alice D. Mortenson-Michael B. Petrovich Professor, has been in constant demand for speaking and media appearances. McDonald, whose research focuses on 20th century Soviet and Russian history, brings his sharp analysis and droll wit to bear on Vladimir Putin, Pussy Riot, the US boycott of the 1980s Olympics, Crimea, and Russian economics.

<http://www.wortfm.org/controversial-politics-surrounding-sochi-olympics-2014/>

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/-/1648/24829672/-/pmntjbz/-/index.html>

http://host.madison.com/daily-cardinal/russia-s-olympic-games-years-later/article_3349ac44-97a7-11e3-9387-001a4bcf887a.html

http://host.madison.com/news/local/writers/paul_fanlund/paul-fanlund-crisis-in-crimea-is-far-from-black-and/article_bfac6433-cc0f-5234-b3c3-7a95c53176f6.html

As always, our more than 16,000 living History alumni make all of this possible. Without your generous endowments, there would be no Curti professor, no Selig professor, and no Mortenson professor. And without your gifts to our annual fund, we could not support life-changing undergraduate research like the Épinal project. UW History remains great because you make us great. Thank you for your continued loyalty and support. Happy spring break. And On Wisconsin!

James H. Sweet, Chair
Vilas-Jartz Distinguished Professor