



Time Lines

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SUNY College at Brockport
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Fall 2006

Please Join Us: Marcus Lecture

The inaugural Robert Marcus Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor Emeritus Robert W. Strayer at 7:30 pm on March 22, 2007, in the New York Room of Cooper Hall. The lecture honors the memory of the late Dr. Marcus, a former Vice President for Academic Affairs as well as Department Chair and Professor of History who died suddenly on October 6, 2000. Dr. Strayer will address "What's the Big Deal? Communism in World History."

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following history majors inducted into New York Omicron Chapter of Alpha Chi, the all-college Honor Society, on Oct. 27:

- Daniel Armbruster
- David Hanson
- Daniel Cody
- Angela Henlyshyn
- Michael Fickess
- Danielle Leone
- Thomas Vigneri

A Note From the Chair

by Kathleen Kutolowski

Still another busy semester winds down as I write, and fresh snow blankets the campus. From my office window I can view the handsome new townhouses taking shape just west of the Allen Building. Students rush in and out of the department's corridors to deliver final papers before heading home. Sound familiar?

Such is the cycle of academic life. What begins in the heat of August draws to a close in the frigid chill of December's early dusk, only to start again in January with fresh syllabi, new books, and high hopes. In between, we grow and learn from one another.

Fall 2006 brought two major speakers to the department, Dr. Jonathan Zimmerman of New York University, who delivered the Synnestvedt Memorial Lecture, and Dr. Jacqueline Hill of the National University of Ireland at Maynooth, where the department has a study abroad program. Maynooth and Brockport exchange faculty lectures yearly, with Dr. Bruce Leslie having done the honors for Brockport last year.

The department welcomed two new faculty members. Dr. Carl Davila is a specialist in Arabic Studies and one of three Presidential Fellows appointed by the College, while Dr. Takashi Nishyama follows in the retired footsteps of Dr. John Killigrew. Meanwhile, Killigrew has settled into his new office in Drake Library to research and write on medieval China.

Our thanks to everyone who shared news of life after Brockport (see Alumni News). Do keep writing, and if you are in the Greater Rochester Area, plan to join us for the first Robert Marcus Memorial Lecture on March 22, 2007. The speaker will be our own Professor Emeritus Robert Strayer, returning from California for this special event.



Welcome to Dr. Davila and Dr. Nishiyama

by Megan Wilson '07



The Department of History welcomes Dr. Carl Davila and Dr. Takashi Nishiyama to the faculty. Both professors add a diverse range of courses to the history program.

Dr. Davila, a Brockport history alumnus, recently received his PhD from Yale University in Arabic Studies. As part of his doctoral dissertation, Dr. Davila spent four years studying Andalusian music in Morocco. His specialties include the Islamic world, religious history, cultural discourses and the Arabic language and its influence in the Islamic world. Through a joint appointment with the anthropology department, Dr. Davila hopes to bring a diverse perspective to the campus. This fall he taught the Anthropology of Islam and Ancient World. This spring, Dr. Davila is excited to offer *Beyond the Veil: Gender in the Islamic World, Medieval Islam*, and a graduate seminar on Early Islamic History. Dr. Davila is excited to be back at Brockport and reports that he sets high expectations for what he considers to be a promising student body.

Dr. Nishiyama received his PhD in history from Ohio State University and is currently researching how and why a nation at war, such as Japan, supported the doctrine of suicide attack both at the tactical and strategic levels, a process he refers to as “Kamikazation” of war. Before arriving at Brockport, Dr. Nishiyama taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a post-doctoral fellowship and researched at Harvard University. In fall 2006, Dr. Nishiyama taught Modern World, History of Japan, and Early Modern Asian Civilization. Dr. Nishiyama will be offering Modern World and two sections of modern Asian history this spring. Encouraged by the promising students that matriculate at SUNY Brockport, Dr. Nishiyama enjoys teaching here and reports that he is constantly inspired by his hard-working students and mentors.



Synnestvedt Lecture: Professor Jonathan Zimmerman



Dr. Jonathan Zimmerman presented the annual Synnestvedt Lecture to a full house in the New York Room on September 14. His topic was “Dueling Dilemmas: Race and Religion in American Public Schools.”

Dr. Zimmerman identified what he was surprised to learn about the way that high school American history textbooks dealt with race and religion during the 20th century. He found that many ethnic and racial groups, outside of the South, had long agitated for inclusion in these textbooks. He concluded that agitation was successful because these groups avoided claims of discrimination and instead patriotically promoted their contributions to a great and ever-advancing nation. Last, Dr. Zimmerman discovered that not only “religious conservatives” but also liberal civil rights activists expressed their displeasure when these textbooks recently began avoiding the role of religion in American history.

Dr. Zimmerman received his PhD in history from the Johns Hopkins University and is the author of three books including *Whose America? Culture Wars in the Public Schools* (Harvard, 2002). Currently, he directs the History of Education Program at New York University. A public intellectual as well as an academic historian,

Dr. Zimmerman gave an interview and answered questions from callers earlier in the day on WXXI’s “1370 Connection” with host Bob Smith.

Maynooth professor discusses Irish history



Dr. Jacqueline Hill, a professor of modern history at the National University of Ireland, gave the third annual Maynooth Lecture to an overflow audience in Room 220 of the Seymour Union on Nov. 2.

Hill, who received her PhD in history from the University of Leeds, England, spoke on "Sectarianism and Politics in Pre-Famine Ireland," outlining the ways in which Catholic emancipation divided Protestants in Ireland. While radical Protestants supported Emancipation, conservative Protestants continued to oppose rights for Catholics. When the names of tradesmen among the Protestant opposition appeared in print, Catholic reformers responded with the practice of exclusive dealing. These boycotts drove large numbers of Protestants from Ireland.

Dr. Hill spent several days on campus, meeting with classes and having lunch with History Forum members to discuss opportunities to study through the department's program at Maynooth. The Department of History offers \$500 scholarships to four students each year to help with the cost of the program.

Pictorial History of the College

The Erie Canal, McCormick Reapers, Mohammed Ali, Nelson Rockefeller, "Spring-In," John Dewey, "Stage XVI," a broken mug, Mary Jane Holmes, Thomas Dewey, the Baptist church, Garth Fagan Dance, sculptures from the Soviet Union and a Golden Eagle.

How do all of these fit into our College's history?

That and much else is revealed in a new pictorial history of the college. Written by Professors Bruce Leslie and Ken O'Brien with the assistance of College

Archivist Mary Jo Gigliotti, *State University of New York at Brockport* takes you back nearly two centuries to the arrival of the Erie Canal in the newly-named Village of Brockport. Still a rough frontier town, its founders dreamed the improbable dream of building a college.

The first history of the College written in nearly four decades, this volume covers in pictures and text the years the late History Professor Wayne Dedman described in his 1968 *Cherishing this Heritage* and then carries the story through the last four decades.

Brockport history students (most now alumni) played a critical role in the book. During the past eight years some 50 Brockport history majors and graduate students have helped Drs. Leslie and O'Brien uncover and document the College's history. In a series of research seminars, students filled numerous voids in knowledge, located documents and conducted oral histories with some of the participants. Their papers—now deposited in the College archives—documented the beginning of Homecoming, the post-World War II G. I. experience, the Stage XVI housing disaster, the emergence of an outstanding Fine Arts program, the 1955 NCAA national soccer co-championship, and the development of BSG, among other topics.

Professors Leslie and O'Brien thank the student researchers who have helped to guard the College's "historical memory."

Proceeds from sales of the book support Brockport Foundation scholarship funds. For information about purchasing a copy, contact the Division of Institutional Advancement at 585-395-2451.



Faculty News

Arden Bucholz is under contract for a biography of Helmuth von Moltke (1800-1891), a man who served 66 years on active duty with the Prussian Army and, along the way, orchestrated and carried out the strategy which won the three wars of German unification, 1864-1871. There is so much mythology around Moltke, so many editions of his writings and so many writers have weighed in over the decades, that it is rather much like making sense of an ocean by putting it into a small, delicate but interesting pond. Which pond, however, contains many of the most searing and complex questions of German history.

Katherine Clark has received a Drescher Research Leave for the spring 2007 semester to work on her book manuscript. This past September she chaired and commented on a panel, "Medieval and Early Modern Europe," at the annual New York State Association of European Historians conference which met at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.

Carl Davila presented his Presidential Fellows Lecture in the Seymour Union Ballroom on Nov. 15, entitled "Islamofascist? Engineered Discourses on Islam." The lecture addressed specific items of current public discourse on Islam and Muslims, showing how they tend to frame issues in profoundly misleading ways that in fact reflect long standing misperceptions of the Islamic world. The event featured Middle Eastern food, music and other entertainment. On Nov 19, he presented "Text and Performed Text: Linguistic Registers in the Moroccan *Âla*" at the Middle East Studies Association annual conference in Boston. The paper illustrated some of the sociolinguistic implications of the poetry used in the Moroccan Andalusian music tradition.

Bruce Leslie, with Ken O'Brien and and College Archivist Mary Jo Gigliotti, authored *State University of Brockport—The Campus History Series*, just out from Arcadia Press. See accompanying feature article.

Kathleen Kutolowski presented two lectures on "The Burned-Over District—What Is It and Where are the Records" for the Association of Public Historians of New York State conference on Oct. 3 in Canandaigua.

Jennifer Lloyd presented a paper on "Revivalist Women Preachers in 1860s Britain" at the New York State Association of European Historians conference. She also commented on a panel on British history. Dr. Lloyd rejoins the faculty for the spring 2007 term after a sabbatical spent writing chapters of her book manuscript.

Anne Macpherson presented her work on women and politics in 20th century Belize on September 21 (Belize's 25th anniversary of independence from Britain) as part of the University of Toronto's Caribbean history speakers series.

Morag Martin recently published "Doctoring Beauty: The Medical Control of Women's *Toilettes* in France, 1750-1820" in *Medical History* (Spring 2005) and in October presented a paper at the Western Society for French History in Long Beach, CA, entitled: "Bald by Nature: Girodet and the Quest for a Masculine Ideal of Beauty." In it she explores what happened when men stopped wearing wigs at the turn of the 19th century and were faced with the prospect of hair loss for the first time in over one hundred years. Even though men were supposed to be less concerned with their looks than in the past, they had to address the stigma of baldness with new cosmetics and hopefully natural looking toupees. She has also finished her book manuscript and hopes to find a willing publisher for it soon.

Ken O'Brien's essay, "The United States, War and Twentieth Century," was published in Christopher Bigsby, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture*, Cambridge University Press in October. O'Brien, together with Bruce Leslie and College Archivist Mary Jo Gigliotti, authored *State University of Brockport—The Campus History Series*, just out from Arcadia Press. See accompanying feature article.

Alison Parker took a wonderful group of 10 undergraduate and graduate history students to London in summer 2006 for a class entitled "British Perspectives on the American Revolution." Together they explored the old stomping grounds of King George III, visited Parliament (and were lucky enough to hear Prime Minister Blair address the House of Commons), and learned in-depth about the cultural, social and political history of London. She looks forward to teaching this class again in summer 2008. Over the summer, Dr. Parker also wrote four book reviews including two for online journals/interactive web sites such as the "Women and Social

Activism" web site run by historians at SUNY Binghamton. She wrote two biographical portraits of 19th century women reformers (freethinker Frances Wright and temperance leader Frances Willard) as well as a short essay on the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History* (Oxford University Press: forthcoming).

Meredith Roman presented "Forging Black Freedom Across the Atlantic: African Americans in the Soviet Union and the Internationalization of U.S. Racism" at the 91st Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH) in Atlanta in September 2006. During the late spring, Dr. Roman conducted research in Moscow at the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF) and the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI). Her research in the archival holdings of central trade unions and propaganda organizations, as well as in the personal files of Communist party members, will further enhance the manuscript that she is preparing for submission to a university press.

Alumni News

Douglas Bauer, MA '81, is a long-time employee of the New York State Department of Correctional Services.

Gary Brandt, BS '69, MA '75, (political science) currently is director of personnel for the Town of Brighton, NY. In September 2006, Brandt retired from his position as human resources senior associate at Cornell University where he also taught as an instructor for the Department of Athletics.

Brian Detweiler, BS '03, who was married in August 2006, is enrolled in law school at Notre Dame. He expects to graduate with his juris doctor degree in 2009.

Mark Doser, MA '96, teaches United States and global history at Penfield High School. Before returning to the United States in 2004, Doser spent five years teaching world history in Sofia, Bulgaria at the American College of Sofia. He lives in Fairport with his wife, Iva, and their two children.

John Furgele, BS '91 MSED '96, is a sales representative at Harcourt Achieve Publishing and lives in Delmar, NY. He is the father of three children, John Lewis, 5; Olivia, 3; Ava, 1.

Kurt Griffen, MA '03, presented a paper on G.K. Chesterson and Alexis de Tocqueville and their reflections on America at the 25th Annual Chesterson Conference at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, in June. The paper developed out of research done for HST 691 with Dr. Daly in fall 2002. Griffen continues to act and sing in the Greater Rochester area, recently playing the Pirate King in "Pirates of Penzance and Nicely Nicely Johnson in "Guys and Dolls."

Frances Hanley, BS '71, retired in 2004 after teaching first grade for 33 years and has been married to her husband Jim for 35 years. After losing son Brian to a brain tumor at age 21, Hanley has worked to obtain children's books for the Duke Brain Tumor Center Library and to help "Angel Flight", a non-profit group that flies terminally ill patients and burn patients to their treatments. Hanley currently volunteers at Matthew House in Auburn, NY, a home for terminally ill patients. She also enjoys working "Pasta Dinners" at her parish, traveling, and spending time with friends. Son Tim graduated from SUNY College at Geneseo.

Kristin R. Huey, BS '04, is attending Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, MA, and expects to graduate with her juris doctor in May 2007.

James R. Karmel, BS '88, is currently an associate professor of history and program coordinator for History at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland, where he has worked since 1997, and been a pioneer in online history instruction. Interested in Atlantic City's casino era, Karmel has presented research findings at the International Conference for Gambling and Risk-Taking, Oral History Association and International Oral History Association meetings. The New Jersey Historical Commission helped to fund a research sabbatical in Atlantic City in the spring 2005 semester. Karmel is working on a book manuscript based on research for the Atlantic City Project and has a book review upcoming in *Pennsylvania Magazine for History and Biography*.

Gillette LeVau Kempf, MA '96, has recently opened a bookstore called Borealis Books in Wadena, MN, moving there from Chicago with her husband and two children.

Steve Lew, BS '06, accepted a position teaching 6th grade social studies in Kissimmee, FL.

Cynthia Carbone Mitchell, BS '73, is a 2nd grade teacher at North Bay Elementary School and lives in

Blossvale, NY. She has been married for 27 years and enjoys traveling, especially out west. Mitchell plans to retire in June 2007 and will be busy with her two children who will both be getting married in 2008.

John Napolitano, BS '06, coupled his history major with a minor in criminal justice and is pursuing his "lifelong dream" of becoming a police officer and began academy in September for the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department.

Gary A. Parisi, BS '97 MSED '03, holds dual certification in social studies and physical education. Parisi teaches 7th grade social studies in the Batavia (NY) City School District and also is an Adjunct lecturer in the Department of Physical Education and Sport at the College.

Michael Piano, BS '06, accepted a position teaching 5th grade social studies at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School in Rochester and is enrolled in Brockport's MED program.

Bradley Porfilio, MA '98, has taken a new position as an assistant professor of education at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Verdis Robinson, BS '02 MA '05, has begun his PhD studies at SUNY Buffalo and is also an adjunct instructor at Monroe Community College where he is teaching a section of United States History to 1865.

D. Gregory Van Dussen, BA '69 MA '83, recently moved to Springville, NY where he is pastor of the Springville First United Methodist Church. Van Dussen and his wife Jackie spent a week in July traveling in Prague.

John Van Haneghan, BA '77, has been pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Syracuse, NY, for the last five years. Haneghan and his wife Pam, married for 30 years, have two children: a married daughter living in the Buffalo area and a son currently attending Onondaga Community College. John writes: "I have many wonderful memories working with the History Forum as well as the warm and friendly atmosphere with the professors in the department. Glad to see things continuing on and moving forward!"

Edwin Voll III, BS '03, currently teaches eighth grade social studies at Caledonia-Mumford Middle School after two years of teaching at the high school level. Voll also is studying for his master's degree in social studies education at SUNY College at Buffalo.

Lorne Young, BS '96, joined the Navy after graduation and became a cryptologist, spending most of his time in Japan. Currently Young is a network engineer at NSA in Maryland and considering a transfer to Menwith Hill Station in England.



History Forum News

The History Forum, under the leadership of President Krysten Collier, Vice President Megan McDaniels, Secretary Amanda Hughes, and Treasurer Will Sturnick, had a busy and productive fall semester. The club helped with the Synnestvedt Lecture, organized a student-faculty mixer and a student luncheon focused on History courses that will be offered in S07, toured the Alumni House, and held a luncheon for Professor Jacqueline Hill of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

Plans are well underway for S07 activities, including a movie night with Dr. Macpherson introducing *The Motorcycle Diaries*, (see photo above.) a panel with Dr. Davila on contemporary issues of Islam, and a faculty-student panel focusing on historical misconceptions. The club's largest spring project will be the annual History Forum lecture. Watch for news on this year's speaker.

The Things They Carried By Major Steve McAlpin

Note: Steve McAlpin, a history major and 1995 graduate of the College, gave this address to freshmen, new transfers and faculty/staff who packed the Tuttle North gymnasium for the opening Academic Convocation on Aug. 27, 2006. McAlpin used the freshman reading book as a springboard, and his remarks affected the audience so deeply that we wanted to share an abbreviated version with *Time Lines* readers.

An ad for a local college reads: Courage, we teach it. It's a great ad, but I disagree with it. Courage simply *can't* be taught. It is something that is already within you and just needs the right spark to set it free. In his account of his Vietnam War experiences in *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien mentions that courage "comes to us in finite quantities, like an inheritance, and by being frugal, stashing it away and letting it earn interest, we steadily increase our moral capital in preparation for that day when the account must be drawn down." Walking into the unknown takes courage, and the first step is usually the toughest. Passing through *that* door today, you demonstrated your courage, and I am truly honored to be addressing you today. You see? The courage is already within you, and by making Brockport your choice for higher learning, you will become exposed to some of the greatest examples of courage and character I have ever seen.

Much more than an academic institution, Brockport is a training ground for life. My experiences here had a profound impact on me, and inspired my life beyond anything my imagination could fathom. College was *not* for me. Period. I craved the life of a soldier. During my senior year of high school, I joined the Army. But it wasn't until I was over thirty years old that I began to realize that while I was certainly *armed* for life, I wasn't *prepared*. That was the key difference for me.

Beyond the sometimes daunting academics and the feeling that you might just be surrounded by people a whole lot smarter than you, are experiences that will introduce you to personalities that will truly inspire, and unlock the courage and greatness within each of you. Much as O'Brien has passionately developed his characters, I wish to share with you some of the Brockport personalities I have encountered, and

explain how they shaped my life. How they made me, in a way, learn to sing.

At first, O'Brien's book seemed easy to read, but as I continued, I discovered a very complex and realistic reflection of events during wartime. Emotion forced me to put it down more often than I wanted. Experiencing war is thankfully distant for most of us in this audience. However, not for all of us. A counselor, and not a soldier, one of your professors here at Brockport, courageously and anonymously risked his life by making a solo and covert journey through enemy lines into the besieged city of Sarajevo in Bosnia. *Nobody* knew he was coming. At the hospital, he begged to work. After 5 minutes, they gave him 10; after 10, they gave him 20. Several weeks later, they didn't want him to leave. He did this to offer grief-counseling services to the most terrified and desperate of people. While the whole world looked away, he drew down his courage, stepped up, and made a real difference.

The war in Bosnia held inspiration for me as well. I had just graduated from Brockport when my Reserve unit was called to serve in that country. Here was the most utter and indescribable devastation I had ever seen. There was not a pane of glass to be found for months. Every building I saw, without exception, was damaged by violent clashes of ethnic cleansing and genocide. Mass graves were commonplace. Toys were nearly as non-existent as were fresh water, food, medicine, and electricity. Survival, not play, was the occupation of children. Child soldiers, all were wary of field games such as soccer, where land mines were most certainly buried.

How did Bosnia hold inspiration for me? The answer can be found in some beads I have.

My Army Reserve unit deployed to Afghanistan just three months after the attacks of September 11. Days before I left, I was given a string of Islamic prayer beads once gripped white-knuckle-tight by a little boy as he rapidly wove his way through the mortar-pocked streets and defensive trenches of Tuzla. Dodging sniper fire, machine guns and incoming artillery, he made his way to and from school nearly every day.



He not only clutched those prayer beads, he carried undaunted courage and a commitment to education deep within his soul. The beads protected him and were to protect me as I deployed to one of the most hostile and oppressive nations on earth. They not only gave me the strength of conviction, but a solemn responsibility to return them to their rightful owner some day. The prayer beads were from a young man named Emil Okanovic, a translator who worked for me during the first “free” elections in Bosnia in nearly 50 years. I asked if he would come to the United States to attend college. A year later, he was living with me and one of your distinguished staff members, attending Brockport as a freshman. He graduated three and one-half years later with two Bachelors degrees, proficiency in a sixth language, and a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Anyone who knows a soldier, knows an honorable human being. While bad stuff happens, we can see through the words of Tim O’Brien that there are genuine and feeling human beings wearing those uniforms. It is a tragedy that the media overlooks facts like the hundreds of school and hospital construction projects, mine clearing operations, and teacher education programs. This goodness is reflected in yet another profound Brockport connection. As my reserve unit was called up for a *second* tour in Afghanistan, a commander was intimidating recently returned soldiers to sign a waiver discarding their right to remain home for a 12-month stabilization period. One 19-year-old soldier nervously confided to me that he felt pressured into signing. “I’ve already been over there once, sir, and I just want to go to school now.” I reassured him that he had earned it and that he would go to college.

I was successful in getting the waiver discarded.

However, the commander insisted that he had permission to re-deploy us, which was a lie – and especially not in keeping with the integrity found throughout our forces.

I embarked on a journey that pitted me against the Army, an organization I truly loved and had devoted a quarter-century to serving. That night I was removed from the unit battle roster and kicked out of the Army Reserve. Family separations, countless shivering nights, medals, rank, hostilities in Bosnia and Afghanistan, Emil Okanovic, being a teacher, nothing mattered. I was crushed and could see no way out.

One soldier remained with me that night. He was about to become one of the most significant people in my life. He asked if I would join him for dinner, to which I reluctantly agreed. An hour conversation left me helplessly sobbing in hope that there was a purpose in this crisis. He reassured me that regardless of the personal cost, soldiers were unnecessarily being put at risk, and speaking up for them was the right thing to do. The man who comforted me that night is a Gulf War veteran who served beside me in Afghanistan. I consider him a brother. He too is a Brockport graduate. And now, he’s a professor here. You’ll appreciate this humble American hero if you attend one of Dr. Bill Mandrick’s classes. Regardless of your stance on the current war, he stands as an example of the overwhelming goodness of the American soldier.

My military career was in ruins. But it was my duty to speak up, so I called a reporter I met while in Afghanistan. Believe me – if you want to get attention focused on something, get your facts together and call *USA Today*. Nearly every newspaper in the world covered it, along with television, radio, the Web, everywhere. Thousands of e-mails and letters of support were received. The Army reinstated me, but most importantly, as my soldiers stood at the Rochester Airport saying their last good-byes to their families, that commander humbly told them they could return home if they wanted. Eight of the 13 soldiers chose to do so.

I mentioned that while at Brockport, I had learned to sing. Not literally, thank God, but with my heart. Dr. Robert Strayer was a distinguished history professor here, but I considered him my singing teacher. Here’s why. The subject was Modern Africa and it was the last requirement I had to fulfill for my history degree. It was an excellent class, but his last lesson was extraordinary and for me, unforgettable. He discarded

his lesson plan for the day and just talked to us for 45 minutes or so.

He recalled a story of a young woman in Nazi-occupied Holland in 1943. Her name was Etty Hillesum, a lawyer and noted writer. Predicting her fate, she had been herded with several others onto a train bound for the concentration camp at Auschwitz, Poland. People were so cramped in the cattle cars that nobody could find room to sit.

For days they stood in the car. They slept, ate what food they carried with them, and languished in their own waste. Only a 4 x 12 inch iron-barred window provided ventilation. It was through this window that Etty Hillesum slipped a postcard. On it she had written what became, to me, the essence of human triumph. “We have left for the camps and we are singing. We are singing.”

What impact will you have on others? What legacy will you leave? Will you be noticeably absent from events where today you’re popular. In reflecting on life and death, O’Brien laments his friend Linda, her life being inside a book that nobody is reading. That it’s an old book high on a library shelf—just waiting to be opened. That could be *your* life. Who’s going to want to read it? Promote your own book. You have a story to share. Take hold of your time here at Brockport. Gain wisdom, passion, and empathy from those who guide you from this point on. And when you’re finally ready—draw down your courage, and leave singing.

Dr. Davila Presents: “Islamofascism”

by Caitlin Johnson ‘10

I attended the “Islamofascism” lecture not really knowing what to expect, what sort of views Dr. Davila would have on the subject, or how I would react. But as soon as he started speaking I became immediately interested in everything he had to say, and found that I share many of the same points of view with him. Dr. Davila really clarified many issues that we face in society and government today, and I found the whole lecture a very enlightening and educational experience.

Before the lecture began everyone was welcome to foods such as baklava, spanikopita, falafel, and

dolmades. We listened to music from the Arabic world while viewing a slide show of varied persons from different places in the world that include Arabic persons, such as the U S, Indonesia, Pakistan, Australia, India, Egypt, and Nigeria. Dr. Davila began his lecture with the statement that society needs positive images of the Islamic world, not just the image of a world driven by crisis. The vulgar discussion masquerading as public debate is aimed at manipulating the public to support policies that would not be tolerated otherwise. These discussions, which are said to be “honest” and “frank,” are misleading to the American public in that the Islamic world is described only as violent, ungovernable, fanatic, inherently extremist, and with a history of warfare. Dr. Davila pointed out that engineered language has been, and is currently, used to tilt public opinion toward policies that are actually contrary to the public good.

Dr. Davila used three main discussion points: the concepts of the “Axis of Evil,” “The War on Terror” or “War on Terrorism,” and “Islamofascism.” The term “Islamofascism,” for example, defies any sensible definition as the two word components are complete opposites of one another. Despite this, Dr. Davila explained, the President has used the term on three separate occasions to describe political authoritarianism and connect it to Jihad groups. Dr. Davila contrasted Fascism with Jihad Islam. Fascism includes the elements of extreme nationalism, subordination of the individual to the state, “modernism” and “progress,” and the merging of corporate and state power. Jihad Islam, on the other hand, includes the *Umma*, which is their communal identity, the state and individual subordination to God, the idealized past as a model for the future and open market socialism. He concluded with the conviction that the term “Islamofascism” is a distortion and misinterpretation, used to inflame emotions and prejudices, to obscure underlying problems that need to be addressed, and to evoke older stereotypes of the Islamic world. Professor Davila then urged the audience to become aware of how our minds are subtly influenced by engineered linguistics every day.

I thought Dr. Davila made a lot of good points throughout the whole lecture, and definitely opened my eyes to how we have to be careful in what we listen to and absorb in the media; we have to be aware and be able to distinguish distortion from truth and reality.

London Study Abroad Program Provides “Revolutionary” Way to Learn About American History



by **Michael S. Fickess '08**

“British Perspectives on the American Revolution,” a study abroad class taught by Dr. Alison Parker, gave ten SUNY Brockport students the opportunity to break out of the four walls of the lecture hall and experience British culture and history firsthand. The class featured an intensive reading list, designed to supplement daily trips to historical sites, museums, government institutions, and cultural centers throughout London, Windsor and Cambridge. For instance, students attended sessions of Parliament (including a surprise visit from Prime Minister Tony Blair), attended a live performance of *Antony and Cleopatra* at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, and viewed the 700-year-old campus greens at Cambridge from the prow of punt boats on the Cam River.

Most days of the class began with a vigorous walking tour through one of the many distinctive districts of London and included stops at historical sites such as the Tower of London and St. Paul’s Cathedral, as well as cultural sites, such as the apple market at Covent Garden, Speakers’ Corner in Hyde Park, or even one of the hundreds of centuries-old pubs for which London is so famous.

The students on the trip also were given ample free time (and an unlimited pass for the Underground) for exploring their own personal or historical interests in London. Students took advantage of their free time to develop friendships through lazy afternoons in the sun at Hyde Park, evening walks along the Thames River, or an exciting night out in one of London’s hot spots.

Some of the students shared their experiences:

“This class met all the objectives: It was fun, educational, interesting, and provided a unique learning experience. Also, great job in pre-arranging tickets and transportation. Nice balance of work and free time. Readings were very good.”

- Paul Brew, *senior at SUNY Brockport*

“Overall, this class was wonderful! Cambridge was amazing and I appreciated Dr. Parker’s energy and excitement. This was truly a trip and an experience of a lifetime!”

- Caroline Bender, *graduate of SUNY Brockport (2006)*

“This study abroad trip allowed me to experience history directly – I have tread where monarchs have lived for the last 1000 years, seen priceless art and artifacts from the last five millennia of history, and broadened my knowledge of history through coursework and awe-inspiring adventure throughout the historic city of London. I’d do this trip again if I could!” - Michael Fickess, *junior at SUNY Brockport*

SUNY Brockport will be providing another opportunity to experience this unique Study Abroad program with Dr. Parker in the summer of 2008. All SUNY Brockport students will be welcome to apply, regardless of major. Those interested in viewing the syllabus and photos should visit the history department’s web site.



Tower of London (Above, Left) and the Palace of Westminster (Above) were two of the sites visited during the London Study Abroad Program. The students had the unique opportunity to attend a session of the House of Commons, including hearing some remarks from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Highlights from the summer 2006 trip to London



The whole group in front of the Tower of London!



Colorful side street in Notting Hill



Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the banks of the River Thames



Chris and Paul posing inside Cambridge University

(Cut Here)

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Alumni News

Attention History Alumni! We'd like to hear from you. To make it easier, please fill out, clip and mail this form to: Newsletter, Department of History, SUNY College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or reach us by e-mail: trombaut@brockport.edu. You can also fax us: (585) 395-2620. Check us out on the web at www.brockport.edu/history. Many thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Degree: _____

Current Position: _____

Any news that you'd like to share (career, hobbies, travel, family, etc.) _____
