



Time Lines

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The College at Brockport, SUNY
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Fall 2011

A Note From the Chair: by Alison Parker



It has been an exciting year of changes at the College at Brockport. The Department of History is introducing four new Freshman Seminars in the Spring of 2012 at the 200-level which will replace the lower-division survey courses we currently offer, and we will have a new College-wide schedule for Spring '12 with slightly shorter class times and more classes offered each day (mirroring national and SUNY-wide norms). We expect that students of history will benefit from these changes.

History students now have expanded opportunities to study abroad. Dr. James Spiller has organized a new study abroad program in Antarctica, and the Scott Fliieger family has generously created two scholarships to help history majors study at the National University of Ireland, at Maynooth!

I am reminded once again of our very productive faculty of scholar-teachers. At this time, our faculty have at least eleven books in preparation. Dr. Meredith Roman's book will be out this spring, Dr. Anne Macpherson's prize-winning book is now out in paperback, and Dr. Morag Martin's book is being translated into French.

We are also very proud that 14 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference with students from fifteen regional colleges and universities. Top undergraduate and graduate paper awards at the conference went to our students. For a third year running, a History student, Karin Torres-Peña won The School for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Award for Outstanding Graduate Student. She and Robert Hazen were also recipients of the Rev. Robert W. and Sally Bermudes Travel Fund, which enabled them to travel to archives to research their M.A. theses. Rob Hazen and Megan Webb also received the Distinguished Professors Graduate Student Research Award for archival research and travel to present at a conference.

Be sure to read the expanded section of news and thoughts from our alumni in this issue of *Time Lines*. Our first electronic version of the newsletter last year allowed us to follow up by asking some of our former students to comment upon what they had gained from their history degree. I am sure you will find their answers as interesting as we do!

If you have your own story to tell, please do write and share it with me at aparker@brockport.edu. As always, any alumni news is welcome!

Our Fall Lectures

Annual Synnestvedt Lecture

Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 in the NY Cooper Room

Dr. Dalia Muller, University at Buffalo, will speak on, "Exile & Errantry: Cuban Insurgents in the Late 19th-Century Caribbean."

Annual Maynooth Lecture

Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 in the NY Cooper Room

Dr. Marian Lyons will speak on early modern Ireland and the Irish in Europe Project

Special lecture on the life of John Adams by Professor Emeritus Lynn Parsons
Wednesday, October 26 at 4:00 in Drake Memorial Library

The Synnestvedt Lecture

Chinese Communities in the Post-Bellum South

by Robert Hazen

On September 16, 2010, Dr. Derek Chang, Associate Professor of History at Cornell University, delivered the annual Synnestvedt Lecture. Speaking before a large audience of students and faculty in the New York room of Cooper Hall, Dr. Chang presented his latest research in a talk entitled, “Black, White...and Yellow: Chinese Americans in the Post-Reconstruction South.”

Dr. Chang, Director of Asian American Studies at Cornell, gave a welcome twist to the typical historical lecture by choosing to focus on his research methods as much as on his findings and conclusions, discussing in depth his use of census data to identify Chinese communities in the post-war South – a formidable task in a place and time when black/white racial polarization often overshadowed other groups.

Another fruit of Dr. Chang’s census data research was his discovery that many Chinese living in Southern port cities in the late 1800s did not come directly to the United States. A sizeable number of Chinese worked in cigar factories, many of them following the cigar industry as it migrated from Cuba to the US following the Civil War.

The Sig and Nadine Synnestvedt Memorial Lecture celebrates the memory of Dr. Sig Synnestvedt, Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History from 1969-74, who revamped and vastly expanded the Department of History at Brockport during his tenure, and of his wife, Nadine, a longtime friend of the Department, who passed away in 2009.

The Marcus Lecture

On March 31, 2011, Syracuse professor of Law and LGBT Studies, Dr. Tucker Culbertson, presented his lecture, “The End of Marriage: Race, Sex and the Constitution” to students and faculty in the New York Room of Cooper Hall.

Dr. Culbertson made interesting connections between anti-miscegenation laws in the post-bellum South and contemporary laws banning same-sex marriage. In each case, the transgressive nature of the unions in question suggest to their proponents a threat to the very institution of marriage itself.

Dr. Culbertson holds a JD from UC Berkeley and is widely

published in the areas of civil rights and gender studies. His article, “The End of Marriage,” will appear in a forthcoming anthology.

The Robert Marcus lecture commemorates the late Dr. Robert Marcus, who taught at the College from 1983-2000.

The Mayothen Lecture

The Irish and the Inquisition

by Carl Davila

The 2010 scholarly ambassador from the National University of Ireland, Dr. Thomas O’Connor, entertained a packed New York Room on November 11 with his lecture entitled “The Spanish Inquisition and the Foreigner: A New Angle on the Early Modern Irish in Europe and Further Afield” (“...or something like that,” he quipped).

In addition to his larger point — that it is possible to trace expatriate Irishmen in the records of the Inquisition in the Western Hemisphere — O’Connor’s lecture delivered an interesting introduction to the ins and outs of the Spanish Inquisition system. Hardly the arbitrary system the common view makes it out to be, Dr. O’Connor pointed out that the Inquisition system was indeed governed by laws that had their own internal logic, however, oppressive and “pre-modern” that logic might appear today.

For example, he dashed the commonly-held notion that the Inquisition was a method for attacking Jews and/or Muslims in Spain. In fact, the Inquisition had no jurisdiction over either non-Christian group: Its mandate was to seek out and “correct” heresy among Christians. Thus, only *conversos* (Jews who had publically converted to Christianity) and *Moriscos* (Muslims who had done the same) actually fell within the purview of the Inquisition.

Moreover, the Inquisition did not actually punish anyone. While suspects could be tortured to elicit confessions, the confessed were then handed over to the state for punishment. Cold comfort, perhaps, for those who found themselves caught up in the system.

Dr. O’Connor also outlined the relations and contrasts between the Inquisition in Spain and its counterpart in the Western Hemisphere. Interestingly, it is in the materials from New Spain that O’Connor finds his most intriguing evidence for Irish connections to the Inquisition: various accused individuals whose “hispanized” names clearly indicate that they were Irish migrants caught in the politics of the era: although they actually were Catholic victims of British colonialism, such men sometimes found themselves ironically suspected of having British Protestant associations...and were punished for that!

Student Success

College-Wide Awards

Karin Torres-Peña received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. A student from the Department of History has now won this award for three years running.

Phi Alpha Theta

The College at Brockport's Alpha Gamma Lambda chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national History honor society, inducted twenty-four new members at our annual honors and awards ceremony at the Morgan Manning house on April 15, 2010.

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Steve Bennett	Margaret Krencik
Matt Bessette	Cody Luettger
Clay Connor	Kenneth Lane
Bethany Connors	Stephen Lang
Paul Constantine	Jennifer Lazarony
Alana Cross	Karin Torres-Peña
Amanda Dix	Patrick Pittman
Paige Doerner	Garrett Roe
Ben Eberle	Raymond Shedrick
Russell Hamilton	Ann Stachowski
Natalie Hare	Megan Webb
Robert Hazen	Linda Webber
Alicia Hunt	Tiffany White
Justin Jackson	Ben Young
Corey Jones	

Phi Alpha Theta Conference Attendees

Cindy Blosehauer, Rob Hazen, Judy Littlejohn, Ann Stachowski, and Megan Webb participated in the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, on April 9.

Hazen and Stachowski won two of the six awards given for outstanding papers.

History Department Awards

The George S. Queen Essay Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Essay: Amanda Dix
Outstanding Graduate Essay: Robert Bermudes

The Melinda Kleehamer Senior Seminar Prize

1st Place: Amanda Dix
2nd Place: Ann Stachowski

The Jack Crandall Award (outstanding sophomore)

Bethany Connors

The Robert Griswold History Award

(outstanding junior or senior)
Russell Hamilton

The Kempes Schnell Award

Paige Doerner

The Arthur Lee History Award

Jennifer Lazarony

The Milne Family Foundation

Departmental Scholar Award
Corey Jones

W. Wayne Dedman Graduate Award in History

Kenneth Lane

The Terry Gore Prize for Military History

Ann Stachowski

The Flieger Family Graduate Fellowship

Michael Honsberger

Graduate Teaching Assistantship

Paul Constantine

The Rev. Dr. Robert and Sally Bermudes Travel Fund

Karin Torres-Peña and Robert Hazen

Faculty News

Katherine Clark enjoyed her first full year as Advisement Coordinator in 2010-2011 and presented papers on some new work in various places: on the meanings of "domestic violence" in medieval saints' lives at the History Seminar at Maynooth, National University of Ireland, and at the Berkshire Conference on Women's History; and on medieval books of liturgy at the International Medieval Society in Paris in June 2011. With generous support from various college funds she conducted new research at French libraries for the first time, including the Bibliotheque Nationale de France in Paris and interesting, small manuscript collections in Autun and Carpentras, France. She also had fun visiting some famous French sites for ancient and medieval history: Arles, Vézelay, and the Burgundian countryside around Autun. She notes, "Perhaps the funniest part of all was watching two giant tour buses try to pass each other on the medieval village streets--and being in one of the buses. Ours didn't have to go up on the sidewalk!"

Carl Davila, in addition to helping the Global Workforce Project's globalized curriculum through a year of pilot teaching, found that the "Arab Spring" led to his being called upon to provide context and commentary on these remarkable events. He balances the lure of current events with his ongoing fascination with artistic slavery in 9th-century Cordoba, having an article outlining this institution across the classical Arab-Islamic world under review at the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, and preparing another paper that explores how the evidence for this curious institution suggests a bifurcated gender ideology in that era, to be presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in December. Finally, as per his interest in all things Andalusi, he led a second group of students on a tour of Islamic-era sites in southern Spain — with side trips to Andalusi sites in Morocco.

Bruce Leslie played the dual roles of emcee and scholar as the College celebrated its Demi-Semi-Sept-Centennial (that is, 175th anniversary) — a considerable landmark! Few colleges (only 2 of SUNY's 64) and not many other institutions can claim such venerability. The year began with recreating a 19th century "Exhibition Day" in front of Hartwell Hall and the Alumni House, suitably decorated for the occasion: an afternoon of role-playing by 19th century figures (like Mary Jane Holmes and the College's namesake Heil Brockway), 1830s music, historical exhibits, and food from the period. Bruce and Mary Jo Gigliotti (the College Archivist) edited much of the *Kaleidoscope* issue with the 19th century view of Hartwell Hall on the cover. Over the year he also took the Demi-Semi-Sept-Centennial into the dorms, to the alumni and emeriti, and to the Village. At least those audiences now know the term for a 175th anniversary!

Anne Macpherson's research project on Puerto Rico in the late 1930s is "ripening nicely." In the spring she presented initial findings at the meeting of the New York State Latin American History Workshop at SUNY Binghamton. Over the summer, in part with the help of a Provost's Post-Tenure Fellowship, she was able to conduct research in Puerto Rico and at the University of Virginia, and to collect documents from the FDR Presidential Library and the Vito Marcantonio collection at the New York Public Library. (Marcantonio was a lefty congressman from NYC whose district included Spanish Harlem, and who thus had a strong interest in labor issues in Puerto Rico.) She offers a big thank-you to MA student Karin Peña for her work selecting articles on labor and women from the *El Mundo* newspaper. Thanks to Dr. Spiller, she went white water rafting for the first time in the Adirondacks, and unlike downhill skiing, she says, "I'll probably try it again!"

Morag Martin returned from sabbatical to her job as Graduate Director and teaching a variety of classes. The 2010-2011 graduate class was the largest the Department has ever admitted, keeping her busy. In the fall, she enjoyed teaching The French Revolution not only to history majors but French majors, as well. She spent the summer creating a new research course on the history of consumerism, as well as revamping her Modern World class to add material on demographics for the Global Workforce Project. Questions about population growth and resources tie in well with her own work on agricultural innovation in the nineteenth century. She is keen on incorporating more about the history of agriculture and sustainability into all her courses.

Will Morris spent the 2010-2011 academic year teaching at Brockport for the first time. In addition to talking with students about the World Wars, Nazism, and other 'greatest hits' of the twentieth century, he also presented papers on research old and new at the Midwestern Popular Culture Association in Minneapolis and the International Conference on the History of Alcohol and Drugs in Buffalo. He has been spending increasing amounts of time researching a new project on history and video games at the Strong Museum, both for an article and a future class, where he most assuredly does not spend his time playing refurbished arcade games. Certainly not. Professor Morris also just bought a house and is expecting his first child.

Paul Moyer continues work on his book, *The Universal Friend: Religion and Gender in Revolutionary America*, and has finished more than half of a draft manuscript. He also spent some time at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in May finalizing his research for the book. Dr. Moyer helped to organize a panel on intercultural violence in early America for the 2011 American Historical Association Annual Conference held in Boston and presented a paper as a part of it entitled "The Intercultural Context of Agrarian Violence." Dr.

Moyer also wrote a book review of Judith Ridner's *A Town In-Between*, on early Carlisle, Pennsylvania for the *Journal of American History* and served as an article referee for *The William and Mary Quarterly*.

Takashi Nishiyama took a research leave, thanks to three internal grants, the Drescher Award, and a D. Kim Foundation research grant. His monograph, *Engineers for War and Peace in Modern Japan, 1919-64*, is currently under review by an academic press. An article was just published in the Japanese journal on the history of science, *Kagakushi Kenkyu*. After presenting at the University of Tokyo and doing research in Japan for three months, he spent three weeks at the University of Hawaii, where an intense training course provided him with updated teaching materials on the comparative history of women in China, Korea, and Japan. Currently, he is organizing a conference on the history of science, technology, and medicine in East Asia (Oct 7-9). He is looking forward to teaching a new course in Spring 2012, tentatively titled History 602: War and Peace in the 20th Century (and Beyond).

Ken O'Brien was unanimously re-elected President of the University Faculty Senate and continues to serve as a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees and a member of the SUNY Chancellor's cabinet. He also was a member of a panel at the AAUP National Conference on Shared Governance and co-chair of the SUNY Shared Governance Team. Busy with travel and meetings in Albany, he misses the classroom and the daily interaction with his history and other students.

Alison Parker used her time as the Kutolowski Departmental Research Scholar for academic year 2010-2011 to write an article "Mary Church Terrell's International Perspective on U.S. Race Relations" and compiled a collection of primary source documents for the Women and Social Movements website, edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin. She also published a long review essay in *Reviews in American History* and finished editing a book entitled *Interconnections: Gender and Race in American History* for the University of Rochester Press (forthcoming 2012). Finally, she wrote an essay entitled "The Picture of Health': Mary Church Terrell's Privatizing of Her Body's Problems" for a proposed volume *Disability and Disclosure: The Body, Secrets, and Women's Biography*.

Meredith L. Roman presented a paper at the 42nd National Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Los Angeles last November. Her article "Forging Freedom, Speaking Soviet Anti-Racism: African Americans and Alternate Strategies of Fighting American Racial Apartheid" was published this August in *Critique: A Journal of Social Theory*. Dr. Roman has another article titled "Race, politics and US Students in 1930s Soviet Russia" that will appear in the

October issue of *Race & Class*. Most important, she and her husband welcomed their first child, Julius, into the world in July.

Angela Thompsell completed her first year at the College at Brockport, during which she presented a paper entitled "Imperial Taxidermy: International Conservation and the African Landscape," on a panel she co-organized for the American Historical Association annual meeting. She also organized and served as a discussant on a panel at the annual meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies in November 2010, and her advice column, "On the Job Market as a Visiting Instructor," was published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* the following month. She won two grants from the College, the Pre-Tenure Grants Development Award and a UUP Individual Development Grant, which together funded summer travel to Britain, where she visited the National Archives and presented a paper entitled, "Nothing but cold meat and weak tea: 'roughing it' in Colonial Africa," at a conference held at the University of Central Lancashire. Her work at the National Archives focused on gathering evidence for the final chapter of her current research project, *Real Men / Savage Nature: British Big Game Hunting in Africa*. After her return from Britain, she continues working on her manuscript and on applications for grants that could fund archival work in Zambia and Kenya. She has also had a paper accepted at a national conference being held this fall.

Joe Torre, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, served as President of the College Senate last year. He also contributed to the Teach America program administered by the local Rochester School District and co-directed two National Endowment for the Humanities sponsored Landmark Series seminars in Rochester this past summer. He continued his scholarly production with an essay, "Financial Panics of the Early Republic" for an upcoming collection published by Blackwell; and he is still hard at work on his next book project on the construction of the "natural" in Enlightenment-era America.

Wanda Wakefield spent the 2010-2011 academic year developing her new course on the American Military Experience and revising her syllabus for History 615. She also recently published an article "Squaw Valley: Volunteers, Technology and a Bucket of Water," in Robert K. Barney, et al., ed., *Rethinking Matters Olympic: Investigations into the Socio-Cultural Study of the Modern Olympic Movement*. She was also actively involved as a member of a committee which redesigned seven classrooms (Holmes 205 and 208; Edwards 101 and 102; and 3 in Tuttle South) which will be open for instruction this fall.

Alumni News

Matthew R. Ballard BS '10

Currently finishing up his first semester at UB in the MLIS program, he greatly misses the history program at Brockport and is applying to a Master's program in History. He works part time at Hilbert College in Hamburg as a Reference Librarian and serves as chairman of Albion's Historic Preservation Commission. He also pursues an interest in local history with the Cobblestone Museum and other organizations.

Gene Benoit BS '70

Gene recently retired from Penfield Central School where he taught 8th-grade "American History" (that is, social studies) for 38 years and loved it.

Dann J. Broyld MA '05

Dann has finished his PhD at Howard University and will be a visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown this academic year. He recently published an article with the journal, *Rochester History*, entitled "Rochester: A Transnational Community for Blacks Prior to the Civil War," and is considering submitting a manuscript to University of Rochester Press.

Sehl Burns BS '69

Currently owner-operator of Sehl Burns Funeral Service, Sehl has 6 grown children, 10 grandchildren; and plans on "working till I die." He enjoys working with Toys for Tots and is a member of the Marine Corps League.

Peter D'Annibale BS '81

In addition to running a successful financial aid consulting business, Peter continues researching the book he is writing on immigrants who fought as soldiers in the US Army 28th Division in World War II prior to becoming US Citizens.

Scott DiMarco BS '92, MA '93

In 2007, President Bush named Scott to a Selective Service Local Board in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in February 2011, President Obama named him a member of the Selective Service District Appeal Board in Pennsylvania. Also, he reviews history book proposals for the Praeger Publishers Library Advisory Board.

Scott Farrell BS '89

Scott hosts "The Farrell Files" on the Channel 10 Television News in Tampa Bay and works as an adjunct in the College of Arts and Letters at University of Tampa. He recently joined the board of the College of Brockport Foundation.

John Furgele BS '91, MSED '96

John is currently the store manager for Stewart's Shops, Clarksville, NY. He and his wife of 10 years, Bethany,

have a son, John (9) and two daughters, Olivia (7) and Ava (5). He also runs cross-country and participates in track and field events at Brockport.

Annette Glassner BA '73

Annette went on to grad school and received a Master's in Urban Studies. She has worked as an urban planner for local governments, as a legal assistant, as a grant writer for social service agencies, and currently as a Subcontract Manager for "Put Illinois to Work" through a large private social service agency.

Peter Granick BA '79

Peter is currently the Vice President of Global Sourcing for Thermo Fisher Scientific, an \$11 billion life sciences company. Peter travels around the world on a regular basis and recently visited his 51st country.

Frances (Fran) Hanley BS '71

Fran began her teaching career the year she graduated and married her husband, Jim. She received a Master's in Elementary Education and Reading at S.U.N.Y. Cortland in 1975, and taught first grade for 33 years, retiring from the Auburn, NY, school district in 2004. Fran volunteers at The Matthew House in Auburn, working pasta dinners at her parish, going to the Y.M.C.A., helping care for elderly parents, and enjoying various interests with Jim.

William Klein BA '10

William has enrolled in the Masters program in Jewish Studies at Rutgers University.

Eric Rudin BA '72

Eric originally intended to work for the U.S government after graduating from Brockport, but did not get the chance to do that. Instead, he worked as a fire and EMS dispatcher for the Monroe County 911 system, which he very much enjoyed, even though he did not intend to remain as long as he did: just over 30 years. He retired in March of 2008, still lives in Rochester, and enjoys going to estate sales, and spending time with his family.

Drew E. Luzier BS '08

In May of 2010 Drew began working on a Masters in Adolescent Education with initial certification at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany; he expects to complete the program in December 2011.

Andrew Mazur BS '98

Andrew is Product Manager for Vista Pro Automotive. He moved from Buffalo, NY, to middle Tennessee in 2009 with his wife and 2 boys.

Joseph Mehli BA '70, MA '72

Joseph currently worked as an adjunct in history at Finger Lakes Community College 2000-2003 and 2006-2008. He retired from a retail management post in August, 2010.

Jill Neidlinger BS '09

Jill currently teaches 6th-8th grade Social Studies at the Henrietta G. Lewis Campus School, an alternative school in Lockport. She loves the job and appreciates the opportunity to be able to teach the history she learned at Brockport to these students. After competitive college soccer in the SUNYAC conference, she still plays on a woman's league in Lockport every summer. She was married in July to Ryan Keys (BS '09). Jill is halfway through the MA in History at Brockport.

Jonathan Placito BS '08

Jonathan is pursuing a degree in law at UB.

Gene Vogel BS '73

Gene spent his entire 33 year career with 3M Company in the NYC and Philadelphia Metropolitan areas. He earned a Masters in Public Administration, and retired in 2006 after working in Facilities Management, Customer Service, Administration and Sales Support. His first job at 3M was as a Service Dispatcher, which was at "just about the lowest level in the company." Before retiring, he had become the National Business Services Manager, leading an organization of almost 300 employees in 29 locations. In 2007, he and his wife, Jo, relocated to The Villages, Florida, a very active retirement community.

Kenneth Wysowski BS '73

Kenneth has been involved in education for the past 40 years, formerly Director of Administration, Director of Admissions and Dean of Students at New York College of Health Professions, between 1987 and 2001. He is presently the Director of Admissions for the University of Saint Eustatius School of Medicine.

Terry Yardley BA '74

Terry taught A.P. American history and Global history for many years at the high school level and is now an adjunct instructor of history at SUNY Morrisville.

Richard S. Zusman BA '66

Richard recently retired as CEO of Assessment and Evaluation Concepts, Inc., a division of Questar Assessment, Inc. Last summer he and his wife, Ronni ('68), took a two-week cruise down the Danube River. He also recently traveled to Japan to visit his son, who is a Policy Researcher at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

Alumni Commentary

Time Lines recently asked our alumni to comment on the value of the education they received from the Department. Here are some of their replies:

Yes, I do think my major in history has served me well in my career/job experience. It has certainly provided a sense of perspective that one gets from studying history. That is, many times we do not fully comprehend the significance of events until we can view them with the benefit of

hindsight. I have been able to learn more about people, places, and things by having a broader perspective, and to roll with the punches. It is not always easy, but has sustained me well.

Annette Glassner '73

I honestly believe that history as a concentration has had far more impact on my personal success than my concentration in marketing. It taught me to analyze, develop conclusions and provide better solutions to the challenges I face every day.

Peter Granick '79

Overall my history degree provided the foundation for many skills I have acquired during my career thus far. I felt the program had a broad enough scope of study that has allowed me to work in such diverse areas at Vista Pro like accounting, sales, and product management. One of the key lessons I learned was how to write and communicate effectively, not from an English or Language Arts professor, but in an American history class taught by Dr. Ireland.

Andrew Mazur '98

I believe that my education and experiences at Brockport were critical to my success and happiness. Not having a formal business education did not seem to hinder my career at 3M. In fact, I truly feel that my History and Political Science education was an asset in evaluating problems, looking for solutions, challenging the existing processes, and getting outside the box, and in my oral and written communication skills. Many Business majors at the time seemed to have difficulty in dealing with changes, in both the workplace and marketplace.

Gene Vogel '73

In answer to your question about the ways a history degree can assist you, I will mention three:

1. A history degree helps an individual to look at a problem from a multi-perspective. I fondly remember Professor George Queen's PERSIE, to look at an event in history from a *political*, *economic*, *religious*, *social*, *intellectual* and *aesthetic* perspective. If one can examine a problem or situation from many angles, she/he becomes a valuable member of any organization.
2. A history degree teaches one there are always at least two sides to any argument. Again, I remember Professor Kempes Schnell's *Issues in American History* discussing the many causes of the Civil War.
3. A history degree teaches one how to write and communicate effectively. Writing and speaking coherently are prized in any private or public organization.

These are just three examples of how history studies can have an invaluable effect on one's life. My Brockport experience has served me well.

Richard Zusman '66

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes (*Turn and Face the Strange*)

By Carl Davila

Despite some belt-tightening due to the Great Recession of 2008-2009, the College at Brockport has continued to look forward, not back: hiring full-time faculty, giving classrooms a face lift, and instituting changes in the General Education curriculum intended to make it more student-friendly. All of these are affecting life in the Department of History.

Hiring Full-Time Faculty

In the past two years, the College has hired 43 full-time faculty members, filling vacancies left by retirements so as to maintain a stable core of full-time faculty. Most are tenure-eligible positions, with a little less than half being “Qualified Academic Replacements” (QARs), who teach full time without the scholarship required for tenured.

Last year Dr. Angela Thompsell filled the gap in our curriculum left by Dr. Jennifer Lloyd’s retirement, and we received two new QAR positions — Dr. Will Morris to continue in his role as substitute for the recently-retired Dr. Arden Bucholz, and Dr. Kimberly Schutte to teach Ancient World and European history.

Classroom Renovations

Four classrooms that Department faculty teach in regularly (205 and 208 Holmes, and 101 and 102 Edwards) have been renovated, dramatically improving these classrooms.

Dr. Wanda Wakefield opined, “Most important, we can HEAR each other, thanks to the cloud ceilings and carpeting in all four rooms.”

General Education Changes

After much study and debate among the faculty, the College administration has announced a simplification of the General Education program that will significantly affect faculty and students campus-wide. In addition, the College requested proposals for redesign of General Education course offerings at the departmental level. The Department of History presented a proposal for changes in its lower-division course offerings, which will be piloted in the Spring of 2012.

The previous General Education program (in place since the early 2000s) required all Brockport students to take courses in both American and world history. The historian has no objection: an historical perspective is one of the most valuable intellectual tools for any educated person.

However, this called upon the Department to provide seats in courses for *all* Brockport undergraduates, a substantial demand on Department resources. Since the Department was already one of the largest in terms of students in the

major, this led to an increased reliance upon adjunct faculty hired to teach one or two courses on a semester-by-semester basis. Although the Department has benefitted from and greatly appreciates its adjuncts’ teaching, it is committed to providing our students with more contact hours with our full-time faculty.

The new General Education program implemented this fall removes some of the “bottlenecks” that sometimes developed in the old system when there were not enough seats to satisfy the demand in a given semester. It requires students to take a minimum number of courses in various knowledge areas (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and fine arts), rather than in specific disciplines, with several courses from various disciplines being offered each semester in each area. The new system offers students more options, more paths through the Gen-Ed program.

The Department of History is contributing some offerings coded for the humanities Gen-Ed requirement and others for the social science requirement. But the overall demand from non-majors may drop, thus reducing the need for adjuncts and allowing a more consistent student experience with full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty in the Department.

New Lower-Division Courses

In the coming Spring 2012 term, the Department will pilot new lower-division/General Education courses designed to address both the need for non-major-oriented Gen-Ed courses and the desire to give Department majors a more intensive introduction to the discipline while addressing their General Education requirements.

Under the new system, there will be two large-format (250 -300 seats) 100-level survey courses — one world history and one American history, lecture-oriented courses geared for the General Education requirements of the larger College community that do not count toward the major. One of these will be taught each semester. Meanwhile, the Department has added world history courses HST201 and 202 alongside American history 211 and 212, now formatted as smaller courses that also meet Gen-Ed requirements, but are intended to help students with writing and other skills important to success in the discipline and do count toward the major.

The hope is that this new General Education structure for the department will both streamline its interface with the Gen-Ed offerings for non-majors, and also enhance efforts to prepare our lower-division students for success in the major and beyond.

Faculty Abroad

“Antarctica” by Dr. James Spiller

I envy my colleagues who can visit the sites of their historical research. Some can walk the meadows of Gettysburg and imagine long-past Civil War battles, while others can see signs of the Roman Empire’s extinct grandeur in the well-traveled ruins of modern-day Italy. I however, cannot visit outer space, which is one of the objects of my current book project (unless I can find \$20 million for a seat on a Russian rocket to the International Space Station). To my delight, however, I recently visited the other object of my scholarly work, Antarctica.

You heard that right. The College at Brockport now has a short study abroad experience in Antarctica for students with a yen for life-transforming adventure. This 6-credit course started with an online class in the Fall. Experts in the history, politics, and especially the natural sciences of Antarctica lectured in real time from New Zealand (even during its terrible earthquakes), while students read supplementary work and I graded papers. During the last two weeks of December (“summer” at the South Pole), we traveled together for a two-week excursion—long flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina then to Ushuaia at the southern tip of that country. After a two-day voyage across the sometimes wavy Drake Passage on a 100+ person “expedition cruise ship,” we spent nearly 5 days cruising the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, seeing historic sites, visiting penguin colonies, watching leopard seals and orca hunt, and motoring in small boats amidst pods of humpback whales. Student research projects on species distribution and environmental consequences of tourism in that fragile ecosystem insured that these awe-inspiring experiences were intellectually consequential.



Dr. Spiller and Brandon Nunnery exhibit a penchant for irony.

Antarctica is truly alien and gave me and my intrepid students great perspective on the historical achievements of humankind. We have inherited a robust civilization that helps protect us from nature’s elements, so spectacularly apparent from the comfortable cruise around the southern continent. But we have also left our darkening mark on those elements—the undeniable invasion of exotic species we saw, including penguins from more northern and warmer climes, vividly showed that climate change may very well change the face of the planet. This was human history strikingly evident in the present and showing signs of the future. I never felt more attuned to human history’s potential consequences than when I visited this most non-human corner of our world with study-abroad students.

“Maynooth” by Dr. Katherine Clark

I was pleased to be the departmental representative to lecture in the National University of Ireland at Maynooth’s History Seminar. My paper, “Tales of Martyrdom, Models of Marriage” investigated the idea of marriage as martyrdom in medieval women’s saints’ lives, arguing that the eleventh-century life of a Flemish saint, Godelieve of Gistel, was a rare and ultimately not very influential attempt to characterize marriage in this way in holy writings. This story demonstrates a common thread in writing about later medieval holy women that depicted marriage as firmly under the control of clerical authority. Later retellings of Godelieve’s story refined the relationship between husbands’ authority and clerical oversight.

In addition to talking with students and faculty about my research, I enjoyed the lovely hospitality of many of the Maynooth faculty, especially Tom O’Connor, in showing me the sights in and around Maynooth and Dublin, which will be good preparation for the summer study abroad class I will offer in June 2012, *Death, Memory, and Monuments in Irish History and Culture*.

The Department of History is launching two new programs for study at Maynooth. First, we have two new scholarships of \$5000 each for a semester abroad experience at Maynooth, funded mainly by a generous gift from Scott and Mary Flieger.

Also we are developing a new summer study program, in hopes of encouraging students who may not be able to travel for a whole semester to have an affordable study abroad experience at Maynooth nevertheless. (Of course, we also hope that if students get excited through a short period of summer study, they may find room for a whole semester abroad at Maynooth or elsewhere in future semesters after all). Do stay tuned for more details about this exciting new program!

The New York Conference on Asian Studies 2010

by Karin Torres-Peña

On Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2, 2010, The College at Brockport hosted the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) 46th Annual Conference. Dr. Salahuddin Malik, Professor of History and Conference Chair, believed that Brockport had as much to offer this prestigious conference as former NYCAS hosts, such as Cornell University. His vision came to fruition when over the course of the event, 96 scholars from eight countries arrived on campus to present their research at 31 scholarly panels.

NYCAS is the oldest and largest regional conference on Asian Studies in the country. It provides a forum for all persons interested in any branch of Asian Studies in the State of New York. It draws its membership primarily from New York but welcomes participants from any region interested in its activities. Dr. Malik and the NYCAS 2010 Committee reviewed applications and organized scholarly panels that drew participants from a wide variety of countries, including Turkey, Russia, India and Japan. The international profile of the conference attracted students, faculty and the local press.

In addition to the scholarly panels, Keynote speakers focused attention on the region's current affairs. Retired US Army General John Batiste provided a unique perspective on the War in Iraq when he spoke on "Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan: Military Political Analysis." Those, like myself, who were unfamiliar with Major General Batiste, were pleasantly surprised to discover he did not speak in favor of war. Rather, his years of experience serving the US Army shaped his perspective that diplomacy is always the best answer. He shared with the audience that his decision to leave his 31-year career with the US Army was "an act of principle." His insight into US foreign relations and the war in Iraq received praises from Brockport faculty, many of whom engaged with him during a Q&A dialogue.

Anasuya Sengupta, from The Global Fund For Women, flew in from San Francisco to discuss "Women's Rights and Women's Leadership in Asia." Ms. Sengupta offered an analysis from her own experience as Regional Director of Asia Oceana, having worked with and served the needs of women throughout Asia. While she discussed the inequalities women face in that region, she highlighted the ways in which Asian women have influenced their cultures. Sengupta shared her passion and her down-to-earth nature as she read a poem entitled "Silence" that she wrote to honor her grandmother. In her conclusion, she encouraged the audience to become activists through their own scholarship.

Amongst the many other conference highlights, Principal

Deputy Secretary from the South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau of the U.S. State Department came from Washington DC to moderate a special panel of South Asian ambassadors. The Panel featured ambassadors from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

Each ambassador took the opportunity to present perspectives his or her country before engaging with each other and the audience. The ambassador from Bangladesh played a short video that invited the audience to visit his nation and discover its natural beauty for themselves, and he discussed the looming effects on his country of sea level rise due to global warming.

The ambassador from Sri Lanka explained that, despite his country's recent war against the Tamil Tigers, Sri Lanka's economy and tourist destinations are amongst the fastest growing in the region.

The ambassador from Pakistan discussed how her country managed to overcome the devastating floods of 2010, while simultaneously addressing the international focus on Pakistan because of threats of terrorist activity. Those were crucial months for Pakistan and the ambassador's presence at the conference emphasized the importance of events such as these.

After the Ambassadors Panel, the audience enjoyed traditional music from India and Pakistan performed by the Indo-Pakistani Music Ensemble. The Conference concluded with a performance by the University of Rochester Bhangra Dance Group.

The organizing committee led by Dr. Malik, included faculty from multiple disciplines here at the College, as well as from UB and Nazareth College. The Department of History's commitment to the conference was overwhelming. Not only did the committee represent the success of interdisciplinary cooperation, the Department of History played a large role in that success.

Karin Torres-Peña served as the NYCAS 2010 Secretary and will complete her MA in History this December..

Department of History Faculty Portrait 2011



The 2011-2012 Faculty of the Department of History
Back row (l-r): Drs. Jose Torre, and Steve Ireland
Second Row (l-r): Drs. Anne Macpherson, Carl Davila, Alison Parker and Ms. Teri Rombaut (sec'y)
Third row (l-r): Drs. Angela Thompsell, Paul Moyer, John Daly and Wanda Wakefield
Front row (l-r): Drs. Morag Martin, James Spiller, Meredith Roman and Katherine Clark

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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, The 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.) _____
