A Note From the Chair: by Alison Parker

I am honored to have the privilege of chairing the Department of History and hope that I can live up to the high quality of service provided by past chairs, including Dr. Lloyd, whom I know we all appreciate. I thank the department’s faculty for their support and promise to try to learn the ropes quickly. I have an open door policy and welcome visits and meetings with faculty, students, alumni and staff. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

This past year was a productive one for history faculty, who worked on their book manuscripts and published several articles and book reviews. Dr. Salah Malik published his book, 1857: War of Independence or Clash of Civilizations? (Oxford University Press, 2008). In addition, other faculty have had their books accepted for publication; three books will be forthcoming this year by professors Lloyd, Martin, and Parker. All of our history faculty are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and service to the department, college, and wider public. Here are some of our activities from this past year: helping to organize a scholarly conference to celebrate SUNY’s 60th Anniversary (Dr. Bruce Leslie); becoming a University Faculty Senator in Albany (Dr. Ken O’Brien); coordinating a five year federal grant “Teaching American History” with the Rochester City School District (Dr. James Spiller); and working on the Global Workforce Curriculum pilot project of the SUNY Levin Project (Dr. Carl Davila). I am also very proud of our history majors and graduate students. This year Lauren De Joy won the Edwin W. Gaston Scholarship, a national award from the Alpha Chi Honor Society, and Jacob Piorkowski won the College’s Letters and Science graduate student award. Once again, history majors or graduate students won five out of six awards in the Scholarly Nonfiction category of the College’s Celebration of Writing!

We enjoy publishing news of our alumni in this newsletter. If you have something you want to share about your life or career, please email me and let me know at aparker@brockport.edu. My very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling year.

Please Join Us For the Following Events This Fall

Annual Maynooth Lecture
Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 in the NY Cooper Room
Dr. Joanne Mancini of the National University of Ireland at Maynooth studies the history of American cultural institutions and immigration. Her publications include Pre-Modernism: Art-World Change and American Culture from the Civil War to the Armory Show (Princeton University Press, 2005).

Annual Synnestvedt Lecture
Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 in the NY Cooper Room
Dr. Maria Cristina Garcia of Cornell University will discuss “Cuba and Cuban Americans in the Obama Era: The Demise of an Ethnic Lobby?” Her publications include Seeking Refuge: Central American Immigration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada (University of California Press, 2006).
Synnestvedt Lecture

Barbara Synnestvedt Karas shares memories of her father

Below the Grid
by Kenneth Allen Lane

November 13, 2008 marked the 84th birthday of the late Sig Synnestvedt and the annual lecture held in honor of the venerable Department of History Chair. In accordance with Synnestvedt’s dedication to Diversity and African American studies at the College at Brockport the Department of History, in cooperation with the student—led History Forum, sponsored a presentation by Dr. Jack Chen of New York University, on the history of New York City’s dynamic ethnic and racial identity. Dr. Chen presented a view of New York, “Below the Grid,” where the interplay of multiple ethnic traditions and societal practices collided producing the core soul and identity of America’s metropolis. Centered upon the crossroads of Chatham Square, the dense and intermingled people of New York came together, merging their practices and beliefs into a common, “people’s culture.” The Square served as a “creative cultural commons,” according to Chen, in which art, music, fashion, dance, food and more collided with each other forming an amalgamated poly-cultural identity. Chatham Square represents, argues Dr. Chen, the grounds upon which the multiethnic identity of New York, and the United States in general, began to grow into something more. The Port Culture of Chatham Square was not inherently native or foreign, instead it formed into something more, something American.

Maynooth Lecture on Historic Irish Houses
by the History Forum

On October 30, 2008 Brockport hosted the Fifth Annual Maynooth Lecture entitled “Irish Historic Houses and the National Heritage, 1879—2003.” Dr. Terence Dooley of the National University of Ireland at Maynooth held a captive audience. His presentation analyzed the history of the National Heritage of Irish country homes. Dr. Dooley stated that these Irish manors once had a strong presence, numbering upwards of 6,000 throughout the whole of Ireland. The majority of these landlords were Protestants, while the majority of the tenants who worked on these manors were Catholics.

Dooley outlined four time periods of these houses, symbolized by the amount of defense each needed. Early manors were extremely defensive, resembling small castles. Later style homes continued to have towers built into the architecture, but were far less formidable. The sixteenth century marked the transition to the traditional manorial house with large gardens. By the nineteenth century, these homes became grandiose palaces. Examples of each of these homes were shown throughout his descriptions.

The fate of these homes was decided through the latter half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century with the coming of Irish independence and the Irish Republican Army. Land settlements carved up much of the manorial system, and the Great War left many of these families heirless. The Independence War saw some three hundred of these homes burned as acts of reprisal and counter reprisal. After these periods of political and economic upheaval, Dr. Dooley commented that these manor owners no longer had the means with which to live in these homes. Many of the homes subsequently became hospitals or schools, while others were bought up by private owners looking for summer retreats. The Irish Heritage Trust began in an attempt to save the remaining salvageable homes to preserve Irish architectural history, but limited funding leaves much left to be accomplished in the restoration process of many of these houses.
Student Success

The Alpha Chi National Honor Society

awarded Lauren DeJoy with the Edwin W. Gaston Scholarship worth $2500. Lauren’s award—winning paper examined “Popular Culture and War in American Society: WWI to Present.”

College Awards

Jacob Piorkowski received the College of Letters and Science Graduate Student Award at the Honors Awards Ceremony on April 25, 2009.

History Department Awards

Queen Essay — Robert Bermudes & Raymond Shedrick

Melinda Kleehammer Award

1st place — Danielle Leone
2nd place — Charles LoFaso
3rd place — Peter Manktelow

Crandall Award (sophomore) — William Klein

Griswold Award (junior or senior) — Jacqueline Scala

Schnell Award (soph - senior) — Patrick Pittman

Lee Award (senior) — Molly Brownson

Department Scholar — Lauren DeJoy

Graduate Award — David Latella

Flieger Fellowship (graduate) — Michael Fickess

Celebration of Writing Awards

History majors won first, second, and third place in the undergraduate division, and first and second place in the graduate division of the College at Brockport’s Seventh Annual Celebration of Writing Awards competition (Scholarly and Analytical Writing Category).

Undergraduate Division

1st place — Peter Manktelow (Dr. John Daly)
2nd place — Charles LoFaso (Dr. Alison Parker)
3rd place — Kenneth Allen Lane (Dr. James Spiller)

Graduate Division

1st place — Danni Leone (Dr. Alison Parker)
2nd place — Eric Vaillancourt (Dr. Steven Neese)

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Brian Amphlett
Elizabeth Archer
Amy Demarco
Evelyn Kosek
Peter Manktelow
Erin Markowski
Laura Metzler
Sarah Mondy
Maureen Moran
Amelia Morgan
Karin Torres Pena
Patrick Pittman
Melanie Plunkett
Rebecca Restaino
Jacqueline Scala
Renee Wann
Willie Watson
Jonathan Whiteside

Phi Alpha Theta Conference

On Saturday April 4, 2009 Krysten Collier, Kenneth Lane, Douglas Priest, Tom Klotzbach, Will Sturnick, Karin Torres Pena, and Michael Fickess traveled with Drs. Clark and Daly to Alfred University where they presented papers at the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference. Phi Alpha Theta is the national history honors society.

Karin and Michael received awards for their papers: “Death to the Heretics, Mercy for the Heathens: Queen Isabella of Castile’s Views on Conquest and Conversion Surrounding the Events of 1492” and “British Perceptions of Palestian Identity and Zionist Aspirations,” respectively.

Although they were not awarded prizes, Krysten’s “An Aegis Essential,” Ken’s “Dictator of the Republic — The Imperial Presidency,” and Doug’s “Dziga Vertov before and after the Cultural Revolution: Autonomy Under Stalin” were mentioned as strong contenders in the session chairs’ discussion of the awards.
Faculty News

Arden Bucholz has been working on his fifth book Helmut von Moltke, 1800—1891, A Modern Biography, under contract in London. After walking the main battlefields of the three wars of German unification, this summer Dr. Bucholz revisited the Moltke papers in the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin. He continues to read manuscripts for The Journal of Military History and to review for The Journal of Modern History, The German Studies Review and Central European History.

Katherine Clark took part in the seminar program at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, and presented her work at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, England. She spent some time working with manuscripts and early printed books in Munich’s State Library, with a quick trip from Munich to Istanbul, thus setting foot in “Asia” for the first time. Dr. Clark participated in a panel, “Women and Power in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period,” with Brockport alumna and associate faculty member Tricia Peone at the New York State Association of European Historians Annual Meeting at Le Moyne College. She also participated in the Upstate New York Women’s History Organization in March. She published a thematic review, “Visible Negotiations: Widowhood as a Category for Assessing Women’s Lives and Work in Early Modern Europe.”

John Daly delivered a paper entitled “Lasting Cultural Myths and Vietnam War Films” at the Western American Popular Culture meeting in March, where he also chaired a session on race and gender. Dr. Daly will be on leave next Spring to continue work on his book on violence during Reconstruction. He presented an article length version of it at the Rochester Area United States History (RUSH) group entitled “The Southern Civil War 1865-1877.”

Carl Davila has nearly completed a second revision to his dissertation, which is currently under review at E.J. Brill (the oldest academic publishing house in the world, founded in 1683). He also worked with representatives from SUNY Cortland and the Levin Institute in New York City on a Department of Education grant to fund a three year project that will combine the intellectual resources of the three institutions to develop and pilot a modular curriculum dealing with globalization. In addition to these projects, he gave two teachers’ workshop presentations at Nazareth College and presented papers at two conferences in Ottawa and at the Seneca Falls Dialogues. He also developed a study abroad course in Spain and Morocco for the summer of 2010 (pending approval from Albany). His article on Ziryâb and the singing slave girls of 9th century Cordoba was published (finally) by Al—Masaq, and he published a book review in Anthropological Quarterly. In the coming year he looks forward to “just teaching” while he and Rosa raise their daughter, Leyla (born April 20th).

Kathy Kutolowskí misses her colleagues and students but is keeping busy in retirement. She has been elected to a three year term on the Nominating Committee of the Organization of American Historians (2009—12) and on May 29 delivered a paper at the Second International Conference on the History of Freemasonry in Edinburgh, Scotland. Kutolowski’s paper was entitled “The Strange Case of the Missing Masons: A Generation of Lost Freemasonic History on the Western New York Frontier.” Presenters came from fourteen countries outside the UK. Kutolowski’s essay on “The Antimasonic Party” is forthcoming (2009) in the Princeton Encyclopedia of United States Political History.

Bruce Leslie devoted this year to planning America’s largest comprehensive university system’s 60th birthday. Some years ago he and Dr. O’Brien casually suggested to former acting President John Clark (2004—5) that the upcoming anniversary presented an opportunity to examine SUNY’s meaning for New York and higher education. When the latter became Interim Chancellor, wistful idea became reality. Careful what you pray for! The idea blossomed into a scholarly conference that consumed much time and energy in Brockport and Albany. On the first weekend of April, 300 participants converged on Albany for a scholarly examination, as well as a celebration, of a system that has produced over 1,400,000 alumni. The conference drew scholars from across the country as well as faculty, staff, and students from across SUNY; for that weekend the whole system certainly seemed greater than the sum of its 64 campuses. The conference launched several projects designed to provide a “useful past” for SUNY highlighting its vital role in the life of New York and American higher education. Emanating from the conference will be a SUNY Press book, online historical resources, a SUNY Archive, and, hopefully, a more prominent place for SUNY in the hearts and minds of New Yorkers.

Jenny Lloyd retired this summer after two years as department chair. She has greatly enjoyed the two years, and thanks everyone, faculty, students, and Teri, for making her tenure as chair go so smoothly. She will remain in the area, and hopes to keep in contact with the department where she began as a graduate student more than twenty years ago. The Brockport history department made her career possible, and she could not be more grateful. Her book Methodist Women Preachers in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Shaping Methodism will be published by Manchester University Press this fall, and she plans to continue historical research and writing in her retirement. She will also act as coordinator of the Upstate New York Women’s History Organization and is organizing the New York State Association of European Historians’ annual conference at Brockport in October.

Anne Macpherson’s book on women and politics in 20th century Belize came out in paperback this spring from
Lynn Parsons, professor emeritus, had his book, *The Birth of Modern Politics: Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and the Election of 1828* published by Oxford University Press in May. One critic has hailed it as an “indispensable work on the formation of the antebellum political system,” while another described it as “a marvelously entertaining and balanced account of the 1828 election.” *The Birth of Modern Politics* has been listed by the History Book Club as one of its selections in June, 2009. In his Acknowledgments Dr. Parsons thanked the Brockport Department of History, whom he described as “an unusual band of teacher—scholars who never wavered in their commitment to their students and to their discipline. I became a better teacher, and a better scholar, as a result of my many years with them.” Dr. Parsons lives in Castine, Maine, with his wife Anne, who was elected president of the local Unitarian—Universalist Congregation. They will travel to Spain and North Africa in October as part of an Elderhostel tour studying Christian, Jewish, and Islamic influences in that part of the world.

Ken O’Brien has been elected to a two year term as President of the SUNY University Faculty Senate. With the office comes a seat on the Board of Trustees, as well as extensive commitments, both in Albany and throughout the state. Consequently, Dr. O’Brien will have no teaching responsibilities for the next two years, a fact he views with deep regret. He completed two co-authored articles this summer, the first (with Professor Carolyn Vacca of St. John Fisher) on Working Women in Monroe County during World War II and the second, with W. Bruce Leslie, on the history of the College at Brockport during the first two decades of the SUNY era, 1948—1968.

Meredith L. Roman delivered a paper at the Mid—Atlantic Slavic Conference at the New School in New York City in April, and will present another paper at the 41st National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Boston this November. Her essay “Robert Robinson: Celebrity Worker in the U.S.S.R.” will be published this year in *The Human Tradition in the Black Atlantic, 1500—2000*. Dr. Roman was awarded the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/Diversity Committee Award for leave this fall. She will spend this time completing her book manuscript and writing an essay for a forthcoming edited collection on the global perspectives of lynching.

Jose R. Torre presented a paper in the fall of 2008 at the Library Company in Philadelphia. In addition to his teaching and membership in several campus wide committees he has been preparing the paper for publication and doing the research for a related new project on teleology in Enlightenment America. This summer he continued his work on the Graduate Education Vision and Action Plan Committee, researched his new project in Philadelphia, and traveled with his family.

Nebraska, finally making it affordable! She continued research on Puerto Rico in the late 1930s with trips to the Center for Puerto Rican Studies in New York City and to the National Archives in D.C. Dr. Macpherson participated in the Latin American and Caribbean history speaker series at Penn State University and DePaul University in Chicago. In the summer 2009 she participated in a symposium on Belizean history in Mexico City, also visiting Brockport’s Cuernavaca program on the same trip. She graduated from the bunny hill to the green runs at Bristol this winter but has no further downhill ambitions.

Morag Martin’s first book *Selling Beauty: Cosmetics, Commerce, and French Society, 1750—1830* will be out with Johns Hopkins University Press this fall. This past November 2008, Dr. Martin presented a paper at the Western Society for French History in Quebec City. She will be starting a new line of research when on sabbatical in January 2010 in France. She will be studying the development of commerce and consumerism during the early industrial revolution. Dr. Martin, her husband Carl Almer and four year old daughter Beatrix also welcomed the birth of Rosalia this past spring.

Paul Moyer was on sabbatical leave in the spring semester conducting research on his current book project, *The Public Universal Friend: Religion & Gender in Revolutionary America*. He presented a paper at the 2009 Upstate New York Women’s History Organization conference. He also had the pleasure of giving the lecture, “The Society of Universal Friends: Religion & Gender in Revolutionary America” at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth as part of our department’s exchange with that university. Dr. Moyer started writing his second book this summer.

Takashi Nishiyama has been busy playing golf and writing. As solicited by History of Science Society, he published an article on line about the history of science in non—Western traditions. In May, as invited, he gave a talk at UCLA on the history of modern Japan. He helped create two television programs which aired nationwide in Japan in August. He received two internal grants to discuss details in Tokyo. In July, he visited Japan again to be in August. He received two internal grants to discuss two television programs which aired nationwide in Japan at UCLA on the history of modern Japan. He helped create non—Western traditions. In May, as invited, he gave a talk published an article on line about the history of science in writing. As solicited by History of Science Society, he has been busy playing golf and

Alison Parker finished her book, *Articulating Rights: Nineteenth—Century Women on Race, Reform, and the State* (it will be published in February 2010 by Northern Illinois University Press). She also became the editor of a new book series, “Gender and Race in American History,” at the University of Rochester Press (a job she shares with Carol Faulkner, of Syracuse University). She presented her work at the annual conference of the Organization of American Historians and published a review essay for *Reviews in American History*.

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Alumni News

Sharon Koopmans Bloemendaal, BS ’68, MS ’75, has been married forty—six years to Jack Bloemendaal. Sharon taught a total of eight years (K—8) and edited an antiques newspaper for fifteen years until retiring in 2003. She now sells ads part—time with her husband for another antiques newspaper. Sharon is the chairman of the Browncroft Neighborhood History Committee, is the founder (in 1981) of the biennial Browncroft garage sale, and instituted “garage sale by internet” four years ago. She is also on the committee PhotoHistory XIV, an October 16—18 international symposium sponsored by The Photographic Historical Society at the George Eastman House. Sharon and Jack have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Jenna Bower, BS ’05, is a two year AmeriCorps/VISTA member. She explained in an article in the Democrat & Chronicle how she has been “encouraged by President Obama’s emphasis on service and engagement in one’s community.” Jenna is currently a coordinator of the Rochester Youth Year Fellowship Program. Members of this program are recent graduates of six local colleges who dedicate a year to improving the Rochester community with the long—term goal of eradicating the city’s poverty. Despite the difficulties they often encounter, Jenna stresses that “through service, we have the opportunity to align our actions with our values.”

Shante Brown, BA ’09, spent the summer interning in the Housing Office at San Francisco State University. This fall she entered the masters program in Higher Education and Student Affairs at the University of Connecticut where she has been awarded an assistantship as an Assistant Hall Director in Resident Life.

Scott DiMarco, BS ’92, MA ’93, is the director of Library and Information Resources at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. Library Journal named Scott Audio Reviewer of the Year for 2008. He has been reviewing audio books for this journal since 2002. Scott emphasizes that he enjoys his work “because what we do makes a difference.”

Steven C. Edsall, BS ’99, accepted a position as an Advanced Manager at Cintas Corporation after serving eight years as an Army Officer. He found that the Clothing and Business Services industry was not right for him. As a result, Steven took a position at Fort Belvoir, VA near the Washington D.C. area as a Military Analyst for the Government. He is also an active member in the Republican Party.

Steven Lew, BS ’06, is a fifth grade teacher in Kissimmee, Florida. Steven writes that he “loves the creativity I see on a daily basis teaching young minds in the classroom.” He emphasizes that “I am enjoying my career as a Florida Educator!”

Terence Morea, MA ’07, had his film The List selected for the Clash of the Artist 2009 competition. He is a featured artist on www.artforprogress.org.

Tricia Peone, BS ’04, MA ’06, was accepted into the PhD program at the University of New Hampshire with four years of funding and extra research stipend of $2000.

Patrick M. Rausch, BS ’98 MA ’03, is founder and lead teacher of the Rochester Matters Academy at East High School in Rochester. The alternative inner—city middle school program offers an interdisciplinary, hands—on, humanities based curriculum designed to engage students in the learning process by integrating the study of local history and current events into academic lessons. Students participate in off—campus field studies throughout the year, and several community based organizations provide support and enrichment within the classroom. Rausch is eager to recruit new volunteers to work with his students and encourages Brockport alumni to contact him at Patrick.Rausch@RSU12.ORG.

Christine L. Ridarsky, MA ’03, was appointed City Historian of Rochester, NY, in October 2008. One of her first tasks in that capacity was an oral history project documenting Monroe County residents’ experiences with the presidential election of 2008. She also serves on the advisory committee for Rochester’s 175th Anniversary, which is being celebrated throughout 2009. Christine continues to work on her PhD in American History at the University of Rochester (ABD), although the birth of her daughter, Adelyn Elizabeth Ridarsky Rausch, in March 2008 has considerably slowed her progress on her dissertation.

Dave Shampine, BA ’71, has been a reporter at the Watertown Daily Times since his graduation from Brockport. Part of his job since 1998 has been writing a monthly column on local history called “Times Gone By” focusing on events and personalities. Through the initiation of History Press, 17 of his 115 columns will be fashioned into a book titled Remembering New York’s North Country: Tales of “Times Gone By.”

Frank Sykes, BS ’06, is the Director of the Livonia Public Library. He is currently finishing up his masters in Library and Information Sciences at the University of Buffalo.

Willie D. Watson, BA ’09, entered the PhD program in history at Carnegie Mellon University with a full ride.
In Memory of Dr. Kempes Schnell
by Steve Ireland

Professor Kempes Yoder Schnell, a long—time member of our department, died on January 15, 2009, in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania where he and his wife Anne had gone to live after his retirement. Kemp came to SUNY Brockport in 1963. An expert in the American Civil War, he taught a wide range of courses in both US and British history. Later he retooled to teach courses on the History of Crime and the History of Violence. In the early 1980s he directed our study abroad program in London for two years. He retired in 1989.

Some of you have studied with him, many of you may remember him, but even those who did not know him personally benefited from his commitment to this department and from his vision. Kemp shaped the lives of all of us by the way he shaped our department. Kemp was present at our creation. He arrived at the beginning of Brockport’s transition into a four year Arts and Science College. He understood and articulated the essential nature of liberal education and quietly but effectively worked to institutionalize that vision. At its core, that vision assumed that we as historians seek not to replicate ourselves [magnificent as we may be], but rather to provide each new generation of students with the understanding, the intellectual skills, and the perspectives they need to build meaningful lives for themselves while they meet their responsibilities to the broader society on which they depend and for whose ultimate fate they share responsibility. A few of you have become professional historians. More became teachers. Most, however, have gone on to productive and useful lives in an almost unimaginable array of occupations. And, as Kemp taught us, all of that is as it should be. Kemp exemplified in his professional life the scholar—teacher ideal to which we now subscribe: committed to outstanding undergraduate teaching, and equally dedicated to the sustained scholarly productivity that demonstrates that we are up to date, on the cutting edge of our discipline, and intellectually prepared to do what we purport to teach our students to do. To the degree that this collection of historians has learned to live together in peace, to respect its differences, to minimize the bruises that inevitably mark the interaction of intelligent, industrious, conscientious scholars—teachers committed to free inquiry and trained to argue, Kemp set the tone and advanced the cause. Never a harsh word. Never a personal attack. Never a sharp retort. Never a devious tactic. Never a nasty comment. Never a loss of patience, of grace, of kindness, even for those whose views or behavior he questioned, even for those who attacked him. Kemp was a considerate man, a generous man, an empathetic man, a man of peace who suffered for his beliefs in WWII and did much by his example among us to infuse those values into the culture of this department. As Dr. Arden Bucholz, Distinguished Teaching Professor wrote: “He was a wonderful conversationalist, with a robust sense of humor and lots of stories: about Holmes County, Ohio, his alternative service during World War II, and his five years teaching at Tougaloo College [Mississippi]. . . . Kempes was a man of Christian ethics and essential bravery.”

Dr. Kenneth O’Brien, current President, SUNY Faculty Senate, felt much the same way about Kemp. “[I] came to regard him as a gentle man as well as a gentleman, possessed of great personal courage, a tough, disciplined mind, an endless thirst for knowledge, all combined with what seemed to be an absolute absence of the usual academic baggage: an outsized ego.” His oldest friend in the Department, Dr. John Kutolowski, wrote recently. “I remember Kemp as an exceptional person who opened paths, both broad and narrow; a devoted Christian, a husband and father, a scholar, a teacher, and a friend who helped me and others in our journeys through life . . . a rather quiet, intelligent, and unassuming [man]. A person without jealousy or malice… with infinite patience.”
A Tribute to Dr. Jenny Lloyd
by Alison Parker

Dr. Jennifer Lloyd’s career as an historian and a women’s studies scholar, Women’s and Gender Studies Program Director, and advocate for students has been remarkable. Her education as an historian began in England in the 1960s, when she earned her first Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in history from Cambridge University. After living and teaching high school and middle school in England, Italy, and Mexico, she decided to settle in the United States and pursue her interest in history. Jenny received her second MA in history from the College at Brockport in 1987. She then received her PhD in history from the University of Rochester in 1992. Her dissertation was entitled “Thunder on the Horizon: Ruskin’s View of History.”

After completing her PhD, Dr. Lloyd returned to her alma mater, the College at Brockport, to teach a European Women’s history class and other courses for the Department of History. As an adjunct faculty member, she won the Mentor of the Year Award from the Ronald McNair Program in 1994, joined the Faculty Senate, and served on the General Education Committee of the Faculty Senate from 1994—1999. Clearly, Dr. Lloyd was making herself indispensable to the College. Thus, although she was an adjunct faculty member, she was chosen by the Dean to become the Director of the Women’s Studies Program in 1995.

As an adjunct faculty member, Dr. Lloyd taught three classes and ran the Women’s Studies Program. After two years, she received an official half—time position to do this work; after three years, she received a full QAR (full time temporary, non—tenure track) appointment. Finally, in 1999, Dr. Jennifer Lloyd received a tenure-track appointment in the Department of History; she ran the Women’s and Gender Studies Program until 2001. Over the course of her tenure as Director, Jenny Lloyd grew the program from offering a minor, to offering a minor and a major for undergraduate students. She increased the visibility and academic rigor of the program, highlighting the exciting intellectual expansiveness in this interdisciplinary major. Under her nurturing guidance, more students became women’s studies minors and majors. Dr. Lloyd also helped students identify future careers that could build on their training and education in Women’s Studies.

Dr. Jennifer Lloyd’s accomplishments have been duly recognized and honored during her career at the College at Brockport. In 1997, she won the George Queen Award for Teaching. In 2004, she was given the prestigious Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Finally, in 2008, Dr. Lloyd won the College Award for Excellence in Advising. From 2007—2009, she continued to serve the College and her colleagues by accepting the position of Chair of the Department of History.

Women’s history has been Dr. Jenny Lloyd’s intellectual passion. She has contributed greatly to the fields of women’s and religious history in Britain. She has written an important book, Plucking Sinners from the Fire: Women Preachers in Methodism in 19th—Century Britain (Manchester University Press, forthcoming 2009) and several fascinating articles, including “Collective Memory, Commemoration, Memory, and History: Or William O’Bryan, the Bible Christians, and Me,” in Biography (2002); “Conflicting Expectations in Nineteenth—Century British Matrimony: The Failed Companionate Marriage of Effie Gray and John Ruskin,” in the Journal of Women’s History (1999); and “Raising Lilies: Ruskin and Women,” in the Journal of British Studies (1995).

Dr. Jenny Lloyd’s contributions to the field of Women’s and Gender Studies and Women’s History are appreciated by students, faculty, and staff who have benefited from her wisdom. She has touched so many lives, inspiring greatness in us all. It is an honor to call Dr. Jennifer M. Lloyd a colleague and a friend and befitting to commemorate her knowledge, generosity, and exceptional life achievements.

[Dr. Parker’s tribute was part of a letter written on behalf of the induction of Dr. Lloyd’s name into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY.]
A Remarkable Mentor and Friend
by Carl Davila

I first got to know Jenny Lloyd at the beginning of my senior year at Brockport. I had been a student in the McNair Program, with Sumiko Higashi as my mentor. For various reasons Su and I were not really getting on, and at one point I sat down with my advisor, Bob Smith, to ask what to do about it. He gave me a wink and said, “You should get to know Jenny Lloyd. She’s very special.”

So I did. And boy was that an understatement!

Jenny agreed to mentor me, and need I say we got on brilliantly? We read Said; we read Foucault; we read Gramsci; we read post—colonial and feminist theory...all in the comfy chairs in her new windowed office, surrounded by books. It was so enriching, and so very important for my intellectual development and preparation for grad school. Really, we explored so much territory — all of it new to me, some that was new for both of us — and she made it both challenging and rewarding. She treated me with such respect and care, I felt like a real grad student, a real professional. If Bob Smith woke me to the idea of graduate school, Jenny Lloyd helped me lay the foundations for success in it.

Then the time came for me to apply for grad schools. Bob had said, “You need the best name after yours that you can get if you want to do this.” So Jenny and I talked about all the possibilities. She wisely encouraged me to visit Cornell, NYU and other campuses that I wanted to apply to. I sent away for the application materials, and of course Jenny was right there, helping me review the program offerings and tailor the personal statements for best effect.

The weeks went by and all the applications went out well ahead of the deadline...all except one: I had written to Yale early in the term, asking for an application, but by the last week of classes, it had not arrived. I was getting pretty nervous, obviously. Wouldn’t you know: the application materials arrived on the very last day of the term! Jenny and I literally had about half an hour to look through everything just to decide what program I was applying for! Then I had to run around the department looking for my referees to beg them for one last letter...it was nerve-wracking! Luckily, I caught everyone before they left for break.

And wouldn’t you know it? Yale was where I actually ended up.

Jenny Lloyd very simply has had a huge impact on my intellectual life, my career and my worldview as a scholar. I am so honored to have known her, so very thrilled that she is moving into this new phase of her life, and grateful for the opportunity to cheer her on and to sing her praises.

Thank you, Jenny, for being there and for being my friend!

[A retirement party in Dr. Lloyd’s honor will be held on Friday, October 9 at 4 pm in the New York Room of Cooper Hall. Please contact Teri Rombaut in the Department of History for further information (trombaut@brockport.edu).]
Dave Latella, the recipient of the History Department’s Graduate Student Award spent the fall semester 2008 interning at the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester.

The Strong National Museum of Play is a museum devoted to all the ways people play. I guess that’s pretty obvious from the name. It doesn’t display all of the various ways we play. It can’t for a simple reason—there are as many ways to play as there are people who play. Each person’s imagination fuels their own method of play. You simply cannot catalog all of that.

Inside the Strong Museum, on the second floor of the Caterpillar Atrium, is the National Toy Hall of Fame. The NTHoF is a collection of toys that have withstood the test of time. They are classics, instantly recognizable. They inspire imagination, can be used in many ways, and are multi-generational. In addition to input from staff members and museum patrons, the NTHoF solicits recommendations from educators and historians. It is a magnificent collection of 40 different toys ranging from the Frisbee to the Slinky, from the kite to the Teddy Bear, from Lego blocks to Barbie.

In 2008, they inducted the stick.

It was an ordinary stick, a dead and fallen tree branch. It was knobby and covered in peeling bark. Before they’d cleaned and sterilized it, it might even have sported a bug or two. It was kindling. Of course, this wasn’t the first time they had inducted something controversial. In 2007 they inducted the cardboard box. The empty, plain cardboard box.

Boxes and sticks? These are hardly worthy to stand beside the Etch-a-Sketch and the Atari 2600, the model train and the crayon. What silliness.

But both the cardboard box and the stick share something in common. They are meta-toys, objects that aren’t toys on their own. In the imagination of a child, however, they become an endless array of toys. The stick can be a sword (or Light-saber for the Star Wars generation) or a baseball bat, a fishing pole or a magic wand. Indeed, it can be all of these things and more, changing from one to the other at the whim of the child.

The challenge was how to show this off. The stick isn’t anything but a stick until played with. It turns out, however, that there were two ways to do it. The first was simple and, not to be too modest, my idea—take photos of kids playing with sticks. Photograph a child standing next to a pond while holding a stick and it’s a fishing pole. Brandishing a stick while wearing an eye patch? Pirate sword. Wearing a pointy hat? Magic wand. Of course, there was an even simpler way to show off the stick. Play with it at the ceremony.

The stick, like previous toys inducted into the NTHoF, came out to musical fanfare. The others were displayed for the audience like the prizes in a game show, though without the scantily-clad Barker’s Beauties. They were displayed but not used. The stick was an exception. The stick came out in a cloth-lined box like a precious heirloom and it came out beneath an honor guard of crossed swords. The staff of the museum each held a stick, raised high like the swords at a Marine Corps wedding. They held sticks, but it was clear to everyone there that they weren’t merely sticks. It was an eloquent way to prove a point.

I wasn’t one of the folks raising a sword. As a humble intern, it wasn’t my place to stand in the limelight. I was quite happy to be anonymous and off-camera. Instead of participating, I got to watch and appreciate the pageantry. I listened to the chuckle of laughter rumble through the audience as they understood. I saw the nodding heads of the journalists standing silent amidst a surprising forest of video cameras. I saw people get it.

It was a lovely ceremony, all pomp and circumstance without any pretension. The skateboards skated and the baby doll cried, but all eyes were on the stick. It may be the oldest known toy, even more ancient than the ball. It is simple and humble, ubiquitous and natural, and, in this cost-conscious time, very cheap. It was, in a word, worthy.
Graduation, May 2009

Dr. Parker and Karin Torres Pena

Dr. Roman, Shante Brown, and Dr. O'Brien

Will Sturnik, Dr. Clark, and Krysten Collier

Dr. Daly and Adam Hendel

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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: __________________________________________________________________________________
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Any news that you’d like to share (career, hobbies, travel, family, etc.) ____________________________
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