

# History Matters at UIC

Winter 2012

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## *Notes from the Chair*

As the new year begins, History is abuzz with activity surrounding three job searches. We have already hosted three candidates in Ancient Greek History with Classics, and look forward to hearing from candidates in our Latin American and Chicago/Urban searches in the coming days. It feels good to be growing again and we look forward to welcoming new colleagues in the fall!

## *Department News*

### **Peter D'Agostino Fund Goal Achieved!**

We are most grateful to the many generous donors that have helped us to reach our initial fundraising goal of \$25,000 to establish an endowed account for the support of graduate research in religious, immigration, and/or transnational history named for the late Peter R. D'Agostino. The first award will be made in 2013. The amount of the award will be determined according to the interest earned on the account. Additional contributions continue to be welcomed and will translate into more substantial scholarship support.

### **Schelbert Award Supported by Anonymous Donor**

The department has received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 to support the Leo Schelbert Graduate Scholarship Award. We send out much gratitude to our kind but nameless benefactor!

### **AHA Reception**

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, the History department hosted a gathering on Friday, January 6th. Almost 100 alumni, retired faculty, friends, and current department members dropped in to reconnect. Among others, we were delighted to see **Roger Biles** (Illinois State), **Mara Dodge** (Westfield State), **John Flores** (Case Western), **Amy Harth** (BA), **Jim Kollros** (St. Xavier University), **Sam Mitrani** (College of Du Page), **Steven Mullooly** (Homewood-Flossmoor High School), **Dominic Pacyga** (Columbia College Chicago), **Elizabeth Payne** (University of Mississippi), **John Reda** (Illinois State), **Greg Roeber** (Penn State), **Sarah Rose** (University of Texas, Arlington), **Judith Rae Ross** (Author and Consultant), **Matt Rothwell** (University of Southern Indiana), **Josh Salzmman** (UIC), **Eric Smith** (IMSA), **Greg Schneider** (Emporia State University), **Martin Tuohy** (NARA).

## Department News, continued

### Humanities and Technology

Perry Clark, David Halsted, Lara Kelland and Benn Williams hosted a small overflow meeting of THATcamp here at UIC during January's AHA meeting. THATcamp is an informal and collaborative "unconference" focused on humanities and technology for research and teaching. The session provided participants with an opportunity to share practices and brainstorm solutions related to issues in the growing field of digital humanities.

### Teaching Award

Congratulations to **Julie Peters** who has been awarded a 2011-2012 Teaching Recognition Award. The review process, conducted by the Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), concluded that her teaching is an example of the high quality of instruction that characterizes the best of UIC. Congratulations to Julie!



### Visiting Scholar

We welcome to the department our new visiting scholar, **Xuemei Wu**. Wu is Professor in the school of History and Culture at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in Wuhan. She researches and writes on pre-modern and modern Chinese social history. She will be in residence at UIC for one year, working closely with Laura Hostetler.

### New Book Club Established

Inspired by a blog authored by Prof. Grant Wiggins on must-read classics in education, the Teaching of History program will be facilitating a discussion of some of these classics each semester over a potluck meal. The group, which grows out of the recognition that it can be much more fun and rewarding to share thoughts and ideas with others than to work in isolation, is open to current students and alumni alike. First up for Spring 2012 is John Dewey's *Democracy and Education*. For more information on the first meeting see the "upcoming events" section of the newsletter below. If you are interested in joining the book club and/or want to suggest other "classics" to add to the list please contact **Robert Johnston** at johnsto1@uic.edu.

### Faculty Blog

Speaking of blogs, **Kevin Schultz** and Ed Blum are now writing a blog on Teaching the United States survey. They hope to discuss ideas, topics, and strategies when it comes to teaching either half of the survey. Take a look at <http://teachingunitedstateshistory.blogspot.com/>.

### New Website

If you have not done so already, please check out History's new website at <http://history.las.uic.edu/>. We hope you will find the design appealing, the content up to date, and the site easy to navigate.

### Welcome to New Tech Support Staff

**Ashish Sharma** began work in January as our new IT graduate assistant. We are happy to have him keeping us rolling into the digital age. If you have any computing or networking issues, please submit a request through Mary Parks. Thanks and good wishes to Kunal Mittal who served the department in this capacity for four and a half years!

## Our Students and Alumni

### New History Graduate Society Officers

It is time to welcome a new crop of energetic graduate students to leadership positions with the History Graduate Society. The officers for 2012 are **Erik Kalweit** as President, **Tara Henry** as Vice President, **Michal Wilczewski** as Secretary, and **Mike Swinford** as Treasurer.

### Windy City Graduate Conference

The History Graduate Society has organized another successful graduate conference! On November 5, 2011, HGS hosted the 4th Annual Windy City Graduate Conference. Coordinators **Allison Bertke Downey** and **Melissa Hibbard** are pleased to report that the event was a great success. This year's conference, "Contested Spaces, Contested Identities: Exploring Power and Resistance in the Modern World," featured presentations by 51 graduate students from over 30 schools across the country. The day consisted of 16 panels covering a wide geographic and thematic range, and a plenary address entitled, "Indian Women on the Edge: Contestations of Authority and Identity in North America's Borderlands" by Dr. Susan Sleeper-Smith of Michigan State University. The conference committee would like to extend thanks to all the UIC faculty and students who served as chairs and discussants. Plans are already underway for the upcoming conference, which will be held Saturday, October 13, 2012.

### Provost Award Winners

Congratulations to **Melissa Hibbard** who has received a Provost's Award for "Constructing Children: Child Health and Welfare in Interwar Poland," and **Jochen Arndt** for "Becoming 'Xhosa': German Missionary Linguists and How the Borderland Communities of the Eastern Cape Region became part of the Xhosa Ethnolinguistics Group 1830-1930."

### Undergrad News

The UIC History Club is now the Undergraduate History Society, and its members have been actively living up to their name. In October, several members of the club visited the Pullman Historic District. They also hosted a graduate school applications talk with members of the History Graduate Society. The Society has new officers, including President **Matthew Sosnicki**, Vice President **Hannah Zuber**, Secretary **Jennifer Warner**, and Treasurer **Allison Thoma**. They are planning a movie night series, the first to be a screening of *Dr. Strangelove* on March 13th from 6-8 p.m. The Society will also be sponsoring a snack sale on February 6th, 8am-12pm, in the corridor between the Inner Circle and the Montgomery Ward Lounge in SCE. For more details, see their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryClubUIC>.

### Alumni News

Recent Alumna **Clare Dietzen** has been selected for the National Park Service/National Council for Preservation Education internship at Yosemite National Park. She will be working with the Cultural Anthropologist and Native American liaison there beginning in late February. Congratulations Clare!

**Amy Harth** is now working at DeVry University.

Congratulations to our recently published Alumni: **Amy Schneidhorst's** (PhD '06) book, "Building a Just and Secure World: Popular Front Women's Struggle for Peace and Justice in Chicago During the 1960s," was released by Continuum Press on November 3, 2011. Schneidhorst is Director of Religious Education for the Unitarian Universalist Church in Urbana-Champaign.

**Bruce Fisher's** (BA '82 MA '83 ABD '84) *Borderland: Essays from the US-Canadian Divide*, will be published by State University of New York Press in spring 2012. Fisher is director of Economic and Policy Studies at Buffalo State College, where he teaches in the Department of Economics and Finance.

## Upcoming Events

### **Social Justice Talk**

Nancy Mirabal will be giving a talk co-sponsored by History on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at 12pm in 1250 University Hall. Mirabal is an Associate Professor in the Raza Studies Department at San Francisco State University. Her talk is entitled "Slippery at the Edges: The Uneasy History of Afro-Cuban Diasporic Politics in New York, 1938-1959."

### **History Mystery Series**

We have two more events in our 2011-12 History Mystery series coming up this spring. On March 2 Prof. **Chris Boyer** will speak on "Unraveling a Mysterious Death in Revolutionary Mexico." On April 13, **Ellen McClure** will speak on "L'Affaire Tartuffe: Blackmail, God and King Louis XIV." Both talks will take place at the Institute for the Humanities at 7:00 p.m. Beverages will be served beforehand beginning at 6:30, and a reception will follow. All are welcome, but please r.s.v.p. to [lindavp@uic.edu](mailto:lindavp@uic.edu).

### **Teaching of History Book Club**

The inaugural meeting of the UIC Teaching of History Alumni Book Club will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 6-9 pm in UH 908. Please r.s.v.p. to [teaching.history.uic@gmail.com](mailto:teaching.history.uic@gmail.com) by Wednesday, February 15th.

### **Osofsky Lecture**

The annual Gilbert Osofsky lecture will take place on Wednesday April 11th at 2:00 pm in Student Center East, room 302. James C. Scott, Sterling Professor of Political Science, Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the Agrarian Studies Program at Yale University, will give a talk entitled "Two Cheers for Anarchy." The talk will be followed by a reception.

### **Conference on Bayard Rustin**

The Bayard Rustin Centennial Conference will take place at UIC on March 30-31, 2012. Organized by Activist Mandy Carter and **John D'Emilio**, the conference will engage issues of social justice organizing and Rustin's legacy. To find out more, see the conference's webpage at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/quic/gsc/bayardrustin.html>.

### **Eastern European Gender Conference**

The Symposium for the Study of Gender and Sexuality in East Central European History will also take place on March 30-31 at UIC. Organized in part by **Keely Stauter-Halsted**, the event will feature 18 panelists and keynote speaker Magdalena Sroda, professor of Philosophy at Warsaw University. The conference aims to assess the state of the field of gender and women's studies as it pertains to East European history.