



# HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

October 2010

**UIC** Department  
of History  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

A 1933 promotional poster for A Century of Progress

International Exposition. Century of Progress Collection, COP-17  
-0004-0121b-001, UIC Library

## Thoughts from the Chair

I am delighted to announce the inaugural issue of the Department of History Newsletter. My hope is this venue will allow us to effectively communicate and document important events in the life of the department and to share news about activities of general interest in which faculty, students, and alumni are involved. Although officially an "occasional" publication, we hope to produce three issues annually, in October, in January, and in April. Many thanks to Lara Kelland for making the newsletter possible! Please share your news directly with her for future issues ([lkella1@uic.edu](mailto:lkella1@uic.edu)). The *Newsletter* will supplement *Past Perfect*, the department's record of scholarly achievement, but does not attempt to replace it.

## Departmental Happenings

### New Student Workers

We are proud to introduce our front office staff for the year: **Whitney Knight** is a first-year graduate student in Industrial Engineering. **Tawnya Carroll** is a first-year Master's student in the Urban Planning program. **Brittanie Mullings** is returning to us in her last undergrad year as a pre-med major. Please take a moment out of your day to introduce yourself if you have not already done so.

### New Faculty

We would like to welcome **Ralph Keen** to his new position as Arthur J. Schmitt Chair of Catholic Studies and Professor of History. Keen is an historian of ideas who works with how thinkers in one era retrieve and apply the writings of earlier figures in the tradition. In the past, his research has been concerned with the ways Reformation-era theologians drew on biblical and early-church authorities in crafting political doctrines suitable to their era. Currently he is working on Counter-Reformation authors' construction of the early church (to ca. 500) as a Golden Age, intended as a contrast to the decline they saw in the 16th and 17th centuries. He reports it is exciting to be part of our department & that he enjoys interacting with UIC students.

We also look forward to the arrival of **Keely Stauter-Halsted** as the new Chair of Polish History in January. Stay tuned for more details about her as we get closer to next semester.

### Peter D'Agostino Memorial Award

The recently created D'Agostino Memorial Committee has recommended the creation of a **Peter R. D'Agostino** Memorial Scholarship to support graduate research in any aspect of immigration, transnational, or religious history, areas in which our esteemed and beloved colleague made significant scholarly contributions before his tragic death in 2005. For more information please contact the Chair directly ([hostetle@uic.edu](mailto:hostetle@uic.edu)).

## Activities

*The Study of the United States Institute* is a Fulbright-sponsored program that brings roughly 30 international high school teachers to UIC to teach them about the United States. These teachers--from Africa, Asia, South and Central America, the Middle East, and Europe--spend four weeks at UIC taking classes from UIC faculty and other area experts, followed by two weeks "in the field," traveling throughout the American Southwest, then proceeding to New York City and Washington, D.C. As one of the core faculty members, **Kevin Schultz** taught this past summer on America's religious and ethnic past and present. The program has been at UIC for 20 years.



In July, Recent MAT graduates **Kathryn Person** and **Andy Currie** attended a three week National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored institute for high school history teachers at Indiana University in Bloomington. The institute, entitled "Social Movements in Modern America: Labor, Civil Rights, and Feminism," examined the pivotal role that each movement played in twentieth-century US history. Lectures and class discussion also encompassed labor, the civil rights movement and black nationalism, and feminism and gender studies. Attendees also created lesson plans, met with union representatives, and took field trips to a pork processing plant, the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago, and the Kinsey Institute at IU.

Masters Candidate **Nathan Hare** participated in the Critical Language Scholarship Program this summer. The State Department sponsored program provides scholarships to study languages deemed 'critical need' languages. Nathan was funded to study Arabic intensively in Cairo for two months. The curriculum included language lessons and one-on-one tutoring five days a week. In his limited free time he visited Luxor, the pyramids, and Mt. Sinai on program-sponsored trips. Nathan feels that his speaking, reading, and listening skills all improved. He greatly enjoyed the faculty and experiences and encourages anyone interested to apply to the program.

# Welcome to our new Graduate Students!

## MA

**Julia Berkowitz** graduated from UIC in 2009 with a BA in History & loved it so much she came back for more to pursue her interest in Labor History. Born & raised in Chicago, she has lived here all her life and works full time as a union electrician.

**Kyle Hickman** currently teaches full-time at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. He is interested in the development of politics in the United States during the early republic.

**Rosa Macias Nuño** graduated from DePaul University in June 2010 with Majors in International Relations and Latin American Studies. She intends to research Mexico's history during the 20th century in order to study church and state conflict, agrarian uprisings like the Cristero War, and the relationship between the US, Mexico, and the Vatican between 1920 and 1940.

**Daniel Rhoades** hopes to improve his ability to serve students in the high school environment in which he teaches. His research and academic interests revolve, at this point, around the dynamics of power and the ways in which those forces are made manifest within American history. He has studied at Eastern Michigan and Northwestern Universities.

## MAT

**Bridger Bishop** earned a BA in history from the University of Montana and an MA in Classics from the University of Colorado, after which he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Romania for two years. His particular area of interest is 19th century U.S. history.

**Melissa Mahon** earned a BA in Anthropology from DePaul University. Since then she has worked in a variety of fields including childcare, restaurant management, and organic produce, both farming and distribution. She has always considered teaching and is very happy that she finally decided to pursue it.

**Rachael Seno** graduated from Colorado College in 2007 with a BA in History and Philosophy, after which time she worked in advertising as a Production Coordinator. As an avid supporter of global perspectives in education she is concentrating her coursework in World History.

**Jonathan Skinner** earned a BA in History with a minor in Economics from UIC. Since then, he has continued to work in the Information Technology Field and is currently a Graduate Assistant with the College of Pharmacy, as well as Student Staff Supervisor for Campus Housing's IT Department. He has always considered teaching and is happy to be pursuing it.

## PhD & MA/PhD

**Allison Bertke Downey** is interested in studying gender and public policy in modern US history. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where she received bachelors degrees in history and political science, and the University of Chicago, where she completed her MA in the social sciences.

**Anne Brixius**, hailing from Germany, received a Magistra Artium degree with a major in English and minors in modern History and Linguistics from the Westfaelische Wilhelm-Universitaet Muenster. At UIC, she plans to compare racial and ethnic dynamics as they operate in the modern U.S. and Germany.

**Erin Crawley** earned an MA at Eastern Illinois University in 18th century British/Irish history. Her current research interests are primary late 19th - early 20th century American and British comparative, cultural history and the history of medicine. She looks primarily at the conjunction of consumerism, advertising, psychology, and neurasthenia in the Progressive Era.

**Ian Darnell** earned a BA in history and Spanish from Saint Louis University in 2009 and then worked as an administrative assistant and publicist for playwright Joan Lipkin's That Uppity Theatre Company and DisAbility Project. He plans to explore sexuality, class, and race in twentieth-century urban America.

**Melissa Hibbard** attended Carroll College in Helena, MT as an undergrad and Michigan State University for her Masters. She is interested in Polish-Jewish relations and social welfare between the world wars.

**James Mestaz** focuses on Latin American history. he is originally from California, receiving his BA from University of California at Los Angeles and MA from University of Miami. His academic interests involve Indigenous Cultures and Environmental history of contemporary Mexico.

**Michael Swinford** has a Master's in History from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston and his research interests focus on rural history in the United States from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century.

**Christopher Wright** is studying 20th-century U.S. labor history. He has an academic background in philosophy with a special interest in Marxism.

---

## Highlights from UIC's Special Collections Department

Our own PhD student **Tim Soriano** and **Dr. Nancy Cirillo**, Professor Emerita in the English Department, are in the preliminary stages of creating an exhibit from the Atlantic Slave Trade Collection, Buslik Caribbean Book Collection, Carberry Collection of Caribbean Studies, and the Sierra Leone Papers from the Daley Library. Focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the exhibit, which is tentatively scheduled for fall of 2011, will emphasize the cross currents of the slave trade through contemporary literature and historical documents. Tim and Nancy hope that the exhibit will be international in scope as Nancy will soon be in collaborative meetings with archivists at the British Library and the with International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.

## Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, November 3 at 12:00pm, Professor **Raymond Craib** from Cornell University will give a talk on campus entitled "Ghost writers: Landscape and narrative on the routes of Cortes." Craib's research interests are focused primarily on the modern histories of Mexico and Chile. His first book, *Cartographic Mexico: A History of State Fixations and Fugitive Landscapes* (Duke, 2004), examined the cartographic routines that helped forge the Mexican state in the 19th and 20th centuries. He continues to pursue his interests in geography, the history of cartography, and spatial theory in a short book project on the 'route' of Cortes by 19th and 20th century writers and travelers.

On Thursday, November 18th at 3:00pm, Professor **Ralph Keen** will give his inaugural lecture as the Arthur D. Schmidt Chair in Catholic Studies. The lecture, title forthcoming, will take place in the Cardinal Room of Student Center East.

To be included in the mailing list for upcoming **Undergraduate History Society** events, please contact Cory Perez at [caperez2@uic.edu](mailto:caperez2@uic.edu).