

# History Matters at UIC

Spring 2013

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## *Notes from the Chair*

May 2013 sees not only the end of another semester, but also the end of my first term as Chair of the Department of History. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outgoing officers for their invaluable part in the running of the department: Richard Levy, Director of Undergraduate Studies; **Kevin Schultz**, Associate Chair (and his predecessor **Gosia Fidelis**); and **Ina Zweiniger-Bargielowska**, Director of Graduate Studies. Thanks also to **Lara Kelland** who has served as my RA for the last three years. Without the expert assistance of this team, my job would have been much harder.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for their confidence in re-electing me to serve another term as Chair, and to announce the incoming officers: **Chris Boyer** has agreed to serve for one year as Associate Chair while Kevin is on sabbatical. Kevin will continue in the position on his return. **Rama Mantena** will assume the role of Director of Undergraduate Studies. **Jeff Sklansky** will be our next Director of Graduate Studies. **Corinne Louw** has agreed to work as my RA. Please extend a warm welcome and a word of thanks to the incoming departmental officers for their willingness to serve, and to Corinne who will now be compiling the newsletter. Finally, it's been a great year for placement of our PhDs; please see page 6.

## *Faculty Awards*

**John D'Emilio** has had a fantastic season of recognition! The Organization of American Historians (OAH) awarded its 2013 Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award to John D'Emilio. He has also been honored with the 2013 Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, which annually recognizes a gay or lesbian writer for his or her work. The award is given by the Publishing Triangle, an organization dedicated to the promotion of LGBT authors and scholarship.



Next year **Kevin Schultz** will be the Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Humanities Center Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Utah. In residence for the academic year of 2013-14, He plans to finish his book on the odd and illuminating friendship between Norman Mailer and William F. Buckley, Jr., a friendship that helps us better understand the intellectual debates of the 1960s.

**Corey Capers** has been awarded a 2013 Silver Circle Award for Excellence in Teaching. His is one of thirteen professors to receive this honor campus-wide.

## Department News

### Faculty Activities

In March, CSPAN visited **Robert Johnston's** graduate seminar in American History. The class discussion on the Populist Era was filmed and first broadcast in March as an installment in their Lectures in History series. The video can be found at <http://www.c-span.org/History/Events/Lectures-in-History-1890s-American-Populist-Movement/10737438842/>

**Richard Levy** has recently appeared in the documentary *Refuge*, which explores the history and current lives of a set of German Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. The film engages refugees who were aided by Chicagoans and who then set up their own organization called SelfHelp. First providing social services program for the refugees, SelfHelp then established a residence for community elders, a program still in existence today.

**Susan Levine** and the UIC Institute for the Humanities hosted a conference entitled "Food Justice: Interdisciplinary Perspectives." Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*, gave the keynote address. Conference panels addressed themes of food and war, food aid and humanitarianism, moral and ethical issues in defining hunger and famine, local and global food systems, and alternative urban food movements. The conference was sponsored by the UIC Chancellor's Initiative in the Humanities and the Institute's Chicago Area Food Studies Working Group.

### Robert Remini Memorial Fund

**Robert Remini**, 91, professor emeritus of history, an award-winning biographer and former Historian of the United States House of Representatives, died March 28 at Evanston Hospital after a stroke. In 1965 he joined the faculty of the new Chicago Circle Campus (now UIC), where he served a term as chair of the Department of History, beginning in 1966. In 1983 he became founding director of the UIC Institute for the Humanities. Later in his career he held the position of UIC historian.

Remini's distinguished career of teaching and writing about American history extended for more than half a century. The New York Times called him "the foremost Jacksonian scholar of our time." His critically acclaimed three-volume biography of Andrew Jackson took more than 15 years to complete. The third volume, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Democracy, 1833-1845*, won the National Book Award for nonfiction in 1984. Remini also authored biographies of Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams and Daniel Webster, as well as a dozen other books on Jacksonian America.

Donations may be made to the Robert V. Remini Scholarship Fund, University of Illinois Foundation, 1305 W. Greene St., Urbana IL, 61801. Please include the Remini Scholarship account number #773292 on the memo line of your check.

### Undergraduate Research

History major **Archie Linn** participated in "Uncovering Buried Voices: Issues of Conflicts and Change Through History," a Symposium for History Undergraduate Research at Mississippi State University April 26-27, 2013. His paper, on which he had worked under Prof. Ralph Keen, was entitled "Platonism in the Latin Christian Fathers of the 4th and 5th Centuries C.E."

## *Department News, cont.*

### **Welcome to...**

Food Studies Post-doc **Angela Jill Cooley** graduated from the University of Alabama with a PhD in History. She uses food culture, including the development of eating places and civil rights in public accommodations, to examine racial, class, and gender constructions in the twentieth-century American South. As the Postdoctoral Research Associate in Food Studies at the Institute for the Humanities, Dr. Cooley will research the food patterns of southern farmers in a project entitled “Feast or Famine? The Paradox of Food Insecurity in the Twentieth-Century Rural South.” She hopes to identify the primary causes of food insecurity among this population and uncover efforts at food sovereignty. In Fall 2013, she will teach HIST 485/AFAM 481 “Food in Twentieth-Century African American History.”

**Fernando Teixeira da Silva**, a Brazilian labor historian will be a visiting scholar at UIC from December 2013 to July 2014. Teixeira da Silva will work on a project comparing different models of labor relations and collective bargains systems after WWII in the United States and Brazil.

**Wioletta Czemiel-Grzybowska** will be a visiting scholar in Polish Studies during the month of September, 2013. She will be formally affiliated with Economics, but she will be housed in the Department of History.

### **Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar**

**Laura Hostetler** and **Ellen McClure** co-taught the Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar in Spring 2013 on the theme “Exchange Before Orientalism: Asia and Europe 1500-1800.” Every year five undergraduate students from UIC have the opportunity to participate this team-taught interdisciplinary course that facilitates primary research based on the rich holdings of the Newberry. Five students each were drawn from Depaul, Loyola, and Roosevelt Universities as well. Next year’s NLUS will be co-taught by a historian and a visual studies scholar and will focus on the Civil War. Additional details will be available in September.

The Class culminates in a formal conference open to the public at which students present their research findings. This year UIC’s students presentations were as follows: **Huiying Chen** presented “Land, People, and Technology in Eighteenth-Century China,” **Lea Crowley** presented “European Maps of China from 1644-1740: Where is the Qing Dynasty?,” **Allyson Czadowski** presented “Lofty Ambitions: The Transformation of French Policy in Late 18th-Century Colonial India,” **Archie Linn** presented “Vasco da Gama’s First Voyage to India: The Conflicts of First Encounters,” and **Kindra Schaefer** presented “Literary Curiosities: The Uses of Anecdotes in Tavernier’s Travels in India.”



## Noteworthy Events

### Annual Osofsky Lecture

On Wednesday, April 17th, the department hosted the annual Gilbert Osofsky lecture. Ben Vinson, Herbert Adams Baxter Professor at Johns Hopkins University, gave a talk on “Black Experiences in Mexico.” Vinson’s lecture presented a panoramic view of Afro-Mexican history, including both little-known histories of African American migration to Mexico as well as contemporary debates about race in that country.

We took the occasion to announce this year’s Shirley Bill Award for Excellence in Teaching. This year we had the delight of presenting the award to two faculty members, **Chris Boyer** and **Kevin Schultz**. Congratulations to you both!

Additionally, the recipients of the Edinger and Goodman undergraduate awards were announced. Congrats go out to **Morgan Valenzuela** for the Goodman Award and **Jordan Schlife** for the Edinger Award!

### Paul Lovejoy Talk

Paul Lovejoy, Distinguished Research Professor of History at York University, Toronto, visited UIC April 22-23. Lovejoy, who has published numerous works on West Africa, Islam, and slavery, was a longtime colleague of the late Jim Searing. Lovejoy gave a public lecture presenting new evidence about the birthplace and life of Gustavus Vassa, also known as Olaudah Equiano. One of the key sources in Lovejoy’s talk was a letter found in the Sierra Leone Collection held by UIC Library’s Special Collections and currently on display in the exhibit Commerce in Human Souls. Lovejoy also met with a group of graduate students in the Special Collections department to discuss the Sierra Leone Collection and graduate student research projects. The events were sponsored by the Office of International Affairs and the Departments of History and African American Studies.

### Drag Queens on Campus!

On Thursday, May 18, students in **Cat Jacquet’s** Hist/GWS 281 Topics in Social History: Transgender History, Identity, and Politics course had the pleasure of hearing from two of Chicago’s fiercest professional drag queens, Tiger Sky and Shea Coullée. Tiger and Shea began by performing one song each and then moved into an engaging and lively conversation about contemporary queer performance and drag culture. Over the course of the semester, students studied drag in various historical contexts in the US. The performances and presentations allowed the students to make connections between the history they have studied and the contemporary world of drag. Students also got a first hand look at how queer performance has changed over time as well as the changing role of drag in queer community formation.



## *Students and Alumni*

### Graduate Student News

Two of our students, **Juanita Del Toro** and **James Mestaz**, are spearheading the establishment of a new grad student group targeting the needs of Latina/o students. The Latina/o Graduate Student Association is a professional network committed to meeting the needs of Latina/o students in order to navigate the challenges of graduate school at UIC. Our goal is to build a community that embraces the social, cultural, and political spheres of Latina/o graduate students to foster academic and professional success.

**Adrienne Phelps Coco** is the Senior Instructional Designer at the New England Institute of Technology where she is working with professors to design online courses and overhaul online education at the school.

### Alumni News

One of our recent MAT alums, **Molly Myers** ('11), was just named the Chicago Area Teacher of the Month, an award given by WGN TV and St. Xavier University. You can see her on WGN here: <http://wgntv.com/2013/01/30/january-teacher-of-the-month-molly-myers/>



**Matt Rothwell** (PhD '09) has published a book entitled *Transpacific Revolutionaries: The Chinese Revolution in Latin America*, (Routledge, December 2012).

**Joseph Lipari** is the Administrator of the Citizen Review Board in Syracuse, NY. In his new position, he is responsible for administrative, investigative, community outreach, and public relations tasks, including interviewing complainants, conducting investigations into allegations of misconduct by Syracuse police officers, and developing investigative reports to present to our civilian board members who come to a finding and make disciplinary recommendations to the police department.

## *Graduate Student Awards and Jobs!*

### **Departmental Graduate Awards**

*Deena Allen:*

**Melissa Hibbard**

*Bentley Brinkerhoff Gilbert:*

**Peter Strickland**

*Robert Remini:*

**Alison Orton**

*John B. and Theta Wolf:*

**Erin Crowley**

*Marion Miller:*

**Jochen Arndt**

**Cory Davis**

*Leo Schelbert:*

**Maria Ritzema**

### **External Graduate Awards**

**Michal Wilczewski** has been awarded a Fulbright, which will fund his dissertation entitled, "State United, People Divided: Everyday Life and the Aftermath of Empire in the Polish Countryside, 1918-1931." During his nine months in Poland, he will visit archives in Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan, and Bialystok.

### **UIC Graduates**

#### **MA, MATs, PhDs --2011-2012**

MA

**Jerome Meites, Christopher Drexler, and Tara Henry.**

MAT

**Bridger Bishop, John Nowicki, and Bryanne Hult Roemer**

PhD

**Stephanie Baker, Michael Goode, Karen Johnson, Lara Kelland, and Amy Sullivan.**

Congrats to all!

### **Jobs, Jobs, JOBS!**

We have had an exciting year for the placement of our recent Phds, with five of them landing tenure-track jobs.

**Katie Batza** -- Gettysburg College

**Michael Goode** -- Utah Valley University

**Karen Fricke Johnson** -- Wheaton College

**Lara Kelland** -- University of Louisville

**Anne Parsons** -- University of North Carolina at Greensboro

If you have news you would like us to share in *History Matters*, please send it to [history.uic@gmail.com](mailto:history.uic@gmail.com).