



Young Girl Hikers by Tree. FPDCC_00_01_0007_003
Cook County Forest Preserve Collection, UIC

HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

May 2011

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

Thoughts from the Chair

The Year in Review. A lot goes on behind the scenes to keep an academic unit functioning smoothly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the staff and faculty who have contributed in many ways. Mary Parks and Linda Vanpuyenbroeck have done a commendable job of running things smoothly despite taking on additional responsibilities in the face of staff cuts. Tawnya Carroll and Whitney Knight have kept order in the front office under Mary's oversight, and Brittanie Mullins has provided administrative support where needed. Lara Kelland has contributed in a variety of important capacities, including making this newsletter possible. I would also like to recognize the hard work of our departmental officers and the dedication of the faculty who serve on committees and contribute to the life of the department in myriad ways, in addition to tending to their teaching duties and scholarly pursuits. Finally, a special thanks to the History Grad Society (HGS) for its contributions to the life of the department. For more on what's happening behind the scenes see "Other Matters" below.

Departmental Happenings Welcome to Jeffrey Sklansky!



We are pleased to welcome **Jeffrey Sklansky** to the department! Sklansky specializes in the social and intellectual history of capitalism and the history of political and economic thought in the U.S. during the nineteenth century. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1996. Since 1997 he has been on the faculty at Oregon State University. His first book, *The Soul's Economy: Market Society and Selfhood in American Thought, 1820-1920* (2002) won the first biennial book prize from Cheiron, the International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences. He is currently writing a book entitled *The Money Question: Currency in American Political Culture, 1700-1900*, under contract with the University of Chicago Press. He is also the editor of the book series, "New Studies in American Intellectual and Cultural History," from Johns Hopkins University Press, and an associate editor of the Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History (in progress).

Faculty News

Congratulations to **Kevin Schultz**, who will be a Ransom Fellow at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin this summer.

The recipient of this year's Shirley Bill Award is **Robert Johnston**. The Shirley A. Bill Award For Excellence In Teaching was endowed by one of Professor Bill's former undergraduate students to honor her memory and achievement. Professor Bill joined our faculty in 1947, when the University was still located at Navy Pier. The wishes of the donor are that the award is to be given to a faculty member by vote of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate history majors. Congratulations Robert!

Graduate Student News

External Awards

Alison Orton has received an ACLS East European Language Training Grant that will allow her to spend a month in the Czech Republic this summer. She plans to attend the intensive language program at Palacy University in Olomouc.

Maria Ritzema has received the Provost's Award, which she plans to use for preliminary dissertation research in Sri Lanka.

Cory Davis has been awarded a 2011-2012 John E. Rovensky Fellowship in American Business or Economic History from the Business History Conference and Economic History Association.

Jochen Arndt has received a language fellowship (FLAS) from Michigan State University to attend the SCALI (Summer Cooperative Language Institute) at the University of Florida.

Tom Alter was recently awarded the Mary M. Hughes Research Fellowship by the Texas State Historical Association for the best research project on twentieth-century Texas history.

Michael Goode has received the Dean's Scholar Award.

Tom Dorrance is the recipient of Chancellor's Graduate Research Fellowship.

Internal Awards

Tom Dorrance, Jenna Nigro—Marion S Miller Dissertation Fellowship

Jenna Nigro—Deena Allen Memorial Fellowship, John B and Theta Wolf Fellowship and Bentley Brinkerhoff Gilbert Fellowship

Cory Davis—Robert V. Remini Scholarship

Melissa Hibbard—Polish National Alliance Research Award, Polish Resistance (AK) Foundation Scholarship

Michael Wilczewski—History of Poland Scholarship

Wayne Ratzlaff—Leo Schelbert Prize

Graduating Students

This past year we have had the pleasure of seeing degrees bestowed on many fine graduate students. In 2010-11, **Hiroshi Maeda, Lauren Braun, Sarah Goldberger, Neici Zeller, James Mendez** and **Allison Malcolm** have earned the PhD. **Margaret Delgado, Julie Fountain, Erik Kalweit, Andrew Lazzara, Elizabeth Lennon, Sussan Navabi, Kirstin Stevens** have completed their MA degrees. **Susan Compernelle, Scott Dick, Jeff Mandel, Calvin Seely** and **Kimberly Tobin** have earned an MAT.

Other Activities

Ben Peterson has been teaching at Willamette University for the past year, where he is working on several public history and outreach projects in the area, including giving a public lecture on "Madison and the Future of the American Labor Movement." He is also organizing the labor and working class segment of Willamette's long running "Feminist Film Series."

Undergraduate News

This spring the department is proud to graduate 47 majors and 24 minors. **Cullen Baldwin, Benjamin Furlow, Jessica Galea, Matthew Morse, Stephen Ondracek** and **David Struett** will be graduating with distinction, and **Marisa Ackermann, Rebecca Rossdeutscher** and **John Tristan** will graduate Phi Beta Kappa. Congrats goes out to all who are donning robes this month!

Made possible through the generous support of History faculty, the department will now recognize with the History 300 Prize the author of the best overall research paper. Nominations for 2010-11 essays have been submitted to the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, which will make a decision over the summer. The awardee(s) will be announced in the fall 2011 newsletter.

This year's recipient of the Goodman Award is **Clare Dietzen**, and the recipient of the Edinger Scholarship is **Jacob Luse**. We salute you both! Gordon Lee Goodman was an early member of the Department of History at UIC. After his untimely death, his family endowed this prize to be awarded to "the outstanding undergraduate history major" in his memory. The recipient is chosen through a process of faculty nomination and vote. Beyond the distinction itself, the award furnishes \$800 toward the educational expenses of the recipient. The Lilian Edinger Scholarship also recognizes outstanding achievement among UIC's history majors. Selection was made through a process of faculty nomination and vote. Beyond the distinction of the award itself the award furnishes \$500 toward the educational expenses of the recipient.

Jessica Galea, one of our undergraduate majors, has received a Fulbright Fellowship for graduate study in Bristol, England. Galea will use the funds and her training in History and Anthropology to investigate a medieval burial site to study cribra orbitalia, a bone condition of the skull, in children buried in a priory cemetery.

Alumni News

Congrats to **Cheryl Ganz**, PhD '05, for receiving the Smithsonian Secretary's Research Prize for her book *A New Deal for Progress: The 1933 Chicago World's Fair*, University of Illinois Press, 2008.



Sarah Rose and **Joshua Salzmann** are collaborating on an article tentatively titled "Bionic Ballplayers: The Contractual Construction of Fitness in Major League Baseball, 1964-2005." Josh and Sarah bring their respective specialties in political history and history of the body to the project, which will be based on approximately thirty interviews with major league players, doctors and managers. The interviews, which the authors plan to archive with the National Baseball Hall of Fame, include baseball heavyweights such as Nolan Ryan, Dr. Frank Jobe, pioneer of Tommy John surgery and Marvin Miller, former Executive Director of the Major League Baseball Players Association.



Friends of History

Highlights from UIC's Special Collections Department

Our own **Mark Bullock** has recently processed the Women Employed Collection. Women Employed was founded in 1973 by eight Chicago women. The organization first sought to abolish sex discrimination and foster fair employment for women in Chicago's Loop business district, but quickly grew into a national organization that provided advocacy, policy work, research and educational services on women's employment issues. The collection spans from the early 1970s to 2000, with the bulk of the material pertaining to Affirmative Action campaigns. The collection also features audio and video materials.

D'Agostino Memorial and Concert

John Abbott, Laura Hostetler, Ralph and Mary Keen, Lara Kelland, John and Regina Kulczycki, Mark Liechty, Michael Perman, and Jim Sack attended the Chicago Chorale's performance of Bach's B Minor Mass in honor of late colleague **Peter D'Agostino**. We were honored to be joined at the event by Peter's brothers Vincent and Michael, his godson Vincent, (pictured below) and Vincent's mother Bonnie Novella.



We are pleased to report that the Peter D'Agostino Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will support graduate research in religious, immigration, or transnational history, has reached a total of \$9,200 since December 2010 toward our goal of \$25,000 over three years. Heartfelt thanks to all who have given for their generosity.

Other Matters

Following the revisions to the General Education requirements several years ago, departments have been asked to resubmit course proposals through the Educational Policy Committee for approval. Over the course of the last year the following history courses have been reapproved for General Education credit: HIST 100, 101, 103, 104, 106, 109, 110, 114, 117, 161, 171, and 253. This is an ongoing project which continues into next year.

Graduate student **Perry Clark** has created *The History Community*, an interactive website designed to bring together and to serve historians working in academia, public history, and secondary education. Check it out at <http://historycommunity.net/>, and stay tuned for a feature in an upcoming newsletter.

Spring 2011 had seen the formation of a technology group in History that is exploring applications of technological capabilities, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to the study of history. For more information contact **Jeff Nichols** at jnich06@uic.edu, **Perry Clark** at pclark5@uic.edu, or **David Halsted** at dhalsted@uic.edu.

Jeff Nichols is involved in creating a public history project called *The Catholic Trail* that seeks to map Chicago Catholic history sites.