Notes from the Chair

Reflecting back on an exceptionally busy spring semester, we have much to celebrate. We have successfully concluded three faculty searches—U.S. Urban, Latin American, and Ancient Greek History (with Classics)—and also received an additional hire through LAS’s search for a specialist in the Islamic World. Our faculty continue to receive national recognition for their work: most recently Jennifer Brier for her curatorial role in Out at Chicago, and Deirdre McCloskey who received no fewer than four honorary degrees this spring. Furthermore, Keely Stauter-Halsted and John D’Emilio each hosted successful conferences at the end of March (see p. 3). Our graduate students continue to receive awards and find employment (p. 4). In addition, we have concluded a successful inaugural year for the History Mystery lecture series open to alumni and the public alike.

Out in Chicago wins Allan Bérubé Prize

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History has awarded the Chicago History Museum’s Out in Chicago exhibit its Alan Bérubé Prize for outstanding work in an LGBTQ public history project. The award was announced just before the March closing of the exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society. Congratulations go out to three “generations” of UIC scholars for their central roles in the exhibit: Co-Curator Prof. Jennie Brier (along with co-curator Jill Thomas Austin), History Graduate Student and exhibit Research Assistant Anne Parsons, and undergraduate Intern Morgan Valenzuela.

Faculty Fellowships

Congratulations to Leon Fink, who has been awarded a prestigious Lloyd Lewis residential fellowship for research in the collections of the Newberry Library during 2012-13. During the fellowship year he will be working on a study entitled “The American Way of Class War: Workers, Business and State Regulation during the Long Gilded Age, 1880-1920.” The study will offer five thematically-related essays on the peculiarities of American political-economic developments within a larger contemporary world context.

Jeffrey Sklansky has been awarded a 2012-2013 fellowship from the Institute for the Humanities here at UIC. He will use the year to continue work on his book book entitled The Money Question: Currency in American Political Culture, 1700-1900 (under contract with the University of Chicago Press).
New Department and Joint Hires

We have had a very busy hiring season, resulting in four new faculty hires:

Joaqín Chávez received his PhD in 2010 from New York University. He is currently teaching at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. He is revising his manuscript, “On Poets and Prophets: Popular Intellectuals and the Origins of El Salvador’s Civil War,” for publication.

Zinon Papakonstantinou has accepted a joint appointment in the Departments of History and Classics and Mediterranean Studies. He comes to us from the University of Athens, where he is currently serving as Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology. Prof. Papakonstantinou received his PhD in Ancient Greek History from the University of Washington in 2003.

Junaid Quadri will be joining us in August of 2013 after completing a post-doc in Cairo in the research wing of Dar al-Ifta, the premier institution of Islamic law research in Egypt. Prof. Quadri was trained at the Institute of Islamic Studies of McGill University, where he defended his dissertation in 2012. Quadri’s research focuses on the modern practice of Islamic Law.

Elizabeth Todd-Breland earned her PhD from the University of Chicago in 2010 with a dissertation entitled “A Political Education: Race, Politics, and Education in Post-Civil Rights Chicago.” She comes to us from Governors State University. Her research and teaching focus on 20th c. US urban and political history and the history of education.

Annual Osofsky Lecture

This year’s Osofsky Lecture featured a talk by James C. Scott entitled “Two Cheers for Anarchy,” as well as much conviviality and fellowship.
Symposium on the Study of Gender and Sexuality in East Central Europe

Polish Studies and the Department of History hosted a two-day research Symposium on Gender and Sexuality in East Central European History March 30-31. The Symposium brought together two dozen scholars from across Europe and North America to showcase their work and discuss avenues for future collaboration. The largest contingent comprised scholars of Poland, including UIC Professor Małgorzata Fidelis, who spoke on the construction of femininity via magazine cover girls in communist Poland, and doctoral candidate Michał Kwiecien, who discussed the treatment of homosexuals under state socialism in Poland. The event opened the evening of March 29 with a keynote lecture on sexuality and ethics from renowned Polish feminist scholar and activist, Magdalena Środa. Of particular interest was the concentration of scholars working on the communist period, including Professor Jill Massino of University of North Carolina, Charlotte, who presented on everyday life depictions of Romanian women, Dobrochna Kalwa of the University of Warsaw, who addressed women's experience of violence during World War II, and Barbara Klich-Kluczewska of The Jagiellonian University in Cracow, who discussed gender taboos in post-war Poland. The conference was organized by Hejna Chair, Keely Stauter-Halsted, along with Associate Professor Małgorzata Fidelis and graduate students Michał Wilczewski, Michał Kwiecien, and Melissa Hibbard. Participants plan to publish an edited volume featuring work presented.

Bayard Rustin Centennial Conference

Professors John D'Emilio and Barbara Ransby spoke at the Bayard Rustin Centennial Conference, hosted at UIC March 30-31. The event brought together scholars and activists in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Rustin's birth and featured two days of panels, performances, and scholarly talks on the his legacy for social justice work.

The event brought Mandy Carter, Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin Centennial 2012 Project of the National Black Justice Coalition to campus to share her thoughts about Rustin's legacy. Following Carter’s remarks, an original performance explored Rustin's life through traditional spirituals. Letters composed during his prison stay as a war resister during WWII were also discussed. The performance was co-created by Johari Jabir, Assistant Professor in the Department of African American Studies and Megan Carney, Director of the Gender & Sexuality Center, in collaboration with UIC students and local artists.
Departmental Graduate Awards

Deena Allen: Peter Strickland
Bentley Brinkerhoff Gilbert: Jochen Arndt
Robert Remini: Tom Alter
John B. and Theta Wolf: Peter Strickland
Polish National Alliance:
Michał Kwiecien and Michał Wilczewski
History of Poland: Michał Kwiecien
Polish Resistance: Michał Kwiecien

Invited Talks

Karen Johnson gave a talk at Loyola on March 16th on “Women in Chicago’s Civil Rights Movement: Doing Catholic Interracialism.”
Anne Parsons gave her Institute for the Humanities Dissertation Fellow lecture entitled “Our Brothers’ and Sisters’ Keepers: Psychiatric Hospitals, Prisons and the Institutionalization of Twentieth Century America,” on April 12.

MAs, MATs, PhDs --2011-2012

MA
Christine Dyslin, Aaron Findley, Nathan Hare, Alison Orton, and Christopher van den Berge

MAT
Bryan Tyrpin, Michael Hannan and Rachael Seno

PhD
Katie Batza, Catherine Jacquet, and Emily Labarbara Twarog

Congrats to all!

External Graduate Awards

Three of our graduate students have been awarded LAS travel grants for $500 to present their work at scholarly conferences. Tom Dorrance attended the 2012 Business History Conference, where he presented his research on panel titled, “Employers and State Power from the Gilded Age to the Postwar Era”. James Mestaz attended the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, where he gave a paper on “Utopian Resources in Uncertain Times: The Post Revolutionary Mexican Avant-Garde and the Field of Cultural Production,” Tom Alter also attended the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, delivering a paper entitled “From the Copper-Colored Sons of Montezuma to Comrade Poncho Villa: The Radicalizing Affect of Mexican Revolutionaries on the Texas Socialist Party, 1910-1917.”

Melissa Hibbard has won a 2012-2013 Fulbright IIE Award for Poland, and an American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Research Fellowship for East European Studies.

Jochen Arndt was awarded an International Dissertation Research fellowship from the Social Sciences Research Council/American Council for Learned Societies and funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation

Christopher van den Berge has been awarded a UIC Newberry Library Graduate Research Stipend in the amount of $1500 for “Reframing the Traveler’s Narrative: The Writings of Johannes Nieuhof.”

Internal Awards

Deans Award - Jenna Nigro
Provost Awards - Erin Crawley and Tom Alter

If you have news you would like us to share in History Matters, please send it to history.uic@gmail.com.
Undergraduate Student News

Edinger and Goodman Winners
This year’s recipient of the Goodman Award is Stephanie Yau and the recipient of the Edinger Scholarship is Jennifer Warner. 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 in his memory to recognize outstanding achievement by an undergraduate history major. 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.

The Undergraduate History Society has elected a new crop of officers for AY 2012-13. Incoming President is Hayley Maher; Vice President will be Hannah Zuber; Lea Crowley will serve as Treasurer.

The department wishes to thank the membership of the Undergraduate History Society for their participation and help in the History Mysteries series. Members have volunteer staffed each of the four events this year, and their commitment to being good departmental citizens is much appreciated!

Several of our undergraduate majors are recent Phi Beta Kappa awardees: Clare Dietzen, Scott Drueck, Hilary Leathem, Molly Webber, and Matthew Zic. Congrats to you all!

Alumni News

Katie Batza (PhD’11) has accepted a 1-year Visiting Assistant Professor position at Macalester College for the 2012-2013 academic year. She greatly looks forward to bringing the teaching skills she developed here to the undergraduate students in St. Paul, MN.

Josh Salzmann (PhD ’08) has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professorship at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago.

Catherine Jacquet (PhD ’12) has accepted the position of full-time lecturer in the department, replacing Joshua Salzmann.

Brad Karlin, BA with honors, Fall 2008, has passed the bar exam! At John Marshall Law School, he was number 18 in his class of 140, graduating with a 3.6 GPA cum laude by the “Order of John Marshall.”

Congratulations to all of you!

History Mystery Recap

The inaugural year of our History Mystery series spanned topics ranging from intrigue at the Tudor Court and Versailles to issues of import to emerge in Revolutionary Mexico and the Early American Republic. Next year we plan to focus our series on people and neighborhoods of Chicago.

We hope to see you there!
Chicago Metro History Fair
On Tuesday, April 10th, UIC was proud to host the Chicago History Fair Metro Finals at Student Center East. This academic year, as part of an independent study project, Teaching of History Graduate Program Assistant and MAT candidate Scott Fenwick has worked as a History Fair instructional coach at Bronzeville Scholastic Institute (BSI), a small school housed within historic DuSable High School on Chicago’s south side. Following the competition, Scott hosted an afternoon reception in UH 950 to celebrate eleven BSI students’ achievements as Chicago Metro Finalists. Eleven students, along with teacher Kristen Machezynski and principal Latunja Williams were guests of honor.

Over coffee and cake, professors Laura Hostetler, Deirdre McCloskey, Robert Johnston, Jeff Sklansky, and Corey Capers, along with graduate students Lara Kelland and Caleb Hardner, learned about the burgeoning historians’ projects and their experiences as researchers and writers. All participants were especially delighted to sit at the seminar table while BSI senior Chakena Sims presented her website project on the 1960 Rainbow Beach Wade-In. And little did the attendees know that all eleven students would become Illinois State History Expo Finalists just days after the Chicago Metro competition! The reception was a great success and further demonstrates the UIC History Department’s continued support for the Chicago History Fair and commitment to promoting inquiry teaching at the secondary level. To learn more about the Chicago History Fair, please contact Robert Johnston or Scott Fenwick or visit the Chicago Metro History Education Center’s website at http://www.chicagohistoryfair.org/

Bronzeville Scholastic Institute Projects
Big Plans for Chicago, an exhibit on the Burnham Plan, Ashley Gordon, De’Andra Hodges, and Darnell McCormick.

Lynching Who? Publications and Authors, an exhibit on anti-lynching movements spearheaded by Ida B. Wells, Azurae’ Coleman, David Jones, and Brittany Walker.

The Rise of Provident Hospital, an exhibit on Daniel Hale Williams’s efforts to fight segregation in medicine, Charmaine Hall and Kiana Mott.

Time for a Change: Civil Rights in Chicago, an exhibit on housing segregation and how the civil rights movement ignited “White Flight”, Amber Frink and Kairah Garcia.

Violent Reaction to Non-violent Protest: A Revolutionary Wade into Freedom, a website on the 1960 Rainbow Beach civil rights protest, Chakena Sims.

Other News
Congratulations to Jonathan Daly, who was nominated for the 2012 Honors College Fellow of the Year Award!