

History Matters at UIC

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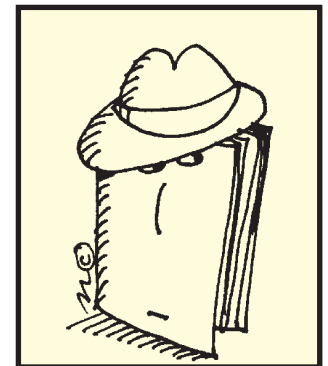
Notes from the Chair

Exciting things are happening in the department. History has been approved for several searches this year: one in Latin American History, another in Chicago/Urban History, and a joint search with Classics in Ancient Greek History. In other news, we are for the first time also sponsoring a series of “History Mystery” talks designed especially as a way to reach out to alumni and to the community. We hope to see you there. We also have several public history initiatives underway about which you can read more below. In faculty transitions we wish Burt Bledstein well as he begins his retirement, congratulate Malgorzata Fidelis on her promotion to Associate Professor, and welcome Jeffrey Sklansky to the department. In addition, Michael Perman and Steve Fanning will be retiring at the end of the current academic year. Please join me in thanking them for their many years of distinguished service.

Welcome to our new student staff! History Mystery Program

We are please to welcome three new students to our team of staff. **Betsy Mathew** and **Shirley Paredes** will be working in the front office, and **Uma Mulakala** will be working with **Mary Parks** and in the front office. Betsy is a sophomore whose major is still undeclared, Shirley is a freshman studying Architecture & Art, and Uma is a sophomore majoring in Finance.

We are proud to announce a new lecture series, “History Mysteries” tailored towards alumni and the larger community. This is a series of four visual, entertaining, and provocative presentations by UIC historians that – with the help of the audience – solves a mystery and then shows the relevance of the mysteries to present-day events and challenges. See the Events section(p.5) for specific details. Contact **Laura Hostetler** at hostetle@uic.edu for an invitation if you would like to attend.



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The History Department is on Facebook! Be sure to like us to keep up with the latest news and events!
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/History-Department-at-UIC/254287317948001>



History Community Website

The History Community is a free social networking website designed to connect various professionals working in the field of history including academics, teachers, public historians, librarians, and archivists. After a successful “pilot” launch in Spring 2011 under the direction of creator **Perry Clark**, the History Community is entering its second season of development. In addition to the site’s basic function as a communication hub for its members, the History Community also provides a versatile set of tools that allow members to create, find, and share history-related resources. By mid-October 2011, the site will release an updated design, a more open membership process, new mobile-friendly features, and a more streamlined browsing experience. You can access the community at <http://historycommunity.net>

Undergraduate Public Historians

Students in this summer’s HIST 300 had an opportunity to try their hands at public history, as well as scholarly research and writing in the discipline. Taught by **Lara Kelland**, fifteen history majors partnered with UIC’s Special Collections staff member Peggy Glowacki to research and develop an exhibit based on their research paper topics. The exhibit is on display on the first floor of the Daley Library. An exhibit opening will take place in November.



Faculty News

Keely Stauter-Halsted partnered with Professor Michal Markowski of the Slavics Department to inaugurate a new Study Abroad Program in Krakow, Poland during summer 2011. The program addressed questions of “Polish Modernity Then and Now,” offering two courses on 20th century Poland, one focused on history and the other on modern Polish literature. Students from UIC as well as from other American and European Universities came together to enjoy Stauter-Halsted’s “Many Faces of Modern Poland” course and to take part in regular excursions. The final week of the course featured a day-long tour of Auschwitz Concentration Camp along with study of the Nazi Holocaust and its memory in Modern Poland. The program will run again in June 2012, and several scholarships are available to support students participating in the program.

Please welcome **Fernando Vizcaino** who is joining the Department of History as a visiting scholar for AY 2011-12. Prof. Vizcaino’s home institution the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Circuito Mario de la Cueva, Ciudad Universitaria in Mexico City. He is currently conducting research on nationalism among Hispanics in Chicago.

Chris Boyer coordinated several days of the “Oaxaca Summer Institute,” where he and a colleague from Mexico led a tour to an indigenous community in the mountains of Oaxaca (a region known as the Alta Mixteca) called Santa María Cuquila. The Oaxaca summer institute is a field school for historians of Mexico. The school accepts approximately fifteen students in graduate programs from throughout the US, Mexico, and Canada. This year, UIC grad student **James Mestaz** attended. **Stephanie Baker**, who is finishing up her PhD this year is also a past alumna.

Congrats go out to **Cynthia Blair**, whose book *I’ve Got to Make My Livin’: Black Women’s Sex Work in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago* has been awarded 2010 Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize from the American Studies Association. The prize is awarded for “the best first book in American Studies that highlights intersections of race with gender, class, sexuality and/or nation.”

Welcome to New Graduate Students!

PhD

Eliot Fackler earned an MA in history from the University of Oregon and a BA from the College of Wooster. Prior to arriving in Chicago he worked for two years as a research assistant at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. In his past lives he has been a farm boy, a factory worker, a running shoe salesman, a substitute teacher, and a GRE instructor.

Manamee Guha is from India and her research interest is South Asia with a special emphasis on India's cultural and social heritage. Her specific topic is on the role of the English press in forging India's national identity during the nationalist struggle between 1922 and 1947.

Caleb Hardner earned a BA in history, Summa Cum Laude, from Metropolitan State College of Denver. His interests are 20th century U.S. women's and minority history, particularly the second-wave feminist movement.

Jill Jozwiak is coming to us from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with an MA in history. Her primary field of interest is labor history with an emphasis on Gilded Age and Progressive Era reform and protest movements.

Michal Wilczewski grew up in New York City and comes to UIC from Michigan State University, where he earned an MA in May, 2011. His regional research interests include modern East-Central Europe and more specifically modern Poland. He focuses on the everyday lives of Polish farmers in the interwar period and their interactions with the newly reconstituted Polish state.

MA

Tara J Henry, originally from the Greater Sacramento Area, received a BA degree in history from the University of California, Irvine in 2009. She is interested in 19th Century America, with a particular focus on gender and sexuality.

MAT

Richard Scott Fenwick is currently serving as the research assistant for Profs. Robert Johnston and Julie Peters in the Teaching of History program. He has a BA in history from Illinois State University and received an MEd in Instructional Leadership from UIC in May 2011. He is currently a certified teacher in secondary history and social studies, has an endorsement in English as a Second Language Instruction, and is also pursuing UIC's campus certificate in the Teaching of Economics.

Emily Heroy has a BA in gender studies from New York University. Prior to going back to school, she worked for a social science program that researched the prevention of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria at Northwestern University and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. In her spare time, she writes for the international feminist blog Gender Across Borders, enjoys playing classical piano and running 'til it hurts.

John Nowicki earned a BA'83 in Political Science and an MBA'95 from the University of Chicago. He has spent the past twenty-five years as a legal assistant, the last twenty-three of them at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Chicago. His interests are military history in general and WWII and the Eastern Front in particular.

Luke Staszack will be joining the MAT program in January, so save up some greetings for him then.

News From Our Students

Current Graduate Student News

Maria Ritzema was hired for a one-year lecturer position at UW-Parkside for the 2011-2012 year. She believes that the training she received in the Encounters program--as well as her expertise in World History, Imperialism and Decolonization--was a key factor in securing the position.

Michael Goode has been named a Newberry Library Graduate Scholar in Residence for AY 2011-12. This is the first year of a new fellowship that reaches out to include advanced graduate students in the community of scholars at the Newberry Library. He will be in residence at the Newberry.

Undergraduate News and Awards

The results of the balloting for first and second place in the best History 300 paper competition, 2010-2011 are in. First prize goes to **Jacob Luse** for "Out of Step: Opponents to King in Chicago, 1966." Second prize goes to **Molly Webber** for "Making the Temperance Movement Progressive: The American Medical Temperance Association." Congratulations!

Friends of the History Department

UIC University Librarian **Mary Case** is leading a collaboration between fourteen universities, museums, libraries, and the Chicago Park District to develop a centralized web portal for researchers accessing digitized collections on Chicago topics. When completed, researchers will be able to use one searchable database to locate digital reproductions and images of Chicago history.

Alumni News

Josie Faulk (PhD '06) accepted a tenure track position as an Instructor in History in the Department of Social Sciences at the College of Lake County, beginning in the Fall Semester 2011.

Sam Mitrani (PhD '09) was recently hired as an Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track) at the College of DuPage, a large community college in the Chicago suburbs.

Benn Williams (ABD) has accepted a full-time, civil service position with the UIC Graduate College. His time is split between the Program Associate for the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, where he tends to administration, recruitment and grant writing responsibilities, and serving as Special Projects Coordinator for the Graduate College.

Milena Sjekloca (MAT '06) received a Sara Spurlark Award for excellence in teaching from the University of Chicago Neighborhood Schools Program. She was nominated by a University of Chicago student who spent time in Milena's classroom for three years. Milena received a certificate, a glass apple trophy, and a \$200 stipend for her classroom. Milena was recognized at a dinner with other award winners, program staff, and educators from other area schools.

If you have news you would like to share, please contact Lara Kelland at lkella1@uic.edu.

Update on the D'Agostino Fund

The Peter D'Agostino Memorial Scholarship Fund has now reached a total of over \$20,000 contributed by 40 individuals. We are less than \$5,000 away from our goal of \$25,000 for an endowed fund. Every additional gift brings us that much closer!

Events

Timothy Snyder of Yale University delivered the first Annual Hejna Polish Studies Lecture on **Monday, September 26** at 5 p.m. at the Institute for the Humanities. He spoke on his recently released book, *Bloodlands*. The title of his talk was, "Poles and Stalinist Terror: Remembrance and Oblivion." The reception following the talk was hosted by the Polish Consulate.

Gyan Prakash of Princeton University gave a talk entitled "History as Urban Archaeology - Writing 'Mumbai Fables'" on **Thursday, October 6** at 3pm in CUPPA 400, 412 South Peoria Street. The talk is part of the Great Cities Institute's Comparative Urbanisms series. History was pleased to collaborate with the Great Cities Institute in planning and co-sponsoring the event.

Slavoj Zizek will be this year's speaker for the biennial Stanley Fish Lecture, sponsored by the Institute for the Humanities on **Friday, October 21** at 4 pm. His talk is entitled "Freedom in the Clouds: What is Possible and What is Impossible Today." The event will take place in the Illinois Room, UIC Student Center East 750 South Halsted Street.

Pratyoush Onta will be giving a talk entitled "Academic Production under Conditions of Load-Shedding: Politics, Money and Publication Cultures in Recent Nepali History." Onta holds a PhD in History from the University of Pennsylvania (1996) and is associated with the Research Institute and Public Forum Martin Chautari in Kathmandu. The talk will take place on **Monday, October 24** at 3:00 in UH 950.

Nancy Langston, Professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will give a talk entitled: "Toxic Bodies: Hormone Disruptors and the Legacy of DES." Langston's presentation will examine the history of synthetic chemicals that disrupt hormones and the struggle for a precautionary principle to protect human and environmental health. It will take place from 1:30-3:30 on **Thursday, Oct. 27** at the Institute for the Humanities.

Robert Blobaum, Eberly Professor of European History, West Virginia University, will be giving the opening lecture to the Midwest Historians of Eastern Europe Workshop on **Thursday, October 26** at 5 p.m. at the Institute for the Humanities. His lecture is entitled, "The State of the Field: Crossing and Re-Crossing Boundaries."

Leo Schelbert, UIC professor emeritus of history and the major donor to the Schelbert Fellowship for History, will be honored for his philanthropy at this year's 16th Annual LAS Recognition Dinner. The event will take place **Wednesday, November 9** at 5:30 p.m. in the Illinois Room, Student Center East on the UIC campus.

Institute for the Humanities Working Groups

Various members of the department are heading up working groups in the Humanities Institute.

Sue Levine--Chicago Area Food Studies

Norma Moruzzi--Visual Culture

Leon Fink--Class Dismissed?

Corey Capers and **Rama Mantena**--Publics, Cultures, Practices of Difference

Please contact these faculty members directly or visit uic.edu/depts/huminst for further information.

History Mystery Series

The Department of History is sponsoring a series of talks directed at alumni and the community during AY 2011-12:

Oct. 14, 2011 A Murder in Tudor England, by **Mark Horowitz**

A previously unknown murder in Tudor England traced to the king, with ramifications for 21st century America and the government's intrusion into the lives of its citizens.

Nov. 11, 2011 Did the Founding Fathers Plan a Christian Nation? by **Kevin Schultz**

The 'real' debate of the Founding Fathers on creating a Christian nation, and how present-day presidential candidates missed the boat.

March 2, 2012 Unraveling a Mysterious Death in Revolutionary Mexico, by **Christopher Boyer**

A killing in post-Revolutionary Mexico used as a political tetherball in ways familiar to American politics today.

April 13, 2012 L'Affaire Tartuffe: Blackmail, God and King Louis XIV, by **Ellen McClure**

Blackmailing King Louis XIV by using the Pope in an effort to combat both church and state in support of free expression – a battle that continues today in the land of the free.

For further information contact Laura Hostetler at hostetle@uic.edu.