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DEPARTMENT NEWS

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

May 2013 marks the end of my term as Chair as the Department of History at UIC. It has been a privilege to lead the department over the course of the last four years. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in the form of dedicated service, inspired teaching, and insightful scholarship--all of which make the department the vibrant place that it is. Special thanks go to Jeffrey Sklansky who served as Director of Graduate Studies, Rama Mantena, who served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Chris Boyer who served as Associate Chair. Their vision, dedication, and teamwork made all the difference. Last but not least I would like to thank our dedicated staff members, Mary Parks and Linda VanPuyenbroeck without whose consistent and tireless efforts the Department could not run, and whose critical acumen and keen senses of humor provided perspective when I most needed it.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to watching the department unfold under the leadership of Chris Boyer, whose term as Chair will officially begin on August 1, 2014. Jeff Sklansky will be staying on as Director of Graduate Studies, Kevin Schultz returning after a year's leave of absence as Associate Chair, and Jonathan Daly serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Professor Laura Hostetler

FACULTY NEWS

Sunil Agani not only received a fellowship from Rice University's humanities research center, his book "*Hating Empire Properly: The Two Indies and the Limits of Enlightenment Anticolonialism*" won the American Comparative Literature Association's (ACLA) Harry Levin prize for best first book.

Chris Boyer gave a keynote presentation at Urbana called "The Archival Forest" on landscape and affect in early March 2014, followed by another talk at the American Society for Environmental History. The keynote presentation suggested that we can read the archives to seek out the affective relationships between people and their landscape. The paper examined the submerged histories that link the indigenous community of Cherán, Michoacán, in the mountains of Western Mexico, with communal forests they have possessed since pre-Hispanic times. It argues that we must study the affective relationship between Cheranecos and their landscape in a way that does not reproduce romanticized ideas about native people's putative affinity for nature.

Boyer also published "Community, Crony Capitalism, and Fortress Conservation in Mexican Forests" in *Dictablanda: Politics, Work and Culture in Mexico, 1938-1968*, edited by Paul Gillingham and Benjamin Smith, (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013), 217-35 and *Mexico's Environmental Revolutions* (Co-authored with Micheline Cariño, in Claudia Leal, José Augusto Pádua, and John Soluri, *New Environmental Histories of Latin America and the Caribbean*) (Rachel Carson Center Perspectives, 2013, no. 7), 9-15. Also available in Spanish and [online](#).

Joaquin Chávez will be a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities next year, and will be working on his book *Imagining Peace in El Salvador*.

Jonathan Daly's book *The Rise of Western Power: A Comparative History of Western Civilization* was published by Bloomsbury Academic.

John D'Emilio just had a new collection of essays published by the University of Wisconsin Press, *In a New Century: Essays on Queer History, Politics, and Community Life*. And, as

a wonderful way to usher in his retirement at the end of this spring term, he received a UIC Silver Circle Award for Teaching.

Gosia Fidelis will also be a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities next year, and is working on her new book tentatively titled "The Sixties behind the Iron Curtain: Youth Cultures and the Search for Freedom in Poland in the Global Sixties, 1954-1974."

Leon Fink has been awarded the 2014 Sol Stetin Award for Labor History by the Sidney Hillman Foundation. The Prize is specifically designated as recognition for Excellence in Reporting in Service of the Common Good.

ALUMNI & STUDENT NEWS

Jochen S. Arndt has been awarded one of the 2014/15 Dean's Scholar Awards for completion of his dissertation, "The Making of the "Xhosa: Missionaries, Africans and the Emergence of Ethno-Linguistic Identities in Southern Africa, 1820-1927."

Katie Batza accepted a tenure track position in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department at the University of Kansas that will start next fall and give her the opportunity to return to the Midwest as well as work in one of only 18 PhD granting WGSS programs nationally.

On March 28, **Ian Darnell** presented a paper entitled "Whose Beloved Community?" at the Black Civil and LGBT Rights Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Melissa Hibbard presented a paper entitled "Nurturing Newborn Poland: Infant Health and Maternal Authority in the Early Second Republic

at the conference "Poland in the Roaring 20s," which was hosted by UIC Polish Studies. She served as the graduate student inquirer for the SEE NEXT Seminar (Seminar: East European and Northern Eurasian Crosstalk) organized by Prof. Mogilner. The presenter was Andreas Kappeler, Professor Emeritus from the University of Vienna and his talk was entitled "In the Shadow of Men: Women Historians in the Russian Empire." Melissa was also named a 2014-1015 dissertation fellow at the UIC Institute for the Humanities.

Catherine Jacquet (PhD 2012) has accepted a tenure track professorship in US women's history at Louisiana State University, beginning fall 2014. She is beyond thrilled.

Joe Lapsley published an article "Sexuality and Gender: A Comparison of Native Americans and Europeans" in the most recent Gender and Women's Studies BROAD Magazine (Loyola, Chicago).

Sam Mitrani's (PhD 2009) book, "The Rise of the Chicago Police Department: Class and Conflict, 1850-1894" was released on Dec 4, 2013 by the University of Illinois Press. He also received tenure at the College of Du Page in Glen Ellyn, IL. His tenure appointment will begin in fall 2014.

Margaret Power's article "How Right-Wing Women Enabled Military Dictatorship: Chile, 1973," was published in Women and Gender in Modern Latin America. Historical Sources and Interpretations, ed. Pamela S. Murray, (Routledge, 2014.)

Undergraduate student **Lea Crowley** received a Fulbright grant to Korea. Congratulations Lea.

Huiying Chen was invited to this year's Penn State Summer Institute in Asian Studies. This year's topic is "Reading and Textual Production in Early Modern China."

Nick McCormick

Robert V. Remini Scholarship

An annual award to Ph.D. candidates in American history who are researching and/or writing a dissertation in that field.

Peter Strickland

John B and Theta Wolf Fellowship

An annual award for Ph.D candidates whose dissertation is in the field of European, Mediterranean or Middle Eastern history.

Melissa Hibbard

Polish National Alliance Research Award

An annual award to a graduate student in any field who has completed at least one course in Polish history.

Michal Wilczewski

History of Poland Scholarship

An annual award to a graduate or undergraduate majoring in history who has taken or is taking course work related to the History of Poland and has at least a 3.0 GPA.

Michal Wilczewski

Polish Resistance (AK) Foundation Scholarship

An annual award given to a graduate or undergraduate student of Polish history.

**James Mestaz
& Tom Alter**

Marion S. Miller Dissertation Fellowship

Two annual dissertation fellowships open to Ph.D candidates in all fields to be used either for research and/or writing of the dissertation.

Erik Kalweit

Leo Schelbert Prize

An annual award to a Ph.D candidate in any field who has demonstrated exceptional interest and skill in teaching.

GRADUATE

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Jeff Nichols

Peter R. D'Agostino Memorial Scholarship Fund

An annual award for graduate study with preference given to those whose research concentration is in the areas of religious, immigration or transnational history.

Alison Orton

Deena Allen Memorial Fellowship

An annual award for Ph.D. candidates who plan research in Europe. The award is to be used to enable the awardee to take advantage of cultural opportunities while abroad.

Alex Crawley

Bentley Brinkerhoff Gilbert Fellowship

An annual fellowship to Ph.D. candidates in European history. It is to be used for travel for research purposes and personal support during the writing of the dissertation

UNDERGRADUATE

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Allyson Czadowski

Gordon Lee Goodman Award

An annual merit-based award recognizing undergraduate achievement. Selection is based on a process of faculty nomination and deliberation.

Zane Elward

Lillian Edinger Award

An annual merit-based award recognizing undergraduate achievement. Selection is based on a process of faculty nomination and deliberation.

EVENT Re-Caps

LAURIE GREEN'S TALK, STARVATION POLITICS: WOMEN, RACE AND GENDER IN THE 'DISCOVERY' OF HUNGER IN AMERICA

On Wednesday, March 5, the Department of History hosted Professor Laurie Green from the University of Texas, Austin, for the annual Women's History Month lecture. Prof. Green spoke on "Starvation Politics: Women, Race, and Gender in the 'Discovery' of Hunger in America." As Prof. Green argued, the 'discovery' of hunger by Robert F. Kennedy and other senators in the Mississippi Delta in 1967 set off a decade of turmoil about the very existence, the causes, and federal solutions to what a

team of doctors termed 'starvation.' The media then and historical accounts now focus on Kennedy's role, obscuring the pressure preceding the visit by women prominent in the Black Freedom Movement such as Fannie Lou Hamer and Marian Wright (Edelman). Professor Green's lecture challenged this representation of the struggle as one centered on white politicians, while also exploring the gendered and racialized politics that represented hunger as a Mississippi problem, even af-

ter independent investigators had identified similar crises among poor whites, Latinos and Native Americans.

The lecture was well attended by faculty and graduate students, and it stimulated a lively discussion afterwards. We were very lucky to have Prof. Green, spend almost the entire day at the department (no doubt, partly due to the polar vortex outside), meeting with individual faculty and attending lunch with a group of graduate students.

OSOFSKY LECTURE - Dr. Robert Brenner THE ROOTS OF THE GREAT RECESSION: Finance and the Real Economy

Robert Brenner delivered History's annual Osofsky lecture on April 30. The lecture was co-sponsored by Political Science, International Studies, and the Institute for the Humanities. Brenner argues that the Great Recession has deep roots in a long term weakening of the advanced capitalist economies (ACCs) going back to the early 1970s, ultimately resulting from the fall and failure to recover of the rate of profit, focused on the international manufacturing sector. The reduction of the

rate of return on productive investment manifested itself in a chronic problem of insufficient demand. This left the economy dependent upon the growth of borrowing and, ultimately, on government-nurtured asset bubbles for its dynamism. It also triggered a dramatic shift by capital into finance in search of higher profits. But when neither bubblicomics nor financialization proved sustainable, the Great Recession became unavoidable and has, so far, resisted solution.

In a lucid and engaging talk Robert Brenner contextualized the most recent economic recession in historical context. No longer spurred by manufacturing in this country, economic growth has been generated through a series of interconnected processes based more on market forces than rooted in any kind of actual productivity. He also made visible the ways in which market forces and political ideologies are mutually constitutive in sometimes surprising ways.

PUBLIC HISTORY 493 PRESENTS:

Public History 493 explores aspects of public history with emphases on narratives about place, identity, memory, and oral history method and theory. Students learn about life history and focused research interviewing by conducting interviews. Through engaging in oral history research students also become familiar with the ways participatory culture and shared authority manifest in work for public audiences, and through site visits, how institutions utilize these practices to create exhibitions in collaboration with communities. Because Public History 493 is one semester long with limited time for site visits, an in-class conversation between curators from institutions which are exemplary models of these practices helped to fill in gaps in student understanding, as well as to provide an example of public history programming. Curators Jill Austin from The Chicago History Museum, Christine Bepalec-Davis from The National Veterans Art Museum and Cesareo Moreno from The National Museum of Mexican Art each gave fifteen minute presentations about roles and responsibilities in their respective institutions—how they define their own practices and how their practices and the museums where they work have changed over time. Cesareo's presentation showed

the development of The National Mexican Museum of Art in Pilsen, and how issues of identity and immigration are interwoven. Jill traced her journey as a curator pointing out ways individual and collective memory impacts interpretation, and Christine, who is also a visual artist, spoke about the ways narrative influences her sculpture and the exhibitions she helps to create. All three curators reflected on audience, the ways they work with communities in Chicago, and showed examples of their work. After the presentations, curators engaged students and each other in a lively discussion about creating meaningful experiences for and with public audiences.

Jill Austin joined the Chicago History Museum as a curator in 2005 after having worked in public history at the Detroit Historical Museums starting in 2001. She got her start in museum education twenty years ago at the Carnegie Museum of Art while completing an MA in the history of art and architecture at the University of Pittsburgh. With Jennifer Brier of UIC, she is co-author of *Out in Chicago: LGBT History at the Crossroads*, and with Brier is contributing a case study on curating LGBT exhibitions for a forthcoming book published by American Association for State and

Local History. Christine Bepalec-Davis joined the National Veterans Art Museum in November 2012 to serve as the education coordinator for the museum. Christine graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a Masters in Art and Art Education and was drawn to the NVAM because of her research on the role of personal narratives and art making in creating transformative educational opportunities. She is a practicing artist that actively shows her sculpture and installation work around the city of Chicago and is a member of the sculpture faculty at SAIC.

Cesáreo Moreno has been the visual arts director of the National Museum of Mexican Art since 1995, and was named the museum's first full-time curator in 2004. Moreno has conducted research on the Mexican holdings of museums throughout Mexico and the U.S. He has curated and/or coordinated numerous exhibitions, and has also curated for other institutions such as The Border Art Biennial III for the El Paso Museum of Art & Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juárez, Arte Tejano de campos, barrios y fronteras for the Smithsonian Latino Center, and co-curated Benito Juárez and the Making of Modern Mexico at the Chicago History Museum.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: PROFESSOR ANDREW WIEST

Professor Wiest was born in Chicago, but was raised in Hattiesburg, MS. He went to the University of Southern Mississippi for his bachelors and master's degrees. In January of 1985 he rolled up to Chicago to start his PhD studies under Dr. Bentley Gilbert. His sad old southern car didn't start again until March. He had the great good fortune of studying under many of the wonderful faculty at UIC - Caryolyn Edie, James Sack, Michael Perman, and Richard Levy all stand out in his mind. After prelim exams he returned to Hattiesburg to write his dissertation and picked up jobs adjuncting at Southern Miss, where he was lucky enough to stick. He has since climbed the ranks, and is now a University Distinguished Professor. He is also the Founding Director of the Dale Center for the Study of War and Society. He has thored several books, including *The Boys of '67: Charlie Company's War in Vietnam*, *Vietnam's Forgotten Army: Heroism and Betrayal in the ARVN*, *Haig: The Evolution of a Commander* and *Passchendaele and the Royal Navy* to name few. Wiest has taught at the Royal Military Academy in the UK and at the Air Force Air War College. He has also appeared on a number of documentaries including for the BBC, the History Channel,

and the Military Channel.

More than three years ago, Wiest was contacted by Lou Reda productions to serve as a consultant on the documentary "Brothers in War" which is based on his book *The Boys of '67: Charlie Company's War in Vietnam*.

The documentary, narrated by Charlie Sheen, is a first-hand account of the "day in the life" experiences of what it was like for a Soldier fighting in the unforgiving conditions of the Mekong River Delta.

The world premiere screening of the documentary was held before a standing room only crowd on 21 March 2014 at the National Geographic Society. Sponsored by the National Geographic Channel, the Vietnam War Commemoration, and the Grateful Nation Foundation; the documentary's premiere left not a dry eye in the audience - which included members of Charlie Company, their families, other veterans of foreign wars and local dignitaries.

Brothers in War sheds new light on the many aspects of war that Vietnam Soldiers faced. Aside from the casualties of battle and heroic acts of bravery, the veteran's featured in the film also recall some of the lighter moments that helped forge lifelong friendships. To this day, they still remember who got the

best care packages, funny nicknames, and how they unsuspectedly used marijuana leaves for camouflage. The conflict in Vietnam, for the men of Charlie Company, was unlike anything they could have imagined. By the end of their yearlong combat tour, Charlie Company suffered 26 killed and 105 wounded - a total casualty rate of just over 80 percent.

Wiest said he had two goals when he wrote *The Boys of '67* - to advance the field of study of the war and to educate the public about the soldiers who fought in it.

"It's one thing to have it published - lots of people read books," Wiest said. "But a documentary can reach even more people, and therefore gets the story of those who fought to a wider audience."

That's important to Wiest, who believes the Vietnam veteran is one who typically "would have rather not gone to Vietnam, but went anyway and did his best and came home to a country that forgot him."

To learn more about the Dale Center and the research of Dr. Wiest, visit the Southern Miss Department of History at <http://www.usm.edu/war-society> or email andrew.wiest@usm.edu.

Sources: [Southern Miss Now](#) and [examiner.com](#)

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST:

THE UIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS THAT MAY BE OF RESEARCH INTEREST TO OUR HISTORY DEPARTMENT COLLEAGUES.

Bimetallism and Currency Reform: This collection contains correspondence, publications, speeches, clippings, photographs, and pamphlets about currency reform, bimetallism, and the American Bimetallic Union and other bimetallic movements. It also has items dealing with other issues of the turn of the twentieth century, including the antitrust and ant-imperialist movements.

Chicago Board of Trade and MidAmerica Commodities Exchange (CME Group): The CME Group Records consist of the records from two major commodities exchanges: the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) and the MidAmerica Commodity Exchange (MACE). In 2007, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange merged to form CME Group. Several restrictions apply and in most cases files younger than 50 years may not be available for use.

Richard J. Daley: Richard Joseph Daley (May 15, 1902 - December 20, 1976) was a six-term mayor of the city of Chicago (1955-1976) and the influential chair of the Cook County Democratic Party from 1953 until his death in 1976. The Richard J. Daley Collection contains materials documenting the public offices, political career, and personal life of Daley and contains documents, publications, ephemera, memorabilia, artifacts, and photographs dating from 1870-2010.



The Chicago Board of Trade trading floor, November 24, 1930. Chicago Board of Trade records: Series V - Public Relations Department records, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Illinois at Chicago.

THE UIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT COLLECTIONS CONTINUED

National Organization for Women, Chicago Chapter:

The National Organization of Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 and the Chicago Chapter of NOW was organized two years later, in 1968. By working with business leaders, politicians, and social organizers, Chicago NOW focused on creating jobs, equal wages, and legislation for workplace safety for women and other marginalized groups. The National Organization for Women, Chicago Chapter Records document the administrative and programmatic history of the organization. They focus particularly on the Chicago chapter's activities, and they also highlight the organizational structure and administrative functions of that branch, the Illinois regional branch, and the national NOW. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COLLECTION IS CURRENTLY HOUSED IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT THE UIC LIBRARY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES-CHICAGO.

National Organization for Women, West Suburban Chapter:

The National Organization for Women (NOW), West Suburban Chapter Records document the administrative and programmatic history of the organization and also touch on activities of the Illinois regional NOW and the national-level NOW. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COLLECTION IS CURRENTLY HOUSED IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT THE UIC LIBRARY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES-CHICAGO.

ShoreBank Corporation:

ShoreBank Corporation was the first bank holding company to combine commercial banking, real estate development, nonprofit loan funds, and international advisory services aimed at community development. Originally developed as a neighborhood development bank for low-income African American communities, ShoreBank eventually expanded nationally and internationally.

Washingtonian Health Care Foundation:

In 1863 the Washingtonian Home for the Cure of Inebriates opened at 547 State Street in Chicago. The Home and various affiliated care facilities and corporations operated through the end of the twentieth century. The Washingtonian Health Care Foundation records document the corporate and administrative history of the Washingtonian Home of Chicago, the Martha Washington Hospital, Washington Health Corp., and Mar Tech Enterprises through meeting minutes, legal and financial documents, and publications.

YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago:

The YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago was founded in 1876 at a time when a growing number of young single women came to Chicago looking for work. The YWCA provided services to these women, including safe housing, religious and vocational instruction, and help in improving labor conditions labor conditions

Finding aids for these and the rest of our collections can be found at <http://library.uic.edu/special-collections>. Have questions? Ask a Librarian (look for the icon on any of the library.uic.edu pages).