A New Look for Harris Hall

After two years in exile at 1800 Sherman Avenue, the History Department moved back into Harris Hall just after Thanksgiving in 2010. On this page are some photos of the remarkable renovation that the University carried out. The “period” feel of the building remains, but the wiring and climate control features are twenty-first century. We hope you enjoy seeing parts of the building as much as we enjoy inhabiting it!
Welcome to New History Faculty

Deborah Cohen (Ph.D. Berkeley, 1996) is delighted to have joined the faculty at Northwestern. Raised in Louisville, Kentucky, she was an undergraduate at Harvard and a graduate student at Berkeley. She taught modern British and European history at Brown University for eight years before coming to Northwestern, where she occupies one of the department’s two Peter B. Ritzma chairs in the humanities. Her first book, *The War Come Home* (California, 2001), was a comparative study of British and German disabled veterans after the First World War; it was awarded the Sharlin Prize from the Social Science History Association. She then frolicked through a history of the British love-affair with their houses, the result of which was *Household Gods* (Yale, 2006), which won the American Historical Association’s Forkosch Prize for the best book on Britain after 1485 and was the co-winner of the North American Conference on British Studies’ Albion prize for the best book on Britain after 1800. Her new book, which will be published in the spring of 2013 by Viking Penguin in Britain and by Oxford University Press in the U.S., is *Family Secrets: The Rise of Confessional Culture in Britain*. Cohen has held fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the National Humanities Center, the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, the American Council of Learned Societies (Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars) and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Caitlin Fitz (Ph.D. Yale, 2010) is a historian of early America, in a broad and hemispheric sense. Her work explores early U.S. engagement with foreign communities and cultures, as well as the relationship between ordinary people and formal politics. Her current manuscript, *Our Sister Republics: The United States in an Age of American Revolutions*, illuminates how the Latin American independence movements helped to shape popular understandings of race, revolution, and republicanism in the early nineteenth-century United States. Caitlin has also published articles on U.S. citizens in insurgent Brazil, Iroquois communities during the U.S. revolution, and antislavery activists in Tennessee. She joined the Northwestern faculty last fall after a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania’s McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

Daniel Immerwahr (Ph.D. Berkeley, 2011) specializes in the history of the twentieth-century United States. His research interests include the relationship of the United States to the rest of the world, the history of ideas, and the history of economic development. Before joining Northwestern’s history department as an assistant professor he was a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University’s Committee on Global Thought. He has, oddly, two bachelor’s degrees, one from Columbia University and a second from King’s College, Cambridge. He is currently writing a book about U.S.-sponsored development programs in Asia during the Cold War.
David Shyovitz (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 2011) spent the 2010-11 year as a College Fellow and is currently an assistant professor. His research focuses on Jewish cultural and intellectual history in the medieval and early modern periods, with a particular interest in Jewish-Christian relations. His current book project explores attitudes toward the natural world among medieval Jewish and Christian thinkers. Prior to earning his PhD, David completed his MA and BA degrees at the University of Pennsylvania.

Scott Sowerby (Ph.D. Harvard, 2006) specializes in the history of early modern Britain. He joined Northwestern as an assistant professor in the fall of 2010 after three years of teaching in the History and Literature program at Harvard. His first book, Making Toleration: The Repealers and the Glorious Revolution, will be published by Harvard University Press in the spring of 2013. This work examines the relationship between political movements, reform and revolution, taking as its subject a cross-denominational movement for religious toleration known as the repealers. He has published articles based on this project in the English Historical Review, Past and Present, the Journal of British Studies, and Parliamentary History. A Vancouver native, he studied for his bachelor’s degree at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada.

İpek K. Yosmaoğlu (Ph.D. Princeton, 2005) is a historian of the late Ottoman Empire. She taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton before joining the history department at Northwestern in 2010. Her research interests include nationalism, violence, political legitimacy and state modernization. She recently completed a book manuscript titled “A World Undone: Religion, Violence and the Politics of Nationhood in Ottoman Macedonia, 1878-1908,” which focuses on the final decades of Ottoman rule in southeastern Europe. Her research has been supported by the Onassis Foundation, the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Research Institute in Turkey, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She was a fellow at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities during the 2011-12 academic year.

Similarly, our recent graduates have been, as one of my more grandiloquent undergraduate teachers used to say, “trailing clouds of academic glory.” Among our former undergraduate history majors, Jacob White, ’09, won a Marshall Scholarship to Oxford, William Kalemia, ’10, a Fulbright Scholarship to Cambridge, and Sarah Smierciak, ’11, a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford. Another former undergraduate history major, Katie Turk, ’04, won the Lerner-Scott Prize from the Organization of American Historians for the best dissertation in women’s history, which she completed at the University of Chicago. Among our former graduate students, Karl Appuhn (Ph.D. 1999) won the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize of the American Historical Association, given for the best first book in European history published in 2010.

Because of the Department’s outstanding reputation for teaching (the current faculty roster includes five winners of the Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award, seven recipients of the McCormick or Alumnae Teaching Professorships, and eleven holders of the WCAS Distinguished Teaching Award), you will not be surprised to learn that our courses remain sought after and our major popular. Enrollments remain steady, in contrast to what’s been happening at most of our peer institutions, as does the number of majors. We’ve devised a new menu of historiography seminars that henceforth will be required of history majors, added a stronger emphasis on research to the major program, reduced the size of discussion sections in history to 15 students, and plugged some gaps in the undergraduate curriculum via new and visiting appointments. For the benefit of both our undergraduate and graduate students, we’ve also improved teaching assistant training and made learning to be a good teacher a more central part of the graduate curriculum.

These successes and the others described in these pages would be impossible without the generous support of our alumni, Weinberg College, and the University. We thank you all and assure you that we’ll continue to devote our best efforts to fulfilling the Department’s scholarly and pedagogical missions.

We also hope that you will enjoy reading the Newsletter and that you will heed our call for news of YOU. Please let us know of your activities and accomplishments for the next issue.

All best, Peter
History Majors Win Grants

External:
Sarah Smierciak, CAORC Critical Language Scholarship, 2010-2011
Sarah Smierciak, Biospherical Institute Project Grant, 2010-2011
Daniel Andreoff, Princeton in Asia Fellowship, 2010-2011
Sebastian Buffa, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, 2010-2011
William Kalema, Fulbright Grant (IIE/USIA), 2010-2011
Jacob White, Marshall Scholarship, 2010-2011
Ryan Erickson, Urban Fellows Program, 2010-2011
Sarah Smierciak, Rhodes Scholarship, 2011-2012
Sarah Smierciak, Marshall Scholarship, 2011-2012
Nathan Garrett, Coro Fellows Program, 2011-2012
Kate Stephensen, James Madison Foundation Fellowship, 2011-2012

Internal:
Ann Lee, Summer URG 2012, Ethnic Politics in Singapore
Benjamin Francis, Language Grant 2012, Russian - Russia
Nathan Enfeld, AY URG 2011-12, Samuel Williams’ Political Thought
Dana Behnke, Summer URG 2011, Progressive Ideology and Amusement Parks
Britta Hanson, Summer URG 2011, Homosexuality in the Royal Navy
Redmond McGrath, Summer URG 2011, Church Location and Design; Chicago 1871
Gabriel Schönfeld, Summer URG 2011, Irish- and Jewish- American Politics
Devin Sizer, Summer URG 2011, Southern Unionist Families
Sarah Smierciak, AY URG 2010-11, Communists in the Era of Nasser

Tim Breen’s Retirement

In June 2012, Timothy Hall Breen, the William Smith Mason Professor of American History, concluded his 42nd year on the Northwestern faculty—he was a child prodigy—and headed, first, for his home in Vermont, before embarking on a well earned leave year in California, to be followed by his formal retirement from our faculty as of June 2013. To recount his services to the Department, the College, and the University is almost impossible, and to list the numerous academic distinctions he has compiled is equally so. Here we can hit only the high points. He is the sole author of 7 books, the co-author of 3 more, including an enormously successful textbook in American history that is now in its 10th edition, and the editor of still 2 more. In addition, he has published more than 65 scholarly articles, book chapters, and essays in academic journals as well as such noteworthy publications as the Times Literary Supplement and the New York Review of Books. Many of these books and articles have won distinguished prizes, and he has held virtually every major fellowship or academic appointment in his field, from a Guggenheim, an appointment at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, and an Alexander von Humboldt Research Award to the Pitt Professorship at Cambridge and the Harmsworth Professorship at Oxford. Closer to home, his profound effect on thousands of Northwestern undergraduates has been recognized with awards of a Weinberg College Teaching Prize and the Alumni Excellence in Teaching award.

To the College and University, he has been an indispensable servant and builder, having chaired both this Department and the American Studies Program and been the founding director of both the Kaplan Humanities Institute and the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies.

Tim has set extraordinarily high standards of achievement in all three of the realms into which we traditionally divide academic life: scholarship, teaching, and service. His colleagues will miss him, and the Department will be very hard put to make up for his loss. We thank him for all that he has done for Northwestern and its students, and we wish him continuing fulfillment in all of the roles and projects that lie ahead of him.

News of the Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies

In December 2010, the Center moved into its elegant new home on the lower level of renovated Harris Hall, occupying a signature suite of three offices and a public space known as the Reading Room, used for meetings and small gatherings. Larger Center events usually take place in the Leopold Room of Harris Hall.


This lecture series also included Northwestern History faculty discussing their recent research. Brodwyn Fischer...
News of the Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies continued


Additional lectures helped graduate students deal with professional challenges. Olivia Mahoney, Chief Curator of the Chicago History Museum, talked about “History Museums: Career Opportunities and Challenges,” Susan Ferber, editor at Oxford University Press, about “Everything You Ever Wanted To Know about Academic Publishing (But Were Ashamed to Ask),” and H. W. Brands (Texas-Austin) about

A popular element of Center programming is the annual, public (and witty) panel discussion by Northwestern faculty on a semi-serious theme. In 2011, Deborah Cohen (History), Joel Mokyr (Economics/History) and Hendrik Spruyt (Political Science) considered “What do historians have to offer politicians?”, and the following year, Dyan Elliott (History), Carl Smith (English/American Studies), and Robert Wallace (Classics) wrestled with “Is history fiction by another name?”

As the occasion arises, the Center organizes other types of events. In April 2011, the panel discussion on “The German Foreign Office and its Past, 1933-2010: A New Report” by Peter Hayes (Northwestern History) and Norbert Frei (University of Jena) with German Consul General Onno Hückmann as moderator elicited much interest. The distinguished Irish historian Nicholas Canny (Director of the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies at National University of Ireland, Galway and President of the Royal Irish Academy) gave a public lecture in Fall 2011 on “Catholic or Protestant Atlantic? How Confessional Divisions Influenced Writing on Natural History of the Atlantic World.”


An innovative program of international doctoral workshops, jointly sponsored with foreign institutions of higher learning, has proved an excellent way for Northwestern historians to interact with the global academic community. In these intensive two-day workshops, competitively selected Northwestern graduate students in history

“Reaching a Broader Constituency: Historians and the Internet” (2011).

The annual History of the Book lecture jointly sponsored with the University Library hosted Adrian Johns of the University of Chicago on “The Invention of Intellectual Property” (filmed—webcast available on the CHS website) in 2011, and in 2012 the distinguished Renaissance historian Anthony Grafton (Princeton) addressed an audience of over 100 on the subject of “Humanists with Dirty Fingers: Renaissance Correctors and the Origins of Editing” (filmed—webcast available on the CHS website).

In November 2011, the Center hosted Quentin Skinner (Queen Mary College, University of London, former Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Cambridge) for a week of public lectures and seminars that attracted large and enthusiastic audiences. The lectures, entitled “A Genealogy of Freedom” and “A Genealogy of the State,” are available on the CHS website.
News of the Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies continued

(and one or two faculty members) meet with their peers in or from other parts of the world, network, compare notes on the state of the profession, and engage in discussions of their research. Topics are selected to engage historians from varied subfields. The most recent workshops were: “Doing Trans-National History in the 21st Century: An Assessment of the Field” with the University of Genoa in Sestri Levante, Italy (2010); “Old Debates and New Challenges in Oral History” with the Fundação Getulio Vargas in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2011); “The Politics of Memory” with Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic (2011); “Violence and Social Change” with Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland (2011); and “Agency, Allegiance, and Resistance” with the American Academy in Rome and under the auspices of the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award in Rome, Italy (2012). We anticipate workshops in Turkey, India, and Mexico in the future.

Each year the Center selects two graduate students to serve as Fellows of the Center, which includes organizing a one-day graduate conference on a significant historical topic pertinent to their research. An eminent historian from outside Northwestern is invited to give a keynote lecture and our outside faculty comment on the papers. The conferences are free and open to the public. In 2010, Fernando Carbajal organized “The Promise and Perils of Biography” with keynote speaker Alice Kessler-Harris (Columbia), and Andreana Prichard convened “Emotions as History” with keynote speaker Kenda Mutongi (Williams College). In 2011, Theresa Keeley organized “Religious Identity and Political Conflict” with keynote speaker Seth Jacobs (Boston College), and Andrew Wehrman convened “The Pitfalls and Possibilities of Microhistory” with keynote speaker Alan Taylor (California-Davis). In 2012, the organizers and topics were Peter Thilly, “Crime and the Modern World” with keynote speaker Eric Tagliacozzo (Cornell), and Terri Chettiar, “Histories of the Family” with keynote speaker Deborah Coen (Barnard College, Columbia).

For undergraduates the Leopold Fellowship program (named in honor of Professor Richard Leopold and funded in part by generous gifts from his former students) offers the opportunity to work closely with primary historical materials under the guidance of faculty, doing actual archival research and learning how to transform raw data into historical interpretation. In 2010-11 Leopold Fellows worked on projects ranging from the study of a 14th-century treatise through “George Washington and the Creation of American Nationalism” to a spatial and cultural history of the US-Mexico border since World War II. In 2011-2012 we had the highest ever number of Leopold fellows—a total of 15, working on topics such as European literary culture and the Indo-Persian world from the 16th to the 18th C.; the political economy of Spanish rule in America in the 18th C.; cosmopolitanism and the early British empire; African American federal employees in post-emancipation USA; the punitive turn in American life in the 20th C.; American antiwar activism and reform in the long 1970s; a history of American paternity disputes; using Holocaust testimonies in research; and editing the online Asia-Pacific Journal.

New Chairholders

New Chairholders in History
Carl Petry, Deborah Cohen, and Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern at their investitures with Department Chair Peter Hayes, University President Morton Schapiro, and Weinberg College Dean Sarah Mangelsdorf
Faculty News

Ken Alder passed the academic year 2010-11 in New York, courtesy of a Guggenheim Fellowship. There he worked on his research project on the history of the forensic sciences—The Forensic Self—and also began two new projects with a methodological bent. In 2011, he was honored with the E. LeRoy Hall Award for Teaching Excellence—and then promptly resumed teaching, in full cognizance that he now had a reputation to live up to! After a brief respite from directing the Science in Human Culture Program, he plans to reassume the position in 2012.

Michael Allen was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011. He also published an article on the identification of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War in a journal on the identification of the Professor in 2011. He also published a brief respite from directing the Science in Human Culture Program, he plans to reassume the position in 2012.

Henry C. Binford was on medical leave for all of winter quarter, 2011, following major back surgery in January. Now fully back at work, he is enjoying his role as a freshman advisor, is teaching a number of courses related to cities and poverty, and is edging toward completion of his way-too-long-projected book on nineteenth-century slums.

Most of T.H. Breen’s time at Northwestern has been taken up with the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies. CCHS has continued to invite leading historians to campus to deliver lectures. The high point of the fall quarter was a week-long residency by Quentin Skinner, a brilliant historian of Early Modern political thought. Skinner gave a series of lectures and workshops on Hobbes’s writings. These presentations drew over one hundred people. The Center has also continued its International Workshops. Northwestern graduate students traveled to Brazil, the Czech Republic, and Ireland, where they interacted with advanced degree candidates at the local universities. And finally, he is pleased to report that the Leopold Fellowships have allowed a dozen undergraduates to carry out genuine research projects under the direction of members of the history faculty. He is completing a book on nationalism during the presidency of George Washington entitled “Journey to a Nation.” He has been fortunate to be able to test his ideas through lectures for Trinity College Dublin, Virginia Military Institute, Colonial Williamsburg, Vermont Humanities Council (Middlebury), and Notre Dame University.

John Bushnell continues to work on the history of Russian peasant marriage, for the last year in particular the refusal of peasant young women in some religious sects in some areas to marry. In 2011 he gave two papers on the subject in Russia, and finally persuaded some Russian historians that he had proved his point: in the 18th and 19th centuries, in a small percentage but large number of villages, peasant women in demographically significant numbers refused to marry.

Geraldo Cadava has been working hard to finish his first book about the U.S.-Mexico border region since World War II. Titled “The Heat of Exchange: Latinos and Migration in the Making of a Sunbelt Borderland,” it will be published by Harvard University Press in Fall 2012. For a preview of his work about the border, see his recent article in the September 2011 issue of the Journal of American History, titled “Borderlands of Modernity and Abandonment: The Lines within Ambos Nogales and the Tohono O’odham Nation.” He has spent AY 2012-2013 on sabbatical in New Jersey, and is eager to return to Evanston over the summer.

Peter Carroll has published work on city planning and prostitution in early 20th-century China and given talks at Shanghai University and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. During the 2010-2011 academic year, he was on leave as a NU Kaplan Institute of Humanities fellow and made progress on two book projects. The first analyzes the changing significance of suicide as a social phenomenon in China during the first half of the 20th century. The second examines an infamous same-sex murder and set of trials in 1932 Hangzhou. He has been serving as the chair of the Program in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and looks forward to sweating in Shanghai this coming summer.

Dyan Elliott has just published a book entitled: The Bride of Christ Goes to Hell: Metaphor and Embodiment in the Lives of Pious Women, 200-1500. She is beginning a new project on scandal and the medieval church. The term “scandal” is derived from a Greek verb meaning “to cause another to stumble.” An act need not be sinful to be considered scandalous: the salient attribute is its ability to occasion sin in another. But whether scandal was wrought by deliberate

Faculty Bookshelf

HAYES (with Jean El Gammal)
Universitätskulturen
L’Université en perspective
The Future of the University
Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag, 2012

HAYES (with John K. Roth)
The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies
New York: Oxford University Press, 2011

HAYES (with Eckart Conze, Norbert Frei, and Moshe Zimmermann)
Das Amt und die Vergangenheit: Deutsche Diplomaten im Dritten Reich und in der Bundesrepublik
Munich: Blessing/Random House, 2010

MASUR
An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010

MAZA
Violette Nozière: A Story of Murder in 1930s Paris
Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011
Faculty News continued

sin or a morally neutral act, it was an unmitigated evil from an ecclesiastical perspective and needed to be suppressed. This study will employ ecclesiastical sources – particularly canon law, theology, and the records of church tribunals – to explore how a climate of secrecy arose around the suppression of scandal, shaping clerical culture and often directing ecclesiastical politics. The conclusion points to how the modern church was heir to a policy of concealment, rendering the recent spate of cover-ups more comprehensible. She will be pursuing this project on a fellowship at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina next year.

Lane Fenrich happily spent the spring of 2011 on leave researching an article on the initial debates over Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. He also taught a brand-new class entitled “True Love and Perfect Union: Love, Marriage, and Social Thought” as part of the Kaplan Humanities Center’s Freshman Scholars Program and developed another new course, “Sexual Subjects: Introduction to Sexuality Studies,” that he taught this winter as part of the new sexuality studies initiative in Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Brodie Fischer had a wonderful time on leave in 2010-11 as a Fulbright-Hays scholar in Brazil and an ACLS Burkhardt Fellow at Chicago’s Newberry Library. She is happy to report much progress in research and writing, including work on a new book on the problem of inequality in Brazilian history and a co-edited volume entitled Cities from Scratch: Poverty and Informality in Urban Latin America (forthcoming, Duke University Press). Since her sabbatical came to a crashing end in September, Fischer has been hard at work teaching, directing Undergraduate Studies, and chairing the department’s search in Latin American History that recruited Washington University Assistant Professor Paul Ramirez as Northwestern’s new historian of Mexico. She is looking forward to plunging back into reading and writing (and spending a little more time with her husband and daughters!) during the spring and summer of 2012.

For the past two years Benjamin Frommer has held the Wayne V. Jones Research Professorship in History. He is currently writing a manuscript titled The Road to Theresienstadt: The Persecution of Bohemian and Moravian Jews, 1938-1945. This past December he gave a series of talks in Czech Republic with the support of the Jewish Museum of Prague and the US Embassy. He’s also been preoccupied by a new addition to the family. Born in July 2011, little Erik Z. is reminding his father why sleep deprivation was a favorite method of extracting confessions in the lands he studies.

Jonathon Glassman’s book, War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar, was published by Indiana University Press in 2011 and won the Martin A. Klein Prize in African History from the American Historical Association. He got to celebrate with colleagues from NU and the University of Chicago when the book was the subject of a spirited exchange at the Red Lion African Studies Seminar at the Aberdeen Tap on the near west side. Since the last newsletter, Jonathon has presented papers at the Universities of Pennsylvania and KwaZulu-Natal, has served a term as the department’s Director of Graduate Studies, and in September 2011 was promoted to full professor. Immediately after his promotion he was drafted as the department’s Associate Chair, a position endowed with all the glamour and authority of a bucket of warm spit.

Regina Grafe happily offloaded a book on early modern Spain, Distant Tyranny: Markets, Power and Backwardness in Spain, 1650-1800 (Princeton 2012), from her desk onto other people’s bookshelves (at least she hopes not all copies will rot in the warehouse). Since then she has worked mostly on a co-authored new book called a “Stakeholder Empire” that will offer a revisionist view of the governance in the Spanish Americas. In other ways, too, she has stuck with her habit of regular Atlantic crossings and enjoyed the pleasures of a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, where she was given asylum during the Chicago winter. She also improved her score in the questionable discipline of putting-yourself-through-the-tenure-(equivalent)-process-in-as-many-places-as-possible by adding a US-University, Northwestern, to two European ones.

Peter Hayes is completing his third year as chair, and in a moment of weakness he agreed to serve two more (and thus to edit one more Newsletter). After that, he’ll return to teaching for a year, go on leave in 2015-16, and retire on August 31, 2016, bringing his thirty-six years on the Northwestern faculty to an end. In the meantime, he’ll try to maintain his recent record of publishing a book a year: Das Amt und die Vergangenheit in 2010, The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies in early 2011, The Future of the University in 2012, How Could This Happen? An Anthology History of the Holocaust in 2013, and Profits and Persecution: German Big Business, the Nazi Regime, and the Holocaust the year after. His other great hope is that the Department faculty finally will be at full strength, however briefly, before he departs.

Laura Hein spent the first half of 2011 in Chicago, teaching and working on her current project on local institutions in post-WWII Japan. Like all Japan specialists, she was saddened and distressed by the earthquake-tsunami-nuclear power disaster of March 11, 2011, which killed 20,000 people. While the first two elements were natural disasters, the third was caused by humans – and the official response to it since March has been shockingly myopic and inadequate. She spent September through December at the Institute for Social Science at the University of Tokyo, which was a wonderful opportunity personally but reinforced her sense that the national government has decided to sacrifice the health of the children of Eastern Fukushima Prefecture. Current decontamination efforts consist of washing down buildings with high-pressure water hoses and digging up topsoil and reburying it nearby. Both are purely (unsuccessful) morale building exercises rather than acting to significantly diminish radiation levels. It is very sobering.

Thomas William (Bill) Heyck and Deni both struggled with major health issues in 2010 and 2011, but they are doing better now. They were thrilled at the birth of their third and fourth grandchildren – Piper Renee Heyck in 2010 and Samuel Aidan Heyck-Williams in 2012. Bill is writing a social cultural history of a particular sport that spans some 700 years. He expects the book to sell tens of thousands of copies and earn millions of dollars, some of which may go to the Department.

Rajeev Kinra returned to teaching in Winter 2012 after spending a year of research leave working on his current book project, Writing Self, Writing Empire: Chandar Bhan Brahman and the Cultural World of the Indo-Persian State Secretary, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the last year he has also been working to develop the History Department’s new curriculum in Global History, a two-part lecture sequence that is being taught for the first time in the 2011-12 school year. Since 2010 he has been serving on Northwestern’s Asian and Middle East Studies (AMES) program committee, and in the fall of 2011 he also joined the program committee for International Studies. Kinra published two new articles in 2011 (“Make it Fresh: Time, Tradition, and Indo-Persian Literary Modernity,” and “This Noble Science: Indo-Persian Comparative Philology, c. 1000-1800 CE”), and in recent months he has greatly enjoyed the privilege of being invited to give various lectures and workshops on early modern Indo-Persian literary and political culture at the American University in Cairo, George Mason University, the University of Washington, Freie University in Berlin, Columbia University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and even across town at his old haunt, the University of Chicago.

With the dramatic fall of the Michigan football program [2008-2010] under the late but not lamented coach Rich Rodriguez – an event comparable to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem – Jacob Lassner found himself in desperate need of something to resuscitate his
flagging psychic energy. And so, he published two books: Medieval Islam: The Origins and Shaping of Classical Islamic Civilization (with Michael Bonner, Praeger 2010) and Jews, Christians and the Abode of Islam: Modern Scholarship, Medieval Realities (University of Chicago Press 2012). So profound was the need for therapy to overcome the depression occasioned by Michigan’s fortunes, he also found himself publishing three articles and presenting four refereed papers at different scholarly venues. Now that Michigan football is on the rise, he suspects his productivity will be somewhat reduced.

Henri Lauzière spent a significant amount of time expanding his repertoire of undergraduate courses in the past two years. In the fall of 2010, he offered a new survey course on the Arabian Peninsula since the 18th century, which rekindled his desire to return to the Gulf in the near future. Meanwhile, however, he traveled to Italy and the Netherlands and presented papers about Salafism and Salafi activists at the University of Pisa and the University of Leiden. Barrling unforeseen circumstances, he will travel to Jerusalem for the first time this summer, which means that the Gulf and its scorching heat (an acquired taste, admittedly) may have to wait. Next year, Lauzière will be on leave thanks to a grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation in Germany, and will be completing his book on the emerging concept of Salafism and the struggle over its meaning throughout the 20th century. His article “The Construction of Salafiyya: Reconsidering Salafism from the Perspective of Conceptual History,” which lays the groundwork for the book’s argument, was published as the lead article in the fall 2010 issue of the International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES).

Robert Lerner is on the best research fellowship he’s ever had. It’s called retirement. In the last two years he has given papers in Prague, Rome, and Vienna, and published seven articles, as well as a review in the TLS and a letter in the New York Review of Books. In June 2010 he was co-organizer of a conference in Paris commemorating the seventh hundred anniversary of the burning of Marguerite Porete, and is currently editing papers issuing from that conference for a volume to be published by Vrin. (A collaborator on this project is Sean Field.) In February 2011 he travelled to Princeton to participate in a workshop at the Institute for Advanced Study on the transmission of subversive ideas from the Islamic world to Europe, and in June he travelled to Rome to confer about the publication of the collected works of Joachim of Fiore and to Erlangen to participate in an advisory board meeting overseeing the Erlangen International Consortium for Research in the Humanities. His engagement with the career of Ernst Kantorowicz is not flagging, and he is very excited about a new collaborative project he is overseeing out of Vienna under the auspices of the European Research Council on translations into seven vernacular languages (Castilian, Catalan, Czech, English, French, German, and Italian) of a Latin prophetic treatise. He does not exercise and hence hopes to see all of his projects to completion.

Tessie Liu had the great pleasure last spring of putting together a multi-media interdisciplinary class on the history of Paris from 1700 to the present. Using migration and tourism as her two themes, she collected political pamphlets, novels, paintings, posters, maps, photographs, film, and music to examine the city as myth and destination as generations of sojourners from the provinces and around the world turned themselves into Parissians. This summer, she is looking forward to expanding her photographic archive and honing her collections for this class as she begins preliminary research for a new book project focusing on vernacular and ethnographic dance among diasporic populations in interwar Paris.

As if she needed reminding, Melissa Macauley discovered once again how different the Chinese and English languages are as she futzed over the Chinese translation of her book, Social Power and Legal Culture. Beijing University Press will be publishing it in the spring of 2012. When she wasn’t contriving Chinese neologisms, she was giving lectures on other research projects at the University of Toronto, the National University of Singapore, the University of Chicago, and at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. She looks forward to pulling those lectures together into a book when she goes on leave during the 2012-2013 year on a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Kate Masur’s recent book, An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C., will be published in paperback this fall. She gave numerous public lectures about the book during 2011, one of which can be viewed on C-Span. She thought she was finished writing about our nation’s capital, but some exciting developments lured her back. Thus, like many people at her stage of life, she finds herself working on two book projects at once. When she’s not teaching, writing, or directing the History graduate program, she is spending time with her partner and two unfailingly delightful sons, ages 5 and 9.

Sarah Maza was delighted to see the 2011 publication by the University of California Press of her book Violette Noziere: A Story of Murder in 1930s Paris, which was reviewed...
Faculty News continued

in the New York Times and other non-academic venues. She has been busy with various professional activities, recently completing a three-year term on the Council of the American Historical Association. She spent most of May 2011 in Paris lecturing at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, and in December delivered the Jacob Talmon Lecture at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. While she is pondering her next major project, much of her energy goes into trying to keep up with her daughter Juliette’s high school swim-team schedule.

Joel Mokyr, who straddles both sides of Deering Meadow between Harris Hall and his Econ office in Andersen Hall, continued to serve two demanding masters in History and Economics. His The Enlightened Economy was published in paperback by Penguin Press in February 2011, and to date the professional reviews have been embarrassingly favorable. His paper “The Rate and Direction of Invention in the British Industrial Revolution: Incentives and Institutions,” with Ralf R. Meisenzahl, forthcoming in Scott Stern and Joshua Lerner, eds., The Rate and Direction of Innovation (University of Chicago Press 2012), was cited extensively in an article by Malcolm Gladwell on Steve Jobs in The New Yorker. He presented a paper at the 90th anniversary of Nobelist Douglass C. North, which will be published as “Culture, Institutions, and Modern Growth” in Itai Sened, ed., Understanding Institutions and Development Economics: the Legacy and Work of Douglass C. North by Cambridge University Press. He gave the Schumpeter Lectures in Graz Austria, which will eventually be published in book form by Princeton University Press. He also gave the Eli F. Heckscher lecture in Stockholm, which will also be published in the Scandinavian Economic History Review. Among his honors he is especially proud of being elected as a Fellow of the Cliometrics Association (first class ever) and a Fellow of the Econometric Society (which is typically reserved for number-crunching theorem-proving math types).

William Monter’s most important piece of news since 2010 is that his Mellon Emeritus Fellowship has ripened into a book, The Rise of Female Kings in Europe 1300-1800 (Yale University Press, 2012) – and he’s enjoying the early reactions to it. En route, his article on “Gendered Sovereignty: Numismatics and Female Monarchs in Europe, 1300-1800” appeared in The Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 41 (2011), 533-564. In 2011, he also gave talks on “Philip II and Female Rule” (Ohio State University, May: his first and perhaps last PowerPoint presentation); “Des Artichauds aux Libertins” (Geneva, Nov); and “Female Rule in the Habsburg Low Countries, 1508-1633” (Ghent-Antwerp-Leuven, Nov., his first and last lecture tour of the country formerly known as Belgium). But in 2012, he has no academic presentations scheduled further away than Milwaukee.

Ed Mair took three trips to Italy this past year setting up the new Academy for Advanced Study in the Renaissance, funded by the Mellon Foundation, to be held in the springs of 2013 and 2014 at the American Academy in Rome, L’Orientale University of Naples, and the European University Institute in Florence. The Academy will be open to 10 advanced graduate students from NU and elsewhere on a competitive basis and will involve 30 distinguished Renaissance scholars from North America and Europe. It has been lots of work but is very exciting to attempt to galvanize a new generation of Renaissance specialists. In the meantime he gave papers at the AHA, Renaissance Society of America, a conference in Udine, Italy, and Yale. He has been trying to find time to write The Tender Promise of Trust: The Italian Renaissance, 1350-1650, contracted with Wiley Blackwell for 2013, and preparing the fourth edition of the textbook he co-authored with former NU graduate student Meredith Veldman and Brian Levack of UT, Austin, The West: Encounters and Transformations (Addison-Wesley Longman).

Alex Owen is at work on her book tentatively entitled Culture, Psyche and the Soul in Modern Britain, which explores twentieth-century attempts to reconcile different forms of religiosity with a new and secular understanding of the mind and self. The project is an intervention in the current debate about the purchase of religion and spirituality in modern life. She was fortunate to spend three months researching and writing in the U.K. in early 2012, surviving one of the worst European winters in many years. Owen has revised an article on Aleister Crowley, the infamous so-called black magician, for publication in Aleister Crowley and Western Esotericism, Henrik Bogdan & Martin P. Starr, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012 forthcoming). The volume is the first of its kind aimed at reconciling religious and spiritual traditions. It is especially proud of being elected as a Fellow of the Cliometrics Association (first class ever) and a Fellow of the Econometric Society (which is typically reserved for number-crunching theorem-proving math types).

Susan Pearson’s book, The Rights of the Defenseless: Protecting Animals and Children in Gilded Age America was published in 2011 and received the 2012 Merle Curti Award for Intellectual History from the Organization of American Historians. Susan is excited to be continuing work on her new project, a study of the spread of universal and compulsory birth registration in the United States, and is looking forward to enjoying time to continue this research thanks to fellowships from the NEH and the ACLS. There was something else in the works too: a new baby born in April of 2012.

Dylan Penningroth welcomed a second son into the world, Julien James Chen-Penningroth, in July 2010. He was named a McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence. In hopes of learning more legal history, he added a new seminar to his teaching mix, called “The Trial in American History.” He is continuing his two research projects—“Legacies of Slavery in Colonial Ghana” and “African Americans in Local Courts”—and gave presentations at Princeton, Yale, and Washington University Law School. And as fun as it has been, he holds out hope that his days in county courthouse basements will soon be past.

In 2011, Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern spent half a year at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem working with eight other scholars on medieval and early modern Jewish Slavonic texts—translations from Greek and Hebrew of the lost Judaic sources—seeking to reconstruct the shared Jewish-Slavic interest in apocalyptic works in the 15th and 16th centuries. While taking his leave from the heated discussions about the impact of Judaizing heresies on Church Slavonic translations in the High Middle Ages, he continued to work on his The Golden Age of the Shetel book and collecting materials for his future project on early modern Jewish magic and mysticism in Eastern Europe, using the trove of sources at the National and University Library in Jerusalem. He wrote a proposal (together with Dean Phillip Bell) to Oxford University Press and obtained a contract for a text book tentatively entitled The Jews in the Early Modern World: a documentary history which, unlike previous books of similar genre, will go beyond the political and introduce students to religious, literary, artistic, gender, social, and other aspects of Jewish life between 1450 and 1750. He was thrilled to discover how well (and how quickly) his book on Lenin’s alleged Jewishness was received among both scholarly and lay readers and was particularly pleased that the university promoted him to full professor and made him the Crown Family Chair in Jewish Studies.

Carl F. Petry is fortunate to take pride in the accomplishments of one of his undergraduate "stars" and honors thesis advisees, Sarah Smierciak. She was awarded both Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships in December 2011. Sarah arrived at NU as a talented high school graduate...
Faculty News continued

who had some vague affinity for the Middle East—with no clue as to why. Five years later, Smierciak is spending her third year-length sojourn in Egypt, working at a U.N.-sponsored refugee agency in Cairo. She will enroll in a program of International Development studies at Oxford University next year. With regard to Petry’s activities, his monograph: The Criminal Underworld in a Medieval Islamic Society: Narratives from Cairo and Damascus under the Mamluks has been completed, after lengthy preparation (to be issued by The Middle East Documentation Center at the University of Chicago). Petry also delivered lectures and papers at several venues, including the World Congress of Middle East Studies (WOCMES) in Barcelona (July 2010), the Middle East Center at Ohio State, the American Research Center in Egypt, the Middle East Center at Haifa University, Israel, and the Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg at the Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität in Bonn, Germany (the latter institution is the lucky awardee of several million Euros from the German government, to be spent exclusively on the study of medieval Egyptian and Syrian history—a level and focus of sponsorship unimaginable in the U.S. at the present time).

Since Petry regards Egypt as a second home, events unfolding in that country since January 2011 (mislabeled “the Arab Spring”) have proven stimulating and unsettling simultaneously. Reports from many friends in the country continue to indicate that conditions will remain unsettled and tense for the indefinite future. Petry was suspicious of initial euphoria back in January, and subsequent events have confirmed his reservations.

On a more positive note, in March of 2012 Petry visited Qatar as a recipient of the Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Chair in WCAS, lectured at the new NU in Qatar campus (its Education City), and renewed friendships with NU colleagues teaching there.

After retiring at the end of August 2010, in the fall Frank Safford encountered graduate students in Latin American history who appeared to be wandering orphans, and so organized an ad hoc seminar in the following winter quarter. It was, at least for him, a great pleasure. In mid-March, 2011, he flew with Joan Safford to Bogotá, where he taught in the Facultad de Administración de la Universidad de los Andes, while Joan reacquainted herself with the city, which she had last seen in 1975. In August, 2011, to his surprise, he received an honorary degree from the Universidad Nacional in Bogotá, an act apparently motivated by a book he first published more than 35 years ago. He recently sent off the latest version of an essay on the formation of national states in five countries (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia), for a volume to be published by Cambridge University Press. He currently is revising (belatedly!) and translating his dissertation, which is to be published by the Banco de la República (the central bank) in Bogotá. Joan Safford, also retired, for years has been heavily engaged in consulting on a variety of legal matters for the Mexican government. Most notably, with two others, she wrote a draft of a new criminal procedure code for Mexico. Both of their sons are in forms of entertainment (large puppets, supported by people on stilts, for Mark in Minneapolis, story-telling in multiple genres for Joshua in various parts of the U.S.).

Last year David Schoenbrun’s film (co-produced with Kearsley Stewart, Anthropology and Harlan Wallach, Academic Technologies), “Controlling the Fire: The Value of the Bead in West Africa” on glass trade beads as investment vehicles in West Africa, was Jury Selected to screen in June at the Royal Anthropological Institute’s Biennial Ethnographic Film Festival in London. He has also been drafting chapters for “Killer Kings and Moralities of Power in East Africa’s Great Lakes Region,” a book about the impact of violence on the shapes of political culture in Uganda over the millennium between 900 and 1900.

Michael Sherry continues to work on his book, Go Directly to Jail: The Punitive Turn in American Life, to advise scads of graduate students, to enjoy their many accomplishments, to participate in many professional meetings, and more recently, to enjoy our new digs in Harris Hall. He contributed the lead essay in the special 9/11 10th anniversary issue of the OAH Magazine of History and remains the Richard W. Leopold Professor of History.

Amy Stanley recently completed her first book, Selling Women: Prostitution, Markets, and the Household in Early Modern Japan, which was published in June 2012 by the University of California Press. She spent the academic year 2011-12 as a fellow at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, where she is working on her next project, a social history of the city of Kyoto during the tumultuous years surrounding the Meiji Restoration. When she is not poring over diaries and examining ink drawings of severed heads, she is working on two smaller projects: an article about the “enlightened” geisha of the 1870’s, and a meditation on gender, microhistory, and the limits of the ordinary in Tokugawa Japan. She looks forward to returning to the classroom in 2011-2012.

Ji-Yeon Yuh is a native of Seoul and Chicago, a former journalist, and a mother of three children. Her intellectual passions are focused on diaspora, memory, race, and community. She is active in Asian American community organizations, was the director of the Asian American Studies Program at Northwestern, of which she is a founding faculty member, and has written on the Korean diaspora. She teaches Asian diaspora, Asian American history, oral history, comparative diasporas, 20th century U.S. history, and comparative race and gender. She is a co-founder of the Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea (www.asck.org), an organization devoted to educating policy makers and the public, and a board member of KANWIN, a Korean American women’s organization focusing on domestic violence. Her current project is a study of ethnic Koreans in China, Japan, and the United States. She has conducted numerous research trips to China and Japan, living for extended periods in Yanji City and in Osaka.
Alumni News

Aaron Astor’s (PhD 2006) book (see Alumni Bookshelf) was released on May 1 with LSU Press. He has also published five Civil War-related articles with the New York Times Disunion series with several more coming this year. The articles touch mostly on the Civil War in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. He is beginning a new book project on the 1860 election that examines it as a grassroots phenomenon from the perspective of four distinct communities: Rutland, Vermont; Cincinnati, Ohio; Clarksville, Tennessee; and Madison County, Mississippi.

Gregory Barton (PhD 1999) is a Research Fellow at The Australian National University. He teaches (a little), writes (a lot), and specializes in sniffing out archives in remote areas across the globe. When not writing and traveling he is appalled to discover that he is editing a journal and a book series. He often misses the Unicorn Café in Evanston.

Ed Berkowitz (PhD 1976) continues as professor of history and public policy at George Washington University. Last year Cambridge University Press published his Mass Appeal, a short and popular (or at least intended to be that way) history of movies, radio, and television since 1927. He is working on a history of Supplemental Security Income, a welfare policy program, that, with luck, will be published by Cornell University Press. Even as he approaches retirement age, he continues to think about the things he learned from Robert Wiebe.

Bob Braddock (PhD 1971) continues to teach half-time at Saginaw Valley State University and will retire at the end in June 2013. His most recent publication is a chapter on the Royal Household in Tudor Queenship: The Reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, Hunt and Whitelock (eds.), Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010. He was pleased to find that his dissertation was recently cited as one of the sources for the article on Mary I in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

After teaching five years at SOAS (2003-2008), James Brennan (PhD 2002) moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he is an Assistant Professor in the History Department. His book (see Alumni Bookshelf) will be published in June. He also recently won a Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship (ACLS) for the 2012-2015 period, and gave a keynote address at the Ghent University Africa Program Symposium in November 2011 on Urban Africa; the talk was entitled “Desire, Rents and Entitlements: the pasts and futures of African urban studies.”

Currently an Associate Professor, Mohamed Camara (PhD 1996) is the director of the McNair Scholars Program and the Vice-Speaker of the Faculty Senate at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach, Florida. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles dealing with military rule in Cold-War Africa; religion and societal values in Muslim West Africa; mass media and post-Cold War political systems; civil society and democratization; and intra-African foreign policy. His books include His Master’s Voice: Mass Communication and Single-Party Politics in Guinea under Sékou Touré (2005), Le pouvoir politique en Guinée sous Sékou Touré (2007), and The Development of a Trans-National Region in West Africa: Transcending the Politics of Sovereign Nation States (2010). In 2008 he won his department’s Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award and in 2009 Embry-Riddle’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Mohamed is also the past recipient of the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC) William Diaz Faculty Fellowship (2006-07) and the University of Florida’s Center for African Studies Research Fellowship (2008).

Peter N. Carroll (PhD 1968) continues to teach his course on U.S. Film & History at Stanford University and lecture widely on the United States and the Spanish Civil War. In March, he presented the annual Crome Lecture at the Imperial War Museum in London on “The Spanish Civil War in the 21st Century: From Guernica to Human Rights.” He is Chair Emeritus of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA), a non-profit educational organization, and participates in various public activities. He is also chair of the history advisory board for a new gallery at the Museum of the City of New York focusing on the history of social activism. Meanwhile, the other side of his brain deals with poetry. He has been writing about the poetry of “lost place” in America, including a volume called Riverborne: A Mississippi Requiem. He lives in Belmont, California. Email: retap1@stanford.edu

Marisa Chappell (PhD 2002), Associate Professor of History at Oregon State University, traveled to Germany in November to talk about her book, The War on Welfare: Family, Poverty, and Politics in Modern America (University of Pennsylvania, 2010), at the University of Erfurt and the University of Muenster. She is currently researching community organizing for economic justice in the late twentieth century and is also busy organizing student research and public events to celebrate the centennial of woman suffrage in Oregon. She, her husband Patrick (Northwestern PhD in Neuroscience, 1999), and their son, Everett, are enjoying the recent arrival of Everett’s little brother, Rowan Avery Chappell, born January 19, 2012.


Gerald A. Danzer (PhD 1967), Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, published Illinois: A History in Pictures (University of Illinois Press) in 2011. He also taught a course in the History of Cartography at the University of Chicago.

Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane (PhD 2000) is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Here is what she has been up to: A History of Medieval Heresy and Inquisition (Rowman & Littlefield, 2011); “Pious Domesticities,” Oxford Handbook of Women and Gender in Medieval Europe, edited by Judith Bennett and Ruth Karras (Oxford, 2012); and with Letha Boehringer and Hildo van Engen (eds.), Labels, Libels, and Lay Religious Women’s Communities in Northern Medieval Europe (Brepols, forthcoming) She also won a NEH Summer Stipend, 2011.

Don H. Doyle (PhD 1973) is McCausland Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. He is currently the Archie Davis Fellow at the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle, NC, where he is writing a book on “America’s International
Alumni News continued

Civil War,” which deals with the effort by each side to shape public opinion abroad and the impact of foreign opinion on Union and Confederate views of the war. He recently contributed to the Journal of American History’s “Interchange: Nationalism and Internationalism in the Era of the Civil War” (Sept. 2011), and to the New York Times’s series on Disunion, including a piece called “Bully for Garibaldi” (NYT, Sept. 26, 2011), which dealt with the Lincoln’s administration effort to enlist the Italian hero in the Union cause.

Last November LSU Press published Michael Fellman’s (PhD 1969) cultural anthropology of himself, “Views from the Dark Side of American History,” that included discussion of the grad school salad days of the late 1960s at Northwestern. In November he gave the keynote address on the American-Christian God of War at a conference on border warfare in Kansas City, and in June, he will be travelling to Brisbane, Australia to give the keynote at the Australia-New Zealand American Studies Conference.

Sean Field’s (PhD 2002) third book (see Alumni Bookshelf) was published in April. A volume co-edited with Robert E. Lerner and Sylvain Piron, Marguerite Porete et le Miroir des simples ames: Perspectives historiques, philosophiques et litteraires, will also appear in 2012, or whenever the French contributors manage to finish their essays.

Although having “retired” in 2000, Gerald N. Grob (PhD 1958) has become even busier. Indeed, he suggested to his department that he was considering returning to the faculty fulltime in order to have more leisure time! Since 2000 he has published three books and more than two dozen articles. The former includes Diagnosis, Therapy, and Evidence: Conundrums in Modern American Medicine (with Allan V. Horwitz) (Rutgers University Press, 2010); The Dilemma of Federal Mental Health Policy: Radical Reform or Incremental Change (with Howard H. Goldman) (Rutgers University Press, 2006); and The Deadly Truth: A History of Disease in America (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002). Currently he is writing a book on the history of osteoporosis.

Bruce Haight (PhD 1970) has retired from the History Department at Western Michigan University after teaching there 41 years.

Chris Hodson (PhD 2004) continues to teach at BYU, living with his spouse and kids in beautiful Springville, UT. His first book (see Alumni Bookshelf) was published in June; his next, a history of France and the New World from the medieval period through the nineteenth century to be co-authored with Brett Rushforth, is under contract with Basic Books. Chris will spend May 2012 as a visiting lecturer at the University of Paris. Cheese will be consumed.

Samantha Kelly (PhD 1998) had a baby, published a book, and won a fellowship last spring. The baby is Julia; the book is an edition of a fourteenth-century history of Naples, the Cronaca di Partenope; and the fellowship is a Mellon New Directions, which will allow her to spend 2012-13 studying medieval Ethiopia in London and Addis Ababa. She looks forward to more sleep in the near future.

Robert Kramer (PhD 1991) published his latest book (see Alumni Bookshelf) in 2011. While the royalties from the book have done little to keep Mr. Kramer out of debtor’s prison, the mere fact of its existence has given him enormous satisfaction. Kramer is in his 23rd year of teaching at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, where he teaches Middle Eastern and African history. On the rare occasions that he visits Evanston, he no longer recognizes it.

Gregory H. Maddox (PhD 1988) is currently Dean of the Graduate School at Texas Southern University in Houston, proving without a doubt that if you hang out some place long enough they will give you the big office with the windows. His most recent publication is an edited volume (see the Alumni Bookshelf) published by Ohio University Press in 2010. He gets back to Tanzania regularly, serving recently as external examiner for the History Department at the University of Dar es Salaam. His daughter Kate will graduate from the University of Texas this May, where despite his best efforts, she majored in history.

Guy Ortolano (PhD 2005) received tenure at NYU and then turned to work on an article, proving David Joravsky’s dictum that they only tenure the sick ones.


Adam Schwartz (PhD 1996), Associate Professor of History at Christendom College, will have his Third Spring: G. K. Chesterton, Graham Greene, Christopher Dawson, and David Jones (2005) issued in paperback by The Catholic University of America Press in March 2012.

Johns Hopkins University Press just published Amanda Seligman’s (PhD 1999) new book (see Alumni Bookshelf), dedicated to her classmates from NU’s History Program, especially Graham Peck, Rebecca Shereiks, Jared Orsi, and Ricki Shine. Her current projects are an Encyclopedia of Milwaukee (to be online and published in print by Northern Illinois University Press) and a history of block clubs in Chicago.

Since graduating from the history department in 2009, Jane Silloway Smith has been working as a researcher at Maxim Institute, an independent public policy think tank in Auckland, New Zealand. Her latest project on foreign aid met with much success, including having several of her policy recommendations picked up by the New Zealand government. This year Jane’s focus will shift slightly to analyzing the development of New Zealand’s welfare state as well as to enabling the development of her and her husband Bryan’s son Edmund, born 3 March 2012.

In the fall of 2012, Oxford will publish the 25th anniversary edition of Sterling
Alumni News continued

Stuckey’s (PhD 1972) Slave Culture. Its unconventional thesis that the Ring Shout, a slave ritual in which the Negro Spiritual and the blues evolved, was one of the most important such rituals in America has been subsequently strengthened by his discovery that it is employed by Herman Melville in the mournful march of The Pequod to its burial at sea. The Melville argument is advanced in Stuckey’s African Culture and Melville’s Art: The Creative Process in Benito Cereno and Moby-Dick (Oxford, 2009). Also, a movement in Wynton Marsalis’s recent major musical composition, Congo Square, is entitled Ring Shout.

Joel Tarr (PhD 1963) is the Richard S. Caliguiri University Professor of History & Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He survived a bout with lung cancer in 2009 and is back teaching and doing research. In 2007 he published with Clay McShane, The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the 19th Century (Johns Hopkins Press).

In 2008 the Society for the History of Technology awarded him its Leonardo da Vinci Medal for outstanding contributions to the history of technology. His current research focuses on the impact of natural gas development on the SW Pennsylvania environment.

Christopher Tassava (PhD 2003) lives with his family in Northfield, MN, where he works as a grants officer at Carleton College, raising money for faculty research and teaching projects. Northfield is the self-proclaimed town of “cows, colleges, and contentment,” though Christopher can only really vouch for the second and third. His wife, Shannon, is a stay-at-home mother to their girls, a kindergartner and a second grader. He welcomes the chance to reconnect with NU history folks by email (christopher@tassava.com) or Facebook.

Harry Watson (Ph.D. 1976) will retire as director of the UNC Center for the Study of the American South on July 1, 2012, and return to full-time teaching in the History Department of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He will continue to edit the Center’s quarterly journal, Southern Cultures.

John Watterson (PhD 1970), now retired, lives in Charlottesville, VA where he teaches adult classes for Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning (OULL), loosely tied to the University of Virginia. He also serves as vice-president of the Pine Knot Foundation, which owns and operates President Theodore Roosevelt’s nearby rustic retreat. He is a member of the University of Virginia reunion committee, class of 1962. And, he continues to do research on college football, with special emphasis on its relationship with Progressive Era reform. He often visits his grandchildren in Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin.

Alumni Bookshelf

Aaron Astor, Rebels on the Border: Civil War, Emancipation, and the Reconstruction of Kentucky and Missouri (LSU Press, 2012)
John F. Binder, Farewell, My Republic (Booklocker.com, Inc., 2010)
Mohamed Saliou Camara, The Development of a Trans-National Region in West Africa: Transcending the Politics of Sovereign Nation States (Edwin Mellen, 2010)
Peter Neil Carroll, Riverborne: A Mississippi Requiem (Higganum Hill, 2008)
Michael Fellman, Views from the Dark Side of American History (LSU Press, 2011)
Sean L. Field, The Beguine, the Angel, and the Inquisitor: The Trials of Marguerite Porete and Guiard of Cressonessart (University of Notre Dame Press, 2012)
Gerald N. Grob (with Allan V. Horwitz), Diagnosis, Therapy, and Evidence: Conundrums in Modern American Medicine (Rutgers University Press, 2009)
Cheryl Johnson-Odim, Women and Gender in the History of Sub-Saharan Africa (American Historical Association, 2007), and (with Nina Emma Mba) For Women and the Nation: Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti of Nigeria (University of Illinois Press, 1997)
Robert S. Kramer, Holy City on the Nile: Omdurman During the Mahdiyya (Markus Wiener, 2011)
Gregory H. Maddox (ed., with Karl Ittmann and Dennis D. Cordell), The Demographics of Empire: The Colonial Order and the Creation of Knowledge (Ohio University Press, 2010)
Robert A. Stayton, Master of the Air: William Turner and the Success of Military Airlift (University of Alabama Press, 2010)
Great Success for the Graduate Program, 2010-2012

Our graduate program continues to attract outstanding applicants and train successful students in a wide range of fields. Although most of our graduate students still go on to careers at colleges and universities, the past two years have been characterized by intense and ongoing discussion of the job market and non-academic careers for History Ph.D.s.

Admission to the program remains extremely competitive. In 2011-2012, the program received 296 applications, which we winnowed to an entering class of 15.

Our students have been extremely successful in winning prestigious awards both within the university and outside it. In the last two years alone, Juri Bottura was awarded a Bourse Doctorale from Sciences Po in Paris; D’Weston Haywood won an Arnold L. Mitchem Dissertation Fellowship at Marquette University; Theresa Keeley received a Charlotte Newcombe fellowship; Azeta Kola was awarded a Fulbright for research in Albania; Stephanie Nadalo won a Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa - American Academy in Rome Exchange Fellowship; Wen-Qing Ngoei received a Teagle Fellowship for Teaching and Learning; Phonshia Nie was awarded a Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation dissertation fellowship; Nathaniel Mathews won a Fulbright for research in Oman; Howard Pashman won an ACLS dissertation fellowship and a place in the Hurst Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin Law School; Jason Ralph received a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship; Strotter Roberts won an ACLS New Faculty Fellowship and will be at Brown for two years; Andrea Seligman won a Fulbright-Hayes Research Fellowship to work in Tanzania; Rachel Taylor won an SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship for research in Tanzania; Peter Thilly won an IHR Mellon Predissertation Fellowship, an SSRC International Research Fellowship, and a Fulbright, all for research in China; and Andrew Warne received an ACLS dissertation completion fellowship.

These are just the outside fellowships. Our students also excelled in fellowship competitions within Northwestern. For two consecutive years, Medievalists have won the University’s most prestigious award for graduate students, the Presidential Fellowship. They are Anne Koenig (2011) and Melissa Hamilton-Visc (2012). Anastasia Polda won a year-long fellowship from the Gender Studies Program, and Alexandra Lindgren-Gibson and Teri Chettiar both received fellowships from the Sexualities Project at Northwestern. Our students also regularly win language study and travel support from The Graduate School, the Buffett Center, and the Program of African Studies.

Our students also enjoyed considerable success in securing highly sought after tenure-line positions. Since 2010, our graduates have been hired into assistant professor jobs at Barnard, Bowdoin, Columbia, Grinnell, Marietta, Penn State, SUNY Binghamton, Texas Tech, Louisville, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin-Madison. We have also placed a number of students in prestigious postdocs. At the same time, like many History Departments we are taking seriously the mandate to support our students in preparing for a range of careers to recognize and honor their decisions to pursue work that doesn’t involve teaching in a college or university. We are pleased to report that graduate Michael Green is Program Manager of the Justice and Society Program at the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC; Christopher Hayden is an historian with the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section of the U.S. Department of Justice; and Christopher Tassava is associate director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Carleton College. Several of our students are pursuing careers as secondary school teachers: Stefanie Bator will be teaching at Lake Forest Academy; David Davidson is teaching at St. David’s School in New York City; Molly MacKean teaches history at Phillips Exeter, and Matt Miller teaches at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.

The History Department is known across the university as a place where graduate students’ teaching is highly valued. The students themselves have a great deal to do with this. A few years back, several students prepared a splendid teaching resource binder, which is now in its second edition and distributed annually to all new TAs. (It’s also become a crucial resource for faculty.) The department reduced grad student TAs’ teaching load to roughly 90 students per year, allowing for smaller sections and more sustained interactions between TAs and undergraduates. We also created a funded graduate teaching liaison position; each year, a distinguished graduate student teacher organizes workshops on teaching and mentors new grad student teachers. Our grad students’ outstanding teaching has been recognized college-wide, with Jason Johnson (2011) and Andrew Warne (2012) winning highly competitive WCAS teaching awards.

The successes of our more advanced alums are too numerous to list. Former students are publishing books, winning fellowships, and being promoted at colleges and universities across the country and, indeed, the world. Of particular note: Neil Kodesh (PhD 2004) won the 2011 Melville Herskovits Prize for the best book on Africa in any discipline for Beyond the Royal Gaze: Clanship & Public Healing in Buganda (University of Virginia Press); and Karl Appuhn (PhD 1999) won the AHA’s 2010 Herbert Baxter Adams Prize for the best first book in European History for A Forest on the Sea: Environmental Expertise in Renaissance Venice (Johns Hopkins UP, 2009).

In this era of scarce resources, our department is delighted to be able to help fund our students’ travel for research and to conferences. Thanks to the generous donations of alumni and other friends, we are now supporting graduate students’ software purchases as well as twice-per-quarter faculty/graduate professional development lunches. Moreover, we are happy to announce that a generous donation in the name of Joanna Alseth has enabled us to create a program to support graduate students’ language study.

We are endeavoring to stay in closer touch with our alums. Graduates of the program are always welcome to send us your news. Please send updates to Eric West: e-west@northwestern.edu.
Placement for 2011-2012

2012


Kathryn Burns-Howard: “Agents of Their Own Souls: The Family, Insanity and Individual Conscience in the Nineteenth-Century United States”; Visiting Assistant Professor, Miami University.


Shawn Clybor: “Culture and Communism: Czechoslovakia and the Czech Avant-garde, 1920-1958”; Visiting Assistant Professor, Manhattan College.

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