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Time Lines Fall 2012

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Time Lines

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The College at Brockport, SUNY
Volume 25

Fall 2012

A Note From the Chair: by Steve Ireland



Welcome to the fall 2012 edition of *Time Lines*. Once again we recognize the successes of our students and the activities of our faculty and alumni, and offer news of two recent initiatives: the development of a new concentration in public history, and our new summer study abroad program in Maynooth.

Speaking as the new chair of the Department, however, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of our outgoing chair, Dr. Alison Parker. Dr. Parker has just completed an extraordinary three-year term as chair of the history department, in which she administered the department with grace, guiding us through the shallows, and moving us upward in our never-ending quest for the highest quality in teaching and pursuit of the serious scholarship productivity that undergirds any quality pedagogical program. Indeed, Dr. Parker is a leader in that area, having won the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship last year. In resuming her regular teaching duties, she leaves the Department well positioned to continue providing an excellent education.

Her signature accomplishment was to bring to fruition our long struggle to ensure that every student in a history course at The College at Brockport benefits from the teaching of a full time, tenured, or tenure-able faculty member with a PhD and a record of sustained scholarly engagement with peers on the national or international level, which promotes the scholarly and academic reputation of the Department.

Two other important steps were taken under her leadership. We have inaugurated a promising pedagogical experiment to reduce the size of our introductory courses to 25 and restructure the curriculum to make these seminars writing-intensive with a focus on honing students' cognitive and communication skills as they read, analyze, and write about history. Equally significant, Dr. Parker led us through the complex and demanding Periodic Program Review in academic year 2011-12, mandated by the College. This involved an extensive self study and then inviting two experts to visit and evaluate our work. They concluded that "The curriculum is distinguished by genuine rigor," and found "the pedagogical environment in the department to be truly admirable." They praised our program lavishly, due in no small part to Dr. Parker's efforts.

Thanks, Alison. Much appreciated.

If you have your own story to tell, please do share it with us: trombaut@brockport.edu As always, any alumni news is welcome!

Our Fall Lectures

Annual Synnestvedt Lecture

Thursday, October 18, at 7:30 in the NY Room, Cooper Hall

Professor Erik McDuffie will present the **Sig and Nadine Synnestvedt Memorial Lecture** "Sojourning for Freedom: Black Women Radicals, the Cold War, and Twenty-First Century Global Democracy."

Annual Maynooth Lecture

Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 in the NY Room, Cooper Hall

Dr. David Lederer will present his research into murder-suicides during the Little Ice Age in Europe between 1300 and 1700 CE.

The Synnestvedt Lecture

“Exile and Errantry”

by Robert W. Bermudes, Jr.

On October 6, 2011, Dr. Dalia Muller, assistant professor of History and associate director of the graduate program in Caribbean studies at SUNY Buffalo, delivered the annual Synnestvedt Lecture in the New York Room of Cooper Hall entitled “Exile and Errantry: Cuban Insurgents in the Late Nineteenth-Century Caribbean.”

Surveying the travels of one man, exiled Cuban insurgent Ignacio Martin Arbona y Dominguez, Dr. Muller challenged the audience to ignore national borders and instead “follow bodies in motion” to “discover a world that is made up of a web of interconnections.” She argued that the Caribbean may be seen as “a world of intimate interconnections that we hardly knew existed.”

Exiled by the Spanish after the Cuban insurrection in the 1890s, Ignacio traveled to Cuban communities in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the United States. He was shipwrecked and joined the U.S. infantry in preparation for invading Cuba. Having contracted pneumonia and missed the invasion, he returned to Cuba after the fighting. Dr. Muller found his compelling story of this one-year exile in the Cuban National Archives Donativos collection of revolutionary émigrés’ travel stories and documentation.

In some ways, Ignacio’s story is unremarkable: He was one of thousands of insurgents who traveled through the Caribbean in the 1890s. But it shows that the trans-Caribbean world was an interconnected web of trade and travel worthy of attention.

The Sig and Nadine Synnestvedt Memorial Lecture celebrates the memory of Dr. Sig Synnestvedt, Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History from 1969-74, who revamped and vastly expanded the Department of History at Brockport during his tenure, and of his wife, Nadine, a longtime friend of the Department, who passed away in 2009.

The Marcus Lecture

Dr. Susan K. Cahn, professor of history at the University at Buffalo, noted for her work on lesbian history and adolescent sexuality, delivered the 2012 Robert Marcus Memorial lecture, entitled “Reading, Rhything, Rhythm, and Romance: Southern Girls and Sexual Politics.”

Drawing from her critically acclaimed book, *Sexual Reckonings: Southern Girls in a Troubling Age*, about adolescent girls’ sexuality and its significance in the

ongoing struggles over race, class, and gender relations in the American South, her fascinating talk focused on teenage sexuality in the Jim Crow South of the mid-20th century. Dr. Cahn is especially interested in how sexual and other desires operated in girls’ lives with both private and public meanings. Beginning with teen culture in the WWII and immediate postwar era, she turned to how girls’ sexuality took on heightened political meanings in the 1950s around school desegregation. Her goal is to move concepts like human or sexual desire out of “history of sexuality” and into conversation with political and social histories.

The Robert Marcus Lecture commemorates the late Dr. Robert Marcus, who taught at the College from 1983 to 2000.

The Maynooth Lecture

“Irish Émigrés in Early Modern Europe”

On October 27, 2011, the National University of Ireland at Maynooth guest lecturer, Dr. Marian Lyons, treated an audience of faculty and students to her talk, “Fashioning Irish National Identity: The Contribution Of Irish Émigrés In Early Modern Europe” in the New York Room in Cooper Hall.

She discussed the role played by émigré Irish families during the late 16th and 17th centuries in forming what was to become a unified Irish national identity that bridged significant social divisions between Gaelic (or “Old Irish”) and Anglo-Saxon (“Old English”) communities, which had very little in common beyond having lived in Ireland and being Catholic.

The process began when the English defeated an allied army of Irish and Spanish at Kinsale in 1601. Thousands of Catholic supporters of the rebellion fled to Spain.

Both Old Irish and Old English noble families received pensions from the Spanish crown, and not a few commoners got commissions in the Spanish army. Several individuals also lived as scholars. Most of these migrants regarded their sojourn in Spain as temporary, hoping for a Spanish campaign that would restore them to their lands. However, after 1641, most of the émigrés resigned themselves to life in Spain.

Social divisions between the two ethnic groups were largely kept private within the community, and the Spanish bureaucracy ignored the distinctions between the two. By the middle of the 17th century, a new Irish identity developed in contrast to the emergent Spanish national identity of the time.

Student Success

College-Wide Awards

Paul J. Constantine shared the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences with Kenneth R. Johnson, Communication. (A student from the Department of History has now won or shared this award for four years running.)

Justin Jackson won the President's Citation, the highest honor for an undergraduate student at the College.

Natalie Walton won the Distinguished Professors Award for Graduate Student Research.

Paige Doerner and Benjamin Young shared the Anne and Lynn Parsons Award.

Phi Alpha Theta

The College at Brockport's Alpha Gamma Lambda chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, inducted 12 new members at our annual honors and awards ceremony at the Morgan Manning house on April 20, 2012.

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Anthony Buduson
Shellie Clark
Richard Deverell
Paige Doerner
David Douglas
Amanda Foley

Kyle Gilzow
Judith Littlejohn
Monique McLaughlin
Thomas Partiss
Elizabeth Richards



Drs. Paul Moyer and John Daly congratulate Amanda Foley on her induction into Phi Alpha Theta

History Department Awards

The George S. Queen Essay Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Essay: Sarah Kreutter, "The Devil's Specter: Spectral Evidence and the Salem Witchcraft Crisis"

Outstanding Graduate Essay: Natalie Walton "Weimar Consumerism: Revitalization, Americanization, and the Deception of Modernity"

The Melinda Kleehammer Senior Seminar Prize

Shellie Clark, "The Price of Patriarchy: What the System Cost the Women of the South in the Civil War"

The Jack Crandall Award (outstanding sophomore)

Kevin Payne

The Robert Griswold History Award

(outstanding junior or senior)

Natalie Hare

The Kempes Schnell Award

Benjamin Young

The Arthur Lee History Award

Dave Douglas

The Milne Family Foundation

Departmental Scholar Award

Benjamin Young

W. Wayne Dedman Graduate Award in History

Peter Manktelow

The Terry Gore Prize for Military History

Kyle Gilzow

The Flieger Family Graduate Fellowship

Paul Constantine (F11) and Michael Honsberger (S12)

Graduate Teaching Assistantship

Pamela Celata and Stephanie Haibach (Shared S12)

The Rev. Dr. Robert and Sally Bermudes Travel Fund

Natalie Walton, for primary-source research in Germany

Other Accomplishments

Samantha Wheeler ('13) was elected the first female BSG president in 20 years and gave the traditional address at the fall Academic Convocation.

Garrett W. Roe ('13) worked with Dr. Lauren Lieberman and Rick Lair to plan a canal dock completed this summer for the Brockport community.

Faculty News

Katherine Clark attended several conferences in the fall and prepared for her sabbatical in Spring 2012. She presented a paper in Chicago at the Annual Meeting of the AHA; finished revisions to her book manuscript, *The Profession of Widowhood: Widows, Pastoral Care, and Medieval Models of Holiness*; and researched her new project, "Luxurious Ministries: Illumination and Meaning in Liturgical Books of the Later Middle Ages." Having had a wonderful time in June with the first-ever Brockport-Maynooth summer study abroad program (which she developed), she presented her research on illumination of medieval books at the International Medieval Symposium conference "Human/Animal" June 28-30 in Paris. After working with manuscripts at the Bibliotheque nationale de France, and at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Muenchen in her one-time home of Munich, she took a vacation in Rosenheim, at the foot of the Bavarian Alps.

With the *Global Workforce Project* winding down, **Carl Davila** had a very productive year in scholarship. His first book, *Al-Āla: History, Society and Text* is in press and due out early in 2013. He also completed an encyclopedia article on elite music and dance for the forthcoming volume, *Mapping the Medieval Mediterranean 400-1550*; contributed to a roundtable on Andalusian music traditions in a special issue of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*; and wrote two articles on issues surrounding classical Arabic poetry in the Moroccan Andalusian music tradition (under review by the *Journal of North African Studies* and *Quaderni di Studi Arabi*). His next book: a translation and literary-historical study of the Moroccan *nūba Ramal al-Māya*. He is also very gratified to see the return of Arabic as a foreign language at the College!

John Daly spent a busy and rewarding year as President of the College Senate. In between administrative duties, he read a paper at the American Popular Culture meeting in March entitled "White Wish Fulfillment in Civil Rights Films: Suffering through 'The Help' (2011) and 'Mississippi Burning' (1988)." He also wrote an article for *North And South* magazine that he presented at the Rochester United States History group in February entitled "Heroes without Monuments: the Ignored Commanders of the War of Reconstruction 1865-1877." In October he went to the Southern Historical Association and took part in a publishing panel. The editors of a joint Oxford and Fordham University Press series on the Reconstruction have invited him to submit his book, *The Second Civil War, 1865-1877* for publication.

Steve Ireland completed a book-length study of Esther DeBerdt, born in London in 1746, whose life, first in Britain and then in Philadelphia during the Revolution, adds to our understanding of female agency in the economic and political realms in the late-18th-century

English-speaking world. When her husband, Joseph, joined Washington with the Continental Army at Boston, she made her commitment to the American cause. She and her growing family suffered intensely in Philadelphia during the war, but found themselves on the cusp of national prominence as friends of George and Martha Washington and other members of the patriot leadership. Esther's sudden death from dysentery in September 1780 devastated Joseph and dispersed his family. He died soon after, set adrift by the loss of the woman who had structured and focused his life and his ambition.

Bruce Leslie observes, "Hard to believe that I am remunerated to teach the subject I love to such pleasant students as inhabit the Brockport campus. After over four decades (I hope no one remembers my first classes!), stepping into the classroom remains a pleasure, even if still a little intimidating at times." He finds scholarship a pleasure, too: "Writing an article titled 'Dreaming Spires in New Jersey: Anglophilia in Wilson's Princeton' (published in *The Educational Legacy of Woodrow Wilson*) let me reflect on the use and abuse of foreign models in education." Finally, he has been working with Dr. Ken O'Brien to encourage the creation of a proper archive for SUNY's records. Stay tuned.

Morag Martin published an article in a collection of essays, *Fashion and Art*, dealing with the depiction of cosmetics in the portraiture of the 18th and early 19th century. Despite British commentators blaming the French for the fashion of gobs of rouge, British portrait painters depicted sitters with excessive makeup into the Napoleonic period. The French, in contrast, gave up rouge for more natural fashions, even before the Revolution made wearing aristocratic clothing dangerous. Martin was delighted to connect her teaching with her research by finally teaching *European Women* in the spring (taught by Jenny Lloyd for many years before retirement). She is now working on an article on a female healer and midwife in Napoleonic France. She traveled to Waterloo, Canada to give a conference paper at the Society for Canadian Medical History Conference on the related topic of a midwifery school.

In March 2012, **Anne Macpherson** returned to Belize after a long absence in order to participate in activities celebrating and reflecting on the 30th anniversary of national independence from Britain. She gave a keynote address broadcast live on national radio, and later on national TV, focused on the contributions that generations of women made to the struggle for independence. She also had the chance to meet with high school and college-age students and recent graduates from the University of Belize's recently created history major. It was encouraging to see that both the current government and the rising generation have an interest in original research on Belizean history and in promoting broad public understanding of the nation's history among its citizens and visitors.

This year, **Will Morris** focused on his expanding family. His daughter, Madeleine, was born late in the fall semester. Nevertheless, he found time to work on his book, an urban history of German drug consumers and the social changes they wrought in the 1970s. He sent out several articles related to the topic and presented some of this research at last year's German Studies Association. Morris also reviewed a book, scored AP European history exams, applied for grants and coordinated a pair of very successful Scholars Day panels. He taught a new course last spring, *The Holocaust in History and Memory*, and will team-teach another new course this Spring, *Cold War Culture*, with Film Studies. He enjoyed his role as History Forum co-advisor, and will continue in that capacity this year. Look for more emails and Facebook posts from him!

Over the past year, **Paul Moyer** has finished a complete draft of his book manuscript, *The Universal Friend: Religion and Gender in Revolutionary America*, and is currently revising it for submission to an academic press. He conducted research related to his book last summer at archives in Canandaigua and Penn Yan. He had a brief article, "Protest and Rebellion," published in Volume 3 of the *American Centuries* series, and he authored "America's Geographic Revolution," a substantial review of James Drake's new book, *The Nation's Nature*, which will appear in *Reviews in American History*. Dr. Moyer also served as an article referee for *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* and embarked upon a comprehensive review of historical scholarship on witchcraft in order to support future research and teaching.

With an international grant and a SUNY internal grant, **Takashi Nishiyama** took a leave of absence in fall 2011 and published an article entitled "What Engineers Did, How and Why They Did it: Japanese Kamikaze Attacker MXY7 as a Case Study," in *Kagakushi Kenkyu* (Journal of the History of Science). His book, *Engineers for War and Peace in Modern Japan*, is currently under review by a publisher. He helped organize an international academic conference, *Science, Technology, and Medicine in East Asia: Policy, Practice, and Implications in a Global Context*, presented his research at the History of Science Society in Cleveland and at the Association for Asian Studies in Toronto, and was invited to speak at Johns Hopkins University. He also helped the history department receive a technology grant to digitize teaching and promotional materials.

After finishing a busy and rewarding three years as department chair, **Alison Parker** is very happy to be able to spend more time in the classroom with students! She is also grateful to have received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities and thanks her colleagues for their support. Parker's essay, "Frances Watkins Harper and the Search for Women's Interracial Alliances," will be published in an edited volume this fall; her edited volume, *Interconnections:*

Gender and Race in American History, has just been released, and her article "'The Picture of Health': The Public Life and Private Ailments of Mary Church Terrell," has been accepted for publication in a special issue she is co-editing for the *Journal of Historical Biography: "Disability and Disclosure in Feminist Biography."*

Meredith Roman received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching this May and published her first book, titled *Opposing Jim Crow: African Americans and the Soviet Indictment of U.S. Racism, 1928-1937*, with the University of Nebraska Press in July. *The Historian* will publish an article she wrote titled "Forging Soviet Racial Enlightenment: Soviet Writers Condemn American Racial Mores, 1926, 1936, 1946" this fall. Dr. Roman has begun what will be a long, arduous process of researching her next major project on comparative dissent in the United States and Soviet Union, and is working on her contributions to a forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Black Power*. She enjoys spending most of her time with her son Julius Michael Marshall, which gives her a completely different perspective on the world.

Angela Thompsell offered several new courses last year, including Modern Imperial Britain and Colonialism in the Congo, and piloted a module on Global Trade in her World History course. She presented a paper entitled "On Holiday in 'Wild' Africa" at the North American Victorian Studies Association's annual meeting last November; wrote an entry on hunting for the forthcoming edition of the World Book Encyclopedia; and reviewed two books, one a collection of essays on African, imperial, and economic history in honor of the historian A.G. Hopkins, and one on colonial conservation work in Malawi and its effects on peasant-state relations. In May, she submitted a grant application to the NEH to fund her scholarship on British big game hunting in colonial Africa, and spent the summer writing the first chapter of a book on that topic.

Jose R. Torre completed a chapter on financial panics in the Early Republic for a collection of essays on Jacksonian America. He developed and taught courses on Early America, including the department's innovative large enrollment course designed to fulfill general education requirements. He conducted research at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia for his new project on early American science and epistemology. As past-president of the College Senate, he continued to be involved in campus governance issues.

Wanda Ellen Wakefield was extensively quoted in an article written by Ed Hinton for ESPN.com concerning the upcoming (2012) NASCAR season." And.. She will be presenting a paper, "Citius, Altius, Fortius: At Whose Expense? The luge community responds to the death of Nodar Kumaratishvili," at a conference at the International Centre for Olympic Studies in October.

Alumni News

James Bovenzi, BS '07

James is currently a field inspector for Key Point Government Solutions.

Betsy Clarisse, BS '85

Married in 1986 and with three children, Betsy's husband's career moved the family from Batavia to southern California, northwest Indiana, eastern Michigan, Nova Scotia, Ontario, northeast Illinois and finally, north central Florida, where they now live. One son was diagnosed with severe autism ("back in the day when I had to tediously explain it because NOBODY had heard of it"), so instead of her plans to be a paralegal, she dedicated her adult life to being an at-home mom and a Special Needs Parent Advocate (as well as a Deacon and now Elder in her church, and, she says, "Making sure my kids never wore a store-bought Halloween costume.").

Paul Constantine, MA '12

Having worked for a year to create from scratch the Genesee Brewery museum in their new restaurant/visitor center called the Genesee Brew House, he has now been offered a full-time job with them running the museum as well as other services for the Brew House.

Anthony DiPonzio, BS '06

He received the Outstanding Service Award from the Alumni Association, having served the Rochester Police Department as a police officer since 2007. Early in his career, he received the Rochester Police Department's Life Saving Award for preventing the death of an attempted suicide. He recently received the Rochester Police Department's Purple Heart Award after suffering a near-fatal gunshot wound to the head. He is highly respected for his triumphant and demanding recovery, which leaves him eager to get back to work. A distinguished student, he made Dean's List each semester, was inducted into Alpha Chi, served as a peer counselor to younger students in high school, was a resident assistant, and received his BS Magna Cum Laude, in both history and political science.

Michael Donohue, MA '05

Michael has been a high school teacher in Charlotte, North Carolina, since graduation and is now applying to PhD programs.

Mike Eisenstein, BS '12

Mike now works for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

Marc Glassman, BA '70, MEd '72

Marc completed his PhD in education at the University of Georgia in 1977. He is currently in his 35th year on the Faculty of Education at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Greg Hassett, BS '05, MA '11

Greg will be presenting the results of his research on the 1980 Special Olympics held here at Brockport at the International Centre for Olympic Research Conference in London, Ontario, in October of 2012.

Mike Honsberger, BS '11

Currently a graduate student, his official title is Tax Researcher at CoreLogic Inc in Henrietta.

Nicole Jablonski, BS '10

Nicole has been accepted to two grad programs for this fall: Florida State's MA program in history with a graduate assistantship, and University of Kansas' PhD program with a tuition waiver, assistantship, and 5-year stipend.

Kevin Leisten, MA '08

Kevin is entering his 5th year teaching social studies at the Penfield Central School District.

William Neufang, BA '83

Bill currently resides in Clay, NY, where he owns and manages a computer and electronics recycling company, OC Management. He and his business partner also have a second location in Tampa and are looking to expand into the Phoenix, Arizona, market, sometime next year. He is married and has a fabulous 10-year-old boy named Zachary.

Robert Oushalem, BS '74

Robert obtained his law degree from George Mason University Virginia in 1979 and has been practicing law in San Jose, California, since 1980. He also serves as a judge protem in California Superior Court, Santa Clara County.

Chris Schultheis, BA '04

As manager at the Tap and Mallet, Chris recently put together a successful Rochester Real Beer Week to celebrate craft brews in the city, with a sold out event in the South Wedge and other events throughout the Rochester metropolitan area.

Dave Shampine, BA '71

He is a reporter with the *Watertown Daily Times*, having observed in June his 40th anniversary there. December saw the e-release of his third book, *The North Country Murder of Irene Izak: Stained By Her Blood*, also in its second paper printing at History Press. It is the story of a 1968 murder on Wellesley Island in Jefferson County, NY, which was never solved. His other two books with History Press deal with local history stories that he wrote for the *Watertown Daily Times*, including the tale of a Watertown native who eventually lived, prospered and died in Brockport, canal builder Merritt Cleveland.

Ray Shedrick, MA '11

Ray currently teaches at Finger Lakes Community College and gives public presentations on New York history for the Ontario County Historical Society & Museum. He also developed web-based interactive class sessions for 4th-graders at the Canandaigua Elementary School, and serves as a member of the Canandaigua City School District's K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Development Committee, of which he feels honored to be a part.

Thomas Short, BA '80

Tom is now a mortgage consultant in Canandaigua, NY.

Michelle M. Tuyn, BS '93, MA '96

Michelle is now Lead Teacher for Social Studies at Webster Schroeder High School.

D. Gregory Van Dussen, BA '69, MA '83

Recently retired from full-time pastoral ministry, he is now Adjunct Professor of History, Ministry, and Spirituality at Northeastern Seminary, Roberts Wesleyan College.

Mike Vrabel, BS '11

Mike is now a special education teacher at Gallberry Farm Elementary School in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

More so than the actual degree I received, the lessons learned at Brockport that continue to serve me today are the lessons lived by my former teachers. Dr. [Jack] Crandall's presentation, grace, humor, and his unique ability to communicate his message, served as building blocks I draw from as a business professional. It is often the people and not the field of study that become our greatest educators. So I raise a glass and toast my Dad and Dr. Jack and thank them for my love of history but more importantly, my love of life.

I fondly recall some of the chats Dr. Synnestvedt and I had about civil rights. My mother was active in politics in New York City and actually went down to Washington, DC, in August, 1963, to hear the "I have a dream" speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Synnestvedt was very interested in her views and her reactions to this speech. I once told him that he was helping to bring about an understanding of racial equality/diversity to those in his classes who were not African-American, and I was not the only person to feel this way about his dedication to bringing about this sort of understanding in the minds/hearts of his students.

Marc Glassman, BA '70

Alumni Commentary

Time Lines encourages our alumni to share their comments on the value of the education they received from the Department. Here are some recent replies:

I know beyond a doubt that I use my history degree every day: when I read the newspaper, when I meet new people, (or converse with old people!), when I move to a new area and want to understand the culture, when I lead a committee at church, when I help the kids with schoolwork. I firmly believe that no education is ever wasted, no matter what you do with it. I've tried to teach my girls that there's a story behind everything, and knowing the story is the key between accepting differences and intolerance. The History Department taught me that not only is there a great big world out there, but it's been a great big world for quite some time. And that "those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it."

Betsy Clarisse, BS '85

My degree has been a huge driving force in my life and career. Learning the art of personal communication and relationship building have been the foundation of all that I do. From a business perspective, the understanding of history's lessons and the absolute rule to not repeat previous mistakes and learn/grow from them are best understood when we understand history.

Bill Neufang, BA '83

The Public Face of History

By Dr. Bruce Leslie

Question: What do the City Historian of Rochester, the Monroe County Historian, and the Director of the Genesee Brewery Museum have in common?

Answer: A Master of Arts in History from The College at Brockport.

For four decades, Brockport MAs in History have entered the various fields that have come to be labeled “public history.” Gathered under that umbrella are historians working in archives, museums, historical societies, government historians’ offices, corporate archives, the National Park Service, libraries, and elsewhere.

Such disparate vocations are united by the common purpose of translating and communicating historians’ specialized knowledge to the broader public. Public historians are committed to preserving what Lincoln called “mystic chords of memory” and to bringing the public into thoughtful consideration of those webs that bind our society. A cousin of teaching, public history addresses all generations and lacks the compulsion of required attendance and credentialing. Thus public historians face the competing pressures of maintaining professional integrity and popularizing the subject matter.

During the first century of our independence, Americans placed little value on preserving the buildings, sites, and documents that reflected the past. Then, in the late nineteenth century, the consciousness changed. Patricians wishing to preserve their vision of America in the face of immigration and class conflict began saving historic houses such as Mount Vernon and endowing museums. Amateur antiquarians took the initiative. The movement broadened with the New Deal as the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps trained many in restoration projects and records preservation. Most famously, over 2,000 former slaves were interviewed by members of the Federal Writers Project, leaving an invaluable historical record. The post-WWII popularity of attractions such as Colonial Williamsburg and Plimoth (aka Plymouth) Plantation, a growing historic preservation movement, and new requirements for records management created a demand for trained professionals. And New York state legislated that every village, town, and city appoint a historian.

With professionalization and its concomitant commitment to historical accuracy came controversy. The battle to control public memory can be bitter and highly political. Public historians have sometimes been caught between strongly felt competing views of the past, as in the sad saga of the Smithsonian *Enola Gay* exhibit. Competing views on the justification of bombing Hiroshima led to

most of that exhibit being removed.

But public history is also growing rapidly in stature. Princeton Prof. Tony Grafton, as President of the American Historical Society, recently created a stir with his article, “No More Plan B” – a call for history departments that award PhDs to give public history, and other non-teaching applications of history, a central place in their curricula.

Public history is a dynamic and varied field. If you are interested in learning more about the field, consult the National Council on Public History website (NCPH.org) or join the H-Public listserv on H-Net (www.h-net.org/lists/).

Where does Brockport fit into this picture? At the bachelor’s level, we seek to provide a taste of the field with internships. For instance, this semester Shellie Clark (’13) is interning in the Office of the Rochester City Historian, Christine Ridarsky (MA ’03). Shellie is assisting in the Rochester-Monroe County Vietnam-Era Veterans Oral History Project, helping to process its 40+ interviews. The challenges of accessing oral histories has always limited their utility; however, digitalization offers dramatic new opportunities. With digital voice recorders, the interviews can literally be shared around the world. Shellie has been working on the latest development in oral history – clipping and labeling sections of the interviews. When that is complete, you will not only be able to access the interviews from home, but you will be able to locate clips on whatever topic interests you.

At the MA level, as noted above, a number of Brockport alumni, such as Christine, have become public historians. And we have offered a minor track in the field. We are currently discussing new ventures with other departments. Stay tuned for interesting developments in our undergraduate and graduate curricula.



Christine Ridarsky and Shellie Clark

Brockport History Abroad

“Death and Memory in Irish History and Culture”

by Dr. Katherine Clark

Eleven students and faculty member Katherine Clark initiated a new summer study abroad program in Ireland, Death and Memory in Irish History and Culture, a cooperative effort between The College at Brockport and the National University of Ireland at Maynooth. Our departments have had a close partnership for over a decade, sending students abroad to Maynooth for semester-long study and reciprocally hosting lecturers from our departments at Brockport and Maynooth each fall and spring semester, respectively.

The new study abroad class in Maynooth ran June 5-26 and provided an opportunity for students from SUNY campuses Brockport and Fredonia to examine the concept of history as the creation of a “useable past,” remnants of which surround us today, many of them serving as “sites of memory” relating to key figures and events in Ireland’s political and cultural past. Students and faculty participated in lectures and field trips offered by specialists from Maynooth’s history department together with 13 students from Maynooth, exploring a range of Ireland’s most celebrated historic sites and iconic monuments from the Celtic through to the modern era.

Focusing on sites in Dublin and the greater Leinster region (including Glendalough, Clonmacnoise, Glasnevin Cemetery, Carton House, Kilmainham Gaol, and Tara), the students learned about the “cycle of heritage” and ways that these sites represent enduring and essential expressions of modern and contemporary Irish political and cultural identity. Specialists from Maynooth’s faculty taught on such diverse topics as Newgrange, Viking Dublin, Irish monastic settlements, the Great Famine, The Rising, and the history of remembrance and commemoration of all these sites in the Irish Free State and the Republic of Ireland.

Through participating in class with Irish university students and living in the international summer community on the Maynooth campus, Brockport students got great exposure to new groups of people and had a wonderful time making friends with our Irish co-students, donning Irish soccer shirts in mournful solidarity with Ireland during the EuroCup and exploring the sites of Maynooth and Dublin with them. On the weekends, we explored Dublin and the nearby city of Cork, and some students traveled on their own to Howth, Galway, the Aran Islands, and London. Faculty and students alike had a great time and enjoyed socializing and getting to know one another in an intense, exciting three weeks! We hope that the experience

will encourage Brockport students to study abroad for a semester at Maynooth and to return to Ireland, Europe or farther afield on other programs or on their own after graduation. We look forward to repeating the Maynooth summer program in June 2013. This past year all our students came from SUNY, but the course is open to all undergraduates and graduate students who meet the program requirements and apply by the March 15 deadline. For information about the course, please contact Katherine Clark, kaclark@brockport.edu.



Remains of a 10-century church
at Glendalough

Memories of Ireland by Linda Webber, history major

Over the course of the trip, two places stood out as my favorite sights: the monastery at Glendalough and Ireland’s oldest manmade structure, Newgrange. The culminating project of the course was a 10-minute presentation about one of the sites visited and its importance to Irish heritage as a site of memory.

One of the glacial beauties of Ireland, Glendalough seemed like a place pulled out of time. Situated in the mountains, the monastery has two lakes carved from the receding glaciers, similar to the Finger Lakes.

My second favorite site included a trip to Ireland’s Stonehenge, otherwise known as Newgrange. A large mound made of river stones with an inner chamber, it felt like an Indiana Jones adventure. One interesting fact about Newgrange is the architecture of the inner chamber. During the solstice, the normally pitch-black chamber lightens from the light of the sun.

Overall, this trip has been the best decision I have made since coming to Brockport. If you enjoy sheep, rich history, lots of green and a little rain, then the Maynooth summer program is for you!

Not Your Typical Summer Vacation: A Graduate Student's Summer in North Korea (Yes, *that* Korea) and China

by Benjamin Young

In the summer of 2012, I decided to do something that I never thought I would do. I went to North Korea, a place that I have always been fascinated, amazed, and even scared by. My reason for going to North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), was not for mere adventure. I participated in an intensive Korean language program with the Canadian NGO, East-West Coalition, which focused on the North Korean accent.

You probably think I am crazy for wanting to go to this commonly labeled "nuclear basket case" of a nation. Hear me out. The program was set for 10 weeks, five hours of intensive Korean language study a day, and this was to be my first time outside of North America. This was also my first Korean language study ever, and I had only been studying Chinese for three months before I left. In addition, it was the first intensive Korean language program that this NGO had ever put together, and they had already overcome significant red tape in having this program start. Okay, maybe all that *does* make me sound a bit nuts for wanting to do this. With my parents mumbling under their breaths (they were thinking something more along the lines of *South* Korea, not *North* Korea), I signed up for the program and got on a plane to Beijing to meet my fellow program students and the coordinators.

Most of my time was spent not in North Korea, but in a small, ethnically Korean city in China called Yanji, about an hour from the North Korean border. Yanji is a spectacular blending of Korean and Chinese cultures and languages. Approximately 60% of Yanji's population is Korean and advertisements are displayed in both Korean and Chinese. Classes were held at a local *hagwon* (private school). After a very difficult yet intellectually stimulating four weeks of classes and topical lectures in Yanji, our group departed on a trip to the North Hamgyong province of North Korea.

This area was most affected by the famine in the mid-1990s that killed up to a million people. Thus, the North Korean government has made this area off limits to foreigners until only recently. Nonetheless, they allowed our internationalist student group of American, Australian, Canadian, Danish, and Norwegian nationals to visit the special economic zone of Rason, the industrial city of Chongjin, and the mountain of Chilbo. The countryside was beautiful with untainted mountains, beaches, and landscapes. Bumpy dirt roads made for uncomfortable bus rides but it was all part of the experience. The North Koreans themselves were surprisingly lighthearted and caring; they proclaimed that they disliked the American government but never the American people. I never felt

any sense of spying, nor felt threatened while there.

Rason is a dynamic locale, as the Chinese, Russian, and North Korean governments have agreed upon using this city as a way to bring money into DPRK while gradually opening it up to a market economy. We were able to go to a market. No cameras were allowed inside but that afternoon will forever be ingrained in my memory. Candy, rope, clothing, and even dog meat were sold in the market. A few large, robust Russians were stumbling around the market while nimble North Koreans squeezed by them. On this first trip into North Korea, our Korean guides (you have to have guides if you are to travel in North Korea) were quite nervous around the camera. They cautioned us when to photograph and when not to.

Upon returning to China, I had a final four weeks of classes, which dramatically improved my Korean language skills. The end of the program was a final trip to North Korea. This time, our group went to the less restricted areas of North Korea, the capital of Pyongyang, and the seaside cities of Nampo and Wonsan. The second trip was a success as well. Our kind and caring guide was much less restrictive in our photo-taking, as Pyongyang is well off by North Korean standards. She continuously quizzed our Korean and was generally surprised that these bizarre Westerners were so interested in her nation.

I was surprised by the modern look and feel of Pyongyang. At night, the skyline was bright and vibrant. Unlike China's capital, Beijing, this capital had clean air and was very clean. However, there were always signs of poverty throughout the country. Scissors were used to cut grass and the bumpy roads gave "free massages," as our guide jokingly said.

North Korea is a place that Americans know very little about. Perhaps my bizarre obsession with the country is that I admire its uniqueness. I know there are many problems, but even so, I wish the best for the North Korean people. They are incredibly hardworking, kind, and resilient. I want to go back soon; hopefully, significant reforms will have taken place and the conditions of the average North Korean will have improved. The North Korean situation is extremely complex and there are no easy solutions. The best that one can hope for is peace and a general improvement in living conditions for the common person.

Benjamin Young is an award-winning graduate student in the Department of History.

Memorable Moments, 2011-2012



Clockwise from above:

A bit of levity at the Department graduation ceremony with Dean Barney (l) and Dr. Carl Davila.

Dr. Anne Macpherson congratulates Emily Davis.

A gathering of Department emeriti at the special lecture by Lynn Parsons on the life of John Adams, October 26, 2011. Left to right: Dr. John Kutolowski, Dr. Arden Bucholz, Dr. Kathleen Kutolowski, Dr. Jennifer Lloyd and Dr. Lynn Parsons.



Alumni News

Attention, History alumni! We'd like to hear from you. To make it easier, please fill out, clip and mail this form to: Newsletter, Department of History, The College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or reach us by email: trombaut@brockport.edu. You can also fax us: (585) 395-2620. Check us out on the Web on Facebook and at www.brockport.edu/history Many thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Degree: _____

Current Position: _____

Any news that you'd like to share (career, hobbies, travel, family, etc.) _____
