

Fall 2007

## Time Lines Fall 2007

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## A Note From the Chair: by Jenny Lloyd



I am delighted to be taking over as the first alumna to chair the department I have known and loved for twenty years, first as a graduate student (MA '87), then as a part-time instructor, and more recently as a professor and director of the history MA program. I will be serving as interim chair for the next year before retiring. First, the whole department is deeply grateful to Dr. Kathy Kutolowski, the outgoing chair, who has led us so ably for the past three years. One of her challenges has been to accommodate a large increase in the number of both undergraduate majors and graduate students, something she achieved with great diplomacy and determination. You—and I—will be glad to know that she will still be around for the next year as she takes a “bridge” to retirement. In the fall we will welcome Dr. José Torre, a historian of the early Republic, and our second Presidential Fellow, Carl Almer, to our faculty. Since our two Presidential Fellows share the same first name, we will have to work out some way of distinguishing them,

as we had to when we had three Bobs several years ago.

I say goodbye to directing the MA program with regret. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know our graduate students, guiding them through their courses of study, and celebrating their achievements. Dr. Morag Martin will be the new director.

We welcome back from leave Drs. Alison Parker and Katherine Clark, but will be without Drs. Bruce Leslie and Jamie Spiller for the whole year and Dr. Anne Macpherson in the spring. We wish them very profitable sabbaticals. We always enjoy hearing from our alumni, and would love to hear from you. Please write or e-mail the department with your news.

### Please join us for our annual Synnestvedt Lecture

**Thursday, September 20, NY Cooper Room, 7:30**

**Richard Pierce, historian and chair of Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame  
will speak on aspects of teaching about Jim Crow in African American schools.**

### Upcoming Event: Annual Maynooth Lecture

Raymond Gillespie, PhD, will be visiting the campus from Maynooth University in early November. His current work focuses on the diffusion of print and the changing experience of reading in Ireland, 1580—1700. Please contact [trombaut@brockport.edu](mailto:trombaut@brockport.edu) for information regarding the time and place of the lecture.

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**Due to budget restraints, we will only be publishing one yearly fall newsletter.**

## HISTORY FORUM EVENTS



### Sufi Mysticism: “Sharing Rumi’s Ideas and Poetry with Camille and Kabir Helminski”

Working together with Sarwat Malik and the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue, the History Forum hosted Camille and Kabir Helminski at Brockport for an evening of poetry, music and sociability. Assisted by BSG and a grant from the Coalitions for a Better Community program, the Forum shared a potluck dinner (with delicious food provided by Aladdin’s in Rochester) with the Helminskis prior to their talk, which involved an introduction to Sufism and medieval Islamic culture as well as readings from Rumi’s poetry and demonstrations of typical Sufi songs on medieval instruments. The Helminskis also participated in a series of lectures sponsored through the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at a week-long series of events on the theme of “Islam and Modernity.”

Kabir Helminski is a translator of the works of Rumi and others, and a spiritual teacher in the lineage of Jalaluddin Rumi. His books on spirituality, *Living Presence* and *The Knowing Heart*, have been published in at least seven languages. He has toured as Shaikh with the Whirling Dervishes of Turkey, bringing Sufi culture to more than 100,000 people. He is also author of the recent *The BeliefNet Guide to Islam*. Camille Helminski is the author of *Women of Sufism, A Hidden Treasure*, and has co-authored a number of translations of Rumi with Kabir. She is now working on the discourses of Shams of Tabriz.

### Richard Aquila: America’s Cold War Culture and Rock and Roll

This year the History Forum invited Richard Aquila from the Pennsylvania State University as its spring speaker. Dr. Aquila spoke on the mutual influences of Cold War rhetoric and the music favored by the rock and roll producers of the 1950s. In his talk, Aquila argued that although rock and roll itself is generally thought of as a rebellious genre that expressed teen disaffection with the adult status quo, a look at 1950’s rock in particular reveals it to be surprisingly conformist. Demonstrating how texts and music can serve as historical sources, Aquila showed that the 1950’s record producers with the most popular groups and songs articulated a strong sense of patriotism in rock songs that glorified the soldier’s experience, American democracy vs. anti-Soviet ideology (referencing some 1950’s novelty songs about life in the Soviet Union), and family values (think of “Chapel of Love” by the Dixie Cups).

Aquila is the director of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and professor of history at Pennsylvania State University. He specializes in US social and cultural history and his publications include *Home Front Soldier: The Story of a G.I. and His Italian- American Family During World War II* (1999); *Wanted Dead or Alive: The American West in Popular Culture* (1996); and *That Old Time Rock and Roll: A Chronicle of An Era, 1954—63* (1989). Aquila has also written, produced and hosted numerous documentaries for NPR. From 1998 to 2000, his weekly public history series, “Rock & Roll America,” was syndicated on NPR and NPR Worldwide.

## History Forum News

For the 2007—2008 year, the History Forum plans to begin by assisting the faculty in putting on the Synnesvedt Lecture. They would also like to take a tour of the Morgan Manning house, as last year they ran out of time to do so. The Forum also plans to host more movie nights, as the one featuring Dr. Roman in the spring semester was so successful. Dr. Macpherson has volunteered to do a showing of *Evita!* They also hope to do a second Misconceptions Panel, another Advisement lunch, and other various smaller events.

President: Krysten Collier  
Vice President: Megan McDaniels  
Treasurer: Will Sturnick (in Japan in the fall)  
Secretary: Stephanie Crawford

Please contact Krysten Collier for information about

# Student Success

## History Department Awards

Queen Essay — A. Jonathan Chalmers & Michael Fickess

Melinda Kleehammer Award

- 1<sup>st</sup> place — Ross Savill
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place — Danielle Leone
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place — Matthew Moran

Crandall Award (sophomore) — Krysten Collier

Griswold Award (junior or senior) — George Mantzidis

Schnell Award (soph - senior) — Melinda Wallington

Lee Award (senior) — Matthew McCrossen

Department Scholar — Melanie Larsen

## Phi Alpha Theta

- Dan Armbruster
- Layla Arnold
- Gregory J. Bonura
- Paul J. Brew
- A. Jonathan Chalmers
- Michael G. Chuchla
- Heather N. Collins
- Nicole B. Dunbar
- Michael S. Fickess
- Neil E. Gagne
- Lindsay L. Ganter
- David C. Hanson
- Sarah M. Johnson
- Christopher J. Kirchmaier

- Danielle L. Leone
- Jessica L. McManus
- Christopher R. Pearl
- Amy M. Piccarreto
- Donald C. Powell
- Pamela C. Pray
- Douglas M. Priest
- Ryan C. Reddy
- Lisa R. Ritchie
- Matthew E. Sikora
- Stephanie A. Suski
- Megan K. Wilson
- Tracy A. Zelif



*Krysten Collier, Katherine Clark, and Krysten's mother, Pam Collier, at the awards ceremony*

## Celebration of Writing

Once again history majors won first place in both the undergraduate and graduate divisions of this year's College-wide Writing Awards competition!

Scott Hassall took first in the undergraduate division (Scholarly and Analytical Writing category) for his paper on "Haym Salomon and the Evolution of an Erroneous Popular Historical Interpretation." (Steve Ireland)

A. Jonathan Chalmers' first place essay in the graduate division was entitled "A Light in the Darkness: William Penn and the promise of Pennsylvania." (Paul Moyer)

*Adam Hendel, Paul Brew, Dr. John Daly and Michael Fickess at the Phi Alpha Theta Conference*



## Phi Alpha Theta Conference

On April 14, Dr. Daly chaired a session of papers delivered by SUNY Brockport history majors at the Annual Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in Fredonia. Phi Alpha Theta is the national history honors society. All three students who delivered papers, Michael Fickess, Adam Hendel and Paul Brew, are members of Brockport's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. All three student papers were developed in Dr. Daly's courses and were in a special session on historical revisionism and new currents in history. Mr. Fickess and Mr. Hendel delivered papers accompanied by PowerPoint presentations. Mr. Fickess' paper explored the Welsh Pentecostal Revival of the early twentieth century and Mr. Hendel's reinterpreted the post-Civil War career of General James Longstreet. Paul Brew's paper on the evolution of New York's sodomy laws won the best paper in session prize and a certificate of honor. Dr. Daly drove Mrs. Hendel and Brew to Fredonia and the trip included a wonderful historic driving tour of Bergen, NY by Paul Brew, a local resident.



## Faculty News

**Katherine Clark** spent spring 2008 on leave thanks to the Drescher Program. She completed an article, "Purgatory, Punishment, and the Discourse on Holy Widowhood," which will be published in the May 2007 edition (Vol. 16, Issue 2) of the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, appearing in early 2008. She will be traveling to Swansea, Wales, in July to give a paper at a conference: "The Merry Widow: Rethinking Widowhood in History, Culture, and Society" at the University of Wales Swansea's Center for Research into Gender and Culture in Society. She will also continue writing her monograph and researching medieval manuscripts at the Monumenta Germaniae Historica and the Bavarian State Library in Munich for several weeks this summer.

**John Daly** presented in an Ancient/Classical conference for the first time and developed material for his world history film course with his paper " 'The Passion' was a Rerun: The Long History of Hollywood 'Jesus' Films, 1927—2007" presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in Las Vegas, January 27. He also wrote reviews this spring for the *Journal of American History* and *The American Historical Review*.

**Carl Davila** gave a talk on March 22 entitled "Perceptions of the Islamic World" to the Brockport Chapter of Rotary International. He chaired a Scholars Day panel entitled "Islam, Then and Now" and also presented a paper entitled, "She Has My Sin, If I'm a Sinner...: Artiste Slavery in the Medieval Islamic World." He took part in a panel of eight students and faculty participating in a Teach-In on the Iraq War, sponsored by the Department of Social Work, on April 25, speaking on the historical and cultural background to the conflict. On May 8, he appeared on WXXI-AM's chat show "1370 Connection," discussing the Iraq War. And on May 10, he joined Dr. Michael Dobkowski of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in "Judaism and Islam: Two Scholars, Two Faiths, Two Historical Perspectives, Medieval Spain: Muslims and Jews Living Together," a program sponsored by The Commission on Jewish-Muslim Understanding at the Islamic Center of Rochester. The event was attended by about 50 members of both religious communities.

**Bruce Leslie**, with Prof. O'Brien and College Archivist Mary Jo Gigliotti, has traipsed across Monroe County shamelessly promoting their *State University of New York at Brockport*. If you do not own a copy of this fascinating and affectionate, but never filiopietistic, rendition of your *alma mater's* glorious past, complete with nearly 200 pictures, you risk being blacklisted by the Alumni Association. All proceeds go to scholarships! On research leave for 2007—2008, Leslie will travel much further east,

to Wolfson College at Cambridge University. There he will labor (labour) over a study of the historical relationship of British and American higher education, two systems separated by a common language.

**Jenny Lloyd** gave an invited talk at Roberts Wesleyan in November on "Women Preachers in the Bible Christian Connexion." She spent her sabbatical working on a book on women preachers in Methodist sects in nineteenth-century Britain, and has a book contract from Manchester University Press.

**Morag Martin** presented a paper entitled "The Great Masculine Renunciation: Dealing with Male Hair Loss in France 1790—1820" in Long Beach, California, last October. She submitted her book for publication to a few presses this summer. She earned tenure this past year and promotion to Associate Professor. She spent part of the summer in Brittany, on the beach with her toddler. In the fall, she will be running the graduate program so will be handing over the creation of this newsletter to Meredith Roman. She feels she has learned a lot about the history department and its past from editing its news.

**Anne Macpherson** presented a paper titled "Black Power in Belize: UBAD, Radical Masculinity and the Enabling of Belizean Feminism, 1968—80" at the Association of Caribbean Historians meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, on May 10. Her book, *From Colony to Nation: Women Activists and the Gendering of Politics in Belize, 1912-1982* came out in May 2007 from the University of Nebraska Press. She will be on sabbatical in spring 2008, doing research in Puerto Rico.

**Paul Moyer** received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and earned tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor. In June Dr. Moyer presented a paper entitled "The Household Politics of Agrarian Resistance" at the joint 2007 Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/Society for Early Americanists Conference held in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Moyer's book, *Wild Yankees: The Struggle for Independence Along Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Frontier* is currently being readied for publication by the Cornell University Press and will be released in fall 2007.

**Takashi Nishiyama** published "War, Peace, and Nonweapons Technology: The Japanese National Railways and Products of Defeat, 1880s—1950s" in *Technology and Culture* 48 (April 2007). He was invited to give a talk, "Kamikazation of War, 1944—45: What Engineers Did and Why They Did It" at University of Buffalo, March 1. For 2006-2007, he received an Open CourseWare Grant from MIT. Currently, he is chair of 2007 Committee of Young Scholars Travel Grant in the Society for the History of Technology; he is also president of the Rochester Japanese Association (2007—2008).

**Alison Parker** was on a research sabbatical leave in the spring semester of 2007, finishing the manuscript of her second book, *Engendering Reform: Women and Politics in Nineteenth-Century America*. In it, she explores the ways in which women's political activities in the nineteenth-century United States shaped their political voices. She argues that women's political activities, especially their eventual acceptance of federal legislation as a means for reform, aided the formation of the state at a key moment of transition in American history. Women reformers' changing approaches to social and moral concerns during this period can help chart and explain the evolving role and structure of the government. Dr. Parker will send it off to publishers for consideration this summer.

**Lynn Parsons**, professor emeritus, was invited by the State Department last winter to take part in the observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of US-Russian relations. He was the opening speaker at a meeting of scholars at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow on February 21. His topic was "The Heritage of John Quincy Adams." (Adams was the first US Minister to Russia, 1809—1814.) While in Moscow, Dr. Parsons also met with Russian adults at the American Center, as well as high school students there. He then traveled 900 miles further east and met with similar audiences in the cities of Yekaterinburg and Chelyabinsk, on the Siberian border. In addition to the diplomacy of J.Q. Adams, Parsons also discussed Adams's role in the defense of the *Amistad* captives in 1841. When asked by the State Department if he would be interested in similar invitations, he told them yes, but would prefer something other than Russia in wintertime, when the temperature never rose above zero Fahrenheit.

**Meredith Roman** is currently scheduled to present a paper entitled, "Another Kind of 'Freedom': African Americans in the U.S.S.R. and the Soviet Experiment with Antiracism" at the Russian-America Links Conference on "African Americans and Russia" in St. Petersburg, Russia in late September. In November, Dr. Roman will be presenting another paper entitled "Anti-Empire, Anti-Racism: Representations of the Soviet Union as a Superior Society during the Interwar Era" at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) in New Orleans. At the AAASS Convention, she will also be participating in a roundtable discussion with three other scholars on "Potemkinism: Fact and Fiction."

**Barbara Thompson**, project director of SUNY Brockport's Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair), was awarded the prestigious Felicita Rodriguez Torres Award during the Association for Excellence and Equality in Education (AEEE) Conference in Tarrytown, NY. This award is the highest honor given by AEEE to a member

of the association who best exemplifies the virtues of long, meaningful and consistent service to the purpose of AEEE and who has significantly furthered the cause of education for low-income and underserved individuals.

**Wanda Wakefield** published two articles: "The Bobsled Controversy and Squaw Valley's Olympic Winter Games, in Nigel B. Crowther, et al., *Cultural Imperialism in Action: Critiques in the Global Olympic Trust* (London, Ontario: 2006) and "Out in the Cold: Sliding Sports and the Amateur Sports Act of 1978," in *International Journal of the History of Sport* (June, 2007).

## Alumni News

**Layla Arnold**, BS '07, will be attending the International Law Institute at Case Western in Cleveland, Ohio, this fall. Their faculty ranges from people involved in humanitarian law and war crimes to former employees of the IMF, with specializations to suit nearly every interest. She is especially excited to study with a specialist on European Union law and a professor who was present at the Nuremberg Trials. She writes "I can't tell you how thrilling that is, but then again, I'm sure I don't have to." She also wants to thank the department and those who taught her: "your guidance and teaching provided experiences for me which I will not forget, and each of you has inspired me in your own way."

**Patricia Battisti**, BS '74, is assistant principal of Aquinas Institute. She has been married 29 years and has three children. She earned her masters at Nazareth College and Certification in Administration at the University of Rochester.

**Matt Fidler**, BS '74, has been in the Rome City School District since 1974, teaching almost everything in his field, and some things out of his field, since then. The last eight years have been in curriculum and technology work at the district level. Another year and he will call it a career; then he'll start a new one. He writes "you folks were good to me. Nice to see you are still there and doing good work."

**Deral Givens**, MA '93, will be leaving his job as a law guardian for the Legal Aid Society to join Bryant and Stratton College teaching criminal justice and paralegal studies.

**Tim Gordon**, BS '82, is a member of the New York State Assembly from the 108th District. Tim writes that he was the first Independence Party member elected to the New York State legislature, in November 2006.

**Peter Granick**, BS '79, has moved with his family back to Denver, Colorado. He is currently VP of Global Sourcing for Thermo Fisher's Biosciences Division and is loving it. So far he has visited 42 countries on every continent (except Antarctica and Greenland). He has four children,

the oldest of which, Alex, is in his sophomore year at Geneseo studying biochemistry and a key member of the "A" level Frisbee Team.

**Dionne Mack-Harvin**, BS '94, is the new executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library, the fifth largest public library system in the country. Dionne graduated *magna cum laude* with a double major in history and African and Afro-American Studies. Mayor Michael Bloomberg called Dionne, the library's first African-American executive director, "a dynamic and dedicated leader who will bring new energy and ideas to the system." Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz added that Dionne, selected through a national search, "earned her position the old-fashioned way: she earned it." Markowitz referred to Dionne's decade of effective service to the library.

**Eileen O'Hara**, BA '84, was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award in Librarianship for 2007. Eileen works at the SUNY Brockport library as head of technology. Last year she organized the first ever SUNY/ALEPH User2User Day, bringing together librarians from across the SUNY system.

**2LT Luke Pereira**, BS '05, has been stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, with the 3-61 Cavalry, 2 Brigade Combat Team, 2 Infantry Division. He is the mortar/infantry platoon leader for his unit. He says that things are going okay, considering it's Iraq. His unit has been pretty successful in "detaining lots of bad guys." He writes "trying to fight an enemy that is invisible within the populace of the country is very difficult and demanding." In his off time he is reading the journals of Lewis and Clark, which keeps him connected to history.

**Jeremy Prince**, BS '06, bumped into Dr. Macpherson and Dr. Spiller in Rome this past summer. Jeremy is studying the Italian language, literature, history and culture at the American University in Rome. He stayed in Rome for the summer rather than return home to Perry, NY.

**Harold B. Smith II**, BA '70, lives in Horseheads, NY, and is retired from the New York State Department of Labor where he worked for 35 years. He is active in administering community sports programs and with church and youth programs. He was in the military from 1970—1973, and served in Vietnam from 1970—1971.

**Patricia Dwight Stevens**, BA '70, is currently director of government and community affairs for Monroe County. This is an administrative position where she is responsible for directing government and community affairs activities for Monroe County. Specifically, she coordinates support for the Monroe County Council of Governments and the Center for Civil Entrepreneurship. She also interacts with various community-based government, social, civic and cultural organizations, agencies, and groups regarding the various activities of the county and their relationships and opportunities for cost savings.

## Sweet Desserts: Museum Exhibit Has Ties to the History Department

by Tricia R. Peone (BS '05, MA '07)

A new exhibit at Genesee Country Village and Museum explores 19<sup>th</sup> century American culture and foodways. *Sweet! Desserts in America* focuses on changes in technology and consumption. Patricia Tice, curator of the gallery, explains "this exhibit is about how American life changed in the nineteenth century with the rise of the middle class, emerging technologies, and new concepts concerning health and nutrition—seen through America's love affair with desserts." Tricia Peone, a recent graduate from the master's program in history, interned as a research assistant to the curator. As part of the internship, Peone collected and analyzed historical data and artifacts from collections at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester Historical Society, University of Rochester's Rare Books and Manuscripts collections, and the newspaper archives at the Rochester Public Library. Subjects in the exhibit of particular interest to SUNY Brockport history students and faculty are the influence of the new modes of transportation, such as the Erie Canal and railroads, on Western New York's eating habits. Another SUNY Brockport student from the Department of History, MA candidate, Anthony Carpenter, is employed in the John L. Wehle gallery as the exhibit fabricator. Carpenter manufactured many of the exhibit's displays, and says that his background in American history helps him "put things in proper context." *Sweet! Desserts in America* is on display in the John L. Wehle Gallery at Genesee Country Village and Museum from May 29, 2007 and will continue for two seasons. The gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm.



## First Annual Robert Marcus Memorial Lecture: Robert Strayer, Professor Emeritus “What’s the Big Deal: Communism in World History”



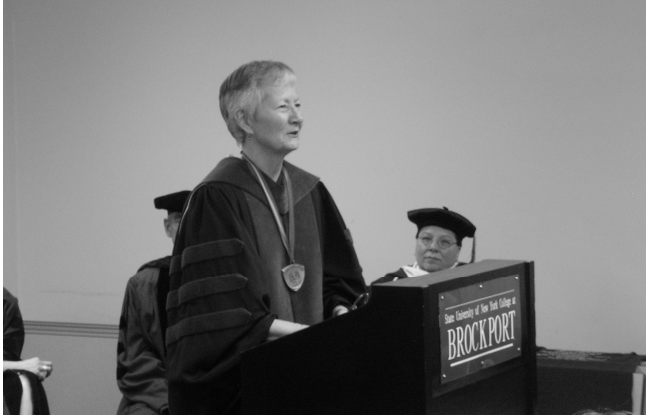
This past March the Department of History held the Inaugural Robert Marcus Memorial Lecture to honor the scholarship and teaching of a highly admired and beloved member of the department, Professor of History Emeritus Robert D. Marcus. After serving as the Vice President for Academic Affairs for nine years Marcus joined the Department of History in 1992. He served as its chair from 1998 until his unexpected death on October 6, 2000. To honor his memory, his colleagues immediately established a lecture fund, and last year the department succeeded in raising the full endowment to begin the lecture series.

A dedicated scholar and professor of Modern American history, Marcus authored *Grand Old Party: Political Structure in the Gilded Age* (Oxford University Press, 1971) and collaborated on several seminal texts. These have included *On Trial: American History Through Court Proceedings* and *America Firsthand*, a two-volume collection of primary sources that is still assigned on college campuses across the country. This collection is currently in its seventh edition and Marcus is still named as an editor together with his SUNY Brockport affiliation. In remembering her dear friend and colleague at the start of the lecture program, Jenny Lloyd emphasized that “he awed me with his dedication to teaching, his determination to introduce collaborative learning in his classes, and the enormous amount of time and effort he put into class preparation.”

Robert W. Strayer, professor emeritus, delivered the Inaugural Robert Marcus Memorial Lecture, “What’s the Big Deal? Communism in World History” on March 22. A close colleague and friend of Marcus, Strayer was a member of the Department of History from 1970 until he retired to California in 2002. Strayer has authored numerous articles and books including his most recent publication *The Communist Experiment: Revolution, Socialism and Global Conflict in the Twentieth Century* (McGraw Hill, 2007). Strayer opened his talk by inviting the audience to join him in wondering and pondering about history, one of Marcus’ favorite pastimes. During this intellectual journey, Strayer identified and then elaborated on six major characteristics of the communist experiment in the twentieth century as exhibited in the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, North Korea, and North Vietnam. One commonality was the desire of the founding leaders to establish a utopia, a perfect society where all forms of exploitation and suffering were eliminated. A second shared feature was the emphasis on organizing a revolution to bring about the necessary changes to create this utopian society. Modernization was a third common element which communist states often pursued through a planned economy. The intersection of communism with feminism or the promise of women’s liberation from traditional, patriarchal systems constituted a fourth commonality. A fifth shared feature was the totalitarian impulse, that is, a desire to exercise complete control over all aspects of society. The paradoxical relationship between nation and empire, especially in regards to the Soviet Union, was a sixth characteristic of communist systems. Strayer closed the evening by eloquently fielding questions from the audience, thereby demonstrating why he had received a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching ten years ago.



# THANK YOU FOR 37 YEARS OF



Dr. Kathleen Smith Kutolowski (“Kathy” to her colleagues) stepped down last spring after serving a three-year term as chair of the department.

Dr. Kutolowski grew up in Elba, NY, and worked summers at the *Batavia Daily News* while in graduate school at Cornell. She says that this was the best writing training she could have had, preparing her well for academia. Another key educational moment was being kicked out of the Republican National convention in 1968 Miami. Nixon had just won the nomination and her protests were not welcome!

She joined the department in 1970, coming from the University of Rochester, where she completed her PhD dissertation in 1973. She met her husband, John, at Brockport with the “Class of 1970” (13 new historians joined the department that September). Son Matt arrived in 1974, with Mark following in 1977. She says “not bad for a seven year span—one husband, two sons, a dissertation, and tenure.” She also remembers fondly playing pick-up basketball against the political science faculty. As an avid college athlete, she had a great time “schooling” the men.

Since then, she has established herself as a dedicated scholar, compassionate teacher, and committed member of the College community. Her strengths as a teacher earned her the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1977 and her talents as a scholar resulted in the award of a coveted Fellowship for College Teachers from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1984—85. Her article, “Antimasonry Re-Examined: Social Bases of the Grass-Roots Party,” was published in the *Journal of American History* in 1984, and her scholarship on antimasonry and Freemasonry is cited in most surveys of the Jacksonian era. She is currently working on the last chapter of her book on democracy in America as practiced on the New York frontier of the Early Republic. She will continue doing administrative work for the department on a part-time basis at least through the coming year.

## LETTERS FROM FORMER STUDENTS

It all started in the Fall of ’03. At that time, I was a part-time support staffer here at SUNY Brockport with a yearning to teach someday and a rusty old bachelor’s degree that was issued back in ’73. Although I had an extremely full platter (i.e., work, family, community organizations), I decided to “stick my toe in the water” and sign up for a graduate level class in the Department of History. My original thought was that I’d go to the first class and if it didn’t feel right, or, was too much for me to handle with the other demands on my life, I’d withdraw—nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Well, I walked into Dr. Kathy Kutolowski’s Early Republic class and the rest is history. I was hooked within the first few minutes and there was no turning back. Dr. Kutolowski seemed to have a sixth sense. Although there were many of us that were new to her, she seemed to pickup on our personality quirks and foibles and learning styles immediately. She used this to help each of us to digest the course material and to want to learn more. Additionally, she created a structured, yet comfortable, environment within which we were able to ask questions and discuss the matters at hand freely—without feeling intimidated.

I owe a lot to Dr. Kutolowski. She is, in large part, why I’m where I am today—loving the College environment and nearing the homestretch for my master’s degree in history. I am certain that Dr. Kutolowski has made a very significant difference in others’ lives as well.

Kim Remley, current graduate student



John and Kathy in the Hartwell offices 1971

# TEACHING AND SERVICE DR. K!!

If you are wondering how difficult it can be to say good-bye to Brockport, send me an e-mail, or just stop by the Department of History and talk to Dr. Kutolowski (aka Dr. K). I can only hope that when I walk away from the classroom, I will have made an impact on as many students. Dr. K's history courses consistently provided the mind with vibrant visuals of a distant time period, while always making local connections to Western New York. Whether one walks away with the ideas that "Whigs" were more than a stylish hair piece in antebellum America, or a deeper understanding of the bitter divisiveness between the political parties of Early American history, Dr. K influenced critical thinking among all of her students.

Outside of class, she provided me with the opportunity of helping her with research for her nearly completed book. What I did not realize at the time of acceptance, was that Dr. K wanted me to decipher census records and political affiliations from the 1800s! As the headaches from squinting resided, a sense of passion for researching actual historical evidence surfaced. Dr. K modeled the sense of dedication that I hope to portray to my ninth and tenth grade Global History students at Jamestown High School on a daily basis. She also talked to me on a level of personal acceptance, which can be rare among professors and college students. Once I confronted her about the "butterflies" I was experiencing before a Scholars Day presentation, and questioned if I could actually perform for students every single day for the next 25 to 30 years. Her answer came with a rigid sense of realism: "I still get nervous, if you lack the butterflies, you may lack the passion." Thank you from all of the students that you have guided over the years; when the butterflies set in again this September, I will be once again pondering your words of wisdom.

Brad Peterson, BS '05



John and Kathy Kutolowski in 1972



History classes in high school bored me, but as an adult, genealogical research led me to develop an interest in history. After being out of college for fifteen years, I decided to "get my feet wet" by taking an undergraduate history class. I enrolled in Dr. Kutolowski's Early America class in spring 2000, a class that greatly influenced my decision to pursue a master's degree in history at SUNY Brockport.

As an older adult returning to school, I was a little nervous, but I found that Dr. K's personal teaching style alleviated my fears quickly. She treated all students with respect and eagerly welcomed student participation in class discussions. Dr. K was a warm, friendly, and very approachable teacher.

The way Dr. K organized history made sense to me. In each class she presented broad themes that provided a framework for the historic details. I found myself referring back to those themes as a framework for historical interpretation in subsequent master's level classes and even when I tried to help my high school daughter study history. I remember Dr. K once explained why she wrote her notes on the board as she lectured. She did not want to get ahead of students as they took notes. Her concern was for student learning, but to me, her notes displayed the depth of her knowledge and a mastery of the subject.

As a teacher and historian, Dr. K inspired me to continue on for my master's degree in history. She was the first of many impressive and supportive professors I discovered in SUNY Brockport's history department!

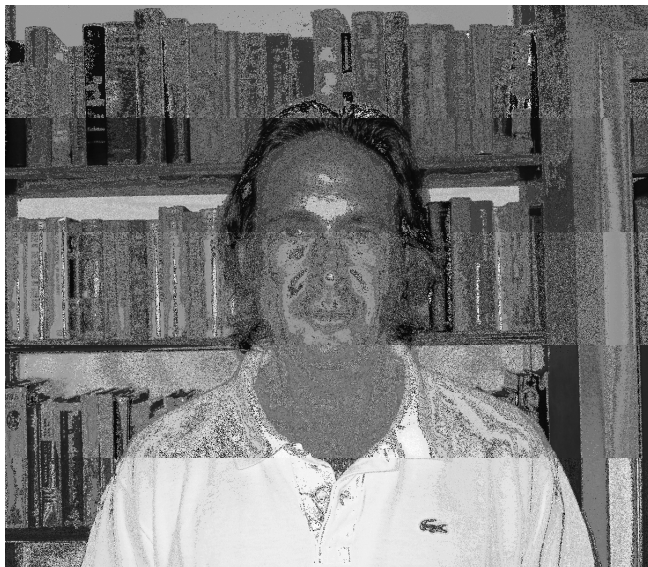
Diane Palmer, MA '06

Dr Kutolowski would like to add that "It has been a privilege and joy to teach at Brockport, surrounded by amazing colleagues who are my friends, teaching students who value public higher education, and watching the College rise to a position of prominence in SUNY. My thanks to all!"

## Dr. Paul Moyer reflects on Dr. K

I first encountered Kathy Kutolowski through her scholarship long before I met her in person. I spent the 1990—91 academic year studying abroad at the University of St. Andrews where I took an advanced American history seminar. Among the many articles we poured over in the class, one of my favorites was Kathy's "Antimasonry Re-Examined: Social Bases of the Grass-Roots Party." When I applied for a position with the history department at SUNY Brockport in 2000, I was excited to learn that the author of the article numbered among its faculty. Seven years later I can say that though my encounter with Kathy's scholarship was enriching, it pales in comparison to what I have gained by being her co-worker. An accomplished scholar and an award-winning teacher, Kathy is also what every faculty member should strive to be as a colleague. I consider myself lucky to have had her as a mentor, as a department chair, and, most important, as a friend. She has worked tirelessly to promote my and other junior faculty's professional growth, she has always been there to offer her congratulations or commiserations (whichever the situation required), and has taught me much about the meaning of leadership. Though I very sorry to see Kathy retire from teaching, I'm very happy to know that she'll be around the department and around town. Whether she knows it or not, I think many of us here will still be drawing upon her font of wisdom, humanity, and good cheer.

## Introducing New Faculty



### José Torre

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jose Torre will be joining the Department of History this fall. A native of Spain, Dr. Torre has spent most of his life in Canada. He earned his MA in history from the University of Toronto in 1994 and a PhD in history from SUNY Binghamton in 2002. Dr. Torre is no stranger to Western New York having taught five years at Keuka College before accepting his position at Brockport. Dr. Torre specializes in the United States early national period and in intellectual, cultural and economic history. He combined all of these areas of interest in his book, *The Political Economy of Sentiment: Paper Credit and the Scottish Enlightenment in Early Republic Boston, 1780—1820* (Pickering & Chatto, 2007), where he explores the relationship between Enlightenment-era understandings of sentiment and the rise of credit markets. Dr. Torre has taught courses on both early and modern American history and also offers classes on New York history and the United States in world affairs.

### Carl Almer, Presidential Fellow

Carl Almer, a PhD candidate at UC-Irvine, will join the department in August 2007 for a two-year stint as a Presidential Fellow. (Our current Presidential Fellow, Carl Davila, will be starting his second year.) Carl Almer—of Colombian and Cuban family background—is a specialist on the independence period in Latin America, in particular struggles between Republicans and Royalists in Venezuela. At Irvine he served as teaching assistant for courses on Latin American, world, and Asian history, and has already taught Colonial Latin America at SUNY Brockport. This fall he will teach two sections of Ancient World, and we look forward to his spring 2008 offerings on Latin American history. Carl has spent the last five years living in Rochester and is married to Morag Martin, also in the department. They have a two-year-old daughter, Beatrix.





# Department Graduation Ceremony, May 2007



*Trisha Peone giving her graduation speech*



*Dr. O'Brien introducing Carl O'Connor and Ryan Dunshie*



*Dr. Bucholz congratulating Patrick Wilcox*



*Mindy Wallington, Laura Butler, Eric Sterling and Jim Wallington at the party after graduation*

(Cut Here)

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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, SUNY College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or reach us by e-mail: *trombaut@brockport.edu*. You can also fax us: (585) 395-2620. Check us out on the Web 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.) \_\_\_\_\_

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