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26th Annual Young Historians Conference

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Portland State University Challenge Program

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26th Annual Young Historians Conference



2015 winner, Lindsay Swanson from St. Mary's Academy, and History Instructor, Matt Vannelli

Sponsored by Portland State University's History Department & Challenge Program

Young Historians 2016 Schedule

8:00-9:00 WELCOME & BREAKFAST

9:00-10:15 FIRST SESSIONS 10:30-11:45 SECOND SESSIONS

11:45-12:45 LUNCH

12:45-2:15 THIRD SESSIONS

8:00-9:00 **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** SMSU 355 (Ballroom)

WELCOME: Karen Marrongelle, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences RECAP OF PDXScholar: David Coate, Digital Collections Technician, PSU Library

9:00-10:15 FIRST SESSIONS: Choose from three sessions

SMSU 338: Technologies and their Discontents

Commentator: Jennifer Kerns

The Scandalous Furca: The Enlightenment, Fashion, and Lena Breda

St. Mary's Academy Hierarchal Strife

Hayley LeBlanc To what extent did British advancements in cryptanalysis Sunset High School during World War II influence the development of computer

technology?

Madeline Chu Print Media in the Cold War: To what extent did visual print Sunset High School

media propaganda in America during the early years of the Cold

War reflect the country's anti-Communist ideologies?

War and Empire SMSU 327:

Commentator: David Johnson

Brandon Tran Alexander of Macedonia and His Transformation Into Despotism

Clackamas High School

Mark DeKay The Art of War: Battles Won and Wars Lost

Grant High School

Logan Marek The Effects of Imperialism on the US: 1899-1902

Lakeridge High School

SMSU 328/9: Education for the Masses

Commentator: *David Horowitz*

Emmanuelle McKinney Plato's Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Clackamas High School

Matouš Komers Charles University: A History of Revolution

Riverdale High School

Spencer C.J. Gregg Crisis in Education -- The Effect of the Cold War on the

Lakeridge High School American Educational System

10:30-11:45 SECOND SESSIONS: Choose from two sessions

SMSU 338: Gender, Influence, and Power: Ancient and Modern

Commentator: *John Ott*

Rachel McKinnon Breaking Boundaries: The Worth of Women in the Merovingian

Clackamas High School Period

Sadie Kok-Carlson Empress Matilda: Always the Consort, Never the Queen

Clackamas High School

Cynthia Abrams The Role and Influence of Anne Boleyn Riverdale High School

Ceili Charley Edith Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles

Lakeridge High School

SMSU 327: Clio's Fellow Muses: Music and Art

Commentator: Desmond Cheung

Elliott Howard Diobolus in Musica: the Christian Invention of Harmony

Clackamas High School

Emma Komers The Link Between Artemisia Gentileschi's Biography and Her

Riverdale High School Artistic Oeuvre

Alexander Klas Music in the Habsburg Empire 1750-1850

Riverdale High School

11:45-12:45 LUNCH SMSU 355 (Ballroom)

Commentary: *Humility and Persistence: Two Cardinal Virtues for Contemporary Historians and Other Human Beings*, presented by *Professor David Del Mar*, History Faculty

Awards: *Professor John Ott*, History Faculty, Young Historians Coordinator

12:45-2:15 THIRD SESSIONS: Choose from three sessions

SMSU 338: Medical Knowledge and Medical Cultures

Commentator: *Jennifer Tappan*

Hannah LeBlanc To what extent did blood transfusion systems and technology

Sunset High School modernize during World War II?

Isabella Pua The Divine Viscera: Medicine and Religion in the Islamic Golden

Clackamas High School Ag

Ellie Barany The Rise and Fall of Human Dissection

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St. Mary's Academy

SMSU 327:

Camille Sullivan The Balmis Expedition: Normalizing Vertical Health Programs

Cultures at Crossroads Commentator: David Del Mar

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Clackamas High School Medicine in Ancient Greece

Miguel Claxton The Islamic Iberian Peninsula: Cultural Fusion and Coexistence

Clackamas High School

Eliza Kamerling-Brown

More than a Misunderstood Religion: Rediscovering Vodou as a

Grant High School Tool of Survival and a Vehicle for Independence in Colonial Haiti

Sam Levin Since Time Immemorial: The Decline of Columbia River Basin

Lakeridge High School Salmon

SMSU 328/9: Power and History in the Ancient Mediterranean

Commentator: Brian Turner

Kirsten DodgeGrant High School
The Devil is in the Details: A study of how Ancient Greek historian Thucydides' greatest work, the History of the

Peloponnesian War, changed historiography

Steven Tran Slavery: The Main Ingredient to an Ancient Greek Polis' Military

Clackamas High School Dominance

Elizabeth Condie Skyscrapers of Rome

Clackamas High School

Elizabeth Walker Women in Power: The Unique Position of Vestal Virgins in

Clackamas High School Ancient Rome

ABSTRACTS

9:00 – 10:15 FIRST SESSIONS

SMSU 338 Technologies and their Discontents

Commentator: Jennifer Kerns

The Scandalous Furca: The Enlightenment, Fashion, and Hierarchal Strife

Sexual perversity, hierarchal strife, the devil: these subjects are rarely associated with the seemingly mild and ubiquitous fork. However, the growth of this everyday utensil is hardly an everyday history. The most recent addition to the English dining table, the fork was originally abhorred for its blasphemous religious and sexual connotations. It was not until the seventeenth-eighteenth century that fork usage became commonplace. The introduction of secularism and sexual freedom during the Enlightenment allowed the fork's gradual rise in English society. During a time of dissolving social classes, fork usage represents the hierarchal strife of seventeenth-eighteenth century England, and the aristocracy's failed attempts to preserve their social hierarchy.

Lena Breda, St. Mary's Academy

To what extent did British advancements in cryptanalysis during World War II influence the development of computer technology?

This investigation will focus on the advancements made in the field of computing by British codebreakers working on German ciphers during World War II (19391945). Along with examining the state of codebreaking technology before the war, it will discuss the nature of computing after the war up until the present to determine the impact of the war on computers. It will consider being electronic (rather than electromechanical) as the defining characteristic of modern computers. This investigation will not discuss the cryptanalysis effort by any other country during the war, nor will it consider cryptography related advancements after the war. However, it will examine the contributions of other countries to codebreaking technology prior to the war when these contributions are relevant to wartime cryptanalysis. It will also consider other countries' contributions to computing after the war. Two sources used in this investigation, Marian Rejewski's How Polish Mathematicians Deciphered the Enigma and Simon Singh's The Code Book, will be evaluated for their value and limitation.

Hayley LeBlanc, Sunset High School

Print Media in the Cold War

This investigation evaluates the degree to which print media propaganda in America reflected its anti-Communist ideologies during the early years of the Cold War. Specifically, the decade following the end of World War II in 1945 is examined. The messages, mediums, and subjects addressed of four images will be analyzed in order to determine the degree to which they embody anti-Communist sentiments. These four pieces include a *Time* magazine cover from 1950, a comic book cover, a page of a *Life* magazine fashion article, and an advertisement by Radio Free Europe. Through these images, a conclusion was reached that while anti-Communist sentiments pervaded all the works examined, they did differ in how explicitly they proclaimed this message.

Madeline Chu, Sunset High School

9:00 – 10:15 SMSU 327 FIRST SESSIONS War and Empire

Commentator: David Johnson

Alexander of Macedonia and His Transformation Into Despotism

At the age 20, Alexander of Macedonia had begun his campaign. After inheriting Macedonia from his father, he would expand his empire, stretching from Ancient Greece to Asia Minor. Besides conquering the land, Alexander changed the land by connecting cultures, adopting foreign customs and expanding trade. Historians like Plutarch and Arrian of the Second Sophistic Age would call him Alexander the Great. But was he truly great? His military campaign was riddled with atrocities and unjustified murders, but history books still describe Alexander as a great man. This paper explores every aspect of Alexander's life, questioning the validity of Alexander's greatness.

Brandon Tran, Clackamas High School

The Art of War: Battles Won and Wars Lost

Sun Tzu is one of the most influential military figures of all time; his treatise *The Art of War* provides the framework for waging an effective war. War is much more than a game of numbers or pawns on a board, Sun Tzu identifies the underlying factors that determine the outcome of every war, past or present. Follow *The Art of War* and victory is ensured, but if you ignore Sun Tzu defeat is inevitable. Many wars throughout history are proof of this statement, but there is no greater example than America's defeat in Vietnam. Despite having a much more powerful and well equipped military the United States was defeated in Vietnam because the Viet Cong followed the teachings outlined in Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*.

Mark DeKay, Grant High School

The Effects of Imperialism on the US: 1899-1902

This paper focuses on the Philippine-American conflict that occurred in the late nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. It investigates the instances in which imperialism were justified by the American people. The question of imperialism's effects on the American view of isolationism is addressed. The conflict itself tore the American people apart. Americans were forced to face a backlash of rebel resistance on the islands as well as anti-imperialist movements at home. This war defined not only America as a world power, but as a symbol. It paved the road for the century of Americanism to come.

Logan Marek, Lakeridge High School

9:00 – 10:15 FIRST SESSIONS

SMSU 328/9 Education for the Masses

Commentator: David Horowitz

Plato's Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Plato is undeniably one of the most influential men in the history of Western philosophy, and he deeply examined a remarkable number of diverse fields. However, in the attempt to understand his various writings, scholars too often over-categorize Plato's work without recognizing that there are no partitioning lines between subjects: they are all blended together to form a complex body of thought. This paper summarizes Plato's philosophy of ethics, with a focus on its inclusion of many contrasting disciplines.

Emmanuelle McKinney, Clackamas High School

Charles University: A History of Revolution

Although the students of Prague's Charles University are mostly remembered for starting the Velvet Revolution in the 20th Century, the university's history of revolution started nearly seven hundred years earlier with a young priest named Jan Hus. Hus started a movement of religious reform called Hussitism, which laid the groundwork for the Protestant Reformation. "Charles University: A History of Revolution" explores the impact and influence that Charles University had on the development and spread of the Hussite Reformation and Hus' massive theological shift.

Matouš Komers, Riverdale High School

Crisis in Education -- The Effect of the Cold War on the American Educational System

The Cold War era had a dramatic impact on the American educational system. Striving to demonstrate superiority over Soviet counterparts, new curriculum were developed to prepare the American youth intellectually, emotionally and technologically to position the U.S. as a world power. With the American public polarized whether schools were a venue for the dissemination of national ideologies or institutions for the development of critical thinking; world events including nuclear warfare, space exploration and military preparedness, served as catalysts for the development of future citizens that would effectively contributed to the intellectual and technological growth of the nation.

Spencer C.J. Gregg, Lakeridge High School

SMSU 338

Gender, Influence, and Power: Ancient and Modern

Commentator: *John Ott*

Breaking Boundaries: The Worth of Women in the Merovingian Period

In a world run by men, the question of women's role in society is always relevant. Were women allowed basic rights? Were they generally respected and considered essential to society? Were they treated differently based on class? The upper-class women of the Merovingians, a dynasty lasting from 457-751 CE, were viewed merely with the degrading expectations that the patriarchy allowed them. They were extremely limited and generally not respected. However, Queen Radegund's life and accomplishments suggest that upper-class women still yearned for a more meaningful life. Radegund demonstrates the desire women had to prove their worth, and the actions they were willing to take to achieve this. In doing so, she proves the worth of women for both her time and ours.

Rachel McKinnon, Clackamas High School

Empress Matilda: Always the Consort, Never the Queen

In 12th century Europe, a world built and run primarily by men, a woman's success was defined through the men around her. This social concept applied especially to Empress Matilda, whose opportunity to claim her right to the throne of England was squandered by her husband, her rival, and her contemporaries. This paper examines the series of events leading up to the subsequent anarchistic civil war, argues that the decisions made by opposing parties were driven by sexist attitudes of the era, and affirms the importance of recognizing and remembering the Queen of England that never was.

Sadie Kok-Carlson, Clackamas High School

The Role and Influence of Anne Boleyn

While Anne Boleyn's reputation is one that is often associated with Elizabeth I and her scandalous relationship with King Henry VIII, following her death she began to be identified as a Protestant reformer and proto-feminist. Drawing on primary sources including Anne Boleyn's correspondence with King Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey, as well as her portrayal in John Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, this paper examines her defiance of 16th century social norms, specifically refusing to remain a mistress, favor of biblical translations, and manipulation of Henry VIII.

Cynthia Abrams, Riverdale High School

Edith Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles

Edith Bolling Wilson used her position as First Lady to assume presidential powers, including making executive decisions. She was the single most important non-elected presidential advisor of all time. This paper describes Edith's growing political involvement, the decisions she made after Woodrow Wilson's stroke in October, 1919, and the impact of her decisions on the defeat of the Treaty of Versailles.

Ceili Charley, Lakeridge High School

10:30 – 11:45 SMSU 327 SECOND SESSIONS

Clio's Fellow Muses: Music and Art

Commentator: Desmond Cheung

Diobolus in Musica: the Christian Invention of Harmony

In the short span of only a few decades, the global music scene has become dominated by the 'Western' style. This broad term encompasses all genres of music that have emerged from Europe in the last thousand years or so. The Roman Catholic Church is indisputably identified as the vehicle for the development and spread of Western music, but few look at the reason why. This paper examines what qualities define Western music, how the church played a role, and exactly what caused the church to make the most significant musical innovations history has yet to see.

Elliott Howard, Clackamas High School

The Link Between Artemisia Gentileschi's Biography and Her Artistic Oeuvre

Up until the era of Modern Art, the artistic community excluded women and dismissed their work as inferior. One exception to this trend is the 17th-century Italian artist, Artemisia Gentileschi, whose work demonstrated her ability to use scenes depicting familiar stories as a way to express her personal struggles as a woman. Drawing upon historical interpretations of her art, popular stories at the time, and the artwork itself, this paper demonstrates the use of art as a tool to communicate social injustice.

Emma Komers , Riverdale High School

Music in the Habsburg Empire 1750-1850

This paper examines the role of music within the Habsburg empire in the century between 1750 and 1850. Music was used as a political tool beginning in the reign of Empress Maria Theresa to incite hostility against foreign enemies, reinforce public perception of the Habsburgs as leaders of the German nation, and stifle revolutionary sentiments among the populace. Drawing upon biographies and analysis of composers found in the *Milton Cross' Encyclopedia of the Great Composers and their Music* by Milton Cross and David Ewen from throughout the period, this paper demonstrates that patronage of music gave the Habsburgs a way to vilify their enemies, enforce domestic loyalty, and increased dynastic prestige.

Alexander Klas, Riverdale High School

12:45 – 2:15 THIRD SESSIONS

SMSU 338 Medical Knowledge and Medical Cultures

Commentator: *Jennifer Tappan*

To what extent did blood transfusion systems and technology modernize during World War II?

This investigation will explore changes in blood transfusion during World War II (19391945). Medical technology and collection systems for whole blood and blood plasma in particular will be examined. The focus of this investigation will be the United States, but Great Britain will also be mentioned due to its close blood transfusion related interactions with the United States during this period. Additionally, blood transfusion prior to World War II and in modern times will also be considered in this investigation to provide context and to allow assessment of modernization during the war. However, artificial blood substitutes will not be considered, nor any other areas of medicine such as surgery or antibiotics.

Hannah LeBlanc, Sunset High School

The Divine Viscera: Medicine and Religion in the Islamic Golden Age

Islamic medicine is largely ignored in Western tradition, but in an era when Western European medical practice relied more on mysticism than science and had lost the advances made by Classical Greece, the Islamic Empire entered a golden age of scientific thought. The impetus for the Golden Age medicine that developed can be partially attributed to the Islamic religion itself. This paper explores the role of Islam as both a unifying force and a set of broad cultural values in creating that atmosphere that allowed for the study of medicine, within the context of the scientific-religious duality that characterized discovery in the Islamic Empire.

Isabella Pua, Clackamas High School

The Rise and Fall of Human Dissection

Classical and Hellenistic Greece were known to be a hub of scientific research. However, the potential for scientific discovery was limited by dominating religious beliefs. Advancements in the study of human anatomy were inhibited by religious taboos that prevented the practice of human dissection. These taboos took hold of Greek society, with a consequence of exile to anyone who violated them. The exception however, is in Hellenistic Alexandria under the rule of the Ptolemaic Kings, Soter and Philadelphus. This paper examines the factors under which the Greek scientist Herophilus was allowed to practice systematic human dissection, as well as the culture created by the Ptolemies that encouraged Herophilus' scientific endeavors.

Ellie Barany, Riverdale High School

The Balmis Expedition: Normalizing Vertical Health Programs

The Spanish Philanthropic Expedition, also known as the Balmis Expedition, aimed to minimize smallpox in the Spanish colonies in the early 19th century through physician Edward Jenner's new technique of vaccination. This vertical international health campaign succeeded in beginning to eradicate smallpox, establishing vertical health programs in general as desirable and effective strategies. While these specific and focused initiatives provide short-term care, long-term solutions are often hindered in the process. The idealized version of vertical health programs has dangerously carried over to more recent public health issues such as HIV/AIDS, which would likely benefit from the more holistic and long-term effects encouraged by horizontal health programs.

Camille Sullivan, St. Mary's Academy

Cultures at Crossroads

Commentator: David Del Mar

What's Your Temperament: the Humoral Theory's Influence on Medicine in Ancient Greece

Prior to the birth of Hippocrates of Cos in 460 BCE, medicine in ancient Greece revolved around the gods and magic. During Hippocrates lifetime, he remastered an old practice called the humoral theory: an idea stating that every individual person has a unique balance of substances called humors in their body. The balance of these humors is what keeps a man healthy, and if a specific amount is disturbed, sickness sets in. This theory allowed physicians in ancient Greece to move away from using magic to treat illness and start using the humoral theory in its place.

Riley Sebers, Clackamas High School

The Islamic Iberian Peninsula: Cultural Fusion and Coexistence

The Islamic invasion of the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century was the first occurrence of Islam reaching mainland Europe. Rather than bloody battles or wars fueled by ideological differences, which usually accompany invasions, the invasion of Iberia lacked any major conflict or bloodshed. The following four hundred years of Islamic dominance in the region is characterized by the same lack of conflict. Through initial limited exposure, and eventual cultural fusion, Muslims and non-Muslims were able to coexist in a society that was uniquely multicultural.

Miguel Claxton, Clackamas High School

More than a Misunderstood Religion: Rediscovering Vodou as a Tool of Survival and a Vehicle for Independence in Colonial Haiti

The majority of Americans today closely associate the term "Voodoo" with satanism, witchcraft and barbaric sacrifice. Yet, far from these ill-formed depictions and misconceptions—which first took root through the western dominance of 18th century colonial Haiti and have been perpetuated through mediums of popular culture ever since—a closer look at Haitian Vodou will illuminate that the spiritual practice transcends religion alone and should be better recognized as the very mechanism of unity that spurred Afro-Caribbean independence via the Haitian Revolution of 1791. This paper explores not only the ways in which Haitian Vodou has been intentionally demonized throughout history in order to maintain western supremacy, but also scrutinizes Vodou as a product of transnationalism. Attempting to highlight the ways in which the evolving religion has shaped both the inhabitants of New Orleans throughout the twenty and twenty-first centuries, as well as Haitian migrants post-revolution, this essay serves as a framework for rediscovering Vodou as more than a misunderstood religion.

Eliza Kamerling-Brown, Grant High School

Since Time Immemorial: The Decline of Columbia River Basin Salmon

Since Time Immemorial: The Decline of Columbia River Basin Salmon studies the near extinction of what has been historically the world's largest salmon population. By examining the issue systemically, my paper reveals that the environmental misjudgments that have brought the salmon so near extinction are not isolated, but rather are the product of cultural trends. A study of these misjudgments reveals a culture within the Columbia Basin that has, since the mid-19th century, sought expansion for expansion's sake and valued short-term wealth over long-term sustainability. My paper illustrates how his philosophy has guided and continues to guide Columbia Basin fisheries management to neglect not just environmental and Native American considerations, but pragmatic ones as well.

12:45–2:15 THIRD SESSIONS

SMSU 328/9 Power and History in the Ancient Mediterranean

Commentator: Brian Turner

The Devil is in the Details: A study of how Ancient Greek historian Thucydides' greatest work, the History of the Peloponnesian war, changed historiography

Before the time of recorded history, how did people view historical events? Was it just a story that was told and passed down with narrative embellishments? Or did they take a more factual approach? This essay will explore one such work of historiography that attempts to transcend history as a story, and more as a necessary combination of dry facts for future generations to use. Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War* endeavors to relay only the facts of what he thought would be one of the most influential wars in the history of his modern world.

Kirsten Dodge, Grant High School

Slavery: The Main Ingredient to an Ancient Greek Polis' Military Dominance

Spartan and Athens' victories against the Persians and their eventual military dominance cannot be attributed to military strategy or government alone. The social acceptance of slavery provided the foundation for Greek poleis' social and economic spheres, leading to the development of slave deployment during the Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War. An in-depth analysis of Classical Greece slavery shows that its prevalence is much greater than what previous historians have thought, and more notably, that it was one of the most massive slave usage in history, allowing for the development of a dominating western world.

Steven Tran, Clackamas High School

Skyscrapers of Rome

After the death of his mentor, Julius Caesar, in 27 B.C.E., Caesar Augustus scrambled to establish his power over the people. One of the tactics he used to exert his power was architecture. Throughout the years, succeeding emperors followed his example to use architecture as a means to control public image, maintain authority, and display their divine power. The Roman forum, the Coliseum, and the Arch of Titus give insight into the control of the Roman Emperors. From these buildings sprang many different types of architecture that are still used to display the power of states and businesses.

Elizabeth Condie, Clackamas High School

Women in Power: The Unique Position of Vestal Virgins in Ancient Rome

The Vestal Virgins, priestesses in Ancient Rome, were placed in an atypical position of power. They were given many religious responsibilities that replaced the traditional expectations for women of Antiquity. This cult of the goddess Vesta lasted for the majority of Roman civilization, seemingly serving as an argument for an advancement in the rights of ancient women. Though the Vestal Virgins seem to be an outstanding exception to the rule of female oppression throughout history, further examination suggests that the role of Vestal priestess was simply another mode through which Roman men could control their female counterparts.

Thanks to all those who make The Young Historians Conference possible:

Challenge Program Instructors

Megan Balzer & Peter Pommer:

Clackamas High School Humanities: PSU HST 101, 102 Western Civ/PSU ENG 107, 108 World Lit

Don Gavitte, Grant High School: PSU HST 104, 105, 106 World History

Karen Hoppes, Lakeridge High School: PSU HST 201, 202, 203 History of the US

Laura Keldorf, Riverdale High School: PSU HST 101, 102, Western Civ; WR 222 Writing Research Papers

Betsy Thornewood, Sunset High School: PSU HST 203 History of the US

Matt Vannelli, St. Mary's Academy: PSU HST 102, Western Civ

PSU Challenge History Faculty

Tim Garrison, Department Chair John Ott, Young Historians Coordinator David A. Horowitz Jennifer Kerns Thomas Luckett Brian Turner

Other Participating History Faculty

Desmond Cheung David Del Mar David Johnson Jennifer Tappan

Jury of Graduate Students in History

Taylor Bailey Taylor Rose Cathy Valentine Justin L. Vipperman

PSU Librarians

Special thanks to Friends of History

and all the students who were part of the day.