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History Department

Fall 2007

History Newsletter, Fall 2007

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History

Department of

Newsletter

A Resource for Majors, Minors, and Alumni.

Fall 2007

From the Editor

I'm writing to the near constant sounds of trucks and cranes as the Sacred Heart's "Quad" is being cleared for construction of the new chapel.

(For those interested, images can be found here: http://www.sacredheart.edu/pages/17603_chapel_photo_gallery.cfm)

Through the fence that's enclosed nearly all the green space on campus, we are watching change in the works. On a smaller scale, but for us just as exciting, we're continuing to see change in the department, and we're thankful to you all for your vital role in making it happen.

In the last issue of the History Newsletter I announced that we would be commencing a search for a classicist. Thanks to the good chemistry reached between current History majors, the History faculty, and our university administration, in February we were able to offer the job to our top candidate, Dr. Gregory Viggiano.

Dr. Viggiano, a specialist in classical history, comes to us from Yale University. Read more about our newest department member under Faculty News.

—R. Bryan Bademan

HNL: Dr. Bademan wrote these words last spring before the newsletter went to press. Since then there has been one more change. Prof. Bademan has left the University. HNL wishes Prof. Bademan well and welcomes Dr. Gradie as the new Newsletter editor. Send your news items to her at gradiec@sacredheart.edu.

Talking to the Sons by Mike Mastri, '07

Last semester I gave a presentation that compared George Washington to South America's hero of independence, Simon Bolivar. Dr. Gradie apparently liked my presentation and felt confident enough in

my abilities to suggest that I present it to the Sons of the America Revolution. With Dr. Gradie's support I felt excited about this opportunity to discuss the wars for North and South American independence with a group of people who enjoy history just as much (if not more so) than me.

However, to be honest, I was not completely confident in my presentation's quality or in my own skills as a speaker to lecture in front of a group of historians who knew a lot more the War for American Independence than me. The Sons of the American Revolution is an organization of people who can trace their lineage back to someone who supported the War for American Independence. They are actively involved in researching particular events and individuals relevant to the American Revolution and run a number of educational programs concerning America's heritage. Just one of their many activities is their patronage of American Revolutionary War reenacting, which is where I first found out about them. In fact, many Sons of the American Revolution are heavily involved in reenacting and it is from them that I have learned most of what I know about the military aspect of the Revolutionary War.

Therefore I was extremely nervous, but managed to give an interesting and entertaining lecture. I believed I successfully argued my thesis to how the contrast between George Washington's and Simon Bolivar's ideals of democracy partially explained the different routes post-independence North and South America took. Overall I am satisfied with the presentation I gave and am very thankful to both Dr. Gradie and the Sons of the American Revolution for this incredible honor and opportunity.

Inside Scoop on a Local Internship: History Newsletter Interviews Senior Carrie Hoffman

HNL: Thanks for meeting with me today Carrie. My first question is what sparked your interest in this internship at the Darien Historical Society?

Hi Sara, Ok, in answer to your question, I received the email from Prof. McLaughlin that the Darien Historical Society was looking for an intern. I thought that this would be a perfect opportunity for me, as I would like to pursue a career in the field of museum studies. I thought that interning at the Darien Historical Society would be a good start in learning how a museum operates. Although the historical society is no MET, I figured that learning about museum work and management on a smaller scale would help to prepare for a career working in bigger museums with extensive collections.

HNL: Museum studies, that's interesting. What additional schooling are you going to need after you graduate from Sacred Heart in order to be able to work at a museum in the future?

Well, I plan on attending graduate school to get a masters degree in museum science. Through attaining this degree, I hope to participate in internships at bigger museums which will hopefully lead to jobs.

HNL: When interning at the Darien Historical Society what is a typical day like or you?

On Mondays I work with the costume curator and the costume collection. We sort and organize things such as old fans, and she asks me questions about the readings she assigns. So far on Tuesdays and Thursdays I've been working with a man who is writing a book on the town of Darien. I have looked through 19th century diaries to find appropriate passages to include in the book, and I've also been

looking through the photo files for interesting pictures that would pertain to the subjects about which he is writing. Next week I'll be taking a workshop where I'll learn how to take wool and flax and make it into thread. That way during the next month I'll be able to teach it to the second graders during their tours of the historical society.

HNL: Thanks, Carrie. Any student interested in an internship at the Darien Historical Society should contact Prof. McLaughlin or Dr. Curran.

Announcements

Attention Students Approaching Senior Thesis:

Check out the following resources for your senior thesis:

The Connecticut State Library, located in Hartford, CT

The David Library of the American Revolution has documents on the American Revolution that cannot be found anywhere else. The library is in Pennsylvania, but you can access their databases from online. For more information please see <http://www.dlar.org/>.

The Mystic Seaport Digital Library project has quite a bit of primary source materials that can be accessed online at <http://www.mysticseaport.org/library/initiative/intro.html>.

The FDR Library in Hyde Park, NY has a massive digital collection of primary source documents from FDR's administration. If you're interested, take a look at <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu>

Our very own Ryan Matura library now has a new electronic resource database that can be accessed online. E-Brary makes available full text of books, so take advantage!

Student News

Junior **Sara Coro**, and Sophomore **Paul Ruvo** are serving as History Department Research Assistant and Work Study. Thanks for your hard work!

History Student Gets Published

“Going about getting something published can be a difficult, yet rewarding endeavor. Whether motivated by personal passion or

professional necessity (ideally, both), when something you have written appears in print or, in this case, pixels, it is to have joined the great marketplace of ideas. More so, even the smallest of contributions is an expression of what it means to live in a vibrant free society—something which we all have a stake in preserving.”

-Jason Guberman-Pfeffer, Junior History minor, on his recent publication to Global Politician. His article is entitled Shia Revival, Shia Triumphalism and can be viewed at www.globalpolitician.com

Alumni News

(Note: We'd love to hear from you, wherever you are. Please write in and give us an update!)

Ron Wright, '06, will be attending Albany Law School in the fall of 2007.

Lauren DellaVolpe, '07 has taken a job at the Treasury Department and is attending graduate school in Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven. She has recently contacted Dr. Curran and had great things to say about furthering her education, “Grad school is definitely challenging, but in the best way possible. I already feel like I've gotten my money's worth in information and my professors all seems so intelligent and diligent with our classes. I also wanted you to know that I actually referred back to my own thesis as a reference for some information I needed in class.”



HNL recently heard from **Sword Shaw** '05 pictured here in Japan with some students in his English class.

Tim McCranor, '05 is in Sana'a, Yemen preparing for his masters degree in International Relations. He is currently studying Arabic with a private tutor for two hours a day, five days a week, at an institute in Sana'a. In a recent e-mail sent to Dr. Curran, Tim refutes the widespread

public notion that there is distaste for Americans in Arabic countries. He says he has yet to meet an Arab who has disliked him just because he is an American. Tim has been there for ten months and is planning to stay there for at least four more.



Here's Tim taking a break from studying Arab to enjoy the Yemini countryside.

Department News

Dr. Gregory Viggiano is the newest faculty member of the History Department.

Originally from North Bergen, New Jersey, he went to St Peter's Preparatory High School in Jersey City, NJ, a Jesuit prep school. He received a BA in Philosophy and Economics from the University of Montana at Missoula, an MA in Classics from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in Classical Philology from Yale University. Dr. Viggiano wrote his dissertation, "Unreported Speeches in Thucydides," on the fifth-century Greek historian Thucydides. His teaching interests include ancient Greek and Roman history and historiography, as well as the history of the ancient Near East. He is in the process of publishing a textbook on ancient Greek history, *Problems in Ancient Greek History*, with his Yale advisor, Professor Donald Kagan, for Prentice Hall. Currently he is helping to organize an international conference on early Greek hoplite warfare to be held at Yale in the spring 2008. He hopes to eventually expand and publish his dissertation as a monograph.

This academic year, 2007-2008, the Department of History will be offering a series of workshops at Trumbull High School in an effort to share the newest research, techniques, and course content in several areas of historical study. Dr. Thomas Curran, chair of the Department of History, initially met the teachers and discussed several areas that might attract the teachers and meet their needs. The Chair of Social Studies at Trumbull HS is a

former SHU graduate in History, Kathy Rubano ('90, MAT '93) and she is very enthusiastic about this wonderful collaboration. In addition, Lou Monaco ('99, MAT '03) another SHU graduate in history is also a teacher there, and he is looking forward to hearing from some of his former professors. This year's collaboration with Trumbull High School is continuing a series of external programs that almost all of the faculty in History at SHU have been doing for years. Faculty has offered short-term courses at the Jewish Community Center and the Fairfield Senior Center. In addition, quite similar to this new venture, Professors Paul Siff, Jennifer McLaughlin, and Bryan Bademan have been involved in the project, through a federal-grant, "Teaching American History" in the Stratford Public Schools, and Professor Curran has been involved in the professional development program in the Shelton Public Schools.

Dr. Curran will be serving as the Chair, of the conference panel: "When Habermas Meets China: Rethinking State and Society in Early Twentieth-Century China," Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Atlanta, GA, January 7, 2006.

Opportunities

The History Department is proud to be affiliated with Phi Alpha Theta, the prestigious national history honor society. Our chapter, Phi-Iota, was chartered in 1974 and over the years has been actively involved in a variety of history-related activities. It invites and encourages all qualified students to become members. The membership criteria are an overall GPA of at least 3.2 and at least 12 credit hours (normally four courses) in history with an achieved GPA of at least 3.4. There is a one-time initiation fee of \$40.00 to the national organization, which insures a lifetime membership, and students may join at any time. Our chapter holds an annual initiation ceremony for new members each spring. Phi Alpha Theta publishes *The Historian*, a quarterly journal that features original scholarship by P.A.T. members. Additionally, the honor society hosts a conference each year in the northeast, at which students may present their work. The annual initiation ceremony is in conjunction with the annual history department dinner, which this year takes place on April 26. All interested students should contact Dr.

Paul Siff (siffp@sacredheart.edu), Phi-Iota's faculty advisor.

The Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention will convene January 3-5, 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Students may attend and present papers at this conference. See Dr. Siff for information.

The History News Network, based at George Mason University, continues to seek unpaid interns. Internships are for a minimum term of 2 quarters. Six hours a week minimum. You work from home or the library--anyplace where you have access to a computer. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WORK FROM HNN'S OFFICE.** Interns communicate with the editor through email. If you have access to email and the Internet you can participate in their internship program. Internships are unpaid. For details and details on how to apply, see <http://hnn.us/articles/982.html#intern>.

The Dr. Charles T. Eby Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of Charles T. (Chuck) Eby, a member of the history department from 1980 to his premature death in 1989, a specialist in early modern European history and a superb teacher. The Memorial Scholarship fund was established by contributions from his family and from colleagues, alumni, and friends. The award, which fluctuates with interest rates, is normally around \$1500. It is given each spring to an outstanding student entering his/her senior year who intends to pursue a career in teaching and whose attributes mirror the passion for history and general love of learning that were characteristic of Chuck. Children of university employees (who receive free tuition) are not eligible. There is no application process.

The Graduating Senior Medal of Excellence is awarded to the graduating major with the highest overall GPA (with an emphasis on the history component should there be a tie). Students who have taken a significant number of courses at other institutions are generally not eligible. The Certificate of Excellence is awarded to the runner-up, with more emphasis placed on the history component of the GPA. There is no application process.

The New England Quarterly seeks manuscript submissions. Prospective authors should send their work to the Editors at the publication office. For more information, see <http://www.newenglandquarterly.org>

Research Funds for Students are available for all undergraduates. Any student needing materials to conduct research under the guidance of a faculty mentor in the fall or spring semesters, and students who wish to apply for travel funds to present their research results at an appropriate national, regional, or local conference may apply for the Undergraduate Research Award. Applications are available now for the 2007-2008 award cycle. For more information on how to apply please see Professor Gradie.

The Darien Historical Society



The Department of History has built a collaborative relationship with the Darien Historical Society. The Society maintains a collection of artifacts dating to the early 18th century, and offers 3-credit internships for SHU students. For details, see Professor McLaughlin or Dr. Curran.

The Association for the Study of Connecticut History is sponsoring a conference on "Insiders and Outsiders: Ethnicity, Immigration, and Status in Connecticut," at Manchester Community College. For details, email Prof. Yang at gyang@mcc.commnet.edu.

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Please support future newsletter mailings and other History Department activities. Your tax-free donations in any amount can be made payable to SHU. Please address your envelope to Dr. Thomas Curran, Chair, History Department, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06825.

We'd like to make this Newsletter more useful to you! Send your comments, suggestions, and announcements to Dr. Charlotte Gradie at [gradiec@sacredheart.edu](mailto:gradiec@sacredheart.edu) Put "History News" in the subject heading.

Please support future newsletter mailings and other History Department activities.

Your tax-free contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Send checks (payable to SHU) to SHU Department of History, Thomas D. Curran, Chair,  
5151 Park Ave., Fairfield, CT 06825.

**THE SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HISTORY DEPARTMENT**

Thomas Curran, Ph.D., Chair ~ Paul Siff, Ph.D. ~ Charlotte M. Gradie, Ph.D.  
John B. Roney, Ph.D. ~ Gregory Viggiano, Ph.D. ~ Jennifer McLaughlin, M.A.



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