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History Newsletter

History Department

Spring 2009

History Newsletter, Spring 2009

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Sacred Heart University

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mer research program in New York City. For more information please e-mail the institute at scholars@gilderlehrman.org or call Justine Ahlstrom at 212- 316-5280.

Career Opportunities in History

Are you a History major with concerns about what you want to do after graduation? Are you looking for opportunities outside of the teaching realm? Here are some career opportunities available to History majors.

Historians as Educators

Elementary Schools, Secondary Schools, Postsecondary Education, Historic Sites and Museums

Historians as Researchers

Museums and Historical Organizations,

Cultural Resources Management and Historic Preservation, Think Tanks

Historians as Communicators

Writers and Editors, Journalists, Documentary Editors, Producers of Multimedia Material

Historians as Information Managers

Archivists, Records Managers, Librarians, Information Managers

Historians as Advocates

Lawyers and Paralegals, Litigation Support, Legislative Staff Work, Foundations

Historians in Businesses and Associations

Historians in Corporations, Contract Historians, Historians and Nonprofit Associations

This list of careers can be found at The American Historical Association’s (AHA) website: <http://www.historians.org/pubs/Free/careers/index.htm>. The AHA is also a great place to visit to look for current job listings and to apply for research grants.

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, Charlotte M. Gradie, Chair, 5151 Park Ave., Fairfield, CT 06825.

THE SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HISTORY DEPARTMENT

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



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SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
Department of History
Newsletter
Spring 2009
A Resource for Majors, Minors, and Alumni.

From the Editor

A glance at this edition of the History Newsletter reveals that the Sacred Heart University History Department has had an especially active year. We welcomed a new department member, a specialist in 19th century American history, entertained two leading historians on campus, revamped the senior thesis, and saw a group of some of the best seniors ever defend their theses and go off to take on the world. One of them, Sara Coro, graduated this December. Sara assisted with this newsletter for the past two years. Thanks, Sara, for a job very well done. We will miss your efficiency and excellent writing skills.

I write at a time when many are looking to the future with a sense of unease. As historians and apprentice historians, we are encouraged to take the long view of events in the present. The accomplishments of our students and our alumni show that education is truly an investment that never fails to pay dividends, and they offer encouragement that the future will not be as dark as some might fear.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year,

—Charlotte M. Gradie

Doris Kearns Goodwin at SHU

History majors Laura Norbut, Vincent Artese, Mark Drexel, Barry Volante, and Sara Coro joined several History faculty, President Cernera and others for dinner with world renowned historian and author, Doris Kearns Goodwin, on November 7. During the dinner, Goodwin answered questions from both faculty and students on subjects ranging from her expertise on Lincoln to her work with former president Lyndon B. Johnson. Later, Goodwin gave a public lecture at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, which focused on her recent book, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

Grad School: One Alumna’s Story

When contemplating their post –graduate futures, some History majors consider graduate school. We talked to recent graduate Lauren Daniels ’08 to find out what graduate school is really like.

Getting In

After preparation in History and foreign languages (she speaks both Italian and French) at Sacred Heart, Lauren is currently enrolled in the Italian Studies Program at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. She decided to apply in her senior year. “I researched a few schools in the area having interdisciplinary history programs and decided that UCONN had the best program with the potential advisor that was the most fitting. I applied to the European Studies program focusing in Italian History and culture. The application was due February 1 and needed GRE (Graduate Record Exam –ed.) scores, three letters of recommendation, a personal statement and the application fee. I received my decision in late March and a few weeks later got a letter offering me funding. In late August I moved up to Storrs, and began classes a few days later.” Lauren received a full scholarship for her graduate studies from UCONN.

The Real Work Begins

Lauren has found that work at the graduate level is intense. She told us “This semester I am taking an introductory seminar to international relations, which is required for the program, and I am taking a Renaissance Europe course. I am also auditing an undergraduate language course so that I am prepared to take a language exam. Graduate school courses involve a lot of reading and studying of secondary sources. My history course involves the study of a lot of theory and historiography. On a weekly basis I read anywhere from 250 to 500 pages. The major difference between graduate courses at UCONN and

the undergraduate courses at SHU is the work load and the amount of work that is graded. This reading is incredibly intense; it takes getting used to and the changing of thought patterns. Graduate history courses involve identifying the argument of the work that you are reading and examining the sources the author used to arrive at that argument, as well as his or her methods. Typically a history course has one, possibly two graded papers, so course attendance and preparedness are necessary in succeeding in graduate school.

“My experiences at UCONN as a graduate student have been some of the most rewarding I have ever had; they have only strengthened my passion for history. My recommendation for undergrads considering graduate school: pick your passion, research schools that have published professors that could work with you on that passion, and do not be afraid to apply. As an undergrad with a B.A. in history the sky is the limit!”

Best of luck to Lauren as she pursues her graduate studies.

Department News

Professor Roney Publishes Book on the Netherlands

Last spring, Dr. John Roney was on a sabbatical leave authoring a book titled *Cultures and Customs of the Netherlands*. According to Prof. Roney, “This book is a survey of the culture and customs of the Netherlands in the context of its development in the modern world. It covers a variety of areas that taken together will give a rich and in-depth picture of life in this small but important country in northwestern Europe. Recent changes in the Netherlands in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries have threatened to untie it from its traditional moorings. As a member of the new European Union the country has had to conform to certain Europe-wide laws and guidelines, calling

into question its own sovereignty. The modern welfare state has fallen on hard times with the emerging global economy, and a dramatic increase in immigration has altered the composition and values of its citizens, despite its historic commitment to toleration. In order to approach these problems in context, this book offers an historical approach that points to the long-term elements that have formed the culture and



customs of its people, and suggests several major characteristics that have been the building blocks of its national identity.”

(Left: Dr. Roney snapped the cover picture on one of his history trips to the Netherlands).

Professor Kagan of Yale Gives Annual History Lecture

The Annual History Lecture on February 19 featured Donald Kagan of Yale University who spoke on “How Not to Keep the Peace: Mussolini’s Seizure of Corfu 1923.” Kagan is the author of many books on both ancient and modern history, including his four-volume, *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

The annual History Lecture is funded by donations from History faculty and alumni. Invitations to the lecture are sent to area alumni. Make sure we have your e-mail to be notified of the 2009 lecture this spring.



Students and Faculty speak with Professor Kagan at a dinner following his talk. From left, Prof. Kagan, former Kagan student, David Rice, Prof. John Roney, Prof. Jake Lundberg, Prof. Jennifer McLaughlin, Sara Coro, Catlin Saporito.

History Club to Participate in SHU Oral History Project

Sacred Heart will be fifty years old in 2013 and the History Club will play an impor-

tant role in commemorating this milestone. Over the next three years, History Club members will receive training to conduct oral history interviews with Sacred Heart alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University. Club faculty advisor Professor Jennifer McLaughlin stated that “This project would be one of the best ways that history majors can serve the University and at the same time be actively engaged in the work that historians do.” This project will be undertaken in cooperation with the Ryan Matura Library. With approximately 20 members, Club President Carly Matarazzo thinks that the History Club has the numbers to make a significant contribution to the SHU Oral History Project.

The History Club is open to all SHU students. It serves as an opportunity for History majors/minors and those that just have an interest in History to get involved on campus. (Ed.)

New Faculty Member

Students now have an expanded opportunity to take courses in American history as the Department hired a third American historian this year, bringing the number of full-time faculty members to seven. James Lundberg (Jake), received his B.A. from Connecticut College, holds an M.A. and an MPhil from Yale University and will receive his PhD from Yale in May 2009. Prof. Lundberg is planning to offer two new courses on “The West in American History and Imagination” and “Market Culture in Modern America.” Welcome Prof. Lundberg!

History Department Co- Sponsors Archeology Lecture

In an April 14 lecture sponsored by the History and Sociology Departments, State Archeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni described the exhumation of Opukaha’ia, the first Christianized Native Hawaiian, for return to Hawaii from Cornwall, Connecticut. Bellantoni recounted the history of Opukaha’ia, who was baptized Henry, and showed slides of the exhumation.

Nine Initiated into Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

Eight students and one History professor joined the Phi Iota Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta on April 24. Seen below while Dr. Siff reads the oath and Dr. Roney looks on



(from left) Jason Guberman-Pfeffer, Vincent Artese, Carly Matarazzo, Caitlin Saporito, Sara Coro, Mark Drexel, Dr. Greg Viggiano. Not shown are Alanna Tynan and Brian Germain.

History Dinner Showcases Student Achievements

At the Annual History Dinner on April 24, Seniors Lauren Daniels and Amanda McLaughlin spoke about their senior theses. Lauren Daniels wrote about Christopher Columbus and Vasco de Gama, and Amanda McLaughlin wrote about the Revolutionary War in Stonybrook, New York, her hometown. Al’yse Thomas spoke about her internship at the Darien Historical Society which she found fascinating. The History Medal was awarded to Senior Amanda McLaughlin and the Eby award went to Junior Vincent Artese.

Prof. Viggiano Presents Paper at Yale Conference

Last spring the History Department faculty attended a conference on “The Origins of the Greek Phalanx: Hoplite Warfare and the Archaic and Classical Polis” at Yale University where Dr. Viggiano also presented a paper. The conference brought together most of the world’s leading experts on ancient Greek warfare. Dr. Viggiano is now co-editing, with Prof. Donald Kagan of Yale, a volume based on the papers delivered at the conference for Princeton University Press. His paper, which will be a chapter in the forthcoming book, argued against the current attempts of the “revisionists” to rewrite the early history of the Greek city-state and to deny the revolutionary effect the development of hoplite warfare had on the political and social structure of the polis.

History Students Visit Fairfield Museum

In order to have her students fully understand the importance of Fairfield County’s

role in the Revolutionary War, Professor Jennifer McLaughlin took her Politics and Society in Colonial America class to the Fairfield Museum and Historical Society. Christine Jewell, the museum’s Director of Education showed them Revolutionary War artifacts and recounted their old, but not forgotten stories. She then took the students into the archives of the museum where she explained the proper way to handle and care for old documents.



Courtney Weaver, Steve Riccitelli, Caitlin Saporito, Alanna Tynan, Mark Drexel, Sarah Coro and Carly Matarazzo at the Fairfield Historical Society this fall.

Breaking News: The History Department has started a new internship and research program at the Fairfield Historical Society. See Professors Siff, McLaughlin or Lundberg for internship opportunities and senior thesis research possibilities in their archives. (Ed.)

Student News

Senior Caitlin Saporito was awarded an Undergraduate Research Grant to research her senior thesis topic. Caitlin said this about her experience: “This past summer I used my research grant to travel to and access sources for my thesis at Yale University’s Sterling Memorial Library. Due to the difficult nature of my thesis topic, and the trouble I had been experiencing finding sources at Sacred Heart’s library and online, I knew I would have to look elsewhere for the bulk of my research...All in all, my experiences going to Yale were fairly good.” Undergraduate Research Grants are awarded annually. Application deadlines for the spring semester are, for material, Feb. 20, and for travel grants, April 10. See your advisor for application forms.

Sophomore Whitney Wildman attended a women’s leadership conference this past summer and said this about her experience:

“Over the summer, I attended NEW Leadership New England, at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College. NEW is a leadership training program for young women, focused on the field of politics. During the five-day program, there were workshops, speakers, and activities, dealing with everything from public speaking and presenting a positive image, to working on our own political action project on campaign finance reform. We also were given the opportunity to tour the New Hampshire Capitol and develop networking skills with current legislators and lobbyists. The program was a great opportunity for me personally, in that I hope to one day attend law school, and the workshops and activities gave me great practical experience with public speaking, as well as practical advice from many past and present women leaders. Since the experience, I have decided to apply for an internship at the Connecticut Capitol, something which I do not think I would have had the courage to do previously. Overall it was an amazing experience!”

Breaking News: Whitney will be pursuing her interest in politics as an intern in the Connecticut State Legislature this spring. (Ed.)

Alumni News

(Note: We love to hear from our alumni. Send your notes to the Editor at gradiec@sacredheart.edu)

Jayseth Guberman ’81 B.A. works in the financial services industry but has found time to travel the work and pursue his interests in postal history and ancient numismatics. He has published in *Mercator’s World* (a journal of map collecting and cartography), in the *American Philatelist*, *Linn’s Stamp News*, *Scott’s Stamp Monthly*, *Ukrains’kii Filatelist*, and the *Rossica Journal* amongst others. His article on “The Cambridge Hoard of 1897 Revisited” appeared in *The Celator: Journal of Ancient and Medieval Coinage* last spring. The article studies the history, background and disposition of a mixed hoard of 207 mostly 3rd century Roman silver denarii and antoniniani. The hoard was found in the vicinity of Cambridge, England in 1897 and acquired by William C. Boyd (1840-1906), a member of the Royal Numismatic Society.

Jay resides in northern Connecticut with his wife and daughter. After completing his studies at SHU he studied at Yale Graduate

School in the Department of Near East Languages and Literatures and completed his MA at NYU’s Kevorkian Center in Middle East Studies. His MA thesis was entitled “Israel as a Catalyst for Islamic Revival” and concentrated on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and, particularly, the writings of Sayyid Qutb (d. 1965).

Alumni Michael Haynes ’05 B.A. graduated from the University of Delaware with an MBA in May 2007. He is currently working as an Account Executive with the United Way of Long Island. The programs of the United Way of Long Island involve helping people to find employment and families to afford the most basic necessities of life.

Peter Trenchard ’98 B.A., ’99 M.Ed. reports that he is married with a daughter and is expecting another child in January 2008. Peter has taught social studies at West Haven High School for the past ten years. He extends an offer to any History majors or minors to observe his class at any time.

Jason Gubermann-Pfeffer ’08 B.A. (History Minor) received honorable mention for his article “Truth and Falsehood: Islamists on Their Own Terms,” from the Albert J. Wood Student writing contest. All submissions were from full-time undergraduate, graduate, or professional school students and had to be from 4,000-7,000 words in length. *The Middle East Quarterly*, which sponsored the contest, received submissions from all over the world, representing more than 20 academic institutions.

Opportunities

The Council of Independent Colleges provides fellowships for doctoral study in the humanities by accomplished graduates of small and mid-sized private liberal arts colleges. The fellowships will be available to students from eligible institutions enrolled in doctoral programs at any of 23 leading independent research universities in the United States, Great Britain, and Ireland. Eligible fields of study include history, philosophy, literature and languages, and fine arts. Please look for the application deadline around the fall of 2009. For more information visit: http://www.cic.edu/projects_services/grants/americangrad.asp.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute Summer Research Program is for History and American Studies Undergraduate students, who can apply to the program for a sum-