History Newsletter, Spring 2009

History Department
Sacred Heart University

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**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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**Charlotte M. Gradie**

Doris Kearns Goodwin at SHU

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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 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 interdisciplinary 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.

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**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 department's curriculum, and strengthened our commitment that the future will not be as dark as some might fear.

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 students and our alumni show that education is truly an investment that never fails. As professionals and amateur 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.
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 address these problems, 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 the national identity.” (Left: Dr. Roney snapped the cover picture on one of his business trips to the Netherlands).

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 excavation of Opuka’a, the first Chiricahua Native Hawaiian, for return to Hawaii from Cornwall, Connecticut. Bellantoni recounted the history of Opuka’a, who was baptized Henry, and showed slides of the excavation.

Nine Initiated into Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society
Eight students and one History professor joined the Phi Lota Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta on April 24. Seen behind while Dr. Siff reads the oath and Dr. McLaughlin looks on (from left) Jason gubernber-paffefer, 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 Vespasio de Gama, and Amanda McLaughlin wrote about the Revolutionary War in Stonybrook, New York, her hometown. Al’Pye Thomas spoke about her internship at the DIarian Historical Society this fall. He found fascinating. The History Medal was awarded to Senior Amanda McLaughlin and the Eby award went to Junior Vincent Artese.

Courtney Weaver, Steve Riccitelli, Caitlin Saporito, Alanna Tynan, Mark Drexel, Dr. Sarah Coro and Carly Matarazzo at the Fairfield Historical Society this fall. The History Department has started a new Undergraduate Research program at the Fairfield Historical Society. See Professors Siff, McLaughlin or Lombardi for internship opportunities and senior thesis research possibilities in their archives. (Ed.)

Prof. Viggiano Presents Paper at Yale Conference
Last spring the History Department faculty attended the International Conference “The Origins of the Greek Phalanx: Hoplite Warfare and the Archaic and Classical Polis” at Yale University where Dr. Viggiano also present ed 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, argues against the current attempts of the “revisionists” to rewrite the early history of the Greek city-state and to deny the revolution ary 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 Connecticut class on a field trip to the Fairfield Museum and Historical Society. Christine Jewell, the museum’s Education Director showed them Revolutionary War artifacts. She pointed out the immediate effects that the 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.

Alumni News
(Alumni: We love to hear from our alumni. Send your notes to the Editor at gaduc@shucaerated.edu)

Jaysch Guberber ‘81 B.A. works in the financial services industry but has found time to travel the world and pursue his interests in postal history and ancient numismatics. He has published in Mercator’s World [journal of map collecting and cartography], in the American Philatelist, Lion’s Stamp News, Scott’s Stamp Monthly, Ukraini’kii Filateliist, 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 antoninians. The hoard was found in the East End of Coventry, 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 in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at Harvard University and his PhD at the University of Cambridge. He is currently working as a Research Associate with the Middle East Studies. His MA thesis was entitled “Israel as a Catalyst for Islamic Revival” and concentrated on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. His PhD focused on the Middle East and, particularly, the writings of Sayyid Qutb (d. 1965).

Jason Guberber-Paffefer ‘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-size private liberal arts colleges. The fellowships will be available to students from eligible institutions enrolled in doctoral programs at any 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 and application information at the Council of Independent Colleges Web site: www.cic.edu/Proj ects_Services/Gra nts/americangrad.asp.

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