A Week With Writer-In-Residence
Robin D.G. Kelley

Each year the Department of History brings a writer of national prominence to campus for a weeklong residency. The aim of the visit is to help our students and faculty think more purposefully about how to bring our work to the public in as many ways as we are able.

In March the department was thrilled to welcome Robin D.G. Kelley, Gary B. Nash Professor of American History at UCLA, as our spring 2013 Writer-in-Residence. Kelley’s research and teaching interests span the history of labor and radical movements in the U.S., the African Diaspora, and Africa; intellectual and cultural history, particularly music and visual culture; urban studies, and transnational movements. He is perhaps best known for his popular books Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original and Yo Mama’s DisFunktional!: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America.

Before arriving at UMass, Kelley volunteered to give two major lectures—one at UMass and one at Amherst College—rather than the customary single public talk. Both talks—“The Long Rise and Short Decline of American Democracy” and “Seeking Soul Sister: Grace Halsell and the Quest for a Compassionate World”—played to packed houses. Kelley later shared early insights from his current book project, a biography of Grace Halsell, a white journalist known for her experiments in racial and cultural crossing. (If you missed these great events, not to worry: the lecture given here on campus—an excellent companion to our 2012-13 Feinberg Series, “Truth and Reconciliation”—can be found on the UMass History YouTube Channel.)

Kelley’s week commenced with a visit to the spring graduate seminar, “Writing History.” Students and faculty took particular note of his advice to clarify rather than complicate the subjects we study, and to engage with the widest possible audience for our work. One grad student, John Dickson, reflected, “I think what inspired us most of all was his uncompromising vision for applying history to address topical issues.”

Another major highlight was a brown-bag lunch at New Africa House with graduate students and faculty from the departments of History, Afro-American Studies, and English in attendance. With Afro-Am Professor John Bracey facilitating and a Thelonious Monk album playing in the background, the discussion moved from the students’ interests to Kelley’s research and on to the year’s global current events.

We would like to thank Professor Kelley for his versatility and candor and assure him that he is welcome back to Herter Hall at any time.
As I enter my second term as department chair I want to thank my colleagues for their continuing trust in me. I feel particularly lucky to have such a capable group of people to work with here in Herter Hall. The department continues to face challenges as we negotiate the new ideas swirling around in higher education—everything from online teaching and Massive Open Online Courses to team-based learning. We continue to struggle to garner state support for our activities, even as we grow and develop in new and exciting ways.

As this newsletter attests, this past year was full and simulating for all of us. First, let me say congratulations to Steve Platt, who was promoted to full professor this year, and to José Angel Hernández, Barbara Krauthamer, and Anna Taylor, all of whom were promoted to associate professor. We celebrated Joyce Berkman’s retirement this spring. It was a bittersweet moment, but we know that we will continue to be connected with Joyce in new and creative ways and that her endowment to enable graduate students to do primary research will help guarantee her legacy.

Other notable events include Robin D.G. Kelley’s stint as Writer-in-Residence—a tour de force and a truly amazing week for all who participated. Nan Woodruff’s guest lecture on Grenada, Miss., and the desegregation of its public schools in the 1960s was a bone-chilling reminder of the courage and conviction of many people, young and old. Steve Platt’s Cundill Prize was a thrill for all of us in the department, and his Cape Cod Lounge presentation on one of the coldest days in January clearly demonstrated why he won this most prestigious award.

Three new faculty members—Emily T.H. Redman, Samuel Redman, and Libby Sharrow—are joining us this year. They bring new energy from Berkeley and the Twin Cities, and we are excited about their new classes and dynamic ideas. Emily’s work on math education and the NSF complements both our growing History of Science and Technology track and our work in oral history. Her presence promises to expand our connections with the North Side of campus in positive and productive ways. Sam’s work on museums, human remains, and oral history will energize our Public History Program in phenomenal ways. His work connects directly to the Center for Heritage Studies as well as the Heritage Studies cluster. Libby’s presence will help us strengthen our relationship with the Political Science Department, the Political Economy Research Institute, and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies. Several of us work on public policy issues, but Libby will help broaden our offerings and develop closer ties with the faculty in the College for Social and Behavioral Sciences. We eagerly look forward to the coming transformations.

These and many other exciting events and activities of the past year are documented in this newsletter.

My thanks go to Associate Chair Anne Broadbridge, Undergraduate Program Director Jennifer Heuer, and Graduate Program Director Marla Miller for agreeing to serve with me. Without them and our staff—Suzanne Bell, Amy Fleig, and Mary Lashway—being chair would be virtually impossible. I want to extend a special thank-you to Rochelle Vigurs, who stepped in as interim office manager last year. Amy Fleig is now in that position and doing a wonderful job organizing the department in new and logical ways—no easy task. I look forward to the changes coming to the sixth floor of Herter under her watch. Similarly, Jessica Johnson, our new outreach director, came on board this spring and is generating new programs and ideas to help the department think of novel ways to generate funds. I appreciate their support each and every day.

Finally, our work building relationships with alumni continues. As we think about what kind of department we want to become, we have to face the reality of changing economic times: as state support dwindles, alumni have an even more important role to play. I again this year call on all of you to be a part of a more active alumni group. I look forward to hearing from you at chair@history.umass.edu.

—Joye Bowman
The Undergraduate Program

We were thrilled this year to see Christian Appy win a Distinguished Teaching Award. The university’s most prestigious teaching award, it is highly competitive and recognizes our department’s deep commitment to undergraduate teaching. We are also delighted as of fall 2013 to welcome several new faculty members who bring new expertise to our students (see page 10).

As you may remember from last year’s newsletter, in fall 2012 we had the privilege of hosting the Feinberg Family Seminar, a semi-annual series of talks by distinguished speakers, films, and other events. Sigrid Schmalzer taught a popular class directly tied to last year’s theme, “Truth and Reconciliation, History and Justice.”

Moving on to the most significant part of this column: our students’ accomplishments! The list of awards and fellowships our students garnered this year is particularly impressive. Highlights include the Robert H. McNeal Scholarship awarded to Robert Carney for having the highest overall GPA of any senior History major, as well as the Louis S. Greenbaum History Writing Prizes awarded to Conor Boland and Kevin Earnest. This year we were honored to be able to offer a new scholarship, created in memory of Paul Giguere, to its inaugural winner, George McCormick (see page 17).

As always, you can find our full list of award winners at www.umass.edu/history/about/awards.html.

In these difficult economic times, students are more than ever concerned about career options. Internship Coordinator Christopher Benning helps History majors find internships and polish their résumés, teaches a career-development class, and organizes special workshops for students considering graduate school or careers in education or law. We also bring back alumni to show current students the range of other directions our majors have taken, from museum curating to working in government, publishing, and business.

In conjunction with these endeavors, we awarded the Richard W. Bauer Scholarships for students doing summer internships. This year we had two awardees: Timothy Chin, for his work at the United Nations helping to digitize the archives of the War Crimes Division, and Sharon Pietryka, who traveled to the European Division of the Library of Congress to work with historical maps and with letters sent by Belgian children to President Woodrow Wilson.

—Jennifer Heuer, director

And the Cundill Prize Goes to…

Stephen R. Platt’s Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War has won McGill University’s Cundill Prize in History. It was chosen from among 143 works submitted by publishers from all over the globe. The prize, called “the world’s richest and most prestigious award for historical literature,” was established in 2008 by McGill alumnus F. Peter Cundill.

Published in 2012 by Alfred A. Knopf, Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom describes China in the 1860s not as an exotic, otherworldly “Middle Kingdom” removed from the course of events in the West, but as a country deeply integrated into the world’s economy and home to thousands of foreigners. Platt skillfully weaves the complexities of the Taiping movement and its bid to bring China into the modern world with stories of Americans and Europeans caught up in chaos unfolding just as America entered its own crisis of dissolution. Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom is a careful consideration of what Platt describes as the bloodiest civil war in human history.

In January 2013, Platt gave a lecture on his book to an appreciative audience in Cape Cod Lounge. Titled “Into the Storm: Some Windows into a Chinese Civil War,” the talk appears on the UMass History YouTube Channel. Platt is also the author of Provincial Patriots: The Hunanese and Modern China (Harvard University Press, 2007).
The Honors Program

The History Honors Program enjoyed another exciting and productive academic year in 2012-13. I extend my congratulations to our majors who graduated with Latin honors and to the 14 students who wrote honors theses. The latter spent the academic year conducting original primary-source research and writing up their findings under the guidance of a faculty advisor and a second reader. Once again our students produced excellent papers, on everything from early medieval Iran to Vietnamese and Cambodian immigration to the U.S.

Seven students—Robert Carney, Garret Gowen, Nathan Hoffman, Christina Juitt, Adam Stein, Peggy Wang, and Zachary Wilmot—presented their thesis research on April 24, 2013 (see the box below). Each spoke for a few minutes and then took questions from the audience, which included fellow students, faculty, family, and friends. These presentations are the highlight of the departmental Honors Program and give our students an opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired.

Rebecca Ellis, Kerry McDonough, Alaina Patsos, Brian Rucki, Steven Sweeney, Daniel Stein, and Martin Urbanski also produced honors theses. I look forward to seeing what fascinating topics our students pursue this academic year!

—Jennifer Fronc, director

The Graduate Program

The 2012-13 academic year opened on a festive note thanks to UMass Amherst librarian Jim Kelley, who helped organize our first-ever orientation field trip to each of the Five Colleges. Incoming students were treated to behind-the-scenes tours of each institution’s archives and special collections.

Another new event for incoming students was a departmental orientation to teaching, which followed the more general orientation offered by the Graduate School and the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development. In an effort to enhance our teacher training we followed up this event with two fall workshops and were pleased when John McCarthy, dean of the Graduate School, tapped History as one of three campus departments to participate in a pilot program for training future faculty.

This was also another busy year of events and speakers: the Feinberg Family Lecture Series, the spring visit of Writer-in-Residence Robin D.G. Kelley, the Annual Lecture, and the guest practitioners who visited our Public History courses funded by a generous gift from Charles K. Hyde ’66, all of which are covered elsewhere in these pages. In the fall we also welcomed back Carrie Kline ’89 and her husband, Michael—both oral historians, folklorists, and activists—for discussion of their public history work “Behind the Coal Curtain” in West Virginia. In November, drawing from her book Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance, Ellen Garvey gave a talk on early American scrapbooking as a form of information management and activism. Lastly, in the spring @erfagen (that is, doctoral student Erica Fagen), at the urging of @MarlaatUMass (yours truly), convened a brown-bag discussion on using Twitter in academic networking. Come find us and other members of the department in the twitterverse!

This year’s graduating class of M.A. students showed exceptional drive in producing their theses (see the box on page 5). Doctoral students who presented dissertation proposals this year included Dan Chard, Brian Comfort, Amanda Goodheart, Kathryn

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2013 Honors Thesis Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Carney</td>
<td>A Comparative Study of the Decisions to Strike Down Anti-Contraceptive Statutes in Ireland and the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Hoffman</td>
<td>The New Global Order: Post-World War II and Transnationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Juitt</td>
<td>Lessons for Our Time: A Study of Tony Judt, Postwar Europe, and the Role of the Public Intellectual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Stein</td>
<td>The Power to Transform a Nation: Hydroelectricity and Development in Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Wang</td>
<td>From Ashes: Redefining Vietnamese Identity in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zachary Wilmot</td>
<td>God, King, and Man: Conceptions of an Ideal Society in Early Medieval Iran</td>
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Julian, Laura Miller, and Seanegan Sculley. Their research on such a broad range of topics keeps us all fresh.

The year ended with a lovely event in the Campus Center celebrating our graduates and all of the past year’s award-winners. This year’s Ermonian Prize for excellence as a TA was shared by Miriam Wells (nominated by each of the faculty members with whom she worked this year) and Kate Freedman (who has been nominated several years running). The Caldwell Writing Prize went to Jill Diggins for her work in New England literary history. Research fellowships sent Dan Chard on short trips around the Northeast to continue research for his dissertation (see page 18) and Dan McDonald to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he conducted research for his master’s thesis on the planning and construction of the city. Dan McDonald also received a Potash Travel Award to fund his trip, as did John Roberts, who traveled to Colombia to continue research for his dissertation on global networks and drug trafficking. Jonathan Dusenbury, with support from the Marvin Ogilvie Memorial Award for Foreign Language Study, headed to Paris to improve his French.

It was a delight this year to announce two new funding streams to assist our graduate students in their research. One is the Jumpstart Fund, which underwrites research by a student who has recently presented a dissertation prospectus. Its first recipient is Kate Freedman, who will travel to Antigua to continue her study of Quakers and slavery. A second new opportunity comes to us via the generosity of retiring faculty member Joyce Berkman, who has established an endowed fund to support graduate research in women’s history and gender studies. The inaugural recipient, Julie de Chantal, will...
use the fellowship to complete her dissertation on African American women and the civil rights movement in Boston.

We are proud to report that Kathryn Julian will be spending this year in Germany on a Fulbright fellowship to advance her dissertation research and that Erica Fagen will complete a two-week study tour of German archives sponsored by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., before commencing a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) fellowship to study German at the Goethe Institute in Berlin. Cheryl Harned curated the exhibit "A Place of Reading" in collaboration with Smith College's Rare Book Room and the American Antiquarian Society, and Laura Miller landed a place in the National Park Service's competitive Park Break program.

The year closed, as it must, with the bittersweet departures of our graduates. We bade fond farewells to M.A. students Samuel Dodge, Jill Dzwiggins, Natalie Geeza, Jonathan Haeber, Thomas Hohenstein, Jaimie Kicklighter, Sarah Marrs, Emily Oswald, and Lisa Ponce, and were pleased to watch Chris Appy hood his doctoral student, Michelle Marino, whose dissertation was "Sweating Femininity: Women Athletes, Masculine Culture and American Inequality from 1930 to the Present." In August Maria Abunassar successfully defended her dissertation, "The Making of Ras Beirut: a Landscape of Memory for Narratives of Exceptionalism, 1870-1975."

In September we welcomed an exciting incoming class of 17 students. They come from Massachusetts, Oklahoma, California, New York, Georgia, Minnesota, North Carolina, Missouri, and Maryland, as well as Lebanon. As always, it was a competitive admissions season and we are delighted to have this new group of young historians joining our community.

—Marla Miller, director

### The Public History Program

During the past year the Public History Program continued to be among the nation's best in placing alumni in rewarding jobs, completing valuable service projects for historical organizations, and training a new generation of history professionals.

The school year, which began in Northfield with a cruise aboard the Quinnetukut II to welcome new and returning PH students to the Connecticut River Valley, was full of fascinating student projects. Those in last fall's "Introduction to Public History" course included an interpretive plan for the Samuel Harrison House in Pittsfield, a survey of a South Deerfield cemetery, and interviews for the university's 150th-anniversary oral history project. In the spring, students in "Museum/Historic Site Interpretation" developed an exhibit for the Samuel Harrison House and created new walking tours of Historic Deerfield based on the biographies of three Deerfield residents, and Jill Dzwiggins's exhibit on Thoreau and climate change opened at the Concord Museum. Jon Haeber was recognized with the Holyoke Historical Commission's 2013 Preservation Award for his walking-tour app of the city. Jon is working with Laurie Block to develop an exhibit on the history of disability for Alternatives Inc., a social service agency based in Whitinsville, Mass.

During the summer graduate student interns completed projects at the Newport Historical Society, Historic Newton, Yankee magazine, New York City's Lower East Side Tenement Museum, and the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Conn. The last three were funded through the continuing generosity of Charles Hyde '66.

Several new books in Marla Miller's Public History Series for the University of Massachusetts Press have gotten rave reviews. Among them were Museums, Monuments, and National Parks by Denise Meringolo, which won the 2013 NCPH Book Award, and Michael Von Wagenen's Remembering the Forgotten War, which earned an honorable mention.

In March we welcomed Jessica Johnson, a recent Ph.D. from Brown, to a new position as outreach director for the History Department. She expands the department's capacity to initiate and administer grant-funded projects. This capacity was further expanded in September 2013, when new PH faculty member Samuel Redman from the UC Berkeley Regional Oral History Office joined our team, along with historian of science Emily Redman.

Crossing borders, Marla Miller, Jon Olsen, and Jessica Johnson were featured speakers in Ottawa at the 2013 National Council on Public History meeting, where they joined PH alumnues Margo Shea '05MA, '10PhD and Carrie Barske '11PhD. While there, Marla picked up an Outstanding Consulting Award for her work on Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the NPS.
Jon is active in a new organization, the International Federation of Public History, which brings together European and North American public historians.

In September UMass Amherst hosted the national touring exhibition *Why Guantánamo?*, which our students helped create to introduce visitors to the full story of the prison. And in a truly groundbreaking development, during the spring our own Li Na ’09PHCert taught public history and historic preservation at Chongqing University—the first public history course offered anywhere in the People’s Republic of China.

It’s always a delight to reflect on the visitors the Hyde Fund—established by Charles Hyde ’66 alongside the internship program to strengthen our curriculum—has brought to campus. The “Cultural Resources Management” course welcomed Doug Kelleher of Epsilon Associates, an environmental engineering and consulting firm. Kathy Kottaridis of Historic Boston Inc. described that organization’s especially challenging rehabilitations of historic properties. Eric Breitkreutz of the National Park Service discussed resource management and his work contracting historic structures reports and management plans. Our “Writing History” seminar welcomed Cathy Stanton, digital-media editor for the National Council on Public History, to talk about blogging as a genre, as well as (via Skype) Rick Shenkman, founder of the History News Network. Skype also brought us Lexi Lord, founder of the online magazine *The Ultimate History Project*. Other visitors to campus included Holly Izard, a Worcester-based curator and freelance journalist, and Mel Allen, editor of *Yankee* magazine.

In a coincidence that speaks to the high regard in which our program is held nationally, in April 2013 Marla Miller became chair of the Organization of American Historians’ Committee on Collaboration with the National Park Service and David Glassberg became chair of the organization’s Public History Committee. Never before has such power accumulated on the south end of Herter Hall.

As always, we closed the year in June with the annual Massachusetts History Conference in Worcester that we cosponsor with Mass Humanities, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and UMass Boston. This year’s theme was “Listen My Children and You Shall Hear: Balancing History and Myth in Massachusetts Public History.”

We warmly congratulate our latest recipients of the PH certificate: Marwa Amer, Jill Dwiggins, Jon Haeber, Jaimie Kicklighter, Sarah Marrs, and Emily Oswald. We will especially miss Jon, last year’s ever-capable PH grad assistant, but we welcome Shuko Tamao into the fold as the incoming assistant to keep us moving forward in the year to come.

—David Glassberg, co-director

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**A Frank Assessment of a Violent Era**

In March 2013 Professor Nan Woodruff of Penn State University delivered a remarkably candid talk on her current project, “Living with the Legacies of Violence in the Jim Crow South.” She has conducted interviews in Grenada, Miss., with members of the civil rights movement and with others who witnessed or participated in the period of violence as white community members in 1966 sought to prevent classroom desegregation.

Woodruff’s talk was especially notable for its candor regarding the role of the historian in collecting and articulating information about eras of trauma. During the penetrating Q&A session that followed the talk, questions emerged about the consequences of publishing findings about violence in the recent past. That Woodruff’s “work is important to establishing the ‘truth’ of the civil rights movement in Grenada is evident,” graduate student Karen Sause later wrote, “but her lecture also illustrated the difficulties and risks of that task.”

The lecture proved particularly thought-provoking, triangulated as it was by the department’s discussions on truth and reconciliation in the Feinberg Series, Robin D.G. Kelley’s reconsiderations of American history, and the presentation of oral historians Carrie and Michael Kline in the Public History Program. Our sincerest thanks go out not only to Professor Woodruff but also to Five Colleges Inc. and the other generous sponsors of this event.
New Books from Our Faculty (and One from an Alumnus)

Richard A. Baker ’62 and Neil MacNeil: The American Senate: An Insider’s History (Oxford University Press, 2013). A collaboration between U.S. Senate Historian Emeritus Baker and MacNeil, the late Time magazine chief congressional correspondent, the book brought Baker considerable media attention, including a feature on PBS’s NewsHour and an hour-long interview on C-SPAN’s Q&A.

Robert Jones: Bread Upon the Waters: The St. Petersburg Grain Trade and the Russian Economy, 1703-1811 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013). This study chronicles the unparalleled effort to construct a wide infrastructure to support the city of St. Petersburg, and its profound effect on Russia’s economic life and the historical trajectory of the Russian Empire.

Barbara Krauthamer and Deborah Willis: Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery (Temple University Press, 2012). Historian of slavery Krauthamer and photographic historian Willis have amassed 150 photographs, some never before published, from the antebellum days of the 1850s through the New Deal era of the 1930s. Lonnie Bunch, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, calls the result “a rare publication that is both intellectually innovative and emotionally enriching.”

Laura Lovett, ed.: When We Were Free to Be: Looking Back at a Children’s Classic and the Difference It Made (University of North Carolina Press, 2012). Accounts by the creators of the children’s book Free to Be...You and Me and by activists and educators who used the book to change the landscape of childhood.

Gerald W. McFarland: The Brujo’s Way (Sunstone Press, 2013) is the first novel in the Buenaventura Series trilogy. The central character, Carlos Buenaventura, was born into an aristocratic family but has a double identity carried over from previous lifetimes as a brujo (sorcerer). Buenaventura’s attempts to live as an ordinary man in the social world of Santa Fe while developing his extraordinary brujo powers toward benign ends form the heart of the narrative (see page 15).


Anna Taylor: Epic Lives and Monasticism in the Middle Ages, 800–1050 (Cambridge University Press, 2013). This groundbreaking analysis of Latin epic-verse saints’ lives in their historical contexts examines how these works promoted bonds of friendship and expressed rivalries among writers, monasteries, saints, earthly patrons, teachers, and students in Western Europe in the Central Middle Ages.

Audrey L. Altstadt reports: Last spring I launched a new course, “The Year 1979.” While teaching Soviet and Central Asian history for more than two decades, I kept hearing myself say that one or another momentous event had taken place that year. I decided to make that insight the basis of a course covering four major topics: the Iranian Revolution, the Soviet census showing a population explosion in Central Asia, the hostage crisis in Tehran (part of the Iranian situation), and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late December. (The latter event was especially meaningful for me because when it took place I was preparing to go to the Soviet Union to study in Azerbaijan, near the Iranian border, the following fall.)

Students in my new class engaged in analytical writing, conducting role-playing exercises, exploring policy options, and making assessments of that fateful year. Thanks to a grant from the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development I brought former military and Foreign Service members to the class, as well as a former ambassador to Afghanistan, the Honorable Robert Finn. I will offer the course regularly in the future.

This year I also received the Five Colleges Mellon Grant for the Faculty-Student Summer Research Seminar. I was co-PI with Stephen Jones of Mount Holyoke College and Regine Spector of UMass Amherst’s Political Science Department on a project titled “Surviving the Transition: Implications of Economic Change in Post-Soviet Eurasia for Development and Democracy.”

Anne Brodbridge served as the department’s associate chair for a second consecutive year. She also taught two classes—“Middle East History I” in the fall, “Mongol and Turkish Empires” in the spring—and enjoyed the interesting, sometimes surprising, and occasionally funny observations and questions from students in both classes. Brodbridge also began her first year as director of the UMass Oxford Summer Seminar at Trinity College, Oxford.
University, which is still running strong in its 47th year. As director she met a thrilling new group of students, worked with two fabulous student assistants, learned all sorts of new software, and got to enjoy spending the summer in Oxford with her children and ensuring that the program ran well.

During fall semester 2012 Five College Associate Professor Richard T. Chu taught his signature course, “Empire, Race, and the Philippines,” at UMass Amherst, and at Smith College taught “Asian/Pacific/American History,” which for the first time included an eight-week lecture series taught by Five College specialists in Asian American studies. Chu’s essay “The Chinese Mestizo” will appear in the anthology Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity (University of Hawaii Press, 2014). He is co-editor of a special issue of the online, peer-reviewed journal Kritika Kultura dedicated to regional studies of the Chinese diaspora in the Philippines, and is editing an anthology, More Than We Admit. Chu sits on the Chancellor’s Committee on Diversity and recently received a Mellon Mutual Mentoring Grant for International Scholars.

David Glassberg during the past year co-wrote new interpretive signage being installed at the W.E.B. Du Bois Homestead, the university-owned National Historic Landmark property in Great Barrington, Mass. Glassberg served on the planning committee for “Du Bois in Our Time,” a National Endowment for Arts-sponsored project featuring original artworks inspired by Du Bois’s life and writing, and co-wrote “Du Bois in Great Barrington: The Promises and Pitfalls of a Boyhood Historic Site” for inclusion in Seth Bruggeman’s Birth and Commemoration in American Public Memory (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012). This fall Glassberg is teaching an upper-level undergraduate Integrative Experience seminar exploring Du Bois’s thought.

On the environmental history front Glassberg is beginning a new book, tentatively titled Place, Memory, and Climate Change, exploring the cultural impact of climate change. In March 2013 he advanced some of the book’s ideas in “Sustainability and Landscape Character on Cape Cod,” a talk presented at “Cultural Heritage and the Challenge of Sustainability,” a conference sponsored by the UMass Amherst Historic Preservation Program. As a member of the National Council on Public History Sustainability Task Force, Glassberg is one of the co-authors of a white paper to be presented at the 2014 NCPH Annual Meeting on how historians can contribute to public understanding of pressing environmental issues. During 2012-13 Glassberg further explored these concepts in a new upper-level undergraduate course, “Conservation of Nature and Culture,” and a freshman seminar, “Nature Writing.”

Daniel Gordon again served as associate dean and acting dean of Commonwealth Honors College, which in August 2013 opened its new residential community, a complex containing nine classrooms and housing for 1500 students. In 2012-13 Gordon once again piloted the Integrative Experience (IE) course, “Ideas that Changed History.” (IE is a new General Education requirement that, like the Junior Year Writing requirement, operates through the student’s major.) Gordon maintained an active scholarly profile, publishing several articles with sociologist Peter Baehr on the Muslim headscarf controversy in Europe and methodological issues in the study of religion. Gordon writes: “I recently read R.G. Collingwood’s autobiography and was struck by the depth of his reflections on history in its relationship to the other social sciences. There’s a real need for all of us who teach history to explain to our students how the pretension to describe human behavior with scientific ‘laws’ just doesn’t capture our human essence. Collingwood is especially clear in explaining all of this, and in the year to come I will be drawing directly on his work in my teaching and scholarship.”

José Angel Hernández has received a fellowship in the Center for Mexican American Studies Visiting Scholar Program at the University of Houston, where he is now working on his next project. Following the publication of his book Mexican American Colonization During the Nineteenth Century: A History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, Hernández is now one of the inaugural recipients of American University’s William M. LeoGrande Prize for the best book on U.S.-Latin American relations. The book also won the Americo Paredes Book Award from the Center for Mexican American Studies at South Texas College.

Jennifer Heuer reports: This has been my first year serving as undergraduate program director. I have greatly enjoyed seeing all of the incredible things that our students have accomplished (see page 3).

Presenting my own work this year took me all over the U.S. I was invited to speak on love and race in French history at UMass Dartmouth, on the history of war propaganda at the University of Georgia Athens, and on gender and sexuality in the French Revolution at Florida State University in Tallahassee. I also gave papers at conferences in places as far afield as Fort Worth, Texas, and as close to home as Cambridge, Mass.

In return I was able to invite two European colleagues to come to my classes at UMass Amherst. One, Annie Jordan, visited from the University of Amsterdam, while Anne Verjus came from the Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques in Lyon, France. It was a delight to be able to show off our campus to visitors, who were most impressed with the area.
Our Newest Faculty Members

*We are delighted to welcome three new members to our faculty.*

**Emily Redman** specializes in the history of science, focusing on the 20th-century United States. Her doctoral work, completed at the University of California at Berkeley and titled “The National Science Foundation and a Comparative Study of Precollege Mathematics and Science Education Reform in the United States, 1950-2000,” examines how the federal government has been historically involved in reforming K-12 mathematics curricula. She is currently expanding this project for future publication. While at Berkeley, Redman worked for five years with the Regional Oral History Office at the Bancroft Library, conducting oral history interviews with prominent scientists and helping lead the Oral History Summer Institute. She also spent time as a fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy and as an instructor at California State University. She has received conference paper awards and teaching awards from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the University of California. Beyond mathematics, her interests range from food science and policy to early Cold War culture to the politics of biology textbooks. Redman’s next anticipated projects will explore the cultural history of the New Math and the ways in which educational programming brought mathematics instruction to television.

**Sam Redman** specializes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. history with a focus on culture and ideas. In 2012 he completed his doctoral dissertation, “Human Remains and the Construction of Race and History, 1897-1945” at the University of California, Berkeley. There he worked at the Regional Oral History Office, completing dozens of oral history interviews on subjects ranging from American life during the Great Depression and Second World War to the construction of the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge. Before graduate school Redman gained valuable experience working in several major museums, including the Field Museum of Natural History, the Colorado History Museum, and the Science Museum of Minnesota. At UMass Amherst Redman is teaching heritage studies, public history, and oral history.

**Elizabeth (Libby) Sharrow**’s dissertation research focuses on the contemporary public policy history of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. She completed her Ph.D. in Political Science with a graduate minor in Feminist and Critical Sexuality Studies in August 2013. Her dissertation focuses on the political history of Title IX and the means by which battles over policy design and implementation altered women’s access to sports “on the basis of sex.” It analyzes the political construction and mobilization of the “female athlete” (Title IX’s primary political constituent) and the politics of gender, race, class, and sexuality inherent to the title’s policy domain. Sharrow’s work has been funded by the Social Science Research Council, the American Association of University Women, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the University of Minnesota Graduate School, and the Myra Sadker Foundation. She is jointly appointed in the Department of Political Science.

Meanwhile, Higginson and John H. Bracey of the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies continue to edit the memoirs of Otis G. Hyde, an African American activist and trade union leader in Chicago between the 1930s and the 1970s. Hyde was a key leader of the anti-eviction movement in Chicago during the last depression and a participant in the Little Steel War against Republic Steel in 1937. Higginson declined an invitation to participate in the Global Leaders Economic Summit in Changchun City, Jilin Province, China, in September 2013.

Barbara Krauthamer reports: I was happy to return to UMass in the fall of 2012 after a yearlong research fellowship at the University of Texas-Austin. I had two books published in 2013: *Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery and Indian Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South*. It was especially nice to hear from my former students over the summer, most recently P. J. Ouma ’11 and Will Syldor ’12.

Laura Lovett returned from sabbatical to a full year of teaching, travel, and research. Her co-edited book, *When We Were Free to Be: Looking Back at a Child’s Classic and the Difference It Made*, was published in November 2012 by the University of North Carolina Press and quickly gained widespread media attention. Lovett was featured in interviews on NPR, CBC, the Huffington Post, and CNN. The highlight of the publicity tour was a panel presentation at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., where the book was chosen to highlight the National Archives’ commitment to documenting the 1970s.

Lovett presented new research on the history of the education of homeless children at a meeting of the Society for the History of Children and Youth held in Nottingham, England. Lovett also visited the University of Münster in Germany to present her work on the history of American family values to the working group on the American Family in the twentieth century supported by the Emmy Noether Program of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

After seven years, the *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* will be leaving the Five Colleges. At the end of 2013 Lovett and co-editor Karen Sanchez-Eppler of Amherst College will hand it over to James Martin of Marquette University.

Johan Mathew received the Social Science Research Council’s Postdoctoral Fellowship for Transregional Research. He will spend the year working in archives in London, Zanzibar, India, and elsewhere.

Marla Miller reports: This was another year largely taken up with administrative work as I continued to direct the Graduate Program and co-direct the Public History Program. Along the way, though, I nudged to the finish a short biography of Hatfield, Mass., gown-maker Rebecca Dickinson that was published by Westview Press in August 2013 as a volume in their Lives of American Women series. The book looks at Dickinson’s experience as a never-married woman in Revolutionary Massachusetts and how her own “independence movement” was entangled with the nation’s. In March I traveled to the University of Puerto Rico to offer advice on creating a new public history program. In April I was happy to receive an award from the National Council on Public History for Excellence in Consulting for the report “Imperial Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service.” This year I was also delighted to be elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

In the fall of 2012 Alice Nash joined with Jane Anderson of the Anthropology Department in organizing a daylong symposium, “Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation,” as part of the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture series; videos of its two panels are posted on the History Department YouTube Channel. In spring 2013 Nash taught a new graduate-level course, “Indigenous Peoples in Museums and Archives,” and in the 300-level “Native American Activism” tried a new and very effective strategy: she assigned radio interviews from the symposium to complement more traditional texts. The students worked in groups to interview five guest speakers, including anthropologist J. Kehaulani Kauanui (Kanaka Maoli), the symposium’s host. Nash co-facilitated a workshop on education at “Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery,” a conference held in Phoenix, Ariz., and attended the 12th session of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Global Indigenous Women’s Caucus. In the summer of 2013, Nash and Neal Salisbury of Smith College co-directed “Native Americans of New England: A Historical Overview,” a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for K-12 teachers (see page 19).

Anna Taylor enjoyed a very medieval year. Her *Epic Lives and Monasticism in the Middle Ages, 800-1050*, the first monograph to examine the saints’ lives written in epic Latin verse in the Central Middle Ages, is being published by Cambridge University Press. Taylor’s article “Hagiography and Early Medieval History” was published in *Religion Compass* and her essay “Books, Bodies, and Bones: Hildegard of St-Denis and the Relics of St Dionysius” was included in the anthology *The Ends of the Body: Identity and Community in Medieval Culture* (Toronto). Taylor gave a paper at the International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo and has acquired a hedgehog named Hildegard after the twelfth-century abbess, composer, and mystic.
Celebrating an Extraordinary Half-Century

The recent retirement of Joyce Berkman calls for a three-tiered response.

To begin, a review of Joyce’s career by Dan Chard:

On May 3, 2013, a crowd of over 100 gathered in Cape Cod Lounge to celebrate the career of Dr. Joyce Berkman, in honor of her retirement from UMass Amherst as professor of history and adjunct professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies (WGSS). The symposium was a fitting tribute to Dr. Berkman’s extraordinary 48-year career.

The Department of History hired Dr. Berkman to teach courses on Western civilization in 1965, while she worked to complete her dissertation on the history of early twentieth-century British pacifism. She came to campus during a period of unprecedented expansion for both the university and the department, which by the late 1960s had over 50 faculty members. Until the 1990s, however, Dr. Berkman was one of the very few women among them.

In 1973 Dr. Berkman began teaching the campus’s first courses on women’s history and helped create the Women’s Studies Program (now the Department of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies). In 1997 she co-founded the Valley Women’s History Collaborative (VWHC), which uses oral histories and other sources to document and publicize the history of feminist and lesbian activism in the Pioneer Valley since the 1960s. Over the years, Dr. Berkman has taught popular courses on U.S. and European women’s history and oral history and published works on women’s activism and political thought in Germany, the U.S., and South Africa, including *Contemplating Edith Stein* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2006) and a biography, *The Healing Imagination of Olive Schreiner: Beyond South African Colonialism* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1989).

Throughout her career, Dr. Berkman’s efforts have been crucial to opening space at UMass and beyond for the scholarly exploration of women’s lives and histories, and to developing the fields of women’s history and women, gender, and sexuality studies. Her contributions to these fields will continue long into the future thanks to her generous parting gift, the Joyce A. Berkman Endowed Fund in Women’s History and Women’s Studies.

Laura Lovett recounts the conference held to honor Joyce:

To honor Joyce’s remarkable career, the Department of History, with support from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, WGSS, and the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, sponsored a daylong conference on May 3, 2013, that brought together a broad array of speakers from UMass Amherst and the Pioneer Valley. Joye Bowman welcomed an eager audience. The morning session focused on feminist oral history, with presentations by Julie Sandy-Bailey, Susan Tracy, and Jacqueline Castledine from the Valley Women’s History Collaborative. A roundtable discussion with the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition included students who had interviewed some of the organization’s founders.

In the afternoon, a group of Joyce’s students, including Tiziana Rota ’83PhD, Karen Smith ’80MA, ’90PhD, Joyce Follett ’81MA, Elise Young ’97PhD, and Beth Behn ’04MA, ’12PhD,
reflected on the impact of women’s history for them and for the academy generally. Kathy Peiss, Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the keynote presentation on how women’s history has changed our understanding of the world. Karen Remmler, director of the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, hosted a reception during which Massachusetts State Congresswoman Ellen Story read a commendation from the State House of Representatives. More than 100 friends and colleagues enjoyed dinner and remarks from John Bracey, Babette Faehmel, and Carlin Barton. Ann Ferguson led the guests in singing the historic women’s labor anthem, “Bread and Roses.” 

As one speaker remarked, Joyce has been a part of UMass Amherst for a full third of its 150-year history. She has certainly left her mark, and will be missed.

And last, a personal reflection from Joyce:

Two years ago, retirement from teaching was simply out of the question for me. My passion for teaching faced no heartfelt competition. Within the past two years, however, another passion has grown so compelling that I found myself last fall thinking about retirement in a fresh way. For many years I have been taking piano lessons on and off and singing regularly with the Hampshire Choral Society. This past fall I realized that my drive to understand and analyze music and practice piano in earnest now rivaled my passion for the assorted tasks and joys of teaching. At 75, I concluded that this was my time, if ever, to become a musician. I expect to occasionally teach via the post-retirement teaching options available to faculty on our campus.

I am retiring at a point when our department has a corps of faculty with expertise in women-and-gender experience as well as in oral history, thanks to our recent hiring of faculty strongly committed to oral history. I plan to continue my work as oral historian, not only with the VWHC but also with a number of others engaged in collecting the stories of former faculty, staff, and some alums of our campus’s Music Department.

After years of struggle to create a vibrant women-and-gender field of historical study, I wanted to foster the long-term vigor of the field. With this in mind I have endowed the Joyce A. Berkman Endowed Fund in Women’s History and Women’s Studies to support the academic and professional development of History and WGSS graduate students. You can access the UMass donation page at www.umass.edu/give.

Although now officially a professor emerita, I look forward to contributing annually to our department newsletter and hearing from you.

Mary Wilson reports: Two years ago I was in the UAE teaching at the American University of Sharja. When the Arab Spring began there was great excitement and happiness, at least among my students. The students I remain in touch with, however, are now very disappointed, as am I. While the future is very uncertain, it will not in my opinion be made any more certain or any better by U.S. intervention.

As a break from the Middle East I’m reading Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies, Hilary Mantel’s historical fiction set during the time of Henry VIII. Both won the Man Booker prize for fiction, and if that’s not endorsement enough I add my own enthusiastic recommendation.

Joel Wolfe reports: I had a typically busy year that combined continued research on my book The Global Twenties, a study of trade and society throughout the Western Hemisphere during the 1920s, as well as publishing book chapters and articles. I completed an article on populism in Brazil for a Cambridge University Press volume on comparative populisms globally and wrote a piece on the impact of the tin can on consumerism and marketing in the hemisphere for a volume on tin to be published in January by Routledge. I also completed work on an essay to appear in Spanish on the historical roots of current Brazilian social welfare policy to be published by the Colegio de México. I chaired an AHA panel and presented papers in Ottawa and Glasgow.

Emeriti Faculty

Joyce Berkman reports: Determined to sup every last minute of my final full-time year in the department (see box), I can report a very busy and fulfilling year. I even taught a new course, a Junior Writing Seminar on historical fiction, which students evaluated as being as intellectually rewarding for them as I found it to be for me. Having worked closely with a variety of graduate students, I rejoiced in the progress of those who earned their master’s degrees and passed key milestones in completing doctorates. Additionally, I forged

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ahead on several scholarly writing projects and gave professional presentations locally and in Canada. I devoted many hours of service on our and WGSS’s Graduate Studies Committee. Seeking to have a hand in the future of our department, I participated fully in our searches for new faculty, and I’m thrilled with their outcomes.

Mario De Pillis Sr. reports: I can report that one doesn’t often encounter colleagues in retirement. Travels, grandchildren, writing, and avocations take them away. But in July I was delighted to meet for lunch with three stalwarts, Roland Sarti, Gerry McFarland, and Leo Richards. Lots of political and historical talk, but the big revelation was Gerry’s multivolume work of fiction set in New Mexico. Occasionally, one enjoys serendipitous encounters, like finding Brian Ogilvie, Jennifer Heuer, and Len and Joyce Berkman all at one July matinee at Jacob’s Pillow. Some historians dig dance!

Will Johnston reports: If last year was my “Year of Living with Klimt,” this has been my year of reflecting on him. Involvement during 2011 with Melbourne’s “Vienna 1900” exhibition inspired me to expand my rethinking of post-1867 Austrian culture into a book, which has been accepted by my Austrian publisher, Böhlau. Translation will add about nine months to the publication process.

I’ve learned several things from my year of reflection. 1) Art historians now lead the field of reconceptualizing Central European cultural history. 2) Some of today’s most innovative thinking gets published not in books but in articles that, alas, almost no one reads. 3) The gap between scholarship in the U.S. and Europe grows ever wider, because few in either place pay serious attention to what the other produces. Now more than ever we need to read more widely, more doggedly, more idiosyncratically.

But maybe not. Historians of Europe of my generation were taught to revere the research ethos of Leopold von Ranke (1795-1886). Louis Greenbaum once told me that he had attended a lecture by Ranke’s last pupil, Friedrich Meinecke (1862-1954). That means that just three long-lived generations spanned all the way back to Ranke’s birth in 1795! I mention this because I just learned a salient fact about the archives of Venetian diplomats that Ranke used so brilliantly in the 1820s: Venice may be said to have invented state archives, but from the start the rulers required that the archivists be unable to read or to write! Might re-imposing that rule solve today’s problem of having too many sources?

What is the richest, deepest book in European history published since 2000? I nominate Norman Davies’ Vanished Kingdoms: The History of Half-Forgotten Europe (London: Allen Lane, 2011). Davies has written the most sweeping kind of history on the rise and fall of nations, as rich in detail as the work of a dozen Edward Gibbons. Read it in disbelief, savoring the oddities exhumed, the ironies recounted, and the intellectual prowess displayed. Historians, rejoice!
Gerry McFarland reports: This past year I divided my time between two careers: historian and novelist. On the historian side of the ledger I gave a series of lectures in UMass Amherst summer institutes and completed my responsibilities as a member of master’s and doctoral examination committees. Five years after my retirement I have, to the best of my knowledge, no more graduate students in the pipeline. In my new post-retirement career as a novelist I’m happy to report that my first novel, The Brujo’s Way, the initial volume of a trilogy to be called the Buenaventura Series, was published by Sunstone Press of Santa Fe, New Mexico (see page 8). Writing the yet-untilled second volume kept me busy much of the time this past year. It explores the psychological phenomenon of duende (an ecstatic state reached through music and dance), enriching the historical description of New Mexican society in 1706.

In June Robert Potash, Haring Professor of Latin American History Emeritus, addressed a Fulbright-sponsored group of young Argentine professionals attending the Donahue Institute’s Civic Initiative Program. Although the program is primarily designed to give participants a better understanding of the workings of U.S. political institutions, Potash spoke about Argentine political culture and the ways in which it has shaped that country’s political practices. Afterward he was interviewed by a journalist member of the class about current tensions between the Argentine government and Supreme Court.

Although Potash each day reads internet editions of Argentine newspapers and magazines, he was reminded that he was once an historian of Mexico when the editor of a new quasi-political journal, the Revista Mexicana de Cultura Política, asked for permission to republish Potash’s lengthy article on Mexican historiography that first appeared in Spanish translation in 1961 in the Colegio de Mexico’s scholarly publication Historia Mexicana. A copy of the new journal reached his hands early in July; Potash had only to scan a few pages to realize that most of the writers whose works he had discussed, Mexican and non-Mexican, had passed away. Even so, he is gratified to think that his 52-year-old essay might yet attract new readers from young Mexicans interested in politics.

Stephen Nissenbaum’s essay “How Handel’s Messiah became a Christmas Tradition” was published in the 2013 Handel-Jahrbuch. It was first delivered as part of the 2012 Handel-Festspiel in Halle, Germany, and subsequently at the 2013 conference of the American Handel Society in Princeton, N.J.

Jane Rausch has been elected to serve as president of the Retired Faculty Association for 2013-14. She was invited to present papers at two meetings: in October she was a distinguished speaker at the XVI Congreso Colombiano de Historia, which took place in Neiva, Colombia, and last April she participated in a symposium on frontiers sponsored by the Universidad Autónoma San Luis Potosí in San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

Rausch’s most recent book, Territorial Rule in Colombia and the Transformation of the Llanos Orientales, has been published by the University Press of Florida. She is keeping retired life interesting by combining her scholarly research on Colombia during World War I with volunteer activities at the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, the Amherst Senior Center, and the Jones Library.

Charles Rearick once again enjoyed spring and fall stays in Paris, where he always finds plenty to do. Besides reading in libraries and archives, exploring the latest of Paris’s abundant attractions, and seeing friends and fellow historians, he enjoys taking in public events of all kinds, be they fêtes, markets, demonstrations, commemorations, or street entertainments.

Back home the rest of the year Rearick continues to review manuscripts for a university press and a journal, read an occasional dissertation as an external committee member, and give talks at Amherst College, Wellesley College, and elsewhere. In the fall of 2013 he gave an invited paper in a colloquium in Nogent-sur-Marne, just outside Paris, on a century of Parisians’ Sunday excursions to riverside resorts along the Marne and on the popular songs they inspired. Rearick is also preparing a paper on a quartier of Paris that was an epicenter of working-class and revolutionary tradition in the nineteenth century and then became a haven of foreign immigrants in the twentieth century, making it one of the city’s most cosmopolitan districts.

Leo Richards has finished a manuscript, “Outlawing Slavery: The Fight Over the Thirteenth Amendment.”

Ronald Story’s Jonathan Edwards and the Gospel of Love, published by UMass Press last fall, has been submitted by the press for a number of prominent awards; no firsts as yet. Having given a couple of dozen talks about the book, Story is currently co-editing a selection of Edwards’s sermons tentatively titled The Social Ministry and Vision of Jonathan Edwards.
The Sparks That Fly When Visions Compete

In 2012-13 the Graduate History Association, in addition to mounting its usual outings and bake-and-book sales, hosted its ninth annual Graduate History Conference on March 9, 2013, welcoming 68 Five College students, faculty, and community members to campus. This year’s theme, “Competing Visions,” encouraged applicants to consider how contrasting visions of societal, environmental, intellectual, and other landscapes compete to interpret the past and shape the future. Karen Sause, Brian Comfort, Erica Fagen, and I served on the Papers Committee, reading and discussing submissions from 70 graduate students—a record high. The final lineup included work by students from as far afield as Amsterdam, Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), and Tokyo, and from as close to home as our own department.

The conference kicked off with a welcome from Joye Bowman. Our exciting international program featured graduate panels on urban planning (chaired by Mark Hamin of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning,) art and activism (chaired by Jennifer Heuer), and archaeology (chaired by Jason Moralee of the Classics Department), among others. Joseph Ellis delivered the keynote address, “Telling the Story: The Summer of 1776.” Of particular interest to our visitors was Ellis’s discussion of “the myth of the Minuteman” and other instances of the national imagination at work.

Following this year’s conference the Graduate School generously offered the GHA an annual $500 sponsorship for future conferences. This standing offer will be hugely important as we plan our next program and those beyond it. Thanks also to the Department of History and GSS for sponsoring this year’s event, and to our graduate students who helped raise funds. Co-chair Samuel Dodge, Treasurer Karen Sause, and Secretary Jaimie Kicklighter put in many hours of work to make possible the conference and the year’s other events.

Veronica Golden served as our ever-capable GSS representative. For 2013-14 that mantle has passed to Erica Fagen, Jacob Orcutt, and Katie Garland, who join Karen as officers.

—Jill Dwiggins, GHA co-chair

New Faces Among Us

The Department of History is pleased to announce the hiring to two new staff members.

Jessica Johnson, our first outreach director, arrived by way of Brown University, where she completed a Ph.D. in American studies and an M.A. in public humanities. In addition to her academic writing on post-World War II refugee policy, Jessica has worked on various public history projects at the Smithsonian Institution and Brown University.

As our outreach director she will develop innovative educational programs for non-academic audiences, from K-12 teachers to local historical societies to our community of alumni. Jessica’s work will further extend the reach of the History Department in community-engaged scholarship and public history.

Last year we welcomed Amy Fleig ’12, our new office manager. She received her M.A. in political science from UMass Amherst.

Prior to her arrival in the History Department, Amy was a research assistant to an international academic consortium on social movements and provided fiscal, administrative, and academic support to the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies. She had previously owned and operated a successful residential inspection business in Maine. Amy also worked in international commerce, consular operations, and defense cooperation at the American Embassy in Lisbon for eight years.
Our First Giguere Scholar

Congratulations to George McCormick, the first recipient of the Paul E. Giguere Scholarship in History. George is in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and is a cadet in UMass ROTC.

The scholarship provides support for undergraduate History majors and is made possible through the generosity of Paul E. Giguere and his estate. Born in 1924, Giguere entered the U.S. Army’s Office of Strategic Services in 1943, served as a spy in the European theater, and continued his military service in the Air Force Defense Command in Korea and Vietnam. He received a B.A. in history from in Westfield State College in 1966 and began teaching world history in a high school in Hartford, Conn. His memoir, The Lonely Stranger, was published in 1973.

A Guest from Colombia

As of fall 2013 visiting scholar Renzo Ramirez Bacca has joined the History Department. He is a 1963 Ph.D. in history from the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) and a professor at National University of Colombia. Ramirez has published books as a researcher, editor, or compiler as well as articles in national venues about agrarian and labor history (Colombian coffee plantation), Mexican/Colombian comparative history, colonization and settlement processes, the methodology of history, and regional and local history. He is also the editor of the HiSTOReLo Journal of Regional and Local History. Among Ramirez’s recent books is Comparative Studies of Modern and Contemporary History: The Case of Mexico and Colombia (Bogotá: Editorial UN, 2011).

Ramirez is studying representations and discourses on war and peace in Colombia between 1978 and 2002. While at UMass Amherst he will work on that project, design a seminar on institutional history, and edit the next issue of HiSTOReLo.

Our Part in UMass’s 150th

In the spirit of UMass Amherst’s 150th-anniversary celebrations, the Department of History invites alumni and faculty to submit memories of life in the department as they witnessed it, however long ago or recently. We’re eager to supplement campus efforts to gather written stories and memories and to collect nominations of faculty, students, and staff who made particularly important marks on the department and might participate in a series of oral history interviews documenting the department’s history. We hope that, in addition to enriching the university’s Special Collections and the collective memory of the department, any pictures, stories, and interviews accumulated might prove useful for students engaged in public history activities and anniversary commemorations. Please send submissions or ideas to newsletter@history.umass.edu.

Yet More Online Offerings

The Department of History continues to expand its online continuing education offerings. These small, discussion-rich, highly participatory classes reflect the same rigorous academic standards and tap the same outstanding university faculty as our regular on-campus programs. From a seminar on American folk music and social change with Rob Weir to a survey course on the creation of modern Latin America with Joel Wolfe, our online classes are open to alumni and the general public as well as undergraduate and graduate students. For a listing of upcoming offerings, see www.umassulearn.net/classes.

Appy’s Mark of Distinction

Chris Appy received UMass Amherst’s Distinguished Teaching Award in spring 2013. For 40 years these awards have honored exemplary teaching at the highest institutional level. Each year the award program committees review more than 100 nominations in a multi-step process before selecting three faculty awardees for this highly competitive award. In addition to his high standards of undergraduate teaching, Appy is known in the department for his dedication to graduate work. He was recently the faculty advisor for Michella Marino, who successfully defended her dissertation in the spring.

Graduate student Michella Marino and Chris Appy.
In spring 2013 doctoral student Tom Army received the Residential First-Year Experience Student Choice Award, which recognizes faculty who have made a significant impact on the lives of first-year students. Criteria include “inspiring students to learn, going above and beyond to support first year students, and challenging students to reach their full potential.”

Doctoral student Dan Chard reports: Last November, with the assistance of a History Department conference-travel grant, I attended the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I presented my paper, “Incarceration and Empire in the 1870s Southwest: Black Convict Laborers, Indian POWs, and Differentiated Rule,” on a panel that I organized, “Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: The Nineteenth-Century Prison.” Sponsored by both the ASA Program Committee and the Critical Prison Studies Caucus, and chaired by Khalil G. Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the panel attracted a large audience and generated a great deal of conversation on the intersecting histories of incarceration and U.S. empire.


While working in the Special Collections at the Du Bois Library I will study several archival collections essential to my dissertation research and give a public talk on my findings.


In August 2012 doctoral student Amanda L. Goodheart was promoted to a full-time position in the Education Department at the Springfield Museums. In addition to recruiting, training, and evaluating docents she now coordinates field trips and develops school programming, outreach programs, and professional development opportunities for K-12 educators. In May 2013, Amanda successfully defended her dissertation prospectus, “No Seas Can Now Divide Us”: Captains’ Wives, Sister Sailors, and the American Whalefishery, 1840-1870.” Finally, Amanda is delighted to report she and her college sweetheart, Michael, will be married on July 12, 2014, at Ochre Court in Newport, R.I.

M.A. student Dan McDonald reports: With the aid of department funding, I traveled to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, for a month to research the creation of that city from the 1890s on. Belo Horizonte represents an early attempt by Brazilian politicians to create a new social order via the construction of a planned city, in this case based on the principles of republicanism and positivism. The city foreshadowed the creation of Brazil’s modernist capital, Brasilia, in the 1960s.

Doctoral student Mark Roblee reports: With generous support from Five Colleges Inc. I have revived the interdisciplinary and once-vibrant Five College Faculty Seminar in Late Antiquity and Early Christianity. The starting lineup includes faculty and graduate students from Five College history, classics, and religion departments. New members are welcome. We will meet twice a semester and sponsor a public lecture by an outside speaker in the spring.
A Fresh Look at New England’s Native Americans

The sixth floor of Herter Hall is usually pretty quiet in July, but not so in 2013, when twenty-five K-12 teachers selected as National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholars met in Herter 601 for three weeks of intensive work during the NEH Summer Institute “Native Americans of New England: A Historical Overview.” Codirected by Alice Nash and Smith College’s Neal Salisbury, it combined a rigorous focus on content with a requirement that each Summer Scholar develop a lesson plan for use in his or her own classroom. The Summer Scholars came from varied grade levels, geographic regions, and types of schools. They included teachers from reservation schools in Minnesota, Montana, and New Mexico, as well as local scholars Shannon Ramah ’11 and Robert Boutilier ’06. Other Summer Scholars came from as far away as California and American Samoa.

Each day began with Nash and Salisbury leading a one-hour segment, “Thinking Back, Looking Ahead.” This flexible time gave us an opportunity to debrief and reflect on the previous day’s activities and provide context and continuity for the day to come. Guest presenters focused on their own current work, and the Summer Scholars all got hooked on the thrill of primary-source research. The group made field trips to Plimoth Plantation and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. It was a special treat to meet with Mohegan chief Lynn Malerba and Mohegan medicine woman and tribal historian Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel. (For a complete syllabus, Summer Scholar biographies, lists of curriculum projects and of guest presenters and their projects, and summaries of our daily activities, see www.fivecolleges.edu/neh/native_americans_of_new_england.)

This Summer Institute was funded by NEH under the auspices of Five Colleges Inc. Our success depended on the talents of many people, including Jessica Johnson, the new outreach director for the History Department; Danielle Trevino, an Amherst College undergraduate; and especially Sue Thrasher and Marla Solomon of Five Colleges Inc. Our ever-gracious department staffers Amy Fleig, Suzanne Bell, and Mary Lashway tolerated the invasion with good cheer and made the Summer Scholars feel welcome. —Alice Nash
Yveline Alexis ’11PhD, after spending two years as a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Africana Studies at Rutgers University, has accepted a tenure-track assistant-professor position at Oberlin College. She will serve in the Department of Africana Studies as a historian of the Caribbean.

Allison Carter ’03 reports: Last year I opened my first major exhibition, “Confronting Our Legacy: Slavery and Antislavery in the North,” at the Jackson Homestead and Museum at Historic Newton in Newton, Mass. During the last semester of my senior year at UMass Amherst, making exhibits seemed like a far-off dream. Gerry McFarland, however, gave me some much-needed direction: “You’re good at this, and you should keep doing it.” That bit of advice gave me the confidence to pursue a career in history.

A year after receiving an M.A. in history with a certificate in public history from Northeastern University in 2007, I landed my first full-time job at the Jackson Homestead. There I identified a major need: the museum was housed in a building that had been part of the Underground Railroad, but its exhibition on that topic was over 25 years old. It needed to be replaced by one telling an important untold story: that there was a history of slaveholding as well as abolitionist activity at the property.

In “Confronting Our Legacy,” my goal was to broaden the context of the house’s history by highlighting slavery in the North and at the Jackson Homestead itself. Colonial-era Northern slavery and nineteenth-century Northerners’ complicity in Southern slavery have been widely acknowledged in academic circles, but to many people, especially school-age children, it comes as shocking news. Confronting the legacy of slavery is not about blame or shame but rather about acknowledging the privileges derived by some from our national past of enslavement of Africans and African Americans. Once we face our history we will be better equipped to make our world more socially and politically just.

Dennis Foley ’76, ’82G in August 2013 presented a paper on Thomas Francis Meagher at the Parnell Society Summer School, which is held at Avondale Estate, Parnell’s birthplace. Meagher was an Irish patriot and rebel who made his way via Australia to the U.S. There he led the Irish Brigade as a brigadier general in the Civil War and died as governor of Montana. Dennis—who reports that his paper is based in part on work he did in Steven Oates’s “Art and Technique of Biography” class—is also the author of Highwayman: The Robber, His Wife, and Ireland, a novel based on the career of an ancestor, James Freney, “the Robin Hood of Ireland.” It is published under the name Donncha MacSharry.

Carole Gaunt ’67 returned to campus in April 2013 to guide a staged reading of a play adapted from Hungry Hill (University of Massachusetts Press), her memoir of growing up in Springfield, Mass., in the wake of her mother’s death and under the strain of her father’s descent into alcoholism. Carole also visited the department last year, to meet with students who had read her memoir in their Junior Year Writing Seminar with Maria Miller on American biography. They enjoyed talking with her about the life behind the memoir and hearing about her experience as a UMass student in the 1960s.

During this year’s four-day residency Carole worked with the Theater Department to produce a script in which 11 students and faculty played members of her family and community as well as herself as a teenage girl. Conversation about the play, Carole’s second, is continuing; we look forward to seeing what’s next for this important work.

After graduating from UMass Amherst, Vincent Hyland ’11 received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship and went to Vidin, Bulgaria, where he taught written and oral English to 187 Bulgarian 8th-to-12th graders at the Tsar Simeon Veliki School. He is currently the recipient of a New York City Teaching Fellowship and undergoing intensive training to become an ESL instructor in the New York public school system. Vincent is attending graduate courses at the Hunter College School of Education, where he is working toward an M.A. degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).
Erik Ingmundson ’12 reports: In March I joined the staff of the Mystic Seaport Museum, where I serve as supervisor of interpretation, responsible for hiring and training new staff members and conducting their performance appraisals. I also manage a portion of the Seaport’s Junior Volunteer Program. We have approximately 30 teenage volunteers who assist in running our family programs.

This is an exciting time for Mystic Seaport. On July 21 we relaunched the Charles W. Morgan, the oldest wooden whaling ship in the world. The Morgan underwent an extensive restoration during the past several years and in 2014 will embark on a voyage with stops in New London, New Bedford, Martha’s Vineyard, Provincetown, and Boston. I will have the privilege of coordinating a small portion of this voyage, and hope to see some UMass folks when the Morgan pulls into port next summer.

Michella Marino ’13PhD reports: This past March, with the help of my fantastic advisor Chris Appy and my all-star committee of Joyce Berkman, Jennifer Fronc, Brian Bunk, and Pat Griffin, I successfully defended my dissertation, “Sweating Femininity: Women Athletes, Masculine Culture, and American Inequality from 1930 to the Present.” It focused on women athletes in roller derby and basketball who both challenged and conformed to their identities as women, athletes, and mothers. A week after I graduated I finished my first year as a tenure-track professor of American history at Hastings College in southeast Nebraska. Although I miss the Pioneer Valley, I’m enjoying my new life on the Great Plains and in the Platte Valley. I look forward to teaching classes this fall and winter on oral history, the World Wars, and yes, even roller derby.
Michael C. Moynihan ’97 is the cultural-news editor for The Daily Beast. He was previously a member of the Swedish free-market think tank Timbro. In Sweden Michael contributed to some of that country’s newspapers and television programs and founded the Stockholm Spectator, the city’s first English-language newspaper. He is now also on the staff of The Wall Street Journal, serves as cultural-affairs editor for Vice (a New York-based international magazine that covers political and cultural issues in a highly distinctive and sometimes controversial manner), and is a frequent guest commentator on Red Eyes.

Tore Olsson ’04 received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 2013, where he was Ambrose Morell Fellow in Technology and Democracy at the Miller Center of Public Affairs and completed his dissertation, “Agrarian Crossings: The American South, Mexico, and the Twentieth-Century Remaking of the Rural World.” In September 2013 he joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville as assistant professor of U.S. and Latin American history.

Austin Powell ’11 received his M.A. degree in medieval history from the Centre for Medieval Studies at York University in May 2013. He received the Ceciley Angleton Scholarship from Catholic University of America and began his Ph.D. program there in August. In June 2013 he was invited to deliver a paper, “Crying for God: Pious Responses to Visual Stimuli in Late Medieval England” at “Sensing the Sacred: Religion and the Senses 1300-1800,” a conference held at York University.

Micah Schneider ’11 reports: In May 2013 I accepted two positions with Historic New England, as a museum guide and museum educator based at Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, Conn. On a personal note, my partner and I are expecting our second child, due in October 2013. When she arrives I won’t be studying for master’s exams, as I was when our son was born!

Wesley Surette ’12 received his bachelor’s degree at the December graduation, having completed his degree as a transfer student at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. His concentration was in West African history. Before attending graduate school Wesley is taking a year to teach English in Prague. He plans to return to East Anglia for graduate study in West African history.

Donald Valentine ’96 has been teaching for 14 years and plans to attend Salem State University to receive his M.A. in history. He lives in Georgetown, Mass., and is researching new methodologies for designing writing curricula.

Keeping in the Loop

The department recently created the UMass History YouTube Channel. Check it out to see and hear this year’s public talks by Robin D.G. Kelley, Stephen Platt, the Reverend Nelson Johnson, and more.

Also new this year is our departmental blog featuring posts by faculty, students, emeriti, and guest bloggers. This fascinating miscellany is constantly growing at umasshistory.wordpress.com.

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The Department of History depends on contributions from alumni and friends for many of its essential activities. We sincerely thank this year’s contributors. The following list covers donations through June 2013. If we’ve missed you, please contact the Department of History so that your name can be added to next year’s honor roll.

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