LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I write this note as I prepare to rotate out of the chair’s office, after serving for six years, it’s time for me to return to the classroom and my own scholarship. I carry fond memories of my years as chair, but I’m looking forward to new opportunities.

This year was as exciting and busy as any that I can remember in Herter Hall. We continue to deal with the winds of change swirling through higher education. The humanities are suffering, but we remain firm in our conviction that a history degree provides students with opportunities that prepare them for life beyond UMass. We know that there is a role for history and humanities in our world. Our alumni prove that a history major can be just the beginning. As you will see in the articles below, our faculty and students are making history in higher education—now.

We have accomplished much this year and remain committed to providing our students with experiences that they will remember fondly.

The articles within provide a window into life in the Department of History over the past year. You’ll read about everything from our Annual Lecture—the event this year and remain committed to providing our students with experiences that they will remember fondly.

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If you smell pizza, you might be on the sixth floor of Herter Hall. Pizza has long been the refreshment of choice for the UMass Ambrose History Club, which meets once a month for history-related activities. It has become the staple of a series of new outreach initiatives aimed at helping our history majors connect to faculty, other students, and career opportunities. We offered free pizza for lunch once a month in Herter’s sixth-floor lobby, which led to some interesting conversations. The history department now holds an advising open house on the sixth floor of Herter Hall.

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The Undergraduate Program

Sometimes we offer fancier fare. Internship and Career Advisor Monk Roblee organized a formal dinner in March 2016 at which 10 illustrious alumni returned to campus (see page 41). Twenty-fifth history majors attended, rotating from one table to the next while the alumni stayed in place, so that each attended, rotating from one table to the next which 10 illustrious alumni returned to campus to talk to other students . . . and eat pizza.

Another event was the Phi Alpha Theta dinner and induction ceremony, organized by advisor Garrett Washington. The evening included an inspirational talk by Julie Capo Jr., winner of the 2016 College of Humanities and Fine Arts Distinguished Teaching Award, on his transition from journalist to historian. Current members were on hand to celebrate with the inductees and their families. Inductees included Luke Berquist, Haley Clark, Paige Clarke, Lauren Coombes, Sam Lomard, Ethan Schwarttt, Jaffar Shiek, Kora Westhaven, and Dimitrios Xenophonous ’16.

In between special events, our department continues its daily work of offering exciting courses and excellent teaching. Recent additions to the curriculum include “Science, Technology, and War in Twentieth-Century U.S. and Europe” (Emily Redman), “Traditional Japan” (Garrett Washington), and “Latin American Revolution” (Kevin Young). Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we gave a record number of awards to our students. The Undergraduate Studies Committee had the difficult and wonderful task of determining the winners; thank you to professors Emily Redman, Heidi Scott, and Kevin Young for their work on this and other matters throughout the year.

The winner of the Louis S. Greenbaum History Writing Prize for undergraduate research papers was Hullie Dunlop for “Mass Incorporation: A Method of Social Control in the Twenty-First Century” (Jennifer Frame), with an honorable mention for Miranda Burge-Goodwin for “An Unending War: The Legacy of Agent Orange” (Joyce Berkman). The winner in the class-essay division was Ashley Collins for “Official Chains and War Zones Realities” (Christian Appy), with an honorable mention for Kelsey Furey for “How Had the Narrative of White Southern Masculinity Shaped the Memorable Character of Robert E. Lee in Michael Shaara’s Historical Novel The Killer Angels?” (Sarah Cornell).

Sarah Peastruso ’16, a Commonwealth Honors College history major with minors in education and psychology, received the Robert H. McNeal Scholarship for graduating with the highest overall GPA. Sarah also received the Nicholas Carr Bergstein Scholarship, which commemorates the life of Nicholas Bergstein, a UMass Amherst student who planned on becoming a high school history teacher but recently passed away in 2015. Nicholas’s mother was present at our awards ceremony to meet Sarah and learn more about her senior thesis, “Incorporating LGBTQ Minority History into Massachusetts 8–12 U.S. History Curriculum.” We are moved and grateful to continue his legacy in this way.

Another new award this year is the James and Cynthia Redman Scholarship, which honors the life of James O. Redman, father of Sam Redman and father-in-law of Emily Redman. Recipient Ryan Walsh ’16, a history major planned on becoming a high school history teacher but recently passed away in 2015. Nicholas’s mother was present at our awards ceremony to meet Sarah and learn more about her senior thesis, “Incorporating LGBTQ Minority History into Massachusetts 8–12 U.S. History Curriculum.” We are moved and grateful to continue his legacy in this way.

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The Joys of the Integrative Experience

When our General Education Council mandated a new requirement a few years ago, faculty members predictably groaned. But once we got past the word “requirement,” the proposal began looking much like a plan we in the history department had long discussed: a capstone course giving students the space to consider their four years of higher education. The new Integrative Experience (IE) course was an opportunity for both creative retrospection and preparation for life after graduation.

Our IE course, “Human Rights and Energy Security,” guides students in linking politically fraught energy issues to the history of democratization and human rights in the region around the Caspian Sea, i.e. former Soviet states plus Iran and Afghanistan. Students also consider how the U.S. and Europe could or should deal with rights violations by states that produce oil and gas. Students must keep their writing concise but meaty, a skill rarely taught. “This is job training,” I explain, much to the students’ chagrin, “because no employer will want to read your 10-page reflections on fraudulent elections in Kazakhstan.”

In the final “self as learner” paper last fall, students told me things I would not have guessed. One said that the debate between students playing dictators and those playing human-rights defenders had been a turning point in his college career. “It never occurred to me,” he wrote, “that I could not win an argument merely by asserting the morally right viewpoint, that I have to make the case.”

—Audrey Altstadt

Undergraduate students Brooke Pastale ’17, Abhilash Harigavan ’17, Zmeika Beugier and Richard Carter ’17 listen intently during a class discussion in Professor Altstadt’s IE course, “Human Rights and Energy Security.”
Undergraduate Internship

Internship and Career Advisor Mark Roblee helps history majors prepare for life after graduation by teaching the nuts and bolts of career development (resumes, cover letters, networking) along with the equally important ability to communicate what their history experience has given them. Employers will ask, “What skills and perspectives do history majors offer the workplace?” The short answer: “Plenty.” Our students develop valuable critical thinking, research, writing, analysis, oral-presentation, and collaboration skills, along with an appreciation of the diversity of human experience.

The 2015–16 academic year saw three new additions to the career development event series: Internship Celebration Night, an evening of recognition for and stories from students returning from summer internships, Laura Lovett’s workshop “Diversity in the Workplace,” and an information session on careers in policy, foreign affairs, and international relations by Robert LaRusso ’76, former Commerce Department undersecretary for international trade. This year, Mark organized and hosted a dinner with alumni in a variety of fields (see page 41). If you are also interested in sharing your experience with a history undergraduate, please consider becoming an alumni advisor at the Alumni Advisor Network (umassalumni.evisors.com), a new, easy-to-use platform for helping history undergraduates prepare for their careers. And please join us on LinkedIn—you can find our group, “UMass Amherst History Alumni and Friends,” at linkedin.com/groups/4401850.

and Career Office

Supporting the success of our students is Suzanne Bell, who spends countless hours advising students, troubleshooting problems, organizing events, and generally caring about our program. There’s always something good happening in Herter Hall—maybe even pizza.

—Alice Nash, director

PROGRAM UPDATES

major with a minor in education and a certificate in Asian studies, plans to become a high school teacher.

The Paul E. Giguere Scholarship in History was established by Paul E. Giguere to support undergraduates majoring in history. Winner Bianca Renzoni is a member of Commonwealth Honors College with a double major in history and anthropology; she is also pursuing a minor in French and a certificate in Africana studies.

Another outstanding student is Dimitrios Xanthopoulos ’16, recipient of the Harold W. Clary Prize, which honors the graduating history major with the highest GPA in history courses. We thought we were seeing double at the Graduation Breakfast and were relieved to find that Dimitrios has an identical twin.

Krikor Ermonian ’52, an engineer who loves history but was not a history major, established the Simon and Satenig Ermonian Scholarship in honor of his parents. It recognizes history majors who have a high GPA and have taken honors or other advanced courses. This year’s recipients, all seniors, joined the distinguished ranks of Ermonian scholars: Michael Nicholson, Koosan Burkett, Halley Cherepon, Sara Downdur, Emily Esten, John Fitzgerald, Sara Downard, Serena Forrest, Kaelan Burkett, Ryam Wulah, and Dimitrios Xanthopoulos.

Several awards give students opportunities to travel or gain internship experience. The David H. MacDonald Prize is for a rising junior with an interest in Irish or British history. Justin Murphy, a double major in history and political science, is the 2016 recipient. Justin, along with history majors Jacob Beneo, Emmanouil Conti, and Abhilash Hanaikam will study at Trinity College, Oxford University, through the UMass-Oxford Summer Seminar Program, thanks to additional funding from the Frederic Gilbert Bauer Endowment and the Department of History Gift Fund.

The Richard W. Bauer Scholarship Fund supported 13 history majors in exciting summer internships at such sites as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, the Care Center in Holyoke, the Office of Congresswoman Bill Keating, and the U.S. State Department in Seoul, Korea. The recipients were Dalbon Alves, Koosan Burkett, Lauren Coombs, Emma Hodges, Madeline Hodgman, Benjamin Leier, Andrew Martin, Dylan Malvey, Michael Nicholson, Brooks Grace Keane, Nicholas Kinsman, Andrew Kubin, Samantha Lombard, Shane Muker, Michael Nicholas, Bria Pustere, Sarah Pustere, Alexander Ried, Elena Rousseau, Ryam Wulah, and Dimitrios Xanthopoulos.

This year the History Opportunity Award, established by Professor Emeritus Ron Story, recognizes the work of our peer mentors, seniors Daniel Cabral, Halley Cherepon, Carl Forge, and Michael Nicholson. These dedicated students kept regular office hours in the department, mentoring other students, tutoring, helping with papers, and brightening the office with their presence. They went above and beyond by representing us at departmental Advising Night and at the University Majors Fair. They came in on weekends for the university Open Houses, where accepted students and their families visit the campus, and they made us look good. We really appreciate their work.

In addition to the departmental awards, three of our students won awards from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts: Francis Henry Schulze (a triple major in finance, economics, and history), Kara Westhoven, and Emily Esten ’16.

Undergraduate Internship and Career Office

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Supporting the success of our students is Suzanne Bell, who spends countless hours advising students, troubleshooting problems, organizing events, and generally caring about our program. There’s always something good happening in Herter Hall—maybe even pizza.

—Alice Nash, director
Rebecca Onion, 2016 Writer-in-Residence.

Thanks to the generous support of Five Colleges Inc. in partnership with the Department of History, UMass Amherst’s Writer-in-Residence Program annually brings a writer of national prominence to campus for a weeklong residency to enliven the training of history students in writing for a range of audiences and venues. In March, the department and the Five College community welcomed Rebecca Onion, history writer for Slate.com, author of Innocent Experiments: Childhood and the Culture of Popular Science in the United States (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming), and visiting scholar in the Department of History at Ohio University.

During her stay on campus, Onion visited several classes, including the graduate seminar “Writing History,” and attended a meeting of the undergraduate History Club. She graciously accepted a position on the capstone panel for “Putting History on the Web” with Jim Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association. She also participated in the History Communication Summit and, alongside prominent historians, journalists, and thought leaders from around the nation, joined in an evening of “lightning conversations” about the future of history communication (see page 9).

On March 4, Onion delivered the Writer-in-Residence Lecture, “Truth, Lies, Clicks, and Shares: How History is Faring on the World Wide Web.” She discussed “what happens with history in the wild of the web,” away from official channels curated by academic historians, and examined how social media platforms like Twitter and Tumblr transform the way we experience history. (If you missed the lecture, you can check it and others out on the department’s YouTube channel).

“Rebecca Onion’s lectures and class visits completely changed the way I think about writing history for broader audiences,” said MA candidate Rebekkah Rubin, who is pursuing the Public History Program’s “Writing History Beyond the Academy” track. “She showed that nonacademic history need not be simplified and that nonacademic audiences can and do engage with history, although largely on their own terms. It was helpful to hear from Onion about her experiences writing both academic and nonacademic histories and crafting her own job as a history writer. Her optimism about the future of history writing on the Internet was inspiring, and I will undoubtedly continue to think about ideas she brought up during her visit.” —Chelsea Miller ’16MA

PROGRAM UPDATES

The Honors Program

The Department of History Honors Program is pleased to have closed out another successful and exciting academic year. In 2015–16, our students revealed themselves as a number of opportunities. In the spring semester, alumnus Kenneth Feinberg ’77, attorney and former special master for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, offered a seminar titled “Historical Responses to Unique Catastrophes.” Students reported that it was a transformative experience.

In addition, the program offered a new course with a specialized honors colloquium, “Sex in History—A Global History of the Modern World,” taught by Laura Lovett-Nye. Nye offered important new courses on the history of sex and gender discrimination, as well as the history of domestic violence law.

The senior honors thesis is the capstone of the department’s Honors Programs, and the Thesis Symposium is the highlight of the year. Held this year on April 31, it was attended by students, their families, and history department faculty and staff. Ten students presented on their individual research projects, which ranged widely in topic and time period from studies of the Massachusetts towns of New Bedford, Lowell, and Fall River to the Armenian genocide to ISIS and its practice of destroying ancient art and artifacts. As always, the symposium was informative and lively.

In addition to coursework, honors students had varied educational experiences. Several studied abroad this year—from England to South Korea—while others stayed closer to home, interning in Senator Elizabeth Warren’s Springfield office. Our graduates will pursue a number of paths after graduation, including a graduate program at Brown University in public humanities, master’s degree programs in higher education, and law school in the honors program at Roger Williams University’s School of Law.

—Jennifer Fronc, director
This undergraduate course, taught by Kenneth R. Feinberg ’67 with the assistance of Jill Dwiggins ’13MA, evaluated the circumstances under which the United States government provides special compensation to victims of disasters. Students examined historical examples of public compensation and other alternatives to traditional tort litigation in U.S. society. Course readings addressed perceptions of charity and self-reliance in U.S. history, sovereign immunity, formal government apology, legal and administrative obstacles to compensation programs, political environments contributing to the creation of special compensation funds, and approaches to victim compensation in other parts of the world. Students discussed these concepts in a weekly video-conference seminar with Kenneth Feinberg, while undertaking major research projects on related topics of their choosing.

Students called the course “life-changing” and “absolutely incredible” and reported that it helped them to think more critically about the world and provided them with knowledge and frameworks that will stay with them throughout their lives. “Mr. Feinberg taught the class as he would one of his law school classes at Harvard,” says Joyce Bowman. “He challenged the students to do their best work. He established an esprit de corps in the class, and students became a community. I feel confident that it was an incredible” and reported that it helped them to think more critically about the world and provided them with knowledge and frameworks that will stay with them throughout their lives. “Mr. Feinberg taught the class as he would one of his law school classes at Harvard,” says Joyce Bowman. “He challenged the students to do their best work. He established an esprit de corps in the class, and students became a community. I feel confident that it was an experience that the students will remember as they go out into the world.” — Jill Dwiggins ’13MA

In March, the Department of History and the Public History Program hosted the first-ever national History Communication Summit, convening prominent historians, journalists, and thought leaders from across the nation to discuss the communication of history in the digital age. The summit consisted of a workshop that examined new approaches for communicating history to 21st-century audiences and will ultimately culminate in a new departmental curriculum dedicated to training graduate students to best communicate history to nonexperts using mobile and digital technologies.

“We are delighted to be convening this important dialogue on history communication—the first of its kind—at UMass Amherst,” said Marla Miller, public history program director and co-organizer of the event. "This is an important step forward in thinking about how history gets communicated beyond the academy in the digital and mobile age."

The workshop was co-organized with Jason Steinhauser, a public historian based at The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. He has been the leader of the growing movement within the history profession focusing on how historians can best communicate in today’s digital environment. In addition to the two-day series of conversations, on March 4 the department, in collaboration with the Graduate History Association’s annual conference, hosted a public event including a series of “lightning conversations” in which pairs of workshop attendees explored themes in history communication. Video of these dynamic conversations are now available on our YouTube page. The summit’s participants included Ed Ayers, host of the popular Backstory radio program and recipient of a 2014 National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama; Jim Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association; Jamie Wilson, executive director of Women, Action, and the Media; Shola Lynch, filmmaker and curator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; The Atlantic magazine’s Yoni Applebaum; John Dichtl, executive director of the American Association for State and Local History; Harvard University professor and The Schomburg Center’s Shola Lynch and Lily Roth of Time magazine’s Yoni Applebaum; John Dichtl, executive director of the American Association for State and Local History; Harvard University professor and the department’s Writer-in-Residence.

—Chelsea Miller ’16MA

COHOSTS SUSAN KAPLAN AND JASON STEINHAUSER AT THE LIGHTNING CONVERSATIONS.
The Graduate Program

The graduate program had a wonderful year.

Our students participated in a wide variety of events that showcased their skills as historians. Master’s and doctoral students presented their research at conferences across the United States and abroad and, of course, organized the campus-wide Graduate History Association conference. The graduate program and the department hosted many events that allowed graduate students to network with leading scholars, museum professionals, archivists, and activists. As always, our graduate students have been energetic, creative, and inspired historians whose work as students, teachers, interns, archivists, writers, and exhibit designers continues to enrich our department, the campus, the local community, and the history profession.

It is with sadness that I convey the news that Gary Garrison ’89PhD passed away this summer. I know that the history faculty, staff, and graduate student community join me in extending condolences to his friends and family. Professors Joyce Berkman and Dan Gordon worked closely with Gary over the years and gave his dissertation high praise for its ambitious scope and sophisticated analysis.

In the fall semester, the graduate program hosted Professor Antoineine Burton of the University of Illinois, who gave the annual Five Colleges Distinguished History Lecture (see page 13). The graduate program also hosted Professor Edward Baptiste of Cornell University, who spoke about his highly acclaimed history of slavery and capitalism, The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and Capitalism in America, 1877–2016. Master’s students—Alexus Evans, Dara Finkle, and Annalise Jacobsen—organized and attended the conference on slavery and the making of American capitalism. The conference was held at the University of Massachusetts Press and closed with a roundtable on history communication moderated by Emily Redman and featuring Writers-in-Residence Rebecca Cosim, Janice Williams (Women, Action, and the Media), Emily Redman (Tufts University, History@Work), and Jason Steinhaus (Library of Congress).

The Graduate Program is fortunate to have funds for its ambitious scope and sophisticated analysis. As always, our graduate students have been energetic, creative, and inspired historians whose work as students, teachers, interns, archivists, writers, and exhibit designers continues to enrich our department, the campus, the local community, and the history profession.

Thanks to the GHA’s enthusiasm and dedication, the conference was a great success. It covered topics in labor history, art history, digital history, activism, and much more, as well as a lunch with Matt Becker, executive editor of the University of Massachusetts Press. The conference closed with a roundtable on history communication moderated by Emily Redman and featuring Writers-in-Residence Rebecca Cosim, Janice Williams (Women, Action, and the Media), Emily Redman (Tufts University, History@Work), and Jason Steinhaus (Library of Congress). The GHA hosted graduate students from a wide range of schools and disciplines. Faculty from the Five Colleges also attended the conference. I was happy to have the opportunity to meet Jason Hopkins, who traveled from Oklahoma to present his paper and visit the department. It’s my pleasure to report that Jason will enter our doctoral program this fall.

The spring semester ended in the department on a high note with the graduate awards ceremony. As always, it was great pleasure to have this opportunity to recognize our students’ tremendous achievements. We were glad to acknowledge the generosity of all of our donors and many especially delighted that Dr. Charles Hyde ’66 and Robert and Jeanne Potash attended the awards ceremony and reception.

Throughout the year, students from our program presented research papers and poster sessions at conferences across the United States and nations abroad, including England, Germany, and the Czech Republic. Students gave presentations at the following professional association conferences: the European Society for the History of Science, Western Association of Women Historians, Classical Association of New England, German Studies Association, and National Council on Public History. Students also participated in a variety of conferences and symposia hosted by universities, including Stony Brook University, UC Davis, and UT Austin. Presenting at conferences is, of course, an important component of graduate education and professional development. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our graduate program is fortunate to have funds available to help offset the cost of students’ conference travel and expenses.

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In April, eight master’s students—Canaan Asbury, Matthew Coletti, Rose Gullenberg, Deborah Kallman, Kathleen Mahoney, Chelsea Miller, Julie Peterson, and Natalie Shailer—took part in a variety of events that showcased their skills as historians. Master’s and doctoral students presented their research at conferences across the United States and abroad and, of course, organized the campus-wide Graduate History Association conference.
In October 19, Antoinette Burton delivered the 2015–16 Five College Annual Lecture, “The Trouble with Empire: Challenges to Modern British Imperialism.” The author of a recent book of the same title, Burton is interim director of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities and both a professor of history and the Catherine C. and Bruce A. Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign. Her work exposes the realities and instabilities of empire, with a particular focus on the British Empire.

Burton’s lecture drew attention to dissent and disruption within the British Empire, which she described as “short circuits in imperial power.” She examined frictions along categories of race, gender, class, and sexuality to show how indigenous resistance caused “multisided trouble” for the British Empire. Burton argued that decolonizing efforts are not limited to large-scale events, but include guerilla fighting and everyday resistance through work-related protests. This dissenters’ history offers a new way to look at empire, one that links the individual lives of imperial subjects with larger historical questions and theories and provides an alternative analysis to the unstable rise-and-fall life cycle of empire.

Barbara Krauthamer said that Burton’s talk “generated a lively discussion about empires, imperialism, and resistance that engaged faculty and students from many departments, including history, anthropology, English, and Afro-American studies.” —Chelsea Miller ’16MA

Graduate students Ryan Dorsey, Julia Carroll, Sara Patton, Selena Moon, and Shay Olmstead during the Q&A at Antoinette Burton’s lecture.

Historian Antoinette Burton delivers the Five College Annual Lecture to an enthusiastic audience.

Camisha Scruggs introducing a panel at “Putting History to Work.”

—Barbara Krauthamer, director

2016 M.A. THESES
Matthew Coletti, “‘The Fate Which Takes Us’: Benjamin F. Beall and Jefferson County, (West) Virginia in the Civil War Era”

2015 Ph.D. THESES
The Public History Program

The Public History Program enjoyed another invigorating year, infused with energy from our students and with new collaborators in the Pioneer Valley and beyond. We’ll try to capture the highlights below, but to keep up with the program and stay abreast of what our alumni are doing, you can also find us on Facebook (Twitter: @umassph), and Flickr (flickr.com/people/publichistory).

Our annual fall field trip last September made a return visit to the Berkshires. It was an especially satisfying day, in part because we got to see Deborah Kallman ’16MA in action in her new position at Edith Wharton’s The Mount, in Lenox. Her post there is an outcome of our field trip to that historic house two years earlier, after which Deborah portrayed key characters in that internship and then a full-time position. (We’re happy to report that Deborah has since moved to a new position as a director of finance at Historic Deerfield.) We also enjoyed a visit to the W.E.B. Du Bois Homestead in Great Barrington, led by David Glassberg. It’s exciting to see the new developments at the homesite each time we visit there.

During the September 2015 Internship Report-Out event, students described their experiences in a variety of summer internships: Rose Gallenberger ’16MA (Eastern States Penitentiary), Natalie Sheard ’16MA (National Museum of American History), Kathleen Mohoney ’16MA (WGBH in Boston), Felicia Jamison (W.E.B. Du Bois Homestead), and Chelsea Miller ’16MA (Institute for Curatorial Practice). Some of these experiences were supported by Charles K. Hydes scholarships, which help our students complete high-quality internships when a host site is unable to offer sufficient compensation; we remain grateful to Dr. Hyde for this generous support of our students’ aims.

Over the past year, Sam Redman orchestrated the launch of the UMass Amherst Oral History Lab, which brings together students, faculty, and community organizations to improve oral-history work of all kinds. During the fall semester, students in “Theory and Method of Oral History” enjoyed having their seminar hosted in the new lab space, Room 121 in the Herter Annex. At the start of the semester, Redman collaborated with professor Emily Redman and students Julie Peterson, and Natalie Sheard in bringing a version of the “Oral History Crash Course” to Brown University.

Meanwhile, in another exciting initiative last fall, Marla Miller’s “Introduction to Public History” graduate seminar collaborated with the program and stay abreast of what our alumni are doing, you can also find us on Facebook (Twitter: @umassph), and Flickr (flickr.com/people/publichistory).

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Over the past year, Sam Redman orchestrated the launch of the UMass Amherst Oral History Lab, which brings together students, faculty, and community organizations to improve oral-history work of all kinds. During the fall semester, students in “Theory and Method of Oral History” enjoyed having their seminar hosted in the new lab space, Room 121 in the Herter Annex. At the start of the semester, Redman collaborated with professor Emily Redman and students Julie Peterson, and Natalie Sheard in bringing a version of the “Oral History Crash Course” to Brown University.

Meanwhile, in another exciting initiative last fall, Marla Miller's “Introduction to Public History” graduate seminar collaborated with the program and stay abreast of what our alumni are doing, you can also find us on Facebook (Twitter: @umassph), and Flickr (flickr.com/people/publichistory).

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Over the course of the year, the program was also thrilled to host a number of Hyde Visiting Practitioners; again, we are thankful to Dr. Charles K. Hyde for the funds that allow us to connect our students with so many leading public history practitioners over the course of each year (see below). And on the subject of special guests in Hert-er Hall, a highlight of the spring semester was certainly the 10th anniversary of the Writer-in-Residence Program (see page 6) and the first-ever summit History Communication in the Twenty-First Century (see page 9), which brought to campus more than two dozen of the nation’s most influential public historians for two days of lively conversation about this emerging field.

In March, UMass Amherst public history students and faculty headed to Baltimore for the meeting of the National Council on Public History. The whole conference felt like a celebration of our program, as we landed the much-coveted sponsorship of the conference lanyards: every one of the event’s thousand-plus attendees wore a maroon lanyard with our logo on it. The program was visible throughout the meeting in other ways too. Alumna Jill Ogline Titus ’07PhD joined a panel considering contentious contemporary conversations around Civil War memorials, while Marla Miller, together with alumnae Emily Oswald ’13MA and Meghan Gelardi Holmes ’06MA, offered a panel, “Creative Aging, Inclusive Aging: How Public Historians Can Reach Seniors in New Ways,” exploring the larger role public historians might play in the care of elderly populations. David Glassberg participated in the discussion “Historical Interpretation in a Time of Global Climate Change.” And Chelsea Miller ’16MA, Shakti Castro, Natalie Sherif ’16MA, and Katherine Fecteau described our program’s work for the Humanities Action Lab collaboration on the workshop “Public History and Policing: Connect Your Community to a National Memory Project on Incarceration.” A big crew of current students turned out to support one another and take in the programs; at a festive gathering of our current students and alumni, it was great bring all these folks together. Next year’s meeting will be held in April 2017 in Indianapolis. If you are in or near Indy and would like to join us at an alumni gathering, please send a note to Professor Miller (mmiller@history.umass.edu).

As the academic year drew to a close, we waved farewell to our crackajack assistants Chelsea Miller and Julie Peterson as they graduate, together with the rest of their terrific class of public historians: Natalie Sherif, Kathleen Mahoney, Rose Gellenberger, Deborah Reilman, and Matthew Coletti. We are excited to see where they head next.

—Marla Miller, director

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

At the Institute for Curatorial Practice (ICP) exhibition launch for The Third Space: Textiles in Material and Visual Culture: Chelsea Miller ’16MA’s online exhibition: ICP Director Karen Koenig, Kress Curatorial Fellow Jocelyn Edens, and graduate intern Chelsea Miller.

Amanda Goodheart Parks ’10MA, Katherine Fecteau, Laura Miller ’14PhD, and Marla Miller at the 2015 Annual Meeting for New England Public life.

Historic Deerfield Curator and Collections Manager Ned Lazaro with students in Marla Miller’s “American Material Culture” graduate seminar.
This year, students in the Public History Program participated in “States of Incarceration,” a national initiative led by the Humanities Action Lab at the New School for Social Research and cocreated by 20 schools nationwide. UMass Amherst’s contribution focused on intersections of mass incarceration, gender, and reproductive justice in an historical context. Marla Miller organized her graduate-level public history seminar around this project and constructed a one-credit practicum seminar for students to engage in dialogues with activists, scholars, and other experts on the topic. The research on incarceration in Hampshire County done by Sean Smeland, Chloe Spinks, Katherine Fecteau, and Evan Howard Ashford (a PhD candidate in Afro-American studies and a Public History certificate student) will be used by public history students to create an interpretive plan for an exhibition on local histories of incarceration. Danping Wang, Sara Patton, Gregg Mitchell, Selena Moon, and Gamesha Scruggs conducted a nationwide survey and needs assessment among small museums that deal with incarceration. They created a resource kit offering interpretive strategies to help small museums take on this urgent national issue. Meanwhile, Felicia Jamison, Rebekkah Rubin, Olivia Ekhe (a PhD student in African American studies), Freda Ratelle (Smith College ’16), and Amy Halliday (MAT, Smith College; gallery director, Hampshire College) collaborated in crafting content for the initiative’s physical exhibition, which began its travels around the United States in April 2016. Their contribution chronicles the history of reformatories, prisons, and jails designed for women in Massachusetts. Shakti Castro, Chelsea Miller ’16MA, Anna Holley, and Peggy Hart curated images and videos for the website to accompany the exhibition. Through multimedia posts and short video interviews, the team examined how local and regional activists have responded to the carceral state and reproductive injustices. Natalie Sherif ’16MA conducted and edited oral history interviews with members of the Massachusetts Statewide Harm Reduction Coalition, Voices from Inside, and OutNow; she also contributed video clips from these interviews to the website. In April, Chelsea Miller, Amy Halliday, and Solobia Hutchins gave a brief presentation about our contributions to the project at the “States of Incarceration” launch and conference, with audience support from Marla Miller, Jessica Johnson, Shakti Castro, Natalie Sherif, and Sean Smeland. Chelsea Miller, Julie Peterson ’16MA, Katherine Fecteau, and Sean Smeland explored how Massachusetts families experience the consequences of the carceral state for a local exhibition to accompany “States of Incarceration” when it is on display in Northampton and Holyoke in spring 2017. The history department has devoted its 2016–17 Feinberg Series to a consideration of the history and current state of these issues. Keep an eye on our website for a calendar of events and updates (umass.edu/history/feinberg-series). — Chelsea Miller ’16MA

STATES OF INCARCERATION:
The Carceral State in Public Memory

Left: Natalie Sherif ’16MA at the “States of Incarceration” exhibit launch and conference.
Center: Chelsea Miller ’16MA at the “What Are Women’s Prisons For?” panel at the “States of Incarceration” exhibit launch and conference.
Right: Amy Halliday, Solobia Hutchins, and Chelsea Miller ’16MA discuss the history of incarceration in Massachusetts at the “States of Incarceration” exhibit launch and conference.
The Outreach Office

As you’ll read in these pages, the Department of History’s faculty, students, and alumni are engaged in an astounding array of public projects, from delivering public talks and penning influential op-eds to curating exhibitions and collaborating with local nonprofits. It is an honor to be a part of a department with such a robust commitment to community engagement.

The department’s Outreach Office played a role in a number of these projects in small and large ways. Over the course of this year, it was active in coordinating the “States of Incarceration” project, bringing an array of public speakers to our campus; organizing our national summit on history communication, coordinating our online classes (including a new Gen Ed on the history of medicine, which recently became a foundational course in the new Medical Humanities Certificate Program at the College of Humanities and Fine Arts); co-authoring grant proposals; supporting the Five Colleges/Mellon Initiative in the Public and Applied Humanities, and more. I also had the opportunity to help plan a daylong workshop with legendary activist Loretta Ross and collaborate with Alice Nash in bringing Native American hip-hop artist Supaman to a local middle school.

Another highlight of the year was our first annual “High School History Academy.” Working with Jennifer Frone, Easthampton High School social studies teacher Kelley Brown, and a team of archivists at Special Collections and University Archives, we brought two buses of Easthampton ninth-grade students to campus for a day of history immersion. Students learned about film history with Marla Miller, received a personalized tour of the library with history librarians Kate Freedman and James Kelly, met with more undergraduates and graduate students in history than could be mentioned in this short article, and dug into primary sources at the archives. In the evaluations, each and every one of the 76 students reported that the experience piqued their interest in attending college. We can’t wait to do this again next year.

This year’s History Institute—our annual professional development series for K-12 educators—was another highlight for me. The 2015–16 series explored social changes in the 1800s. Over the course of the year, 15 history teachers explored materials at the Sophia Smith Collection, the Wistariahurst historic house, and UMass Amherst’s Special Collections and University Archives during the High School History Academy. Easthampton High School ninth-graders dig into primary sources at Special Collections and University Archives during the High School History Academy.

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The Outreach Office

The Massachusetts Review was subsequently published in The Massachusetts Review and has since become celebrated and iconic: a remarkable moment both in literary criticism and in America’s perception of how Africa has been perceived and represented in the Western world. In making this case, Achebe challenged the entire framework in which works of art would be judged and the discussion of African literature.

To mark the 40th anniversary of this epic moment, as well as the 40th anniversary of the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series at UM-Amherst, the Department of History co-sponsored a symposium presented by the Interdisciplinary Studies Institute and devoted to the impact of Achebe’s lecture and its continuing legacy. Panelists and speakers included NoViolet Bulawayo, Jules Chametitty, Johanna Cole, Achille Mbembe, Maaza Mengiste, Okey Ndibe, Caryll Phillips, Ekwueme Michael Thubwell, Esther Terry, and Chika Unigwe, among others.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: FIVE COLLEGES/MELLON INITIATIVE IN THE PUBLIC AND APPLIED HUMANITIES

- Visits to the Joseph Allen Skinner Museum at Mount Holyoke College, Amherst College’s Mead Art Museum, the UMass Museum of Contemporary Art, the Smith College Museum of Art, and the Hampshire College library.
- “Bad Food Forward” workshop and “Museum Futures” lecture by Dan Yaeger, executive director, New England Museum Association.
- “Connecting with College Faculty: Research in Practice at the Metropolitan Museum of Art,” report by Maggie Lind, associate director for academic programs and public education, Smith College Museum of Art.
- “Beyond the Page and the Gallery: Reading, Viewing, and the Mediated Platform,” panel discussion with Peter J. Russo, director, Triple Canopy, and Matthew Lattek, associate director, metaLAB, Harvard University.
- “#Tweetmuseums,” lecture by Mark B. Schlemmer, founder, @museumtweets Twitter initiative.
- “The 1937 Project Exposition: Resurrecting the Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley” gala and exhibition curated by Applied Humanities Learning Lab fellows, with keynote speaker Matthew Christopher, photographer and author of Abandoned America: The Age of Consequences: See pages 22–23 to learn more about the Applied Humanities Learning Lab.

Chinua Achebe and Africa in the Global Imagination

On February 18, 1975, the great African writer Chinua Achebe presented a Chancellor’s Lecture at the University of Massachusetts, “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s Heart of Darkness.” It was subsequently published in The Massachusetts Review and has since become celebrated and iconic: a remarkable moment both in literary criticism and in America’s perception of how Africa has been perceived and represented in the Western world. In making this case, Achebe challenged the entire framework in which works of art would be judged and the discussion of African literature.

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A MELLON-FUNDED INITIATIVE:

Building Bridges from the Liberal Arts to Humanities Careers

Over the past two years, the Public History Program has been engaged in an exciting effort to pull together significant Five College resources at the intersection of museums, archives, art, and public history in order to strengthen and clarify pathways from undergraduate humanities education to professional careers in the public and applied humanities.

The opportunity to embark on this large project was provided by Five Colleges Inc., which in 2011 received a large grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to explore curricular innovations. In fall 2013 the Public History Program was funded to explore how we might better serve undergraduates wondering how the knowledge and skills gained by way of a liberal arts education can be applied in professional settings. David Glassberg and Marla Miller, together with Outreach Director Jessica Johnson, assembled a steering committee with representatives from UMass Amherst’s history and art history departments and Five College partners. They sought to unite the extraordinary resources already present across our campuses in and around public history practice into a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Our participants engaged in three main activities. First, they created a two-year seminar for program planners (directors of academic programs around the Five Colleges as well as staff from the Five College museums) aimed at helping them better to know one another and their programs and to collectively learn about emerging trends in the field. Next they created a course for undergraduates, the wildly successful Applied Humanities Learning Lab (led by our project’s graduate fellow, Cheryl Harned, and covered on page 23). Finally, the team created a robust, yearlong seminar for faculty eager to explore how to better incorporate career exploration into their regular pedagogy.

The course-development seminar brought together 10 faculty members representing all five campuses and a wide range of departments, including Italian at Mount Holyoke College, cognitive science at Hampshire College, American studies at Amherst College, and Smith College’s Program for the Study of Women and Gender. Sam Redman represented UMass Amherst Public History. Participants roamed the area, from the Emily Dickinson Museum to the Mead Art Museum to the Hampshire, UMass Amherst, and Smith libraries to the Mount Holyoke College Museum of Art, thinking about how collections-based courses can help students think both abstractly and practically about their own disciplines, about interdisciplinary collaboration, and about how today’s humanities professionals prepare for careers.

As the project winds down, the steering committee is considering how to apply the lessons it learned. A project website, The Public Humanitarian (publichumanitarian.org), includes syllabi, course listings, and a library of reading materials to support similar efforts going forward. Project leaders would love to be able to find a way to continue offering the Applied Humanities Learning Lab, and are considering, among other things, a five-year master’s degree program in public history for Five College undergraduates. Stay tuned for more results from this exciting initiative. —Marla Miller

Applied Humanities Learning Lab Redux

This year’s Applied Humanities Learning Lab moved from a January-term intensive course into a fully supported experimental four-credit course that led students straight into the heart of complex public humanities territory. The course was generously supported by a Five Colleges Inc./Andrew W. Mellon grant.

Sixteen undergraduate students from the Five Colleges—including history majors Emily Esten ’16, Emma Hodges, Devon King, Kyran Schnur, Rebecca Shailor, and Kara Westover—kicked off the program (facilitated by PhD candidates Cheryl Harned and Mark Roblee) during the January Intensive with team project work with the Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS), trips to the Quabbin Reservoir and the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips to the society’s museum, as well as extensive field trips.

The course was generously supported by a Five Colleges Inc./Andrew W. Mellon grant.

On the evening of March 24, all was miraculously in place. After weeks of intensive preparation, “The 1937 Project Exposition and Exhibition” opened its Student Union Ballroom and Gallery doors to the public. In the ballroom, guests were greeted with an artist’s rendition of the Enfield Town Hall clockmarked past and future time as, for a few borrowed hours, the Swift River Valley came back to life.

The first hour consisted of class project displays. Team Advancement reimagined a SRVHS with issues of disability access at the fore. Team Communication provided a listening station for as they displayed a farmers’ market and explored opportunities for community connection through art. Meanwhile, in the gallery exhibition, each student had researched a former Swift River Valley resident and created an evocative silhouette by which to highlight issues of displacement, community, belonging, estrangement, and home. Water was everywhere.

Back in the ballroom, the second hour featured student presentations about their projects and process before photographer and keynote speaker Matthew Christopher took to the podium and showcased his own stunning work on abandoned spaces in America. His unexpected path as a humanities-researcher-turned-professional-photographer-and-social-media-entrepreneur held particular appeal. At the end of the evening, bells rang out and “Auld Lang Syne” was sung as it had been almost eighty years past, marking Enfield’s disincorporation. The room’s forest green lights dimmed to a watery blue and, in a last hurrah, bubbles were blown, connecting us all for one last rarified moment to that time before the state’s bulldozers moved in and the waters rose. With that, our evening drew to a resounding close. —Cheryl Harned
Audrey Altstadt reports: After more than a decade of archival research, interviews, writing and rewriting, my new book The Politics of Culture in Soviet Azerbaijan, 1920–40 is finally out. It was published by Routledge (London) in June 2016. It examines the early Soviet cultural policies that collided with the program and achievements of Azerbaijan’s pre-World War I secular, pro-reform elites in literature, education, scholarship, and language. I challenge the established notion of Soviet “nation building” for Azerbaijan and other national groups that already had national consciousness, written literature, and history in the pre-war period. Soviet policies were destructive in this and similar cases and aimed to create a Soviet culture.

Christian Appy reports: This was a transitional year for me. I’m still giving numerous talks about my recent book, American Reckoning: The Vietnam War and Our National Identity (now a Penguin paperback), but I’m also immersed in a new book about nuclear weapons in American politics and culture since 1945. An online article I wrote for the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima (“Our ‘Merciful’ Ending to the ‘Good War,’” for the Huffington Post and TomDispatch) elicited as much email as I’ve ever received. I really enjoyed running this remarkable six-week summer program and working with the bright and eager students who participated, she knew it was time to turn her sights much, much farther afield. She therefore was on sabbatical for 2015–16, working on her second book, Imperial Women in the Mongol World, which covers the political, social, and economic contributions that Genghis Khan’s female kin made to the formation and expansions of the Mongol Empire. She reported to us from Mongolia, where she spent her summer going to museums, attending cultural performances, and visiting historical and archaeological sites important in Genghis Khan’s life. She returned to the classroom this fall.

UMass Amherst’s College of Humanities and Fine Arts presented Julio Capó Jr. with the Outstanding Teaching Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching and honors individual faculty members for their teaching accomplishments. Capó received a fellowship to work as a visiting scholar at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney for spring 2017. Finally, he contributed a chapter to the National Park Service’s groundbreaking theme study to help identify, promote, and preserve LGBT sites in the United States, and he wrote pieces for the United States Studies Centre at the University.

Duterte, often compared to Donald Trump for his shoot-from-the-hip, crude, politically incorrect language, also looks forward to teaching back at the Five Colleges and introducing a new community-engagement service-learning course dealing with Asian American communities in the Pioneer Valley. UMass Amherst presented Chu with a Provost’s Community Engagement and Service-Learning Fellowship Award for 2015–16.

After successfully completing the fall semester with courses taught at UMass Amherst and Mount Holyoke College, Fine Arts Associate Professor Richard T. Chu traveled under a Fulbright grant to the Philippines, where he taught a course at Ateneo de Manila, the country’s most prestigious university, and worked on his next book project, which focuses on the racialization of the Chinese in the Philippines under the early American colonial period. He gave lectures around the country and was able to witness and participate in the country’s presidential elections, which brought to power Rodrigo “Rody” Duterte, often compared to Donald Trump for his shoot-from-the-hip, crude, politically incorrect language. Chu looks forward to teaching back at the Five Colleges and introducing a new community-engagement service-learning course dealing with Asian American communities in the Pioneer Valley. UMass Amherst presented Chu with a Provost’s Community Engagement and Service-Learning Fellowship Award for 2015–16.

David Glassberg had a busy year collaborating with the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition on a public/environmental history project which will continue in 2016–17 with funding from a UMass Amherst Public Service Endowment grant. He also continued to develop support for interpretive programming at the W.E.B. Du Bois Homestead and other Great Barrington locations associated with Du Bois. In November 2015, Glassberg welcomed Kristin Lehby Footnote ‘44MA and Daniel Gordon into Antoinette Burton’s lecture in October 2015.
“Twentieth-Century European Intellectual History” and “Ideas That Changed History,” the latter an integrative experience course for juniors and seniors. Gordon completed an article on the history of the moral debate over suicide in Western thought, to be published in the journal Historical Reflections. For the journal JEH, he completed an article on the history of the word “civilization,” challenging post-colonial theory and arguing that the term has generally been used for ethical purposes. Society will devote an entire volume to the article and responses to it. Gordon became the faculty advisor to the University Union, student club and debating society. It organized three debates in the 2015–16 academic year, including one, “Opposing Views of Israel and Palestine,” that drew an audience of 500.

Barry Levy reports: I earned a sabbatical for academic year 2014–15 to work on a long-duration study of the military in Massachusetts society from 1691 to 1810, with special focus on the Bunker Hill battle and monument and the people of Pelham and Northfield, Massachusetts County. I note here the influence of the department’s public historians on my historical thinking. I was asked to give a paper at the Revolutionary Conference at the Massachusetts Historical Society in April 2015; from this, I was asked to give a paper at the Society for History of the Early American Republic conference in July 2016 and the Organization of American Historians conference in spring 2018. I was also delighted to travel to Washington, D.C., to help advise the Congressional Committee to Study the Potential for an American Museum of Women’s History; I led a team charged with contemplating how best to support collaboration between museum- and campus-based historians. And I was pleased to serve as the keynote speaker at the James A. Barringer Graduate Conference in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As the year drew to a close, I welcomed the publication of Bending the Future: 50 Ideas for the Next 50 Years of Historic Preservation in the United States, co-edited with Max Page (UMass Press, 2016). But probably the biggest event of the past year was my election as vice president/president-elect of the National Council on Public History; I am flattered and honored to have been selected, and look forward with great anticipation to serving that terrific organization over the next six years.

Jason Morris reports: I spent the 2015–16 year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, as a member in the School of Historical Studies, an academic wonderland. Aside from giving three presentations on my work, finishing a book, starting new collaborations, and making friends, I played a lot of table tennis. In June 2016, I had a research trip to Rome, where I secured rights for images for the above-mentioned book and spent an exciting couple of days in the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. There, in the famous manuscript reading room, I consulted papers of one of the most important archaeologists of the late nineteenth century, Rodolfo Lanciani. I also organized a panel in honor of Carlini Burton’s 2015 retirement and the publication of her latest book. The panel, “Imagining No Religion,” will take place in November 2016 in San Antonio at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature where, in addition to presiding over Carlini’s panel, I will deliver a paper on my ongoing interests in Greek and Latin epigraphy.

Alice Nash organized a number of campus events in her final year as director of the Certificate Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies, including a few performances by Supersense, an Apachitlto (Cree) Nation hip-hop artist who filled the Student Union Ballroom. Nash took her first trip south of Miami in May, visiting Mexico for a panel, I will deliver a paper on my ongoing interests in Greek and Latin epigraphy.

Sam Redman published his first book, Bone Room: From Scientific Racism to Human Prehistory in Museums, with Harvard University Press in March 2016. He wrote three short essays on collecting and exhibiting human remains to accompany the publication of the book. Redman gave lectures at the Morbid Anatomy Museum, Massachusetts Historical Society, Denver Art Museum, and Brown University. He is currently starting work on a second book manuscript and has also launched the campus’s Oral History Lab, which brings together students, scholars, and communities to improve oral history projects and look forward with great anticipation to serving that terrific organization over the next six years.

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Jon Berndt Olsen had a wonderfully productive sabbatical leave this past fall. He spent three months in Berlin working on a new book project on the history of travel and tourism in East Germany. While going on vacation in a communist country may strike some as an out-of-place, the East German state was among the first to guarantee several weeks of vacation in its constitution and invested a large amount of national resources in subsidizing vacations. Olsen also presented papers about German memory culture at the annual German Studies Association meeting this past fall in Washington, D.C., and chaired a session on memory politics in Eastern Europe at the Association for the Study of Nationalities in New York City this spring. He continues to consult UMass Ambiente’s Digital Humanities Initiative and will begin a three-year term in the campus’s Faculty Senate next fall.

Jennifer Fronc reports: I completed my book, Rome’s Holy Mountain: Transformations of the Capitoline Hill in Late Antiquity, 180–741 C.E. (Oxford University Press, 2016). But probably the biggest event of the past year was my election as vice president/president-elect of the National Council on Public History; I am flattered and honored to have been selected, and look forward with great anticipation to serving that terrific organization over the next six years.

John Higgs and Joyce Krumen at Antoinette Burton’s lecture in October.

FACULTY UPDATES

FACULTY AWARDS, 2015–16

College of Humanities and Fine Arts Outstanding Teaching Award

To Julie Capo

Community Engagement and Service Learning Fellowship

To Richard Q. Chu, to create a course in which UMass Amherst and Five College students will collaborate with Pioneer Valley Asian/Pacific-American organizations and communities.

Consulting Scholar Appointment

To Jennifer Fronc, to consult on a new National Endowment for the Humanities Planning Grant for the Mass Humanities Council to help establish a public humanities center at Holyoke Community College.

Core Fulbright Program Appointment

To Richard Chu, to teach at the Ateneo de Manila University while conducting research for his book project on the racialization of Chinese immigrants in the Philippines during the American Colonial period, 1898–1946.

Flex Grant for Teaching/Faculty Development

To Jennifer Fronc, to establish the History Exchange Program with East Hampton Historical Society.

Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship


Institute for Social Science Research Scholar Program Appointment

To Libby Sharrow, to support her draft of a grant application to fund research exploring the long-term effects of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 on political mobilization, participation, and opinion.

Interdisciplinary Studies Institute Faculty Seminar Fellowship, 2015–16

To Jon Berndt Olsen, to participate in ISI’s 2015–16 seminar, “Privacy, Publicity, Secrecy, Security.”

Interdisciplinary Studies Institute Faculty Seminar Fellowship, 2016–17

To Jon Berndt Olsen, to participate in ISI’s 2016–17 seminar, “Happiness.”

Office of Research Development Investigator Initiative Grant Award

To Maria Miller and Jessica Johnson, for funding associated with the Public History Program’s contributions to the Humanities Action Lab’s national research project, “States of Incarceration.”

Organization of American Historians’ Distinguished Lectureship Program Appointment

To Christian G. Appy, to deliver lectures and lead workshops on behalf of the Organization of American Historians.

President’s Creative Economy Grant

To Maria Miller. Duncan Street, and Christopher G. Claggett, for their project “Using I-O Modeling to Digitally Preserve the Architectural Heritage of Massachusetts: Digital Preservation of Three Key Historical Buildings and Educational Outreach.”

Public Service Endowment Grant

To David Glassberg and Samuel Redman. For their project “Climate Change and Environmental Justice: Toward a Climate Action and Resilience Plan for Springfield.”

United States Army War College Commandant’s National Security Seminar Program

To Jennifer Fronc, to examine current national security issues alongside USAWC students and scholars.

United States Studies Center Visiting Scholar Fellowship

To Julie Capo, to work on an in-progress book as a visiting scholar at the University of Sydney.
FACULTY UPDATES

Sigrid Schmalzer’s Red Revolution. Green Revolution: Scientific Farming in Socialist China was published by the University of Chicago Press in January. The New Books Network interviewed her about it and has made the podcast available. She is now working with two graduate students—Daniel Chaud of UMass Amherst and Alyssa Bobloiu of Harvard University—on a volume of primary sources on the history of the Science for the People movement; the book is under contract with UMass Press. Schmalzer was thrilled to teach the introductory graduate history seminar for the first time and proud to become an officer in our faculty union. Finally, she has wrapped up a four-year term directing the Social Thought and Political Economy Program; it was a wonderful experience, but she is looking forward to returning in the department history full time.

Chard R. Schmalzer was a coauthored article, “The Gender of Partisan Polarization: The Experience, but she’s looking forward to returning to the classroom. The first is the transformation of my first-year seminar on Asian Affairs. I presented a paper on the role and perspectives of Japanese Christian women within Japanese imperialism. In June I made a short research trip to Japan. While in Tokyo, I gave an invited lecture at Keio University on Japanese Buddhism and Chastity in the wake of the Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923. I am also hard at work on two book projects. The first is the transformation of my dissertation into a book on the influence of the Protestant church on the making of modern Japan; the second, for which I am both editor and a contributor, is a volume on Chastity and modern women in East Asia.

Reb Weir had a busy April: in addition to speaking at the symposium in honor of Professor Emeritus Bruce Laurie on April 16, he delivered a paper, “Parka and Recreation for Norl: A Study of Two Northampton, Massachusetts, Parks,” before the New England Historical Association on April 23 at Middletown College. The following weekend he delivered the keynote speech, “Soldiers in Granite: Brevard’s Twentieth-Century Socialist Mayor,” in Vermont at the Barre Old Labor Hall for its annual Primo Maggio celebration. Talk about frisson: he spoke at the same venue where Ann Bixluck, Eugene Debs, Emma Goldman, and Bill Haywood had once held forth.

Joel Wolfe reports: During the past year, I continued to write my book The Global Twen-

ties. I also published “Population Disasters, Developmentalist Policies: Rethinking Mid-Twentieth-Century Brazilian Politics” in Transformations of Populism in Europe and the Americas: History and Recent Tendenc-

es (London: 2018). The essay analyzes the interaction of populist politics and develop-

damentalist economics in Brazil. I continued work on a number of other journal articles and book chapters on Brazil, and made seven non-academic appearances in four years, including my book’s channeling for me to take the first place in the national history of the U.S. I was a guest on an episode of the National Public Radio show “The Takeaway” with Dan Pfeiffer. I also taught as a visiting professor at the American University of Sharjah and the American University of Beirut. In almost 30 years at UMass Amherst, Professor Wilson taught approximately 5,000 students. Her classes ranged from a six-century survey introducing the most important topics in Middle Eastern history to students in biology, engineering, and communication alike, to her select seminar on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where she and a dedicated band of advanced students would grapple with the complexities of that tragic struggle for an entire semester. One of her mainstays, “The Modern Middle East and World War I,” dealt with her specialization and was routinely offered to advanced undergraduates and as an honors class. Other undergraduate classes included “The Mediterranean Region,” “The Making of Modern Lebanon,” “Nationalisms,” “Ottoman History,” and “The Middle East and World War I,” to name a few. Professor Wilson also taught graduate seminars, including “Approaches to World History,” and was always willing to tailor special-readings courses to individual graduate-student needs. In addition, she advised quite a few undergraduate honors theses, sharing her invaluable expertise with students navigating the complex politics and society of the modern Middle East. Furthermore, she routinely taught and mentored Middle East studies majors in addition to history majors interested in the Middle East and the modern world.

Her students remember her as clear, organized, and possessing a subtle sense of humor. One of her most striking lectures began when she would ask the class about the length of World War I. Irrevocably they responded that it lasted for four years, and some proudly offered the dates they had learned elsewhere. She would then fix them with a querying eye and ask: “Are you sure?” Once the doubt began to creep across their faces, she would launch into her description of World War I in the Ottoman Empire, where fighting went on not for four years, but for 11, from 1911 to 1922. By the end of the lecture, each and every time, she would have succeeded in radically transforming their understanding of the nature, scope, and devastation of that conflict. It was a pleasure to see her in action.

Professor Wilson was also an excellent colleague. She served willingly on a wide range of departmental and university committees and offered knowledgeable insights on topics ranging from the graduate program to other school’s programs, teaching jobs, interacting with the public, navigating the shoals of book publication, and even creating good presentations. Throughout, her discretion and subtlety were noteworthy: Professor Wilson was particularly valued for her delightful talent for offering advice only when it was actually sought.

Her dedication to service and her colleagues’ high opinion of her are demonstrated by the fact that Professor Wilson was elected department chair by her peers, a position she held from 1997 to 2000. She served multiple times as director of the Middle East Studies Program, director of the History Institute (which performs outreach to K–12 teachers), and graduate program director. She was also active in the national Middle East Studies Association, serving variously on program committees, prize committees, and ethics committees, often as chair. When needed, she addressed the public on the Middle Eastern and Islamic topics, including at such times of national stress as the weeks after September 11, 2001.

Professor Wilson’s books include King Abdullah, Britain, and the Making of Jordan (Cambridge, 1987), and A Modern Middle Eastern History Reader (University of California, 1993), which she edited with Albert Hourani and Philip S. Khoury. Both have been translated into Arabic, making her work accessible to scholars in the Arabic-speaking Middle East. This is standard to which all Western scholars should adhere but few actually do, making Professor Wilson’s achievement all the more impressive. It is with real sadness that we say goodbye to such an important and valued colleague, and we wish Professor Wilson all possible delight in her new and joyous life as a retiree.
Joyce Beckman reports: I whip up this account just days before I fly to Iowa and then Germany. During the next five weeks of travel, I serve as a historian in various administrative activities, the prime motive for my retirement. I will particularly miss my piano lessons, my work on music theory and composition, and my friends in The Piano Connection, a group in which individuals play for one another and occasionally for community groups and that fosters two-and four-hand piano playing. While much described with my musical journey, I stay deeply committed to my historical interests and values.

With greater time for its nurture, my scholarship blooms. During the past academic year, I published two essays in edited volumes on Edith Stein. Another essay on this extraordinary woman appeared in the spring 2016 issue of the Journal of Feminist Studies on Religion. I now serve as secretary and newsletter editor for the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein.

I continue as an oral historian with zeal. During the spring quarter, four prominent retired leaders of UMass Amherst’s music department as part of a multi-year project to collect its history. My key for oral history work further manifested itself as I copresented in February the oral history of Edith Stein’s music department as part of a multi-year project to collect its history. My key for oral history work further manifested itself as I copresented in February the oral history of Edith Stein’s music department as part of a multi-year project to collect its history. My key for oral history work further manifested itself as I copresented in February the oral history for oral history was further manifested as a year-long project to collect its history. My love for oral history was further manifested as a year-long project to collect its history. My love for oral history was further manifested as a year-long project to collect its history.

I continue as an oral historian with zeal. I remain as a consultant on scholarly papers and books of the Human- nities and Fine Arts Scholarships, a service I value. I have a remarkable program, I trust our alumni know and cherish that.

On February 23, friends and family of Professor Emeritus Mario S. DePillis, celebrated his ninetieth birthday at the University Club. He was overjoyed to see so many older colleagues in attendance. His last publication was “The Spiritual Mormon,” the text of a lecture delivered at the request of the Community of Christ, formerly known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He is grateful to Joyce Bowman for keeping him connected to the department.

Will Johnston reports: My book on common- place periods in Austrian history, Hunsen und Hypokraten: Austria in the 1930s through the 1950s, was published in Vienna a year ago. It shows how Hungarian thinkers can provide an “e Yuan’s a year ago. It shows how Hungarian thinkers can provide an “e Strauss” view on familiar Austrian cases and thus counterpoint today’s obsessive focus on Yanina. In September 2015, I gave a lecture on “house museums” to celebrate such a collector’s residence founded in Melbourne by my namesake William H. Johnson.

Along with other Austrians, I am advis- ing on strategies for a museum of Austrian history. The Haus der Geschichnies takes its name from Vienna’s very successful Haus der Musik. The concept will sound familiar to UMass colleagues, and I am conveying to Austrian planners insights gleaned from our department’s email about ways to improve the skills of history communicators. As we all know, the museums of the 1930s through the 1950s have helped shape good practices among public historians. With a certain gleam I be- latedly embrace that role?

Bruce Laurie reports: My latest piece, “The quaint Freedom of Civil War Louisiana: The Origins of an Iconic Image,” discusses who was responsible for the image, variously known as “Gordon,” “Pete,” or “Whipped Pete”—depicting the deeply scarred back of a family of former slaves in a 4x5 format. It is the most widely recognized image of a slave in U.S. history. The key figures in this story were not celebrated soldiers or known abolitionists but two ordinary soldiers from western Massachusetts, one from Northampton and one from Northfield. The article is forthcoming in electronic form in The Massachusetts Review. I was also recently elected to the Society of American Historians, founded in 1939 to rec- ognize and encourage “literary distinction in the writing of history and biography.”

Gerald Marful reports: It’s been a good year in several categories. I continue to lec- ture on United States history to visiting delegations of young professionals from Argentina and Pakistan for the Donohue Institute’s Civic Initiative. I’ve also been asked to consult with various scholars about material that originally appeared in my books on Mag- wump reformation (1975), families in western Massachusetts (1977), and a true-crime Vermont murder case (1991). Conclusion Books have staying power.

Among some highlights in my postretirement activities is the planning and writing for an upcoming project of the Filmmaking and Presentation Program at Mount Holyoke College. The Spe- cial Collections and University Archives of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Lib- raries informs me that they have completed the digitization of my Argentine papers as part of its CRIDO program. Included are tapes and transcriptions of interviews conducted over a 45-year period with Argentine military and political leaders. Meanwhile, the Argentine book publisher Ediciones informes me that it will be publishing a Spanish edition of my 2008 memoir, Looking Back at My Fifty Eight Years.

Larry Owens reports: Even though recently retired, I still have the urge to write; thank- fully, however, it needn’t be stale academic. Now I can write real stuff—in fact, a cheap thriller. (Although I have to admit, it incorporates much that I learned as a his- torian studying and writing my graduate school work.) Here’s the blurb that appears on the back cover of Dark Trajectories: An Owens-Lieb- bert Adventure #1 (published in 2016 under the pseudonym Larry Liebert): “The fate of the world hangs in the balance. Threatened by a Doomsday virus, a missing atomic bomb, and a rogue ICBM, the future rests in the hands of a surprising threesome: a retired historian of science from New Eng- land; a young assistant professor and rock climber from Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire; and an unassuming librarian from the plains of Nebraska.” I have a number of copies I’d be happy to give away. I can be reached at larry01003@gmail.com.

Robert Pothast reports: “El golpe en el golpe: la institución de Chapultepec,” the fourth chap- ter of my biography of the twentieth- century Argentine military-political figure General Alejandro Aquistano Larrazo, appeared in the Argentine magazine, No. 582 (January 2016), pp. 64–78; the fifth chapter will appear in the magazine’s pages before the end of 2016. In January, my wife and I had the pleasure of receiving in our home the 10 outstanding students, evident this past year in several categories. I continue to lec- ture on United States history to visiting dele- gations of young professionals from Argen- tina and Pakistan for the Donohue Institute’s Civic Initiative. I’ve also been asked to consult with various scholars about material that originally appeared in my books on Mag- wump reformation (1975), families in western Massachusetts (1977), and a true-crime Vermont murder case (1991). Conclusion Books have staying power.

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Jane Rauech served as panel chair and commentator at the 58th annual meeting of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies in Cartagena, Colombia, March 8–12, 2016. Her book chapter “Frontier, Region, Zona Frontal Internacional: Los Conceptos
STUDENT UPDATES

Dan Allosso split his time this summer between raising heritage chickens and writing his dissertation, “Peppermint Kings.” Running a small farm while writing about 19th-century rural America and teaching “American Environmental History” through Continuing Ed, Dan is amazed at how much those old farmers were able to get done. Once the dissertation is complete, there’s probably a story to be told about chickens in early America. You can catch up with some of Dan’s activities at environmentalhistory.us and reach him @DanAllosso on Twitter.

This academic year was a busy one for Amy Breimaier. In late June 2015, she participated in the “Realigning Children” Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, attended by junior faculty, graduate students, and museum professionals. Conversations throughout the week of the seminar helped to refine her dissertation prospectus, which she successfully defended in early December 2015. She then taught “U.S. History to 1876” online as part of the university’s Continuing and Professional Education Program. She took time to conduct research at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston in late August 2015 with the support of a Department of History Travel Grant. Amy taught “History of Western Science and Technology II” in fall 2015 and spring 2016 for the Residential Academic Program.

This summer, Amy traveled extensively conducting research throughout New England. In March 2016, she was awarded a New England Regional Fellowship Consortium grant for 2016-17. Under this grant, she conducted research at the Connecticut Historical Society and Rhode Island Historical Society in June 2016 and Historic Deerfield in September 2016; she will continue to conduct research at the New Hampshire Historical Society in early January 2017. A Department of History Dissertation Jumpstart Grant allowed her to continue research at the Massachusetts Historical Society in July 2016 and the American Antiquarian Society in August 2016. At these archives, Amy studied collections pertaining to the records of printers, booksellers, and schools, along with those collections rich in personal writings and inscribed juvenile literature. Amy also presented some of her research at the American Library Association conference in Orlando in June 2015. Her paper, “Caleb Bingham’s Voices for America: A Case Study of the Youth’s Library 1806 Catalogue,” was part of the Library History Round Table Research Forum “History of Reading and Readers in Libraries.”

First-year master’s degree student Nolan Cool reports that the New York Historical Association has accepted his article, “Pelts and Prosperity: The Fur Trade and the Mohawk Valley, 1730–1776,” for publication. It will appear in a forthcoming issue of New York History.

In early October 2015, Erica Fagen participated in the seminar “Jews and the Study of Popular Culture” at the German Studies Association conference in Washington, D.C. It was attended by faculty and graduate students from North America and Europe; Professor Jonathan Skolnik of UMass Amherst’s Department of German and Scandinavian Studies was also a participant. Following the conference, Erica undertook archival research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. From late October to mid-December 2015, Erica traveled to Germany and Poland to conduct oral history interviews with tour guides and education directors at concentration camp memorial sites including Neuengamme, Sachsenhausen, Dachau, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. These interviews proved to be quite fruitful and will be an excellent addition to her dissertation. The interviews done at the Neuengamme and Auschwitz-Birkenau sites proved to be the basis of her paper “Narrating the Holocaust on Social Media: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Neuenegamme, and the Challenges of Historical Memory,” presented at “Putting History to Work,” the annual Graduate History Association conference. She received lots of great questions and comments during the presentation.
question period and afterward from conference presenters, fellow graduate students, and undergrads.

Erica presented a chapter of her dissertation, "Preserving Hull’s Fish Drums: Immigrant Adaptation in Early New England," at the Classical Association of New England’s annual meeting at Smith College. There he was honored by the association with the Barlow-Beach Distinguished Service Award, its highest honor, bestowed annually for "exceptional service to the Classics in New England."

This summer, Selena Moon interned at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History working on the Executive Order 9066 exhibition, opening in February 2017 to commemorate the order’s 75th anniversary on February 19. She loves doing work that connects her Ambient architecture students, Camesha drafted designs, facilitated community meetings, and performed outreach with local schools. After a week of meetings, the group presented their proposal to over 150 people at the Black History Museum and Cultural Center in Richmond. Camesha gave guided tours at the W.E.B. Du Bois Homeplace during summer 2016. In addition to fielding phone calls and small inquiries, she taped qualifying questionnaires for the local show "As Schools March On." She loves doing work that connects her...
Gary Garrison, PhD, passed away in his home on July 1, 2016, shortly before his 54th birthday. His death was totally unexpected by Nels Higbie, Gary’s lifelong partner, with whom he lived in Avon, Connecticut, or by any of us in the history department. Gary had recently submitted his approved doctoral dissertation to the Graduate School. He felt immensely relieved and joyful and should have been able to spend the following months reveling in the fruits of his arduous labor. His diploma was presented posthumously.

Gary’s dissertation was an ambitious, brilliant, and freshly original narrative and analysis of the U.S. history of changes and continuities in the legal and political concept of privacy as it pertains to a person’s body. It had a tortuous journey to completion, often marked by periods of respiratory illnesses, severe allergy attacks, change of residence, the death of his brother, and the demands of coping with two part-time teaching posts (at the University of Hartford and Manchester Community College), along with legal consultation work for Ohio’s Fourth District Court of Appeals. Gary was in his 28th year as a member of the Ohio State Bar Association. To our PhD program and to his scholarship and teaching in U.S. constitutional and intellectual history, early modern European history, and Enlightenment political theory he brought a rich breadth of experience and learning. A BA in economics (Ohio State University, 1984), a law degree (Capital University Law School, 1987), and an MA in history (Miami University, 2005). He also brought to his work an unquenchable appetite for archival research and eagerness to grapple with the challenges of intellectual history.

The leitmotif of Gary’s professional life was in the realm of civil rights, individual liberties, and social justice. Not surprisingly, his obituary conveys his wish that donations in his memory be directed to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Gary was not only my student; he was my friend and my brother, and the demands of coping with two part-time teaching posts (at the University of Hartford and Manchester Community College), along with legal consultation work for Ohio’s Fourth District Court of Appeals. Gary was in his 28th year as a member of the Ohio State Bar Association. To our PhD program and to his scholarship and teaching in U.S. constitutional and intellectual history, early modern European history, and Enlightenment political theory he brought a rich breadth of experience and learning. A BA in economics (Ohio State University, 1984), a law degree (Capital University Law School, 1987), and an MA in history (Miami University, 2005). He also brought to his work an unquenchable appetite for archival research and eagerness to grapple with the challenges of intellectual history.

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Kristin Leathy Fontenot
'04MA returns to Herter Hall to discuss her work as deputy director of FEMA’s Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation.

Mark Vezzola '00 and Steve Trieu at their October 2015 wedding.

Kayla Haveles Hopper '11MA, Kate Preissler '10MA, Cheryl Harned, Jessica Johnson, and Amanda Goodheart Parks '10MA at the New England Museum Association’s annual meeting.

ALUMNI UPDATES

launch and conference. In April, I was also presented with a UMass Amherst Academic/Community Transformation Award by the Office of Civic Engagement and Service Learning. I spent my summer writing the department newsletter, populating our new website, assisting Cheryl Harned in creating the Five College Public Humanitarium website, and working on a collaborative article for Museums & Social Issues about UMass Amherst’s involvement in “States of Incarceration.” I am pleased to announce that I have recently been hired as the acquisitions editorial assistant at the State University of New York Press.

After completing her master of arts degree in history with a public history certificate last spring, Julie Peterson ’16MA returned home to Colorado, where she is pursuing public history work in a variety of ways. She continues to research prison museums and the contemporary carceral state, building on her capstone research project, “Interpreting Incarceration: Penal Spectatorship at the Museum of Colorado Prisons.” Julie is working on two forthcoming articles, an exhibit review for The Public Historian and a collaborative piece for Museums & Social Issues focused on UMass Amherst’s involvement in the States of Incarceration national public history project conduced by the Humanities Action Lab at the New School for Social Research. She looks forward to building on the network she established through UMass Amherst, and invites fellow alumni, faculty, and current students to look her up if they find themselves out west.

Mark Popovsky, MD, ’72, is now chief medical officer of Velico Medical, a medical-device company developing a therapy to treat life-threatening blood loss. He is the 2017 recipient of the Leo J. McCarthy, MD, Lecture-ship in Transfusion Medicine from Indiana University. After serving as chief medical officer at Haemonetics Corporation for 15 years, Mark retired in 2015 and now serves as a medical consultant to the company. He has published five books on transfusion medicine and more than 400 peer-reviewed articles. Mark serves on several nonprofit boards and has served on seven medical-journal editorial boards.

Seemagun Sculey ’13PhD was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. Since 2015, he has worked as an academy professor and chief of the American history division at West Point. He also recently gave a lecture about West Point during the American Revolution.

Ralph Simmons ’62 reports: Thanks to my degree, I had a good career in U.S. Civil Service. I finished with 18 great years at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Washington, D.C., where I was in charge of space and facilities, procurement, law-book subscriptions, and sundry for all U.S. courts other than the Supreme Court. Currently I volunteer twice weekly teaching English to Chinese people at Literacy for Life at the College of William and Mary. Also, I am secretary of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary and secretary of Williamsburg Association of Bicyclists, both of which titles will no doubt be inscribed on my tombstone. My wife and I have traveled extensively, taking in Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, etc., as well as the U.S. If any history majors should visit Colonial Williamsburg, contact me for advice or whatever; I could even loan you a bicycle.

Mark Vezzola ’00 reports: Spring has been a busy season for federal Indian law. In April, I spoke at the 17th Los Angeles Housing Rights Summit about the need for housing among Native Americans transitioning out of prison and those threatened by domestic violence. By May, I was training Red Cross leaders on the sovereign powers of California’s tribal governments. Our litigation work escalated during this time, with my office filing two amicus briefs on behalf of tribes in juvenile dependency cases to enforce compliance with federal and state child welfare laws. Citing a lack of jurisdiction, I achieved a dismissal in a thorny case involving the California Department of Forestry and Fire citing a tribal member for burning wood on tribal land. Finally, I effectuated a transfer of a juvenile dependent case to tribal jurisdiction so that the child could be placed according to tribal law.
Among Our Newest Alumni

Michael Nicholson ’16

After graduating in May, Michael Nicholson ’16 began an internship this summer at the Senator Stephen M. Wenski Museum in Barre, Massachusetts. He explains how his dual-degrees have influenced his career path: “I chose this internship because I felt it combined my two majors, history and political science, into one. My job at the museum is to archive all of the senator’s material that he collected during his tenure in office. It has been interesting to me to see historical events that have happened in Massachusetts during his tenure in office. It has been interesting to me to see historical events that have happened in Massachusetts during his tenure in office.”

Elena Rousseau ’16

Elena Rousseau ’16 interned at the Senator Stephen M. Wenski Museum in Barre, Massachusetts. She says that her history and political science degrees have influenced her career path: “I chose this internship because I felt it combined my two majors, history and political science, into one. My job at the museum is to archive all of the senator’s material that he collected during his tenure in office. It has been interesting to me to see historical events that have happened in Massachusetts during his tenure in office.”

The 2016 Alumni Dinner

Once again this year, the Department of History hosted a dinner with alumni representing a variety of fields, including government, public history, education, social service, law, publishing, and consulting. Participants included Ashley Jahreling Bannor ’10, Kevin Delany ’86, John J. Galluzzo ’93, Robert LaRusza ’76, Anna Manning ’80, Amanda Goodheart Parks ’10MA, Christina Poletto ’98, Anne Teschner ’84, and Mark Vezzola ’00.

Christina Poletto writes: “I felt genuinely happy to be a part of this moment, mainly because I almost chose a very different path once upon a time ago…. As a freshman, I wasn’t all sure what I wanted to do with my life during and after college, but I was optimistic that my interests in writing, music, design, and culture would somehow connect. Eventually, I found the thread that tied all of these passions together in the form of a history degree. After college, I moved to New York City and found fulfilling work as a publicist and magazine editor. I recently left the publishing world and now work as a design writer, interior stylist, and small-business owner.”

“I credit the size of the UMass campus and student body for being a perfect primer for city life, and I credit my history studies for being an excellent guide for my career paths. However, I’ve said many times that a degree in history truly affords students the ability to work in nearly any field. If you are serious about history, you can have school as a strong communicator who is capable of reading, writing, researching, proving a point, and, most importantly, telling a compelling story. Tell me, what can you do with these skills?”

“I have no doubt that the undergraduates in attendance at the alumni event understood this notion. These students were impressive, confident, interesting, engaged, and very present with their questions and curiosities. They were smart. Before long, they will make great authors, curators, writers, and historians. They will continue telling the world’s stories, and giving a voice to the history that’s being made right here and now. But until then, they’re lucky enough to be absorbing the great lectures and momentous ideas from the most dedicated of professors. I only wish I could rejoin them!”

Keeping in the Loop

Check out the history department’s YouTube channel to see and hear this year’s public talks including an oral history talk, lectures, the Writer-in-Residence lectures, the Writer-in-Residence lectures, and much more at youtube.com/user/UMassHistory.

This marks the fourth year of our Department’s blog PastPresent, which features posts by faculty, students, emeriti, and alumni. Follow us at umasshistory.wordpress.com.

Are you following us on Facebook? “Like” us at facebook.com/umasshistory and facebook.com/umasspublichistory.

Follow us on Twitter: @UMassHistory

Public History Program @UMassPH Oral History Lab @WorldHistoryLab Graduate History Association @GHAUMass

For photos of events mentioned in this publication, check out our photo gallery at umass.edu/history/photo.

If you’d like to give to the Department, simply visit umass.edu/History/giving or send a check made out to “UMass Amherst” to:

UMass Amherst Memorial Hall 154 Hicks Way Amherst, MA 01003-9270

Be sure to note “History Department” on the memo line. We appreciate your support!
NEW BOOKS

BY FACULTY

Audrey Altstadt

Argues that the Soviet policies were in fact a form of imperialism, with “nation building” and “modernization” imposed firmly along Soviet lines. Examines the Sovietization of culture in language policy and the change of the alphabet, in education, higher education, and literature.

Johan Mathew
Margins of the Market: Trafficking and Capitalism Across the Arabian Sea (University of California Press, 2016)

Traces the hidden networks that operated across the Arabian Sea in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Shows how capitalism was forged at the margins of the free market, where governments intervened, and where traffickers turned a profit.

Marla Miller and Max Page, eds.
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Dan Allosso
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Explores detailed case studies of the Civil War to demonstrate how strength in engineering became a critical determining factor in the war’s outcome.

Abby Chandler ’02MA

Examines the prosecution of sexual misconduct in Colonial America to trace the shifting and contested relationships between Colonial laws and English laws. Highlights the ways in which ordinary colonists across New England interacted with and responded to the growing Anglicization of their legal systems, and argues that these men and women saw themselves as taking part in a much larger process.

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Our cover: Last March, during the Department of History’s first-ever History Communication Summit, the Graduate History Association devoted its annual conference to a public series of “lightning conversations” in which pairs of workshop attendees explored themes in history communication (see page 9). On hand to create in real time a “graphic recording” of the major points being made by the speakers was artist Amanda Lyons (at left in the photograph above) of the company Visuals for Change. Also shown in the photograph are Kate Freedman (center foreground) and Chelsea Miller ’16MA (right). Video of these dynamic conversations is posted on the department’s YouTube page.