



Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 40, Summer 2016

To Doctoral Study and Beyond

by Lacey Brown

Recently we had the opportunity to catch up with nine ISU Department of History alums who are pursuing a doctorate or have completed one and have gone on to do other great things. They fondly remembered their time spent at ISU as an experience that consisted of hard work, personal connections with fellow students, and the opportunity to work so closely with professors in the department that they developed into lifelong friendships.

In many ways, Illinois State also prepared these alumni for the strenuous and demanding workload required of them in their Ph.D. programs. Among the aspects of their ISU experience that they highlighted, and the ways in which these readied them for their future endeavors, were small class sizes, which allowed for close one-on-one interaction between students and faculty. These former students noted not only the emphasis on interaction in history seminar settings but also the willingness of faculty to work with them on different projects, the research methodologies they learned, and the critical writing, pedagogical, and analytical skills they acquired as priming them for the research and writing of their dissertation.

They shared with us their inspirations, research passions, professional achievements, and personal interests.

Alexis Baldacci attended ISU from 2007 to 2011, during which time she received a B.A. in both history and English, while also minoring in Spanish. Baldacci became interested in Latin American history after taking a



Baldacci

class on Cuba with Professor Patrice Olsen. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in Latin American history at the University of Florida and has traveled to Cuba to conduct research on her dissertation, which explores the everyday lives of women in revolutionary Cuba. Apart from her studies, she loves outdoor hiking and enjoys reading literature.

Stephen Bennett's area of concentration is the modern Middle East, with an emphasis on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Bennett graduated from ISU in 2010 with an M.A. in history. Professor Issam Nassar was his advisor here, and the two recently had the chance to catch up at the Middle East Studies Association Conference in November 2015.



Bennett

Bennett enjoyed the hard work that earning his master's degree entailed, and he remembered many late nights spent in Milner Library. He is currently completing his dissertation in Mass Communications at the University of Minnesota and is defending it in spring 2016. In the meantime, he is looking forward to teaching at the Institute for Middle East Studies at George Washington University, which has already extended

to him a job offer.

Alex Boynton received from ISU a B.A. in 2006, and an M.A. in 2009. Boynton's areas of interest include 20th-century American and environmental history. The environmental history class that he took at ISU ended up being formative to his academic career for it led to him earning his Ph.D., in May 2015, in environmental history. He is currently lecturing on this subject at the University



Boynton

of Kansas, where he received his doctorate. He credits his classes at ISU, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, for establishing a solid foundation for his research and writing in the field of history.

Stephanie Braun received both her bachelor's degree in history and secondary education, and her master's degree in history, from ISU. Braun focused on women's history and credits Professor Kyle Ciani for encouraging her to pursue a Ph.D. She is currently in the second year of a doctorate in education at the University of St. Francis in Joliet and is also a full-time, working mother. She said that she gained a great deal from her experience at Illinois State; perhaps most important,



Braun

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Letter from the acting chair, Kyle Ciani

Seeing the full picture of operations is one of the benefits of serving as chair of an academic unit, and during the spring semester I enjoyed that view of the Department of History. I knew that we were actively engaged in the University's general education mission and trained the largest number of secondary social sciences teachers in the state of Illinois; however, I learned the reach of our curricular leadership extends far beyond history and social sciences. Departmental faculty and staff have established cooperative and collaborative relationships across campus, throughout the state, and within our professional organizations to research, teach, serve, and learn in diverse ways. The Faculty Accomplishments section of this newsletter highlights ways in which we engage in our discipline's research, and below I offer a snapshot of the curricular contributions of our department. Combined, these attributes emphasize the strength of history's presence at ISU and the community in general.

The history faculty are an internationally diverse group who speak and/or read 23 different languages, have actively organized four new study abroad programs since 2010 and have participated in six altogether. Students can choose from nearly 100 undergraduate course offerings ranging from Ancient Greece to Modern China. We are also a faculty deeply involved in interdisciplinary study. Other than history, three minors are housed in our department (African studies, African-American studies, and urban studies), and we provide instruction as part of minors in environmental studies, ethnic and cultural studies, interdisciplinary studies, international studies, Latin American studies, Native American studies, peace and conflict resolution studies, and women's and gender studies.

To introduce students to historical practices and content, faculty use a variety of resources in the region such as taking their classes to facilities in Chicago (the

Newberry Library, the Field Museum of Natural History and the National Archives) and Springfield (Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum). And we have hosted a number of scholars from across the country as part of the President's Speaker Series (PSS) and university programs. During the 2015-16 academic year, history helped sponsor four PSS speakers: historian John David Smith, the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; environmental activist David Barsamian; Algerian freedom fighter Hamou Amirouche, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Algerian Independence; and historian Carlos Figueroa, in celebration of Black History Month, and in conjunction with The Legacy Wall exhibit at Milner Library. We continued our collaboration with women's and gender studies by co-sponsoring the keynote speaker for their annual symposium, cultural anthropologist Jafari Allen from the University of Miami. We supported the presentations of students at that symposium, at the annual University Research Symposium, at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional conference and at workshops at the Newberry Library.

In all of these sponsorships, our goal is to help introduce students to new perspectives about globally important issues and we recognize (and thank) our many donors for their generous contributions toward student programming and scholarships. Feedback from students tells us this support is critical to their learning. One example is the influence of the department sponsoring the attendance of several students at the sold-out 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner with keynote speaker Angela Davis. Graduate student Telisha Reinhardt appreciated being one of those students and described the event as a "phenomenal experience," where she could "listen to the wise words of Dr. Angela Davis regarding institutional oppression and learn where activism is needed in today's society."

IN MEMORIAM

The History Department mourned the passing of two former professors this past year.

Earl A. Reitan died in October 2015. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1954 and then came to ISU. Here he taught 18th-century Britain and World War II until 1990, and thereafter served as a Faculty Fellow in the Department of History

until 1995. In addition, he served as department chair from 1970 to 1973.

George E. Cunningham died in January 2016. He was the department's first African-American faculty member and taught African-American history here from 1973 to 1984. He was also Teacher of the Year at Alcorn College in 1957, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in 1971-72.

Today & Yesterday

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Comings and goings

After long, exceptional careers, **Roger Biles** and **Lou Perez** retired at the end of the fall 2015 semester, and **Fred Walk** at the end of the spring 2016 semester.

Professor Biles joined ISU in 2005 as our department chair, a position he served in for three years. Over the course of his academic career, he presented numerous papers on



Biles

his research and published extensively in his field of expertise, U.S. urban history. To name but two of his monographs among the many books, articles and chapters he contributed to edited volumes, in 2011 he published *The Fate of Cities: Urban America and the Federal Government* (University Press of Kansas) and in 2002—*Crusading Liberal: Paul H. Douglas of Illinois* (Northern Illinois University Press), which received the Award of Superior Achievement from the Illinois Historical Society. His garnering of several prestigious grants further attest to the significance of his scholarship, while his continued engagement in a number of research projects since embarking on his retirement demonstrate his tireless passion for it.

A Vietnam War veteran who began his academic career at ISU in 1987,

Professor Perez taught a variety of Asian history courses—on both Japan and China—and was distinguished for his dynamism in the classroom with CAS and University teaching awards; noteworthy, too, is his receipt of the David A. Strand Diversity Achievement Award, recognizing his contributions to activities aligned with ISU's commitment to diversity. His publication record is also impressive, consisting of numerous books on the history of modern and pre-modern Japan and more specialized monographs, articles, and chapters on his specific area of expertise. Illustrative of this range are his recently revised *Pre-Modern Japan: A Historical Survey* (Westview Press, 2014), and *Mutsu Munemitsu and Identity Formation of the State and Individual in Modern Japan* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2001). His designation in 2014 as CAS Distinguished Arts and Sciences Lecturer was a most appropriate and deserved capstone to his career.

Fred Walk earned his B.S. from Eastern Illinois University and his M.S. from ISU (both in education), and (among other subjects!) taught economics, U.S. history, world history and political science at Normal Community



Perez

High School before joining our department in 2008 as an academic advisor. In this vital position, he coordinated student-teacher placements for our History Education program. Among the multitude of accomplishments that speak to his excellence as a teacher and advisor are his receipt of the Illinois Geographical Society Distinguished Geographic Educator Award; his selection as a master teacher with the Population Reference Bureau Teacher Institute in Washington, D.C.; and his service on the Illinois Learning Standards Social Science Writing Team for the Illinois State Board of Education. If his participation this spring in the annual 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range is any indication, retirement will only afford Walk more time to exercise his adventurous spirit—one of the qualities that made him a model to his student advisees.

The history department thanks Roger Biles, Lou Perez and Fred Walk for their scholarship, teaching, and collegiality and will miss them dearly.



Walk



For more information, visit
Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu

2015–2016 Student Awards

HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARD FOR
BEST MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENT
Ryan Melson
John Moreland

HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARD
FOR BEST MASTER'S THESIS
Amy Hasfjord (Non-U.S. History)
Michael Kramer (U.S. History)

LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR
SCHOLARSHIP
Patrick Gallagher
Andrew Hood
Kayla Iammarino
Zohra Saulat

GLEYNANA A. RAY AWARD
Evan Comerford
Benjamin Reiff
Joseph Zolper

MARK WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP
D'Mayza McClure
Jessica Meyer

JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP
Elizabeth Harkert

DARREL A. SUTTER AWARD
Jessica Olson
Kevin Reed

DARREL A. SUTTER TEXTBOOK
SCHOLARSHIP
Nicole Jurka

DARREL A. SUTTER WRITING AWARDS
Gabriel Buckrop
Nicole Gregor
Jen Schutz

KYLE C. SESSIONS HONORS
SCHOLARSHIP
Madeline Farrell

WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD
SCHOLARSHIP
Zohra Saulat

HARMON RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Diana Enriquez
Lizette Gonzalez

LAWRENCE W. MCBRIDE AWARD
Tim Carroll
Adam Combs

HOWARD ROMANEK HISTORY
SCHOLARSHIP
Anna Maxwell
Andrea Schaafsma

Student spotlight

by Lacey Brown and Linda Spencer

Presidential Scholarship Recipients

Noah Tang and **Logan Janicki** each received a 2016 Presidential Scholarship, which is the most prestigious scholarship available to new freshmen. Both Noah and Logan are working on a B.A. in history.

Tang is pursuing a B.A. in history education and is most interested in American History, the Civil War, the American Revolution, and the revolutionary movements of European countries, such as France. He is from Naperville, and he and his family have travelled to more than 30 countries. He is also a volunteer with the Bernie Sanders campaign and Habitat for Humanity, as well as the secretary of the Golden Apple Club, which offers advanced teacher training beyond that offered at ISU.

Janicki is interested in 19th-century European history. He took many AP history classes in high school, and he came to ISU because of its strong reputation as an institution that prepares scholars well to teach history. He is from the south suburbs of Chicago and plans to eventually teach high school history. When asked what he is looking forward to writing about in his undergraduate history classes, he responded that he is fascinated by the effects of industrialization on different European countries, including Germany, England, and France. Specifically, he is intrigued by the conflicts that emerged after the industrialization of these countries and the ways in which industrialization shaped the politics of 19th-century Europe.

ISU Washington D.C. Internship Recipients

Two history majors, **Daniel Heylin** and **Lacey Brown**, have been selected to participate in the ISU Washington D.C. Internship Program in summer 2016. Heylin is an undergraduate



Lacey Brown and Daniel Heylin

history-social sciences education major with interests in politics and education policy. He has vast experience with student government, the academic senate and service activities.

Brown is a non-traditional, first-generation college student and is in our graduate program. She will be working at the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum in D.C. Her interests lie in public history and museum curating, especially in relation to African-American history, and she has prior service experience as an intern at the ISU Rayfield Archives and as a volunteer at Springfield's Museum of African-American history.

The D.C. internship program was established with the purpose of enhancing the educational experiences of selected ISU students by providing them with the opportunity to work in the capital for an entire semester or summer. For more information, go to GovernmentRelations.IllinoisState.edu/Internship.

Alumni spotlight: Luke Yacklich

by Linda Spencer

He knew he wanted to be a history teacher when he was in 7th grade, his interest in coaching basketball developed in high school and both of these interests were the result of interaction with teachers who inspired him. His passion for history and basketball is still evident!

Luke Yacklich '98, is now the assistant men's basketball coach at Illinois State University, a job he accepted in July 2013. He explains his job as having three parts, and it's no surprise that one of those parts is supervising academics for the players—the team had a 3.02 GPA last year, a program record.

His love of teaching history is based in part on his belief that “everything's an argument,” a concept he imparted to his high school history classes at LaSalle-Peru-Sterling High School, and Joliet West High School. While in Joliet, he served as one of four instructional coaches, and along with the instructional coach in English, developed and taught a combined two-hour class of 60 students called the American Studies Program. The culmination of the program had students participating in the Illinois Regional History Fair at Northern Illinois University during their junior and senior years; Yacklich had participated in this event as a junior high student.

Yacklich graduated from LaSalle High School, attended Illinois Valley Community College, and then transferred to Illinois State University. His high school basketball coach, whom he still considers a mentor and a friend, encouraged him to interview for the student manager position on the ISU basketball team. Tom Richardson, assistant coach at the time, hired him for that position at their first meeting.

After graduating from ISU with a B.S. in history education, a minor in politics, and endorsements in sociology, geography, U.S. history and world history, Yacklich went to LaSalle-Peru-Sterling High School and then to Joliet West High School and taught for 15

years. He coached basketball at both schools. He loved the classroom and finding new ways to reach his students, and got his National Board Certification in 2011.

Leaving the classroom wasn't an easy decision, however. Dan Muller was his college roommate his senior year and a friend, and when an opening on his staff became available, Yacklich decided to reach for another of his personal goals: to be a Division I basketball coach. He says it provides an outlet for his competitiveness. He does use many of the skills he developed in the classroom with his team and is very proud of the fact that team members are on path to graduate with degrees in areas they are passionate about.

He loved teaching and misses “the historical argument, investigative inquiry learning, philosophical approach.” He says if he returned to the classroom he would encourage students to develop their abilities in writing and reading, asking them, “what's important, what's your argument, how does this affect you?”

Yacklich has fond memories of his time at ISU and several former faculty members: Carl Ekberg, Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Larry McBride and Fred Drake. His advice to current history-social sciences education majors is that you are never prepared for your first classroom, no matter what. He encourages them to remember, “you haven't taught unless they have learned.”

Yacklich is married and the father of three. His wife is a special education teacher at Normal West Community High School, and his three children are involved in volleyball, basketball, and cross-country.



Yacklich

Alumni updates

Mark V. Anderson '04, is a vice president at Cornerstone Mortgage, Inc.

Alex Brown '09, is teaching U.S. History, Economics, and Sociology at Evanston Township High School.

Deloris Brown '07, is principal of Stephen Decatur Middle School in Decatur.

Emilie Burkiewicz '13, is in Zhengzhou, Henan, China teaching ESL and World Cultures to Chinese students who want to attend U.S. universities.

Theodore Kern '02, is a background investigator in the Investigations and Management Services Division of CACI.

Cynthia Baer O'Neill, M.S. '94 (and a former Cavanagh Award winner), is program coordinator at Eureka Public Library.

Greg Peerbolt '06, is executive director of the Joliet Area Historical Museum and recently co-produced a documentary about the Plainfield tornado that debuted this past March at the 36th Annual Tornado and Severe Weather Seminar at Fermilab.

Ed Safiran, M.A. '88, is assistant site manager at the Bishop Hill State Historic Site, a part of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Joseph Zolper '15, is currently in military training in Georgia after graduating as a second lieutenant in the Army.

Doris Weil '10, M.S. '12, is working for the Law Offices of E. David Hoskins, a consumer protection firm located in downtown Baltimore.

Faculty awards



Ciani and Strand

It was a robust year for faculty awards, with seven members of the Department of History distinguished for excellence in the fields of research, teaching and service. **Kyle Ciani** was honored with a David A. Strand Diversity Achievement Award, which recognizes individuals for curricular or program activities that assist ISU in realizing its commitment to diversity. Among the many contributions that earned her this award are her teaching of core history courses that weave together the narratives of native, black, Asian, and Latina women; activities across campus that include her leadership role and mentoring for F.L.A.M.E. (Feminist Led Activist Movement to Empower); and her generosity in volunteering her time with various organizations within the broader community (e.g. Neville House Domestic Violence Shelter).

Ross Kennedy garnered a College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Outstanding Service Award for his multifaceted record of service to the history department (including a vital 4-year-long stint as graduate coordinator), on College and University committees, and to his profession (including completing 45 book and manuscript reviews during his career thus far).



Kennedy

Kathryn Jasper received a University Teaching Initiative Award for activities ranging from the development of 10 different courses in only her

first few years at ISU to playing a central role in the interdisciplinary classical studies minor to advising the award-winning RSO High Rise, which is dedicated to enlightenment through constructive dialogue.

Stewart Winger was honored with a College Outstanding Teacher Award. Especially innovative among his impressive teaching achievements was his development of an “international classroom” that brought together—via videoconferencing—ISU students and Egyptian students studying at the American University in Cairo.



Winger

Amy Wood received a CAS Outstanding Researcher Award. An internationally respected cultural historian, the following are but two of her many accomplishments: *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890-1940*, which garnered a Lillian Smith Book Award, and “Killing the Elephant’: Murderous Beasts and the Thrill of Retribution,” which was named the 2014 winner of the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era prize for best article.

Also noteworthy, **Qiliang He** was awarded a Pre-tenure Faculty Initiative Grant to continue his research this summer on Chinese journalism in the early 20th Century. And, **Alan Lessoff**, an expert in U.S. urban and local



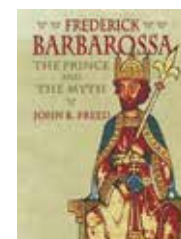
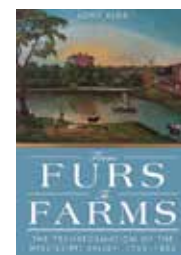
Jasper

history, as well as the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, was named the CAS Distinguished Lecturer for Fall 2016 (we shall look forward to his talk in the upcoming semester).

Congratulations to all of our winners for making the Department of History a force on ISU’s campus, in the community, and in the profession!

Books published

The History Department is pleased to announce the following faculty book publications: **Christine Varga-Harris**, *Stories of House and Home: Soviet Apartment Life during the Khrushchev Years* (Cornell University Press, 2015); **John Reda**, *From Furs to Farms: The Transformation of the Mississippi Valley, 1762-1825* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2016); and **John Freed**, *Frederick Barbarossa: The Prince and the Myth* (Yale University Press, 2016).



Faculty accomplishments

Agbenyega Adedze's article, "A New Star is Born: The Early Years of Ghana Postage Stamps," appeared in *Topical Time (Journal of Thematic Philately)*.

Roger Biles chaired and commented on a panel, "Race, Space, and the Law," at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History conference in Los Angeles.

Kyle Ciani delivered "Daily Grinds: Day Workers, Women Adrift & Girl Problems in Progressive Era Cities" as the Annual Labor Day Lecture for Monmouth College.

Linda Clemmons presented "Dakota Prisoners in Davenport and their Uses of Literacy," for the Iowa Historical Society's History Camp.

Anthony Crubaugh served in a leadership role on the interdisciplinary steering committee that successfully established a Bachelor of Arts in European studies at ISU.

Giliang He received an International Travel Grant to advance his research on Chinese journalism and presented preliminary findings at an international symposium in Beijing, China.

Andrew Hartman contributed "The Internationalization of the U.S. History Curriculum—and Its Discontents" to *The American Historian* and delivered several invited talks on the theme of the culture wars to university audiences, including at Aix-Marseille University in France.

Richard Hughes received an International Travel Grant and a SoTL grant in support of his qualitative research study of history-social science education student teachers, and he was named book review editor for *Teaching History: A Journal of Methods*.

Katie Jasper's article, "Why Did Rome Fall?" was published in *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*, and she presented "Between Rome and Ravenna: Reform Choices in the Mid-Eleventh Century," at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, U.K.

Ross Kennedy presented "The American Neutralism and Wilsonianism," for the Venice Foundation in Italy and authored the Introduction for *Woodrow Wilson: Facing an Economic Revolution*.

Alan Lessoff was awarded a prestigious Obama Scholar Fellowship at the Transnational American Studies Institute at the University of Mainz, Germany, from April through June 2016.

Issam Nassar presented "Jerusalem's Landscape of Loss, 1900-2014: Memory and Spatial Politics" at the Middle East Studies Association meeting and "Photographic Albums as Archives of Palestinian History" at The Huntington Library in Pasadena.

Monica Noraian sits on ISU's Council for Teacher Education and the Urban Teacher Preparation and University

Supervisors Committees, and she presented research on biography at the Organization of Educational Historians annual conference in Chicago.

Patrice Olsen presented her research on Social Justice and Sovereignty in Contemporary Argentina for the Latin American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and at the American Historical Association conference in New York City.

Katrin Paehler participated in the Holocaust Lecture Series for Illinois College, funded in part by the Holocaust Educational Foundation, and presented her research on Hildegard Beetz at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Lou Perez hosted a successful Midwest Japan Seminar during the fall semester.

John Reda presented "From Furs to Farms in the Mississippi Valley" at the Conference on Race, Property, and the Law at the Center for Legal Studies at Northwestern University.

Touré Reed delivered the keynote address, "How The Moynihan Report Reveals the Limitations of Structural Racism," at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and presented papers on this theme, including at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Richard Soderlund contributed the piece "European Migration Differs from Post-World War II" to the ISU Newsletter *Report*.

Sudipa Topdar presented "Reading the Muscular Body: Childhoods and Boy Cultures in Late Colonial Bengal" for the British Association for South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge.

Georgia Tsouvala was elected president of the Alumni/ae Association of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and published the chapter "Women Members of a Gymnasium in the Roman East" in *Ancient Documents and Their Contexts*.

Christine Varga-Harris chaired two panels at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies conference in Philadelphia and presented her research on contacts between Soviet women and women in Africa and South Asia at Seton Hall University.

Stewart Winger will co-chair the *Ex Parte Milligan* Conference to be held at ISU in fall 2016 and is a board member of the Abraham Lincoln Association and the David Davis Mansion Foundation.

Amy Wood's article, "Critical Conversation on Donald Mathews' 'The Southern Rite of Human Sacrifice,'" was published by the *Journal of Southern Religion*, and she delivered the invited talk "Crime and Punishment in the Age of Jim Crow," at Colorado College.

the emphasis by Department of History faculty members on incorporating writing into their assignments helped her develop better writing and critical thinking skills, which she now applies to preparing budget requests in her present job. As for her program of study, she recently had her dissertation proposal approved and is researching the importance of disability accommodations in community colleges.

Ethan Fridmanski graduated from Illinois State with an M.A. in history in 2013. His area of concentration was American religious history during the Civil War. He remembers Professor Stewart Winger's classes fondly, and he credits Professor Anthony Crubaugh for helping him get accepted into a Ph.D. program. Fridmanski is currently working on his doctorate in sociology at the University of Notre Dame, with a concentration in the sociology of religion. His time as a graduate student at ISU aided in the development of his writing skills and helped to hone his pedagogical skills as a graduate assistant. Besides his studies, he enjoys strategy games of all kinds and reading about space and the universe.

Dominic Garzonio received a bachelor's degree in history in 2009, and his master's degree in 2011, each at ISU. He said that the methods classes and the thesis track together greatly prepared him for his Ph.D. program in the Department of American Culture at the University of Michigan. Having finished his comprehensive exams last semester, he is now working on his dissertation in the field of Arab and Muslim American Studies. In his spare time, he and his wife enjoy taking their dog to their local dog park and outdoor hiking. Garzonio grew up in Bloomington-Normal, where most of his family still lives; he therefore has especially warm memories of the area—on campus and off.



Garzonio

Sally Heinzl was at ISU from 2001-2007, during which time she earned an M.S. in history (with a focus on the 19th-century U.S. in general, and the Civil War era in particular) and



Heinzl

an M.A. in sociology. During her first two semesters here, she worked as a graduate assistant for David Carroll, and appreciated the patience and concern he exhibited in his teaching. When it came to pursuing her doctorate, Heinzl was especially inspired by Professors Ron Gifford and Ross Kennedy. She completed her Ph.D. in history in 2015 and is currently working in the nonprofit sector as a laboratory technician at an eye bank. Heinzl says that many of the skills she gained during her time at ISU continue to benefit her in her present job—although her source bases are different, she habitually applies what she learned about the research process to locate, assess, and analyze a wide range of materials in order to determine the suitability of donors and tissue.

Andrew Koke is interested in Atlantic history and the migration of the English, Welsh and Scottish to the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries. He received his master's degree in history from ISU in 2002. Koke explained that his studies in religious history here provided him with vital content knowledge about this subject, and that he also learned a great deal from the historiography and pedagogical courses that the Department of History offered. In addition, his experience as a graduate assistant for Professor Anthony Crubaugh prepared him for the teaching responsibilities he would perform as a doctoral student. Koke completed his Ph.D. in colonial Ameri-

can history, British imperial history, and Religious Studies at Indiana University, where he often adjuncts in the Department of History.

David Varel received both a B.A. and M.A. in history at ISU and was particularly interested in 20th-century U.S. history, African-American history, and the history of social science. Varel said that the ISU Department of History is full of incredible profes-

sors, but that he worked especially closely with Professors Amy Wood, Andrew Hartman, Richard Soderlund, and Alan Lessoff. The smaller class sizes at ISU provided him with more individualized interaction with professors, and he remains in touch with many of them today. He completed his Ph.D. in intellectual history at the University of Colorado in 2015 and is turning his dissertation into a book that will be published by the University of Chicago Press in 2018. In his free time, he enjoys sports and visiting his family in the suburbs of Chicago.

Each one of these former history students who went on to seek a Ph.D. had his or her own unique experience while at ISU. We therefore asked these Redbird alumni what advice they might offer our current students who are considering a doctorate, and they provided excellent suggestions. Many stressed how important it is to investigate any doctoral program one is considering prior to submitting an application. It is imperative that a student's own interests are aligned with those of any program he or she is considering.

These former students also said that being passionate about the subject matter of one's dissertation is crucial, given the tremendous amount of time a scholar must spend researching and writing on his or her chosen topic.

Many alumni also encouraged current ISU students to take advantage of opportunities to work closely with



Varel



Koke

faculty because many of them had been encouraged to pursue a Ph.D. or were aided in preparing their application to a doctoral program by various members of the Department of History faculty. Furthermore, they highlighted the value of developing close relationships with fellow graduate students; the dissertation process is one that requires a great

deal of dedication and motivation, and it helps to have people to talk to who are going through the same challenges.

Finally, these former ISU students insisted on the importance of taking time away from research and writing to enjoy life. While Ph.D. students often do not have a lot of spare time, many interviewees said that it is important to

set aside time to unwind and decompress. As their achievements attest, it was precisely such strategies that enabled them to take their experiences in history at Illinois State University to the next level—to doctoral study and beyond into their professional careers, whether within or outside of academia.

Faculty fellowships

by Alan Lessoff

This spring, I am a research fellow at the Transnational American Studies Institute at the University of Mainz, Germany: obama-institute.com. Having recruited my friend Professor Axel Schäfer—an authority on U.S. political culture in the international context—from a similar position in England, the Mainz faculty is updating its approach by emphasizing the United States as a product of and shaping force in modern globalization. The divergence since the Cold War between the United States and Europe has, in my experience, had the unanticipated consequence of eroding vestiges of the old European dismissal of the United States as a pro-

vincial offshoot of itself, of minimal intellectual interest. Europeans are now determined to study the United States in a broad way and from an American perspective, which looks as much west across the Pacific and south to Latin America as east over the Atlantic.

My Mainz colleagues are changing their institute's name to the Obama Institute, and my title is "Obama Fellow." It's a grand title and an odd experience to have a fellowship named for someone who was two years behind me in college. The president until now has had no connection, though his half-sister, Auma Obama, who earned her Ph.D. in Germany, attended an event

launching the program. Beyond giving lectures at Mainz and elsewhere, my task involves helping develop a seminar in local and public history methods, which I teach at the M.A.-level at ISU. On the surface, this contradicts the "transnational" agenda of the institute, but such work deepens connections between scholars across borders by building collaboration in our locally based, day-to-day work, as well as over our grand, global analyses. I also have access to the university's fantastic U.S. history library, founded upon the old library of the U.S. Army headquarters across the Rhine in Wiesbaden.

Lots of history being discovered at ISU these days

by Linda Spencer

Two time capsules were discovered in the demolition of the Hamilton-Whitten and Atkin-Colby dormitories. You can check out those stories at Pantagraph.com (April 12 and 21, 2016) and *Illinois State* magazine's campus blog "STATEside" (April 20, 2016): History.IllinoisState.edu/timecapsule. Meanwhile the department is working to authenticate letters signed by 1986 Supreme Court Justices. Ross Griffiths M.S. '13, director of Preservation and University Archives, and Jennifer Hunt Johnson, conservator and preservation specialist, both at Milner Library, have been helping in this quest.



The Department of History discovered in an old file folder letters from members of the 1986 Supreme Court.

History Education Symposium

The 2016 History Education Symposium “Teaching the 20th Century in the 21st Century” was co-hosted by the Department of History, the Regional Office of Education and the McLean County Museum of History. The event was attended by teachers, ISU students (including student teachers) and faculty members. Attendees could choose from a number of different sessions presented by both faculty members and ISU students.



Mark McBride and Tri-Valley High School students.

Among them was one titled “Asylum, Human Rights, Democracy and Social Justice: Where Are We Going and Why?” in which Professor Patrice Olsen discussed the negative connotations of the term “illegal” when addressing immigrants or refugees. In the same session, graduate students Trevor Shields and Ryan Melson discussed the Flores Settlement and the ways in which it set the standards for the detention of immigrant children, life inside detention centers, and obstacles faced by detainees seeking to appear before a judge.

Professor Richard Hughes—who played a pivotal role in organizing the symposium—together with Robert Fitzgerald, presented a session on teaching AP U.S. History that addressed teaching guidelines, the redesigned AP exam, and methods for teaching AP students essay structure, critical thinking, and primary and secondary source analysis.



History Education participants

In the last session of the day, Professor Christine Varga-Harris analyzed Soviet propaganda during the Cold War. Her presentation included a number of political cartoons and propaganda produced in the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s. Rounding out the history faculty presenters in this lively event featuring five sets of four simultaneous sessions were Professor Monica Noraian, who spoke on teaching women’s history, and Professor Katrin Paehler, who delivered a talk on Holocaust education in the 21st Century.

On the whole, the symposium gave ISU faculty and students a chance to exchange strategies for teaching about the past.

Capitol Forum

This year’s Illinois Capitol Forum on America’s Future was held in April at the Bone Student Center. The event brought together high school students from different parts of Illinois and encouraged them to actively engage with current events involving human and civil rights and world affairs.

Professor Richard Hughes introduced the special event, at which Professor Issam Nassar discussed the desperate situation of Syrians trying to flee from the violence and bloodshed in their country. Nassar explained that Syria had a long history of accepting political refugees and had in fact taken in large numbers of both Palestinian and Armenian refugees. He attributed the crisis in Syria partly to the involvement of the United States and other Western nations in the affairs of the Middle East. Having played a major role in creating turmoil in Syria, he concluded, these countries should be more willing to accept refugees of the crisis. Following his presentation, students had the opportunity to ask Nassar about a variety of issues related to the Syrian crisis, including the best path to peace for Syria, the impact of western Islamophobia on Syrians seeking refuge, and the political interest groups that have contributed to the dire situation in Syria. Students then broke off into smaller groups, each of which was given a case study to examine. These studies broached issues of human and civil rights and international justice.



Nassar, Hughes and forum organizer, Carole Cosimano (Photo by Kathleen Fischer)

Another history faculty member, Professor Touré Reed, discussed race and economic inequality in the United States and hosted panels that encouraged students to participate in conversations about these topics. In his presentation, Reed focused on the Flint, Michigan, water crisis and the impact of economic inequality on residents of the city, regardless of their race. While many have claimed that the crisis in Flint can be explained by examining structural racism, Reed argued that this approach does not accurately account for poor whites affected by the water crisis and who make up 40 percent of the population of the city. He also stated that liberals have tended to consider race and class as separate entities, but that this mode of thinking does not address the problems of an economy that has largely shifted from manufacturing to service.

Department hosts guest speakers and events

In October, **John David Smith**, Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, delivered the keynote lecture in the 2015 Fall Speaker Series. His talk—“Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation, and the Black Union Troops”—



Smith

revealed that Lincoln subscribed to contemporary notions about racial differences and respected the rights of slaveholders, even as he viewed slavery as morally wrong and potentially damaging to the body politic. His belief in the need for political compromise resulted in an inconsistent and subtle policy that ultimately yielded the Emancipation Act. As Smith showed, the Union and freedom became inseparable as the mobilization of African-Americans to relieve manpower shortages in the Union Army became a trial run for freedom. Military service, linked to citizenship, inspired self-assertion among blacks in the South and boosted civilian morale among blacks in the North. It

also led African-Americans to become invested in preserving the Union and supporting its economy, as well as military, thereby creating the basis for a new relationship between the federal government and black men. Overall, Smith argued, after being exposed to worlds of experience beyond oppression, African-Americans came to desire not only the cartridge box, but also the ballot and jury boxes.

In February, the President’s Speaker Series and the Legacy Project Education Initiative of Chicago teamed up to host an event that celebrated the life and activism of Bayard Rustin and other historically significant members of the LGBT community. The Legacy Wall exhibit, displayed in Milner Library, consisted of photographs and biographical markers dedicated to members of the LGBT community who have significantly impacted world history and culture—including Rustin. This exhibit was a traveling display of the Legacy Walk (an outdoor LGBT Museum Walk in Chicago) that visits libraries, schools, and corporate lobbies. The goal of the Legacy Wall is to rectify the lack of representation of historically significant LGBT role models in the curriculum of traditional educa-

tional institutions. In general, the Legacy Project is committed to combating anti-LGBT bullying by highlighting and celebrating the contributions of members of the LGBT community.

After viewing the exhibit, visitors were encouraged to attend a talk at the Bone Student Center. In celebration of Black History Month, **Carlos Figueroa**, assistant professor of politics at Ithaca College, discussed the life, activism, and Quaker upbringing of Bayard Rustin, an advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. who had introduced non-violence as a strategy into the Civil Rights Movement. Examining the intersectionality of race, sexual-



Figueroa

ity, and religion, Figueroa discussed how Rustin’s identity in each of these spheres, particularly that pertaining to his Quaker faith, shaped his work as an activist for interracial democracy and as an advocate for alliance politics and universal social justice.

2016 Annual Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium

Graduate History students made a strong showing, representing their department well at the Annual



Schiavetta

Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium in April. Early in the day-long event, **Lorenzo Schiavetta** presented the paper “Same-Sex Relationships in Early Christian Sources.” In the afternoon, **Telisha Reinhardt**, **Kerry Garvey**, and **Kami Walterman** participated in the all-history panel “Women’s Activism in the United States during the 19th and

20th Century,” with **Kyle Ciani** serving as faculty moderator. On the whole, these three presenters addressed various restrictions that laws, court proceedings, immigration regulations, social norms, and concerns about matters ranging from reproduction to female labor to American prowess in the international sphere had placed on women of different races, classes, political proclivities, and sexual persuasions. They also indicated how women in the different socio-historical contexts that they covered navigated through these



limitations and prescriptions to exercise their own agency. Rounding out the symposium was the keynote address, sponsored in part by the Department of History; midday, **Jafari Allen**, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Miami, delivered his engaging talk “Queer Afropolis: There’s a Disco Ball Between Us.”



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