A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Two events this past spring, one international, one personal, have me thinking about the uses of history as a scholarly endeavor, and the reasons we practice it. As a specialist in Russian history I have been following the crisis in Ukraine from its beginnings in November 2013, and I’ve been asked to comment on it in the media and at public roundtable discussions. Several things about the conflict have struck me. All sides have been reacting in opportunistic, ad hoc fashion to events, while attributing long-standing, monolithic conspiracies to their opponents. None of the players are able to calculate the likely outcomes of their actions. No single actor can exert effective control of events, yet leaders and members of the “intelligence communities” cling to the deluded belief that they can. The law of unintended and unpredictable consequences rules.

This awareness of the contingency and complexity of events is precisely what good historians bring to analysis of past and current events. Too many analysts and public commentators seek simple models to explain and predict developments.

I’ve also been struck by the ways in which the partisans of Kiev and of Moscow selectively appropriate bits and pieces of history to create political narratives justifying their positions. Putin’s claim that Crimea “has always been Russian” as well as Ukrainian nationalist assertions that their country’s history goes back all the way to the 900s CE are false. Often enough such claims attribute deep historical roots (for example a supposed 500 year Russian plot to dominate Ukraine) to conflicts that are both new and unnecessary. Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers (and most of the population of Ukraine is actually bilingual) have intermarried and lived side-by-side peacefully for two generations. There is nothing inevitable about the tragic civil war that is now unfolding.

To the extent that historians can convey to larger audiences sophisticated understandings of history and its political use and abuse, they can help to defuse conflicts such as that in Ukraine.

A second event, more personal, has reminded me of the joys of deep historical practice. Early this summer I had the opportunity to take part in Mike Jarvis’ archaeological field school in Bermuda. For the past three years, Mike has brought a group of undergraduates to Bermuda to participate in archaeological digs of some of the earliest home sites on the island (the first permanent settlers arrived in 1609). Students learn archaeological techniques, island history, and much more. Participating in the dig reminded me that history is at once all around us and very distant and strange. Bermuda is thick with the material remains of the past. Snorkeling in St. George’s Harbor one comes upon 18th-century bottles that once held Spanish wine strewn on the seafloor. On Smith’s Island, where Mike and his students conduct their work, shards of two and three hundred year old pottery literally crunch underfoot.

Painstaking digging down through layer after layer of earth and handling finds, whether brick fragments or the remains of a bone-handled knife, foster a deep intimacy with the past, but also a sense of its distance. Historians and archaeologists work with fragmentary evidence and our imagination to reconstruct distant experiences. The process often feels like detective work, especially an archaeological dig. The photographing of finds still in the earth, their collection in “find bags,” their careful washing, all reminded me of depictions of police work in mystery novels. For many historians, I think, the romance of history is the detective work, and the combination of mystery and immediacy.

(continued on page 2)
Including larger audiences in the adventure of discovery, the process of analysis, and debates about the uses of history is among the most valuable work our department does. Through original research, undergraduate education, community outreach, and training of future scholars we strive to disseminate more sophisticated understandings of history itself, and the professional practice of history. Over the past year we have taken a number of initiatives to advance these goals.

In this newsletter members of our community detail our activities and initiatives. You can read, for example, about our engagement with digital history (including a speaker series planned for 2014-2015), which provides new ways of teaching undergraduates and reaching the general public using computer and visualization tools. We have completed an overhaul of our undergraduate curriculum, as well as a study of students’ reasons for taking history courses, which should help us to raise class enrollments. We are hopeful that these measures will help us to reach more undergraduates. Several faculty members have been involved in public outreach (my own engagement with the Ukrainian crisis and Pablo Sierra’s appearances in Rochester media to comment on the World Cup and Latin American history are just two examples). The department has also had great success in improving funding for our PhD candidates, in part through generous donations by alumni Verne Moore, Bruce and Marianne Pauley, and Roy VanDelinder. Greater financial security frees our students to spend more time on research and professional development, and shortens their time to degree.

Very importantly, we are continuing our shift towards an emphasis on global, interregional, and comparative history. Students applying to the PhD program, including Americanists, are expected to articulate a program that will have an international, global, or comparative dimension. Tom Devaney and Pablo Sierra are teaching new courses on the history of the Mediterranean world, the African Diaspora, early modern cities, and Latin American history through soccer. As Joan Rubin details in the section on graduate program news, this spring we admitted PhD candidates who are planning to work on a number of varied topics involving cross-cultural and interregional connections.

Continued hiring of dynamic scholars at the cutting edge of historical work is also a high priority for the department. This spring we have brought on board two accomplished historians. Laura Smoller (PhD, Harvard 1991) is one of the most highly regarded historians of medieval astrology, science, and saints’ cults. Laura will strengthen our growing programs in medieval and early modern European history and the history of science.

We were also fortunate to engage Tanya Bakhmetyeva, a Rochester PhD and specialist in 19th-century Russian émigrés to France. Tanya will teach courses on Vikings and representations of the body in Western thought.

These are exciting times at the Rochester History Department. Apart from their individual scholarly accomplishments, faculty are overhauling most of our program and charting new directions, including global and digital history. I hope that this newsletter conveys some sense of that excitement.

MATTHEW LENOE

ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carl Angeloff ’53
Edward Atwater ’50
Barbara Berg ’65
Dana Bradley ’83
James Capua ’71
Barry Cohen ’66
William Gamble ’50
Jon P. Getz ’89
Francis Grebe ’54
Robert Kirkwood, PhD ’56
Adam Konowe ’90
Marion Maneke ’86
Amy Phelan ’91
Jeffrey Reznick ’92
Nancy Kelts Rice ’58
Peter S. Szabo ’85
James Shedel, PhD ’78
Curtis Vock ’87
Randall B. Whitestone ’83
G. Robert Witstone, Jr. ’59
Mark S. Zaid ’89
Mitchell Zuckerman ’68
Laura Smoller Joins the History Department

The History Department welcomes on board Laura Smoller, a leading scholar of science, astrology and the occult in late medieval Europe. With her new book, *The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby: The Cult of St. Vincent Ferrer in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Cornell, 2014), Smoller has also established herself as an expert in popular religiosity and the cult of saints. Laura received her PhD in history from Harvard University in 1991, and taught for several years at Stanford University, before moving on to University of Arkansas/Little Rock. She adds great strength to our growing program in medieval and early modern Europe, which already includes Dick Kaeuper, who has worked for over a generation to build it, and Tom Devaney. Laura’s expertise in history of science and medicine complements and adds to Ted Brown's work in these areas. A rigorous curriculum in these fields is imperative for a university like Rochester, with strong programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

We are very fortunate to hire Laura.

**Matthew Lenoe**

**Department Chair**

The Last Year in History

Meliora Weekend: Boat Tour

The History Department hosted two sold-out Meliora Weekend tours this year that invited alumni to learn local history while enjoying brunch and unique views of the campus – from the water. The “Bagels and Locks” tour took students, parents, and alums aboard the Mary Jemison from Corn Hill Landing up through Genesee Valley Park past campus and about a mile up the Erie Canal toward Pittsford. History alum Kaleigh Nutting ('12) and crew related interesting facts about Rochester and Erie Canal history as attendees noshed on fresh Balsam Bagels. Sadly, the popular tour (which sold out in less than two hours!) can’t be repeated, since the Mary Jemison was sold over the winter, but the History Department is searching for an equally memorable replacement for 2014.

**Michael Jarvis**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**

Lessons of Lockerbie:

December 2013 Marked the 25th Anniversary of a Terrorist Act That Cost Two Rochester Students Their Lives and Sent an Alumnus on an International Legal Mission

Mark Zaid '89 had already turned his attention to his upcoming spring graduation when he heard about the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. The news caught him up short as the details emerged: the transatlantic flight from London’s Heathrow Airport to New York was carrying 243 passengers, including 35 American students returning from a London study abroad program sponsored by Syracuse University.

Two of the passengers, Eric Coker and Katharine Hollister, were Rochester students, both from the Class of 1990.

Zaid, who had been in London during the spring 1988 semester as part of a British Parliament program, remembered making a similar flight just months earlier. He had met Hollister on a few occasions when the paths of Rochester schoolmates crossed. Long interested in history, politics, and the law, he found he couldn’t let go of the notion that someone should be held accountable for what was soon demonstrated to be an act of terrorism.

“When I started law school in August 1989, I went in specifically to study how we could go after the terrorists,” says Zaid. “I’ve been working on this since day one of law school.”

December 21 marked the 25th anniversary of the Lockerbie bombing, an act of terrorism that until September 11, 2001, was the deadliest single attack involving American civilians. A total of 270 people died, including 189 Americans as well as 11 people in Lockerbie. Suspicion for the attack ultimately turned to Libya, setting off an international legal battle that in 2001 resulted in the conviction of one of two suspected Libyan intelligence officers. The Libyan died in 2012 after being released by Scotland on the grounds that he was terminally ill.

During the past 25 years, Zaid has been at the forefront of efforts to represent the interests of families whose loved ones died in the attack. In 1993, he helped set up a two-person law office whose clients included a widower of a Pan Am victim, at the time the sole Pan Am family member interested in pursuing a lawsuit against Libya. Zaid helped draft federal legislation that made it easier for United States nationals to sue
Zaid, who now heads his own law firm in Washington, DC, eventually represented about thirty families of Pan Am victims. Frequently asked to talk about the bombing, the lawsuits, and the changes to national and international law that have come about since Lockerbie, he makes a point of speaking to alumni audiences whenever he can, including university presentations to mark both the 10th and 20th anniversaries. He was on campus for a Meliora Weekend ceremony and again in November to mark the 25th anniversary.

“I want Eric and Kate to be remembered,” says Zaid, who started a scholarship to recognize Coker and Hollister and to support a current student who is interested in the study of history and international affairs.

“I wanted to make sure I gave back to the university because that’s where it all started with me, with Eric and Kate.”

Jaclyn Reinhart ’14, a political science major from Williamsville, New York, who is the current recipient of the scholarship, says that although the Lockerbie bombing took place well before she was born, she understands the emotional, cultural, and political impact that such incidents can have. She appreciates that Zaid wants to help students with an interest in global history. Her own experience studying in Australia has convinced her that most Americans should pay more attention to international news and events.

“Other parts of the world are very much concerned with what’s going on elsewhere and how their actions affect other countries,” she says.

Having a global perspective was important to Coker, says John Iovieno ’90 who met Coker during orientation activities in 1986. Outgoing and energetic, known for his love of practical jokes, Coker quickly became the center of a small group of friends.

“He was very much the glue of the group,” says Iovieno. “He was always the leader in keeping us close together and making sure we got together.”

Well versed in history and politics, Coker had traveled to the then Soviet Union on a high school program and paid close attention to international news.

Iovieno imagines that Coker might have channeled his interests into a career as a scholar focused on political or global affairs.

But he knows that Coker would have wanted his tight group of friends to stay close, something Iovieno has taken the initiative to do, and that he would have liked to know that other Rochester students continue to have opportunities similar to the ones he had.

“Perhaps they had an impact in ways that they never knew,” Iovieno says of those who died 25 years ago, particularly those who were just starting out in their lives. “Maybe things happened as a result of our knowing them that eventually turned out to be good.”

SCOTT HAUSER
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

FROM BURNED OVER TO RUSTED OUT: DISASTER AND RECOVERY (?)

Graduate students organized their 5th annual conference, ‘From Burned Over to Rusted Out: Disaster and Recovery (?)’ on February 22 in the Sloane Auditorium of Goergen Hall. Student scholars from across New York and hailing from as far away as Omaha, Nebraska, and Liverpool, England, offered papers varying in topics from epidemics in New York, economics of rust belt regions, education in the United States, Jewish responses to the rise of Hitler, recreation in England during WW II, and the politics of art, aesthetics, and the environment in the early 1900s.

Jordan Kleiman (PhD ’00), associate professor of History at SUNY Geneseo, and UR PhD alum , delivered the keynote address, “Fracking: A Historian’s View of a Public Controversy.” This talk stimulated many of us to contemplate both the past and present-day issues as concerned citizens, intellectuals, and community members. The keynote was well attended from both within and outside the university community. Professor Matthew Lenoe, department chair, offered introductory remarks for the keynote. Faculty members who moderated panels were Tom Devaney, Robert Westbrook, and Stewart Weaver. Other faculty members, such as Dan Borus, Joan Rubin, Dorinda Outram, and Kristin Poling attended throughout the day and offered feedback and questions to our presenters and keynote.

This year, in lieu of charging a $15 registration fee, we offered free admission and encouraged voluntary donations from attendees who wished to help us supplement the cost of lunch. This was a successful way to encourage attendance and meet our financial needs. We plan to continue this tradition in the future and hope to offer more opportunities for involvement with next year’s conference to alumni and the University of Rochester community.

SERENITY SUTHERLAND
GRADUATE HISTORY SOCIETY
THE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

The Department of History has close ties to the UR’s American Studies Program, which offers undergraduates the opportunity to combine courses on American history, literature, art, music, politics, and religion into a single interdisciplinary major. One of the program’s chief goals is to enrich the conversation on campus about American culture by sponsoring public lectures and seminars delivered by Rochester faculty and distinguished visitors. The academic year 2013-14 was an especially active one in this respect. The year started off with a talk by Professor Nora Rubel of Rochester’s Department of Religion and Classics on “Food Matters: The Settlement Cook Book’s Recipes for the Melting Pot.” Later in the fall, Professor Lynne Joyrich of Brown University presented “Tubular Vision: The Ins and Outs of Television Studies.” The spring semester began with a talk I gave as the director of the American Studies Program, called “Rethinking the Creation of Cultural Hierarchy in America.” In March, Professor Ali Behdad of UCLA gave a lecture titled “With Henry James on Ellis Island: On Immigration, Bio-Politics, and Governmentality.” The year concluded with a lecture by Professor David Engerman of Brandeis University on “Planning for Plenty: The Economic Cold War in India.” The steering committee for the American Studies Program is planning what it hopes will be equally stimulating, wide-ranging speakers for 2014-15, and welcomes alumni in the Rochester area to attend any of its events, which are publicized on the Department of History website as well as the University calendar.

JOAN SHELLEY RUBIN
DIRECTOR, AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

HISTORIAN JOAN SHELLEY RUBIN IS FIRST DEXTER PERKINS PROFESSOR

Joan Shelley Rubin, a professor of American cultural history, is the inaugural holder of the Dexter Perkins Professorship in History at the University of Rochester. The endowed position was established through gifts from Robert Kirkwood ’56 (PhD), Francis Grebe ’54, and other donors in honor of the late Dexter Perkins, a prominent American diplomatic historian. Rubin’s installment took place on Thursday, March 6.

“The generosity of Robert Kirkwood and Francis Grebe is greatly appreciated,” said university President Joel Seligman. “They have joined together to create an enduring tribute – one that will help to inspire new scholars for generations to come.”

“I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Perkins chair than Joan Rubin,” added Matthew Lenoe, chair of the History Department. “Her remarkable record of scholarship, teaching, and professional leadership epitomizes the legacy of Dexter Perkins, who was a beloved teacher, the one-time president of the American Historical Association, and founder of Rochester’s graduate program in history.”

Joan Shelley Rubin

Rubin ranks among the nation’s most highly regarded scholars of American culture, an area of research that has blossomed in recent decades. She is the author and editor of several critically acclaimed books and essay collections, including the recent Cultural Considerations (University of Massachusetts Press, 2013), which explores how literary critics and musicians influenced public culture after World War II.

Her second book, The Making of Middlebrow Culture (UNC Press, 1992) is recognized as a “must-read” in American cultural studies, notes Lenoe. The book focuses on the efforts of intellectuals to make “high culture” accessible to the middle class through such vehicles as “The Book of the Month” club, and was praised by New York Times reviewer Christopher Lehmann-Haupt for allowing readers to “see more clearly why American book culture, for better and for worse, is what it is today.”

Rubin’s cultural history, Songs of Ourselves: The Uses of Poetry in America (Harvard University Press, 2007), was lauded by one reviewer as “a major contribution to 20th American cultural history.” Another critic in the New York Times Sunday Book Review wrote that through the book Rubin “dignifies... the comfort, pleasure and emotional richness readers found in popular poetry.”

Rubin also is co-editor-in-chief of the Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History (Oxford University Press, 2013) and has been published widely in peer-reviewed journals, including American Quarterly and the Journal of American History. She has served on the editorial boards of many of those same journals, and on the boards of the New York Council for the Humanities and the Organization of American Historians. Among her numerous awards and fellowships, she was elected to the Society of American Historians, a selective group of 250 professional historians who are noted for their literary distinction.

Rubin joined the Rochester faculty in 1995 and has served on the steering committees of the Susan B.
Anthony Institute, the Faculty Senate, and the Digital Humanities working group, among others. In the History Department, she was director of undergraduate studies and is currently director of graduate studies, as well as director of the American Studies Program, which she helped to launch in 2011.

A Rochester native, Rubin received her bachelor’s degree in American history and literature from Harvard University in 1969 and a doctorate in American studies from Yale University in 1974.

**Robert Kirkwood ’56 (PhD)**

A graduate of Rutgers University, Robert Kirkwood met his wife, Mary (Corky) Moore Kirkwood ’48 (now deceased), in one of Professor Perkins’ classes during his doctoral studies at Rochester. Kirkwood began his academic career as a professor at Clarkson College from 1950 to 1959 and subsequently held several administrative positions in higher education throughout his career, including dean of Washington College in Maryland. He retired in 1987 after serving 15 years as executive director of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Kirkwood serves on the university’s History Alumni Advisory Committee and lives in Media, Pennsylvania.

Kirkwood said he chose to endow this position because Dexter Perkins believed that “the greatest challenge confronting historians is the challenge of the classroom.” Through the professorship, Kirkwood hopes to honor Perkins’ commitment to teaching and his conviction that mentoring the next generation of educators should rank among our highest priorities.

**Francis R. Grebe ’54**

After graduating with honors from the University of Rochester in 1954, Francis Grebe earned a law degree from the University of Michigan. For more than 50 years, he devoted his career to estate and financial planning with major trust companies in Chicago, Rochester, New York City, and Philadelphia. He retired from his position as senior vice president of Pennsylvania Trust in 2009 and is currently a fiduciary consultant for the same company.

“My gift was motivated specifically by Bob Kirkwood and his enthusiastic regard for Dexter Perkins, who I came to know later in life,” said Grebe. “Making the gift was easy to do because I have always cared for the university, which had done so much for me. Not only did I receive financial aid as a student, but every day of those four years was personally rewarding. So this is a small payback with much gratitude.”

In addition to his support for this professorship, Grebe is a member of the George Eastman Circle, the university’s leadership annual giving society. He lives in Devon, Pennsylvania, where he serves on several boards, including the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the Associated Services for the Blind, and the Guthrie Healthcare System, among others.

**Dexter Perkins**

A recognized authority on the Monroe Doctrine, Perkins was the first scholar to hold Cambridge University’s Chair of American History and Institutions and served as the official US historian at the 1945 San Francisco Security Conference that preceded the organization of the United Nations.

At Rochester, Perkins helped found the university’s graduate program in history in 1947 and chaired the Department of History for 29 years. After his retirement from the university in 1953, he was named the John L. Senior Professor of American Civilization at Cornell University. Respected as well for his community involvement, Perkins served as historian of the city of Rochester from 1936 to 1948 and was the first president of the Rochester Association for the United Nations. He died in 1984 at the age of 94.

The Perkins Professorship was made possible by lead gifts from Kirkwood and Grebe, with additional support from more than 50 alumni and friends of the university who also were eager to recognize Perkins. The gifts support The Meliora Challenge: The Campaign for the University of Rochester, a university-wide fundraising campaign that was launched in October 2011 and runs through June 30, 2016 (campaign.rochester.edu).

**SUSAN HAGEN**

**UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS**

**LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY WORKSHOP**

Pablo Sierra, assistant professor, and Molly Ball, adjunct professor, hosted the 17th New York State Latin American History Workshop (NYSLAHW) at the University of Rochester this past spring. The workshop meets semi-annually and allows Latin American history professors and graduate students from New York State a forum to present their work, gain valuable feedback from colleagues, and discuss effective teaching strategies.
On the relatively ‘warm’ Friday of March 7, fifteen historians met in the Gamble room for Pablo Sierra’s segment on “Captive Souls: Nuns and Slaves in the Convents of Puebla in the 17th Century” and Aiala Levy’s (UChicago) “Constructing the Civilizing City: The Teatro Municipal in Vision and Practice, 1886-1921.” In addition to these papers there was a very good discussion of using technology in the classroom. Kristina Boylan (SUNY-IT) shared her expertise of designing and teaching hybrid courses (courses where some portion is taught online). Molly Ball presented on using mapping technologies as a teaching tool; and Aiala Levy and Molly Ball shared their experiences with using google docs in the classroom.

Pablo and Molly look forward to bringing similar events and workshops to the UR in the future.

In addition to their work on the Latin American History Workshop, Pablo and Molly served as the UR experts on Brazil and the World Cup: http://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/experts-on-brazil-discuss-the-world-cup-from-a-historical-lens/.

MOLLY BALL

BERMUDA FIELD SCHOOL

The 3rd Smiths Island Archaeology Project was my biggest yet, involving nine undergraduate and two graduate students from the UR and four other universities. During the intensive five-week season, we investigated the oldest domestic site yet excavated in Bermuda, a new cave site, and a medical quarantine site where smallpox and yellow fever victims were quartered. Marked on a 1616 map, Oven Site yielded early 17th-century pottery, a fine bone-handled knife, and evidence of enslaved Native American stone tool manufacturing, including the tip of an arrowhead. At the Smallpox Bay site, we found buttons from the 56th, 41st, and 20th British Army regiments, all of which were decimated by yellow fever epidemics while stationed in Bermuda. At the completely unknown and undocumented Cave Site, we found early 18th-century pottery in limited testing and evidence that the cave had been enlarged and improved. A puzzling fourth site dating to the mid-18th century was apparently timber-framed, even though this building style had long since been abandoned elsewhere. Exploration of Smiths Island’s west end turned up four new sites, including a very large limekiln and two early house foundations thought to be those of African-descended slaves or free black families.

Besides fieldwork, the students toured the archaeology lab and exhibits of the National Museum of Bermuda, analyzed two early historic houses belonging to the Cox family, conducted primary research in the Bermuda Archives, investigated four shipwrecks in St. George’s Harbour, and on “17th-Century Day” spelunked and spent a night with only 17th-century food and technology in a replica 1612 timber-frame house to gain insights into the lives of the earliest settlers who built the houses we were studying archaeologically. In all, the season was spectacularly successful from a research and teaching perspective and almost all of the students survived without major injuries.

For a full account of the 2012, 2013 and 2014 field school seasons, see: SmithsIslandArchaeology.blogspot.com.

MICHAEL JARVIS
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEWS FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

This was a busy year for history majors. The Undergraduate History Council officers – Rebeca Schaffer, Mirlin Moorefield, Jasjot Grewel, and David Yao – were very active in providing history-related activities, culminating in a sold-out bus tour of the Boston area in April attended by 49 participants, who hiked Boston’s Freedom Trail; visited Plymouth Plantation, U.S.S. Constitution, and the Salem Witch Museum; and dined in the historic Warren Tavern. On campus, declaring majors had the choice of four fantastic HIS 100 Gateway seminars – Abraham Lincoln’s America; Medieval France; Sherlock Holmes and His Times; and Pirates of the Caribbean – all of which “sold out” in terms of enrollment. New faculty Tom Devaney, Pablo Sierra, and Molly Ball offered courses in Iberian and Mediterranean history and (for the first time in thirty years) Latin American history. Digitally inclined students contributed to the William Seward Project (researching and digitizing family letters) and the Virtual St. George’s Project (mapping and making 3D models of buildings in Bermuda’s first capital). Our majors undertook four public history internships and completed four senior honors theses. Colleen Filipek, Daniel Gorman Jr., Adam Ondo, and Phillip Shattan became Christopher Lasch Fellows by taking one of our core graduate methodology seminars. Two majors presented papers at Phi Alpha Theta’s national
conference in Albuquerque alongside other History Honors Society members.

In May we celebrated the graduation of our 37 majors or double majors with an historically appropriate adventure, taking them down into the old Erie Canal bed and aqueduct now buried underneath Rochester's streets and later used as a subway before providing a lavish feast at Dinosaur BBQ. Our graduation ceremony and reception was well attended. Simone Zehren, a history major (and new alum) was one of five UR students to be awarded a Fulbright fellowship for the 2014-2015 academic year. Jordan Shapiro, another history major from the Class of 2014, is the recipient of the Rotary Global Grant Scholarship.

We also completed an overhaul of our course numbering system by grouping regional and thematic courses together and added several new clusters for non-majors, including concentrations in Early Modern history, Latin American history, colonialism and decolonization, and the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India China), which are widely considered to be the economic powerhouses of the future. In an effort to reach more undergraduates, the department commissioned a survey of college students’ reasons for choosing or rejecting history courses. Based on this enrollment survey we will be disseminating information about career options for history majors, as well as debunking the myth that history is an economic dead-end.

MICHAEL JARVIS
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The graduate program is experiencing an especially large number of comings and goings. In the summer and fall of 2013, four students completed the PhD, followed by four more who defended their dissertations this spring and summer, earning them May or October degrees. We’re delighted at the quality of their work and wish them all the best as they leave Rush Rhees for new ventures.

Meanwhile, we admitted six PhD students and one MA student to begin their studies in September, and look forward to welcoming them to Rochester. Their interests are unusually varied, including such topics as Atlantic World print culture, American and British environmental history, the entanglement of foreign policy and popular culture, the Enlightenment and women’s issues, the development of religious ideologies in the Balkans, and the rise of the modern sports fan.

These new students will participate in our almost-fully-implemented revised program. In the first year, they will all undertake a seminar in theories and philosophies of history (History 500), as well as another course (History 501) designed to introduce them to the work of several members of the department and to comparative and global history as well as more traditional national approaches. The old minor fields were replaced a few years ago by written examinations in two research fields designed to complement dissertation research; we now also have a written component of the comprehensive examination in two teaching fields, which will henceforth be administered in mid-December, closely followed by an oral exam. In an effort to shorten time to degree, we are asking doctoral students to defend their dissertation prospectus no later than three months after the completion of the orals. We’ve moved serving as a teaching assistant to the third year, and are requiring additional teaching in the fourth or fifth year. We think these changes have strengthened our program and believe they strike a balance that will produce intellectually rigorous results while accommodating our students’ multiple obligations and interests. And we’re especially pleased to report that we have secured five years of tuition and stipend support for all PhD students!

JOAN SHELLEY RUBIN
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THE DIGITAL WORLD

Computers have transformed our lives in the past few decades. The study of history is increasingly going digital. Researchers and students alike now commonly search for sources and even read difficult to access primary documents on our desktops, laptops, and smartphones. Digital collections give us the opportunity to find informational needles in global haystacks, unlocking our ability to see patterns and make connections that eluded past generations of scholars. Digitally archived historical evidence goes beyond mere words on paper (or screen) to include music, oral history interviews, film, photographs, engravings, paintings, and other visual sources. Powerful new software helps us organize and analyze our findings, while the Web empowers us to publish and blog about new research topics and collaborate with like-minded
scholars across nations and borders. Within the classroom, we increasingly use PowerPoint presentations and digital media clips to enhance students’ understanding of lecture material. Although we remain true to the core elements of our discipline, studying history today is quite a bit different than it was just a decade ago thanks to a variety of digital leaps. As well it should be, if we want to engage the digitally native generation now entering the UR.

Although we all increasingly use digital elements in our research and teaching, several UR history faculty are developing innovative digitally based research platforms that explore, present, or make accessible the past in entirely new ways:

The **Claude Bragdon Digital Humanities Project**, directed by Joan Rubin, the Dexter Perkins Professor in History, and Joan Saab, chair of Art and Art History and associate professor of Art History/Visual and Cultural Studies, is developing a website that will feature an interactive 3D model of the architect Claude Bragdon’s New York Central Railroad Station, which opened in downtown Rochester in 1914 and was razed beginning in 1963. The website will not only showcase the station’s impressive architecture but also “recreate the experience” of the station with oral histories from individuals who recall using it, Rubin notes. That component makes the project distinctive among digital recreations of buildings that are no longer standing.

In addition, the project directors see their work as an opportunity to bring long-overdue credit to Bragdon himself. A contemporary of noted architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan, Bragdon anticipated Wright’s idea of organic architecture and is especially notable for his advanced ideas about space, which were connected to his interests in theosophy and his effort to prove the existence of a fourth dimension. Establishing Bragdon’s relationship to American Modernism is one of the goals of the project.

The Bragdon Project is drawing on the large collection of correspondence, architectural drawings, photographs, and published materials in the Bragdon Family Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Rush Rhees Library. It received initial funding from the Pump-Primer program of the College of Arts and Sciences, which is designed to help faculty research projects in their early stages compete successfully for outside grants later on.

If you have memories of Bragdon’s Rochester railroad station that you would like to share, please contact Professor Rubin at joan.rubin@rochester.edu.

This past year, Michael Jarvis launched **Virtual St. George’s**, a new 3D digital history project that combines empirical and quantitative new social history methods with 2D and 3D GIS spatial analysis to create an interactive humanistic geospatial laboratory. This new project gives new life to earlier research he did as a graduate student, compiling the property histories of more than 250 houses in St. George’s, Bermuda— the colony’s first capital and the oldest continuously occupied town in English America. Mike’s early research produced his first book, *Bermuda’s Architectural Heritage: St. George’s*, and was instrumental in Bermuda’s successful bid to secure UNESCO World Heritage Site status for St. George’s in 2000. Virtual St. George’s blends the historical precision of a community study across twelve generations (1612-1900) with three-dimensional renderings of the townscape at various key years (1620, 1660, 1700, 1775, 1812, and 1865) and will include video game-inspired animated characters (avatars). Ultimately, “virtual visitors” will be able to walk the town’s streets and interact with its rigorously researched past residents.

Funded in part with a UR Discover Grant, Mike trains undergraduate students to create and historicize 3D digital models of the town’s modern-day buildings and undertake research on their past residents in HIS 285, Digital History, a collaborative lab course he teaches each spring.

Mike is also developing 3D models of his various archaeological sites on Smiths Island, Bermuda, and learning how to use cameras mounted on UAVs (drones) to create highly realistic, detailed 3D models of historic houses and townscapes. He plans to migrate these to Unity (videogame design software) and Oculus Rift (an experimental virtual reality headset) to produce fully immersive explorations of places in the past.

In January 2014, the **Seward Family Digital Humanities Project**, led by Thomas Slaughter, the Arthur R. Miller Professor of History, received from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation of Auburn, New York, a grant of $360,000 over the next three years to support the transcription, annotation, and editing of the families’ letters, and website design and construction. The funds will go to pay four graduate-student managers and undergraduate workers during the academic year, and to hire a library intern to help reorganize the collection in the library’s Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation and create a new finding aid that includes the unindexed family papers in the Seward Collection. One of the graduate students will be the assistant director, the others will be a transcription
and annotation manager, a data manager, and a supervisor of text encoding. For the coming academic year, we have Serenity Sutherland assigned to the project as a Mellon Fellow from the Digital Humanities Grant secured by Dean DiPiero; she will be the transcription and annotation manager.

The project leaders will be seeking additional funds to support the creation of a virtual “Fanny's Library,” based on the 350+ volumes owned by the Sewards’ teenage daughter, a collection unprecedented for a 19th-century American girl. They also hope to raise funds to create a virtual Seward family library, based on the five thousand books in the Seward House Museum and the couple hundred at the UR. In addition, they hope to raise funds to create a flip-book on their website using sheet music found in the Seward House Museum in Auburn and to post a performance of some of that music by Eastman School students. Finally, they hope to commission illustrations for a children's book focused on the Seward family’s pets, to write the text, and self-publish it; the profits to go to the museum. These ambitions will all require more fund-raising.

The project has had two Lessing/Landau Grants, gifts from alum Pamela Lessing and her wife Dr. Judith Landau, to support undergraduate interns for the summers of 2013 and 2014, which has been hugely beneficial in integrating undergraduates into its work and providing them experience in historical editing and the digital humanities. Tom made a presentation on the project at the annual convention of the Association for Documentary Editing in Louisville, Kentucky, in July 2014, having completed the ADE, NEH, and NHRPC historical editing certification program the previous summer.

In the upcoming academic year, the department will host a series of presentations by leading young digital historians, culminating in a three-day visit by Ed Ayers, President of the University of Richmond and a pioneer digital historian, Ayers was selected as this year's University’s Distinguished Visiting Humanist.

MICHAEL JARVIS
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

CALL FOR COURSE PROPOSALS: 2015 PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

University faculty, staff, graduate students, and alumni are invited to submit proposals for Pre-College Programs’ 2015 summer sessions through Friday, September 26. Faculty in the program have the opportunity to engage in youth outreach, share knowledge with a receptive audience, and participate in a teaching experience. You can complete the proposal form online at: http://enrollment.rochester.edu/precollege/employment/.

MAKING HISTORY
(HAAC HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS)

DIGITAL HUMANITIES SPEAKER SERIES

The department has a number of important events planned for the coming academic year. We are sponsoring a speaker series on digital history (the use of computer and visualization technologies to analyze data and teach history). During the fall and spring we are hosting young digital historians Lori Walters (November 6-7), Leslie Working (November 13-14), and Rachel Leow, who will present their own work in the field and meet with graduate students, faculty, and undergraduates. We will be asking our visitors to discuss the simple question: What is digital history, and what are the digital humanities? These are buzzwords in academia now, but many of us don’t really know what specific practices fall under these terms.

The speaker series will culminate in a three day visit to campus in March 2015 by Ed Ayers, pioneering digital historian, public intellectual, and president of the University of Richmond. Ayers will be giving a major lecture on campus and meeting with students and faculty from many different departments to discuss the uses and the future of digital history and humanities in general.

THE VERNE MOORE LECTURE SERIES

After a hiatus of several years, we are continuing the Verne Moore Lecture Series. Funded by generous grants from Verne Moore (BA ’50), the seminars bring to campus prominent historians from all over the United States to present and discuss their work. This coming academic year we will feature three historians.

Cynthia Robinson, a specialist in medieval Islamic art history is coming on September 22-23 to discuss the concept of the “Mediterranean World.” Paul Rosier (PhD ’98), chairman of the History Department at Villanova University and a historian of
Native American identity in the twentieth century, will be visiting on October 23-24. Christopher Sellers (SUNY/Stony Brook), who works on history of the environment and workplace safety, comes on November 21-22.

HAAC HAPPENINGS AND MELIORA WEEKEND

The History Alumni Advisory Committee met on Friday morning of Meliora Weekend 2013 (October 11). Ted Brown and Matt Lenoe introduced new faculty Tom Devaney and Pablo Sierra to the committee. HAAC members made a number of excellent suggestions for strengthening connections between the department (particularly undergraduates) and alums, including creating a regular career advising network, organizing more events involving local alumni, andreviving the “salons,” in which history professors travel to discuss their work with more distant alumni chapters. We will be implementing these suggestions in 2014-2015.

On Sunday of Meliora Weekend, alumni and students joined History Department faculty for a brunch and boat trip (with historical commentary) on the Genesee River. The event was a lot of fun (in spite of one scheduling foul-up!). Unfortunately the former Chesapeake Bay fishing boat we sailed on has been sold, so we won’t be able to repeat this event in the near future.

The History Department is sponsoring two events at this coming Meliora Weekend. On Friday, October 17, from 3-5 p.m., Professor Pablo Sierra, our new hire in history of the African Diaspora and Latin America will be delivering a talk titled “Rewriting the Mexican City: Africans, Colonial Textiles, and Power,” at the Sloan Auditorium in Goergen Hall. A reception will follow. On Saturday, October 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. in LeChase Hall, Room 103, we will be organizing an alumni panel on “Careers for History Majors.” This will be an opportunity for alumni to discuss with students career options for history students.

Another important event connected with the History Department will be Professor Michael Jarvis’ presentation on his project to create computer visualizations of the Bermuda port of St. George’s at various times in its history – “School of Arts and Sciences Lunch and Learn: Digital History: Building a Virtual St. George’s, 1620-1900,” Saturday, October 18, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Hoyt Hall Auditorium. Mike’s work is at the leading edge of the expanding field of digital history.

More information about these events can be found at the University’s Meliora Weekend website, https://www.rochester.edu/melioraweekend/.
To be added to the department event list, send us an email at history.department@rochester.edu. You can also check for events on the department website at http://www.rochester.edu/College/HIS/news/index.html.

MATTHEW LENOE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

HISTORY’S LIFE LESSONS

I became a history major at the UR for the same reason that I’m sure many of you did. I loved to hear the professors’ stories. Professor Michael Jarvis’s descriptions of life in Colonial America and Professor Theodore Brown’s tales of presidential failures in health care made for great listening. You would begin class knowing next to nothing about Harry Truman’s presidency and you would leave wondering why the American Medical Association was so staunchly opposed to his health initiatives and wanting to investigate further. The people, their lives, and their times came alive. After graduating from the UR, I have sought to emulate my favorite professors and their storytelling and question-asking.

I’ve had a diverse array of work experiences and off-the-wall adventures since college. I went from living in a FEMA trailer in an Arizona ghost town as a Student Conservation Association intern to teaching English in a picturesque fishing village in Spain. I served as an AmeriCorps member in Central Maine and then traveled to Aguascalientes, Mexico, to teach as a Fulbright scholar. On each of these adventures, the two traits – the ability to tell a good story and inquisitiveness – that I admired so much in my Rochester professors have served me well.

In Fairbank, Arizona, I led tours of the historic ghost town where I lived and worked. Initially, I remember being intimidated by having to speak to groups of strangers. “How can I bring the past to life in just a few minutes? How can I make Fairbank feel like more than a cluster of abandoned buildings?” The answer: I told stories. I told the story of “Three Finger” Jack Dunlop’s failed bank robbery attempt and the story of the unfortunate man who was bitten and stricken dead by the caged Gila monster in the town’s mercantile store. I quickly realized that, as a tour guide, I was getting the opportunity to show some of
my history-major mettle. I wasn’t just repeating entertaining anecdotes. I was bringing the past to life, sparking peoples’ interest in western life in the late 19th and early 20th century and asking them to think critically about how mining towns were constructed and, in the case of Fairbank, soon deconstructed.

In Mexico, I put my history education to work as well. As the only US-native teacher at the La Universidad Tecnológica de Aguascalientes, I was sometimes asked by my co-workers to guest-teach lessons about US customs, holidays, and culture. A fellow teacher would come to me and say, “Could you explain what Thanksgiving is all about to my students?” I was always enthusiastic about these lessons (and not just because they weren’t grammar-related). A lesson about Thanksgiving allowed me to ask all sorts of interesting questions: “Who were those Pilgrims again? Can I compare the welcome they received to the Spanish by the Mayans?” My education in history sparked in me an endless thirst for finding out why and how. “Why did the Pilgrims wear those funny outfits?” I shared with my Mexican students this love of questioning. The students might not have been as excited as I was to learn that the Pilgrims, in fact, did not always wear black and white (as I think we all assume from seeing Halloween costumes), but they appreciated my energetic and wacky search for answers.

Over time, in my circuitous career, I have gravitated toward education. Teaching is a career that values a good story and deep questioning. For the past two years I have been an educator with a small UC-Berkeley youth development program called Adventure Risk Challenge. I organize and lead outdoor excursions in Yosemite National Park and teach writing courses for high school youth. Many of my students are native Spanish-speaking and have stories about migrant life in small California agricultural communities. I encourage them to share these personal histories. From appreciating my professors’ stories, I have come a long way. No longer am I the storyteller in the room. I am now listening to the stories’ of my own students.

Will Fassett graduated from the UR in 2006 and now lives in Mariposa, California. If you would like to read some of his students’ stories, visit Adventure Risk Challenge’s website at www.arcprogram.org or email him at wfassett@berkeley.edu.

WILL FASSETT
CLASS OF 2006

FACULTY PROFILES:
THOMAS DEVANEY AND
PABLO SIERRA

We would like to welcome our newest faculty members to the department who joined us in the fall of 2013. Pablo and Tom introduce themselves with short bios they have written for each other:

Thomas Devaney studies the history of late medieval and early modern Europe, and in particular, the development of Iberian urban centers along Castile’s border with Granada.

Raised in New York City, Tom received his PhD from Brown in 2011 and recently joined our faculty in fall 2013. In his research, Tom analyzes the fascinating interactions between Christian, Muslim, and Jewish groups during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. In An Amiable Enmity: Urban Spectacle and the Spanish Frontier (University of Pennsylvania Press), his forthcoming book-length study, Tom examines how Iberian elites staged public performances to exacerbate or mitigate social tensions among their diverse urban populations. A fascinating example of just how early Castilian rulers used spectacle to validate their social credentials can be seen in the North African spear-throwing contests (juegos de cañas) that frontier Christians imported and transformed into markers of Castilian identity. Tom analyzes such events, along with the polemic appropriation of Muslim dress and riding techniques by Christian knights, in his article “Virtue, Virility, and History in 15th Century Castile” (Speculum 88, no.3). Such studies are of paramount importance to understanding not only the transition from the medieval to early modern period, but also the cultural background and social expectations that Iberians would eventually export to the New World.

Needless to say, Tom’s research and teaching are a welcome addition to the department. This upcoming fall he will be teaching “The West and the World to 1500” and “Justice and Equality,” an innovative seminar that examines both concepts through the writings of Rousseau, Fanon, and Chinua Achebe, among others. Moreover, Tom’s interests in spectacle and recreation extend to the present, as he is also the devoted coach of his daughter’s softball team.

Pablo Sierra is a historian of colonial Latin America whose work focuses on the experiences of Africans and their descendants, particularly in New Spain (modern-day Mexico) in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
In general, he argues that Africans had a major impact on the tenuous balance of power in colonial Mexico as elites both feared rebellion and were increasingly more dependent upon slave labor. He does so by examining urban Afro-indigenous households, friendships and alliances throughout Latin America, especially in the city of Puebla. He is currently at work on a book based on his PhD dissertation, “Urban Slavery in Colonial Puebla de los Ángeles, 1536-1708.” Pablo’s most recent article, soon to appear in the journal Ethnohistory, is “From Chains to Chiles: An Elite Afro-Indigenous Couple in Colonial Mexico, 1641-1688.” In it, he examines the lives of a freedman, Felipe Monson y Mojica, and his native wife, Juana María de la Cruz. Because neither Africans nor indigenous peoples could access traditional power structures in the colonial city, unions of this type offered enormous social, political and commercial benefits. The combination of Pablo’s intensive examination of the records and his innovative perspective offers the possibility of new ways to study these often-marginalized groups.

Born in Mexico, but raised in Philadelphia, Pablo earned his doctorate at UCLA in May 2013 and joined the UR faculty that fall. Since arriving, he has introduced a number of new courses to the department’s offering. In addition to surveys of colonial and modern Latin American history, he has taught seminars focused on the African diaspora and on slavery in Latin America. This coming fall, he will be teaching a highly-anticipated course that uses soccer as a lens through which to study the development of modern Latin American history, culture and politics. In it, he will encourage students to appreciate the ways in which soccer has been used to fabricate national identities, promote multi-racial societies, and, of course, to entertain, while acknowledging the more odious use of the sport in upholding dictatorships, drug trafficking, and misogyny.

**READING FOR A RAINY DAY**

My principal research interests are urban communities, interfaith relations, and public spectacles in the 15th and 16th centuries. I pay particular attention to how cities were often conglomerations of smaller communities, creating composite societies that required various efforts to mitigate tensions and avoid internal conflict. The geographic focus of much of my recent work has been Spain, but I have also addressed similar themes – identity, civic spectacle, and cross-confessional interactions – across the Mediterranean world.


**THOMAS DEVANEY**

Mexico can be daunting in its regional, political and historical complexities. However, the following five books offer accessible and (more importantly) highly entertaining entry points to this wonderful country. To this day nowhere is the fall of the Aztecs more vividly portrayed than in a *True History of the Conquest*, but Restall’s *Seven Myths* does a great job of explaining the omissions and objectives of the conquerors and their histories. A priceless counterpoint to official histories from an indigenous perspective may be found in Chimalpahin’s first-person retelling of Mexico City history. From urban conspiracies, to bullfights, earthquakes and disgruntled politicians, Chimalpahin gives us a fascinating glimpse into everyday society during the 17th century. Jeffrey Pilcher’s study is a wonderful introduction into the construction, gradual acceptance and, at times, outright rejection of “traditional” Mexican food by the Mexican middle class. Finally, *The Story of Virgil Richardson* speaks to the experiences of African-Americans and military veterans in 20th-century Mexico. Enjoy!

Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *True History of the Conquest*

Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*

Chimalpahin, *Annals of His Time*  

Jeffrey Pilcher, *Que vivan los tamales!: Food and the Making of Mexican Identity*

Ben Vinson III, *Flight: The Story of Virgil Richardson: A Tuskegee Airman in Mexico*

**PABLO SIERRA**
FACULTY NEWS

Theodore Brown published a new book with Rutgers University Press in the summer of 2013, *Comrades in Health: U.S. Health Internationalists, Abroad and at Home* (with Anne-Emanuelle Birn of the University of Toronto). He also published a chapter on “Stress in US Wartime Psychiatry” in an edited volume, *Stress, Shock, and Adaptation* and, with Elizabeth Fee of the National Library of Medicine, an invited article on “Social Movements in Health” in the Annual Review of Public Health. He continued to give talks in 2013-2014 on his recently published *The Quest for Health Reform: A Satirical History*. Among these were presentations to the Metro New York chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program and the David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium at Weill Cornell Medical School. Locally, he gave talks at Unity Health Systems, the Rochester Academy of Medicine, the Jewish Community Center, and in several departments and programs at the UR Medical Center. Ted continues his active engagement with the American Public Health Association, where he has been working with former APHA President Jay Glasser on a collective history of the organization and its role in American and international public health. He presented in several sessions at the APHA’s annual meeting in November, including in a session and book signing devoted to *Comrades in Health*. Ted was also presented with the Association’s Arthur Viseltear Award (for contributions to public health history) at the annual meeting. He remains active as history editor for the *American Journal of Public Health* and as editor of *Rochester Studies in Medical History*, a book series of the University of Rochester Press which recently published its twenty-eighth volume.


Michael Jarvis has kept busy on campus serving as DUS and as chair of the College Curriculum Committee, which successfully ushered the University through its Middle States Accreditation Evaluation this year. Besides his work developing his Virtual St. George’s Digital History course and research project and running his archaeology field school (see pages 7 and 9), he took on two new PhD students interested in comparative Atlantic history and taught four courses on topics ranging from Benjamin Franklin’s America to Pirates of the Caribbean. In November, he was invited to deliver the national Remembrance Day address in Bermuda and meditated on “What 18th-Century Bermudians Can Teach Us Today.” He presented a paper at the Phi Alpha Theta conference in New Mexico (January), inaugurated Drayton Hall’s new Distinguished Speakers series in February with a talk entitled “Shaftesbury, Bermuda, and the Settling of South Carolina,” and delivered the keynote lecture at the Philadelphia-based Decorative Arts Trust Symposium in Bermuda in March. Besides continuing his ongoing digital history and Bermudian terrestrial archaeology research, Jarvis looks forward in 2015 to finishing *Atlantic Crucible: Bermuda and the Founding of English America, 1609-1685* (under contract with Johns Hopkins Press) and collaborating with the University of Bristol on an extensive survey of shipwreck sites around Grand Turk Island in the Caribbean, which will help him develop new expertise in marine archaeology.

Richard Kaeuper gave the opening plenary lecture at a conference, “Representing War and Violence in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period,” at Pembroke
College, Cambridge, in September 2013. The essays from a conference he held several years ago at the UR were published by Brill as Law, Justice and Governance; New Views on Medieval Constitutionalism, with Paul Dingman and Peter Sposato serving as assistant editors. Medieval Chivalry, the general book Cambridge University Press commissioned, is nearing completion, and two articles are in press as well. His collected essays, “Kings, Knights and Bankers,” have received a contract from Brill and will be published with editorial commentary on these topics by Chris Guyol. Brill will also publish the Festschrift, which, rumor hath it, is being constructed by my present and former graduate students. My Holy Warriors: the Religious Ideology of Chivalry (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) has just been issued in paperback. Several other book projects and shorter works are in process. In the UR Ferrari Symposium on reformations, he presented a lecture on the Gregorian Reform and introduced the general lecture of the principal guest speaker. Dick has been named the Donald Bullough Fellow in the Medieval Institute of the University of St Andrews, Scotland, for the second term of next academic year. His current and former graduate students and some colleagues from the US and UK held two sessions in honor of his work at the Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University. Dick is also very happy to have the pleasure of placing PhD hoods on three of his grad students who completed their degrees this year – Chris Guyol, Dan Franke, and Peter Sposato.

In addition to his teaching and his work as chairman, Matt Lenoe organized the September 2013 meeting of “The Border Commission,” a group of Russian historians from upstate New York and Ontario. He also presented a paper, “The Mother and the Motherland: The Personal, the Ideological, and Red Army Will to Combat, 1941-1942,” to the April 2014 meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies in Atlanta Georgia. Later in the spring he submitted an article based on this paper to the journal Slavic Review. Lenoe also participated in three public discussions of the crisis in eastern Ukraine – a panel at the University, a radio broadcast by WXXI, and a presentation organized by the group Rochester Against War.


Joan Shelley Rubin wishes to thank the alumni donors who made possible her installation as the Dexter Perkins Professor in History in March. She delivered a keynote address titled “Rethinking the Creation of Cultural Hierarchy in America” at the Reception Study Society meeting last September. In May, Joanie presented a public lecture at the American Antiquarian Society on Esther Forbes’s classic novel Johnny Tremain. The same month she and five other UR faculty members participated in a conference on the study and uses of new media at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China. In June, she led a workshop re-examining Lawrence Levine’s Highbrow/Lowbrow at a conference called “Inventing the Middlebrow.” Her essay “Cosmopolitan Ideals, Local Loyalties, and Print Culture: George Chandler Bragdon in Upstate New York” will be published by the University of Toronto Press as part of a volume titled Print Culture Histories Beyond the Metropolis. Joanie continues to work on a collaborative digital and oral history project recreating and contextualizing Claude Bragdon’s New York Central Railroad Station in Rochester, and invites anyone with memories of the station to contact her.

Thomas Slaughter’s book, Independence: The Tangled Roots of the American Revolution, was published by Hill & Wang in June 2014, and was the History Book Club main selection in July. He also published two articles on the American Revolution this spring, one in Commonplace and the other on the History News Network. Tom is now working on a book about Thomas Jefferson in retirement and another on the Seward family of Auburn, New York. With regard to the journal, Tom tells us, “We are in the first year of our second and final five-year contract to edit Reviews in American History, which I do with my wife Denise as managing editor.” One of
the department’s graduate students, Amy Arbogast, has succeeded Michael Brown as the Assistant editor.

Stewart Weaver has happily returned to full-time teaching after six years as chair of the department and a year’s leave of absence. His little book on the history of exploration (Exploration: A Very Short Introduction) will be published next fall by Oxford University Press.

NEWS FROM GRADUATE STUDENTS AND RECENT PHDS

Michael Brown (PhD, ’14) defended his dissertation, “Experts, Eggheads, and Elites: Debating the Role of Intellectuals in American Political Culture, 1952-2008” in April of this year. He has accepted a position as visiting assistant professor of history at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Paul Dingman (PhD, ’12) began a position in digital humanities at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C.

Douglas Flowe (PhD, ’14) continued to work as a recruiter of graduate students from underrepresented backgrounds for the University of Rochester’s David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity. In this capacity he attended more than thirty graduate fairs and conferences across the country, and lead workshops on the process of writing personal statements at more than fifteen colleges and universities. Douglas also taught the Advanced Academic Writing class for juniors and seniors in the McNair Scholars program. In the fall he presented a chapter at the meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), and in the spring, he presented another chapter for the Frederick Douglass Institute’s New Directions Symposium. He is currently co-organizing the Graduate Research Symposium to showcase the work of graduate students affiliated with the Kearns Center. In addition, the Mississippi Quarterly journal has recently accepted one of his academic papers, entitled “Folklore, Urban Insurrection and the Killing of the Black Hero in the Early Twentieth-Century South,” for publication in 2015. He defended his dissertation, “Tell the Whole White World: Crime, Violence, and Black Men in Early Migration New York, 1890-1917” at the end of July and is beginning a postdoctoral fellowship in Inequality and Identity at Washington University in St. Louis in the American Culture Studies program. He will subsequently begin a tenure-track faculty position in Illinois College’s history department teaching American, African, and urban history.

Dan Franke (PhD, ’14) defended his dissertation, “Beyond the Medieval Military Revolution: Robert Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, and the Wars of England 1298-1360” in April of this year. He will be continuing his position as lecturer at the United States Military Academy in West Point.

Chris Guyol (PhD, ’13) who defended his dissertation titled “English Monasticism and Royal Governance in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries” in August of 2013. Chris will be teaching at the Rochester Institute of Technology and SUNY/Geneseo in 2014-2015.

Jose Perillan (PhD ’11) has accepted a tenure-track position at Vassar College.

Michael Read (ABD) participated this year in a seminar hosted by the Folger Shakespeare Library titled “Researching the Archive” and convened by Peter Stallybrass.

Christine Ridarsky (ABD) is the Rochester City Historian and Michelle Finn (PhD ’12) is the Deputy Historian. Their office employs Jeff Ludwig (ABD), Mitch Gruber (ABD), and Emily Morry (PhD ’13) as researchers. Jeff also runs the High Falls Museum as part of his job. To view the results of a project they worked on with the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, see “Retrofitting Rochester” at: http://media.democratandchronicle.com/retrofitting-rochester. (And, on a related note, Carolyn Vacca, PhD ’98, remains Monroe County Historian.)

Matthew Smalarz (ABD) is the history/social sciences coordinator and a history professor at Manor College in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. He presented his paper, “We Are Living in a Material World: Commercial Whiteness in the Suburban Marketplace of Northeast Philadelphia, 1954-1964,” which is presently being revised for publication, at the Urban History Association Conference held at Columbia University. He also presented a paper, “Expanding the Middle-Class Ideal: Race, Class, and Space in Northeast Philadelphia, 1914-1930,” at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association in Harrisburg. Matt published book reviews in the Southern Historian and the Maryland Historical Magazine, as well as a series of encyclopedia articles in the African American National Biography, which is published by Oxford University Press. He also published essays on the history of Northeast Philadelphia and Shopping Centers in Metropolitan Philadelphia in the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, which is an online peer-reviewed encyclopedia that will eventually be turned into a print volume by the
University of Pennsylvania Press. He is planning to defend his dissertation, which is tentatively titled “The White Island: Middle-Class Whiteness and Spatial Development in Northeast Philadelphia, 1854-1990,” later this year.

Serenity Sutherland (ABD) has been awarded a Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Digital Humanities for 2014-2015.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS FOR US?

We always welcome news from our alumni for future issues; e-mail us at history.department@rochester.edu or send us a letter and let us know if you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically:

Attention: Newsletter
University of Rochester
History Department
364 Rush Rhees Library
Rochester, NY 14627

ALUMNI NEWS AND REMINISCENCES

Sigmund Alexander (MA ’63) is a retired United States Air Force colonel. Nearly forty years after receiving his Master’s degree, he began writing history books about what he knew best – airplanes and ships. All told he has written twelve books on the B-47, including The B-47 Stratojet: Centurion of the Cold War (C.C.C.P. Publishing, 2002), and his articles have been published in the English aviation magazine Flypast and the magazine, Air Force. He writes “not for monetary gain but to preserve pieces of history that would otherwise be lost.” History has always been a great love of his and he enjoys sharing his experiences and knowledge with others.

Susan Anastasopoulos (BA ’63, MA ’65), in commemoration of the Great War’s centennial, is currently designing a two year course, “When four empires collapsed: Russian, German, Hapsburg and Ottoman: 1918-1923.” – the aftermath of World War One in east and central Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East for the Thomas More Institute in Montreal (specializing in seminar courses for adults). This follows her recent course offerings: “Turkey: Europe or Asia?” and “The Bronze Age: Dawn of Civilization.”

Dan Apfel (BA ’05) recently became a senior associate at the Croatan Institute, a new independent institute for advanced social and environmental research and engagement where he will be studying responsible investing, community economic development, and the transition to a more just economy. You can find more information at croataninstitute.org.

John Barry (MA ’69) was chief architect of a lawsuit filed in July 2013 by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East – the levee board protecting metro New Orleans – against Exxon Mobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, and 93 other oil, gas, and pipeline companies for their role in the destruction of Louisiana’s coast. He was appointed to this board and also the state’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, which is responsible for statewide hurricane protection, because of his book Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America. The legal basis of the suit is that the loss of land outside the levee system increases storm surge against the levees, thus increasing the burden on the levee board to protect New Orleans. In total, Louisiana has lost 2,000 square miles of land since the 1930s. At stake potentially are many tens of billions of dollars. Governor Bobby Jindal and the industry succeeded in having the state legislature pass a bill, signed into law in June 2014, retroactively killing the lawsuit. The governor also removed Barry from both boards. The constitutionality of the bill will be challenged, and Barry remains involved with the issue.

Bridget Bemis (BA ’03) is still with the United States Marine Corps and was promoted to the rank of major in February 2014. Also, over this last year she attended the Naval War College and on 20 June Bridget received her Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. She is continuing her studies in Newport, Rhode Island with the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS) and will graduate from this course in September. After that, she, her husband, and two kids will head overseas for a tour in Japan.

Casey Blake (MA ’81, PhD ’87) served as senior historian for “The Armory Show at 100: Modernism and Revolution,” a major retrospective of the 1913 exhibition that introduced Americans to modern art, which ran from October 2013 through February 2014 at the New-York Historical Society. The catalogue for the show, co-edited by Casey and his fellow curators, included an essay by the UR’s own Daniel Borus.

Joan Jacobs Brumberg (BA ’65) is now the Stephen H. Weiss Emerita Fellow and Professor of History and Gender Studies at Cornell where she has taught since 1979. She continues to teach social history of medicine in Cornell’s Summer College for talented high school students.
students from around the world. She is working now on an addendum to her 1997 book, The Body Project, about the history of female adolescence in the United States and still lectures on this and her earlier book, Fasting Girls (1987). In 2013, she published a photographic essay on the history of boys and guns in History News Network. She usually gets to visit Michele Levenbook Kohler, also UR 1965, in Surrey, United Kingdom, about once a year. And, she remains in touch with Bernard Weisberger, her undergraduate adviser in history, for whom she is planning an electronic festschrift to be posted on History News Network.

Rebecca Caesar (BA '08) received her MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School in May and has moved to San Francisco to start as a Client Representative for IBM.

Oliver Chase (Take Five Scholar '08) is currently working in Hong Kong for a small think tank doing research on China’s economic growth and the nation’s governance. On top of that he spends some time day dreaming of doing a history PhD.

Ruth Danis (BA '60) recalls “Professor Richard Wade invited John F. Kennedy to speak with a small group of young Democrats, during the primaries. Candidate Kennedy provided us with half an hour presentation on issues related to Algeria. My degree in history from the UR, which included non-western civilization as well as European history, was the beginning of my awareness of the value of acquiring knowledge which enabled me to appropriately understand the societal changes from the 1960's until 2014. I believe my MA thesis entitled ‘The Myth of the China Market,’ which I finished in 1971, still applies, even if Japan was our primary trading partner at the beginning of the 20th century. I continue to believe the US is the ‘China market.’ I used the ‘Preamble of the Constitution’ when I taught doctoral candidates in educational administration in the 1990's and I was staff to groups that helped write the Rochester City School District’s policies on ‘Civic Values’ and ‘Service Learning.’ I am angry at the lack of national support for the teaching of history, which is the ‘common core’ of what we need to know to bring us together in a world now defined as ‘global.’”

Andrew Debbins (BA '12) lives in New York City and works at a digital ad agency as a specialist in mobile advertising technology. “It’s a far cry from studying history, but I’m enjoying being part of an industry driving changes that history students will learn about some day.”

Denise Dumouchel (BA ’84) now has an MS in education and a PhD in Environmental Studies. She is the director of the graduate program in Education for Environment and Community at IslandWood. This is part of a master’s degree in education through the University of Washington. Among her courses, Denise teaches a social studies methods class and facilitates graduate students’ learning about local human history, service learning, and social justice. She states, “Bainbridge Island was the first community where the Japanese Americans were removed and transported to internment camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. There is a beautiful memorial to their story here on the island: Nidoto Nai Yoni (translated as ‘Let It Not Happen Again.’).” She is also raising two daughters who are now eleven and thirteen years old. Denise adopted Claire from Vietnam in 2001 and she is into competitive jump rope, friends, and Instagram. Rita Mei, adopted from China in 2004, is a rock climber and a Minecraft genius of some sort. They also have two dogs, a cat, a bunny, and six hens! She says “I am thankful for my four years at the UR. I learned a great deal and made some lifelong friends.”

Jonathan Epstein (BA ’93) is now covering real estate and development as a business reporter for the Buffalo News. He had previously been covering banking and insurance for ten years, and has been a reporter for twenty years. He is married, with two children, Hailey and Gabriel.

Stuart Ewen (MA ’69) is Distinguished Professor of History, Sociology, and Media Studies at Hunter College, CUNY, and at The CUNY Graduate Center (City University of New York). His books include PR! A Social History of Spin (1996), Captains of Consciousness: Advertising and the Social Roots of the Consumer Culture (1976), All Consuming Images: The Politics of Style in Contemporary Culture (1987; 1999), and Typecasting: On the Arts and Sciences of Human Inequality (with Elizabeth Ewen, 2006).

Peter Farrell (BA ’89) recalls his time in the department and its impact on his career – “Dr. McGrath was my advisor. I was saddened to just recently hear of his passing. I am a high school teacher of English as a Second Language in Anne Arundel County Public Schools in Maryland. I had the honor of studying with great teachers at the UR – Dr. McGrath, Dr. Kaeuper, Dr. Weaver, Dr. Westbrook, Dr. Zagorin, and Dr. Lasch. I learned how to think critically, write well, form an argument and defend it, and change my mind when I heard a better argument. These skills, along with a love
of history, have served me my entire professional life. I owe a great deal to the UR History Department. Know that your work with students matters. Thank you for all that you do for the study of history.”

Bonny Fetterman (BA ’71), after two decades in book publishing at Schocken Books and Random House, has been working as an independent editor for twelve years, working directly with authors on their manuscripts and helping them find publishers. “This spring two books that I’ve edited have been published, both in the field of history – and they are both great!” They are titled: Commodore Levy: A Novel of Early America in the Age of Sail by Irving Litvag (Texas Tech University Press) and Exit Berlin: How One Woman Saved Her Family from Nazi Germany by Charlotte Bonelli (Yale University Press).

Alan Finder (BA ’69) retired in 2012 after 38 years in journalism. He spent the last 28 of those years at The New York Times, where he worked as a reporter and an editor. Alan is now working as a freelance writer and editor. A book he wrote last year, a series of profiles of formerly homeless men who turned their lives around with the help of an innovative nonprofit in New York City, will be published late this year or early next year.

Louise Forsyth (BA ’68) is still teaching history at Poly Prep Country Day School, and this summer is working as a master teacher for the 4th time on an NEH Seminar, on J.S. Bach, for US Teachers held in Germany. Over the past few years, she’s published an instructor’s manual and two editions of a student study guide to McKay’s A History of Western Society for Bedford/St. Martin’s. In May, she gave a lecture on “A Socialist Yiddish Paradise? The Romance of Birobidzhan” and is in the research phrase of what she hopes will be a book on this fascinating topic.

Mollie Foust (BA ’08) completed the Kaufman Entrepreneurial Year (KEY) while at the UR. Last year, she graduated from the London School of Economics with a Masters in Public Administration. Mollie is now working at the World Bank in Washington, DC in the Trade and Competitiveness division, mainly focusing on job creation in South Sudan.

Brad Gundlach (PhD, ’95) was promoted to professor at Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois, having taught there for fourteen years. His book, Process and Providence: The Evolution Question at Princeton, 1845-1929, was published by Eerdmans in November of 2013. It is based on his dissertation with Kit Lasch and Robb Westbrook from many years ago. Brad gave a public lecture based on the book at Hillsdale College this March. He is also in his third year of serving as the book review editor for Fides et Historia, the journal of the Conference on Faith and History.

Susan Blackall Hansen (BA ’66) retired from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012, after more than 30 years teaching political science and women’s studies. She has just published a book, The Politics of Sex: Public Opinion, Parties, and Presidential Elections (Routledge 2014), which examines trends in attitudes on social issues (abortion, gay rights, and equality for women) and their impact on the vote.

Hal Helderman (BA ’67) writes, “I loved my undergraduate experience in the department. There were giants of the field then – Salomone, Hayden White, Haratunian, Marvin Becker, and Cherniofsky.” He teaches medicine at Vanderbilt University where he serves as dean for admissions and now is the medical director of the Vanderbilt Transplant Center. In July, Hal received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Society of Transplantation. On a more personal note, Hal tells us that he and his wife of 48 years, Phyllis (Koppel) Helderman (UR ’67) “are proud of our accomplished family including Alex Helderman (BA ’96) and his wife Carrie Rosen (BA ’97) both UR History Department graduates.”


Christina Kelly (BA ’72) was a double major in Spanish and history. She has an MA in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program of the NYS College at Oneonta. Christina recently retired
after a few years as a museum curator and twenty years as a Spanish teacher. She has been the town historian in Schaghticoke, NY, since 1986. For the past few years she has written a weekly column in the Mechanicville “Express,” telling the history of the town, bit by bit. For the past three years, she has been researching and writing biographies of several hundred men from the town who served in the Civil War, as part of the 150th Anniversary of the war. That volume is on the website of the town: www.townofschaghticoke.org. She continues to do research on all aspects of town history, recovering much that has been forgotten over the years. You can also check out Christina’s blog at: www.schaghticokehistory.wordpress.com.

Jonathan Koehler (PhD ’06) and his wife, Katy, welcomed their first child, Elise Victoria, in January. The family is finishing their current two-year assignment at the United States Embassy in Yaounde, Cameroon. They will be at their next post in Bern, Switzerland through 2017.

Nancy Kusmaul (BA ’69) went on to earn a Master's in Social Work at the University of Michigan in December of 2000. She moved back to Rochester where she was a medical social worker for nearly a decade. In 2009, Nancy went back to school and in 2013 earned a PhD in Social Welfare from the University at Buffalo. She moved out of Rochester for the second time since graduation just this summer, with her husband and three children, ages 8, 5, and 2, to Maryland, where she will be an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the Undergraduate Social Work department.

Philip Lewin (BA ’71) is running for political office as town councilor of Halton Hills, Ontario, Canada. For more information, you can visit his website at: www.votelewin.ca.

Lawrence W. Lipman (BA ’69) has semi-retired from the law firm which still bears his name in Fair Lawn, New Jersey where he has practiced law for more than forty years. He also has semi-retired from his family's business, Garnerville Holding Co., Inc., a large industrial park in Rockland County, New York, where he was an officer and director for over 30 years. Larry continues as a consultant to both businesses. He and his wife of 44 years, Ronnee (UR ‘70) have lived in Glen Rock, New Jersey for nearly 40 years and enjoy travel, golf, and visiting their two married grown children, Matt and Andi, and their three grandchildren, Bryce, Braden, and Sydney.

Anne C. Loveland (BA ’60), T. H. Williams Professor Emerita, Louisiana State University, is the author of a new book published in 2014 by the University of Tennessee Press titled *Change and Conflict in the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps since 1945*. Covering the period 1945 through 2012, Loveland discusses the challenges and crises U.S. Army chaplains faced during a time of great turbulence. Sweeping changes in the religious culture of America and its armed forces, the nature of combat, and the duties of military chaplains forced army chaplains to deal with a variety of issues: the morality of the Vietnam war; the constitutional right of free exercise of religion (their own and that of soldiers); advising battlefield commanders on morality and morale; teaching “moral leadership” and “spiritual fitness” to soldiers; and dealing with the tension between the demands of the military institution and the dictates of the chaplain’s religious commitment. While wrestling with these matters chaplains themselves sought to become an integral, well respected component of the army organization and its mission. Loveland points out that her book contrasts with traditional, more idealized treatments of American military chaplains, in revealing them, in some instances, as fallible, conflicted, even self-aggrandizing individuals. The book also sets the work of the army chaplaincy in the larger context of the civilian “culture wars” of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Melinda Lyons (BA ’77) is currently working for SIL International as the registrar for all the world’s languages under ISO 639-3. The standard will be revised in the coming months. If you would like to explore the codes for languages, you can see our website at www.sil.org/iso639-3.

Matthew S. Muehlbauer (BA ’89) is celebrating his 25th reunion later this year (and still remembers taking classes with Professor Weaver). “Although it took me some time, I eventually returned to graduate school to pursue my doctorate in history. I graduated in 2008 from Temple University, where my fields were military history, colonial America, and modern Europe. In December 2013, Routledge published my textbook entitled *Ways of War: American Military History from the Colonial Era to the Twenty-First Century* (co-authored with my friend David Ulbrich). Perhaps now it’s time to finish revising my dissertation for publication…” *Ways of War* covers North American conflicts since the 17th century and international wars undertaken by the US since 1783. It features extensive illustrations, biographical information, and first person accounts. For more information go to:
Craig Nakashian (PhD ’10), at the 49th Annual International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo (along with Dan Franke), organized two panels in honor of Richard W. Kaeuper (which were officially sponsored by the UR Dept. of History). They were entitled “Studies in Honor of Richard W. Kaeuper I: Chivalry and Violence” and “Studies in Honor of Richard W. Kaeuper II: Society and Public Order”. They were both very well attended, and featured talks (among others) by students of Dick including Craig Taylor (University of York), Peter Sposato, Sebastian Rider-Bezzerra, Paul Dingman, Chris Guyol, and Sam Claussen. Craig moderated the Chivalry panel, and Dan Franke moderated the Public Order panel. These papers (and the two by David Crouch and Kelly deVries) are shorter versions of articles (along with a bunch of others) that will appear in a volume of articles in honor of Dick, edited by Craig and Dan Franke. It is currently under contract by Brill and will hopefully appear in 2015. On a personal research note, he tells us that he has an article that just appeared in volume 12 of the Journal of Medieval Military History entitled “The Political and Military Agency of Ecclesiastical Leaders in Anglo-Norman England: 1066-1154.” He was also invited to join an international research group entitled Clerics and War in Medieval Europe: a new perspective, hosted by the Institute of History and International Relations, Kazimierz Wielki University. Craig also participated in a roundtable (moderated by Sam Claussen) on “Manifestations of Honor in the Middle Ages” at the 2nd Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum at Saint Louis University. He was also elected to the board of directors of the Texarkana Museum Systems in 2014, which he says has been a lot of fun.

Leslie Neustadt (BA ’71) just published a book of poetry, Bearing Fruit. It is a poetic memoir which can be ordered from her website, leslieneustadt.com. She is using the entire purchase price of the book to raise funds for various charities, including those who assist cancer patients, do research, address child abuse, and provide expressive arts therapy. Leslie is willing to donate the entire proceeds of any book purchased by a UR alumnus (if they identify themselves as such on her website) to the Hematology/Oncology Department at Strong Memorial Hospital to be used for blood cancer research. She has an incurable form of blood cancer which has changed the course of her life and she only started to write poetry after becoming ill. Before that, she practiced law. Her last position was as an assistant attorney general of the state of New York. She says, “I am fortunate that I have been able to explore parts of myself that were totally undeveloped before I took early retirement.”

Scott Reisinger (BA ’80, MA ’87) recently moved to Manhattan to begin his tenure as head of Trevor Day School after fifteen years as headmaster of Bancroft School in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Jeffrey S. Reznick (BA ’92) received the 2013 Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS) best article award for “Remains of War: Walt Whitman, Civil War Soldiers, and the Legacy of Medical Collections,” which he co-authored with Lenore Barbian, PhD, of Edinboro University and Paul Sledzik, former curator of Anatomical Collections at the National Museum of Health and Medicine. The article appeared in the January 2012 issue of Museum History Journal. “Remains of War” reveals the discovery of the mortal remains of four American Civil War soldiers among the thousands preserved in the anatomical collections of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, which traces its origins to 1862 and the creation of the U.S. Army Medical Museum. These men were among hundreds cared for by author Walt Whitman during his time as a volunteer in the Civil War-era hospitals of Washington, DC. Uniting the remains of these four men with Whitman’s words that describe his experiences, “Remains of War” yields a new interpretation of medical collections that bears witness to deeply individual histories during a time of unprecedented conflict in American history.

David Rich (BA ’78), in the course of his work on genocide, war crimes, and accountability issues at the U.S. Department of Justice, met Philippe Sands, a barrister who teaches law at UC-London and works at the International Criminal Court in The Hague (and elsewhere). David tells us, “We discovered a shared interest in the family of Otto von Wächter. Wächter served as the German civilian governor of Galicia district in Nazi-occupied Poland from 1942 to 1944. With a few wartime documents, I showed Sands an unexpected side of his subject, which led to an interesting feature story in the Financial Times (London) entitled “My father, the good Nazi,” about family, memory, and the conflict between what we want to believe and what we know to be true.” The story is here:
http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/7d6214f2-b2be-11e2-8540-00144fcaabdc0.html#axzz. He also completed submissions for two Festschriften honoring Russianists at his doctoral institution (Georgetown University). The titles are: “Armed Ukrainians in L’viv: Ukrainian Militia, Ukrainian Police 1941 to 1942” (Canadian-American Slavic Studies, forthcoming) and “The Nazis Discover their Soviets: Eastern Auxiliary Guards at Auschwitz-Birkenau in Spring 1943” (Russian History, forthcoming). In December, he presented in Moscow research on Soviet collaborators, “A ‘Double Victimization’? Postwar Soviet POWs’ Accounts of Incarceration and Collaboration,” (and is under consideration for publication).

Paul C. Rosier (PhD ’98) published an article entitled “Modern America Desperately Needs to Listen: The Emerging Indian in an Age of Environmental Crisis,” in The Journal of American History 100 (Winter 2013): 711-735. He also co-authored, with Dr. Frank Galgano of the Villanova Department of Geography and the Environment, a book chapter entitled “Multidisciplinary Approaches to Sustainability Education,” which appeared in Teaching Sustainability: Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences, Boring and Forbes, eds. (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2014): 116-128. The chapter was based on their experience co-teaching a seminar in sustainability studies.

Mike Schneider (BA ’59) reports on a second career in academe after 36 years with the USIA and Department of State in Foreign Service and Washington civil service assignments. Since 1998, he has taught at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, directing the Maxwell-Syracuse DC International Relations Program until 2009. Recently, he taught a course on statecraft and soft power. He directed an annual spring public diplomacy capstone program and taught courses on diplomacy. Mike earned an MA in American history at Columbia in 1960 and a PhD in international studies at American University in 1978. He credits mentors Richard C. (Jake) Wade, Harry Benda, and Charles Vevier, and political scientist Richard Fenno with demands for both exactitude and broader vision, and the UR seminar program for the rich learning experience. Teaching helped him fulfill a Woodrow Wilson fellowship to Columbia. In his view, the study of history remains central to careers in public policy, and for anyone interested, there are numerous opportunities for internships in history throughout the US Government, corporate world, and non-profit sector. Interested individuals may contact him at mischnei@maxwell.syr.edu.

Prabhjot Singh (BA, BS ’03) has been very busy keeping up with his son who is almost two years old. The junior year course he took with Ted Brown on the History of Medicine continues to shape his social activism and professional work in New York City and abroad. Prabhjot recently became a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and continues to lead the One Million Community Health Worker Campaign, which has now launched in 14 countries.


Sue Spector (BA ’62) is now living in Boca Raton, Florida, and, after retiring from the teaching profession (high school social studies for 40 years) in 2004, she has resumed her career as a substitute teacher in the local private and public high schools. Sue tells us “I am often asked, especially by the private schools, to take over a history class, which, of course, I love. I use the wonderful information gleaned from Dr. Arthur May and Dr. Richard Wade, and from subsequent years of teaching American history and American government...and I am eternally grateful to have had such inspiring professors who laid such a strong foundation. I remember taking ALL their classes. I remember the words...THE END OF MAY IS NEAR...or something of that nature, and I was so proud to learn that Dr. Wade was part of the Kennedy advisory group. I am proud to be a University of Rochester graduate.”

Karl Stratos (minor ’11) just finished his third year in the PhD program in computer science at Columbia University, specializing in natural language processing and machine learning. He is currently doing a summer internship at Google Research NY.

John Whiting (minor ’12) is in his third and final year of law school at Michigan State University College of Law. He graduated from the UR in 2012 with a major in political science and a minor in history. John was also on the football team while at Rochester. After his final year of law school, he plans to return to his hometown of LeRoy, New York, to practice law.

David Wisner (PhD ’93), currently executive director of the Michael and Kitty Dukakis Center for Public
and Humanitarian Service at the American College of Thessaloniki, published a Kindle e-book in February 2014 entitled “Still at Aulis: Essays on Crisis and Revolution in Greece and the Eurozone” (http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00I4ESZ5Q). He also organized a Festival of Civic and Urban Culture in Thessaloniki in the spring and early summer of 2014 to commemorate the fifteen years of public service initiatives at the Dukakis Center.

Jin-Soo Yeap (BA ’78) currently lives in a Maryland suburb, occupied as an expatriate house-husband except during summer when he is back in his home country, Malaysia. He “is grateful for the still-continuing supply of history, but is increasingly alarmed, along with his 18-year-old son, at our self-made threats to species-survival and wonders how come the faculty at the time he was at the UR were not more prescient in warning us.”

Jerome Zukosky (BA ’52, MA ’57) is living at what is called a “continuing care community” just outside Washington, DC – the folks there don’t like hearing him call it an old-age home. The place is called Collington following what he believes is a good idea, “that one walks in and lives independently in a cottage or apartment, then moves to the assisted living section of the project when necessary and then to the nursing home section. And then out, feet first.” Jerome is still grateful for the splendid education he received at Rochester and to faculty (long since gone) whose work has left him with a much richer life. He had started out on the path to a PhD and the academic profession of history but after a few twists and turns ended up a journalist on the staff of newspapers and a magazine in Manhattan for many years. He attributes a good deal of the success he enjoyed there to his education in history. While at the UR, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and won the history prize at graduation.

In Memoriam

Erwin L. Chroovsky (1934-2013)

Erwin, age 79, of Englewood, New Jersey, formerly of New York City, passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2013. A history major from the Class of ’55, he went on to Harvard Law School (’58) and practiced for many years in New York City. He was the author of The Guide to New York Law Firms (St. Martin’s Press, 1991) and Competent Counsel: The Business Guide to Hiring Lawyers and Monitoring Their Work (Wiley, 1992). Erwin, the beloved husband of his wife, Edith (nee Mayer) was a devoted father to his children, Karen and Scott Stone, Kim and Joshua Assees, Jillian and Michael Franklin, and Debra and Isaac Borenstein. Erwin also cherished his grandchildren, Sam and Zachary Stone, and Hannah Vester.

Celia C. Lamb (1970-2013)

Celia C. Lamb, a reporter for Argus Media in Washington, D.C., and daughter of Barbara Ireland, former Buffalo News editorial page editor, died Monday in her home in Kensington, Md., of breast cancer. She was 43.

Born in Cortland, Ms. Lamb grew up in West Seneca and Amherst, attended the Calasanctius School and was a 1987 graduate of Amherst High School. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Rochester with a bachelor’s degree in history.

A career journalist, she was a writer in California for the Sacramento Bee and Sacramento Business Journal before joining Argus, a business newsletter publisher with offices in seven countries, as a specialist in environment and energy. She enjoyed many outdoor activities, including hiking and kayaking, and had a deep interest in environmental issues.

Ms. Lamb also is survived by her father, Allyn Lamb; husband, Robert Celaschi; a grandmother, Mae Hennig; brother, Jeffrey Lamb; and two stepsisters, Olivia Ireland and Thalia Seligson.

The Buffalo News, New York
November 30, 2013

William H. Pease (1924-2013)

William H. Pease, son of Arline G. Brooks Pease and Clarence A. G. Pease, was born Aug. 31, 1924, in Winchendon, Massachusetts. For the last 17 years he had lived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he died June 20, 2013. But his love of coastal Maine and the chamber music he heard at Kneisel Hall every summer never waned.

Despite having moved with his parents and two older sisters to Quakertown, Pennsylvania, when he was five, he remained a fiercely committed Yankee, his pride of place reinforced by three years at the Phillips Exeter Academy. Drafted as soon as he graduated in 1943, he was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program which allowed him to complete the courses at City College and New York University that admitted him to
Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. Nonetheless, he chose to pursue a career in the humanities, completing a bachelor's degree at Williams College and a Master of Arts degree in American history at the University of Wisconsin before he taught for three years at Mount Hermon School. After marrying and deciding to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in history at the UR, he taught for nine years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, two at the University of Calgary, and twenty-two at the University of Maine. His books, all researched and written with Jane Hanna Pease, took him to libraries and archives across the United States and Canada. They were, however, mostly written in their summer cabin on Penobscot Bay’s Cape Rosier. Those from 1955-1975 attested to his interest in pre-Civil War free people of color – Black Utopia: Negro Communal Experiments in North America and They Who Would Be Free: Blacks Search for Freedom 1830-1861 – and abolitionism – The Antislavery Argument and Bound with Them in Chains. Thereafter his attention shifted to 19th-century Charleston, South Carolina, its economy and politics – The Web of Progress: Private Values and Public Styles in Boston and Charleston, 1828-1843 and James Louis Petigru: Southern Conservative, Southern Dissenter – and the experience of its women – Ladies, Women, and Wenches: Choice and Constraint in Antebellum Charleston and Boston and A Family of Women: The Carolina Petigrus in Peace and War.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years; sister, Barbara Pease Stuart; nephews, Robert Carels and Peter Carels; and grandnephew, William Noble.

THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS, MAINE
JUNE 25, 2013

FRANCIS BRIGGS TENNY (1920-2014)

Francis Briggs Tenny, Class of 1942, died April 5 at RiverWoods in Exeter, New Hampshire. At 93, (1920-2014) Frank had lived a long and satisfying life. He died this year at RiverWoods CCRC, Exeter, New Hampshire of complications of dementia.

Frank (Francis B.) Tenny was probably destined for a life involved with Asia. Born in Rochester, New York, December 22, 1920, he was whisked off by his parents to Yokohama, Japan at the age of 3 months. Later on he enjoyed his Japanese kindergarten, but he was always annoyed when his Japanese playmates slipped on their wooden geta and rushed out the door ahead of him while he had to wait to get his shoes tied.

Frank says, "I spent my early childhood in Japan where my father was founder and first president of Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama. I attended the University of Rochester, but the Pearl Harbor attack took place the year I graduated and at age 21 I was drafted. Because of my knowledge of Japanese I spent World War II in code breaking activities in the US and New Delhi. At the end of the war, I was in China investigating Japanese code breaking efforts there. I got an MA in Chinese at Harvard, and after a few years in a newspaper career, I joined the US Information Agency, was later absorbed into the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Department of State, and had postings in Surabaya, Indonesia, Bangkok, and Tokyo. When Henry Kissinger reopened cultural exchanges with China, I accompanied the Philadelphia Orchestra on their China tour during the Cultural Revolution. Later I directed the Japan-US Friendship Commission, established by Senator Javits, which promoted cultural exchange between Japan and America.” If you are interested to learn more about his trip to China with the Orchestra, a short memoir is available upon request by contacting the History Department at history.department@rochester.edu.

He received the following awards: Knowlton Award, 2002 for military intelligence in WWII; Association for Asian Studies Distinguished Service Award, 1989; Order of the Rising Sun, Third class, from the Emperor and the Government of Japan, 1986.

Frank retired to Barton, Vermont, in 1983 where he was a founder of the Vermont-Japan Society, farmed in the morning and translated early 20th century Japanese novels in the afternoon. You could say that while he loved history and majored in it (and French) at the UR, he also made history.

He is survived by his spouse, Robin, daughters, Carol and Laura, and granddaughters, Ruth and Audrey. He was predeceased by his son Charles.

NANCY NARAMORE (“ROBIN”) TENNY
CLASS OF 1948, SPOUSE OF FRANCIS (FRANK) BRIGGS TENNY
THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS
FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

Mr. Craig W. Abbey (BA ‘94, MS ‘99)
Mr. Mark A Beckstrom (MA ’77)
Mr. Ayman F. Bekdash (BA’07, BS ’07)
Dr. Barry H. Bergen (BA ’78)
Mr. Sebastian Rider-Bezerra (BA’12)
Mrs. Patricia Bing (BA’49)
Mr. Paul S. Brady (BA’53)
Ms. Julie C. Broadbent (BA’09)
Mr. Scott H. Camillo (BA ’03, MAT ’06)
Mr. Thomas A. Champ (MA ’72)
Dr. Barry G. Cohen (BA ’66)
Mr. Paul J. Colatrella (BA ’90)
Dr. Cynthia A. Crosby (BA ’60)
Mr. Joseph F. Cunningham (MA ’67) and Mrs. Andrea Cunningham
Ms. Mary E. Curtin (BA ’83)
Ms. Elizabeth A. Dalton (BA ’87)
Mr. David G. Dickover (BA ’68)
Mr. Neil K. Evans (BA ’58) and Mrs. Mariar Evans
Mr. Matthew R Farnside (BA ’03)
Ms. Colleen E. Filipek (BA ’14)
Ms. Rosanna Gabriele (BA ’01)
Dr. Margery A. Ganz (BA ’69)
Dr. Richard C. Gardner (BA ’58)
Ms. Teresa A. Gillen (BA ’77)
Mr. Michael P. Gleason (BA ’69)
Dr. Steven H. Hahn (BA ’73)
Mr. Frank A. Interlichia (P ’12, ’14) and Mrs. Linda E. Interlichia (P ’12, ’14)
Irwin Belk Educational Foundation
Mrs. Dama Jung (BA ’54, EDM ’57)
Ms. Beth L. Kava (BA ’67)
Dr. David W. King (BA ’63, MA ’65)
Dr. Robert Kirkwood (PhD ’56)
Dr. Judith L. Landau and Mrs. Pamela R. L. Lessing (BA ’72)
Mr. Lawrence W. Lipman (BA ’69)
Rev. C. Lloyd Lipscomb (BA ’58)
Mr. Seth A. Lowry (BA ’02)
Mr. David W. Malone (BA ’63)
Mr. Jerald L. Marsh (BA ’63)
Mr. Patrick R. McMenamin (BA ’01)
Mr. John J. McFadden (MA ’68) and Ms. Rhoda L. McFadden (MA ’68)
Dr. Martin K. Melman (BA ’69)
Mr. Arthur R. Miller (BA ’56)

Mr. Mirlin D. I. Moorefield (BA ’14)
Dr. Craig M. Nakashian (PhD ’10)
Dr. Bruce F. Pauley (PhD ’67)
Mrs. Nancy K. Rice (BA ’58)
Mr. L. Gerald Rigby (BA ’67)
Mr. William G. Robinson (BA ’72)
Mr. Martin E. Schloss (BA ’68, P ’05) and Dr. Madelyn D. Pullman Schloss (BA ’68, P ’05)
Ms. Jordan D. Shapiro (BA ’14)
Mr. Saurav Sharma (BA ’14, BS ’14)
Mr. Stephen R. Silverstein (BA ’76, P) and Mrs. Susan H. Silverstein (BA ’78, P)
Mr. Jared Smith (BS ’14)
Dr. Richard S. Sorrell (BA ’66, MA ’68)
Mr. Joshua Stampfler and Ms. Kayleigh R. Nutting Stampfler (BA ’08)
Mr. David A. Stein (BA ’72)
Mr. David M. Sterling (MA ’82, PhD ’94)
Mr. Benjamin L. Tejblum (BA ’06)
Mrs. Susan M. Tuten (BA ’73)
Mr. Robert J. Vanderlan (PhD ’04)
Dr. James H. Warram (RES ’63) and Mrs. Susan Warram (MA ’63)
Mr. Clinton D. Young (BA ’98)
Mr. Mark S. Zaid (BA ’89)
Ms. Simone A. Zehren (BA ’14)

2014 COMMENCEMENT

PHDS AWARDED

Loren Broc
“Religion and Insanity in America from Colonial Times to 1900”

Michael Brown
“Experts, Eggheads, and Elites: Debating the Role of Intellectuals in American Political Culture, 1952-2008”

Daniel Franke

Christopher Guyol
“English Monasticism and Royal Governance in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries”

Peter Sposato
“That the Practice of Arms is the most excellent’: Chivalry, Honor, and Violence in Late Medieval Florence”

Michael Steinberg
“The Secret History of Reason, or, The Birth of Modernity Out of the Spirit of Reaction”

Kira Thurman
“A History of Black Musicians in Germany and Austria, 1870-1961: Race, Performance, and Reception”
**MAs AWARDED**
Elisabeth Beiser
Graeme Pente
Lyle Rubin
Daniel Franke
Peter Sposato

**BAs AWARDED**
MAJORS:
Megan Anthony
John Bianco
Colleen Blanton
   Distinction
Alexandra Cade
   Cum Laude
Pablo Chapa-Blanco
   Highest Distinction
Cynthia Coates
Jennifer Costigan
   Steven Deniro
   Summa Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Sanjay Dharawat
Colleen Filipk
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Isabella Geltman
Daniel Gorman Jr.
   Magna Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Casey Gould
   Cum Laude, Distinction
Peter Gronke
   Eric Hand
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
J. Blake Hepburn
   William Hunt
   Cum Laude, Distinction
Alexandar Huntley-Romanow
   Highest Distinction
Michelle Kammery
   Distinction
Leigh Koszarsky
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Carolyn Magri
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Mirlin Moorefield
   Adam Ondo
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Shamen Radcliffe
   Aaron Rudnick
   Rebecca Schaffer
   Jordan Shapiro
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Phillip Shattan
   Highest Distinction
Matthew Szeto

**BAs AWARDED**
MAJORS:
Megan Anthony
John Bianco
Colleen Blanton
   Distinction
Alexandra Cade
   Cum Laude
Pablo Chapa-Blanco
   Highest Distinction
Cynthia Coates
Jennifer Costigan
   Steven Deniro
   Summa Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Sanjay Dharawat
Colleen Filipk
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Isabella Geltman
Daniel Gorman Jr.
   Magna Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Casey Gould
   Cum Laude, Distinction
Peter Gronke
   Eric Hand
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
J. Blake Hepburn
   William Hunt
   Cum Laude, Distinction
Alexandar Huntley-Romanow
   Highest Distinction
Michelle Kammery
   Distinction
Leigh Koszarsky
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Carolyn Magri
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Mirlin Moorefield
   Adam Ondo
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Shamen Radcliffe
   Aaron Rudnick
   Rebecca Schaffer
   Jordan Shapiro
   Cum Laude, Highest Distinction
Phillip Shattan
   Highest Distinction
Matthew Szeto

**GRADUATE PRIZES AND AWARDS**

**Meyers Graduate Teaching Prize**
To the graduate student who has
   Demonstrated excellence in teaching.
Richard Jurnack

**Egon Berlin Prize**
For the support of research in European history.
Kyle Robinson

**Harkins Prize**
In Memory of William F. Harkins, Jr. to a graduate student
   who has written the best seminar paper.
Kyle Robinson

**VanDeusen Award**
To support a fourth year graduate student’s dissertation research
   in the field of American 19th-century history.
Michael Read
Willson Coates Book Prize
To the graduate student most fully demonstrating historical imagination and the capacity for research in British history, European intellectual history, or philosophy of history.
Samuel Claussen

Sanford Elwitt Memorial Prize
To a graduate student in European history for research and travel, in memory of Professor Sanford Elwitt.
Kyle Robinson

Donald Marks “Dexter Perkins Prize”
This prize is to perpetuate the name of Dexter Perkins and is to encourage and assist a worthy student in history in his/her cultural and intellectual development.
John Portlock
Serenity Sutherland

David B. Parker Memorial Prize
To the graduate student in the PhD program who best exemplifies David B. Parker’s qualities of historical imagination and dedication to learning.
Adam Stauffer

Lina and A. William Salomone Prize
To the graduate student in the PhD program who has done outstanding work in European cultural and intellectual history.
Chris Guyol

Dorothy Rosenberg-Passer Award
To support a student pursuing a graduate degree.
Bret Waples

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS, PRIZES, AND AWARDS

HONORS IN HISTORY

Pablo Chapa-Blanco
“Development of the Red Army’s Infantry Tactics during World War II”

Leigh Koszarsky
“Women in the Wickelest City on Earth: Demographics and Gender in Port Royal”

Adam Ondo
“Tantalite: Past, Present, and Future”

Jordan Shapiro
“The Life and Times of Frances Seward: Mother, Wife, Socialite, and Activist”

Take Five Scholars—Academic Enrichment Program
Carolyn Magri

N.B. Ellison Prize
To the member of the senior class concentrating in history who has done the best work in the department.
Daniel Gorman Jr.

Willson Coates Senior Honors Essay Prize in History
To the senior student who has written the best senior essay in the department this year.
Pablo Chapa-Blanco

History Seminar Prize
To the student who has written the best History Seminar paper.
Tristan Sharp

Hugh MacKenzie Memorial Prizes
To the freshman woman who has shown the highest achievement and interest in The West and the World to 1500.
Isabel Drukker
To the freshman woman who has shown the highest achievement and interest in The West and the World since 1492.
Marisa Caiola

Webb Prize
To the undergraduate student who has done the best work in a course dealing with the Black experience in America.
Megan Andrea Yealy

Herbert Lawrence Sadinsky Memorial Prize
To the best undergraduate history paper on an aspect of World War II.
Pablo-Chapa Blanco

Christopher Lasch Fellows in American History
Colleen E. Filipek
Daniel Gorman Jr.
Adam Ondo
Phillip Isaac Shattan

Phi Beta Kappa—Academic Honors Society
Steven DeNiro
Daniel Gorman Jr.

Phi Alpha Theta—History Honors Society
Pablo Chapa-Blanco
Daniel Gorman Jr.
Michelle Kamery
Carolyn Magri
Mirlin Douglas Moorefield
Rebecca Schaffer
Phillip Shattan
We are delighted to present this publication of the History Department at the University of Rochester as a means by which to communicate current news and future directions to colleagues, alumni, and friends. We look forward to hearing from all of you. We’ll especially appreciate any suggestions or submissions for future issues of the newsletter. Let us know how you’re doing. We’ll also be happy to answer questions from prospective students.