



Spring 2008

Issue 1

Department of History Undergraduate Newsletter

Message from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

The past year has been witness to a number of important and exciting changes in the Department of History's undergraduate curriculum. Professor Hurt initiated an internal review of all elements of the major in the 2006-07 academic year. After gathering departmental input on a variety of issues of concern and participating in a series of lengthy discussions at monthly faculty meetings in the spring term, the department agreed to:

- A) increase the number of history majors and double majors to 500 in five years (there are currently 324),
- B) require all new majors and double majors to take a research seminar History 395 no later than their junior year,
- C) require all new majors and double majors to take at least one other writing intensive course (beyond History 395) which will be designated with a WI on the schedule of classes,
- D) discontinue the four broad areas of specialization and create a single area of

concentration that draws on the diverse faculty within the department, resonates with our undergraduate students, and reaches out and connects to departments and programs within the College of Liberal Arts and the University.

I hasten to add that those already majoring or double majoring in history are grandfathered in under the previous requirements for the major. Also anyone who has begun to take the necessary course work in an area of specialization will be able to finish and receive the certification.

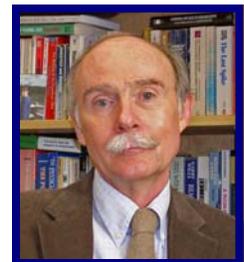
The overall purpose of these changes to the curriculum are two-fold. Separately and together, these new initiatives will ensure that history majors will acquire the necessary skills to do primary-source research, read a text critically, write clearly, and communicate effectively in our classes and other courses throughout the university. Secondly, these skills—critical thinking and effective communication—prepare history majors for careers in a wide variety of fields and occupa-

tional endeavors.

I would also like to note that the Department Honors Program was implemented this year under the astute and able leadership of Professors May, Walton, and Zook.

Study abroad initiatives continue to multiply. We have established connections with Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, France, and Beijing University in Beijing, China. My colleague, Michael Ryan, is working to set up a similar faculty/student exchange with Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey.

Michael A. Morrison
Director of Undergraduate Studies



Inside this issue:

Congratulations to Members of the Faculty	1
New Jewish Studies Assistant Professor of History	2
Welcome Visiting Scholar	2
2008 Spring Awards Banquet	3
New HIST395/495 Course Offerings for Fall 2008	3
Student Organizations	4

Congratulations to Members of the Faculty

The Department of History is nationally recognized for the quality of its faculty. The faculty strives to bring new ideas and thoughts to their research and teaching. For the 2008 spring semester, four faculty have received fellowships and invitations which will allow them to

Continue their studies and research.

Associate Professor Sally Hastings was selected for a Fulbright Fellowship to Japan.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Foray has been selected to participate in the National His-

tory Center's Seminar on Decolonization in Washington D.C. In the summer 2008, the month-long seminar will enable her to conduct research at the Library of Congress and National Archives, as well as participate in the discussions of the seminar.

“A House Reunited: How America Reconciled after the Civil War.”

Congratulations to Members of the Faculty (cont.)

Assistant Professor Juan Wang has received a post-doctoral fellowship from Academia Sinica, the most prestigious academic institution in the Republic of China. She will be in Taiwan for a year beginning in January 2008. In addition to her research, she will still direct HIST 241 “Asia in the Modern World study abroad course to the People’s Republic in May.

Assistant Professor Caroline Janney has been selected for the Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellow. She will spend three

months at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. She will be conducting research for her second book, tentatively titled *A House Reunited: How America Reconciled after the Civil War*. This book will help explain how a nation engaged in a war that claimed more than 600,000 lives reunited and reconciled – or in many cases did not – between 1865 and 1920. She is particularly interested in the role that race, gender, and combat experience played in shaping how Ameri-

cans thought about the war and its legacy. She will be examining evidence such as sermons delivered after Abraham Lincoln’s assassination (many of which called for vengeance to former Confederates) as well as prisoner of war accounts, regimental histories, newspaper accounts, and other ephemera.

New Jewish Studies Assistant Professor of History



Rebekah Klein-Pejšová

Please welcome, Rebekah Klein-Pejšová—The Department of History’s first Jewish Studies Assistant Professor of History.

Rebekah Klein-Pejšová has accepted the Department of History’s newly established position “Jewish studies Assistant Professor of History”. Professor Klein-Pejšová received her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in May 2007. Her research interests

include: nation and state-building, practices and implications of identification and classification, state-society relations, citizenship, refugees, religion and the state, modern Jewish history, and modern east central European history (especially the region of today’s Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic).

Professor Klein-Pejšová will begin her duties in August 2008. During the fall semester, she will be on research leave and will begin teaching duties in January 2009. The Department of History’s faculty, students and community at-large look forward to the contributions of Professor Klein-Pejšová in the area of Jewish history.

Welcome New Visiting Scholar



Beijing Foreign Studies University

The first week of February, the Department of History welcomed Professor Sun ‘Kevin’ Bo as a visiting research scholar. Arriving from China, he immediately began research on his area of specialty “British History”. Professor Sun is affiliated with China’s prestigious Beijing Foreign Studies University in Beijing China. The Beijing For-

eign Studies University, also popularly known as Bei Wai, is known for its excellent training in foreign language learning and teaching. Large numbers of its graduates work in government departments of foreign relations or related areas. Professor Sun will be conducting his research at Purdue until February 2009.

2008 Spring Awards Banquet

The Department of History's 2008 Awards recipients validate biologist and social philosopher—Herbert Spencer's (1820-1903) - comment: "Education has for its object the formation of character." The award recipients have obtained more than knowledge from their education. In their own rights, they have developed into leaders, educators and good citizens.

You are invited to honor these recipients at the Thursday April 10th, 2008 Spring Awards Banquet.

The honors will begin with a reception at 6:00pm with the banquet following at 6:30pm in the Purdue Memorial Union's South Ballroom. Please make your reservations by going to the department's web page: www.cla.purdue.edu/history. On the right side of the home page under "News & Events" - "Upcoming Events" - "Annual Spring Awards Banquet" click on the reservation forms. Reservation forms are due to Rebecca Gwin or Nicky Elmore by Tuesday April 1, 2008.



Award Recipients and Presenters from the 2007 Spring Awards Banquet.

New History 395/495 Course Offerings for Fall 2008

The Department of History is pleased to offer three stimulating sections of the newly established History 395 in the fall. These seminars are open to all History majors, **they are also cross listed as History 495 for this term**, and each fills a distribution requirement for the major either as History 395 or History 495.

History 395C/History 495C: Comparative Indian Policies: Spanish and Anglo America

Professor Charles R. Cutter
MWF 9:30-10:20

Spain, England, and the United States devised a variety of strategies and techniques to deal with the myriad of Native American groups with which they had contact and sought to dominate. What were the theoretical bases and aims of the policies? How were they implemented? What were the principal points of convergence or divergence? What impact did they have on native societies? These questions, and others, constitute the point of departure for this undergraduate

research seminar. Focusing on the Indian policies instituted in Spanish and Anglo-America from the sixteenth to the end of the nineteenth centuries, this seminar is designed to introduce students to the craft of history and to demystify the process of carrying out historical research.

History 395R/History 495R: Nineteenth Century Native America

Professor Dawn Marsh
T/Th 3:00-4:15

This course will explore the diverse history of indigenous peoples in the territory and state of Indiana from the 1790s through the antebellum era. The emphasis of the course will be an examination of their history and culture through a period of rapid change that resulted in their dispossession of lands and subsequent removals. Throughout the course students will explore the changing gender roles within indigenous communities and the adaptive strategies that led to the cultural, political and economic

survival and resilience of Indiana's indigenous peoples.

History 395S/History 495S: The Cold War in Space

Professor Michael Smith
T/Th 12:00-1:15

This seminar offers a study of American and Russian competition in outer space from Sputnik to the International Space Station. The class format is centered on readings and discussions, but will include some library research and short lectures. Weekly assignments will alternate between short essays (seven in all) and student presentations (one per student). Our topics of interest include the early pioneers, the Nazi V-2 program, competing missile designs of the 1950s, the "races" to space and to the moon, Apollo, space disasters and science fiction, the militarization of space through missiles and satellites, astrobiology, and rival space shuttles and stations.



Department of History
Purdue University
University Hall
672 Oval Drive

Phone: 765-494-4122
Fax: 765-496-1755
E-mail: history@purdue.edu

<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/history/>

Student Organizations

Each school year Phi Alpha Theta holds a book sale. Books are donated by many different sources including faculty and students, and are not limited to historical topics. This year, PAT will hold the book sale on Tuesday April 2, 2008 and Wednesday April 3, 2008 from 10:00am–5:00pm each day.

In addition to the book sale, PAT will publish *The Purdue Review*, an undergraduate history journal. Please stay aware for updates concerning the selections to the journal and the date of its release. We have been working very hard on it, and we cannot wait to share it with the rest of the Purdue Department of History.

For more information on Phi Alpha Theta and the Purdue History Organization, please visit the Department of History's website and click on the Undergraduate Program, then on Student Organizations.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

PAT (purduepat@gmail.com)

Mark Johnson—President
johns319@purdue.edu