

# Department of History

## Undergraduate Newsletter



Spring 2009

Issue 1

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### Message from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

*"Historical sense and poetic sense should not, in the end, be contradictory. For if poetry is the little myth we make, history is the big myth we live, and in our living, constantly remake."*

Robert Penn Warren

Spring semester has sprung, and faculty and students alike have settled into their courses. (All Hail Banner!) Yet as we all know undergraduate education does not solely occur in the classroom. The Department of History is sponsoring or co-sponsoring a number of events that are intended to broaden the intellectual horizons of students, faculty, and citizens of the Lafayette-West Lafayette community. The most significant of these is the first presentation in the Stover Lecture Series. The series is funded by a generous gift from the estate of the late John Stover, who taught for many years in the department (1947-78) and served for a period as its head. The address, which is open to the public, will be given by Gary W. Gallagher, John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia. His topic is "Emancipation and Reconciliation but not the Union: Hollywood's Treatment of the North's Civil War since *Glory*." Professor Gallagher is a preeminent historian of the Civil War, and he has lectured widely on how art and especially Holly-

wood have shaped what we know about the conflict. His very popular, accessible, and enlightening multimedia presentation will take place on April 1st at 7:00pm in Fowler Hall, Stewart Center.

Early in the semester, Linda Gordon, Florence Kelley Professor of History of New York University, will visit campus on Thursday February 12th as the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Professor. She will give a public lecture that evening at 7:00pm in Krannert Auditorium entitled "Visual Democracy: How Dorothea Lange Used Photography to Promote Equality." Professor Gordon will discuss and analyze how Lange, a preeminent supporter of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, used documentary photography to challenge racial prejudice. Both presentations expand the boundaries of research and move beyond traditional sources to offer new avenues of inquiry (film, art and photography) that offer fresh perspectives and raise new, intriguing questions about well-known historical events. Professors Gallagher and Gordon will also be meeting faculty and College administrators, visiting classrooms and interacting with undergraduates, and discussing with all issues related to their scholarship.

The department is also collaborating with the Indiana Classical and Holocaust Remembrance conferences to co-sponsor presentations during the spring term. You will be notified as

these presentations take shape. More traditional, though no less dynamic and innovative educational initiatives are also being seen in the classroom. New courses as diverse as "The Politics of Popular Culture," "The Civil War in Memory," "Hollywood and the Shaping of American Political Culture," "Magic, Science, and Faith in Pre-modern Europe," "The History of Sexual Regulation in the United States," "New Jewish Identities in the Post-Communist World," "Violence, War and Militarism in Modern Africa," and "Workers and Work in America" will join other newly created courses such as "Twentieth-Century Europe Through Autobiography," "Caribbean History and Culture," "Gandhi: Myth, Reality, and Perspective," and the "Environmental History of the United States" to offer undergraduate majors and minors a diverse and engaging selection of offerings that, like the spring's public lectures, will expand their scholarly and intellectual horizons.

You have seen me say or write this before, but it's my story and I am standing by it: department-sponsored and co-sponsored public events, course innovation and creation, and a robust and growing departmental honors program

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## Message from the Undergraduate Director (Continued from Page 1)

separately and together make a prima facie case for a department that is engaged with its students, the College, the University, and Greater Lafayette.

These initiatives have been made possible by the support of President Córdoba, Provost Woodson, Dean Contreni, department head R. Douglas Hurt, and my colleagues, but our efforts would not have meant anything without your interest in, commitment to, and your

parents' support of your choice of history as a major. It is indeed a great time to be a student at Purdue University in the College of Liberal Arts—and the future looks as promising as the present is exciting.

**Professor Michael A. Morrison**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**



Mark Johnson presenting his thesis at last year's Honors Program Student Presentations.

## Second Annual Honors Program Student Presentations

The second annual Department of History's Honors Program Student Presentations will take place April 21st from 5:30-9:30pm in BRNG 1268. Many of our Honors students will be presenting at the Forum, on such interesting topics as "Celebrated to Scorned: The Construction of Belle Boyd in Public Memory," "The Antebellum Journal of Amos and Ada Casterline," and "Whenever Our Fortunes Fall: Medical Care of Wounded Soldiers during the

Austro-Prussian War".

Throughout the spring semester, the Honors Program students will be working one on one with the department faculty who are expert in the area of the students interest. This project develops the students research, analytical and presentation skills.

Last semester, two of our undergraduate students were nominated to have their thesis papers published in the *Colum-*

*bia Undergraduate Journal of History*. Professor Zook nominated Iyad Shihadeh's thesis titled: "They Who Also Serve: The Egyptian Labor Corp in World War I" and Professor Walton nominated Mark Johnson's thesis titled: "Freedom through Exile: Mme de La Tour du Pin and the French Emigration during the French Revolution". Both of these papers can be read online at <http://cujh.columbia.edu/>.

## 2009 Spring Awards Banquet

Please join us in honoring this year's award recipients at the Thursday, April 16th, 2009 Spring Awards Banquet. The banquet will begin with a reception at 6:00pm and the award recognitions and dinner following at 6:30pm. The Awards Banquet will take place at the Purdue Memorial Union (PMU), South Ballroom.

For more information or to RSVP by the April 1st deadline, please contact Rebecca Gwin at [rgwin@purdue.edu](mailto:rgwin@purdue.edu) or 494-4121. [Click here](#) to view our online RSVP forms that are located on our website calendar under 'News & Events'.

## Events and Speakers During Spring Semester

### February 12th

Professor Linda Gordon, a Phi Beta Kappa Society Visiting Scholar, will be presenting: **“Visual Democracy: How Dorothea Lange Used Photography to Promote Equality”** on February 12th in the Krannert Auditorium at 7:00pm. Professor Gordon will be visiting various classes while she is on campus.



### March 29th

Professor Peter Fritzsche, from the University of Illinois' History Department, will be the keynote speaker at the **Holocaust Remembrance Conference**. The presentation will take place on March 29th in the Krannert Auditorium at 7:00pm. (co-sponsored by the Department of History)

### April 1st

Professor Gary W. Gallagher, John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War and the University of Virginia, will be the first speaker of the **Department of History's First Annual John F. Stover Lecture Series**. Professor Gallagher will be presenting: ***“Emancipation and Reconciliation But Not the Union: Hollywood's Treatment of the North's Civil War Since Glory”*** on April 1st in Fowler Hall at 7:00pm.



The Stover Lecture Series is named in honor of Professor John F. Stover. Professor Stover served 31 years, from 1947 to 1978, in the Department of History at Purdue. He was a leading historian of the American railroad system. The lecture series is devoted to the advancement of all aspects of U.S. history.

### April 17-18th

Professor Keith Bradley, Distinguished Professor of Roman History at Notre Dame University, will be the keynote speaker of the **Indiana Classical Conference (ICC)**. The ICC is hosted by the Department of Foreign Language and Literature. Professor Bradley will give a presentation on the evening of April 17th.

The April 18th session will feature three panels. Speakers include Professor Michael Alexander from the University of Illinois at Chicago (Roman Historian), Professor Philip DeSouza from the University College Dublin (Greek Historian), Professor Andrea DiGiorgio from Case Western University (Anatolian Archaeologist), Professor Christopher Bungard from Butler University (Latinist), and Professor Antonia Syson from Purdue University (Latinist). There will also be a panel of undergraduate students from throughout the state presenting brief research papers.



The Bosphorus Bridge at sunset, located in Istanbul, Turkey.

## Study Abroad Opportunity for Maymester 2009

### Istanbul, Turkey—

Interested in the history of Constantinople and Istanbul from the fourth through seventeenth centuries? Would you like to see, first-hand, how cities changed and evolved over the centuries? Do you dream about sipping strong coffee while overlooking the Bosphorous Straits? Want to get three credit hours for this life-changing experience? Then you want to be a part of Professor Michael Ryan's 2009 Maymester Study Abroad class, *The City in History: Constantinople and Istanbul from Antiquity to Early Modernity*. From mid-May until Mid-June, 2009, students will spend two weeks at Purdue and two weeks in Istanbul visiting various Byzantine and Ottoman sites that date from the fourth

through seventeenth centuries. Students will receive guest lectures from Turkish faculty members while in Turkey. **Places students will visit include Galata Tower, Hagia Sophia, Sultanahmet, the Byzantine Cisterns, and many, many more.** There will be a call-out meeting in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, for more information or should you have any questions, please contact Professor Ryan at [ryan6@purdue.edu](mailto:ryan6@purdue.edu) or 494-2681.

World War I and II battlefields, Dachau concentration camp and Munich. This popular course filled immediately. If you missed this opportunity, check back at the start of 2010 as Professor Roberts will be offering a study abroad to Germany and France again.

### Germany & France—

Professors Randy Roberts and Gordon Mork will be leading History 302 students to Germany and France on Spring Break '09—visiting Paris, the Normandy beaches and other

## Undergraduate Scholarship Funds Available

### David W. and Geryl L. Bischoff Undergraduate Scholarship

This scholarship is selected by The Division of Financial Aid based on financial need (as determined on the FAFSA). Must be a registered undergraduate student pursuing a degree in the Department of History.

### Department of History Study Abroad Scholarship

This scholarship is based on academic excellence (min. 3.0 GPA) and financial need (as determined by the FAFSA), as well as suitability of the experience for meeting the student's educational objectives. Applicant must submit a resume and one-page essay explaining how

study abroad will be beneficial to the history major. Materials must be received by the March 1st deadline.

### James J. Shevlin Study Abroad Scholarship

This scholarship is based on academic excellence (min. 3.0 GPA) and financial need (as determined by the FAFSA), as well as suitability of the experience for meeting the student's educational objectives. Must be a registered undergraduate history major and scheduled to participate in history courses. Applicants must submit a resume and one-page essay explaining how study abroad will be beneficial to the history major. Materials must be received by the March 1st deadline.

### Stover Undergraduate Scholarship

The eligible student must be an undergraduate history major in his or her sophomore year (3rd or 4th semester), will have completed a minimum of three history courses with an A or B average, and earned a graduation index of at least 2.90. The recipient receives fee reimbursement the following semester.

For more details and how to apply for these scholarships, please [click here](#) or check out our 'Scholarships & Awards' page on the department website.

## New History Course Offerings for Fall 2009

### 201—

Professor Alicia Decker will be offering: **“Violence, War and Militarism in Modern Africa”**. Why do African countries always seem to be at war? Are Africans inherently *more* violent? This course examines the myths and realities of violence, war, and militarism in Africa from an historical perspective. Our focus will be primarily on the last 115 years. For more information contact Professor Decker at [acdecker@purdue.edu](mailto:acdecker@purdue.edu).

### 302’s—

Professor Randy Roberts will be offering: **“Hollywood Goes to War: Indian Wars to Iraq”**. From its earlier days, the movie industry has been fascinated about war. World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Iraq Wars have been debated and portrayed by Hollywood. This course will examine Hollywood’s—and America’s—love-hate relationship with war and the relationship between the military establishment and the film industry. Some knowledge of American wars will be expected. This course is not an introduction to America’s twentieth century wars. For more information contact Professor Roberts at [rroberts@purdue.edu](mailto:rroberts@purdue.edu).

Professor Rebekah Klein-Pejšová will be offering: **“Jews in the Modern World”**. This survey of Jewish history from the aftermath of the Spanish expulsion in 1492 until the collapse of the Interwar state system in 1938 examines Jewish responses to modernity through topics including: Marranism, Jewish/state

relations, the rise of the money economy, religious reform, political emancipation, nationalisms, modern anti-Semitism, the Jewish experience of World War One and the Interwar period. In our examination, we pay special attention to the diversity of the modern Jewish experience, using a variety of primary and secondary sources. A highlight of the course is our own Jewish National Affairs Council deliberations, in which debate issues surrounding Jewish national goals from the perspective of key Jewish historical figures. For more information contact Professor Klein-Pejšová at [rkleinpe@purdue.edu](mailto:rkleinpe@purdue.edu).

### 395’s—Junior Research Seminars

Professor Jennifer Foray will be offering: **“Western Europe at War”**. This junior research seminar will be organized around the subject of Nazi-Occupied Western Europe. This course will examine such topics as the effects of World War II upon Europe’s civilian populations, but will also explore research methodology and the historians’ craft. Over the course of the semester, students will work towards the creation of a document-based research paper. Participants in this seminar will be expected to come to the course with a solid understanding of modern European history. For more information please contact Professor Foray at [jforay@purdue.edu](mailto:jforay@purdue.edu).

Professor Sally Hastings will be offering: **“Conflict in Postwar Japan”**. The common conceptualization of Japan as a homogeneous and harmonious society

merely obscures the conflicts that exist in Japan about politics, economic equity, ethnicity, and gender. Each student will do a research paper on some incident of conflict during the postwar era. For more information contact Professor Hastings at [sahnolte@purdue.edu](mailto:sahnolte@purdue.edu).

Professor John Larson will be offering: **“Panic: American Style”**. This course will look into the phenomenon known as the financial panic. There have been several during the course of American history. The goal for this course will be to look at their causes and consequences at different times from 1800 to the present. For more information please contact Professor Larson at [laronjil@purdue.edu](mailto:laronjil@purdue.edu).

### Two New Courses to Come...

Professor Joseph Dorsey will be offering History 392 titled: **“Caribbean History and Culture”**. This survey of Caribbean history highlights the British, Danish, Dutch, French and Spanish islands. It addresses slavery, colonialism, independence, nationalism and gender relations.

Professor Whitney Walton will be offering History 325 titled: **“Twentieth Century Europe Through Autobiography”**. This course will complement existing 300- and 400-level undergraduate courses on specific topics and periods of twentieth-century European history through the genre of autobiography.

The date and semester these courses will be offered is TBA.

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## Student Organizations

### Phi Alpha Theta-

[Phi Alpha Theta](#) (PAT) is the International Honor Society in History. PAT was established at the University of Arkansas on March 17, 1921 by N. Andrew N. Clevon.

We are a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students, teachers and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist in historical research and publication by our members in a variety of ways.

all students, History Majors/Minors or otherwise. The requirements are that you have completed 12 hours of History courses, with a 3.0 grade average in those classes. Local chapter membership dues are a one-time payment of \$10 and National membership dues are \$40 for a life time membership. National membership is a requisite for local membership.

### Purdue History Organization-

The [Purdue History Organization](#) (PHO) is an undergraduate student group dedicated to learning about history outside of the classroom. By hosting a variety of activities, including lectures

and film viewings, the members of PHO hope to engage interested Purdue students in meaningful interactions with history. Members of PHO also enjoy meeting with history professors in more informal settings to discuss a variety of topics relating to history.

Membership in PHO is free and is open to all undergraduate students who are interested in learning more about history. To become a member, simple contact any of our officers.