Spring semester is well underway and the Department of History has a lively lineup of events for your calendar. Please direct your attention to the impressive group of speakers who will come to campus for the 2010 Sears Lecture Series. This biennial series is named for the late Purdue historian Louis Martin Sears, who was a faculty member in the then joint Department of History and Political Science from 1920 until his retirement in 1956. Professor Sears specialized in diplomatic history and biography and was the author of numerous books. The lecture series bearing his name is alternately produced by the Department of History and the Department of Political Science, in conjunction with Purdue Convocations. Jon Meacham, Robert Dallek, David Painter, and Amy Shlaes will share their thoughts on presidential leadership and global economic crises past and present. More information about the 2010 Sears Lecture Series is inside this newsletter and on the Purdue Convocations website.

Soon students will turn their attention to summer and fall semester courses. The Department of History is offering a great lineup of courses for Maymester and the eight-week summer term. In Maymester, Michael Ryan will teach Introduction to the Medieval World (HIST 10300), Tithi Bhattacharya will teach Survey of Global History (HIST 10500), Nancy Gabin will teach America in the Modern World (HIST 10400), and Mary Barford will teach U.S. and the Sexual Economy of Race: French Accusations of Sexual Assault against African-American GIs, 1944-1945. A preeminent scholar of women and gender in modern European history, Professor Roberts has published two books--Civilization without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar France, 1918-1928 (1994) and Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin de Siècle France (2002)--and has received numerous fellowships and awards, including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Professor Roberts’ lecture draws from her current work on the politics of sex during the U.S. occupation of France from 1944 to 1946. The winner of several teaching awards at the University of Wisconsin, Professor Roberts is a terrific speaker and is sure to engage, enlighten, and inspire.

I have replaced Professor Michael Morrison—who is on a well-earned and richly deserved research leave this semester—as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of History. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of the talks and courses offered by my colleagues and our guests. And I invite you to drop by my office, introduce yourself, and let me know how I might help make your experience at Purdue University as intellectually challenging, exciting, and satisfying as it can be.
Farewell to Professor and former Department Head Gordon R. Mork

This year marks the final year on the Department of History faculty of its former department head Gordon R. Mork, who is retiring after decades of service. Gordy’s insights, pragmatism, collegiality, and conscientiousness will be sorely missed by his colleagues.

Professor Mork arrived at Purdue in 1970, four years after he achieved his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota and a decade after he earned his B.A. at Yale University. For many years, he was the primary instructor of courses in German history in the Department, and he became especially focused upon the Holocaust. This led him to develop specialized courses such as “Hitler and 20th Twentieth Century Germany” and “The Holocaust and Genocide.” The latter course, co-taught and jointly organized with Professor Robert Melson in the Department of Political Science, was notable for its comparative framework, as it covered other genocides besides the Holocaust. Professor Mork’s interest in the Holocaust stretched backwards in time, and helped nurture his research fascination with the Oberammergau Passion Play, particularly the relationship of its script to anti-Semitism. On many occasions Gordon organized study abroad opportunities in Germany for undergraduates, some of which included visits to Holocaust sites and Oberammergau. In 2000, he published The Homes of Oberammergau with Purdue University Press. He has also written about the Passion Play in a number of scholarly venues.

Early in his career at Purdue, Professor Mork established a reputation as an exemplary teacher, one who integrated cultural events, major data bases (such as the transcripts of the Nuremberg trials), games, debates, and other innovative approaches into his instructional approach. A very popular teacher, he won the two most coveted Purdue teaching awards available to instructors in Liberal Arts—the Amoco (today the Charles B. Murphy) award (1983) and the MCL-HSSE (today the Liberal Arts Excellence in Education) award (1988). By the time he received these recognitions, Gordon had also established an international reputation as an expert on teaching methodology. He has been extremely active in the International Society for History Didactics, which he has served as vice president, and in developing and grading Advanced Placement tests in European history for the Educational Testing Service. He has also served the College Board, the Indiana Department of Education, and the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities in various capacities, and on advisory boards for teaching publications. He has published instructors’ manuals, the textbook Modern Western Civilization: A Concise History (1976; most recent revised edition, 1994), and a number of articles and book chapters dealing with teaching methods and issues of text content. His teaching publications include such pieces as “The Baltic Region in U.S. Western Civilization Textbooks” (in a 1995 edited book published in Germany) and his essay for The History Teacher (1983) on how East German historians during the Cold War interpreted Martin Luther. A firm believer in professional outreach to non-academics, he has served on the Board of Governors of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association and conducted classes aboard cruise ships.

It is hard to imagine any colleague surpassing Gordon’s record in conscientious service to department and university. Gordon has gone far beyond the call of duty in fulfilling his committee responsibilities and administrative assignments, even attending meetings of the department’s Primary Committee during his recent years in halftime retirement. As department head, he was distinctly democratic in his governance and markedly supportive of junior colleagues and equity within the program, helping to encourage the history faculty’s recent initiatives in global history.

Always respectful of others’ opinions and consistently friendly, he did much to foster harmony within the Department of History during his years on the faculty. We hope that he will keep a close connection with the department and its programs, even after he closes the usually open door of his first-floor office for the last time.

Gordon has three children, all Hoosiers (two of them Purdue grads) and four grandchildren. His wife Diane recently retired as team leader for nurses for Purdue University Student Health. He plans to remain in the Lafayette area following his retirement, and greatly enjoys hearing from former students.

Submitted by: Robert May,
Professor of History
History Course Offerings for Fall 2010

Alicia Decker will offer HIST 21000, The Making of Modern Africa, in the fall 2010 semester. This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to modern African history from 1800 to the present. Using a variety of films, novels, and scholarly sources, we will examine the major historical forces that have shaped African lives over the last two centuries. Emphasis will be placed on African experiences of slavery, colonialism, liberation struggles, and post-independence nation building. Students will also learn to analyze contemporary African issues within a larger historical context. HIST 21000 fulfills the Other Cultures CLA core requirement.

Rainer Buschmann will offer HIST 49200, a new course entitled Eighteenth-Century Pacific Worlds. Through weekly reading of primary sources, hailing mostly from Hakluyt Society publications, we will examine the encounters between Euro-American mariners and the many indigenous societies residing in Oceania, the Pacific Northwest, and East Asia. The course will engage such topics as Pacific exploration, philosophical perceptions of this "new world," European rivalries in the Pacific, the "China" trade and its implications, and indigenous travelers. Students with an interest in early modern European history, Asian history, and global history will find this course particularly enlightening.

Faculty also will offer the following variable title courses for Fall 2010:

HIST 30200, Religion in American Society and Politics, Frank Lambert
HIST 30200, Boxing in Culture, Randy Roberts
HIST 30200, Shakespeare’s Kings, Melinda Zook
HIST 39500, The 1950s: Politics and Culture in Cold War America, Michael Morrison
HIST 39500, History of Conspiracy, Michael Smith
HIST 39500, Occupied Europe, Jennifer Foray
HIST 49200, Gauchos and Cowboys on the Argentine Frontier, Ariel De la Fuente
HIST 49200, Madness and the Asylum in the U.S., Yvonne Pitts
HIST 49200, Eighteenth Century Pacific Worlds, Rainer Buschmann
HIST 49500, Trials and History, James Farr
HIST 49500, Chilies to Chocolate: How the Americas Changed the World, Dawn Marsh
HIST 49500, Interwar Jewish Experience in E. Central Europe, Russia and the Middle East, Rebekah Klein-Pejšová.

Keep an eye out for History 19500, The Historian’s Craft: Historical Research and Film for Majors that will be offered by Melinda Zook in spring 2011. While this newly refashioned course is open to all students across the campus, it is designed with history majors and minors in mind and seeks to introduce them to the fundamentals of the historian’s craft. The course will examine various interpretative approaches available to historians and review the subjects and methods of cultural, social, military, global, ethnic, political, and gender history. The course also speaks to the interplay between written history and its depiction in film. The central project of the course revolves around how many Americans receive their understanding of the past: through the movies. Each student will critique a historical film based on their own research, learning not only to decipher fact from fiction in the movies, but also how subjectivity, bias, and manipulation enter into the history portrayed on the silver screen.
Events and Speakers during Spring Semester

February 9, 7:30pm, Loeb Playhouse
Jon Meacham, editor of *Newsweek* and author of the Pulitzer prize winning *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, will open the 2010 Sears Lecture Series with a grand historical overview, examining the limits of presidential influence over the economy, and outlining how presidents from Washington to Roosevelt to the present have confronted the challenges and opportunities of global crisis. His talk is entitled: “Economic Leadership in a Time of Crisis: Then and Now”.

February 23, 7:30pm, Fowler
Robert Dallek, emeritus professor of history at the University of California Los Angeles, will speak for the 2010 Sears Lecture Series on “Obama’s First Year: War, Peace, and the Economy in Historical Perspective”. Starting from an analysis of the foreign policy challenges facing President Obama, Professor Dallek will look back to comparable periods of transition in the administrations of earlier presidents and ask how does any new leader find orientation when confronting economic and military pressures around the globe, balance American interests and international expectations? Professor Dallek is the author of several presidential histories including *An Unfinished Life* (on John F. Kennedy), *Flawed Giant* (on Lyndon Johnson), and most recently *Nixon and Kissinger: Partners in Power*.

March 8, 4:30pm, Krannert Auditorium
Emily Weglian, assistant professor of anthropology at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, will speak on “Bizarre Love Triangles: Sympathy and Deviance in British and Euro-American Folk Songs.” Professor Weglian, who received the Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Minnesota in 2006, is interested in 17th and 18th century colonial British and Dutch North America, realization and ethnicity, mortuary archaeology, gender, and British and American folk songs—all of which she will address in her engaging and entertaining talk, which is cosponsored by the Department of History.

March 9, 7:30pm, Fowler
The third Sears Lecture Series speaker is David Painter, professor of history at Georgetown University, who will talk on “The Moral Equivalent of War? American Presidents and the Oil Crises of the 1970s”. The oil crises of 1973-74 and 1978-79 led to inflation, stagnation, unemployment, and fears of American geopolitical decline. Professor Painter will examine the responses of the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations to the oil crises, and will focus on the nature and dynamics of the US political economy and the complex interrelationships between domestic politics and foreign policy. David Painter’s publications include *Oil and the American Century*, *The Cold War*, *Origins of the Cold War*, and articles on US policy toward the Third World, US oil policies, and the end of the Cold War. His current project is a study of oil and world power in the 20th century.

March 23, 7:30pm Fowler
Amity Shlaes, a senior fellow in economic history at the Council on Foreign Relations, a syndicated columnist at *Bloomberg*, and author of *The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression*, will conclude the 2010 Sears Lecture Series with a talk on “Roosevelt and Obama: Getting to Recovery”. President Obama and President Bush before him followed precedents from the New Deal when handling the current crisis. Yet our nostalgia for the policies of the period is misplaced. In this talk Amity Shlaes reminds us that while President Roosevelt and his New Dealers did many good things, the government overall postponed recovery. Five errors from that period are in danger of being repeated today.
Events and Speakers during Spring Semester continued

April 7, 7:00pm, Fowler

Mary Louise Roberts, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, will deliver the Department of History’s Second Annual John F. Stover Lecture. Professor Roberts will speak on “Rape Hysteria and the Sexual Economy of Race: French Accusations of Sexual Assault against African-American GIs, 1944-1945”. Professor Roberts is the author of Civilization without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Post-war France, 1918-1928 and Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin de Siecle France as well as articles and essays in journals and anthologies. Her current project—from which her talk is drawn—concerns the politics of sex during the U.S. occupation of France. The Stover Lecture Series is named in honor of Professor John F. Stover who served for 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 11, 1:00pm, Stewart 214

Richard Breitman, professor of history at American University, will speak on “Refugees and Rescue” at the Holocaust Remembrance Conference. Professor Breitman is the author and co-author of nine books and many articles in German history, U.S. history, and the Holocaust. He also is editor of the journal Holocaust and Genocide Studies, which is owned by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and he served as director of historical research for the Nazi War Criminal Records and Imperial Japanese Records Interagency Working Group, which helped to bring about declassification of more than eight million pages of U.S. government records under a 1998 law. Professor Breitman’s talk is cosponsored by the Department of History.

April 15, 6:00pm, Purdue Memorial Union South Ballroom

History Spring Award’s Banquet

April 20, 5:30pm, University Hall 117

This is the Department of History’s third annual Honors Program. Our Honors students will present talks drawn from their honors theses, which they are now in the process of research and writing, as part of their work in HIST 42200.

History Honors Program

As director of the Department of History’s honors program, Professor Robert May would like to remind all sophomore and junior history majors, if they have not already done so, to consider joining the department’s program at this time. The requirements for admission to the program, as well as the program itself, are described in detail on the Department of History’s web site. The link can be found by clicking on “Undergraduate,” and then clicking on “Honors Program” on the left side of the next screen.

The program revolves around students producing an honors thesis, working closely with a faculty mentor. Completion of this thesis provides excellent preparation for graduate study in history, and may enhance a student’s chances of being accepted into the graduate program of his/her choice.

The third annual Department of History Honors Program will take place on April 20 beginning at 5:30 pm in UNIV 117. Our Honors students will present talks drawn from their honors theses, which they are now in the process of research and writing, as part of their work in HIST 42200.

In addition to HIST 42100, Honors Historical Methods, the first course in the history honors sequence, the Department of History will offer two honors-only courses for the fall 2010 semester. John Contreni will teach an honors-only section of HIST 10300, Introduction to the Medieval World. Charles Ingrao will teach an honors-only course, HIST 32200, Monarchy: Its Rise and Fall.
See the English Landscape!

Professor Larson informs me that there’s still just enough time to sign up for his Maymester trip to England. This is an interdisciplinary course that integrates history with landscape architecture and horticulture. No place like England for gardens, castles and much more!


If you are interested, please contact Professor Larson immediately at larsonjl@purdue.edu. Click here for more information.

Why not apply for a passport in the meantime, while you’re trying to decide? Click here for a link to the State Department’s passport website.

Remember, as always: financial aid (loans) are available for study abroad activities!

Regards,
Dr. William Gray
Department Liaison for International Programs
wggray@purdue.edu

What can you do with a History Major?

We often are asked by nervous, anxious, and uncertain undergraduates and their parents: but what can you do with a history major? Here, for inspiration, are the diverse postgraduate lives of some Department of History seniors who graduated in 2009.

Rosemary Arnold received a University Fellowship to pursue a master’s degree in museum studies at IUPUI.

Anthony Bonfitto is pursuing his M.A. in Latin American studies at the University of Chicago.

James Cox is working at the Indianapolis office of Theta Chi (his fraternity) as a Leadership Education Consultant. He travels around the country educating different fraternity chapters on topics ranging from recruitment, risk management, and social atmosphere, to leadership and teamwork. In a year or two, he intends to pursue a law degree in order to practice criminal law.

Adam Doerr is working for a year and then will pursue a law degree at a Midwest school.

Erica Hague is pursuing her M.A. in public history at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. She received a new scholar award and a teaching assistant position.

Mark Johnson is pursuing his M.A. in history at the University of Maryland.

Samuel Needham is pursuing a Master’s of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

J. Kyle Rhoades is teaching with “Team for America”.

Charles Spencer is pursuing his M.A. in social sciences at the University of Chicago.

Jordon Stone took a full time position, continuing his career, in the Indiana Army National Guard.

Kyle Sweeney is pursuing his M.A. in Art History at Indiana University Bloomington. Having accepted a teaching assistantship, he is one of two T.A.s teaching a survey class on prehistoric to Gothic art and architecture.

Lance Yoder was deployed—for a second time—to Afghanistan through the Marine Corps Reserve. His second tour will end around June 2010. Upon returning, he and his wife plan to move to Washington D.C. where he will pursue a career in federal law enforcement or intelligence.
New Student Profile: Tyler Folk, First-Year History Major
Hometown: Granger, IN
High School: Penn High School
Parents: Frank and Wendy Folk

Why I chose Purdue:
That's something I always get asked when people find out I'm here for Liberal Arts. Out-of-state tuition was too high to justify going out-of-state. Also, after looking at different schools of different sizes, I decided that the bigger the better. So I needed to find a large, in-state school. I visited IU, but just had one of those "this place isn't for me" feelings. I looked into Purdue, mostly out of curiosity (I had honestly never really considered it beforehand) and realized that it fit my criteria and that I felt like I belonged here.

Why I chose History as one of my majors and why I'm a double major:
History was my original major, because it was something I enjoyed studying and I could see myself enjoying work in the field. I then started getting more and more interested in politics and decided to switch majors to political science. However, after talking with Corey Linkel and my academic adviser, I decided that the two would complement each other nicely and would make me stand out to employers.

My favorite area of History:
I would have to say military history. Not only does it have the most exciting and interesting personal stories, but the people who made it, and still do, are some of the best people to ever walk this planet. Also, the ripple effect that war has on all areas of society and politics is really interesting to me.

Extracurricular interests:
This is one of the reasons I decided I wanted to go to a large school. They have more to offer. I was volunteered by my youth pastor back home to play bass guitar at the Wesley Foundation on campus, and I'm also looking into playing intramural ultimate Frisbee. Who knows, I just got here.

Career/Future Plans:
A lot of people come to college with one specific career in mind. I didn't. There are just way too many things I could do with degrees in history and poli-sci that I would enjoy. Sure, maybe I won't make as much money as my peers in engineering, but I'm not interested in that line of work. I'd rather do something I enjoy and get by than to make six figures and hate my life. So my only real plan is to do internships and get work experience, and maybe study abroad, to stand out to employers. After talking with people in the workforce about college, I was pretty much told that unless it's Yale, Harvard, or Stanford, no one cares about where you went to college; they care about what you can do.

Welcome First-Year History Majors
Joshua Anderson
Katherine Arnold
Hayley Bowman
Shane Buttemeier
Elise Carter
Craig Daniels
Wesley Deason
Levi Evans
Tyler Folk
Ian Follansbee
Quinn Frey
Cassandra Habert
Wesley Hartman
Myles Hiatt
Jerrod Howard
Steven Kekelik
Malcolm Keyes
Ka-Chun Lee
Brittany McLain
Stephen Merz
Emma Meyer
Jordan Nelson
Michael Nolan
Alec O'Connell
John Shanks
Skylar Shapiro
Paul Shen
Jason Sieracki
Heon Geun Song
Allison Wilkerson
**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 on 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 March 1, 2010 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 March 1, 2010 deadline.*

**Lorena Murphy Scholarship**
This scholarship is based on academic excellence. The recipient of the award must be an undergraduate History major who has completed at least four History courses with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in those courses and an overall graduation index of at least 3.0. The recipient will receive reimbursement for the purchase of history textbooks.

**Stover Undergraduate Scholarship**
The eligible student must be an undergraduate history major in his or her sophomore year (3rd of 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.

**Waltmann Award**
The eligible student is selected by Phi Alpha Theta, annually, and they must be an outstanding junior in history, be active in Phi Alpha Theta, and have an excellent academic record and good qualities of citizenship. The Nu Omega chapter of Phi Alpha Theta presents the $200 Waltmann award. The award is to be used during the recipient’s senior year. Contact Max Vande Vaarst at mvandeva@purdue.edu for more information.

[Click here](#) for more information and details on these scholarships.
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. Cleven.

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.

Membership in PAT is open to 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.

Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, has several events scheduled for spring semester. For more information, check the website or contact Max Vande Vaarst, president of the Purdue chapter.

**Feb 5:** deadline of applications for membership for spring 2010.

**Feb 10:** General business mtg, UNIV 001, 6:00pm.

**Feb 25:** Initiation of new members, UNIV 001, 6pm. Followed by dinner at Puccini’s.

**Feb 26:** deadline for submission of essays and papers for The Historian.

**April 13-14:** Annual book sale, STEW 107, 9-3pm.

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**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.