

History Department Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

When we decided to recommence publishing a Department Newsletter nearly three years ago, we understood that the ways of keeping in touch with Department alumni and friends were changing. Many History Departments across the country had already moved to electronic newsletters and email lists. A few intrepid programs had begun Facebook and Twitter Accounts. Now, with Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Academia.edu and any number of other Social Networking sites, the role of social media in professional and academic life has increased exponentially. None of these changes obviate the need for a Newsletter. It is always pleasant to receiving regular updates on one's alma mater in easily digestible form. But in this letter from the Chair— my last, as I embark on Sabbatical in January 2015— I would like to note our own modest embrace of social media in building and maintaining connections to our alumni and friends. Please do “friend” us on **Facebook**, join us on **Twitter**, and look out for the occasional emails.

In terms of teaching excellence, the last couple of years have been an exciting time for the Department. In looking to the future, our department welcomed two wonderful new faculty in Fall 2013. Mayhill Fowler joined us from Princeton University as Assistant Professor of Russian and East European History, and Nicole Mottier arrived from the University of Chicago as Assistant Professor of Latin American History. Both of their profiles are below. With the addition of Drs. Fowler and Mottier, the Department boasts eight tenure-track faculty with specializations in China, Southeast and East Asia; Contemporary Mexico and Latin America; Soviet Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe; Modern Germany, France, and Central Europe; Nineteenth and Twentieth Century North America and the United States; Ancient and Medieval Europe; and Islam, the Middle East, and North Africa. Our class offerings have never been as diverse or innovative, continuing with the renewal and expansion of the Department that began with the 2009 college curriculum reform. Nor have we offered as many different classes to as many students, both within the major and General Education, as we have this past two years. We have had two record classes (*cont.*)



Stetson University History Department

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History Department Faculty

Eric Kurlander, Professor & Chair

Paul Croce, Professor

Kimberly Reiter, Associate Professor

Margaret Venzke, Associate Professor

Emily Mieras, Associate Professor

Leander Seah, Assistant Professor

Mayhill C. Fowler, Assistant Professor

Nicole Mottier, Assistant Professor

Mary Bernard, Administrative Specialist

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of seniors in the last three years, with seventeen graduates in Spring 2012, twelve in Spring 2013, and seventeen more in Spring 2014. The quality of our program has never been as high, with five seniors in Spring 2014 receiving *Phi Beta Kappa* recognition, two having participated in the Oxford Program, and six Senior Honors nominees—the most we have ever recognized—*averaging* a 3.9 GPA. We have highlighted just a few of the accomplishments of our students and recent alumni below. Finally, while the Department's last McEniry Award Winner, Dr. Paul Steeves, retired in Spring 2013, after forty-one years of dedicated teaching, the Department again became home to the McEniry Award for Teaching Excellence in Spring 2014, when Stetson's highest teaching honor was awarded to Dr. Eric Kurlander.

In terms of scholarship, our faculty and students continued to research, write, publish and present excellent work, including monographs, and articles in top international journals, as well as winning competitive outside grants and fellowships. Notable faculty highlights include Dr. Paul Croce's 2013 Fulbright at the University of Rome and Fellowship at the University of Potsdam, Dr. Eric Kurlander's new edited volume on *Transcultural Encounters Between Germany and India* (2014), and Dr. Mayhill Fowler finishing her *Petro Jacyk Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ukrainian Studies* at the University of Toronto. Dr. Emily Mieras (who will become Chair of the Department in 2015) also won a competitive Fellowship the Gilder Lehrman/CIC seminar in American History at Stanford University. Meanwhile our recent graduate Ryan Lynch, who is obtaining his PhD at the University of Oxford, published a book chapter, "Sons of the Muhājirūn: Some Comments on 'Abd Allāh b. al-Zubayr and Legitimizing Power in Seventh Century Islamic History," in *The Long Seventh Century: Continuity and Discontinuity in an Age of Transition*. Bern: Peter Lang; William Proper (2013) presented his research on "More Murder Than War' A Reassessment of Ideology and Wehrmacht Participation in the War of Extermination" at the Southeast German Studies Workshop; Madeline Briggs (2014) was accepted and will attend the University of Oxford to pursue a degree in Art History; and, indicating the diverse career paths available with a History degree, Dr. Jeff Hamrick (2002) took a position as Professor of Finance [associate provost] at the University of San Francisco; Josh Howard won the Maris Prize for his senior research project on French and Germanic Metallurgy at the 2014 Stetson Showcase, which, under the leadership of our own Dr. Kimberly Reiter, now brings together a larger and more diverse representation of undergraduate scholarship than ever before in Stetson's History. Also in regard to scholarship, we began an exciting new internship with Dr. James Williams, editor of the international, peer-reviewed *ICON: Journal for the International Committee on the History of Technology*, which allows two majors a semester to work on editing a major peer-reviewed international journal.

Finally, with respect to new Programming and Career Preparation, we would like to announce our new Major Track, with certification in Public History, that begins officially in Spring 2015 with Dr. Kimberly Reiter's *Introduction to Public History*. This exciting new track allows majors to engage with History as it relates to people's lives and the broader public, and to develop entrepreneurial skills, gaining valuable professional experience. We're also excited about the Department's role in 2014-2015 in developing an interdisciplinary Minor in Entrepreneurship through the Prince Entrepreneurship Program Directed by Dr. Gary Oliphant. We have always known that History majors perform among the best nationally on the Law (LSAT) and Business (GMAT) School admissions exams. We also **know** History majors do well in obtaining jobs in the private sector (for example, over 1000 history majors work at IBM and over 600 at Google). Our hope and expectation is that our new track in Public History, combined with the new Entrepreneurship minor, and expanding range of History internship opportunities, will enhance the number of private and public sector opportunities for our graduates beyond traditional fields like law and graduate school.

In short, it is an exciting time to be teaching or majoring in the Stetson History Department. In part a result of our renewed curriculum and expansion; in part a testament to the shrinking of the world in the wake of social media; our Department community has never been as large or global. We urge you to (re)connect to the Department, whether through conventional (snail mail or perhaps even email, these days) or 21st century (social media) means. We hope this newsletter finds you well.

Sincerely,



Eric Kurlander
Chair, Department of History

England Summer Program 2014

In May 2014 Dr. Kimberly Reiter once again offered her field course, “The Early English Landscape”. Eighteen students, alumni and friends set off to explore the relationship between English history and the landscape of Britain. Starting at the great prehistoric complexes anchored at Stonehenge and Avebury, the class explored the human/environment dialogue over 7000 years. They hiked into ancient megalithic tombs and Bronze Age villages in southwest England and Cornwall. They explored the castles and prehistoric remains of western Wales, visited the Fens, went caving in Torquay to see the oldest human remains in England, and climbed Hadrian’s Wall. They had the chance to train to the top of Mt. Snowdon, the tallest peak in Britain, and the Great Orme peninsula in Llandudno, where they explored a recently re-opened Bronze Age copper mine. There were also day hikes in Dartmoor, the New Forest and Stanton Moor. The students also examined the constructed landscape, exploring the great cathedrals at Salisbury and Durham, (although they were stymied at York by an unexpected closure of Yorkminster when a local school reserved the cathedral for a 500th anniversary celebration! One student said it was like watching Hogwarts assemble.) Finally, they had time to explore Llandudno, York, Salisbury, Durham and London on their own.

What did they learn? One participant, Tom Beukelman, said, it was a chance to “get intimate with history.” For once, history was “more than a timeline” in a book. Lizzie Bustin (‘14) said, “The greatest part of this trip is learning in an interactive environment - If you're talking about Stonehenge then you are standing there looking at it and that isn't something that can be authentically replaced in the classroom.” Caroline Williams (‘16), said “In driving from town to town, we would see Roman ruins or castles just sitting next to the highway undisturbed. It's incredible how England builds new buildings, but takes care to preserve the history and leave the old ones relatively untouched. That was amazing to me. I was able to experience all the things we'd talked about in class, instead of just looking at pictures and paintings in an English History textbook.”

Special thanks go to John Haire, Betty Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Lynn Stewart (72), Julianne Farricker and friends of the Department Gloria Denston and Dr. and Mrs. Gil and Ora Seigworth for making it possible for three of the students to go to the UK this year. We are grateful for the support our community makes to helping our students in need.

Dr. Reiter will take students again in May 2016. However, she will be taking students on a Spring Break to Rome and Pompeii in March 2015. If you are interested, contact her directly at kreiter@stetson.edu.



Welcome to the Department!

Dr. Mayhill C. Fowler

Dr. Mayhill C. Fowler received her Ph.D. in the Department of History at Princeton University in 2011 with a dissertation entitled, "Beau Monde: State and Stage on Empire's Edge, Russia and Soviet Ukraine, 1916-1941." Her teaching and research focus on the cultural history of Russia and Eastern Europe, but, more broadly, on how governance, inter-ethnic encounters, and space shape creativity. Fowler has presented at many conferences, from the US to Russia, and has several publications: a chapter in Tkacz and Makaryk's *Modernism in Kyiv: Jubilant Experimentation*, articles in *Ab Imperio* and *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, as well as journalistic pieces for *New Eastern Europe*. She has taught at Princeton, the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, and the University of Toronto. Fowler is also a former professional actress, and even performed once in Florida in 2003. She received her MFA in acting from the National Theater Conservatory, and her BA in Russian from Yale University.



Thanks to a summer grant from Stetson, Dr. Fowler spent 6 weeks this summer traveling around Russia and Ukraine. She spent a month in Moscow sitting in archives finishing up the last bits of research for her book on the making of Soviet Ukrainian culture, and then went to Ukraine, first to Kyiv, catching up with friends and hearing all about revolution and war. She then traveled to Lviv to teach in a summer seminar for PhD students on urban history and enjoyed researching and writing in the lovely Habsburg-era library and post-Soviet faux Habsburg-era cafes. Dr. Fowler had this to say about her travels: "This has been a momentous time of change for Russia and Ukraine and however much you read the press and Skype with friends you never really understand what is going on until you actually go and see for yourself. As with all revolutions and wars, very little is black and white. I've been so struck by the changes that I have seen, in the city landscape, in the way people talk about the news, and in my friends themselves. It's also been tremendous to have the time to focus on my own writing—and I've also got lots of new ideas to take back to the classroom in the fall."

Welcome to the Department!

Dr. Nicole Mottier

Dr. Nicole Mottier teaches and researches various topics in Latin American history. She teaches Colonial and Modern Latin American History and World Civilizations, and is developing courses on the histories of drug cartels in the Americas, the Mexican and Cuban Revolutions, the history of Latinos, the Atlantic World and the history of relations between Latin America and the U.S. Before coming to Stetson University, she taught at the University of New England in Maine, the University of Chicago and Harold Washington City College of Chicago. She is turning her dissertation on the political and social histories of peasant loans in twentieth-century Mexico into a book. Her next research project is a history of the Ciudad Juárez drug cartels, about which she has published an article. Her research has been supported by grants from the British Council Overseas Research Student Award Program, The University of Oxford, The University of Chicago, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Fulbright-Hays Program. Both her master of philosophy from Oxford and her bachelor of arts degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign are in Latin American Studies. This summer, Dr. Mottier was invited to present on “The Persistence of Money-lending in Twentieth-century Mexico” at the Richard Robinson Annual Business History Workshop. She also spent time conducting research for her book on the history (1920s-present) of organized crime and narcotics in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.



Faculty Professional Highlights

Dr. Leander Seah published an article, "Looking Back Towards East Asia: The Re-Sinicization of the South Seas Society in Singapore, 1971-2000," in the October 2013 issue of the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*.

Dr. Eric Kurlander was awarded the 2014 *McEniry Award for Teaching Excellence*, Stetson's highest teaching award. Dr. Kurlander published an edited volume (with Douglas McGetchin and Joanne Miyang Cho), *Kindred Spirits: Transcultural Encounters between Germany and India in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Routledge, 2013), as well as "Between Weimar's Horrors and Hitler's Monsters: The Politics of Race, Nationalism, and Cosmopolitanism in Hanns Heinz Ewers Supernatural Imaginary," in Rainer Godel, Erdmut Jost und Barry Murnane, eds. *Zwischen Popularisierung und Ästhetisierung? Hanns Heinz Ewers und die Moderne*. Bielefeld, Moderne Studien (Aisthesis), 2014.

Dr. Mayhill Fowler published "A Cesspool of Intrigues: Les Kurbas, Aleksandr Dovzhenko, and the Film Industry in 1920s Soviet Ukraine" in *Canadian Slavonic Papers* and an article on Modernism in a well-respected Polish literary journal: "Na ulicy Prorizny: modernizm na Ukrainie" in *Przegląd Filozoficzno-literackie kwartalnik*.

Dr. Nicole Mottier has a forthcoming publication, "Invented Figures and Imagined Shrubs: Mexican Bank Bureaucrats in the Field, 1930s-1940s" in *The Cultural History of Money and Credit*, eds Chia Yin Hsu and Erika Vause, from Lexington Books.

Right: Learning About the Gilded Age on a Gilded Age Campus:, from Emily Mieras' summer seminar at Stanford 2013."

Dr. Emily Mieras (who will become Chair of History in 2015) attended two professional development workshops in summer 2013. She participated in the Graylyn Center Teaching Retreat co-sponsored by Wake Forest University. She also won a fellowship to participate in a seminar on The Gilded Age at Stanford University, sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute. In Spring, 2014, she received a sabbatical leave from teaching to research her project, "Marketing Nostalgia: Constructing Historical Memory and Community through Imagined Pasts." She will present on this research at the national American Studies Association Annual Meeting in November 2014.



Faculty Professional Highlights, cont.

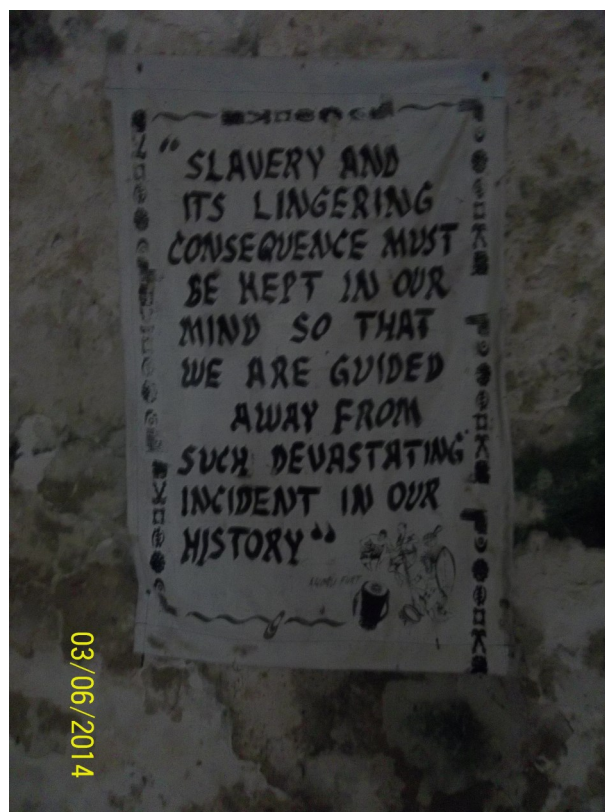
Dr. Paul Croce completed a Fulbright Fellowship in American Intellectual History at the University of Rome as well as a term as scholar in residence at the University of Potsdam in June 2013. Dr. Croce published “M/o/r/e at the Core: William James at the Root of Religion,” in *Dialogue: A Journal for Young Philosophers*, forthcoming, April 2014; “The Incarnation Writ Large: William James, Swedenborgianism, and the Origins of Modern Spirituality,” in *Emanuel Swedenborg—Exploring a World Memory: Context, Content, Contribution*, Karl Grandin, ed. (Stockholm: Center for the History of Science, 2013); and “Spilt Mysticism: William James’s Democratization of Religion,” *William James Studies* 9 (2013).

Dr. Croce spent Spring Break 2013, lecturing in Ghana, at the University of Cape Coast: “Uplift and Cultural Loss: American Treatment of American Natives,” and “Decolonization of the Black Mind: Martin Luther King, Junior, Malcolm X, and the Worldwide Rights Revolution”, and learning about the African side of the tragic Atlantic Slave Trade. This picture, right, from Elmina Castle, held by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British in succession from the 15th to 19th centuries, depicts the notorious Door Of No Return—for the captives, the last vision of their African homeland.



Right: A reminder of the importance of studying history in Ghana

Below: Dr. Richards Plavnieks in Riga, Latvia, on a research trip in Summer 2014.



Student Senior Research, 2013-2014

Josh Howard

“The Culture of Steel. How the Metallographic Study of Armour Can Add to Tournament Historiography: France and the Western Germanies”

Lizzy Bustin

“Women in England: How Opponents of Magic and Witchcraft Targeted the Female Sex”

Cayman Calabro

“Did Women in Tudor England Experience A Renaissance? A Case Study Using the Six Wives of Henry VIII”

Madeline Briggs

“The Origins of Upstairs, Downstairs: Sir Roger Pratt's Influence on Domestic Stratification”

Jesika Butler

“Something Evil This Way Comes: Comparing Witchcraft Trials in Old and New England In the Seventeenth Century”

Elizabeth Graham

“The Good Wife: Gender Interpretations of the Seventeenth Century New England Colonies Through Anne Bradstreet’s Poetry and Meditations”

Edward Koenig

“The American Revolution and Freemasonry”

Hanna Lipsey

“Spring 1918: Russia’s Exit, America’s Entry, and the Decisive Moment of the First World War”

Danielle Sanderson

“For the Kingdom or for the Cross? The Evolution of British Policy in Palestine during World War I”

William Proper

“More Murder Than War’ A Reassessment of Ideology and *Wehrmacht* Participation in the War of Extermination”

Annie Moore

“Adult’s Childhood’s Hidden Influence on the Golden Age of Children’s Literature”

Gwendolyn Brown

“Franco-Canadian Catholics in Anglo-Protestant New England during the Late Nineteenth Century”

Kimberly Ferguson

“Stetson University’s Failed Integration and the Guise of Diversity”

Aniarka Diaz

“Santeria, Culture, and Politics in Cuba, 1950-1990”

Alumni Highlights

Jeff Hamrick, History, Class of 2002:

A Stetson triple major in History, Mathematics and Financial Economics, Jeff Hamrick completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics at Boston University in 2009. He is currently an Associate Professor of Finance [associate provost] at University of San Francisco, and has been instrumental in developing USF's Master of Science in Analytics (MSAN) program. He has designed courses in linear regression analysis, time series analysis, multivariate statistical analysis, and SAS programming, and teaches econometrics and financial econometrics. Dr. Hamrick has experience in hedge fund management and consulting for both financial services and software engineering firms. He is a CFA charterholder and a chartered Financial Risk Manager (FRM), with publications in nonparametric statistics and mathematical finance. Dr. Hamrick's academic work in "big data" stems from his interests in natural language processing, market microstructure (e.g., models of intraday asset prices), and sabermetrics (i.e., the use of statistical and computational methodologies to study baseball).

Tasha Ramos, History, Class of 2010:

After graduation, Tasha worked for two years in a nonprofit Americorps program called City Year. The organization's mission is to promote democracy through citizen service and civic engagement, and its focus is on ending the high school dropout crisis. Tasha received her Masters in Middle Eastern History at the University of Chicago, where she is currently a PhD student. She was named editor of MESSA (Middle Eastern Studies Student Association) Quarterly, published by the University of Chicago.

Kaleb Knoblauch, History, Class of 2012:

Kaleb is a Ph.D. student at University of California, Davis.

Rachel Chappell, History, Class of 2012:

Rachel completed her MA in Archaeology at Durham University, with a thesis focusing on water and ritual on Hadrian's Wall. She begins her PhD work at Durham University this Fall.

Emily Gillevet, History, Class of 2012:

Emily is in the MA program for Medieval History at University of York, UK. Her dissertation is a hagiographic investigation of the lives of three Saints and how they came to their vocations.

Justin McCallister, History, Class of 2014:

Justin McCallister is pursuing an M. A. program in Gothic: Culture, Subculture, Counterculture at St. Mary's University in London.

Cayman Calabro, History, Class of 2014:

Cayman is pursuing a joint law degree and History masters at Roger Mason University.

Madeline Briggs, History, Class of 2014:

Madeline Briggs was accepted into the Art History MA Program at Oxford University.

Danielle Sanderson, History, Class of 2014:

Danielle Sanderson teaches Mathematics at Cohen College Preparatory School in New Orleans.

Josh Howard, History, Class of 2014:

Josh Howard is applying to graduate school in medieval military history/archaeometallurgy; Josh is currently employed as professional smith, making high end tournament armor.

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The History major at Stetson:

<http://catalog.stetson.edu/undergraduate/arts->



Paul Croce continues his annual Halloween extravaganza just two blocks from Stetson! Join us on October 31st—if you dare (contact pcroce@stetson.edu to sign up for times to meet the children of all ages in a wild array of costumes). See his **report** on last year's scene, "Halloween 'R' Us," from the DeLand Beacon, 11/28/13.

History lies at the heart of the liberal arts education. By combining the methods of the social sciences with those of the humanities, our discipline seeks to reconstruct the past in order to better understand the present. We visit times and places both distant and familiar. We accompany Muhammad on his journey from Mecca to Medina. We follow Sojourner Truth as she escapes from slavery. We read the German Kaiser's letters to his cousin, the Russian Czar. And we ask bold questions. Why did America invade Vietnam? Does King Arthur really exist? Who planned the Holocaust? By reading historical studies and novels, documents and newspapers, by analyzing art and architecture, by discussing politics and economics, and by conducting research and writing, we try to answer these questions, but we also discover new questions. The study of history, after all, never ends.

If you would like to contribute to the History Department in its ongoing mission to support academic achievement at Stetson, please consider contributing to the History Department Fund:

Gifts can be made online at www.stetson.edu/give or can be sent to:

Stetson University

Office of Development

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Questions? Contact Mary Bernard at mbernard@stetson.edu.

NOTES



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