Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and History Fellow Travelers,

Happy November! Midterms are done, the golden rain trees have turned pink, the air feels something like fall, and somehow it’s already the middle of the semester with advising for spring upon us. Life in the History Department has been eventful. This academic year got off to a busy start as the Department moved back into Elizabeth Hall after a summer move to allow for a total overhaul of the air conditioning work in this historic building. As the year opened, we were thrilled to welcome a record-sized group of incoming History majors in August. We enjoyed meeting them and learning about their wide-ranging historical interests at the “Major Mixer” during the first week of the semester.

Much has happened in the Department since our last newsletter. In Spring 2015, we launched our Public History introductory course, taught by Dr. Kimberly Reiter, which was a rousing success. Students dipped into multiple aspects of Public History, debating issues like the ethics and desirability of historic preservation and tracking public history in our own backyards, on campus and in DeLand. Several students are also developing a historical consulting group, separate from but informed by the Public History program. They hope to begin taking on projects in the near future. We’re also developing a slate of internships with local historical and museum organizations to support students with Public History interests.

We graduated a great group of History majors this past spring who completed senior research projects on topics ranging from West German foreign policy, to French urban planning in North Africa, to Rosewood (you can see some of their project presentations on our YouTube channel). See the inside pages of this letter for more on our students, their honors, and their post-graduation activities. We also admitted a large class to Phi Alpha Theta, the History honorary society, and we celebrated with a festive dinner at Forno Bello in downtown DeLand.

Our faculty have been busy, attending conferences, winning grants, doing research, and planning new courses. We welcomed Dr. Margaret Venzke back
from a productive year’s research sabbatical in January 2015, as Dr. Eric Kurlander set off for a semester’s research sabbatical and stepped down as Department Chair. We were thrilled that Dr. Kimberly Reiter won an NEH “Enduring Questions” grant; part of the grant includes teaching a new junior seminar on “Defining the Natural State.” Dr. Reiter also won Stetson’s prestigious 2015 Phi Beta Kappa Hague Award for Excellence in Liberal Arts Education. Several faculty members received summer research grants from the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence; inside, we’ve included more accounts of our faculty in action at their summer research sites. Our colleagues traveled far and wide, from Singapore to Mexico to Russia to Ireland, engaged in research and presentations. The action has kept up this fall, with colleagues presenting at conferences in Toronto (Dr. Paul Croce and Dr. Emily Mieras at the American Studies Association), Arlington, VA (Dr. Kurlander at the German Studies Association, Ukraine (Dr. Mayhill Fowler, invited speaker at an International Symposium on “Urban Legacies: Culture-in-Practice and Public Policies in East-Central Europe”). Dr. Nicole Mottier presented at the American Society for Legal History in Washington D.C., and Dr. Leander Seah heads to Baltimore for the Social Science History Association meeting in November. We also congratulate Dr. Kurlander on the publication of his co-edited volume, with Dr. Monica Black of the University of Tennessee, The Nazi Soul Between Science and Religion: Revisiting the Occult Roots of Nazism. Faculty have ventured into on-line media as well: Dr. Croce’s blog, PubClassroom, bridges academia and public discussion (http://pubclassroom.com), and Dr. Mieras explores consumer culture at http://reluctantconsumer.com. And this is only a partial list of our colleagues’ scholarly activities.

Our students have also been active scholars on and off campus. In spring 2015, several students attended regional or national conferences, including Tabea Wanninger ’15, Athena Hale ’15 and Cameron Black ’16. Another group also attended the Phi Alpha Theta Regional conference in the spring: John Dieck ’15, Christian Gowan ’15, Cameron Black ’16, Kimberly Reading ’14, and Hanna Lipsey ’14. Last month, Brett Whitmore attended the Oral History Association meeting in Tampa to learn about the field for the Historical Consulting firm. We anticipate more student participation in academic conferences this year and are happy to support these efforts where we can. Cameron Black, Katie Nathenson, and Matthew Rafferty received Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience grants—more on their work on the inside pages.

Of course, our work in the classroom is central to everyday life. We continue to offer new courses (like Dr. Fowler’s “Money and the Muse in Russia,” Dr. Reiter’s “Stonehenge” this fall, Dr. Mottier’s “Scandals and Sleaze: Histories of Crime in Latin America” this coming spring, and Dr. Seah’s “Introduction to East Asian Studies” this coming spring, the foundation course for the new minor in Asian Studies, which Dr. Seah chairs. And we continue to seek new ways to reach our students through interesting class projects (museum exhibit projects, field trips, class speakers). We’ve been working to increase our social media outreach, thanks to our able administrative assistant, Mary Bernard. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! Thanks to Mary for all the work on this newsletter. Keep in touch and we’ll be back in touch with you soon.

All best,

Dr. Emily Mieras
Chair, Department of History
During Spring Break 2015 Dr. Reiter took 15 Stetson students to explore Sorrento, Capri, Pompeii and Rome. Pairing with State University of New York Potsdam, the group had several opportunities to study Roman remains in connection with the Spring History of Rome course at Stetson and History of Roman Architecture course at Potsdam. There was also time for personal exploration of three beautiful Mediterranean destinations. Sorrento and Capri were ancient resort locations for the well-heeled and even emperors, and retain a cultural excitement. Students tried gelato and limoncello (an acquired taste), explored Sorentino churches and hiked to the summit of Capri. In Rome the group not only saw the Vatican, but arranged a tour in the crypts below the basilica. Reiter plans at this time to offer the opportunity again in Spring Break 2017. Alumni who are interested in coming along should contact her at kreiter@stetson.edu. She is currently planning the Spring 2016 England field course to Ireland, Wales, north England and Scotland, and welcomes alumni involvement.

If you would like to help students with financial need attend our field courses, please consider contributing to the Malcom Wynn Travel Fund: Gifts can be made online at www.stetson.edu/give or can be sent to:
Stetson University
Office of Development
421 N. Woodland Blvd., Unit 8286
DeLand, FL 32723
So what do History students DO in class? You might learn what home birth was like at the turn of the century from a modern day American midwife; you might explore the surprising history of the taco while eating one. You might examine 16th century Ottoman architecture or conduct a futuristic war games simulation roleplaying the governments of major world powers. You might give guided historical tours of Stetson’s campus to your classmates and professors, or plan a cultural time travel itinerary through Ukraine. Our courses bring History to life—you will not simply read about world events, but feel, imagine, and explore humanity in memorable courses that help you build your own critical framework.

Top Right: Dr. Reiter’s “How to be an Ancient Historian” First Year Seminar students created archaeological dig site cakes, including the above Egyptian Tomb and right Pumpkin Patch. Middle right: Dr. Mieras’ students discuss southern history outdoors. Below right: Dr. Reiter’s Stonehenge students do the math to recreate the famous structure on campus near The Rock.

Above: Dr. Mieras’ American Consumer Culture students created museum exhibits on consumer spaces; Below: Dr. Reiter’s Stonehenge class recreated the structure using students and bamboo sticks in place of stones!
Phi Alpha Theta Inductions

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees 2014-2015

Connally Barry
Justin Baumann
Cameron Black
Christina Canalizo
Athena Hale
Sarah Lipsitz
Rachel Mathes
Kathryn Nathenson
Shane Smith
Drew Smith-Denston
Dylan Stearns
Madeline Welsh
Andrei Pemberton
Courtney Brandt
Delaney Christine
Alexandra Ciabattoni
Elizabeth Cirri
Patrick Cone
Maria Frank
Griffin Fuller
Pauline Gibson

Brittany Goulette
Rebecca Herron
David Hughes
Eduardo Lopez
Natalia Mojica-Arango
Matthew Rafferty
Tabea Wanning
Madeline Welsh
Delaney Willis

Left: Phi Alpha Theta members attend the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference in January 2015; Above: Phi Alpha Theta students attend the Phi Alpha Theta conference at FGCU; Top: Stetson alumnus and History professor Dr. Philip Handyside gives a talk at the Phi Alpha Theta induction ceremony in April 2015
Faculty Professional Highlights

**Dr. Mayhill Fowler**
Dr. Fowler received a summer grant in 2015 for research travel to Ukraine. She has published “Mikhail Bulgakov, Mykola Kulish, and Soviet Theater: How Internal Transnationalism Remade Center and Periphery,” Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History, vol. 16, no. 2 (Spring 2015), 263-290.

“Berezil: Theater as Institution in Soviet Ukraine,” chapter in catalogue for Staging the Ukrainian Theatrical Avant-Garde of the 1920s and 1920s, exhibition at the Ukrainian Museum, NYC, February 2015


“‘The Word in a time of War,’” article on Ukrainian poet Serhiy Zhadan for Asymptote, online literary journal, October 2014

**Dr. Paul Croce**
Dr. Croce presented a paper at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in the same building where the Nobel Prizes for chemistry and physics are announced. He delivered his presentation, “The Incarnation Writ Large: Lifting the Veil on Emanuel Swedenborg’s Influence; or, The Origins of Modern Spirituality,” as Isaac Newton looked on; with his interest in both science and spirituality, he might have been interested in the topic, but the portrait stayed silent. Dr. Croce’s paper of the same title was recently published in Emanuel Swedenborg: Context, Content, Contribution, edited by Karl Grandin (Stockholm: Center for the History of Science, 2014).

**Dr. Leander Seah**
Dr. Seah has continued to work on his book, Conceptualizing Chinese Identity: China, the Nanyang, and Trans-Regionalism, which will explore the issue of Chinese identity. He also submitted two journal articles on Chinese history and Southeast Asian Studies that are currently under review: “Between Localization and Globalization: The South Seas Society, Global Southeast Asian Studies, and Post-Colonial Nation-Building, 1958-1971” and ”More than Overseas Chinese: Nanyang Chinese, China, and Jinan Academy, 1907-1911.” Finally, he wrote a book review of Chop Suey, USA: The Story of Chinese Food in America, by Yong Chen, that will be published soon (expected October 2015) in the Journal of Chinese Overseas 11, no. 2 (2015).

**Dr. Margaret Venzke**
Dr. Venzke continues to work on two book projects, a two-volume monograph entitled The Northern Syrian Lands in the 16th Century: An Anatomy of Prosperity, Population, Village and Town,” as well as Essays on Ottoman Land Administration in the 16th Century: A View from the Older Islamic Provinces, Eastern Anatolia and Syria. She also contributed the “Dhu’l-Kadr” entry for the third edition of the Encyclopaedia of Islam, the foremost reference work in Islamic Studies in the world.

**Dr. Emily Mieras**
Dr. Mieras used summer grant funds from the Brown Center for her research project “Nostalgia, History, and Place Marketing in National Main Street Center Communities.” She took a road trip through Georgia, from Valdosta to Dahlonega, stopping at towns along the way that participate in the National Main Street Center program to analyze the intersection between history, design aesthetics, and local branding. She will present the results at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History this November. In addition to providing an excellent research experience, this trip also supplied good material for courses including the U. S. Survey and Southern History/culture—from photographs and experience of Andersonville, to the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon, and the Gold Rush Museum in Dahlonega.
Faculty Professional Highlights, cont.

**Dr. Nicole Mottier**
Dr. Mottier published “Invented Figures and Imaginary Shrubs: Bank Bureaucrats’ Lack of Field Experience in Mexico 1930s-40s” Thomas Luckett et. al. (eds) *The Cultural History of Money and Credit* (Lexington, imprint of Rowman & Littlefield). Estimated print date: June 2016. She was also the invited Keynote Speaker at the Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony, Rollins Collins Nov 2014, entitled “Why History Matters.”

**Dr. Kimberly Reiter**
Dr. Reiter was awarded an NEH Enduring Questions Grant in 2015 to develop a course to examine the meaning of “the natural state”. In the Fall of 2014, Dr. Kimberly Reiter’s History of Greece class experimented with various theories of Greek warfare. Each student created a Greek shield, and the students tested strategies of engagement (with foam-tipped bamboo poles). The point was to understand how engagement in battle built unit cohesion among different social classes, leading to calls for better political participation and eventually representation.

**Dr. Eric Kurlander**
Dr. Kurlander received a summer research grant and spent the past summer conducting research at the Federal Archives in Berlin and the Berlin State Library for his in-progress book project. Dr. Kurlander also had two books published in the last year: the first, (co-edited with Joanne Miyang Cho and Douglas McGetchin), *Transcultural Encounters between Germany and India: Kindred Spirits in the 19th and 20th Centuries* (Routledge, 2014), and his most recent (co-edited with Monica Black), *Revisiting the ‘Nazi Occult’: Histories, Realities, Legacies* (Camden House, 2015). He has also published a number of articles in the past year, among them “The Nazi Magician’s Controversy: Enlightenment, “Border Science”, and Occultism in the Third Reich.”

Alumni Highlights

**Tim Tully, History, Class of 2011:**
Tim completed his Masters in Library and Information Studies at Florida State University in 2015 and is now the Business & Career Librarian with the Brooklyn Public Library in New York City.

**Patrick Cone, History and Political Science, Class of 2015:**
Patrick is attending Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL, pursuing a Masters of Divinity.

**Jesika Butler, History, Class of 2014:**
Jesika Butler is a History teacher at River Springs Middle School, and begins her masters in educational leadership at Stetson University in summer 2016

**Dylan Stearns, History, Class of 2015:**
Dylan Stearns is pursuing a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation at the University of Georgia

**Hanna Lipsey, History, Class of 2014:**
Hanna Lipsey is currently pursuing both a masters of education, with focus on curriculum and instruction, and a masters of History at Florida Gulf Coast University

**Tabea Wanninger, History and Political Science, Class of 2015:**
Tabea Wanninger is pursuing an M. A. in European History and Civilisation through the Europeaum Programme, a joined program between Leiden University - Paris Sorbonne - Oxford.

**John Dieck, History and French, Class of 2014:**
John Dieck is working for the City Year program in Miami.

**Jeremiah Fues, American Studies and History, Class of 2015:**
Jeremiah Fues is in his first year at Stetson College of Law.

**Christian Gowan, History, Class of 2015:**
Christian Gowan is pursuing a Master’s of Public Administration at the University of Oregon.
Dear Stetson Family,

It seems like only yesterday that I was walking across the stage in the Edmunds Center to receive my Bachelors of Arts degrees in history and American studies, with minors in gender studies and Africana studies. Having such a heavy background in American history, as well as coming from a liberal arts university, the most frequent question I got asked as I was nearing graduation was, am I going to pursue an academic or law career? These are the most frequently asked questions to history majors because many people are unaware of the various careers that historians can pursue. However, I always knew I wanted to use my concentrations in other fields, such as museums or consultation. Upon further research I finally knew what I wished to pursue, public history. So I packed up my bags and moved to northern Virginia to attend George Mason University’s Master’s program in public history.

Moving to northern Virginia, outside of the nation’s capital, Washington D.C., has been one of the best decisions for my career. For over a year I have had the opportunity to work with the National Park Service, as an intern and as an employee. For several months in 2014 I worked as an interpretive intern and guide at Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. Not only did I intern there but I also interned at the Historic American Buildings Survey, an organization within the National Park Service. Internships are one of the most rewarding opportunities presented to young professionals because you can expand upon your education as well as create a growing professional network.

These internships eventually led me to my current job as a park guide with the National Park Service at Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. My job not only entails tours of a historic home but it also includes educating the general public on how past events can connect and relate to the present. Working here has not only allowed me to utilize my undergraduate and graduate studies, but has helped sharpen my public speaking skills and enhanced my knowledge of public history.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer myself up as a resource to any Stetson student that is looking to pursue a public history career, particularly in Washington DC. If you’d ever like to talk through some ideas and/or opportunities with me, I’d be more than happy to help. Please find my personal information below.

Work: Kristine_zadrovitz@nps.gov
Personal: kris_zadrovitz@gmail.com

Best Wishes,
Kristine Zadrovitz, ’13
Senior Alex Rafferty received a SURE grant in Summer 2015—above, he explores the history of the Titanic at the Merseyside Maritime Museum in Ireland.

Senior Katie Nathenson received an Honors Stipend and a SURE grant—at left, she explores Angel’s Landing at Zion National Park, Utah, and at lower right she stands next to a famed redwood tree in Redwood National Park, California.

Sophomore Brett Whitmore, right, went by train to the annual conference of the Oral History Association with support from the History department’s Malcolm Wynn Student Research Fund.

History alumna Tabea Wanninger ’15, left, received Dean’s funding to attend the German Studies Association conference with Dr. Eric Kurlander. Alumnus John Dieck, ’15, lower left, presented his research at his ICON internship.

Senior Cameron Black received a SURE grant in Summer 2015 to conduct research at the archives of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, below, in Springfield, Mass.
History Student Senior Research, 2014-2015

Courtney Brandt

Alex Grisham
“The Decision to Wage the Peloponnesian War: Self-Immolation of the Golden Age of Athens”

Garen Freed
“Alcibiades as Statesman: Incarnation of Intelligence or Icon of Ineptitude?”

Pat Cone
"Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Theory of Political Religion"

Shane Smith
“Enemy Aliens: The Role of Race in US and British Internment Policy During the Second World War”

Chris Mitchell
“‘Ordinary Men’ in a ‘War Without Mercy.’ American War Crimes in Comparative Context”

John Dieck
“Assimilation, Association, or Heterotopia? French Colonialism and Urban Planning in Algeria and Morocco, 1830-1914”

Athena Hale

Tabea Wanninger
“The ‘German Question’ Revisited. Continuity and Change in West Germany’s Foreign Policy from the Hallstein Doctrine to Ostpolitik”

Dylan Stearns
“The Rosewood Exception: A Unique Case of Race, Class, and Violence in the Interwar South”

Jeremiah Fues

Christian Gowan
“Disney's America: Re-Imagining the Past and the Corporate Interpretation of History”

Watch on all of the 2015 Senior Research panels on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdHMd1eQivOUH3NSba_cOnqSujuyPwv6vt
Follow us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/StetsonHistoryDept

Follow us on Twitter!
https://twitter.com/StetsonUHistory

Follow us on Instagram!
https://www.instagram.com/stetsonuhistory/

The History major at Stetson:
http://catalog.stetson.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/history/

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 the United States go to war in 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 support the History Department and our 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
421 N. Woodland Blvd., Unit 8286
DeLand, FL 32723
Questions? Contact Mary Bernard at mbernard@stetson.edu.