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# The Sturges Review

The Department of History  
State University of New York, College at Geneseo  
1 College Circle  
Geneseo, NY 14454

Spring 2010



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## FROM THE CHAIR

For all of us at Geneseo, every academic year is full of important milestones. For the History Department, few years have been as meaningful and momentous as 2009-2010.

First, this year four (out of fifteen) members of the department published books. The four authors—Cathy Adams, Joe Cope, Kathy Mapes, and Helena Waddy—wrote on subjects ranging from women's identities and labor migration in the United States to the Irish Rebellion and German passion plays in Europe. More important, our authors represent the full spectrum of the department, including a new faculty member who joined the department three years ago and a



senior faculty member who has taught here for more than two decades. Together they show the department's spectacular achievement in balancing the demand for high quality teaching with the utmost dedication to research and writing.

Second, 2009-10 marks Bill Gohlman's final year as a full-time faculty member at SUNY Geneseo. After thirty-five years of teaching the history of the Muslim world, Professor Gohlman will retire on September 1, 2010. As a part of the College's gradual retirement program, he will teach one course per semester in the next academic year and will continue to teach for the department for a few more years. On behalf of the department and many thousands of Geneseo history students, I thank Gohlman for enlightening us on the history of a part of the world that many of us know little about.

At this year's Alumni Luncheon (see announcement elsewhere in this newsletter), the department will celebrate the success of our four authors and the career of Bill Gohlman. With these twin celebrations, the History Department will reflect on its past success and look forward to building an even stronger department for the second decade of the twentieth-first century.

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## ALUMNI RECEPTION EVENTS

This year's alumni weekend activities will take place on **Saturday, May 1 at the Big Tree Inn in Geneseo**, from 11:45am-4 pm. We have a full slate of activities planned for this occasion, including a lunch buffet (pasta, soups and salads), a roundtable presentation, the presentation of annual department awards, and a special alumni reception with cash bar.

This year's event will include a discussion of recent publications in history by the four faculty authors profiled in this newsletter: Cathy Adams, Kathy Mapes, Helena Waddy and Joe Cope. We will also be celebrating the career of Bill Gohlman, who will be moving into phased retirement after 35 years of service to the College.

With so much to celebrate, we hope that you will consider attending this event – the cost for all events is free, although we are happy to accept donations at the door. We do need an approximate head count, and would therefore appreciate it if you could RSVP if you plan to attend. **Please send an email indicating how many will be attending in your party to [mckinney@geneseo.edu](mailto:mckinney@geneseo.edu) by Friday, April 23.**

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

After teaching 35 years, Professor **Bill Gohlman** will retire on September 1, 2010. Joining the College's gradual retirement program, Professor Gohlman will teach one course per semester in 2010-2011 and will continue to teach for the department in the following years. The department thanks Bill Gohlman for his three and half decades of service and his devotion to building a strong non-western history curriculum at Geneseo. We will be profiling Professor Gohlman's career at Geneseo in a special alumni communication later in the year.

In May 2009, the history department also bid farewell to Professor **Michael Oberg** (pictured right, with Kathy Mapes and Tze-ki Hon at the spring 2009 end of semester luncheon), who accepted a job at the University of Houston. During his time at Geneseo, Professor Oberg was recognized across campus as a respected scholar and committed teacher. While at Geneseo, he produced a number of major publications, including *Uncas: First of the Mohegans*

(Cornell University Press, 2003), *Samuel Wiseman's Book of Record: The Official Account of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia* (Lexington Books, 2005), and *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand: Roanoke's Forgotten Indians* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008). He received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in



Teaching in 2001 and served the college in various ways including a one-year term as department chair. In the wider community, he also served as expert consultant on a number of cases pertaining to Iroquois land

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claims in New York State. The department thanks Professor Oberg for his many years of service to the Geneseo community and wishes him the best at Houston.

In August 2009, the department saluted **Kathy Mapes**, whose commitment to student achievement was recognized through a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Mapes has been an extremely popular teacher since coming to Geneseo in 2000 and has been very active in mentoring a large number of student research projects. Her Chancellor's award underscores the talent and dedication that she has brought to the College.

In May 2009, the department celebrated **commencement** as 117 history majors, minors and concentrators became new alumni. The 2009 graduating class included four Phi Beta Kappa members, thirteen graduates with department or college honors, and twenty-five graduates with summa cum laude, magna cum laude, or cum laude honors. At the 2010 commencement, we will be celebrating the graduation of just over one hundred students. Twenty-three students will be completing history honors theses on topics such as: African-American education in Rochester during the World War II era, Andalusian nationalism, Caesar and the Gauls, the Haitian Revolution, film culture in 20<sup>th</sup> century China, the history of toys in early America, and radical sects during the English civil war. A number of these projects have been supported by student research travel money through the Geneseo Foundation. Donations from Geneseo alumni and friends have made it possible for students from this year's graduating class to visit archives in New York, Wisconsin, Washington DC, Boston and Atlanta.

In April 2009, the department's chapter of **Phi Alpha Theta**, the history national honors society, presented twelve papers at the annual Western/Central New York Phi Alpha

Theta Regional Conference held at Alfred University. The papers reflected the breadth of undergraduate learning opportunities at Geneseo, including works on the history of the western humanities requirement at Geneseo, the historiography of civil rights scholarship, Alexander the Great's campaigns in Asia, the Sullivan-Clinton campaign, and the experiences of 17<sup>th</sup> century English ambassadors to the Mughal Empire. Four Geneseo papers presented at the conference were honored with "best paper" awards by faculty commentators. In March 2010, thirteen Geneseo undergraduates presented papers at the regional conference at Nazareth College. Once again, Geneseo students excelled, bringing home four "best paper" awards and one honorable mention. The department would like to recognize our students' hard work at the Phi Alpha Theta conferences and thanks them for representing the College and department so well. A photo of the 2010 participants appears below



In January 2010, the **History Club** arranged a field trip to New York City. After an overnight bus trip downstate, students visited the United Nations Building and were escorted on a guided tour of the headquarters of the History Channel. In the afternoon, students had the opportunity to visit city sights on their own and several took advantage of the specialized research

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collections available at the main branch of the New York Public Library.

In August 2009, the department welcomed back a number of successful full and part-time lecturers. They included **Drew Maciag** (Visiting Assistant Professor), **Jim Revell** (Adjunct Instructor), **Thomas Barden** (Adjunct Instructor), **Shane Butterfield** (Adjunct Instructor), and **Todd Goehle** (Adjunct Instructor).

During the 2009-2010 academic year, faculty developed a number of **new courses**. These courses reflect cutting edge scholarship and reflect the increasing globalization of the history curriculum. Bill Gohlman has completed a long term project to offer two introductory level "World History" courses, Justin Behrend offered "Slave Rebellions and Resistance in the Atlantic World" and Joe Cope offered "Northern Ireland, 1960-present". Visiting faculty and adjuncts also offered a number of new and exciting courses, including: "South Asia: Religion, Culture and Society" (Joseph Hoffman), "European History and Film" (Todd Goehle), and "The Vietnam War (Drew Maciag). These courses point to evolution within the field of history as they situate historical events within broader global frameworks and focus on matters relating to diversity, inequality, and power.

*The Geneseo Scene*, the College alumni magazine, profiled history alumnus **Joe Bucci** ('67) in its Winter 2010 edition. Mr. Bucci has long been one of the department's strongest supporters and his generosity has made it possible for our students to have enhanced access to study abroad and research travel. We thank Mr. Bucci for his many years of support and hope that you will read the article profiling his fascinating career, available online at:

[http://www.geneseo.edu/geneseo\\_scene/winter-2010](http://www.geneseo.edu/geneseo_scene/winter-2010)

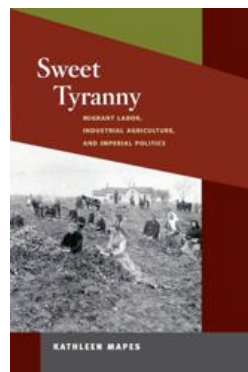
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## SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH: FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

This past year, the history department saw four faculty-authored monographs appear in print. In May, the University of Illinois Press published Kathy Mapes's *Sweet Tyranny: Migrant Labor, Industrial Agriculture, and Imperial Politics*; in August, the Boydell Press published Joe Cope's *England and the 1641 Irish Rebellion*; in December, Oxford University Press published Cathy Adams's *Love of Freedom: Black Women in Colonial and Revolutionary New England*; and in April, Oxford University Press will issue Helena Waddy's *Oberammergau in the Nazi Era: The Fate of a Catholic Village in Hitler's Germany*. Representing multiple generations of Geneseo's teacher-scholars, these works demonstrate the department's ongoing commitment to academic excellence. The history department's philosophy is built upon the notion that faculty members' enthusiasm for research supports student achievement by modeling the skills that we stress in our curriculum. Our four authors reflect the shared conviction that research is a vital component of successful teaching.

Kathy Mapes's *Sweet Tyranny* explores the history of the Midwest sugar beet industry during the first half of the twentieth century. The work focuses on the emergence of industrial agricultural practices in rural America, exploring how these practices affected local class and race relations as well as national immigration policies and imperial politics. Mapes's work has already received numerous accolades, with one reviewer suggesting that it will be "a mainstay among works in ethnic studies, agricultural labor,



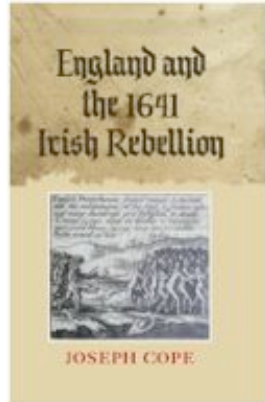


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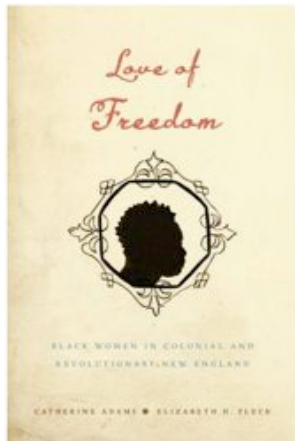
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corporate power, and the state". *Sweet Tyranny* is also the 2010 recipient of the Richard L. Wentworth Prize for the best book in American history awarded by the University of Illinois Press.

Joe Cope's *England and the 1641 Irish Rebellion* explores representations of and responses to English and Scottish settlers displaced by the 1641 rising. His work explores the ways that the rising intersected with fears of "popery" in 17<sup>th</sup> century English society and in turn mobilized popular political activism on the eve of the English civil war.



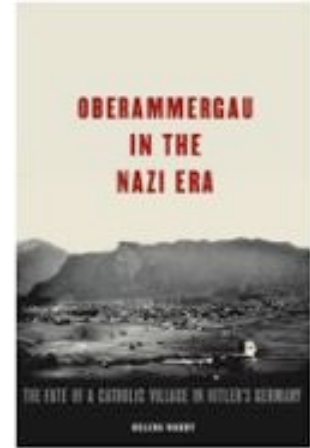
Cathy Adams's *Love of Freedom*, co-authored with Elizabeth H. Pleck of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, explores the significant roles played by black women in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century American society. *Love of Freedom* is a path-



breaking work, representing the first book-length examination of these issues. As Adams's noted in a February 2010 profile in *The Lamron*, the Geneseo student newspaper, the book will "bring the formerly faceless women" of the colonial period into "the next generation of African-American history textbooks". Like *Sweet Tyranny*, *Love of Freedom* has already received enormous positive feedback, with Darlene Clark Hine of Northwestern

University describing it as "a superbly researched and beautifully written history".

Helena Waddy's *Oberammergau in the Nazi Era* represents the culmination of many years work of painstaking microhistorical research on the Bavarian home of the world famous Oberammergau passion play. Waddy's work explores tensions and divisions within the community, and the complex relationship



between the local community and national authorities. Oxford University Press describes this forthcoming work as "an important contribution to a growing genre" and "a fascinating and moving portrait" of life in the village.

Although the department has never before seen the publication of four monographs in a single year, the achievements of our faculty reflect our strong commitment to scholarly excellence. In the past decade, faculty in the history department have published more than a dozen books (several of them award-winning) and numerous scholarly articles and have made dozens of scholarly presentations. A number of important new projects are also on track to appear within the next several years. Much of this work is supported through generous donations to the Geneseo Foundation, and the department is very grateful to the many alumni donors who contribute in so many ways to the success of our research projects.

The department will be celebrating the contributions of our department authors at this year's Alumni/Awards Reception (see additional details elsewhere in this

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newsletter), and we hope that you can join us in celebrating the department's long track record of successful scholarly publication.

Additional information on the history department's four authors can be found at:

<http://media.www.thelamron.com/media/storage/paper1150/news/2010/02/11/News/History.Dept.Publishes.Four.Books-3870280.shtml>

Kathleen Mapes, *Sweet Tyranny: Migrant Labor, Industrial Agriculture, and Imperial Politics*

<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/44xy6hh9780252034367.html>

Joseph Cope, *England and the 1641 Irish Rebellion*

<http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=8451>

Catherine Adams and Elizabeth H. Pleck, *Love of Freedom: Black Women in Colonial and Revolutionary New England*

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/HistoryAmerican/Women/?view=usa&ci=9780195389098>

Helena Waddy, *Oberammergau in the Nazi Era: The Fate of a Catholic Village in Hitler's Germany*

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/ReligionTheology/HistoryofChristianity/Modern/?view=usa&ci=9780195371277>

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### SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY: THE GENESEO FOOD PROJECT

*Submitted by Jordan Kleiman*

Jordan Kleiman and Ken Cooper (English Department) established the Geneseo Food Project in the Fall of 2007 to explore the relationships between food, environmental sustainability, and social justice, and to model an environmentally and socially sustainable food system on campus. With

the help of a number of dedicated students, Jordan and Ken established a campus community garden in the Roemer Arboretum, in which students, faculty, and staff grow a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Jordan and Ken have also incorporated the garden into their team-taught, "head-and-hands" American Studies course entitled "American Garden," offered for the first time last Fall. Jordan has also



developed a History Senior Seminar on "The Politics of Food in the Modern America." In addition to these curricular development efforts, the Geneseo Food Project sponsors a speaker series, which is in its third year of bringing food activists, farmers, and scholars to Geneseo to help us link our small, local project with broader issues of food, justice, and the environment. A number of students involved with the Food Project have presented in this series as well, including some who have shared their experiences working on organic farms in New York, Vermont, Europe, and India, and others who

have presented on their endeavors in urban food activism.



Several veterans of the Geneseo Food Project have gone on to do interesting and valuable food-related activism since graduating. **Matt Lapennas** ('07, pictured left), who

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wrote his honors thesis on the history of sustainable agriculture, worked full-time on two organic farms in New York and traveled throughout Europe working on numerous others through a program called World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF). Matt then took an AmeriCorps/VISTA position with Buffalo ReUse, where he organized urban community gardens in low-income neighborhoods of Buffalo. Lately, he's been perfecting the art of building clay ovens (a skill he acquired while working on an Italian organic farm) and has become an accomplished backyard baker.

**Brad Kujawski** ('08), who did his Environmental Studies internship at Porter Farms (an organic operation north of Batavia, NY), has followed in Matt's footsteps, taking an AmeriCorps/VISTA position organizing community gardens with Buffalo ReUse.

**Stephanie Aquilina** (Anthropology '09), who worked with classmate Yolanda Gonzalez, Jordan, and Ken Cooper on a collective directed study project to establish the Geneseo Community-Supported Market (in affiliation with Rochester's South Wedge Farmers Market), has taken an AmeriCorps/VISTA position running the Veggie Mobile program for the nonprofit organization Capital District Community Gardens. Part of the growing food justice movement, the Veggie Mobile sells wholesale fruits and vegetables year-round to underserved, low-income urban populations in New York's Capital Region.

**Molly Kerker** (English '09 with a dual minor in American Studies and Sociology) has been deeply engaged in food-related activism for some time now. In addition to serving as a volunteer tutor for the Geneseo Migrant Center and WWOOFing on organic farms in California and India, Molly has taken an AmeriCorps/VISTA position with the Mount Morris Food Pantry (a project of Catholic Charities of Livingston County), where her

duties include, among other things, organizing a community garden for low-income residents. Molly is currently sitting in on a senior seminar in the Politics of Food and is planning to pursue a graduate degree in American Studies with a focus on food politics.

For more information on the Geneseo Food Project, see:

[http://www.geneseo.edu/CMS/display.php?dp\\_t=gfp](http://www.geneseo.edu/CMS/display.php?dp_t=gfp)

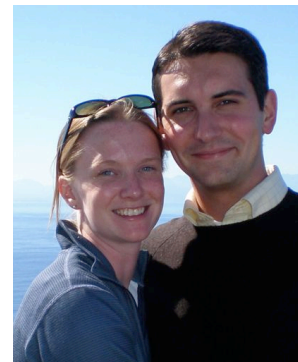
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### SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY ALUMNI: RYAN IRWIN

*Submitted by Emilye Crosby*

Ryan Irwin ('03, pictured left with his wife,



Amy, '03), writes that his recently completed Ph.D. thesis, "The Gordian Knot: Apartheid and the Unmaking of the Liberal World Order, 1960-1970," began "the first and only time I was hit over the head with a police baton." At the time, Ryan was a junior at Geneseo but studying abroad at Oxford University and visiting Amsterdam "for the same reason twentysomethings everywhere go to Amsterdam." In Amsterdam, he found himself "in the middle of an anti-American riot," centered around issues he did not understand well until much later. Over time, his reflection on those events intersected with his graduate study in Diplomatic History at Ohio State University. There he realized that "many of the authors in my chosen field were actually wrestling with a question that framed my own path.... [P]ut somewhat crassly in the language of American foreign relations historiography, has the United States been a

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negative, positive, or neutral force in the world?"

In his scholarly work, Ryan is particularly interested in developing a framework for understanding our contemporary world, one that "grapples meaningfully with the relationship between local knowledge and global identity, and provides students, educators, policymakers, and labor and business leaders with the cognitive tools to better appreciate interdependence today." His dissertation focuses specifically on "how, where, and why decolonization transformed global civil society in the mid-twentieth century." This is part of his larger interest in the intersection between European imperialism, American liberalism, and postcolonial nationalism in the mid-twentieth century. Ryan is scheduled to defend his dissertation in April. In the fall, he will move into a dual appointment in the department of history and the International Security Studies Center at Yale.

Ryan's graduate school career has been marked by considerable success. He has held numerous fellowships, including most recently full-time dissertation support from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and Yale University's International Security Studies. After presenting quite a few conference papers and invited lectures around the United States and in South Africa, he is set for a world tour in the next six months with presentations scheduled for Japan, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and several U.S. cities. Ryan also has an extraordinary publishing record, including multiple book reviews along with seven articles, book chapters, and essays in print or accepted for publication. Several of these have won prestigious prizes.

In addition to the importance of his study abroad experience, especially his encounter with that police baton, Ryan reflects that writing an honors thesis at Geneseo was a transformative experience and that, along with

the friendships he developed, his strongest memories of Geneseo are the high quality of the teaching that was so often accompanied by encouragement and personal interest from professors. Ryan's Honors Thesis, "America's Window to the World: Rethinking President Kennedy's Civil Rights Policy," took him to Boston and the John F. Kennedy Presidential library, with support from an Undergraduate Research Grant and a Bucci Fellowship. It also earned him a History Department paper prize and led to his first scholarly conference presentation.

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#### **SPOTLIGHT ON UNDERGRADUATES: SERVICE AND SCHOLARSHIP**

*Joe Cope, Emilye Crosby, Meg Stolee and Jim Williams contributed to this article.*

In this new feature of the History Department alumni newsletter, we will be profiling a number of Geneseo undergraduates whose work at the college reflects the diverse experiences available to history majors. One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching at Geneseo is the opportunity to interact with students who are taking advantage of the many opportunities for enhanced learning such as study abroad, internships, independent research projects, reading groups and learning communities, work in specialized archives, participation in academic conferences, and work in interdisciplinary majors.

**Brian Hartle** (History and Black Studies, '10) and **Ryne Kitzrow** (History and Political Science, '10) are among the 14 students honored by Geneseo as Presidential Scholars for 2009-10. In addition to being Presidential Scholars, Hartle was awarded at PATH Award (Promoting Awareness toward Harmony) as a junior and Kitzrow has been awarded the Jeremy Byrnes and Roland de Marco Scholarships (supported by alumni donations to the History Department) as well as a



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prestigious Chancellors' Award for Student Excellence in 2010.

As first and second year students Hartle and Kitzrow helped do the archival research on Geneseo's own history that they and others used in "Conflicted Histories: Geneseo and the Struggle for Justice," a keynote presentation for Geneseo's Race and Campus Culture Teach-In in Spring 2008. The summer after his sophomore year, Kitzrow spent nine weeks in Tanzania through Global Services Corp working on Sustainable Organic Agriculture and Community Training and he is currently completing an Honors Thesis, "The Reality of Enfranchisement: The History of African American Disfranchisement, Voter Discrimination, and Unequal Political Opportunity Since World War II." Brian Hartle studied Humanities in Prague, but has focused more of his attention on campus where he is currently Director of Academic Affairs for the Student Association. Both Kitzrow's travel to Tanzania and Hartle's Honors Thesis, "In Search of Quality Education for Rochester City Students after Brown," have been supported by the History Department, primarily through Bucci and Svigals Fellowships. Kitzrow is currently considering a job offer from Nizwa University in Oman, to work on an Academic Literacy Program and Hartle will be teaching social studies in Connecticut as part of the Teach for America program.

The History Department nominated **Adele Costa** and **Stan McKay** for Presidential Scholars for the 2010-2011 academic year. Stan McKay (History, '11) entered Geneseo as an adult, non-traditional student in September 2009 after retiring from a career with US Postal Service. He received his Associate's degree from Empire State in the mid-1990s. In his first semester at Geneseo, Stan excelled in his academic work and is well on his way to becoming a dedicated and insightful researcher and author. He has taken on challenging research topics such as debating the Norman theory of the origins of

Russian civilization and will be writing a department honors thesis next year on Soviet participation in the Spanish Civil War. When not working diligently on his academics, Stan is a father, husband, and community activist in his hometown. The History Department nominated Adele Costa for consideration as a Presidential Scholar for her outstanding academic performance and her dynamic participation in classes. Adele's engagement in class discussions raises the educational experience of the entire class. Adele is actively involved in a number of campus and community issues, organizations, and activities, including Pride Alliance, the Student and Campus Engagement Subcommittee, and the annual Equality and Justice Day lobbying efforts in Albany. She also presented a very-well received paper at the 2010 Phi Alpha Theta conference where she received a "best paper" award.

Seniors **Shanna Reulbach** (History and Political Science, '10) and **Alexis Everson** (History and Adolescent Certification, '10) are also completing Honors Theses with support from Geneseo Student Research Grants and History Department funding. Reulbach has traveled to Atlanta, ordered archival materials from the State Historical Society in Wisconsin, and will be attending the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) conference in April to attend panels and conduct interviews for her thesis, "Community Organizing, Politics, and the Arts: Women in the Atlanta Civil Rights Movement." Alexis Everson received similar support to travel to Boston for research at Harvard University's Schlesinger Library and Northeastern University's archives for her thesis, "Boston's School Desegregation Movement: An Analysis of Activists' Alternative Approaches to Ending Educational Inequities." Everson will be teaching as part of the Teach for American program in the fall.

Reulbach also epitomizes the combination of academic excellence, community activism,

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and broad interests that mark the best of our students. In addition to her outstanding academic work, she is a campus leader in Democracy Matters, spent a semester studying at Oxford University, has worked as an Intern with the NYS Division of Human Rights, volunteered with the ACLU, participated in Livingston CARES alternate Spring Break, and worked with Habitat for Humanity. She is also involved in the arts at Geneseo, through music and dance performance. Shanna plans to be a civil rights lawyer and is currently trying to decide which law school to attend in the Fall.

Sophomore **David O'Donnell** (History and Adolescent Certification, '12) is continuing this tradition of excellence. He has already won a Geneseo Student Research Assistant grant and is presenting papers at GREAT Day and the Phi Alpha Theta conference. More significantly, he was among six students across Geneseo who were awarded Geneseo Foundation/ Follett Fellowships for summer research. As part of his project, "Black Power in Rochester," O'Donnell will read extensively in the new literature on Black Power and post-World War II studies of African Americans outside the South, while also doing archival research at the University of Rochester, the Rochester Science Museum, and the Rundell Library. He will present his findings at GREAT Day in 2011 and plans to use this research as the basis for an honors thesis.

**Katherine Schwartz** (History, '09), originally from Mt. Sinai, New York, demonstrates a very different path for a Geneseo history major. As an undergraduate, Kate majored in history with a minor in piano pedagogy and was a member of the Edgar Fellows/College Honors program. Like many of our undergraduates, Kate demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, volunteering at Strong Hospital and Livingston County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and participated in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. She also took advantage of study abroad opportunities,

spending a semester in Japan. In May 2009, she was inducted into the Geneseo chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and was named as the recipient of the Jeremy Byrnes award by the history department. She was recipient of a Bill and Stacey Edgar Endowed Scholarship and was named a scholar-in-residence as an undergraduate. Kate's 2009 senior honors thesis, which used primary source evidence to explore the career of Sir Thomas Roe, a 17<sup>th</sup> century English diplomat and first ambassador to the Mughal court in India, was named as one of the six best papers at the Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Society) Regional conference and received the history department's "Best Senior Paper" prize. Whereas many of our graduates go on to careers in teaching, academic work or law, Kate has mapped out a very different path. In the fall of 2010, she will be enrolling in medical school through the Columbia-Basset track of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She notes that her history research experiences at Geneseo repeatedly came up during medical school interviews, and that interviewers were impressed with the projects that she had been involved with as an undergraduate.

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## FACULTY UPDATES

**Cathy Adams:** In January 2010, Cathy Adams' first book *Love of Freedom: Black Women in Colonial and Revolutionary New England*, co-authored with Elizabeth H. Pleck of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, was published by Oxford University Press. Cathy is pleased that this project has come to a successful conclusion and is looking forward to continuing to devote herself to her next project, a material and cultural history of the American kitchen. She



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continues to enjoy working with Geneseo's talented and enthusiastic students in her courses on early African American history, American women's history, and the era of the American Revolution.



**Justin Behrend:** In the last year, Justin presented papers at two conferences. At the Upstate New York Women's History Organization 2009 conference in Geneva, New York, he presented a paper, "Women

Control the Election: Rethinking Black Women's Participation in Electoral Politics during Reconstruction." In November 2009, he presented "Black Political Geography and White Liner Attacks: Place and Space in the Overthrow of Reconstruction" at the Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Work continues on revisions to his book manuscript, *Reconstructing Democracy*. When not teaching or researching, he enjoys coaching his son's T-Ball team.

**Bill Cook:** Bill has been on leave for a second year to teach at Wabash College, his alma mater. As much as he loves Wabash, he is eager to return to the halls of Sturges. Bill will not leave Wabash empty handed, however. On May 16, he will receive an honorary degree at Wabash's commencement. In the past year, Bill has been his usual active self. He directed a 6-week National Endowment for the Humanities seminar for high school teachers in Italy, taught his 3 week class "Medieval and Renaissance City-States in Italy" in Siena Italy for Geneseo and Wabash students, keynoted a conference in Genoa Italy, was a delegate and speaker at Forum 2000 in Prague, spent a week as a visiting scholar at Southern Oregon University, took Wabash

students to Florence for 10 days, presented a 4-day program in Florence for major donors to art restoration projects, and spoke in Calgary, Puerto Vallarta, Rome, and Paris. He has just returned from Nairobi, Kenya, where he spoke at two universities and for several organizations including an inter-religious group of Christians and Muslims. Bill published the lead article in a new book published by Palgrave/Macmillan entitled *Finding Francis*.

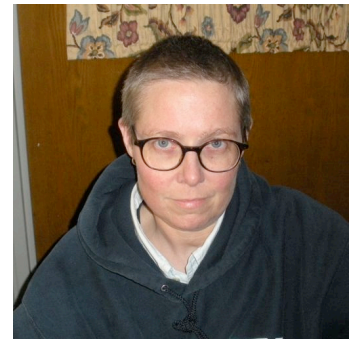
**Joe Cope:** Joe Cope's first book, *England and the 1641 Irish Rebellion*, was published by



Boydell Press in August. During a sabbatical leave in the fall semester, Joe transitioned to a new research project on spiritual healing in the British Isles during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. As part of this work he

traveled to archives in England and Ireland and has presented two conference papers on Valentine Greatrakes, a "touch healer" who achieved widespread notoriety in Restoration Ireland and England. Joe continues to enjoy teaching at Geneseo and this semester is offering a new 300-level course on Northern Ireland from the 1960s to the present.

**Emilye Crosby:** Emilye gave talks at a number of conferences and schools, and in April will participate in a special OAH double-session, "Telling Stories: Negotiating the Oral History of the Black Freedom Movement from



Activist and Scholarly Perspectives," along with participants from Delta State University, Susquehanna, University of Mississippi, and

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Brown University. Emilye was on the Core faculty for the Hamer Institute "Landmarks in American Democracy: From Freedom Summer to the Memphis Sanitation Workers



Strike," an institute for community college teachers. As coordinator of Africana/Black Studies programs, Emilye co-sponsored with the group Democracy Matters a talk by Hasan Kwame Jeffries on "Freedom Politics: From the Black Panthers to Barack Obama" and as coordinator of the King Commemoration Committee, she organized a visit by Mississippi SNCC activist Hollis Watkins, including a workshop on Student Activism in Jones Hall (pictured above).

**Bill Gohlman:** After a stellar career teaching a wide variety of classes at Geneseo and providing exemplary service to the institution in key roles such as Chair of the College Senate and multi-term president of the faculty union chapter, Bill has decided to enter the college's phased retirement program. Next year he will teach only one class a semester, his new World History class.



**Tze-Ki Hon:** After two years of review and revision, Tze-ki Hon published an article in *Modern China* at the beginning of 2010. In the article he discussed the often ignored concept of "Sino-Babylonianism" (or the

western origin of Chinese civilization) in the context of 20th century global capitalism. In the last three months, four of his five book reviews written in 2009 appeared in *Dao*, *Journal of Chinese Studies*, and *Chinese*

*Perspectives*. His research interests in early 20th China have connected him to two research

projects funded by the Shibusawa Foundation in Tokyo, Japan. In late March, he will present portions of his book manuscript on early 20th century Chinese thought (under contract for publication with Brill, Holland) at the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia. He will continue to present sections of his book manuscript at conferences in Munich, London, and Shanghai in the fall of 2010.



**Jordan Kleiman:** Jordan is back in the classroom after a year of leave (courtesy of the National Science Foundation) to complete the research for his book on *The Appropriate Technology Movement in American Political Culture*. He is also working on a spin-off



article exploring the relationship between environmentalism and social justice activism in the South Bronx during the 1970s and eighties. Jordan's essay entitled "Local Food and the Problem of Public Authority" appeared in the April 2009 issue of *Technology & Culture* (available through the link on his website). He continues to co-direct the Geneseo Food Project, which includes a campus community garden, a speaker series, curricular initiatives, and a



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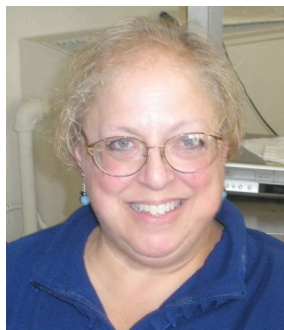
student-run Community-Supported Market program.

**Kathy Mapes:** Kathy continues to teach lower level courses on immigration, rural, and labor history as well as upper division courses in the history of citizenship and the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. During the past year, Kathy Mapes won the Chancellor's Award



for Excellence and teaching and saw the publication of her first book, *Sweet Tyranny: Migrant Labor, Industrial Agriculture, and Imperial Politics* (University of Illinois Press, 2009). *Sweet Tyranny* has just been awarded the Richard L. Wentworth/ American Award in American history, for the best history monograph published by the University of Illinois Press in 2009. In June, Kathy will chair a conference panel on labor and sugar at the Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting. Kathy is continuing on the early stages of research of a second book project provisionally entitled *Rural Panaceas: Immigrants, Land, and Labor, 1850-1940*.

**Meg Stolee:** Meg continues to be active in service to the department and college. With the help of the Seminars and Awards Committee, she has worked hard in the past few years to clarify and standardize the process by which the department selects scholarship and prize winners. With the newly created Alumni Committee, she is working to re-invent our annual History Day to attract alums back to visit us and to meet the new generations of



students. She welcomes advice and suggestions from alums about what they would like to see. In her course work, Meg is developing a series of war-themed courses such as War in the Twentieth Century, Women and War, and Napoleon, Moscow and 1812. She is pleased that students are asking her to dust off her old Comparative Revolutions course, which many alums might remember. SUNY Geneseo has submitted Meg's name to SUNY Central for consideration for the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. We all hope she receives the award she so richly deserves.

**David Tamarin:** David continues teaching the surveys of colonial and modern Latin American history, as well as specialized courses in that field (e.g. History of Mexico, U.S.-Latin American Relations, Reform and Revolutionary Movements in Twentieth Century Latin America). He also occasionally offers courses in the History of Modern Spain as well as regularly teaching Humanities II.



Currently, Professor Tamarin is spending Spring semester on academic leave in Madrid where he is conducting research on Argentine-Spanish relations during the Second World War and early 'Cold War' eras, focusing on political and economic ties between Perón's Argentina and Franco's Spain. He is also taking advantage of the Spanish sojourn to further his study of flamenco guitar.

**Helena Waddy:** Helena is publishing her second book, *Oberammergau in the Nazi Era: The Fate of a Catholic Village in Hitler's Germany*, with Oxford University Press. The book will be available in mid-May, 2010. She will be attending the final dress rehearsal

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of Oberammergau's famous Passion Play and staying in the village during May in order to



promote her book. She hopes that it will be adopted for use in upper-division courses about Nazi Germany in the future. Helena

voluntarily took on the heavy workload

of chairing the department's personnel committee, work which she performed in an exemplary manner.

**Jim Williams:** Jim enjoys teaching History and Humanities classes at Geneseo, persuaded his



daughters to attend Bill Cook's class in Siena, Italy, serves in several administrative roles on campus, published several book reviews and encyclopedia objects,

is an Elder in his church, becomes an "empty-nester" when his son enters college this fall, and has supervised directed studies on women in antiquity, Alexander the Great, and Caesar's Gallic Wars.

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#### ALUMNI UPDATES:

**Sian Allen** ('06) recently passed the New York State bar exam after completing studies at New England Law.

**Matt Alessi-Friedlander** ('06) graduated from New York University with a masters in Social Studies Education, grades 7-12/Secondary School in January 2009. Starting in August, he will spend at least one year teaching in South Korea.

**Peter Anderson** ('05) is teaching history and serves as a manager at Hope House

community center in Albany. He participated in two National Endowment for the Humanities workshops in the summer of 2009, "Stony the Road We Trod: Alabama's Role in the CRM" in Birmingham, AL (Birmingham Civil Rights Institute) and "Shaping the Constitution: A View from Mt.Vernon."

**Albert B. Balt** ('67) will be completing his second year as First Vice President of the Rochester Genealogical Society and conducts programs through the Family History Center in Brighton, NY. He has also served as business manager of the Irondequoit Historical Society and on the history committee of the Federation of German-American Societies.

**Chris Basso** ('07) is finishing a master's degree in Secondary Social Studies Education at the College of Staten Island and works in the New York City schools. He has also completed a fellowship with the US National Park Services exploring free and enslaved Africans in 17th Century New Amsterdam.

**Camille Bell** ('99) is employed with Edison Learning, the largest school reform company in the nation. She currently serves as the Principal of Montebello Elementary Junior Academy in Baltimore and is completing a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Capella University.

**Ania Borejsza-Wysocka** ('05) completed a master's degree in history at the College of William and Mary in 2009 and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in modern European history at Brown University.

**Riobart (Rob) Breen** ('89) has worked in public service including ministry, nonprofits and government. After completing a Ph.D. in environmental public policy and administration at Northern Arizona University, he moved into a position as assistant professor of political science at Siena College in Albany, NY, where he

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teaches courses on public policy, public administration, environmental policy, environmental justice, local government and Irish government. He is married and has two small toddlers (Nuala and Éamon) with a third child on the way. He is also adviser to the Siena Gaelic Society and the Franciscan Young Adults group, a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, and founder and director of the Franciscan Ecology Center.

**Shaun Burke** ('08) works as a paralegal at Fein, Such & Crane in Rochester.

**Sarah Buzanowski** ('04) recently moved to New England and works for the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

**Frank Cafaralla** ('01) is in his eighth year of teaching 7-8 grade Social Studies and his third as teacher leader of the Social Studies department. His son Jack is entering pre-school soon and he and his wife Laura are expecting their second son in April.

**Brita Carlson** ('80) is completing her 27th year of teaching at Northstar Christian Academy

**Amanda Carr** ('04) completed a master's degree in Business Administration in January 2010 and currently works in the healthcare field.

**Minchi (Minji) Cho** ('09) is in her first semester of the Social Studies Secondary Education program at Queens College

**Anna Delaney** ('09) is attending graduate school at SUNY Brockport working on a master's degree in education.

**Jared DePass** ('06) passed the Syracuse Police Exam and will take the physical exam in six months. He currently works in the Legal Order Processing area for Bank of America.

**Joanna DiPasquale** ('98) is a web developer for Columbia University Libraries' Digital Program Division, where she designs web applications and interfaces for the university, archival, and library communities. She is one of the co-founders of the local NYC Code4Lib group, an organization that seeks to bring together library technologists to share open-source and code-sharing practices.

**Ed Dunscombe** ('76) is director of the George F. Johnson Memorial Library in Endicott, NY. He is married to Sharon (Misura) Dunscombe ('78) who serves as Adult Services Librarian at the Your Home Public Library in Johnson City, NY.

**Joseph Easton** ('09) tutors and counsels students at the writing center at Monroe Community College.

**Brad Franco** ('02) is completing a Ph.D. at Syracuse and in the fall will be starting in a tenure-track position in ancient and medieval history at the University of Portland in Oregon.

**Dan Gaffney** ('09) is currently employed as a music teacher for the Say Yes to Education program in Syracuse, New York. He will be attending graduate school in New York City in the fall to teach English and ESL.

**Janine Giordano** ('05) is completing a Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Between Religion and Politics: The Working Class Religious Left, 1886-1936" at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She also married in September.

**Todd Goehle** ('00) is completing a Ph.D. at Binghamton University where he won a 2009 award for graduate student excellence in teaching. He currently serves as lecturer in the history department at SUNY Geneseo, teaching courses in modern European history.

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**Laura Warren Hill** ('98) is completing her dissertation entitled "Strike the Hammer While the Iron is Hot: The Black Freedom Struggle in Rochester, NY, 1945-1975" at Binghamton University. She currently holds a Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and is lead interviewer for the Rochester Black Freedom Struggle Oral History Online Project at <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?page=572>.

**Tom Ingrassia** ('74), has been on a year-long lecture tour focusing on the music of Motown and its relationship with the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Tom offers two multimedia programs – "Motown and the Civil Rights Movement," and "Girl Power: The Supremes as Cultural Icons." The tour coincides with the 50th anniversary of Motown Records. Sponsoring organizations have included Assumption College, Worcester State College, Bancroft Memorial Library, the Valley View School, Leominster (MA) Public Library, the Auburn (MA) Department of Recreation & Culture (with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Commission), and All Saints Church. Tom's lecture series was recently profiled in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* and *Inside Worcester*. He was featured in a 30-minute interview on WCCA-TV 13. Tom invites his friends and former classmates to become a fan of Ingrassia Productions & Artist Management on Facebook. For more detailed information, visit [www.ingrassiaproductions.com](http://www.ingrassiaproductions.com) and [www.ingrassiaartists.com](http://www.ingrassiaartists.com).

**Laura Kolmetz** ('09) will be graduating in August 2010 with a master's degree in Special Education from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. She is currently working as a research assistant and as Access Nashville's Student Coordinator.

**Justin Levy** ('05) is a staff attorney for the Fair

Housing Justice Center, a nonprofit devoted to housing issues in and around New York City. He will start working at the Latham and Watkins firm in the fall of 2010.

**Chris Machanoff** ('06) is an organizer with Service Employees International Union. Most recently he was working in Utica, NY on a campaign to organize bus drivers and monitors at the Birnie Bus Company.

**Ed McGrogan** ('05) is Assistant Editor at Tennis.com. Watch for his coverage of Wimbledon this summer.

**Daniel Moran** ('07) has spent the last two and a half years teaching English in China with a non-profit educational organization (first in Changchun, now in Harbin). He is not only learning Chinese as part of this work, but is also experiencing firsthand the changes that have accompanied rapid industrialization in the north-east of China.

**Laura Morris** ('09) is pursuing a master's degree in American Studies at the University at Buffalo, and plans to write her thesis on Women's Army Corps cryptographers stationed at Arlington Hall during World War II. Currently she is a research assistant and materials coordinator for a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start-Up grant at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

**Patrick O'Neill** ('06) is an Admissions Counselor for the University of Rochester and will complete an M.S. in Higher Education Administration in May.

**Erin Rightmyer** ('06) is teaching 6th grade social studies at Bethlehem Middle School in Delmar, NY. She is also a participant in the 2010 National Consortium for Teaching Asia seminar series through Union Graduate College.

**Jill Robinson** ('05) completed an M.S. in Information and Library Science at the



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University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is currently an outreach librarian at North Carolina State University. This past year, she and **Charlie Morris** ('05) wed in New York; Charlie is completing a M.S. in Information Science at North Carolina State University.

**Claire Ruswick** ('07) will receive her masters in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and currently works as a library associate at the Special Collections Research Center of North Carolina State University.

**Mark Schuber** ('09) is enrolled at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland. He will be working for a federal district court judge in Cleveland this summer.

**Katherine Schwartz** ('09) will be starting medical school in the fall through the Columbia-Basset track of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

**Stephen Seefried** ('08) is enrolled in the Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach.

**Laura Smykla** ('09) is completing the Master of Arts in Teaching program at Bard College.

**Ben Stopka** ('07) teaches seventh grade English Language Arts at Nathaniel Rochester Community School (School # 3). He is also in the final stages of a master's degree program in Literacy (Birth-12) from St. John Fisher.

**Adam Tabelski** ('01) is the Communications Director for State Senator George Maziarz, Mayor of the Village of Medina, an Army National Guardsman, and an active volunteer with the Medina Historical Society.

**Jim Thompson** ('71) retired in 2007 from a successful career in teaching, including serving 20 years as elementary principal in LeRoy, where he was named New York State Elementary Principal of the Year (1993) and National Distinguished Principal (1994). Since retiring, he has presented programs on leadership and transforming school cultures, has worked with the HOPE Foundation, served as an Assistant Professor of Education at Medaille College, and is current Executive Director of the Genesee Valley School Boards Association.

**Alexandra Tramposch** ('09) is enrolled in a doctoral program in Educational Foundations and Policy at the University of Michigan.

**Joe Zurro** ('08) teaches art in the Mississippi delta through the Teach for America program.

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### KEEP IN TOUCH

The department maintains a presence on Facebook. If you use this social networking site, please consider joining the “SUNY Geneseo History Department Alumni” group; if you are already a member, please spread the word to others that might be interested.

Later this year, the department will introduce a blog-style page as a supplement to the annual alumni newsletter. Please watch for an announcement in the near future.

As Bill Gohlman transitions into retirement, we are looking for reminiscences that can be included in an upcoming profile of his long career at Geneseo. If you have a memory or photos of Bill that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.

In this newsletter, we have incorporated a number of new features, including extended profiles of alumni, history-related projects in the community, and student achievements. If you have a suggestion for a future profile or feature article for the newsletter and/or blog, or simply want to include a short piece for our alumni updates section, please contact Joe Cope at [cope@geneseo.edu](mailto:cope@geneseo.edu).