

The Sturges Review

**The Department of History
State University of New York
College at Geneseo
1 College Circle
Geneseo, NY 14414**



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**Editors: Tze-ki Hon,
Barbara Rex-McKinney**

From the Chair

All of you must have heard about the financial problems in SUNY. In the last two years, the Geneseo budget has been cut several times. To reduce the deficit, last November the College decided to cut three academic programs, one of which is located in the Sturges Hall right below the History Department. More so than ever, your donations to the Geneseo Foundation are crucial to the department and the College.

In this dire financial situation, the History Department is doing its best to maintain its high standards in teaching. The return of Bill Cook and Michael Oberg last fall gave new energy to the department and reduced the department's reliance on part-time adjuncts. Although the department is still unable to fill two vacant faculty lines due to hiring freeze, we are more balanced this year in offering courses to majors and minors. Showing the strength of the department, Justin Behrend was selected as one of the best teachers in Geneseo. His teaching materials are on display at the Teaching and Learning Center in the Milne Library.

After serving as chair for four years, I will step down after August 31. In the 2011-2012 academic year, Joe Cope will be the Acting Chair to finish my term while I am on sabbatical leave.

Tze-ki Hon
Department Chair

2011 History Alumni Event and Awards Ceremony

You are cordially invited to attend the annual History Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the Big Tree Inn on Saturday, April 16, 2011. You will be a guest of the department for the luncheon (donations cheerfully accepted). Please RSVP to mckinney@geneseo.edu By April 11th. Lunch will consist of pasta, salad, chef choice vegetable, rolls, dessert tray, iced tea and lemonade.

The schedule for the day:

11:45-12:15	Check-in
12:15-1:00	Buffet Lunch
1:00-1:15	Welcome by Chair
1:15-2:15	Guest Speaker, Robert Westbrook
2:15-3:15	Awards Ceremony & Phi Alpha Theta Initiation
3:15-?	Alumni Reception

About the Speaker



Robert Westbrook is a Professor of History at the University of Rochester, where he teaches modern American history and American and European cultural and intellectual history. He received his B.A. (*summa cum laude* with exceptional distinction in history) from Yale University in 1972, and his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1981. After teaching for several years at Yale, he took a position with the University of Rochester's History Department in 1986, attaining the rank of Full Professor in 1995. His research focuses on the relationships among democratic ideals, liberal theory, and practical politics. As an intellectual historian, he has explored these relationships by focusing on philosophical pragmatism. As a cultural historian of liberal democracy, he has focused on popular political theory and the social history of the American moral imagination. His books include *John Dewey and American Democracy* (Cornell University Press, 1991), which won the Organization of American Historians' Merle

Curti Award for the best book in American intellectual history (1991-92) and has been translated into Chinese and Italian; *Why We Fought: Forging American Obligations in World War II* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2004), which historian T. J. Jackson Lears described as “a brilliant, sustained reflection on the conflict between liberal society and state power in the age of total war”; *Democratic Hope: Pragmatism and the Politics of Truth* (Cornell University Press, 2005); and *In the Face of Facts: Moral Inquiry in American Scholarship*, ed. with Richard Fox (Woodrow Wilson Center/Cambridge University Press, 1997). His academic articles and reviews have appeared in *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *American Quarterly*, *Radical History Review*, *Ethics and International Affairs*, *Science*, *Amerikastudien*, *Praxis International*, *International Labor and Working-Class History*, *The Historian*, *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, and *South Atlantic Quarterly*. And as an avid practitioner of history as a form of social and cultural criticism, he has published extensively in numerous journals of opinion, including *Raritan*, *Christian Century*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Tikkun*, *Dissent*, *Commonweal*, *In These Times*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *Linguafranca*.

“Isolationism Reconsidered”

Professor Westbrook will present research currently underway for his second book on World War II. The talk, entitled “Isolationism Reconsidered,” will offer a reassessment of interwar isolationism from an anti-imperialist perspective. Given the threat that Hitler, as the personification of modern evil, posed to the world, it is unsurprising that professional historians and most of the general public have clung tightly to the notion that American intervention in World War II was indisputably necessary on grounds of both security and morality. Anti-interventionists, according to this narrative, are at best contemptibly naïve and at worst outright anti-Semitic or lunatic. A closer examination of their views, Westbrook suggests, yields a more complex story. What can we learn from a more nuanced understanding of WWII-era isolationism? Is it possible to offer a compelling critique of American intervention in World War II without seeming either morally obtuse or strategically naïve? These questions, Westbrook argues, are vitally important to our assessment of more recent anti-interventionist arguments focusing on Iraq and elsewhere, for World War II is commonly viewed as the turning point beyond which isolationism became untenable. Put another way, the redemption of World War II isolationism bears a direct relationship to the credibility of contemporary anti-interventionist critiques of American foreign policy.



Department News

Catherine Adams has been elected to the board of Livingston County Historical Society.

Justin Behrend had his article "Rebellious Talk and Conspiratorial Plots: The Making of a Slave Insurrection in Civil War Natchez" published in the *Journal of Southern History*. He signed a book contract with the University of Georgia Press for publication of his forthcoming book, *Reconstructing Democracy*. He participated in a conference on Race, Labor and

Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South held in Charleston, South Carolina last March. He spoke on "The Problem of Black Democrats" during Reconstruction. In October, he gave a lecture to the New York Chapter of the Auxiliary Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on "Driven to Emancipation: Lincoln and the Abolition of Slavery." And he has enjoyed teaching this semester an American Studies, team-taught (with Alice Rutkowski) course on the Civil War America Memory.



Justin Behrend with 2010 graduate, Katie Smart

Bill Cook finished his 2-year leave of absence at Wabash College last May and returned to Geneseo for the 2010-2011 year. In the past year, Bill has given presentations to Forum 2000 in Prague and to Friends of Florence (in Florence). In March he will return to Florence to lead a 4-day program for the Aspen Institute. Last summer, Bill spent time on 5 continents. One of those trips involved a series of lectures at Harbin Engineering University in China, the guest of Dan Moran ('07), who is teaching English there. Bill also spent two weeks in Ecuador, communing with nature in the Amazon and in the Galapagos; he also visited Takashi Furukawa ('07) there. In addition Bill did research in Italy and took a week trip to the Sahara in Morocco, where the temperature reached 126 degrees! In the summer of 2011, Bill will teach two courses for Geneseo students in Italy and a course for Wabash students in Kenya. He will also be a part of the Geneseo alumni trip to Siena, Italy.



Bill Cook back at Geneseo in full lecture mode

Joe Cope has presented several conference papers over the past year on a new long-term project examining faith healers in early modern England. An article on Valentine Greatrakes, the “Irish Stroker”, is currently under review at a journal; another article on a five year old touch healer in Somerset is also nearing completion. This spring, Joe has been teaching a new experimental honors course entitled “Humanities and Disaster”, which explores responses to disasters in a global context from the 16th century to the present. Over the past year, he has also been serving as a volunteer docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum. Joe is also excited about teaching a summer session of Western Humanities II course in Oxford this summer.

Emilye Crosby completed *Civil Rights History from the Ground Up: Local Struggles, a National Movement*, an edited collection published by the University of Georgia press, March 2011, http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/civil_rights_history/0/1. Her presentation with Judy Richardson at the Fall 2010 Oral History Association meeting was featured as a Presidential Panel. As coordinator of Geneseo’s Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration, she helped bring alumna Ysaye M. Barnwell (’67, ’68) back to campus to lead a Community Sing.



Geneseo alumna Ysaye Barnwell returns to campus to lead a spirited Community Sing

Tze-ki Hon continues his research on the socio-cultural history of 20th century China. In 2010, he published four articles, all of which appeared in edited volumes. Of the four, the article “Marking the Boundaries: The Rise of Historical Geography in Republican China,” (in *Formation and Development of Academic Disciplines in China: History*, edited by Brian Moloughney and Peter Zarrow) represents his new research interest in collective memory and print capitalism. From June to November 2010, he presented four papers in international conferences held in London, Seoul, Shanghai, and Tokyo. For the fourth consecutive years, he will present a paper at the Annual Conference of Asian Studies, which will be held in Honolulu in April.

Jordan Kleiman is currently revising his book manuscript entitled *The Appropriate Technology Movement in American Political Culture*, which will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He is also finishing an article examining the intersection of alternative technology and environmental justice activism in the South Bronx during the 1970s and eighties. Last April he presented a paper on his South Bronx research at SUNY-Fredonia’s conference on “Reconsidering the City” as part of a panel he organized on “The Politics of Urban Environmental Restoration in the Postwar U.S.” Meanwhile, the Geneseo Food Project, which Jordan co-coordinates with Ken Cooper of the English Department, is heading into its fourth growing season. The Project includes a campus community garden; a speaker series, a student-run Community-Supported Market program, and a “head-and-hands” American Studies course entitled “American Garden” (co-taught by Jordan and Ken).



Jordan Kleiman (right) with garden workers

Kathy Mapes chaired and commented on a panel at the Agricultural History Society Conference last June and she will be on a roundtable at the upcoming Organization of American Historians Conference. She is currently serving as a member of committee of three for the Carstensen Award, which is given for the best history article published in *Agricultural History*. And she is working on an article entitled "Peasant Pioneers: Immigrants, Land and Immigration Debates, 1890-1924."



President Dahl toasting Accomplished History Authors last spring
(Left-right Mapes, Adams, Hon, Gohlman, Behrend, Nick Waddy, H. Waddy, Board, Dahl)

Michael Oberg is happy to return to the Department of History after a year away in Houston. He published his textbook, *NATIVE AMERICA*, early in 2010, and is at work on a biography of the Mohawk missionary and claimant to the throne of France, Eleazer Williams. He is also working on editing a volume for the Oxford University Press edition of Richard Hakluyt's *PRINCIPALL NAVIGATIONS* and is planning a book on the Treaty of Canandaigua, also for Oxford. He will be teaching in the fall a new course for the honors program entitled "Cigarettes and American Life" and continues to provide historical and legal research for a number of Indian communities in New York State.



Michael Oberg in discussion

Jim Williams continues to teach Humanities and Greek and Roman History classes. He has written several book reviews, helped plan campus memorial activities for a student killed in Afghanistan, and also keeps fit at the Workout Center. In May Jim and wife Carolyn will visit their daughter Peggy, who is teaching English in Hungary. Their son Sam, Eagle Scout and Valedictorian of his high school class, started college last fall. Both have many outside interests.



Amir Muhammad, president of the Collection & Stories of American Muslims, speaks about "Muslim Veterans of America's Wars" at the March 9 memorial ceremonies held in the College Union Ballroom in honor of Lt. Mohsin Naqvi '06. Naqvi was killed in September 2008 in Afghanistan while on active duty in the U.S. Army. The Department of History co-sponsored this event with Jim Williams on planning committee for memorial.

News about Current Students

Eleven [or more] Geneseo students will present at the Phi Alpha Theta conference at Le Moyne on Saturday, April 9. Their presentations will cover a wide range of topics ranging from African American education and the Woodstock counterculture to Female Political Prisoners in Northern Ireland and Stalin's Role as a Revolutionary.

David O'Donnell has been chosen to present at the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Posters on the Hill. This annual event will be held on Capitol Hill in Washington DC on April 13th. David's poster was one of 74 chosen from a nation-wide pool of nearly 700 applications. The title of his poster is "We Spell Black Power in Rochester with Capital Letters – FIGHT": The Development of Black Power in Rochester, NY, 1965-1967." David's poster is based on his History Department honors thesis and his research was supported by a Geneseo Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship.

Daniel Bailey, a junior history major, was awarded a Geneseo Foundation Undergraduate Summer Fellowship to do research on "Desegregation in the Rochester School District."

Adele Costa was awarded an Undergraduate Research Grant for her thesis project "Urban Maroons: The Committee of Vigilance and the Antebellum Free Black Community of New York City." She is also a SUNY Geneseo Presidential Scholar for the 2010-11 academic year.



SUNY Geneseo Presidential Scholars for the 2010-11 academic year

Adele Costa, second row, second from the left.

History Club News

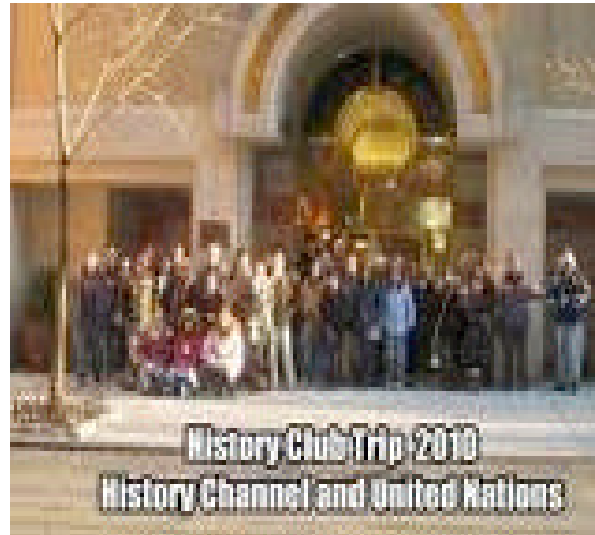


Figure 1 A group of new volunteers touring the Main Hangar in February.

Geneseo history students look for challenges and love to work. Not surprisingly then, many have become involved at the nearby 1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum as part of a large-scale academic service project organized by the History Club. Thanks to start-up funding from the College's Center for Community in 2009, the project began with a small Collections Management Program, staffed by only a couple of interns. Since then, however, the project has ballooned to about 15 weekly volunteers who now are not only responsible for managing the museum's material collections, but for doing exhibit design, collections research, and textile and photo conservation work as well.

"Two years ago", current Club President Mike Terreri recalled, "There was a lot of talk during our club meetings about the lack of practical, history-related learning opportunities at the College.

We still hear some of that today, but not nearly as much as we used to.” With the History Department’s financial support, the Club plans to continue the project’s expansion with new conservation and interpretation opportunities in the near future.



Please Consider Joining the Geneseo History Alumni Group on



facebook.

Whether you are looking to keep in touch with your classmates, stay abreast of developments in the department, or make arrangements and follow leads on new job prospects in new towns, the Geneseo History Alumni Facebook Group is perfect for you. At least one alum has offered to show job-hunters in New York City the ropes in the metropolis, and we think Facebook will allow the History Department to keep in touch with our friends and former students across the country.



Alumni Updates

Frank Cafarella (2001) received a master's degree in Secondary Education and has been teaching 7th and 8th grade Social Studies for the past 9 years. He has been the teacher leader of the Social Studies department at Cosgrove Middle School in Spencerport for the past four years.

Jared DePass (2006) is a supervisor in the financial subpoena division of Bank of America.

Andrew DiMartino (2010) is studying Atlantic History in Master's program at U. of Buffalo.

Matt Frahm (2002) has become the principal of Naples (NY) High School.

Brad Franco (2002) received his PhD in medieval history from Syracuse University and is an assistant professor at the University of Portland, Oregon.

Joshua Glass (2010) is in law school at Rutgers.

Caitlin Gnaan (2010) won a Rochester City Schools awards as one of 11 best new teachers/professionals in the city district. She is completing her first year of teaching Global Studies at Freddie Thomas High School.

Wayne Ginty (1977) has retired after a distinguished career as social studies teacher and basketball coach at Lockport High School.

Steve Hadley (1976) is teaching social studies and humanities at Lecthworth High School; his daughter Kristin is a student at SUNY Geneseo.

Matthew Kellogg (2007) graduated from Albany Law School in May 2010 and sat for the New York State Bar Examination in July 2010. He passed the bar examination in the fall and is completing the admission process. He will be sworn in as a member of the New York Bar in March of this year. He is working for Tom Reed (NY029), who represents his home town of Canandaigua, as "Strategic Initiatives and Legislative Assistant."

Michelle Kleehammer (1998) received her M.A. (History) from San Francisco State University (May 2002) and is working on her dissertation at the University of Illinois. Her work has been supported by a Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant from the National Science Foundation and grants from the UCLA, the Autry Museum, the Arizona Historical Society, and the University of Michigan Bentley Library. Most recently she contributed a chapter to a book, California Women and Politics: From the Gold Rush to the Great Depression (Nebraska, 2011), which is coming out in May.

Justin Levy (2005) is an associate at Latham & Watkins LLP. His resume has additional information.

Chris Machanoff (2006) is employed as a Union Organizer with The Service Employees International Union Local200United. Chris started organizing with SEIU in 2007, and graduated from SEIU's WAVE Organizing Training Program one year later. His job is to give workers the tools needed to build power by forming Unions.

Dan Moran (2007) is completing his 4th year of teaching English at the Harbin Engineering University in China.

Richard Olson (2008) received a Certificate of Graduate Study in Counterintelligence at the Institute of World Politics in Washington DC in August 2009. He is completing a Master's Degree in Science in Applied Intelligence at Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA. Presently, he is doing a six-month internship for the Department of Defense in Washington DC, which will likely turn into a career soon after the internship.

Matt Saccocio (2010) is enrolled in a MAT program at Union College.

Dan Schultz (2004) is in the PhD program in theology at the University of Chicago.

Adam Tabelski (2000) is the mayor of Medina, NY.



(Tabelski)

Kim Thompson Glas (1999) is Assistant Undersecretary of Commerce for textiles.

Pete Vogt (1973) is the new mayor of Dansville, NY.

Caitlin Uihlein (2008) is the Annual Fund Coordinator at Touro Law Center in Central Islip, New York.

Shawn Wiemann (2001) successfully defended his dissertation in Native American and Early American history at the University of New Mexico.





Geneseo goes Texas. Pictured above in San Antonio, Texas are **Andrew Gustafson** (2009), **Katie Smart** (2010), **Andrew Reiser** (2008) and **Amy Breimaier** (2010) all enrolled in a Master's in History program at the University of Houston.