

## **SUNY GENESEO**

### **HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2007**

---

---

#### **History Alumni Weekend Events**

##### **C. R. Bailey Alumni Lecture**

As part of SUNY Geneseo's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Susan B. Anthony's death, the history department's annual C. R. Bailey Alumni Lecture speaker will be historian Joanne Meyerowitz of Yale University. Meyerowitz comes to Geneseo as part of the Organization of American Historian's Distinguished Lectureship Program (for more on the program visit <http://www.oah.org/activities/lectureship/2006/index.php>). Former editor of the "Journal of American History", she is the author of numerous books and articles, including "Women Adrift: Independent Wage Earners in Chicago, 1880-1930" (1988) and "How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States" (2002). Meyerowitz edited two important collections of essays, "Not June Cleaver: Women and Gender in Postwar America, 1945-1960" (1994) and "History and September 11<sup>th</sup>" (2003). Her talk, titled "Another Fifties: Rewriting the History of Women in Postwar America," will be held in the Hunt Room, SUNY Geneseo, at 3 pm on Saturday, April 21, 2007. We hope to see you there!

##### **Annual Alumni/Awards Dinner**

The annual alumni and awards dinner will be held at the InterFaith Center on Franklin Street, Geneseo at 6:00 pm. We encourage all to come for an evening of fellowship and recognition of the current best and brightest History students at the college.

---

---

##### **Message from the Chair.....Michael Oberg**

It has been an eventful year serving as interim chair. The department is healthy. We have more than four hundred majors, minors, and concentrators, making ours one of the most vibrant and active majors on campus. Our students are winning awards and recognition for their accomplishments, conducting outstanding research projects, and constantly demonstrating their proficiency as historians. Those of our students who have chosen to pursue their education in history at the graduate level have earned admission to some of the finest institutions and programs in the country, and I have heard from friends on the faculty of those departments frequent comments about how impressed they are with the students graduating from our program. Thanks to a number of extraordinarily generous donations from our alumni, we are able to fund travel for

students who need to visit archives and special collections. It is a special experience, and it makes our students much stronger historians and educators. We hope that you, too, will consider supporting the department's activities with a donation to the Geneseo Foundation.

The faculty in the department of history moves from strength to strength. In terms of scholarship, my colleagues are extremely productive. Books, articles, and conference papers appear with amazing regularity, as Geneseo's historians present their work to a larger audience. Our faculty is as productive in terms of its scholarship as are those of many Ph.D. granting institutions. Still, the department always will emphasize the importance of teaching, and the faculty consists of an extremely talented and uncommonly dedicated group of educators. Nearly half the department has received recognition for excellence in teaching by the Chancellor of the SUNY system.

Because of the growth of our major, we have been able to grow as a faculty. Two new members of the department will be joining us in the fall. Justin Behrend, a recent recipient of the Ph.D from Northwestern University, and at present teaching at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, specializes in African American politics during the Reconstruction period. Catherine Johnson Adams, who comes to us by way of Armstrong Atlantic University in sunny Savannah, will offer courses on the history of the American Revolution, the early national period, and the history of women in early America. Our hope as a department is to add another historian to teach the history of Sub-Saharan Africa. We are waiting for word on that.

Geneseo's reputation for excellence in undergraduate education, along with the strong reputation of the department of history, continues to grow. We recognize that much of our success is connected to the success of our alumni. At this time of the academic year, we all want to let you know how much we appreciate the support all of you have shown the department over the years.

---

---

## **Joining the Ranks**

We are excited to announce that Dr. Justin Behrend will be joining the Department beginning in the fall of 2007 as Assistant Professor. Dr. Behrend took his Ph.D from Northwestern University in 2006, where he studied with Stephen Hahn, Stephanie McCurry, Darlene Clark Hine, Kate Masur and Dylan Penningroth. His dissertation, "Freedpeople's Democracy: African American Politics and Community in the Post-Emancipation Natchez District," explores the many and varied ways in which former slaves worked to carve a space to exercise the freedom they won during the American Civil War. For the past year, Justin has taught at Mount Holyoke College in Hadley, Massachusetts. He will offer courses on the era of Reconstruction, race relations, the history of slavery and freedom, and comparative slave rebellions. A native of Southern California,

Dr. Behrend and his family will begin looking for a place to live in the coming weeks. We hope you will join us in welcoming him to the Geneseo community.

---

---

## **Faculty News and Notes**

As usual, **Bill Cook** has been busy. During the summer he directed his second seminar for college teachers sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The seminar was held for six weeks in Italy and included professors from institutions such as Middlebury College, Fairfield University, Brigham Young University, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

In the fall, Bill returned to Italy to give a series of lectures in Greece (democracy), Turkey (the lives of Mary and John), and Italy (early Christian churches). He has also recently given lectures in Middlebury, Vermont, SUNY Binghamton (The Aldo Bernardo Lecture), and San Antonio, Texas.

Last winter, Bill taped a course on Machiavelli for The Teaching Company and will tape Great Christians in February. With his son Eric Huynh, he published a photo history of Dansville, NY. He also is currently writing the introductory essay for a collection of studies that came out of his 2003 NEH seminar on Francis.

Bill taught a course on medieval Italian city-states in Siena right after Christmas and returned to Florence at the end of January to speak to Friends of Florence. This coming summer he will be lecturing in Istanbul and in the fall in Kyoto, Japan.

Bill is active in Geneseo's new Phi Beta Chapter and represented the chapter at the Triennial Council in Atlanta in October.

Bill's youngest son Jimmy is 16. The moment Jimmy got his driver's license, Bill announced his retirement as a driving instructor! Jimmy plays on the varsity football and basketball teams and is an honor student. Bill also has three grandchildren and enjoys them outrageously!

In June, 2007, Bill will be leading a tour of Tuscany and Umbria for the public. Anyone interested should contact him at [coob@geneseo.edu](mailto:coob@geneseo.edu).

**Joe Cope** continues to enjoy teaching courses on Ireland and early modern Europe, including a new research seminar on disease and medicine in the 16th-18th centuries. He is currently working on identifying a publisher for his completed book manuscript, entitled *Victims and Survivors: Representing the 1641 Irish Rebellion*. He recently presented a paper based on his research at the Mid-Atlantic American Conference for Irish Studies meeting at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania.

**Emilye Crosby** Emilye Crosby's book, [A Little Taste of Freedom: The Black Freedom Struggle in Claiborne County, Mississippi](#) (University of North Carolina press, 2005) was awarded the Mississippi Historical Society's McLemore Prize and an Honorable Mention for the Liberty Legacy Foundation award of the Organization of American Historians. Crosby organized a March 2006 conference at Geneseo, "Local Studies, a National Movement: Toward a Historiography of the Black Freedom Struggle" which brought together major scholars, activists, community workers, students, and teachers (at all levels) for three days of panels, lectures, discussion, and a teaching workshop. Crosby initiated a project on women's history at Geneseo.

**Carol Faulkner** spent the Spring semester 2006 as a postdoctoral fellow at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University. Over the summer, she spent a month in Philadelphia conducting research at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania as a Mellon fellow. Professor Faulkner is writing a biography of the famous abolitionist, feminist, and Quaker minister Lucretia Mott.

**Bill Gohlman** continues to offer courses on the history of the Islamic Middle East, a topic of great interest to students watching current events in that part of the world. After a brief stint as interim department chair, he is enjoying working with students. Dr. Gohlman was in charge of the recent search that resulted in the department's hiring of **Justin Behrend**.

During the 2006-07 academic year, **Tze-ki Hon** is the visiting research fellow at the Modern East Asia Research Centre at Leiden University, the Netherlands. While he is in Leiden, he will complete his book on the 1911 Revolution (contracted to be published by Brill). Before he left for the Netherlands in August, he finished the revision of an edited volume on 1920s and 1930s China. Started three years ago, the edited volume is currently under final review at Lexington Books. In early October, he signed the contract with Brill to publish an edited volume on modern Chinese history textbooks. The volume, consisting of ten articles by scholars from different parts of the world, will be published this spring in the Leiden Series on Comparative Historiography. With respect to pre-modern China, he completed an article on the 16th century Yijing commentaries, scheduled to be published in Journal of Chinese Philosophy. In April of 2007, he will be the invited speaker on second century BCE China at Taiwan National University, Taiwan.

In January, **Jordan Kleiman** presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association on the relationship between environmentalism and social justice activism in the South Bronx during the 1970s and eighties. His current research expands on this South Bronx story by placing it in context of the longstanding debate over the historical impact of deindustrialization. In February, Jordan traveled to Baton Rouge to present a paper on this new research at the

annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History. The paper will be part of a panel that he organized, entitled the "Environmental History of Deindustrialization." The panel will bring together Joel Tarr and Howard Gillette, two leading historians of deindustrialization, who will comment on Jordan's paper and two others, one of which focuses on Love Canal and the other on the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works. As part of the conference, Jordan will have the opportunity to take part in a tour of flood-damaged New Orleans led by several leading experts on the city's environmental history. In addition to his South Bronx research, Jordan is working on a book project entitled "The Appropriate Technology Movement in American Political Culture."

**Kathy Mapes** recently was granted continuing appointment and promotion to Associate Professor. Her book, *Sweet Tyranny: Migrant Labor, Industrial Agriculture, and the Politics of Imperialism, 1898-1940* is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press. Kathy also published a number of encyclopedia articles. She continues to teach courses in American labor, immigration, and agricultural history, and other offerings in early 20<sup>th</sup> century US History.

**Michael Oberg's** new book, *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand: Roanoke's Forgotten Indians*, will appear this summer, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He is at work on a college textbook for courses in Native American History, to be published in the fall of 2009 by Blackwell. He continues to provide consulting services to a number of corporate clients, Indian tribes, and the Indian Resources Section of the United States Department of Justice. He has been invited to speak at the British Museum in London on the significance of native peoples in the disappearance of Sir Walter Raleigh's "Lost Colonists." He is teaching courses in Native American and Early American history, and also has served this year in an interim capacity as the department chair. His oldest son, Nate, will be a student at Geneseo in the fall, majoring in history and political science.

**Meg Stolee** has kept herself extremely busy with her work for United University Professions, the faculty union, and has done yeoman service this year as the department's first "Advisement Coordinator." Given the large number of majors, minors, and concentrators at Geneseo, the department needed an individual to ensure that they took the proper courses and met their requirements in a timely manner. Professor Stolee's work has been a major benefit, and the department is considering formalizing the position.

**David Tamarin** recently became a grandfather to young Nico. Professor Tamarin continues to teach courses in the history of Latin America, and is developing a team-taught summer course with David Aagasen of the Geography Department to be conducted in Buenos Aires in 2008.

**Helena Waddy** reports that "My major accomplishment has to be getting a first draft completed of my book, *Crossing Hitler: Catholic Oberammergau in the Nazi*

*Era*. There is still a lot of work to do for the book, including the very difficult conclusions about the responsibility of y Nazi subjects. I plan to bring it out for the 2010 Oberammergau Passion Play season when almost 500,000 visitors will attend the play.

**Jim Williams** stepped down as chair in the spring of 2006 due to a disagreement with the provost. Since that time, he has sent his middle child off to college, worked with his church, written book reviews, and enjoyed returning to teaching a full schedule of classes as well as the leisure of little administrivia. He made a presentation on "Heroic Leadership" and Alexander the Great for an honors class at St. John Fisher College this fall and continues as secretary of Geneseo's new Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

---

---

### **Current Student Accomplishments:**

Katelyn Holloway will be doing an internship with the NY State Assembly. She'll be graduating in December and is currently finishing up her honors thesis with me (on GE's pollution of the Hudson with PCBs).

Claire Ruswick is a Presidential Scholar, was Dean Johnston Research Assistant last Spring, and won a paper prize at the Phi Alpha Theta conference last Spring.

Chris Basso is a Geneseo Foundation Research Assistant this semester, won a Geneseo Foundation Student Research Grant this semester, and was the winner of last year's Martin Luther King day contest for an essay on King.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals, offered a full time, paid internship for Summer 2007 in the field of Environmental History. Junior, Kathleen Quinlan, has been chosen for this internship.

---

---

### **Alumni updates:**

Matt Dwyer is still a bicycle messenger in DC.

Ryan Irwin got his M.A. at Ohio State last spring and is continuing work on his PhD. His thesis was entitled "Race and Revolution: The International Dilemma of Apartheid, 1960-1963." He presented a paper in March 2006 called "Sharpeville and the 'Wind of Change': An International Dilemma, 1960-1963" at the Paul Lucas Conference in History at Indiana University. This fall he presented a paper at the Mershon Center at Ohio state called "1956 and Apartheid: International Responses to an Emerging Dilemma." The conference was entitled The Global Impact of 1956: Race, Neutrality, and National Liberation.

Justin Levy is in Law School at Hofstra. Peter Anderson is finishing up an MAT at Binghamton. Laura Hill Warren is in the PhD program at Binghamton.

Michael Kaiser is finishing up his second year of Teach for America in New Orleans and applying to law school in history. Sarah Buzanowski is in a History M.A. program at Temple.

Janine Giordano is in a history program at U. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

---

---

### **Alumni(ae) Generosity:**

Liz Svigals (then Scelzo) was a daring student at Geneseo. She enrolled in a 2-semester, 18-credit course called Synthesis. Taught by six professors from five departments, this course is the direct ancestor of our Humanities sequence. She also enrolled in an experimental course team taught by two young professors-- The Age of Dante with Cook & Herzman.

This same intellectual daring led Liz to a highly successful career in education. Now, she has chosen to provide funding to history students who, like her, dare to explore. Using funds provided by Liz Svigals, students conduct independent research with faculty supervision all over the world. Thanks in no small part to Liz's generosity, her spirit of intellectual adventure is flourishing today in Geneseo's History Department as it did when she was an undergraduate. Geneseo history majors have used funds from the Svigals fund to do summer research and to study abroad.

Joe Bucci and his wife Elaine, both Geneseo alumni, have been extraordinarily generous to their *alma mater* and especially to the History Department. After graduating from Geneseo, Joe taught Social Studies at York Central School for several years. While teaching, Joe developed a successful real estate office. Joe came from a family of salt miners in the Genesee Valley, and when the old mine in Retsof had to close, Joe became involved in the creation of a new mine south of Geneseo in the Town of Groveland. Joe today is "salt executive" and also continues his work in real estate. The Joe and Elaine Bucci Fund has enabled students to do research throughout the USA and, indeed, the world. Using Bucci Fund money, students have conducted research on Civil Rights History in the USA as well as Irish history in Dublin, modern Latin American Theology in Lima, Peru, and medieval Italian history in Florence.

The History Department is indeed fortunate to have such generous alumni(ae), and our students are the direct beneficiaries of their continuing generosity.

*We'd Love to Hear From You*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**What Year Did You Graduate from  
Geneseo?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What Have You Been Up  
To?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_