

THE STURGES REVIEW



The S.U.N.Y. Geneseo History Department Alumni Newsletter
February 2008

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COMING MARCH 2008 THE ONLINE VERSION OF
The Sturges Review

at www.geneseo.edu/~history

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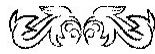


MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR ... Tze-ki Hon

As we all know, perspective is everything. After spending a year in Holland, I came back to Geneseo to find a new Department. First, we have expanded to 15 members after Catherine Adams and Justin Behrend joined the Department. As expected, the two new faculty members bring energy, vitality, and freshness to the Department. More importantly, they broaden the scope of our American history curriculum by offering courses on the Revolution Era and the Reconstruction Period. Second, the Department is new in terms of space. Since the Fall of 2006, the Department has a satellite in Blake C -- the building opposite Milne Library and the new Science Building. At the satellite, Emilye Crosby, Bill Gohlman, and adjunct instructors have their offices. For a long time, due to the shortage of office space in Sturges, up to four faculty members had to share offices. Now, with the satellite, we all have our offices for private studies and meeting with students. As part of the campus renovation, the two-site arrangement will last for at least three years until the Department moves to Bailey.



As a Department, we continue to excel in teaching and research. *We have a total of four hundred majors, minors, and history concentrators—so many that history courses are quickly filled up shortly after course registration begins!* As usual, the sophomore seminars: HIST 220, Interpretations in History and HIST 221, Research in History; are the most popular and they are always among the first to close. Interestingly, the number of majors studying



abroad is increasing. The favorite destinations for overseas study remain the English-speaking world, especially Australia and New Zealand where the weather is nice and warm while Western New York is in a deep freeze.

Starting this year and continuing on in the next three and four years, the History faculty will enjoy a boom in publishing. This past fall, Michael Oberg published his fourth book, *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand* (University of Pennsylvania Press), and I published the edited volume, *The Politics of Historical Production in Late Qing and Republican China* (Brill). In 2008, two more books will appear. First is Kathy Mapes's *Sweet Tyranny* (University of Illinois Press); second is my edited volume *Beyond the May Fourth Paradigm* (Lexington Press). Meanwhile, Emilye Crosby, Joe Cope and Helena Waddy are at the final stage of finishing their book manuscripts. By 2010, you will find up to seven new books from historians at Geneseo.

In September, I sent out requests to all of you for donations. The responses were prompt and enthusiastic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who generously gave to The Geneseo Foundation History Department General Fund and other funds.

I would also like to thank the alumni who attended the Undergraduate Lecture on October 17, 2007. The lecture was delivered by Andrew Wender Cohen of Syracuse University and the title was "Contraband: Globalization and Empire in Gilded-age America."



HISTORY ALUMNI WEEKEND EVENTS -- April 19, 2008!!



C. R. Bailey Alumni Lecture (2:30 – 4:00 pm, Newton 214)

James R. Barrett of the University of Illinois will deliver this year's C. R. Bailey Alumni Lecture. Professor Barrett specializes in U.S. and comparative working-class history and class, race, and ethnicity in 20th century U.S. social history. He is the author of *William Z. Foster and the Tragedy of American Radicalism* (University of Illinois Press, 2000, paper, 2001); and *Work and Community in the Jungle: Chicago's Packinghouse Workers, 1884-1922* (University of Illinois Press, 1987, paper, 1990). His current research interests focus on racial and ethnic

identity and relations in working class communities and the relationship between personal and historical experience. Professor Barrett received his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981.

Annual Alumni/Awards Dinner (5:00 – 8:00 pm, Central Presbyterian Church)

The Department will hold its annual alumni and awards dinner at Central Presbyterian Church (31 Center Street, Geneseo) beginning at 5 pm on April 19th, the 233rd Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and the 13th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing. We are hoping for an eventful, if somewhat less explosive, evening! Dinner is free for all alumni, and our esteemed colleague, **Bill Cook**, will serve as chef. Following the dinner, there will be award presentations to the winners of student paper prizes and the induction of new members to Phi Alpha Theta. *For the first time, there will be awards presented to alumni who have made contributions to the History Department.* We encourage all to come for an evening of fellowship and recognition of the best and brightest History students at Geneseo.



NEWS ABOUT HISTORY FACULTY

Joining the Department in the Fall of 2007, **Catherine Adams** teaches African American history and women history. She is co-authoring a book, *Daughters of Orisa* (University of Pennsylvania Press), with Professor Elizabeth H. Pleck.

Also joining the Department in the Fall of 2007, **Justin Brehend** teaches the history of the Civil War, immigration, and the slave rebellions in the Atlantic World. He contributed entries to the *Encyclopedia of American History*.



Since the last newsletter, **Bill Cook** has given presentations in Istanbul; Florence; Kyoto, Japan; Aspen, CO, Houston TX; and Hartford CT. He also published an article on Dante with Ron Herzman (English). He and Herzman have just signed a contract to do a third edition of their *Medieval World View* (Oxford UP). The Cook Fund for Excellence in Teaching has helped to fund students studying abroad in Italy and Turkey as well as two summer research fellows.

Recently promoted to Associated Professor, **Joe Cope** continues to enjoy teaching courses on Britain, Ireland and early modern Europe. This semester he is teaching a College Honors seminar on the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland. This builds on work Joe did with a group of students last spring, and represents the first College Honors course taught by a member of the History Department in a number of years. Joe is also finalizing work with a publisher on his book manuscript, entitled *Victims and Survivors: Representing the 1641 Irish Rebellion*.



Emilye Crosby is editing *Local Studies, a National Movement: Toward a New Synthesis of the Black Freedom Struggle*, and in the last year has given presentations at the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Popular Culture Association Annual Meeting. She is also helping coordinate a Spring 2008 Teach-In on Race and Campus Culture, coordinating a Race and Social Justice Learning Community, and did a joint presentation, "Hands-on History," at the June SUNYLA conference with librarian Sue Ann Brainard and Geneseo students, Claire Ruswick ('07), Sara Germain ('08), and Ryne Kitzrow ('10).

Tze-ki Hon published an edited volume, *The Politics of Historical Production* (Brill), in August. In November he completed another edited volume, *Beyond the May Fourth Paradigm*, scheduled to be published by Lexington Press in 2008. Currently, he is finishing his second single-authored book, *Revolution as Restoration: Educated Elites and the Chinese Nationalist Modernity*, and is negotiating a book contract with Brill. During last year, he presented papers at conferences/workshops in Canberra, Leiden, London, and Taipei.

Bill Gohlman has his world history course put together and will begin offering it in the Fall of 2008. He is hoping for a positive response from students and the administration. A curriculum task force is working on diversifying our course offerings, to parallel the attempt to diversify the faculty, administration and students.

In March, **Jordan Kleiman** will travel to Boise, Idaho, to participate in an annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, where he will participate in a roundtable discussion entitled “Food and Agriculture in Environmental History: Reactions to *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*.” Closer to home, Jordan has been working with Ken Cooper of the English Department to launch the Geneseo Food Project, which includes a student-run community garden and the Geneseo Institute for the Study of Food, Justice, and the Environment. In addition to all of the above, Jordan is working on a book project entitled “The Appropriate Technology Movement in American Political Culture.”

During the past year, **Kathy Mapes** has continued to teach labor, immigration and rural history courses. Her book, *Sweet Tyranny: Migrant Labor, Industrial Agriculture, and the Politics of Imperialism, 1898-1940* (University of Illinois Press), will be in print in Fall 2008. During the Spring semester, Mapes is taking a sabbatical leave to pursue research on her second book project, provisionally entitled *Rural Panaceas: Remaking the Industrial Landscape, 1850-1950*.

Michael Leroy Oberg has published his fourth book, *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand: Roanoke’s Forgotten Indians*, and is at work on a textbook in Native American History for Blackwell. He is consulting for a number of corporate and tribal clients, and hopes to begin soon a new research project examining Onondaga population history.

Meg Stolee has kept herself extremely busy with her teaching and her work for United University Professions. Given the large number of majors, minors, and concentrators at Geneseo, she is the Department’s first “Advisement Coordinator.”



David Tamarin is planning to conduct a Summer Study Abroad course in Buenos Aires, Argentina this coming May and June. The course will look at the history of Latin America's social and economic development through the study of Buenos Aires' spectacular metamorphosis from a swampy backwater of the Spanish New World Empire to the complex and cosmopolitan megalopolis that it is today. He will stay on in Argentina after the program to dedicate time to archival research.

Helena Waddy has been working to complete her book, *Hitler's Passion: Catholic Oberammergau in the Nazi Era*. Oxford University Press has contracted to publish the book in 2010, so that it will appear during the next Oberammergau Passion Play season. She is hoping to receive a sabbatical for the academic year 2008-2009 so that she can visit the village archive one more time and finish polishing the manuscript.

Jim Williams continues to teach Greek and Roman History, reviving his challenging course on Philip II and Alexander the Great of Macedonia, which he hadn't taught for 15 years. He continues to review books on ancient history, is currently writing a pair of encyclopedia entries, and is designing a First Year Writing Seminar examining the historical claims of *The Da Vinci Code* [sic]. His wife Carolyn and he live in Geneseo and are active in their church; one daughter is now in graduate school pursuing a library science degree, the other is a sophomore history major, and his son is a sophomore in high school.



NEWS ABOUT HISTORY ALUMNI

Please contact us with news about yourself – you can do so right now by e-mailing the History Department at history@geneseo.edu or dropping a note to SUNY Geneseo, History Department, Sturges Hall, Room 301, Geneseo NY 14454. Check the online version of *The Sturges Review* March 2008 for more information on submitting your news. We want to hear from you and we know there are fellow graduates who would like to hear from you, too!



Peter Anderson ('05), completed an M.A.T. degree at Binghamton and is teaching social studies at New Hartford Senior High School near his hometown of Utica NY.

Christopher Basso ('07) is starting an M.A.T. program at CUNY Staten Island this spring.

Sarah Buzanowski ('04) recently completed a master's thesis entitled, "From 'Play Days' to Playoffs: the Shifting Image of Female Student-Athletes in the Wake of Title IX," earning an M.A. degree in History, with a women's studies certificate from Temple University ('07). She is currently working as an executive administrator for Youth Service, Inc., a Philadelphia area child welfare agency.

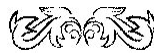
Frank Cafarella ('01) is a middle-school social studies teacher in the Spencerport NY Schools where he has recently become the teacher leader of the Social Studies Department. He is also a new father. His son, Jackson Anthony Cafarella, was born August 12, 2007.

John Dechant ('06) is completing his PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago.

Joanna DiPasquale ('98) earned an M.A. from New York University and began a career in libraries and information technology. She writes web applications for digital library materials, helping to access primary source documents and images through the Internet.

Jared DePass ('06) is working as a customer service representative for the Bank of America and is starting a financial crimes investigation certification degree at Utica College.

Janine Giordano ('05) is in graduate school at the University of Illinois and is hoping to be an ABD this spring.



Laura Warren Hill ('98) is currently raising her three-year-old son, Liam, and writing her dissertation at Binghamton University. Her dissertation is a post-WWII community study of Rochester, NY, that examines shifting race relations, urban rebellions, and the development of black theology and black capitalism.

Ryan Irwin ('03) is an ABD at Ohio State where he is teaching and working on his dissertation on international debate over South African apartheid between 1948 and 1969. This past summer he traveled to South Africa and Europe for research.

Michael Kaiser ('05) spent two years in New Orleans with Teach for America and is now in a history PhD program at Emory University.

Matthew Kellog ('07) is in law school at the University of Albany.

Jason Lammers ('98) is the assistant coach for the Ohio State men's hockey team. After he graduated from Geneseo, Jason was a professional hockey player in Idaho and Phoenix, winning the Taylor Cup Championship in 2000. He was the head coach of Geneseo hockey team in 2007, leading the Knights to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Justin Levy ('05) is in law school at Hofstra University, where he is a staff member of the Hofstra Law Review. He is working on a law review article on the anti-immigrant Ordinances around the country; particularly, one in Hazleton, PA, and focusing on whether the housing aspect of these ordinances violate the Federal Fair Housing act by discriminating against people based on their race and national origin. He is also working with Hofstra's housing rights clinic this semester, representing the indigent in a wide range of housing matters.

Christopher Machanoff ('06) is working as an organizer with SEIU. He spent the year immediately following graduation as a Case Worker with The Children's Aid Society. Now with SEIU, his job is to support and assist workers whom are forming unions with their co-workers.

Erynne Mancini ('06) is completing an M.A. in Education at the University of Albany, while substitute teaching and tutoring.

Gabriel Morris ('97) received an M.A. from Johns Hopkins SAIS and started a website for learning foreign languages through online video. He has served as a long-term election observer in Indonesia, Ethiopia, and East Timor; and studied in Malaysia. Currently he lives in Honolulu consulting for the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies on some of their web initiatives.

Ndidi Obicheta ('06) just completed her first semester of law school at the University of Illinois and is serving on the Law School's Black History Month Steering Committee next semester.

Erin Rightmeyer ('06) is working at Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson as a Community Educator and is starting an M.A.T. program at Union College to become a Social Studies teacher.

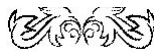
Claire Ruswick ('07) is currently involved in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Her placement is in Newark, NJ, where she works at the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. This organization works with homeless and near homeless people to find permanent housing.

Tami Sandberg ('02) is completing her M.A. in American History at University of Illinois in Chicago. Her thesis topic is the origins of Jewish education in Chicago.

Rev. James Swarts ('71, '76) serves an independent ministry as well as being active in social justice and the peace movement. He has also signed on to work with the challenger for the 29th NY congressional district. This past year he took a break from his China travels to visit Cambodia and Vietnam. He also remains active in the genealogical field, giving lectures in genealogy as well as speaking at anti-war rallies.

Carol Lush-Ehmann ('76), currently an at-home wife to husband Phil and "Mom" to four cats; is working on "The Sturges Review" among other projects. Much of her career has been spent in healthcare as an analyst/programmer.



**Donations****Please Support Your History Department**

When you donate to SUNY Geneseo, please specify that your dollars go to the "History Department General Account." Your donation will support essential Department activities such as the Student-Teacher Mixer, Undergraduate Lecture, Alumni Lecture, and Alumni Dinner.

THIS IS YOUR ALUMNI NEWSLETTER!
Have any Ideas for other Alumni Events?
Ideas for the Newsletter?
Please let us know!

A Reminder: If you are receiving this copy of The Sturges Review via U.S. Mail and you have an email address please contact the Department *now* at history@geneseo.edu. You will then be able to receive The Sturges Review electronically in full color. Help us save trees and money! We have just sent out over 1000 paper copies of this newsletter and we will not be able to continue to do so –

Please Help! Email us now! Thank you!

The Sturges Review

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