

The Sturges Review

The Department of History
State University of New York, College at Geneseo
301 Sturges Hall
Geneseo, NY, 14454
history@geneseo.edu

Spring Semester, 2009

The Chair's Report



Tze-ki Hon

2008 was a difficult year for the History Department. With three faculty members on leave (Bill Cook, Helena Waddy, and Jordan Kleiman) and Carol Faulkner's position unfilled, the department had to hire nine adjuncts. Fortunately, some adjuncts were capable of teaching in the same high standard as our full-time faculty. They included the Geneseo alumni Todd Goehle and Loretta Charles, the University of Rochester PhD candidate Kira Thurman, and the experienced teachers Drew Maciag (full-time replacement) and Jim Revell. In different ways, they brought energy and new perspectives to the department.

In difficult times, the faculty worked together to serve students. Some (e.g., David Tamarin and Meg Stolee) offered new courses to

strengthen the European history offerings. Others (e.g., Emilye Crosby, Kathy Mapes, and Michael Oberg) graciously changed their teaching schedules to maximize enrollment. Still others (e.g., Joe Cope, Bill Gohlman, and Jim Williams) taught extra sections of Humanities and core courses to fill the needs of college requirements. During advisement, the whole department (including the two new faculty members, Catherine Adams and Justin Behrend) was involved in guiding students to choose courses.

Due to the financial crisis in Albany, the History Department was asked to cut its budget twice. Although the budget cuts have not affected the teaching mission of the department, some important department functions (e.g., the student-teacher mixer) have had to be forgone. Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Oberg, the department was able to organize the Undergraduate Lecture on a limited budget. On October 7, we invited Dr. Bob Spiegelman of the New York State Humanities Council to give a lecture on the Sullivan-Clinton campaign of 1779. Dr. Spiegelman's lecture, which was stimulating and full of visual images, attracted both students and Geneseo residents. You can learn more about the subject at www.sullivanclinton.com.

This fall, the department was saddened by the death two of its beloved members – Drs. Martin Fausold and Val Rabe. Many alumni have taken courses with these two emeritus historians who taught for decades at Geneseo. In this newsletter you will find memorial essays on them.

To improve communication and to reach more alumni, the department has set up an account in Facebook. Some of you have already signed up and are conversing with your former teachers and classmates on cyber space. We love to hear what our former students are up to, and we take enjoy reading about your many

successes. Please feel free to take advantage of this Facebook page to keep in touch with events at Geneseo. You can sign up under "Groups" and the "SUNY Geneseo History Department Alumni." See you there!!!



Alumni Weekend, 2008. Landmark Society of Rochester guides alumni and students on a tour of Geneseo.



Professor William Cook bestows Distinguished Alumni Award upon James Swarts, during last year's Alumni Awards Banquet.

Alumni Weekend Festivities Announced!

The annual Alumni Gathering will take place on Saturday, the 18th of April at the Intefath Center on campus. All graduating seniors, and recipients of departmental honors, are welcome. We invite you to join us in honoring our extraordinarily generous alumni and in recognizing the achievements of our current students.

Admission, including a catered lunch, is free with a donation to the Geneseo History Alumni Fund, so long as you reserve your spot by April 2. Lunch will be served at 12:00. The annual

Alumni Lecture will follow at 1:00PM. This year the lecture will be given by Professor Stephen Saunders Webb of Syracuse University.



Professor Webb took his Ph.D at the University of Wisconsin, and has authored a number of important and provocative books that have forced historians to reconceptualize their understanding of the early Anglo-American Empire. His first book, *The Governors-General: The English Army and the Definition of Empire, 1569-1681* was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1979. The book offered, according to the esteemed Yale University historian Edmund S. Morgan, "a daring and original thesis," that had turned "long-accepted ideas on their heads." If Webb was right, Morgan wrote, "then a lot of English and American history will need rewriting." Five years later, Professor Webb published *1676: The End of American Independence* with Knopf. Integrating and intertwining the history of the empire and the Six Nations with a pair of critical colonial crises in the 1670s, Professor Webb explored the assertion of military control over civilian politics in the American colonies. *Lord Churchill's Coup: The Anglo-American Empire and the Glorious Revolution Reconsidered* carried the story of English garrison government forward in time, continuing themes he first developed in *The Governors-General*. Professor Webb is completing the third volume in his trilogy, and will speak to us about the transition from the old English empire to a new American empire during the era of the American Revolution.

After Professor Webb's lecture, the department will honor those students who have won our annual paper prize competition, and initiate a new class of students into Phi Alpha Theta. We hope that you will be able to attend. Please RSVP to Professor Oberg by email, at oberg@geneseo.edu



Faculty News

Justin Behrend presented a paper at Temple University in Philadelphia, and presented a paper in Edinburgh, Scotland. Over the summer, he traveled to Mississippi for research at the state archives in Jackson and in local archives in Natchez. Justin, meanwhile, has introduced a number of new course offerings for the History Department. Work continues on a couple of articles and his book manuscript, based upon his dissertation.

Catherine Adams is looking forward to another year of pleasures and challenges teaching and learning here at Geneseo. She offers courses in African American and Early American History. Her book manuscript, *Love of Freedom*, co-authored with Elizabeth H. Pleck, is under contract with Oxford University Press and scheduled for publication in 2010. Catherine serves on the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Africana/Black Studies Committee and has been appointed to the Women Studies Advisory Council and the Teacher Education Council. She will present a paper about African American women in Revolutionary era New England at the Upstate New York Women's History Conference in March.

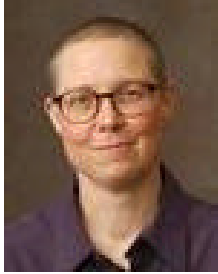
Bill Cook is on leave this year and next, teaching at his alma mater, Wabash College, in Crawfordsville, Indiana. Bill is enjoying his time in Hoosierland but misses his colleagues and students in Geneseo. He will return in the fall of 2010.

Bill directed a seminar for college professors sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities in Italy last summer and will do a seminar for high school teachers in the summer of 2009 (www.geneseo.edu/~cooksem). In the past year, Bill has presented lectures and programs at the Aspen Institute and at Renaissance Weekend in Charleston, SC. Bill gave the commencement address at a small seminary in Ohio and spoke to 550 healthcare executives about St Francis of Assisi in South Bend, IN. He has also given presentations in Florence and in Slovakia. Bill will be taping a 36-lecture course, *The History of the Catholic Church*, for The Teaching Company this spring (www.teach12.com). This is his eighth course with The Teaching Company. In March he will take 16 Wabash students to Italy, and in May he will take a group of Geneseo students to study in Italy for three weeks.

Joe Cope's first book, *England and the 1641 Irish Rebellion* will be appearing in print in the late summer (the book description is at <http://www.boydell.co.uk/43834685.htm>). He is beginning work on a new project exploring how physical bodies formed sites of contestation and negotiation in early modern English expansion and will be presenting a paper on English encounters with Irish food culture in the 16th and 17th centuries, the 2009 Popular Culture Association annual meeting. He is also serving this year as interim co-director of the Edgar Fellows (College Honors) program.

Emilye Crosby helped organize campus visits by Julian Bond (former SNCC activist, currently chairman of the board of the NAACP), Roland Freeman (documentary photographer of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign), and historian Hasan Kwame Jeffries, who gave a lecture entitled, "Making Sense of the Madness: Decoding the Many Responses to Black Power," along with the Martin Luther King Commemoration speaker, David Dennis (Civil Rights Movement activist, currently working with the Algebra Project). She was also on the planning committee for the campus-wide teach-in on "Race and Campus Culture," and coordinated the keynote

presentation for that event, "Conflicted Histories: Geneseo and the Struggle for Justice," based on research by students working with the Geneseo History Project.



Crosby has made a number of presentations in the past year, including "Women in SNCC," with activist Judy Richardson, at Brooklyn College. She organized a double-session for the upcoming Organization of American Historians meeting, "Telling Stories: Negotiating the Oral History of the Black Freedom Movement from Activist and Scholarly Perspectives," and has joined the core faculty of the "Landmarks of American Democracy: From Freedom Summer to the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike," NEH Workshop for Community College Faculty, sponsored by the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute, Jackson State University in Summer 2009.

Bill Gohlman continues to offer courses in the Humanities, and to perform an enormous amount of service for the department and the college. He is introducing a new course in World History which he is looking forward to teaching.

Tze-ki Hon signed two book contracts with Brill Publishers of the Netherlands in the fall of 2008. In 2010, he will produce a single-authored monograph entitled *Revolution as Restoration: Guocui xuebao and the Chinese Nationalist Modernity*. In 2013, he will edit (along with Drs. Tosh Minohara and Evan Dawley) a volume of 20 articles entitled *The Decade of the Great War: Japan and the Wider World in the 1910s*. In addition to these two book projects, Dr. Hon is researching the founding of the discipline of historical geography in early 20th century China. He has written two articles on the Chinese journal *Dixue zazhi* (Journal of Geographical Studies), and one article was published in *Xin Shixue* (New History) in Taiwan in June 2008. Dr. Hon continues to study the *Yijing* (Book of Changes) -- his first love in research. He has teamed up with Dr. Geoffrey Redmond to co-

author a book, *Teaching the Yijing*, to introduce the *Book of Changes* to the general public.

Jordan Kleiman is on leave this year, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation to complete his book on "The Appropriate Technology Movement in American Political Culture." He is also spending his leave



Professor Jordan Kleiman

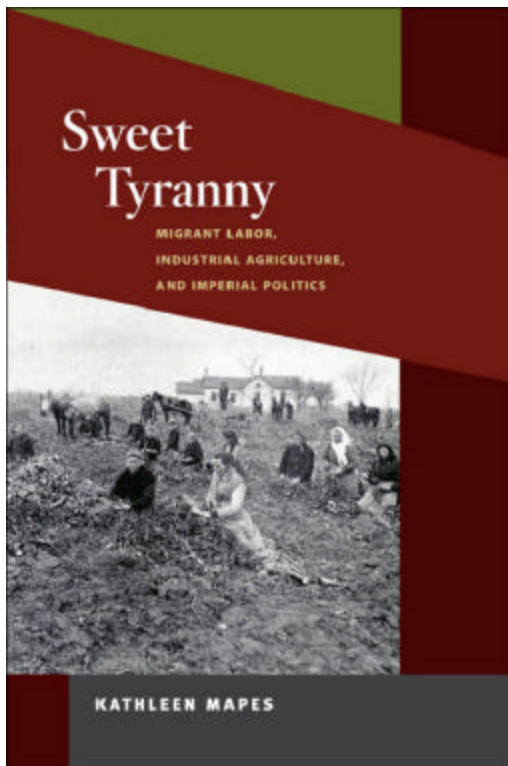
working on a spin-off article dealing with the relationship between environmentalism and social justice activism in the South Bronx during the 1970s and eighties. In March 2008, Jordan attended the annual conference of the American Society for Environmental History in Boise, Idaho, where he participated in a roundtable panel entitled "Food and Agriculture in Environmental History: Reactions to The Omnivore's Dilemma. A revised version of the paper he delivered ("Local Food and the Problem of Public Authority") will be published in the April 2009 issue of *Technology & Culture*.



Closer to home, Jordan (working with Ken Cooper of the English Department) successfully launched the Geneseo Food Project, which includes a campus community garden, a speaker series, and a student-run Community-Supported Market program, which gives the college community access to locally/sustainably grown food from Rochester's South Wedge Farmers Market and fosters the growth of a local

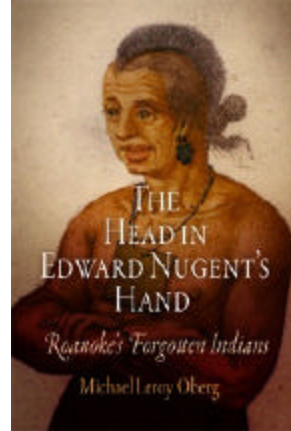
food system. In Fall 2009, Jordan and Ken will be co-teaching an American Studies course integrated with the Food Project.

Kathleen Mapes finally finished her first book, *Sweet Tyranny: Migrant Labor, Industrial Agriculture, and Imperial Politics*, (University of Illinois Press), which will be issued in both hardcover and paperback this May. Last spring semester, Mapes was awarded a sabbatical leave. During the leave, she began work on a second book project, provisionally entitled "Remaking the Industrial Landscape: Immigrants, Labor, and Land, 1850-1950." This fall semester, the Teaching and Learning Center on campus recognized Mapes' achievements in the classroom by picking her as one of the recipients of the Honoring Geneseo Teachers award.



Michael Oberg has completed the draft for *Native America: A Brief History*, to be published by Blackwell later this year. The book is intended for college courses in Native American history. Since last year he researched and wrote *Seneca Annuities: A History*, for the Seneca

Nation of Indians. His article, "Good Neighbors: The Onondagas and the Fort Schuyler Treaty of 1788" won the best article prize from the journal *New York History*. He continues to teach courses in Native American and Early American history. His books, *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand* and *Samuel Wiseman's Book of Record: The Official Account of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia*, will be published in paper this year. He is beginning to think about his next project, a biography of Eleazer Williams.



Meg Stolee continues to offer an exciting variety of courses in Russian and European history, and serves the department in the important capacity as advisement coordinator.

Helena Waddy reports that she has had a year-long sabbatical to complete the book, *Hitler's Passion*, for Oxford University Press. She spent two and a half months in Germany in the summer to complete research and then am at home at work.

Jim Williams continues to teach courses on classical Greece and Rome (including a new one - "the Golden Age of Athens") and Humanities I and has written several book reviews and encyclopedia articles during this past year. Last year he critiqued the movie 300 in a dorm presentation and chaperoned and spoke to a History Club Field Trip to Old Fort Niagara. His oldest daughter finishes her MS - Library Science degree this spring, his younger daughter is a junior History major at Grove City College, and his son is a junior in high school. Both daughters intend to take HIST 213 with Bill Cook in Siena in May/June. Carolyn and Jim stay busy with family and church activities as well as exercise and reading.

In Memorium

Val Rabe

The only thing that we ever learn from history is that we learn nothing from history." (G.W.F. Hegel)

"Nonsense is nonsense, but the history of nonsense is scholarship."
(Attributed to Saul Lieberman)

It's doubtful that Val Rabe fully embraced Hegel's pessimistic opinion about "the only thing we ever learn from history," or that he really believed that historical scholarship is essentially the study of nonsense. Nevertheless, these two aphorisms surely tickled Val's wonderfully ironic sense of humor. They were among the large collection of sayings and quips jotted down on scraps of paper that were found in his desk by his children who had gathered at the family home following Val's untimely – though, thankfully, peaceful-- death early in the morning of November 29, 2008.

Valentin Hanno Rabe, Professor Emeritus of History, was an esteemed and beloved member of the SUNY Geneseo History Department and of the College for twenty-four years (1967-1991) and of the Village of Geneseo for over forty. Born in Germany, in 1930, Val and his mother escaped the horrors of the War and the Holocaust in 1940, arriving in the U.S. on the last war-time refugee ship to sail from Europe. There they joined Val's father and older brother who had fled Germany two years earlier following Kristalnacht. The Rabes settled in Ohio, where Val underwent his "Americanization" and where he befriended the young woman who would become his wife and life's companion, Susan.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Val earned an MA and Ph.D. history from Harvard. Val taught a variety of courses in U.S. history, but his primary interest was the history of American religion. His book, *The Home Base of American China Missions, 1880-1920* (1978) was widely praised. In the classroom, Professor Rabe's commitment to high standards and serious scholarship, together with his wry sense of humor, engaged the best and brightest of Geneseo's history students. As a colleague, Val was generous to a fault, and was especially encouraging to younger faculty. An active

participant in College governance, Val was also a committed member of the United University Professions. Val also supported organizations dedicated to social justice and civil liberties issues. A man of great personal integrity, generosity, and embracing warmth, we honor the memory and mourn the loss of our friend and colleague, Val Rabe. DT

Martin Fausold

Martin L. Fausold, Distinguished Service Professor of History and former Dean of the Social Sciences at SUNY Geneseo, passed away on October 28, 2008 at the age of 86. Martin, an excellent teacher and nationally prominent scholar in modern American History, won the devotion of innumerable history majors while teaching at Geneseo from 1958 to 1992.

Friendly and congenial with all colleagues, a man of courtly behavior yet strong beliefs, Martin prodded and provoked students into examining and evaluating carefully both what they read and their own beliefs. Martin taught very popular upper-level History courses such as "The Depression and the New Deal", "The American Presidency", and legal and constitutional history. His courses were usually packed, and Martin actively integrated video and audio resources into his classes in an era when it was much harder to do so. Martin also was a "mover and shaker". In addition to his early work as Geneseo's director/Dean of the Social Sciences, Martin developed the Washington Semester Program for SUNY, chaired the ancestor to the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate, supervised an NEH seminar on the Hoover Presidency at the Hoover library and edited its participants' papers into a book, directed with Prof. Alan Shank of Political Science a lecture series "The Constitution and the Presidency" which brought to Geneseo the foremost scholars on key presidents and then edited their presentations into a book, and in retirement collected voluminous source materials on the history of the SUNY system. Though Martin did not live to write a SUNY history, a recent conference on SUNY History was dedicated to his memory. Martin's book *The Presidency of Herbert Hoover* attracted the most positive attention nationally, but Geneseo locals find particularly impressive his biography *James W. Wadsworth Jr.: Gentleman from NY*; Martin treated sympathetically and fairly both Hoover and Wadsworth, people whose political views he adamantly opposed. JW

Alumni News and Notes

Rob Adamo ('08) is in his first year at Pace Law School.

Matt Alessi-Friedlander ('06) has finished his masters degree in secondary social studies at New York University.

Sian Allen ('05) is finishing her third year of law school at New England School of Law in Boston. After graduation, she plans to practice in New York.

Peter Anderson ('05) is teaching Regents US History and Advanced Placement US History at New Hartford Senior High School near Utica where he is involved with the recycling program, coordinates black history month activities, and screens documentaries on social justice issues. He attended an NEH Summer Institute on the Underground Railroad and Abolitionist Movement in New York State. He is also a new father of Indiana William Anderson, born in Oct. 2008.

Christopher Basso ('07) is completing an MAT at the College of Staten Island where he was recently awarded a Fellowship that is part of a collaboration between the College of Staten Island and the NYC Parks Department to do primary research and prepare curriculum materials related to a New York City park.

Timothy Beach ('08) is currently living in Massachusetts while attending the University of Massachusetts Boston to obtain a Master's Degree in History. He has completed one semester receiving the distinction of Dean's List for that semester.

Vicki Beighley ('05) received her law degree from Syracuse University in 2008 and was admitted to the New York State Bar Association in January 2009. She is engaged to Brian Pack (Geneseo '05, International Relations).

Frank Cafarella ('01) is living in Greece with his wife Laura and enjoying their son Jackson, who is about 18 months old. He is the teacher leader of his Social Studies department in the Spencerport Schools and has been working recently on creating on-line lessons through a program called Moodle. In November, he helped organized a mock election modeled after the electoral college system. In May, he and others are taking the school's 7th graders to Gettysburg National Battlefield.

Loretta Charles ('05) earned her Master of Arts degree from Binghamton University. She is now teaching with her former professors in the department here at Geneseo.

John Dechant ('06) earned his MA at the University of Chicago and presented a paper at the Medieval Studies Conference in 2007. Since August he has been at Indiana University in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, with a Ph.D. minor in the Central Eurasian Studies Department. His main area of interest is Islamic hagiographies as historical sources and the history of medieval Iran. Also, the department hired him to edit old lectures for publication online and for limited print runs, as well as design promotional material for the department.

Jared DePass ('06) works in the Legal Division of Bank of America where he handles subpoenas and grand jury testimonies.

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 has earned advanced degrees in humanities and library and information science (pending, Rutgers University). 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.

Kate Donnelly ('04) lives in Washington D.C. She is employed currently by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.

Brad Franco ('02) is nearly finished with his doctoral dissertation. He is finishing up grad school at Syracuse University.

Janine Giordano ('05) is ABD in the PhD program at the University of Illinois, where she is working on a dissertation addressing the history of working class Christianity in the United States during the 1880-1930s.

Ryan Irwin ('03) is a predoctoral fellow with the International Security Studies Institute at Yale University where he is completing his dissertation tentatively entitled "Race and Revolution: White Redoubt in the Postcolonial Decade, 1960-1970."

Matthew Kellogg ('07) is in his second year of law school at Albany Law. He is currently doing a "semester in government" where he is working for the Library of Congress in the Congressional Research Service.

Christopher Kennedy ('04) spent a year conducting Civil Affairs Operation in Baghdad with the US Army and was commissioned as an Army Military Intelligence Officer in 2006. After returning to the US he began working for the Erie County Department of Mental Health, housing mentally-ill homeless and he is

currently training to do another year-long tour of duty in Iraq. In August of 2008, he married Jessica Walsh (Geneseo '04, English).

Justin Levy ('05) is starting his last semester of law school at Hofstra University and will take the bar exam in July. Justin was a summer associate for a firm, Latham & Watkins, in Manhattan, which is a quite large international firm. He was able to do some pro bono work, which included preparing a Violence Against Women petition for a native of Honduras, who is hoping to obtain legal immigrant status here in the United States. When he graduates in May, he'll be preparing for the bar exam and will begin work at Latham & Watkins as an associate. Eventually he hopes to clerk in a federal court.

Grant Matla ('04) is married with two children. He earned his MA degree in history from SUNY-Brockport in 2007, and teaches history classes at Genesee and Monroe Community Colleges.

Ed McGrogan ('05) works for Tennis Magazine in New York City and serves as Assistant Editor for Tennis.com.

Laura Miller ('05) is completing an M.A. in History with a concentration in Public History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Charlie Morris ('05) is currently the Webmaster & Distance Education Coordinator at North Carolina State University, College of Natural Resources. He is also completing an MS in Information Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Charlie and Jill Robinson are engaged to be married in April.

Tim Nicolson ('04) completed an M. A. in history at Kings College London, lived for a year in Tanzania, and is now in the history PhD program at Stony Brook University where he is abnd and working on a dissertation on the history of Tanzania.

Patrick O'Neill ('06) is currently the High School Awards Coordinator in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Rochester. He'll complete an M.S. in Higher Education Administration at Rochester next year.

Maura (Ballerstein) Proctor ('04) is finishing an MS in Library and Information Science at Syracuse University. She also works full time for Paychex in Rochester.

Angel Quintero ('94) is a NY State Trooper stationed in Rochester. He and his wife Erin (Schliff) Quintero ('95) have three children.

Andrew Reiser ('08) is living down state and working for a non-profit that specializes with women's issues and domestic violence. He is

awaiting word on graduate school placements for next year.

Erin Rightmyer ('06) is currently attending Union Graduate College in Schenectady, NY and will be receiving her MAT in June. She is currently interning at Bethlehem Middle School in Delmar, NY teaching eighth graders. Erin hopes to find employment in the Capital District area for the fall.

Jill Robinson ('05) finished her MS in Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007. She currently works as Librarian and Learning Resource Center Manager at a small college in North Carolina.

Claire Ruswick ('07) is in her second semester of the Master in Library Science program at UNC Chapel Hill and works as a processor in Special Collections at NC State University.

Dan Schultz ('04) has finished his MAR degree at Yale Divinity School. Dan will serve as Bill Cook's assistant for two summer programs in Italy in 2009.

Craig Truglia ('06) has finished his masters in secondary social studies at Columbia University.

Andrea Wenz ('06) has completed her first semester of graduate school in history at Boston College. She lives in Watertown, Massachusetts.

Shawn Wiemann ('01) is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of History at the University of New Mexico, where he is studying Native American History with Margaret Connell Szasz.

Angela Workoff ('06) is living and working in New York City.



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.