

HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

VOLUME 1

SPRING 2015



A Message from the
Chair, Dr. Charles
Beatty-Medina



Greetings from the History Department at the University of Toledo! Since our last newsletter in spring 2012, the department has undergone many transitions (including a flood, a move to the fifth floor of University Hall, and the retirement of many of our colleagues).

The following pages provide an overview of our historical community. You can find other news of faculty and student activities on our departmental web site and on our Facebook page:

<https://www.utoledo.edu/lss/history/index.html>.

<https://www.facebook.com/historyutoledo?ref=hl>.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OF 2014-2015

- On Friday, November 14, the Alpha Kappa chapter of the **Phi Alpha Theta History honor society at the University of Toledo hosted a graduate research colloquium**. Graduate students in history from the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, and the University of Windsor participated. The colloquium provided graduate students with a great opportunity to present their research and receive feedback from their colleagues. It also allowed advanced undergraduate students who are considering pursuing a graduate degree in History to get a better sense of what graduate work entails. PAT president, Eric Albjerg noted, “We



Wow! A lot has transpired since our last newsletter. The History Department looks different: especially after the winter water pipe bursts that sent us scurrying out of our beloved Tucker Hall. We also have seen major faculty changes with retirements and new hires. The passage has made us a somewhat smaller but also more cohesive department. We have worked hard to enhance our undergraduate and graduate programs and enjoyed real success. Today students entering our programs find opportunities in areas like internships, disability studies, and women’s and gender history. We have increased our number of speaker events and renewed our relations with institutions across the state. As we move forward, knowing that there are challenges before us, we can also celebrate our advances and the success of our greatest resource: our students and faculty.

were quite pleased with the event, and are already in the process of planning another conference for next fall semester, and hope to get more schools involved.”

- On January 29th, **Dr. Kenneth Bindas**, Professor and Chair of the History department at Kent State University discussed his latest research on American life in the 20th century in his talk entitled, “Hope and Fear: Understanding the Depression Era in American history.” Dr. Bindas is also a graduate of the University of Toledo where he received his master's degree and Ph.D. in History.



- As part of our Black History Month celebration, on February 25th, **Dr. Shirley Green presented her latest work on African Americans and the American Revolution**, “Freeborn Men of Color: The Franck Brothers and the Revolutionary War.” Dr. Green earned both her BA (2003) and MA (2005) in History at the University of Toledo, and in 2011 she completed her doctorate at Bowling Green State University. Dr. Green has worked as an adjunct instructor at both BGSU and here at University of Toledo, but for 27 years, she also worked as a police officer for the city of Toledo, and recently she served as the deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Personnel for the city of Toledo.

- March 5th, **Dr. Martha Santos**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Akron, presented **her research on female slaves in nineteenth-century Brazil** as part of our Women’s History Month celebrations. Her talk, “Enslaved Women, Motherhood, and Labor in the Hinterlands: of Northeast Brazil, Ceará, 1813-1884,” is part of her current book project that explores the variety of productive and reproductive work that female slaves undertook in nineteenth-century Brazil.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Please join us in congratulating the many achievements of our faculty and students this year. **Dan French, Justin Pfeiffer, and Steven Schrag** became our three most recent Ph.D. graduates. Dr. Pfeiffer worked with Professor Larry Wilcox and is a specialist in Modern German History with a minor field in Modern Japanese and Chinese history. Dr. French worked with Dr. Diane Britton and he is a specialist in Gilded Age/Progressive Era American History with a minor field in the English Industrial Revolution. Dr. Schrag also worked with Professor



Larry Wilcox and is a specialist in Modern German History.

Newly minted Ph.D.s: Justin Pfeiffer and Dan French!

Dr. Steven Schrag

Hats off also go to our three History MA students **Amy Geis, Nicholas Brown, and Derek Ide**, who successfully defended their Master’s theses this semester and received their degrees at Spring Commencement.

In addition, this year the history department presented three undergraduate history majors awards. **Dan LaCerva** was given the award for best male student, **Jennifer Andrella** was awarded best female student, and **Samantha Scott** received the award for best overall student.

Congratulations to our colleague **Dr. Rob Padilla**, whose tenure application has been approved by the University’s Board of Trustees!

Cheers also to our colleague **Dr. Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch**, who was awarded with a Humanities Institute Fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year for her research project, “The World of Westover: Mary Willing Byrd and Life in Revolutionary Virginia.”

ALUMNI UPDATES *(A look at what some recent graduates are doing)*

Melvin Barnes, (MA, date): While at UT Melvin worked with Dr. Roberto Padilla. He was recently accepted into the Ohio State University's Department of History under the tutelage of Dr. Christopher Reed. Upon admission, he was awarded the Todd Anthony Bell Resource Center Fellowship which provides research funds and a semester free from teaching assistant duties. He is also the recipient of two Foreign Language and



"Right now I am working on redesigning all of our exhibit spaces, ongoing collections management projects, and manage a part-time registrar and six volunteers. While a student at the University of Toledo I learned how to think like a Public Historian. My theoretical classwork paired with my hands on experience has made me a better writer, a more in-depth thinker, and very aware that history is relevant to our day-to-day living. I could not have become the historian I am without educators like Dr. Diane Britton and Dr. Ruth Herndon. My success in the field proves that with dedication and hard work you can obtain a career in history."

~ Holly Hartlerode Uppal

Area Studies Grants that have allowed him to spend the summer and academic year 2014-2015 in Beijing studying intensive Chinese at Tsinghua University's Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies. In addition to studying Chinese, he has also been busy conducting research on the mainland and in Taiwan. Melvin's current research investigates how the "Two Chinas" problem came to influence PRC-African relations during the mid-to-late 1950s.

Holly Hartlerode Uppal (MA, 2002): As a graduate student at UT, Holly worked with Dr. Diane Britton focused her work on Public History. After graduation she worked at the Henry Ford Museum until 2005. She then moved back to Toledo and worked as the Archivist for Mercy College of Ohio, where she wrote the applications for and was awarded Ohio Historical Markers for Mercy Hospital of Toledo/Mercy Hospital School of Nursing (2008) and Mercy Hospital of Tiffin/Sisters of Mercy Come to Tiffin (2013). In 2012, she became the Curator of the Wood County Historical Center. Since then she was awarded an Ohio Humanities Council grant (2014) that allowed her bring "Asylum: Inside the Closed World of State Mental Hospitals by Christopher Payne from New York City" to the WCHC. She is also the current Region 1 representative for the Ohio Local History Alliance.



Christine Weininger (MA, 2004): In 2012, Christie became the executive director of the Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio. Christie also served as the director of the Wood County Historical Center in Bowling Green for nine years prior to becoming the director of the Hayes Center. Christie was the president of the Ohio Local History Alliance from 2010-2013 and chaired that organization's Advocacy Committee for many years. She also served the Ohio Academy of History as chair of the Public History Committee until 2014. Christie teaches Ohio History at Heidelberg University in Tiffin and Historical Society Administration at Bowling Green State University.

Christie is proud to lead the Hayes Presidential Center through a number of major projects and institutional changes as it prepares to celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2016. One of the biggest undertakings is a \$1,000,000 redesign of exhibits in the Hayes Presidential Center's 8,000 square feet of gallery space. The Center's current exhibits were installed in 1968 and, while cutting edge for the time, no longer meets the needs of today's audiences and Hayes Center programming standards. The new exhibits will explain the life of Rutherford B. Hayes and how issues from his time and decisions he made still affect our society today.



Ashleigh Knopp (BA, Date): Ashleigh Knopp has gone on to pursue her Master's of Science in Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin. While Ashleigh initially entered the MSIS program to pursue her



interests in Archival Studies and Preservation, she found that her natural curiosity and interest in seeing how events and information influence one another led her down the path of Business Research and Competitive Intelligence. Ashleigh's B.A. in History greatly informed her ability and interest in doing effective research, and her study of the connections and influence of various historical events in different topics has contributed to her success in studying and providing research assistance on how different factors in business lead to different outcomes.

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~Ashleigh Knopp

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Last summer the department's internship program, headed by Dr. Bruce Way, placed three students at local area sites: Nick Brown at River Raisin National Battlefield Park; Brandy Raymer in the Canaday Center, and Kenneth Knutson at Fort Meigs. Those three registered in the fall term and have completed their work. In addition, we currently have two students "in the field," Steve Bare at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center and Dan LaCerva at the Canaday. Three students are completing arrangements for projects to be done with River Raisin this summer. We have active interest from Ft. Meigs, the Maumee Valley Historical Society, Wolcott House complex, and the Hancock Historical Museum (Findlay) and are looking for students.

MEET THE STAFF

Amada Esquivel is the Department Secretary. She joined the history department in 2013, coming to us from Owens Community College where she worked in Student services. Amada continues to provide the department with essential support in everything from event planning to class scheduling and answering all the day to day questions of students and staff. Without her work ours would be an impossibility. Thank you Amada!"

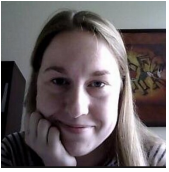
FACULTY UPDATES



Charles Beatty-Medina (Associate Professor and Chair): Dr. Beatty-Medina continues serve the department as Chairperson and to publish articles in his field: maroon societies in early Spanish America. This year he completed reference articles for the Oxford Bibliographies and the Dictionary of Caribbean and Latin American Biography.

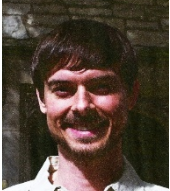


Kristin Geamen (Lecturer): Dr. Geamen graduated with her doctorate in Medieval European history from University of Southern California in 2012 and joined us here at UT as a full time Lecturer in fall 2014. Her current research focuses on infertility in late medieval England, especially how couples coped with their childlessness after spiritual and medical remedies failed. Her teaching interests include medieval Europe (especially medieval England), the medieval Islamic caliphate, women's history, sexuality and gender in the middle ages, and early modern Europe. Dr. Geaman has had an article, "Anne of Bohemia and her Struggle to Conceive," accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of *Social History of Medicine*. She will also be presenting a paper on the connections between magic and infertility at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies in May 2015.



Chelsea Griffis (Lecturer): Dr. Griffis graduated with her doctorate in Modern American History from University of Toledo in 2014, and joined us here at UT as a full time Lecturer in fall 2014. While preparing courses, including African American History from 1865 and US Women's History, Dr. Griffis is working on a book proposal based on her dissertation, which examines conservative women and the Equal Rights Amendment. She will be attending the Organization of American Historians conference in April where she looks forward to brainstorming her next research project that deals with gendered time, coercive/subversive womanhood, and in-home selling parties.

Todd Michney (Assistant Professor): Dr. Michney specializes in U.S. history, focusing on urban history, African American history, race, ethnicity, and labor. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 2004, under the direction of the late Rudolph J. Vecoli. His current research is on African American middle-class identity in the twentieth century, and especially notions of prestige as related to housing and locale. Dr. Michney is currently working on a book manuscript, entitled *Changing Neighborhoods: Black Upward Mobility in Twentieth-Century Cleveland*, an expansion of his dissertation into a citywide study of that city's black middling classes. He has a developing interest in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), as an emergent historical methodology with the potential to represent statistical data and settlement patterns in strikingly new and innovative ways. He currently serves as one of the history department's Undergraduate advisors. In 2015-2016, he will be on leave from the department as he fellowship at Atlanta Tech:



Robert McCullough (Lecturer): Dr. McCullough won the Outstanding Teacher Award in 2014. He continues to teach in the areas of ancient, modern, and European history. His courses regularly fill to capacity and students cannot seem to get enough. He currently serves as one of the history department's Undergraduate advisors



Roberto Padilla (Associate Professor): Dr. Padilla was recently promoted with tenure. He is currently the department's Graduate Program advisor. His essay, "When Precision Obscures: Disease Categories Related to Cholera during the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)," will appear soon in *Science, Technology, and Medicine in East Asia: Policy, Practice, and Implications in a Global Context* (Routledge). He is also working on revisions for two recent articles that have been accepted for publication. Dr. Padilla also continues to work on his book manuscript titled, "War in the Time of Cholera: A History of Disease during the Sino-Japanese War."



Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch (Associate Professor): Dr. Pflugrad-Jackisch joined the department in fall 2014. She graduated with her doctorate in early American History from the University of Buffalo in 2005. She is the author of *Brothers of a Vow: Secret Fraternal Orders and the Transformation of White Manhood in Antebellum Virginia* (University of Georgia Press, 2010). Before coming to the University of Toledo, she worked in the History Department at the University of Michigan –Flint for 8 years. She is currently working on a book manuscript about eighteenth-century Virginia plantation mistress Mary Willing Byrd. Her essay, "What Am I but an American?: Mary Willing Byrd and Westover Plantation during the American Revolution," will appear in the forthcoming edited collection, *Women and the American Revolution*, with the University Press of Virginia. The spring Dr. Pflugrad-Jackisch presented her research on Mary Willing Byrd at the 2015 Virginia Forum conference in Richmond Virginia, and she will be presenting a paper in June at the Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH) in Charleston, SC.



R. Bruce Way (Lecturer): Dr. Way holds a joint appointment in History and the Foreign Languages department. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Toledo in 1994. His dissertation, *The Life and Careers of William Henry Gorrill, 1841-1874* was published by the University Press of America in 1996. He continues to review regularly for *Choice*, participates in

the Great Lakes War of 1812 Bicentennial Collaborative and has articles in progress on the War of 1812 and Toledo on the eve of the Civil War. He recently concluded a 2-year run as local host of NPR's *Morning Edition* on WGTE Public Radio. Dr. Way has significantly reformed and expanded the department's internship program, creating new opportunities for students at River Raisin, the Hayes Center, the Canaday Center, and the Great Lakes Museum.

Affiliated Faculty



Ovamir Anjum (Associate Professor of Religious Studies): Dr. Anjum is the Imam Khattab Endowed Chair of Islamic Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He is currently a visiting faculty member at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies for the year 2014-15, where he is teaching courses in democratization, history, and Islamic law in their Master's program, which features international faculty and students from every continent of the world. He is also conducting research on crucial intellectual transformations in the Middle East.

Barbara Floyd (University Archivist): Ms. Floyd is the Director Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections and at the University of Toledo. She is also the author of *The Glass City: Toledo and the Industry That Built It* (University of Michigan Press). The book is a history of the largest glass manufacturers in Toledo and the impact these companies have had on the city. Ms. Floyd also serves as director of the UT Press. The



Press recently published two books of interest to Toledo historians: *American Originals: Northwest Ohio's Polish Community at Home, Work, Worship, and Play* (Timothy Borden, editor); and *Can I Get A Witness*, a book of photographs by John Rockwood of rock and blues stars performing in Toledo over the past 40 years. The Press is planning to publish a compendium of the best articles that have appeared over the past 40 years in *Northwest Ohio History* and *Northwest Ohio Quarterly* in 2016.



Kim Nielsen (Professor of Disability Studies and History): Dr. Nielsen continues research on legal incompetency and nineteenth-century physician Dr. Anna B. Ott. She recently published two articles. These include "Property, Disability, and the Making of the Incompetent Citizen in the United States, 1880s–1940s," in *Disability Histories* (University of Illinois Press, 2014); and (with Susan Burch) "History," in *Keywords in Disability Studies* (New York University Press, 2015). In late 2015 Oxford University Press will release her co-edited book *The Oxford*

Handbook of Disability History, including her essay "The Perils and Promises of Disability Biography." Also appearing soon will be the essay, "Disability and Labor Activism: The Pains and Joys of Coalition," in *Frictions of Daily Life: Class, Community, and the Challenge of Engaged Scholarship* (University of Illinois Press). In addition, she recently reviewed grant proposals for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the American Philosophical Society.

MEET OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Abdulaziz Alqabli (Ph.D): Abdulaziz is a Lecturer in History department at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. He completed his Master's thesis entitled "Islamic Endowments and Their Impact on the Scientific Renaissance in the Era of Sultan Baybars in Egypt (1260-1277 A.D." at Central Michigan University in 2014. Abdulaziz joined the program in Spring 2015. His dissertation focuses

on Islamic endowments and their impact on the cultural renaissance in the Bahri Mamluk.

Eric Albjerg (Ph.D): Eric's dissertation research is focused on the connection between changing habits of consumption and evolving ideas of social class in early modern England. Eric is from Apple Valley, Minnesota. He enjoys playing classical piano in his spare time.

Steven Bare (Ph.D.): Steve is originally from South Bend, IN. His area of research is historical memory and American wars from 1865-1933. His dissertation is titled, "And the Band Played On: Memory, Memorialization, and Remembrance Tourism: 1865-1933." In high school, Bare was a star wide receiver for his high school football team.

Nicholas Brown (M.A.): Nick's thesis examines the role of the brotherhood of sleeping car porters, an all-black Union established in 1925, in laying the foundation for the modern Civil Rights Movement. He argues that the modern Civil Rights movement began with the creation of the BSCP in 1925, pointing to the important roles E.D. Nixon and A. Philip Randolph (for example) later played in the 1941 March on Washington and the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. He also enjoys collecting sports memorabilia

Daniel French (Ph.D.): Dan completed his doctorate in Fall 2014. His dissertation is entitled, "Keep Your Dirty Lights On: Electrification and the Ideological Origins of Energy Exceptionalism in American Society." Dan received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Toledo. In addition to his graduate history studies, Dan has studied advanced computer science engineering and holds a post-graduate business certificate from the University of Michigan. Dan grew up on a family-operated dairy farm in LaGrange, Ohio, and is also a patent draftsman and IT specialist who works in the field of intellectual property law.

Amy Geis (M.A.) Amy's research focuses on Mormon women's participation in the nineteenth-century suffrage movement and how their participation was shaped by debates concerning polygamy and Utah's pending statehood. By examining Mormon women's publications, she project analyzes how these women reconciled religious doctrines with feminine identity. Amy is originally from Temperance, Michigan and she recently learned how to sew.

Matthew Henning (Ph.D.): Matt's research interests are in post-1945 Civil Rights. He grew up in Fremont, Ohio. As an undergraduate, he spent a summer working at a Civil War POW camp in Lake Erie. There he spent the summer conducting an archaeological dig in 140 year old outhouses,

where he found an interesting chunk of limestone with a piece of newspaper on it.

Derek Ide (M.A.): Derek's thesis "Socialism without Socialists: Egyptian Marxists and the Nasserist State, 1952-65," explores the relationship between the Egyptian state under Nasser and the Egyptian communist movement. He recently submitted an article for peer review to the academic journal *Workers of the World* titled "From Kafr al-Dawwar to Kharga's 'Desert Hell Camp': The Repression of Communist Workers in Egypt, 1952-1965" based on his thesis research. Derek was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. He fought in the Toledo Golden Gloves in 2013 and took second place in the 201 lb. division.

Veronica Lysaght (Ph.D): Veronica is studying the Incas and their khipus in the 15th and 16th century. She is specifically interested in analyzing the scholars who propose possibilities as to how khipus might have functioned as a written language and how these scholars feel the need to understand khipus as linguistic devices. Veronica can also play a mean rendition of "My Heart Will Go On" on an Irish tin whistle.

Zachary Makowski (M.A.): Zaq's thesis examines the moral economy of debt in early nineteenth century Merthyr Tydfil, Wales and posits that debt was a driving force behind working class consciousness. He is from South Lyon, MI and holds a B.A. in History from Spring Arbor University. In his spare time, Zaq is also a wrestling coach.

Justin Pfeifer (Ph.D.): Justin received his doctorate in Fall 2014. His dissertation explores the worldview of *Wehrmacht* soldiers during the Second World War, and the impact of their outlooks on the Soviet Union during the Eastern Front conflict. Justin also completed his M.A. at the University of Toledo and he has a minor fields in the History of Modern Japan and China

Steven Schragg (Ph.D.): Steve's research is on the imprisonment of high value Nazis and other Germans after the World War II, but before they were sent to Nuremberg to stand trial. His tentative dissertation title is: "ASHCAN: The Nazis in Allied Hands, Summer, 1945." Steve presented a paper entitled "Prisoner of War Enclosure 32: Detaining

the High Value Nazis, May-August, 1945," at the 2013 Midwest World History Association Conference at Wittenberg University. In Spring 2015, he successfully defended his dissertation and received his doctorate at Spring commencement.

Shelia Solhtalab (Ph.D.): Shelia's dissertation focuses on the collaboration between the US government and American Jews in the creation of a modern American Jewish identity. She closely examines the Warner Brother's studio, focusing on its animated shorts, Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies, as a case study of this collaboration.

Joshua Steedman (Ph.D.): Josh is interested in the history of the Gilded Age/Progressive Era,

gender history, history of alcohol and drugs, history of leisure, and Canadian history. His dissertation examines the history of the Anti-Saloon League in 19th century American and its role in shaping ideas about race and gender in the larger temperance movement. He is from Northwood, Ohio and collects Quentin Tarantino movie memorabilia and presidential bobble heads.

Snejana Slantcheva-Durst (Ph.D): Snejana already holds a doctorate in higher education and is currently a professor at the University of Toledo in the School of Education where she specializes in higher education policy and history. Her history research interests include higher education and gender in nineteenth-century America.

Have information you'd like to share?: If you would like to contribute a story or updated information to the History department newsletter please email Dr. Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch, apflugr@utoledo.edu

Are you interested in supporting History Department events and activities? Consider giving to the Progress Fund. These funds help us bring speakers, events, and activities to students, faculty, and our history community. We thank you

Interested in learning more about the History Department at the University of Toledo? We are located on the Main campus on the fifth floor of University Hall, suite 5240 University Hall.

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