Greetings from the Department of History

This is my first opportunity to greet you as department chair, having taken over this position last July. For those of you who have not visited Powers Hall in a few years, you would find a vibrant community of scholars, with one-third of our permanent faculty members earning their PhDs within the last seven years. You would also find some physical improvement to the building, as the university completed the restoration of the Powers Hall Ballroom on the second floor.

For the first time in several years, the CMU history department did not hire any new full-time faculty members. This was, however, the first full year for our two newest additions, Jay Martin, who teaches public history and directs the Museum of Cultural and Natural History, and Jennifer Liu, who teaches the history of East Asia, with a focus on China. History also became the first department in the college to add a postdoctoral fellow. Ryan Edgington (PhD Temple University) will arrive in fall 2011 to begin a two-year appointment in the field of environmental history.

Two of our faculty achieved significant milestones this year. Carrie Euler received tenure and Jennifer Green was promoted to full professor. Among other changes, after thirteen years Dave Macleod is stepping down as editor of the Michigan Historical Review. The department selected Jennifer Green to take over those duties at the beginning of the new academic year. Lane Demas will step into her former role as book review editor. Also, a number of our colleagues worked overseas this past year. Kathy Donohue remained abroad for a second year as an exchange professor at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Doina Harsanyi was on sabbatical the entire year in Europe, while Tim Hall spent his spring semester at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). John Robertson stayed close to home during his spring sabbatical. While these four will return in the fall, Randall Doyle is leaving after a six-year tour with us for a position in the United States Department of State as a Franklin Fellow.

During the Fall 2010 semester we were happy to have two visiting professors. Professor Lutz Budrass from Ruhr University Bochum (Germany) taught classes in twentieth century Germany and military history, while Professor Marja van Tilburg from the University of Groningen taught courses in modern Europe and the history of European women. During spring 2011, a third visiting professor, Anthony Santoro from Heidelberg University, offered courses in U.S. and religious history. The department also enjoyed having four new students from our partner institutions: Anett Buske and Christian Singer from Friedrich Schiller University in Jena (Germany) and Shaun Cole and Ashley McArthur from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow (Scotland). Four of our graduate students studied abroad this year: Thomas Darragh and Dale Moler at Strathclyde and Bob Borrelli and Lindsey Mahar at Erasmus University in Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

University prioritization consumed much of the administrative time in the department, with Carrie Euler, myself, and graduate assistant Kelly Wilson assembling and writing the report. Along with everyone else, we await the outcome of this exercise. As usual, the department was again ably served by its staff, led by Annette Davis and Roxanne Jordan, and supplemented by student workers Amanda Gibson, Jessica Kaiser, Katie Bryant, and Brittany Coxon. Thanks to everyone for their contributions this past year. For those of you now working and living outside of Powers Hall, we welcome and encourage news to include in next year’s newsletter.

Mitchell Hall, Department of History Chair
Thomas Benjamin lectured on “One Hundred Years of the Mexican Revolution” at Grand Valley State University in October 2010. He is currently researching a new book project tentatively called “Flesh and Bone: Death and the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920.”

Lane Demas published Integrating the Gridiron: Black Civil Rights and American College Football in 2010, and the paperback edition appeared in 2011. Professor Demas was named book review editor of the Michigan Historical Review.


Jennifer R. Green has been working on long-term projects since her book on military education in the antebellum South was published in 2009. This year, she completed several multiple-book review essays for the American Historical Review 16 (April 2011) and the Journal of the Civil War Era, in addition to an entry on southern social class in The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. She gave a lecture as part of the University of Michigan at Flint’s Wyatt Exploration Program in February 2011. She also completed her first year as book review editor for the Michigan Historical Review and was just appointed editor of the Michigan Historical Review.

Mitchell Hall is completing his first year as history department chair, and spent much of that time coordinating the department’s participation in the university’s prioritization effort. He submitted a book prospectus to Routledge Press, continues as a consultant for the Kent State May 4 Visitors Center Project, and reviewed several manuscripts for various publishers over the past year.


Jay Martin facilitated the November 2010 Repatriation of Native American remains and associated funerary items from the Museum of Cultural and Natural History collection in cooperation with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe/Zibiwing Cultural Center. He curated the exhibit “CMU: Life Outside the Classroom Walls” at the Museum of Cultural and Natural History (opened February 24, 2011) and was awarded a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to conserve a Civil War guidon (casual flag) from the 5th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. The artifact is part of the Museum of Cultural and Natural History permanent collection. Professor Martin also served as a logistical advisor on historic watercraft for the Tim Burton production Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, a movie scheduled for release in 2012.

Tara McCarthy received funding for her Early Career Grant Proposal, entitled “Policing the Practice of History: Textbooks in the Progressive Era”.

Benjamin Ramirez-shkwengaabi is on the organizing committee establishing an annual Human Rights, Literature, the Arts and Social Sciences International Conference regarding indigenous peoples around the world. The first annual conference will be held at CMU from November 10-13, 2011. Professor Ramirez is a member of the Olga J. and G. Roland Denison Professorship of Native American Studies Committee which appointed Winona LaDuke to serve as visiting professor at CMU. He authored “The 1810 Treaty of Saginaw: A Brief History of an Anishinaabe Treaty Negotiation in Michigan,” to be published in Who We Are Now: Storytelling Michigan Indigenes, forthcoming by Northern Michigan University Press.

David Rutherford will be on sabbatical leave during 2011-2012 writing a book-length article entitled “L.C. Firmianus Lactantius, ca. 250- ca. 325,” for the Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum series published by the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Steve Scherer published ‘Iryhorii Skovoroda and Orthodoxy’ in The Ukrainian Quarterly in 2010.

Catherine Tobin’s student Jennifer Boardman won the Outstanding Thesis Award for her paper on the closing of the Belle Isle Aquarium.


Did you know?
The first telegram to travel around the world was sent by the New York Times on August 20, 1911. "The message reading "This message is sent around the world" left the New York Times dispatch at 7:00 PM. The same operator received a reply in 16.5 minutes. The message traveled 28,000 miles through 16 different operators in including operators in San Francisco, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Saigon, Singapore, Bombay, Malta, and Lisbon.

www.chsbs.cmich.edu/History
News Updates

Professor David I. Macleod steps down as editor of the Michigan Historical Review

After more than 13 years as editor of the *Michigan Historical Review*, Professor David I. Macleod steps down on July 1, 2011 to focus on teaching and research. He hopes to complete a manuscript on progressive era economics over the coming year. As editor, Professor Macleod oversaw the production of 27 issues of the journal. He edited or coedited special editions on Detroit 300 (Spring 2001), Mapping Michigan and the Great Lakes Region (Fall 2004, Spring 2005), and Emerging Borderlands (Spring and Fall 2008). Out of the mapping issues, Macleod edited a beautifully illustrated *Mapping in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region* (MSU Press, 2007) that contained twelve essays and won The Historical Society of Michigan's State History Award for 2008. He has solicited the essays for a special Spring 2012 issue commemorating the anniversary of the War of 1812. Assistant Editor Mary Ward Graham explains the role Dave has played: “Dave has been the editor of the Review for the entire time I have served as the journal’s assistant editor. During those eleven and a half years, he has been unfailingly supportive and helpful, and I have often been grateful for his expertise and his eye for a ‘problem’ in the text of whatever article we were preparing for publication. When the spring 2011 issue is published, we will have produced twenty-three issues of the Review together. I have been privileged to work with Dave, and I will miss his guidance.” The department thanks him for his service and is proud of the contribution he has made to the historical field and on behalf of the department.

Powers Ballroom
Renovations are Completed

Renovations to the Powers Ballroom located at the east end of the second floor were completed in September 2010. The renovated room was showcased during Homecoming weekend with a reception hosted by CHSBS Dean Pamela Gates.

Dr. William Elton "Bill" Franklin Jr. 1921-2010

Dr. William (Bill) Elton Franklin Jr. passed away November 17, 2010. After serving in the U.S. Army during WWII, he attended Stanford University where he was awarded a PhD in American History. Dr. Franklin taught for 25 years in the History Department until his retirement in 1985. Upon retirement, he returned to his hometown of Springfield MO. Bill and his wife Mary loved to travel visiting all 50 United States and 27 countries abroad. He was very involved at his church and in civic activities. Bill’s stories and laughter will be missed by all who knew him.
Jason Agostino (MA 2007) graduated from John Marshall Law School in December 2010 and is applying to the Illinois Bar.

Robert L. Brielmaier (MA 1971) was featured at an AARP Convention book signing in Orlando, Florida. His books included The Plano Plan: Reformulating and Revitalizing Social Security and Tales from School.

Karen E. Bush (BA 1962) is now an author, free-lance writer, and adjunct instructor at IADT and Wayne State University.

Susan Cooper Cady (BS 1963) is currently a grant coordinator for Potterville Public Schools. She is also Program Monitor for Michigan Department of Education McKinney Vento Homeless Program.

Having served as Curator of Collections since October 2008, Maggie Carlson (BA 2006, MA 2008) has been promoted to Museum Director and Curator of Collections at the Coronado Quivira Museum. She began pursuing a graduate certificate in Non Profit Management from Wichita State University in the fall of 2010.

As a Captain in the Navy Reserves, Tim Hardy (BS 1981) was recalled to active duty in 2009 to serve as an officer in charge of an Advanced Common Element in Central and South America. He was recalled again in 2010 in response to the earthquake in Haiti and served for two months in Port Au Prince.

James E. Harris (BSED 1964, MA 1972) retired after thirty-one years of teaching. James taught history in Reese and Atlanta, Michigan and finished in the Adult and Alternative Education Department for the Carrollton School District.

Phil Hernandez (BS 2002) is Assistant Director of Residence Life at the University of Mary Washington, Fredricksburg, Virginia.

Joseph C. Johnson (BSED 2007) is attending law school at the University of Toledo and works as a paralegal for Patrick, Johnson & Mott, PC in Southfield. He and Stephanie Warren (2007) were married in August 2010.

Joel T. Juen (MA 2009) is an adjunct faculty member at Muskegon Community College where he teaches World History and Western Civilization. He and Rachel (Schofield) Juen (BA 2009) wed in June of 2010. She is pursuing her MA in Public History at Western Michigan University where she holds a teaching assistantship.

Brenton C. Kemmer (BS 1988 MA 1994) was awarded the 2009 The Daughters of Colonial Wars Michigan Teacher of the Year. He was also awarded The Daughters of Colonial Wars Division 1 and Regional Teacher of the year in 2010.

Joel Lewis (PhD 2006) received the Teacher of the Year award at Dixie State College, St. George, Utah for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Marsha A. Miller (BA 1975) is beginning her 25th year at the Indiana State University Library. Currently in the Reference/Instruction Department, she has documented more than 3,900 library instruction sessions while at ISU and hopes to reach a lifetime goal of 5,000. She is the webmaster for ISU’s Academic Integrity and for the Indiana American Association of University Women. Fall 2010 she taught an online graduate course for the Bayh College of Education’s Curriculum and Instruction Department, “Accessing Information with Technology.”

Stan Pniewski (BA 1960) retired from teaching in 2007 as an Associate Instructor at Henry Ford Community College and Schoolcraft College. He previously taught and coached basketball at Highland Park Community College. He coached men’s basketball at Mercy College in the 1970s.

Albert T. Quick (MA 1964) Dean and Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Toledo spent the fall 2010 semester as a visiting professor at Barry University School of Law, Orlando, Florida.

Michael J. Sheehan (BS 1980) is working for Comerica Bank in Grand Rapids, Michigan as the Vice President in Commercial Lending. He has been with Comerica Bank for 26 years.

Kurt Wahlgren (MA 2007) teaches Modern China, Model UN and Western Civilization at an American school in Taiwan. Kurt has made two trips to Vietnam.

Scholarship Recipients

- Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund Essay Prize
  - Kiel Martyn
  - Jessica Parij
- Summer Research and Creative Endeavors Scholars
  - Andrew Monson
- Thavenet History Department Study Abroad Award
  - Ian Maloney

Did you know?

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War

www.chsbs.cmich.edu/History
Michael Carter spent the 2010 fall semester in Germany doing dissertation research at the Institute for North American Research, the University of Frankfurt.

Eric Connin conducted research at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California as an Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellow in August 2010. He has also completed research in London and is writing his dissertation “Intelligence and the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade.”

Timothy Day completed his first semester abroad in France in 2008 and finished his second semester at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands spring semester 2010.


Patrick Kirkwood won the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences prize for outstanding graduate student paper with “Marxist and Post-Colonial Theory in Postwar Belfast and Detroit” in 2010. He presented a revised version of this paper at the Annual North American Labor History Conference at Wayne State University in October 2010.


Michael Rose is writing his dissertation “Jewish Life in Transnational Perspective: America, Germany, and Great Britain, 1900-1945.” He taught the course, “German-American Letters: European Jews and Americans,” at the University of Hamburg, Germany, in the summer of 2010.

Marko Schubert is teaching a course on the history of Detroit at the University of Jena, Germany, during the summer of 2011.

Hannah Schultz presented “Preparing for War: Self-Fashioning in the Ante- and Peri-Revolutionary American Colonies” at the Twentieth Annual Bluegrass Symposium, the University of Kentucky, February 2011.

Kelly Wilson finished her Joint MA this year and received her MSc in Historical Research from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. She is in the process of taking her comprehensive exams and writing her prospectus.

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**Student Award Winners**

**2010 Outstanding Thesis Award**
“A Case Study into the Closing of Belle Isle Aquarium in Detroit”
Jennifer Boardman
Supervisor: Catherine Tobin

**2010 CHSBS Graduate Student Paper Competition**
“Marxist and Post-Colonial Theory in postwar Belfast and Detroit: George Breitman, James Boggs and Bernadette Devlin”
Patrick Kirkwood
Sponsor: Eric Johnson

**2010 CHSBS Undergraduate Student Paper Competition**
“Cartography, Ethnography, and Geography World Maps and the Reflection of Worldview”
Marisa Whitby
Sponsor: David Rutherford
Giving Something Back

Were you a student who benefited from department scholarships, assistantships, work-study appointments, or simply enjoyed good teaching, advising, and the fellowship of favorite teachers? If so, you may welcome the opportunity to give something back so that future students can enjoy similar benefits. Here are some opportunities to participate:

George M. Blackburn Endowment
Endowment income funds an annual lecture on the American Civil War and Reconstruction in honor of George Blackburn, a greatly admired teacher and scholar during his thirty years as a member of CMU’s history faculty.

William T. Bulger Endowment
This endowment funds a lecture series in the field of American Biography in honor of Professor Emeritus William T. Bulger who served the CMU history department for 35 years.

Howard Evans Study Abroad Scholarship
This endowment supports a junior or senior student studying abroad with a minimum GPA of 3.0. It honors former history professor Howard Evans.

J. D. Smith Award
The cash award recognizes one of the department’s outstanding graduate students. It is named for our former colleague, Professor J. D. Smith.

Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Awards
The department, especially Professor Emeritus Dennis Thavenet, has been very active in fostering study abroad. If you enjoyed an overseas experience, your contribution can help the next generation to share similar benefits by contributing to one of these two awards.

Mae Teeter and Duane Boulieu Scholarships
These cash awards are given to outstanding undergraduate history students. Requirements include a GPA of 3.25 or higher, letters of recommendation and the Teeter scholarship includes the composition of an outstanding essay in a CMU history seminar.

Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund Essay Prize
This fund was created to honor the memory of Gabriel Chien, a former CMU history professor. The $1,000 scholarship is awarded for a written essay that focuses on an aspect of Chinese culture, Sino-American relations, or a comparative study of China.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ Other

This gift is for:

☐ History Department Development Fund
☐ Joint MA/PhD Program Development
☐ Duane Boulieu History Prize
☐ Mae Teeter History Prize
☐ Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Scholarship
☐ J. D. Smith Graduate Student Award
☐ William T. Bulger Endowment
☐ George M. Blackburn Endowment
☐ Howard Evans Study Abroad Scholarship
☐ Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund
☐ Other ________________________________

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Thank You!
Your gift will be used for the purpose specified and is
tax-deductible as provided by law.

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Give Online:
https://ssl.cmich.edu/development/pledge.aspx
The Abel Endowed Lecture Series was established in 2009 by the family of Dr. Harold Abel, who served as president of Central Michigan University from 1975 to 1985. The Able Lecture Series Committee, chaired by Professor Eric Johnson, brought two excellent speakers to campus in 2010-2011. Professor Claudia Koonz, a professor of German history at Duke University, gave a lecture on “Genocide and the Moral Order in a Globalized World” on November 9, 2010. In her talk Professor Koonz challenged the causal linkage between government types and the potential for genocide. Dr. Gerald Prunier, an international consultant on Eastern and Central African affairs, gave a lecture on “Crises in the Arab World” on March 28, 2011. Dr. Prunier asserted that the Arab uprisings of 2011 mark the beginning of a period of enormous historical change that will affect the entire world.

International Exchanges

The Department of History continued its efforts to provide a more international learning environment for CMU students. During the fall 2010 semester Professor Lutz Budrass, from the Ruhr-University Bochum, and Professor Marja Van Tilburg, from the University of Groningen, taught in the history department. Our visiting professor during the spring 2011 semester was Professor Anthony Santoro, from the University of Heidelberg.

The Department of History also sent professors abroad to teach. Professor Kathleen Donahue taught in the German-American Institute at the University of Heidelberg 2010-2011 and Professor Timothy Hall taught at the University of Groningen during Spring Semester 2011. In addition, doctoral students Michael Carter, Michael Rose, and Marko Schubert taught courses at various German universities and institutes in 2010-2011.

Future Historians Welcomed This Year

The History Department sends a special welcome to our future historians.

Iris Weinstein, daughter of Ben Weinstein and Samantha Ryan. Iris, born in June 2010, joins brother Tom.


Liam Gutwald, son of Stephen and Julie Gutwald. Liam, born in March 2011, joins brother James.

Aidan and Ainsley McCarthy, son and daughter to Tara McCarthy. The fraternal twins were born in April 2011.
To keep in touch with you, as well as to enable the Department of History to better advise its students and serve their career counseling needs, we ask you to complete the following survey.

Send completed survey to:

Department of History
Powers 106
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

or email survey information to:
jorda1rr@cmich.edu

Name ________________________________  Degree _______

Street ________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________  Year of Graduation _______

News for next Department of History Newsletter

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