

# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2016 NEWSLETTER

## Greetings from the Department of History!

The Department of History has been especially busy and productive during this academic year. We have been engaged in program review throughout the year, and only recently spent two days with our external reviewer on campus. I am sure we will all be happy to complete this project, and expect to find ways that can help us build on our strengths and continue to improve as a department. Student enrollment in history courses rose again, continuing a welcome recent trend. Much of this has to do with the department's significant contribution to the university's Writing Intensive requirement, and we have also launched some very successful new courses, such as HST 210 (U.S. History through Michigan Eyes) and HST 120 (Unlikely Princesses: Women in World History), both of which filled to capacity.

Our faculty members enjoyed several milestone achievements. Solomon Getahun received the prestigious President's Award for Outstanding Research and Creativity. Jay Martin earned promotion to Associate Professor, while John Robertson received a professor salary adjustment for his post-tenure accomplishments. During the fall, Jonathan Truitt enjoyed a one-semester sabbatical leave. Greg Smith is spending the spring semester as a visiting professor at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), and we were delighted to have hosted Dr. Maarten Duijvendak as an exchange professor from Groningen during the fall semester. Steve Scherer, our longest tenured member, retired in December and is already greatly missed. The department is very pleased to have welcomed a number of fixed-term faculty this year. Brad Eidahl, Steve Jones, Carol Neff, and Paul Schulten all provide quality teaching in a variety of fields. Although we did not add any new tenure-track faculty, the department will be conducting a national search next year for a permanent replacement in the field of Native American History.

The administrative staff of the department is also undergoing a transition. After completing six years as chair, I am handing over the reins to Greg Smith, who I am confident will do an outstanding job. Tara McCarthy continues as Director of Undergraduate Studies, while Kathleen Donohue remains as Director of Graduate Studies. With the birth of her second child, we lost our skilled half-time office professional, Gina Weare. Our very capable staff of student assistants - Aleah Bell, Bethany Kviz, and Kelsey Thelen - will all be returning next year.

Four doctoral students spent the year studying abroad with partner institutions. Kate Buning is at the University of Strathclyde; Gary Dunbar, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla; Kevin Hall, Friedrich Schiller Universität, and David Papendorf, Newcastle University. The department welcomed three students from partner institutions: Gillian Macdonald from the University of Strathclyde, Christian Vette and Alexandria Stelzig from Friedrich Schiller Universität.

The Department hosted several distinguished speakers this year. Among them were Katherine Masur (Northwestern University) who presented "Police Powers, the Anti-Slavery Movement, and the Origins of the 14th Amendment" as part of both the Constitution Day and the George M. Blackburn Endowed Lecture Series; Joachim von Puttkamer (Friedrich Schiller Universität) spoke to graduate students and faculty about "Museums of Communism: Exhibiting Twentieth-Century History in Central and Eastern Europe"; former colleague Sarah Purcell (Grinnell College) returned to campus for the William T. Bulger Memorial Lecture in American Biography and presented "Civil War Martyrs: Elmer Ellsworth, James W. Jackson, and the Power of Biography"; and Jason Porath (creator of RejectedPrincesses.com) met with students in HST 120 (Unlikely Princesses) and led a workshop for the faculty of Art & Design. Other highlights are addressed at greater length throughout this newsletter, so please take the time to read about what has been going on in Powers Hall, and let us know what you've been doing.

Mitchell Hall  
Department of History Chair

# FACULTY NEWS

**Lane Demas** completed a book review of Eric Allen Hall's *Arthur Ashe: Tennis and Justice in the Civil Rights Era* for the *American Historical Review* in October. Lane did newspaper interviews for the *El Paso Times*, *York Daily Record*, and *Beaver County Times* discussing the history of race and college athletics. In November he did an opinion piece for *The Hechinger Report* on the Missouri football controversy titled, "Surprised That College Football Players Tackled Bigotry on Campus? Here's Why You Shouldn't Be." He appeared on NPR's "All Things Considered" discussing race and college football in "A Deep-Rooted History of Activism Stirs in College Football" and was an exhibit consultant for "Holmes v. Atlanta: Changing the Game" (Georgia Tech University and Bobby Jones Golf Course).

**Carrie Euler** took three research trips to England between 2014 and 2015 and did work in Britain's National Archives and the local archives of Lincolnshire and Somerset counties. She is looking forward to staying home this summer, reading through all the digital photos of documents she took on these trips and beginning an article tentatively titled "The Uses and Abuses of Endowed Schools in Seventeenth-century England: Evidence from the Records of the Commissioners of Charitable Uses." In September Carrie presented "Charities in Chancery: A Statistical Overview of the Cases Heard by the Commissioners for Charitable Uses, 1601-1800" at the Midwestern Conference on British Studies in Detroit.

**Jeffrey Fortney** reviewed *The Settlers Empire: Colonialism and State Formation in America's Old Northwest* for the Winter issue of *The Michigan Historical Review*. In April Jeff presented "Geographies of Identity: Civilizing Projects and Racial Imaginaries in the Antebellum Era" at the OAH and he presented "'Signs of Danger are Thought to be in the Nation, but I see None': Choctaw Resistance to Interference Over Slavery" at the American Society for Ethnohistory in November. Jeff will serve as panel respondent to "Politics, Division, and Destruction: The Civil War in Indian Territory" at the Society of Civil War Historians this summer.

**Brittany Fremion** has a chapter in *The Land Speaks: New Voices at the Intersection of Oral and Environmental History* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press) and she is currently putting the final touches on an article that explores the environmental history of the Progressive Era. She is serving as a consultant on the exhibition (dis)ABLED BEAUTY: The Evolution of Beauty, Disability, and Ability, which will travel to CMU from Kent State in 2017-2018. During the summer of 2016 she will undertake research on the history of disability at CMU to help build an exhibit for the Clarke Historical Library that complements the main exhibition. Brittany has been invited by the faculty of CST to do a guest lecture for the CMU Research Experience for Undergraduates program on Beaver Island this summer.

**Mitchell Hall** is completing his sixth year as department chair and is currently working as editor of *Opposition to War: An Encyclopedia of United States Peace and Antiwar Movements*, as well as writing several of the entries.

**Tara McCarthy** revised essays on Seneca Falls and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony for Gale US History Series E-textbook and is completing her first year as Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Doina Harsanyi** is the author of "Brigands or Insurgents? Napoleonic Authority in Italy and the Piacentino Counter-insurrection of 1805-1806" which appeared in the March issue of *French History* and presented "Between Glory and Good Sense: Resistance to Conscriptio and the National Guard Experience in the States of Parma 1805" to the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era at the Louisiana State University, Shreveport in February.

**Jay Martin** is author of *General Henry Baxter, 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry: A Biography* (McFarland, 2016) and his article "Only the Shipyards will Gain: The Buffalo Hurricane of 1921 as a Demonstration of the Combined Economic Power of American Commercial Carriers on the Great Lakes" appeared in the April issue of *Northern Mariner*. Jay's student, Donald Laskey, successfully defended his thesis on "A Passage of Time: Joshua Slocum's Circumnavigation and the World Behind It."

**John Robertson** reports that at long last, his *Iraq: A History* (London:Oneworld) has been published, to excellent reviews in both the *Sunday Times of London* and *The Independent*. The book was also listed in the December 2015 issue of the British history magazine *History Today* as one of the top ten books of 2015. Also, the newest [6th] edition of his co-edited textbook, *Perspectives from the Past: Primary Sources in Western Civilizations*, has been published by W.W. Norton.

**Greg Smith** finished his term as graduate director in December and is spending the spring semester at the University of Groningen as Visiting Professor, where his primary teaching includes an MA course on the Third-Century Crisis in the Roman Empire and supplementary lectures in the Mediterranean World Minor (undergraduate courses). He presented his paper "Did Augustine Make a Difference? Demons' Bodies Before and After the Cogito" at the XVII International Conference on Patristic Studies at Oxford (United Kingdom) in August and gave invited papers "Demons, Dualism, and Descartes: Material Paradigms from Augustine to Einstein" at Calvin College (September 2015) and "Body, Soul, and Spirits in the Premodern Mediterranean World: An Attenuated History", at the Annual Mediterranean World Public Lecture, University of Groningen (March 2015).

# FACULTY NEWS CONTINUED

**Jonathan Truitt** was on sabbatical during the fall semester. His edited volume *Native Wills from the Colonial Americas: Dead Giveaways in a New World* was published with the University of Utah Press and he completed his book manuscript, *Supporting the Divine in Mexico Tenochtitlan*. As President of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies for 2016, Jon organized the RMCLAS Conference for March 2016. He is also President of the Reacting to the Past Game Development Conference and is organizing this year's conference, which will be held at CMU in July 2016.



Solomon Getahun receiving the prestigious President's Award for Outstanding Research and Creativity

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Johnette Davies** (1995 BS in History) recently accepted the position of Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at Amtrak, the first such position with the company. Davies is responsible for facilitating Amtrak and federal agency compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and related legislation for Amtrak's capital projects.

**Chelsea Mead** (2005 MA in History) is an assistant professor in Anthropology and American Indigenous Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato.



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Central Michigan University Department of History

## RETIREMENT OF AN ICON

In December, Professor Stephen Scherer, the longest serving member of the History Department and a mentor and friend to generations of students, retired from teaching. Since his arrival at Central Michigan University, fresh from earning his Ph.D. at Ohio State University, Dr. Scherer educated many thousands of students about the history of Russia and of modern Europe. One cannot just add up his courses' enrollments, because so many students, having enjoyed one of Dr. Steve's classes, then signed up for others. They learned to think historically and to think about history itself. This was true of undergraduate and graduate students alike. Professor Scherer's Monday evening course in historiography was part of the intellectual preparation of all the department's graduate students for many years, and his range of acquaintance and friendship among them grew vast. Dr. Scherer's particular specialty is intellectual history. His interest in the development of religious and philosophical thought led him to focus his research and scholarly publication on the life and writings of the eighteenth-century Ukrainian polymath, both philosopher and theologian, Hyrhorii Skovoroda. Dr. Scherer's research, which required facility in an array of languages including Ukrainian, Russian, Church Slavonic, and Latin, led to the publication of some two dozen scholarly articles, most but not all centering on Skovoroda. He immersed himself in the society and culture of the parts of eastern Europe where Skovoroda, a sometimes wandering sage, lived, wrote, and taught. Scherer himself taught in 1992 at Košice Technical University in the eastern part of what is now Slovakia, not far from the Ukrainian border, and maintains strong personal and business ties to the region. Professor Scherer also taught briefly in Russia and represented Central Michigan University in an ongoing exchange with the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, where he taught Russian history for the academic year 1990-91. As this perhaps suggests, narrow is not the word for Steve Scherer's contacts and enthusiasms. He is a serious collector of religious icons, which shared wall space with his many books in his academic office. He also assembled an immense and varied collection of T-shirts, the results on daily public display. Long a member of the Academic Senate's Athletic Committee, Steve is a knowledgeable backer of our university's athletic teams and those of a certain Ohio university less beloved in Michigan. Stephen Scherer has been for decades a gregarious, hospitable, and supportive member of the twin communities of Central Michigan University and Mt. Pleasant.

# GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Kate Buning** is spending the year at Strathclyde University. She presented "Women and the Material Culture of Protestantism in Early Modern England" at the AHRC Network Conference: Gender, Power and Materiality in Early Modern Europe, at Plymouth University. She attended the 40th Anniversary Conference of the Social History Society at Lancaster University where she presented "Women and Reformed Piety: An Examination into the Female Reform during the Counter Reformation."

**Gary Dunbar** is studying at Puebla this year and has spent much time working in the archives.

**Kevin Hall** has an article, "Peter Hurst," in *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present*, volume 4, edited by Jeffrey Fear, German Historical Institute, Washington DC (forthcoming.)

**Scarlet Muñoz Ramirez** presented the first chapter of her dissertation at the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies in Santa Fe, NM (March/April 2016). She also won the Dissertation Fellowship from the Academy of American Franciscan History, with the first rights of publishing the dissertation at its completion.

**Wesley Reynolds** is completing his first year in the Joint MA/PhD program and looking forward to continuing his studies next year at Newcastle University.

**Hugo Zayas** received the Vatican Film Library Mellon Fellowship and spent much of the spring semester at The Knight of Columbus Vatican Film Library in Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO doing research for his dissertation. He presented papers at the Somposio Internacional "Libros, viajes, viajeros: Los viajes a través de los libros como circuitos científicos-socioculturales, Siglos XVI-XXI" at Benemerita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (December 2015) and at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies in Sante Fe, NM (March/April 2016). Hugo also published "La Vida de Santos. ¿Una Mito-historia Durante el Catolicismo Temprano Moderno? La Hagiografía de San Francisco Javier como Caso de Estudio." *Genus Histórica* 3 (Primavera 2015): 9-25.

**Chiara Ziletti** presented her paper, "The Bombing of Brescia during WWII," at the International Graduate Historical Studies Conference at CMU, and she will also present this paper to the College of Graduate Studies' SRCEE exhibition.

## MAARTEN G.J. DUIJVENDAK



Maarten G.J. Duijvendak joined CMU for the fall semester (2015) as Visiting Professor of History. He taught two classes in the department, HST 356, "Europe since 1945," and HST 601, "Colloquium in Transnational and Comparative History." Professor Duijvendak came to us as a part of the more than 25-year faculty exchange we have enjoyed with the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. There he holds the Chair (or full professor) of Economic and Social History in the Faculty of Arts, the culmination of a distinguished career of teaching and research that began with his first appointment there in 1989. Professor Duijvendak also serves as Co-Director of the Netherlands Agricultural and Historical Institute. His research into the language of science, the history of social inequality and elites, and regional history has led to his publication of twenty books and well over one hundred articles to date.

The CMU history faculty and students took great pleasure in welcoming Maarten and his wife Carin, who was able to join him for the first several weeks of his visit before she returned to her teaching duties in a Groningen secondary school. Maarten plunged feet first into the life of the department and both were delightful guests at many events and dinners both formal and informal, enlivening the conversations and discussions with keen insight and ready wit. We were honored to host them for the semester and are grateful for the friendships we forged. We hope that CMU's relationship with the University of Groningen will continue to prosper and bring many more exchange opportunities for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

# SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Please consider supporting and encouraging our current CMU students as they prepare for their future. Your financial assistance will help provide scholarships for study at CMU and abroad, essay competition prizes, the opportunity for students to hear guest lecturers, and money for student research and conference attendance. The following are some of the opportunities available:

## STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Scholarship  
Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad History Department Scholarship  
Howard Evans Study Abroad Scholarship

## SCHOLARSHIPS

J.D. Smith Award (graduate)  
The Mae Teeter History Prize (undergraduate)  
Duane Mark Boulieu History Prize (undergraduate)

## STUDENT SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND WRITING AWARDS

Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund Essay Prize

## ENDOWMENTS

George M. Blackburn Endowment (lecture on American Civil War and Reconstruction)  
William T. Bulger Endowment (lecture series in American Biography)

## MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers match an employee gift. Please check with your personnel office for information on requesting matching funds. When you make your gift, complete a matching gift form from your personnel office and return it with your contribution to CMU.



For further information about ways to give, please contact the History Office in Powers 106, call 989-774-3374, or email [history@cmich.edu](mailto:history@cmich.edu).

## A GIFT FOR THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Enclosed is my/our gift of:

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# 2016 INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE HISTORICAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

[www.ighsc.info](http://www.ighsc.info)

The Department of History hosted the 2016 International Graduate Historical Studies Conference on April 8-9 in the Bovee University Center. This year's theme was "Time, Space and Place." The conference built on the success of previous years and continues to attract exciting and innovative research from graduate students around the world. Our department's own Dr. Tim Hall, Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, welcomed our forty presenters and commenters at the opening dinner. Our participants came from a variety of disciplines and institutions, including a number of North American universities as well as universities from Nigeria, Israel, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom. The presentations focused on a number of intriguing topics, including Cold War era violence, the Nazi persecution of homosexual men, and the use of applied mathematics in fencing manuals. Each panel brought out lively discussion from the panelists, commenters, and the audience. The Reacting to the Past workshop led by Dr. Gretchen Galbraith and Dr. David Eick was particularly lively. This interactive session got participants to "Join the Revolution," plunging them into the French Revolution of 1789 and showing how the RTTP pedagogy teaches students to think historically. Dr. William Reddy, the William T. Laprade Professor of History and Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University, delivered the keynote address, "Madurai to Rotterdam: Self and Difference in the Seventeenth Century." Professor Reddy's keynote was a fascinating exploration of the ways ideas of the self were discussed by distinct cultural and religious groups, linking them seamlessly with the conference theme. The speech was followed by a lively question and answer session. Students and faculty from across CMU helped to make the conference a success. Several CMU undergraduates took advantage of the opportunity to present at an academic conference and received valuable critiques from commenters. All of our presenters were able to network with people from regional universities as well as scholars and graduate students from around the world. Conference coordinators would like to extend a warm thank you to the graduate students, faculty, and the history department's office staff who assisted in so many ways, from judging papers, to chairing sessions, and going out of their way to make sure that all guests felt welcome. Join us at next year's conference on March 31-April 1, 2017 as we discuss "Crossing Borders, Challenging Boundaries."



## CONFERENCE AWARDS

### Best Undergraduate Paper

Sponsored by CMU Honors Program

**Kipp Tremlin, Central Michigan University**

### CMU's Women and Gender Studies Program Award

Sponsored by CMU Women and Gender Studies Program

**Andrea Howard, Ohio University**

### Best Paper in Transnational History

Sponsored by CMU College of Graduate Studies

**Melvin Barnes, The Ohio State University**

### Best Non-CMU Graduate Paper

Sponsored by CMU College of Graduate Studies

**Orna Vaadia, Tel Aviv University**

### Best CMU Graduate Paper

Sponsored by CMU College of Graduate Studies

**Gillian Macdonald, Central Michigan University**

### President's Award

Sponsored by CMU President's Office

**Alexander Greff, University of Minnesota**

*Join us at next year's conference on March 31-April 1, 2017 as we discuss  
"Crossing Borders, Challenging Boundaries"*

## GRANDPARENTS UNIVERSITY

In June of 2014 and 2015, the History Department continued the annual tradition of taking part in Grandparents University at CMU. This is an event organized by the Alumni Association; alumni and members of the community bring their grandchildren (ages 8-12) to live on campus for three days and attend classes offered by different departments. In 2014, Professors Carrie Euler and Greg Smith offered courses on "The Medieval World" and "Warriors and Democracy in Ancient Greece." Students enjoyed trying on medieval-style armor and clothing, building castles out of cardboard, and designing their own ancient Greek Hoplite shields. They even took part in a demonstration of the Hoplite warrior formation on the lawn between Powers and Warriner Halls. In 2015, Professor Jennifer Liu taught a course on "The Last Dynasty in China: The History and Traditions of the Qing." Students and grandparents practiced Chinese calligraphy and cooked traditional Chinese dumplings. This year's Grandparents University Event will take place from June 22-25, 2016. Professor Euler will once again be offering "The Medieval World" in Powers Hall on the afternoon of June 22.



## STUDENT AWARDS



**Tiffany Smrtnik** Duane Mark Bouliew History Prize

**Kipp Tremlin** Mae Teeter History Prize

**Hailey Zacharski** Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Scholarship

**Mark Davis** Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad (HST) Scholarship

**Cassandra Olson** Howard Evans Study Abroad Scholarship

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT PHD GRADUATES

**Wade Johnston** / Advisor Carrie Euler  
"Indifferent Matters: Matthias Flacius Illyricus, John Hooper, and Adiaphora"

**Patrick Kirkwood** / Advisor David Macleod  
"An 'Administrative Race'? Anglo-Saxonism and Imperial Administrative Networks in the Philippines and Southern Africa, c. 1898-1921"

**Dallas Michelbacher** / Advisor Eric Johnson  
"Jewish Forced Labor in Romania under the Antonescu Regime, 1940-1944"

## IN MEMORIAM



It is with sadness that we announce that Ed Strom lost his battle with cancer and passed away in Grand Rapids – his hometown – on July 25, 2015. Ed worked with history education students between 2007–2014 on campus (teaching HST 400) and when they student taught (as a subject matter specialist). He possessed a quick wit, shared insightful observations, and used his 34 years as a teacher to help scores of future history teachers get off to a good start.



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 & Behavioral Sciences**  
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# ALUMNI NEWS

Keep in touch! We'd love to include news about you in our next newsletter. Send us the following information:

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

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**News can be mailed to:**

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