

Central Michigan University Department of History Newsletter June 2014

Greetings from the Department of History

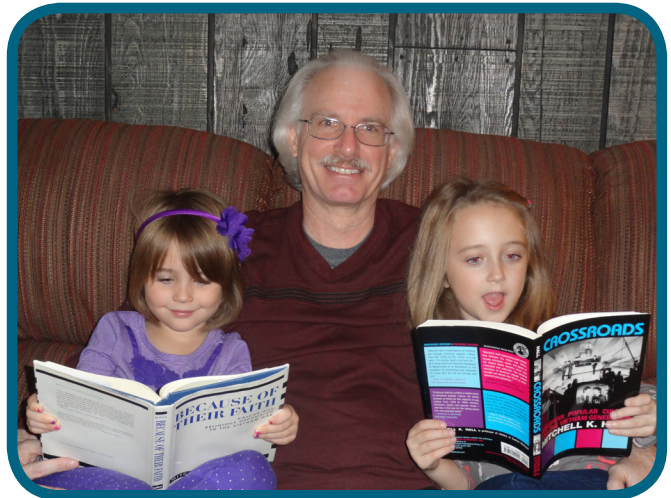
The Department of History survived our rough winter weather and enjoyed another successful academic year during 2013-2014. Among the highlights this past year are career milestones reached by several of our faculty members. Jennifer Liu and Jay Martin received tenure, while newly promoted colleagues are Professor Doina Harsanyi and Associate Professors Tara McCarthy and Jonathan Truitt. Both Greg Smith and Eric Johnson enjoyed one-semester sabbaticals this year, while Jennifer Green was also on leave during the spring. The department will greatly miss three of our colleagues: Tom Benjamin, Ben Ramirez-shkwegnaabi, and David Rutherford, who retired at the end of the spring semester (see page 8), and the History office reluctantly bid goodbye to outstanding student workers, Katie Bryant and Rachelle Kviz. We did enjoy one new addition, however, as the *Michigan Historical Review* hired assistant editor Susan Paton.

Among our graduate students, Jonathan Klauke ("Grasping at Stars: A Study of the Translation and Transmission of Medieval Astronomical Knowledge, 750-1600") and Elizabeth LaFray ("The Air She Breathes: The Female Soul from Homer to Plato") completed their PhD dissertations, while Camden Burd, Alexander Greff, and Dana Ouellette each defended MA theses. Two of our doctoral students studied abroad this year, Dallas Michelbacher at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität and Scarlet Muñoz-Ramirez at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. We also welcomed three graduate students from Jena, Germany; Marcel Haas, Claudia Krähe, and Lennart Häusler.

Several distinguished scholars spoke as guests of the history department in 2013-2014. Among them were Wil Verhoeven (University of Groningen), whose "Diplomacy and Revolution: Joel Barlow and the New Franco-American Alliance" was the William T. Bulger Lecture in Biography; Darrin McMahon (Florida State University), who presented "Fiat Lux: Light in the Age of Enlightenment"; Ethan Segal (Michigan State University) presented "Gender, Memory, and Women's Roles in Medieval Japanese Warrior Institutions"; Dena Goodman (University of Michigan) spoke on "Celebrity in the Age of Enlightenment"; and Stephen Berry (University of Georgia), whose "Lincoln and the Constitution" was the university's Constitution Day Lecture.

Historians played key roles in developing a series of new certificate programs through the college's new Cultural and Global Studies Program. The History Department will be especially involved in African and African Diaspora Studies, American Indian Studies, East Asia Studies, European Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Middle East and Islamic Studies programs.

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.



Reese, Mitch & Presley Hall investigate history

Mitchell Hall
Department of History Chair

Faculty News

Lane Demas received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on his project "The Game of Privilege: An African American History of Golf."

Carrie Euler is embarking on a new project exploring grammar schools and grammar school education in early modern England. She received funding from the Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors committee for research at the National Archives in London.

Michael Federspiel, along with photographer Rebecca Zeiss, is the author of *Little Traverse Bay, Past and Present*, published in May by Wayne State University Press.

Solomon Getahun co-authored two books this past year, *Little Ethiopia in the Pacific Northwest* and *Culture and Customs of Ethiopia*. He also published two articles, "Africans and African Americans from East Africa, 1940-Present" in *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration*, and "Charting Refugee and Migration Routes in Africa" in the *International Handbook of Migration Studies*.

Mitchell Hall completed his latest book, *The Emergence of Rock and Roll: Music and the Rise of American Youth Culture*. The book was published this spring by Routledge as part of its Critical Moments in American History series.

Doina Harsanyi lectured on "Love in the Enlightenment" at Northwood University. She presented "Carrots and Sticks: The Case of the Piancentino Insurrection, 1805-1806" and also served as a commentator on two panels while at the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era held at the University of Mississippi.

Eric Johnson is working on a project about captured and killed American pilots in Austria during the last year of World War II, using his spring sabbatical to conduct research in Alabama, Austria, Germany, Great Britain and Italy. He presented a paper on criminal justice history at the European Social Science History Biannual Conference and presented "The Evolution of Holocaust History" to CMU Honors students.

Jennifer Liu contributed "Defiant Retreat: The Relocation of Middle Schools to China's Interior, 1937-1945" for the December 2013 issue of *Frontiers of History in China*.

Timothy O'Neil has two forthcoming articles: "An Eviction in Kinnitty: Republican Social Agitation and the New Fianna Fáil Government, 1932-33" in *Etudes Irlandaises*, and "Reframing the Republic: Republican Socioeconomic Thought and the Road to Fianna Fáil" in the book *A Formative Debate: Politics, Economics and Identity in Ireland, 1921-32*.

Gregory Smith presented his project "Body, Soul, and Spirits in the Roman World: An Attenuated History" in the annual CMU Faculty Excellence Exhibition.

John Robertson continues work on his book, *Iraq: A Brief History*. His article, "Social Structure and Mobility, Ancient Near East," appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. Meanwhile, he completed a three-year term on the screening committee for Fulbright Student Awards for the Middle East, was a recipient of the student-nominated "Inspire Integrity" Award from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and attended the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society.

Jonathan Truitt's co-edited volume, *Dead Giveaways II: Native Wills from the Colonial Americas*, has been accepted by the University of Utah Press for publication. Truitt, along with history students Ben Harris and Trent Wolf, traveled to Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota to present "Mexico in Revolution: 1910-1920", his *Reacting to the Past* game.

Benjamin Weinstein used a 2013 Summer Faculty Scholar award funded by the College of Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences to work on his project "Liberalizing the Raj: Bengali Municipal Reform, 1874-1890."

Former Faculty News

John Haeger, former CMU history professor, dean and provost, retired this June as president of Northern Arizona University, a position he has held since 2001. While at CMU, Haeger was the founding editor of the *Michigan Historical Review*.

Dr. Charles Ebel, 1937-2013



With sadness we report Dr. Charles Ebel died in July 2013. From a large family of German descent, he was raised with a no-nonsense, rural upbringing in Iowa. In early adulthood, Ebel worked in construction. After a brother convinced Charles to pursue a college degree, Ebel enrolled at the University of Iowa and graduated in 1970 with a PhD in ancient history. Ebel passed up an Ivy League university professorship to teach four classes per semester at Central Michigan University, a decision he later joked that he could not understand. Dr. Ebel, a professor of ancient history, finished his career as chair of the history department. Ebel was instrumental in establishing a faculty exchange program in the Netherlands and a joint study program for graduate students with the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, where he taught for a year. Dr. Ebel is missed by his colleagues, students, family and friends.

Relocating History, Repositioning the Past



The 2014 International Graduate Historical Studies Conference was held March 28-29. Over 35 graduate and undergraduate students from across the country and Canada presented papers on thirteen different panels. CMU was represented by fourteen students.

Friday afternoon included a seminar on “Lessons in Play: Active Learning Across the Curriculum”, led by Andrew Peterson from the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning at Ferris State University. As part of the seminar, participants split into groups for one of two *Reacting to the Past* games: “Greenwich Village, 1913: Suffrage, Labor and the New Woman” or “Mexico in Revolution, 1911-1920”.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Linda Colley. Born in Britain, Dr. Colley has taught and written on history and current events on both sides of the Atlantic. She is currently Shelby M.C. Davis 1958 Professor of History at Princeton University. Dr. Colley spoke on “WORDPOWER: Written Constitutions and the Writing of Global History.”

Conference director Dr. Kathleen Donohue was assisted by doctoral candidate Dale Moler. The schedule provided time for professors and graduate students to network at the evening dinner and post-keynote address reception on Friday along with lunch on Saturday. The conference ended with the presentation of awards late Saturday afternoon. A listing of awards appears on page 5.



Participants in a *Reacting to the Past* game during the conference workshop

Graduate Student News

Camden Burd received the Grace H. Magnaghi Visiting Research Grant for research at the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives. His research focused on 20th century environmental activism in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. While there, he gave a public presentation demonstrating the impact of early naturalists in defining northern landscapes throughout American history. After defending his thesis entitled, “North: A History of Natural and Imagined Landscapes,” Camden plans to continue his PhD path at the University of Rochester. Summer funding through Michigan Tech Archives will support his research on environmental groups of the Lake Superior Region.

Thomas Darragh led the “Demonstrating Darwin: Introduction to a New Pedagogical Approach in the History of Science” workshop at the 2013 meeting of the History of Science and Society. He was elected CV Review Program Officer for the History of Science Society Graduate and Early Career Caucus.

Wade Johnston accepted a tenure-track position beginning fall 2014 in the Department of Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Patrick Kirkwood is an adjunct history instructor at Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University. This June he will present “American colonial administrators’ thought on self-determination (as foreshadowing Wilsonianism)” at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. His article “‘Michigan Men’ in the Philippines and the Limits of Self-Determination in the Progressive Era” has been accepted for publication in the *Michigan Historical Review*.

Shannon Kirkwood completed her Master of Science in Historical Studies at the University of Strathclyde, Scotland. She presented on working class women’s political culture in Glasgow, Scotland during World War I at the Midwest Labor and Working Class Colloquium held at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She also presented research on miners’ wives in the Copper Country at the Michigan Technological University Retrospection and Respect: 1913-14 Copper Miners’ Strike Symposium, aided by travel grants from MTU.

Erik Noren presented “The History of the Wealthy Theatre: The Decline, the Fall, and the Rebirth of a Community-engaging Theatre” at both the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, and the CMU International Graduate Historical Studies Conference.

Marko Schubert spoke at CMU’s 13th Annual Issue Day Conference on the significance of the Holocaust, met with a group of students participating in an Alternative Break program in Germany and Poland, and taught an advanced undergraduate seminar on the United States and the Cold War at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany.

Alumni News

Karen Elizabeth Bush (BA 1962) is semi-retired, but still does business and creative writing and occasionally works as an adjunct instructor at Wayne State University.

Joffrey Bywater (BSED 2007) has earned his MA in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University and is currently the Assistant Principal of Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men - Englewood Campus in Chicago, IL.

Anthony J. Chvala-Smith (BA 1978) is the F. Henry Edwards Chair in Religion at Graceland University and Professor of Early Christian Theology at Community of Christ Seminary, Independence, MO.

Andy Clark (Joint MA 2012) has published "And the next thing, the chairs barricaded the door": The Lee Jeans factory occupation, trade unionism and gender in Scotland in the 1980s" in *Scottish Labour History*. Andy is pursuing his PhD at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.

Kyle B. Culbertson (BS 2003) after 7 years running state and federal grant programs and ready for a change, found his degree in the social sciences allowed him to become a Juvenile Probation Officer for the Cheboygan County 53rd Circuit Court Family Division.

Matt Dinan (BS 1990) has been with Southfield Parks and Recreation for 13 years. He lives in a 100-year old farm house in Oxford.

Douglas D. Fisher (BS 1998) and co-editors Denver Brunsmann and Joel Stone's book, *Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812*, received the Historical Society of Michigan State History Award for best book by a private printing.

Amanda Frasier (BSED 2007) is in the Education Policy PhD Program at Michigan State University. She presented in August 2013 at the International Standing Conference for the History of Education in Riga, Latvia.

Anthony Guzdial (BA 1968) is a retired history and government teacher from Utica Community Schools. He is a strong advocate for study of the humanities.

William Hempel (BA 1968) resides in Australia after a 46-year career in education in the United States and Australia. For the past 25 years, he and his wife have visited 7 countries while researching their family histories. When in France for the 2004 "D Day" 60th anniversary celebrations, William located the roots of his French Canadian ancestors in Rouen. He misses northern Michigan and the Lake Superior region, but has a better understanding of what the early migrants went through putting down roots in a new land and leaving behind family and friends.

J. J. Lewis (BS 2006) is serving a four-year term on the Board of Trustees for the Howell Carnegie District Library in Howell, MI.

David Minor (BS 1983) has taught high school English in the Harrison Community Schools for 29 years. He is married with four children and runs a lawn service with his boys, along with writing essays for the local newspaper. David mentioned that his participation in the Fall 1983 inaugural study abroad program in England is a fond memory.

John G. Phillips (BS 2012) is a recipient of the Wifred Woobank Graduate Assistantship and is a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Tulsa.

Michael Puffpaff (BAA 1988, MA 2004), a world history teacher at Saginaw Arthur Hill High School, spent two years under a federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) as an instructional technology specialist. Michael trained high school teachers to incorporate instructional technology into their lessons and assisted students in web 2.0 tools and 21st century digital literacy skills. He also received training as a cognitive coach to help teachers problem solve lesson plans. He returned to the classroom this past year.

Philip W. Sell (BSED 1969) is currently retired and living in Lansing after 36 ½ years of service divided between teaching, the U. S. Army and the State of Michigan.

Mark Van Volkinburg (BS 1974) retired in 2012 from a marketing and sales career in various countries around the globe with the Dow Chemical Company. He concluded his career as a Sales Director in Zurich, Switzerland. Mark's first overseas experience was with the CMU History Club on a 1972 trip to Germany under the leadership of Drs. Howard and Charlotte Evans. The experience opened his eyes to a larger world. Mark married in 1992 and now resides in Austria with his Austrian-born wife.

William Frederick Wilde, Jr. (BSED 1972) retired from Athens High School in Troy after teaching for over 36 years. In retirement he has been researching his genealogy. William found family members that served in military conflicts from the American Revolution to his father celebrating his 21st birthday in North Africa prior to landing on Utah Beach.

Wanted: Alumni News

We would love to include news about you in our next newsletter. News may be emailed to:
roxanne.jordan@cmich.edu

Include your name, year of graduation and degree along with what you have been doing.

You can also mail your information to:
**History Department Newsletter
Powers 106
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859**

Student Awards

2013 CHSBS Student Paper Competition Recipients

Gabriel Chien Memorial Award

David Hansen

Deng Xiaoping: The Great Reformer of Modern China

Sponsor: Jennifer Liu

Shapiro Prize in Social & Behavioral Sciences

Andrea Howard

Marked Men: Jewish-American POWs of the Third Reich

Sponsor: Eric Johnson

Graduate Award Winner

Stephen O'Donnell

The Czechoslovak-Hungarian Propaganda War, 1914-1922

Sponsor: Timothy O'Neil

Dallas Michelbacher

Saul Kagan Claims Conference Academic Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies

Doctoral student Dallas Michelbacher received the Saul Kagan Claims Conference Academic Fellowship for 2014-2015. The fellowship supports PhD and postdoctoral candidates pursuing advanced study of Jews who were systematically targeted for destruction or persecution by the Nazis and their allies between 1933-1945. Dallas will be attending a workshop for the fellowship at Yad Vashem, the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust, in Jerusalem.

In addition to this award, Dallas received a Title VIII language fellowship to study Romanian during summer 2013, spent the 2013-2014 school year at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, Germany and was selected as an alternate for a Fulbright Research Grant to Romania for 2014-2015. Dallas is currently researching his dissertation topic, "Jewish Forced Labor in Romania under the Antonescu Regime, 1940-1944."

2014 Scholarship Recipients

Duane Mark Bouliew History Award

Michael Jennings

Howard Evans Study Abroad Scholarship and

Thavenet History Department Study Abroad Award

David Hansen

Benjamin Harris

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea

History major Benjamin Harris from Allen Park has received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Ben, an honors student, graduated summa cum laude in May.

International Graduate Historical Studies 2014 Conference Awards

"President's Award"

(best conference paper sponsored by the CMU President's Office)

Gary Dunbar, Central Michigan University

The Carnavalesque of Colonial Trinidad's Carnival, 1776-1848: The World Turned Upside Down, Right Side Up

Best CMU Graduate Paper

(sponsored by the CMU Graduate School)

Alexander Greff, Central Michigan University

"What improvements may be made?": The Trans-Atlantic Scientific Community and its Generational Shifts in the Late Eighteenth Century

Best Paper by a non-CMU Student

(sponsored by the CMU History Department)

David Hopkins, Jr., Wayne State University

"They are Thrown Upon Our Charity": The Western Sanitary Commission and Refugees in the Trans-Mississippi West

Best Paper in Transnational History

(sponsored by the CMU History Department)

Russell Freure, University of Waterloo, (Ontario, Canada)

"A clear and unjustifiable violation of law": British Naval Practices and American Neutral Rights, August-December 1914

"CMU's Women and Gender Studies Program Award"

(best paper in Women's history, history of sexuality or gender studies, sponsored by CMU's Women and Gender Studies Program)

William Avila, Northern Illinois University

Adult Comics: HIV/AIDS and Popular American Comic Books of the 1980s

Best Undergraduate Paper

(sponsored by CMU Honors Program)

Andy Shaw, Central Michigan University

Divine Agency: The Rabbinic Concept of Shelihut and the Sheiah Christology of the New Testament Society

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:

Scholarships to assist students in broadening their perspective through study in foreign countries

- Howard Evans Study Abroad Scholarship
- Dennis Thavenet Study Abroad Awards

Scholarships to assist students in progress toward their degree

- J. D. Smith Award for graduate history students
- The Mae Teeter History Prize and Duane Mark Bouliet History Award for undergraduate history majors

Award for student scholarly research and writing

- Gabriel Chien Memorial Fund Essay Prize

Funding for special projects, student conference attendance and research travel

- History Department Development Fund

Endowments to bring guest lecturers to campus

- George M. Blackburn Endowment: annual lecture on the American Civil War and Reconstruction
- William T. Bulger Endowment: lecture series in the field of American Biography

For further information about any of these ways to give, please contact the History Office Powers 106, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, 989-774-3374 or send email to roxanne.jordan@cmich.edu

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Grandparents University

In June 2013, the History Department participated for the first time in Grandparents University. This is an annual event organized by the Alumni Association during which alumni and members of the community can bring their grandchildren (ages 8-12) to live on campus for three days and attend classes offered by different departments. Our department offered two 90-minute classes in which faculty members and graduate students gave short lectures and then students engaged in fun and creative learning activities. In "The Medieval World," students built castles out of cardboard, tried on medieval costumes and armor, played "Medieval Market Bingo," and colored in decorated capital letters like those found in medieval manuscripts. In "The Mysteries of the Ancient Maya," they made amulets based on the Mayan calendar, practiced Mayan mathematics, constructed ceremonial masks, and built temples out of Legos™. Both classes were well-attended.

The department will participate in Grandparents University again this June. We will offer "The Medieval World" for a 2nd year and add a new class called "Warriors and Democracy in Ancient Greece."



Annette Davis Honored for Service

This past year, longtime History Department Executive Secretary Annette Davis was honored for the completion of 40 years of service to CMU. She has been with the History Department since 1981.

Annette also received a 2013 Staff Excellence Award. The Staff Excellence Award Program recognizes and rewards dedicated staff who routinely and regularly demonstrate in an outstanding way their commitment to and support of the University's Service Excellence Values. Annette also received this award in 1996. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication.

Bringing the Past to Life: New Public History Program at CMU

The Public History Program is designed to train undergraduate students to work as historians in the public sector. It features a core curriculum and special electives that provide students with a foundation in the traditional research skills, historiography, and methodology of the historical discipline, but more specifically, teaches students to consider popular audiences when developing frameworks for historical analyses. Public historians transform their research to reach popular audiences outside of the classroom and provide opportunities for collaboration with communities and cultural institutions. Public History is history that comes to life in the public sphere.

Through internships and coursework, the Public History Program provides practical experience. This spring, students completed internships at the Clarke Historical Library, where they worked one-on-one with archivist Marian Matyn to process new collections (<http://archivistrising.blogspot.com>). Dr. Brittany Fremion's oral history course conducted interviews for the CMU Oral History Project, which seeks to curate the history of the university through alumni narratives that are archived at the Museum of Cultural and Natural History. Finally, last summer in collaboration with the Museum Studies Program, students of Dr. Jay Martin worked with community leaders in Emmet County, Michigan, to conduct cultural resource studies that help identify, preserve, and interpret local histories.

For more information please contact:
Dr. Brittany Fremion (fremi1b@cmich.edu) or
Dr. Jay Martin (marti6jc@cmich.edu)



Students researching records at Emmet County Building.

IS GAMES

The newly created Institute of Simulations and Games as Methods for Engaging Students (**IS GAMES**) is dedicated to the improvement of game-based learning across all subjects and is the idea of **IS GAMES** director Associate Professor Jonathan Truitt. He has been assisted this past semester by graduate student Alexander Greff. The premise behind **IS GAMES** is to use games and simulations to engage students in materials and classes where they might otherwise be passive learners. One model is *Reacting to the Past*, which several History faculty and doctoral students have incorporated into their classes over the past several years.

Recently **IS GAMES** was awarded a Ludus Grant to take a group of faculty, students, and high school teachers to the 10th annual Games Learning Society conference in Madison, WI in June. The participants will then follow up the initiative with half-day workshops in the fall and spring, contributing to the discussion of games as classroom pedagogy.

Three Department Members Retire

Dr. Thomas Benjamin, Dr. Benjamin Ramirez-shkwegnaabi, and Dr. David Rutherford all retired at the end of the spring semester. They will be missed by students, faculty and staff. We wish each a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.



Dr. Thomas Benjamin joined the department in 1981. He specialized in the history of the Mexican Revolution and the Atlantic World. During his thirty-three years at CMU, he taught courses in both Latin American and Atlantic World history. Tom was also a visiting professor at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands during 1989-90. His outstanding publication record ranks him with CMU's most accomplished scholars.

Professor Benjamin plans to remain in Mt. Pleasant, where he will continue his research and writing on his current project, "Summary Execution and the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920." Beyond working, he will spend time on the golf course and keep up with the news when the weather keeps him inside.



Dr. Benjamin Ramirez-shkwegnaabi became a member of the department in 1998 and taught courses in Native American Studies, anthropology, American Indian Literature, Tribal Law and Government, and Ojibwe. In 2009, Ben was the Olga J. and Roland Denison Visiting Professor of Native American Studies. His current research project is the "Keepers of the Three Fires Oral History Project". He and Dr. Stephen Jones are collaborating on the project.

Professor Ramirez-shkwegnaabi plans to use his new-found free time to delve into his projects and special interests. He recently purchased a condominium in Albuquerque, NM and is looking forward to enjoying winter without snow.



Dr. David Rutherford joined the department in 1991. He specialized in the history of the Italian Renaissance and taught courses in early Western Civilization, Medieval Europe, and the High Middle Ages. In 2007 he served for a semester as interim chair of the department. David was also a visiting professor at Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy in 2004-05, and received an Andrew Mellon Fellowship to the American Academy in Rome during the 1995-96 academic year.

Dr. Rutherford has moved to San Diego, CA, where his wife Susan teaches at the University of California at San Diego. In addition to continuing his historical research and critical Latin translations, David will follow Susan's opera career, which this year will take them to China.