

Taking Time

A NEWSLETTER FOR UNDERGRADUATES
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

VOL. 12, NO. 2

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

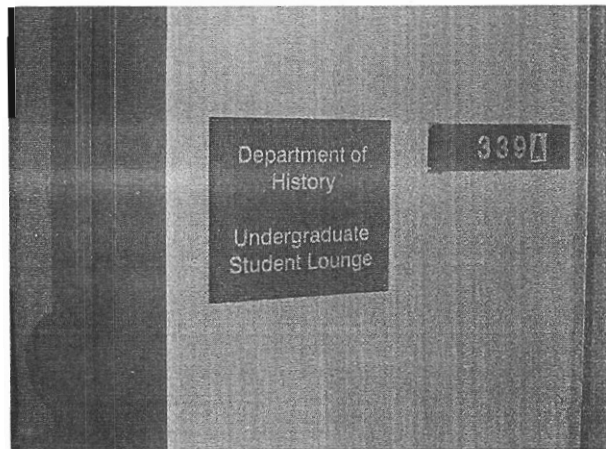
SPRING 2007

GREETINGS

A few weeks ago, Mortar Board and Sphinx honored Ohio State University faculty members and staff who had provided distinguished instruction, advising, and inspiration to undergraduates. Such recognition qualifies as a major deal, given that Mortar Board and Sphinx are among the nation's most prestigious honor societies, and that the local chapter of Sphinx, founded 100 years ago, is the oldest such society on our campus. (Mortar Board, founded here in 1915, is only slightly younger.) It is also noteworthy that the recognition of faculty took place at a ceremony attended by President Karen A. Holbrook and Provost Barbara Snyder.

What does all of this have to do with our Department? The answer is that of 52 faculty and staff from across the university who were honored, four of them were history faculty: Professor Mansel Blackford, Professor Kevin Boyle, Professor Donna Guy, and Professor Heather Tanner. The honoring of these four faculty members is

certainly a mark of their individual devotion to students and classroom skills, and they deserve our high praise. I also believe that the extremely high concentration of honorees in our department (nearly eight percent of all such awards university-wide) reflects the department's culture of maintaining a serious commitment to excellence in undergraduate instruction and advising.



In addition, we were also delighted to learn recently that Professor Randolph Roth won the 2007 Excellence in the Teaching of History Award from the Ohio Academy of History. The Academy represents the common interests of hundreds of

professional historians across the state, and it issues this annual award to recognize one professor in the entire state who gained distinction as a teacher of history. That Professor Roth secured the 2007 award is a great personal accomplishment for him, and further evidence that the department values and nurtures such excellence.

I am delighted to report that last Fall I

appointed Professor Roth to the new position of Undergraduate Placement Officer. My hope was to have a dedicated faculty member serving as a point of contact for history majors interested in pursuing graduate degrees in our field. Professor Roth has taken his responsibilities seriously, and has met with several majors to discuss procedures for competing effectively for admission to graduate schools, standards that graduate schools will expect to see in an application portfolio, and steps that majors can take to prepare themselves for graduate study. If you are interested in earning an MA or a Ph.D. in history, I encourage you to contact Professor Roth (roth.5@osu.edu). And keep in mind that the sophomore year is not too early a time to start thinking and planning.

Best wishes for academic success!

Peter L. Hahn
Professor and Chair

Congratulations . . .

. . . to history major **Laura Herbert** who won an award in the Autumn 2006 Undergraduate Research Scholarship competition. The funds will be used to support research for her Senior Honors Thesis. Her project is on "The Participation of Jewish Argentine Young Adults in Jewish Institutions from 1976-1983," and she is working with Prof. Donna Guy as adviser.

The History Department applauds Laura for the hard work that brought her to this point. The Senior Honors Thesis is an educational opportunity that many outstanding history majors should consider.

. . . to an award winner.

NEW FACULTY

Three new faculty members joined the department of history this year, and already they have enriched our program with their varied approaches to teaching.

Lilia Fernandez received the Ph.D. at the University of California, San Diego, and has taught at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her specialty is U.S. Latina/o history and she is interested in immigration, urban and women's history, race and ethnicity. Her current project is a study of

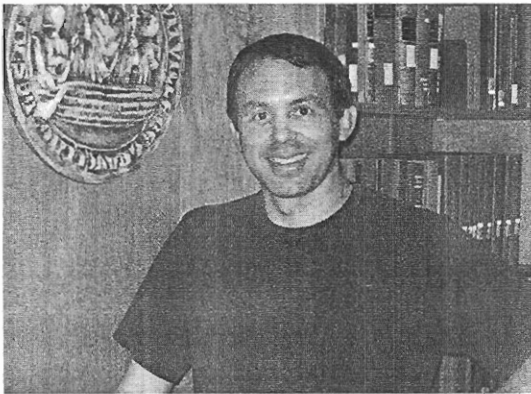


Prof. Lilia Fernandez

Mexican and Puerto Rican labor migration to Chicago during and after World War II, and the formation of these communities and their social activism through the 1960s and 1970s. Prof. Fernandez believes history is incredibly important because it teaches us how we got to where we are today.

In her classes she aims to expand students' minds beyond their previous experience with the study of history. She introduces students to alternative voices, interpretations, and perspectives that they have probably not encountered before. She also seeks to help students develop their critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their college careers and beyond. She says she hopes that when students leave her class "they have gained knowledge that will help them become more responsible and socially conscious citizens of the world."

Dan Hobbins studied Medieval history at the University of Notre Dame where he earned the Ph.D. He then taught at the University of Texas-Arlington for one year before coming to Ohio State. He specializes in the European Middle Ages from 500-1500, especially France and England, and his research focus is late medieval cultural and intellectual history. He works especially on Jean Gerson, the famous early 15th-century chancellor of the University of Paris, and on Joan of Arc. He also has side interests in the Black Death and Richard III of England.



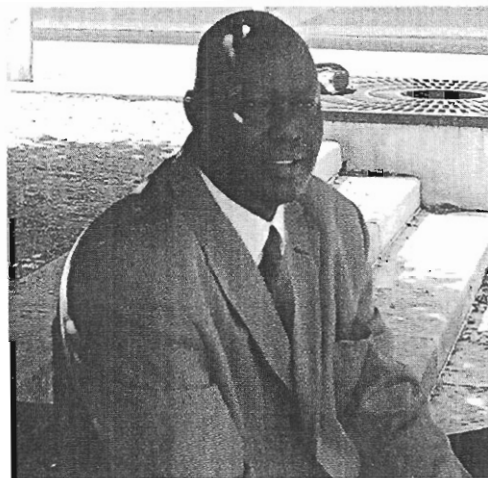
Prof. Dan Hobbins

Prof. Hobbins loves teaching medieval history because it allows us to investigate a world that is strange and very different from our own. "The medieval past is like a very distant country," he says, and "I think it's important to learn about periods that are strange, distant, and bizarre, not just those in which we see our own reflection." He also loves the period because students come to it with some understanding of medieval history filtered through the popular culture—for example, the romantic Middle Ages that we see on film. So he likes to take that energy and interest and channel it into a more nuanced appreciation of the past.

Ousman Kobo comes to Ohio State after finishing graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he earned the Ph.D. in his area of specialty: twentieth-century West African history with focus on social and religious movements. He is

particularly interested in twentieth-century religious resurgences in Ghana and Burkina Faso as part of the social, economic and political transformations of West African societies. His current research examines how 20th-century Islamic reforms in Ghana and Burkina Faso engage in a dialogue that interrogates the relationship between modernity and secularism on the one hand, and religious orthodoxy on the other.

He decided to pursue a career in teaching because he wanted to participate in students' intellectual and social development, while learning from their diverse knowledge and experiences. He believes that each student he encounters "reflects a mine of intellectual dialogue that can be tapped for mutual intellectual development," which he then can pass on to his next group of students. To create a cordial environment in which students can freely express their opinions, while freeing their minds to confront alternative explanations that challenge received wisdom, Prof. Kobo uses strategies and materials that not only stimulate and retain students' interest in the subject, but also generate debate that goes beyond the classroom. He enjoys receiving emails from former students telling how his class prepared them to deal with the nuances (and indeed, nuisances) of real life situations in ways they did not expect when they enrolled in the class.



Prof. Ousman Kobo

**MESSAGE FROM THE
UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY
OFFICE**

Here are some useful tips or reminders from Maria Mazon, director of the Undergraduate History Office in Dulles Hall 110.

--You may only add or drop a course via the WEB until the first Friday of the quarter. To drop a class after that date you must go to your college office in person. Note: the last day to drop a class and receive a "W" is May 11 for Spring Quarter 2007.

--if you have an assigned faculty adviser please try to meet with him or her during their scheduled office hours prior to registering for an upcoming quarter.

--if you need to see Ms. Mazon, the best way to make an appointment is simply through email at mazon.1@osu.edu.

--If you are graduating in Spring Quarter 2007, you must file for graduation by May 4. Thus, you must see Ms. Mazon prior to that date to have your major program approved and have the major portion of your degree audit entered. Note: your history courses are not entered in to the major portion of your degree audit until you have filed a major program with Ms. Mazon.

OXFORD and BEYOND

---by Sarah McClure

(ed. note: Sarah McClure is a senior majoring in both history and political science)

Studying abroad has enhanced my college experience in ways that I could not have imagined prior to my trip. Living in a different part of the world allowed me to see American culture from afar, and I gained a whole new perspective on my own life as well as that of America. Living in Oxford, England afforded me the opportunity to immerse myself totally into another culture without experiencing a major language barrier. As a History and Political Science major, studying Anglo-American Legal Systems was an opportunity I could not pass up and an experience I will never forget.

I began my journey by attending the Study Abroad Fair hosted by the Office of International Education (OIE). There I gathered information about different study abroad programs, locations, costs, duration, and requirements. After gathering information I discussed options with my parents and decided to further pursue the Pre-Law program located at Oxford University. I met with my advisors to see how my course work at Oxford would fit into my majors. After discovering that my time abroad would count towards both of my majors, I met with an advisor at the Office of Financial Aid. That office helped me apply for scholarships and for federally subsidized loans to help me cover the cost of my trip.

My studies at Oxford were part of a summer program, and the timing of the program made traveling convenient. During the program, there was an extended weekend designed for travel opportunities. I joined a large group of students and we traveled through the Scottish Highlands, visited Loch Ness, and explored the fantastic old city of Edinburgh. After the program concluded in early August, I spent the next few weeks traveling with my best friend, exploring the

continent while spending time in six different countries.

We used Eurail Passes to travel between countries. From London we traveled to Paris, where we saw the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Sacré-Coeur de Montmartre, and Chateau de Versailles. After experiencing what Paris had to offer, we hopped on a train to Munich, Germany. There we took in the pleasant atmosphere, visited the Hofbrau House, saw the Glockenshpiel, and traveled to Neuschwanstein Castle. In Sulzburg, Austria we explored the old town, fortress, and the Sulzburg Cathedral.



Sarah McClure at the Coliseum

After an overnight train ride, we found ourselves in Geneva, Switzerland. The United Nations has an agency in Geneva; there is also the Red Cross Museum. We sampled the world famous chocolate and bought hand made watches. The final leg of our journey was spent in Italy. We spent time in both Florence and Rome. In Florence, we saw the Duomo, Leonardo da Vinci museum, and the statue of David. In Rome, we visited Vatican City, the Trevi

Fountain, the ancient ruins, and the Coliseum.

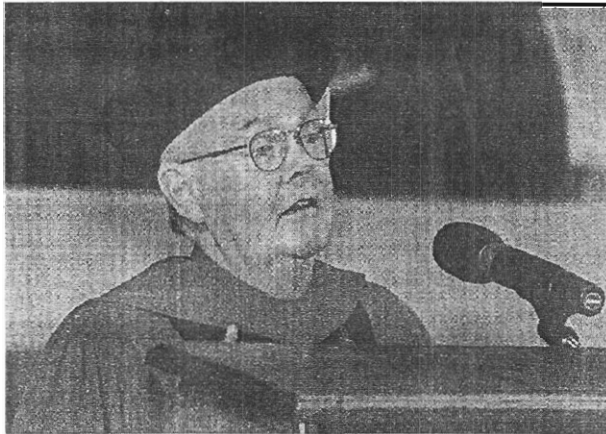
Through all of our travels, we learned many valuable lessons. Learning to communicate and navigate in a foreign language was a challenge, but an experience that sharpened our creativity and communication skills. Studying and traveling is the ultimate way to spend a summer!

PROF. LYNCH DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

When you already have been honored by the University with its highest faculty rank--Distinguished University Professor, as well as the University's Distinguished Scholar and Distinguished Teaching awards, what other honor can crown a superb academic career. Well, our own Professor Joseph Lynch, the Joe R. Engle Designated Professor of the History of Christianity, learned what it can be when he was invited to give the commencement address at the winter quarter graduation ceremonies on March 18, in St. John Arena.

Prof. Lynch, the popular teacher of History 506 and History 507, among other courses, tells lightheartedly of some of his feelings on this occasion: "My experience before the commencement was nerve-wracking. I had to say something in about 15 minutes (I exceeded the limit, but who doesn't?), and had to craft a talk that at least I thought was coherent and had a message---that took many rewrites. At commencement, adrenaline took over. I kept thinking, 'Don't trip', 'Don't send your cap flying in a burst of enthusiasm,' and 'Don't do any ad-libs containing bad words.' After the commencement, I basked in the glow of getting through it. I was showered with praise--almost

entirely from my wife, children and neighbors.”



Prof. Joseph Lynch delivering the winter quarter commencement address on March 18

Actually, praise fell on him from many other sources as well. The heart of Prof. Lynch's speech dwelt on the importance of both intellectual and moral autonomy. He emphasized the benefits all Ohio State students receive from a liberal arts education through the GEC, and he urged students to exercise intellectual autonomy by separating hype from fact and by making judgments based on facts rather than myth and prejudice. On the issue of moral autonomy he challenged students to ask: "Why are things the way they are; do they have to be that way?" And he concluded by encouraging the graduates to "use your quota of days to promote fairness, kindness, compassion, justice."

The Department of History
at Ohio State: On the
NET: <http://history.osu.edu>

!! HISTORY CAREER NIGHT !!

Be sure to join us on Thursday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. in EA 170 for the nineteenth annual History Career Night. Representatives from the government and various campus offices will discuss a range of topics and opportunities for you. You don't have to be a history major to attend, so bring your friends.

THE NEW CENTER FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

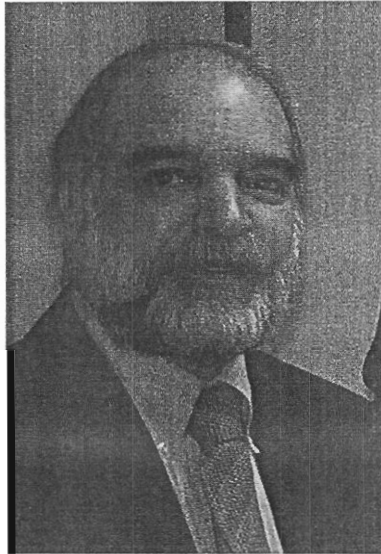
(ed. note: although the Center for Historical Research will not directly affect the courses and instruction of history majors at Ohio State, it will raise the profile of our Department of History both within the discipline and in academia more generally, and we thought its creation would be of interest to our majors.)

What is a "Center for Historical Research?"

A handful of the most prestigious history departments in the country have set up Centers through which guest scholars are able to visit campus each year and enrich the program at every level. Our Department will be joining those at Harvard, Princeton, Rutgers, and Michigan in establishing our own Center for Historical Research. Each year, a theme will be announced for the Center's upcoming program. Scholars from around the world will be invited to apply, and a committee will select the most distinguished among them to join us for the program.

The Department envisions bringing several senior researchers and several promising younger faculty every year. These professors will join together with five faculty members and three graduate student fellows from Ohio State, chosen according to the relevance of their research to the Center's annual theme. Together the Fellows will

form a core study group. In many cases the participants will come from fields other than history, in order to bring their expertise to bear on historical questions.



Prof. Alan Gally

The director of the Center will be Professor Alan Gally, Warner Woodring Professor of Atlantic World and Early American History at Ohio State. Professor Gally, whose research covers a broad range of topics in sixteenth- to eighteenth-century history, will oversee the development of the Center's organization and operations as they take shape in coming years.

Prof. Gally sees the Center as providing a venue for our faculty to explore connections in their own research with other fields and disciplines. The thematic approach of each year's seminar will promote comparative history. Thus, topics such as migration, warfare, literacy and trade will be explored in a global context. This helps scholars identify in their own work which historical forces are unique to a specific geographic area and which are not.

Some of the topics the department is considering as themes for the Center are: War, Peace, and Civilian Populations; Gender and Sexuality in Historical Perspective; Atlantic Encounters and the

Origins of the Modern World; Global Migrations and Diasporas over Time; and Literacy. Many of them relate to current issues in American life, and will bring the Center into close contact with other bodies within the University.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENT GRADUATES

Summer 2006

Ryan Basules, Matthew Berman, Ross Borstelman, Patrick Brighton, Jason Brown, Graham Davis, Devon Degyansky, Michelle Flint, Christopher Griffith, Brent Hale, David Hatcher, Cody Higley, Tiffanie Hill, Seth Hooks, Paul Hutchison, Joseph Johnson, Abir Khan, Julie Laybourne, Philip MacLean, Jennifer Matheny, Katherine Matson, Justin Morioka, Thomas Nye, Donald Patterson, Amanda Rechel, Ashly Salisbury, Jay Schnittger, Timothy Severns, Gregory Smith, Jared Suver, Molly Venesz, Spencer Waugh, Daniel Wilkens, Jayson Wilkinson

Autumn 2006

Samuel Admire, Adam Arnett, Andrew Backs, Jennifer Bakies, Matthew Ball, Matthew Bewley, Eric Boehm, Mary Bostian, Jeb Braden, Beau Brammer, Craig Byrnes, Joshua Chapman, Courtney Christian, Christopher Dexter, Justin Doran, Robert Faber, Sarah Gibson, Joel Gottesman, Nishkam Gupta, James Hanning, Robert Hitt, Jr., Jordan Kinzie, Benjamin Kovesci, Ryan LeClaire, Benjamin Leland, Stuart Leo, Shabib Luden, Matthew Mains, Christopher McCardle, Stephen Monroe, Andrew Monteith, Benjamin Moore, Kristi Myers, Andrew Noga, Robert O'Flynn, Lindsey Phipps, Brian Rowan, Christine Salontay, Scott Seper, Robert Shock, Jason Small, Nicholas Snyder, Adam Spees, Joshua Stewart, Andrew Thompson, Jeffrey Thrush, James Trout, Jeffrey Turton, Kimberly Wheeler, Richard Willett

AN INVITATION . . .

--TO BECOME A "FRIEND OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT."
YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS THE TEACHING MISSION OF
THE DEPARTMENT. BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING
ANY GOODS OR SERVICES IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR
GIFT, IT IS ENTIRELY TAX DUDUCTIBLE . YOUR CHECK
SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO "THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY"
AND MAY BE SENT TO MS. GAIL SUMMERHILL, 130 DULLES
HALL, 230 W. 17TH AVE. 43210. PLEASE NOTE FUND
#532765 ON YOUR CHECK. THANK YOU!

___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$10 ___ OTHER

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

DEGREE/DATE GRANTED _____

YOUR COMMENTS:

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW . . .

--IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:

--IF A COLLEAGUE OR FRIEND WOULD LIKE *TAKING TIME*:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

--RECENT CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS: _____

AN INVITATION . . .

--TO LET US KNOW YOUR REACTION TO *TAKING TIME*,
AND WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE ISSUES.
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU WHATEVER YOUR PLANS
MAY BE FOR BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE DEPARTMENT.
SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO *TAKING TIME* EDITOR, DR.
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