Welcome Back, History Majors!

Hello! We are Buckeye on the Past, a monthly newsletter for undergraduates in the Department of History. Every month we’ll bring you news of upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines. We’ll also introduce you to different people around and about the department.

Are you interested in work to help us put out the newsletter monthly? Do you have ideas for features or articles you’d like to see in the newsletter? Just let us know. We’re happy to hear from you!

Your editors are Professors Daniel Rivers (rivers.91@osu.edu) and Mary Kupiec Cayton (cayton.14@osu.edu).

What's Happening This Month -- September

The Alexander Hamilton Society
The Ohio State University Chapter
Sept 7: "Nuclear North Korea: America's Options." University Hall 014. Presented by the Alexander Hamilton Society at Ohio State. Featuring Dr. Tom Karako (R), senior fellow with the International Security Program and director of the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and Dr. Mitchell Lerner, Ohio State Professor of history and director of the Institute for Korean Studies. Dr. Peter Mansoor, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.), and General Raymond E. Mason, Jr. Chair of Military History at Ohio State will moderate this timely and important discussion.

Sept 12: History Faculty Meet and Greet. Come talk to history faculty and students, learn about upcoming courses, events, and opportunities in history, and discover the history community at OSU! 4pm, Dulles 168. Sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta.


Sept 15: "Comparative Revolutionary Theory and Origins of Revolutions," Jack Goldstone, Virginia E. and John T. Hazel Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University, and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. 3pm, 165 Thompson Library.

This lecture is part of the 2017-2019 Center for Historical Research Program. For more information on the CHR, go to http://chr.osu.edu
Sept 21: World War II Study

Program Info Session. 5-6pm, Enarson 160.

Sept 28: “Coca-Cola’s Secret Formula Revealed: An Environmental Historian Tells All About the World’s Most Popular Soft Drink,” Bart Elmore, Assistant Professor of History, Ohio State. Sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta. 4 pm, 168 Dulles.

In Touch
With Current Students and Recent Alums

Katie Leskowitz ('18) participated in the Washington Academic Internship Program (WAIP) this summer. As part of the internship, she accepted a position with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, where she worked with the museum education director to write blog entries for the museum website. She also worked in the archives and helped out with the 2017 Folklife Festival.

Thomas Wisbith ('18) was selected to attend the highly selective Hertog War Studies program (https://hertogfoundation.org/programs/war-studies) in Washington, DC. Before that he conducted primary source research at the Army Historical and Education Center in Carlisle, PA, and at National Archives II in College Park, MD. After his time in DC he flew to London to conduct primary source research at the British National Archives. He will transition from there to Italy for a semester spent studying abroad. Tom's thesis explores international cooperation in General Dwight Eisenhower's headquarters during the North African campaign in 1942-1943. He is exploring how the headquarters functioned in practice given the disparate personalities involved from several different nations.

Alison Roth ('17) was awarded the Eminent Scholarship to attend the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State. (By the way, Alison says: “My favorite thing about the history department at Ohio State was that all the professors really cared about helping their students succeed and genuinely enjoyed teaching.”)

Sarah Siewe ('17) finished her tenure as Music Director of Majors & Minors a cappella group, was named outstanding witness at the University of Chicago's Great Chicago Fire Mock Trial Invitational Tournament, and was a member of the OSU mock trial team that placed 6th in the nation this past April in Los Angeles. She won the Michael E. Moritz Merit Scholarship in Law to OSU. (Sarah says: “I miss the department and studying history so much (especially Dr. Steigerwald's classes) but law school has been a (challenging) blast so far!”)

Matt McCoy ('16) recently began graduate study at the Duke Theological School.
Advising Tips with Dr. Ray Irwin

- Make sure that you’re aware of deadlines, especially those for adding and dropping courses. After the second week of the semester (September 2), adding a course requires a petition and such petitions are only approved on the bases of clerical errors or circumstances beyond your control that prevented on-time registration.

- You may drop a class up through the fourth week of the semester (September 15) and withdraw through the tenth week (October 27). If you are taking an Autumn semester course for grade forgiveness, don’t forget to submit the appropriate online form, available at registrar.osu.edu > Students > Current > Forms > Grade Forgiveness, prior to September 15.

Important September Dates

Sept 15 Last day to withdraw from classes without a “W”

Meet Our New Faculty: Professor Joseph Parrott

Assistant Professor of History

Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2016

Field: International and Transnational History

BOTP: How would you describe your area of expertise to someone who hadn’t encountered it before?
JP: I'm interested in the US's role in the world, and the role of the rest of the world in the United States. International history deals mainly with state actors. Transnational history deals with non-state interactors, such as NGOs, businesses, people-to-people contacts, and activist organizations. These types of interactions often occur below the state level. Globalization is about states reducing barriers, allowing other types of entities to interact more.

BOTP: And what is your own research about?

JP: I work on the history of the precursors to the anti-apartheid movement in Portuguese Africa. Actors in the movements to decolonize these countries built transnational networks to champion their point of view, and these networks – some with strong ties to Civil Rights movement in the US – took up the cause. They responded to calls for money, medical supplies, and arms. The first President of the Mozambique Liberation Front, for example, had been a student at Oberlin and took his Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern. His connections to the US allowed him to tap into the concerns of civil rights activists who saw the US as complicit in maintaining colonialism in Africa.

BOTP: What undergraduate courses will be you teaching in Winter Term?


BOTP: How would you describe yourself as a teacher?

JP: I like to get students involved in city and local archives whenever I can. I also am a fan of the lost art of teaching history writing for popular consumption.

Phi Alpha Theta Corner
With Michelle Sdao,
Chapter President

What is Phi Alpha Theta?
As part of the national history honorary society of Phi Alpha Theta, the Zeta Chapter of PAT at Ohio State is an organization including both the formally-inducted members of the society and the students of the History Club, an informal body which meets for history-related events on OSU's campus and is formally led by members of PAT.

Can I get involved, or are members specially chosen?
While there are GPA and course credit requirements to be selected and inducted into Phi Alpha Theta,


anyone at Ohio State, regardless of year, major, or membership in PAT, is welcome to participate in Phi Alpha Theta/History Club events. Non-inductees are in fact encouraged to attend PAT-sponsored events, since for the most part they are directed toward history students and enthusiasts in general, not specifically to PAT members.

What's coming up this year that I should watch for?
In additions to our regular "hang-out" meetings, trivia nights, and meet-and-greets, students should especially watch out for the Research/Study Abroad/Fellowship "Fair" late this autumn, an opportunity to discover the numerous academic opportunities available to history students outside of the classroom. Students involved in historical research should also look out for the OSU Undergraduate History Research Conference that PAT anticipates conducting this spring.

Working on a Senior Thesis?
Consider joining this interdisciplinary humanities writing group for support and inspiration. Paul Reitter, the former Director of the Humanities Institute, runs it. It meets weekly on Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. in 159 Hagerty Hall. Contact Prof. Reitter for more information at reitter.4@osu.edu, or just show up. All are welcome!