Greetings from the Department of History at Ohio State University! And a warm welcome to our majors and minors returning to classes this fall. I also hope that this season finds our recent graduates enjoying professional success.

I am pleased to report that the Department remains in excellent shape. In 2006-2007, we enrolled 17,873 students, making the Department one of the most popular at Ohio State. We recently gained approval of three new courses: History 362 (Technology); History 368.02 (Native American Peoples of the Andes); and History 543.04 (Contemporary India and South Asia). I encourage you to consider taking these new courses or any of the dozens of others we will offer this year.

Congratulations to several students who earned prestigious awards in recent months. In spring 2007, the Department honored Leanna Packard (Evans Scholarship), Trich Bittner (Haffner Scholarship), Seth Rokosky (Zahniser Scholarship), Sarah Douglas (Fisher Prize and Kerr Award), and David Howard, Paul Mangold, and Tara Stephan (Guthrie Scholarships). Congratulations also to Sarah Douglas, Laura Herbert, and Noel Voltz for participating in the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum in spring 2007. Moreover, two students won competitive “Research on Research” grants issued by the Digital Union for work conducted in conjunction with members of the faculty. Kristin Hayes (advised by Professor Richard Shiels and Professor Lucy Murphy) of OSU-Newark secured such a scholarship in summer 2006 and Adam Heider (advised by Professor Kevin Boyle) followed suit in summer 2007.

I am pleased to report that we will welcome four new faculty to our Department this fall: Professors Theodora Dragostinova (eastern Europe), Christopher Otter (British), and Kristina Sessa (late antiquity) on the
Columbus campus and Tryntje Helfferich (modern European) at OSU-Lima. The arrival of these four new colleagues will bring the total of our faculty on all campuses to 79. I encourage you to take advantage of this deep reservoir of brainpower by taking courses from and otherwise interacting with as many faculty members as feasible.

I remain committed to enhancing the experience of history students at Ohio State University. I encourage you to take advantage of our annual career night, designed to help students sort out their post-graduation options and opportunities. Please also take a look at our internship options. I was pleased to set up a meeting last spring between a group of majors and an alumna who hires university grads for positions in the financial services industry, and I hope to find other opportunities to help our students succeed in the real world beyond campus.

Professor Randy Roth has agreed to continue as Undergraduate Placement Officer. If you aspire to earn a M.A. or a Ph.D. in history, then you should contact him (roth.5) for advice on course scheduling, language training, test preparation, and so forth. The sophomore year is not too early of a time to start!

Best wishes for a successful year.

Peter L. Hahn
Professor and Chair

**CLIO AWARD WINNERS**

At the Department’s spring reception on May 29, the Zeta chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary, presented its Clio Award for Distinguished Teaching in History to Prof. Stephen Dale, and to Graduate Teaching Associate James Bennett. This honor is one highly regarded in the Department, not least because Phi Alpha Theta members established the award thirteen years ago and each year select the honorees.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE UHO**

Here are useful tips and 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 November 2 for Autumn 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.l@osu.edu.

---If you are graduating in Autumn Quarter 2007, you must file for graduation by November 2. Thus, you must email Ms. Mazon for an appointment 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.

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Professor Stephen Dale

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My internship with the Ohio Social Studies Resource Center (OSSRC) began in January of 2007. In the autumn I had received an email advertising a number of available internships through the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), and decided there was no time like the present to apply. With the help of a student worker and a counselor in the Arts and Sciences Office of Career Services, I updated and improved my resume as well as created a cover letter. Career Services also took care to send in my application once I had completed it.

I applied for three different positions with the OHS, but when the volunteer coordinator reviewed my resume, she believed I would be most helpful to Amber Hufford, the coordinator of the OSSRC. I interviewed with Ms. Hufford and then went through an orientation in time to start work at the beginning of winter quarter.

The purpose of the OSSRC is to provide teacher-reviewed web-based resources that align with the Ohio Social Studies education standards for grades K-12. Resources are designed to fulfill social studies standards in history, people in societies, geography, economics, government, and citizenship rights and responsibilities. My job as an intern was to try and identify 96 instructional resources and 192 content resources for each of the six areas for grades 3-5. The biggest struggle of the entire process was to find resources from credible sites. If Wikipedia was considered a credible source, this job would have been much easier.

I interned for 12-15 hours a week depending on my own and Amber’s schedule. The internship technically went through only winter quarter; however, the project I had been assigned was not due to be finished until May. I decided to see the project through to the end. While I was working on grades 3-5, the decision was made for the OSSRC to begin work on grades 9-10. As part of the grades 9-10 project, Amber allocated money for hiring an assistant to do data entry. She offered me the job first, saying that I would be paid $12 per hour for up to 200 hours.

In the middle of April, I began logging hours as an official employee of the OSSRC. Working on grades 9-10 was quite different from grades 3-5, mostly because the criteria for the new resources were so different. The Ohio Department of Education had recently created different teaching models in which we were supposed to separate resources into various themes and find additional ones to fill in the gaps. Though it was not necessarily part of my job, I also continued to help identify resources as well as help grade resources and write reviews. This job continued throughout the summer, in which
my hours ranged from 10-20 hours a week, depending on how much needed to be finished within a given time frame.

While it is not my intention to go into education after college, I still have found an immense amount of accomplishment and satisfaction with what I have learned and have been able to accomplish. I have been told that I understand and know more about the social studies education system than most Ohio social studies teachers! It was an excellent first internship. I know that I have a wonderful person for a recommendation, and I have been told that I am the go-to person when more data entry jobs come up for the OSSRC.

EVANS SCHOLARSHIP and FISHER PRIZE

This year’s recipient of the Lloyd Roberts Evans Scholarship in History is senior Leanna Packard. The Evans Scholarship was established in 1999 with gifts from the sister of Lloyd Evans, who received a B.A. degree in history from Ohio State and who led a distinguished career as a physician specializing in internal medicine. The award goes to a student of junior or senior rank who is majoring in history and who has both excelled academically and exhibited a wide range of interests.

The Sidney Fisher Prize for the best paper written by a history major was awarded this year to Sarah Douglas who wrote “Those Damn Rebels: British Commemoration of the American Revolution,” for Prof. Hoffmann’s History H598 class. The Prize, co-sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta, honors Prof. Fisher, a former faculty member of the Department who specialized in Islamic civilization and the Ottoman Empire.

DOING HISTORY: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FORUMS

Last year several history students took advantage of opportunities to engage in original research projects and become historians themselves. One opportunity to make a public presentation of research findings was at the College of Humanities Eleventh Annual Undergraduate Research Colloquium on May 2. Giving oral presentations were Sarah Douglas, who discussed her thesis, “Government Control of Catholic Recusancy in Elizabethan England,” Ryan Mason, who presented “Rape as a Tool of War: a Historical and Literary Perspective,” and history minor, Noel Voltz, who spoke on “Black Female Agency and Sexual Exploitation: Quadroon Balls and Placage Relationships.”

On May 16, Sarah and Noel displayed their research findings on posters at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum in the French Field House. They were joined by Laura Herbert, who exhibited her findings on “The History of Argentine Jewish Youth under the 1976-1983 Dictatorship as Seen through Testimonial Literature.” Sponsored by Richard J. and Martha D. Denman, this was the 12th annual forum with more than three hundred students participating. Congratulations are in order to all of the participants who now have the satisfaction of having created some original history.

K. AUSTIN KERR PRIZE

At the Department’s reception in May, Sarah Douglas received the K. Austin Kerr Award for the second consecutive year. The award is given to an undergraduate history major for the best internet-related project during an academic year. The $500 prize, awarded in honor of Prof. Austin Kerr who retired three years ago, comes from the generosity of Mr. Scott Laidig, a department benefactor who also donated ehistory.com to the Department.
Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club

(ed. note: this article was written by Erich Bittner, a senior history major and president of Phi Alpha Theta.)

Every spring outstanding history majors are honored with an invitation to join Phi Alpha Theta. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the organization, it is a national history honor society. OSU is home to the Zeta Chapter, one of the oldest chapters in the country. Phi Alpha Theta is responsible for programs such as our quarterly schedule-a-thon, which not only offers students an opportunity to get help with their schedules but also to meet other history majors and enjoy some free food as well, and the History Book Club. Last year’s book selection was A Well Regulated Militia by OSU’s own Saul Cornell, and we were fortunate enough to have Professor Cornell take some time to discuss his book with us over dinner.

Congratulations . . .

to history major Keith Rathbone who won an award in the Spring 2007 Undergraduate Research Scholarship competition. The funds will be used to support research for his Senior Honors Thesis, “Coming Home: Political Radicalization in Europe’s ‘Front Generation’,” with Prof. Alan Beyerchen as adviser. Keith will use some of the funds for a research trip to the Hoover Institution collection at Stanford University.

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

. . . to an award winner.

If you don’t find free food and intellectual discussion exciting, then you might be interested to know that not everything Phi Alpha Theta does is purely academic. For example, through our role as the History Club, we hold movie nights where we view major motion pictures with a historical focus, and also go on day trips to historical sites throughout Ohio. Most recently we visited the Ohio Historical Society (conveniently located near campus) where we played baseball by 1860s rules. While the trips tend to be informative, they are above all much fun for everyone who attends.

In the coming year, we hope to expand on our rich tradition of entertaining activities with some possible new programs such as a visit to German Village during Oktoberfest, a Halloween ghost tour of Columbus, a visit to Ohio Village to experience a Victorian Christmas, museum trips, statehouse visits, socials, and also by sending a delegation to the Phi Alpha Theta national convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico in January. The best part is you don’t even have to be a member of Phi Alpha Theta to attend most of these events. Almost all of our events are open to all OSU undergrads through our role

At the ball game: Cale Garber, Anait Grigoryan, Chris Mazon, Erich Bittner, Drew Bunker, and Graham Beckwith
as the History Club. Many of these programs are held at no cost to those in attendance.

For those of you interested in membership in Phi Alpha Theta, invitations to membership are sent out in the latter part of the winter quarter. To be invited you must have earned at least 20 credit hours of college history courses, hold at least a 3.15 g.p.a. within your history courses, and maintain at least a 3.00 g.p.a overall. We hope that many of you will accept the invitation to join us in our exciting programs.

**HAFFNER SCHOLARSHIP**

Erich Bittner is the recipient this year of the Marjorie Haflner Memorial Scholarship. Marge Haffner was for many years a dedicated and beloved member of the Department of History's staff. The scholarship was established in honor of Marge by her husband, Tom Haffner, in appreciation for the hard work and financial obligations students take on while completing their degrees. It is a fitting memorial to Marge's life.

**MAJOR AWARDS FOR FACULTY**

The University honored three members of the Department of History with major awards for 2007. Prof. Kevin Boyle was named Distinguished University Lecturer for 2007-2008. The University Distinguished Lecture Series annually recognizes two senior faculty members for their outstanding academic achievement in research, scholarship, or creative activity.

Prof. Geoffrey Parker received the title of Distinguished University Professor, a title awarded permanently to no more than three exceptional faculty per year. It recognizes accomplishments in research, scholarly or creative work, teaching, and service that are both distinguished and distinctive.

Also honored was Prof. Carole Fink who received The Distinguished Scholar Award, established in 1978, which recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments by senior professors who have compiled a substantial body of research, as well as the work of younger faculty members who have demonstrated great scholarly potential.

Congratulations to them all!

**The Excellence in Scholarship Award...**

...is given each spring by the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences to seniors who are recognized for superior performance in scholarship. Recipients not only have high grade point averages but also have completed curricula of exceptional strength. At an award ceremony in the Blackwell Hotel last April 24, eight students majoring in history were among those given the Excellence in Scholarship Award. They are: Sara Feldenkriss, Adam Heider, Laura Herbert, John Knapke, Julia Leb, Abbie Obenour, Zach Popoff, and Seth Rokosky. We congratulate them all.
GUTHRIE SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Cecile Guthrie, the Department of History this year was able to award scholarships to David Howard, Paul Mangold, and Tara Stephan, who all entered Ohio State this autumn quarter. The scholarship is a memorial to Mrs. Guthrie’s son, Gerry D. Guthrie, who worked for University Libraries at Ohio State, and who had a special interest in American Civil War history. The scholarship is awarded each year to one or more high school students committed to majoring in history at Ohio State, or to a first- or second-year student who is committed to majoring in history. Mrs. Guthrie died two years ago at age ninety-seven.

ZAHNISER SCHOLARSHIP

Seth Rokosky is this year’s recipient of the Adrienne A. and Marvin R. Zahniser Scholarship, an award that helps to support history majors entering or soon to enter the senior year at Ohio State. Faculty members of the Department of History select the candidate on the basis of superior academic achievement. Marvin Zahniser is a former Chair of the Department of History.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENT GRADUATES

Winter 2007


Spring 2007

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—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 DEDUCTIBLE. 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!

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