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 - October


This event is sponsored by the Departments of History, Classics, and History of Art and The Global Mobility Project at Ohio State.
Oct 6: "The Reason-of-State Tradition and Early Modern Political Discourse on Revolution," Vasileios Syros, Columbia University. 3-4:30pm, Dulles 168

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

Oct 6: World War II Study Program Info Session, 5-6pm, Enarson 160

Oct 20: "Russian Courts and the 1917 Revolution," Aaron Retish, Wayne State University. 3-4:30pm, Dulles 168

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

Oct 25: History Trivia Night! Hosted by Phi Alpha Theta. Come by and test your wits against your peers! 4:30pm, Dulles 235.

Professors Thomas McDow,
Sara Butler, and Clay Howard will be making and asking the questions!

Book Recommendation of the Month!

This month’s book recommendation comes from Professor Scott Levi, a specialist in the history of Islamic Central Asia. He has recently returned from a year-long Fulbright Fellowship in France.


More than any travel guide that I read during my year in France, this impressively researched classic study of the French culinary tradition helped me appreciate the extraordinary regional variations in French cultural history. How did the way that history unfolded in Touraine differ from nearby Burgundy (Bourgogne), or more distant Dordogne and Brittany (Bretagne)? How are those different historical experiences reflected in the culinary traditions of those regions? And how have all of these regions come together to constitute French cuisine? The book is nearly seven decades old, and still richly instructive and relevant. For those who love food, and love France, this book is a must-read.
Congratulations to the History Majors who took part in the Fall Undergraduate Research Forum and their Faculty Advisors!

- Carley Reinhard (Stephanie Shaw);
- George Andrei (Nick Breyfogle);
- Amber Dock (Eric Johnson);
- Gabrielle Lecesse (Dodie McDow);
- Matthew Schneider (Becky Mansfield);
- Tyler Webb (Pete Mansoor)

New Faculty Publications

Professor Steve Kern’s new book, *Modernism After the Death of God: Christianity, Fragmentation, and Unification*, was published by Routledge this last month.

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October - Important Dates

- October 12-13 — Autumn Break. No classes, offices open
- October 16 — Registration for Spring begins for University priority students
- October 19 — Registration for Spring begins for graduating seniors
October 23 — Registration for Spring begins for seniors who are not graduating

October 27 — Last day to withdraw from classes with a “W”

October 30 — Registration for Spring begins for juniors

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Meet Our New Faculty: Professor Sarah van Beurden

Associate Professor of History and of African American and African Studies

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 2009

Field: African History

**BOTP: You’re new to the department, but not to the university. How exactly does that work?**

**SvB:** I arrived at Ohio State in 2009, two weeks after defending my dissertation, to take a position in African and African American Studies. I’m an historian of Africa who does interdisciplinary work. I teach African history, African cultural studies, and African art, along with a little African diaspora history. I also have a strong interest in museum history, something I’d like to develop into a teaching field. My new, shared appointment will allow me to expand my teaching and research interests.

**BOTP: How did you become interested in African history and culture?**

**SvB:** I grew up in Belgium. Every schoolchild there visits the African Museum, which, until recently, was a monument to Belgian colonialism. I also had family members who had been to the Congo as missionaries. I majored in history in college, but couldn’t find any answers to my questions about the history of the museum or of Belgian colonialism. I couldn’t do a thesis on Belgian colonial history because there was no one there to work with me.

After I graduated, I went on an exchange to Lehigh University in Pennsylvania to get an M.A. in American Studies. I was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania’s Ph.D. Program to study American history but found out quickly that I could learn about African colonial history there. They kindly allowed me to switch tracks, and I’m so happy I did. I ended up writing a book about that museum I visited as a child.

**BOTP: What are you teaching in History second semester?**

**SvB:** Only a graduate course. But in the future, I will share the teaching of History 2301, 2302, and 2303 with Professors Kobo and Sikainga. I also expect to develop two new courses, a museum history course, and a history of violence and exploitation in Central Africa.
**BOTP: How would you describe your current research project?**

**SvB:** My first book was on how museums are used to construct political legitimacy of both colonial and post-colonial regimes. Now I’m working on a Congo-based project on the making and sale of arts and crafts in the colony. I’m investigating how the colonial state tried to make money off Congolese art through trying to change people’s ideas there of what constituted creativity. Creativity was only allowed in service of something that could be sold to tourists or to a global audience. This process narrowed the idea of what Congolese art could be, with lasting repercussions. In the Congo, fine arts training came to focus on skills, not on the stimulation of creativity.

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**Let’s Celebrate!**

*Origins: Current Events in Historical Events*’ 10th birthday!

Want to know more about what’s going on in the news?

Read the History Department’s magazine *Origins!*  [http://origins.osu.edu/](http://origins.osu.edu/)

Since *Origins* began in October 2007, its mission has been to create a more informed, engaged citizenry by providing free access to reliable, in-depth information and historically-informed commentary on today’s most pressing issues. We want *Origins* to help a diverse audience understand the world more fully, and to prompt them to think, debate, and learn.

*Origins* offers an extended and engaging introduction to the history behind the headlines—the background of contemporary events in order to help make sense of the complex world around us.

*Origins* has had more than 4 million readers from all over the world, with now more than 65,000 visitors each month.

To celebrate *Origins* birthday, subscribe to *Origins* [here](http://origins.osu.edu/) and read these ten most popular articles from the last decade.

1. 'The World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis': Understanding the Darfur Conflict
2. Who Owns the Nile? Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia’s History-Changing Dam
3. The Illegalization of Marijuana: A Brief History
4. A Century of U.S. Relations with Iraq
5. Child Kidnapping in America
6. The Human Use of Human Beings: A Brief History of Suicide Bombing
7. The Long, Long Struggle for Women’s Rights in Afghanistan
8. The Shifting Terrain of Latin American Drug Trafficking
9. Refugees or Immigrants? The Migration Crisis in Europe in Historical Perspective
10. Feast and Famine: The Global Food Crisis
History 3650  
Spring 2018  TTH 2:20-3:40  
Professor Daniel Rivers  

Families in Historical Perspective  

This course will examine the ways that categories of sexuality, class, race, and gender have intersected and operated in constructions of the American family over the last century. Topics covered will include: changes in the family, youth culture, and women's rights in the early twentieth century; the family as a critical element of Black political organizing; lesbian and gay parenting from World War Two to the present; families and immigration; Native American families and urbanization; and struggles over the family and welfare policy.
SPRING 2018

History 3232  Solving Crime in Medieval Europe

Prof. Sara Butler    Weds/Friday 2:20 to 3:40

This course explores the interaction between the development of criminal law and social change in the late medieval period (c. 1100-1550) from a comparative perspective, examining primarily the English common law, but also the continental courts of law. Classes will be organized thematically such as: the passing of the trial by ordeal and its replacements; law enforcement; forensic medicine; jurisdictional competition; revenge; homicide and self-killing; women as victims and perpetrators; sex crimes; clerical criminals, treason; domestic violence; sanctuary, and fear-mongering.

Required Texts:
- All other readings for this course are on Carmen.

Prerequisites and Special Comments:
This course fulfills Group Europe for the history major and also fulfills the historical study GE.