



Timelines

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

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Editor: Kevin J. Fernlund

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Despite the tough economic times, we do have plenty of good news to report. We are delighted to have Mark Burkholder back with us in the department following his stint as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Burkholder has plunged back into his research with great gusto. As I write these words, he is foraging around archives in Madrid searching for documents on ladies-in-waiting at the court of Charles IV. For those of you who may have misplaced your notes, Charles IV reigned as King of Spain from 1788 until 1808. Carlos Schwantes is also galavanting around the planet on an important research mission. Having just published a richly illustrated book on railroads in the American West, entitled, *The West the Railroads Made*, he is now compiling materials for a study of international rail travel. In the next year I anticipate a slew of book publications by department faculty including Minsoo Kang, Deborah Cohen, Kevin Fernlund, Fred Fausz, and if I can get through this bureaucratic folderol piling up on my desk, possibly me.

Many of you may wonder what happens to professors when they retire. While some of them, as you might suspect, spend their days dressing up in strange costumes and taking part in historical re-enactments of Civil War battles, others continue working on their research, writing books, and in rare instances making movies. In the latter category, we have Chuck Korr, who in past years was the source of much jolly whistling on the fourth floor of Lucas Hall. Emeritus Professor Korr recently released the film, *More Than a Game*, to international acclaim. The movie tells the story of the Makana Football League, which was formed by political prisoners on Robben Island during the height of South Africa's apartheid regime. I had a chance to see this extraordinarily moving piece of cinema at the St. Louis Film Festival and I highly recommend it. If you don't get a chance to catch the movie, there's a book version as well, which is available through Collins Press.

I am very proud to announce that longtime graduate student, Benjamin Israel, was this year's recipient of the Lewis Atherton thesis award given by the State Historical Society of Missouri. His MA thesis, "Putting Black in Blue: The Struggle to Put Uniformed African American Police Officers on the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department," was directed by Priscilla Dowden-White. Congratulations to them both.

This semester we are honored to have Tibor Glant, a visiting professor from the University of Debrecen in Hungary, with us. Professor Glant recently published a book on American memories of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and while at UMSL, he will be teaching classes on the Cold War. In addition, he will be working with Phi Alpha Theta to launch an

ANDREW HURLEY

Dear History Alums and Friends:

With this issue, *Timelines* goes all electronic. Unfortunately, this is more a matter of necessity than choice. Our decision to discontinue a print version of the newsletter is a result of a University-wide mandate to drastically reduce printing and mailing expenses. It is one of several cost cuts the department has been forced to make due to the recent economic downturn and associated budgetary pressures. We understand that many people who eagerly await their annual update from the department may now fall beyond the range of communication. Regrettably, we do not have anything approaching a complete list of alumni e-mail addresses and although the newsletter gets posted on our website, there are undoubtedly a few people who do not keep us bookmarked on their "favorites" list. If you received this issue through an email, it indicates that you are on our list and no further action is required. If you came upon this issue through another route and would like to receive it via email in the future, please send your current email address to our office assistant, Mary Fran Pasek at pasekm@umsl.edu. Write "Alumni email" in the subject line. We hope that with an updated list we can expand our outreach considerably.



Andrew Hurley

Eastern European film festival. A listing of the films and screening schedules will be posted elsewhere in this issue. Please attend if you can.

The news from the trenches is also good. We are enjoying heavy enrollments in all our classes, and our online offerings have become especially popular. Next fall, following a successful pilot program, we will inaugurate a permanent online MA program in collaboration with Missouri State Southern University. We will also be implementing a new undergraduate curriculum that leads students through a more orderly sequence of coursework. In the coming years we will be reviewing our graduate curriculum. As part of this effort we will be surveying some of our MA alumni, so if you are in that category please be on the lookout for an email communication from me in the future.

I would be remiss in my duties if I did not conclude this letter by expressing my gratitude for the generosity of those who have made gifts to the department over the last year. A few people deserve special mention. Stanley and Terry Freeks have endowed a \$50,000 scholarship fund that will provide financial assistance to academically qualified upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. The scholarship will give preference to students involved in athletics or community service. Ted Listerman, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, kindly donated money to support a reception for incoming graduate students next year. If you happen to visit the 4th floor of Lucas Hall and feel the need to catch your breath in one of the comfortable chairs outside the front office after an arduous climb up the stairs, you can thank Jerry Cooper for this moment of comfort. His generous contribution to the department allowed us purchase the furniture that now constitutes the Cooper Wi-fi Lounge. For those of you looking for ways to spend the dividends of government's stimulus package, I urge you to consider making a donation to either the Neal Primm Lecture fund or the general History Alumni fund. Every little bit we get helps.

That wraps up my update on the year's activities. I wish you all a delightful Spring and hope that you can set aside some time to read a few scintillating history books.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hurley
Professor and Chair

2009 HISTORY DAY

By: Peter Acsay
Associate Teaching Professor and
National History Day in Missouri Region V Coordinator

Almost 350 middle and high school students came to the Millennium Student Center and Clark Hall on the UMSL campus Saturday February 28th to participate in Missouri Region V National History Day 2009. Sixty of these students advanced to the state competition, which will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Saturday, April 4.

The theme for National History Day 2009 is "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." Students created exhibits, documentaries, papers, performances, and websites on a variety of topics related to this theme. Students chose topics from early civilizations to the present day, and from the

local to the most "exotic." Among the topics were entries on Steve Jobs, Twyla Tharp, James Brown, Jackie Robinson, Anne Sullivan, Henry Shaw, Martin Luther, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and Alexander the Great.

The students came from ten middle schools and five high schools in St. Louis City, St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Charles, and Warren counties. Teachers, parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends accompanied the students to History Day, making the UMSL campus look and sound like high school for a day.

The entries were judged by over eighty volunteers including faculty of local colleges and universities, museum and archive professionals, and retired high school teachers and other professionals with a love of history. Prominent among the volunteer judges were UMSL faculty, current UMSL History graduate and Museum Studies students, and History Department alumnae.

The American Association of University Women awarded a special prize for Women's History in the Junior and Senior Divisions. The winner in the Junior division is Megan McCormick of Wydown Middle School (Teachers Janet Baldwin and Linda Gwyn) for her exhibit "Margaret Bourke-White: A Photographer Ahead of Her Time." The winner in the Senior division is Jordan Berger of Kirkwood High School (Teacher Steve Platte) for her exhibit "Closing the Door on Overpopulation".

The U. S. Grant National Historic Site awarded its Special Prize to Patrick Butler of Wydown Middle School (Teachers Janet Baldwin and Linda Gwyn) for his exhibit "Ulysses S. Grant: Military Strategist Who Preserved the Union." The prize was awarded by Pam Sanfilippo, the Site Historian and UMSL History alum.

If you would like to become involved with National History Day in Missouri at UMSL, please contact Peter Acsay at 314-516-5700 or email acsayp@umsl.edu. History Day at UMSL is a lot of fun, a great way to renew old friendships and make new ones, and helps maintain interest in and commitment to history among young people in the St. Louis region. I hope to see you at Missouri Region V National History Day 2010 to be held Saturday, February 27, 2010 on the UMSL campus!

ΦΑΘ

By: Michael Beatty
President emeritus of the Psi Psi Chapter
Phi Alpha Theta

Psi Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has had a productive year of service to the Department of History and to the University community at large. Members have been active in professional development, enhancing the reputation of the Chapter, the Department, their College of Arts & Sciences and the University of Missouri – St. Louis.



In the Spring of 2008, the Chapter inducted four new members: **Greer Lynn Dudley**, **Timothy Joseph Neckermann**, **Elizabeth Pratt Eakright** and **James Authur Schurk**.

Officers elected for the 2008-09 academic year were: **James Authur Schurk**, *president*; **Charles Loren McLane**, *vice president*; **Timothy Joseph Neckermann**, *secretary*; and **Mark Alan Neels**, *treasurer*. Loren and Mark are graduate students; Timm is in the 2+3 program, and Jim is a senior. President *emeritus* **Mike Beatty** wishes to take this opportunity to thank the past leadership of the Chapter, as well as the membership, for their support during his stewardship to the Chapter. Congratulations are also due to the 2008-09 leadership team, for the outstanding job they have done in guiding the Chapter through this academic year.

In the Fall of 2008, the Chapter enjoyed the benefits of the largest initiation class in several years; six new members joined the Society in Psi Psi Chapter. They were **John Richard Barnard**, **Danielle Boucher**, **Katie Marie Bucher**, **Matthew Davis**, **Pio Fritz Petralli** and **Bradley Williams**. With all of the fresh faces joining the Chapter in the past year, the leadership, virtually all of whom will be graduating and moving on with their academic careers, are confident that the Chapter will be left in good hands when the Old Guard takes their leave.

Winter Semester 2009 has been an active one for the Chapter's professional development. SGA Representative **Mike Beatty** carried the Chapter's standard to New York City in January for the American Historical Association's annual meeting, held 2-5 January at the Hilton New York hotel. Mike and Treasurer Mark Neels are scheduled to present their research to the 51st Missouri Conference on History, in Springfield, Mo., April 15-17. Mike will bring to light a forgotten publication by Gustav Körner, one of the pioneer figures of German immigration into the Missouri Rhineland; his talk is entitled, "Responsible Opposing Viewpoint: Gustav Körner's *Illumination* of Duden's *Report*." Mark will discuss "The Crisis of the Foreign Element: Benton Democrats and German Immigrants in Antebellum Missouri."

Also this term, the Chapter has co-sponsored, with the Department of History, the Hungarian Film Festival, the brainchild of visiting scholar Professor **Tibor Glant** from the University of Debrecen, in Debrecen, Hungary. The first film in the festival was "Katyn," directed by Andrzej Wajda, shown on 22 February. On 18 March, Tibor will host a screening of "The Witness," directed by Péter Bacsó (1968); the last show will be on 22 April, when "The Unburied Man" (Mára Mészáros, 2004) will be the feature. Prof. Glant moderates a discussion after the film. The Hungarian Film Festival is on Wednesdays from 12:15 – 2 p.m. in the SGA Chamber, on the Third Floor of the Millennium Student Center.

EASTERN EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

The History Department and Phi Alpha Theta is proud to announce the 2009 Eastern European Film Festival, courtesy of Visiting Scholar, Tibor Glant.

February 25

Katyn (Andrzej Wajda, 2007)

The Polish take on the Katyn massacre by the Russians.

March 18

The Witness (Péter Bacsó, 1968)

A satire of the early Stalinist period in Hungary.

April 22

The Unburied Man (Mára Mészáros, 2004)

An interpretation of the interrogation, trial and execution of the leader of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

All screenings will take place from 12:15- 2:00 p.m. in the Student Government Chamber on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Time permitting; a brief discussion will follow the conclusion of each film. There is no charge for attending.

48TH ANNUAL WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

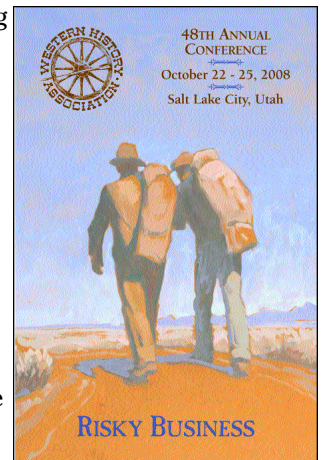
By: **Berta Simic**

Graduate Assistant

Western History Association

The 48th annual Western History Association conference took place October 22nd-25th, 2008 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year's theme was "Risky Business" and included over 55 sessions. This year's conference proved to be very popular with over 850 registrants participating in the conference activities.

The week was loaded with exciting program sessions, special events, and tours highlighting the host city and state. The WHA also sponsored the second annual Book Corral. Forty-three authors representing a variety of presses participated in this year's book corral, a significant increase from last year's participation. This event not only allows participants to purchase books and have them signed by the author, but it also helps the organization as all of the proceeds go towards the WHA Endowment fund.



Virginia Scharff, the outgoing WHA president, discussed the importance of the WHA's mission at the annual WHA banquet, which ended with the ceremonial passing of the pelt-ing knife to the new president, Sherry L. Smith. The WHA is gearing up for the next conference to be held October 7th-10th, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. If you would like more information regarding the conference, please visit the WHA website at www.westernhistoryassociation.org.

AWARDS

The 2008 James Neal Primm Lecture was given by **Professor David Blight**, on "Has Civil War Memory Divided or United America?"

The 2008 Thomas J. Knapp Memorial Scholarship winners were **Valenda Curtis**, **Suzanna Love**, and **Travis Hamilton**.

The 2008 George Rawick Award in History went to **Laura Ayers**.

The R. Gene Burns Award and the Arthur H. Shaffer Award went to **Stephen Mentzer**.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Adell Patton was invited by the African American Studies Program of Boston University to deliver a lecture, entitled *Another Kind of Slavery*, on October 7, 2008. Patton is an Associate Professor of History at UMSL and is the author of "Physicians, Colonial Racism and Diaspora in West Africa," and the co-editor of "Ethnicity, Citizenship and Democracy in the United States of America."

On February 14, 2009, **Dr. Fred Fausz** delivered a lecture entitled "Partners in Pelts" during the "Fete du Bon Vieux Temps," a festival in Cahokia, Illinois which celebrates the tradition of Mardi Gras.



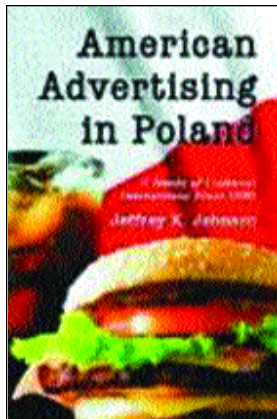
Adell Patton



Fred Fausz

HISTORY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWS

Jeff Johnson, MA History Alumni of the class of 2003, finished his PhD in American Studies at Michigan State University in June 2008. He was recently awarded an ORISE Fellowship at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, HI. He works as a Research Historian and investigates cases of missing servicemen from the World War II era. His first book was published by McFarland Publishers in December 2008 and is entitled, "American Advertising in Poland: A Study of Cultural Interactions Since 1990".



MUSEUM PROGRAM STUDIES ALUMNI NEWS

By: **Dr. Jay Rounds**

A number of Museum Studies graduates are now working in university-based museums. Recent appointments include:

Rachel Brewer

Director of Art Galleries and Curator of Collections
Georgetown College (Kentucky)

Craig Hadley

Collections Manager and Exhibitions Coordinator
Beloit College

Holly Hughes

Head of Education

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
Oklahoma University

Regina Faden recently resigned her position as Executive Director of the Mark Twain Museum to become Executive Director of Historic St. Mary's City (the first capital of Maryland).

Two graduates recently (by coincidence) moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico to take up new positions:

Dan Goodman

Registrar
New Mexico Museum of Art (Santa Fe)

Ryan Flahive

Chief Archivist
Institute of American Indian Arts (Santa Fe)

A recent graduate, **Jacque Nodell**, landed Dan Goodman's former job as a Collections Manager at the Historic New Harmony site of the Indiana State Museum.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY NEWS

2008 James Neal Primm Lecture

The 2008 James Neal Primm Lecture in History was delivered on Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in the Mercantile Library on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. The guest lecturer was Professor David Blight of Yale University. Dr. Blight's numerous publications include *Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith In Jubilee* (1989), *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (2001) and *Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory and the American Civil War* (2002). The title of Dr. Blight's lecture was "Has Civil War Memory Divided or United America?"

Current Exhibition:

**THE WEST THE RAILROADS MADE:
Tracks, Trains, & Transformation**

March 7 - September 20, 2009

From the railroad visionaries in the 1830s who dreamed of the transformative power of a transcontinental railroad to the dramatic realization of those dreams in the latter part of the 19th century and beyond, the West the Railroads Made exhibition – opening March 7th on the first floor of the Library– examines the tremendous economic, social and cultural influence railroads exerted on the American West. Created by the Barriger Library's Curator in cooperation with the Washington State History Museum, the exhibition features more than 80 artifacts, rare railroad ephemera, photographs, paintings and other three-dimensional pieces, including many on loan from the Smithsonian and other institutions. It also includes a special exhibition of many of the Barriger Collection's 19th century treasures and a photographic exhibition by Carlos Schwantes, the Mercantile Library Endowed Professor of Transportation Studies, on the West the Railroads are Making today. An accompanying book by Dr. Schwantes and James Ronda, an internationally recognized authority on Western American History, will be available for purchase. The exhibition is free and open to the public and runs from March 7 – September 20, 2009, after which it will be shown at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. A fourth site is planned before the exhibition will be given a permanent home at the South Cle Elum Railroad Museum in Washington State.

UM-ST. LOUIS
History Alumni Fund

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ Yes I work for a matching gift Corporation.

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James Neal Primm Lecture _____

George Rawick Award _____

Arthur H. Shaffer Memorial Scholarship _____

Thomas J. Knapp Memorial Scholarship _____

R. Gene Burns Scholarship _____

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Professor Andrew Hurley
Department of History
University of Missouri-St. Louis
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400



INFORMATION UPDATE 2009

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. WE HAVE MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO KEEP TRACK OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING, BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY.

NAME _____ UMSL DEGREE _____ YEAR _____

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