

WMU History Department Newsletter

A Newsletter for Friends of the Western Michigan University History Department

Three Faculty Win NEH Grant for Teacher Workshops on the American Farm in U.S. History

History department faculty **Fred Dobney**, **Lynne Heasley**, and **Wilson Warren**, together with collaborator **Richard Roosenberg** of Tillers International, have earned a



From left, Wilson Warren, Fred Dobney, and Lynne Heasley, have earned a \$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to develop workshops for teachers.

\$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant to develop workshops for history and social studies teachers. The team expects to attract participants from around the country.

In July 2007, the Department of History and Tillers International will offer three NEH workshops focused

on the American farm. The workshops will approach the American farm as a way of understanding history at both grassroots and national levels. Teachers will hear presentations by prominent visiting historians; receive hands-on training in the use of historical agricultural methods, artifacts, and documents; and analyze actual farmsteads and agricultural landscapes. The workshops will take place at the Tillers site—450 acres of fields, pasture, forest, riparian strips, and period livestock divided into four historical farmsteads. Participants will also take a field trip with Dr. **Kristin Szylvian** to the Benton Harbor Fruit Market (the largest grower-to-buyer open air market in the country) and the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center at St. Joseph, Mich. (see related story on p. 3)

Workshop Dates:
Session 1: July 8-13
Session 2: July 15-20
Session 3: July 22-27
For workshop information see the History Department website:
www.wmich.edu/history

Faculty News

Professor **Linda Borish** is executive producer and historian of a new film, "Jewish Women in American Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics." The history department plans a public showing of the film in February 2007.

Professor **Takashi Yoshida** was awarded a year's research grant from the United States Institute for Peace in Washington D.C. to support his study of postwar Japanese peace museums and peace movements.

A book co-edited by Professor **Nora Faires**, *Permeable Border: The Great Lakes Basin as Transnational Region, 1650-1990*, has been awarded the 2006 Albert B. Corey prize for the best book on Canadian-American Relations or the history of both countries.

The department bids a fond farewell to **Judith Stone**, Mary U. Meader Professor of Modern European History. After 20 years of dedicated work at WMU, Professor Stone is retiring in December and will reside in Portland, Oregon.

We wish her well!



Chair's Letter

Dear Friends,

We hope that you like our revised newsletter format and new publication schedule —winter rather than spring. This newsletter is received by over 5,000 alumni, friends, and supporters, worldwide.

The department's heritage consists of the lives and careers of its graduates, of whom we are justly proud. The "Overview of WMU History Graduates" (p. 4) gives a profile of those for whom we have information. An impressive group!

Since 1999 we have annually recognized one of our successful graduates with an Alumni Achievement Award. **Howard Lindsey** is this year's recipient. (See related article, p. 5.)

Former awardees are:

- **Larry Massie** (B.A. '72, M.A. '74, S.A. '77) Allegan Mich., historical researcher and writer
- **Earl Peterson** (B.A. '69) Shelby Mich., agricultural business owner
- **Dale Porter** (B.A. '63) Nederland Col., Professor Emeritus of History
- **Richard Reed** (B.A. '57) Kalamazoo Mich., Attorney
- **Florin Curta** (M.A. '95, Ph.D. '98) Gainesville Fla., Associate Professor of medieval history
- **Ellsworth Brown** (M.A. '67) Madison Wis., Historical Society Director
- **Timothy Stoepker** (B.A. '76) Detroit Mich., Attorney

We would like to hear from you! Please take a moment to tell us about yourself by sending a letter to the department (address on back of newsletter) or to marion.gray@wmich.edu.

We are grateful to our 2005-06 donors (p. 7). Your gifts help us help our students!

The History Department is proud to announce our new Undergraduate Fellows Emeriti Grant Program. Funded by generous contributions from emeritus colleagues, this program will help history students meet the cost of out-of-classroom projects they undertake to enhance their skills as historians. Students may apply for grants ranging from \$50 to \$500 to enable them to conduct archival research, present papers at conferences, attend academic or educational meetings, participate in internships, or engage in other professional activities.

The department hopes that this support will encourage our students to develop lifelong professional skills and habits.

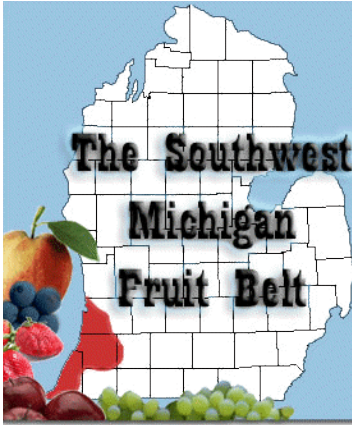
If you would like your gift to directly support this program, please indicate by checking the box on the form.

Please stay in touch!

Marion (Buddy) Gray, Department Chair

Public History Faculty and Students Mount New Exhibit on Michigan Fruit Belt

During the past several years over a hundred graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in History Department courses such as Cultural Resources Management (taught by **Dr. Michael J. Chiarappa**), Seminar in Public History



WMU History Students worked with HM&CC staff and WMU faculty to develop ways to share the fruit belt story with the public.

(taught by **Dr. Kristin Szylvian**), Museum Studies (Dr. Kristin Szylvian), Local History Research Techniques (Dr. Kristin Szylvian), and Local History Workshop (**Dr. Lynne Heasley** and Dr. Kristin Szylvian) and have completed research and contributed other assistance to the completion of the Preserve

The “World’s Largest,” museum exhibit on the Fruit Belt and the Benton Harbor Fruit Market will be open at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center through the fall of 2007.

the Southwest Michigan Fruit Belt Project. Co-directed by Dr. Kristin M. Szylvian and WMU alumnus **Kenneth R. Pott**, executive director of the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph, Mich., the purpose of the Fruit Belt Project was to document and interpret the history of one of the nation’s foremost fruit-growing regions.

Consisting of HM&CC staff and WMU History Department faculty and students, the Fruit Belt team searched local libraries, archives, museums, offices and storerooms for material relating to fruit growing conditions, fruit farms and growers, fruit growing research and technology, labor, marketing, shipping, processing, and culture and commemoration. They collected oral history interviews with roughly 30 fruit growers and other persons directly associated with the Benton Harbor Fruit Market.

WMU History Students worked with HM&CC staff and WMU faculty to develop ways to share the fruit belt story with the public. Graduate student **Jill Straub** collaborated with **Andy Robins**, news editor at

WMUK-FM and produced “A Fruitful Land.” The 19-minute radio documentary was aired on WMUK. Graduate student **John Stempien** developed the website, michiganfruitbelt.org. **Jennifer Black**, the Frederick S. Upton Fellow in Public History, worked for nearly a year with Szylvian and Pott to produce an educator’s guide. It features Spanish translations, and currently is being used in the State of Michigan’s migrant education program. In June, a special Fruit Belt issue of *Michigan History* featured an article about the gathering of the oral history interviews co-written by Szylvian and recent Public History M.A. graduate and former Upton Fellow **Jennifer Gaydos**. The Fruit Belt also was the theme of the corresponding *Michigan History for Kids*. The “World’s Largest” museum exhibit on the Fruit Belt and the Benton Harbor Fruit Market will be open at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center through the fall of 2007. Visit www.michiganfruitbelt.org for more information. The Fruit Belt Project earned the HM&CC the Michigan Museum Association’s 2006 Quest for Excellence Award for Institutional Achievement.

Julien Receives NEH Grant to Publish Exploration Documents



Catherine Julien and Pablo Pastrana-Pérez, faculty members in History and Spanish at Western, have been awarded a Scholarly Editions grant from the National Endowment for a project on Spanish exploration in the Americas. They will prepare an edition of documents related to the expedition up the Paraguay river to the Pantanal, the largest wetlands in the Americas, by Spanish explorer Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca in 1543-45.

Cabeza de Vaca is famous for his account of his epic trip from Florida to the Pacific Coast and then down to Mexico from 1527-35. He was one of four survivors of the Pánfilo de Narváez expedition, and his account is known as the *Castaways* in English—the most published account of 16th-century exploration in the Americas. He also wrote an account about the South American expedition, called the *Commentaries*, and Julien and

Pastrana will publish it along with a collection of documents related to the expedition, all written between 1543 and 1555. The edition will be published in a two-volume hardcover edition by the University of Nebraska Press. A paperback edition of the *Commentaries*, suitable for the general reader, will follow.

The grant of \$100,000 will support work on the edition by both Julien and Pastrana-Pérez. A number of activities related to the project are also programmed, including special sessions at next year's Medieval Congress as well as graduate and undergraduate courses around the theme of the project. A doctoral student in the Spanish Department, **Pilar López-Castilla**, has been named Project Assistant. Recently, a microfilm reader was donated to the project by **Barbara Amos**. The project has received office space in Friedmann Hall and the work is well under way.

An Overview of Western Michigan University History Graduates

The history department has employment information on 2,559 of its known alumni.

Of those graduates who indicate their specific positions in their current place of employment (2049), many are in professional and business occupations, including 75 attorneys, seven judges, and 24 presidents of corporations.

The single largest group of our graduates, by occupational listing, is the 40.4 percent in the education field. The following is a breakdown of the types of positions history graduates hold in education.

Assistant Professors
9

Associate Professors
13

Professors
33

Teachers
636

Librarians
33

Administrators (undefined)
15

Assistant Principals
11

Principals
58

Assistant Superintendent of Schools
2

Superintendent of Schools
19

Dr. Howard Odell Lindsey Honored with 2006 Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Howard Odell Lindsey spent his youth in the small rural community of Covert, in southwest Michigan. After graduating from Covert High School in 1964, he followed the example of many of his teachers and enrolled at Western Michigan University. Describing his undergraduate years as “a time of political, social and racial upheaval,” he said that he hoped to be able to use history, his major field of study, as a “weapon of truth,” and he has indeed done this in a fruitful career as an educator and an engaged citizen.

After graduation from WMU, Howard pursued graduate study at the University of Michigan where he earned an M.A. in 1970. He accepted a position at Highland Park Community College, where he earned the Student Council’s designation of “Teacher of the Year” in 1974. During the 1980s he served as chair of the Social Science Department. He later continued graduate work at Michigan and earned a Ph.D. in 1993. His dissertation interprets a project of Henry Ford to assist members of a predominantly Black suburb during the Great Depression. In 1994 Dr. Lindsey published a book, *A History of Black America*.

In the 1990s he accepted a position at DePaul University in Chicago, where he currently teaches a wide range of courses, including World Civilization, African American History and American Studies. Between 2000 and 2003 he led the History Department as its chair.

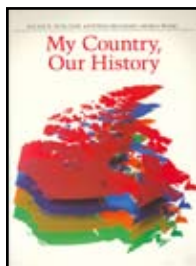
Howard Lindsey was a founding member of the Michigan Black Studies Association and the National Council for Black Studies. He was the sponsor of Nigerian college students in Detroit and has been a mentor for inner-city youth in Chicago. He has lectured widely at the local, regional, and national levels, including on programs for PBS and other networks. He is a frequent lecturer for Black History Month.

He received a College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award on Oct. 13, 2006.



Dr. Lindsey (left) with department chair Dr. Marion (Buddy) Gray.

Publications



My Country, Our History: Canada from 1867 to the Present

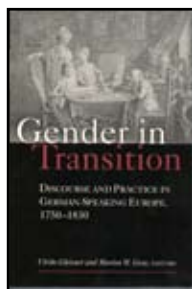
Allan Hux, **José Antônio Brandão**, and Moira Wong. *My Country, Our History: Canada from 1867 to the Present*. Pippin, 2006.

The work is a textbook aimed at high school students in Canada. It provides a general overview of Canadian history from the start of WWI to the present day. Canada builds its narrative around the themes of immigration and Canada's role in world affairs, including the country's current role in Afghanistan.

Gender in Transition: Discourse and Practice in German-Speaking Europe, 1750-1830

Ulrike Glixner and **Marion W. Gray**, eds. *Gender in Transition: Discourse and Practice in German-Speaking Europe, 1750-1830*. University of Michigan Press, 2006.

In *Gender in Transition*, an interdisciplinary cast of 14 scholars from both sides of the Atlantic examine transformations in the gendered social order of German life during the transitional period between 1750 and 1830. Gleixner of the Technical University of Berlin and Gray collaborated to bring these researchers together and produce the book.



The History of How the Spaniards Arrived in Peru

Titu Cusi Yupanguí. *The History of How the Spaniards Arrived in Peru*. Edited and translated by **Catherine Julien**. Hackett Publishing, 2006.

Titu Cusi Yupanguí was an Inca who wrote a history of his father's dealings with Francisco Pizarro at the time they arrived in Cuzco, the

Inca capital. Catherine Julien prepared the new edition from the original manuscript held at the Escorial in Spain, translated it into English, and wrote the introduction. The book is available in both paper and hardcover.



The Curse of Caste; or The Slave Bride

Julia C. Collins. *The Curse of Caste; or The Slave Bride*. Edited by William L. Andrews and **Mitch Kachun**. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Mitch Kachun has co-edited, with literary scholar William L. Andrews, an edition of Julia C. Collins's *The Curse of Caste; or The Slave Bride*. The volume contains Collins's 1865 serialized novel and her collected essays. The editors' introduction orients modern readers to this previously unknown African American author and provides extensive discussion of her work's literary and historical significance.



Ottumwa: Images of America

Michael W. Lemberger and **Wilson J. Warren**. *Ottumwa: Images of America*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2006.

Michael Lemberger selected the photographs, and Wilson Warren composed the text for this pictorial essay of Ottumwa, Ia. Begun from research on the town's meatpacking industry, this project expanded to include material on the entire civic history. Meant for a popular audience, the book is the first complete history of the town.



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In a time when state funding is increasingly restricted, the support we receive from friends and alumni is vitally important. Such funds are used to take advantage of new or unbudgeted opportunities in order to enhance the teaching or the research of the department, or to assist students in achieving their educational and professional goals. **Thank you for considering a gift to the WMU Department of History.**

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