History Faculty


Front Row, seated, left to right: Richard Frankel, Michael Chiarappa, Peter Schmitt, Judith Stone, Marion Gray, John Norman, Linda Borish, Paul Maier, Adam Sabra

Not Pictured: Timothy Berg, Janet Coryell, Fred Dobney, Lynne Heasley, Catherine Julien, Patricia Rogers, John Saillant, Victor Xiong
It is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of the WMU History Department.

First, let me introduce myself, since many of you receiving this newsletter will be hearing from me for the first time. I joined the department in 2001, after having spent over thirty years as a faculty member at Kansas State University. I am delighted to be affiliated with a department and university with such a rich heritage and promising future.

The essence of the department is its faculty of outstanding teachers and scholars. For that reason, the major emphasis of this newsletter consists of faculty profiles, with highlights on our colleagues who joined the department this academic year. The sketches of faculty interests are designed to reacquaint you - former students and colleagues, and current friends - with the department and its activities.

As the WMU community looks toward its upcoming centennial anniversary, we are considering both the legacies and the future of our department. Over the past 100 years, the History Department has pursued multiple missions that have shaped its profile. As part of the normal school which became a university, the History Department has grown and changed profoundly.

When Western State Normal School opened its doors in 1903, one of its twelve units was the Department of History and Politics, forerunner of the present History Department. One of the first instructors of history was Dwight B. Waldo, Western’s founding president. Like others, he saw his mission as that of educating future school teachers.

The department has seen its name changed several times over the years, having been called History and Civics, History and Economics, and History and Social Sciences. In 1945 it gained its present designation, the Department of History. Through all of these transitions, it has been dedicated to the professional education of future history teachers.

Today, of our more than 500 undergraduate majors, more than two-thirds are earning certificates in Secondary Education. Additionally, we have over 270 History minors, most of whom will teach Social Studies in the schools of Michigan and other states. Faculty members work closely with these future professionals, preparing them with the skills of the historian.

A significant group of our students - those in the Public History major - will be bringing history to life for public audiences, in museums and other interpretive institutions. WMU’s undergraduate major in Public History is one of the few in the nation with such a focused emphasis, combining academic classroom experience with practical internships.

A third area of our undergraduate offerings serves History majors in our Liberal Education program. Students in this emphasis benefit from a discipline-based education, emphasizing historical research and writing. They go on to professional and graduate schools or enter the world of work in fields too varied to describe. They are wiser in their professions for their historical perspectives on human society.

During the 1990s, Western assumed a new identity, one toward which it had been moving for many decades. It became a research university and doctoral institution. The History Department established its Ph.D. program in 1993. While not neglecting other important objectives, the department built upon an already solid tradition of historical research.

History faculty of international repute are presently mentoring future scholars in areas as diverse as ancient and medieval Europe, colonial North and South America, and twentieth-century America. Graduate training in Public History flourishes, like that at the undergraduate level.

Through research and publications, the faculty contribute substantially to the scholarship of the discipline, uncovering new information and forming new interpretations. Already in the year 2003, WMU historians have published four scholarly books. Many are involved in ongoing editorial projects. Faculty are conducting research as close to home as the Great Lakes region and as far away as China, Japan, Russia, Peru, Egypt, and Liberia.

I invite you to come to know the diverse and engaged History faculty and to reacquaint yourself with the department through this newsletter. You will find even more about us on our website: www.wmich.edu/history.

We would like to hear from you. On another page of this newsletter is an invitation to let us know about your experiences when you were affiliated with the department and about your activities since then.
New Tenure-Track Faculty

Dimiter G. Angelov
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Harvard University (2002)

Bulgarian-born Dr. Angelov joined the department in fall 2002. His research focuses on Byzantine intellectual and political history with particular attention to the late Byzantine period. The recipient of successive fellowships at Dumbarton Oaks, Dr. Angelov has already published several substantive articles, most recently “Byzantine Imperial Panegyric as Advice Literature, 1204-ca. 1350,” in *Rhetoric in Byzantium*, edited by Elizabeth Jeffreys (Ashgate, 2003). The award of a prestigious and highly competitive two-year Marie Curie Fellowship will make possible the completion of Angelov’s first monograph dealing with late Byzantine political thought. He will be a Resident Research Fellow at the Center for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham (UK), but will also undertake extensive research in medieval manuscript depositories in Italy, Austria, and France. Dr. Angelov offers courses in Western medieval and Byzantine/Ottoman history at both undergraduate and graduate levels—a good example of the latter being his research seminar on Byzantine-Latin relations in the period ca. 900-1400. Upon his return to WMU he plans to undertake an undergraduate course on the Crusades and to expand graduate offerings in Byzantine history.

Juanita De Barros
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. York University (1998)

Canadian-born Dr. De Barros joined the department in fall 2002. Her research focuses on Caribbean cultural and intellectual history in the post-slavery period. The recipient of a fellowship at the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Dr. De Barros has published numerous articles (mostly recently “Metropolitan Policies and Colonial Practices at the Boys’ Reformatory in British Guiana” in the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* [May 2002]) and a monograph, *Order and Place in a Colonial City: Patterns of Struggle and Resistance in Georgetown, British Guiana, 1889-1924* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2002). Dr. De Barros teaches courses in the history of Britain, the British empire, and the Caribbean and is developing a series of graduate courses in Atlantic history.

Adam A. Sabra
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Princeton University (1998)

Dr. Sabra joined the department in fall 2002 after having taught at Drew University, Sarah Lawrence College, and the University of Michigan. His research focuses on the medieval Middle East, especially Egypt in the late Middle Ages. He has received fellowships from the Center for Arabic Study Abroad, the American Research Center in Egypt, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His dissertation dealt with poverty and charity in medieval Egypt, and was published by the Cambridge University Press in 2000 under the title, *Poverty and Charity in Medieval Islam: Mamluk Egypt, 1250-1517*. He is also the author of several articles and reviews on Islamic history and co-organizer of the conference “The Development of Sufism in Mamluk Egypt,” which was held at the Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale and the American Research Center in Egypt on May 26-29, 2003. Dr. Sabra has been an invited speaker at the University of Michigan and the Humboldt University (Berlin), and has participated in numerous conferences and workshops on Islamic history. He is Book Review Editor for the journal *Medieval Encounters* and a member of the board of the Medieval Institute. His current research focuses on the social and economic history of medieval Egypt.

Wilson (Bill) Warren
Associate Professor, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh (1992)

Dr. Warren joined the department in fall 2002. He left an associate professor position at Indiana State University, where he had served as the social studies program coordinator since 1997, to come to Western Michigan. His research focuses on both history education and modern American labor history. He has published several articles in both fields as well as two books, *Teaching History in the Digital Classroom*, co-authored with D. Antonio Cantu (M.E. Sharpe, 2003) and *Struggling with “Iowa’s Pride”: Labor Relations, Unionism, and Politics in the Rural Midwest since 1877* (University of Iowa Press, 2000). He is currently working on an economic, cultural, and environmental history of the Midwestern meatpacking industry, tentatively called “Tied to the Great Packing Machine”: *The Midwest and Meatpacking*, as well as a paper examining the history of Western Michigan University’s history education program that will be part of a session at the 2004 Organization of American Historians’ conference on the topic of “History Departments and Teacher Education.” Dr. Warren teaches the required methods course for students in the History Education Program. In the near future, he will also teach courses in American labor and twentieth-century United States history.

Please Visit The History Department’s Website:  
http://www.wmich.edu/history/
Takashi Yoshida
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Columbia University (2001)

Dr. Yoshida joined the department in fall 2002. Prior to coming to WMU, he taught Modern Japanese history at Yale University, Columbia University, Marymount Manhattan College, and Pace University. His research focuses on war and memory in the Pacific, and his research has been supported by competitive grants, including a Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs Fellowship, a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Training Grant, a Columbia University Japan Fellowship, and a Toyota Foundation Research Grant. He is currently completing a book manuscript on the history and memory of the Nanjing Massacre in Japan, China, and the United States from 1937 to the present. His publications include “Refighting the Nanjing Massacre: The Continuing Struggle Over Memory,” in Nanking 1937: Memory and Healing, edited by Robert Sabella (M.E. Sharpe 2002), “Victors’ Justice or a Victory for Justice?: An Historical Analysis of the Tokyo War Crimes Trial” in Onrecht: Oorlog en Rechtvaardigheid in de Twintigste Eeuw (Twelfth Yearbook of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation), edited by Madelon de Keizer (2001), and “A Battle Over History: The Nanjing Massacre in Japan,” in The Nanjing Massacre in History and Historiography, edited by Joshua Fogel (University of California Press, 2000). His biography is included in Who’s Who in the World (2001) and Who’s Who in America (2002). In fall 2003, he will offer “Modern Japan” and “From Rickshaw to Lexus: Japanese History through Cars and Motorcycles.”

History Department Holds Fall Retreat For Five-Year Planning

The History Department convened for a full day on September 3, 2002, at the WMU Kendall Center in Battle Creek to envision departmental goals to be sought by the year 2007.

Department Chair Marion (Buddy) Gray told the faculty: “Change is constant in higher education. . . . By establishing long-term objectives, departments can maintain control over their own affairs and ensure constructive patterns of change.”

The faculty collectively identified existing strengths of our programs and considered paths for the future. Among the desired five-year goals are:

1. Increased quality and numbers in the graduate program
2. Enhancement of the undergraduate program, with emphasis on both Liberal Education and Secondary Education
3. On-going faculty discussions about teaching, pedagogy, and assessment
4. Improved work and learning environments

The department hopes to take advantage of new expertise among the faculty to emphasize strengths in fields such as ethnohistory, Great Lakes regional history, the history of Atlantic migrations, and gender history, while maintaining strong existing programs, including Public History and Medieval History.

Dr. Peter Schmitt and Dr. Catherine Julien Receive Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Awards

During the January 2003 College of Arts & Sciences State of the College Address, two History Department faculty members were recognized and received Faculty Achievement Awards. Dr. Peter Schmitt received an award in the area of Teaching and Dr. Catherine Julien received an award in the area of Research and Creative Activity.

Dr. Barbara Havira Receives WMU Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Barbara Havira was awarded the University Distinguished Service Award on February 6, 2003. Dr. Buddy Gray, Department Chair, said, “Barbara has devoted a full career to selfless service to the university community. She has worked tirelessly to make this a better place for women to study and work. The effects of her efforts extend far beyond the university.”

Dr. Catherine Julien Named Guggenheim Fellow and Fulbright Lecturer

The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation has named Dr. Catherine Julien, a Guggenheim Fellow. She will accept the prestigious grant in Spring semester 2005 to pursue a project entitled “The Spanish Conquest from the Perspective of the Inca Titu Cusi.” Prior to this, she will be a visiting scholar at the Catholic University of Arequipa, Peru, with a Fulbright Lecture and Research Grant.
**Faculty News**

**Timothy D. Berg**  
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Purdue University (1999)

Dr. Berg’s research focus is U.S. urban history in the twenty-first century. He explores issues in urban planning and urban cultural and social history. He has given presentations at the Hagley Museum and Library and at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. He is currently completing a book examining the history of urban planning in New York City since 1960 and has contributed articles on a variety of topics to the *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*.

**Robert Berkhofer**  
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Harvard University (1997)

Dr. Berkhofer joined the faculty in the Fall of 2001. He specializes in Medieval Europe, especially France and social history. While teaching a variety of courses concentrating on Medieval Europe from 900 to 1200, he is currently developing courses on the early European family and the uses of literacy. In addition, Dr. Berkhofer is leading a team of three scholars in developing a web-based “virtual cathedral,” as part of a WMU Teaching and Learning with Technology grant. His most recent publication, “Marriage, Lordship and the ‘Greater Unfree’ in Twelfth-Century France,” appeared in the November 2001 issue of *Past and Present*. He is currently preparing a manuscript for publication entitled “Day of Reckoning: Power and Accountability in Medieval France.”

**Amos J. Beyan**  
Associate Professor, Ph.D. West Virginia University (1985)

Dr. Beyan joined the teaching faculty in the Fall of 2001 and is jointly appointed in History and Africana Studies. He specializes in African and African American history. While teaching a range of courses devoted to African history, he has developed specialized courses dealing with the history and historiography of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Dr. Beyan has dedicated a majority of his research to the study of pre-Liberian societies, transatlantic slave trade, and the establishment of Liberia by African Americans in the nineteenth century. He co-edited *The Liberian Historical Dictionary* in 2001 and served as an editor of the *Liberian Studies Journal* from 1998 to 2001. His manuscript, entitled *John Brown Russwurm and the Establishment of Liberia and New Maryland in West Africa, 1799-1851*, is under consideration by Indiana University Press. He has nine short essays in Robert Jenkins and Mfanya Tryman, eds., *Encyclopedia of Malcolm X* (Greenwood Press, 2002).

**Linda J. Borish**  
Associate Professor, Ph.D. in American Studies, University of Maryland College Park (1990)

Dr. Borish specializes in nineteenth-century American Social and Cultural History; American Sport History; Women’s History; American Studies; and Material Culture. She focuses on American sport and health history with an emphasis on gender and ethnicity, and rural and urban contexts. Her current book, forthcoming from the Ohio State University Press, is entitled “A Good Country Buxom Lass”: *Perceptions and Reform of Women’s Well-Being in Antebellum Rural New England*. Other publications include articles on American Jewish women, sports, and social change in *The Journal of Sport History, American Jewish History*, and a chapter in *Major Problems in American Sport History*. Dr. Borish is an editorial board member of the international journal *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice*, the Advisory Board of the Central Region Humanities Center, and past President of the Great Lakes American Studies Association. She has also worked at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. Awards include the Faculty Achievement in Professional and Community Service, College of Arts and Sciences, WMU, 2002.

**José António Brandão**  
Associate Professor, Ph.D. York University (1994)

Dr. Brandão specializes in North American First Nations; Canada; and Comparative Colonial America. His current area of research focuses on Native-European relations in general, and on the history, culture, and interaction of the Iroquois Indians with their Native and European neighbors. Dr. Brandão recently served the department as the Director of Undergraduate Studies. He is co-editor of *The Iroquoians and Their World*, an on-going series of publications related to the history and culture of the Iroquoian linguistic group published by the University of Nebraska Press. Dr. Brandão is also co-director of the French Michilimackinac Research and Translation Project.

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http://www.wmich.edu/ethnohistory  
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**Faculty News (continued)**

**Michael J. Chiarappa**
Associate Professor, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania (1992)

Dr. Chiarappa specializes in American Cultural/Environmental; Maritime; Folklore; Upper Midwest/Great Lakes; and Public History. In both his teaching and in his research, Dr. Chiarappa considers the intersection of American cultural and environmental histories. He focuses on how water and natural resources have been used to shape the regional dynamics of maritime communities during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr. Chiarappa recently completed a two-year documentation and museum project entitled “Fish for All: Perspectives on the History of Lake Michigan Fisheries Management and Policy.” The oral histories that were collected for this project have been published by Michigan State University Press under the title of *Fish for All: An Oral History of Multiple Claims and Divided Sentiment on Lake Michigan* (co-author, Kristin M. Szyvian). Dr. Chiarappa is following this work with a monograph entitled *Harvesting an Inland Sea: Folk History and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Lake Michigan’s Commercial Fishery*, which explores the vernacular aesthetics and functions of Great Lakes fish tugs, local knowledge of fish ecology, Great Lakes commercial fishing landscapes, and the occupation’s folk art (models, paintings).

**Janet L. Coryell**
Professor, Ph.D. College of William and Mary (1986)

Dr. Coryell specializes in Antebellum U.S. and the Civil War, and publishes primarily in Women’s History and Biography. She teaches a variety of courses in these fields and trains students in documentary editing. Her current research concerns women and their concepts of individuality, particularly nineteenth-century women, as she tries to discover if nineteenth-century individualism was truly a “male-only” affair (she has her doubts). One area of continuing focus is her study of “women politicos” involved in partisan politics but not necessarily interested in pursuing the right to vote. Her most recent publication grew out of this work: “Superseding Gender: The Role of the Woman Politico in Antebellum Partisan Politics,” which appeared in *Women and the Unstable State in Nineteenth-Century America* (Texas A&M Press, 2000). Currently, Dr. Coryell is editing two sets of letters by women. The first, written between 1834 and 1880, is the correspondence of the women of the Howe/Dupuy family of New England and Virginia. The second, “Letters from the Heartland,” is a collection of letters between a mother and daughter written between 1928 and 1960. She has just signed a contract with her colleague, Dr. Nora Faires, for a survey-level textbook called *Women in America: An Integrated History*.

**Fred Dobney**
Professor, Ph.D. Rice University (1970)

Dr. Dobney specializes in twentieth-century U.S. History, American diplomatic history, and history of American technology. His scholarship includes books on the Truman period and the Army Corps of Engineers, and he teaches survey and advanced courses in American History.

**E. Rozanne Elder**
Professor, Ph.D. University of Toronto (1973)

Dr. Elder specializes in medieval intellectual history and monastic studies, and is also the Director of the Institute of Cistercian Studies and Editorial Director for Cistercian Publications, Inc. She teaches a wide range of courses that explore the writers and ideas operative in cathedral schools, universities, and monasteries; saints’ lives as a medium for articulating and circulating popular, liturgical, and theological models; and the doctrinal and institutional development of medieval Christianity, East and West. Her current research focuses on the theology, spirituality, and institutions of Benedictine and Cistercian monks. She has just returned from a sabbatical leave in France where she continued her on-going research on twenty-one reformed minded abbots; some results of this research have been published in French and will form part of a forthcoming article, “Communities of Reform in the Province of Rheims: The Benedictine ‘Chapter General’ of 1131.”

**Nora Faires**
Associate Professor, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh (1981)

Dr. Faires is a social and cultural historian of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century United States, whose major fields are migration and gender. In addition to graduate courses in her specialties and undergraduate survey courses, she also teaches a seminar on the Gilded Age and Progressive Eras and a Women’s Studies course on paid and unpaid labor. Currently she is working with other faculty to expand course offerings and research initiatives in Canadian Studies. Dr. Faires produces scholarship in diverse venues. Her most recent publication examines gendered migration in the Great Lakes basin: “Poor Women, Proximate Border: Migrants from Ontario to Detroit in the Late Nineteenth Century”, in the *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Spring 2001). Last year the university awarded her a grant to sup-
Faires continued
report the writing of a co-authored manuscript, *Jewish Life in Autotown*, based on a museum exhibition she curated. In collaboration with her colleague Dr. Janet L. Coryell, she is venturing into the realm of textbook publishing, signing a contract to write *Women in America: An Integrated History*.

**Richard E. Frankel**  
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1999)

Dr. Frankel specializes in nineteenth and twentieth-century Germany, with a focus on political culture. He is interested in the cultural parameters, such as symbols or language, which limit or empower individuals or groups in the political arena. His revised dissertation, “Bismarck’s Shadow: The Cult of Leadership and the Transformation of the German Right, 1898-1945,” is currently under consideration for publication at the University of Michigan Press. His article, “From the Beer Halls to the Halls of Power: The Cult of Bismarck and the Legitimization of a New German Right, 1898-1945,” is forthcoming in *German Studies Review*.

**Marion W. (Buddy) Gray**  
Professor and Chair, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison (1971)

Dr. Gray joined the faculty as Chair of the Department in 2001. While the greatest component of his time is devoted to administrative duties, he offers courses in European history, including Western Civilization and advanced courses focusing on modern European social and environmental history. His research is centered in German-speaking Europe between 1750 and 1850. This period of the Enlightenment and of the French Revolution brought profound changes in the fabric of society for German-speaking Europe. Dr. Gray’s scholarship analyzes these changes from the perspectives of government, law, agriculture, environment, and gender. He is author of *Productive Men, Reproductive Women: The Agrarian Household and the Emergence of Separate Spheres during the German Enlightenment* (Bergahn Books, 2000). He is currently researching the environmental history of a village, Schlalach, in the German state of Brandenburg.

**Ross Gregory**  
Professor, Ph.D. Indiana University (1964)

Dr. Gregory specializes in twentieth-century American History and foreign policy and has a supplementary interest in the history of modern East Asia. While he teaches a wide range of courses, from

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Gregory continued
the survey to advanced graduate, his primary field of interest remains twentieth-century American history, particularly the United States in world affairs. His publication record includes numerous reviews and articles and five books, including the award-winning *Walter Hines Page: Ambassador to the Court of St. James’s* (U. Press of Kentucky, 1970) and his most recent title, *Almanacs of American Life: Cold War America, 1946-1990* (Facts on File, 2003).

**Bruce M. Haight**  
Professor, Ph.D. Northwestern University

Dr. Haight specializes in West African history, with a research focus on Islam and the artistic traditions of that region. In recent years, he has been actively and closely involved with the work of Lamidi Fakeye, a Nigerian traditional wood sculptor. This work has ranged from the production of Fakeye’s autobiography to exhibitions of his work and joint lectures. Dr. Haight has also been elected as Faculty Representative to the Executive Board of CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project) of the Center for Research Libraries (2001-2003).

**Barbara Havira**  
Associate Professor, Ph.D. Michigan State University (1986)

Dr. Havira specializes in nineteenth and twentieth-century United States history with emphasis on economic and labor history, Michigan history, women’s history, and the history of education. She has published articles in *Michigan History, Michigan Academician* and *Michigan Historical Review*. In 2003, in recognition of her devotion to the life of the university, Dr. Havira was awarded the University Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor of this type conferred by Western Michigan University.

**Catherine Julien**  
Associate Professor, Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of California at Berkeley (1978)

Dr. Julien specializes in the history and archaeology of South America, especially the sixteenth century. She offers courses ranging from general surveys of Latin America to seminars on the Andes, the Amazon, colonial Mexico, and early modern Spain. Her own research focuses on the transition between the autonomous native rule in the Americas and Spanish colonial administration. Dr. Julien has done archaeological fieldwork in the Lake Titicaca Basin (Peru), Chala (Peru), and Tarija (Bolivia). Her book, *Reading continued on next page*
Julien continued

*Inca History* (Iowa 2000), was recently awarded the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize (Modern Languages Association) and the Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Prize (American Society for Ethnohistory). She is currently working at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island, on a article titled “Writing in the wake of the Cabeza de Vaca expedition to the Pantanal (1543-45).” In Fall 2003 she will teach at the Catholic University Arequipa, Peru, with a Fulbright Lecturing and Research Award. She has been awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship which will enable her in 2005 to continue her study of indigenous culture in the early years of contact between Spaniards and Andeans.

**Lynne Heasley**  
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison (2000)

Dr. Heasley, jointly appointed in Environmental Studies and History, teaches courses in environmental history and contemporary environmental problems. She studies people’s interactions with their landscapes, along with changing ideas about nature. She focuses primarily on the Midwest and the Great Lakes region during the twentieth century, although she has also done work on post-colonial West Africa. She is completing a book manuscript on property regimes and ecological change in the rural Midwest, which traces the historical roots of contemporary property debates, both cultural and environmental. Dr. Heasley recently published “Shifting Boundaries on a Wisconsin Landscape: Can GIs Help Historians Tell a Complicated Story?” in the journal *Human Ecology*.

**Mitch Kachun**  
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Cornell University (1997)

Dr. Kachun specializes in nineteenth and twentieth-century African American history. He joined the teaching faculty in the Fall of 2001 and has since offered a variety of courses related to African American and general United States history. Dr. Kachun is planning a series of upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses in African American History, Historical Memory, and Public Commemoration. His current research concentrates on how African Americans during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have used historical knowledge and public commemorations in their efforts to work for equal rights, construct a sense of identity as a people, and claim control over their status and destiny in American society. His book manuscript on nineteenth-century African American Emancipation celebrations will be published by the University of Massachusetts Press in August 2003.

**Cheryl Lyon-Jenness**  
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Western Michigan University (1998)

Dr. Lyon-Jenness teaches courses in U.S. history, especially American women’s history. Her research concentrates on nineteenth-century American agricultural, horticultural and environmental history, and includes an emphasis on the historical experience of rural American women. Her forthcoming book, *For Shade and For Comfort: Democratizing Horticulture in the Nineteenth-Century Midwest* is scheduled to be published by Purdue University Press in summer 2003. Dr. Lyon-Jenness has recently accepted the position of Faculty Specialist and is the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the History Department.

**Paul L. Maier**  
Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History, Ph.D. University of Basel (1957)

Dr. Maier specializes in ancient history, Christianity and the Roman Empire, the Reformation, and is an authority on the first-century Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus. As an award winning author, Dr. Maier travels and lectures widely, appearing frequently on national radio, television, and newspaper interviews. He has published more than two hundred articles and reviews, as well as fifteen books. When not on the road, Dr. Maier can be found teaching courses ranging from the Ancient Near East to Imperial Rome.

**John O. Norman**  
Associate Professor, Ph.D. Indiana University (1990)

Dr. Norman is a cultural historian specializing in late Imperial Russia. His primary research foci are imperial, aristocratic, and merchant patronage of the arts. Analyzing the nexus of economic, professional, institutional and political interchanges between patron and artist, Dr. Norman’s extensive publications in this field demonstrate the ongoing vitality of state patronage as well as the evolving aspirations of artists and private patrons as they sought professional recognition and acceptance by the intelligentsia in an emerging civil society with a rapidly expanding art market. Sustained annual research in Russian archives has prepared Dr. Norman to undertake a biography and cultural history of Alexander III and his reign (1881-94). A second more discrete project also under way is a reading of the Cathedral of the Fedorovskaya Mother of God in Pushkin/Tsarskoe Selo as an expression of the religious and political views of Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra. Norman’s course offerings include classes devoted to Russian history and culture at undergraduate...
James R. Palmitessa
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. New York University (1995)

Dr. Palmitessa specializes in the history of Europe from ca. 1400-1800, especially society and religion, urban history, material culture, and Central Europe. One of his main interests is the history of the Holy Roman Empire as an important area of encounter between different languages, religions, cultures, and societies. His most recent research has focused on the city of Prague during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Dr. Palmitessa teaches undergraduate survey courses in World History and European History; upper-level undergraduate courses in Renaissance culture; Reformation; Marriage, Family, and Sexuality; the European Witchhunt; Revolts & Uprisings; and graduate courses in society and religion and the history of everyday life. He has also taught a two-semester readings course in the history of Central Europe, a methodology course in Material Culture approaches, and the department’s required course in Historiography. Dr. Palmitessa was promoted to Associate Professor beginning in Fall 2003.

Carolyn Podruchny
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. University of Toronto (1999)

Dr. Podruchny joined the teaching faculty in the Fall of 2001. Her general fields of specialization are North American First Nations, Ethnohistory, and Canada, while her primary research has focused on French Canadian voyageurs in the fur trade, Algonquian peoples (Ojibwe and Cree) in the Northwestern Plains and woodlands, and oral tradition in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Dr. Podruchny is cross-appointed with the American Studies Program, and teaches a range of courses on multidisciplinary approaches to the study of America, from individual, regional, national, and global perspectives. Look for her forthcoming article in Ethnohistory, “Werewolves and Windigos: Narratives of Cannibal Monsters in French-Canadian Voyageur Oral Tradition.”

Patricia L. Rogers
Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Michigan State University (2001)


John Daniel Saillant
Associate Professor, Ph.D. Brown University (1989)

Dr. Saillant, jointly appointed in English and History, is a specialist in Early American History and Culture, with emphases on intellectual history and the African American experience. As moderator of H-OIEAHC, he is affiliated with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and has published widely both in print and in electronic form. Dr. Saillant is author of Black Puritan, Black Republican: The Life and Thought of Lemuel Haynes, 1733-1833 (Oxford University Press, 2002). He teaches courses in Colonial America, the American Revolution, and the Constitution. Dr. Saillant has been promoted to the rank of Professor beginning in the fall.

Peter J. Schmitt
Professor, Ph.D. in American Studies, University of Minnesota (1966)

Dr. Schmitt specializes in nineteenth-century American popular culture. He has been active in regional historic preservation efforts, including the Shoreline Humanities Project. Dr. Schmitt brings his experience into the classroom in his undergraduate course: “Popular Art and Architecture in America,” and also in his graduate-level seminar in College Teaching. In 2003 he was awarded the College Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching.

Larry J. Simon
Associate Professor, Ph.D. UCLA (1989)

Dr. Simon, who recently completed a term as Director of Graduate Studies, focuses broadly on Medieval Islamic and Jewish history, especially in Spain, Italy, and the Mediterranean. In particular, he specializes in the history of the Western Mediterranean, especially Italy and Spain, including the Muslim and Jewish minorities of Christian Spain. He has completed a translation and commentary on the Lay Christian-Jewish Disputation of Majorca (1286), and is completing a monograph entitled The Muslims and Jews of Crusader... continued on next page

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**Faculty News (continued)**

**Simon continued**

Majorca: A Comparative Study. Dr. Simon also edited the 1995 Robert Burns festschrift, and Friars and Jews, which will appear soon. In addition, Dr. Simon is the Executive Editor of Medieval Encounters: A Journal of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue; the “Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World” book series published by Brill Academic Publishers. He is also one of the editors of Brill’s book series “The Medieval Mediterranean.” These interests clearly carry over to the classroom. His graduate course rotation includes readings courses on Medieval Women; the Crusades; and Heresy, Inquisition, and Dissent 1100-1700; research seminars on Muslim-Christian-Jewish Relations; Mediterranean Spain and the Catalan Grand Chronicles; the Mendicants and Their World 1200-1500; a sources and bibliography course entitled Research Techniques in Medieval History; and occasional tutorials on Jews in Medieval Spain and on Documentary Latin Paleography 1100-1500.

**Judith F. Stone**

Mary U. Meader Professor of Modern European History, Ph.D. State University of New York-Stony Brook (1979)

Dr. Stone specializes broadly in nineteenth- and twentieth-century European cultural and political history, gender history, social policy, and literature and film as cultural artifacts. In her current research, she is focusing on the political culture of the French Third Republic (1870-1940), analyzing one of the major conflicts of that era—clericalism and anti-clericalism. In particular, Dr. Stone examines the gender dimension of this conflict, reevaluating the significance of “feminized” Catholicism, and reassessing the clerical anti-republicans. Most recently in the classroom, Dr. Stone has team-taught a course on History and French Films, and she continues to offer a variety of other courses related to gender, religion, and social and cultural developments in Modern Europe, especially France. She has published Sons of the Revolution: Radical Democrats in France, 1862-1914 (1996) and The Search for Social Peace: Reform Legislation in France 1890-1914 (1985). Her most recent articles are “L’Application de la Loi dans l’Averyon: les soeurs de Saint-Joseph”, in Les Congregation hors de la Loi, edited by Jacqueline Lalouette (2002); and “Anticlericals and Bonnes Soeurs” in French Historical Studies (2002). Dr. Stone is Director of Graduate Studies for the History Department.

**Kristin M. Szylvian**

Associate Professor, Ph.D. Carnegie Mellon University (1988)

Dr. Szylvian specializes broadly in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century United States History, with special emphasis on Public History. Since the publication of her book, Fish for All: An Oral History of Multiple Claims and Divided Sentiment on Lake Michigan with Dr. Michael J. Chiarappa of Michigan State University Press, in January 2003, Dr. Szylvian’s attention has been directed to the completion of two projects. These include an article called “Fish City: The Urban Orientation of Lake Michigan Fisheries,” and The Camden Plan: Mutual Home Ownership for America’s Middle-Income Families, an analysis of the Mutual Home Ownership Plan developed and implemented in 1940-1942 by Lawrence Westbrook of the U.S. Federal Works Agency. Dr. Szylvian also teaches a wide range of courses on Public History, including Museum Studies, Local History Research Techniques, and Urban History.

**Gray H. Whaley**

Assistant Professor, Ph.D. University of Oregon, (2002)

Dr. Whaley’s research and teaching concentrate on Native American history and the American west. He is interested in the roles of race and citizenship in shaping settler-colonialism in the United States. Dr. Whaley is revising a book-length manuscript on colonization and Native responses in Lower Oregon Country from the 1790s through the 1850s. He is author of “Indians Twice Removed: Historical Representations of the Native Peoples of Southwestern Oregon,” in Changing Landscapes: Telling Our Stories, Proceedings of the 4th Annual Cultural Preservation Conference, 2000, (North Bend, Oregon).

**Victor C. Xiong**

Professor, Ph.D. Australian National University (1989)

Dr. Xiong specializes in Sui-Tang History and teaches courses related to China and East Asia. He has given research presentations at Stanford, the University of Michigan, University of Hawaii, University of Washington, University of Pittsburgh, Yale, Harvard, Peking University, Princeton, and the Association for Asian Studies, among others. Dr. Xiong also participated in excavations of the Tang Palace site at Luoyang under the auspices of the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He has published more than twenty research papers in English and Chinese. His most recent monograph, Sui-Tang Chang’an (583-904): A Study in the Urban History of Medieval China, was published in 2000 by the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan.

Please Visit The Public History Website: http://www.wmich.edu/history/publichistory/
Dr. Dimiter Angelov Receives Marie Curie Foundation Fellowship

Dr. Dimiter Angelov has received a two-year fellowship from the Marie Curie Foundation in Brussels, Belgium, to conduct research in Europe on Late Byzantine Political Thought. He will take a leave of absence from WMU and be in residence at the Center for Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham, U.K. There, he will conduct research in France, Italy, and Austria, in addition to Great Britain. This prestigious fellowship is seldom granted to historians.

New Ethnohistory Website Launched

Highlighting the new Ethnohistory Certificate program, the Departments of History and Anthropology have developed a website specifically geared towards the program.

The Ethnohistory Certificate is open to students enrolled in a graduate degree program at Western Michigan University. The Certificate requires that students take 15 credit hours of Ethnohistory courses, at least one of which is outside of their home department. Students will also take the Ethnohistory seminar that will be taught every year, alternating between the Departments of History and Anthropology and are required to take the course once in each department. The new website is located at: http://www.wmich.edu/ethnohistory.

The French Michilimackinac Research and Translation Project

Dr. José António Brandão has been named Co-director of The French Michilimackinac Research and Translation Project (FMRTP). The FMRTP aims to collect and translate French language materials related to the history of the Straits of Mackinac. The FMRTP is funded by the Mackinac State Historic Parks Board and various private and federal agencies. To date the FMRTP has amassed an almost unparalleled collection of microfilm and photocopied materials related to the French presence. The bulk of the collection covers the history and ethnohistory of northeastern North America to about 1783 and includes over 470 reels of microfilm, dozens more volumes of material in microfiche, and over a thousand pages of photocopies. The purpose of the translation work is to provide staff at Mackinac State Historic Parks with the sources needed for their ongoing archaeological and interpretative work. Mackinac State Historic Parks operates two historic sites in upper Michigan -- each of which is on the National Register of Historic Sites. The State Parks Board also publishes a selection of the more important documents, as well as those of more general interest. To date, Michigan State University Press has published two volumes of translations prepared by Dr. Joseph L. Peyser, a French Language specialist.

Dr. Brandão’s role in the project as Co-Director is to search through the sources and identify the materials to be translated. In addition, he provides the historical context for the documents, identifying the people, places, etc., mentioned in the documents, and assisting in translating them. That research then forms the basis of the published volumes.

WMU Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

May 27 marks 100 years since the state authorized the establishment of Western State Normal School to serve the west side of Michigan. The University’s celebration of its 100th birthday will officially begin Wednesday, September 3, with a kick-off gala in Miller Auditorium and the inauguration of Dr. Judith I. Bailey as WMU’s seventh president.

The September 3 festivities will signal the start of four months of special events, exhibits and activities that will revolve around WMU’s 100-year history as well as its direction for the next century. Events include a Centennial Lecture Series, the introduction of commissioned artistic and musical works, a Centennial Football Game against the University of Virginia, and a Centennial Homecoming that will reprise such popular traditions as a Homecoming parade through the community. For more information about the centennial events and the history of WMU, visit the WMU Centennial Web Site at http://www.ur.wmich.edu/centennial/.

Historian Joyce Appleby Visits Campus

Historian Joyce Appleby of UCLA visited WMU on September 23 and 24 as a guest of Phi Beta Kappa. The History Department hosted Dr. Appleby who spent two busy days visiting, lecturing, and conversing with a large number of interested visitors, students, and faculty. Dr. Appleby was the recipient of the 1993 UCLA College of Letters and Science Distinguished Professor Award. She spent the 1990-91 academic year as Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University where she was a fellow of Queen’s College.
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellow Kevin Kain Conducts Research in Russia

By Kevin Kain, Ph.D. Candidate Russian History

I spent Sept. 1, 2001 - July 3, 2002 in Russia on a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship conducting research for my dissertation “Patriarch Nikon’s Image in Russian History and Culture.” I worked in more than 15 archival, museum and library collections in Moscow and St. Petersburg and made research trips to the local archives, museums and monasteries of Novgorod, Vologda, and Valdai. I presented my findings to three scholarly audiences and published two articles. Other highlights of the trip included participating in a live prime-time nationally televised news program and attending a New Years party at the Russian Museum. My wife, Katia Levintova (WMU Political Science Ph.D. candidate and recipient of IREX and ACTR research grants), and I took full advantage of the two capitals’ cultural offerings, regularly attending art exhibitions and performances at the Bolshoi, the Kremlin Palace and Mariinskii theaters.

I currently hold a WMU Doctoral Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship. This funding allowed me to accompany Katia to Warsaw, Poland, where she completed her field research on a second IREX grant. I spent November in Russia, traveling to Perm (western Siberia) to present a paper at a conference hosted by Moscow State University.

Renowned Historian Natalie Zemon Davis Visits Department

As part of the History Department’s Annual Hamner Lecture Series, Natalie Zemon Davis, Professor Emeritus at Princeton University, spoke on “People Between Worlds: A Historian Looks at Cultural Mixture,” Wednesday, March 19, 2003.

Professor Davis is an internationally acclaimed historian who has been awarded honorary degrees from numerous institutions, including: Cambridge University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Toronto, the University of Chicago, and Harvard University. She has been president of the Society for French Historical Studies and president of the American Historical Association (1987). Professor Davis has taught in many of the major universities of North America and Europe. Her teaching has been innovative, often establishing new fields of inquiry. Together with a colleague, she offered one of the first courses on the history of women and has pioneered the development of interdisciplinary courses in history and anthropology, history and film, and history and literature.

New Fellowships Enhance Graduate Study and Create Partnerships

The History Department is pleased to announce the creation of the Frederick S. Upton Fellowship in Public History and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society Fellowship.

The Upton Fellowship was established in 2001 through a generous gift by the Frederick S. Upton Foundation and provides a stipend to a graduate student whose work assignment is in the Fort Miami Heritage Society of St. Joseph, MI. The Fellow, currently Dale Winling of Kalamazoo, gains valuable professional experience in collections management, curatorship, exhibitions, and other aspects of public history.

The other new fellowship, created in 2003 by a contribution from the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society in Lansing, supports a graduate student whose work assignment is to conduct academic research on an aspect of the history of Michigan’s Supreme Court. Coreen M. Derifield of Ankeny, IA, the first recipient of this award, will commence her work and graduate study this fall. Her efforts will enhance for posterity the public record of important phases of Michigan’s legal history.

Both of these externally funded endeavors significantly enhance History’s graduate program and create professional partnerships with community-based historical programs. We are grateful to the Upton Foundation and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society for their generosity in establishing these initiatives.

Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers in the Great Lakes Exhibit Opens

On January 31, 2003, the Fort Miami Heritage Society (FMHS) unveiled the Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes exhibition. Focusing on the Native American and French interaction in Southwest Michigan, Shared Waters features hundreds of artifacts and works of art gathered from international institutions.

Shared Waters was conceived by the FMHS staff, scholars from Western Michigan University, and from students and faculty that participated in the 2001 WMU Public History Field School. The exhibit was designed by Joseph Hines of Project Arts and Ideas.

Exhibit Schedule:
-Location: Fort Miami Heritage Society
-Phone: (269) 983-1191
-Dates: January 31, 2003 - January 2005
-Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Graduate Student Turned French Archaeologist

By Michael Martin, Ph.D. Candidate Medieval History, from the Archaeological Field School at Rozet, France.

I live, eat, sleep in a barn. I am awakened every morning by the barn doors being opened, ever so slowly and with a creaking noise that can be heard nearly half a kilometer away, as well as by the dead. Hot coffee and baguettes are my breakfast (food of the gods!). The day consists of heavy manual labor and slow, tedious, detail-oriented work. By the time the workday ends, I am tired and dirty, but happy. At least there is indoor plumbing these days! In past campaigns, the outhouse could be a cold walk (and sit) during the middle of the night; the shower was a curtained off area outside with a garden hose for the showerhead. The hose had been stretched all around the site so that the sun would warm the water throughout the day: first one in was scalded clean; last one out had a faint blue tint to their skin. Even after my hot shower, my muscles ache, but I am still very happy.

I am in southern France working as an archaeologist. Since 1994, WMU has sent undergrads and grads to Rozet, France, to an archaeological field school developed for an international team of students and volunteers. Although the site is a twelfth-century monastery, anyone interested in archaeology is most welcome to apply. One need not be a medievalist or even an archaeologist. All that is required is the ability and passion for getting dirty, working and playing well with others, hard work, and the desire to enjoy the French countryside in the evenings in boisterous activity or calm, sedentary fashion.

I have been involved with the site for the past five years, and the people as well as the work continue to draw me back. During those five years, I have had the pleasure of working with, and become good friends with, individuals from England, France, Germany, Switzerland, North Africa, and Sweden. We only dig for one month each summer, but we make the most of our time. In these past five years, our teams have uncovered ten skeletons, much of the foundation work of the southeastern corner of the monastery, Mesolithic flint tools, 13th-16th c. coins, medieval window glass, cow and dog skeletons, the channel for the latrine. In the nearly ten years of digging, we have found 9,569 pottery sherds. Many finds are pleasant surprises as they are often right under our feet. One was that of a young man, buried about eight inches down, just outside the main barn doors where we had been walking and driving cars for years! My summer as supervisor for the latrine excavation was enhanced by the modern septic tank air vents being a mere 10 meters away so that when the wind was just right, so was the ambience. Rozet, France, has become a second home for me. It is the hardest work I do all year; it is also the most relaxing and gratifying work I do all year.
Departmental News (continued)

WMU Alumnus and Colleague Dr. Dale Porter Hosted by Department

Dr. Dale Porter received the WMU Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award on October 11, 2002. He presented a talk to students and faculty on changes in the discipline of history during his lifetime and career. As an undergraduate at Western, Dr. Porter majored in History and graduated in 1963. After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon, he spent most of his academic career as a WMU faculty member, specializing in British History. He is remembered by many alumni as a teacher of historiography. Having retired from the History Department in 2000, he resides with his wife Betty in Nederland, Colorado.

Who Are Our Alumni?
We would like to hear from our former students! Please send us by mail or e-mail (hist_wmu@wmich.edu) your responses to the following questions, and inform us of anything else you would like us to know.

1. When were you a student of History at Western?
2. What was one of your memorable experiences?
3. How has your study of history at Western served you professionally or personally?
4. What could the History Department have done to enhance your educational experience?
5. What can the History Department do now to serve you (and other alumni)?

In order to offer present and prospective students concrete examples of what our graduates do, may we add a statement about you to our website (http://www.wmich.edu/history/studentresources/alumni.html)? Give us a link to your professional or personal web page if it is relevant, and suggest what we might say about you.

Please Visit The
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