Grafton “Grif” Cook Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Grafton “Grif” Cook, a long-time amateur historian, attended Washington and Lee University before graduating with his Associate’s Degree from Southwest Michigan College. Thirty-seven years after founding his successful lumber brokerage businesses in Dowagiac, Cook completed his BA in history at Western Michigan University in 1996 and retired.

Throughout his lifetime, Cook was an active student, collector, author, and patron of local history projects, with a particular passion for the history of arms and armor. In 1967, Grif donated his impressive collection of military artifacts from the Philippines to Southwestern Michigan College, assisting in the establishment of the SMC Museum. The Filipino collection was eventually returned to Manila where it now resides in the National Museum of History. Grif sold the military portion of his Major General H. H. Bandholz library to the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago. Over the next several decades, Cook served as a member of the SMC museum’s advisory committee, regularly donating historic materials and assisting in the development of multiple exhibits throughout Michiana. Prior to his death, the Cooks donated their extensive 17th, 18th, and 19th century arms collection and library to Fort Ticonderoga.

Grif Cook’s wife, Barbara, shared his passion for history. Together, they co-authored a number of books and articles on a variety of topics, including books on the local communities of Dowagiac, Sumnerville, and Pokagon. The Cooks also wrote a book-length study of the M-1 carbine rifle, widely used during the Second World War and mass-produced in Southwest Michigan. More recently, Grif and Barbara have been involved in supporting the ongoing WMU archeological work at Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Michigan.

Mr. Cook passed away on August 7, 2009, but the legacies he and Barbara have contributed to local communities, institutions, and students of history will continue to have a lasting impact on Southwest Michigan. Barbara accepted the Alumni Achievement Award on his behalf.
Dear Friends,

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the WMU History Department is experiencing a number of transitions. Three esteemed colleagues will retire, and we are delighted to welcome a new faculty member, whose presence is already positively felt by colleagues and students.

One other transition will occur before you receive another newsletter. After ten years as department chair, I will return to teaching and to my research agenda, and the department will have a new chair.

Where has this department come in ten years, and where is it now? Thanks to the highly capable and dedicated faculty, the WMU History Department is one of the strongest and most professional in the university. This was so ten years ago, and it remains so today. Let me offer three examples of the WMU History Department’s successful agendas.

**Helping history majors learn the skills of the profession.** Three years ago, we initiated a completely revised undergraduate curriculum. It is designed to introduce students to broad chronological content, while at the same time developing their skills in a step-by-step process. These skills include reading, research, written communication, and interpretation of historical data. This curriculum has been recognized as a model nationally and is the subject of a 2009 article in the *Journal of American History*. It is working well for our students, and we continue to monitor its effectiveness.

**Educating future history teachers and supporting those already in the profession.** Ever since the days of Western Normal School, Western has been a leader in history education. During the past eight years we have, in partnership with the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, held summer courses for elementary and secondary teachers to help them stay abreast of the latest scholarship and methods of the history profession. Four Teaching American History Grants from the U.S. Department of Education—each worth nearly one million dollars—have supported these workshops. Your WMU History Department remains a national leader in educating history teachers.

**Training public historians.** Our department is distinguished by being one of the few in the nation to have a self-standing undergraduate degree in Public History. During the recent decade, our public history faculty and students have played a central role in award-winning exhibits. Our public history students have held internships in institutions as diverse as the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and WMU’s Archives and Regional History collection. Public history alumni at the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. level are working in museums all over the U.S., in the National Park Service, and in other governmental agencies, enhancing the historical literacy of the American public.

One of my satisfactions ten years ago in coming to this department was the opportunity to work with a faculty devoted to such worthy missions. I know that you will hear, in years to come, of achievements similar to those I have mentioned here. It has been my great pleasure to serve as department chair. I look forward to teaching and research.

Sincerely,

Marion (Buddy) Gray
Professor and Chair
Haight Celebrates Life of Lamidi Fakeye, African Artist with Close Ties to WMU

Lamidi Fakeye, Nigerian sculptor who was named a “Living Treasure” by UNESCO in 2006, came to WMU for an exhibition of his work at the Richmond Center in October 2009. His visit was supported in part by the Burnham-Macmillan Fund of the Department of History. Fakeye then returned to Africa where he died on Christmas Day.

Fakeye first connected to Western Michigan University in Ibadan, Nigeria, where WMU was implementing its Agency for International Development grant from 1960-1968. Fakeye became close friends of Fred and Isabel Beeler, WMU faculty who had been commissioned by Lydia Siedschlag to find authentic African art for WMU to display in Bigelow Hall and around the university. It was the Beelers who coordinated Fakeye’s first visit to WMU in the summer of 1963, with personal support from Irving Gilmore. Fakeye then made WMU his “American University” and Kalamazoo his American hometown for the next three decades.

Fakeye has had over a dozen shows of his work at WMU since 1983. WMU Professor Bruce Haight of the Department of History worked closely with Fakeye as his coordinator and collaborator from 1983 – 1999. Haight, Fakeye, and WMU’s David Curl coauthored Fakeye’s 1996 autobiography that is the definitive study of Fakeye’s life and career.

President Diether Haenicke arranged for WMU to purchase an important door carved by Fakeye and featuring medical themes that was dedicated at the Sindecuse Health Center in 1998. That door, and other pieces from WMU’s collection, then went to the Smithsonian Institution for their twelve-month show by Fakeye at the Focus Gallery of the National Museum of Natural History. Fakeye’s fame, both for exhibitions of his work and for his lectures, has also brought Western Michigan University national and international attention.

For more on Fakeye, including Dr. Haight’s moving eulogy, please visit us on the web at www.wmich.edu/history/news/spring10/fakeye.html

Kachun Appears at Juneteenth Celebration to Honor Julia Collins

Dr. Mitch Kachun was the featured speaker at a Juneteenth celebration in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, this past summer. As part of the Juneteenth tradition of marking the end of slavery in the United States, the Williamsport event honored the life of Julia C. Collins. Kachun, who also appeared at the 2005 and 2007 Juneteenth events, co-edited Collins’ book, *The Curse of Caste, or The Slave Bride* (Oxford, 2006), which most scholars believe to be the first novel written by an African-American female.

At the 2010 event, Collins was honored with a state historical marker on the Susquehanna River Walk.

Warren Delivers Annual Geiger Lecture

Dr. Wilson Warren delivered the 2010 Richard E. Geiger Lecture at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, on November 9. The endowed lectureship was established in 2001 to honor Professor Emeritus of History Richard E. Geiger, who retired in May 2001.

Since 2002, history professors from across the United States have been invited to present the Geiger Lecture, including Linda Kerber, John Sommerfeldt, Robert Berdahl, George Herring, Tomas Kozias, Olivia Constable, Michael Ruse, and Thomas Dublin. Warren is the first speaker in the series who was also a student of Professor Geiger’s.

This year, the Geiger Lecture was part of a year-long series of lectures, seminars, presentations, and other events at St. Ambrose University focused on the topic of the “Ubiquity of Work.” Warren’s lecture, “Workers, Labor Unions, and the Making of Meat: Iowa’s History in a Global Context,” focused on how Iowa’s history is situated in a larger context of meat production in the global economy, food culture, and environment.
Transitions
As several longtime faculty members prepare to retire, colleagues and students remember their contributions
to the department, the University, the profession. And the department welcomes a new member!

Paul Maier Retires after Fifty(!) Years in the Department

Dr. Paul Maier, professor of Ancient History and early Christianity, is retiring this year after fifty years in the Department of History. Maier first came to Western in 1958, after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Basel, Switzerland, in 1957. He joined the history department in 1960 after briefly serving as the campus chaplain.

Thinking back on his career, what stands out for Maier is the amazing growth of WMU during this period, “the augmentation, of students, faculty, and buildings” over time. When Maier came to Kalamazoo, Western had only around 9000 students. The Department of History had just started its graduate program, and the twelve faculty members in the department shared an office in the Seibert administration building, with six desks all pushed together in the middle. The area where the Department now resides was the University golf course.

Maier has long been a favorite of undergraduate students. When he first arrived, he was teaching four courses per term, often all sections of Western Civilization. “I would teach all four back to back,” he recalls. “I would tell the same joke in the course, and at 8am: nothing; at 9am they would smile; but I couldn’t make them laugh until at least 10 o’clock.” Maier still teaches HIST1000 and 1010, but he doesn’t mind the improved offices and teaching conditions, which have allowed him to teach popular courses such as Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome as well as Western Civilization.

During his time at WMU, Maier has also supervised several graduate students. Dr. Mark Veldt, who finished his Ph.D. in 2007, calls Maier “one of the best teachers I’ve ever had, a terrific editor of my written work, and a faithful guide who helped me navigate through my masters and doctoral programs.”

As popular as he is at WMU, however, Maier is also widely known outside the University, traveling nearly every weekend to give public lectures. He has written, translated, or edited more than a dozen books, which have, altogether, been translated into eighteen languages. Always attempting to reach a wide audience with his work, Maier also published several novels and children’s books, and has given hundreds of lectures and public seminars over the years. Veldt describes Maier as working “easily in both classical and biblical scholarship, and was able to convey what was truly important from his research on a level that every lay person could understand. He then turned around and composed accessible historical fiction, mystery novels, and children’s books. In his writing, as in his teaching, everything he touched he did with excellence.”

A Career By the Numbers - Fifty+ Years at WMU

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<th>1960</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population of Kalamazoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total WMU Enrollment</td>
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Paul Maier Retirement Celebration
Friday, 8 April 2011
Details Coming Soon to www.wmich.edu/history/maier.html

Announcing The Paul Maier Fund for Ancient History

As a tribute to Paul Maier, for a 50-year career invested in the teaching and scholarship of ancient history, the Department of History is establishing a fund, the purpose of which is to perpetuate and strengthen the study, teaching, and research of ancient history at Western Michigan University.

The fund will be use to support projects in categories like the following:

- Undergraduate student projects in ancient history
- Enhancing the teaching of ancient history
- Visiting scholars and guest lecturers in ancient history
- Programs to promote the study of ancient history at Western Michigan University
- Awards to students for outstanding work in ancient history
- Graduate student travel or research in ancient history
- Recruitment of graduate students to pursue the study of ancient history at WMU
- Faculty travel or research in ancient history

If contributions reach the required amount to establish an endowment, the department will create the Paul L. Maier Endowment in Ancient History, thus making the support of ancient history permanent at WMU. If this is not the case, an account will be established, that can be expended from the original contributions, with the hope that supporters will continue to contribute in the future. More information can be found online at www.wmich.edu/history/maier.html.
Nora Faires
Dr. Nora Faires is retiring after ten years at Western. Before coming to WMU, Faires, a specialist in gender and migration history, was a faculty member and chair of the Department of History at the University of Michigan-Flint. Among her many publications, Faires is the co-author of Permeable Border: The Great Lakes Basin as Transnational Region, 1650–1990, which received the prestigious Albert B. Corey prize for the best book on Canadian-American relations. More recently, she has completed two major projects, both of which are set to be published in 2011. First, she is the co-author, with WMU colleague and lead author Janet Coryell, of a women’s history textbook entitled A History of Women in America. McGraw-Hill will publish the textbook in January 2011. She has also completed a large edited collection on migration, Migrants and Migration in Modern North America: Cross-Border Lives, Labor Markets, and Politics in Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and the United States, coedited with Dirk Hoerder, features twenty-one essays, including Faires’ own piece, “Population Movements and the Making of Canada-U.S. Not-So-Foreign Relations.” Duke University Press is publishing the volume, which is due out in spring 2011.

During her tenure at Western, Faires was an actively engaged academic citizen, serving on numerous department, college, and University-wide committees, as well as in national organizations. She also made a significant contribution to the graduate program, advising a number of M.A. and Ph.D. students, three of whom recently landed full-time faculty positions at various universities. David Zwart, assistant professor of history at Dordt College, says that he finds it “hard to imagine a better mentor. She gave me the confidence that I could be a historian. As I research, teach, and mentor today, I regularly catch myself repeating wisdom Nora shared with me.” Bob Duke, assistant professor of history at Eastern Michigan echoes these sentiments. Recalling time spent with Faires both in and out of the classroom, Bob describes Faires as a dedicated teacher, an esteemed mentor, and “the best coach I ever had.”

Cheryl Lyon-Jenness
Dr. Cheryl Lyon-Jenness is also retiring after a long career at WMU as a graduate student and a faculty member. Lyon-Jenness received her Ph.D. from Western before joining the department as a faculty member in 2000. As the Director of Undergraduate Studies, a position she assumed in 2004, Lyon-Jenness has overseen several major transformations in the undergraduate program. She revolutionized the advising procedures in the department by establishing a centralized office where students could come in throughout the term for open advising hours. Students regularly report in their exit interviews that the department’s advising process has served them very well. Lyon-Jenness has also served countless individual students as a teacher, advisor, and mentor. Senior Public History major April Bryan writes that Lyon-Jenness “helped drive my passion for research and shaped me into a scholarly writer. She encouraged me to grow in leaps and bounds and I look forward to making her proud far beyond the advising office and classroom.” Over the last several years, Lyon-Jenness led the effort to overhaul completely the undergraduate history curriculum. Lyon-Jenness and co-authors Mitch Kachun and Linda Borish described the process in a 2009 article for the Journal of American History. She also instituted the “History Happening,” an annual open house in the department where students come to learn more about the program and hear faculty talk about research and other projects.

Lyon-Jenness says that she’s very much looking forward to pursuing research projects that she has put on hold in recent years and returning to one of her great passions, once again becoming more active in local and regional groups dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural environment.

Sally Hadden Joins the Department
The WMU Department of History is very pleased to welcome Dr. Sally Hadden to the faculty. Professor Hadden joins us after several years on the faculty at Florida State University. A specialist in American legal history prior to 1865 and eighteenth-century social/cultural history, Professor Hadden received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina in 1984 before earning her M.A., J.D., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard in 1985, 1989, and 1993, respectively. Her work explores the connections between colonial history and legal history. Her first book, Slave Patrols: Law and Violence in Virginia and the Carolinas, was published by Harvard University Press in 2001.

At WMU, Professor Hadden is excited about making immediate contributions to both the undergraduate and graduate curricula. This year, in addition to the first half of the United States history survey, she is teaching an upper level class on the American Revolution and the graduate Historiography seminar.

Professor Hadden is at work on several projects connecting history with the law and legal cultures. Her current book project is a study of legal professionals who lived and worked in Charleston, Philadelphia, and Boston in the eighteenth century. She’s also preparing a chapter on colonial grand jury presentments for Signposts: New Directions in Southern Legal History, a volume she is co-editing with Patricia Minter (Western Kentucky University). “Twenty legal historians are contributing essays to this book, the first of its kind in nearly 30 years. They’re working on intriguing topics, from women’s property in colonial Spanish Florida to the first western law school, in Transylvania Kentucky.” The University of Georgia Press has the volume under contract. Professor Hadden is also writing the chapter covering 1700 to 1775 for the Blackwell Companion to American Legal History, another joint project, this time co-edited with Al Brophy, at the UNC-Chapel Hill law school.

Professor Hadden is heavily involved with the American Society for Legal History, where she has recently taken over the post of National Secretary. Professor Hadden has also served numerous committees with the OAH, the Southern Historical Association, and the AHA.
2010-2011 Historical Lecture Series

History, Memory, and the Uses of the Past

In 2008, the Department began an annual lecture series, built around a theme that transcends geographic and chronological divisions and relates to the interests of multiple members of the department. The series, which is generously funded by the Burnham-Macmillan endowment, also seeks to bring to campus scholars at various stages of their careers.

Previous themes include, “Religion and the Uses of the Past,” and “Peace, Power, and Conflict in World History.” Last year, the series featured talks by Dr. Jeremi Suri of the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Babara Hanawalt of Ohio State University, Frank Towers of the University of Calgary, and Hamner Lecturer Carol Gluck from Columbia University, who spoke about “World War Two in Japanese History and Memory.” Each session includes a formal response by a WMU faculty member and a question and answer period. Additionally, visiting scholars take time to meet with WMU history graduate students over lunch or coffee during their visits. We would love to see more students, alumni, and emeriti at these events, so please join us when you can.

This year’s series, “History, Memory, and the Uses of the Past” brings together a diverse group of historians working on a number of fascinating topics. The research committee is currently at work on the 2011-2012 program, the theme of which will be “History Across Borders, Boundaries, and Disciplines.” The list of speakers for that series will be in place by early in the spring 2011 term. Check the department web page for details and updates and make your plans to join us!
The Department of History at Western Michigan University annually invites an esteemed senior scholar to give a public lecture, named for, and endowed by, Professor Emeritus H. Nicholas Hamner. The event is an opportunity to make visible the discipline of history within the campus and the larger community by having a distinguished scholar address a theme of broad interest.

David W. Blight is Class of 1954 Professor of American History at Yale University, joining that faculty in January, 2003. He previously taught at Amherst College for thirteen years. As of June, 2004, he is Director, succeeding David Brion Davis, of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale. During the 2006-07 academic year he was a fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library. He is currently writing a book on the anticipation of the Civil War sesquicentennial (2011-15), rooted in the work of Robert Penn Warren and comparing the 100th anniversary of America’s most pivotal event to its 150th, and has begun work on a new, full biography of Frederick Douglass that will be published by Simon and Schuster by 2013.

Blight is the author of A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including their Narratives of Emancipation, (Harcourt, 2007), paperback in 2009. This book combines two newly discovered slave narratives in a volume that recovers the lives of their authors, John Washington and Wallace Turnage, as well as provides an incisive history of the story of emancipation.

Blight is also the author of Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory (Harvard University Press, 2001), which received eight book awards, including the Bancroft Prize, the Abraham Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize as well as four awards from the Organization of American Historians, including the Merle Curti prizes for both intellectual and social history.

Blight is also a frequent book reviewer for the Washington Post Book World, the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, Slate.com, and other newspapers, and has written many articles on abolitionism, American historical memory, and African American intellectual and cultural history. He is one of the authors of the bestselling American history textbook for the college level, A People and a Nation (Houghton Mifflin).

Blight has been a consultant to many documentary films, including the 1998 PBS series, "Africans in America," and "The Reconstruction Era" (2004). Blight has a Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and completed his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University. He has also taught at Harvard University, at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, and for seven years was a public high school teacher in his hometown of Flint, Michigan. He was also senior Fulbright Professor in American Studies at the University of Munich in Germany in 1992-93.

Blight was elected as a member of the Society of American Historians in 2002. Since 2004 he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Historical Society and the board for African American Programs at Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. He also serves on the board of advisors to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is involved in planning numerous conferences and events to commemorate both the Lincoln anniversary and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Dr. David Blight
The 2011 H. Nicholas Hamner Lecturer

“‘Thrilling But Sad’: Bruce Catton’s Civil War Centennial in Retrospect”

Tuesday, March 22, 2011    6:00 P.M.
Fetzer Center Auditorium, WMU
Faculty Recognition

The department’s strong record of achievement in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Faculty Achievement Awards continues in 2010, with awards for research and teaching going, respectively, to Professors Wilson Warren and Ed Martini. The department has consistently been represented in the college-wide awards, but this marks the third straight year history faculty have been honored in the category of research and creative activity.

Warren Wins CAS Research Award

Dr. Bill Warren, Professor of History, was given the CAS Faculty Achievement Award in Research and Creative Activity. Widely known for his work as a historian of labor and education, Warren is the author or co-editor of six books, including, most recently, *History Education 101: The Past, Present, and Future of Teacher Education*, with D. Antonio Cantu, (2008); and *Tied to the Great Packing Machine: The Midwest and Meatpacking* (2007). In addition to his books and more than twenty scholarly articles in both of his primary research areas, Warren has served as the primary investigator on four federal grants for History Education, totaling nearly one million dollars.

This “sheer volume of work alone, impressive as it is,” as Warren’s nominator put it, “is not what deserves attention. More relevant is the reception his work has received and what experts in the fields spanned by his scholarship have to say about its merits and contributions.” Warren’s work in labor history focuses primarily upon workers and their efforts to achieve security and dignity in their lives, and on how industry affects local communities. These themes come together powerfully in *Tied to the Great Packing Machine*, which the *Journal of American History* called an “incisive book” that “challenges our understanding of the past and raises astute questions about the present and future.” Warren is back at Western this year after teaching as a Fulbright lecturer in the Graduate School of American Studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan in 2008-2009. During his time in Japan, Warren was hard at work on yet another research project, which focuses on the global meat industry.

Martini Receives College Teaching Award

Dr. Edwin Martini, Associate Professor of History, won the award for Faculty Achievement in Teaching in only his fifth year at Western. During that period, Martini has prepared eleven new courses, ranging from large general education classes to graduate research seminars. He has also served as the supervising professor for five undergraduate honors theses, eight M.A. and Ph.D. students, and, from 2007-2009, as the advisor for Phi Alpha Theta, the undergraduate history honors society.

Martini’s nominators made clear, however, that his work in the classroom was only a small component of his teaching efforts. He has also been at the front of department and campus efforts at integrating technologies, such as the use of podcasting and other digital media, into the classroom. “Energetic, innovative, and clear-eyed in his expectations of students,” one of his nominating letters noted, “Ed is already a leader in the graduate program and a mentor in pedagogical uses of technology to his colleagues.” Martini’s greatest pleasure in teaching, however, continues to come from working closely with students at all levels, something that is reciprocated in the numerous testimonials his current and former students wrote in support of his nomination. “In my six years of college,” one of those letters began, “no professor has taught me more about both myself and their respective subject matter than Professor Ed Martini.”

Brandao Awarded Two Major Research Grants

Dr. José António Brandão, a specialist in New France and First Nations history, has been awarded several prestigious research awards in support of his current work on the French Michilimackinac Research Project (FMRP). The FMRP, of which Brandão is a co-director, aims to identify and translate French language materials related to the early history of Michigan, especially of the Straits of Mackinac region. The first award, which totals $129,000 over five years, was given directly to Mackinac State Historic Parks by the Florence Gould Foundation. This grant will cover travel and research support for Brandão, but also provides funding to acquire additional materials for the French Michilimackinac Research Project Collection and pay for other researchers working in Canadian archives on behalf of the project.

While he was hoping for sabbatical funding, Brandão was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Mackinac Parks and Gould Foundation had provided support for the entire FMRP. The next award, however, came as an even bigger surprise. Brandão learned in late April that he had also been awarded the Lester J. Cappon Fellowship in Documentary Editing from the Newberry Library in Chicago. The Cappon grant, which also provides for three months of residency at the Newberry, came as a surprise to Brandão because he did not apply for it. Rather, as Dr. Buddy Gray, Chair of the Department of History, notes, “the grants committee of the Newberry, at their own initiative, placed Brandao into this category in recognition of his outstanding reputation as a scholar of New France” and the strength of his grant proposal.

With these prestigious grants in tow, Dr. Brandão will be on sabbatical during the 2010-11 academic year, spending time at the Newberry and working on the forthcoming book, *Memoires of Michilimackinac*. The book will offer corrected, unabridged, and properly annotated and edited versions of three important documents related to the French presence and French-Native relations in the Great Lakes Region. The book will be the fourth volume in the series of publications growing out of the French Michilimackinac Research Project which Brandão co-directs with Steven Brisson of Mackinac State Historic Parks.
History Graduate Students Dominate All-University Awards

Much like the faculty at the College of Arts and Sciences awards, the Department’s graduate students continue to excel in winning prestigious WMU awards. In 2009-10, in addition to a variety of departmental honors, three graduate students in history won the all-University awards in their respective categories. The Department of History was the only department to have students win all-University awards in three different categories. The recipients, pictured below, were honored last spring at the Graduate College Awards Banquet. History graduate students also won a number of research and travel grants from the Graduate College.

Irene Geisler
All-University Award and Departmental Award for Research and Creative Activity at the Doctoral Level

Katherine Ellison
All-University Award and Departmental Award for Teaching Effectiveness at the Doctoral Level; Department Award for Outstanding Research Assistant

Jill Gibson,
All-University Award and Departmental Award for Research and Creative Activity at the Master’s Level

Caitlyn Murphy,
Departmental Award for Teaching Effectiveness at the Master’s Level

Francis Bonenfant,
The Robert Russel Writing Award

Caitlyn Perry,
The Stephen S. Upton Fellowship in Public History

Graduate College Travel and Research Awards:
Francis Bonenfant  Steven Staggs  Rachel Friedensen
   Jill Gibson  David Terry

Staggs Wins Major Research Grants

Ph.D. student Stephen Staggs has won two prestigious research fellowships that will allow him to spend the entire 2010-2011 academic year completing the research for his dissertation, "Indian-Dutch Relations in New Netherlands and New York during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries." Stephen is working under the supervision of Drs. Jose Brandao and James Palmitessa. Palmitessa praised Staggs's work in developing the project: "Steve's knowledge of North American and Dutch History of the Golden Age, proficiency in Dutch, and transnational approach position him to make important contributions to our knowledge of the New Netherlands."

The "NY400 Fulbright Grant" is a commemorative grant that celebrates 400 years of Dutch-American friendship and the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright Program in the Netherlands. The Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the U.S. State Department, together with the Netherland-America Foundation and the Holland America Friendship Foundation, created this special scholarship to enable one student at the graduate level to conduct research in the Netherlands for one academic year. The scholarship is available for the 2010-2011 academic year only. Applicants from any field were invited to apply, as long as their proposed project was devoted to the study of an aspect of the longstanding relationship between the Netherlands and the United States.

Shortly after accepting the Fulbright award, Staggs learned he had also been awarded the Larry J. Hackman Research Award from the New York State Archives Trust. Staggs will use this award to return to his archival work in Albany, the other key collection he is using for his project. Dr. Brandao described Staggs's grants as "wonderful affirmations of the merit and potential of his dissertation. These awards are, after all, highly sought after and awarded after careful review of applications by experts in the field."

The Department of History congratulates Steve on these awards and wishes him well on his research.

Stay in Touch with Us!

There are a number of ways to stay current on Department of History news and events:

Visit the Department Website:
www.wmich.edu/history

Join our Facebook Group:
WMU Department of History Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Friends

Or call or email the department anytime, to find out about upcoming events, or to share your news! We would love to hear from you.
Undergraduates Excelling In and Out of the Classroom

2010 Undergraduate Awards

**Presidential Scholar:**
Eric Ware

**Margaret Macmillan Writing Award:**
April Bryan

**Phi Beta Kappa:**
Elizabeth Fritsch
Andrew Hnatow
Callie Hudson
Kathryn Kick
Margaret Lukshaitis

**Honors in History:**
Margaret Lukshaitis
William McQuitty

**History Undergraduate Fellows:**
April Bryan
Katie Hamlin
William McQuitty

**Inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honorary Society:**
Bryan Anthony
Andrew Archev
Tara Bell
Eren Berger
Allison Billedeaux
Melissa Braman
Patrick Brogan
April Bryan
Peter Bryan
Bridge Bush
Sara Carroll
Brendan Chesley
Benjamin Coleman
Garrett Corlett
Benjamin J. Fiddler
James Hagan
Katie Hamlin
Callie Hudson
Robert P. McCarthy
William McQuitty
Ashley Parker
Adam Polk
Michael Scanlon
Rebekah Switala
Laura Thornburg
Kristine Voss
Steven Joseph Watters
Christine Welch
Heather Rose Yohnka

WMU Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta Hosts Regional Conference

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, the Alpha Beta Delta Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (the National History Honors Society) hosted the Phi Alpha Theta Michigan Regional Conference at Western Michigan University. Phi Alpha Theta hosted an Opening Reception in the Edwin and Mary Meader Room of Waldo Library on Friday evening to welcome out-of-town guests. On Saturday morning, WMU President John Dunn and Department of History Chair Professor Buddy Gray officially opened the conference in Wood Hall.

The conference included three sessions, each consisting of five panels, and featured research papers by forty-one undergraduate and graduate students from five states (Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio). These panels ranged widely in subject, geography, and chronological scope and panels included such diverse topics as revolutions, Native American cultural interchange, Great Lakes regional studies, kingship and queenship, women's reform movements in the 19th century, special populations in changing times, diplomacy and conflict, 19th century U.S. reform, biographical history, issues in African history, gender in history, European racial and ethnic tensions, the Second World War, religion in history and historiography, and labor history. Each panel was chaired by faculty members from Western Michigan University, Oakland University, Northern Michigan University, University of Michigan-Flint, Eastern Michigan University, and Carroll University. In addition, graduate students from WMU served as commentators for many of the panels. Conference participants represented eleven different colleges and universities from the five state area (Adrian College, Adrian, MI; Carroll University, Waukesha, WI; Carthage College, Kenosha, WI; Defiance College, Defiance, OH; Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI; Loyola University, Chicago, IL; Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI; Oakland University, Rochester, MI; St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN; University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI; and Western Michigan University).

This year’s regional conference also featured a Public History display, organized by Public History majors at WMU (Western is one of the few universities in the country that offers an undergraduate major in Public History). Lunch was held at the Lee Honors College and WMU Provost Tim Greene introduced the keynote speaker; Dr. Kimberly LoPrete, Professor of History at the National University of Ireland-Galway, who spoke on “All About Adela; Or, Studying Women of Power in the Middle Ages.” The conference concluded with a Prize Award Ceremony and pizza and soft drinks as students competed in a History College Bowl trivia contest.

History Emeriti Fellows Put History in Motion

Since 2006, the Department has awarded Emeriti Fellowships to outstanding undergraduate students to help them engage in scholarly pursuits outside of the classroom and pursue opportunities to advance their professional goals as historians. Made possible by generous contributions by several department emeriti including Dale Pattison, Ernst Breisach, and H. Nicholas Hamner, these grants have allowed dozens of students to do archival research in collections around the country, present their research at conferences, and participate in various internships and summer programs. Public History Majors have been especially active in pursuing the grants, which can range from $50-$500. Among the projects undertaken by Emeriti Fellows over the past year, William McQuitty spent a week doing research for his senior thesis at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland; Tara Bell spent the summer as a tour guide for Mackinaw State Historic Parks; Jacob Thomas volunteered as an educational camp counselor at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn; and, also at the Ford Museum, Katie Hamlin attended a multiday conference on digitizing historical documents. In her report to the undergraduate studies committee, which oversees the grant program, Hamlin noted that she was the sole undergraduate student at the workshop, which gave her “a renewed sense of enthusiasm for [her] professional development. More recently, Public History major April Bryan (pictured above) is currently using an Emeriti grant to facilitate research at the Battle Creek Research Center under the direction of Dr. Linda Borish. Bryan has been “knee-deep,” as she describes it, in the archives, exploring a variety of fascinating sources for her work on the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Bryan plans on publishing her research, first as an article and perhaps, down the road, as a book. The Emeriti Grant, she says, “gave me the chance to grow as a writer, researcher, and historian.”
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The Department has identified several areas for development that will help us to continue our tradition of excellence in research, teaching, and service. We invite alumni, emeriti, and other friends of the department to help us grow and develop in the following areas:

Investing in Students
✦ Undergraduate History Student Scholarship Fund
✦ Graduate Student Research Fund
✦ Frederick S. Upton Fellowship in Public History

Investing in Faculty
✦ Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France
✦ Faculty Research Support in Specified or Unspecified Fields

Investing in Programs
✦ Information Technology: Improvement of History IT Lab and Equipment
✦ Scholar-in-Residence Program Connected to Thematic Annual Lecture Series

Investing in Infrastructure
✦ Modernization of Seminar Rooms and Professional Space in Friedmann Hall

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