A Note from the Chair

A new academic year brings new greetings to you! If you are receiving this newsletter, it is because of your commitment to the study of History while you were at Drury University. This newsletter is intended to bring you a bit closer to the great work of our professors in History, honor our current students, and restore communication with past students who are part of our traditions and memories. At Drury, History has always been important. Now in 2013, we are in our second year as a Department of History. We invite you to stay in touch via email, like us on Facebook, or consider making a donation towards scholarships or departmental needs. Mostly, however, we want you to know how much we enjoy teaching the historical past, and want to share some of our great news.

Currently we have six faculty: Dr. Shelley Wolbrink, chair; Dr. Hue-ping Chin, who joined History permanently from the Interdisciplinary Studies Center; Dr. Leah Blakey; Dr. Greg Renoff; Dr. Raymond Patton; and Dr. Daniel Livesay. Both Drs. Patton and Livesay come to our department from University of Michigan Ph.D. program. More information on our outstanding faculty can be found at: http://www.drury.edu/du/history/History-Faculty/ 2012-13 was a busy year. We began offering a new historical methods and skills class for freshmen and sophomores. New courses include: Revolutions, The Black Death, Colonial America, and U.S. Sports history. Senior Seminar, now called Capstone Research Seminar and is part of our new Engaged Learning focus on Drury’s campus. We still have the same December undergraduate history conference that has generated outstanding work among our graduating students. We also are offering a BA with Departmental Honors, and have our first students beginning that year-long thesis this year.

The Department has been very active outside the classroom as well. There are many exciting things happening on campus, as we engage with the Humanities, and offer History students the opportunity to live in the Humanities House. The stories below should give you the opportunity to reconnect and celebrate the impressive work of colleagues and students. Stay in touch, and best wishes in your own historical adventures this year!

Dr. Shelley Wolbrink
Chair, Department of History

Professor Writing History of Punk Rock

In the summer of 1977 when “God Save the Queen” was released, the Sex Pistols audaciously mocked the “fascist regime” of the fading British Empire amidst the Queen’s Jubilee celebration. Did you know that punk rock was also popular on the other side of the Iron Curtain in Communist Eastern Europe? Dr. Raymond Patton is working on the first historical account of punk’s simultaneous development in the communist and capitalist worlds. Dr. Patton remarks, “Punk was against the system, whether that meant capitalism, communism, or anything in between. In retrospect, it was an important cultural movement away from the Cold War world toward the globalized world of today.” Dr. Patton will present his research at a November meeting of Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Boston.

Podcasts Make History

Dr. Greg Renoff hosts and blogs for the New Books in Popular Music (newbooksinpopmusic.com) that is part of the New Books Network. The site features podcast interviews with music writers and scholars about their recent books. Dr. Renoff has several hour-long interviews, including one with Steve Roby, author of Becoming Jimi Hendrix: From Southern Crossroads to Psychedelic London (De Capo Press, 2009). The podcasts are available for streaming or download through the website or through iTunes.
History Students Study Abroad on Academic Programs

In 2013, several history students studied abroad. Kelly Teel and Haleigh Brown traveled to Rome, Italy in May and June of 2013. Jenn Kervian spent Spring semester 2013 in Beijing, China, studying at Tsinghua University. While there she studied Mandarin, and traveled to Xi’an to see the Terracotta soldiers. According to Jenn, “My experience there was one that I will never forget. Since Mandarin is so predominant as a language, it offers the traveler something different.”

History at the Theater of Marcellus, May-June Study Abroad Program in Rome.

Nuns Rule

Chaste women and men together in a monastery? Dr. Shelley Wolbrink’s research examines the administration of two Premonstratensian women’s monasteries in 12th and 13th century Germany through analysis of over 100 extant documents. She extracts information from previously ignored witness lists, letters, property charters and papal confirmations to demonstrate that male and female religious frequently worked together to coordinate economic transactions, make administrative decisions, or request the best relics. The article, “Necessary Priests and Lay Brothers: Male-Female Co-operation in the Premonstratensian Women’s Monasteries of Meer and Füssenich, 1140-1255” will appear in Partners in Spirit: Men, Women, and Religious Life in Germany, 1100 - 1500, ed. by Fiona J. Griffiths and Julie Hotchin (Brepols press, Oct. 2013). More information on how gender, spirituality, and authority intermingled in a medieval monastery can be found in the book’s description: http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prodid=IS-9782503540962-1

Department Makes First Annual Academic Immersion Trip

In February, Professors Ray Patton and Shelley Wolbrink traveled with thirty history students to Kansas City for an academic immersion trip to Kansas City. The first stop was the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum with oil paintings, armor, and sculpture from the Middle Ages. Students ate lunch at the museum in the Renaissance palazzo that was imported from Italy. Afterwards, they toured the World War I National Museum and the Spanish-influenced Country Club Plaza. We hope this is one of many future road trips!

Alumni News

Matt Friedich, History ’10, received a M.Div. from Vanderbilt Divinity School in May 2013. For his academic work at Vanderbilt, he received the W. Kendrick Grobel Award, presented to the degree candidate who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in Biblical studies. He also received the Nelly May Overby Memorial Award presented to the degree candidate who has received a grade of Honors in field education and who, in the judgment of the field education faculty, has enriched the life of a congregation or has offered...
significantly through a community agency.

Stan Maxson, History ’11, has begun the M.A. program in 19th century U.S. History at the University of Missouri-Columbia. In the summer of 2012, he was an intern with the Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society. He spent the summer indexing, entering metadata, and creating summaries for the Supreme Court of Missouri case files from 1860 to 1880.

History Welcomes New Professor in U.S. History

We are thrilled to introduce Dr. Daniel Livesay, who finished his PhD in 2010 at the University of Michigan, and spent two years as a National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. His research focuses on mixed-race children in the Americas who were sent to school in Britain during the eighteenth century. Dr. Livesay is currently preparing a book manuscript that is under contract with the University of North Carolina Press. He teaches classes on early colonial and U.S. History, the history of slavery, Native American history, and Latin American history. To read his article on mixed-race families in Jamaica and the Scottish experience, visit here: http://www.ijsl.stir.ac.uk/issue4/livesay.htm

New York City Fashion

In May 2013, Dr. Greg Renoff partnered with Barking Irons, a clothing company in New York, to bundle his book, The Big Tent, with a limited edition t-shirt featuring circus slang. Read more here: http://ugapress.blogspot.com/2013/06/hey-rube.html

End of the Year Awards

The Department would like to congratulate Beth Talley and Sadie Ford on receiving the 2012-2013 Outstanding New Major in History Awards. Beth, from Fair Grove, Missouri, and a Medieval and Renaissance studies student, is excited about traveling to Rome this summer on the academic program. Sadie Ford, from Rogersville, Missouri, plans to pursue a Spanish major alongside her History major. Ashley Witt, President of Phi Alpha Theta, won the Leadership Award for her outstanding work with the history club in promoting activities. Congratulations!

On the Coat-tails of Lewis and Clark in Freshman Seminar

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out to find a water route leading from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Did Sacagawea guide them across the Rocky Mountains? Was Meriwether Lewis suffering from mental instability as he led the most famous land voyage in American history? These are some of the questions explored in Dr. Leah Blakey’s Core 101 class. Students from across disciplines read Daniel Botkin’s Our Natural History: The Lessons of Lewis and Clark. They also read and research about women’s roles and social history. By examining excerpts from the writings of Lewis and Clark, as well as artifacts from their journey that are housed at the History Museum on the Square, students have a semester full of reading, talking, and writing about one of the greatest treks in American history.

STAYING IN TOUCH

What are you doing? We’d love to hear from you!

Like us on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/DruryUniversityHist

You can contact the chair, Shelley Wolbrink, at: swolbrin@drury.edu

You can make a donation to our department here: https://alumni.drury.edu/giving (specify “History Department”)

Do you need to change or add an email?: Email Office Coordinator, Joni Allison, at jallison02@drury.edu