

Oakland University

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER *Spring 2013*

DEPARTMENT HONOR ROLL

The Department of History has a well-established track record of success in winning the most coveted prizes awarded by Oakland University.

University Distinguished Professor

2007 Ronald Finucane

Research Excellence Award

1985 Charles Akers
1992 Richard Tucker
1998 Ronald Finucane
2007 Linda Benson

Teaching Excellence Award

1989 Carl Osthaus
1991 Anne Tripp
2001 Todd Estes

New Investigator Research Excellence Award

1996 Geoffrey Wawro
2008 Matthew Sutton
2011 Craig Martin

President's Colloquium Award

1999 Geoffrey Wawro
2001 Linda Benson
2003 Sean Farrell Moran
2006 Sara Chapman
2009 Todd Estes

College of Arts and Sciences Engagement Award

2013 Dan Clark

Outstanding Thesis Award for Graduate Students

2008 Jennifer Laam
2010 Ann Marie Wambeke

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

By: Todd Estes

As historians, we recognize more than most that all years are ones of transition, that things are always simultaneously beginning, ending, and changing in ways we can only imperfectly grasp. Sometimes we cannot see patterns or significance immediately; only with the passage of time do things take shape and its meaning established for us in our own lives. We already know this to be the case about the past which we teach about and write and research all the time, and as historians we are not surprised that the same holds true for the lives we lead as well. Put differently, we might say that for historians at Oakland University, our own lives imitate our historical work.

If all years, then, are ones of transition, it seems likely that 2012-13 will go down as one of those years of important transitions for the department. This newsletter highlights many of the events of the year past. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of what is contained in the newsletter and to tie together some of the significant transitions that took place this year.

First of all, it is my privilege to serve as the department's new chair, a task I took up in August 2012 when I began a three-year term. I was honored when my colleagues elected me to the position and I have enjoyed being chair ~~every single day~~ most of the time! My job has been made much easier by three factors: the tremendous preparation and ongoing advice I have gotten from my predecessor as chair, Karen Miller; two superb department secretaries, Janet Chandler and Johanna McReynolds, who do so much every day to assist me and all members of the department; and a supportive faculty of bright, hardworking, engaged historians who create very few problems while giving me so much to brag about to others.

It has been a year of great successes for our faculty, our students and for the department generally, and these are detailed in the pages that follow. It has been a year of several new initiatives, including the "First Drafts seminars" where faculty members present their work to each other informally for discussion. We also did some new things to publicize the "History Comes Alive" lecture series not only through our brochures but also with a banner that ran on the Oakland website. All this helped attract record crowds to the lectures and enabled us to move to an even larger venue for next year's series. We are also very pleased that

we will have a new Medieval historian joining our ranks next year, as James Naus from St. Louis University accepted our offer, capping off a successful search. We look forward to welcoming James and his wife, Gaby, to the department and the community. And one of the best “new” ventures this past year was the birth of a son, Raymond, to our first-year Chinese historian Yan Li and her husband, Steve. Raymond is a great “adjunct” member of the department and is a quiet, adorable baby with big brown eyes. We look forward to seeing more of him on the floor as he grows up.

Inevitably, however, it was also a year marked by sadness as our friend and long-time colleague Jace Crouch died in March after nearly twenty years of teaching at Oakland.

As editor of the newsletter for the past few years, I came to cherish Jace’s witty, discursive, idiosyncratic—and mostly very long!—missives that came in response to requests for faculty updates. I loved reading them and hearing Jace’s take on various matters as well as about the new ventures in his own teaching and research and travels. Owing to space restraints, we could never print all of his annual submissions, but Jace’s letters were always eagerly anticipated and now, sadly, much missed. Jace was a particular favorite of a generation of Oakland students, many of whom had him for Western Civ and were drawn to the study of history from his classes. His students, no less than his colleagues in the department, will miss him.

So, as with every year, 2012-13 was a year of transition, a time of both endings and beginnings. I hope the pages below will detail much of the activity that made this a particularly eventful year. As we head into summer and begin planning for next year, I am very pleased as chair to salute our students, my colleagues, and especially, during this commencement season, our recent graduates and wish them—and everyone—well. Hope everyone has

a good summer and I look forward to reconvening in the fall, joining with colleagues and students, to start another year together. Thank you and happy reading.

HISTORY COMES ALIVE LECTURE SERIES ATTRACTS RECORD CROWDS

The ninth annual History Comes Alive lecture series, sponsored by the department and backed by the generous support of the Knudsen Family Foundation and other benefactors, attracted record crowds this year for its monthly lectures and set attendance records.

Approximately 685 people attended the six talks this year which worked out to an average of 114 people per lecture. Three of the lectures topped 140 attendees with a pair of them—William Londo’s October talk on Samurai, and Bruce Zellers’s February presentation on the U.S. between the world wars—attracting series record crowds of 150 people. These numbers included primarily the History Comes Alive “regulars,” many of whom have been attending since the series began in the fall of 2004, department faculty and students, as well as occasionally the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. But these lectures also attracted classes from local area high schools, groups from local retirement communities, and Oakland University classes as well.

The record numbers of participants heard a scintillating series of talks by Oakland historians. The department has long viewed these lectures as a way to share ongoing faculty research with the community and also as a way to address interesting or controversial issues of

today from a historical perspective. As always, the participants were enthused about the presentations they heard and many regularly stayed behind after the talks to ask questions, carry on discussions with each other, and engage the speaker. Faculty members who have participated in these History Comes Alive lectures find them to be enjoyable and satisfying and find the interaction with interested, knowledgeable community members to be stimulating.

The success of the series is marked by the fact that the department has outgrown its current “home” in the Oakland Center. While the Oakland Room has held these lectures for years, next year’s lectures will be moved to the Gold Rooms B and C with capacity for up to 200 people. This will enable even more newcomers to attend, make it possible for high school and OU classes to participate, too, all the while ensuring that everyone has plenty of room to enjoy the lectures. Next year’s slate of speakers for the 10th annual series includes history department faculty members Karen Miller, Don Matthews, Yan Li, Dan Clark, Derek Hastings, and Ian Greenspan. Brochures and publicity materials are being formulated now and will be mailed and distributed soon.

The department is grateful for the strong support and interest in this series from the broader community. It also thanks its generous sponsors: the Knudsen Family Foundation, the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Here is the list of the History Comes Alive lectures audiences heard last year:

Todd Estes, "The First U.S. National Election Contest: The Ways and Means of Politics in the Early American Republic" (September 25, 2012)

William Londo, "Samurai in Fiction and Fact" (October 23, 2012)

Carl Osthaus, "Life and Death in the Georgia Lowcountry, 1854-1868: The Letters of the Charles Colcock Jones Family" (November 13, 2012)

Sean Farrell Moran, "The Tudors and the Unity of England" (January 23, 2013)

Bruce Zellers, "The Consequences of Disillusionment: World War I, Isolationism, and the Shaping of the American Strategy in World War II" (February 12, 2013)

Craig Martin, "Modern Historical Methods and the Scientific Revolution" (March 5, 2013)

HISTORIAN OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE JOINS DEPARTMENT

The department is extremely happy to welcome into its ranks Dr. James Naus, a specialist in medieval European history, who will join the faculty in the fall of 2013. He replaces Dr. Ron Finucane, the department's esteemed medievalist who held the title of Distinguished Professor at the time of his untimely death in 2009. Dr. Naus received his Ph.D. from Saint Louis University, where he has also taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the past two years. He is the author of numerous publications, including several scholarly articles and a book manuscript entitled *The Capetian Kings of France and the Early Crusading Movement*, which is under contract and forthcoming with Manchester University Press. He has also served as co-editor of the

essay collection *Crusades: Medieval Worlds in Conflict*, which was published by Ashgate in 2010, and his co-edited volume *Constructing a Nation: Capetian France (987-1328)* is forthcoming as a special issue of the journal *French Historical Studies*.

In anticipation of his arrival at OU, Dr. Naus writes the following: "I am very excited and grateful to be joining the history faculty at Oakland University, and am particularly honored to be filling the shoes of Ron Finucane, whose work I have long admired. My wife Gaby and I have made several house hunting trips to the region already, and have had a chance to spend time with several faculty members. One of the main things that drew me to OU in the first place was the collaborative and friendly atmosphere, and I look forward to getting to know future colleagues and friends in the coming months." Faculty and students will no doubt benefit greatly from Dr. Naus's extensive expertise, and we look forward with anticipation to the contributions he will make to the life of the department over the coming years.

IN MEMORIAM: JACE CROUCH 1952- 2013

The department mourns the loss of colleague Jace Crouch who died Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at his home in Alma, Michigan at the age of 60. Jace taught in the History department at Oakland since 1994, completing nearly twenty years of service in courses ranging from the Western Civ surveys to upper-division offerings on Ancient Greece and Rome and others.

Jace was born September 25, 1952 in Alma, the son of James and Alwilda (Shelley) Crouch. He married Toni Katt on April 28, 1973 at St. John Episcopal Church in Alma. A Medieval historian by

training, Jace earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Central Michigan University and then took his Ph.D. at Michigan State University. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, a life member of the NRA, and a devout Catholic.

Jace is survived by his mother, a brother, and many other relatives. He also leaves behind several close friends. He was preceded in death by his father Jim and wife Toni, who died in an automobile accident in 2003. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Merrill. Visitation was held until the service at the church. Interment took place at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Breckenridge. Jace was a distinctive personality and he will be missed by his peers and colleagues, by his students, and also by his many former students through the years.

PHI ALPHA THETA REPORT BY ALLISON GRAVES (PRESIDENT 2011-2012, 2012-13)

Despite sometimes less than ideal participation at functions, Phi Alpha Theta still rocked the year with its events. Dr. Yan Li kicked off the new school year with a provocative presentation of her research on women's cultural changes in China. The second event of the Fall semester, our first annual Teachers' Panel, provided STEP students with the necessities to pursue careers in secondary education. Students learned how to increase their versatility in the tough job market and the persistence needed to fulfill such dreams. Those who attended were greatly benefitted by the panel's wise advice. We ended the semester with our annual Holiday Party, which took place at Rochester Mills Brewing Company. Good

meals, great drinks, and Trivial Pursuit marked the evening, as well as honoring graduate Rob Conner for his Meritorious Achievement Award.

The Winter semester burst at the seams with a multitude of events. Dr. Don Matthews led off with a captivating lecture on the Baathist regime in the Middle East. In conjunction with The American Studies Student Group, Dr. Karen Miller presented PAT's annual Presidents' Day Lecture. Her talk provided a stark image of university politics and the need to fight for the rights of academia.

While squaring off with the Student Activities Funding Board for our annual Phi Alpha Theta Conference, we simultaneously turned our efforts towards the Careers in History Panel. Tobi Voigt, Dominique Daniel, Chris Layson, and Beth Myers brought their A-game as they harmonized their efforts to provide the full room with the knowledge to succeed in whatever fields they decide to pursue with their history degrees. We thank them for their continuous assistance with PAT.

DRUMROLL, PLEASE! Our last event, the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, was hosted by the newly formed chapter at Ferris State University. In this well planned conference, our presenters captivated their audiences. The conference was attended by board members Allison Graves, Heather Brothers, and Shannon Cooley, as well as new members Bill English and Marc Dubois (and, of course, Dr. Dan Clark!). Congratulations are owed to Allison, Shannon, Bill, and Marc on their great presentations and special recognition to Shannon and Bill on winning Best Papers for their respective panels. Awesome work, everyone!

Last but not least, PAT held its informal induction dinner on Saturday, May 4th at the Rochester Mills Brewing Company. Of course, the event was marked by good food and great drinks but also honored the accomplishments of inductees. Special thanks go out to Dr. Miller for joining in the event, as well as alum Lesley Chapel!

We would also like to recognize Allison Graves, Heather Brothers, Andrea Stabile, and Melissa Marcinkowski for all their efforts over the past two years in Phi Alpha Theta and wish them luck in all their future pursuits. However, we also want to welcome our new board members! Shannon Cooley, who has worked as Treasurer for the past year, will now take on the role as President. Bill English, one of our new inductees and an active member, will be Vice President. Holly Lustig, freshman history major, steps up to the plate early in her college career as the Secretary. A big congratulations and best of luck goes out to the 2013-2014 PAT board. We are still looking for a Treasurer, though! If anyone has any recommendations or interest in the role, please contact Dr. Clark at djclark@oakland.edu or Shannon Cooley at sacooley@oakland.edu. This is a great opportunity to get involved with your degree! Not only does it look good on a resume, but PAT offers essential skills to progress your career and livelihood beyond OU.

PAT also received its own office this year, thanks to the kindness and generosity of Dr. Todd Estes. We have dressed it to the nines and it is always in use! We would also like to thank Johanna McReynolds and Janet Chandler for their help throughout the year. Not only have they assisted us in crucial

paperwork, kept us abreast in emails, helped us with copies, and constantly opened the office for us, but they were always willing to help in any way. Thank you, Dr. Estes, Johanna, and Janet, for your continuous support throughout the year. Last but not least, kudos to our adviser, Dr. Clark. We could not ask for better guidance, even with the devilish SAFB and CSA!

We thank the department again for all its help with our events and the organization. From new and old members alike, we wish you the best of luck in the future.

By: Allison Graves

2012-2013 PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES

Katherine Alderson, Kari Cadwell, Tara Clarke, Jane Dixon, Cari Durant, William English, Scott Farida, Alexandra Galinsky, James K. Hamzey, Angelica Labadie, Melissa Marcinkowski, Timothy McWilliams, Jennifer Richards.

DAN CLARK WINS CAS ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Dan Clark was named one of two winners of the new College of Arts and Sciences Engagement Award presented by Acting Dean Tamara Jhashi last October at a meeting of the College Assembly. This new award was designed to recognize faculty who engage in the classroom, out of the classroom, and beyond the classroom. When he saw the call for nominations with the stated criteria, History department chair Todd Estes immediately thought of Dan and his many efforts on this front.

Dan has checked off all the examples of engagement cited in the

criteria: advising (Phi Alpha Theta and the numerous annual conferences where he has not only taken students but helped them engage with their peers by aiding their research presentations), mentoring student research (PAT double prize winner Adam Hobart and OU Outstanding Thesis Award winner Ann Marie Wambeke and a host of current and former M.A. students), community engagement (joining with a recent grad one Saturday to set up an oral history program at a community center to capture the stories of the Polish World War II resistance movement), working in outreach with our many graduates currently teaching in the area and for many years with the Waterford school system, and on and on and on. Professor Clark has maintained consistently this record of meaningful engagement on so many different fronts for many years now.

The award citation read: "In grateful recognition of your engagement with students through your support of the Oakland chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT), the national History honor society, for the past decade; for the leadership you have shared with these students resulting in this chapter being honored as the "Best Chapter in the Nation" for a university of our size; for your willingness to accompany students to various PAT regional conferences and to host this conference on our campus; for your scholarship activities that combined academic expertise with a commitment to create community partnerships through which oral histories of those who were active in the Polish resistance in World War II might be collected; for your guidance, technical expertise and encouragement that assisted Adam Hobart, an Oakland undergraduate history major, to gain recognition for writing papers worthy of the Nels Andrew Cleven Prize for the best PAT paper for two years running; and for your tireless efforts in mentoring graduate students, many who then teach in high schools in the

communities surrounding Oakland University."

Congratulations to Dan. As we all have long known, Dan has an exceptional record in this area and is a very deserving recipient of this Engagement Award. It is gratifying to see him recognized for his work and also to know that this work is no longer invisible. This award marks a public honoring of his very meaningful contributions to the broader mission of the department, the College, and the University.

KAREN MILLER HONORED AT FACULTY RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

For six years as department chair, Karen Miller regularly nominated her colleagues for recognition at the Faculty Luncheon in April. It is very fitting, then, that she was finally recognized at this year's event for her own service and hard work. Karen was one of eleven honorees from the College of Arts and Sciences and one of twenty-three overall. She was recognized for her past service as department chair and her current leadership of the AAUP chapter. Her citation in the luncheon program reads as follows:

Karen Miller last year finished a highly successful six year tenure as chair of the Department of History. During her time as chair, despite dwindling faculty numbers, Karen presided over a department that had many significant achievements: by faculty, through numerous awards and publications; by individual students (both undergraduate and graduate), in winning prizes across campus and nationally; and by the student honor society, winning an award as best chapter in the nation. Additionally, Karen provided unstinting support for her faculty in sabbatical and leave requests as they undertook the research and writing projects that led to the

department's outstanding publication record. Alongside her department chair work, Karen led Oakland's AAUP chapter during a challenging and busy year and continues her service as President this year. While still regularly teaching a variety of classes, Karen is also at work on several research projects of her own, focusing her attention on studies of U.S. politics and party development in the 1920s, and also on a study of metropolitan Detroit's growth and development between 1920 and 1950.

OU HISTORIANS WIN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Yan Li was awarded a \$10,000 Summer Research Fellowship by the University Research Committee for Summer 2013. Congratulations to Yan. These research fellowships are open to faculty across campus and are very competitive. This is great, exciting, and well-deserved and it is a terrific way for her to begin her Oakland career. Yan's funded research project is entitled "The Soviet Today IS Our Tomorrow": Reinventing Soviet Women in the State Formation of the People's Republic of China, 1949-1965." This fellowship funding will allow her to conduct research in China from May through August 2013.

Additionally, Karen Miller and Craig Martin both received Faculty Research Grants from the University Research Committee. Karen's grant is for a project entitled, "Federal Support for the Infrastructure of Detroit's Arms Industry during World War II." Craig's grant is for his project, "Impious Aristotle: History, Religion, and Philosophy in Early Modern Europe." Both Karen and Craig were funded in the amount of \$1,200. These are excellent accomplishments for Karen and Craig individually that reflect the quality of their work. They also reflect well collectively on

the quality and depth of research excellence in the department.

Congratulations to all these historians on their honors. They are the latest in a very long line of History faculty who have won both Summer Fellowships and Special Projects Grants.

HISTORY MAJOR PRESENTED WITH MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT FALL COMMENCEMENT

Robert Conner, who graduated in December with a double major in History and English, won the prestigious Meritorious Achievement Award and was featured as the student speaker at the Fall Commencement ceremony in December. The award is presented to outstanding students whose academic activities exemplify the variety and scope of work in the College of Arts and Sciences. He was nominated by History department chair Todd Estes and his nomination was seconded by English department chair Kathleen Pfeiffer. Conner was cited for his excellence in multiple academic undertakings, his substantive engagement in intellectual pursuits beyond the classroom, and his considerable personal strengths. One such example: he revised his HST 300 paper on the complicated relationship between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, did additional research and revisions, and succeeded in publishing the revised version as an article in *The Oakland Journal*. Conner is to be congratulated and commended for making the most of his undergraduate experience, and the department is certainly proud of him and his accomplishments.

CATCHING UP WITH...ALUMNI INTERVIEWS

Each year, we like to interview past Oakland graduates to get a sense of what they are doing now individually, and also to provide a sense of the range of options (career, grad schools, education, business) available to History majors. This year we caught up with three OU History graduates: John Bernia ('03), Dylan Tanner ('11), and Candice Yono ('11) and talked with them. Here are our conversations:

Catching up with....Dylan Tanner (Oakland '11)

Q: For starters, when did you attend OU and when did you graduate?

A: I started attending Oakland University in 2009 as a transfer student from a junior college. I was admitted as a psychology major, but switched to history before classes began. I have been interested in history since I was a little kid, and after taking two courses in the subject during my first year (Nationalism in Modern Europe with Dr. Hastings and American Labor History with Dr. Clark), I knew it was the right major for me. I served as the president of Phi Alpha Theta from 2010 to 2011. I graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

Q: What were the most memorable aspects of your time at OU as a history major?

A: For me, the most memorable part of being a history major was my involvement with Phi Alpha Theta. In 2010, I had the opportunity to attend my first academic conference at Western Michigan University. It was an incredible experience. Presenting at a conference allowed me to take a paper from initial research to public presentation. That's something that

undergraduates at many institutions never get a chance to do. When my executive board had the chance to organize a conference of our own in 2011, we jumped on it. Our regional conference remains my most vivid memory from my time as a history major at Oakland University. I also have really fond memories of my capstone project with Dr. Clark. I spent a summer doing archival research in northern Michigan and interviewed former state attorney general Frank J. Kelley.

Q: How large a role did Phi Alpha Theta, the History honor society, play in your experience at OU?

A: It's hard for me to overstate the importance of Phi Alpha Theta in my Oakland University experience. In terms of professional development, PAT afforded me the opportunity to closely interact with the History Department's wonderful faculty. It gave me an inside view on the history profession that I wouldn't have been able to get otherwise. One thing that I focused on as president of the organization was networking. I'm proud to say that we put a lot of history students in contact with alumni who were able to help them further their careers. Most important to me are the lasting friendships that I formed. Folks in the History Department might not be aware of how tight-knit Phi Alpha Theta is. All of us still talk regularly, and most of us hang out together frequently. When I used to recruit for PAT, I would tell people, "If you don't join Phi Alpha Theta, you're only getting half of your education." I still believe this.

Q: You are now in grad school in social work. What are you studying specifically? What might this lead to in terms of career options?

A: I'm in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Michigan. My focus is on clinical work, treating people with mental health issues through individual and group therapy. Right now, I'm interning at a substance abuse

treatment facility that works with parolees and probationers from the Michigan Department of Corrections. My agency tries to interrupt the cycle of addiction, abuse, and incarceration that many of our clients have been trapped in. Social work is a booming field right now, in spite of state and federal budget cuts. I could choose to continue working on the clinical side of things, or move into community organizing or management. Regardless, I'm not worried about job prospects.

Q: You also have a new blog about the liberal arts. Tell us about it-- what do you write about? Why did you start it?

A: Liberal Arts Survival (www.liberalartssurvival.com) was inspired by the Careers in History Panel that PAT holds every year. After graduation, I heard from a lot of people who attended our panel but were unable to find work. They said, "You should have warned us about what we'd be facing out here!" The job market is tough for liberal arts grads. STEM and "career degrees" have really stolen the spotlight lately, and there is a nationwide push to cut college programs that don't feed into a designated career path. But a counter-narrative is also emerging—in business, in tech, and in emerging fields—which argues that liberal arts grads possess "soft skills" that are hard to find among other college graduates. Things like critical thinking, research skills, and the ability to communicate effectively. Liberal Arts Survival shows liberal arts majors how to pair the soft skills they already possess with technical "hard skills" that employers are looking for. We have career guides, interviews with successful liberal arts grads, news, and advice. Brandon Lee and Jonathan Fouch—good friends and fellow PAT alumni—are also helping to build Liberal Arts Survival. I'd highly encourage history majors at Oakland to check it out and consider contributing to it.

We are always looking for fresh perspectives and opinions.

Q: Do you see yourself pursuing a career that uses history in some ways?

A: I don't think I'll ever stray too far from the fold. History was my "first love," in an academic sense. Believe it or not, I draw upon my history education daily in my current work as a substance abuse social worker. Entire books have been written on the history of drugs and alcohol in America, and the ways in which race, class, and ethnicity color any discussion of the topic. Knowing how to dissect and study an issue from multiple viewpoints helps me understand where my clients are coming from. Long-term, I'd like to gravitate back toward the history profession. I feel more comfortable pursuing a Ph.D. or similar degree after accumulating a level of life experience that could enrich my research and teaching.

Q: Do you still find time to read history books now? If so, what kinds of books and authors and topics are you drawn to?

A: Although I have been very busy, I'm still an avid history reader. These days, I've been reading studies of slavery and race in the North. One of my favorite books on the subject is "New York Burning" by Jill Lepore, which examines the circumstances behind the 1741 New York Slave Revolt. That's not exactly a recent work, but the American Historical Review has lately been publishing reviews on a number of new titles related to this subject. I'll have to read some of them soon. On a side note, the University of Michigan School of Social Work is across the street from the William L. Clements Library, which houses one of the best collections of early American primary source documents in the Midwest. I spend lots of time over there, particularly when they have an exhibition. Oakland students with an interest in American history prior to the Civil War should definitely make a trip down there. I'd be happy to curate!

Catching up with....John Bernia (Oakland '03)

Q: First, some biographical material. Tell us when you attended Oakland, when you graduated, and which classes and professors you remember the most and why? Which fellow students do you remember and are you still in contact with any of them?

A: I was an undergraduate student from 1998 until 2003, and my major was History. I also earned a teaching certificate through the STEP program. I remember my time as a student in the History department fondly, I had so many professors that inspired me and helped me grow. Faculty that really stand out from my time were Dr. Clark, Dr. Estes, Dr. Chapman, Dr. Kotynek, Dr. Miller and Dr. Finucane. Each of them taught me important lessons about thinking about what I read, writing, asking questions, and being prepared. I was active in Phi Alpha Theta during these years, which helped me grow as a leader. I was good friends with Chris Belcher, Josh Carroll, Jim Walsh, and Josh Harwood. I keep in contact with all of them, and each has gone on to be successful.

Q: Give us an update on your career, personally and professionally, since Oakland.

A: After graduation, I was hired to teach 7th grade Social Studies in Lake Orion Community Schools. Five years later, I became an Assistant Principal, and I was later promoted to my current position, Principal of Oakview Middle School. I earned a Master's and Education Specialist Degree in Education Leadership from OU, and currently am in my first year of Ph.D. studies. In my personal life, I married my college sweetheart Jen (OU class of 2002), and she and I adopted our daughter Averie last summer. We're also the proud parents of two rescue dogs, Leyland and Sparky Lou.

Q: Where do you work now? And what is the best and worst thing about your current position?

A: Currently, I serve as the principal of Oakview Middle School. To put it mildly, public education faces a number of challenges financially, from government policies, and from the media. However, there has never been a better time to work in public education. Delivering high quality services to students in tough times is immensely rewarding. The opportunity to greet 563 middle schoolers each day and be a part of their lives is far and away the best part of my work.

Q: What do you see now, after the passage of some time, as the greatest benefits of being a history major at Oakland? How has it helped you?

A: Oakland's history program helped me grow as a writer. The time spent editing and refining my thoughts on paper has proven invaluable to me, as I face the need to write something concise, yet meaningful daily for a variety of audiences. While a blank word document can still be intimidating, I am better able to get my ideas on paper, then refine them into a readable message because of my experience at Oakland. There was a considerable amount of reading when I was a student at OU, and keeping up with that helped me become more self disciplined, and allowed me to develop the underlying skill of thinking about and asking questions about what I read. OU's program helped me better analyze what I read. Lastly, in most of the courses I took, the need to be prepared for class discussions has been vital to my professional success by giving me the skill set to get ready for a big meeting or a presentation.

Q: Do you still use history in your current job? Do you still read history on your own?

A: Aside from stopping by a Social Studies or History class to talk with students, I don't use the content from

my history courses very often in my work. I still read a lot of history on my own however. Right now, in my spare time, I'm reading "The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin" by Gordon Wood.

Q: Are there any things you wish you had done differently at Oakland while a history major? Taken different classes, pursued a particular minor, done other extracurricular activities?

A: If I could go back and experience Oakland all over again, I would not change anything. I loved my coursework, the lessons I learned, and the relationships I built with my peers and with the faculty.

Q: What advice would you give to current Oakland history students to help them get the most out of their education?

A: I would encourage current students to embrace the feedback they receive from their professors. Grades matter, but not nearly as much as the comments on your papers and the chance to grow. Stop by and visit during office hours, ask questions on how you can improve, and make the most of the time you are there. I'd also add a key lesson I learned from Dr. Finucane, "If you haven't thought about it, you haven't read it."

Catching up with....Candice Yono (Oakland '11)

Q: For starters, tell us when you attended Oakland and when you graduated?

A: I attended Oakland University from 2007-2011. I graduated in April 2011, with a double major in History and French, and a minor in English.

Q: What were the best and most memorable parts of being a

history major? Key classes, fellow students, groups, professors?

A: There are so many things that I loved about being a history major. One of them was learning how to weave together historical evidence to craft a narrative. It's a process that involves the fun and frustration of searching for sources, piecing them together, and writing and re-writing to create documents that educate and inform.

Another great part of being a history major was the chance to attend numerous lectures that professors offered and to participate in regional conferences. During my senior year, I had the opportunity to present my capstone paper at the Phi Alpha Theta Michigan Regional Conference. It was a bit nerve wrecking to present before a group of people and to have your work questioned, but it was a great experience overall.

Q: You took one year off of school in between your undergrad and grad education. How did you spend this time?

A: After graduating from OU, I spent eight months teaching English in France with the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). I worked in two elementary schools in the city of Besançon, in eastern France. Living in France for eight months was a wonderful opportunity to travel around not only France, but also all of Europe. It was also a chance to put my French knowledge into practice, to sample the delicious French wines, cheeses and pastries, and to visit so many of the sites that I had read or learned about in coursework.

Q: You have continued your education in grad school now.

What are you studying and where are you doing it?

A: This past fall, I started working on two graduate degrees at the University of Michigan, a Master of Science in Information, and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration. In the School of Information (SI), I'm specializing in Library and Information Science.

One of the best things I've been able to do in grad school so far was participate in a week long internship with the Office of Art and Archives in the U.S. House of Representatives. The internship was part of SI's annual Alternative Spring Break Program. During the week, I worked on various projects, including writing a blog post for the website, archiving photos and documents, and creating a finding aid for a House Session of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The highlight of the week came on the last day of the internship when my project mentor took me and a few other interns to the National Archives for an exclusive tour of the treasure vault, which contains all of the documents from the 1-28th Congresses. I got to see, literally inches from my face, one of the original drafts for the Bill of Rights! This draft had 17 amendments, with all sorts of notes and scribbles in the margins. It was incredible!

Q: How well did your history training prepare you for grad school? How does it help you do what you are doing now?

A: I learned many practical skills from my history training. Primarily, I'd say being a history major dramatically improved my writing skills. Apart from the historical seminar (HST 300) and history

capstone, all history classes required at least one research paper. These classes, along with the research methods courses, solidified how to carefully craft an argument using primary and secondary sources. In addition, these papers offered an opportunity to write about a single event from multiple perspectives. Whenever I write papers in my graduate courses, or work on a project, I am constantly looking at the various angles that comprise an event. A few weeks ago, I was talking to some friends about a situation when I said, "there are always more than two sides to a story." One of my friends looked at me, laughed, and said "that's the history major in you!"

Q: What are your career goals now? What do you see you doing in 5 or 10 years? Where might this career take you (both geographically and occupationally)?

A: With two Masters degrees, I have a few different career paths that I can pursue. At the moment, I would like to work in an academic environment, at a research library, or in educational technology. This summer I have an internship with Gale-Cengage, an educational publishing company. which will hopefully help me solidify a more specific career goal.

Q: What kinds of activities or hobbies do you do for fun when you aren't studying?

A: I absolutely love cooking and baking. Last summer I started a food blog called Boushala (www.boushala.wordpress.com). I try to post recipes at least once a week, but even if I'm not posting recipes, I'm constantly cooking. Most of the recipes are Middle

Eastern, but there is definitely a little bit of everything on the blog.

FACULTY UPDATES

Sara Chapman Williams presented a paper on Cadillac, the early French official who oversaw the first French settlement at Detroit, at the French Historical Studies meeting in April in Cambridge, MA. She taught the capstone course this semester. Students in the class completed research projects focusing on early French explorations and settlements and French-Native American contacts, in the Great Lakes region (early 1600s-1760s). This summer she will finish a textbook reader and work on her monograph about early Detroit and New France.

De Witt S. Dykes, Jr. has had a very busy year filled with speaking engagements and writing projects. He authored an article, "African Americans in Southeast Michigan: A Brief History," in Matt Hoerauf (ed.) Struggles and Triumphs of Peoples of Color in Michigan, and he is researching and writing biographical articles on "Josephine Baker," and "Bessie Smith" to appear in a forthcoming collection by Lean'tin L. Bracks and Jessie Carney Smith (eds.), Black Women of the Harlem Renaissance Era, (Scarecrow Press, forthcoming, 2013). He was an invited speaker for a Smithsonian Teaching American History workshop on "Mission Accomplished But A Dream Deferred: Race and Ethnicity in The World War II Period" in Ionia, Michigan last June. Additionally, De Witt was a speaker or panelist on various topics at events sponsored by the Optimist Club of Detroit, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and the First Michigan Equity Network Conference at Michigan State University. Finally, in February he was interviewed on the Jo Ann

Watson Television Show, WHPR Channel 33 in Highland Park.

Todd Estes has enjoyed his first year as department chair but has been busy with other projects as well, to which he hopes to turn his full attention this summer. His projects can be divided into two categories: “The Big Thing,” his book manuscript on the ratification debate, and “The Little Things,” which include article manuscripts in progress on several of the numbers of *The Federalist* papers, on the problematic concept of the original intent and meaning of the Constitution, plus essays on the role of academic mentors and on the Electoral College landscape heading into the 2016 election cycle. Another project is a paper on Alexander Hamilton which will be presented at a June conference in St. Louis on “Revolutionary Prophecies: The Founders on America’s Future.” Todd is honored to be included in distinguished company with fellow participants Peter Onuf, Drew McCoy, John Murrin, Rosemarie Zagari, and Robert Ferguson. These conference papers will be revised and expanded for a volume of essays to be published in 2015 by the University of Virginia Press. Of course, Todd realizes that he’d make much faster progress on “The Big Thing” if there were not so many “Little Things” occupying his time. But he tolerates (even creates) these distractions and seems to be fine with them. His book reviews have appeared in *Reviews in American History*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, and *American Political Thought*. He also has been active as a referee this year, reading a book manuscript for the University of Virginia Press and refereeing three article manuscripts, two for *Journal of the Early Republic* and a third for

American Quarterly. Last October, he was discussion leader for a Liberty Fund, Inc. conference on the American founders and education.

Derek Hastings is nearing completion of his book on Ernst Röhm, and will spend most of the summer of 2013 in Munich tying up the last research-oriented loose ends. While in Germany he will also deliver a public lecture at the University of Frankfurt. In the past year Professor Hastings wrote book reviews for *German Studies Review*, the *Historian*, *H-German*, and *Catholic Historical Review*, in addition to serving as a manuscript reviewer for the *Journal of Modern History* and *German Studies Review*. He also delivered public lectures at Andover High School, Wayne State University, and Kirk in the Hills.

Craig Martin returned to Oakland University from the American Academy in Rome, Italy where he finished a book project. The book is called *Subverting Aristotle: Philosophy, History, and Religion in Early Modern Science* and will be published in 2014 by Johns Hopkins University Press. This year he presented at conferences in Pittsburgh, Toronto, and San Diego and began two new projects, one a translation of Renaissance medical treatises and the other a history of early modern understandings of the wind. He will be returning to Rome for the summer to work on these projects, aided by an Oakland research grant. Craig also gave a lecture on “Modern Historical Methods and the Scientific Revolution” in the History Comes Alive series.

Don Matthews was on sabbatical this fall and used the time to work on his book project, which is a study of US relations with revolutionary regimes in Iraq during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He

turned part of his research for this project into an article titled “Strategies of Corporatism: The Kennedy Administration and Iraqi Labor Mobilization under the Ba‘thist Regime.” It is now under review at a journal. In January he delivered a lecture titled “The Kennedy Administration, Counterinsurgency, and the Iraqi Ba‘thist Regime” at Wright State University as part of the university’s lecture series on the Middle East and Islam. Matthews also served this year as an anonymous peer reviewer of a book manuscript for a university press. Recent books citing Matthews’ publications include Jeremy Kuzmarov’s *Modernizing Repression: Police Training and Nation Building in the American Century* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012), Michael Bimhack’s *Colonial Copyright: Intellectual Property in Mandate Palestine* (Oxford University Press, 2012), Jacob Norris’ *Land of Progress: Palestine in the Age of Colonial Development, 1905–1948* (Oxford University Press, 2013), and Elizabeth Thompson’s *Justice Interrupted: The Struggle for Constitutional Government in the Middle East* (Harvard University Press, 2013).

Sean Moran chaired a session, “Emancipating Thematic ‘Familiars’”: Catholicism, Language and The Shannon,” at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies at Marquette University in October. In January he gave a lecture in the History Comes Alive series entitled “The Tudors and the Unity of England.” He was also busy completing three articles, two of which are in press and the third of which is under review. He also has three book reviews completed and forthcoming. On campus, he served

on the University Senate Budget Committee (SBRC) and the College Committee on Appointment and Promotion (CAP). Sean also reports that he is making major changes to his HST 341/541 course (Europe Since 1914) utilizing assigning films as the basis of historical essays.

During the past year, our recently hired Medieval historian **James Naus**, who joins us in August, has focused most of his energy working on his book, *The Capetian Kings and the Crusades*, which is under contract with Manchester University Press. He reports that everything is on schedule to submit the final manuscript in the next year. Recently, he has finished working through the proofs of two articles that are due to appear next year. During the summer (in addition to moving to Michigan!), he will be finishing a chapter of his book, and beginning work on an invited chapter in the Cambridge History of the Crusades.

EMERITUS FACULTY UPDATES

Although they've retired, our Emeritus faculty members remain very busy. **Carl Osthau** gave a lecture in November in the "History Comes Alive" series which was very well received by an appreciative audience including many of his Oakland friends. **Richard Tucker** keeps up a busy schedule of travel, conference participation, professional activities, and lectures including a recent one at Northwestern University. And **Mary Karasch** reports from Arizona saying "For ten days I entertained friends from Brazil and took them to the Grand Canyon and Indian reservations. Now, I'm getting ready to leave for Vienna on Monday. For some reason," Mary notes, "this year has proved to be very busy in terms

of travel." Mary will be visiting friends in Rochester in mid-June and we look forward to catching up with her.

ALUMNI UPDATES

The department takes great pride in the accomplishments of its former students, many of whom have enjoyed distinguished careers and have achieved prominence in a variety of fields (several of these are listed in the "Alumni Profiles" section of the department website). We are also proud of our younger graduates. The following is a brief look at a few of our most recent alumni, with a particular focus on those who are currently pursuing graduate study.

Several of our recent graduates have chosen to pursue Ph.D. degrees.

Heather Brothers, who completed her B.A. in 2009 and her M.A. in 2013, will begin work on her Ph.D. in modern European history at Michigan State University this fall. **Stephen Gutwald**, who received his B.A. from OU and his M.A. from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, is currently a Ph.D. student in European history at Central Michigan University. **Adam Hobart**, who completed his B.A. in 2011 and whose research won national prizes from the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta two years in a row, is currently a Ph.D. student in U.S. history at the University of Nebraska. **Elizabeth LaFray**, who received her B.A. from OU before studying at Erasmus University in the Netherlands for a year, is currently a Ph.D. student in European history at Central Michigan University. **Seth Schindler**, who completed his B.A. at OU and his M.A. at the University of Freiburg in Germany, is currently a Ph.D. student at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. **Andrew Stonehouse**, who received his B.A. from OU and his M.A. from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, will begin work on his Ph.D.

in modern European history at McGill University in Montreal in the fall of 2013. **Matt Zalewski**, who received his B.A. from OU and his J.D. from Wayne State, is currently a Ph.D. student at Michigan State University.

Other recent graduates have used their OU history degrees as a springboard for advanced study in a variety of disciplines. **Allison Bars** is currently a law student at the Wayne State University Law School. **Andrea Brandon** is currently pursuing a Master's degree in environmental science at Johns Hopkins University. **Benjamin Dacin** is currently a law student at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. **Allison Graves** will begin the M.A. program in English at Washington State University in the fall of 2013. **Stephanie Ridella** is currently a law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law. **Dylan Tanner** is currently pursuing a Master's degree in the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan. **Nathan Thomas** is currently a law student at the Michigan State University College of Law. **Candice Yono** is currently pursuing a Master's degree in the School of Information Science at the University of Michigan. This is merely a small sampling of the high-quality students trained within the department over the past few years. We congratulate these alumni on their academic accomplishments to this point, and we wish them every success in their further pursuits.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DEPARTMENT DONORS

The History department is deeply grateful to the individuals and organizations that have donated money to the department this past year. These funds help augment existing monies and help to fund

student scholarships, travel and research expenses for faculty and students, the "History Comes Alive" lecture series and many other worthy projects. We thank our donors for their generous support and wish to acknowledge them by name: the Community Foundation, Beverly M. Smith, Zachariah S. Crossen, Dr. James M. Montante, De Witt S. Dykes, Jr., Dr. John Barnard, Lee A. Casey, Carole I. Burdzinski, Craig W. Korpela, Jason Burnett, and Jeffrey Eberle.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS FOR 2012-2013

Congratulations to the following history students who earned degrees this past year:

History Bachelor of Arts degrees

Summer 2012: James D. Ball Jr., Nicolae Lucian Filimon, Joshua Robert Glynn, Darcy M. Guidice, Holly Ann Hammel, Mary Grace Hanson, Paula Kopka, Herlinda Marie Martinez, Jamie Steven Masaid, Matthew S. Merrill, Nathan Charles Mills, Leonardo Patros, James Davis Stoyanovich, Anne Kelsey Wilkinson.

Fall 2012: Ibithal Alnakash, Joseph A. Aprile III, Kyle Michael Belcher, Amber Renee Bentley, Robert Conner, Lawrence John Daversa, Alexander J. Dulgerian, Alexandra Eve Galinsky, James Christopher Giliberto, Elizabeth Rose Knapp, Stephanie Michelle Lyon, Sylvia Renae Marburger, Zachary R. Martin, Sarah Moussally, Joanna Theodora Mouzourakis, Ashley Kay Rhoten, Andrea L. Stabile, Lars Andrew Stinson, Martin L. Tallman, Stephanie Marie Touchette.

Fall 2012 Step Major: Nichole Rene Nash

Winter 2013: Briana Nicole Barnes, Taylor Alexis Barthlow, Kyle P. Bethel, Kevin Patrick Brady, Briana Noelle Buckley, Patrick Joseph Cassady, Nicole Marie Chinneck, Tara Nichol Clarke, Timothy Collinge, Zachary A. Crost, Cari Lynn Durant, Lars Ekstrom, Alaina Jaelyn Farber, Heather Christina Lin Ferow, Casandra Mari Flores, Allison Marie Graves, Brian Hannosh, Kristen Smith, Richard James Hulme, Reginald T. Lachowicz, Leslie Michelle Lorenz, Stephen M. Lovell, Jennifer Katharina Manns, Melissa Marcinkowski, Olivia Claire Marsh, Christopher Scott McMahan, James Peter Milne, Zakiya Marie Minifee, Christine Elizabeth Omilion, Holly Elizabeth Osentoski, Aleksandar Popov, Joseph Carl Pospisil, Christina Marie Radowick, David Gregory Reid, Niklas Patrick Rippon, Emma Lee B. Rosencrants, William Danaher Savage, Steven Nicholas Tomczyk, Jeffrey Joseph Valley, Lindsay Tate White, Brian Joseph Williams, Devin Blaine Winningham.

Winter 2013 Step Major: David Christine Heyza, Jeffrey Robert Kerr, Jennifer June Lunde, Joseph Gary Monette, Jessica Darlene Perkins, Melissa Zwolinski

FULL-TIME FACULTY 2012-13

Bekele, Getnet (PhD Michigan State 2004; assoc. prof.) Africa
bekele@oakland.edu

Chapman Williams, Sara E. (PhD, Georgetown 1997; assoc. prof.) Early Modern Europe, France
chapman@oakland.edu

Clark, Daniel J. (PhD, Duke 1989; assoc. prof.) US Labor
djclark@oakland.edu

Dykes, De Witt S. (MA, Michigan 1961; assoc. prof.) African American, US Urban, Family and Gender
dykes@oakland.edu

Estes, Todd A. (PhD, Kentucky 1995; assoc. prof.) Early National US, Revolutionary US, Political Culture
estes@oakland.edu

Hastings, Derek K. (PhD, Chicago 2003; assoc. prof.) Modern Germany
hastings@oakland.edu

Li, Yan (PhD, Northeastern University, 2012; asst. prof.) Modern China, Sino-Soviet, Relations East Asia
yli23458@oakland.edu

Martin, Craig (PhD, Harvard, 2002; assoc. prof.) Renaissance Europe, History of Science & Technology
martin@oakland.edu

Matthews, Weldon C. (PhD, Chicago 1998; assoc. prof.) Modern Middle East
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Miller, Karen A. J. (PhD, Columbia 1992; assoc. prof.) US 1877-present, Diplomatic, Political
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Milne, George E. (PhD, Oklahoma 2006; asst. prof.) Early American and Native American History
milne@oakland.edu

Moran, Seán Farrell (PhD, American 1989; assoc. prof.) Modern Britain, Ireland, 19th- and 20th-century European Intellectual
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PART-TIME FACULTY 2012-13

Crouch, Jace T. (PhD, Michigan State 1997; lect.) Europe
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Dye, Keith (PhD, Toledo 2007; lect.) US History, African American History
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Greenspan, Ian (PhD, University of California (Berkeley) 2006; lect.) Early Modern and Modern Europe.

Holland, Robert M. (MA, Wayne State 1972; lect.) US
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Miles, Mary Jo (MA, Detroit 1991 & Oakland 1992; lect.) US
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Shelly, Cara L. (MA, Michigan 1990; lect.) US
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Zellers, Bruce L. (MA, Clark 1978; lect.) US
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If you have information about yourself to contribute to the next newsletter please send it to estes@oakland.edu. We especially love to have the latest news from our alumni.