

# History Department Newsletter

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### News and Announcements

#### **History News is New**

This is the first issue of our History Department Newsletter. We are planning to distribute an issue at the start of each month of classes and hoping that you find this informative and interesting. You are also welcome to submit items for future issues if you like. Please just send your items to [pitman@macalester.edu](mailto:pitman@macalester.edu) with the subject line, "4 History News" This issue was created with the able assistance of Evan Soken, sophomore History major and History Department office assistant. Thanks!

#### **Welcome Professor Scott Shoemaker**

The history department is pleased to announce the addition of Scott Shoemaker to our faculty this semester. Scott is a Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. His focus within American Studies has been American Indian Studies and Museum Studies. He was the Consortium for Faculty Diversity Predoctoral Fellow in American Studies at Macalester from 2008-2010. He is a citizen of the Miami Nation and his dissertation, "Trickster Skins: Narratives of Landscape, Representation, and the Miami Nation" reinterprets sites of Miami Indian history through developing a specific Miami methodology based upon oral narratives in conjunction with landscape. He will defend his dissertation this semester. He is also involved in

and dedicated to the revitalization of *myaamiaataweenki* (the Miami language) as well as their traditional art of ribbonwork.

### **Professor Andrea Cremer's new book!**

Professor by day, fiction writer by night, Professor Andrea Cremer's first of four young adult novels, *Nightshade* will be released by Philomel on October 19. If you can squeeze a little more reading into your life, maybe this book's for you?

### **Deadlines for Study Abroad**

Starting this academic year, there will be one unified deadline for students wishing to study abroad in the fall and spring of the following year. Current **juniors** who wish to go abroad this spring may still apply by October 15, but they are the last class that can do so. By October 8, 2010, all **sophomores** who are considering studying abroad next year need to submit a form declaring their interest. The International Center will use these forms to schedule mandatory advising sessions with each student. It's an on-line form that can be found here:

<http://webapps.macalester.edu/forms/internationalcenter/interestform.cfm>

The form requests basic information and potential interests and is non-binding. Now is a good time to have a conversation with your advisor about your hopes for your study abroad experience.

### **Events**

#### **Senior Seminar Conference December 6**

On December 6 our seniors will be making presentations based on their senior seminar research. Save the date and make plans to attend. The Senior Seminar Conference will be from 7-10pm in classrooms on the ground floor of Old Main. There will be more information as the event nears.

#### **First History Salon is October 21**

The first History Salon of this year will be held Thursday, October 21 at 4:45 - 6:00 pm in the Old Main 4th floor lounge with the theme of "Cartography and History." It will feature a presentation by Maren Hagman, Senior History Major on "John Speed's Vision of Colonialism" followed by a talk by Ernesto Capello, Assistant Professor of History on "Aesthetics of Triangulation in the Second French Geodesic Mission to Ecuador."

Gatherings to socialize and discuss ideas have long been a part of human civilization. Plato's Symposium, for instance, represents a classic account of an evening of wine and philosophizing in Ancient Greece. The rise of Salons dedicated to cultural and scientific inquiry paralleled the advent of the Enlightenment and served as critical incubators for worldwide political and cultural innovation. Moreover, they afforded a public space in which to exchange ideas and worldviews not invited at the Court. As such, they played an important function in the rise of alternate political sensibilities such as Republicanism and Socialism, bolstered the place of women as crucial intellectual players, and introduced myriad artistic, literary, and musical experiments. Plus, they were fun!

The History Salon seeks to recapture the spirit of inquiry and conversation that animated these meetings. Each salon will feature Macalester professors and students enjoying discussions of our research and study of the past. The History Salon is open to all members of the Macalester

community with an abiding interest in exploring the issues that have shaped our world. Refreshments will be served.

### **Trivia Contest Deadline October 15**

Many of you are already familiar with the History Trivia contest. Welcome to newcomers! The history trivia contest isn't necessarily about history trivia, although sometimes it is. It's a trivia contest for history students. Each month (more or less, well actually never MORE) we send out a question via e-mail and you all get a chance to win the fabulous and rare, designed-by-Herta, history department t-shirt. **Here's this year's first history trivia question: Why is Macalester College named Macalester College?** Contest entry deadline is **Friday, October 15**. Submit your answer by phone (to Herta at 6493), e-mail ([pitman@macalester.edu](mailto:pitman@macalester.edu)), or campus mail (Herta Pitman, History), or in person in Old Main room 311. All correct answers submitted on-time are eligible to win. The person who creates the question determines the "correct" answer. One winner will be drawn from a hat containing the names of all correct answerers. You may only enter once per month and win once per school year. You've gotta try to win.

### **Peeps Diorama Contest Dates in March**

The "History versus Classics Peeps Diorama Contest" is just five short months away! Dioramas will be due the Monday after Spring Break, Mar 21. We expect that History students will make a competitive showing. Start thinking about your projects and saving random scraps now. And the event, "PeepsShow 2011" will be on Mar. 25. If you are thinking, "PeepsShow, what?" you can get a better idea of what this is by viewing the 2010 PeepsShow catalog here:

<http://www.macalester.edu/history/Peeps2010catalog.pdf>

and the contest announcement for the 2010 event is available here:

<http://www.macalester.edu/history/Peepscontestannouncement.pdf>

### **Opportunities**

#### **Would you like to help a nearby student work on a project for Minnesota History Day?**

Laura Jeffrey Academy is the girl-focused middle school located behind Dunn Bros and Jamba Juice. This is the first year LJA 7th and 8th grade students will have a chance to participate in History Day. Their Social Studies teacher is excited for students to begin researching topics for presentations with the theme of "Debate & Diplomacy". They are looking for support from Macalester students on this project--either working with students as they develop their presentation or to serve as judges during the school competition in early February. Here are links to related web sites:

<http://www.mnhs.org/school/historyday/index.htm>

[www.laurajeffreyacademy.org](http://www.laurajeffreyacademy.org)

Contact Sally Spreeman, Laura Jeffrey Academy Operations Manager at 651-414-6000 if you'd like more information

### **Student Research Awards**

The History Department has funding available to help defray expenses incurred by History students for their research projects.

**-The Bruce Fisher Fund** Established to provide resources for students engaged in History senior seminar research. The Department has provided reimbursements from the Fisher Fund to several students in the History Senior Seminar for things like parking, admissions and photocopying. In addition, the department has provided funding of up to \$500 to assist History students with the costs of travel to do research.

**-The Elmer Smith Fund** Established by Thomas B. Copeland, Class of 1972, author of Elmer Smith's (class of 1910) biography, "The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies." The Smith Fund provides cash awards to be given to a student, or students in the History Department to support student research, travel to conferences and the cost of research materials. The History Department has used the Smith Fund to partially fund (up to \$500) History students traveling to perform research, acquire resources, or attend conferences. **To apply**, submit your proposal in writing Lynn Hudson, the department chair. The proposal should include a description of the research, an explanation of how the proposed expenses will further the research, and an estimated budget. A request by e-mail is satisfactory.

## Community

### **History/Classics Community Bookshelf**

At the end of last year we started a community bookshelf with a "take a book leave a book" vibe. It's a resource to check if you are trying to save on the cost of textbooks. Come snoop around to see if the book of your dreams is waiting for you in the History office (Old Main room 311). You can also drop off any of your old books and feel the good karma.

### **Knitting at Mac**

Hey, why just sit when you can knit? Would you like to knit for a cause? Come see Herta in History office (Old Main room 311) and get some yarn and some ideas for projects at all levels (and help if you get stuck).

### **Popcorn in a Bag!**

Enjoy microwave popcorn in a paper bag. We have all the supplies and fixing for chemical-free microwave popcorn on the 3rd floor of Old Main. Come try it in Old Main room 309 or you can make this recipe at home:

1/4 cup popcorn

1/4 teaspoon salt

Paper lunch bag

Toss the popcorn with the salt in the paper bag. Fold the top of the bag over a couple times to close. Place the bag in the microwave and microwave on high for about 2½ to 3 minutes, or until there is about 1 second between pops.