



Newsletter

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News and Announcements

Senior Seminar Hosted Professor Mary Wingerd

Saint Cloud State History Professor Mary Lethert Wingerd Gave a talk to the Senior Seminar and other guests on Monday, October 1. Her talk title was "North Country: US Dakota War and the Making of MN."

Professor Wingerd's talk focused on the causes of the war, its aftermath, and the controversy that surrounds the telling of this story today, 150 years since the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Mary Wingerd, author of "North Country: The Making of Minnesota," is a Macalester alum.



Emilye Crosby Talk and Roundtable

On September 20 we were fortunate to host Professor Emilye Crosby, Macalester alumnus '87, Professor of History and Coordinator of the Africana/Black Studies program at SUNY-Geneseo at two events. Professor Crosby's lunch-time talk was "Anything I Was Big Enough to Do: Women in the Civil Rights Movement." The talk focused on women in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the organization of young people that grew out of the 1960 sit-in movement. Professor Crosby also gave a short, informal presentation on the practice of oral history based on her experience (including a project on school desegregation grounded in more than 100 interviews). Her presentation gave attention to race, gender, dealing with difficult topics and more, and was followed by a roundtable question/answer session.

Meet our Visiting Assistant Professors

Please join us in welcoming Katie Batza and Eric Otremba to the History Department. They are both Visiting Assistant Professors of American history for 2012-2013.



Katie Batza

Katie Batza comes to Macalester as a Visiting Assistant Professor of American history. She received her doctorate in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago where she also earned graduate concentrations in Gender and Women's Studies and in Work, Race, Gender, and the Urban World. She teaches courses on gender, women's history, urban history, history of sexuality, post-WWII history, the 1970s, and oral history.

Batza's work uncovers gay and lesbian health activism that began a full decade before the AIDS epidemic and places it within the larger social, medical, and political context of the United States in the 1970s. Her book, *Before AIDS: The Politics of Health, Sexuality, and Oppression in the 1970s* reveals the ways in which the state, anti-gentrification activism, Black Nationalism, the student movement, and the feminist movement

[<3 the Macalester History Department" Facebook page.](#)

each played a central, if often unintended role in changing the medical and social construction of sexuality during this period.

This fall Katie is teaching History of U.S. Feminisms and Gender, Race, and Health in 20th Century US. In the spring Katie will teach Women's History through Oral History; Sex and the City: Gender, Sexuality, and Urban Life; and Wars on Poverty.

On October 13th Katie will be presenting a paper entitled "Oral History in the Undergraduate Classroom" at the Oral History Association Annual meeting in Cleveland. She will also be presenting a paper entitled "Gay Health and the Wars on Poverty and Sickness" at the Workshop on the Comparative History of Women, Gender, and Sexuality on November 16th from 3:30-5:00 at the University of Minnesota in Heller 1210.



Eric Otremba

Eric Otremba is a visiting Assistant Professor at Macalester College, teaching classes on early America, Atlantic slavery, and the use of the Founding Fathers within contemporary religious debates. Eric earned his doctorate from the history department at the University of Minnesota in 2012. His research interests include Atlantic slavery; the Enlightenment and the history of science; early America within contemporary identity; and historical pedagogy.

Eric's current project is entitled "Enlightened Institutions: Science, Sugar, and Plantation Slavery in the English Atlantic, 1626-1700." The work examines confluences between improvement discourses associated with the early English Enlightenment and the concurrent proliferation of Caribbean slave plantations. This project has sent Eric to archives in Barbados, Jamaica, and the Huntington Library, as he traces connections between Baconian experiment, infrastructural improvement schemes, nascent political economy theories, English convict reform, and the expansion of slave-based empire in the seventeenth century.

Eric has also published and presented on a variety of other topics including early modern technology transfer, plantations and visual culture, conspicuous consumption in the colonial Chesapeake, Daniel Defoe, slavery's legacy within contemporary labor regimes, and teaching the U.S. survey.

Prior to Macalester, Eric has taught at the University of Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus College, and GTC College, a secondary school in Belize. He has led courses on early and modern U.S. history, world history, Atlantic slavery, and the history of technology.

This fall Eric is teaching American Violence to 1800: Warfare From The Age of Contact To The Revolutionary War; and Transatlantic Slave Trade. In the spring he will teach American Violence 1800 to 1865: Warfare from Early Republic to the Civil War; Slavery and Abolition during the Age of Revolution; and Religion and the US Founding: Contests over the Place of Religion in Politics.

Two Professors on Sabbatical this Year

Perhaps you have noticed there are not so many familiar faces on the third floor of Old Main this year. Both Lynn Hudson and Ernie Capello are on sabbaticals for the school year.

History News about YOU?

We'd like to include news about you and your study of history in the newsletter. If you have a story to share about your research, study abroad, internship, or connection to the history department please let us know.

Upcoming Events

Events to add to your calendar:

- [Dec 7 History Department End-of-Semester Lunch](#)
- [Dec 10 History Senior Seminar Conference](#)
- [Mar 25 Peeps Dioramas Due](#)
- [Mar 29 PeepsShow 2013](#)
- [May 6 History and Classics End-of-Year Picnic](#)

Professor **Scott Shoemaker will speak at the History Department Senior Capstone Seminar** on October 8. Scott has regularly offered a course at Macalester on the theme of Museums and Indigenous Peoples (with a public history focus). Scott also works at the Science Museum, where he is involved in an ethnobotany project related to a historical collection of Native American seeds. Scott has long experience with Native American History, American Studies, public history and museum studies, and ethnobotany/local knowledge of plants and cultivation. The place is in Old Main 009, the time is 7 to 8:30, the date is October 8.

Tuesday, October 9 Humanities 226 9:40-11:10 **Ryan Skinner** will be sharing his knowledge of African ethnomusicology in the context of oral history **during the African Life Histories class**. All are welcome, and any students who are interested are also invited to go to lunch with Ryan after the talk. Ryan plays the Kora, a Malian instrument that is commonly played during recitation of oral historical narratives and in other public and private performance contexts. He is currently an assistant professor of ethnomusicology at Ohio State University and is in the Twin Cities next week to give a talk at the U of M. Here is a link to his website: <http://music.osu.edu/people/skinner>

Career Development Center Roundtable Lunch for History Majors Monday, October 15 in the Old Main 4th Floor Lounge

Come meet members of the CDC staff and get help with your long and short-term career goals. The CDC has counselors who can help you with career planning, job search and graduate schools options. They offer resume & personal statement reviews, mock interviews, workshops, access to employment opportunities, and career assessment testing and interpretation to students and recent alumni. [Find their web site here.](#)

Lunch will be provided.

Archaeology Institute of America, MN Events

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012 at 11am (National Archaeology Day): Students in Archaeology: Poster Presentation of Recent Fieldwork, Anderson Student Center room 202, University of St Thomas

Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 6 pm: Tina Neuhauser, "Roman Provincial Theaters – A Review Based on Selected Examples," in the John B. Davis Lecture Hall in the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center at Macalester College
Hard copies of the October AIA-MN newsletter are available in the office

The October Trivia Contest

Here's the **October question: What are the names of the funds that can provide financial support for student research in the History Department?**
Contest entry deadline is **Friday, October 19.**



Submit your answer by phone (to Herta at 6493), e-mail (pitman@macalester.edu), or campus mail (Herta Pitman, History), or in person in Old Main room 311. 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 a fabulous and rare, designed-by-Herta, history department t-shirt. All correct answers submitted on-time are eligible to win. The person who creates the question determines the "correct" answer. One winner (or two, one student and one alum) 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.

Opportunities

Little Job in the Neighborhood

A local mother is looking to hire a history major to tutor her eleven year-old son in history. She basically wants someone to talk about history - specifically World War II - with her son about once a week. This could take place on campus. If you are interested contact Jill. Her email address is jillmoe1@hotmail.com.

U.S. Department of State Student Experience Program Summer 2013

A posting for this internship program is attached to the e-mail that disseminated this newsletter.

Student Research Awards

The History Department has funding available to help defray expenses incurred by History students for their research projects. Several History students have applied and received funding for their projects. If you have a project that you want to do and lack of money is holding you back, apply to The Bruce Fisher Fund or The Elmer Smith Fund. To learn more about these funds, go here:

<https://www.macalester.edu/history/studentopportunities/researchfunding/fundingapp.pdf>

To apply, submit your proposal in writing to Jamie Monson, the department chair, copied to pitman@macalester.edu. 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.

The Job Hunt

Our office receives occasional requests to forward e-mail announcements of events and opportunities to our majors and students in our classes. When possible, we consolidate these notes by including them in this newsletter. Otherwise, we generally reserve our e-mailing lists for department-specific communications. For information about job opportunities, we suggest advertisers post their opportunity with Macalester's Career Development Center (CDC). The CDC has career counselors who can help you with career planning, job search and graduate schools options. They offer resume & personal statement reviews, mock interviews, workshops, access to employment opportunities, and career assessment testing and interpretation to students and recent alumni. [Find their web site here.](#) Of course, a conversation with a History professor about your aspirations is recommended as well.

Community

Come to the Lounge

Use the community bookshelf, try knitting at Mac, make popcorn in a bag, and hang out in comfy chairs. Come spend time where History happens. Old Main room 311.

Alum News

To be included in the "Alum News" please send an update to Herta Pitman at

pitman@macalester.edu.

News from our alums:

First up, pairs of news from couples who worked in the History office while at Macalester:

Cassandra Berman, '06 is finishing up her dual-degree program at the University of Maryland, and will be graduating in May with a master of arts in women's and gender history, and a master of library science with a concentration in archives and special collections.

Dhruva Jaishankar, '05 is the Program Officer in the Asia Program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, as well as a Fellow at the Takshashila Institution in India. He completed a master of arts in security studies at Georgetown University in May 2011. In the fall, Dhruva and Cassandra will be moving to the Boston area, where Cassandra will begin a doctoral program in early American gender history at Brandeis University, and Dhruva will continue his work for the German Marshall Fund.

Karlos and Jennie (Snyder) Hill, both '02, stopped by the department in the summer. Karlos is now a Professor of History specializing in African American History, Lynching, and Anti-Lynching Protest, at Texas Tech University. Jenny is the Executive Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of the South Plains in Lubbock, Texas.



Margot Kane, '02 shares her own alumni note.

"I graduated in '02 with a History & Spanish double major and promptly went to work in a field with no direct relation - international development & women's reproductive health. Several years later I got an MBA from the University of California - Berkeley, went to work in community development finance, and I now work in D.C. at the Calvert Social Investment Foundation in the field of what is known as "impact investing," where we seek to channel private investment dollars into social and economic development around the world. A common thread for me throughout these career turns has been that one of my most defining skill sets, and one that I increasingly value in others, is the ability to write clearly and with a strategic purpose. This skill is as important in finance and fundraising as it is in more academic pursuits. I credit this ability in no small part to Emily Rosenberg's Modern US History class and her weekly one-page assignments (one inch margins required!) where we had to articulate an original perspective on an historical event or issue. I would spend more hours writing and rewriting and thinking about these assignments than many of my 10-20 page research papers. The ability to get across an original, well thought-out argument in a concise and persuasive manner is a skill that will serve you all your life. (Also - it never really gets easier!)"

Joel Stegner, '71 provides an update from a history and geography graduate who didn't directly work in either major on graduation. He tells us he "planned to do so, going on to get a Master's in Geography in Penn State with plans to get a doctorate, but the real world intervened. I returned to Minnesota and pursued a career in health care strategic planning and market research since the mid-1970s. I did use my history degree in three ways - first, through a personal interest in genealogy, second through work organizing class reunions both for my HS and at Mac (what is more historic than a class reunion?) and finally in historic preservation - just wrapped up two years as Chair of the Edina Heritage Preservation Board (that involves geography as well, by the way)."

Joel says, "Using your degree to improve the quality of your life and that of your community is just as legitimate as doing so directly in your career."

Norman D. Stanton, '57 reports, "I enjoy the Macalester History Newsletter. My interest in history was stimulated by Dean J. Huntley Dupre who was among the best teachers I have ever known. He encouraged me to pursue an academic career in history and together with Dorothy Dodge helped me get established as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota where I pursued studies of ancient history with Tom B. Jones. I eventually decided not to go beyond the M.A. and studied for the ministry in the Presbyterian Church. The interest in history which had been kindled at Macalester never left me and always impacted my work as a clergyman."