

# History Department Newsletter

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**History Department Newsletter** **December 1, 2010 Vol. 1 Issue 3**

### News and Announcements

#### **Professor Jamie Monson Awarded Fellowship**

Next year, Professor Monson will be a senior fellow at the Humboldt University in Berlin, participating in a research circle called "ReWork: Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History." While in Berlin, she will be writing her new book, based on the research she has been carrying out in China, Tanzania and Zambia. The title of her project is, "Building a Construction Generation: Labor, Life Cycle and Technology

Transfer in a Chinese Development Project in Africa." In the project she is also collaborating with a Chinese historical documentary film-maker, Ru Sheng, who will be developing a documentary film about the project while she writes the book.

How cool is that?

During the summer months she will travel to China, Tanzania and Zambia to continue to gather additional research materials for the Berlin project.

So... if you are a junior and you want to take a class with Jamie Monson, next semester would be your chance.

#### **Alum Rose Friedman wins Barbara Wertheimer Prize**

The New York State Labor History Association has announced that the 2010 Barbara Wertheimer Prize in Labor History has been awarded to **Rose Friedman** for her essay, "The IWW and the Mesabi Miners, 1916-1917." The Wertheimer committee was very impressed by Ms. Friedman's sophisticated handling of the idea of "race management" and her thoughtful analysis of the divergent forces at work in the IWW and the Mesabi mines. Her research paper was written for Professor Peter Rachleff while a student at Macalester College.

The Barbara Wertheimer Prize recognizes serious study in labor and work history among undergraduate students. The New York Labor History Association awarded the prize to Ms. Friedman for the best research paper written during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Twelve years ago, History alum Ryan Murphy '99 won the same prize for his paper on the deregulation of the trucking industry. A month ago, Ryan successfully defended his PhD dissertation in American Studies at the U of MN.

Hooray for History grads!

#### **History Search News**

Did you know that Maya Lindberg and David Bliss are representing you on the History Department search for a new tenure-track faculty member in **Pre-1800 C.E. Global/Comparative History**? They will be calling for volunteers to attend classes and go to lunch with the candidates when they come to campus in February. So be prepared to participate in all the search action in late January and February.

#### **Update for Majors**

History majors graduating after 2012 are required to take a second 300-level course, in addition to "The Study of History. We have three available for you to consider this spring: Hist 343-01 The US and the Global Environment, Hist 362-01 The Soviet Union and its Successors, and Hist 394-01/Reli 394-02 Conquering the Flesh: Renunciation of Sex and Food in the Christian Tradition. The department will also accept Amst 315-01 "Transnational American Studies: Politics and Cultural Exchange" as fulfilling this requirement.

#### **Introducing the Melanies**

For Spring term we will have two new visiting professors teaching courses for the department, and they are both named Melanie.

Melanie Huska will teach a course while Ernie Capello is on sabbatical, called "From Telenovelas to Tacos: Popular Culture in Mexican History." Melanie Maddox will teach "Discovering World History" by examining the origins of Athens, Dublin, Jerusalem, London, Rome and New York; "Medieval Travelers and Their Accounts," and "Monks, Lords, War and Pestilence: Europe 950-1350"

If you are still looking for one last course to perfect your spring schedule think about adding one of these.

#### **Farewell to Scott Shoemaker**

Please join us in bidding a fond farewell to Scott Shoemaker, who taught two courses for our department this fall. Scott carted vans full of students on field trips to museums all over Minnesota, and kindly participated in one of our "History Salon" evenings with his presentation on "*Wiihsakacaakwa's* Bloody Nose: Performing Indiana Miami Identity through the *Mahkoonsahkwa* Pageant, 1926-1935".

He won't be going far. In the spring, he'll be teaching "Explorations of Race and Racism" in American Studies.

#### **Events**

##### **Senior Seminar Conference Monday, December 6**

Every December, our senior majors participate in a conference to share the results of their research for our senior seminar. This year's event is on Monday, from 7:00-10:00 pm in Old Main's first floor classrooms. The conference has two sessions. Session One from 7:00-8:15 will have three panels on:

- Food and Drink: Ethnicity, Labor & Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century Minnesota
- History, Myth & Power: The Conscious (Re) construction of the Past
- Gender Trouble: Crossing Border, Reinterpreting Sources

Session Two from 8:30-10:00 will have three panels on:

- Minnesota Not So Nice: Political Tensions in the Late Twentieth Century
- Conflicting Histories: Remembering, Forgetting and Inventing
- Contested Terrains: Popular Culture and Urban Education

Juniors, Sophomores and First-years who are planning to be majors should come to get a look at what you'll be doing in a year or few. Others should come because there's a lot of interesting history to enjoy.

### **History End-of-Semester Lunch Monday, December 13**

You are all invited to our end-of-semester lunch on December 13 from noon to 1:00 in the Old Main 4th floor lounge. Come enjoy the food, fun and fabulous folks. Plus we'll have our second-chance trivia contest T-shirt drawing. You should be there.

### **Invitation to "Baroque Art History" Class Presentations**

Also on December 13, but from 6:00-8:00 pm, in Markim Hall, you are invited to attend the presentations by the students in our Baroque art history course. The poster for the event is attached to this e-mail.

### **Trivia Contest Winner, and December Trivia Contest**

Congratulations to **Rebecca Boylan**, who is the winner of last month's trivia contest. Rebecca, please stop by the office to pick up your fabulous and rare, designed-by-Herta, history department t-shirt. Last month's question was: Name a book published by any Macalester History professor. Correct answerers named books by Andrea Cremer, Jamie Monson and Peter Rachleff. **Here's the December Question: What is a good reason for you to attend the History Senior Seminar Conference?** Contest entry deadline is **Sunday, December 12**. Increase your chances to win by submitting a correct answer AND coming to the end-of semester lunch, where we'll have a must-be-present-to-win second chance drawing. 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. 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. 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 three short months away! Dioramas will be due the Monday after Spring Break, Mar 21. We expect that History students will make a competitive showing. You can get a head start on your project over winter break. 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>

### **George Washington at the History Museum**

The Minnesota History Center announces that a new large-scale traveling exhibit that explores the "real" George Washington will open on Feb. 22. "Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon" will be on display from Feb. 22 to May 29, 2011 at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. They say, "this exhibit is rich with artifacts, paintings, highly-produced videos and forensically reconstructed wax figures of Washington as a young man." You didn't expect he'd really be there, did you?

## **Opportunities**

### **Grants: Congressional Research Awards 2011**

The Dirksen Congressional Center invites applications for grants to fund research on congressional leadership and the U.S. Congress. A total of up to \$35,000 will be available in 2011. Awards range from a few hundred dollars to \$3,500. Stipends will be awarded to individuals (not organizations) on a competitive basis. All proposals must be received no later than March 1, 2011.

If you want to learn more check out the attached PDF called "Congressional Research Grants"

### **King's College London (UK) Graduate Scholarships**

King's College is now "accepting applications for King's Graduate School scholarships, for MA, MRes, MPhil and PhD programmes commencing September 2011." Degree programs available range "from taught MAs to research degrees, covering periods from ancient history to the present day." If this is of interest to you, check out the attachment called "King's College Scholarships."

### **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:

<http://www.macalester.edu/history/prizes/#research>

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**

### **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.