

San Jose State  
University  
Department of History  
Spring 2010  
Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

Happy New Year from the faculty and staff of the Department of History at San Jose State University. During these challenging times, we're giving a great deal of thought to how best to prepare current and future students. Our curricular discussions focus on how best to teach skills and expose students to content and historiography, while pedagogical discussions suggest new ways to incorporate technology and a greater variety of teaching methodologies. In the midst of change, we take comfort in the fact that the characteristics most associated with those who study history—the abilities to think, write, and speak clearly and critically, tolerance, intellectual curiosity, an appreciation of diverse peoples and cultures, discipline, and perseverance—will continue to serve students well.

Those of you who have completed either a history major or minor or a graduate degree with us will recognize both continuity and change in our approach to the past, just as historians have traditionally studied both continuity and change in societies both near and distant.

We hope this newsletter will update you on the activities of faculty members and recent graduates, provide exposure to

campus resources you might not be aware of, and explain some of the challenges we face as state support for public higher education shrinks.

Should you be interested in pursuing a Masters' Degree in History, I encourage you to contact our graduate advisor, Dr. Libra Hilde, at (408) 924-5512 or [lhilde@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:lhilde@email.sjsu.edu). If you'd like to discuss departmental issues or just "talk history," please feel free to make an appointment with me at (408) 924-5500 or send email to [Patricia.Hill@sjsu.edu](mailto:Patricia.Hill@sjsu.edu). It will be a pleasure to meet you or renew an acquaintance.

Dr. Patricia Evridge Hill  
Associate Professor and Chair

### Department Partners with Local School Districts to Improve Professional Development for History Teachers

Through the efforts of **Dr. Patricia Lopes Don**, the SJSU Department of History and the Santa Clara County Office of Education received a three-year Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Between 2007 and 2009, the grant brought a cohort of almost 30 new graduate students to SJSU, all of whom are secondary history teachers in Santa Clara County. Federal funding supported half of the teachers' Master's degrees and provided generous book stipends. In

exchange, the teachers developed curriculum units based on their graduate course work and have taken the lead in their districts' professional development activities. Many of the teachers in our first grant cohort will complete their MAs in during the 2009-2010 academic year.

On the heels of this success, the Department is a partner on three additional Teaching American History grants that were awarded in July of 2009. Over the next three to five years, we will work with high school teachers from San Jose's East Side Union High School District seeking to incorporate new scholarship in their teaching of the 20th century. **Jane Narveson**, an SJSU alum and veteran history teacher at Independence High School and **Dr. Patricia Evridge Hill** will coordinate grant activities. Along with Dr. Hill, **Dr. Ruma Chopra, Dr. Glen Gendzel, Dr. Robert Kumamoto, Dr. Steven Millner and Dr. Frederic Propas** will make grant-supported presentations and serve as mentors for East Side teachers.

The Department has begun work with **Dr. Bill Hanna** of SJSU's Connie L. Lurie College of Education to implement a three-year Teaching American History grant program focusing on historical biography for elementary and middle school teachers from San Jose's Berryessa, Evergreen, and Oak Grove districts. Drs. Hill, Kumamoto, and Millner will serve as the lead scholars associated with this grant project.

Finally, Drs. Chopra, Gendzel, Hilde, Hill, Millner, and **Dr. Margo McBane** will make presentations and mentor 5th, 8th, and 11th grade teachers in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister, and San Benito County over the next five years as part of a third Teaching American History grant awarded to the Central Coast American History Consortium.

Since 2007, the Department is four-for-four in obtaining these highly competitive, peer reviewed federal grants. These achievements underscore our commitment to improving the quality of history instruction in the region and interest in working with history teachers in area schools.

### **Mary Pickering's Comte Trilogy Nominated for Pulitzer Prize in Biography**

Cambridge University Press published the second and third volumes of Dr. Pickering's *August Comte: An Intellectual Biography* this past fall. The first volume appeared in 1993. This monumental achievement, undertaken over an almost 30-year period while Dr. Pickering completed the Ph.D. in History at Harvard University and taught history at Pace University in New York and SJSU, has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Biography.

Dr. Pickering is a "new style" intellectual historian whose work in the history of ideas focuses on Comte (1798-1857), the founder of

modern sociology and a philosophical movement called positivism. University of California, Santa Cruz historian Jonathan Beecher notes, "Mary Pickering has now completed what has to be regarded as one of the great biographies of a major nineteenth-century French thinker. What is most obviously impressive about this work is its thoroughness, its mastery of the details of Comte's life and thought. It is clearly the result of a prodigious effort of research. Hardly less impressive are the depth, the coherence, and the originality of the picture of Auguste Comte that emerges from this biography."

Dr. Pickering holds the Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and has published in the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, the *Journal of Women's History*, *Historical Reflections*, *Revue philosophique*, and *Revue internationale de philosophie*. In addition, she authored a pioneering essay, "Clotilde de Vaux and the Search for Identity," for the University of California Press's *The New Biography: Performing Femininity in Nineteenth-Century France* (2000) in which she charts de Vaux's efforts to establish herself as an independent voice in French philosophical circles. Dr. Pickering resurrects de Vaux not only from the diminution of Comte scholars but also from the neglect of previous feminist historians.

Dr. Pickering's spectacular efforts both inside and outside the

classroom are inspirational. Mary, both your colleagues and your students are proud of you. Congratulations!

### **SJSU to Host Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference April 23-24, 2010**

The SJSU Beta Lambda Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honor society, is organizing this year's western conference, which will bring more than 100 students and their faculty advisors to campus. The conference will begin on Friday evening with a reception cosponsored by the Department of History and Special Collections division of the King Library and feature student paper presentations on Saturday.

If you'd like to volunteer to work the registration table, run errands, etc., or if you would like to help underwrite the cost of the conference, please contact Phi Alpha Theta President **Crystal Hupp** at (408) 924-5500 or [Crystal.Hupp@sjsu.edu](mailto:Crystal.Hupp@sjsu.edu) or the group's faculty advisor, **Dr. Stanley Underdal**, at (408) 924-5524 or [stanleyu@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:stanleyu@email.sjsu.edu).

### **News of BA and MA Recipients:**

**Dr. Erik Esselstrom** [BA 1994], assistant professor of history at the University of Vermont since 2005, recently published *Crossing*

*Empire's Edge: Foreign Ministry Police and Japanese Expansionism in Northeast Asia* (University of Hawaii Press, 2009). He acknowledges SJSU's Dr. Bruce Reynolds's influence in setting him on the path to a career in Asian history.

**Iris M. Jerke's** 2003 MA thesis "From Black and White to Mixed: California and Its Public School System, 1850-1875" was published in 2008 by the German firm VDM.

**Brian McMorrow** [MA 2005] recently completed law school at the Pennsylvania State University.

**Marty J. Olson** [MA 2009] is working as an assistant investigator for the San Jose office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**Amy Goodpaster Strebe**, a freelance-journalist in San Diego, published a revised version of her 2003 MA thesis with Praeger Security International in 2007 as *Flying for Her Country: The American and Soviet Women Pilots of World War II*. A paperback version appeared in 2009 from Potomac Books.

### **2009 MA Theses:**

**Khatoun Nourallahi**, "Immigrant Iranian Women in Search of Sociopolitical and Religious Freedoms," Dec. 2009, supervised by Patricia Evridge Hill.

**Ronald R. Rossi**, "Trickle-down Paternalism: Mayor Angelo Rossi's Embrace of New Deal Style," May 2009, supervised by Patricia Evridge Hill.

**Ann M. Scott**, "Gender, Rhetoric, and Resolve: Female Authors and Authority in England 1350-1500," Aug. 2009, supervised by John Bernhardt.

### **2009 MA Recipients:**

#### **Spring 2009**

Jeremiah J. Couch  
Margaret Jane Honey  
Richard Lew Leon-Guerrero  
Martin Jennings Olson  
Ronald Raymond Rossi

#### **Summer 2009**

Ann M. Scott

#### **Fall 2009**

Alexis Anne Nesper  
Khatoun Nourallahi  
Lars Dean Pedersen  
Cristin Ann Reichmuth  
Rachel Yolanda Simonelli

**Department Graduates**  
***Making History as***  
**Instructors at Area**  
**Community Colleges:**

**Dr. Benjamin Kline** [MA 1980], full time with tenure at De Anza College, Cupertino

**Eric Narveson** [MA 1986], full time with tenure at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose

**Amy Brewster** [MA 2008] at Hartnell College, Salinas

**Rob Cirivilleri** [MA 2000] at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose

**Sally Enriquez** [MA 2002] at Gavilan College, Gilroy

**Laura Guardino** [MA 2003] online at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose

**Iris M. Jerke** [MA 2003] at San Jose City College

**Aime McNamara** [MA 2006] at Cabrillo College, Aptos

**Vicki Robison** [MA 2007] at West Valley College, Saratoga and Hartnell College, Salinas

**Paul Stamp** [MA 2005] at Gavilan College, Gilroy

## **Faculty Accolades and Publications**

Popular military historian **Dr. Jonathan Roth**, previously a winner of SJSU's Outstanding Teaching Award, published *Roman Warfare* with Cambridge University Press in October of 2009. The book surveys

the history of Rome's fighting forces from their inception in the 7th century BCE to the fall of the Western Empire in the 5th century CE. Roth highlights the changing arms and equipment of soldiers, unit organization and command structure, and the wars and battles of each era. Intended for students of the ancient world and military history, the narrative provides a context for Rome's changing tactics and strategy and a platform from which to discuss combat techniques, logistics, and other elements of Roman war.

Also in the fall, Dr. Roth released a 48-part series of lectures for the Teaching Company's Great Courses. The series, entitled "War and World History," is not a traditional military history but rather covers the relationship between war, technology, society, the economy, and culture from the Paleolithic to the present. The series is available in both DVD (video) and CD (audio) versions.

Congratulations to Jonathan on seeing two major projects to fruition!

**Dr. E. Bruce Reynolds** has been awarded a sabbatical during the spring semester of 2010 to work on a new research project featuring American diplomat Willys R. Peck. A detailed study of Peck's career will provide insight into the nature of American relations with China in the decades before World War II. Dr. Reynolds's recent research resulted in *Thailand's Secret War: OSS, SOE, and the Free Thai Underground during World War II*

(Cambridge University Press 2005). In addition, he edited a highly regarded anthology, *Japan in the Fascist Era* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2004).

We'll miss you this spring Bruce, but wish you a productive sabbatical!

The Department's newest addition, **Dr. Ruma Chopra**, has signed a contract with the University of Virginia Press to publish a revised version of her 2007 University of California, Davis dissertation to be titled "Through Loyalist Eyes: The American Revolution as an Unnatural Rebellion." In the short time she has been at SJSU, Dr. Chopra has presented academic papers to experts at the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, at the annual meeting of the largest of our discipline's professional organizations, to historians and scientists at specialized conferences, and to Santa Clara County secondary teachers. Dr. Chopra teaches undergraduate and graduate classes on colonial America, the American Revolution, and the Atlantic World. Welcome Ruma!

Bay Area native and California specialist **Dr. Glen Gendzel** has seen three significant journal articles appear in 2008-2009. "Not Just a Golden State: Three Anglo 'Rushes' in the Making of Southern California, 1880-1920" in *Southern California Quarterly*, "Pride, Wrath, Glee, and Fear: Emotional Responses to Senator Joseph McCarthy in the Catholic Press,

1950-1954" in *American Catholic Studies*, and "It Didn't Start with Proposition 187: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Nativist Legislation in California" in the *Journal of the West* display the range of expertise that SJSU students experience in his classes on California history and 19th and 20th-century American politics.

Congratulations Glen on an especially productive period!

## 2009 History Scholarship Recipients

### Winters Graduate Scholarship

Ray Buyco, Jane Cooper, Alicia Deadrick, Jill Elliot, Elizabeth Thomlinson

### Burmahln Fellowship

Dennis Browne, Sherwin de la Cruz, Christina Mune

### Barnes Fellowship

Wayne Boom, Josh Craig

### Casaroli Scholarship

Robert Harney

### Fletcher Scholarship

Jane Cooper

### Flood Scholarship

Dennis Browne, Zachary Johnson, Elizabeth Thomlinson, Greg Tomlinson

### Gelsinger Scholarship

Sherwin de la Cruz

**Hall Scholarship**

Ray Buyco

**High Scholarship**

Jill Elliot

**Panagopoulos Scholarship**

Alicia Deadrick

**Smith Scholarship**

Shoshana Schwartz

**Sweet Scholarship**

Greg Tomlinson

**Trenary Beddeson Scholarship**

Shoshana Schwartz

**Winters Scholarship**

Christina Mune

**New Online Databases**

SJSU's King Library subscribes to hundreds of databases to support historical research. Some provide the full text of articles and other secondary sources while others collect primary sources previously available only in far-flung archives and special collections.

History majors' and graduate students' favorite electronic databases include early American newspapers, 19th-century women's letters and diaries, the INTELECOM Online Resources Network, a collection focusing on historic and contemporary American politics, and Worldcat Dissertations and Theses, which indexes more than eight million academic works.

Newly acquired online collections include: African American Experience, American Indian

Experience, Latino American Experience, and Arts & Humanities Full Text, which supports research in classical studies, archaeology, architecture, philosophy, geography, religion, languages, literature, music, theater, film, and cultural studies.

Electronic databases can be found in the library's online catalog and on the Articles & Databases web page at

<http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases>.

SJSU alumni and community users can access these resources when visiting the library.

**If you've read this far. . .**

It's unlikely to surprise you to hear that the Department's faculty and programs have attracted almost 300 majors and more than 100 MA students. In addition, thousands of SJSU students enroll in the Department's General Education courses, pursue history minors, or take history courses about parts of the world and time periods of special interest to them. Indeed, the department has grown each of the past five years.

In this financial climate, however, growth doesn't necessarily provide security. All programs at SJSU have been assigned "enrollment targets" as the University downsizes to a level consistent with vastly reduced state support. This past fall, we lost seven part-time faculty colleagues and cut eleven class sections in order to remain under enrollment targets that have nothing to do with student demand and everything to do with a lack of

support for public higher education. The cuts next fall will be even more severe.

In this context, we appeal to you for support:

- If you can afford to donate to one or more of our endowed scholarships, please do so.
- If you'd like to endow a scholarship in honor or in memory of someone near to you, please do so.
- If you can underwrite any part of the students' Phi Alpha Theta conference this spring, please do so.
- If you'd like to underwrite the badly-needed refurbishment of the Dudley Moorhead Room, our department conference room that students also use as a lounge/study area, please contact us.
- If you can fund a faculty member's or a graduate student's travel to a professional conference to present the results of their research, or if you can provide a research stipend, please do so.

**Checks in any amount can be made out to the SJSU Tower Foundation—History Department and mailed to:  
Department of History  
San Jose State University  
Attn.: Diana Baker**

**One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192-0117  
\*please include the extended zip code—it's how campus mail gets routed.**

If you'd like to discuss a gift, please contact Dr. Hill at either (408) 924-5755 or [Patricia.Hill@sjsu.edu](mailto:Patricia.Hill@sjsu.edu) to explain your preferences.

***And here's something all of us can do despite the financial hardships of the past year. . .***

When you visit the SJSU Department of History's web page and then use the links to the online vendors listed in our Book Buying Program, which includes Amazon.com, the Department will receive a percentage of all book purchases. Please bookmark and use every time you buy books:

[http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/  
history/donations.htm](http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/history/donations.htm)

When you visit the web site, be sure to read more about *your* history department. You've provided us with a legacy of excellence, and our continued success ensures the value of your degree. It's a reciprocal relationship—and those are always the best kind.

Our Most Sincere Thanks  
to the Following for Their  
Support in 2009:

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