

# History Department Newsletter

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Assistant Professor, **Jordana Dym**, has received a NEH Fellowship to spend 2003-2004 working on a research project entitled, "They Also Mapped: Western Travelers' Cartographies, 1750-1950." The project analyzes the maps made and used by Western voyagers in their official and unofficial travels to Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia from the age of sail to the age of air travel. In this period, travelers' mapping transformed as institutional political and economic interests to sharing personal and leisure experiences. The intended final product is a book that hopes to interest scholars as well as to the larger audience of popular histories of science, cartography and empire."

Associate Professor, **Margaret Pearson**, had her paper, "Behind Social Structure: the earliest meanings of yin and yang" accepted for presentation at the Third International Convention of Asia Scholars, meeting at the National University of Singapore this August. However, the SARS epidemic has spread to Singapore, so she will not be going.

Assistant Professor, **Joseph Hodge**, attended the American Society of Environmental History conference, held in Providence, RI back in March 2003. He presented a paper called "The Colonial Office, Resource Management Debates and Tropical Agricultural Expertise, 1935-1955"

Professor Hodge plans to present another paper and lead a colloquium at Yale University for the Program in Agrarian Studies in the Fall of 2003.

## EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

The History Department sponsored



its second annual **Pot Luck Dinner** back in October of 2002. Many history majors and minors attended, as well as our history professors. It was a well attended event and a fun gathering for all.

The History Department co-sponsored along with Government, Foreign Languages & Literatures and the office of the Dean of the Faculty, speaker, **Dr. Carolyn Sorkin**, of New York University, who spoke on campus in April. Dr. Sorkin's titled discussion "Repression and Resurgence: Intellectuals and Chile's transition from military to civilian rule."

**African Lecture & Film Series** organized by Joseph Hodge, History, Lisa Aronson, Art & Art History and Chris Whann, University Without Walls was a great success. They plan to organize such a lecture/film series again for 2003-2004. Lecturer, **Paul Landeau** spoke on "Photo and Colonial Vision in Africa"; **Barbara Frank** lectured on "Working with Clay: Caste and Craft in Mali, West Africa"; and **James Muzondidya** our last lecturer in the series spoke on "Rethinking Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary South Africa"

Congratulations go out to Associate Professor, **Jennifer Delton**, for being awarded tenure to Skidmore College by the Board of Trustees. Tenure is awarded due to the recognition of the quality of work and ongoing contribution to your students, colleagues and profession at large.



Above is a photo of Joaquin Chavez's presentation on "El Salvador's Civil War" in HI 361H: War & Peace in Latin America, Fall 2002. Joaquin, who is from El Salvador, will receive his BA from UWW in Spring 2003 and enroll for a PhD in History at New York University in the fall.

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HISTORY EDUCATION (NCHE)

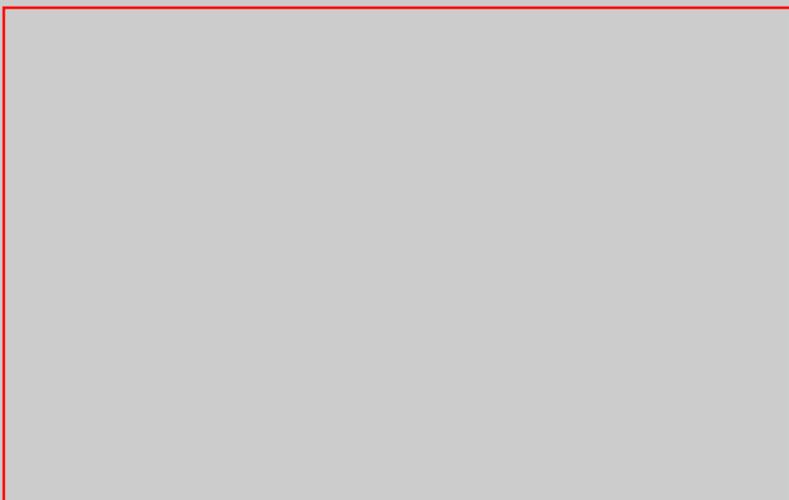
The National Council for History Education held its annual meeting in Saratoga Springs back in October 2002. The National Council for History Education speaks for history education at all levels, K-12 as well as higher education. Notables whom addressed the meeting included: **David McCullough**, the Pulitzer Prize winning biographer, **Kenneth Jackson**, renowned Columbia University historian, **Ric Burns**, Emmy award winning documentary film producer and **Richard Mills**, Commissioner of education for the state of New York. Professor & Chair, **Tadahisa (Tad) Kuroda** and the History Department hosted a dinner for the board members, and invited speakers as well as Skidmore students at the Surrey.

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## BALMUTH LECTURE SERIES

Presented by **Fritz Stern**, professor emeritus at Columbia University. Professor Stern spoke on "The German Past Distorted: The Political Costs" Fritz Stern, historian and educator, has been a Professor emeritus at Columbia University since 1997. He received his masters's degree and his Ph.D. at Columbia University, where he has been a professor of history since 1963. In addition, he has been a lecturer and instructor at Cornell University, the Free University in Berlin, and at Yale University.

He has authored several important books, including: *The Politics of Cultural Despair*, 1961; *The Responsibility of Power*, 1967; *The Failure of Liberalism - Essays in the Political Culture of Modern Germany*, 1972; *Gold and Iron: Bismarck, Bleichroeder and the Building of the German Empire*, 1977 (recipient of Lionel Trilling award, Columbia University); *Dreams and Delusions: The Drama of German History*, 1988; and *Einstein's German World*, 1999.



If you would like further information regarding the NCHE please visit their website. <http://www.history.org/nche/>



## PHI ALPHA THETA

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## CALLING ALL HISTORY



### MAJORS and MINORS

The History Department is looking for volunteers to serve on the **Advisory Committee & Academic Council**. Members of the Academic Council serve as liaison between faculty and students in each department. The person(s) will also facilitate and exchange ideas, recommendations, and information between students and faculty concerning academic and social matters.

The Student Advisory Committee is made up of four to six students who serve in an advisory capacity to the chair and review and discuss matters of common interest to the faculty and students. The committee will also meet with the short-list of candidates for any faculty positions that the department fills during the coming year.

Willingness-to-serve forms will be mailed out to all majors and minors at the end of the semester. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Advisory Committee or Academic Council, fill out a form and send it in! Representatives for 2002-2003 will be chosen and notified before summer break.

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## HISTORY AWARDS

### THE LEE

### HISTORY PRIZE

Established in honor of Gladys and Gordon Lee,

The Skidmore chapter (Alpha Delta Tau) was established at Skidmore College on April 20, 1989. Under the advisorship of Professor David Baum, the chapter hosted the society's Regional Conference in 1995. Professor Erica Bastress-Dukehart serves as faculty advisor to the chapter in 2002-2003. The eligibility requirements for Phi Alpha Theta:

- o A minimum of four courses in History.
- o A cumulative average of 3.10 or better in history.
- o A cumulative average in two-thirds of all other courses of 3.00

The induction ceremony and dinner was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at the Surrey Inn. Professor Patricia Ann Lee deliver remarks on the occasion.



New inductees for 2002-2003 include:

**Alexander (Sandy) Albert '04**

**Robin DePesa '03**

**Jaime Lyn Casta '03**

**Eric Fackler '03**

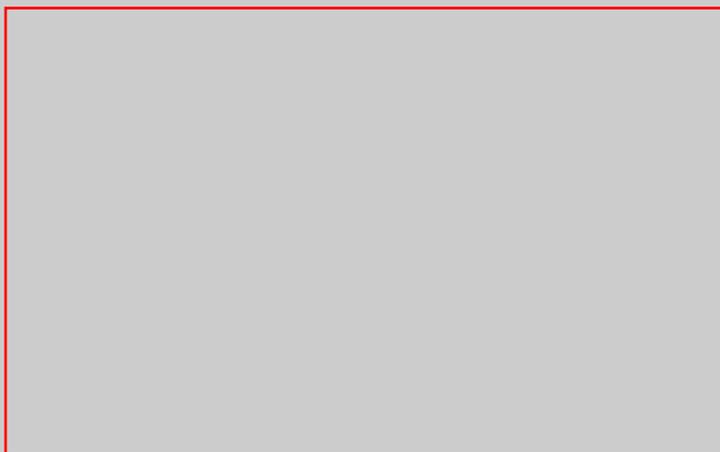
**Insley Blair Julier '04**

**Michelle Kurnik '03**

parents of Patricia-Ann Lee, Professor of History. Professor Lee joined the faculty in 1967. The Lee History Prize is awarded to an outstanding student in English or European history. The 2002-2003 Gladys H. and Gordon S. Lee History Prize will be awarded to **Jacqueline Cone '03**.

**ALICE FARWELL WARREN PRIZE**

Established in honor of Alice Farwell Warren, Professor of History 1937-1962, by an anonymous donor, is awarded annually to an outstanding student in History. The 2000-2001 Alice Farwell Warren History Prize will be awarded to **Evan Goldstein '03**.



Pictured above from the left, Evan Goldstein '03, Professor Tadahisa Kuroda and Jacqueline Cone '03

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**STUDY ABROAD**



**My Summer Experience in Bath**

This summer I attended the Advanced Studies in England (ASE) program in Bath, England. I would like to take this opportunity to share part of my experience for those interested in ASE as well as anyone who wishes to study abroad. Bath, my home

- Jennifer A. Lieberman '03**
- Robert N. Marcus '03**
- Lucas Huntington Murray '03**
- Joesph A. Seggio '04**
- Matthew Sweet '04**
- Sarah Thompson '04**
- Erika Thorkelson '04**

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**Fall & Spring Colloquia**

Associate Professor, **Jennifer Delton**, presented the colloquium for fall semester 2002. The theme was Politics and Culture. Below you will find the list of students whom presented papers and their titles.

- Samantha Frank**, "The Baylor Massacre: Motivations and Implications of British Brutality in the American Revolution"
- Lori Pelech**, "Funding the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956"
- Justin Stecz** "Democratic Propaganda and the New York city Draft Riots"
- Jason Wicha**, "Hetch Hetchy: The Implications of the controversy and the alternative sites that may have prevented it"

The colloquium this spring, Modern European History, was presented by Assistant Professor, **Matthew Hockenos**. The theme was Revolutions.

- Evelyn Brensinger**, "Stalin's Anti-Semitic Policies: An Examination of the Evolution of the Treatment of Jews in Stalin's Soviet Union"
- Katie Campbell**, "Masturbation: A Social Construction of a Sexual Act during the English Industrial Revolution"
- Jacqueline Cone**, "Radicalism in the English

for five weeks, is a small, beautiful, and charming city built on hilltops located about an hour and a half outside of London. This thriving and culturally enriched environment provided me with countless opportunities to learn and play. Historic and artistic museums, stunning Georgian architecture, live music, shops, spacious parks, and incredible hilltop vistas just to mention a few. I lived in the Linley House, a remarkable eighteenth century house or flat as they say in England. Fortunately, our housing put us in the heart of the city among residents of Bath as opposed to accommodation in campus setting. Our location significantly helped us to immerse ourselves in the local culture.

Across the street from Linley House was the academic building Nelson House, the original home of Lord Nelson. The building included classrooms, a student lounge, faculty offices, and a library. I attended two classes, Triumph of Georgian Bath in the morning and Roman Britain in the afternoon. A British professor from Oxford taught us about Georgian architecture both in the classroom and around the city. Studying architecture becomes so enriching when the subject matter is literally all around you. Two Skidmore professors Michael Arnush and Leslie Mechem of the classics department taught my afternoon class. This class showed me the difference between studying antiquity in the classroom verses witnessing first hand ancient ruins and artifacts. I had an intensive, enriched and fulfilling academic experience and received eight credits for it!

Of course my time at Bath flew by as all good times tend to do but I was fortunate enough to be able to travel for a couple weeks after the program ended. A study abroad program not only facilitates the act of immersing oneself into a new culture but it also jump-starts the wonder of travel. I, along with two other ladies, was fortunate enough to visit Paris, Barcelona, Nice, and Prague. With the help of our euro rail passes, we managed to travel quite

Revolution: The Levellers"

**Eric Fackler**, "The Corruption of a Revolution: The Degradation of the Ideals that Lead to the Jacobin Terror"

**Evan R. Goldstein**, "The Forerunners: In Search of Zionism's Ideological Origins"

**Micah Greenbaum**, "Red July: The Bolsheviks and Control of the July Insurrection"

**Eric Hanson**, "Great Powers and Greater Expectations: Western Europe and the Balkan States, 1804-1913"

**Michelle Kurnik**, "Bread, Politics, and the Triumph of Domesticity: Women in the French Revolution, 1789-1795"

**Lucas Murray**, "The Course of Irish Nationalism during World War I"

**Annemarie Padula**, "Thoughts on the United States Constitution"

**Matthew D. Sweet**, "Robespierre: Tyrant or Scapegoat"

## STUDY ABROAD

### **How to Combine Primary Source Research with your Study Abroad**

My name is Jaime Casta. I'm currently a senior with a self-determined major in Latin American Studies and a concentration in History. While studying abroad with the Skidmore in Madrid program for the 2001-2002 school year, I conducted research at the Biblioteca Nacional de España on the introduction of the smallpox vaccine into nineteenth-century Cuba. I also collaborated with a Spanish scholar from the Superior Council for Scientific Investigations, Dr. Ricardo Campos. My research efforts in Spain have resulted in a senior thesis entitled, "Race and Public Health: Dr. Tomás Romay and the Smallpox Vaccine in early Nineteenth-Century Cuba." Here are several tips that I gleaned from my research experience that will hopefully help you.

economically. Spending five weeks in Bath and three weeks in other European cities was my most monumental endeavor thus far in my life. Time spent abroad challenged me significantly, heightening my sense of awareness and enabling me to fully embrace my capacity to adapt as a human being. I have written this small explanation as a personal reflection but also with the intention to impart upon anyone who has not studied abroad how worthwhile and invaluable it truly is.

**-Samantha Frank 03**

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Marcy Caravelli '91**- Graduated from law school in 1999, worked as Trust & Estate Associate/Relationship Manager at Glenmede in Philly for the last two years, resigned in January and returned to Old Town Alexandria, Virginia to be with her fiancée.

**Rosalynn (Rosie) Chun '02** - After graduation she traveled to Washington, DC for a while then went to Ohio, her home town. She eventually made her way to NYC in search of a job. Currently working for a global insurance company, Chubb Insurance, in the entertainment division. Rosie hopes to pursue graduate school in a couple of years.

**Jacqueline Cone '03** - Reported to have found a job. She is working as a Marketing Assistant at Cambridge University Press.

**Will Connell '02** - Currently will is in Telluride, Colorado where he is spending time skiing and working as a ski instructor. He plans to return home in early April to study for the GRE's and to plan a low budget trip around the world for this coming fall.

There was a nice balance between communal and individual activity outside of class time. We spent one out of five weekends on our specific class study trips to various locations in London and another weekend on a group excursion to Cornwall, an interesting and scenic region in (southwestern) England. We hiked along the cliff like coastal path of the Atlantic Ocean starting at Lizard's point, the southernmost tip of England. We also took a day excursion with the group to Stonehenge and Glastonbury, but the rest of our time outside the classroom was left open for us to do what we wanted.

Among the many memorable experiences in Bath, I would like to share one in particular. Our time in Bath coincided with the World Cup Soccer (which is called football in England and almost everywhere else in the world I think) Games. Though not in America, soccer is one of the most popular sports around the globe and England is no exception. People ran though the streets before and after games draped in the English flag proudly chanting songs. I am not a soccer fan, but I could not resist the urge to join in the excitement of this event. A smile always comes to face when I recall sitting in a pub at six-o-clock in the morning watching England play Brazil in the playoffs. On the one hand, the events surrounding the World Cup Soccer games taught me a lot about a sport of which I previously had little knowledge. Secondly, although I did not realize this at the time, the games provided a window into Great Britain culture through which I perceived the passions, energy, and behavior of the local people.

The wonderful staff at ASE played a crucial role in making the program especially rewarding. Their willingness to help, teach, guide and entertain us never ceased to amaze me. They created an atmosphere in which it would be almost impossible to have a bad time. I felt a strong sense of camaraderie among all levels of the group including teachers, students, and administrative staff. The friendships I made in Bath both with the students and faculty are irreplaceable. I had the opportunity

**Anne Detwiler '02** - Accepted a position at the Environmental Education Camp in Northern California.

**Christine (CJ) Feehan '03** - Started a masters in Liberal Studies at Dartmouth and expects to complete a novel by summer 2004.

**Erin Goldberg '96** - Is currently the Assistant Director of Civil Rights at the Anti Defamation League (and a lawyer), in the DC Regional Office.

**John Kuehnle '01** -Is in the Peace Corps, in the northern mountains of Nicaragua. He reports that his service is approaching the halfway mark.

**Haidee Lorrey '91** - Earned tenure at Berklee College

**Robert Marcus '03** - Has traveled to DC for a job search. He has met a number of government officials and networking is going well. Robert plans to return to Skidmore for graduation in May.

**Meg McGinn '02** - Meg is currently deciding between two of her top choices for graduate school, University of Michigan, and the University of North Carolina. She is confident that either choice will be a good one.

**Dustin Reidy '01** -Is living at home in Scotia -- getting his graduate degree in Philosophy at Suny Albany.

We are always delighted to hear from our alumni members. If you would like to see your name in our newsletter, please submit your information to me, Susan Matrazzo, at [smatrazz@skidmore.edu](mailto:smatrazz@skidmore.edu)  
To access our History homepage on the web <http://hudson2.skidmore.edu/academics/history/hisindex.htm>

to meet students from other colleges as well as become closer to those I already knew from the Skidmore community.

**Have a game plan.** Begin a semester (or two) before leaving by brainstorming with your advisor. Come up with topics that interest you, do some secondary source reading to determine what aspects have already been studied, do online research and talk with your program director(s) to determine what libraries, archives, and other resources are available in the city and country that you're studying in. Additionally, talk with your advisor and the Dean of Studies Office about research grant opportunities. These stipends can help defray travel costs, photocopying and microfilming expenses, and library and archive patron fees.

**Be flexible.** In many countries archives and libraries are truly a test of patience and endurance! Bureaucratic application processes, restricted access hours, the note-taking in pencil only rule, and even the lack of indices for all materials can be frustrating. For example, Spain's National Archives decided to close for renovations the week before I had planned to start research and only posted the announcement on the website two weeks ahead of time. The best advice is to be very courteous and respectful toward the staff, the facility, and the archive library documents. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand the archive library's policy or can't find a particular book or document.

Also be flexible with your research objectives. While you will hopefully have a general topic selected before arriving at your study abroad destination, your specific focus will change numerous times throughout the research process. In going through documents, you will begin to decipher trends, evaluate the quality of your primary resources, and formulate and reformulate research questions. Frequent reworking of your focus is normal and indicative of your expanding knowledge and insight into the topic. While I went to Madrid with a general interest in history and medicine, it

was by sifting through documents and talking with Dr. Campos that I gradually narrowed my focus to Dr. Tomás Romay's writings on the smallpox vaccine in early nineteenth-century Cuba.

Additionally, if you're doing research in a different language, be sure to give yourself time to get used to the vocabulary used in historical documents. Early nineteenth-century judicial documents, medical records, and government reports in Spanish do not use the same terms or sentence structures as your Spanish conversation textbook. It may be useful to carry a notebook in which you keep a log of regularly used words and grammatical nuances. In analyzing Tomás Romay's vaccination reports, I kept a list of physiological terms, illnesses, and colonial institutions that he frequently referred to.

**Reap the benefits.** Conducting your senior thesis/seminar research while abroad has several advantages. First of all, primary source research in a foreign language does wonders for your language proficiency. Reading documents, using card catalogs or computer indices, and interacting with the library's archive staff is a great way to acquire a set of vocabulary distinct from that which you learn at the university, with your foreign friends, or with your host family. Secondly, using foreign archival or library resources will allow you to pursue historical themes and questions not yet explored by other historians. Finally, primary source documents from foreign archives and libraries provide a richness and depth to your research that would not be possible by using only English-written sources available in the U.S.

Jaime Casta '03

