

Spring 2010



SKIDMORE COLLEGE

History Department

Dear Friends of Skidmore's History Department,

The History Department's annual newsletter provides a welcome opportunity for us to highlight some of the many accomplishments of our students and faculty during the past academic year. Let me begin by congratulating all 18 of our graduating seniors: John Batch, Alex Bates, Chris Dragotakes, Jaclyn Goren-Greenberg, Jessi Haley, Kyle Hansen, Mary Hurd, Steve Jacobs, Jane Kelly, Linda Leandre, Liz McKenna, Jeff Meyers, Will Raucci, Jamie Sacks, Henry Sherwin, Eric Silverman, Nate Weitzer, and Jillian Zatta. We hope to hear from each of them with periodic updates about their adventures after Skidmore.

Further congratulations are due to Alex, Jessi, Jane, Liz, and Henry for receiving honors in the department and especially to Jessi and Jane – the 2009-10 recipients of the Warren and Lee prizes, awarded to two students each year for doing outstanding work in the department.

For the first time in many years none of the department's full-time faculty were on sabbatical leave. Matthew Hockenos (chair), Jennifer Delton, Jordana Dym, Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Tillman Nechtman, Eric Morser, and Margaret Pearson all contributed to a very successful year in and out of the classroom. We were also quite fortunate to have visiting assistant professor Catherine Chang teach six courses on East Asian History and Benny Morris, professor of History in the Middle East Studies department of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, offered a six-week course on the Arab-Zionist Conflict. The department is extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Kathlene Baldanza, who has accepted a 3-year position in the department starting in fall 2010 and will teach six courses per year in East-Asian History. Although the accomplishments of our department's faculty are far too many to list here I would like to call attention to two forthcoming books: *Hinterland Dreams: The Political Economy of a Midwestern City* (U. Penn, 2010) by Eric Morser and *Nabobs: Empire and Identity in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (Cambridge, 2010) by Tillman Nechtman. And finally, I would like to congratulate Jennifer Delton for her promotion to full professor and the recent publication of her book, *Racial Integration in Corporate America* (Cambridge, 2009)

Thanks to all for a wonderful year,

Matthew Hockenos

Matthew D. Hockenos

Chair of History Department

Inside this issue:

History Majors	2
Senior News	2
Welcome New Faculty	3
Skidmore's Teach in China Program	3
Phi Alpha Theta	4
Departmental Prizes	5
Faculty News	6 and 8
Colloquium Projects	7
Alumni News	9
Fall Schedule 2010	9

History Majors 2009-2010

John Batch '10	Randy Abreu '11	Kyle Montour '11	Adam Jaouad '12
Alexander Bates '10	Jacob Boersma '11	Kate Neri '11	Jessica Langman '12
Bryan Burford '10	Zachary Brown '11	Jessica Neubelt '11	Emily Levenson '12
Christopher Dragotakes '10	Douglas Carter '11	Edward Ray '11"	Tyler Lindley '12
Jaclyn Goren-Greenberg '10	Alexander Charlton '11	Marlee Rosen '11	Brian Lowry '12
Jessica Haley '10	Samuel Dickey '11	Anne Satinover '11	John Maher '12
Kyle Hansen '10	Calla Dobmeyer '11	Erica Schnabel '11	Ryan Paradis '12
Mary Hurd '10	Ethan Eff '11	Jacques Ward '11	Terence Praet '12
Steven Jacobs '10	Sarah Elwell '11	Amanda Werner '11	Gwendolyn Pryor '12
Jane Kelly '10	John Ferguson '11	Gregory Yuen '11	Anastasia Rodzianko '12
Linda Leandre '10	Patrick Glennon '11	Victoria Bennett '12	Stormie Romero '12
Elizabeth McKenna '10	Elizabeth Gronquist '11	Dana Bowman '12	Caitlin Scheufler '12
Jeffrey Meyers '10	David Inkeles '11	Molly Canavan '12	Sam Solomon '12
William Raucci '10	Eric Jones '11	Phillip Colantti '12	Sasha Thomas '12
James Sacks '10	Matthew Kelsey '11	Jessica Dankner '12	Ryan Whitemore '12
Henry Sherwin '10	Bryce Klatsky '11	Geoffrey Durham '12	Hugh Ward '13
Eric Silverman '10	Jared Lai '11	Wyatt Erchak '12	
Nathaniel Weitzer '10	Caitlin Mahony '11	Kaitlyn Gilpin '12	
Jillian Zatta '10	Peter Miller '11	Lucianna Greer '12	

Class of 2010 - Senior News

Mary Hurd - Next year I will be teaching English at Sun Yat-Sen University in Zhuhai, China. She is really looking forward to living in China and switching roles from student to teacher.

Liz McKenna—will be working as a summer intern for Congressman Scott Murphy , to be funded by the SGA RCIA (internship award) Congrats Liz! Come September, I am planning on moving to Boston and am looking for a job in international development/political affairs between now and then!

William Raucci—Plans to take a year off and remain in the Saratoga area for the summer, while looking for a teaching position and considering grad school.

John Batch will be attending the University of Plattsburg in the Fall.

Jessi Haley will be working at a local Saratoga restaurant for the summer. Her future plans are still in the works...

Eric Silverman—is traveling to West Africa, the city of Sierra Leone with the Peace Corps. He will be leaving in June for 27 months. He will be teaching English to high school students.

It is the first time in fifteen years since the Peace Corps will be returning to the country with an estimated group of around forty volunteers. For more information check out this News article: in the Patriotic Vanguard . Thursday, June 18, 2009 *Peace Corps to returns to Sierra Leone in 2010*

<http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/spip.php?article4262>

History Department welcomes a new faculty member

Kathlene Baldanza (Kate) accepted the three years position of visiting instructor of East Asian History at Skidmore College. Kate is a doctoral candidate in the East Asian Languages and Civilizations department of the University of Pennsylvania. This Fall semester Kate plans to teach three courses —Intro. to Modern China, The Rise of Japan, and Topics on Transnational Asia.

Skidmore's Teach in China program

This time last year I was busy trying to get my colloquium paper to the appropriate length, deciding how to spend the last few weeks before graduation, and soaking up the sun on the center green after a long icy winter. Now I'm busy trying to get my lessons to fill up the appropriate length of time, deciding how to spend the last few weeks with my students before *they* graduate, and searching for sun in a polluted sky after the windiest winter I have ever experienced. I'm in Dongying, China, a world away from the comforts Skidmore offered me.

I came here through Skidmore's Teach in China program with the purpose of taking a gap year before grad school, traveling, and getting some real classroom teaching experience. I didn't come here with ideas of living in ancient dynastic grandeur, nor under harsh Communist constraint. I was a history major; I knew better than to think such things. I actually arrived in China without much of any idea at all in my head. I have this strange tendency not to believe something is really happening to me until I'm in the moment; so although I had a plane ticket for months, I didn't feel any anticipation until I arrived in the airport in Beijing. On the five-hour car ride from the capital to little Dongying, I thought about what it might be like. I didn't anticipate meeting many English speakers and I certainly didn't plan to have exciting adventures every day the way I might in a big city. I just wanted to go and see what would happen; no expectations, no boundaries, just life, open and sincere.

What happened was far beyond anything I could have expected or imagined. Once I got over the initial "oh my god" feeling of not understanding the language and completely fumbling with chopsticks, I settled into China quite seamlessly. I suppose this was because my boss always jumped to help the foreign teachers with anything we needed, but it was mostly because of my students. The benefit of being 22 and teaching at a college rather than a primary school—the way so many expats do in Asia—is that the gap normally present between teachers and students is almost non-existent. We're the same age, so outside the classroom I have formed a real closeness to those most willing. And while it may seem problematic that some of the students are actually older than me, that potential awkwardness never manifested itself. "We are your big brothers," the older boys told me in my first few days, "we will look after you." And they did, in more ways than one.

Although China has a deep sense of respect for all teachers, something America undoubtedly lacks, my life as a teacher here has been no fairytale. My students are mostly wonderfully motivated, creative, and kind, and teaching them has been a real pleasure. But the freshmen in the speaking classes often seem to view me as monkey here merely to entertain them, and the juniors in the literature classes are often unenthusiastic due to a general sense of boredom as English majors. But every time easily confused Abigail debates with over-confident Bolt; every time oblivious Jocelyn approaches me outside to have a chat about a story we read; every time I hear a difference in Wing and Jim's pronunciation; every time painfully introverted Tony randomly answers an important question his classmates dare not attempt; and every time the light bulbs turn on above all their heads, I become so indescribably happy. I feel butterflies flap excitedly in my stomach before they quickly scatter and send a smile up into my eyes. Any disappointment or aggravation I may have had suddenly feels worth it, because I know that even when it doesn't seem like it, they *are* learning in their own way and at their own pace. And so I smile at them and the students tell me, in their sometimes cheesy glory, "when you smile at us in class we can really feel it."

That's what makes my experience in China so incredible. Yes I get to try delicious food, yes I get to learn a new language, yes I get to view a foreign culture from the inside; but for me, as a future educator, the most important part of my experience is feeling the intensity of those moments when the students make all my stress worthwhile. And so I have renewed my contract to stay another year, because I feel as if my time with the students is not quite finished, both for their sakes and my own.

Alexandra Tedaldi '09



PHI ALPHA THETA



The Skidmore chapter (Alpha Delta Tau) was established at Skidmore College in 1989.
Professor Eric Morser serves as faculty advisor to the chapter during 2009-2010.

If you were wondering, here are the eligibility requirements for Phi Alpha Theta:

- * completion of a minimum of 4 courses in History
- * a 3.4 cumulative grade-point average in History
- * a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average or better overall

- * be in the top 35% of the class.

Our new inductees for 2009-2010

Laura Elizabeth HAMILTON '11

Matthew Ryan KELSEY '11

Bryce W. KLATSKY '11

Anne Elizabeth POTISH '11

Anne Rebecca SATINOVER '11

Daniel Arie SZNAJDERMAN '11

Amanda L. WERNER '11

<http://www.phialphatheta.org/>



Departmental Prizes

ALICE FARWELL WARREN PRIZE

Established in honor of Alice Farwell Warren, Professor of History 1937-1962. The 2010 prize recipient is **Jessica (Jessi) Haley** '10. Jessi has been wowing members of the history department with her intelligence, versatility, and independence since her first year at Skidmore. She has consistently impressed the faculty with the rigorous standards she sets for herself, her thoughtful and perceptive analysis of complex historical phenomena, and her commitment to fostering an atmosphere in the classroom conducive to collaborative scholarship. Jessi has every reason to be proud of the superb senior thesis she completed recently entitled "Reluctant New Citizens: The German Expellees in the U.S. Occupation Zone."



LEE PRIZE



Established in honor of the parents of Patricia-Ann Lee, Emeritus Professor of History, first awarded in 1987. The purpose of the Lee prize is to honor a history student who has exhibited the highest academic standards as well as exemplary citizenship. **Jane Kelly** '10 is this year's recipient. Jane has excelled as both a student and a citizen at Skidmore. For the History Colloquium, she has written on a group of Australian female missionaries in British India. The paper is a sophisticated study of the complex interaction of race, gender, and identity that complicates our binary assumptions about the relationship between colonizer and colonized. In addition to her fine work as a History major, Jane is well-known to faculty and students across campus for her exemplary work at the writing center. She has also served as a valuable student assistant to the History Department and its faculty.

*photographer Phil Scalia

Study Abroad



I am currently studying abroad at King's College London. London was once the center of a great empire and the residue of that period is still

viewable in the form of monuments, museums, and buildings. In a class entitled History and Memory, I was able to explore this rich history and write a paper analyzing how the public remembers empire. Other classes have allowed me to explore the somewhat older past of London, including one on the English Reformation. A lot of the history of the English Reformation occurred in places like the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace; the former Tudor residence. London has provided me with the opportunity to not only experience these important sites of history but also to discover how the British have presented them to the public, which adds another layer of understanding to the discipline of history.

-Edward Ray 2011



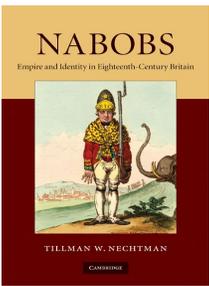
I spent the fall semester in Accra, Ghana where I had the opportunity to take classes in political science, international development, and intern at a small orphanage for boys.

As a student of history and government, I found Ghana to be the ideal place to observe a young democracy. It offered me the chance to personally experience the trials and tribulations, the challenges, and the successes of a developing nation so keen to maintain its political stability and so eager to be recognized as an economically self-sustaining, competitive and thriving country.

-Liz McKenna 2010

FACULTY NEWS

Tillman Nechtman, Assistant Professor has the book (*Nabobs: Empire and Identity in Eighteenth-Century Britain*) coming out with Cambridge University Press in August.



This past year, he had an essay appear in a German-language book called *Tierisches, allzu Tierisches: Beiträge zur Kulturgeschichte*. The chapter was called "Das ungezähmte Weltreich: Die Domestizierung von Tieren im britischen Imperialismus, 1759-1830." That translates to "Untamed Empire: Domesticating Imperial Animals in Metropolitan Britain, 1759-1830."

Professor Nechtman is finishing a book review of Brendan Simm's new book *Three Victories and a Defeat: The Rise and Fall of the First British Empire* for *The Journal of Modern History*, and I had another book review - this one for Daniel C. Beaver's book *Hunting and the Politics of Violence Before the English Civil War* - come out in *The Journal of British Studies* back in July 2009. This summer, he plans to finish an article on Gibraltar's place in the British Empire called "'For it was Founded Upon a Rock': Gibraltar and British Conceptions of Global Empire in the Mid-Nineteenth Century." I plan to submit this to *The Journal of British Studies* for consideration.

Professor Nechtman also plans to begin work on a new book *The Last Refuge of Scoundrels: Pitcairn Island and the Dictatorship of Joshua Hill - The True Story of the Man Who Would Be King Among the Bounty Mutineers*. This is a story of the eight years between 1832 and 1840 when Joshua Hill passed himself off as the royal representative to the small population of Pitcairn Island. That the residents of Pitcairn, all of whom are descended from the mutineers of the *H.M.S. Bounty*, lived under Hill's fraudulent administration for so long without knowing he was an imposter is evidence of the thinness of British imperial power, even at a time when the empire was at its pinnacle.

Here is a brief synopsis of the new book due out soon by Professor Eric Morser, Assistant Professor

Hinterland Dreams The Political Economy of a Midwestern City

Eric J. Morser

"*Hinterland Dreams* is a clearly written, well organized, and thoroughly researched work. Urban history has focused on the giants like Chicago. Smaller cities have largely been neglected until now. By examining La Crosse, Wisconsin, Morser breaks new ground and offers a needed reminder of the importance of government in urban development."—Jon C. Teaford, Purdue University

In the 1840s, La Crosse, Wisconsin, was barely more than a frontier trading post nestled on the banks of the Mississippi River. But by 1900 the sleepy frontier town had become a thriving city. *Hinterland Dreams:*

The Political Economy of a Midwestern City, tracks the dynamic growth of this community and shows us, that government institutions and policies were as important as physical landscapes and urban boosters in determining the small Midwestern city's success. The businessmen and women of La Crosse worked hard to attract government support during the nineteenth century. Federal, state, and municipal officials passed laws, issued rulings, provided resources, vested aldermen with new financial and regulatory powers, and created a lasting legal foundation that transformed the city and its economy. As historian Eric J. Morser demonstrates, the development of La Crosse and other small cities linked rural people to the wider world and provided cities such as Chicago with the lumber and other raw materials needed to grow even larger. He emphasizes the role of these municipalities, as well as their relationship to all levels of government, in the life of an industrializing nation.

Punctuated with intriguing portraits of La Crosse's early citizens, *Hinterland Dreams* suggests a new way to understand the Midwest's urban past, one that has its roots in the small but vibrant cities that dotted the landscape. By mapping the richly textured political economy of La Crosse before 1900, the book highlights how the American state provided hinterland Midwesterners with potent tools to build cities and help define their region's history in profound and lasting ways.

Colloquium Projects

Fall 2009 HI 375 001

Professor Jennifer Delton

John Batch—*“Was the Allied Bombing of Civilians in the Second World War Justified?”*

Christopher Dargotakes—*Unlikely Neighbors: German Prisoners of War in Rochester, New York 1942-1946*

Jaclyn Goren-Greenberg— *“The Jewish Community in Palestine and the Second World War”*

Jessica Haley—*“Reluctant New Citizens: The German Expellees in the U.S. Occupation Zone”*

Mary Hurd – *“Coming to Terms with the Past: The Günter Grass Revelation”*

Jeff Meyers—*“Italian Foreign Policy 1918-1936: A Reflection of European Self-Interest”*

Brian Petchers— *“Hitler’s Decision to Declare War on the Soviet Union”*

Nate Weitzer—*“A Tale of Three Tropes: Reconsidering the Cold War’s Origins”*

SPRING 2010 HI 375 001

Professor Tillman Nechtman

Alexander Bates – *“Defending Liberty: The Case of British Colonists 1763-1776”*

Kyle Hansen – *“Sate European Home: The Components of Power, Colonial Rhetoric and the Construction of Identity”*

Steve Jacobs – *“The Morality of a Debtor: Reconstructing the Scottish World of James Wilson”*

Jane Kelly – *“Purveyors of God and Country: Australian Baptist Missionary Women at Work in East Bengal 1882-1894”*

Elizabeth McKenna – *“Eminence in a Transnational World: A Case Stud of Ghana at Independence”*

William Raucci – *“The 200; The Athenian Triremes”*

FACULTY NEWS

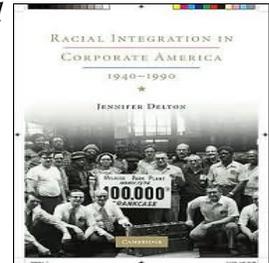
Professor **Jordana Dym**, Associate Professor of history and Director of Latin American Studies As Latin American countries begin a period of celebrating their bicentennials of independence this year, Jordana Dym is collaborating with FLL Associate Professor María Lander on a special number of the journal *Araucaria* on "memories of independence," and with history major Randy Abreu, '11, on helping the Archivo General de la Nación of Mexico prepare an exhibit on "Declarations of Independence in the Americas" to open in September 2010. The exhibit coincides with a conference on the same topic that Dym is co-organizing with the AGN, Colegio de México and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The public history component of the collaboration and exhibit are a first steps towards introducing these methods in the classroom, to help students consider how to bring academic history's insights to a broader public. Participation in the Tang Museum's Mellon Seminar in museum studies this spring, with discussions of the role of objects in contemporary museums of art, history and science along with trips to museums in Boston and Mexico City, have also provided new ways of thinking about teaching and learning history.

Professor **Catherine Chang** presented two papers in two conferences on Asian history. The first paper, "Arise, Sisters! Network of 'New Immigrant Women' in Taiwan," was presented at New York Conference on Asian Studies at Cornell University on Oct 9, 2009, and the second one, "Trapped in Globalization? 'New Immigrant Women' in Taiwan," was presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia on March 26, 2010. Examining familial dynamics, social status, public opinion, and immigration policy surrounding the issue of immigrant women in Taiwan. Catherine shows the historical changes of migration in Taiwan and in other Asian countries from the 1980s onward, which have been tied to China's economic reform and the formation of a new international division of labor in Asia.

Professor **Margaret Pearson**, Associate Professor, has completed and submitted her translation of the book of changes (zhouyi) to a publisher. Professor Pearson will be using her own translation as a text for the Scribner Seminar. This was the subject of research from her 1997-1998 and 2004-5 sabbatical years in Cambridge, at Needham Research Institute and Clare Hall.

Professor **Erica Bastress-Dukehart**, Assistant Professor has a busy year teaching Early Modern Europe, Science and Nature, Medieval Europe and Crime and Punishment. In addition to teaching Erica chaired the CEPP committee.

It has been a very productive year for Professor **Jennifer Delton**. She was recently promoted to full Professor. Congratulations Jennifer from all of us in the History Department! Professor Delton also recently published her latest book *Racial Integration in Corporate America, 1940-1990*.



Student and Alumni News

Joshua Hutchins '06 has been hired as a librarian at the research library of Cambridge University.

Lori Pelech '03 is off for another advanced degree Ph.D. at U. Mass Amherst.

Davora Tenens will be interning as a counselor, while continuing her massage practice in California. She recently completed a degree, and is nearly licensed.

Andrew J. Bernstein '07 has assumed the role of Sports Editor at [The Saratogian](#).

Jacob Barry '09 will start Coopers-town Graduate Program in Public History in September.

Emma Dill, '09 is working in Boston this summer (an extension of an internship) at the Museum of Science. She writes she has been working on reorganization of the Museum's archives, and this summer expects to be "cataloging the "wet collection" (jars full of worms and squids and the like)."

Eric Wilson '08, history minor, just accepted an offer to study in Development Studies Program at the London School of Economics.

Amanda Weintraub '07 was accepted at both NYU and Columbia University for the Fall 2010.

Devin Mellor '12 just got tapped for a big summer internship doing historical research with the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

History Department Schedule Fall 2010

HI 103C. MEDIEVAL EUROPE E. Bastress-Dukehart

HI 105 NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE: IDEOLOGY AND REVOLUTION M. Hockenos

HI 110C THE BRITISH EMPIRE: AN INTRODUCTION T. Nechtman

HI 121C. AMERICAN HISTORY TO THE CIVIL WAR E. Morser

HI 142. INTRODUCTIN TO MODERN CHINA K. Baldanza

HI 217C 002. AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY E. Morser

HI 224H. THE ENLIGHTENMENT E. Bastress-Dukehart

HI 230W. HISTORY THROUGH TRAVEL: LATIN AMERICA J. Dym

HI 247. THE RISE OF JAPAN K. Baldanza

HI 261. AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY J. Delton

HI 315. CRIME AND PUNISHMENT E. Bastress Dukehart

HI 316R. EMPIRES IN INDIA T. Nechtman

HI 329. U.S. SINCE 1945 J. Delton

HI 330E 001. POL. & SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA: CARIBBEAN J. Dym

HI 363 001 TOPICS IN ASIAN HISTORY K. Baldanza

HI 375 COLLOQUIM IN HISTORY SEA CHANGES: T. Nechtman

"An unexamined life is not worth living." - Socrates

History is a way by which men and women come to understand who they are as human beings. It is the mission of the History Department to impart to students a solid knowledge of the past and to develop in them the ways of thinking they will need to make sense of broad patterns of change in different civilizations and cultures.

The History Department prepares students to think critically about the world they live in and their place in it. We want them to pick up a newspaper and have some context for understanding the importance of the stories therein. We want them to make decisions in their careers and lives with an understanding of the moral and political issues that are at stake in those decisions. We believe that this is not merely a function of exercising a skill called "critical thinking," but that it comes from, and actually requires, a specific knowledge of the past that has led to the events they are reading about the moral and political quandaries they are faced with. Thus the history department considers its main duty to be to give students the "historical literacy" they need in order to think critically about the world in which they live.

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